

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Kuala Lumpur!

As the year coming to its end, allow me to reflect on the more significant events that APAFRI has involved in the year 2011.

APAFRI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Seoul, in August. The commitments detailed under this MOU include carrying out specified projects of mutual interest and publish results of joint projects. KFRI will provide appropriate financial support to fulfill such commitments. APAFRI has committed the initial contribution to organize an international symposium on forest rehabilitation in Kuala Lumpur next year.

In September, a proposal submitted to the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) since October 2010, has finally been approved for funding. The project, to be carried out in two years, would be executed by APAFRI together with the Renmin University of China, Beijing, as project's Technical Assistance Partner.

APAFRI has always been very actively involved in most FAO activities in the Asia Pacific region ever since its establishment more than 15 years ago. During the second week of November, in conjunction with the Twenty-fourth Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, FAO organized the Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week in Beijing, China. The week-long event was a major event for the forestry fraternity during the year, packed with several workshops and side-events each day. Besides putting up an exhibition booth to display and distribute publications, APAFRI was also



involved in the organizing of several side-events and workshops during the week.

APAFRI supported a few participants from the region to a training workshop organized by IUFRO SPDC started Thursday of the week before the APFW. Then we co-organized the Inception Meeting for the APFNet funded project on Forest Transition on Sunday, 6 November. On the same day, with financial support from USDA, APAFRI also co-organized the Asia Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network Workshop on Forest Health Technology and Phytosanitary Standards.

APAFRI has its 17th Executive Committee Meeting on the second day of that week. Five out of the nine members of the Executive Committee attended the meeting. A number of colleagues from FAO, FFPRI Japan and ICFRE India were also present as observers in this meeting which discussed, among a number of issues, the coming General Assembly which need to be convened in the coming year.

During the week too, APAFRI was involved in three other side-events. APAFRI organized the side-event on Forest Genetic Resources with the assistance of colleagues from the State Forest Administration of China and the Chinese Academy of Forestry. Under an agreement with FAO, APAFRI organized and facilitated a meeting to inaugurate the proposed Asia Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank. APAFRI also assisted in the Workshop on Transition to SFM and Rehabilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region.

In December, APAFRI organized an Asia Pacific workshop in Guangzhou, China. The Research Institute of Tropical Forestry hosted the three-day workshop on Multinational and Transboundary Conservation of

Valuable and Endangered Forest Tree Species funded mainly with contributions from KFRI through the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). Since 2007, KFRI has allocated a portion of its contributions to IUFRO for APAFRI to carry out activities in the Asia Pacific for forestry practitioners of this region. The 2007 allocation was used to partially finance the International Conference on Traditional Forest-related Knowledge in Kunming China, the 2008 allocation for organizing an Asia Pacific Forest Health Workshop in Kuala Lumpur, and the 2009 allocation for an Asia Pacific Forest Products Workshop in Sri Lanka. Last year's allocation was utilized for a regional symposium hosted by the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau of the Philippines in Manila, 7–9 December. Proceedings for these events have already been published by IUFRO as IUFRO World Series Volumes 21, 24, 27 and 29. I wish to take this opportunity to thank KFRI for these contributions without which these very successful and beneficial events would not be able to materialize.

All members are reminded that the next General Assembly, the sixth since APAFRI's establishment, is due next year. This once-in-three-year all-member assembly will, among other things, elect the Executive Committee to guide APAFRI for the following three years to better meet the members' expectations. The Secretariat has been earnestly seeking local host since

early this year for the General Assembly which should be convened during the second half of 2012. Traditionally, APAFRI General Assembly will tag on to a regional event to achieve better attendance. The Secretariat will soon decide and get the endorsement from the Executive Committee on the date and venue for this very important event. More information will be sent to all the members within the next few months.

As usual, in closing, allow me to thank all agencies and member institutions that have contributed, in one way or another, to supporting APAFRI during the past years. We look forward to receiving comments and suggestions to improve our services to the members, as well as the whole forestry fraternity in the region.

Allow me also to take this opportunity to wish all our members, colleagues and friends, a prosperous and happy New Year in 2012!

With best regards,

Abd Latif Mohmod
Chairman, APAFRI
December 2011

NEW MEMBER

 APAFRI welcomes its 66th member: Renmin University of China, Beijing, China.

Renmin University (RUC, also known as the People's University of China) is a key university in China. The RUC's strengths emphasize the humanities and social sciences, however, the university also embraces disciplines in the area of natural sciences.

The RUC is a comprehensive research-orientated university, and has produced many influential figures contributing to China's reform and development, and is home to many outstanding scholars in law, economics, journalism and other fields. As measured by admission



scores of China's National Higher Education Entrance Examination, Renmin University has consistently ranked among the top three most selective Chinese universities in the liberal arts and social science division.

For more information on the institution, please contact:

Dr. Liu Jin Long
School of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development
Renmin University of China
Zhongguancundajie 59#100872
Beijing, China
Email: liujinlong@ruc.edu.cn



THE 6th APAFRI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The once-in-three-year APAFRI General Assembly is due in 2012. This shall be the sixth since its establishment in 1995.

