

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Kepong, Malaysia!

First and foremost, allow me to take this opportunity to express my most sincere thanks and gratitude to all members present at this year's Sixth General Assembly, for electing me as Chairman of APAFRI Executive Committee for a second term. I am honoured to be re-elected. I believe this is yet another testament to the strong support given to FRIM by the Association members throughout these years. After convening in Kuala Lumpur twice, in 2006 and 2009, this Sixth General Assembly was hosted by the Research Institute of Tropical Forestry (RITF) in Guangzhou, China. We are indebted to Dr Xu Daping, the Director of RITF, and his capable staff under the leadership of Dr Li Mei, for assisting in organizing the Eighteenth APAFRI Executive Committee meeting in the morning, and the Sixth General Assembly in the afternoon, 31 August 2012.

Allow me also to congratulate and welcome the members of the new APAFRI Executive Committee 2012-2015: the Vice-chairman Dr VK Bahuguna of Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education, and members Dr Isamu Okochi of Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (Japan), Dr Aida Baja-Lapis of Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (Philippines), Prof Faridah Hanum Ibrahim of University Putra Malaysia, Dr Park JungHwan of Korea Forest Research Institute, Mr Elike Senivasa Sigarugurugu of Fiji Forest Department, and Dr C.N. Pandey of Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute. Dr Xu Daping of RITF and Dr Romulo Aggangan of the Forest Products Research and Development Institute (Philippines), were nominated as the Internal Auditors. With this well represented team, and the support from the



experienced Secretariat staff, I am confident of pushing APAFRI to achieve even greater heights, both in terms of providing better services to the members as well as ensuring sustainability. I would also urge all members to continuously assist us by contributing ideas and suggestions to further improve the services that they expect from APAFRI.

As I have mentioned during my closing remark of the General Assembly, I would urge the governing board of FRIM to continue hosting the APAFRI Secretariat at the facility which FRIM renovated in early 2010 with a cost of more than USD50 000. FRIM would also continue the dispatching of Dr Sim Heok Choh and Mrs Nor Azni Jafar to manage the Secretariat full time, together with two other APAFRI staff: Mrs Syuqiyah Abdul Hamid and Mrs Nazratul Raudzah Abd Rahman. In addition, I would also propose to the Board to increase other support, in terms of both in-kind as well as financial contributions, to the APAFRI Secretariat.

The much enhanced exposure of APAFRI during the past decade, contributed by its numerous active involvements regionally and internationally, as well as the more than half-a-dozen events organized on average annually, has attracted more forestry related agencies in the region to join as members. This has in turn; also helped to attract the attention of more donor agencies, and APAFRI has been able to secure quite a substantial financial support from a number of funding agencies over the last decade. APAFRI has also been invited to sign Memorandums of Understanding with a few national and international agencies for closer collaboration towards mutual benefits. I sincerely hope that these agencies would continue with their support to APAFRI's activities in the future.

In closing, on behalf of APAFRI, I would like to extend our thanks to the various agencies for their contributions to support APAFRI's programmes and activities. Thanks also due to the various national research agencies, universities, forestry agencies and private companies for their contributions to many of APAFRI's activities. Let us all work together to play a greater role in the development of forestry research for the sustainable management of forests in the Asia Pacific region

As we are now approaching the New Year, allow me to take this opportunity to wish all members and friends of APAFRI a prosperous new year in 2013.

