



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

A major task and the top priority of the Secretariat this year is the organizing of the Fourth General Assembly, due once in three years. The last General Assembly was convened in Manila on 23 October 2003, so the next one is due this year. A call for proposals from member institutions to host the Fourth APAFRI General Assembly in 2006 had been posted on the APAFRI web site early this year. The same message had also been circulated to all members by e-mails. A full-page announcement had also been placed in the previous issue of the APAFRI Newsletter (December 2005) to alert member institutions of this once-in-three-year gathering, and seek proposals from member institutions to host this event. However, by March this year, the Secretariat had yet to receive any proposal from any member institution to host this General Assembly. As the Secretariat would require up to several months to prepare for the General Assembly, I have proposed that we convene the Fourth General Assembly together with the coming International Conference on Agroforestry, 1–2 August 2006, in Kuala Lumpur. We are also planning to have the 12th Executive Committee meeting prior to this. The Secretariat has since then pooled all its resources into preparing for these two events. All APAFRI members should make attending this General Assembly a top priority, to exercise their rights to guide the Association to serve them better.

I visited the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education in Dehradun this April. This is in conjunction with the 21st Session of the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission. APAFRI, together with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) organized a one and a half-day meeting for the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN) as a pre-session workshop. I represented APAFRI and presented



a brief introduction on APAFRI as a regional network. APAFRI also set up a display stand for its publications and participated in the open forum. All these have assisted in improving APAFRI's visibility, especially in the Indian sub-continent.

Korea during the past 40 years has rehabilitated degraded forests at an unprecedented scale. This great success was achieved through combined efforts by the Korean Government and the "Keep Korea Green" campaign by Yuhan-Kimberly, Korea's largest wood processing and paper producing company. Meeting the big challenge of forest rehabilitation in Korea became an excellent motivation for applying the experiences and skills gained in the restoration of forest landscapes also in other countries. Towards this end, Prof Dr Don Koo Lee, the IUFRO President has persuaded Yuhan-Kimberly to support the documentation of forest restoration works in developing countries in the Asia Pacific region. The project aims at publishing, over the coming five years, a book series entitled "Keep Asia Green". APAFRI, as the regional chapter of IUFRO, was invited to jointly coordinate the first phase of this project, covering the 10 Southeast Asian countries.

Ms Sarina Hussin, APAFRI's Administration Officer, has left APAFRI. Sarina was assigned by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) since October 2001, as part of contribution of FRIM to the APAFRI Secretariat. She has been such a great help to the Secretariat, and many of the APAFRI's members and collaborators, although may not have met her in person, would have communicated frequently with her and benefited from her efficient handling of Association matters, over these years. On behalf of APAFRI, I would like to thank her for her contributions over the years,

and wish her every success in her future endeavours. FRIM has also, since February this year, assigned Mr. Fakhrul Effendi, to assist in the Secretariat.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of international agencies, specifically USDA-FS, ACIAR, IPGRI, AKECOP, SPC and FAO, which have continued their support to APAFRI's programmes and activities. Thanks also to the various national research agencies, universities and private companies for their contributions to many of APAFRI's activities.

This would be my last message as the Chairman of the APAFRI Executive Committee, as my term ends at the coming General Assembly. The General Assembly in July this year would elect a new Executive Committee. I have served as Chairman for two terms, 2000–2002 and 2003–2006; the maximum

number of terms as allowed for in accordance to the Constitution. I am happy to note that APAFRI has grown to become a strong regional organization that has gained much visibility and recognition as the "Gateway to Asia Pacific". These achievements are the fruits of the hard work and tireless efforts of many individuals and agencies from the region. I therefore wish to express my utmost sincerely thanks to all the APAFRI members and friends who have supported and assisted me in guiding the Association to reach such achievements.

With best regards,

Dato' Dr Abdul Razak Mohd Ali
Chairman, APAFRI
June 2006

THE FOURTH APAFRI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**31 JULY 2006
KUALA LUMPUR**

According to APAFRI's Constitution, the General Assembly shall meet once every three years after the close of the financial year but not later than the month of April on a date and at a time and place to be decided by the Executive Committee. APAFRI had not been able to strictly follow this rule due to various logistic problems. The Second General Assembly was convened in August 2000, and the last General Assembly was in October 2003.

APAFRI's Constitution states that the General Assembly shall determine: the policy of the Association; review and endorse the programme of work and budget prepared by the Executive Committee; review progress; exercise other powers conferred upon it by the constitution. The General Assembly shall elect the new Executive Committee and appoint the auditors.

Article XII of APAFRI's Constitution states that the Executive Committee shall comprise a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and six members elected at the General Assembly from among the members by

ballot of all member institutions. The immediate Past Chairperson shall continue as an ordinary member for another term. Executive Committee members elected are representing member institutions and not on individual basis. These individuals are official representatives of the member institutions. The term of the members of the Executive Committee (except for half of the members of the Executive Committee elected at the First General Assembly) shall be from the first day of the month following the General Assembly in which they are elected to the last day of the month of the succeeding General Assembly. At every subsequent General Assembly, members who have completed their full term shall be replaced or reelected. No member of the Executive Committee may be reelected beyond a consecutive second term.