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 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.
- Elect the Executive Committee and appoint auditors.

The Fifth APAFRI General Assembly was convened on 4 October 2009 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The next one, the Sixth General Assembly, thus should be held during the second-half of 2012. In preparation for this event, the Secretariat has since early 2011 sent out reminders regarding updating the member institutions' profile and contact person details, as well as overdue annual

membership fees. A second round of reminders was sent out during December 2011. Members are reminded again here to check with the Secretariat on the status of their membership.

Traditionally, the General Assembly would be held in association with a major regional event to attract the



attendance of representatives from member institutions. As Kuala Lumpur has been the venue for the past two General Assemblies, the Secretariat would like to suggest that the next General Assembly be convened in another Asian city. The Secretariat would like to invite member institutions in countries other than Malaysia to host this coming General Assembly. The Secretariat, besides providing logistic support, will also assist in seeking out funding opportunity for the host institution to organize a regional event in conjunction with the General Assembly. Member institution interested to host the coming General Assembly should contact the Secretariat for more details, and initiate preparation as early as possible.

The Secretariat is planning to finalize arrangements by early 2012, and will send out more details in early June to

allow members to plan to attend this important event. The announcement of this General Assembly shall also be posted on APAFRI's website, www.apafri.org, and will be regularly updated.

Members are strongly urged to attend this General Assembly. An important agenda of this General Assembly is to elect the Executive Committee which would guide the Association for the next three years. The composition and functions of the Executive Committee, as well as a number of other related information, are encapsulated in APAFRI's Constitution. A copy of this could be viewed at APAFRI's website.

(For more information, please contact secretariat@apafri.org)

Not a member of APAFRI yet?

APAFRI members enjoy many benefits, the followings are the most tangible and direct:

- Opportunities to participate with full or partial support in conferences, workshops, meetings and training programmes organized by the Association, or member institution of the association in this region
- Financial and in-kind contributions from the Secretariat to events organized by member institutions: the Secretariat has adopted a tradition of providing financial support of up to US\$ 3000 per event organized by a member institution. This financial contribution, however, shall be restricted for supporting the participation of staff members of member institutions to the event. The Secretariat would also provide in-kind contribution in compiling, editing and publishing of proceedings, either in print or in electronic media
- One free copy of all publications of the Association will be mailed to each member's postal address free of charge

APAFRI membership is open to all institutions in the Asia-Pacific Region actively engaged in forestry or forest-related research. Member institution shall nominate official representative to be the contact person to facilitate communication from the Secretariat, and also as the delegate to the once-in-three-year General Assembly.

APAFRI also welcome individuals to join as non-voting individual members.

APAFRI annual membership fee is very small compared to the benefits that the members can enjoy:

| | | |
|--------------|--|-----------|
| Category I | Institutions in developed countries | US\$ 1000 |
| Category II | Institutions in developing countries | US\$ 250 |
| Category III | Institutions in least developed countries or Countries in transition | US\$ 50 |

The fee for non-voting individual member is only 10% of that for the individual's country of residence. For example, the fee for a staff member of an institution in a developing country (Category II) is only US\$25 per year!

The Constitution states that members whose dues are not paid for more than 12 months are deemed to be in default and shall not enjoy the membership benefit until the subscription is fully paid.

However, the Secretariat has been very lenient in applying this rule. For example, we continue to send out free copies of our publications to institutions which had not paid subscriptions for many years. Likewise staff members of these defaulted members have never been denied travel support unless budgetary constraint dictated otherwise.

Interested to know more about APAFRI? Please browse our website: www.apafri.org. Need more information? Contact secretariat@apafri.org



APAFRI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SEVENTEENTH MEETING

8 November 2011, Beijing, China

The APAFRI Executive Committee met during the Asia Pacific Forestry Week in Beijing, China. The Chairman and four other Executive Committee members were present at this 17th Executive Committee Meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Dr VK Bahuguna, the recently appointed Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), who replaced Dr GS Rawat as the Vice-chairman of the APAFRI Executive Committee. He also welcomed colleagues from FAO, ICFRE and FFPRI Japan, who were present as observers to this meeting.



Concerning organizing activities by APAFRI, such as conference, symposium, workshop and the like; the members all agreed that these types of activities are highly beneficial to capacity building in the region, and more should be organized. Dr Aida Lapis mentioned about the Symposium on Vulnerability Assessment last year in Manila which was hosted by her organization, ERDB of the Philippines; and also a number of smaller workshops organized by her project on rattan funded by ITTO.

The issue of payment of fees for membership was again discussed. The meeting was told that the Secretariat had early this year sent out a round of reminders to collect membership dues. Quite a few members had responded thus far. The Secretariat would only intensely collect unpaid membership dues once in three years, coincides with the announcement for the General Assembly. Member institutions will be reminded to pay up their membership dues to be able to nominate and vote during the General Assembly as stipulated in the APAFRI Constitution. This in effect allows the member institutions to pay their membership fees only once in three years, greatly reduces the burden and paperwork of paying every year.

