

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

### *Greetings from Kepong, Malaysia!*

The year 2010 is a rather significant year for many reasons. First and foremost, the United Nations proclaimed 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity, and people all over the world are working to safeguard this irreplaceable natural wealth and reduce biodiversity loss. APAFRI, although not directly involved in these global activities, has nevertheless, contributed to some of the regional activities of relevance. APAFRI's involvement as a partner in an ITTO funded project on forest genetic resources was further strengthened with the project granted another extension. Two major activities are being planned: a training workshop to be hosted by the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding in Coimbatore, India; and a side-event and display at the XXIII IUFRO World Congress in August this year.

The XXIII IUFRO World Congress is scheduled to convene in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, from 23-28 August 2010. This will be the third time in IUFRO's more than 100-year history that an IUFRO World Congress, which is held every four to five years in various parts of the world, will be convened in Asia. The previous two World Congresses in Asia were Kyoto 1981 and Kuala Lumpur 2000. APAFRI has been very active in past World Congresses since its establishment in 1995. Likewise, for this year, APAFRI will be involved in a number of activities. The Secretariat staff will be assisting IUFRO Special Programme for Developing Countries (SPDC) in the four training workshops a week before the Congress. APAFRI will also be organizing a side-event on Asia Pacific forest genetic resources as well as participating in the trade and exhibition with a booth displaying posters and distributing publications. The



Executive Secretary will also assist in moderating a sub-plenary session and a technical session on forest genetic resources. In addition, APAFRI will be supporting the participation of quite a number of young scientists from this region to the event.

Many of you are aware that APAFRI was established in 1995 during a meeting of the Asia Pacific Heads of Forestry Research in Bogor, Indonesia. This year therefore marks the 15th year of existence of

APAFRI. The Association has grown in many aspects. It started with about a dozen or so members way back in 1995, and today it has 70 institutional and individual members. Thanks to the continued support of many donor agencies and also its member institutions, APAFRI is also financially stronger and increasingly supporting member institutions' activities in the region. To commemorate this 15th anniversary, the Secretariat is planning a pictorial compilation of APAFRI's activities and achievements over the past one-and-a-half decades. This pictorial compilation is scheduled to be launched sometime later this year.

Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) has been hosting the APAFRI Secretariat in its Kepong campus, 16 km north of Kuala Lumpur, since 2001. Originally located in a very spacious five-room office unit, organizational structural changes in FRIM had necessitated the relocation of APAFRI Secretariat early last year to a smaller unit. FRIM Management has earlier this year proposed renovating two units of vacant staff quarters to house the APAFRI Secretariat. The bulk of the costs for renovating the two adjoining staff quarters into a single office unit would be borne by FRIM, while APAFRI may need to shoulder a small portion of the total cost. The renovation is near to completion now, and the Secretariat

would probably move to this new office within the next couple of months.



I recently attended the Asia Pacific Forest Forum (APFC) 23rd Session in Bhutan, together with the Executive Secretary, representing APAFRI. APAFRI has been

actively involved in APFC session since the 19th Session in Mongolia in 2002. During the recent session, APAFRI was involved in organizing two pre-session workshops: Forest Moving Beyond GDP Contributions to Gross National Happiness Considerations, and Asia Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network Workshop on Pathways of Biological Invasion into Forests. APAFRI was also invited to give a presentation during the Open Forum for regional networks.

In closing, on behalf of APAFRI, I would like to extend our thanks to the various agencies for their continued support to APAFRI's programmes and activities.

With best regards,  
**Abd Latif Mohmod**  
Chairman, APAFRI  
June 2010



## IUFRO KUALA LUMPUR 2010 7-12 March 2010, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

IUFRO Kuala Lumpur 2010, a joint conference of IUFRO Working Parties 2.04.01 (Population, Ecological and Conservation Genetics) and 2.04.10 (Genomics), was held on 7-12 March 2010 at Legend Hotel Kuala Lumpur. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Bioversity International were the hosts for the conference. APAFRI is one of the sponsors to this event.

The theme of the conference was *Sustainable Utilisation and Conservation of Forests in the Genomics Era*, and the objectives of the conference were:

- To provide a platform for exchange of ideas and information amongst researchers and practitioners in forest genetics, breeding and conservation
- To discuss and evaluate the latest approaches and techniques in forest genetics research and management of forest genetic resources
- To promote international co-operation and networking amongst practitioners and researchers involved in forest genetics, breeding and conservation

A total of 127 participants from 20 countries attended the conference. Of these, 51 participants were from overseas and 76 were from various local organisations and



institutes. A total of 53 oral papers and 32 poster papers were presented during the conference. This included two keynote papers and 12 plenary papers. The conference also included two workshops – Workshop on Genomics and Breeding and Workshop on Tree Genomics and Bioinformatics.

