

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Kuala Lumpur!

Six months had passed since the last issues of APAFRI Newsletter!

In the last issue, I had mentioned that this year is the 20th year of APAFRI since its inauguration during the Meeting of the Heads of Forestry Research in the Asia Pacific held in Bogor, Indonesia, 20–28 February 1995.

This year is also the year that APAFRI would need to convene its once-in-three-year All-members General Assembly. The last General Assembly, the sixth since its inauguration, was convened in Guangzhou on 31 August 2012. The next one, the seventh, should be held around August/September 2015. Some information on the General Assembly and relevant documents were included in the last issue of the APAFRI Newsletter. The article also invited member institutions to express intention to host this event.

As time is fast running out, the Secretariat, after consulted with me, had proposed that the next General Assembly be convened on 20 September 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The date was chosen to coincide with the organizing of the Conference of Forestry and Forest Products Research, 21-24 September 2015, by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). The Executive Committee members were notified of this proposal, and the majority of them had endorsed this proposal. With this endorsement, the Secretariat has sent out the first round of announcement to all members. The same announcement, with the



relevant documents, is again included in this issue of the Newsletter.

All members are strongly urged to attend this coming Seventh General Assembly, as a main objective of this function is to elect the Executive Committee which would guide and administer APAFRI for the next three years. Quite a few members in the current Executive Committee, including FRIM and ICFRE, currently the chair

and vice-chair respectively, together with FFPRI (Japan) and ERDB (Philippines), have served the maximum of two terms, and are not eligible for re-election in the coming General Assembly. In addition, this would also be a good opportunity for all members to voice their concerns, and suggest improvements in APAFRI to serve them better.

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

With best regards,

Abd Latif Mohmod
Chairman, APAFRI
June 2015

APAFRI SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 September 2015

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

In accordance with APAFRI's Constitution, the General Assembly shall meet once every three years. The next one, the **Seventh General Assembly**, therefore shall be held this year.

The Secretariat has proposed, and received endorsement from the majority of the Executive Committee members, that the **APAFRI Seventh General Assembly** be convened on **20 September 2015** in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.

Traditionally, the General Assembly would be held in association with a major regional event to attract the attendance of representatives from member institutions. The **Seventh General Assembly** shall be convened together with the upcoming Conference on Forestry and Forest Products Research organized by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), 21–23 September 2015, in Kuala Lumpur. Members planning to attend the General Assembly are encouraged to participate in this conference, which would be held together with two other events in the International Science and Nature Congress (ISNAC) 2015. More details are available on the congress website: www.isnac2015.org.

An important duty of the General Assembly is to elect the Executive Committee which shall guide the

Association for the next three years. You are reminded that a number of Executive Committee members have already served two full terms, and are not eligible for re-election in accordance to Article XII of the APAFRI Constitution. **All members are strongly urged to send representatives to this coming Seventh General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, 20 September 2015, to exercise your rights to elect the Executive Committee to guide the Association to serve you better for the next three years.**

Article X of the APAFRI Constitution states that the General Assembly shall be represented by one delegate from each member institution; and the quorum for the General Assembly shall be 33% of the membership. **Please nominate your representative to this coming General Assembly by returning the Nomination Form attached by 30 June 2015.**

The various relevant articles of the Constitution are appended herein for your reference. A full copy can be downloaded from the Association's web site, www.apafri.org.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat (secretariat@apafri.org) for further details.



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 of 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.

DR. Y.S. RAO FORESTRY RESEARCH AWARD

DEADLINE EXTENDED

APAFRI is now calling for nominations for this award to be given out in year 2015. The award is for the most outstanding paper/report on problem solving forestry research with significant practical application value.



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.

Eligibility for this award is limited to researchers below the age of 40 years from APAFRI member institutions.

Nominations for the award must be made by the member institutions. There is no specific nomination form for this, but applicant must provide a short curriculum vita, accompanied by compilation of research papers or reports.

The deadline for the submission of nomination is extended to 31 July 2015.

More information is available at our website www.apafri.org



EIGHTH EXECUTIVE FOREST POLICY COURSE
PEOPLE, LAND USE AND FORESTS IN THE ASEAN: POLICY
CHALLENGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY
22 March – 3 April 2015
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar



In response to the recommendation of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) to enhance the capacities for forest policy analysis, development and implementation, FAO has initiated a programme of executive forest policy courses aimed at senior policy makers in the forest sector in the Asia-Pacific countries since 2007. Designed to develop policy capacity in sustainable forest management, the Executive Forest Policy Course programme contributes to FAO Strategic Objective 2. Hitherto seven such courses have been organized – in Bhutan, China, Fiji (2), Thailand (2) and Viet Nam – involving more than 120 senior officials and forest managers from 25 countries. The course adopts a sub-regional approach taking into account the specificities of each sub-region and the emerging changes taking place at the global, national and local levels.