Two more members: Myanmar Forest Research Institute at Yetzin, and the Renmin University, Beijing, China; had recently signed up as members.

The Chairman mentioned that the next General Assembly is due in 2012, and he would like to seek

member institution to host this General Assembly. Announcement will be sent out early next year. To make travelling to this General Assembly more meaningful, APAFRI General Assemblies in the past had always been held in conjunction with major events in the region, such as a conference, symposium or workshop; and member representatives were encouraged to stay on for the event.

Dr Aida Lapis submitted a proposal for organizing an ASEAN Congress on Mangrove Research and Development. The meeting suggested that this event should be expanded to include other countries in the Asia Pacific region, not just ASEAN. Dr Aida Lapis will discuss with her colleagues in ERDB and shall resubmit if appropriate.

There were some discussions about giving awards to recognize excellent forestry researchers in the region. The meeting was informed that APAFRI has instituted the Dr Y.S. Rao Forestry Research Award since its establishment. So far two persons: Dr Wu Bo (Chinese Academy of Forestry, China) and Dr Ashok Kumar (Rain Forest Research Institute, India) had received this award. There were however no nominations during the last two General Assemblies. The Secretariat will send out the announcement together with that for the General Assembly early next year.

The meeting was adjourned with thanks from the Chairman to the various agencies, especially FRIM, FAO, Korea Forest Research Institute, USDA and many others, for the financial and in-kind contributions, which had been vital for the sustainability of APAFRI all these years.



DR Y. S. RAO FORESTRY RESEARCH AWARD 2012

This award is presented to a young researcher who has made outstanding contributions in forestry research and development. It is given once every three years and presented in conjunction with the APAFRI General Assembly. The recipient will be fully supported to attend the award presentation ceremony and the General Assembly. Dr. Y.S. Rao, in whose honour the award is named, was one of the outstanding foresters in the Asia Pacific region. He contributed significantly to the promotion of forestry research, particularly research related to poverty alleviation, sustainable resource development and the needs of young researchers. He had also mooted the idea of setting up APAFRI.

The first Dr. Y.S. Rao Forestry Research Award was presented in 2000. The award went to Dr. Wu Bo, Associate Professor at the Research Institute of Forestry (RIF), Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), Beijing, in

recognition of his outstanding research on desertification. The recipient of the reward given out the second time in 2003 was Dr Ashok Kumar, Scientist and Head, Division of Tree Improvement and Propagation, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, Assam, India. Dr Ashok Kumar has made considerable contributions in various areas ranging from forest genetics, genetic improvement, tree improvement to tissue culture.

The APAFRI Secretariat is now calling for nominations for the 2012 award. Eligibility is limited to researchers from APAFRI member institutions, and nominations are to be submitted by member institutions. There is no specific nomination form, but applicant must send in short curriculum vitae accompanied by a compilation of research papers or reports. Deadline for submission is 30 April 2012.

More information available from www.apafri.org

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RECLAMATION, RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION TOWARDS A GREENER ASIA 3-5 July 2012, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Natural forests in many parts of Asia are being depleted due to the conversion of forests for other land uses, unsustainable timber extraction and natural disasters, among others.

Acknowledging the adverse effects of deforestation, many countries have improved forest management, encouraged community participation in restoration and at the same time strengthening capacity in various aspects of forest restoration, rehabilitation and conservation. There are however many challenges in repairing ecological damages through reclamation, rehabilitation and restoration.



The Symposium, organized by Forest Research Institute

Malaysia (FRIM), is expected to provide a platform for sharing of knowledge and experiences of past, present and future challenges in ecological restoration in Asia. It will also provide the opportunity to consolidate contemporary scientific frameworks and improve understanding in restoration ecology.

For further information on the workshop, please contact:

The Secretariat
International Symposium on Reclamation, Restoration and Rehabilitation
c/o Ecophysiology Unit, Forest Plantation Programme
Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)
52109 Kepong, Selangor, Malaysia
Email: green_asia@frim.gov.my

Dr Ang Lai Hoe (+60-3-62797096)
Dr Ho Wai Mun (+60-3-62797095)
Fax: +60-3-62731427



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RESPONSE OF FORESTS AND ADAPTATION MANAGEMENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

8–10 August 2011, Yichun, Heilongjiang, China

It is increasingly evident that climate change is affecting forests and consequently jeopardizing forest carbon sink services due to loss of forests or forest degradation resulting from increased forest pest and disease outbreaks and forest fire occurrences. Enhanced vitality and resilience of forests are needed to cope with the changing climate and the new imperative is to develop adaptation strategies that can be integrated into forest management practices.

For this, an International Conference on Response of Forests and Adaptation Management to Climate Change was held in Yichun, Heilongjiang, China, during 8-10 August 2011, under the sponsorship by IUFRO, CAF, APFNet, NSFC and APAFRI. The Conference was attended by over 160 participants from 13 countries, and the programme included more than 50 presentations.

