

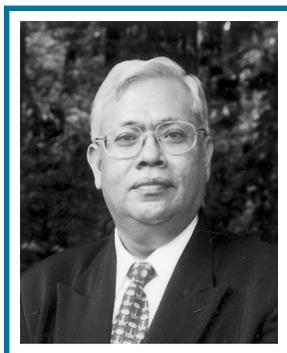


## The Chairman's Message

Greetings to all our colleagues in the Asia Pacific region! Once again I take this privilege to pen a few words for the foreword of this edition of our newsletter. Over these last six months or so, I am proud to report that APAFRI has been keeping itself very busy through its various activities. At the recently concluded 20th Asia Pacific Forestry Commission Meeting in Fiji, APAFRI had an opportunity to play a crucial role. APAFRI assisted in putting together the pre-session workshop on 'Implementing IPF/IFF Proposals for Action through National Forest Programmes: Strategies, Initiatives and Tools' and with the funds secured through FAO, Bangkok, we sponsored 15 participants from the region to this workshop which was held from 16–17 April. All these participants also stayed on to attend the APFC session proper during the following week. APAFRI delivered a statement on behalf of IUFRO as a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) during the opening of this workshop. Dr Sim Heok-Choh, who represented APAFRI at the meeting, also gave a presentation in an open forum during the session meeting to introduce APAFRI's activities.

I have to state here with a heavy heart that thus far, distance has constrained APAFRI to effectively extend its services and activities to our members in the island nations within South Pacific. The APAFRI Secretariat, during the next few months, I anticipate, would follow-up to strengthen contacts with these island nations. Besides further strengthening our relationships with existing members in that sub region, the Secretariat would also initiate the establishment of contacts with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). In the near future, I hope more activities and programmes could be jointly developed for these nations. With the strengthened relationship, APAFRI could then be closer to achieving the goal of becoming the *Gateway to Asia Pacific*.

A major function under the Memorandum of Understanding with IUFRO, APAFRI as the Asia Pacific Chapter of IUFRO, is to assist IUFRO in its activities in the region. Extending from this, the Executive Director of APAFRI, Dr. Sim Heok-Choh, has recently been appointed as the Asia Pacific Coordinator of IUFRO's



Special Programme for Developing Countries (IUFRO-SPDC). With this appointment, APAFRI shall assume more responsibilities, including further enhancing IUFRO-SPDC's visibility and effectiveness in supporting capacity building activities in the Asia Pacific.

Another recent development in the APAFRI Secretariat is the hosting of the Secretariat of Asia Pacific Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN). With technical assistance from the International Plant

Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), the Secretariat had been established in the middle of last year as endorsed by an Inception Workshop held in Kuala Lumpur, 15–18 July 2003. A web site for this Secretariat, [www.apforgen.org](http://www.apforgen.org), has been registered, and although it is yet to be officially launched, it has been operational since early this year. The Secretariat has been busy seeking nomination of national coordinators from countries in the region, as well as printing and distributing promotional materials to attract the attentions of stakeholders.

APAFRI is a member driven association, the efficient functioning of OUR Association to provide better and more effective services that would benefit all the members, hinges on the active participation of all its members. A handful of members have been actively contributing to the nurturing of our Association, to them I would like to extend my sincere thanks and I hope to continuously receive their advices and guidance. At this juncture, I also would like to appeal to all the other members to also assist us in carrying OUR Association to greater heights. Ideas, suggestions and constructive criticisms are always welcome. With technical inputs from the members, the Secretariat, with its vast experiences and strengthened capability, could assist in mobilizing resources to provide more effective services to the members.

Before ending this message, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those agencies that have continued to support APAFRI's programmes and activities.

