



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

### *Greetings from Colombo!*

How time flies! It is almost a year now since the last General Assembly that has elected me as the Chairman of the Executive Committee of APAFRI. In this message, my second, as the Chairman I am delighted to highlight some APAFRI's activities and events during the past six months; as well as those that have been planned for the remaining months of 2007.



We had the Thirteenth Executive Committee Meeting in March this year. This is the first meeting for the current Executive Committee, and I was very pleased that almost all the members had made it a point to travel to Kuala Lumpur for this meeting. Several decisions were made during this meeting, such as the suggestion of setting up a task force to review the past activities and programmes of APAFRI and to formulate strategies to guide APAFRI's future activities and undertakings.

I had suggested that APAFRI should aggressively promote and market the various training and capacity building services that some of its member institutions are offering. There are also some member institutions which are capable of offering such services in specific areas, but require logistic support which APAFRI could provide. Such services, with appropriate promotion and marketing, could also be able to attract participants from outside the Asia-Pacific region. All these represent opportunities which would certainly contribute to achieving APAFRI's mission of promoting and developing the region's research and development culture and capacity, as well as to uplift APAFRI's profile as the *Gateway to Asia Pacific*.

In responding to this call, the Secretariat had announced the organizing of a study tour to the Malaysian mangrove forests. The one-week study tour would be hosted by the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia, and with sufficient interest the Secretariat could organize this study tour as an annual event. Originally planned for July, this study tour has now been postponed to September. An announcement with the details is included in this issue.

APAFRI has been invited to facilitate some of the activities related to the Second Asia Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Studies launched recently by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In late January

this year, APAFRI assisted in the organizing of a national focal points' meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand. A number of the national focal points would be organizing national consultative workshops to prepare country reports. These reports would be presented during a conference planned for Chiang Mai in October this year. More details regarding this conference is in an article in this issue. APAFRI would also assist in the preparation of a few thematic studies. In

conjunction with these, the Secretariat had launched an e-discussion, an online discussion forum at our website, on the topic of *Science and technological scenario in forest sector towards 2020*. About a dozen areas had been identified, each with a number of questions to prompt the discussions. These areas would each be posted for up to two or three weeks on the APAFRI's website for discussion. All interested are urged to browse the relevant webpage and post comments/remarks/opinions related to these areas.

APAFRI, has during the months of May and June this year been involved in organizing three events, two in Kuala Lumpur and one in Sabah, an eastern state of Malaysia on the Borneo Island. The Asia Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) workshop in Kuala Lumpur had attracted more than 30 participants from the region; where the week-long training workshop under the ITTO Project on forest genetic resources conservation and management was attended by about 20 participants. APAFRI assisted the IUFRO SPDC in facilitating the participation of nine young scientists in a workshop convened in June at a training centre deep in the interior of the state of Sabah.

Do browse our website once a while to keep updated on programmes and activities that our Association is involved in, or the events that the Secretariat would be organizing. Along this line, member institutions which are offering, or planning to organize training programmes or workshops and seminars, could get in touch with the Secretariat. APAFRI Secretariat could, either assist them in promoting and marketing these services, or offer logistic support to organize such events.

With best regards,

**Sarath Fernando**  
Chairman, APAFRI  
June 2007

# APAFRI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THIRTEENTH MEETING

10 March 2007, Kuala Lumpur

Mr Sarath Fernando, the Chairman, welcomed all the Executive Committee members and observers to the first meeting of the current Executive Committee. Despite the short notice and their individual busy schedules, all except Dr Xiao Wenfa (CAF), had come to Kuala Lumpur for this meeting.

The Chairman informed the meeting that an important achievement during the period since the last General Assembly in July 2006, was the confirmation from FRIM's Board that it would continue to host the Secretariat of APAFRI, as well as continuing with the in-kind and financial contribution. He expressed gratitude, on behalf of APAFRI, to Dato' Dr Abdul Razak, the Director General of FRIM and also the Immediate Past Chairman, for this generous offer.

The Chairman also thanked the two Internal Auditors, Dr Petrus Gunarso and Dr Kazuhiro Ishizuka, who had conducted an internal audit prior to this meeting. Several issues arose from this internal audit, such as uplift further the profile of APAFRI in the whole region, improve collection of membership dues, and recognising the contribution of the current host of the Secretariat, were discussed at length.

Dr Nur Masripatin, the Vice-Chair, suggested that APAFRI should explore the possibilities of hosting some global or regional meetings/workshops for international processes or conventions such as CBD and UNFCCC. Secretariat should follow this up to tap into these huge resources, which could greatly uplift APAFRI's profile as a regional representative.

Nalish Sam stressed the importance of strengthening the role of APAFRI as the platform for sharing and exchange of information and experience in the Asia Pacific region. The meeting discussed exploring the possibilities of involving more APAFRI member institutions, especially those from the Pacific Island Nations, in APAFRI activities, as well as organizing activities in the Pacific sub region. The Secretariat has initiated discussions on these issues with FAO-Pacific Office and SPC since a few years ago. Currently, with a representative from the sub region in APAFRI's Executive Committee, it becomes imperative to getting something off the ground soonest possible.

The meeting discussed various means to improve the collection of membership dues. One suggestion is, besides sending the invoices to the contact person designated by each member institution, the secretariat should also send

copies of these invoices to the Head and/or the Accounts/ Finance Department of the member institutions.

