

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Kuala Lumpur!

After a rather hectic 2012, this year has started with a much slower pace. However, APAFRI still has a fair share of forestry related happenings in the region.

The first major event of this year was the workshop on forest transition which was hosted by Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) in Kuningan, Indonesia in February. The workshop has gathered the focal persons from the nine participating countries, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam, to share their progress and experiences in implementing the project funded by the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet). APAFRI being the implementing agency of this project has the heavy burden of ensuring that the progress of the various project activities is on track. The project, as originally approved, would be terminating by this September. An international conference has been planned to be convened in October, which shall provide the platform for the focal persons to present the expected outputs from their country studies.

The second major event was a two-week policy course organized by FAO in Bhutan in May/June this year. APAFRI was awarded a contract to engage resource persons, and support the local host – the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Forestry Centre – in organizing this policy course. This short course was attended by a total of 22 participants, mainly senior and mid-rank officers of forestry agencies in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; as well as a few from the forest industries and forestry related NGOs from China, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines. This is the sixth in the series conducted by FAO thus far, and has been deemed as one of the most successful ones, due principally to the



very committed participants who had participated actively and enthusiastically in all of the discussions and debates. Already FAO is planning to have the seventh one, most probably for the Pacific Island nations.

For the second half of this year, APAFRI would be busy with a number of activities. Besides the international conference on forest transition scheduled to be held in October, APAFRI is also organizing a workshop on forest hydrology together with Forest Research Institute of the Indian

Council for Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE-FRI) in Dehradun, India. Registrations and abstracts are trickling in these few months, and promotion to attract more participants has been much stepped up with the sending out of the second announcement with more details since mid June.

APAFRI has been notified by the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI) that financial contribution to support APAFRI activities would continue this year. The details of this year's contributions were yet to be made known to APAFRI, but the Secretariat has since early this year proposed a number of activities that APAFRI would require support from KFRI.

APAFRI has constantly receiving requests for supporting activities organized by member institutions. For the remaining months of 2013, APAFRI has promised to provide support to not less than half a dozen activities in the region. The details of these activities have been posted on APAFRI website, and APAFRI has requested that the support shall be utilized primarily to cover the costs of participation of staff members of APAFRI member institutions. These activities offer opportunities for colleagues from the member institutions to share experiences and to learn from each other, and are golden opportunities for capacity building especially for member institutions that are new and still building up capability and capacity. With available resources,

APAFRI will continue to provide support, not just financial contribution, but also in other aspects, to member institutions in organizing activities that benefit the forestry fraternity in the Asia Pacific region.

The APAFRI Secretariat also continuously exploring funding opportunities to implement activities to address issues, especially those that are multinational and cross-boundary. Please do send us ideas and suggestions so that the Secretariat could further develop them into concept papers and proposals for soliciting support from

donor agencies as well as developed nations which are interested to fund activities in the region.

Thank you very much.

With best regards,

Abd Latif Mohmod
Chairman, APAFRI
June 2013

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

23-28 February 2013

Kuningan - West Java, Indonesia

The project *Comparative Analysis of Transitions to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation in Asia Pacific Region*, funded by the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), was officially launched with an Inception Meeting on 6 November 2011 in Beijing, China.

This project aims to formulate a set of categorization models using data collected from a number of economies in the Asia Pacific region that have already experienced net forest cover increase and also those that are still experiencing net forest cover decline. Concepts and theories from ecology, economy, social and political sciences shall be exploited to explain forest cover changes, and possibly also changing forest quality. The successful completion of this project should contribute towards a better understanding of the interrelationships of the various factors contributing to forest transition, as well as strengthening the capability and capacity in adapting to these transitions.

The meeting in Beijing was followed by an international workshop on *Forestry Transition to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation*, 10-11 November 2011, which had gathered several academicians and forestry practitioners to share and exchange information and experiences related to forest transit study towards sustainable forest management and rehabilitation.

The second training workshop was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9–11 July 2012. This training workshop had successfully achieved its objectives in improving the understanding on the comprehensive theories and approaches for forest transition study, formulating



detailed work plans for the report and case study in each economy; and sharing experiences on transition studies.

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, the *International Workshop – Transitions to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation in Asia-Pacific Region*, was held in Kuningan, West Java, Indonesia, 23–28 February 2013.

The workshop was attended by all focal points, except those of Japan and Vietnam; as well as all the three Technical Assistance Partners: Prof Dr Liu Jinlong of Renmin University of China (RUC), Prof Dr Youn Yeochang of Seoul National University (SNU) and Prof Dr Wil de Jong of Kyoto University. Ms Lu Qian, Project Officer, APFNet, and several local forest officers also participated in the workshop.

