



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Colombo!

The year 2007 is coming to an end, and by the time this issue of the APAFRI Newsletter reaches you we would be right into the first quarter of 2008.

The year 2007 had been a pretty good year for most of the countries in the region. In many of the countries' the economy made a rapid recovery and continued to grow steadily throughout the year. This year was also particularly a traumatic time, politically, for the region. Adding onto these was the increase in the frequencies and severity of nature's wrath and the subsequent calamities that ensued. While most of us may say that we were not affected by these events, the outcomes of these events however have a strong linkage and do influence our profession as practitioners in forestry.

For APAFRI the year 2007 has been a particularly busy year. During the year, APAFRI was involved directly or indirectly in more than one event or activity per month on the average. These events and activities ranged from international ones like the country-led-initiative in Bali under the United Nations Forum on Forests, regional events such as the Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study, to national consultative workshops that were held in Indonesia, Philippines and India. A full list of the events and activities of APAFRI throughout 2007 has been included in this issue.

At this juncture, I am proud to highlight some of the major events that APAFRI has played a very substantial role. APAFRI was granted two Letters of Agreement (LoAs) by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to organize a series of activities under the Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study and also the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network. With the funds allocated under these LoAs APAFRI had assisted in organizing a series of workshops and meetings, as well as the International Conference on The Future of Forests in Asia and the Pacific: Outlook for 2020 in Chiang



Mai, 16–18 October 2007 which had attracted more than 200 participants. APAFRI was also tasked to produce a CD with the PowerPoint presentations from all the deliberations of this conference. Sufficient copies of this CD were produced and distributed to all the participants on the last day of the conference. The content of the CD was later repacked for uploading onto the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) website.

Responding to a suggestion that I had made during the previous Executive Committee Meeting, the Secretariat had organized a study tour to the Malaysian mangrove forests. The one-week study tour in September, which was hosted by the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia, provided an opportunity for 13 participants (nine from Sri Lanka and four from Vietnam) to have brief but informative visits to the various mangrove research sites and conservation areas in Peninsular Malaysia; as well as in-depth discussions with researchers and foresters on the various research and conservation issues.

Another major event that APAFRI had contributed very substantially is the successfully organized International Conference on Sustainable Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation: the Roles of Traditional Forest-related Knowledge. This conference, held from 17–20 December 2007 in Kunming, China, was organized by APAFRI jointly with a number of international, regional and national agencies, including the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO), FAO, the Korean Forest Research Institute (KFRI), the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), Seoul National University (SNU), and the United Nations University (UNU). A major portion of the funds for this conference has been contributed by the Korean Government through KFRI to APAFRI. FAO supported the air travel of most of the foreign participants to this conference. The local host, the Centre for Sustainable Forest Management of CAF had contributed very substantially, both financially and in-kind, towards the organizing of this conference, which had turned out to be a major forestry event for

the region. On behalf of APAFRI, I wish to express our utmost sincere thanks to all these agencies, and many of the individuals, for contributing towards the organizing of this conference. I am especially thankful to colleagues in CAF, and the also the State Forestry Administration (SFA) of China, for their efforts in hosting this conference. The hospitality they had bestowed on us, and all the participants of this conference, had indeed made this conference one of the most memorable event in the region.

There are many other events during the year that also deserved highlighting. For example, the training course on forest biodiversity in Kuala Lumpur in June was the largest training course organized by APAFRI with 18 participants. This training course was also one of the very few ones with participants from the South Pacific nations. Then there was this workshop on Developing Invasive Species Management Plans in May also in Kuala Lumpur, which attracted 31 participants from the region, including a few from as far as the USA, Canada, Fiji and New Zealand.

The current Executive Committee recently had its second meeting. Among other things the Executive Committee had discussed several activities that APAFRI would like to be involved in the coming APFC Meeting proposed to convene in Hanoi, in April next year. These activities are likely to include side events on topics such as forest genetic resources conservation, forest invasive species, as well as forestry research and education. I would like to urge members to check our website regularly for updates on planned activities. I would also strongly urge members to send us news items, announcements and the like for posting on the website, as well as circulating to all our members, colleagues and friends in the region.

Before I end this message, allow me to take this opportunity to wish all of you a **VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 2008**.

With best regards,
Sarath Fernando
Chairman, APAFRI
December 2007

THE APAFRI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOURTEENTH MEETING

The second meeting of the current Executive Committee was convened on 16 December 2007, Kunming, China. Four out of the nine members: Mr. Sarath Fernando (Chairman), Dr Xiao Wenfa, Dr Park JungHwan and Prof Dr Mohd Hamami, were present together with Mr. Patrick Durst from FAO who attended as an observer.

The Chairman announced that the Secretariat has been informed by Nalish Sam, an APAFRI Executive Committee member that he has taken up a scholarship to pursue a postgraduate study. As such he has nominated his successor at the PNG Forest Research Institute, Mr. Roy Banka, to continue serving on the APAFRI Executive Committee. In accordance with APAFRI Constitution Article XII Clause 2: "Executive Committee members elected are representing member institutions and not on individual basis. These individuals are official representatives of the member institutions". The Executive Committee was therefore advised to accept this nomination of replacement, and welcomed Mr Roy Banka to the Executive Committee. Mr. Roy Banka, although has confirmed his attendance earlier, did not show up due to visa problem.