The conference showed the benefits of multidisciplinary dialogues and multiple scale approaches from combining knowledge from biology, ecology, forestry, climatology, socio-economics and political sciences to address the challenges of adaptation to rapid climate changes, and to elaborate adaptive management measures. Main discussion points and highlights of the conference included:

- (i) results from impact assessment of climate change on forest diseases and insect pests, forest fires, forest growth and tree distribution;
- (ii) spatio-temporal patterns of forest carbon cycles, carbon accounting systems and monitoring methods;
- (iii) modelling tools for studying regional climate change scenarios and predicting risks;
- (iv) adaptive forest management strategies;
- (v) decision-making and participatory methods and tools; and
- (vi) forest policy development and financial mechanisms in response to climate change.



Amongst future activities, the understanding of forest soil carbon dynamics, the development of economic assessment tools to evaluate forest risks and the elaboration of operational guidelines for adaptive forest management should be given more attention.

The conference highlighted the great uncertainty of climate change and its implications on forest ecosystems. Proactive forests management approaches are urgently needed and must be in place in order to reduce negative impacts of climate change on forest ecosystems and forest carbon sink capacity. The adaptive forest management approaches and tools discussed during the conference include multi-risk management, forest carbon management, planning tools, silvicultural techniques and policy and socioeconomic dimensions. The conference recognized that forest adaptation is urgently needed for enhancing forest resilience and capability to adapt to climate change and that science should form the bedrock of the adaptive management. However, the consensus was that there was still a knowledge gap in adaptive forest management. It was strongly recommended that further research were needed for developing scientific adaptive measures for sustainable forest management in a changing environment with many other unknown challenges.

For more information, please contact Prof. Shirong Liu, Chinese Academy of Forestry at liusr@caf.ac.cn



THE PROJECT INCEPTION MEETING: COMPARATIVE ANALYSES OF TRANSITIONS TO SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION

6 November 2011, Beijing, China

The ever worsening global climate and economic crises with their increasingly acknowledgeable impacts on the environment warrant the search for new and better approaches that can help reduce deforestation, induce rehabilitation and foster sustainable forest management. Deforestation and forest transition studies of the last two decades have generally failed to provide workable models and tools that can be effectively used to achieve these objectives. This project, funded by the Asia Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), suggests formulating a set of categorization models using data collected from at least eight countries that have already experienced net forest cover increase.

The inception meeting of “Comparative Analyses of Transitions to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation” on 6 November 2011, at Room 931, Mingde Main Building, Renmin University of China, Beijing, brought together some 30 participants from China, Japan, South Korea, Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

Project Concepts and Proposal Briefing

Concepts and theories from ecology, economy, social sciences and political sciences shall be exploited to explain forest cover change, and possibly also changing forest quality. The expected outputs of this two-year project shall include peer-reviewed authoritative publications, information briefs, guidelines for practitioners, and educational and training materials. Capacity building and training programmes and activities will be included throughout the project duration.

Theories and Approaches

Population, Economic development, institutions, knowledge/technology and cultures are important drivers of sustainable forest management and forest rehabilitation. Von Thunen's agricultural location theory, dependency theory/world system theory, general equilibrium model of land use decisions, and collective-action theory, jointly constitute the theoretical foundation. Approaches for transition study is as follows: multi-scale approach, including country level and local level;

multiscalar approach; structural approach; historical approach versus contemporary cross comparison; quantitative approach versus qualitative approach.

Project Management Arrangements

APAFRI is the project Executing Agency, and the project will be carried out with technical collaboration from the School of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development of Renmin University of China (RUC), with inputs from Kyoto University, and National Seoul University. The core team, comprising representatives from the Executing Agency and the three universities, would identify case study countries and also the national focal points for these countries. The core team members, assisted by an internationally recruited Technical Assistant, will carry out the comparative analysis. APAFRI will enter separate agreements with the collaborating partners, for the implementation of project activities and the disbursements of funds.

The Outlook for Forestry in the Asia-Pacific Region

Dr Simmathiri Appanah in his presentation highlighted that in the future the key drivers that will affect progress towards SFM are demography, economy, agriculture, infrastructure, politics and policy, environmental issues, science and technology, and governance. Policy makers and regulators must act to promote a balance between demands for land and forest products on the one hand; and conservation, watershed protection and climate change related needs on the other. Several countries in the region have begun to invest heavily in forest management; others should pay attention to the changing landscape in natural resource management.

The meeting certainly helped to gain a good overview on the objectives, approaches, main research contents, outputs expected, timetable, and project management of the APFNet funded project. The inception meeting had paved the way for further discussions on the various details including approaches to conduct national case studies and comparative analysis.