The two-day workshop started with opening and welcome addresses from APAFRI as the Implementing Agency;



APFNet, the funding agency; the local Kuningan officials and the local host – IPB. These were then followed by APAFRI with an update of the progress of the project. Prof Dr Liu then reported the progress of various activities that RUC had been contracted to carry out. The workshop then continued with the technical session, moderated by Prof Dr Youn Yeo-chang and Prof Dr Wil de Jong, with presentations of progress from the focal points.

Out of those who reported, it was generally accepted that all with the exception of Laos, are already quite advanced in their studies and a few are already very near to completion. As for the case of Laos, the representative Mr Phongxiong Wanneng, just taken over the responsibility since the previously appointed focal person Mr Saykham Boutthavong is currently out of the country. However, Mr Phongxiong has presented a plan and outline of the study and was confident of completing the report in time for the completion of the whole project. The progress of the case of Vietnam is unclear, as the focal point could not participate and also did not send in any report. Prof Dr Liu would plan a trip to meet up with the

Vietnamese focal point and guide the progress of the case study there.

The rest of the workshop was occupied by revisiting the theoretical framework and background of forest transition and comparative analyses with presentations from the Technical Assistance Partners. Discussions also touched on methodologies, data collection and analytical tools. Several recommendations were also suggested to further improving the reporting of the case studies.

The participants were taken to visit three sites: **Garatengah Urban Forest** which was established by collaboration between Kuningan District Forestry and Estate Crops Office and the *Garatengah* village; **Japara Private Forest** which was mainly planted with *Albizia (Paraserianthes falcataria)* mixed with a few crops such as melinjo (*Gnetum gnemon*), ginger and other spices; and **Bantarpanjang Resort Forest - Ciledug** Divisional Forest Area of Perhutani, which suffered from mass illegal logging during economic crises in 1997-2000, then replanted with improved teak variety which is fast growing by collaborating with local villagers.



MAJOR GROUPS-LED INITIATIVE IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS (UNFF)

FORESTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: CRAFTING THE PATH FOR FORESTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

18-22 March 2013

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

An intercessional meeting and workshop was held in the National Institute of Tropical Botany, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 18 -22 March 2013. This is a Major Groups-led Initiative aimed to discuss and exchange ideas on forest contributions to livelihoods and economy, and the outputs of which will contribute to the UNFF 10 ministerial meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, 9-19 April 2013. This event brought together a total of 45 participants from 21 countries.

The meeting was convened by the Major Groups of UNFF and hosted by the Government of Brazil. It was funded by a German Government grant managed by ITTO. Representatives from six major groups: Children and Youth, Scientific and Technological Communities, Indigenous People, Farmers and Small Forest Landowners, Women, and the Non Governmental Organizations, participated in the meeting and workshop.

Prof. Sashi Kant of the University of Toronto delivered a paper: *Forests and Economic Development: New Pathways*, to set the stage for this workshop. This was followed by another paper, delivered via teleconferencing, titled *Can Legality Verification Promote "Good Forest Governance?" Lessons from Indonesia, Malaysia and Brazil* by Professor Ben Cashore.

The Major Groups workshop discussions revolved around the three questions:

1. What type of governance mechanisms can serve as catalysts for enhancing the role of forests in sustainable forest management?
2. How can community-based forest enterprises be developed to contribute to economic development of forest dependent people?
3. How can forest products and services contribute to economic development in a sustainable way?

The Scientific and Technological Communities Major Group was represented by Joseph Cobbinah (Ghana), Shiva Shankar Pandey (Nepal), Liudmila Zhirina

(Russia), Ihor Soloviy (Ukraine), Victor Kawanga (Zambia) and Aida Lapis (Philippines). After a lengthy discussion, the group put forward the following recommendations:

1. Status of implementation of the previous recommendations in UNFF 8 and 9 should be revisited and reported.
2. Priority on R and D with financial support for scientific discussions on forest issues, inter institutional coordination of research priorities for global scale studies of forest landscapes, ecosystems and forest dependent communities.
3. Support to scientific networks and databases and improve information exchange and sharing.
4. Organization of thematic conferences for common global issues and concerns focusing on sustainable forest management.

Representatives from each Major Group present were chosen to further synthesis the Major Groups' outputs into a communiqué, a resolution for the UNFF. The communiqué emphasized issues including research, development and education including technology transfer, land tenure/ownership, empowerment of women, networking, market product certification, indigenous people concerns, and funding mechanism, among others.

