

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Seoul, Republic of Korea!

This is the last year for the current executive committee members which were elected on 20 September 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Eighth APAFRI General Assembly will be convened on November 2018 also in Kuala Lumpur. This issue of the APAFRI Newsletter had included some information on the General Assembly and relevant documents. Since there is no suitable proposal on any event to be tagged in, the General Assembly will be held as a one day event including a short study tour arranged by the Secretariat. The announcement will be sent out to all members. I strongly urge all members to send representative to attend this coming meeting as the election of the new Executive Committee is very important to guide this association for the next three years. Half of the current Executive Committee members are not eligible for re-election due to maximum of two terms service as written in the constitution. The members are National Institute of Forest Science (NIFOS), Korea; Department of Forestry, Fiji; University Putra Malaysia and Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), India. Members are also encouraged to submit early any proposal/matter for discussion during General Assembly for the inclusion in the agenda proper.

During the first six months, APAFRI has involved in two activities. With the funding from the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFOS) in 2017, APAFRI and the Secretariat of Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN) has successfully organized the *Workshop on Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Use on Endangered Tree Species: Review of Available Information and Setting Priority for Action* together with other collaborators from 26 to 28 March in Kunming, China. It was followed by another international workshop on



Forest Landscape Restoration and Resilience to Climate Change in Northeast Asia which was held from 9 to 13 April in Beijing and Ordos, China.

APAFRI is indeed very grateful to NIFOS for the substantial financial contributions in 2018. APAFRI has received the generous contributions since 2012 and many of you would agree that the contributions are indeed enable APAFRI to play its role to support various forestry events over the years. APAFRI has received the list of the proposed activities which will also benefited researchers from APAFRI Members.

The collaboration with FAO continues this year. APAFRI has signed an LOA with FAO to conduct the Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study: The Path to 2030 which had initiated by January and will be terminated by December. APAFRI gets actively involved in the Advisory Committee meetings which are scheduled to be held three times in this year.

Allow me to thank the Forest Research Institute Malaysia for continuing in hosting the Secretariat at its campus in Kepong, Malaysia; as well as providing financial and personnel supports. The contributions are the key of the sustainability of the Secretariat since it was established in 1995. My appreciation goes also to all other agencies, including the various national research institutes, universities, forestry agencies and private companies for their contributions to support APAFRI's programmes and activities.

With best regards,

PARK JungHwan
Chairman, APAFRI
June 2018

THE 8th APAFRI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The once-in three-year APAFRI General Assembly is due in 2018. The Secretariat will send out the announcement to all members. Article X and XI of the APAFRI Constitution provide guidelines for conducting the General Assembly.

ARTICLE X The General Assembly

General Assembly of the Association shall be represented by one delegate from each member institution.

The General Assembly shall meet once every three years after the close of the financial year but not later than the month of April on a date and at a time and place to be decided by the Executive Committee.

All decisions shall be taken by a simple majority vote. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

The quorum for the General Assembly shall be 33% of the membership.

If half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting of the General Assembly a quorum is not present, the members present shall have the power to proceed with the business of the day but they shall not have the power to alter the constitution of the Association or make decisions affecting the whole membership.

Notice of meeting together with an agenda, minutes of the previous General Assembly and an audited account of the Association shall be forwarded to the members at least 30 days before the General Assembly.

An Extraordinary General Assembly may be convened whenever the Executive Committee deems it necessary or at the joint request in writing of not less than 1/5 of the members, stating the objects and reason for such a meeting.

Notice and agenda for an Extraordinary General Assembly shall be forwarded by the Executive Secretary to all members at least 15 days before the date fixed for the meeting.

The provisions regarding quorum and postponement of the triennial General Assembly shall also apply to an Extraordinary General Assembly but with the proviso that if no quorum is present after half an hour from the time appointed for the Extraordinary General Assembly requisitioned by the members, the meeting shall be cancelled, no Extraordinary General Assembly shall be requisitioned for the same purpose until after the lapse of at least six months from the date thereof.

