

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

*Greetings from Seoul,  
Republic of Korea!*

How time flies, without realizing it we are already half way through 2016.

For the past six months, APAFRI has been very active, involving in several activities in the Asia Pacific region.

APAFRI has co-organized two side events during the 26<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Forestry Commission Meeting/3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Pacific Forestry Week in Clark, the Philippines, 22–26 February 2016. APAFRI also put up an exhibition to show case APAFRI activities and achievements, displaying publications and posters.

APAFRI also assisted FAO in organizing the 9<sup>th</sup> Executive Forest Policy Course in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, which was held during May/June this year. Twenty-six forestry professionals from various governmental and non-governmental organizations of the Asia Pacific region participated in the 10-day course. This is the fourth time that APAFRI has been involved in organizing this training course.

I am happy to inform the members that the National Institute of Forest Science of the Republic of Korea has again made a substantial financial contribution to APAFRI this year. The contribution is to be used to support various activities to be organized for the forestry fraternity in the Asia Pacific region. For this year, NIFoS has allocated support to activities



related to forest fire, forest genetic resources, traditional knowledge, ecological research, and forest rehabilitation and restoration. The Secretariat has begun communicating with colleagues in NIFoS to plan out these activities.

APAFRI is also planning to organize a few activities, besides putting up an exhibition booth, during the International Union of Forest Research

Organization (IUFRO) Regional Congress for Asia and Oceania that will be held in Beijing, China, 24–27 October 2016. This Congress is very meaningful in that it is the very first IUFRO Regional Congress for the Asia-Pacific region. I hope all members will plan to actively participate and contribute to the success of this special Congress in our region.

Last, but not least, on behalf of APAFRI, I would like to extend my thanks to the various agencies for their contributions to support APAFRI's programmes and activities. My special thanks also go to the various national research institutes, 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,  
**PARK JungHwan**  
Chairman, APAFRI  
June 2016

# THE ASIA PACIFIC FOREST COMMISSION / ASIA PACIFIC FOREST WEEK (APFC/APFW) 22–26 February 2016 Clark, the Philippines

The 26<sup>th</sup> APFC/3<sup>rd</sup> APFW in Clark, the Philippines, was successfully held, 22–26 February 2016. APAFRI has been actively involved in almost every APFC sessions since 2000, and had participated in various activities during the previous two APFW in Hanoi and Beijing.

This year, APAFRI was involved in three activities:

a) High Level Consultation on Forest Landscape Restoration – a side event funded by FAO, and organized by APAFRI in collaboration with World Resources Institute (WRI), Asia Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management (APFNet), and IUCN. An agreement signed with FAO provided funding to the participation of 17 heads of forestry from the Asia Pacific region, and also several speakers. The agreement also engaged a few consultants to assist in the preparation and conducting the event.

b) Forest Genetic Resources – a side event co-organized by Bioersity International and APAFRI. APAFRI provided financial support to one speaker.

c) Exhibition – a booth was set up to show case APAFRI activities and achievements, displaying publications and posters.

Dr Park JungHwan, Chairman of APAFRI Executive Committee, and the Executive Secretary, Dr Gan Kee-Seng, represented APAFRI as official delegates to APFC.

All the other Secretariat staff members were there during the week to handle the various logistics for these activities. The agreement with FAO also covered the expenses of APAFRI Secretariat staff for a week in the Philippines.



# HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL CONSULTATION TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN FOR FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC

23 February 2016

Clark, the Philippines



APAFRI and FAO convened a consultation meeting on forest landscape and restoration in the Asia-Pacific region on February 23, 2016 at Holiday Inn, Clark Freeport Zone, Philippines. The consultation meeting provided the opportunity for heads of forestry and a diverse group of individuals and organizational stakeholders to come together and discuss forest restoration and landscape progress in the Asia-Pacific region. More than 100 participants attended the meeting. The goal was to develop an action plan for forest landscape and restoration in the Asia-Pacific region.

The ensuing discussion debated on a set of key questions presented. The questions include restoration goal, the purpose of a regional mechanism and its functions, funding options, and possible locations of such regional mechanism. Following very active and lively debates, several important points were highlighted from discussions.

- There was general consensus on setting a higher goal than APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal. However, besides the area size target, other considerations such as socio-economic, cultural and institutional factors will determine the fulfillment of a goal. Regional goal should be a consolidation of national targets that includes

forest restoration and forest degradation. These national targets should be assessed for their achievability that would be carried out in a bottom-up manner. The goal should also have an attention-catching title.