For more information, please contact Dr. Liu Jinlong at liujinlong@ruc.edu.cn



APFISN WORKSHOP ON FOREST HEALTH TECHNOLOGY AND PHYTOSANITARY STANDARDS

6,8,10 and 11 November 2011, Beijing, China



The APFISN workshop was organized as a side-event during the Asia Pacific Forestry Week in Beijing, China. The workshop had the following objectives:

1. To evaluate the technologies available in member countries to assess forest health
2. To discuss and provide training on invasive species survey and mapping techniques and protocols for risk assessment, early detection and rapid response and long term monitoring of biological invasion into forests.
3. To evaluate the existing legislative and regulatory systems in member countries
4. Presentation and discussion on “Guide to implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry”, and
5. Development of protocols for implementation of phytosanitary standards in forests

Forty participants from 22 countries registered for the four-day event. The workshop started off with introductory remarks by Mr. Patrick Durst, on behalf of the FAO. Dr KV Sankaran, Coordinator, APFISN explained the objectives of the workshop. He requested the APFISN nodal offices in member countries to be proactive so that the network can help the region better. This was followed by presentation of country reports from Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Maldives, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu and Vietnam. Most countries reported lack of baseline data on invasive species, paucity of trained personnel to deal with invasive

species and overall lack of policies, coordination and cooperation.

During the technical sessions, Gillian Allard provided a global review of the forest health scenario and Sun Jianghua spoke on the use of semio-chemicals in invasive species surveys. Invasive species mapping techniques using open source software was presented by Sitansu Pattnaik and the experience of invasive species surveillance in Vietnam was presented by Pham Quang Thu. An overview on invasive species management techniques like mitigation, control and eradication was presented by Eric Allen.

Invasive species risk assessment protocols were presented by Shiroma Sathyapala and methods of early detection and rapid response was presented by Yan Jun and Chris Baddeley. Protocols for long term monitoring of biological invasions was presented by Eric Allen. A discussion on Plant Survey Techniques by Gillian Allard, was followed by discussions on public engagement tools in invasive species management by Chris Baddeley and TV Sajeew. Lee Su See presented regional perspectives of Phytosanitary Standards in Forestry. She also distributed questionnaires for needs assessment survey on the Guide to Implementation of Phytosanitary Standards in Forestry to the participants.

Upon request from the APFISN coordinator, the participants presented their needs for better research and management of invasive species in their respective countries. This was followed by Gillian Allard who presented salient features of the Guide to Phytosanitary

standards and discussed how the Guide can be used. Shiroma Sathyapala then spoke on the relevance of phytosanitary standards to NPPO sector and Eric Allen further elaborated on the implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry. Zhao Wenxia introduced the video on phytosanitary standards in forestry followed by the screening of the film. Shiroma Sathyapala presented the results of the needs assessment questionnaire survey.

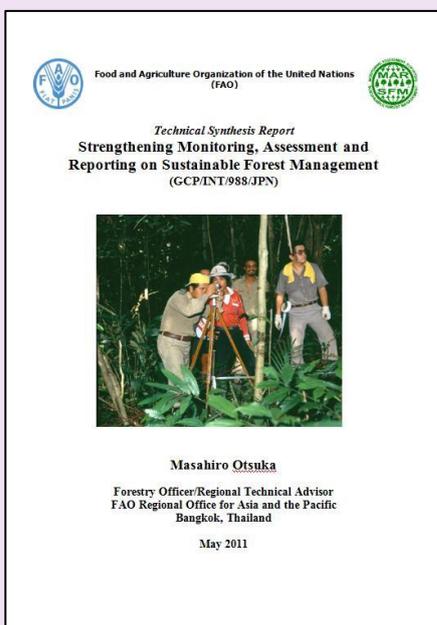
The member countries were requested to prepare country-wise action plans against invasive species and sent it over to the APFISN Secretariat. The APFISN Coordinator urged the participants to inform any new invasion/ threat by invasive species in their countries to the APFISN Secretariat for wider dissemination within the region. The country focal points were requested to circulate the APFISN Newsletter and Pest Fact Sheets widely within the country. The APFISN Coordinator thanked the USDA Forest Service, the FAO, Chinese Academy of Forestry and APAFRI for the kind support in organizing the workshop.

The workshop had the following major recommendations:

1. In the year 2012, each focal point would identify a flagship invasive species in their respective country and start off different awareness programmes in managing it. The purpose is to make the various stakeholders aware of the invasion process and its impact on local economy.
2. Based on the action plans drawn up by the focal points, APFISN Secretariat would plan specific regional training workshops in the year 2012. Once the action plan is implemented, APFISN will review the progress periodically.

Overall, the workshop was instrumental in reviewing the forest health scenario at the global and country levels and it provided training in mapping, surveillance, risk assessment, early detection and long term monitoring of invasive species to the participants. It also deliberated extensively on the implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry and identified knowledge and resource gaps in containing invasive species in the Asia-Pacific region.