The 8th Executive Forest Policy Course, hosted by the Forest Department Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Myanmar, focused specifically on ASEAN forests, forestry and the people who depend on those resources. While, this is the number eight in the series, APAFRI is honoured to be partner in three out of these eight courses. APAFRI handled most of the logistics in organizing this course in Nya Pyi Taw, the new administrative capital of Myanmar.

In this particular course, broader challenges such as climate change, recent global policy discourses and

external factors that affect forests and forestry were unpacked and implications for ASEAN countries were examined. In addition, it had also looked at ongoing efforts in ASEAN region to revert forest loss. Restoring forests and improving their conditions are essential for the continuity of products and services, people's well-being and livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and maintaining climatic functions of forests.

The course was designed to address issues which include, among others:

- What are the overarching changes that are likely to impact forests and forestry in ASEAN?
- What are the implications of climate change on the ASEAN and what are the options available to address these challenges?
- What are the probable scenarios that will unfold in the region during the next few decades and how should policies and institutions respond to such changes?
- What are the options available to strengthen governance in the forest sector, especially to ensure sustainable management of forests?
- How to strengthen efforts in forest rehabilitation, what challenges and opportunities do we have and to what extent policies and involvement of local people can support such efforts?

The Eight Executive Forest Policy Course is designed to the following broad objectives:

- Provide an understanding of the implications of larger societal changes including globalization and localization and the imperatives of current and emerging international agreements and conventions on forests and forestry;
- Enable sharing of experiences and best practices in integrated land use in the pursuit of sustainable forest management;
- Explore ideas and tools for policy analysis and development and their application to the Pacific countries.

The course is expected to enable senior policy makers from ASEAN region to:

- have a better understanding on the larger societal changes and their implication to forests and forestry in their region.
- have improved skills and knowledge and able to use them to influence forest policy in their countries and in the region.

The expected outputs include:

- Key concepts, issues, opportunities and recent development related to forest policies are discussed and understood.
- Key information, tools and best practices related to forest policy are shared and discussed with participants.
- Draft policy briefs developed by participants to tackle specific forest-related issues in their countries, e.g. forest restoration.
- Course report and evaluation produced.
- Information about the course is disseminated.

Delivered by leading experts in their fields, the course modules have been carefully developed to equip forest policy makers to make proactive decisions for the 21st century. On each module there were introductory lectures by leading experts from FAO or invited speakers, 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 included field visits to give insights into land use and forestry issues and the challenges in making policies work in the context of the larger societal changes.

Module 1: The unfolding future: Societal changes, land use and forestry in ASEAN

Module 2: The environmental dimension: Climate change, forest loss and natural disasters

Module 3: Production and trade of wood in ASEAN: Legality, sustainability and uncertainties

Module 4: Social and cultural dimensions of forestry: Equity, poverty and social inclusion

Module 5: Building responsive/ proactive institutions

Module 6: Governance, accountability and transparency in the forest sector

Module 7: Changing international scene: Implications of international agreements on national forest policies in ASEAN, including Bonn Challenge, APEC Leaders' aspiration, etc.

Module 8: The policy process

Module 9: Effective communication

Module 10: Analysis of forest restoration and rehabilitation policies

A total of 24 participants, mainly from ASEAN countries, and a few from outside Southeast Asia, participated in the course. The participants were primarily senior officials dealing with land use and forest policies in these countries, with a few from bilateral and multilateral agencies, civil society organizations and private sector.



INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY EDUCATION WORKSHOP 2015

25 May 2015

Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

The International Forestry Education Workshop 2015 was a collaborative effort between the Faculty of Forestry at Universiti Putra Malaysia and the Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutes (APAFRI). The primary objective of the workshop was to expose forestry-curricula students on the developments in forestry education throughout the South East Asian region, and identify the salient changes that should be made to ensure forestry education remains relevant in the future.



Forestry and forest products education throughout the world is faced with decreasing enrollment and the need to reformat its relevance to the sustainable growth and development. In this context, forestry as a field of study is no longer a stand-alone field of applied botany, but incorporates knowledge from multi-disciplines such as sociology, environmental science, ecosystem services, human-environment interaction, forest products, etc.

Most of, if not all, of the disciplines have far-reaching implications on the use of forest resources in the ASEAN countries. This varied utilization, requires a better understanding of the traditional forest-related knowledge, and facilitate establishing sound and long-term sustainable forest management policies and strategies.

Countries in the Asia Pacific region, especially in the sub-region of Southeast Asia, have followed traditional forestry curriculums, which must be re-examined to ensure its continued relevance in a world that is increasingly globalized and environmental conscious. Hence, it is a challenge to understand and establish trends in forestry education at the local, regional and global levels.

The Faculty of Forestry at Universiti Putra Malaysia has envisioned the idea of a regional gathering of forestry educators to establish the trends in forestry and forest products education and to streamline the curricular needs to meet the expectations of the

various stakeholders. This is a first-time event that aims to fill the gap in ascertaining the needs of professional forestry education in the region, not only to boost the future of forestry and forest products education but also enhance its contribution towards sustainable development.