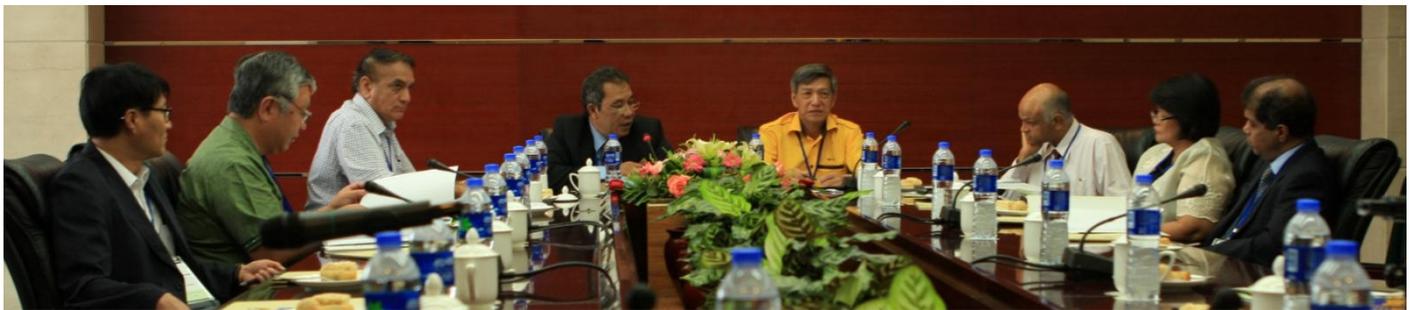
With best regards,

Abd Latif Mohmod
Chairman, APAFRI
December 2012

APAFRI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EIGHTEENTH MEETING

31 August 2012

Guangzhou, China



The current Chair, Dr Abd Latif Mohmod, Director General of Forest Research Institute Malaysia, when opening the meeting, welcomed all the Executive Committee members present, and also Dr. S. Appanah from FAO, and a number of colleagues who were present as observers, to this meeting. He expressed sincere thanks to the Research Institute of Tropical Forestry for hosting this Executive Committee meeting, and also the Sixth General Assembly in the afternoon.

After the usual businesses of tabling the activity and financial reports by the Executive Secretary, the Chair again thanked 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.

The Chair expressed his desire to see more active participation from more members in APAFRI activities. He also suggested that the Secretariat should take actions to increase the number of publications, regularly updating the web pages, and undertake more projects and enhance collaboration between member institutions. Dr VK Bahuguna, Director General of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, who is also the current Vice Chair, suggested that

recent news and updates from member institutions be posted on the web site. These could also be included in APAFRI's Newsletter.

There were some discussions on regularly updating the profiles of member institutions. The meeting was informed that requests for updating have been sent out at least twice-a-year, once in the beginning and the second one in mid-year. The Secretariat will also take the opportunity of the sizable turn-out during the coming General Assembly to update the profiles of those member institutions which will be represented in the General Assembly in the afternoon.

The Executive Secretary announced that a total of 26 member institutions will be represented in the Sixth General Assembly, which will convene in the afternoon at the same hotel. He explained that the General Assembly will start with going through the minutes of the previous General Assembly, to be followed by reports on the activities and finance of APAFRI. Then the Chair will dissolve the current Executive Committee paving the way for electing a new one. Two members of the current Executive Committee: FORDA (Indonesia) and PNG FRI had both served the maximum of two terms, and are not eligible for re-nominating at this General Assembly.

The meeting was informed that APAFRI has instituted Dr Y.S. Rao Forestry Research Award since its beginning, and the award is given out during the General Assembly. The recipient this year is Dr Ke Shuifa from Renmin University China. A certificate and a plaque would be presented to him during the General Assembly.

To the query about APAFRI supporting research project, the meeting decided that APAFRI would not want to support or implement research project, as research typically requires large budget which could strain APAFRI's finance. However, the Secretariat could assist in putting together proposals for submitting to donor agencies for funding. The meeting

discussed several options for members, especially the Executive Committee, to meet more frequently, and also allocate more time for interaction. It would be quite a challenge as this would be more taxing on the finance as well as the capability of the Secretariat. The Executive Secretary suggested, and was agreed, that requests be sent out regularly to all Executive Committee members for ideas and proposals for short meeting/workshop which could be held in conjunction with Executive Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned shortly before noon, and all present were invited to have lunch and getting ready for the Sixth General Assembly to be convened in the same hotel in the afternoon.

DIRECTORY OF ASIA PACIFIC FORESTRY RESEARCHERS

is now at <http://www.dbapafri.org>



A project to compile a directory of Asia Pacific forestry researchers was initiated in 2004 by APAFRI with financial support from USDA Forest Service. The objective of this project is to provide a source of information on WHO'S WHO in forestry research in the region, facilitating information sharing and the establishment of closer collaboration. Since then, this directory has compiled information on almost 900 researchers from 39 countries. The directory, resided in APAFRI website, www.apafri.org, is freely accessible to all interested parties.

In 2010, the APAFRI Secretariat has been relocated twice to two different premises in the Kepong campus of Forest Research Institute Malaysia. Unfortunately, during the relocations of the Secretariat, the APAFRI server hosting the APAFRI website since mid 2002 suffered some hardware failures. These had caused severe problems in hosting many of the dynamic

pages and databases. The directory was then inaccessible for quite some time; and the data from the directory was only provided for APAFRI members upon request. Several attempts to re-activate the directory were unsuccessful. APAFRI Secretariat has finally solved the problem by registering a new domain name for the directory, <http://www.dbapafri.org>, with the pages hosted externally.

