



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The year 2003 began with a bang for APAFRI. In collaboration with a number of regional and national agencies, we had lined up a

series of workshops that would keep the Secretariat very busy during the first six months of this year. We had planned to hold three workshops in the three consecutive months, beginning from April, on the theme of *Forests for Poverty Reduction*. These workshops were to be convened in three different countries to attract a wider audience within our budgetary constraints.

Following these, we have planned to hold an inception workshop for the Asia-Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN) together with International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) in July. While the war in Iraq did not cause any serious disturbances to the plans, but the tiny SARS virus has thus far wrecked havoc and has derailed all our schedules. All the planned workshops had to be postponed, and we are now in the process of firming up the new dates in view of the improving SARS situation in the countries within the region. We kicked-off the first workshop in Dehra Dun, India, from 17–18 June 2003, and the other two are soon to follow.

This year also, APAFRI will be holding its triennial General Assembly. Our colleagues and members in the Philippines have generously agreed to host the General Assembly, which will be convened in conjunction with an international conference on *Tropical Forests and Climate Change – Carbon Sequestration and Clean Development Mechanism*. The proposed date is from 21–22 October 2003. The first announcement has already been sent out to all our members. During the coming General Assembly, the Secretariat will table a summary of the activities, the audited accounts for the past years and the business plan. The term of the present

Executive Committee is also expiring and an election of the new members will be held during this General Assembly. I sincerely urge all APAFRI members to block the date on your calendar and to attend this General Assembly to exercise your rights to chart the course of the Association for the next three years.



The Executive Committee is planning to meet once before the General Assembly. The Secretariat is in the process of preparing for the meeting. The meeting would be held in Seoul, Korea, on

August 2003, together with the second workshop in the Forests for Poverty Reduction series. The agenda for the coming General Assembly will be top on the list for discussion at this executive meeting. Members are encouraged to send in their views and suggestions if any so that these may also be taken up during the meeting. I would like to thank, in advance, the Korean Forest Economics Society, Northeast Forest Forum and Seoul National University, for their generous offer to host the workshop and our Executive Committee Meeting.

I am also proud to announce that APAFRI's membership too has expanded. During the last six months, two national institutions and two individuals have joined APAFRI. On behalf of APAFRI, I would like to welcome our 62nd member – the Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, Assam, India; and our 63rd member – the Forest Research Centre of Lao PDR. I would also like to welcome our two new individual members, Dr Ombir Singh and Dr Krishna Govind Prasad, both from the Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, Assam in India.

Early this year, APAFRI was also invited by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN) to participate

in the preparation of a number of funding proposals to be submitted to the European Commission. One of these proposals will be on the theme of "Expanding international capacity in Africa, Asia and Latin America to generate, manage and share scientific knowledge needed to promote rehabilitation and sustainable forest management and conservation of biodiversity".

All these, and a number of other minor events, will keep the Secretariat fully occupied until the end of the year. We are now looking forward to planning for the coming year. The Secretariat therefore, would like to tap the expertise and

experience of all our members to plan activities and programmes that will benefit the members in the region. Please send us your views and ideas for us to serve you better. We particularly would like to hear from the sub-regional representatives (nodal point coordinators) of potential programmes relevant to their sub-regions that APAFRI could incorporate into the next year's work plan.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those agencies, especially FORSPA, FAO, USDA and GTZ, that have continued to support APAFRI.

Dato' Dr. Abdul Razak Mohd Ali

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our 62nd member:

Rain Forest Research Institute

Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), previously known as the Institute of Rain and Moist Deciduous Forests Research (IRMDFR), was established in 1988 at Jorhat, Assam, to carry out extensive research in the basic and applied fields of forestry. It caters to the forestry needs of the entire northeastern states viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. The Institute conducts research and extension activities in the areas of ecology, regeneration, management and improvement of forests, and shifting cultivation. The mandate of the Institute includes developing conservation methods to preserve the unique heritage of the region and containment of shifting cultivation. The Institute has a new premise, well-equipped laboratories and a team of dedicated officers and scientists.

RFRI's vision and goal are as follows:

Vision: To convert green biomass into green gold

Goal: Leadership in forestry research, education and training in east South Asia.

For more information on RFRI, please contact:

Dr. K.G. Prasad, *Director*

Rain Forest Research Institute

Deovan, P.O. Box No. 136

Jorhart, Assam – 785001

India

Tel : +91-376-2350274

Fax: +91-376-2350273

E-mail: rainfor@sancharnet.in

Or visit RFRI website at <http://www.rfri.org>

A warm welcome to our 63rd member:

Forest Research Centre, Lao PDR

FRI Laos was established in year 1996, with a vision to develop effective, flexible and efficient means to promote effective research in support of conservation, sustainable management and utilization of forest and tree resources by forestry agencies, communities, farmers, private enterprises and other stakeholders.

It's objective is to provide timely, efficient and cost effective research, information services and technical advisory support in forest science and technology to all those involved/concerned with conserving, managing and utilizing forest and tree resources and to effectively coordinate research efforts by different agencies with the objective of contributing to sustainable socio-economic development of Lao PDR. Currently, this center has a staff of 21 researchers.

For more information, please contact:

Mr. Khamphay Manivong, *Director*

Forest Research Centre

P.O.Box 7174

Vientiane

Lao PDR

Tel : +856-21-770892

Fax: +856-21-770892

E-mail: frcfiss@laotel.com



NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

APAFRI welcomes our 3rd Associate Member:

Dr. Ombir Singh

Currently working as Scientist at Rain Forest Research Institute in India, Dr. Ombir Singh has widely varied experiences in forestry research ranging from temperate to tropical and alpine pastures to rain forests of India. His current research focus is on the genetic improvement of *Pinus kesiya* and *Dipterocarpus retusus*. The research work includes the establishment of seed production areas, selection of plus trees and subsequently to raise seed orchards of the species.