With best regards,

**Dato' Dr Abdul Razak Mohd Ali**  
Chairman, APAFRI  
June 2004

# APAFRI WELCOMES OUR 7<sup>TH</sup> ASSOCIATE MEMBER:

Dr K.V. Sankaran

**D**r K.V. Sankaran is a senior scientist in Forest Pathology at the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), India. He did his doctorate in mycology from the University of Calicut, in 1983. He was a Senior Research Assistant at the Indian Cardamom Research Institute before joining KFRI in 1982. In 1989, he was awarded the Commonwealth Fellowship to undergo training on taxonomy of agriculturally important fungi and bacteria at the International Mycological Institute, Kew, England. Dr Sankaran was awarded the Darwin Fellowship in Biosystematics by the UK Department of Environment during 1994–95 to do post-doctoral work on taxonomy of fungi at the CABI Bioscience, UK. He is associated with several major research programmes at KFRI dealing with biodiversity of fungi, ecology and control of weeds, mycorrhizal associations in forest trees, tree nutrition, etc. He was the project leader of a major

international collaborative project between CSIRO (Australia) and Kerala Forest Research Institute (funded by ACIAR, Australia) on improving productivity of eucalypt plantations in India and Australia. His other collaborative research efforts include studies on ecology and bio-control of weeds in the Western Ghats (with CABI Bioscience, UK) and silvicultural practices as an aid to enhance productivity of eucalypt plantations in India (with CIFOR, Indonesia). He is the author of over 70 research papers and one book.

Dr Sankaran can be contacted at:  
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Peechi-680 653  
Kerala, India.  
Tel: 91-487-2699 061  
Fax: 91-487-2699 249  
E-mail: sankaran@kfri.org

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## APFORGEN Update

**A** website, *apforgen.org*, has been registered, and has been operational since early 2004. The website is currently hosted by the APAFRI server located at the APAFRI Secretariat inside Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) campus. The components and contents have been progressively uploaded or linked and would be continuously enhanced and refined. Members are welcome to browse this web site, and send us your comments for further improvement.

The Secretariat has received nominations of the following persons as national coordinators:

Dr Bashir Ahmed Wani (Pakistan)  
Dr A.K. Mandal (India)  
Dr Nur Masripatin (Indonesia)  
Dr Lee Soon Leong (Malaysia)  
Dr Celso P. Diaz (Philippines)  
Mr Vichien Sumantakul (Thailand)  
Mr So Thea (Cambodia)

Dr Zheng Yongqi (China)  
Mr Chansamone Phangoudome (Lao PDR)  
Dr Nguyen Hoang Nghia (Vietnam)

A number of countries, which participated in the Inception Workshop last year, have yet to nominate their national coordinators. As has been suggested during the Inception Workshop, a Steering Committee comprising the national coordinators and a number of regional and international agencies, would need to be established and following this the first meeting should be held as soon as feasible to launch APFORGEN and set the operational agenda for the Programme. The Secretariat would therefore like to receive nominations from these countries as early as possible.

A brochure on APFORGEN has been designed and printed. The Secretariat has also initiated an Information Sheet series on selected forest trees.



The choice of species was determined from the responses to a questionnaire sent out in early December 2003, to the participants of the Inception Workshop. Invitations to prepare manuscripts for Information Sheets on selected tree species have been offered to individuals who responded. From this first round of invitations, three manuscripts have been edited and the Information Sheets based on these three manuscripts have been printed. Copies of the brochure and Information Sheets have been sent to the agencies represented at the Inception Meeting, as well as individuals and agencies on the mailing lists of APAFRI and IPGRI. For copies please contact the APFORGEN Secretariat ([secretariat@apforgen.org](mailto:secretariat@apforgen.org)).

Proceedings of the Inception Workshop held from 15–18 July 2003 in Kuala Lumpur, comprising country reports and records of the discussions and recommendations, has been published. Copies of this proceedings have been sent out to the workshop participants. If you were a participant of this workshop, please notify us if you still have not received your copy by the end of August. If you have not participated at this workshop, but would like to have a copy, please place your order through our website ([www.apforgen.org](http://www.apforgen.org)) or contact the Secretariat ([secretariat@apforgen.org](mailto:secretariat@apforgen.org)).

For more information on APFORGEN, please contact Dr. Sim Heok-Choh ([secretariat@apafri.org](mailto:secretariat@apafri.org)), Mr. Hong L.T. ([l.hong@cgiar.org](mailto:l.hong@cgiar.org)) or Mr. Tapio Luoma-aho ([t.luoma-aho@cgiar.org](mailto:t.luoma-aho@cgiar.org)), or write to the Secretariat ([secretariat@apforgen.org](mailto:secretariat@apforgen.org)).