Traditionally, the General Assembly would be held in association with a major regional event to attract the attendance of representatives from member institutions. The quorum for the General Assembly shall be 33% of the membership. Currently there are 64 members in APAFRI, so the Fourth General



Assembly would need to be attended by representatives from at least 22 member institutions.

A call for proposals from member institutions to host the Fourth APAFRI General Assembly in 2006 has been posted on the APAFRI web site,

www.apafri.org, early last month. The message has also been circulated to all members by e-mails. The most recent issue of the APAFRI Newsletter (December 2005) also carried a full-page announcement to seek proposals from member institutions.

Article X and XI of the APAFRI Constitution provide guidelines for conducting the General Assembly:

ARTICLE X

The General Assembly

General Assembly of the Association shall be represented by one delegate from each member institution.

The General Assembly shall meet once every three years after the close of the financial year but not later than the month of April on a date and at a time and place to be decided by the Executive Committee.

All decisions shall be taken by a simple majority vote. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

The quorum for the General Assembly shall be 33% of the membership.

If half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting of the General Assembly a quorum is not present, the members present shall have the power to proceed with the business of the day but they shall not have the power to alter the constitution of the Association or make decisions affecting the whole membership.

Notice of meeting together with an agenda, minutes of the previous General Assembly and an audited account of the Association shall be forwarded to the members at least 30 days before of the General Assembly.

An Extraordinary General Assembly may be convened whenever the Executive Committee deems it necessary or at the joint request in writing of not less than 1/5 of the members, stating the objects and reason for such a meeting.

Notice and agenda for an extraordinary General Assembly shall be forwarded by the Executive Secretary to all members at least 15 days before the date fixed for the meeting. The provisions regarding quorum and postponement of the triennial General Assembly shall also apply to an Extraordinary General Assembly but with the proviso that if no quorum is present after half an hour from the time appointed for the Extraordinary General Assembly requisitioned by the members, the meeting shall be cancelled, no extraordinary General Assembly shall be requisitioned for the same purpose until after the lapse of at least six months from the date thereof.

ARTICLE XI

Duties of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall determine:

The policy of the Association;

Review and endorse the programme of work and budget prepared by the Executive Committee;

Review progress;

Exercise other powers conferred upon it by the constitution.

Despite the early announcements, by March this year, the Secretariat has not received any proposal from any member institution to host this General Assembly. As the Secretariat would require up to several months to prepare for the General Assembly, the Chairman proposed that the Fourth General Assembly be convened on 31 July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This is in conjunction with the International Conference on Agroforestry, 1–2 August 2006, also to be held in Kuala Lumpur. The Executive Committee would meet in the morning on

the same day. Members attending the General Assembly are also encouraged to stay on for the International Conference on Agroforestry.

All APAFRI members should make attending this General Assembly a top priority, to exercise their rights to guide the Association to serve them better.

For more details, please browse the APAFRI website or contact the Secretariat (secretariat@apafri.org).

INTERNATIONAL AGROFORESTRY CONFERENCE (IAC) 2006

AGROFORESTRY: HARNESSING THE BENEFITS

1–2 AUGUST 2006
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

Agroforestry systems have many direct and indirect benefits such as soil conservation, optimum production and outputs from a land unit, complementary food and fodder, and soil improvement. These systems also have potential capabilities to fulfill multiple needs of the people, generating extra and early incomes, creating employment opportunities, minimizing adverse effect of microclimatic factors and restoring of environment.

In the 1990s, the relevance of agroforestry for solving problems related to deterioration of agricultural farms, increased soil erosion, accelerated surface and ground water pollution, and decreased biodiversity was recognized in both the industrialized and developing nations. Agroforestry has received increasing attention as a sustainable land-management option, especially in the tropics, due to its ecological, economic, and social attributes.

In general, agroforestry systems provide greater socio-economic returns than many other crop combinations of forestry and agriculture alone. While they clearly offer economic and ecological advantages, these systems also involve complex interactions between individual components, which complicate their management and practices. Thus, the systems need to be manipulated and judiciously managed toward sustainability but at the same time are still commercially attractive, by harnessing their multiple benefits and attractively packaged as business venture for private sectors involving in agriculture or forestry.

Agroforestry research and development are, however, at a turning point. Though the potential of the practices has been amply illustrated, investment in a science base has not reached a level that can meet the demand for technology delivery. It is time, therefore, to evaluate progress, assess available options, and design strategies for the future.



Jointly organized by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Malaysian Agriculture Research and Development Institute (MARDI), Malaysian Society of Plant Physiology (MSPP), and the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), this International Conference would provide useful forum in preparing agroforestry to become a more commercially attractive and viable enterprise without reducing the accompanying benefits of the systems. The conference would have five sessions covering: agroforestry policies, trends and development; agroforestry systems and practices; research and development on agroforestry; socio-economic benefits of agroforestry; and country experiences.

(For more information about the conference, please visit www.frim.gov.my or www.apafri.org.)

(Representatives of APAFRI member institutions planning to attend the coming General Assembly on 31 July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur are encouraged to stay on to participate in this conference. For more details and logistic arrangements, please contact the APAFRI Secretariat (secretariat@apafri.org, tel:++60362722516, fax:++60362773249).)

