

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

### *Greetings from Kepong, Malaysia!*

For the past several months, APAFRI has been busy organizing not less than three meetings/discussions at different locations to finalize the Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS III). The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Asia-Pacific Office in Bangkok has engaged APAFRI via two agreements to conduct the study over 18 months. Many individuals and institutions in various forestry fields, as well as regional and international partners, had contributed their assessments of the forestry scenarios for the Asia and Pacific region. APAFRI is honoured to be associated again, with this colossal task of charting the regional forestry and forestry-related activities till the end of next decade. APAFRI has involved extensively in the two previous Outlook Studies too. The final report of APFSOS III was launched during the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2019 in Incheon, Republic of Korea just last week.

For more than ten years now, the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS, formerly known as Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI)) has been a major funding agency for APAFRI's activities. Since 2007, the Korean Government, through KFRI (NIFoS) had allocated a portion of its contributions to the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) for activities to be carried out in the Asia Pacific for forestry practitioners of this region. APAFRI is honoured to be entrusted with the responsibilities of managing this portion of the fund. APAFRI has used the 2007 allocation for partially financed the International Conference on Traditional Forest-related Knowledge in Kunming, China; the 2008 allocation for organizing the Asia Pacific Forest Health Workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; the 2009 allocation for the Asia Pacific Forest Products Workshop in Colombo, Sri Lanka; the 2010 allocation for the Asia and the Pacific Symposium on Vulnerability Assessment in Manila, Philippines; and the 2011 allocation for the Asia Pacific Workshop on Multinational and Transboundary Conservation of



Valuable and Endangered Forest Tree Species in Guangzhou, China. Then in 2011, KFRI had decided to sign a Memorandum of Understandings with APAFRI, and had since 2012 been providing annual contributions directly to APAFRI for organizing at least half a dozen activities each year in the region. This kind of regular annual contributions would, not only ensure APAFRI's sustainability and capable of being constantly active in the region, but also provide the much needed testament to the capability and effectiveness of APAFRI

in managing cross boundary multi-national activities. Such recognition has also gain APAFRI the reputation as a regional representative in forestry research.

While the very substantial financial contributions from NIFoS had been crucial to sustaining the viability of APAFRI in the region, the support (both financially and in-kind) from the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) over the past nearly two decades had provided the solid foundation that enable APAFRI to endure the many challenges over the years. Besides hosting the Secretariat since early 2001, FRIM has also contributed financially to maintain the Secretariat, as well as assigning senior officers to manage the Secretariat and also handles the various activities of APAFRI.

With the continuous supports from all members, as well as regional and international agencies, APAFRI would strive to be a driving force for forestry research in all areas beneficial to our members. While the membership in APAFRI has been growing steadily, APAFRI would continue to welcome new members, especially from the less represented sub regions of East and Central Asia.

With best regards,

**Abd Latif Mohmod**  
Chairman, APAFRI  
30 June 2019

# ASIA-PACIFIC FOREST SECTOR OUTLOOK STUDY (APFSOS) III

## LoA/RAP/2018/54

**F**AO has been undertaking global and regional outlook studies, especially in agriculture and forestry. Under the guidance of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), FAO in collaboration with member countries and partner organizations completed the first Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS) in 1998. APFSOS I formed the basis for a number of regional and national initiatives and the documents prepared during the study provided valuable information on a wide range of forestry issues helping to understand the broad direction of developments in forestry in the region.

As endorsed by the APFC in its twenty-first session, FAO updated the outlook study in 2010. APFSOS II incorporated the post-1998 changes at the global, regional and national levels, assessed scenarios to the year 2020 and recommended actions to strengthen sustainable forest management (SFM). While the broad trends visualized in the 2020 outlook study are still valid, there is a need to refine them and provide an overview of the probable paths of forestry development to the year 2030 and beyond.

The 2030 outlook study (APFSOS III) was endorsed and recommended by the 27<sup>th</sup> session of APFC. It would carefully assess the implications of the developments of the key changes, analyze the different scenarios and outline the priorities and strategies to steer forestry along a more desirable development path that enhances the contribution of forests to societal well-being.

APAFRI has signed two agreements with FAO in 2017 and 2018, had completed all the tasks and launched the report in June 2019.



### **Expert Review Meeting** 7-8 March 2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The meeting, successfully organized by FAO and APAFRI in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia was participated by 13 multi-disciplinary experts. The experts had reviewed the latest draft chapters of APFSOS III and shared ideas to ensure the report is relevant and interesting for a wider audience.



### **Youth Workshop** 20-21 March 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

APAFRI had made the travel arrangements of 11 participants for this workshop. RECOFTC assisted APAFRI in handling the domestic arrangements of this event.