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## NEW INFORMATION OFFICER

APAFRI welcomes Ms Syuqiyah Abul Hamid ([syuqiyah@apafri.org](mailto:syuqiyah@apafri.org)) who has joined the Secretariat as Information Officer starting 1 June 2004. Ms Syuqiyah will be responsible for all tasks related to information, communication, and web site maintenance and enhancement. A software engineering graduate from the University of Malaya, she would provide the much needed IT and computer support to the Secretariat.

## PROCEEDINGS OF WORKSHOP: FORESTS FOR POVERTY REDUCTION – CAN COMMUNITY FORESTRY MAKE MONEY?

Among the various forestry practices, community forestry is perhaps the closest to the rural communities and their greatest source of support. 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. New and innovative means have to be formulated so community forestry can indeed become a major source of income particularly to the marginalized communities. Sustainable management, marketing, processing, and value addition to forest products are some areas for further exploration. Poverty emanates mainly from lack of resources and opportunities. Community forestry would be ideal for the state to share resources with the poor, and at the same time bring about conservation of the environment and alleviate poverty. Whether we call it participatory forestry, joint forest management, social forestry, agroforestry or farm forestry, the state would not only transfer resources to the poor, but the management responsibilities as well. It is obvious that the changes in the technical and social levels have accelerated ahead, but the policy and legislation are ill-prepared to support such changes. These are some of the issues that were discussed at the workshop held at the Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing, China, from 1–2 September 2003.

This proceedings is a compilation of the experiences of many countries in the Asian region in implementing community forestry. It would provide valuable information for professionals to avoid reinventing the wheel or unnecessarily going through the learning phase.

If you were a participant of this workshop, please notify us if you still have not received your copy by the end of August. If you have not participated at this workshop, but would like to have a copy, please place your order through our website ([www.apafri.org](http://www.apafri.org)) or contact the Secretariat ([secretariat@apafri.org](mailto:secretariat@apafri.org)).

*Pre-APFC workshop on*  
**Implementing IPF/IFF Proposals for Action through National  
Forest Programmes: Strategies, Initiatives and Tools,**  
*16–17 April 2004, Nadi, Fiji*

**A**PAFRI assisted in organizing the pre-APFC workshop on *Implementing IPF/IFF Proposals for Action through National Forest Programmes: Strategies, Initiatives and Tools*, which was convened as scheduled on 16–17 April 2004 in Nadi, Fiji. It was held in conjunction with the Twentieth Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, which endorsed the report of the workshop. A total of 67 participants, from national forestry agencies, Collaborative Partnership on Forestry (CPF) members, other national and regional non-governmental organizations, and intergovernmental organizations, attended this two-day workshop.

The workshop was organized to strengthen national and regional initiatives towards sustainable forest management, especially through the development and implementation of national forest programmes. Mr. Thang Hooi Chiew, Deputy Director-General, Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia, in his keynote presentation traced the historical events that led to the establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF). He emphasized the importance of each country to design its own national approach to assess the 270 proposals for action of the IPF and IFF, and subsequently integrate the relevant actions into the national forest programme process or similar country policy frameworks and approaches. This would help address forest development in an integrated, holistic and participatory manner.

The following three issues were the themes of three working groups during the workshop: (i) stakeholder participation, (ii) cross-sectoral cooperation and (iii)

forests and poverty reduction. Case studies that reported the experiences of Australia and Indonesia in promoting and involving multi-stakeholder and public participation started off the discussion in Group 1. Participants from Vietnam and Bhutan presented their experiences in formulating forestry programmes with cross-sectoral cooperation in Group 2, and in Group 3, colleagues from India and China shared their views on understanding the linkages between forestry and poverty reduction strategies.

Overall, the participants described increasing efforts in the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action in the region, despite the limited capacity in many countries. Several countries, including Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Vanuatu, shared their experiences, providing a range of approaches to categorize, assess, prioritize and implement the relevant proposals. Participants recommended that countries should, for instance, develop procedures and modalities for effective stakeholder participation in the national forest programme process, including clearly identifying the roles of stakeholders and means to account for their inputs; establish high-level, cross-ministerial collaboration mechanisms; extend devolution of forest management from degraded forest areas to production forest areas; review methods of valuing forest goods and services; and promote organizational strength of the poor. They also recommended that FAO and other CPF members should continue to facilitate the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and assist countries in sharing experiences and building capacity for effective participation in international forest-related deliberations.