APFORGEN WEBSITE

WWW.APFORGEN.ORG

Since early 2006, the APFORGEN Secretariat initiated the redesigning of APFORGEN website. The new site was completely redesigned graphically with the hope that it is more pleasing to the eyes and enhances its friendliness to users.

The redesigning involved changing the colour scheme for the titles, headings and other features. Combination of green and white is used to create a visually pleasing format, with a new navigation menu that stays on all the pages within the entire site. All the pages in the website cover not only the activities of APFORGEN, but also activities related to forest genetic resources in the region, as well as publications and links to sites containing related information. These have been grouped into four sections, and accessible with the four icons in the navigation menu. This redesigned site has fewer sections than the old version, this greatly ease browsing of the web pages to find the information one needs in a much friendlier way. The sections are:

- Home – This section contains a summary of new contents and recent updates which includes information about upcoming events with the links to further information
- About – There are six sub-headings under this section which provides detailed information about APFORGEN. Within this section one will find information on the APFORGEN's background, objectives, partners, list of national coordinators and the Secretariat.
- Activities – Four sub-menus are listed in this section. The *Upcoming*

Events provide a list of events and meetings related to forest genetic resources. In the *News* sub-section, you will find a list of past events together with their sources of information via websites. We have also created special pages for the *Inception Workshop* and *Annual Training Workshop* which contain details about the workshop and also store downloadable materials.

- Publications and Links – Pages that are too large or with too much information were broken up to facilitate more logical organization of the materials and to speed up downloading. Therefore pages for 'Publication' and 'Links' have been restructured under only one heading ("Publication and Links") and seven subheadings, and many of the duplicated links in the previous version of the website have been removed.

APFORGEN
Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme

HOME ABOUT ACTIVITIES PUBLICATIONS AND LINKS

Recent Updates

11th National Conference on Use and Conservation of Exotic Trees
The Division of Exotic Forestry, Chinese Society of Forestry and Xinjiang Provincial Society of Forestry are jointly organizing the 11th National Conference on Use and Conservation of Exotic Trees on 15-18 August 2006 which will take place in China.

Training Workshop on Forest Biodiversity: Conservation and Management of Forest Genetic Resources
This training workshop aims at providing a common background on forest genetic resources to graduate students and young scientists and will address the urgent needs and challenges in forest ecosystems.

Research Fellowship
IPGRI, in collaboration with the Austrian Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW), Department of Genetics, is pleased to announce a two-year fellowship on Forest Genetic Resources.

APFORGEN Workshop :Enhanced Networking for Forest Genetic Resources Information in Forest Management 15-16 April 2006, Dehradun, India
The APFORGEN Workshop, to be organized as a pre-session event during the coming 21st APFC Meeting in Dehradun, India, would deliberate on topics encompassing regional activities such as information documentation and exchange, development of regional conservation strategies and action plans and strategies for increased forest genetic conservation.

Welcome!!

Diverse Forest Diverse Life

APFORGEN is a programme to increase conservation and sustainable use of tropical forest genetic resources (FGR) in the Asia Pacific region.

National Coordinators met in India in April 2006

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITY AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES IN TROPICAL ASIA – AN ITTO FUNDED PROJECT

FEBRUARY 2006 – JANUARY 2009

The overall objective of the project is to develop national and regional capacity to conserve and sustainably use forest genetic resources in seven ITTO member countries in tropical Asia (Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand). This project responds to a need expressed by APAFRI members to increase information exchange and national capacity in rapidly developing scientific and technical areas, such as biodiversity assessment and conservation methodologies. The project is also a follow-up to a recommendation by several Southeast Asian countries during a regional workshop on forest genetic resources in 2001. This workshop recommended specifically that IPGRI, in collaboration with APAFRI, should take a lead role in developing a regional programme to strengthen work on conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in the region. In addition, this project will follow up implementation of the recommendations and operational plans developed by an earlier ITTO project (Planning practical and cost-effective strategies for genetic resources conservation of commercial tree species in tropical Asia and the Pacific).

The project will set up national task forces on forest genetic resources (FGR) to facilitate and coordinate the establishment of national FGR programmes in the participating countries. During the project, various national stakeholders, including policy-makers, will be brought together to discuss and develop strategies and action plans on FGR conservation and sustainable use. The countries will identify and prioritise their capacity-building needs as well as assess the progress made in conserving genetic resources of tropical timber species. Based on these, the national task forces will develop new initiatives and proposals for their own governments and international donors for implementation of the strategies and action plans to increase FGR conservation and sustainable use. The project will also provide training on FGR conservation and management for researchers, managers and field staff. At regional level, the project will establish a

regional programme to coordinate the FGR work and to provide technical support for the establishment of national FGR programmes in the above-mentioned ITTO countries and, at post-project phases, also in other countries in the Asia Pacific region.

The project, to be completed by January 2009, would be implemented by Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), jointly with the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) and International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI). The project has a budget of USD574 000.

During this period various national stakeholders, including policy-makers, will be brought together to discuss and develop strategies and action plans on FGR conservation and use. Experiences and lessons learnt during this project will be used for facilitating similar efforts in other ITTO member and non-member countries in the Asia Pacific region.