### **Third Advisory Committee Meeting** 11-12 April 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

This meeting followed the second meeting of the committee on 14 –15 November 2018 at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Bogor, Indonesia. Thirty-one experts from various organizations and backgrounds attended the meeting.



### **Launching of the Report** 18 June 2019, Incheon, Korea

The final report was launched during the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2019. APAFRI provided logistic supports to gather a number of panellists for the event.

## APFSOS III at a Glance: Gan Kee Seng on APAFRI's role in the Outlook studies

*“APAFRI has also been involved in the two previous studies and this is the third time that APAFRI has been involved. But in this round, the process of coming out with this study involved multiple stakeholders consultations. The process took us about a year and there were many people who participated and provided their inputs. We feel it is a very good and comprehensive study and taken by the views of various parties. This makes the report very relevant and meaningful for the governments, for research institutions and all the different stakeholders.”*



Dr. Gan Kee Seng  
Executive Secretary APAFRI

*(Video published on 17 June 2019 by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations YouTube Channel)*

## ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK (APFW 2019) 17–21 June 2019 Incheon, Korea



**A**PFW 2019, jointly organized and hosted by the Korea Forest Service (KFS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), was one of the largest and most important forestry gatherings in the Asia-Pacific region in 2019.

This was the fourth Asia-Pacific Forestry Week following Hanoi, Vietnam (April 2008); Beijing, China (November 2011); and Pampanga, the Philippines (February 2016). APFW 2019 comprised various workshops, seminars, and partner events organized along five streams.

APAFRI participated in the 28th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) as an Executive Member of APFC. APAFRI had also involved in other side events organized during the week:

- 1) Launching of the report of Asia Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study III
- 2) International Symposium for Integrated Forest Restoration
- 3) Roles of Research Institute on Forest Plantation and Landscape

# INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR INTEGRATED FOREST RESTORATION FUTURE OF KOREAN PENINSULA: FOREST PRESERVATION, UTILIZATION AND PEOPLE IN HARMONY

18 June 2019  
Incheon, Korea

There is a growing awareness of the importance of forest in terms of climate change, biodiversity and combating desertification, and a strong potential for coherence among countries on that. An international forum was convened during the recent Asia Pacific Forestry Week in Incheon, Korea, to reaffirm the significance of forest and landscape restoration in the Republic of Korea for the international recognition and Inter-Korean forest cooperation.

The Republic of Korea is to perpetual peace and prosperity in uniting South and North Korea. This policy goes hand in hand with the future of the Korean Peninsula through protection and utilization of forest and people-centered integrated forest restoration.



The International Forum for Integrated Forest Restoration was held at the Oakwood Premier Incheon Hotel on 18 June 2018. APAFRI, with the annual allocation from National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), provided support for five staff members from APAFRI member institutions to participate in this forum. They were from Forestry Research, Development and Innovation Agency (FOERDIA), Indonesia; Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), India; Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI), Philippines; National Taiwan University, Taiwan; and Kasetsart University, Thailand.

The forum began with the Opening Address by Chun BomKwon, President of NIFoS and followed by the Welcoming Address by Robert Nasi, Director General of Center for International Forestry Research.

Chaired by Son Yowhan, the session of successful story of forest landscape restoration lined up three distinguished speakers. Hwang Jaehong presented the various cases of forest restoration on degraded land in Korea and associated challenges. In 1920s, there was a completely denuded forest in the Gyeongbuk Province due to devastation by building up of temporary housing, use of tree branches to cook, and cultivating corns in slash-and-burn practice. Under the strong leadership of the President, and other factors involving various stakeholders, now the world can see the changes in the panoramic view in that area. Besides the successful stories, there are challenges. An outlook on environmental situation showed that there's an increase in natural disasters such as forest fires, landslides and insect pests. Therefore forest research should emphasize more on restoration instead of rehabilitation.

Paola Agostini in her key message highlighted that landscape restoration is doable. She came out with some classic examples such as in China (loess plateau production restoration), Rwanda (restoration for food security), and Costa Rica (reversed forest degradation). Landscape restoration in specific fields like energy, mining, household energy, and urban flood control, could help in achieving the goals. World Bank's Forest Action Plan FY16-20 provides the guidelines for the landscape approach. She also mentioned that the economic values of forest restoration is every one dollar of restoration will gain from 7 to 39 dollars of benefits. The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030. So far there are 170.43 million hectares pledged by various countries. The 30x30 Initiative is a country-led initiative to restore 30 million hectares of degraded and deforested lands for Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia by 2030 in support of the Bonn Challenge.

The last presenter, Bir C. Mandal talked about the challenges and opportunities in DPR Korea forest restoration. Deforestation endangers agriculture and food systems resulted from land degradation, and worsening the impact of recurrent natural disasters. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimated that the forest land in DPR Korea had declined to 5.03 million hectares in 2015. Several agroforestry projects have been implemented by FAO, international NGOs and the government. However these efforts are not adequate to address the long-term challenges in DPRK.