NEW PUBLICATIONS



Technical Synthesis Report

Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management (GCP/INT/988/JPN)

Author: Masahiro Otsuka



Asia and the Pacific Symposium

Vulnerability Assessments to Natural and Anthropogenic Hazards

Editors: Antonio M. Daño, Karen Rae M. Fortus, Sim Heok-Choh



ASIA-PACIFIC FOREST POLICY THINK TANK INAUGURATION MEETING

9 November 2011, Beijing, China

During 2006 and 2007 FAO organized two expert consultations which discussed the larger issues relating to policy formulation, and the need to build policy analysis capability taking advantage of the expertise available in the region. It was noted that increasingly forests and forestry will be impacted by what is happening outside the sector and outside the national borders. Certainly there has been an improvement in the policy process and there is greater recognition of understanding the larger social, economic and ecological context. Increased recognition of climate change impacts and international initiatives like REDD+ have underscored the importance of in-depth policy analysis.

As the pace of change accelerates, there is a need for more informed analyses and studies to support policy formulation and implementation. With divergent demands on forests, resource use conflicts will continue to escalate, necessitating consensus on acceptable trade-offs between competing objectives adopting a transparent process.

The consultations also helped to articulate the objectives, functions and structure of the Think Tank. Although some of the activities envisaged were undertaken, the Think Tank was not formally launched and the full range of activities was not taken up. Considering the rapid changes taking place within and outside the forest sector and the urgency of improving the policy analysis capability, it was decided to launch the Forest Policy Think Tank during the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week held at Beijing, China from 7 to 11 November 2011.

The workshop launching the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank was organized on 9 November 2011 with the following objectives:

1. Discuss critical policy related issues that require immediate attention and needing inputs from the Think Tank during the next two years and prioritisation of issues;
2. Structure and functioning of the Think Tank and mobilisation of human and financial resources for the activities envisaged;
3. Communication strategy to promote regular interaction among the different stakeholders
4. Visioning the long term development of the Think Tank.

Workshop Programme and Issues Discussed

About 60 participants including heads of forestry departments from the APFC member countries, policy experts and other stakeholders attended the Workshop. The Workshop was chaired by Mr. Karma Dukpa, Director, Forestry Department, Bhutan and outgoing Chair of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission.

Introductory remarks by Patrick Durst provided an account of the evolution of the Think Tank whose thrust is to strengthen ongoing policy support activities with a better framework and a more focused approach. Mr. Karma Dukpa pointed out the rapid changes taking place in the socio-economic front and the need for forestry to become more in tune with the changing aspirations of the people including the increased demand for environmental services. In his keynote address Mr. Thang Hooi Chiew underscored the importance of policy decisions based on unbiased analysis of information. In particular he pointed out the importance of:

- Developing the Think Tank as a learning platform;
- Need to go outside the “forestry box” and beyond the traditional boundaries;
- Improved linkage between science and policy making;

The success of the Asia-Pacific Forest Think Tank will rest squarely on its ability to tap knowledge from a wide array of disciplines far outside the realm of forestry; be able to respond rapidly to the emerging challenges; and that its findings are available to key decision-makers in a timely manner. The Think Tank should also possess credibility and neutrality where its outputs should be highly credible, objective and neutral; and the delivery of its products which must be desired by policy and decision-makers is efficient and cost-effective.

Dr. C.T.S. Nair, Consultant, APAFRI provided an overview of the Think Tank, including the objectives, functions, structure and deliverables during the next two years. Key activities proposed to be undertaken by Think Tank include:

1. Establishment of ad hoc groups of experts on a wide range of policy related issues.
2. Monthly policy briefs (on topics identified during the APFC Session) prepared and widely disseminated among the stake holders. During each year it is



- proposed to prepare 12 policy briefs (each not exceeding two pages).
3. 5 detailed policy papers elaborating some of the critical issues identified in the monthly policy briefs or issues brought to the attention of FAO by member countries and other stake holders.
 4. Capacity building in policy analysis through workshops on strategic planning and short courses.
 5. Country level policy seminars/ discussions/dialogues.

As regards the structure to start with guidance will be provided by the Executive Committee of the APFC and the Think Tank activities will be supported by FAO Regional Office, Bangkok. As the pace of activities pick up, the need for a more formal structure will be examined.

The presentation by the panellists and the ensuing discussion touched upon a wide range of issues particularly focusing on the need for a regional Think tank, what it should strive to accomplish and the *modus operandi* of its functioning. Dr. Sim Heok Choh summarised the key points from the discussion.

Key issues points emerging from the panel discussion are summarised below:

Need for a Think Tank

It was noted that currently many decisions are taken on the basis of imperfect information and inadequate consideration of all the pros and cons. At the national level there are severe constraints in identifying what is happening beyond national boundaries and there is very little understanding of lessons from initiatives from different countries. Often many policy decisions are taken without a proper assessment of the economic, social and environmental implications and consequently many initiatives remain non-implementable. There was unanimous agreement on the need for a regional mechanism to improve the policy process and to strengthen the support that FAO already provides to the countries.

What the Think Tank should strive to accomplish?