Dr Daniel Baskaran, Executive Secretary, and Dr Sim Heok Choh, Executive Director, were also in attendance at this meeting.

The Chairman informed the meeting that over the past seven months since the last meeting (13th) in Kuala Lumpur, APAFRI has been fairly active in various regional and global forums and processes. Although the retained balance at the end of third quarter of this year was less than the previous year. This was basically due to expenditures incurred to complete the Letters of Agreement (LOAs) signed in previous year. Early this year, FAO had awarded a LOA with an allocation of up to USD80000 for a series of activities during this year, and again another LOA for USD101000 in September 2007. APAFRI had also just entered into an agreement with FAO HQs for organizing a workshop in January 2008. In addition, USDA had supported in organizing a workshop in May.

The Chairman also thanked Dr Park for arranging Korean Forest Research Institute (KFRI) to contribute USD50000 through IUFRO to APAFRI. This fund had been used to organize the Conference in Kunming

starting 17 December. FAO had also contributed over USD15000 to support the travel of participants to this conference. He also thanked Dr Xiao and his colleagues in hosting this APAFRI Executive Committee meeting in conjunction with the conference in Kunming.

There were some discussions on study tours and training courses. A number of suggestions were made:

- a. Study tours are popular, and should be continued to organize.
- b. A compilation of training courses that could be hosted by member institutions into a catalogue/brochure would be very useful.

Dr Park mentioned that in conjunction with the next IUFRO World Congress in 2010, the organizers would be organizing a series of pre-congress training workshops. Proposals would be prepared for soliciting funds from agencies such as ITTO. He suggested that APAFRI could be a major co-organizer of these workshops.

Mr. Patrick Durst while noted the diversity of topics that APAFRI activities had covered, mentioned that there are many other areas that APAFRI could explore and involve in. He further mentioned that from attending the recently concluded conference on climate change in Bali, he felt that there is huge scope in research, especially on topics such as resource assessment, carbon stock and impact on climate. Dr Xiao informed the meeting that the Chinese Government has placed great importance on climate change, and research allocation totaling more than RMB1 billion has been approved. APAFRI could also be involved in some of the related activities.

The Chairman again thanked the various agencies, especially FRIM, FAO, KFRI, USDA and many others, for the financial and in-kind contributions, which had been vital for the sustainability of APAFRI all these years.

The cost of remitting the membership is rather high and the paperwork involved may have discouraged the regular paying of the membership dues. Some of the members had thus resorted to paying the memberships for a few years in a single payment. There was also a suggestion that Secretariat should explore the possibility of paying membership 'on-line', this would make paying membership much easier. The Chairman noted that many of the research agencies and universities in the region are not members of APAFRI. He suggested that there should be another round of membership drive to attract more members.

Mr. Patrick Durst informed the meeting about the coming Asia Pacific Forestry Commission meeting in April 2008 which would be hosted by Vietnam in Hanoi. During the meeting there will be a week-long event known as the Asia Pacific Forestry Week which provide opportunities to various regional and international agencies and organizations to hold their meetings and workshops. APAFRI could participate in this event to further uplift its profile and attract more members. In addition, some of the activities that APAFRI had been involved over the years, such as the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN), and the Asia Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN), could also organize side events during this week.

Dr. Park informed the meeting that the annual contribution to APAFRI from the Korean Government through KFRI would increase next year. Mr. Durst mentioned that Korea has not been active in the APFISN activities, so perhaps one of the activities that APAFRI would use the contribution from the Korean Government is to organize activities for APFISN on invasive species in Korea.

Dr Hamami mentioned about the needs to organize a workshop/meeting among the higher institutions in the region, with the prime objective of sharing and exchanging information and experiences in forestry education, as well as to reach some consensus on forestry curricula. Mr. Durst mentioned that the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) had submitted a proposal to organize a side event on this topic during next year's Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) meeting in Hanoi. Prof Rodney Keenan of Australian National University (ANU) has also expressed desire to link up academicians in a side event next year.

A number of members had suggested that the next Executive Committee Meeting shall be held, in conjunction with the APFC Meeting, in Hanoi in April 2008.



OUTLOOK CONFERENCE CONSIDERS THE FUTURE OF FORESTS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission's (APFC) international conference on *The Future of Forests in Asia and the Pacific: Outlook for 2020*, which was held 16–18 October 2007, in Chiang Mai, Thailand, attracted more than 250 participants from over 40 countries. Conference participants, represented forest-related stakeholders from across the region and beyond, analyzed the major driving social, economic, environmental and technological forces of today and tomorrow, and how these forces are likely to shape our perception and use of Asia-Pacific's forests in the coming years. The result was a unique glimpse into the future with a focus on what tomorrow's forests might look like. Opportunities and constraints to implementing sustainable forest management in the years to come were critically reviewed, revealing mixed perspectives of pessimism and optimism. In general, the conference affirmed that the future of forests and forestry in the region will continue to be driven by an array of factors largely outside the forestry sector.

As a significant milestone for the Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS), the conference also provided a chance for APFSOS national focal points and thematic study authors to present their preliminary findings.

The conference themes included macroeconomic prospects, environmental change, institutional transition, urbanization, technological development and application, international trade, land-use trends, poverty alleviation, and the growing importance of planted forests in the region. Plenary sessions were

interspersed with smaller, concurrent “break-out” sessions. Thematic topics were complemented by a series of presentations with a specific geographic focus. Many of the APFSOS national focal points provided country-by-country snapshots of the future of Asia-Pacific forests.