Dr. Ombir Singh is also involved in the Information Technology related activities of the Institute and prepared and designed the website of RFRI, www.rfri.org

Dr. Ombir Singh can be contacted at:
Rain Forest Research Institute
Post Box 136, Deovan
Jorhat 785 001 (Assam), India
Tel : +91-376-2350355 / 56 Ext 203
Fax: +91-376-3350273
E-mail: ombir@yahoo.com

APAFRI welcomes our 4th Associate Member:

Dr. Krishna Govind Prasad

Dr. K. G. Prasad is currently the Director of the Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, India. His specialization is in forest soil, soil technology, soil management, stress soil, soil taxonomy and soil fertility.

A well-known soil scientist, Dr. Prasad has been involved in many national and international consultative assignments, principally in the field of problem soils and soil productivity improvement. A prolific researcher, Dr. Prasad has authored more than 100 original research papers, several dozens presentations and two books.

Dr. K.G. Prasad can be contacted at:
Rain Forests Research Institute,
Post Box 136, Deovan
Jorhat 785 001 (Assam), India
Tel : +91-376-3550273, 3350271
Fax: +91-376-3350273
E-mail: rainfor@sancharnet.in

APAFRI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

21 October 2003, Manila, Philippines

The 3rd General Assembly of APAFRI has been proposed to be held on 21 October 2003. APAFRI's member institutions in the Philippines, the Philippines Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Research and Development (PCCARD), the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI), College of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Philippines, Los Banos (CFNR-UPLB), and the University of Northern Philippines, have graciously consented to host this General Assembly. The assembly will review the activities of APAFRI, discuss any amendments to the

Constitution, and elect members to the Executive Committee. The official notice of the General Assembly will be sent to all members by early September.

An international conference on the theme of Tropical Forest and Climate Change – Carbon Sequestration and Clean Development Mechanism will be held in conjunction with this General Assembly. The first announcement has already been sent out to members.

For more information please contact APAFRI Secretariat at secretariat@apafri.org

ASIA-PACIFIC FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES PROGRAMME (APFORGEN) INCEPTION WORKSHOP

15–18 JULY 2003, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) had carried out a consultative process with potential national partners in selected countries in 2002. The objective of this preliminary process was to identify those partners, who are willing to commit their own resources for the development and implementation of the proposed programme to promote conservation and sustainable use of tropical forest genetic resources in their respective countries. The consultation also aimed at identifying specific country-based research and development needs on conservation and use of forest genetic resources.

By August 2002, a total of 13 countries have indicated their strong interest in the proposed programme and provided valuable feedback. These countries are:

- Bangladesh (Bangladesh Forest Research Institute)
- India (Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education)
- Nepal (Department of Forest Research and Survey; Tree Improvement and Silviculture Component)
- Pakistan (Pakistan Forest Research Institute)
- Sri Lanka (Forest Department)
- Cambodia (Department of Forestry and Wildlife)
- Indonesia (Research and Development Centre for Biotechnology and Forest Tree Improvement)
- Lao PDR (Forest Research Centre)
- Malaysia (Forest Research Institute Malaysia)
- Philippines (College of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Philippines Los Banos)
- Thailand (Royal Forest Department and Kasetsart University)
- Vietnam (Forest Science Institute of Vietnam), and
- PR China (Research Institute of Forestry and Research Institute of Tropical Forestry, both under the Chinese Academy of Forestry).

In September 2002, Myanmar (Forest Department) also indicated its interest but was not able to specify the possible contributions at that time.

An APFORGEN satellite meeting was convened on 9 October 2002 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for interested partners of APFORGEN who were attending the APAFRI conferences “Bringing Back the Forests – Policies and Practices for Degraded Lands and Forests” and “The Seventh Round Table Conference on Dipterocarps”. That satellite meeting was to explore national and regional priorities for conservation and the use of forest genetic resources and to discuss potential project proposals for funding application. Thirteen participants from six S.E.Asian countries, DANIDA, APAFRI and IPGRI attended the meeting. It was decided at that satellite meeting that IPGRI and APAFRI should hold an inception workshop to initiate APFORGEN.

With basic financial support from APAFRI and IPGRI, and in technical collaboration with FAO, the APFORGEN Inception Workshop has been proposed to be held at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 15–18 July 2003.

The objectives of the workshop would be to:

- document the status of forest genetic resources conservation and management,
- discuss and develop a work programme on forest genetic resources for APFORGEN,
- develop concept notes for forest genetic resources conservation and management and initiate drafting of proposals on forest genetic resources R&D for funding application,
- identify effective means for dissemination of forest genetic resources information among participating partners,
- discuss the development of database for forest genetic resources information for the region,

For more information please contact Mr. Hong L.T. (l.hong@cgiar.org) or Dr. Sim Heok-Choh (sim@apafri.org)

FORESTS FOR POVERTY REDUCTION – EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL

The main agenda for international development agencies at present is reducing poverty in developing countries. The potential for forests and forestry sector in that endeavor is becoming more apparent. The question is really identifying where the opportunities are, and how to capture and strengthen them. With this major objective, a series of inter-linked workshops, on the following topics has been proposed for the Asia Pacific region:

Workshop 1: Forests for Poverty Reduction – The Changing Role for Research and Development Institutions

Most of the national agencies (research and development) have not recognized this role, and are not focusing their efforts in this new direction. The workshop will increase awareness of policy makers and specialists on the need for a more pro-poor focus in their undertakings. The workshop will cover the following topics:

1. Regional significance of the problem and its multidisciplinary nature
2. Potential role of the forestry sector in poverty reduction, the strategy, processes, sector policies and programmes for results
3. Current focus of national policy makers and R&D institutions on the problem
4. Identification of needs for forestry research and development, priorities and processes
5. Inter-sectoral influences which need to be addressed
6. Concrete ideas and potential paths where forestry can alleviate poverty

This workshop was held in Dehra Dun, India, from 17–18 June 2003.