To further improve the overall performance of APAFRI as a regional association of forestry research communities, Dr Percy Sajise suggested setting up three sub committees to focus on the objectives of APAFRI as stated in the Constitution:

- Promote exchange of scientific and technical know-how and information;
- Promote cooperative research and training programmes; and
- Strengthen linkages between national, regional and international research centres and organizations.

After a fairly lengthy discussion, the meeting decided that just one sub committee would be established. This sub committee would focus on promoting cooperative research and training programmes. Dr Percy Sajise has volunteered to head this sub committee. Nalish reminded the meeting the importance of having sub regional representation in the sub committee.

The Chairman suggested that APAFRI Secretariat should consider organizing training courses and study tours as there are considerable demands for these types of capacity building activities in the region. As APAFRI Secretariat does not have sufficient relevant expertise, it could identify and approach member institutions to tap into their expertise and resources. He further expressed interest in sending his officers to attend a study tour on Malaysian mangrove forests which could be organized by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). Dato' Dr Razak, the Director General of FRIM and also the Immediate Past Chairman, supported the idea and instructed the Secretariat to contact the relevant division in FRIM to organize this study tour. Dr Pandey strongly supported the idea of identifying member institutions to host training courses based on their recognized strength in certain fields of specialization. He offered to co-organize a training course on forest products. One possible topic would be bamboo for housing. The Secretariat would follow up with Dr Pandey on this and plan to have the first training course organized within this year.

Dr Park JungHwan mentioned that the Korean Government through the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI) would allocate substantial funding to IUFRO for a number of activities in Asia. The details would be discussed by a committee which could include a representative from the APAFRI Secretariat.

# NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT IN INDONESIA

1 March 2007, Bogor, Indonesia

Indonesia is one among few countries with rich biological diversity and faces problem of forest degradation which could lead to the lost of biodiversity. Various efforts have been taken to halt further damage to forest genetic resources (FGR) and forest resources in general. Relevant regulations have been put into effect and national task force dealing with all genetic resources including FGR is in the final stage of establishment. Many activities on, or related to FGR conservation and management (FGR-CM), have been done by various institutions and organizations with different objectives and focuses.

The Centre for Plantation Forest Research and Development (CPFRD) in the capacity of the National Coordinator for APFORGEN have carried out activities under the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the national coordinators (NCs) as stated in the joint letter of assignment from IPGRI APO-APAFRI. The national Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN) Secretariat has been established at the CPFRD since 2004 with annual activities in line with related national and forestry policies as well as APFORGEN Action Plan 2005–2007. The Secretariat issues various publications such as the bi-monthly Newsletter on national level APFORGEN activities, leaflets, flyers, as well as workshop proceedings.

National Workshops on FGR conservation and management have been organized by CPFRD yearly since 2004. The first workshop (2004) was intended to identify stakeholders, sharing information on the status of research and development on FGR, as well as gathering relevant inputs for FGR conservation and management. The outputs of the workshop were compiled and presented at the Southeast Asia (SEA) National Coordinators' Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in 2004 as input from Indonesia for the draft of APFORGEN Action Plan 2005–2007.

The second national workshop was conducted in 2005, which focused on reviewing the policy on FGR and the introduction of a concept on 'village level FGR conservation and management (Indonesian: *Konservasi Sumberdaya Genetik Tanaman Hutan Tingkat Desa* (KSDGTH-TD)), and identify stakeholders to carry out

the relevant tasks. The concept was introduced with consideration that the huge challenges faced by Indonesia in FGR-CM, both *in-situ* and *ex-situ*, in a larger scale; need to be complemented with smaller scale FGR-CM.

The third workshop was held in November 2006, to discuss scientific consideration in KSDGTH-TD, formulate technical detail of KSDGTH-TD, and assess institutional aspects to enable early actions in the field. It was clearly stated in the opening speech of the Minister of Forestry, that concrete follow up of the workshop would be critical for KSDGTH-TD. Furthermore, this recent workshop recommended a number of immediate follow up actions which need to be discussed further with key stakeholders.

The present workshop is a follow-up of the third workshop convened in November 2006, and it was organized to:

1. Identify further, status of knowledge and technology relevant to FGR-CM as well as human resources working on FGR-CM related areas,
2. Using this information to identify R & D as well as capacity building needs,
3. Identify stakeholders interested in 'village level FGR conservation and management/KSDGTH-TD' and (if possible) agreeing on the next steps.

A total of 54 representatives of various relevant agencies, NGOs, universities, local governments, and forestry enterprises, from all over Indonesia, participated at this one-day workshop.

The outcomes of this workshop, including the recommendations from the small group discussions, would be compiled to update the information on the status of knowledge and technology relevant to FGR-CM, and human resources, as the basis for setting up long-term, medium and short-term plans on FGR-CM in Indonesia. The final report would also compile information on R & D and capacity buildings needs on FGR-CM for Indonesia.

(Adapted from a report prepared by Dr Nugroho Sulisty, CPFRD, Bogor, Indonesia).

# NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES CONSERVATION

6 February 2007  
Magdalena Function Room  
Traders' Hotel, Manila, Philippines

Diverse products and services are provided to us by the estimated 14,000 floral species in the Philippines. In addition to these important functions, forest plants maintain a high level of genetic diversity, both inter- and intraspecific that are critical to the integrity of forest ecosystems. This genetic variation enables trees to adapt to changing environment brought about by changing climates or by pests and diseases. From these genes, materials for future selection and breeding are made available to sustain the wide range of products and services produced by these forest plants.