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## **GFIS ASIA**

**T**he Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) will organize the first training workshop for Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) in Asia for the ASEAN countries. This workshop, sponsored by CIFOR, will be conducted with technical

assistance from both CIFOR and IUFRO from 2–4 August 2004 in Kuala Lumpur. For more information, please contact Dr Abdul Rashid Ab Malek (rashid@frim.gov.my), Tel: 603-62797814, Fax: 603-62797863.

# ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION (APFC) TWENTIETH SESSION

The Twentieth Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) was held in Nadi, Fiji. Representatives from a record number of 29 member countries, together with observers from seven international organizations and five internal non-governmental organizations, participated in the session from 19–23 April 2004.

During the presentation on the overview of the forestry conditions and developments in the region, the Commission concluded that while member countries were making progress towards sustainable forest management, they should take further action to implement internationally agreed actions related to forests, especially the IPF/IFF proposals for action. FAO has been urged to expedite its efforts to help countries build capacity for sustainable forest management. Member countries and FAO are further urged to explore new avenues for obtaining finance for sustainable forest management. More collaboration among member countries in dealing with illegal logging and associated illegal trade of forest products is needed. FAO has therefore been urged to provide additional technical support to help member countries to control illegal logging and associated illegal trade, and to assess the costs and impacts of illegal logging. In acknowledging the importance of conserving biological resources effectively, FAO has been urged to continue promoting this as a priority to assist countries to achieve sustainable forest management.

In reviewing APFC and FAO-supported activities during the past two years, it has been urged that member countries, FAO and the National Forest Programme Facility to strengthen support for implementing national forest programmes. FAO has also been requested to continue efforts to enhance national capacity for conducting forest resource assessments, including assessment of tree resources outside forests. There is also a need to further providing support for the implementation of codes of practice and the application of improved forest harvesting. FAO, in collaboration with other CPF members, has also been urged to continue efforts to harmonize concepts, terminology and definitions used in assessing, monitoring and reporting on sustainable forest management.

The delegates acknowledged that it is crucial to continue raising awareness of the contributions that forests make to the environment, rural development, poverty alleviation and other economic sectors (such as tourism, water resource). Efforts are therefore required to ensure that sound scientific knowledge on the actual benefits provided by forests and trees must make readily available to policy- and other decision-makers. Information on available guidelines, for assessing the magnitude of environmental services provided by forests and the impacts and repercussions of unsustainable forest management and forest clearing, need to be freely distributed.

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## *International Conference on Multipurpose trees in the Tropics: assessment, growth and management* 22–25 November 2004, Jodhpur, India

Trees have the potential to restore degraded ecosystems, to provide food, medicines and other goods and render environmental services and socio-economic benefits and values. There are many examples of these *multipurpose tree species (MPTS)*. Many of these are an intricate part of the rural life in many regions of the world.

Despite rapid advances in information technology, communication and interaction is often inadequate between the researchers and the end users of the information they generate. Recognizing this gap, an international conference with the aim to bring together scientists, foresters and all other stakeholders from around the world to evaluate the status of assessment

techniques, genetic improvement, modeling and management of multipurpose trees. The conference aims to offer inter-disciplinary plenary sessions with invited papers and parallel sessions in different sections on specialized topics. The conference is open to all interested in or working with the management of/improvement in MPTS including trees of medicinal values.

APAFRI is honoured to be invited to jointly organize this conference which will be held at the Arid Forest Research Institute (AFRI) situated in the beautiful historic city of Jodhpur. For more information please contact: Dr V.P. Tewari, Tel: 91-291-2722588, Fax: 91-291-2722764, E-mail: vptewari@afri.res.in

# UPDATE ON ASEFOREP

The 5th ASEFOREP Annual Meeting was held at the Forestry Faculty, Bogor Agricultural University, Bogor, Indonesia, from 27–29 January 2004. Several issues were discussed, such as the transfer of credits and a memorandum of understanding for all the partners in the programme. The meeting provided opportunities for member institutions to discuss administrative details pertaining to student and staff exchanges.

The Asia-Europe Forestry Exchange Programme (ASEFOREP) is a programme supported by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), with the objective of promoting exchange among scholars, experts and academics in the various fields of forestry and natural resources. The programme is open to all academic and research institutions in ASEF member countries. Currently the following countries, together with the European Commission, are members of ASEF: Austria, Belgium, Brunei, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Netherlands, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom and Vietnam.