At regional level, the project will strengthen the Secretariat of Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN), and increase regional collaboration on FGR. The APFORGEN secretariat will also be responsible for providing backstopping for the national FGR conservation and management programmes.

Since the official initiation of the project in February 2006, the national coordinators of the seven participating countries had met once. The activity and programme details were explained and further refined with inputs from the national coordinators. National coordinators were also reminded to plan national activities to meet the expectation of this project. The Secretariat had provided guidelines, and would further assist national coordinators in fulfilling their obligations required to achieve the objectives of this project.

(For further information, contact secretariat@apforgen.org.)

ASIA PACIFIC FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES PROGRAMME (APFORGEN) WORKSHOP

14–15 APRIL 2006, DEHRADUN, INDIA

The Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN) held a one and a half-day workshop in Dehradun, India, on 15–16 April 2006. This meeting was organized as a pre-session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission 21st Session (APFC), 17–21 April 2006. The objectives of the APFORGEN workshop were: to discuss recent updates of national forest genetic resources conservation and management (FGR C&M) in the region, to discuss the development of national FGR programmes in the participating countries, to revisit the draft APFORGEN Action Plan, to explore more effective means for information dissemination between the participating organizations and countries in the region, to explore resource generation strategy or ideas and to identify other areas of common interest for collaboration

Twelve National Coordinators from the 14 member countries were present at the workshop. They were from Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Bangladesh and Pakistan were unable to participate. Several Indian scientists and individual researchers from Malaysia, Thailand and Vanuatu also attended the workshop as observers. The workshop was jointly organized by Asia Pacific Association of Forest Research Institutions (APAFRI) and IPGRI in collaboration with the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE). All the participants stayed on to attend the APFC 21st Session.

APFORGEN updates

The agenda of workshop commenced with an update on APFORGEN activities. The major achievements of the programme for the past three years included the publication of the Inception Workshop (2003) proceedings, nine priority species information sheets, APFORGEN brochures, establishment and updating of the APFORGEN website (www.apforgen.org) and organization of two sub-regional meetings of the National Coordinators held in Kuala Lumpur and Sri Lanka respectively. An important recent achievement

is the approval of ITTO-funded project entitled “*Strengthening national capacity and regional collaboration for sustainable use of forest genetic resources in tropical Asia*”. Work has started in February 2006 involving directly 7 of the 14 APFORGEN countries of Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand.

Country updates

At the workshop the National Coordinators presented updates on policies, organizations, scientific projects, conservation strategies and international collaboration in FGR in their respective countries. There were numerous newly introduced policies and research initiatives relevant to FGR C&M. In addition, the 12 national coordinators explained why forest genetic diversity matters and what kind of new initiatives would be needed from their perspective. The activities suggested were: establishment of national forest genetic resource conservation networks, training of scientists, joint research/conservation projects among member countries, development of standards, integrated conservation and tree improvement programmes and facilitation of exchange of genetic materials

Draft action plans

The draft action plans proposed during previous meetings were re-visited. Quite a number of the proposed actions have already been initiated by the participating countries. It was decided that these action plans would need to be updated as the scenario in many countries had changed during the past years. National Coordinators will review and provide updates and submit the revised versions to APFORGEN Secretariat who would then consolidate all the updates and disseminate the information to member countries.

APFORGEN website

The workshop decided that the APFORGEN website (www.apforgen.org) will play a key role in information dissemination between member countries. To accomplish this regular effort should be made to update the website and also a suggestion was made to post success stories in FGR C&M on it for dissemination.



Genetic diversity in forest rehabilitation

This discussion revealed that several APFORGEN countries have important reforestation and rehabilitation activities and that these efforts are likely to strengthen in the future. The understanding of the importance of genetic diversity in forest rehabilitation varies between the countries. However, the level of scientific knowledge on genetic diversity in rehabilitation is low throughout the countries. There is a strong need for a project to assist countries to increase genetic diversity of planted trees through scientific and research related activities.

Next APFORGEN national coordinators' meeting

The Indonesian National Coordinator Dr. Nur Masripatin has established a national APFORGEN secretariat with some support from the Indonesian government shortly after the Inception Workshop of 2003. This success of Indonesia could be replicated in other member countries, and Indonesia has volunteered to assist other countries to do so. In addition, Indonesia has volunteered to host the next APFORGEN National Coordinators' Meeting scheduled for 2007 or 2008.

Please visit APFORGEN website, www.apforgen.org, for more information.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

TAIPEI, TAIWAN
20-26 FEBRUARY 2006

The International Long Term Ecological Research (ILTER) Network has proposed a series of workshops on ecological information management (IM) of the East Asia and Pacific Regional Network of ILTER and the first workshop was held in Beijing, China, in July 2005.



The Taiwan Ecological Research Network (TERN) hosted the second workshop in Taipei, Taiwan, 20-26 February 2006. Participants from East Asian countries, Thailand Malaysia and the Philippines, as well as a staff member of APAFRI, attended the five-day workshop. The main goal of this second workshop is building capability and linking member network information management systems. This workshop provided training in Ecological Metadata Language (EML) tools and other information management technology. It focused exclusively on introducing new information tools based on EML which would help participants to build their own capabilities in skills such as EML editing, data storing and searching, etc.