Harmonization of forest production and protection objectives with conservation is highly possible through well-coordinated planning at the national, local and regional levels. Biodiversity conservation, which includes forest genetic resources (FGR) conservation is critical in sustainable forest management. This will insure that productive, protective, environmental, cultural and even spiritual roles of the forests are maintained.

Over the years, the Philippine forest plants, and for that matter the forest genetic resources in particular, have been threatened by a number of factors namely:

conversion to non-forest based land use leading to habitat degradation, unsustainable logging, destructive kaingin-making (shifting cultivation), forest fires, chemical pollution, pests and diseases, mining and invasion of alien species.

Cognizant of these threats that endanger the Philippine forest biodiversity, a number of *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation measures have been implemented today and in the past by major stakeholders including the government, NGOs, academic and research institutions. However, most of these initiatives have by and large focused on ecosystems or plant levels without the conscious effort of conserving forest genetic resources. Intuitively, though, forest genetic resources are conserved in the process, but the absence of an integrated forest genetic resources conservation component in the national, local and regional plans for biodiversity conservation limits the scope of the program. It puts the precious FGRs in peril because no deliberate effort is included in the wider strategy of conserving plants in the Philippine forests.

It is for this important reason that a consultative workshop was organized through the ITTO Project, "Strengthening National Capacity and Regional



Collaboration for Sustainable Use of Forest Genetic Resources in Tropical Asia" which would bring to fore the urgent need to integrate FGR conservation in the wider program of biodiversity conservation.

The consultative workshop aims to review and develop the forest genetic resources conservation strategy for the Philippines. Specifically, it will:

1. Assess the status of FGR conservation in the Philippines;
2. Identify research and development gaps in FGR conservation;
3. Propose capacity-building programmes in support of FGR conservation; and
4. Solicit commitments for a National/Regional Coordinating Committee for FGR.

Dr. Edwino S. Fernando, Professor of the College of Forestry & Natural Resources, University of the Philippines; and a Member of the Philippine Plant Conservation Committee, started the workshop by presenting a paper entitled: Framework for Philippine Plant Conservation Strategy and Action Plan. This was followed by Dr. Mitzi T. Pollisco, a researcher from Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau who presented a paper on: Research and Development Initiatives on FGR Conservation in the Philippines. The

third presenter was a very distinguished scientist, Dr. Mercedes Umali-Garcia, *Professor Emeritus*, Department of Forest Biological Sciences College of Forestry & Natural Resources, University of the Philippines, who presented a paper entitled: Harnessing Forest Genetic Resources for Sustainable Forest Management.

In the afternoon, the participants were divided into three small groups and brain-stormed on the following issues:

1. *In situ* and *ex situ* conservation for forest genetic resources
2. Research and development agenda for forest genetic resources conservation and
3. Capacity building for forest genetic resources conservation

All groups were enthusiastic in being part of the national/regional task force on forest genetic resources. An e-group to sustain and enhance information sharing and exchange has also been proposed.

*(Adapted from a report prepared by Dr Enrique L. Tolentino, Jr., the national focal point of the Philippines for the ITTO funded project on forest genetic resources conservation and management).*



## APFISN WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPING INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLANS

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 8-10 May 2007**

A total of 31 researchers, foresters, and pest control and quarantine professionals from the Asia Pacific region participated in a workshop on Developing Invasive Species Management Plans which was organized by the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) for the Asia Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN). The workshop was funded by the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

Invasive alien species (IAS) are species that are non-native to a particular ecosystem and whose

introduction will cause or be likely to cause economic or environmental damage or harm to human health. Global trade and transportation have increased opportunities for invasive species (plants, insects and microbes) to traverse geographical boundaries like never before. Though IAS have been present in ecosystems for a long time, they have been identified as a critically important problem for the forestry sector only in the past few years. Of particular concern are environmental consequences such as loss of biodiversity and irrevocable change to habitat ecology.

In the Asia-Pacific region, costs of ecological destruction, economic losses and detrimental social effects due to spread of invasive species have been estimated to be around US\$ 200 billion annually. However, concerted efforts in the region to address the problem have been limited to a handful of countries, while the introduction and spread of invasive species continue largely unabated. It is in this context that the activities of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) gain relevance. The network focuses on inter-country cooperation to help to detect, prevent, monitor, eradicate and/or control forest invasive species in the region.

A lack of knowledge on how IAS function in their new environments significantly undermines capabilities to detect and eradicate new incursions. Since the pathways of introduction and spread of IAS are diverse and complicated, cooperation within the region- and more broadly across the globe- are essential to combat the menace. Moreover, monitoring, surveillance and control of IAS are matters of huge economic concern to individual countries. Hence, it is necessary to explore the possibility of evolving regional approaches to manage invasive species. All invasive management programs generally aim at reducing, minimizing or eliminating the potential for introduction, establishment, spread and/or impact of invasive species across all landscapes and tenures. Management

programs generally focus on four main strategies viz., 1) prevention, 2) early detection and rapid response, 3) control and management and 4) rehabilitation and restoration.