The participation and contribution from all forestry researchers in the region are crucial to ensure the completeness and usefulness of this directory. With the re-activation of this directory, we would therefore like to invite more forestry researchers to be part of this directory. The necessary information can be sent to us by using the form which can be downloaded from the directory's main page. For those who want to update their information, please email the changes directly to Ms Syuqiyah (syuqiah_apafri@frim.gov.my).

TRAINING WORKSHOP ON TRANSITIONS TO SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

9–11 July 2012

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The project “Comparative Analyses of Transitions to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation”, funded by the Asia-Pacific Network on Forest Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management (APFNet) was officially launched with an Inception Meeting on 6 November 2011 in Beijing, China. The meeting was followed by the first Training Workshop on Transitions to Sustainable Management and Rehabilitation in Asia-Pacific Region on 7–13 November 2011. During the week, those attended the launching were also invited to participate in an “International Workshop on Forestry Transitions to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation”, 10–11 November 2011, which has gathered several experts to share and exchange information and experiences related to forest transition studies towards sustainable forest management and rehabilitation.

A second training workshop on Transitions to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation in Asia-Pacific Region, supported by the project funded by APFNet, was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9–11 July 2012. This training workshop aimed to provide a platform for discussing the outlines of the proposed report and planning the case study including the detailed work plan in each participating countries. Focal persons from eight countries, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, and the Philippines participated this training together with the other members of the project team.

Dr Zhuang Zuofeng, Director of Programme Management and Development, APFNet, in his Opening Address, expressed his concern over the progress of project activities. He expected this Training Workshop to clarify much of the ambiguities and uncertainties, and accelerate the progress of the various project activities to achieve the outputs in accordance to the schedule as in the original proposal. Dr Sim Heok-Choh gave a brief overview of the project, after a short welcoming address. The focal points were then given the opportunities to present the general profile of their national forestry scenario. The day ended with some brief discussion of outlines of the report from each focal point and also the general approaches and analyses.

The three Technical Assistance Partners: Prof Dr Liu Jinlong (Renmin University China), Prof Dr Youn Yeochang (Seoul National University) and Prof Dr Wil de Jong (Kyoto University), started the sessions of the second day by going over the historical development and theories of forest transitions. This was followed by discussion on several approaches, qualitative and quantitative, which would be deployed to explain and link the various drivers of forest transition. The rest of the day was devoted to discussing the outlines of the reports, and approaches for proposed case studies by the focal points. It was decided that the outlines proposed by China shall be used, with appropriate modifications in accordance to situations in each economy. Each focal point shall conduct at least one, but not more than four, case study in support of the report.

In the morning on the third day, Prof Dr Liu started with discussion on monitoring the progress of the focal point reports and proposed a tentative timetable for meeting up with the focal points during November/December of 2012. During the meetings, Prof Dr Liu and his team shall also identify additional or enhancing data/information needed for the two proposed comparative analyses. The rest of the morning was spent on discussing the comparative analyses, as well as the expected outputs from the project.

Before closing the workshop, Dr Sim Heok-Choh, gave a summary of the discussion and decisions agreed during the workshop. It was also agreed that the project would identify, if possible a Focal Point from Vietnam to participate, subject to adhering to the already agreed project's timetable. A number of participants had expressed their gratitude to the organizers for organizing this workshop which had assisted them to better understand the expectations of the project.

Dr Zhuang Zuofeng, officially closed the workshop with words of thanks to the organizers, and also reminding the project partners in adhering to the various commitments stipulated in the project proposal and agreement.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES IN ASIA

12–14 September 2012

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) acknowledged the urgency to conserve and sustainably utilize Forest Genetic Resources (FGR). The Commission requested that a *State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (SOW-FGR) report be prepared and presented to the Commission at its Fourteenth Session, in April 2013.

The SOW-FGR is prepared through a country-driven approach. Country Reports on FGR are the primary source of data and information for the preparation of the Global Report. Detailed guidelines for Country Reports were prepared to assist countries undertake a review of existing data and information, and to perform an assessment of the status and trends of FGR, including management capacities and needs. In this way, Country Reports both serve as strategic tool for national efforts to enhance the use, development and conservation of FGR, as well as provide the basis for preparing the global Report. FAO emphasized the importance of establishing national mechanisms to ensure the participation of national stakeholders in the preparation of the Country Report. FAO provided support to some countries in Asia to prepare their reports on FGR following the Guidelines provided.