Ecological Metadata Language

The long-term value of ecological data, and its utilization for advancing ecological understanding and solving important environmental problems depend on the availability of suitable and adequate metadata, or descriptive information describing data content, context, quality, structure and accessibility. Even the simplest analysis requires some levels of metadata. Most of researchers have experienced difficulties in using their own data only a few months after they were collected. Unless data are adequately documented, the difficulties would only multiply over time.

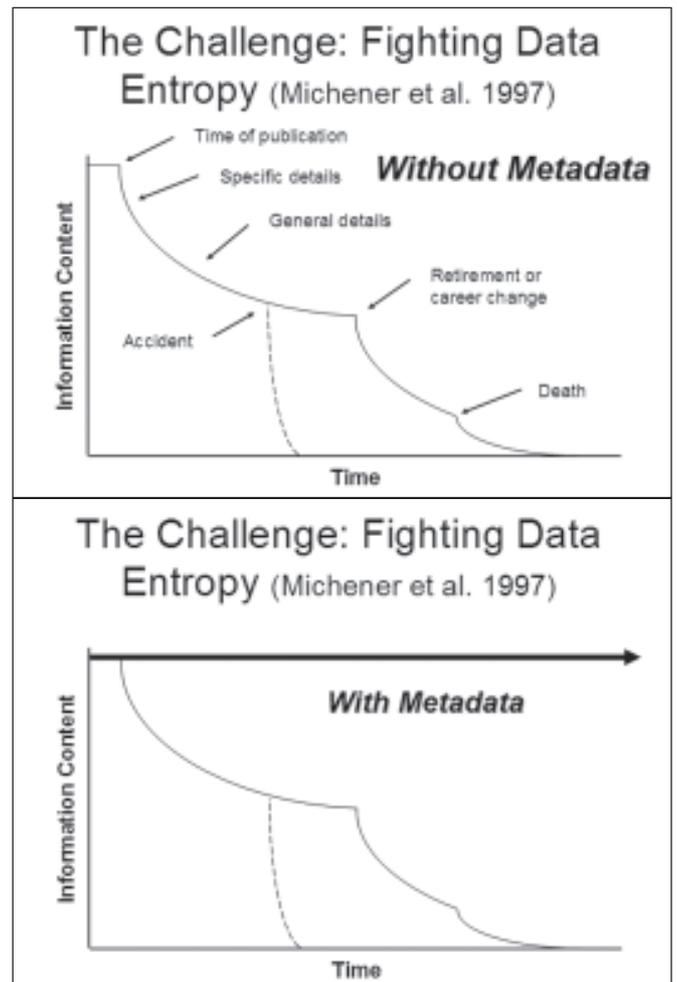
EML is a method for formalizing and standardizing the set of concepts that are essential for describing ecological data, as well as the format for recording this information. EML is a metadata standard developed by the ecological community for the ecological discipline. It is intended for use by any ecologist or manager of ecological information. It describes a range of essential aspects of ecological data, such as attributes (usually thought of as variables by ecologist); names and definitions; unit of measurement; date, time and location of data collection; who collected the data; sampling design; etc. EML attempts to reduce ambiguity and uncertainty by formalizing these metadata concepts into a comprehensive yet standardized set of terms and definitions intended specifically for ecological data.

Morpho is a cross-computer platform data and metadata management software program. As a data management application, it enables an ecologist to create, edit and manage metadata and data tables. *Morpho* also provides the capabilities to search and query ecological data, both locally and remotely, on ecological achieves accessible via the Internet. *Morpho* includes wizards that facilitate the documentation of the most common attributes of data using a subset of EML.

Ecological Information Management

In information management, long-term ecological research (LTER) is faced with the specific challenge of how to maintain datasets over a long period of time. The need for data stewardship is motivated by an awareness of an ongoing loss in informal content for data that results in the loss of usefulness

of data over time. This is captured in an often referenced graph portraying 'information entropy' which refers to the loss of information about the data collected to address a particular scientific question by a particular individual researcher subject both to 'retirement' and to 'death'. The extended temporal dimension of preserving data for decades to centuries poses challenges for the design of metadata and long-term memory of large scale databases and archives, and of technologies that support distributed collaboration.



Why do we build Ecological Information Management System (EIMS)? Major research questions (climate change, biodiversity, biogeochemistry, human impacts, hydro-ecology) require data to be collected at regional and national scale; and using different types of measurement. Access to new data resources can fundamentally change what ecologist can achieve. Furthermore, EIMS could preserve information. Without active measures, data "decays" and reduces its long-term value. For most ecological data, once lost, these data can never be re-collected.



Upcoming LTER Events

In 2006, the All Scientist Meeting will return to the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado, a venue that has been used for two very successful LTER All Scientist Meetings. The meeting will take place from the evening of 20 September through the

afternoon of 23 September. Topics to be discussed will include developing a controlled vocabulary for the LTER Network Information System, implementing a cross-site data management project for long term data, and planning for cyber infrastructure implementation across the LTER to support synthetic science.

Additional information on Ecological Metadata Language can be found in <http://www.ecoinformatics.org>

(The APAFRI Information Officer, Ms Syuqiyah Abdul Hamid, had attended the training workshop in Taipei, and had since then conducted two training courses on managing ecological data for researchers in FRIM. Those who are interested to know more about these training courses could contact Ms Syuqiyah at syuqiyah@apafri.org.)