Efforts to mitigate the risk of pests entering and establishing in the region can be enhanced by a more coordinated approach to quarantine and risk mitigation measures and the early detection and rapid response to new incursions. Such actions result in lower cost and less resource damage than implementing a long-term control program after the species is established. Early detection and rapid response are critical components of any effective invasive species management program. The APFISN has identified the need to work with partners to detect new invasive species infestations and develop tools to rapidly contain or eradicate these infestations. Better preparedness through planning and actions taken by all APFISN member countries will go a long way in reducing the risk and impact of alien invasive species to all members. This is an initial step towards developing a regional approach and consistency in planning and activities to mitigate the risk of alien invasive species entering and establishing and spreading in the Asia- Pacific region.

*(Adapted from a report prepared by Dr. K.V. Sankaran, APFISN Coordinator).*



# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCENARIOS IN THE FOREST SECTOR TO 2020

Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study E-discussion Forum  
([www.apafri.org/forum/index.cfm](http://www.apafri.org/forum/index.cfm))

A wide range of technologies are in use in the forest sector for the production and processing of various products – wood and non-wood - and also for the provision of various environmental services. This array of technologies is undergoing changes in response to economic, social and environmental factors. Also, development of science and technology outside the forest sector tends to have enormous impact of forestry, as has been the case with information and communication technologies, remote sensing, etc. While new technologies are emerging in response to economic, social and environmental compulsions, their actual application on the ground varies, again due to differences in site specific factors and capacities (including financial) for rapid uptake. This electronic discussion is aimed to provide a better understanding of the emerging changes and to provide a broad perspective of the technology scenarios in the forest sector to the year 2020.

In understanding the state of technology, much of the thrust is to capture the diversity in the generation and application of knowledge and how this may impact the state of forest resources, how they may alter the flow of goods and services, their economic, social and environmental implications in the future. The discussion is also aimed to provide an overview of ongoing work in some of the critical areas, how they may impact forests and forestry, and the likelihood of their wider adoption.

This e-discussion ([www.apafri.org/forum/index.cfm](http://www.apafri.org/forum/index.cfm)) has been opened since late June, and will remain open till late September. The discussion would benefit from the active participation and contribution from all, directly or indirectly related to forestry, and science and industries, in the Asia Pacific region.

The following are the suggested areas for discussion on trends in the developments in science and

technology. More topics could be added depending on the response from discussion participants.

## **Overall state of science and technology development**

This section aims to provide an overview of the state of science technology development in the forest sector in the Asia-Pacific countries and focuses on the following questions:

## **Management of natural forests for timber production**

Historically natural forests have been the most important source of all products and services, including timber production. Most of the earlier work on silvicultural research focused on managing the natural forests sustainably and a variety of silvicultural systems outlining approaches to harvesting, regeneration and management of different forest types have been developed. However, the increasing importance of planted forests in wood supply, increasing emphasis on the environmental values of natural forests and the complexity of natural forest management have reduced the importance of natural forests as a source of wood supply. Where they are still being managed, much of the focus is on the adoption of reduced impact logging to minimize the environmental damage. Other science is being applied to issues such as forest health and monitoring.

## **Planted forests**

Forest plantations is an area that has received most attention in terms of research and development with much of the focus being on enhancing productivity through tree improvement (using a range of technologies starting from simple selection based on certain characteristics to the more sophisticated genetic modification), improved site management to maintain and improve productivity and various measures to

manage pests and diseases. Increasingly some of the productivity enhancing technologies are being questioned on their environmental impacts. While an array of technologies is available, their actual application varies considerably.

### **Agroforestry**

Agroforestry consists of a broad group of land uses where crops, livestock and trees are integrally managed. A wide range of practices exist, largely depending on climatic, soil, social, and economic conditions. As is the difference between natural forests and plantations, it varies from highly complex, close to nature, home gardens to intensively managed mixtures of a few crops and trees.

### **Production and processing of non-wood forest products**

Non-wood forest products include a very broad group of products with varying origins and differing modes of production, processing and trade. This is reflected in the range of technologies used. A substantial number of products are subsistence items, collected from the wild and consumed locally with minimal processing. On the other hand, there are items that have been domesticated and cultivated using modern techniques and products processed using high-end technologies (for example processing of medicinal and aromatic plants).

### **Protected area management**

Growing awareness about the importance of environmental services has led to setting aside large extents of forests as protected areas. Much of the focus of management of these areas is to protect them from human interventions and allow nature to take its course. Management innovation has largely focused on increased participation of local communities to reduce conflicts and to ensure that benefits from protected area management accrue to local communities.

### **Wood processing**

The last few decades have seen important developments in wood processing technologies that have had a significant impact on forest management. While traditional uses of timber in construction focused on inherent structural properties (especially strength, durability, working quality and to some

extent appearance), wood processing technologies have advanced to such an extent that these have become less important, as almost any wood can be transformed into almost any form with desirable properties. Technological developments in wood processing have helped to (a) use species that were once considered less useful, (b) enhance the rate of recovery, (c) enable the use of small dimension logs, (d) increase recycling, and (e) reduce environmental impacts (dust and noise). Development of composite wood, with desirable properties enhance by incorporating other materials, has changed the pattern of wood use. Developments in biomaterials technology will have substantial impact on wood industry in the future.

### **Traditional indigenous knowledge**

Traditional knowledge has been a backbone of resource management for a long time and continues to be important for a large segment of local communities in the absence of access and ability to apply knowledge based on modern science. While there is a lot of interest in understanding traditional indigenous knowledge, it is important to assess its long-term potential in the context of larger social and economic changes.