Two in-conference tours were organized for the participants. The first in-conference tour was Kampung Kuantan Fireflies Park conducted on March 11, 2010 in the evening. A total of 36 participants joined the first in-conference tour. The second in-conference tour was Forest Research Institute Malaysia and Batu Caves Temple conducted on March 12, 2010 from morning to late afternoon.



#### Recommendations from the Conference:

- Utilize a broad range of expressed and potentially adaptive genes (abiotic and biotic) to identify centres of diversity which maximize adaptability to climatic change but also biotic implications e.g. phenology, change in pest/disease/ symbiont distribution.
- For landscape level planning of genetic connectivity, future predictions for climate are most robust over the next 20 years. This should be used as the planning framework. Predictions of temperature and rainfall change should be linked with studies to plot the distribution of genes linked to tolerance/sensitivity to these abiotic drivers, rather than biotic interactions which are much more difficult to predict.
- Overall, it is recognized that some genes have a major effect on phenotype and also there are some general gene classes involved in generalized environmental and pest/disease responses.
- These systems are likely to be of most use for the generalized application of adaptive gene variation in conservation planning.
- New methods to identify genes under selection and potential function in whole genome sequencing are required to truly progress generalized application of conservation genomics rather than just sticking with well worked model species (poplar and pines).
- The current tree breeding programmes in Malaysia need to be strengthened.
- Suggestion to develop a national co-operative breeding programme. This model works well in many countries and should be seriously considered by local stakeholders.
- Industry is generally happy to invest in research if this is well targeted on issues which concern

them. Long term prospects for technology uptake would also be enhanced if there is a strong education programme for the managers of the future.

- Technology is required in support of timber certification schemes. There are a number of molecular and non molecular approaches being researched. This needs to be done in close consultation between the researchers and the responsible management authorities. It may or may not be necessary to develop this technology entirely within Malaysia and international options need to be at least understood.

*(Adapted from a report prepared by the Organizers. For more information visit [www.iufrokualumpur2010.org](http://www.iufrokualumpur2010.org))*



## 4<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CASUARINA WORKSHOP

### 22-25 March 2010, Haikou, People's Republic of China

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Casuarina Workshop was held in Haikou City of Hainan Province, People's Republic of China, 22-25 March 2010. A total of 73 participants from 14 countries attended and presented 40 scientific reports.

The workshop was hosted by the Chinese Academy of Forestry's Research Institute of Tropical Forestry. Travel supports for participants were provided by APAFRI, CSIRO, ICRAF, IRD and Consulate General of France in Guangzhou. Provincial forestry agencies in Fujian, Guangdong, Hainan and Zhejiang supported travel expenses of their staff.

This workshop reveals a substantial change in the way casuarinas are cultivated and utilized. Tens of thousands of small land owners, such as those in India, cultivate short-rotation casuarina plantations for household income generation. Restoration of degraded and overexploited shelterbelts has been a focus of provincial governments in southern China. Casuarinas remain an important species for windbreaks and fuelwood but are now also used by paper making and plyboard and chipboard industries.

Research on genetic improvement, plantation silvicultural management and biotechnology of symbiosis has





Progress in gene isolation, development of genetic transformation and gene silencing procedures for actinorhizal trees of Casuarinaceae family have opened new avenues for studies of molecular bases. Several plant genes acting in the earliest events of *Casuarina-Frankia* recognition and infection have been isolated and characterised. The research will benefit casuarina growers, both large companies and small holder famers.

advanced considerably since the 3<sup>rd</sup> Casuarina Workshop in Vietnam in 1996. Genetic improvement of *Casuarina equisetifolia* has progressed to second generation, and seeds of selected clones are now being used in both China and India. *C. junghuhniana* has become an important plantation species in India, and breeding programme for this species is also underway.

Workshop participants had a field day to visit woodchip mill and plyboard factory, rehabilitation of mining area and sand dune fixation.