Workshop 2: Forests for Poverty Reduction – Opportunities with CDM, Environmental Services and Biodiversity

In the past, international concern was focused on loss and degradation of tropical forests worldwide. International initiatives have however not brought about the desired results. It has become increasingly apparent that more basic issues are behind the problems, paramount being rural poverty. Donor initiatives have since shifted attention to solving rural poverty, and in this context the role forests can play is given more

attention. It is further realised that rural poor, while benefiting from the forest resources, can also be made to play a more effective role in forest protection and conservation of biodiversity.

This workshop is devoted to looking into how new global initiatives such as CDM and carbon credits can be directed to benefit rural populations. Within the same framework, payments for ecological services and biodiversity conservation in lieu of foregone benefits from converting forests are also being reviewed. The workshop will focus on:

1. The new economy of nature: value of environmental assets in the developing world
2. Making markets for forest communities: Linking communities, markets, and conservation in the Asia Pacific region
3. How forest producers and rural farmers can benefit from the Clean Development Mechanism
4. Carbon finance and the global equity markets for rural population
5. Carbon credits for financing afforestation and reforestation in Asia Pacific region
6. What is biodiversity worth to a developing country
7. How can the economic value of biodiversity be assessed and harnessed by rural people
8. Biodiversity credits: Direct economic reward for sustainable forest management
9. Biodiversity conservation in production forests
10. Urban-rural partnerships to preserve pristine quality of drinking water
11. The need for an environmental registry for Asia Pacific region

This workshop will be held from 27–29 August 2003 in Seoul, Korea.

Workshop 3: Forests for Poverty Reduction – Can community forestry make money?

Poverty reduction strategies are now becoming the framework for development planning and implementation, and are guiding the operations of many donors. In this context, forests have been given a high priority as the safety net for the rural poor and indigenous populations. It is also being argued that by transferring the resources to the rural poor, better conservation of the environment can also be achieved.

The first workshop in the series on the theme of *Forests for Poverty Reduction* explored the institutional and research support issues in depth. But it is also becoming clear that the specific means and the tools that can be employed to reduce poverty require similar attention before practical examples can emerge. One leading means to address the problem of poverty is with community forestry. The traditional view of community forestry is one of a subsistence role. But to take it beyond that, changes are needed in several broad fronts. Sustainable management, marketing, processing, and value addition to forest products are needed. New and innovative means have to be formulated so that community forestry can play the role of improving the lot of the poor.

While community forestry is gaining acceptance among timber-poor countries of the Asia Pacific region, it has not had the same impact among the timber-rich countries. There are other types of community-based forestry in the Pacific region, but they too are saddled with implementation problems. Overall, it can be argued that the role and means by which community forestry can bring about poverty reduction has not been fully

explored, and insufficient attention given in countries where the potential exists. With this background, the workshop besides providing a platform for national institutes in the region to interact, network and exchange information and experience on tackling issues for rural poverty through community forestry, will also explore the following issues:

- Traditional community forestry concepts and practices, and conditions where successes are achieved;
- New and emerging opportunities in community forestry
- The policy and financial issues to strengthen community forestry introduction and practice
- Means to improve rights, capabilities and governance by communities
- Role of research and training agencies

The venue of this workshop has been proposed to be in Beijing, China. Date proposed is from 1–3 September 2003.

For more information please contact: APAFRI Secretariat, c/o Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Kepong, 51209 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Email: sim@apafri.org or secretariat@apafri.org

International conference

TROPICAL FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (TFCC 2003) – CARBON SEQUESTRATION AND CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM

21–22 October 2003, Manila, Philippines

In recognition of the potential impacts of climate change, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was signed by 154 countries in 1992. The main objective of the convention is to stabilize green house gas (GHG) concentrations at safe level.

In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was drafted during the Third Conference of Parties (COP-3). The protocol is the first international agreement that places legally binding obligations on developed countries to reduce their overall GHG emissions by about 5% of their 1990 levels by the year 2008–2012.

Under Article 12, GHG emission reduction commitments of developed countries can be met by projects in developing countries through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). The Marrakesh Accords (COP-7) allows the inclusion of reforestation and afforestation projects in CDM.

In 1998, the first International Conference on Tropical Forests and Climate Change (TFCC 98) was held in Manila. Five years later, many developments have occurred both in the scientific community and in the policy arena. TFCC 2003 aims to provide a venue whereby recent developments in carbon sequestration projects and CDM can be discussed.

Among the topics that will be discussed at this conference are:

1. Carbon measurement and monitoring in CDM projects
2. Social and economic considerations in CDM projects
3. Policies and programmes

For more information, please contact: Dr. Rodel D. Lasco (enfor@laguna.net)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FUNDING SOURCES FOR FORESTRY RESEARCH IN THE TROPICS, SUBTROPICS AND MEDITERRANEAN

The European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN), together with the UK Department for International Development, Forest Research Programme (DFID-FRP), organised an information meeting in Brussels on 4 February 2003. The objectives of the meeting were:

1. To inform the forestry research community in Europe and partner countries on the European Commission (EC) policy context and financing possibilities relating to Mediterranean, Subtropical and Tropical forestry research;
2. To introduce the EC's 6th Framework Programme for Research (FP6), and the priorities and instruments of the First Call of Proposals related to Global Change and Ecosystems, International Co-operation-Developing Countries (INCO-DEV) and other relevant calls;
3. To allow groups of researchers from Europe and partner countries to explore possibilities for closer collaboration and joint development of research proposals.