### **Implications of developments in the frontier areas of science and technology outside the forest sector:**

Often technological developments outside the forest sector tend to have far-reaching impacts on forests and forestry and it is important to understand ongoing initiatives and their potential implications. For example, improvements in information and communication technologies are having significant impacts on the forest sector, especially in sharing information and speeding up the process of technology transfer. Developments in remote sensing have similarly helped to improve the ability to monitor changes in the state of resources. Further improvements in remote sensing technologies could enable real-time monitoring of changes. Substantial work is in progress in biotechnology and nanotechnology that could directly and indirectly impact the sector. Cellulosic biofuel has already become a reality that has important implications on forests and forestry.

*(Adapted from a paper drafted by Dr CTS Nair, FAO Rome).*



# APFORGEN TRAINING WORKSHOP ON FOREST BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

11-16 June 2007, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

A six-day training workshop aiming at providing a common background on forest genetic resources to graduate students and young scientists was held in Kuala Lumpur, 11-16 June 2007. The workshop, besides other topics, also addressed the urgent needs and challenges in managing forest ecosystems, especially in the tropical Asia Pacific region. This workshop, under the auspices of the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN), was jointly organized by Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) and Bioversity International. It was funded mainly by International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) under a project on forest genetic resources conservation and management, implemented by FRIM with collaboration of APAFRI and Bioversity International. Most of the lectures were given by scientists and researchers from FRIM and Bioversity

International. A number of university lecturers were also invited to speak on specific topics.

A total of 18 young scientists from 12 countries: Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Vanuatu participated in this intensive training workshop. The topics covered included forest biodiversity, genetic diversity, spatial pattern of genetic diversity and its sampling, *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation, as well as FGR case studies. Practical hands-on work was carried out by the participants on DNA extraction and genetic diversity analysis using molecular techniques such as polymerase chain reaction and fragment analysis. A field visit was organized to the Kepong Botanic Gardens to view *ex situ* efforts in plant conservation.

(Adapted from a report drafted by Markku Larjavaara, Bioversity-Malaysia, (m.larjavaara@CGIAR.ORG)).



# INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF FOREST INVASIVE SPECIES

21-25 September 2007 Beijing, P. R. China

Collaborations between USDA Forest Service and the various organizations in China in managing forest invasive species have been ongoing for many years. These collaborations will need to be strengthened further to contain the continuously increasing risk of new introduction of invasive species into the United States and P. R. China. Many other Asia-Pacific countries are also encountering the same kind of challenges. Over the years, many of these countries have carried out various biological control programmes to combat invasive pests and their experiences could be shared to benefit each other.

This international workshop would focus on reviewing past collaborations and identify potential scopes for future cooperation. The topics to be included in this workshop are broad. The workshop will focus on biological control programmes involving mainly arthropods, pathogens and plants.

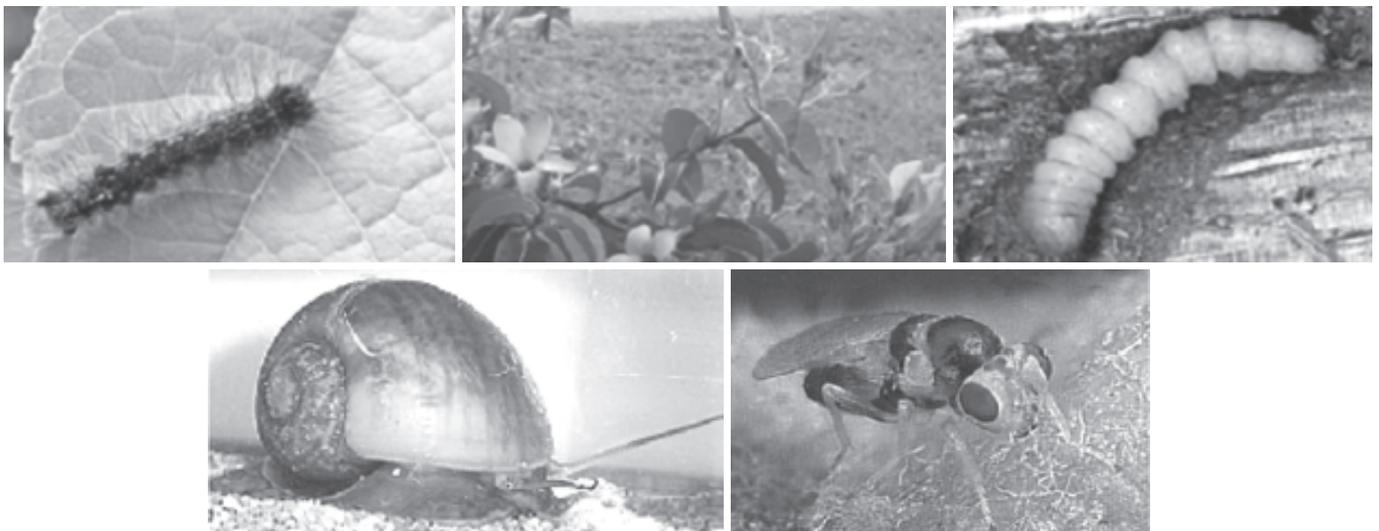
This workshop, with funding primarily from the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, is organized:

- To summarize the most recent regional collaborations in managing forest invasive species;

- To develop a plan for future collaborations between the USDA Forest Service and various organizations in China, as well as other Asia-Pacific countries in managing forest invasive species;
- To develop/strengthen strategies for minimizing the introduction of forest invasive species among the countries in the region;
- To provide a platform for exchanging and sharing of experiences and information on biological control of forest invasive species;
- To harmonize the shipment of natural enemies (biological control agents); and
- To document the biology, life history, natural enemies (biological control agents), etc. for a prioritized list of potential forest invasive species.