There were 31 students participated in the programme over the past four years. Twenty one were from Europe and the other 10 from Asia. The programme has also supported the exchange of nine lecturers, six from Europe and three from Asia during the same period.

As of January 2004, the following institutions and agencies are members of ASEFOREP:

- *Faculty of Forestry, University of Joensuu, Finland* (European coordinator)  
Prof. Dr Paavo Pelkonen  
(paavo.pelkonen@joensuu.fi)  
Ms Liisa Tahvanainen (silva.network@joensuu.fi)
- *Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI)* (Asian coordinator)  
Dr Sim Heok-Choh (sim@apafri.org)
- *Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)* (Funding organization)  
Zainal A. Mantaha (mantaha@asef.org)
- *University of Agricultural Sciences (BOKU), Austria*  
Dr Georg Gratzer (ggratzer@edv1.boku.ac.at)
- *Technical University Munich, Germany*  
Dr Heinz Utschig (Heinz.Utschig@lrz.tu-muenchen.de)  
Dr Peter Biber (Peter.Biber@lrz.tu-muenchen.de)

- *University of Florence, Italy*  
Dr Fabio Salbitano (Fabio.salbitano@unifi.it)
- *University of Lleida, Spain*  
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Dr Erik Sundström (Erik.Sundstrom@ssko.slu.se)
- *Georg-August-University of Göttingen, Germany*  
Prof. Dr Reiner Finkeldey (rfinkel@gwdg.de)
- *University of Helsinki, Finland*  
Ms Riikka Otsamo (riikka.otsamo@helsinki.fi)
- *Northeast Forestry University (NEFU), China*  
Prof. Dr Jingbo Jia (wildlife@public.hr.hl.cn)
- *The Northwest Sci-Tech University of Agriculture and Forestry, China*  
Dr Guangzhe Liu (guangzheliu@hotmail.com)
- *Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), Indonesia*  
Prof. Dr. Yusuf Sudo Hadi (yshadi@indo.net.id or dknfahutan@ipb.ac.id)
- *Hokkaido University Forests (HUF), Japan*  
Prof. Dr Takayoshi Koike  
(tkoike@exfor.agr.hokudai.ac.jp)
- *University Putra Malaysia (UPM), Malaysia*  
Prof. Dr Mohd Hamami Sahri  
(hamami@putra.upm.edu.my)  
Dr Wong Ee Ding (edwong@putra.upm.edu.my)
- *University Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Malaysia*  
Prof. Dr Aminuddin Mohamad  
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- *Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Malaysia*  
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- *University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB), Philippines*  
Prof. Dr Ramon A. Razal (cfnr@laguna.net)
- *Kasetsart University (KU), Thailand*  
Prof. Dr Suree Phumibhamon  
(fforsrb@yahoo.com; fforsrb@ku.ac.th)
- *Seoul National University (SNU), Korea*  
Prof. Dr. Yeo-Chang Youn (youn@snu.ac.kr)
- *Nong Lam University (NLU), Vietnam*  
Assoc. Prof. Dr Dang Dinh Boi  
(boilamnghip@hcm.fpt.vn)

For more information, contact APAFRI Secretariat (secretariat@apafri.org), or Ms Liisa Tahvanainen (silva.network@joensuu.fi), or visit [www.asef.org/aseforep](http://www.asef.org/aseforep)





# *The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Regional Forestry Programme – its role in promoting the sustainable use and management of forest and tree resources in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs)*

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), formerly the South Pacific Commission, is the oldest regional organisation in the Pacific. It was established in 1947 by six governments that administered territories in the Pacific namely Australia, France, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. With the exception of the Netherlands, the other countries continue to be members of SPC along with all the 22 island countries and territories of the Pacific.

The SPC serves the 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) through technical assistance, training and research. Its work covers a range of sectors including land resources, marine resources and socio-economic resources. The SPC Headquarters is in Noumea, New Caledonia, with a regional office in Suva, Fiji, and a number of staff based in other countries and territories. Having recognized and acknowledging the role and importance of forests and trees to sustainable livelihoods of peoples in the region, SPC established the Regional Forestry Programme as one of its core programmes within its Land Resources Division in 2000. The Division, comprising the agriculture and forestry programmes, is based in Suva, Fiji, but with field offices in a number of countries.