(Adapted from a report prepared by Khongsak Pinyopusarek (Khongsak.Pinyopusarek@csiro.au))



## APFISN WORKSHOP ON PATHWAYS OF BIOLOGICAL INVASION INTO FORESTS

8 & 11 June 2010, Thimphu, Bhutan

**B**iological invasions have impacted the economic, ecological and cultural arenas in much larger depth which has never been witnessed before. Invasions have now been recognized to be much faster than the natural rate of migration of species. The large-scale increase in global transport of goods and people is the primary cause of this widening invasion scenario. Among the various worldwide efforts to contain the invasive species, APFISN, in its period of existence had tried to map the general contours of the problem as a function of sustainable management of natural and planted forests. The network had been focusing on developing country reports, fact sheets on invasive species, deliberating the impact on biodiversity and is active in disseminating information on forest invasives across the Asia-Pacific.

The network realizes that the compilation and dissemination of information and establishing direct contact with stakeholders in various countries as an essential and continuing effort and the problems caused by biological invasions warrant urgent action.

Efforts to contain biological invasion is an integrated activity which should look into the origin, transport, arrival, establishment and naturalization of the species that move. Among these various phases of the invasion process, the one with the quickest intervention probability is the transport phase, which can be monitored and with checks implemented early in these phases.

This APFISN workshop, held in conjunction with the 23<sup>rd</sup> APFC Session in Thimphu, Bhutan, focused on the

pathways of biological invasion (including the transport vectors), with the following objectives:

1. Stock taking of current and potential invasive species transport pathways, both within and across countries.
2. Listing the agencies, at national and international levels, that need to be sensitized in biological invasions.
3. Planning of awareness programmes targeting governments, media and private business establishments.
4. Identifying linkages within APFISN and multi-agency system within member countries for targeted campaign at regional level.

Twenty-five forestry professionals and researchers attended the two half-days workshop funded by contributions from the USDA Forest Service which was managed by APAFRI.

Twelve of the countries represented presented their national status in various invasive species issues. The resource person, Dr Ross Wylie presented a very comprehensive set of approaches to detect invasive species and conducting risk analysis.

*(For further information on APFISN or this workshop, contact the Coordinator Dr KV Sankaran (sankarankv@gmail.com,sankaran@kfri.org))*

## APAFRI Secretariat will be moving into a new office...



**I**n a move to provide a more permanent premises, FRIM had offered to refurbish two units of disused staff quarters to house the APAFRI Secretariat. Converting the two adjoining single-storey quarters would cost about USD50000 and FRIM would shoulder the bulk of this cost. APAFRI Financial Committee which comprises the Chairman, the Immediate Past Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee, has approved the allocation of USD20 000 of APAFRI's fund to cover the balance.

The renovation began in April, and it is envisaged that the Secretariat would be able to move into the new office

before the end of July when all utilities including Internet connections are installed and functioning.

This new office, being much larger than the present one, would be able to house all the Secretariat staff including having a meeting room.

It would also have several additional rooms, which could be used for storing the many publications that APAFRI had produced over the years. One of the rooms could also function as a small library keeping all the publications that APAFRI had collected.



# ASIA AND THE PACIFIC SYMPOSIUM Vulnerability Assessments to Natural and Anthropogenic Hazards 7-10 December 2010, Manila, Philippines



Of late, natural disasters – typhoons, rain and snow storms, and drought – had been reported to increase both in terms of magnitude and frequency, and many have attributed these to effects of climate change. Likewise, population growth and fast economic development in many countries have witnessed the increase in severe anthropogenic disturbances causing damages which may require many years to rehabilitate.

Increasingly, countries are enhancing their disaster management capacity and capability incorporating more advanced technology to improve the knowledge and/or response to natural disasters. Vulnerability assessment therefore can be effectively utilized in the planning for sustainable development of an area, conserving its natural resources and possibly “climate change proofing” of ecosystems. One of the important endeavours in the Philippines, for example, is the incorporation of vulnerability assessment in the formulation of an integrated watershed management plan

In the Asia-Pacific region, the US EPA's Regional Vulnerability Assessment (ReVA) Programme focuses on regional scale integrated assessment with the aim of assisting decision makers in identifying and locating both environmental resources and the conditions that are stressing those resources. Similar initiatives were also done by various academic institutions. However limited works have been published thus; this symposium would serve to share the experiences of Asia Pacific countries on vulnerability assessment of various ecosystems.

The symposium is expected to enhance the capability and capacity of participants in conducting vulnerability assessment. It shall also serve as venue for exchange of knowledge and initiatives in vulnerability assessment, and to build linkages and achieve synergies. The discussions shall be very useful towards preparing appropriate programmes/projects to deal with the inherent biophysical and socio-institutional characteristics of ecosystems and the stressors of the resources including the possible impacts of climate change.