Complementing the plenary presentations, a poster session provided participants an opportunity to engage in informal discussion on focused topics. In all, 55 posters were displayed – 27 thematic posters and 28 country posters highlighting future prospects at the national level. Also adding great value to the event were the 20 organizations that showcased their programmatic work in the form of leaflets, brochures, publications, posters and various other displays.

The Future of Forests in Asia and the Pacific conference also provided an opportune arena in which to acknowledge FAO's World Food Day and this year's theme, *The Right to Food*. In concert with festivities around the world, World Food Day was brought to participants' attention during the opening remarks, a large banner was hung in the Grand Hall, and World Food Day information and materials were available at the FAO organizational display over the course of the three-day event.

A side event on biodiversity and poverty modeling was convened on the evening of the second day of the conference. Organized by Tonnie Tekelenberg and Wilbert van Rooij of the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (MNP), the workshop introduced participants to tools and techniques for capturing information on the status of biodiversity, ecosystem goods and services, and poverty.

Although all 250 plus participants brought different crystal balls to Chiang Mai, *The Future of Forests in Asia and the Pacific* conference illuminated several perceptions common to all. From presentations and discussions, it became clear that demands on forests – both in kind and intensity – will continue to increase. This will require much more sophisticated thinking and new partnerships to successfully address the challenges. Expanding populations, increasing



wealth and economic activity, and new markets will increase overall demand, while growing environmental pressures will require “new” forest values be captured for the benefit of mainstream segments of society. In the future, forestry agencies will need to retool their mandates and reinvent themselves to remain relevant and effective.

The importance of flexible governance structures and actively working with other sectors and regions was another common message emerging from the conference. As the numbers and kinds of demands placed on forests increase, it is anticipated that so too will the numbers and kinds of stakeholders concerned with how forests are managed. This highlights the immense challenge of balancing competing demands. For equitably resolving the demands of various

stakeholders, for eradicating illegal logging and trade, and for making forestry investment in the region more attractive, it was predicted that emphasis will have to continue to be placed on governance both within forestry agencies and among sectors and regions.

The conference ultimately corroborated what many of the participants already suspected – that many of the problems facing the future of forests in the region will be complex and exogenous in origin. Viable solutions for the future challenges will entail nuanced, interdisciplinary and international thinking and cooperation. The conference was thus an important step in the direction of such needed exchange and collaboration.

(Adapted from a report prepared by Brian Cohen, FAO.)

NATIONAL WORKSHOP – *to Identify Stakeholders and Capacity Building Needs in Forest Genetic Resource Conservation* **COIMBATORE, 11 JULY 2007**

Genetic resources are renewable, provided they are well managed. Valuable genetic material is being lost from the nature because of unsustainable harvest and various other anthropogenic activities. In order to protect these resources efforts have been made to conserve them *in-situ* and *ex-situ*. Protected areas, like biosphere reserves, national parks and sanctuaries, gene pool gardens, provenance resource stands, seed stands, clone banks are some of the efforts made in our country in this direction. Lack of adequate information on available forest resources is the major constraint encountered in their sustainable utilization. At this juncture, sharing of information among all stakeholders on various aspects of such resources will go a long way in prioritizing them for further intensive studies and sustainable utilization.

In order to bring all stakeholders in one platform to discuss various issues a national workshop to identify stakeholders and capacity building needs in forest genetic resources (FGR) conservation was organized at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore, on 11 July 2007. This workshop was an activity under the FGR Conservation and

Management Project funded by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

The objectives of the workshop are to assess the status of FGR activities, and identify research gaps and capacity building needs for the conservation of FGRs in India.

Many stakeholders from the state forest departments, various research organizations like the Botanical Survey of India, Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, as well as universities and colleges like the College of Forestry (Kerala Agricultural University), Forest College and Research Institute (Tamil Nadu Agricultural University), Centre for Floristic Research, Madras Christian College, and NGOs like Asoka Trust for Research on Ecology and Environment, and ICFRE Institutes. Representatives from the pharmaceutical industries and other individuals also participated in the workshop.

Dr. M. Surya Prakash, the country coordinator, APFORGEN-India made a detailed review on the

status and management of FGR in India. The review highlighted the following six broad aspects:

- Geography of the country, the biogeographical regions, agro-climatic zones, forest types and biodiversity wealth of the country.
- Policy framework, legislations and international commitments to protect the country's biodiversity: the salient features of Indian Forest Act 1927; Forest (Conservation) Act 1980; Environment Protection Act, 1986; National Forest Policy 1988; National Forestry Action Programme; and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).
- Conservation programmes – declaration of vast areas as National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, MABs. Area and theme oriented programmes launched in the country for conservation: Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Conservation of Mangroves, and Medicinal Plants, apart from network programmes on botanical gardens.
- Administrative machinery installed in the country to convert the policy into legislation, programmes and mechanisms to implement programmes in the field.
- Organizations and institutions established to provide support for policy, programmes and to conduct research, impart education and training to various agencies involved in FGR conservation.
- Various tree improvement programmes carried out in India since 1961.

Discussions were held on identification of stakeholders and their role in FGR conservation. During this session clarifications were sought from the state forest department officials whether any list of RET and economically important species are available in all the states, whether any studies on carrying capacity of highly extracted species are available, whether cultivation methods are available on all such species.