## **SPC Regional Forestry Programme**

The need for a regional forestry programme to provide assistance and support to the Pacific Island countries and territories to enhance the contribution of their forests and trees sectors to their national economies was recognised way back in the 1980's which resulted in the establishment of a 3-year UNDP/FAO South Pacific Forestry Development Programme (RAS/86/036) in 1988. This was later followed by a second phase from 1992-96. In 1997 to 1999 under the UNDP and AusAid funding, the regional project was continued with FAO and SPC acting as the implementing and executing agencies respectively. Subsequently in 2000, SPC took over

the programme and established it as one of its core programmes within its Land Resources Division.

The SPC Regional Forestry Programme has two components:

- Forests and Trees Programme, funded mainly by AusAID, and the
- SPC/GTZ-Pacific German Regional Forestry Project (PGRFP), funded by the German Government

The Forests and Trees Programme covers the whole of the 22 SPC member PICTs, while the PGRFP covers eight Pacific island countries. The two, however, work closely together, complementing each other's expertise and funds for the benefit of all PICTs.

In early 2000, the programme, in consultation with Pacific Islands Heads of Forestry (HoF), and within the framework of the SPC Corporate Plan 1999-2003, developed a Regional Forestry Strategic Plan 2001-2004. The scope and parameters of the strategic plan reflect issues facing the region's forestry sector and identify some key capacity building priorities that are consistent or complementary to those determined at the national level. In brief the Strategic Plan aims to strengthen national capacities, promote and improve application of multiple land-use systems, promote community awareness and participation in sustainable forest management and sustainable utilization of forest products, and provide focal point for advocacy, collaboration, information dissemination and resource mobilization. There are three main areas of focus: sustainable forest management, sustainable utilization of forest products and agroforestry.

## **Importance of regional collaboration and networks**

With scarce resources, limited capacities, and geographical distribution of PICTs in the region, it is important that all concerned parties assist and work together towards sustainable management and development of the region's forest and tree resources.

In line with the above, the SPC Regional Forestry Strategic Plan recognizes that the Programme needs to work with other programmes, projects and donors in improving the capacities of its member countries and territories to manage and use their forest and tree resources in a sustainable manner. The Plan therefore does not only focus on what the SPC plans to implement in PICTs as it also provides a framework for collaboration and cooperation with other interested organizations, programmes and projects working the region's forests and trees sector. To facilitate this, the Programme acts as a focal point for advocacy, collaboration, information dissemination, and resource mobilization.

In addition to the above, within the SPC Land Resources Division itself, a number of changes are already taking place, focusing on the closer integration of agriculture and forestry activities, aiming at the effective use of resources and the provision of better services for the benefit of all PICTs.

### **Existing collaborating mechanisms**

#### *The Heads of Forestry Meetings*

Up to the 2003 the Heads of Forestry Meetings has been a very useful regional forum where heads of forestry from the 22 member countries gather together every second year to discuss and debate forestry issues affecting regional governments at the national and regional level. The HoF Meetings also brings together other players within the forestry sector such as the NGOs and donor agencies, which also shared their views on certain critical forestry issues and join in the discussions and debates. In past years the HoF has expressed concerns on several critical issues, which have influenced political decisions at national and regional level. The regional code of logging practice for example, developed in the mid 1990s to minimize deforestation and bad logging practices is a direct result of such influence by the HoF. Based on the regional code, several countries have developed their own codes of logging practice. Despite its positive role, the HoF however, is not institutionalized therefore its decisions are not legally binding. This could change with the new combined Heads of Agriculture/Forestry meeting in September this year which will be preceded by a 2-day Ministers' meeting. The Ministers' meeting could provide the necessary political backing that was usually lacking in the resolutions of past agriculture and forestry technical meetings.

#### *Country partnerships*

The involvement of participating countries in providing counterpart staff and the necessary local support to directly carry out the programme activities is strongly advocated and supported. In 2001, for example, timber utilization experts from the Fiji Forestry Department provided training for timber inspectors from Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu, at their timber research and training station at Nasinu, Suva. SPC, AusAid and FAO provide funding for this partnership. Similarly in 2003, the Fiji Forestry Department, with funding and technical support from the Programme, assisted Vanuatu in the drafting of its first timber grading standards.