## **Programme**

The symposium will focus on vulnerability assessment for two of the most important and sensitive ecosystems: watersheds and coastal zones. The programme of the symposium will have three main sessions: vulnerability assessment knowledge and tools, vulnerability assessment

for watersheds and vulnerability assessment for coastal zones.

If you wish to present a paper, or exhibit a poster, send your abstract of 300–500 words to Antonio Daño (tonydanolb@yahoo.com) and copy to Sim Heok-Choh (simhc@frim.gov.my; sim@apafri.org). Abstracts should include the full names, addresses of authors, and e-mail address for the corresponding author.

## **Deadlines:**

Submissions of abstracts	– 30 September
Notification of acceptance	– 15 October
Registration	– 31 October
Final Papers/Presentations	– 15 November

## **Sources of Funding**

Participants should seek their own resources to attend the symposium. Efforts are being made to mobilize resources to support a limited number of invited participants, especially from developing countries in Asia and the Pacific. Those who are interested in participating in the symposium, but do not have their own funding, are still encouraged to register. The symposium organizers will attempt to provide partial support.

## **Organization**

The symposium is an initiative of the International Union of Forest Research Organization (IUFRO). It is being organized by Asia-Pacific Association of Forest Research Institutions (APAFRI) in technical collaboration with the Ecosystem Research and development Bureau (ERDB) of the Philippines, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI). It will be hosted by ERDB in Manila, Philippines.

## **Contact for Enquiries**

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## IUFRO WORLD CONGRESS SIDE-EVENT AND POSTER DISPLAY

23-28 August 2010, Seoul, Korea

The Executing Agency of ITTO Project PD 199/03 Rev. 3 (F): Strengthening National Capacity and Regional Collaboration for Sustainable Use of Forest Genetic Resources in Tropical Asia – the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), together with the two Collaborating Agencies: the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) and Bioversity International (Bioversity), is planning a side-event as well as a series of associated activities during the coming XXIII IUFRO World Congress. The main objective is to showcase the rather impressive outputs of this relatively small project.

The XXIII IUFRO World Congress is to be held at the COEX (Convention & Exhibition Centre) in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 23-28 August 2010. This will be the third time in IUFRO's more than 100-year history that an IUFRO World Congress, which is held every four to five years in various parts of the world, will be convened in Asia.

This Congress will draw leading professionals and expert scientists in all fields of forestry from all over the world. Speakers representing government policy makers, academic scholars and researchers from universities and institutions will present and discuss the latest innovation on various themes, such as forest and climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of forest resources, forest environmental services, and Asia's forest for the future, among others. This Congress

therefore offers a golden opportunity for forestry practitioners to exchange views and share experiences.

The tentative programme of the ITTO Project on FGR Side-event:

24 August 2010		Room: 325
18:30	Opening – DG FRIM (Project Executing Agency)	
18:40	Introduction – ITTO Representative	
18:50	Project Overview and Progress – FRIM/APAFRI/Bioversity International	
19:10	Interventions from Participants (National Focal Points, relevant ministerial officials, etc.)	
20:00	Follow-ups	
20:30	Closing	

The project will also display posters and distribute publications at a Congress Trade and Exhibition booth.

The participating countries: Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand, will have posters detailing their national activities on FGR conservation, management and sustainable utilization.

Publications and other outputs (CDs and brochures) produced by the Project will be on display, and copies will be distributed to visitors to the booth.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Tree Seed Symposium: Recent Advances In Seed Research And Ex Situ Conservation

Date : 15-21 August 2010  
 Venue : Taipei, Taiwan  
 Phone : +886-2-23039978 ext 2011  
 Fax : +886-2-23078742  
 Contact Person : Ching-Te Chien  
 Taiwan Forestry Research Institute  
 53 Nan-Hai Road, Taipei 10066 Taiwan  
 Email : [chien@tfri.gov.tw](mailto:chien@tfri.gov.tw)  
 Website : <http://www.tfri.gov.tw>

### International Conference for Urban Forestry in Challenging Environments

Date : 29 August 2010 - 1 September 2010  
 Venue : Beijing, China  
 Phone : +86-10-62338128  
 Contact Person : P.O. Box 47 Beijing Forestry University No 35  
 Qionghua Donglu, Haidian District, Beijing  
 100083, P R China  
 Email : [RCUF2010@gmail.com](mailto:RCUF2010@gmail.com)  
 Website : [http://app.bjfu.edu.cn/linxy/icufce\\_2010/home.html](http://app.bjfu.edu.cn/linxy/icufce_2010/home.html)