Certain important felt research needs have been identified and it was recommended that each of the stakeholders shall carry out research work as detailed below:

- Endemic and RET plant species for each state be identified and conservation plots in multiple sites be established. (state forest departments.)
- Germplasm collections encompassing the natural distribution of the species be undertaken for all economically important

species and mass propagation technologies be developed (state forest departments and research institutes).

- DNA fingerprinting (bar coding) of germplasm of important species / varieties to be taken up for identifying genotypes (research institutes)
- Assessment of carrying capacity and harvestable produce for each locality on sustainable basis be studied. They should advise the governments and departments to declare the minimum procurement price for each non wood forest produce (research institutes and state forest departments).
- Forest departments should undertake planting of medicinally important tree species as captive plantations. Establish seed centres for planting material and develop protocols for propagation and cultivation of important species. (research institutes and state forest departments)
- Package of practices for cultivation of important tree species should be made available to the farmers to make cultivation economically viable (research institutes, pharmaceutical industries and state forest departments).
- Development of sustainable harvesting methods for FGRs (research institutes, state forest departments and farmers).
- Strengthening capacities of state forest departments for protection of three biodiversity hotspots of the country.

There were discussions on whether the training, if any, given to the stakeholders, considering the large area and huge population of more than one billion, could reach all the communities of the country. It was pointed out to develop models of training that could be replicated elsewhere in other places. In general the forum felt FGR should not be confused with general biodiversity and FGR is a much more focused topic. The forum collectively identified the following major disciplines for imparting training.

1. Documentation of FGR
2. Documentation of associated traditional knowledge
3. Conservation Biology
4. Sustainable harvest of FGR
5. Best Cultivation practices
6. Database Management
7. Sensitization program for all stakeholders regarding FGR conservation

(Adapted from a report prepared by Dr. M. Surya Prakash, APFORGEN national coordinator for India)

STUDY TOUR – *Mangrove Forests in Malaysia*

2–8 September 2007

Several countries in the region have been increasingly paying more attention to the conservation and management of mangrove forests after it was realized that these forests are important natural barrier along coastlines that could effectively reduce the devastating impact of tsunami. A number of countries had thus, during the past few years, began extensive rehabilitation of mangrove forests.

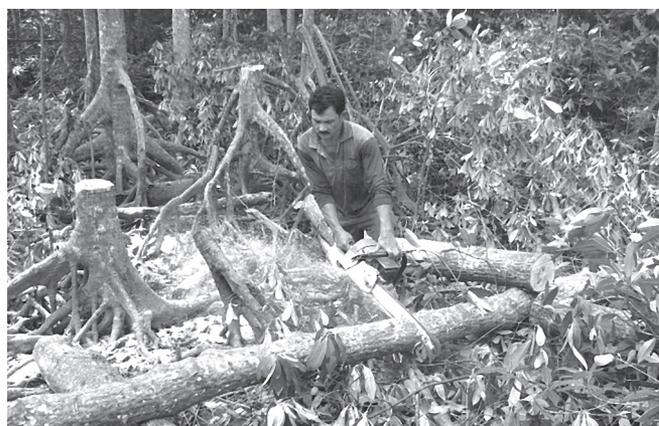
Malaysia has fairly extensive experience in mangrove forest conservation and management. Most of these activities had been initiated several decades ago, and are still very intensively continued till today. Malaysia could hence provide valuable learning opportunities to other countries which are only beginning to launch similar activities.

Responding to the request from the Forest Department of Sri Lanka, a study tour with the theme of 'Mangrove Forests in Malaysia' was organized by APAFRI

in cooperation with the Forest Research Institute Malaysia. Thirteen participants, nine from Sri Lanka and four from Vietnam, participated the week-long study tour. The participants were taken to visit the Matang Mangrove Forest Reserve, which is the largest mangrove forest reserve in Malaysia, and among the best managed of such forest reserve worldwide.

The participants also visited a number of mangrove rehabilitation sites where degraded mangrove forests are being restored. During the study tour, the participants had the opportunities to engage in in-depth discussions with researchers and foresters on the various mangrove forest research and conservation issues.

From the generally positive feedbacks that APAFRI had received thus far, the Executive Committee of APAFRI, during its recent meeting had proposed that the Secretariat should continue to organize such activity.



THIRD MEETING OF THE PROJECT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

ITTO Project PD 199/03 Rev 3. (F)

Strengthening National Capacity and Regional Collaboration for Sustainable Use of Forest Genetic Resources in Tropical Asia

10 December 2007, Kuala Lumpur

Dr Abdul Rashid Ab Malik, Deputy Director General (Research) of the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) opened the meeting. He apologized on behalf of the Director General, who had another prior commitment. Dr Hiras Sidabutar representing ITTO, Mr Chin Shih Loon from NRE, Mr. Hong Lay Thong of Bioversity International, and Dr Norini Haron from FRIM were present together with Dr Sim Heok Choh as the project officer.

Sim HC, representing the APAFRI, one of the collaborating agencies of this project, presented the Project's progress for Year 2 (February – November 2007). Most of the major activities planned under this project were carried out, or initiated during this second year of the project. The most significant ones are:

- a. National consultative workshops – three countries, India, Indonesia and the Philippines, had conducted their national consultative workshops and updated their national status reports. Myanmar would be organizing its workshop in February 2008 postponed from October 2007. The LOA has already been signed.