#### *Co-funding arrangements*

The SPC Programme also seeks out additional resources from other donor agencies on a cost sharing basis wherever possible, to implement programme activities through development and submission of project proposals. In 2001 the Programme in partnership with FAO and SPRIG, collaborated and co-funded the Kiribati Pandanus Project, a project assessing the best local pandanus varieties and conserving their genetic pool. This work in Kiribati has since been extended to the other islands in the group with funding from SPC, through its Forestry and Agriculture Programmes.

#### *Appropriate and wise use of technical experts (within the region)*

The Programme where appropriate and as a means to minimize costs and avoid duplicating efforts, secures and utilises technically skilled resource persons from other collaborating programmes and technical agencies to carry out in-country or regional activities. Several training workshops on watershed management, mangrove management and agroforestry in the region have been conducted using experts from the USDA Forest Service and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.

#### *Network support work*

The Programme also supports and assists other programmes, organizations and agencies, in implementing initiatives that support effective management of forest, tree and plant resources, and others that are in line with the Programme's goal of national capacity building.

### **Way forward**

Given that the resources available for the implementation of the programme activities are limited, its success in satisfactorily meeting its

annual work plans will be determined by its ability to effectively collaborate and work together in partnership with other concerned parties. To this end, the Programme's role in providing a focal point for collaboration, coordination and implementation with associated programmes and other regionally

based initiatives will be vital in ensuring the effective application of resources in pursuing the goal of improved management and use of forest, tree and plant resources in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

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## **FOREST POLICY SEMINAR FOR PRACTITIONERS AND FOREST SCIENTISTS INTERNATIONAL FOREST-RELATED INITIATIVES AND AGREEMENTS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES**

Science and technology play an important role for informed debate and decision-making in international and national forest policy processes. In order to adequately integrate scientific knowledge and research results into these processes active participation of scientists is required. National forest programmes provide an appropriate platform for intensive dialogue and mutual social learning among various forest stakeholders including forest scientists.

Within its capacity building programme IUFRO-SPDC places particular emphasis on the interface between science and policy/management. Mixed participation of practitioners and researchers in seminars and workshops is considered an effective means to promote joint recognition of and debate on complex forest-related development problems.

A series of seminars has been planned primarily to deal with international policy processes and their integration into national forest programmes. The implications for information and knowledge management as well as contribution of science will also be discussed. These seminars are expected to have the following results:

- (a) Key staff members of government agencies, including national/provincial research institutions, are informed on major developments and issues concerning global environment and forest-related initiatives.
- (b) Participants have a clearer understanding on the implications and opportunities of international forest-related initiatives to member countries and their respective obligations.
- (c) Effective ways are identified to integrate international forest-related initiatives and processes

- in the individual national forest programmes.
- (d) Key elements of scientific knowledge and effective ways of interaction between science and practice are identified that are necessary to successfully meet national and international policy requirements.

One of these seminars, planned for September/October this year, is targeted at staff of government agencies from ASEAN member countries, particularly decision-makers at the policy level, forest planners and senior scientists from institutions with a national or sub-national mandate in forest research. The proposed content and programme of this seminar are as follows:

- International forest regime (details on forest policy process in IPF/IFF, international Arrangement on Forests UNFF/CPF, international forest-related conventions and instruments).
- The national forest programme, institutional landscape and its relation to international level processes.
- ODA, international forest-related organisations, their mandate and relation to the national forest programme
- Sector-wide approaches, forest partnership arrangements (including scientific cooperation and information networking) at various levels as instruments to enhance national forest programmes
- National forest sector financing strategies and related mechanisms and international instruments (CDM, GEF, Debt for nature swaps, national forest/environment funds, etc.).