(Please visit <http://svinetfc2.fs.fed.us/biocontrol> for future announcements and updates.

Or contact Yun Wu at [ywu@fs.fed.us](mailto:ywu@fs.fed.us) or 1-304-285-1594, or Zhongqi Yang at [yangzq@caf.ac.cn](mailto:yangzq@caf.ac.cn) or 86-10-62889502)



# THE FUTURE OF FORESTS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: OUTLOOK FOR 2020

## UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORESTS AND FORESTRY IN THE CONTEXT OF SOCIETAL CHANGES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

16–18 October 2007, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Recent economic and social changes in Asia and the Pacific are unprecedented, making it the most dynamic region in the world. During the last two decades, economic growth has been rapid and there has been substantial reduction in poverty. In a number of countries, the industrial and service sectors continue to grow rapidly, reducing the direct dependence of people on land for their livelihoods. Changes in societal characteristics are altering people's perceptions of how forests should be managed and utilized and, increasingly, environmental functions are gaining increased importance. While recent assessments of forest resources suggest a reversal of forest loss in some countries, it is too early to say whether this is the beginning of a long-term trend that may encompass other countries, or a short-lived outcome that mainly transfers problems to other countries within and outside the Asia-Pacific region. Globalisation has become a major factor in the rapid economic growth of the region, but the asymmetries are posing major economic and environmental challenges. Increasing income inequalities, persistence of poverty and critical environmental problems such as loss of biodiversity, climate change, increasing water deficits and land degradation and desertification require urgent responses – impacting forests and forestry directly and indirectly.

Forests and forestry will have to undergo significant changes in response to economic and social transformations within and outside the region. It is evident that the nature of demands on Asia-Pacific's forests by 2020 will be very different from what they are today. While some of the old problems may persist, society will have to address several new ones. Increased demand for wood and wood products will continue to place significant pressures on forests within and outside the region, with resulting deforestation and loss of biological

diversity. At the same time, increasing prosperity, better educated populations, and demands for environmental improvements, recreation and conservation will increase pressures for forest protection and non-destructive services of forests. Globalisation will significantly alter opportunities for forestry, and important geographical shifts in production and consumption of forest products and services are already evident. While increasing wealth and new technologies offer considerable scope for improving resource management, several other factors hinder wider adoption of sustainable forest management. Policies and institutions have, in recent years, undergone changes, but further transformation will be required to adapt to the emerging challenges and opportunities.

It is against this backdrop that the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission in partnership with member countries and other international organizations is conducting the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS II) to assess future trends and scenarios for the forest sector in the Asia-Pacific region. This international conference is being organized to strengthen the consultative and capacity-building processes of APFSOS II by bringing together diverse stakeholders and expertise to provide broader perspectives on emerging changes, probable scenarios and their implications for forests and forestry.

### Objectives and expected outcomes

The main objectives of the conference are to:

- analyse social, economic, institutional and technological changes in the Asia-Pacific region and their impacts on forests;
- identify the potential opportunities and likely challenges for forestry in the face of changing demands for forest goods and services; and
- assess the options available to address future demands on forests and the priorities and

strategies that may be pursued under different scenarios.

Expected outcomes from the conference include:

- enhanced awareness of long-term changes in society-forest relationships and better definition of a 21<sup>st</sup> century vision for forestry in the region, taking onboard likely scenarios for development;
- improved understanding of the emerging opportunities and challenges for various stakeholders, enabling a more balanced approach to management and utilization of forest and tree resources appropriate to the overall needs of society;
- better perception of how Asia-Pacific forests fit into global contexts and how they are contributing to production of global public goods; and
- increased collaboration and partnerships to address problems at the global, regional and sub-regional levels.

### **Main themes and the key areas for discussion**

The conference theme “The future of forests in Asia and the Pacific: outlook for 2020” will focus on the following five areas:

#### *Current situation of Asia-Pacific forests and forestry*

- current state of forests – where are we gaining and where are we losing?
- current demands on forests and how forest managers are responding

#### *Societal transition in Asia and the Pacific and probable scenarios for forests and forestry*

- key drivers of change in the region, their collective impact on society, in particular, changes in different segments (pre-agrarian, agrarian, industrialised and post-industrialised segments) and changes in the values, needs and perceptions of people as regards forests
- rights and tenure issues for indigenous and local communities and the impacts of changes on forest management
- probable scenarios for forestry in the context of extra-sectoral social and economic change
- expectations for the state of forests and forestry to 2020

#### *Impact of globalisation on forests and forestry in Asia and the Pacific*

- globalisation and changing competitiveness of forests and forest industries in Asia and the Pacific
- intra- and inter-regional shifts in production and trade and their impacts on forest resource management
- winners and losers from globalisation in the forest sector
- small- and medium-scale forest enterprises in the era of globalisation
- problems associated with globalised illegal logging

#### *Challenges in balancing environmental, economic and social needs*

- changing demand and shifts in sources of wood supply (especially planted forests and farm wood production)
- role of forests in meeting energy needs under alternative scenarios
- the future role of forests and forestry in the reducing poverty: rhetoric vs. reality
- forests and the provision of global public goods: who will pay the bill?