- b. Training course for researchers – 18 participants from 12 countries in the region, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Vanuatu, attended the week-long training course in Kuala Lumpur in June 2007.
- c. Mid-term Review Meeting – a three-day meeting was held in Bogor, Indonesia, in September, to review the progress and plan for the remaining duration of the project.

Details of Project Finance and Project Cash Flow were also presented. Dr Sidabutar commented that the financial performance of the project was not quite satisfactory, and he would like the Project Team to accelerate the pace so as to fully utilize the project funds by the end of the project duration.

Sim HC also presented an outline for the Third Yearly Plan of Operation which detailed the activities to be undertaken together during the coming year. More elaborations and associated budget would be included in a draft to be ready in early 2008 for submission to ITTO for endorsement.

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week: Forestry in a Changing World

21–25 April 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam

The Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), one of the six regional forestry commissions supported by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), brings together high-level forestry officials from its 33 members in the Asia and the Pacific for a week-long meeting once in two years. This week-long meeting offers a forum to share experiences in dealing with forestry challenges, advise FAO on regional forestry priorities, and initiate joint action on key forestry issues.

The next APFC Session, the 22nd Session, would convene from 21–25 April 2008, in Hanoi, Vietnam. The coming session would incorporate a new concept, the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, in an effort to expand engagement of APFC members with a wider range of

stakeholders to more effectively address the important challenges of forest management in the region. Many leading regional and international agencies with interests in natural resources have already indicated their interests to participate. Plenary sessions and side events during this Asia-Pacific Forestry Week would cover topics and issues which range from research and education to social, environmental and trade.

This event is expected to attract 500 participants from governments, NGOs, research institutions, international networks, UN agencies and the private sector.

(Adapted from a brochure prepared by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. For more information, please visit <http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/33592/en/>)

ITTO Forest Genetic Resources Project Mid-term Review & APFORGEN National Coordinators Meeting

5–7 September 2007, Bogor, Indonesia

Introduction

Since the first meeting of the Project Technical Committee (PTC) on 25 October 2005, the ITTO funded project (PD199/03 Rev. 3 (F)) had achieved much progress. The appointments of the National Focal Points (NFPs) were reconfirmed, and the first meeting of the NFPs was convened back to back with the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN) National Coordinators Meeting, in Dehradun, India, 15–16 April 2006. The meeting discussed the current status of the forest genetic resources conservation and their management, and ways in which this Project is able to enhance FGR conservation in the respective countries. These included the rationalisation of the staffing capacity in FGR conservation and management activities, assessment of R & D in FGR conservation, regional collaboration and the potential sharing of the FGR information between the participating organisations. Simultaneously, the APFORGEN webpage will act as a dissemination channel in sharing such FGR information.

Resulting from this first meeting, was the expectation that the NFPs would convene their own national workshops on FGR to identify stakeholders, assess capacity building needs and review the progress achieved in FGR conservation and management. In this respect, the Project had set aside funding to sponsor such workshops. The NFPs of India, Indonesia and the Philippines had organized their national consultative workshops.

Collection of information on *in situ* and *ex situ* FGR conservation and use, based upon country reports/papers presented at various fora, conferences, seminars and workshops, is on-going and these information would be used as referral documents in the preparation of the respective country's FGR assessment reports.

A training course on FGR conservation for researchers, 11–16 June 2007, in Kuala Lumpur, had attracted participants from the seven participating countries, as well as the other APFORGEN partners.

The project is approaching the mid point in its implementation period and it is appropriate to hold a meeting of the NFPs to review the progress of the various activities formulated under the project, as well as to discuss the plans for implementing the activities for the remaining duration of the project.

It will also be beneficial to the other APFORGEN members of which there are seven of them, who are not participants in this ITTO project to attend this review meeting. Their attendance will provide them the information and the necessary background knowledge for duplicating the ITTO project activities in their respective countries concerning FGR conservation and management, information dissemination and strengthening capacity, using the ITTO project as a model. This is also one of the desired outcomes for countries in the region when the ITTO project term finishes. Therefore, in anticipation of the participation of all the APFORGEN partners we had also included in the agenda of this meeting some topics relevant to the APFORGEN action plan.

This idea was briefly discussed during the Dehradun Meeting in April 2006, and Dr. Nur Masripatin the then Director of the Centre of Plantation Forests Research and Development, Bogor, Indonesia, also the NFP for Indonesia, has consented to host this meeting. During the national consultative workshop in Bogor in March 2007, this commitment has been reaffirmed by the present Director, Dr Harry Santoso, who had taken over the role of Indonesian NFP from Dr Nur Masripatin.

The mid-term review meeting was successfully held in Bogor, Indonesia from 5 –7 September 2007. The Centre of Plantation Forests Research and Development, Bogor, Indonesia, had kindly hosted the meeting and provided local organizational support.

The meeting was organized with the following objectives:

1. To review the progress of various activities as formulated under the project.
2. To re-assess the relevance of certain activities and propose modifications to re-adjust the focus of some originally proposed activities.
3. To reaffirm the commitment and schedules of the various national level activities
4. To review the APFORGEN action Plan activities discussed at the Dehradun meeting of April 2006 and to determine deadlines for tangible priority outputs.