- Such regional mechanism needs to be able to add values for countries and local people and help building political will and commitments in restoration efforts at the regional level. It could perform major functions such as exchange information and knowledge, provide technical assistance for national restoration plans, and mobilize capacity building and financial resources. Creating enabling conditions for the mechanism is important. Inter-regional (i.e. Africa, Asia and Latin America) dialogues or forums have been suggested as a next step.
- A variety of funding resources is available such as national finance, impact investors, and bilateral and multilateral donors. Other regional mechanism such as Africa's AFR100 initiative Latin America's 20x20 initiative have successfully drawn attention and finance needed. Given the Asia-Pacific region is a larger area and a more diverse region, there could be few sub-regional mechanisms to be in place. Grant application

should also integrate the contribution of restoration activities to poverty alleviation and national economy growth.

In conclusion, participants have some consensus on setting an ambitious restoration goal for the Asia-Pacific region; having a regional mechanism could have some major functions that add value to countries; exploring various financial resources; and deciding possible location for such regional mechanism.

APAFRI and FAO are grateful to the resource persons and the participants in the consultative meeting held. The consultation meeting would not

have been a success without the valuable insights of the various country delegates, presenters and participants.

APAFRI and FAO also offer its sincere thanks to moderator Chun Lai who skillfully facilitated the meeting. It is a pleasure to collaborate with Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and World Resources Institute (WRI) on this important meeting. Last but by no means least, the organizers appreciate the hospitality provided by the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

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## **FOCUS ON ASIA'S TREE DIVERSITY – REGIONAL COLLABORATION IN IMPLEMENTING FAO'S GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES**

**25 February 2016  
Clark, the Philippines**

Forests' role in mitigating climate change, productivity of indigenous timber and non-timber species, and success rates in forest restoration all depend on one thing – the genetic diversity of the tree species. Objectives of this event, organized by APAFRI, Bioversity International and FAO were to

- introduce regional initiatives under the *Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme* (APFORGEN) that contribute to implementing FAO's *Global Plan of Action on Forest Genetic Resources* in support of broader environmental and development goals, and
- discuss opportunities for mobilizing political and financial support for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action in the region, in line with National Forest Programmes, Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and other relevant programmes and planning processes.

Professor Enrique Tolentino Jr. from the University of the Philippines Los Baños presented APFORGEN's strategy to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, which has three main objectives: (1) Mobilizing political and financial support for the GPA FGR, (2)

Conservation and sustainable use strategies for regionally important and endangered tree species, and (3) Strengthening tree seed programmes to facilitate ecosystems restoration, support local livelihoods and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Research Professor Zheng Yongqi from the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF) presented plans for establishing a Regional Training Centre on Forest Genetic Resources, spearheaded by his institute. The training centre will provide training workshops and distance learning opportunities for trainers, policy makers, forest managers and researchers on conservation and management of forest genetic resources (FGR). The training aims to support better integration of FGR management into relevant national and international policies, strategies and legislation, including, on climate change, forest restoration and food security and livelihoods.

Dr Riina Jalonen from Bioversity International presented initial results for Asia-Pacific from a global survey on seed and seed sourcing for forest and landscape restoration. According to the results, most restoration projects in the region pay insufficient attention to the genetic health of seed

source forests, choosing seed sources instead primarily based on geographic proximity to the restoration site and often collecting propagation material only from very few parent trees. Three of four respondents said the projects did not in any way consider the impacts of climate change on tree populations when planning seed sourcing. The results of the survey will be used to identify action needs and recommendations for countries and the international community on how to improve supply of quality tree seeds and seedlings, in order to improve success of restoration and help meet global and national restoration targets.

Dr Seok-Woo Lee, from the National Institute of Forest Sciences (NIFoS) of Republic of Korea (formerly known as Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI)) showcased the country's approaches and achievements in FGR conservation and management. Korea Forest Service (KFS) began ex situ conservation programmes for FGR already in 1956, with the launch of the modern tree breeding programs. Since 1972, KFS has designated *in situ* conservation forests for sustainable FGR management. To achieve a more systematic and efficient FGR conservation, KFS produces every five years a National Forest Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, a comprehensive framework for achieving the nation's goals to conserve FGR and to implement FAO's Global Plan of Action on FGR and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The ASEAN-Korea Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) can make a contribution to promoting regional collaboration for FGR conservation and management.