A number of suggestions came up on what the Think Tank should do to improve the policy process in the region. Specifically the participants underscored the following:

- Need to identify what is relevant to decision making at the country level and to build country capacity in policy analysis;
- Linking talents across Asia-Pacific to share thoughts and information on a regular basis;

- Trouble-shooting on key emerging issues and improving clarity to avoid biased and unbalanced decisions.
- Identify relevant issues as they unfold and undertake pro-active analysis to identify timely response;
- Ensure relevance, independence, legitimacy and develop an effective feed-back mechanism.
- Keep track of global trends (economic situation, trade, key negotiations, etc. and assess how they may impact the forest sector.

It was noted that the effort should focus on strengthening what is already being done without adding on new structures but improving efficiency, quality and effectiveness of what is already being done.

Thrust of the Asia Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank

"I believe that what we really want to do is to better harness the wealth of ideas, knowledge, experience, expertise and intellectual capital that is scattered in small repositories throughout the region into a mechanism that allows us to much more efficiently tap into the right people, into the right wells of knowledge and experience to ensure that we are getting the best information and advice to help us formulate and develop the best policy solutions".

Patrick Durst

Deliverables

- Build up a strong network of policy analysts in the region;
- Provide regular policy briefs and analytical studies relevant to decision making on topical issues; and
- Undertake capacity building activities to strengthen policy analysis capabilities.

Next Steps

The Workshop emphasized the need to initiate the various activities without any further delay and agreed with the proposals in the concept note. FAO should immediately focus on the following:

- Prepare policy briefs on relevant issues (one policy brief per month) developed with the involvement of / inputs from experts from the region;
- Organize short policy courses to build up policy analysis capability at national levels; and
- Implement an effective communication plan using modern communication tools – website, blogs, email newsletters, etc. – especially focusing on policy makers at various levels.

FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES – TOWARDS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND USE OF THEIR POTENTIAL

10 November 2011, Beijing, China

Forest genetic resources (FGR) are threatened by environmental change and people's increasing demands for products and services. At the same time, FGR represent a largely unknown and untapped resource that can help to address these very problems, by enabling adaptation to changing environments and by providing opportunities for species improvement, product development, poverty alleviation and enhancement of ecosystem services.

This event highlights the importance of FGR, especially in adaptation to environmental change, and introduces recent initiatives and tools for their improved conservation and use. In order to better understand the status and potential of FGR and to develop action plans for their conservation and enhanced use, the FAO is developing the first ever global assessment of the Status of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SoW-FGR). The assessment will be based on country reports and a number of thematic studies with a global scope. During the event, the SoW-FGR process will be introduced and its progress reviewed. Insights will be provided to China's vast forest genetic resources and to the first results of the SoW-FGR country report. In addition, a new training guide will be launched which informs forestry practitioners and university students on the value of FGR and approaches for their conservation and enhanced use. The freely available training guide consists of science-based, practical learning cases, and represents an innovative approach for teaching and learning about FGR in a classroom or workshop setting.

About 30 participated in this side-event organized by FAO, Chinese Academy of Forestry, State Forestry Administration Science and Technology Development Centre, Bioversity International and APAFRI. Dr Sim Heok-Choh of APAFRI moderated the event which began with a welcome address by Mdm Hu Changcui, Director General, Science and Technology Development Centre, State Forestry Administration of China. In her speech, she outlined the present scenario of FGR in China, and also the progress of compiling the national report on FGR.

Judy Loo, Biodiversity International, senior researcher, delivered her Keynote Address: Why forest genetic

resources matter in changing climates. Began with why FGR needs to be conserved, she continued with the selection of priority species for conservation, various conservation approaches, as well as various issues related to genetic diversity and adaptation to climate change.

Oudara Souvannavong, FAO senior forestry officer (Biodiversity and Conservation), reported on the progress on the preparation of the State-of-the-World Forest Genetic Resources (SoW FGR). He emphasized that the preparation of this report is to encourage and promote FGR conservation. This gigantic project could also induce exchanges and sharing of information and experiences on genetic conservation and utilization, as well as new technologies and approaches for FGR conservation and management.

Dr Zheng Yongqi, Chinese Academy of Forestry senior researcher, in his presentation: The country of 2000 tree species: Understanding China's forest genetic resources outlined China's forest genetic resources from various angles such as geographical distributions, and species endemic to China. He went on to elaborate China's present scenario on FGR conservation and management, China genetic resources network, genetic improvements, as well as the progress on the compilation of national FGR report.

Judy Loo introduced Forest Genetic Resources Training Guide with case studies for teachers, students and forest practitioners. She explained that this guide was prepared for non professionals, with emphasis on the relationship between forest management and forest genetic resources, such as resource protection and conservation, forest rehabilitation and sustainable harvesting. The training materials include case studies, multi-media presentations, and illustrative materials. She also outlined some future developments.

The side-event was ended with a brief meeting of the national focal points from the Asia Pacific region on the progress of compiling national FGR reports.