Before closing, Lee JoonWoo chaired a panel discussion where six panellists expressed their views on the topics.

# ROLES OF RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON FOREST PLANTATION AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IN ASIA

19 June 2019  
Incheon, Korea



The workshop was organized as a side event during the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW 2019) attended by 50 participants from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, India, Philippines and Korea.

Dr. Gan Kee Seng thanked the organizers of the event and introduced APAFRI as a programme established by FAO about 20 years ago. Dr. Kim Kyongha stated that the restoration of degraded lands becomes important nowadays. He further emphasized that, forest research is important and should be implemented according to the needs of the region.

The first presenter, Dr. Abdushukur Khamzaev introduced the background on Uzbekistan and its forest, stating that the forest density dynamics from 1961-2017 had an increasing trend. He also introduced the forest restoration work by zones and the main types of trees in these different zones.

The presentation by Ms. Deiva Oswin Stanley highlighted the agroforestry projects implementing by FAO in DPR Korea. FAO implements the projects with the Ministry of Land and Environmental Protection (MoLEP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

Dr. Thaug Naing Oo reiterated that ecosystem restoration was emphasized in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. He then introduced Myanmar's forest which covers 42.92% of the country. He elaborated further on the establishment of

permanent forest, the existing policies, and planning framework such as the 30-year national forestry plan.

Dr. Vo Dai Hai then shared the reforestation programmes in Vietnam, including the forest restoration achievements where forest cover had increased from 28% in 1990 to 42% in 2018. The ongoing and upcoming restoration programmes on sustainable forestry development 2016-2020 were also discussed in his presentation.

Dr. Chanhsamone Phongoudome mentioned the FAO forest resource assessment in Lao PDR, citing the forest cover and the water contribution of the Mekong River Basin. According to him, Laos has the highest percentage of forest area in Asia and the target national forest cover in 2020 is 16.6 M ha with three categories of forest (production, conservation, protection).

Dr. Sokh Heng presented the Cambodia Forest Genetic Resource Conservation project proposal. He gave the background on the forest cover of Cambodia, including the causes of the loss of the forest and the need for the good quality of seeds/seedlings for restoration

The last presenter, Dr. Seol Ara shared how NIFoS conducted studies on valuing Korea's forest. Benefit analysis study on restoration of DPR Korea was also shared using scenario analysis.

*(Adapted from the report prepared by Dr. HoSang Kang (hosang.kang@gmail.com))*

# REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CONSERVATION PRIORITIES FOR ASIAN TREE SPECIES AND THEIR GENETIC RESOURCES

18–21 March 2019  
Colombo, Sri Lanka



The workshop was jointly organized by the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN), APAFRI, Bioversity International and Forest Department Sri Lanka, funded by the National Institute of Forest Science of the Republic of Korea, and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The workshop held at the Renuka City Hotel, Colombo was attended by 34 invited participants from 16 countries.

A research project on APFORGIS, funded by the German Government, is coordinated by APFORGEN from December 2017 until December 2019. The project aims to develop dynamic distribution maps for at least 50 Asian tree species, based on available information from governments and research institutions, to enable spatially defining conservation priorities. APFORGIS will also develop decision support tools for the establishment of Gene Conservation Units (GCU) for different species; and develop a Road Map for establishing an Asian network of GCUs for ecologically and economically important tree species. The project was introduced by Dr. Riina Jalonen during the APFORGEN Workshop in Kunming, China in March 2018, which was also co-organized by APAFRI. Soon after that, APFORGEN had organized the Inception Workshop on APFORGIS in Putrajaya, Malaysia, in April 2018.

This workshop reported the progress of the APFORGIS project. The up-to-date maps on the modelled distributions of over 50 native Asian tree species had been produced based on the information supplied by more than 40 organizations and individuals from 12 Asian countries.

During this workshop, all participating experts were required to:

- Review and validate the distribution and threat maps for the species
- Identify regional priorities for conserving the species and their genetic diversity
- Agree on a shared definition for genetic conservation units, building on existing approaches in Asian countries
- Identify main capacity needs for establishing a regional network of conservation units to protect the species' genetic diversity for restoration and sustainable use across their ranges

Forest Department Sri Lanka had arranged a one-day-trip for all participants to explore the wonderful ecosystem diversity of Sri Lanka. Participants experienced a nice boat trip around the Maduganga sanctuary and mangrove islets which harboured a total of 303 species of plants. Based on the extent of occurrence, mangroves and mixed swamps are the dominant wetland vegetation types in Maduganga. The next visit was to the Dombagaskanda Forest Reserve, a low land rain forest, located at the wet zone of Sri Lanka. The forest, declared as a Reserved Forest in 2014, covering a small mountain range with four main peaks. This was followed by a short visit to the Labugama Kalatuwawa Forest Reserve which protects two reservoirs that are the source of water supply to the capital Colombo. The forest type is classified as tropical rain forest and the floristic composition is quite similar to the Dombagaskanda forest.