After a vivid discussion, the event was concluded with the following **recommendations** to the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission:

- APFC may wish to recognize the role of APFORGEN as a mechanism for regional collaboration on the conservation and use of forest genetic resources supporting the implementation of sustainable forest management, and to encourage countries in the region to join APFORGEN and contribute to its activities
- APFC may wish to encourage APFORGEN to continue its efforts to establish a Regional Training Centre on forest genetic resources and seek partnership with countries and relevant regional and international organizations, to contribute to strengthening capacities for effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action
- Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration in Asia-Pacific should include actions to strengthen tree seed supply systems, especially for the region's native tree species, in line with a the decision by the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity that called all actors to pay due attention to native species and genetic diversity considerations in ecosystem restoration.

*(Adapted from a report prepared by Dr Riina Jalonen (r.jalonen@cgiar.org) )*



# WORKSHOP ON TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN ASEAN COUNTRIES – FOLK CULTURE: PROVERBS, OLD SAYINGS AND COMMUNITY RULES 2–4 March 2016 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Prompted by encouraging early results from questionnaire surveys conducted in Korea to document traditional knowledge related to ecosystem services, the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS, formerly known Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI)) has contacted the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) to engage other Asian countries in this initiative. Five countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam, participated in this initiative. The outputs were presented during a workshop convened in Kuala Lumpur, 2–4 February 2015.

The undertakings to document traditional knowledge related to ecosystem services have stirred up much interest. Many more similar knowledge, some may have been long forgotten, could still be relevant to the present days, warrant detailed study and proper documentation. These traditional knowledge, more often than not, are being passed down the generations by words of mouth, often then in the form of proverbs, poems, folk tales, or songs. Some have since time immemorial, been encrypted into rituals, customary practices, or even community rules and regulations.

The National Institute of Forest Science had initiated a project documenting and analyzing old sayings and proverbs related to ecosystem services in Korea. NIFoS is interested to extend this project to cover other countries in Asia Pacific region, especially in Southeast Asia. A workshop was organized in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2–4 March 2016, to share the experiences of collecting and documenting old sayings and proverbs, including rituals and community rules and regulations, related to ecosystem services. This workshop, organized by APAFRI, in collaboration with FRIM, was supported by the contributions of NIFoS to APAFRI.

The presentations from Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia (Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah), the Philippines, and Vietnam, summarized the results of studies/surveys, focusing on collecting and interpreting proverbs, old sayings, rituals and community rules, from various indigenous communities in their countries. Various challenges and hurdles encountered due to the complexity of the indigenous peoples in these countries. Very often, the meanings and context/contents had been distorted and twisted over time. However, there is a

general agreement that many of the old sayings and rituals provided important guidance to these people in the sustainable utilization of the ecosystem services in ways that they themselves are not aware. The discussions after the presentations had concluded that:

- The presenters shall submit extended abstracts (of length of about five pages) to be compiled and published as proceedings for this workshop. APAFRI would format and go through the drafts submitted, and suggest improvements wherever necessary. The deadline for submitting the draft shall be end May, and the proceedings shall be printed by end of June 2016.
- APAFRI, building from the proposed protocol of Ms Hong Junghyun, would draft a proposal for conducting surveys in Indonesia, Malaysia (Sabah and Pen Malaysia), the Philippines, and Vietnam; on documenting proverbs, old sayings, community rules and regulations of Indigenous Peoples. The proposal would be sent to all Focal Persons before end April 2016. The survey will need to be completed with a report by end December 2016.

Ms Shin Yujin of NIFoS then presented a proposal to map cultural sites (historical, religious, scared, ritual) as a means of documenting cultural component of the ecosystem services. NIFoS would like to propose that this would be the activity for the participating ASEAN countries in 2017. The participants had generally agreed that this could be a good project, and would discuss further probably in early 2017.

Dr Park Chan Ryul started the second day of the workshop with a presentation outlining the current status of TFK research in ASEAN. He then continued to discuss a number of activities which

NIFoS would like colleagues in ASEAN to work on for the next few years: mapping of cultural services; resilience of indigenous communities to natural disasters. All these would cumulate to the launching of an Asian Initiative of TFK in 2019. Dr Park would also like all the participating countries: Indonesia, Malaysia (Sabah and Pen Malaysia), the Philippines, and Vietnam, to send him the raw data collected during the survey conducted in 2014. These data would be used for a comparative study which would be reported as a peer-reviewed paper.