Regional workshops to provide technical support for the preparation of Country Reports were organized in 2010 and 2011. Each workshop was an opportunity for FAO and its partners to provide technical assistance in the review of the initial drafts of Country Reports, assess progress made, discuss issues and limitations of their elaboration, and provide recommendations for finalization. The workshop for Asian countries was organized in March 2011, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

A second series of regional synthesis workshops was organized in August and September 2012 to discuss the findings of the country reports.

The regional synthesis workshop for Asia was organized in Kuala Lumpur, 12–14 September 2012, by FAO, in collaboration with APAFRI and Bioversity International. The programme of the workshop consisted of presentations of key findings and recommendations in the country reports by the national focal points; group discussions by sub-region to identify common achievements, constraints and action needs; and joint discussions to synthesize regional priorities and action needs in the conservation and management of FGR.

National focal points of SoW-FGR from 12 countries attended the workshop. Two members of the FAO Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources, Dr Baskaran Krishnapillay from Malaysia and Dr Wang Huoran from China, were invited as resource persons, together with experts from FAO, APAFRI, and Bioversity International.

Mr Oudara Souvannavong of FAO thanked the countries for their efforts in preparing the SoW-FGR Country Reports. He described the notable achievements in reporting the status of FGR over the past decades. The FAO Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources, established in 1986, advises countries of the world on priorities for action in conserving and managing FGR. In Asia, efforts to assess, conserve and manage FGR sustainably started more than 20 years ago, and the SoW-FGR process, although first of its kind, has a solid foundation in the region. He noted that a series of workshops in preparation for the SoW-FGR report was

held in Asia, in years 2008, 2009 and 2011. The needs and priorities identified by the countries will form the basis for the Global Plan of Action FGR that follows the global SoW-FGR report. In that sense, completion of the Country Reports is not an end but rather a beginning – in the next phases, findings of the reports need to be analyzed and synthesized to define actions for improved conservation and sustainable use of FGR.

The next and remaining steps in the completion of the SoW-FGR report include

- A review of the draft SoW-FGR Report by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on FGR (ITWG-FGR) in January 2013;
- Presentation of the Report to the CGRFA in April 2013; and
- Presentation of the Report to the Committee on Forestry (COFO), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) in 2014

Dr Sim Heok Choh of APAFRI and Mr Hong Lay Thong of Bioversity welcomed the participants to the workshop and to Kuala Lumpur. They reported the achievements of the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN), which was established in 2003 with support from APAFRI, Bioversity and FAO, and has 14 member countries in the region. National focal points of APFORGEN have, over the years, prepared detailed reports on the status of FGR in their countries, which created an important foundation for the SoW-FGR process in the region.

Oudara Souvannavong concluded the presentation of the key findings and recommendations of the Country Reports by thanking the countries for their efforts. He expressed the hope that the preparation process of the reports was also useful for the countries themselves, quoting an example from the Solomon Islands. The country received a small catalytic support from FAO to prepare the Country Report. It became the first national report of its kind prepared fully by the country itself, without inputs from external consultants, and therefore became source of national pride. The preparation process helped to get the high ranking natural resource management officials to understand the importance of forest genetic resources. The recommendations of the report will subsequently be included in national programs and strategies on natural resources.

Ms Riina Jalonen of Bioversity presented a preliminary synthesis of achievements, constraints and action needs in the region as identified in the Country Reports. Purpose of developing regional syntheses as part of the SoW-FGR process is to understand overall status and priorities of FGR conservation and management in the region, and identify common interests, needs, priorities for action. As such the synthesis can contribute to identifying opportunities for exchange and collaboration among the countries; communicating a coherent message from the region to inform global processes; and to better conservation, sustainable use and increased benefits of FGR.

Participants formed three sub-regional working groups (East Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia), with the objective to identify achievements, constraints and action needs in five areas

- Status of knowledge on FGR
- Management of FGR (including conservation)
- Institutions and policies
- Research, awareness and training
- Regional and international collaboration

The groups were also requested to identify sub-regional priority species for joint action. Species should include indigenous species for FGR conservation and use, not only species with tree improvement focus, and be of interest to several if not all countries in the subregion.

Oudara Souvannavong emphasized that the key findings and recommendations of the country reports from the region indicate how the reports indeed have very interesting content. They explain important achievements in conserving and managing FGR and include lot of information on relevant national capacities. Lot of common issues and interests were also identified during the workshop, such as funding constraints and capacity strengthening needs. He again expressed his thanks to the countries for their important efforts to prepare the reports. The draft of the global SOW-FGR report will be presented to the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on FGR (ITWG-FGR) in January 2013. There may be support available for country's representatives from developing countries to attend that meeting.