**Demonstration and Application of Production and Utilization Technologies for Rattan Sustainable Development in the ASEAN Member Countries**

Date : 29 August 2010 - 1 September 2010  
Venue : Makati City, Philippines  
Phone : +81 45 223 1110  
Fax : +81 45 223 1111  
Contact Person : Li Qiang  
Economic Information and Market Intelligence  
International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)  
Yokohama, Japan  
Email : li@itto.int  
Website : [http://www.itto.int/en/workshop\\_detail/id=2351](http://www.itto.int/en/workshop_detail/id=2351)

**Forest Bioenergy 2010 Conference**

Date : 1-2 September 2010  
Venue : Tampere, Scandic Rosendahl  
Phone : +358 207 639 600  
Email : [bioenergy@finbio.fi](mailto:bioenergy@finbio.fi)  
Website : [www.bioenergy.finbioenergy.fi/](http://www.bioenergy.finbioenergy.fi/)

**Forest Landscapes and Global Change  
New Frontiers in Management, Conservation and Restoration**

Date : 21-27 September 2010  
Venue : Teatro Municipal de Bragança Campus Sta. Apolónia City of Bragança  
Phone : +351- 273 303 341  
Fax : +351- 273 325 405  
Contact Person : IUFRO Landscape Ecology International  
Conference Bragança 2010 A/C João Azevedo  
Escola Superior Agrária Instituto Politécnico de Bragança Campus de Santa Apolónia, Apartado 1172 5301-855 Bragança  
Email : [iufrole2010@ipb.pt](mailto:iufrole2010@ipb.pt)  
Website : [www.ipb.pt/iufro2010](http://www.ipb.pt/iufro2010)

**International Symposium on Forestry and Forest Products 2010 (ISFPP)**

Date : 5-7 October 2010  
Venue : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Phone : +60-3-6279 7316/7280  
Fax : +60-3-6280 4620  
Contact Person : The Secretariat  
International Symposium on Forestry and Forest Products 2010

Forest Research Institute Malaysia Kepong  
52109 Selangor,  
Malaysia

Email : [isffp@frim.gov.my](mailto:isffp@frim.gov.my)  
Website : <http://www.frim.gov.my/isffp2010/index.html>

**Hydrology Conference 2010  
The Changing Physical and Social Environment: Hydrologic Impacts and Feedbacks**

Date : 11-13 October 2010  
Venue : San Diego, CA, USA  
Phone : +44 (0) 118 971 3710  
Fax : +44 (0) 118 971 4801  
Contact Person : Hydrology Conference 2010 Secretariat  
Email : [Customerservice-hydrology2010@elsevier.com](mailto:Customerservice-hydrology2010@elsevier.com)  
Website : <http://www.hydrologyconference.com/contactSecretariat.asp>

**53<sup>rd</sup> International Convention: Society of Wood Science and Technology**

Date : 11-15 October 2010  
Venue : Geneva, Switzerland  
Phone : +608- 577-1342  
Fax : +608- 467-8979  
Contact Person : IUFRO Landscape Ecology International  
Conference Bragança 2010 A/C João Azevedo  
Escola Superior Agrária Instituto Politécnico de Bragança SWST P.O. Box 6155 Monona, WI 53716-6155  
Email : [vicki@swst.org](mailto:vicki@swst.org)

**Fourth International Conference on Plants & Environmental Pollution (ICPEP-4)**

Date : 8-11 December 2010  
Venue : Lucknow, India  
Phone : + 91 522 2297821, +91 522 2205831  
Fax : + 91 522 2205836/39  
Contact Person : Dr K.J. Gupta  
The Organizing Secretaries (ICPEP-4)  
International Society of Environmental Botanists  
National Botanical Research Institute Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow 226001, India  
Email : [isebnbrilko@sify.com](mailto:isebnbrilko@sify.com); [isebmail@gmail.com](mailto:isebmail@gmail.com)  
Website : <http://isebindia.com/icepep-4.html>



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**Financial Contributions:**

- ❖ FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations)
- ❖ KFRI (Korean Forest Research Institute)
- ❖ DAFF (Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)
- ❖ Bioersity International
- ❖ USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Forest Service

**Contributions in kind:**

- ❖ Forest Research Institute Malaysia

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

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