The participants then traveled out of Kuala Lumpur, eastwards towards the Main Mountain Range of the Peninsular Malaysia and visited indigenous people settlements near Lake Bera, a large fresh water lake and a RAMSAR site established in 1994. Villages around the lake were regrouped in the 1980s under the government regroupment scheme (known as RPS Iskandar). In this regroupment scheme, various basic facilities such as government administrative office, primary school, rural clinic, community hall, play ground, electricity and pipe water supply were provided. Lake Bera has provided crucial livelihoods to the Indigenous People *Semelai*, settled around the lake, estimated to be around 2,500 people. The *Semelai* at Lake Bera was traditionally a forest-dependent community. Since 1950s, the community began to plant rubber which is now the major source of cash income. Rubber is planted with own initiative and also assistance from the government. In recent years, some smallholders began to replace rubber with oil palm.

Regroupment of villages has transformed the traditional forest-dependent *Semelai* community. The community does maintained some traditional crafts: wooded handicrafts from trees around the villages, and also weaving using the tall, thorny leaves of the *pandanus* or *mengkuang* (*Pandanus* spp.) into colorful gift boxes, mats, beach bags, hats, fans, purses, and slippers.



**THE 9th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
TRADITIONAL FOREST KNOWLEDGE (TFK)  
“MANAGING TFK TO MEET GLOBAL CHALLENGES ON BIODIVERSITY  
AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE AND  
WELLBEING”**

**31 August–2 September 2016**

**Bogor, Indonesia**

Asia has 13 out of the 33 biodiversity hot spots in the world, which are rich in biological diversity, and home of various significant and endemic fauna and flora species. Asia is also inhabited by two third of the world population with rich ethnic and language diversity, thus making this region important for culture and, history conservation, against the rapid social as well as and economic development. Habitat fragmentation ultimately results incultural changes, and it indirectly influences the natural conservation efforts.

Traditional knowledge allows local community in managing natural resources. The local communities had adapted and synergized with the nature for co-existence. These knowledge were derived from a complex set of thoughts and interactions of human activities with the nature. While many of these may still be relevant to modern society, more research and cross-referencing with modern sciences would be necessary to enhance its applicability to our modern problems.

In 2007, the Chinese Academy of Forestry, the International Union of Forest Research Organization's (IUFRO) Task Force on Traditional Forest Knowledge, and the Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) with support from Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI), the State Forest Administration of China, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, and various organisations in Asia held the First International Conference of Traditional Forest-related Knowledge. Subsequently, it has become an annual event for the past eight years. This year, 2016, the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Traditional Forest Knowledge (TFK): “Managing TFK to meet global challenges on biodiversity and

ecosystem services for community welfare and wellbeing” will be held 31 August – 2 September 2016 in Bogor, Indonesia.

The topic selected for this year aims to uncover TFK and its relation with biodiversity and ecosystem services for community welfare and wellbeing. Evaluation on Millennium Assessment (MA) pointed out that 60% of ecosystem services has been degraded and reduce in quality as well as quantity level and loss of biodiversity became the key factor of poverty, climate change, and unsustainable development. These issues significantly affected local communities which depend on the natural resources for their wellbeing TFK has been recognised as helping the community members to adapt and synergise with such environmental changes. Yet, the rapid changes in the ecosystem often caused by external factors, has impacted on the wellbeing of the local communities, and protection through law enforcement, sustainable management, and pro-local community policy would be necessary.

#### **Conference Organizers**

This conference would be organized by Faculty of Forestry, Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) Indonesia, in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI). The National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS, formerly known as Korea Forest Research Institute, KFRI) Korea provides a major portion of funding to this conference.

For more information, please contact:

Prof. Ervival A.M. Zuhud (AMZU):  
eamzuhud@ipb.ac.id; ervival\_amzu@yahoo.com



# CONSERVING AND UTILIZING OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES IN ASIA AND OCEANIA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR AND BENEFITS FROM REGIONAL COLLABORATION

A side-event to be held during the IUFRO-AO 2016

24–27 October 2016

Beijing, China

Genetic diversity is what enables tree species to resist abiotic and biotic threats and adapt to changing environments. It forms the basis for present and future selection and breeding programs, and contributes food sources for humans and animals, including at times when annual crops fail. Yet, the importance of genetic diversity in achieving broader environmental and socio-economic goals through sustainable forestry and natural resource management is often overlooked.