(Adapted from the report on the workshop submitted to FAO)

THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE TO FOREST PESTS AND DISEASES IN THE TROPICS (WP 7.02.07)

8–10 October 2012

Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Changing climate can affect forest pests and the extent of the damage they caused by altering a range of processes and behaviours. These include: (i) their development, survival, reproduction, distribution and spread; (ii) host physiology and plant defence; and (iii) relationships between pests and diseases and the environment, and their natural enemies, competitors and mutualisms. To address these issues, IUFRO WP 7.02.07 has organized an international conference on “The Impacts of Climate Change to Forest Pests and Diseases in the Tropics” in Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 8–10 October 2012.



The aim of this conference is to update the status of pests and diseases in the tropics, and to foster closer collaboration and links between interested parties. About 116 participants from Australia, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand, and Vietnam, participated in this conference. Forty-three significant papers relating to the above topics have been presented either orally or as posters. These will also be reviewed and edited by Prof. Caroline Mohammed, Prof. Chris Beadle, Prof. Jolanda Roux, and Dr. Sri Rahayu, to be published as a volume of proceedings later.

This conference had been financially support by international sponsors including APAFRI, APFISN,

ACIAR, and national sponsors such as I-MHERE Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Faculty of Forestry UGM, Riau Pulp and Paper (RAPP), PERHUTANI, PT. Serayu Makmur Kayuindo (SMK), and PT Dharma Satya Nusantara (DSN)).

At the close of the conference, the participants had committed to develop collaboration on research and information exchange in the field of managing forests pests and diseases in the tropics. The next conference has been planned to be held in Thailand or Malaysia.

(For more details, contact Dr Sri Rahayu (tatarahayu@yahoo.com))

DR Y. S. RAO FORESTRY RESEARCH AWARD 2012

This award was established to commemorate the late Dr Y.S. Rao, a well-known forester in the region and the Senior Programme Advisor for the Forestry Research Support Programme for Asia and the Pacific (FORSPA), prior to his tragic death in March 1993.

APAFRI Secretariat has received three nominations for this award to be given out in conjunction with the Sixth



General Assembly. The Executive Committee has voted Dr Ke Shuifa, a lecturer from the Renmin University China who has made significant scientific contributions in the field of forestry economics, to be the recipient of the award this year.

A plaque and certificate were presented to Dr Ke during the General Assembly in Guangzhou on 31 August 2012.

APAFRI SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012

31 August 2012

Guangzhou, China



A total of 26 member institutions were represented at the Sixth General Assembly convened at the Yanling Hotel, Guangzhou, China. A number of observers, including officers from the FAO Asia Pacific Office in Bangkok, the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM); and the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), also attended the General Assembly as observers.

The Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) Director General, Dr Abd Latif Mohmod, the current chair, during his opening remarks, thanked the Research Institute of Tropical Forestry (RITF), Guangzhou, for graciously hosting this General Assembly. He noted that after having the General Assembly twice in Kuala Lumpur (2006 and 2009), it was quite necessary to convene the General Assembly in another Asia Pacific country. The offer from Dr Xu Daping, the Director of RITF, to host this General Assembly thus was greatly appreciated by APAFRI. He also thanked the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI); FRIM; APFNet; RITF; the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Forest Service; the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); and all the other agencies, for their financial as well as in-kind contributions to APAFRI.

Dr VK Bahuguna of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education suggested that APAFRI should look into the possibility of establishing transboundary forestry degrees among member

institutions. Prof Dr Faridah Hanum Ibrahim of University Putra Malaysia echoed that this has also been discussed at the Asia Pacific Forestry Deans' Meeting, more specifically on credit transfer agreement among the forestry faculties in the region.

There were some discussions on having more activities related to community-based forestry including traditional knowledge. The Executive Secretary reported that APAFRI, with allocation from the Korea Forest Research Institute, will be organizing an international conference on traditional forest-related knowledge in China in November 2012, and also a community-based forest fire workshop in Nepal also in November 2012.

Dr Abd Latif Mohmod then declared the dissolving of the current Executive Committee, and presented token of appreciation in the form of a certificate and a pewter plaque to each of the outgoing Executive Committee members. The General Assembly was re-convened after a brief break, and continued with the next important agenda: nomination and election of the new Executive Committee.