The programme of the meeting, appended as Appendix I, divided the meeting into two halves. The first day has been devoted to reviewing the progress of the ITTO Project on FGR and discussing plans for the remaining project duration. The

second day was for discussing progress of national action plans of the APFORGEN partner countries, as well as issues related to both the programme and the ITTO project. A number of related topics, such as the ambiguities of definitions and terms in biodiversity, benefits and disadvantages of diversity, and databases, were also discussed.

A total of 14 participants from 9 countries attended this two-day meeting:

1. Chann Sophal, Forestry and Wildlife Science Research Institute, Forestry Administration, CAMBODIA
2. Zheng Yongqi, Research Institute of Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry, CHINA
3. M. Surya Prakash, Institute Of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore, INDIA.
4. Harry Santoso, Center for Plantation Forest Research and Development, Forestry Research and Development Agency, INDONESIA
5. Nugroho Priyono, Center for Plantation Forest Research and Development, Forestry Research and Development Agency, INDONESIA
6. Lee Soon-Leong, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), MALAYSIA
7. Lwin Ko Oo, Forest Research Institute, MYANMAR
8. Enrique L. Tolentino Jr., College of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of the Philippines Los Banos, PHILIPPINES
9. K. M. A. Bandara, Forestry Research Institute, SRI LANKA
10. Suwan Tangmitcharoen, Royal Forest Department, THAILAND
11. Hong Lay-Thong, Bioversity International, MALAYSIA
12. Markku Larjavaara, Bioversity International, MALAYSIA
13. Daniel Baskaran Krishnapillay, APAFRI
14. Sim Heok-Choh, APAFRI

The APFORGEN National Coordinators (NCs) of Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam were not able to attend due to various reasons.

There were some discussions on the issues related to APFORGEN NCs not able to attend this meeting. It was decided that another round of letters should be sent to all countries to re-confirm the nomination of their APFORGEN NCs as well as to requesting each country to nominate at least one alternate APFORGEN NC to avoid this problem of non-attendance in future.

The progress of the ITTO project could be considered satisfactory, but the National Focal Points (NFPs) were reminded to speed up organizing their national activities including the national consultative workshops. Thus far, only three of the seven participating countries had held their national consultative workshops. NFPs of the Philippines, Indonesia and India, shared their experiences in organizing

their national workshops, and also discussed the outputs. Of the remaining four, Myanmar would be organizing it in late October/early November, the LOA is currently with the Ministry of Forestry awaiting approval. Cambodia has indicated that it would organize this in November; Thailand has proposed to hold its national workshop in early January 2008 and Malaysia in late February 2008. All these commitments were made by the respective NFPs present.

In the area of country FGR status reports and FGR information collation NFPs were reminded to put more efforts to fulfil the schedule of the Project, as these have fallen behind schedule. One of the reasons of the delay in these activities was also the difficulty to retain the Project Coordinator, which we hope would be re-filled soon. With the PC in-place more coordination and closer monitoring of the project's activities would be in order.

Markku Larjavaara from Bioversity International gave a brief but rather interesting, and obviously enlightening, presentation on the benefits and disadvantage of tree diversity.

During the discussion on the planning of activities for the remaining duration of the project, the NFPs were reminded about the updates on their country status reports. It was also discussed and agreed that the proceedings of the meeting held in Dehradun last year would be compiled and published as a publication under this project. Other than the training course for the researchers held in June this year, the project has originally planned for a second training course. The participants had discussed at length the content and target group for this second training course. The final decision was to organize the second training course for field staff and managers with more hand-on exercises. This would be a train-the-trainers course such that these trainers would go back to train more of their staff nationally. This training course would be held either in December 2007 or January 2008. Tentatively Dr. Surya Prakash from IGTB, Coimbatore, India would consider hosting this training course in his institute.

The Indonesian NFP, Dr. Harry Santoso reported that a task force for FGR conservation and management in Indonesia had been set up in 2007, which consists of the main stakeholders of FGR. This was the result of a series of national workshops held to rationalise the conservation and management of FGR in the country. This would be a good example for the others project partners to emulate.

The meeting on the second day started off with an update of the APFORGEN activities since the Inception Workshop in 2003 by Sim HC and Hong LT. The issues of more effective participation of the partner countries were brought out again. It was decided that the current host of the secretariat of APFORGEN, the APAFRI Secretariat, would prepare and send out a round of letters to all the partner countries to re-confirm with the relevant ministries/departments the nomination of their NCs. To ensure that the letters would reach the right

authorities, APAFRI would communicate with the current NCs for information and suggestion on who should the letters be sent to. Furthermore, each country should also encourage nominating an alternate NC. Hopefully these would improve the participation of the partner countries in the future.

Feedbacks from the NCs of the countries present indicated an ever growing awareness of the importance of biodiversity in all the partner countries. Most of the countries had already the strategies in place and some had already gone into implementation stage. Indonesia, for example, had recently initiated a scheme which involved the villagers in forest genetic resources conservation and management. The target of this scheme is to have one village conserve one species. Allowing overlapping preferences and non participation, the 70000 villages in Indonesia would be mobilized to conserve 4000 species. This scheme has attracted the attention of all the other NCs, and quite a few had requested the Indonesian NC to share this information.