In this session, researchers from across Asia and the Pacific showcase results about how forest genetic resources, on one hand, contribute to local livelihoods, forest products development, climate change adaptation and forest and landscape restoration; and how, on the other hand, they remain poorly understood and threatened by extinction before their potential has even been explored.

The session will be concluded with identification of priority topics for collaborative research and capacity strengthening initiatives that will subsequently be incorporated in the next Strategy for Regional Collaboration by the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Program (APFORGEN) for 2017–2019, and in the training program for a Regional Training Centre on Forest Genetic Resources, spearheaded by the Chinese Academy of Forestry.

The objective of APFORGEN's renewed Strategy will be to support the implementation of FAO's Global Plan of Action on Forest Genetic Resources (GPA-FGR; FAO 2013) in Asia and the Pacific, through strengthened regional collaboration among research teams, policy makers and implementers from countries that share same tree species, knowledge and capacity gaps and ambitions for sustainable development. The GPA FGR was developed based on the knowledge and capacity needs identified in the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report (FAO, 2014).

The forests play significant roles in addressing the major challenges to human society, such as

environment (including climate change, water and soil conservation) security, food security (natural foods from forests are increasingly popular), energy (bio-energy) security, health (natural medicines) security and bio-security (GMO, bio-invasion, FGR losses) in broad sense, and sustainable development. The forest genetic resource carries diversity at both inter- and intra-species levels, which provide the original source for adaptation and evolution of the forest.

Conservation and utilization of Forest genetic resource is always a hot issue in forestry and ecology. Meanwhile, many countries and organizations have contributed to implementing FAO's Global Plan of Action on Forest Genetic Resources in support of broader environmental and development goals. The GPA FGR consists of 27 Strategic Priorities ranging from developing regional *in situ* conservation strategies, promoting forest restoration using genetically appropriate material, facilitating the participation of indigenous and local communities in managing forest genetic resources, and strengthening research and educational capacities through regional networking.

Participants will present and discuss on recent ongoing regional initiatives on FGR which include collaborating a regional training in Asia and Oceania. The session is an opportunity for anyone interested to join the program "Regional Training Centre on Forest Genetic Resources" and explore the further collaboration for conservation and utilization of FGR.

## Objectives

- Increase awareness of the significance of FGR in addressing major environmental and socio-economic challenges in Asian societies
- Showcase opportunities for and benefits from regional collaboration in conservation and management of FGR, in line with FAO's Global Plan of Action on Forest Genetic Resources (GPA FGR)
- Gather input on priorities for collaborative

research and capacity strengthening from the region's research community, for integration in the next Strategy of the APFORGEN

- Discuss opportunities to mobilize broad-based political and financial support for implementing the training of FGR, in line with relevant national programmes and planning processes

### Session themes

With a focus of the sustainable management of FGR for enhanced provision of ecosystem services, the session is interested in all aspects of conserving, managing and utilizing of forest genetic resources in Asia and Oceania. This includes research investigations of gene resources and methods for their conservation, as well as species and provenance trials, seed orchard management, hybridization, exotic species, vegetative propagation, clonal forestry and biotechnology.

The session will include discussion on identification of priority topics for collaborative research and capacity strengthening initiatives for the next Strategy for Regional Collaboration by APFORGEN

(2017–2019) and in the training programme for a regional training centre on FGR in Asia and Oceania.

### Organizers

- Dr. Kang Kyu-Suk, Professor of the Department of Forrest Science, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea (kangks84@snu.ac.kr)
- Dr. Zheng Yongqi, Professor and Chair of Forest Genetic Resource, Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing, China (zhengyongqi@caf.ac.cn)
- Dr. Judy Loo, Bioversity International (j.loo@cgiar.org)

### Numbers and names of involved IUFRO units

- 2.02.23 - Working party "Breeding and genetic resources of Asian conifers"
- 2.08.00 - Research Group "Hardwood improvement, culture and genetic resources"
- 2.09.00 - Research Group "Tree seed, physiology and biotechnology"



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  
Email: [secretariat@apafri.org](mailto:secretariat@apafri.org)  
Website : [www.apafri.org](http://www.apafri.org)

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