The Sixth General Assembly in Guangzhou had elected the following new Executive Committee:

APAFRI EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2012–2015



Chairman	
Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)	Dato' Dr Abd Latif Mohmod
Vice Chairman	
Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)	Dr V.K. Bahuguna
Committee:	
Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI)	Dr Park JungHwan
Department of Forestry, Fiji (DF Fiji)	Mr Elik Senivasa Sigarugurugu
University Putra Malaysia (UPM)	Prof. Faridah Hanum Ibrahim
Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI)	Dr C.N. Pandey
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB)	Dr Aida Lapis
Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI)	Dr Isamu Okochi
Internal Auditors	
Research Institute of Tropical Forestry (RITF)	Dr Xu Daping
Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI)	Dr Romulo Aggangan

Speaking after re-elected to the Chair of the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) Executive Committee for another term from 2012 to 2015, Dr Abd Latif reaffirmed FRIM's commitment to continue hosting the Secretariat. He

also announced that Dr Sim Heok-Choh, a senior researcher of FRIM who has served the APAFRI Secretariat since 2002, will be retained as the APAFRI Executive Secretary to oversee the operations of the Secretariat.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRADITIONAL FOREST-RELATED KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE FOR GREEN ECONOMY

5–8 November 2012

Yangling, China



Traditional forest-related knowledge and culture is a hot topic in forestry research internationally, and it is also one of the major international forest issues currently. The role of traditional forest-related knowledge and culture has been steadily gaining recognition in resolving environment and development issues. Ethnic groups and communities in the Asia-Pacific region have accumulated a wealth of practical experiences in local forest resource management and utilization practices. These experiences have been guiding local communities in a reasonable and orderly way of forestry resource utilization, which brings numerous benefits and contributions to poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods for the communities. The impact of traditional forest-related knowledge and culture on forest resources management, ecological conservation and sustainable development is no less important than modern scientific knowledge, and it is an important element in the formation and development of forestry science and technology.

Both traditional knowledge and modern technology are equally important for us to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The development of modern forestry must begin with a foundation built from a fuller understanding of local traditional forest-related knowledge, and supplementing and complementing by

absorbing modern scientific achievements. Under the trends of global climate change and globalization, traditional forest-related knowledge, compounding with modern sciences in the process of environment development, contributes to a harmonious, prosperous and friendly eco-civilized society.

The conference, jointly organized by the College of Economics and Management, Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University; and the Centre for Forest and Resource Policy Study, Renmin University China; was participated by 38 participants coming from several Asian countries including India, Korea, Vietnam, Philippines and Malaysia. APAFRI is one of the main sponsors for this event. The presenters were requested to send in their extended abstracts for a compilation to be published in early 2013.

During the conference, Korea Forest Research Institute announced the establishment of an Asian Centre for Traditional Forest-related Knowledge at its Seoul campus. Three countries have been carrying out the fundamental activities towards establishing this Centre. During a meeting of focal persons from Korea and China, APAFRI has been co-opted as the fourth Coordinating Committee member of this Centre representing all Asian countries other than Japan, Korea and China.

REGIONAL PAN-ASIA / PACIFIC CONSULTATION ON BUILDING ADVANCED NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CAPACITIES IN INTEGRATED FIRE MANAGEMENT BASED ON PARTICIPATORY INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

20–22 November 2012
Lalitpur, Nepal

The Regional Pan-Asia / Pacific consultation “Building Advanced National and Regional Capacities in Integrated Fire Management based on Participatory Involvement of Local Communities” was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC), Government of Nepal, the Korean Forest Research Institute (KFRI) and the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) representing the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network. The consultation was funded by the Korean Forest Research Institute (KFRI) through an administrative agreement and supported by the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI). Additional support was provided by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) and the facilitation support by the UNISDR-Regional South Asia Wildland Fire Network and the Nepal Forest Fire Management Chapter (NFMFC). The consultation was hosted by Nepal and successfully held in Lalitpur, Nepal, 20–22 November 2012.

The main objectives of the meeting were:

- To share knowledge and experiences of good practices in Community-based Fire Management (CBFiM) among countries of the Asia-Pacific region and outside of Asia
- To discuss global, regional as well as national level issues and concerns of wildland fire paradigms and management of wildland fire involving local communities
- To develop the concept of a regional activity in community-based fire management in the Asia-Pacific region
- To develop a draft concept of building a pilot activity in Nepal and at regional level to promote CBFiM approaches by establishing a Regional Fire Management Resource Center for monitoring, capacity building and advisory services in fire management.