KEEP ASIA GREEN

AN IUFRO INITIATIVE, 2006–2010



Continued rapid industrialization and exponential increase in the world's population are the major reasons for the deterioration of the global environment. Forest ecosystems which are seriously affected by degradation in many regions in the world, take a prominent place in the debate on global ecosystem conservation and sustainable natural resources management. According to FAO, in the period 1990 to 2000 the forest area worldwide declined by about 8.9 million hectares annually; while in Asia in recent years the forest area was reduced by about 3.4 million hectares per year. At the same time, forest planting, landscape restoration and natural expansion of forests have significantly reduced the net loss of forest areas. An example of successful landscape restoration is Korea, where over the past 40 years, degraded forests were rehabilitated at an unprecedented scale. This great success was achieved through combined efforts by the Korean Government and the "Keep Korea Green" campaign by Yuhan-Kimberly, Korea's largest wood processing and paper producing company. Meeting

the big challenge of forest rehabilitation in Korea became an excellent motivation for applying the experiences and skills gained in the restoration of forest landscapes also in other countries. Towards this end, the Korean Government through numerous projects is actively supporting forest restoration work in developing countries in the Asia Pacific region.

Keep Asia Green

Don K. Lee, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) President and also a Professor of Seoul National University, Korea, has managed to persuade Yuhan-Kimberly to support a project to document forest rehabilitation works in Asia and the Pacific. The project aims at publishing, over the next five years, a book series entitled "Keep Asia Green". The various volumes of the book will provide state-of-the-art information about the forests in the Asia-Pacific region and the status and causes of their degradation as well as past and current rehabilitation efforts and achievements. The book

would also assess national capacities in forest rehabilitation and existing education programmes and critically analyse the need for further strengthening of forest landscape restoration efforts in each country. The first phase of the project (January – December 2006) will produce country reports covering the 10 countries in Southeast Asia (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam). It is planned to launch the final book series “Keep Asia Green” covering all sub-regions of Asia and the Pacific at the 23rd World Congress of IUFRO in Seoul, Korea, in October 2010. It is expected that more than 3 000 participants will attend this Congress. The publication of the book series is an excellent opportunity not only to provide information on the status of forests and forestry in Asia Pacific but also to show our endeavours for “Keep Asia Green”.

The activities under this project will be coordinated by IUFRO-SPDC (Dr. Michael Kleine: kleine@iufro.org) in close cooperation with the IUFRO-SPDC Regional Coordinator for Asia Pacific (Dr. Sim Heok Choh: sim@apafri.org) based at the APAFRI Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Unit (Mr. Yong Kwon Lee: shorea@snu.ac.kr) based at NICEM, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Seoul National University, Korea.

A forest scientist will be identified in each country to act as lead authors of the country reports. The lead author will be responsible for mobilising the necessary information from national experts and compiling the content of the country report. By June 2006, the followings have consented to be lead authors:

Brunei Darussalam	Mr. Mahmud Hj Yussof, Silviculturist, Forestry Department, Ministry of Industry & Primary Resources.
Cambodia	Dr. Sok Heng, Forestry & Wildlife Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries.
Indonesia	Prof. Suhardi, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta.
Lao PDR	Mr. Phongoudome Chansamone, Forest Research Centre.
Malaysia	Dr. Daniel Baskaran, Forest Research Institute of Malaysia.
Philippines	Prof. Lucrecio Rebugio, University of the Philippines at Los Banõs.
Singapore	Dr. Geoffrey Davison, Singapore National Parks Board
Thailand	Dr. Monton Jamroenprucksas, Kasetsart University
Viet Nam	Dr. Nguyen Hoang Nghia, Forest Science Institute Vietnam

(By press time, Myanmar has yet to nominate its lead author for this project).

(This brief note has been summarized from a background paper prepared by Michael Kleine, kleine@iufro.org. APAFRI members interested to contribute to this project should get in touch with the lead authors.)



TRAINING WORKSHOP ON FOREST BIODIVERSITY: CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

5–16 JUNE 2006, KUALA LUMPUR

A two-week training workshop aiming at providing a common background on forest genetic resources to graduate students and young scientists was held in Kuala Lumpur, 5–16 June 2006. The workshop, besides other topics, also addressed the urgent needs and challenges in managing forest ecosystems, especially in the Asia Pacific region. This workshop was jointly organized by the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) and the Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape, Austria (BFW), in collaboration with Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN), Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), and Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM).

evolutionary genetics in forest tree populations, spatial pattern of genetic diversity and its sampling, *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation, as well as case studies on regional issues. Two field visits were organized for the participants. During the first field visit, participants visited the Biotechnology Division of FRIM, and were taken on a guided tour of the division's seed technology, micro-propagation and genetic research facilities, and the FRIM museum and a short jungle walk. The second field visit was to the FRIM's experimentation station located in Bidor, about two hours by road north of Kuala Lumpur. This experimental station was built on ex-tin mine, and the main focus of the station is to research the restoration of the barren sandy land by planting suitable fast growing exotics such as *Acacia*



A total of 28 young scientists from nine countries: Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, participated in this intensive training workshop. The topics covered included forest biodiversity, genetic diversity,

mangium, and also some indigenous species such as *Hopea odorata*.