The meeting started off with a series of presentations introducing FP6. The EC officially launched FP6 in November 2002. It is a very ambitious research programme with a total budget of €17.5 billion. The programme intends to make Europe a world leader and as the most competitive knowledge-based economy over the next 10 years. With a longer-term perspective, the programme will strengthen larger-scale research integration and co-operation in Europe, reduce fragmentation in research and improve links between science and society.

Within the FP6 there are possibilities for funding forestry research in the Mediterranean, subtropics and tropics, among which the most relevant ones are sub-priority 'Global Change and Ecosystems' and special programme 'Specific measures in support of International Cooperation (INCO)'. However, there are also other thematic priorities, special programmes and structuring activities that could provide funding for forestry research.

Each of the FP6 activities will be subject to one or more calls for proposals during the period 2002–2006. Elaborate descriptions of all the sub-programmes and the topics for the 2003 and 2004 calls for proposals are now available on the website www.cordis.lu/fp6. The first calls for proposals have been published on CORDIS last December (www.cordis.lu/fp6/calls.cfm). Information on these first calls can be downloaded from the ETFRN website.

Bidding for FP6 funding started with a call for Expressions of Interest (EoI) published on 20 March 2002. A total of 15,500 EoIs were submitted by the deadline of 7 June 2002. ETFRN had identified more than 60 of these EoIs that are related to forestry or have components related to forestry. Nearly half of these fall within the following two themes: multifunctional landscapes, and climate change and ecosystem dynamics. These two, together with forests and poverty alleviation and illegal logging, were the themes selected for further deliberation in working groups to explore possibilities for closer collaboration and joint development of proposals.

However, not only DG research provides funding possibilities for forestry research. The tropical forest and environment budget lines, managed by EuropeAid also offer opportunities, especially for applied research. Funding priority areas for 2002–2003 are:

- Good governance in forests – illegal logging, forest ownership, SFM
- Climate change – clean development mechanism (CDM), Capitalise climate change importance of forests
- Financial flows and the valuation of forest goods and services – fiscal, financial and economic disincentives; full values of forest
- National Forest Programmes (NFP) – support the NFP process, help forest dependent people to participate in NFP process
- Forest biodiversity

For this year (2003), the focus shall be on illegal logging, climate change and development context (capacity building and knowledge gathering).

After the meeting, the three regional networks from South America (RIFALC), Africa (Forestry Research Network in Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA)) and Asia-Pacific (APAFRI) present at the meeting, met with Dr. Michael Kleine of IUFRO-SPDC to discuss a joint proposal on network strengthening and knowledge gathering. IUFRO-SPDC, with its experience from managing a project for the African network, will initiate the process of preparing the proposal.

Process leading to securing funding from EC can be rather complicated; it is therefore advantageous that IUFRO-SPDC has offered itself as a European partner in the process. As a chapter of IUFRO for the Asia-Pacific region, APAFRI shall work with IUFRO-SPDC towards securing funds necessary for the further enhancement of its existing information system as well as linking up with the IUFRO Global Forest Information Service (GFIS).

UPDATE ON ASEFOREP

APAFRI was invited to attend the Steering Committee Meeting, hosted by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Umea, Sweden, 10–12 April 2003. It was reported that since its inception in 2000, the programme had supported a total of 30 student exchanges, 21 from Europe to Asia and nine from Asia to Europe. The most active partner was UPM, which has hosted nine students out of the 21 from Europe. There were also nine staff exchanges: six from Europe and three from Asia.

The Director of People-to-People Exchange Programme of Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), which financed the ASEFOREP programme, expressed his concern over the lop-sidedness of the exchanges, more European students coming to Asian institutions than Asian students going to European institutions. This was followed by a rather lengthy discussion centred on the possible strategies to achieve a more balanced exchange. The amount of funding per student exchange has been identified as a major hindrance for Asian students to spend three months in Europe. Each student in the programme will receive US\$2,500

for the duration of up to three months. With this amount, it will be fairly comfortable for a European student to be in an Asian institution, but could hardly support an Asian student in an European institution.

The second issue was on credit transfer that would allow students to earn credits that could contribute to his/her course requirements, besides the useful exposure that the programme could provide.

The possibilities of having attachments with industries were also discussed. The meeting agreed that there are many advantages of attachment to forest industry enterprises and the Secretariat should exploit such possibilities. Representatives from a number of Swedish networks and private companies, including IKEA and Partek (harvesting machinery manufacturer), indicated that such attachments are possible in their organisations.

The meeting also accepted the applications from two other Asian universities, University Malaysia Sabah and Forestry University of Vietnam, Hanoi, to join the programme.

Continuing Professional Education in Malaysia

TRAINING COURSE ON ECONOMIC VALUATION OF FOREST AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

21–28 April 2003, Kuala Lumpur

Pricing for most forest and environmental resources is done by the market place or through administered price by the government. However, most of the forest and environmental resources are non-marketable commodities. They are largely ignored in the development planning or where it is involved in analyzing forestland use options. This is so because there is no market price to illustrate the economic value of non-marketable goods and services. As a result, economic benefits, which could be derived from forest and environmental resources utilization, tend to be understated over social benefits. Recent interest in valuing forest and environmental resources is widespread not only in Malaysia but also around the world. Economic valuation aims to assign “correct” monetary value or shadow price for forest and

environmental resources will help policy makers in making decision for long term development planning in order to achieve sustainable development goals.

A training course was designed to expose participants to various valuation methods used to determine the economic values of forest and environmental resources. The course also reviewed fundamental concepts and theory of economic and sustainable development and its linkages with forestry activities and the environment.