During the discussions on the future plans for APFORGEN, the importance of more effective communication, essentially via Internet and e-mails, was further emphasized. The meeting had endorsed the suggestion of continuing the Priority Species Information Sheet series. Each NC is to suggest at least three species that they would like to have Information Sheets prepared and published. The meeting also discussed the possibilities of publishing the proceedings of the previous workshops.

Hong LT gave a brief presentation on a FGR database which Bioersity International has been developing. This database was developed using the information and data from the various country reports submitted by the NCs over the past three years. The meeting concluded that developing of this database should be continued, and the NCs were reminded to contribute information and data regularly.



From left : Ms Nazratul Raudzah Abdul Rahman, Dr. Sim Heok Choh, Mr. Sarath Fernando, Dr. Baskaran Krishnapillay and Ms Syuqiyah Abdul Hamid. (Small photo : Mr. Fakhru Effendi Othman)

**Season's Greetings
&
Happy New Year**



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON *Sustainable Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation: Roles of Traditional Forest-related Knowledge*

17–20 December 2007, Kunming, China

The Asia-Pacific region has some of the world's highest diversity of ethnicities, languages and cultures. The region is the home of very rich ancient wisdom that had been passed down through the generations. A major portion of this is directly or indirectly linked to its vast stretches of forests, which have been the lifeline for the millions of people living in and around them.

Traditional knowledge, a combination of ancient indigenous practices and techniques, locally adapted and distinctive to a territory or a community, has greatly contributed, and still does, to the world's natural and cultural heritage by sustaining the production of multiple goods and services that enhance livelihood security and quality of life. Together with its cultural values and historical perspectives, traditional knowledge has gained an increasingly important role in shaping policies towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of alleviating poverty and ensuring economic, social and environmental sustainability. Although many of these age-old techniques and practices have previously been discarded as being outdated and no longer relevant to present day forestry, increasingly they are being re-discovered and explored for solving current problems. Traditional knowledge has been used for managing the utilization of many natural resources, such as water, soil and forests, and for organizing rural and urban communities. Traditional Forest-Related Knowledge (TFRK) has long been known to have important implications for forest management and conservation of forest biodiversity, as well as identification of valuable genetic resources. The political commitments on increasing the role of TFRK and practices in the protection of landscapes and conservation of biological diversity were reaffirmed by many of the member states of the United Nations Forum on Forests. During its Sixth Session in 2006, countries agreed to four Global Objectives on Forests aimed at enhancing sustainable forest management (SFM)

and the contributions of forests to the achievement of the MDGs. The increasing emphasis on SFM, which includes ecological, social, cultural, spiritual, and economic sustainability, has prompted greater emphasis on all relevant knowledge about forest ecosystems and approaches for their management. In the process, issues such as equitable sharing of benefits and protection of intellectual property rights have surfaced.

It was thus highly appropriate that an international conference covering this unique knowledge be organized in Asia and the Pacific, to gather stakeholders and interested parties to share and exchange information and experiences related to the various aspects of TFRK.

The conference, International Conference on Sustainable Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation: Roles of *Traditional Forest-related Knowledge*, was successfully held from 17–20 December 2007. This conference jointly organized by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Chinese State Forestry Administration (SFA), Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), Seoul National University (SNU), and the United Nations University (UNU), was hosted by the Sustainable Forestry Research Center, Chinese Academy of Forestry. The Korean Government, through KFRI, contributed the major portion of funds for organizing this conference, and FAO had provided travel support to 17 of the speakers.

The conference has a General Overview Session, and five technical sessions covering the following topics:

- Traditional knowledge contributions to achieving Millennium Development Goals

- Traditional knowledge in forest management
- Traditional knowledge in utilization of forest resources
- Traditional knowledge contribution to sustainable livelihoods
- Traditional knowledge shaping forestry policies

A total of 43 papers were presented in these sessions.

These sessions were supplemented with a Panel Discussion on the fourth day. The Panel Discussion, chaired by Dr John Parrotta, Coordinator of IUFRO Task Force on Traditional Forest Knowledge, invited the followings as panelists:

- Mr. Patrick Durst, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
- Prof. Pei Shengji, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Prof. P.S. Ramakrishnan, School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Dr. Lim Hin Fui, Forest Research Institute Malaysia
- Dr. Liu Jinlong, Sustainable Forestry Research Center, Chinese Academy of Forestry

In addition the conference had also more than 30 posters on all these topics, as well as some which portray activities of organizations and agencies active in related areas.

A total of 125 participants, 70 from outside China and 55 from China, participated in the four-day conference in the beautiful 'Spring City' – Kunming, Yunnan Province, China.



UPCOMING EVENTS

National Workshop on Mangroves in India: Biodiversity, Protection and Environmental Service

Date : 7–8th February 2008
Venue : Malleswaram, Bangalore, India
Contact Person : Dr. O.K. Ramadevi
Wood Biodegradation Division
Institute of Wood Science &
Technology, 18th Cross,
Malleswaram P.O.,
Bangalore 560 003
Tel : 080-23346811
Fax : 080-23340529
Email : okremadevi@iwst.res.in

National Symposium on Intensive Forest Farming: The State of the Art

Date : 12–14 February 2008
Venue : Ludhiana, India
Contact Person : Dr Sanjeev K Chauhan
Organizing Secretary
Department of Forestry & Natural
Resources, PAU
Ludhiana-141001 India
Tel : 0161 2401960 ext 380
Fax : 91 161 2400945
Email : chauhansk2dr.com
chauhanpau2rediffmai.com