Seventy-two participants from 10 countries (Bhutan, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, People’s Republic of China, Republic of Korea and



Thailand) attended and contributed to the meeting. Additionally input papers were received from the Russian Federation and Indonesia.

The participants of the consultative meeting assessed that within the four regions of Asia that are belonging to the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network and the Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network, forest fires and other vegetation fires are increasingly impacting the environment and societies. The Northeast Asian Region, which includes the Korean Peninsula, the Far East of the Russian Federation, Japan and China, is experiencing increasing occurrence of forest fires with negative consequences on sustainability of ecosystems, biodiversity and forest productivity. The Central Asian Region, which includes Mongolia, Northern China, the Russian Federation (Siberia), and the Central Asian States (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan), is affected by continental dryness, widespread illegal logging and increasing wildfires, which are threatening sustainable forest management and regularly resulting in regional smoke pollution.

The Southeast Asian region, covering the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), is faced by impacts of excessive fire application in land-use change, notably in rain forest and peat biomes, as well as wildfires in seasonally dry forests. The South Asian region, comprising mainly countries of continental South Asia and the Himalayan

states, is faced with increasing pressure of forest fires, particularly in mountainous terrain, with severe consequences of secondary disasters such as landslides, erosion and floods.

Many countries within the four regions of Asia are partners in economic and cultural activities. Some of them are sharing common forest fire problems, including transboundary fires and smoke/haze pollution.

Participants of the consultative meeting discussed and agreed upon the following recommendations to the governments of countries in the Asia-Pacific Region:

- To develop / strengthen the institutional and financial base for fire management;
- To formulate / review legal and policy frameworks;
- To emphasize community based fire management, institutional and technological capacity development at all levels;

- To establish Regional Fire Management Resource Centers in South Asia, South-East Asia, North-East Asia and Central Asia for monitoring, capacity building and advisory services in fire management;
- To develop / enhance transboundary cooperation among the countries of Asia for information and technology sharing, training, preparedness and response during wildfire emergencies;
- To encourage countries inside the Asia Pacific region and at international level to develop bilateral, multi-lateral projects and programmes aimed at enhancing fire management capabilities;
- To consider implementation of the recommendations of previous regional and international meetings / conferences / summits; and
- To support and participate in the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference in South Korea in 2015.

(Adapted from a report prepared by Mr Sundar Sharma (sharmasp1966@yahoo.com))

NEW MEMBERS

APAFRI welcomes its 67th and 68th members:

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB)

For more information on the institution, please contact:

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Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST)

For more information on the institution, please contact:

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WORLD TEAK CONFERENCE 2013

25–30 March 2013

Bangkok, Thailand

The World Teak Conference is an offshoot of the commendable efforts initiated by Thailand on massive planting of teak throughout the country to commemorate the 84th birthday celebrations of the beloved King of Thailand. Thailand has been executing a nationwide project to plant 8.4 million saplings of teak distributed in villages throughout the country with peoples' participation. This effort is laudable and serves as a model for other countries across the globe on account of its social and environmental implications.

TEAKNET established by FAO of the United Nations to promote teak globally, took on this spirit and decided to support the international conference in Thailand in appreciation of the highly relevant efforts the country has made. In this conference, TEAKNET in association with the other organizing partners, attempts to examine the multiple aspects of teak cultivation and management in the context of sustainable development with social, ecological and economical implications.



World Teak Conference 2013 will be responsible for a wide coverage of topics by keynote speakers, the main focus being on 4 interesting symposia. The topics emphasized are: 1) Genetics, Silviculture and Utilization; 2) Environments & Climate Change and Carbon Trading; 3) Economic & Investments; and 4) Rural Development.

This conference will be held at Centara Grand Bangkok Convention and Exhibition in Bangkok, Thailand and is organized in collaboration with teak specialist organizations, for instance, The Plant Genetic Conservation Project under the Royal Initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (RSPG), TEAKNET and FAO. Each organization has a long history with the main objectives emphasizing teak plantation and conservation in Thailand and South-East Asia.

Please visit the conference website at <http://www.worldteak2013.org/> for more information.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM ON AGARWOOD

3–5 September 2013

Selangor, Malaysia

Agarwood produces a unique aroma that brings a sense of tranquillity, healing and spiritual cleansing in many traditions of the world. In modern times it has been used as an ingredient in therapeutic medicines as well as perfumery. These demonstrate its importance for both industries and rural people. The source of this precious wood comes from different tree species such as Aquilaria and Gyrinops. More importantly these resources are under threat as a result of unsustainable production of agarwood – common methods include direct harvesting and indiscriminate felling of trees from natural forests.