This training course, jointly organised by the Institute of Foresters Malaysia, Forest Department Peninsular Malaysia and APAFRI, with resource persons from University Putra Malaysia, attracted 20 participants.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC FOREST INVASIVE SPECIES CONFERENCE

17–22 August 2003, Kunming, China

The inadvertent transfer of harmful plants, insects and animal pests, and diseases, across national boundaries and into previously unaffected habitats is a central challenge for many countries in the Asia-Pacific region. These pests and diseases are collectively referred to as invasive species. Increasing trade volumes, international travel and, particularly, the number and diversity of countries participating in forest products trade, have exacerbated challenges associated with invasive species. Billions of dollars are now spent in the region in monitoring, surveillance and eradication of invasive species.

Means for international cooperation to combat threats posed by invasive species have assumed a high profile in recent times. The spread of alien invasive organisms is now acknowledged as a global concern and the scope of the issue is beyond the capacity of any one country to manage.

During the Nineteenth Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission Meeting, held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the Commission held a seminar on invasive species. Discussions at the end of the seminar recommended that the Commission supports the need for technical meetings and activities to increase awareness, develop sound regional strategies that address invasive species and, strengthen the capacity of member countries to conduct pest risk assessments, monitoring and surveillance, and management of invasive species. The Chinese State Forestry Administration, USDA Forest Service and the Chinese Academy of Sciences offered to help support and organize the first working meeting under the umbrella of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission and Food and Agriculture Organization.

The proposed meeting would be held in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. This Province has

examples of both tropical and temperate forests with invasive species problems. The main objectives of the conference will be to increase awareness of the threats of invasive species to forests and forest products, share experiences and knowledge related to dealing with invasive species issues, and to develop proposals for regional co-operation and action in addressing invasive species problems. The conference will identify key knowledge and information gaps regarding invasive species in forests and possible solutions to address those needs.

The Chinese hosts will also organize two field trips, one to the Stone Forest of Yunnan, the second one is to Lijiang. The famous Stone Forest of Yunnan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a massive collection of fantastically shaped natural limestone pillars covering more than 350 km². The densely packed pillars, ranging up to 100 feet in height, resemble from a distance a dense forest canopy. The region also has significant areas of natural forests with problematic pine shoot bark beetle and Crofton weed infestations. The Autonomous County of Lijiang is located in the northwest of Yunnan Province and neighbours the Tibetan Plateau. The county is well known not only for its superb natural scenery and rich biodiversity resources, but also especially for the unique culture of the local Naxi people. The programme in Lijiang includes a tour to the Yulong Snow Mountain Nature Reserve, a field trip to see a forest health and restoration project encompassing pine weevil beetle and other bark beetle infestations, and an opportunity to wander in the ancient town of Dayan, another UNESCO World Heritage Site.

For further information, contact: Mr. Patrick Durst (patrick.durst@fao.org) or Mr. Sun Jianghua (sunjh@panda.ioz.ac.cn).

OBTAINING EFFECTIVE RESEARCH RESULTS WITH SCARCE RESOURCES: STRATEGIES FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN FORESTRY

2–4 December 2002, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Across the Asia-Pacific region, national forestry research institutions (NFRIs) are being asked to do more with less. Macroeconomic reforms and depressed rates of economic growth have reduced state support for research and exacerbated already chronic shortages of resources in public sector research programs. As far as NFRIs are concerned, this situation is unlikely ever to improve: the traditional public sector monopoly of forestry research is widely seen as an obsolete institutional model for tackling forest problems. In its place is emerging a more competitive pluralistic model involving actors as diverse as private companies, NGOs and local community groups.

Unless NFRIs can adapt to conditions of scarcity, they will face decline and marginalisation. But what steps can small, under-funded institutions take to maximize the value of their existing resources? How can they compete for and attract extra resources? And how can they balance the demands of fundraising with those of an expanding and diversifying forest sector? Answering these questions is proving slow and difficult, but it is becoming clear that actions are needed in three broad, interrelated areas of research management:

- i) Improving the efficiency and accountability of research.** Decisions on allocating and using scarce resources must be based on the best-possible information. Formal planning, priority-setting, monitoring and evaluation exercises can provide such information (and increase the overall value and impact of research), but remain an uncommon practice in NFRIs.
- ii) Forging linkages with other research partners.** Research partnerships are gaining increasing currency between the donor and international research communities. Such collaborative relationships can exploit a wider range of funding sources, as well as institutional synergies and differing comparative advantages. However, attracting suitable partners, and negotiating a fair division of costs and benefits, present difficulties for many NFRIs.
- iii) Mobilizing resources for research.** Partnerships are one way of mobilizing new resources for

research. Others include commercializing intellectual property and providing consultancy or contract-research services. In order to develop such measures, however, many NFRIs require closer links with industry and other users of research than they currently enjoy.

Some of the more advanced NFRIs in Asia and the Pacific have begun to take steps to evaluate their performance, develop partnerships or market new products and services. These experiences, however, have not been widely disseminated or studied. Nor have any attempts been made to provide guidance tailored to the needs of smaller, less advanced NFRIs. A workshop was designed to be the first systematic attempt to distil the lessons of past experiences, and to draw out proven, workable strategies for managing research with scarce resources.

The workshop was successfully organized from 2-4 December 2002, with support from FORSPA, IUFRO-SPDC, APAFRI, Department of Forests, Sri Lanka, and a few other agencies, with the following objectives:

- Present and analyze a series of key experiences in improving efficiency and accountability, forging linkages and mobilizing resources for research (particularly from Asia and the Pacific, but also referring to other regions).
- Identify strategies and provide operational guidance, particularly for smaller, less advanced NFRIs.
- Provide a platform for NFRIs and their partners to interact, network and exchange information on tackling resource scarcity.