ARTICLE XI Duties of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall determine:

- The policy of the Association;
- Review and endorse the programme of work and budget prepared by the Executive Committee;
- Review progress;
- Exercise other powers conferred upon it by the constitution.
- Elect the Executive Committee and appoint auditors.

**APFORGEN WORKSHOP:
ENHANCING CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE ON ENDANGERED
TREE SPECIES: REVIEW OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION AND SETTING
PRIORITY FOR ACTION
26 – 28 March 2018
Kunming, China**



According to the first-ever report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources, more than a thousand tree species in Asia and the Pacific are actively managed, for diverse purposes such as timber, non-timber forest products, energy and other ecosystem services – a reflection of the enormous ecological and cultural diversity of the region.

Yet, the region also has more threatened tree species than any other part of the world, numbering more than 1700, according to the same report. The high prevalence of endemism in Asia and the Pacific makes tree species extremely vulnerable to habitat degradation. This, in turn, undermines their ability to provide food, other goods and ecosystem services for the region's 4.5 billion people and rapidly growing economies.

Based on an extensive global study that covered more than 80 countries, FAO developed in 2013 a *Global Plan of Action on Forest Genetic Resources* that details approaches and priority actions for integrating genetic considerations in diverse aspects of forest and landscape management. The Global Plan of Action is designed to support the implementation of international conventions and agreements that concern forest biodiversity, including the UN Convention on the Conservation of Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the UN Framework

Convention on Combating Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN) is a regional programme and network that brings knowledge and use of Asia's forest biodiversity to a new level – from a traditional focus on ecosystems or species diversity to include genetic diversity that underlies ecosystem functioning, productivity and adaptive capacity. APFORGEN brings relevant genetic knowledge from laboratories and specialists to forest managers, conservationists, restoration practitioners and policy-makers in an easily understandable form, helping them to manage the region's tree diversity for environmental and societal benefits.

Through its network of geneticists, forestry professionals and funding partners in 15 Asian countries, APFORGEN shares knowledge and good practices, implements multi-country research and development projects, operates a Regional Training Centre and serves as a one-stop-centre on forest genetic resources information and initiatives in the Asia-Pacific.

In a meeting of its National Coordinators in March 2017, APFORGEN identified four objectives for regional

collaboration to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on Forest Genetic Resources for the years 2018-2022.

1) Mobilize political and financial support for the implementation of the global plan of action on forest genetic resources in the Asia-Pacific region

2) Make available information about the forest genetic resources in the Asia-Pacific region

3) Develop conservation and sustainable use strategies for regionally important and threatened tree species

4) Strengthen tree seed supply systems to facilitate ecosystem restoration, support local livelihoods and climate change adaptation and mitigation

Hence, in order to reach the defined APFORGEN objective in next five years, this two-day expert workshop was successfully held in Kunming, China from 26 to 28 March 2018. Organized by APFORGEN, National Forest Genetic Resources Platform of China, APAFRI and other collaborators, the workshop was attended by 24 participants from Lao PDR, Cambodia, Italy, Philippines, Malaysia, South Korea, China, United Kingdom, India, Sri Lanka and



Thailand. This workshop was organized to meet the following objectives:

1. Identify priority species, common interests, and collaboration opportunities among Asian countries and regional and international organizations, to enhance the contribution of conservation and sustainable use in *Dalbergia* spp. or other endangered tree species.
2. Share information about available resources and expertise that can help countries and organizations identify and address relevant genetic diversity issues in their work.
3. Share the experience and progress of research about the endangered species (e.g. *Dalbergia* spp.), e.g. plant taxonomy, population genetics, ecology, plantation cultivation etc.
4. Review and release the strategy of APFORGEN 2017-2022.
5. Seek the potential collaborative project opportunities.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN NORTHEAST ASIA

9 – 13 April 2018
Beijing & Ordos, China

Forests in Asia are unique because of their diverse ecosystems and high biodiversity, and those ecosystems have not only stood at its dignity as itself but also provided essential and valuable services to human beings. Those forest ecosystems, however, has been under enormous pressure of deforestation and forest degradation, induced by both natural factors (i.e., climate change, fire, flood and drought) and anthropogenic factors (i.e., illegal logging, shift cultivation, and over

exploitation). Those deforestation and forest degradation have resulted in both environmental damages of soil erosion, land degradation and biodiversity loss and socioeconomic damages of insecure food, water and health, as well as the loss of cultural identity/dignity to the people.