# ELEVENTH EXECUTIVE FOREST POLICY COURSE ASIA-PACIFIC FOREST AND FORESTRY IN 2030 AND BEYOND *WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?*

**17–27 September 2019**  
**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), FAO in collaboration with various partner organizations has been organizing the Executive Forest Policy Course since 2007 to strengthen policy analysis and strategic thinking skills in the Asia-Pacific region. To date ten such courses have been held – in Thailand (2007 and 2009), Fiji (2008 and 2014), Viet Nam (2010), China (2011), Bhutan (2013), Myanmar (2015), Indonesia (2016) and Sri Lanka (2017) – involving more than 250 senior forestry professionals and managers from 25 countries. The eleventh course in the series will be held in Malaysia, hosted by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM).

Each course is tailored to address topical issues, enabling policy-makers and planners to understand the changing socio-economic and political landscape and how new knowledge, skills and tools can be applied to fulfil new functions demanded by a changing world.

## WHY ATTEND THIS COURSE?

The course is a unique platform for learning that discusses new trends, knowledge and future perspectives for forest and landscape management. Forests and landscapes are affected by changes in economy, demography, governance, environment and technology. At the same time, they provide solutions to current and future challenges e.g. climate change, food insecurity, urban issues, water scarcity and energy crisis.

Policies, legislation, institutions and management practices need to be transformed to align with new paradigms, best practices and key societal objectives. Adapting to change and embracing uncertainties will require significant improvement in policy analysis skills.

The course will discuss how we can steer the region towards a desirable future by working cross-sectorally and across borders.

Facilitated by leading experts in forestry and related fields, participants are exposed to recent developments at global, regional, national and local levels that impact forests and forestry, honing their strategic thinking and leadership skills.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

A maximum of 25 highly-motivated participants from Asia-Pacific countries, primarily senior officials dealing with land use and forest policies are expected to attend the course. Participation of staff from government forestry agencies, academics, staff from bilateral and multilateral agencies, civil society organizations and the private sector is encouraged, and particular attention will be given to maintaining gender balance. Fluency in English is a prerequisite for participation in the course. Those who have attended the course during the last three years should not apply.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is a highly interactive learning programme of lectures, debates, dialogues, role-playing sessions, panel discussions and drafting of policy briefs. The seven modules of the course address key issues confronting forests and forestry in the Asia-Pacific region with an emphasis on how they will shape the future. Particular thrust is given to sharing participants' experiences and analyzing case studies. Field visits will further provide an opportunity to learn what is really happening on the ground and how forestry is adapting to changing field realities

## CONTACT DETAILS

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# 2<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TROPICAL SILVICULTURE 2019 FOREST RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

10-11 September 2019  
Bogor, Indonesia

**F**orests are an extremely important natural resource that need to be managed wisely and appropriately, so their benefits can be used for the stakeholders. Forests provide enormous tangible (timber, fruit, resin, sap, etc.) and intangible benefits (biodiversity hotspot, climate regulation, CO<sub>2</sub> pool, O<sub>2</sub> producer, hydrology regulation, ecotourism, gene bank, etc.).

Historically, forest management system have tended to focus on the timber utilization that obviously unable to maintain the forest, especially for natural forest. It can be showed by decreasing the number of natural forest concessions, the low of natural forest timber production for domestic industry, as well as increasing the rate of deforestation and degradation. Excessive deforestation and degradation of Indonesian forests resulted to the increase of CO<sub>2</sub> emission and climate change, and biodiversity loss.

Sustainable forest management should be taken to decrease the impact of deforestation and forest degradation by considering social, economic and forest ecosystem functions. Recently, forest management paradigm is changing from forest management aim to timber production become forest management aim to sustainably ecosystem services and forest ecosystem functions in achieving sustainable development.



Silviculture sciences play very important role in sustainable forest management through ensuring the sustainability of forest ecosystem functions (habitat, regulation, production, and information functions), and increasing positive impact toward socio-economic in maintaining and improving forest productivity, as well as in achieving sustainable development.

Studies on forest ecosystem functions need further research, sharing and dissemination of research report among stakeholders. Therefore, it needs a forum to facilitate sharing and dissemination for academicians, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers.

The 2nd International Conference on Tropical Silviculture is held by Department of Silviculture, Faculty of Forestry, Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) with the theme is "Forest research and innovation for sustainable development". This conference is expected to contribute in sharing information, knowledge, innovation, as well as providing solutions to various problems and obstacles in achieving sustainable forest.

*(For more details, please visit the conference website at <http://icts.ipb.ac.id>)*

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

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