Dr Aida Lapis presented a PowerPoint presentation of a research on the *Community participation on sustainable development of rattans in the ASEAN*, supported by ITTO. A poster *Silvicultural Mangement of Calamus merrillii Becc. (Calamoideae: Palmae) in plantations* was also put up in the venue. Both papers show the importance of rattans, in the Asia Pacific Region for indigenous and rural people livelihood and green economy.

(Adapted from a report prepared by Dr Aida Lapis (acb12002@yahoo.com))



FOREST POLICIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY 6TH EXECUTIVE FOREST POLICY COURSE

27 May - 6 June 2013

Thimphu, Bhutan



Forest policy formulation and implementation remain extremely challenging in a rapidly changing environment. This is all the more so in the complex situation in Asia characterized by high population densities, severe resource constraints, and urgency to address poverty and food insecurity, while dealing with problems stemming from climate change. Forest policies also need to take cognizance of growing demands for goods and services in the context of both globalization and localization and help to establish trade-offs to resolve competing demands. The outcome of discussions at Rio+20, in particular the focus on a Green Economy in the context of sustainable development, and the institutional framework for sustainable development, will impact forests and forestry directly and indirectly.

In response to a recommendation of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission to enhance capacities for forest policy analysis, development and implementation, FAO has initiated a programme of residential policy courses aimed at senior policy makers in the forest sector in Asia-Pacific countries. Hitherto five such courses have been organized, adopting a sub-regional approach taking into account the specificities of each sub-region and taking into account the emerging changes taking place at global, national and local levels.

The Sixth Executive Forest Policy Course, hosted by the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation

(SAARC) Forestry Centre in Thimphu, Bhutan, has a total participation of 22 comprising mainly senior and mid-rank officers of forestry agencies of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; as well as a few from the forest industries and forestry related NGOs from China, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines. The two-week course has been designed to:

- Develop an in-depth understanding of the implications of larger societal changes including globalization and localization and the imperatives of current and emerging international agreements and conventions on the forest sector;
- Share experiences and best practices in adapting the forestry sector in the context of the transition to a Green Economy;
- Explore ideas and tools for policy analysis and development and their application.

The course modules have been carefully selected to equip forest-policy makers to make proactive decisions for the 21st century. Each module began with introductory lectures and followed by presentation of case studies by course participants, and analysis of real life situations. Participants worked in groups to develop policy briefs on selected topics, which were discussed and refined. The course also includes field visits which provided insights into forest policy implementation and the challenges in adapting policies to local situations.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND
REHABILITATION: THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND ROADMAP
21–23 October 2013
Beijing, China

Forests play a vital role in sustainable development, providing a range of economic, social and environmental benefits, including essential ecosystem services such as climate change mitigation and adaptation. The worsening global climate change and other environmental issues have been calling for better understanding and approaches to reduce deforestation, enhance forest rehabilitation and improve quality of forests. Meanwhile, forests covers have increased in much of the industrialized world and also in a few developing countries with tropical forests. Both deforestation and the return of forest covers or forest transition are driven by complex social, economic and political factors.

Various studies have tried to explain forest transition, but the conclusiveness and predictive capacity of present forest transition theory, which would make it appropriate as a basis for forest policy formulation, remain limited. Countries show highly variable trends of forest decline and recovery. For instance, Japan and South Korea increased their forest covers in tandem with urbanization. In other countries, for instance, in China, India and Vietnam, forest covers have been increasing in the last decades, contributing to the reverse of global forest cover. In the Philippines and Indonesia, forest covers have only recently started to increase, or forest cover decline has begun to fall significantly.

While in the past forest transition was mainly caused by transformation of the agricultural sector, in modern days multiple forces are influencing this process, one important of which is forest governance reform. Key features of contemporary forest governance are forest tenure reforms, people and forest initiatives, combating

illegal logging and related trade, and national forestry programmes that emphasize rural development and conservation in addition to expanding timber production. While these forest governance reforms had positive impacts in some countries, other countries have insufficient means and resources to reduce deforestation and to facilitate a shift to sustainable forest use and thus forest recovery. Furthermore, the economic crisis during of the past years has caused a worldwide reversed urban-rural migration which increases the reliance and pressures on forests.