(Detailed reports and other materials would soon be posted on the APFORGEN website, www.apforgen.org.)

ASIA PACIFIC FOREST INVASIVE SPECIES NETWORK (APFISN) WORKSHOP

EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS FOR FOREST INVASIVE SPECIES

21–24 FEBRUARY 2006, KERALA, INDIA

A workshop on “Early warning systems for forest invasive species’ was held at Kerala Forest Research Institute, Kerala, India, 21–24 February 2006. It was organized as an activity of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) in collaboration with Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), USDA Forest Service, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) and Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI). The main objectives of the workshop were: 1) to become familiar with key early warning strategies for forest invasive species; 2) identify key challenges to implementing early warning systems for forest invasive species and possible solutions to address these challenges; 3) develop working relationships and contacts with colleagues from other countries on invasive species; and 4) develop an action plan to address early warning of invasive species on a regional scale.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Patrick Durst, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Earlier, Dr. J.K. Sharma, Director, Kerala Forest Research Institute welcomed the gathering. Dr. Daniel Baskaran, Executive Secretary of APAFRI and Mr. A.K. Goyal, Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India and APFISN focal point (India) gave special addresses. Mr. Borys Tkacz, National Programme Manager, Forest Health Monitoring, USDA, outlined the objectives of the workshop and projected its ultimate goal. The workshop was attended by 48 participants from 13 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand, United Kingdom, USA and Viet Nam. Representatives of APAFRI and FAO also participated in the workshop.

There were four technical sessions: 1. Overview of Early Warning Systems, 2. Identifying Potential Threats, 3. Early Detection of Invasive Forest Species; and 4. Assessing Potential Impacts of Forest Invasive Species. A Panel Discussion lead by Dr. S.T. Murphy and Mr. A.K. Goyal, with Prof. P.S. Ramakrishnan, Mr. Frank Sapio, Dr. Ross Wylie, Dr. Chris Baddeley, Dr. Sun Jianghua and Mr. Pham Quang Thu as panelists set the stage for small break-up groups to discuss and consolidate suggestions to develop an action plan for early warning on a regional scale. The major issues covered were: 1) How to network (organization of network, role of national coordinator, committee at country level)? 2) What to network? and 3) Areas to network. Detailed discussions were held on each issue especially on information sharing, general public awareness, linkages among quarantine-agriculture-forestry, taxonomy, diagnostic protocols, impact assessment, specific IAS problems at country and regional levels, regulatory harmonization, collaborative research projects, promoting exchange of biocontrol agents/promising germplasm and capacity building. The other issues discussed include: 1) source of funding for the network, 2) availability of expertise, 3) use of sophisticated technologies for dealing with IAS, and 4) methodologies for impact assessment.

Twenty participants joined a field trip to the Vazhachal (Thrissur, Kerala) forest area. The participants were taken to a natural forest site where exotic invasive weeds *Chromolaena odorata*, *Mikania micrantha*, *Mimosa invisa* and *Lantana camara* pose threat to the native flora.

(This has been summarized from a report prepared by Dr KV Sankaran (sankaran@kfri.org), KFRI.)

URBAN FORESTRY CONFERENCE: “MANAGING URBAN GREEN FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES”

6–8 JUNE, 2006, KUALA LUMPUR

Urban forestry is the practice of cultivating and managing trees for their contributions to the physiological, sociological and economic well-being of the urban society in and around the places we live: cities, suburbs, and rural communities. Trees provide many environmental and cultural services. Their presence improves aesthetic and hence property value. In addition, parks and amenity forests provide opportunities for recreation and tourism.

Sustainable development has been the much-debated topic in this millennium. Blending developments and preserving the environment has been difficult especially in big cities where lands are scarce. Although many cities in this region have some forms of urban forestry programmes, there have been very little research, technology transfer and information exchanges in the region.

The conference convened in Kuala Lumpur aimed to address these issues and to provide a platform to discuss the status, progress and strengthen networking and collaboration efforts among urban forestry practitioners in the Asian region. Sharing of experiences and knowledge in urban forestry will be the highlights of this conference. The two-day conference, with a one-day post conference tour to Putrajaya – the new administrative centre of Kuala Lumpur, had attracted 87 participants. Participants were from both public and private organizations dealing with urban forestry or park management. APAFRI sponsored four participants from the region, two from Indonesia and one each from the Philippines and China.



The conference had a total of 32 oral papers covering the themes: status and challenges in creating urban forest; planning of urban greenery for sustainable development; management of urban forest; species diversification and growth performance in urban trees; and benefits and socio-economic evaluation of urban forest.