#### *Policy, institutional and technological adaptation for the 21<sup>st</sup> century*

- adapting policies to changing societal needs
- reinventing forestry institutions
- science and technology for forestry in the twenty-first century

A special event in this conference invites young sustainable development professionals to submit short papers outlining their vision for how Asia-Pacific forests should be managed to provide the brightest future for the people of the region. Residents or citizens of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission member countries who are at or under the age of 30 years are eligible to win subsidized participation at the conference.

For more information, please visit the conference website: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/39701/en/>.

(Adapted from the announcement sent out by the organizers. **APAFRI** is a co-organizer of this important and one of the biggest events for the region in 2007).

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION: ROLES OF TRADITIONAL FOREST-RELATED KNOWLEDGE

17–20 December 2007 Kunming, China

Traditional Knowledge is a combination of ancient ingenious practices and techniques, locally adapted and distinctive to a territory or a community. Traditional knowledge passed on through the generations, packaged in folk songs, stories, dances, poetries, and carvings and paintings. Traditional knowledge 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. Traditional knowledge, cultural values and historical perspective have 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.

Traditional Knowledge has been used for managing the utilization of many of the 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 awareness of 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 SFM and the contributions of forests to the achievements of MDGs. The increasing emphasis on SFM, which includes ecological, social, cultural, spiritual, and economic sustainability, has prompted increasing emphasis to consider all relevant knowledge about forest ecosystems and the impact of forest management options in the development of forest policies and operational practices.

The Asia Pacific region has one of the world's highest diversity of ethnicities, languages and cultures. The region has also two of the ancient civilizations, India and China, both with recorded histories that date back many thousands of years. 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. Although most of these age-old techniques and practices had been deemed outdated and no longer relevant to present day forestry, increasingly they are being re-discovered and explored for solving current problems. In the process, issues such as equitable benefits sharing and intellectual property rights have surfaced.

With all these as the backdrop, an international conference is proposed to gather stakeholders and interested parties to share and exchange information and experiences related to the various aspects of TFRK in Asia and the Pacific. The conference would also highlight the importance of TFRK towards achieving MDGs and sustainable forest management. It should also encourage further development on incorporating TFRK in models of sustainable practices.

The conference thus would cover the following specific topics:

- Economic, ecological and cultural dimensions of TFRK in Asia and the Pacific
- Facing globalization: Issues of intellectual property rights and equitable sharing of benefits
- Conservation and utilization of TFRK for achieving sustainable livelihoods of local communities
- Joint initiatives and utilization of traditional and modern scientific knowledge in forest management activities
- Development of good practices incorporating both traditional knowledge and modern sciences in forestry education, research and forest management activities
- Forestry policies recognizing the role of TFRK in achieving SFM and MDGs

A one-day field visit would be organized to witness the rich and diversified cultural heritage related to forests in local communities nearby Kunming, China.

*For more information, please contact Dr. Liu Jinlong (liujl@caf.ac.cn), Sustainable Forestry Research Centre, Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing, 100091, China*

# STUDY TOUR "MANGROVE FORESTS IN MALAYSIA"

3-7 September 2007

In cooperation with the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM), **APAFRI** would be organizing a study tour with the theme of "Mangrove Forests in Malaysia" in July 2007. The study tour would visit Kuala Sepetang, Sungai Besar and Putrajaya Wetlands.

**Kuala Sepetang** is a town located in Perak, north of Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia; and is well known for its mangrove swamp reserve park. Participants will visit the Matang Mangrove Forest Reserve which is the largest mangrove forest reserve in Malaysia and among the best managed of such forests worldwide. Covering an area of more than 40 000 ha (about 99 000 sq. miles), it has also been recognised as an outstanding example of conservation and management of the rich biodiversity that thrive throughout the mangrove and mudflat ecosystems.

A visit to **Sungai Besar**, located in Selangor, will give participants a new experience on how mangrove trees are grown to protect the shores and lessen the impact

of waves in the future. In order to protect the mangrove trees from the waves, a series of embankments known as Pillowtube is set up as a protective shield at the coastal areas that will allow fragile mangrove saplings time to grow their roots and mature in the sheltered deltas. These mangrove trees would then provide a barrier against tidal waves and protect the coastlines from erosion.

Putrajaya Wetlands, believed to be the largest constructed freshwater wetlands in the tropics, is one of the attractive landmarks of Putrajaya, the Malaysian Federal Government Administration Centre, located about 50 km south of Kuala Lumpur. Covering a total area of 335 ha, the wetlands consist of 24 wetland cells built along the Chua and Bisa rivers. Marshes and swamps were developed in these cells by transplanting more than 70 species of wetland plants. Several species of fish have also been introduced into the wetland cells to further enhance their biodiversity. The area has also fast becoming a wildlife sanctuary, and has attracted lots of birds and small mammals.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### International Conference on "Wind and Trees"

Date : 5-9 August 2007.  
Venue : Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada  
Contact person : Dr. Steve Mitchell  
Tel : 604-822-4591  
Email : [iufro.wind@ubc.ca](mailto:iufro.wind@ubc.ca)  
Web : <http://www.feric.ca/en/?OBJECTID=13F9E580-E081-222F-A4BEC5B295C890FE>