In order to mitigate and combat those challenges in forest sector, international dialogues among various stakeholders have been proceeded for last decades

and some agreements/voluntary commitments have been followed such through Bonn Challenge, Aichi targets to the Convention of Biological Diversity, New York Declaration on Forests, REDD+ and Goal No. 15 of Sustainable Development Goals, mostly focusing on forest restoration, sustainable forest management, halting biodiversity loss and combating land degradation. Largely complementing those foci, Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR), defined and understood as the process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human wellbeing across cleared or degraded forest landscapes through promoting large-scale and mosaic restorations, is expected to (i) transform the large areas of degraded and deforested land into resilient, multifunctional assets that can contribute to local and national economies, (ii) sequester significant amounts of carbon, (iii) strengthen food and clean water supplies, and (iv) safeguard biodiversity (IUCN & WRI, 2014).

Indeed, FLR is increasingly being considered in international and national strategies to be one of the effective approaches that can contribute to sustainable forest management as well as sustainable development of human beings, in terms

of its possibility to yield a number of economic, social and environmental benefits. The FLR approach has already adopted at the regional level in Asia, which includes the countries of China, DPR of Korea, Mongolia and Republic of Korea, and those countries raised the necessity of holistic approach to forest/land restoration and management considering together with the resilience to natural disaster and socioeconomic stability.

Upon this background, this project convened the international workshop in Beijing and Ordos, China, inviting the experts from China, DPR of Korea, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, as well as international organizations, i.e. FAO, IUFRO, ICRAF, GEF, GCF and AFoCO to discuss the current status, challenges and future alternatives on FLR and the derived topics such as agroforestry and resilience. Furthermore, the major output of this workshop, as a result of presentations by DPR of Korea on current policy in forest sector and the discussion session, would be the Concept Note for Project Concept Paper (PCP) on FLR project to be implemented in DPR of Korea sponsored by international organizations i.e. FAO and/or IUFRO.



TRAINING WORKSHOP ON PLANT TISSUE CULTURE TECHNIQUES

10 – 14 September 2018

Suwon, Korea

Plantation forestry is recognized as a raw-material base for industrial and domestic wood products, which provides renewable energy, fiber and timber. Because of the growing global demand for forest products, higher yields and uniform product quality are needed. In terms of environmental issues such as global warming and climate change, the requirement for forest protection and biodiversity conservation is increasing. Especially, the biodiversity conservation is a global concern because biodiversity has declined by more than a quarter in the last 35 years.

Plant tissue culture enables the production of plants with superior characteristics and uniform quality for different uses of forest biomass. These techniques are currently in use for the large-scale propagation of important tree species and the sustainable conservation of rare and endangered plant species. The biotechnological methods such as plant cell culture, organogenesis, somatic embryogenesis, and cryopreservation are quite applicable and useful for the conservation and sustainable utilization of forest resources.

The Division of Forest Biotechnology, National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), is organizing the training workshop on basic laboratory techniques in plant tissue culture on 10 – 14 September 2018. The workshop is designed to provide plant tissue culture techniques for the relevant scientists from the developing countries of the Asia-Pacific Region, including Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia.

The theme of the workshop is the applications of plant tissue culture in clonal propagation of forest tree species and conservation of rare and endangered plants. The workshop includes specialized techniques for direct and indirect organogenesis, somatic embryogenesis, micropropagation for large scale multiplication of plants, and cryopreservation of plant cell cultures.

Please download the registration form at APAFRI website (<http://www.apafri.org>) and submit the form to Dr. Tae-Dong Kim (ktd747(at)korea.kr).



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

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