A presentation by Prof. Dr. Faridah Hanum Ibrahim on the status and challenges of forestry education in Malaysia set the tone for the workshop which was divided into three sessions: forest management, wood science and technology and forest recreation and park management. Three keynote speakers: Prof. Dr. Juan Pulhin (UPLB), Mr. Songklod Jarusombuti (KU) and Dr. Gusti Bagus Rai Utama (Indonesia), led the discussions of the sessions respectively.

The workshop was concluded with the following recommendations:

- (1) Incorporate environmental and biodiversity perspectives to the curriculum.
- (2) Establish closer links between universities and stakeholders to ensure programme relevance.
- (3) Provide students with global perspectives to forestry practices.

(Adapted from a report prepared by Prof. Dr. Jegatheswaran Ratnasingam (jegarathnasingam@yahoo.com))

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ESTABLISHING CROSS-REFERENCES ON WOOD PRODUCTS QUALITY ASSESSMENTS AND STANDARD TESTING AMONG ASEAN MEMBER STATES

25–28 May 2015

Kepong, Selangor, Malaysia



Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) has successfully organised the Regional Workshop in Establishing Cross-References on Wood Products Quality Assessments and Standard Testing among ASEAN Member States at the Licuala and Dillenia Room in FRIM, Kepong on 25-28 May 2015. Being the main sponsor of this workshop, APAFRI provided travel support to 12 participants from 6 ASEAN member countries.

Objectives of the workshop are among others to provide better understanding on mutual recognition agreement procedures, to appreciate test methods for selected wood products, to compare test methods used in participating countries and to facilitate collaboration and networking for further cross-referencing of the test methods.

The event was officiated by the Director General of FRIM, Dato' Dr Abd Latif Mohmod, and was attended by 15 nominated participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Vietnam.

After the opening ceremony, the workshop began with presentations from speakers from the Malaysian Timber Industry Board, Department of Standards Malaysia, and the Construction Industry Development Board, regarding mutual recognition procedures for building and wood-based products.

A total of six presentations were given by FRIM research officers and one from University Technology MARA on testing and relevant technical requirements for timber, furniture and wood-based panel products. Besides Malaysia, each country presented their country status on testing methods and laboratory facilities.

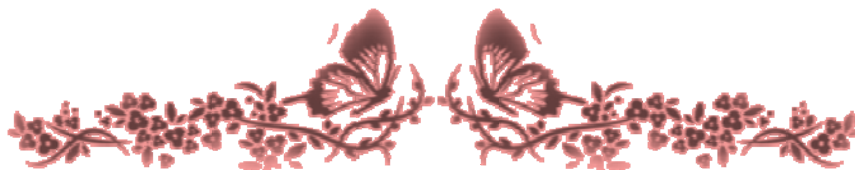
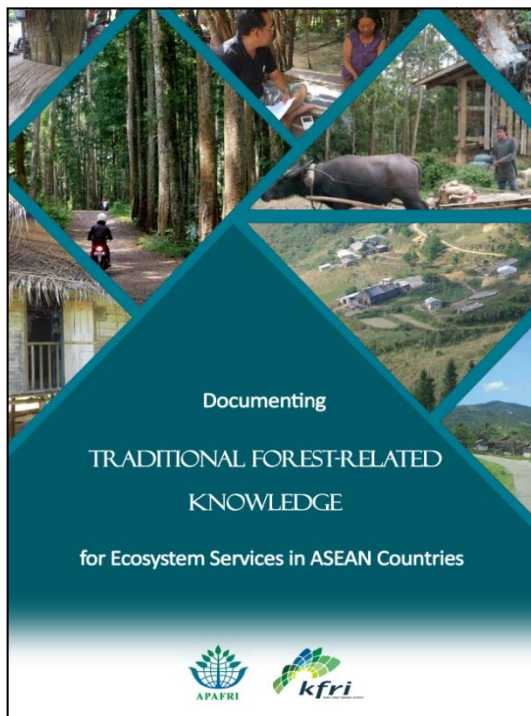
The participants visited Timber Engineering Laboratory, Furniture Testing Laboratory and Wood Composite Testing Laboratory of FRIM during the workshop.

NEW PUBLICATION

Documenting Traditional Forest-related Knowledge for Ecosystem Services in ASEAN Countries

The Asian Centre for Traditional Forest Knowledge (ACTFOK), currently hosted by Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI), has conducted surveys in Korea to document traditional knowledge related to Ecosystem Services of forest. The survey used a questionnaire incorporating four criteria: subsistence (provisioning) services, environmental (regulating) services, cultural services and conservation (supporting) services, with 25 questions. This questionnaire, while designed for the Korean local communities, could also be used with modifications in other countries, to collect information and data for a better understanding of the traditional forest-related knowledge focusing on Ecosystem Services in these countries.

For copies, please write to Ms Syuqiyah Abdul Hamid (syuqiah_apafri@frim.gov.my). The PDF version of this book is available at APAFRI's website.



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

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