For more information, contact Oudara Souvannavong at Oudara.Souvannavong@fao.org



ASIA AND THE PACIFIC WORKSHOP – MULTINATIONAL AND TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION OF VALUABLE AND ENDANGERED FOREST TREE SPECIES 5-7 December 2011, Guangzhou, China

In Southeast Asia and South Asia there are many tree species which are very valuable resources for local people as well as international trade. Many of these tree species, like *Aquilaria crassna*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*, *Santalum album* and *Hopea hainanensis*, are becoming rare and endangered. Although efforts have been made to conserve and protect these valuable trees, rapid economic development in most countries had reduced the natural habitats of these species, threatening their existence in these countries. In addition, there are other multinational transboundary problems such as natural disasters like typhoons and sand storms that sweep across several countries, as well as the spread of pests and diseases across boundaries. As countries in this region are developing very rapidly, such problems will become increasingly serious, further threatening the very existence of forests and human wellbeing in the region

A number of countries in the region have initiated some bilateral or multilateral collaboration on various aspects including conservation and efficient utilization of some valuable tree species common to these countries. There are also networks such as the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN), a network of 14 countries which was launched in 2003 with a primary objective of enhancing the technical and scientific cooperation, training and information exchange in conservation and management of forest genetic resources among countries in the region.

Over 60 forestry researchers and academicians from 12 Asian countries participated in a workshop to share and exchange experiences and information on conservation of valuable and threatened forest tree species common among countries in the region. The three-day workshop, an initiative of the International Union of Forest Research Organization (IUFRO), was organized by Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) in technical collaboration with the Research Institute of Tropical Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry (RITF-



CAF) of China, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI). Among the topics discussed were: multinational and transboundary conservation initiatives; national strategies, policies and programmes in conservation of valuable tree species; plantation establishments; genetic diversity and conservation status; and pests and diseases.

The workshop also included a field trip to two experimental stations: the Sandalwood Research Base owned by Dragon Pearl Island Sandalwood Industrial Technology Corporation Limited; and the Tiexi Operation Section, State-own Beiling Mountain Forest Farm.

An interesting and interactive round of panel discussed the prospect and challenges of strengthening multinational and transboundary conservation of valuable and endangered forest tree species. Issues discussed include:

- Multinational collaboration on conservation should not limit to woody species, but should also include all other plant species, such as ferns, medicinal plants and mycorrhiza.
- Strengthening and further promoting utilization would be the best way to conserve valuable and endangered forest tree species. Increased utilization would encourage establishing plantations for multiple purposes.

- *Ex-situ* conservation should pay more attention to beneficial symbiotic microorganism application, e.g., mycorrhizal fungus, *Frankia*, *rhizobium*, and so on, which would be the precondition of survival for some valuable and endangered tree species, particularly on new planting sites.
- Appending resolution of rehabilitation, protection, conservation of forest species and its habitat in a complete programme will gain attention to address the vulnerable and endangered tree species.
- Priority to the conservation of the whole habitat, not just the individual endangered species.
- Conservation is effective when the biological diversity and important genetic information are addressed; genetic information helps to develop conservation strategies while geographical information addresses the transboundary diversity.
- Conservation efforts need good political will and real supports from decision makers, scientists therefore should have good communication strategies to ensure that the decision makers have better understanding on the critical issues and the impacts of their decisions in the conservation efforts.
- How to make conservation attractive? Conservation has to be combined with utilization to benefit, and be attractive to the communities.
- Multinational and transboundary collaboration should include exchange of planting materials which then would save valuable resources for other uses.
- Integrated approach with support from politicians and also from the media towards the conservation of forest is essential for achieving the objectives.

ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED/ PARTICIPATED BY APAFRI IN 2011

| Date | Activity | Venue |
|----------------------|---|------------------------|
| 7–9 March | State-of-the-World's Forest Genetic Resources Regional Training Workshop for Asia | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| 8–11 August | International Conference on Response of Forest and Adaptation Management to Climate Change | Yichun, China |
| 4-8 October | Contributions of Forests to a Green Economy – Country-led Initiative of the UN Forum on Forests | Bonn, Germany |
| 6 November | Inception Meeting – APFNet Funded Project on Forest Transition | Beijing, China |
| 6, 8, 10-11 November | APFISN Workshop on Forest Health Technology and Phytosanitary Standards | Beijing, China |
| 9 November | Inauguration Workshop of the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank | Beijing, China |
| 10 November | Forest genetic resources – towards a better understanding and use of their potential | Beijing, China |
| 7–11 November | APFC Twenty-fourth Session & Asia-Pacific Forestry week | Beijing, China |
| 5–7 December | Asia and the Pacific Workshop – Multinational and Transboundary Conservation of valuable and Endangered Forest Tree Species | Guangzhou, China |

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 Selangor
Malaysia

Tel : (6) 03 6272 2516

Fax : (6) 03 6277 3249

Email: secretariat@apafri.org

Website : www.apafri.org

Acknowledgements

APAFRI extends its thanks to the followings for their support:

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



Season's Greetings

& Happy New Year