A total of 30 participants from national research institutions in the Asia Pacific region, regional and international partners attended the three-day workshop. There was a good mix of senior scientists and research managers from various government agencies that conduct, finance or use research; private sector organizations (companies, NGOs, community groups, etc.) involved in public sector research programs; and regional and international organizations that finance research or build research capacities.

ASIA PACIFIC FOREST REHABILITATION NETWORK

The vast areas of old-growth primary forests that used to cover the Asia Pacific region have been logged or converted to other forms of land use. The majority of the remaining forests are in various states of disturbance, ranging from heavy and uncontrolled logging, fires, to illegal farming and shifting cultivation. If nothing is done to these huge tracts of legally “forested areas”, continued disturbance will degrade these further into grasslands or completely denuded and barren areas.

Rehabilitation of degraded forests is beginning to take on a very high priority in the region. FAO’s Forestry Research Support Programme for Asia and the Pacific (FORSPA), in collaboration with the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), has facilitated the establishment of the Asia Pacific Forest Rehabilitation Network (APFReN). The development of a network is being pursued in the light of the absence, in most countries, of a critical mass of researchers conducting studies related to rehabilitation and technology development. Furthermore, in the case of management of natural forests especially rehabilitation research, it is necessary to bring in all the fundamental knowledge in forest ecology. Networking will facilitate technology transfer and enhances the possibility of learning from the collective experiences of the countries in the Region.

For this purpose an expert group meeting was held from 17–20 November 1997 in Malaysia on rehabilitation of tropical forests in Asia and the Pacific. Eighteen scientists from nine countries, namely India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, attended the meeting. The meeting agreed on the scope and objectives of the network and the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) agreed to co-ordinate the activities of the network and host the Secretariat.

Activities of APFReN

The mission, scope, objectives and activities were defined during the meeting. It was agreed that field demonstration plots on operation scale (50–100 ha.) be established in some participating countries. The objective of the establishment of these sites is to showcase how actual rehabilitation can be undertaken and to develop them as focal points for extension and training on rehabilitation

technologies. Demonstration areas can also help in:

- Developing protocols for large-scale rehabilitation of logged over natural forests
- Provide opportunity to test and refine new approaches for rehabilitation based on available knowledge on ecology and management; and
- Facilitate long-term monitoring of changes/responses to different treatments.

Whereas activities on resource development and rehabilitation work were on going, the effective means of sharing and exchanging information, experiences, expertise and technology is still lacking. During a satellite meeting, convened recently in Kuala Lumpur in conjunction with the International Conference on Bringing Back the Forests, it was unanimously agreed to establish a website as a means for disseminating information. It is the intention of this website to include all countries in the Asia Pacific region to actively participate in the exchange of experiences and discussions on issues related to rehabilitation. One of the means of achieving this goal is to appoint country co-coordinators in each of the countries in the Asia Pacific region. Efforts towards this end are on going. A listing of country coordinators has been posted in the “List of country coordinators” component of this website.

As the majority of the Asia Pacific region comprises countries from the developing nations, often efficient high-tech methods may not necessary be the best solution to domestic problems. Local experiences are valuable information. The web referral library will not be confined to papers presented in international forums. The website welcomes contributions in the form of papers and articles of local circulation to share experiences and avoid repeating similar pit falls. The success of this website is highly dependent on the active participation and support of all involved in rehabilitation work in this region. The website urges researchers in the region to submit names of agencies and individuals, publications, articles, new findings and new ideas/concepts for discussions.

For more information regarding APFReN, please contact the Secretariat of APFReN, c/o Forest Research Institute Malaysia, 52109 Kuala Lumpur, ismail@frim.gov.my or barizan@frim.gov.my.

REHABILITATION OF DEGRADED PEAT SWAMP FOREST: DEMANDS AND CHALLENGES

P. Ismail (ismailp@frim.gov.my) & I. Shamsudin

Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Kepong 52109 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

INTRODUCTION

In 1992, there were about 0.23 million ha of logged-over peat swamp forest (PSF) in Peninsular Malaysia (Chin *et al.* 1997). It is important to improve the productivity of this forest by planting with commercial tree species, in order to sustain its role as an important source of high quality timber species. Otherwise these forest areas will be colonised by pioneer species and susceptible to forest fire. Research on appropriate planting techniques using suitable commercial tree species needs to be conducted on these areas.

IMPORTANT ROLES OF PEAT SWAMP FOREST

Log production

In Peninsular Malaysia the PSF has contributed significantly towards economic development and environmental protection. Economic benefits include the production of valuable timber species which has been estimated to be about 63 m³ha⁻¹ for all trees >40 cm dbh (Shamsudin 1996). The most common commercial timber species found in PSF are *Gonystylus bancanus*, *Shorea platycarpa*, *S. uliginosa*, *S. teysmaniana*, *Kompassia malaccensis*, *Durio carinatus*, *Madhuca motleyana* and *Calophyllum ferrugineum*.

Minor forest produce

The PSF produces not only high quality timber species but also a variety of important minor forest produce. *Eleiodoxa conferta*, asam kelubi, is a typical minor forest produce that is commercially harvested from the PSF. Other popular minor forest produce that can be harvested from the PSF include rattan, medicinal plants and honey from wild bees. Many plants and herbs from the PSF are popular for their medicinal properties.

Water supply

The PSF also acts as an important catchment regulating water supply for rice cultivation. An excellent example is the paddy plantation extending about 20,000 ha at Tanjung Karang, Kuala Selangor, that receives continuous water supply from the adjacent PSF through the Tengi and Dusun rivers.

Flood control

The role of PSF to control flood has also been recognised (Zulkifli *et al.* 1999). During the monsoon season, excess water from the river is diverted through feeder canals to the PSF to minimise the risk of flooding to agricultural or residential areas downstream.