The 4th China International wood Suppliers & Consumers Trading Conference

Date : 15–17 March 2008
Venue : Shanghai, China
Contact Person : Guo Jianjun
Wood China 2008
Secretariat Office
Building 2, No. 18 of Hepingli East Street,
Beijing
Tel : 0086 10 84238983
Fax : 0086 10 84238474
Email : woodexpo@163.com
Web : www.woodchina.cn

10th World Conference on Timber Engineering (WCTE 2008)

Date : 2–5 June 2008
Venue : Miyazaki, Japan
Contact Person : Yoshiyasu Fujimoto
Miyazaki
Prefectural Wood Utilization
Research Center, 21-2 Hanaguri
Miyakonojo City, 885 0037, Japan
Tel : 81 986 46 6041
Fax : 81 986 46 6047
Email : conference_s@wcte2008.com
Web : http://wcte2008.com

The 27th Biennial Conference of ASAP and the 68th Annual Conference of NZSAP

Date : 23 to 27 June 2008
Venue : University of Queensland,
Brisbane

Contact Person : Dr Michael Tierney,
8/50 Wilkie St,
Yeerongpilly, QLD 4105
Email : secretary@asap.asn.au
Web : http://www.asap.asn.au/index.php

Australasian Aquaculture 2008 International Conference & Trade Show

Date : 3–6 August 2008
Venue : Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
Contact Person : Skretting Australasian
Aquaculture 2008
c/o- Sarah-Jane Day
PO Box 370
Nelson Bay NSW 2315
Australia
Email : sarah-jane.day@aquaculture.org.au
Web : www.australian-aquacultureportal.com

11th International Wheat Genetics Symposium

Date : 24–29 August 2008
Venue : Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Contact Person : Peter Langridge
IWGS 2008 Secretariat
PO Box 949, KENT TOWN
South Australia 5071 Australia
Tel : 61 8 8363 1307
Fax : 61 8 8363 1604
Email : iwgs@fcconventions.com.au
Web : http://www.fcconventions.com.au/IWGS/index.html.pages.on.net

Adaptation of Forests and Forest Management to Changing Climate with Emphasis on Forest Health: A Review of Science, Policies, and Practices.

Date : August 25–28, 2008
Venue : Umeå, Sweden,
Contact Person : Professor Björn Hånell, SLU
Email : Bjorn.Hanell@ssko.slu.se
Web : http://ForestAdaptation2008.net

World Forestry Congress.

Date : October 18–25 2009
Venue : Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Web : www.cfm2009.org

The International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES 2008)

Date : 15 to 23 July 2008
Venue : Kunming, China
Contact Person : Dr.A.H.M.Zehadul Karim
Department of Anthropology
University of Rajshahi
Rajshahi 6205, Bangladesh
Email : ahmzkarim@gmail.com
ahmzkarim@yahoo.com
Web : http://www.icaes2008.org/

Activities Organized/Participated by APAFRI in 2007

Date	Activity	Venue
15–18 January	Regional Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Planted Forests in SEA	Bintulu, Sarawak, Malaysia
31 Jan–2 February	Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study: Meeting of National Focal Points, 2007	Chiang Mai, Thailand
6 February	Philippines National Forest Genetic Resources Consultative Workshop	Manila, Philippines
13–16 February	Country-Led Initiative in support of UN Forum on Forests	Bali, Indonesia
1 March	Indonesian National Forest Genetic Resources Consultative Workshop	Bogor, Indonesia
10 March	APAFRI Executive Committee Meeting	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
14–24 April	Seventh Session of UNFF	New York, USA
8–10 May	Asia Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) workshop on Developing Invasive Species Management Plan	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
29 May	IUFRO Symposium ‘Challenges and Opportunities of Forest Research in the Policy-Making Process’	Beijing, China
30–31 May	Sino-US Workshop on the Indicators of Forest Health and Restoration	Beijing, China
4–8 June	IUFRO-SPDC Training Workshop ‘Working Effectively at the Interface of Forest Science and Forest Policy’	Sabah, Malaysia
11–16 June	APFORGEN training Workshop on Forest Biodiversity: Conservation and Management of Forest Genetic resources	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
25–29 June	Regional Workshop on Forest Genetic Resources: Conservation and Management in the Pacific	Nadi, Fiji
11 July	National Forest Genetic Resources Consultative Workshop for India	Coimbatore, India
3–7 September	Study Tour on Mangrove Forests in Malaysia	Malaysia
5–7 September	ITTO Funded Project On Forest Genetic Resources – Mid-Term Review	Bogor, Indonesia
21–25 September	International Workshop on Biological Control of Forest Invasive Species	Beijing, China
16–18 October	International Conference ‘The Future of Forests in Asia and the Pacific: Outlook for 2020’	Chiang Mai, Thailand
29 October–2 November	IUFRO All Division 5 Conference	Taipei
27–29 November	Conference on Forestry and Forest Products Research	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
16 December	The Fourteenth APAFRI Executive Committee Meeting	Kunming, Yunnan Province, China
17–20 December	International Conference on Sustainable Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation: Roles of Traditional Forest-related Knowledge	Kunming, Yunnan Province, China

The APAFRI Newsletter is compiled by the Secretariat. Your comments, articles and / or suggestions are gratefully received.

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- ❖ Forest Research Institute Malaysia

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