ISSA 2013 will convene scientists, foresters and managers interested in the basic genetics, molecular biology, physiology, conservation, and ecology of



agarwood-producing species, and the stress-related factors in agarwood induction and formation, and the application of this knowledge to sustainable production and conservation. It will bring players in academia and industry together to exchange the latest information and technologies and strengthen collaboration. This three-day symposium will be held at Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia which will include two days of presentation and one day of site visit.

Deadline for abstract submission is 1st April 2013. Please visit the symposium website at <http://www.forr.upm.edu.my/index.php/issa2013> to get more details or contact Dr Rozi Mohamed (rozimohd@putra.upm.edu.my) for more information.

INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

(FORGRAD 2013)

2–4 July 2013

Selangor, Malaysia

The unrestrained development and rapid expansion of our population and economy has taken a toll on our environment. As such, the aggressive and challenging world now requires our youth to be more prepared in facing the needs of sustainable development between human capital and environment conservation. Forestry graduates are beyond doubt, the forerunners in making this aim become a reality.

There is indeed a need for students and researchers in the field of forestry and related discipline to gather, where ideas innovation and research findings obtained by these graduates across the continents can be shared among students. This pool of knowledge would not only greatly benefit the forestry community, but also the world population as a whole, as the very basis of forestry research is for the betterment of mankind. Besides that, it also has the potential to create awareness among the general public, on matters regarding the environment, which, rightfully has been the cause of great concern lately.

Forestry has expanded its wings by incorporating various studies and disciplinary to suit the current

need of critical efforts in making sustainable development with natural resources conservation by graduates.

The International Forestry Graduate Students Conference 2013 (FORGRAD2013) is conducted to gather all graduates, young scientist and activist in the field of forestry, agriculture and environmental science to share their research or cognizance which would aid in increasing people's awareness on the importance and significance of using knowledge and research finding to create an environment which in line with human capital developments.

In addressing this issue, Faculty of Forestry Graduate's Student Society (FORGRAD) in collaboration with the Management of Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia will be organizing The International Forestry Graduate Students Conference 2013 (FORGRAD2013) from 2–4 July 2013.

(Further details are available from UPM Website at: <http://www.forr.upm.edu.my>)

THIRD TRAINING WORKSHOP – TRANSITIONS TO SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

23–28 February 2013

Kuningan - West Java, Indonesia

This Third Training Workshop on Transitions to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation in Asia Pacific Region shall discuss progress of reports and tentative results of case studies with presentations by the focal points. Field visit will be made to villages that have been chosen as research sites of the Indonesian studies. These villages are good examples of villages which had experiencing reforestation and deforestation, both in forest lands and in private lands.

The second training workshop was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9–11 July 2012. In order to update information on the progress of the various reports and transition studies, as well as to further enhance the

understanding of the various components of the project, a third training workshop has been proposed and will be held in Kuningan-West Java, Indonesia, 23–28 February 2013.

Objectives of the third training workshop are:

- To update information on the progress of report preparation and transition case studies;
- To share and exchange tentative results of transition case studies;
- To formulate plans for analysis and comparative studies; and
- To propose and plan for an end-of-project symposium.

Activities Organized/ Participated by APAFRI in 2012

Date	Activity	Venue
3–5 July	International Symposium on Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration Towards a Greener Asia	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
9–11 July	Second Training Workshop on Transitions to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation in Asia-Pacific Region	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
30 August	APAFRI Eighteenth Executive Committee Meeting	Guangzhou, China
30 August	APAFRI Sixth General Assembly	Guangzhou, China
1–3 September	International Symposium on Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests	Guangzhou, China
12–14 September	Regional Workshop on Forest Genetic Resources in Asia	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
26–28 September	International Conference on Future of Panel Industry – Challenges and Key Issues	Bangalore, India
8–10 October	International Conference on the Impacts of Climate Change to Forest Pests and Diseases in the Tropics	Yogyakarta, Indonesia
30–31 October	Seventh Carbon Forum Asia	Bangkok, Thailand
5–8 November	International Conference on Traditional Forest-related Knowledge and Culture for Green Economy	Yangling, China
20–22 November	Regional Pan-Asia / Pacific Consultation on Building Advanced National and Regional Capacities in Integrated Fire Management based on Participatory Involvement of Local Communities	Kathmandu, Nepal



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

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