These trends point to the need to better understand the conditions and mechanisms that reduce deforestation or lead to sustainable forest use and induce forest recovery. This international conference is proposed to bring together forestry professionals and experts to share and exchange experiences and knowledge related to transition towards sustainable forest management and forest rehabilitation. This conference shall provide a platform for sharing of information and exchanging experiences related to forestry transition in the Asia Pacific region and aims to:

- Increase understanding of the comprehensive and dynamic interrelationship between forest transition and social-economic changes;
- Share knowledge on forest transition theory and methodologies to undertake forest transition studies;
- Enhance the international cooperation in forest transition research.

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ASIA PACIFIC WORKSHOP ON FOREST HYDROLOGY

WATER AND FORESTS – BEYOND TRADITIONAL FOREST HYDROLOGY

23-25 September 2013
Dehradun, India

Many of the forests constitute head water catchments for large rivers and play a major role in regulating the hydrological services in the river basins and beyond. These forested catchments also account for a high proportion of water supplied for domestic, agricultural, industrial and ecological needs in both upstream and downstream areas. These forests are also recognized for providing society with conservation, environmental and livelihood benefits.

One of the key challenges facing natural resource managers today is to amplify these multi-sectoral benefits without detriment to water resources and ecosystem function. The management of forests in relation to water is a critical issue which should be highlighted and given a high priority.

In the Asia Pacific region, many of the rivers flow across national boundaries, and forests in the catchment and upper basins of these rivers could have critical impacts on the hydrological regime with serious influences on the climate, environment, and livelihoods further downstream, across countries.

Traditional forest hydrology has over the years established the general principles of the direct effects of forest management on hydrological processes from plot study, process study and watershed experiments.

Today, the challenge before us is to apply these principles to predict how hydrologic processes will respond to the many forms of change, including climate change, in forest landscapes. As a consequence, research in forest hydrology has shifted towards the study of reforestation hydrology, large-scale watershed hydrology, climate change impacts, and application of hydrological models using modern tools and techniques. This will allow for analysis of forest and water connections over large areas to make predictions about forests and water that can address current and anticipated future issues, including cumulative watershed effects, climate change, and forest management practices.

In the light of the above, in India, the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun,

has constituted a committee on forest hydrology to identify the areas of research needs addressing the different issues related to forest hydrology in the era of sustainable management of forests.

The workshop in Dehradun, India, will seek to examine the research challenges faced in forest hydrology as it moves from principles to prediction at larger spatial scales, at longer temporal scales in a changing forest management paradigm. A special session at the workshop will highlight the ICIMOD's experience on water issues in the Himalayas through a state of art review of Himalayan glaciers and rivers.

The main objective of the workshop is to provide a forum for forging linkages between various international, regional and national agencies and institutions dealing with forest and water issues to share strategies, experiences and knowledge.

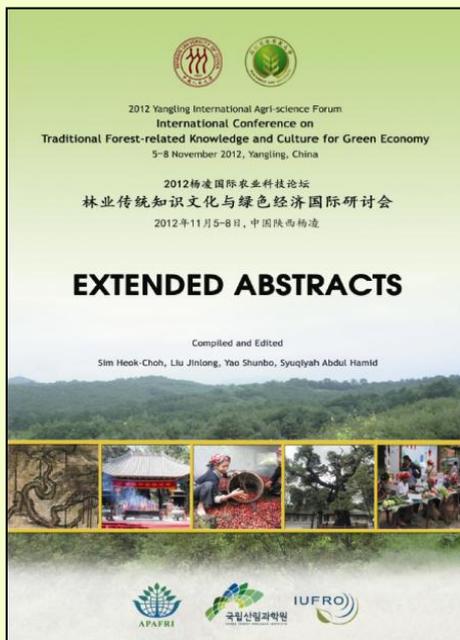
The workshop will provide an opportunity for individuals and their associated agencies, organizations and networks to share lessons learnt from case studies in the Asia Pacific region on themes related to forests and water. This will give a fillip to collaborative research, allow for alignment of research priorities and help strategise long term research studies beyond traditional forest hydrology.

The workshop will cover the following themes:

1. Forest Hydrology and Climate Change
2. Hydrological Regulatory Service of Forest
3. Forest Influence on Precipitation and Micro-climate
4. Effect of Forest Management Practices and Disturbances on Quantity and Quality of Water
5. Forests as Source of Water: Managing for Livelihoods and Food Security
6. Frontiers of Research and Application of Modern Tools and Techniques in Forest Hydrology

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NEW PUBLICATION

Yangling International Agri-Science Forum

International Conference on Traditional Forest-related Knowledge and Culture for Green Economy

5-8 November 2012, Yangling, China

Extended Abstracts

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

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