### Integrative Science for Integrative Management

Date : 14-20 August 2007  
Venue : Saariselkä, Finland  
Contact person : Tuija Sievänen  
Finnish Forest Research Institute  
Vantaa Research Unit  
Helsinki, Finland  
Tel. : +358 10 211 2246  
Fax. : +358 10 211 2104  
Email : [tuija.sievanen@metla.fi](mailto:tuija.sievanen@metla.fi)  
Web : <http://www.metla.fi/tapahtumat/2007/iufro-d6/>

### Study Tour "Mangrove Forests in Malaysia"

Date : 3-7 September 2007  
Venue : Kuala Sepetang – Perak, Sungai Besar – Selangor & Putrajaya Wetlands – Putrajaya, Malaysia  
Contact person : Ms Norhayati Nordin/  
Tariq Mubarak Husin  
Tel : 6-03-62797555/ 62797548  
Fax : 6-03-62736587  
Email : [nnorhayati@frim.gov.my](mailto:nnorhayati@frim.gov.my) / [tariq@frim.gov.my](mailto:tariq@frim.gov.my)

### Forests and Forestry in the Context of Rural Development

Date : 6-7 September 2007  
Venue : Warsaw, Poland  
Contact person : Piotr Paschalis Jakubowicz  
Warsaw Agricultural University  
Faculty of Forestry  
Nowoursynowska 159  
Building 34  
02-776 Warsaw, Poland  
Tel : (+48 22) 59-38120  
Email : [Piotr.Paschalis@wl.sggw.pl](mailto:Piotr.Paschalis@wl.sggw.pl)  
Web : <http://conference2007.wl.sggw.pl>

### **Natural Disturbances and Natural Hazards in Mountain Forests: Challenges and Opportunities for Silviculture**

Date : 18–21 September 2007  
Venue : Trento, Italy  
Contact person : Renzo Motta  
Email : [tn07@unito.it](mailto:tn07@unito.it)  
Web : <http://www.sisef.it/sisef/iufro.php>

### **International Conference to Promote the Development of Tropical Non-Timber Forest Products and Services**

Date : 19–21 September 2007  
Venue : Beijing, China  
Contact person : ITTO Secretariat  
Forest Industry Division  
Tel : +81 45 223 1110  
Fax : +81 45 223 1111  
Email : [fi@itto.or.jp](mailto:fi@itto.or.jp)

### **International Workshop on Biological Control of Forest Invasive Species**

Date : 21–25 September 2007  
Venue : Beijing, P. R. China  
Contact person: Zhongqi Yang  
Tel : 86-10-62889502  
Email : [yangzq@caf.ac.cn](mailto:yangzq@caf.ac.cn)

### **Third Forest Engineering Conference**

Date : 1–4 October 2007  
Venue : Mont-Tremblant, Quebec, Canada  
Contact person : Jean-François Gingras  
Tel : 1-514-694-1140  
Email : [jfg@mtl.feric.ca](mailto:jfg@mtl.feric.ca)  
Web : <http://www.feric.ca/fec2007>

### **International Conference on The Future Of Forests In Asia And The Pacific: Outlook For 2020**

Date : 16–18 October, 2007  
Venue : Chiang Mai, Thailand  
Contact person : Patrick B. Durst  
FAO  
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, 39 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200, THAILAND  
Tel : 66-2-697 4139,  
Email : [patrick.durst@fao.org](mailto:patrick.durst@fao.org)  
Web : <http://www.fao.org/forestry>

### **IUFRO All-Division 5 Conference “Forest Products and Environment – A productive Symbiosis”**

Date : 29 October–2 November 2007.  
Venue : Taipei, Taiwan  
Contact person : Susan Shiau  
No. 53, Nan-Hai Road, Taipei 10066, Taiwan  
Tel : 2 23147905  
Fax : 2 23890318  
Email : [iufro2007@gmail.com](mailto:iufro2007@gmail.com)  
Web : <http://www.alldiv5iufro2007.org.tw/index.htm>

### **Forty-Third Session Of The International Tropical Timber Council And Associated Sessions Of The Committees**

Date : 5–10 November 2007  
Venue : Yokohama, Japan  
Contact person : Dr. Manoel Sobral Filho  
Executive Director, ITTO  
E-mail : [itto@itto.or.jp](mailto:itto@itto.or.jp)

### **Conference on Forestry and Forest Products Research 2007 (CFFPR 2007)**

#### **“Theme: Balancing Economic and Ecological Needs”**

Date : 27–29 November 2007  
Venue : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Contact person : The Secretariat  
CFFPR 2007  
Forest Research Institute Malaysia  
52109 Kepong, Selangor, Malaysia  
Tel : +60-3-6279 7541  
Fax : +60-3-6280 4620  
Email : [cffpr2007@frim.gov.my](mailto:cffpr2007@frim.gov.my)  
Web : <http://www.frim.gov.my>

### **International Conference on Sustainable Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation: Roles of Traditional Forest-related Knowledge**

Date : 17–20 December 2007  
Venue : Kunming, China  
Contact person : Dr. Liu Jinlong  
Sustainable Forestry Research Centre,  
Chinese Academy of Forestry,  
Beijing, 100091, China  
Tel : +86-10-6288 9632  
Fax : +86-10-6288 8792  
Email : [liujl@caf.ac.cn](mailto:liujl@caf.ac.cn)

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](mailto:secretariat@apafri.org)  
website: [www.apafri.org](http://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](mailto:secretariat@apafri.org)  
website: [www.apafri.org](http://www.apafri.org)

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