Ecotourism

The PSF also can be used as an ecotourism attraction but efforts of using the forest for ecotourism activities have not been fully developed. Using the PSF for ecotourism activities will minimise the pressure of managing the PSF only for timber production.

CHALLENGES TO FOREST REHABILITATION

Conversion to other land uses

Shamsudin and Ismail (1991) found that the PSF was decreasing from 673,740 ha in 1981 to only 336,994 ha in 1991. Most Stateland PSF have been converted to other landuses such as agricultural, industrial and residential developments.

Forest fire

Forest fire is not common in inland forests but it is one of the major threats to logged-over PSF (Wan Mohd. Shukri *et al.* 1999).

Rehabilitation techniques

Information on appropriate planting techniques, suitability of species for planting and the supply of planting materials is not available for the PSF, particularly in Peninsular Malaysia (Ismail 1998). It has never been customary in the past to carry out post-felling treatments including planting in logged-over PSF. This is due mainly to the fact that most logging activities in PSF were concentrated in areas demarcated for alienation to various agricultural projects and other landuses. After all commercial timber species have been harvested, the area will be cleared and burnt prior to cultivation of agricultural crops such as oil palm and rubber trees. With the current development

where many PSF areas under PFE have been logged and realising that these areas need to be rehabilitated after logging (Razani & Jalil 1997), research to examine appropriate planting techniques using suitable commercial tree species in logged-over PSF needs to be conducted.

Normal planting techniques applied in rehabilitating inland forests (lowland or hill forests) cannot be adopted directly due to vast differences in environmental conditions between inland forests and the PSF. The PSF is a unique environment where hydrological parameters are critical in controlling tree growth. A major difference in planting between these two forest types is the timing of planting. In inland forests, planting is conducted during the rainy seasons but it is not possible in the PSF because generally during this time the PSF is completely flooded. Besides planting techniques, the choice of suitable species for rehabilitating degraded PSF also needs to be further investigated. The ability to produce sufficient planting materials through seed and various propagation techniques, for example, via stem cutting and tissue culture, is an important consideration in selecting suitable timber species for rehabilitating degraded PSF.

References

- Chin, T. Y., Nor Akhiruddin, M., Samsuanuar, N., Yong, T.K., Hasnuddin, M. A. & Mohd Nashir, S.I. *Report on Third National Forest Inventory, Peninsular Malaysia*. Forestry Department Headquarters, Kuala Lumpur. 211 pp.
- Ismail, P. 1998. The status of rehabilitation in logged-over forests in Peninsular Malaysia. Graduate Seminar, Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia. (Unpublished).
- Razani, U. & Jalil, M.D.S. 1992. Status of peat swamp forests in Selangor. Pp. 15-21 in Palle, H. et al. (Eds.) *Proceedings of the Workshop on Sustainable Management of Peat Swamp Forest*, 29 Sept. – 1 Oct. 1997, Kuala Selangor.
- Shamsudin, I. 1996. *Forest management systems in peat swamp forest: a Malaysian perspective*. Pp. 175-180 in Maltby, E. et al. (Eds.) *Proceedings of a Workshop on Integrated Planning and Management of Tropical Lowland Peatlands*, IUCN.
- Shamsudin, I. & Ismail, H. 1991. The impacts of the present landuse on peat swamp forests in Peninsular Malaysia. *Malaysian Forester* 54(1): 15 – 23.
- Wan Mohd. Shukri W.A., Samsudin, M., Shamsudin, I., Raja Barizan, R.S., Azman, H., Ismail, H., Ismail, P. & Tengku Abdullah, T.I. 1999. An emerging threat: haze and forest fires. Pp. 121-128 in *Proceedings of Malaysian Science and Technology Congress 1999, (COSTAM) Kuching, Sarawak*.
- Zulkifli, Y., Krogh, V. & Baharuddin, K. 1999. Hydrological characteristics of the North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest. Pp. 1-38 in Chin, T.Y & Palle, H. (Eds.) *Sustainable Management of Peat Swamp Forests in Peninsular Malaysia: Impacts (Vol. II)*. Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur.

ATIS UPDATE

E-LOAN SYSTEM

A new feature has been added into the system, which will allow researchers or end users to view abstracts online. Viewing abstracts online will assist researchers to get to the relevant articles faster, thus reducing time spend on literature search.

After six months of working closely with the Main Library of the Forest Research Institute Malaysia, the system currently has a collection of about 15,000 abstracts.

If you have difficulty accessing this feature, please do not hesitate to contact our Information Officer (yeang@apafri.org)

Online ordering of APAFRI publications

Now you can purchase APAFRI publications online. We had just created the online purchase order form in our website. You can place your order online and we will proceed with the other logistics to ensure the speedy delivery of your orders.

APAFRI Journal of Dipterocarp Research

After a soft launch of this e-Journal in November 2002, we have now collected a number of research articles that are ready to be included in our e-journal.

In April 2003, we have uploaded two articles. Our current plan is to upload two articles every month. If you are interested to subscribe or would like to share your research with other dipterocarp researchers, please send us your articles and we will upload them into the publication.

For more information, please contact our Information Officer (yeang@apafri.org)

ARO Network

The Network had been established since the year 2000 to support the research projects of the APAFRI ARO Programme Award Recipients. Most of these research projects have been completed, and we would like to share the information with those who are interested. A collection of the summaries of these projects has been uploaded to the ARO Network website.