(For more information on the conference, contact Sreetheran Maruthaveeran: Sreetheran@frim.gov.my.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

APAFRI Fourth General Assembly 2006

Date : 31 July 2006
Venue : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Contact Person : Secretariat
c/o Forest Research Institute Malaysia
52109 Kepong, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
Tel : 6 03 6272 2516
Fax : 6 03 6277 3249
Email : secretariat@apafri.org
Web : <http://www.apafri.org>

International Agroforestry Conference (IAC) 2006

Date : 1–2 August 2006
Venue : Pan Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Contact Person : Dr. Ab Rasip Ab Ghani
Ms. Azlina Ahmad
Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM),
52109 Kepong, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
Tel : 6 03 6279 7097 / 7087
Fax : 6 03 6273 1427
Email : rasip@frim.gov.my / azlina@frim.gov.my
Web : <http://www.frim.gov.my>

The 3rd International Symposium on Earth Resources and Geological Engineering Education

Date : 3–4 Agustus 2006.
Venue : Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Contact Person : Dr. Dwikorita Karnawati, M.Sc.
Head of Geological Engineering Department
Tel : 0274 513668, 901380;
Mobile : 62 811 286 756
Fax : 0274 513668
Email : geologiugm@jogjamedianet.com
Website : <http://fws.ugm.ac.id>

International Conference on Forest and Water in a Changing Environment

Date : 8–10 August 2006
Venue : Beijing, China
Contact Person : Dr. Huaxin Bi/Ms. Meiyang Wang/
Ms. Yujie Chen/Ms. Yali Gu
Division of International Cooperation,
Chinese Academy of Forestry
P.R. China
Tel : 86 10 6288 9090 / 9091
Fax : 86 10 6288 4229
Email : mwang@forestry.ac.cn / chenyj@forestry.ac.cn
guyali@forestry.ac.cn
Web : http://www.caf.ac.cn/fwce/fwce_e.cfm

26th Conference of the International Association of Agricultural Economists

Date : 12–18 August (2006)
Venue : Gold Coast, Queensland Australia
Contact Person : Rhonda Hendicott
Event Manager
Conference of International Association of
Agricultural Economists
C/- Hoteliers International
PO Box 12563, George Street Post Shop
BRISBANE QLD 4003, AUSTRALIA
Tel : 617 3210 1646
Fax : 617 3210 1606
Email : iaee@hoteliersint.com
Website : <http://www.iaee2006.org>

11th National Conference on Use and Conservation of Exotic Trees

Date : 15–18 August 2006
Venue : Urumqi, Xinjiang Autonomous Region, China
Contact Person : Dr. ZHENG Yongqi
Chinese Academy of Forestry,
P.R. China
Tel : 86 10 6288 8565
Fax : 86 10 6287 2015
Email : zhengyq@caf.ac.cn
Web : http://www.apafri.org/files/National_Conference_China.doc

2006 Queensland Landcare Conference – Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide

Date : 21–24 August 2006
Venue : Brisbane Convention and Exhibition
Contact Person : The Conference Organiser Centre, Merivale
Street (Cnr Glenelg),
South Brisbane Q 4101
Tel : 07 3211 4413
Fax : 07 3211 4407
Email : kerri@landcare.com.au

Workshop on Forest Governance and Decentralisation in Asia and the Pacific

Date : 4–6 September 2006,
Venue : Yogyakarta – Indonesia
Contact Person : Tonny Soehartono
DepartemenKehutanan
Badan Planologi Kehutanan
Gedung Manggala Wanabakti
Blok VII No. 55 Lt. 5, Jl. Jend. Gatot Subroto,
Senayan, Jakarta 10270, Indonesia
Tel : 62 21 5733435
Fax : 62 21 5720216
Email : tsoehartono@cbn.net.id

Fifteenth Australian Weeds Conference

Date : 24–28 September 2006
Venue : Adelaide, South Australia
Contact Person : Secretariat
Plevin and Associates Pty Ltd
PO Box 54 BURNSIDE 5066, South Australia
Tel : 61 8 8379 8222
Fax : 61 8 8379 8177
Email : events@plevin.com.au
Website : www.plevin.com.au/15AWC2006

3rd International Symposium on Integrated Water Resources Management

Date : 26–28 September 2006
Venue : Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany
Contact Person : ConventuS
Congressmanagement & Marketing
GmbH Markt 8, 07743 Jena, Germany
Tel : 49 3641 3533 221
Fax : 49 3641 3533 271
Email : water@conventus.de
Web : <http://www.conventus.de/water>

6th Asia-Pacific Conference on Algal Biotechnology (APCAB)

Date : 12–15 October 2006
Venue : Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City
Contact Person : The Secretariat
P.O. Box 169, UP Los Baños
College, Laguna 4031, Philippines
Fax : 63 49 536 2517 or 5360939
E-mail : mgoss2003@yahoo.com

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

Contact us:

APAFRI Secretariat
Forest Research Institute Malaysia
Kepong, 52109 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
Tel: (6) 03 6272 2516
Fax (6) 03 6277 3249
e-mail: secretariat@apafri.org
website: www.apafri.org

*A*cknowledgements

APAFRI extends its thanks to the followings for their support:

Financial Contributions:

- ❖ ACIAR (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research)
- ❖ USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Forest Service
- ❖ AKECOP (Asean-Korea Environmental Cooperation Project)
- ❖ IPGRI (International Plant Genetic Resources Institute)

Contributions in kind:

- ❖ Forest Research Institute Malaysia

ASIA PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS



APAFRI

Secretariat

Forest Research Institute Malaysia
Kepong
52109 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

Tel : (6) 03 6272 2516
Fax : (6) 03 6277 3249

E-Mail: secretariat@apafri.org
website: www.apafri.org

stamp

**PRINTED MATTER
AIR MAIL**