UPCOMING EVENT

APA FRI Activities

Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN) Inception Workshop

Date : 15–18 July 2003
Venue : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Contact : Mr. Hong L.T
International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI)
Regional Office for Asia, the Pacific and Oceania
P.O.Box 236. UPM Post Office
43400 Serdang, Selangor
Malaysia
Tel : +60-3-8942 3891
Fax : +60-3-8948 7655
E-mail : l.hong@cgiar.org or sim@apafri.org

Forest for Poverty Reduction: Opportunities with CDM, Environmental Services and Biodiversity

Date : 27–29 August 2003
Venue : Seoul, Korea
Contact : Dr. Sim Heok Choh
APA FRI Secretariat
c/o Forest Research Institute Malaysia
Kepong
52109 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
Tel : +60-3-6272 2516
Fax : +60-3-6277 3249
E-mail : sim@apafri.org or secretariat@apafri.org

Forest for Poverty Reduction: Can Community Forestry Make Money?

Date : 1–3 September 2003
Venue : Beijing, China.
Contact : Dr. Sim Heok Choh
APA FRI Secretariat
c/o Forest Research Institute Malaysia
Kepong
52109 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
Tel : +60-3-6272 2516
Fax : +60-3-6277 3249
E-mail : sim@apafri.org or secretariat@apafri.org

The Third APA FRI General Assembly

Date : 21 October 2003
Venue : Manila, Philippines
Contact : Dr. Sim Heok Choh
APA FRI Secretariat
c/o Forest Research Institute Malaysia
Kepong, 52109 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
Tel : +60-3-6272 2516
Fax : +60-3-6277 3249
E-mail : sim@apafri.org or secretariat@apafri.org

International Conference on Tropical Forests and Climate Change: Carbon Sequestration and Clean Development Mechanism

Date : 21–22 October 2003
Venue : Manila, Philippines
Contact : Dr. Rodel D. Lasco
Tel : +63-49-536 5314
Fax : +63-49-536 2306
E-mail : enfor@laguna.net or sim@apafri.org

Others

New Insights on the Management and Silviculture of Mangroves

Date : 15–17 July 2003
Venue : Perak, Malaysia
Contact : Mr. Mohd Nasir bin Husin
THE SECRETARIAT
National Mangrove Workshop
Natural Forest Division
Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM),
Kepong, 52109 Kuala Lumpur.
Tel : +60-3-6279 7179
Fax : +60-3-6279 7857
E-mail : mdnasir@frim.gov.my, or
ismailp@frim.gov.my

Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Conference

Date : 17–22 August 2003
Venue : Kunming, Yunnan Province, China
Contact : Patrick B. Durst
Senior Forestry Officer
FAO/RAP
39 Pra Atit Road
Bangkok 10200
THAILAND
Fax : +66-2 697 4445
E-mail : patrick.durst@fao.org or
sunjh@panda.ioz.ac.cn

Seminar on Ecological Research Tropical Rain Forests

Date : 19–21 August 2003
Venue : Seremban, Malaysia
Contact : Dr. Nur Supardi Md. Noor/
Siti Aisah Shamsuddin
Seminar Secretariat
Forest Environment Division
Forest Research Institute Malaysia
Kepong, 52109 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia
Tel : +603 6279 7267/7261
Fax : +603 6279 7858
E-mail : 3dpasoh@nt1.frim.gov.my

Council on Forest Engineering 26th Annual Meeting: Forest Operations Among Competing Forest Uses

Date : 7–10 September 2003
Venue : Bar Harbor, Maine, USA
Contact : Council on Forest Engineering,
620 SW 4th Street,
Corvallis, OR 97333, USA
Tel : + 1-541-754 7558
Fax : + 1-541-754 7559
E-mail : office@cofe.org

Applications of Statistics, Information Systems and Computers in Natural Resources Monitoring and Management

Date : 8–12 September 2003
Venue : National Taiwan University, Taipei,
Taiwan
Contact : Biing T. Guan
Department of Forestry
National Taiwan University, Taiwan
Tel : +886 2 2362 6942
Fax : +886 2 2363 9247
E-mail : btguan@research.ntu.edu.tw

XII World Forestry Congress

Date : 21–28 September 2003
Venue : Quebec City, Canada.
Contact : XII World Forestry Congress,
PO Box 7275,
Charlesbourg,
Quebec G1G 5E5, Canada;
Tel : +418 694 2424
Fax : +418 694 9922
E-mail : sec-gen@wfc2003.org
Web : www.wfc2003.org

Quality Timber Products of Teak From Sustainable Forest Management

Date : 2–5 December 2003
Venue : Peechi, Kerala, India
Contact : Dr. K. M. Bhat
Convener, International Teak Conference
2003
Kerala Forest Research Institute
Peechi 680 653, Thrissur District
Kerala State, India
Tel : +91-487-699 037, 699 061, 699 064
Fax : +91-487-699 249

XXII IUFRO World Congress

Date : 8–13 August 2005
Venue : Brisbane, Australia.
Contact : Dr. Russell Haines
Queensland Forestry Research Institute,
PO Box 631, Indooroopilly 4068,
Australia;
Tel : +61-7-3896 9714
Fax : +61-7-3896 9628
Email : hainesr@qfri1.se2.dpi.qld.gov.au;
Web : <http://iufro.boku.ac.at>

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 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

Tel: (6) 03 6272 2516

Fax (6) 03 6277 3249

e-mail: secretariat@apafri.org

website: www.apafri.org

Acknowledgements

APAFRI extends its thanks to the following for their support:

Financial Contributions:

- ❖ ACIAR (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research)
- ❖ CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency)
- ❖ The Netherlands-FAO Regional Project FORSPA
- ❖ USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Forest Service
- ❖ GTZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit)

Contributions in kind:

- ❖ Forest Research Institute Malaysia

ASIA PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS



APAFRI

Secretariat

Forest Research Institute Malaysia
Kepong
52109 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

Tel : (6) 03 6272 2516
Fax : (6) 03 6277 3249

E-Mail: secretariat@apafri.org
website: www.apafri.org

stamp

**PRINTED MATTER
AIR MAIL**