For more information, contact Dr Michael Kleine, IUFRO-SPDC Coordinator, [kleine@iufro.org](mailto:kleine@iufro.org).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **XXII International Congress of Entomology**

Date : 15–21 August 2004  
Venue : Brisbane, Australia  
Contact : Leanne Lofgren  
Carillon Conference Management Pty  
Ltd PO Box 177  
Red Hill, QLD 4059, Australia  
Tel : +61-7-3368 2644  
Fax : +61-7-3369 3731  
Email : Ice2004@ccm.com.au or  
leanne@ccm.com.au  
Web : www.ice2004.org

## **World Conference on Ecological Restoration**

Date : 24–26 August 2004  
Venue : Victoria, British Columbia, Canada  
Contact : Robert Seaton, SER 2004 Conference  
Chair Silvicultural Analyst  
Brinkman & Associates  
Reforestation Ltd, 520 Sharpe St  
New Westminster, BC, Canada  
Tel : +1-604-521 7771  
Fax : +1-604-520 1968  
Email : Robert\_seaton@brinkman.ca  
Web : www.ser.org

## **Ad hoc Expert Group Consideration with a View to Recommending the Parameters of a Mandate for Developing a Legal Framework on all Types of Forest**

Date : 6–10 September 2004  
Venue : New York, USA  
Contact : Ms Luz Aragon  
Tel : +1-212-963 1393  
Fax : +1-212-963 4260  
Email : www.un.org/esa/forests

## **Sixth International Flora Malesiana Symposium**

Date : 20–24 September 2004  
Venue : Los Banos, Philippines  
Contact : Dr Edwino S. Fernando  
Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems  
University of Philippines Los Banos Laguna  
Philippines  
Tel : +63-49-536 3572  
Email : secretariat@floramalesiana6.ph  
Web : www.floramalesiana6.ph

## **International Workshop on Climate Change and the Forest Sector: Clean Development Mechanism in Tropical Countries**

Date : 21–23 September 2004  
Venue : Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Contact : Prof. Dr Yeo-Chang Youn  
Department of Forest Resources  
Silim-dong san 56-1, Gwanak-ku  
151-742, Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Tel : +82-2-884 754  
Fax : +82-2-875 476  
Email : youn@snu.ac.kr  
Web : itto.or.jp

## **Fourth International Crop Science Congress in Conjunction with the Fifth Asia Crop Sciences Congress and the Twelfth Australian Agronomy Conference**

Date : 26 September–1 October 2004  
Venue : Brisbane, Queensland, Australia  
Contact : Congress Managers  
11/97 Castlemaine Street  
P.O. Box 1280  
Milton QLD 4064, Australia  
Tel : +61-7-3858 3554  
Fax : +61-7-3858 5583 / 3369 1512  
Email : 4icsco4@im.com.au  
Web : www.cropsciences2004.com

## **IUFRO International Workshop: Landscape Ecology 2004–Conservation and Management of Fragmented Forest Landscapes**

Date : 25–28 October 2004  
Venue : Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan.  
Contact : IUFRO Landscape Ecology Workshop  
Office Environmental Planning Laboratory  
Dept. of Forest Management  
Forestry and Forest Products Research  
Institute, Tsukuba-Norin-Kenkyu-Danchinai  
Ibaraki 305-8687, Japan.  
Email : landscape@ffpri.affrc.go.jp

## **Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES**

Date : 2–14 October 2004  
Venue : Bangkok, Thailand  
Contact : Willem Wijnstekers  
Convention on International Trade in  
Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora  
Tel : +41-22-917 8125  
Fax : +41-22-797 3417  
Email : cites@unep.ch  
Web : www.cites.org

### **Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding in the Age of Genomics: Progress and Future**

Date : 1–5 November 2004  
Venue : Charleston, South Carolina, USA  
Contact : Becky Townsend  
Forestry Educational Outreach Programme  
NC State University  
P.O. Box 8003, Raleigh, NC 27695, USA  
Tel : +1-919-515 9563  
Fax : +1-919-515 6883  
Email : becky\_townsend@ncsu.edu

### **International Symposium on Ecological Restoration**

Date : 17–21 November 2004  
Venue : Santa Clara City, Cuba  
Contact : Grecia Montalvo  
Empresa Nacional para la  
Proteccion de La Flora y la Fauna  
Carretera Central km 306  
Banda Placetas  
Santa Clara, Villa Clara Cp:50 100  
Fax : +53-42-208430  
Email : sisre@ccb.civc.inf.cu  
Email : grecia\_montalvo@yahoo.es

### **Third IUCN World Conservation Congress**

Date : 17–25 November 2004  
Venue : Bangkok, Thailand  
Contact : Ursula Hiltbrunner, IUCN  
The world Conservation Union  
28 rue Mauvernay, CH-1196 Gland  
Switzerland  
Tel : +41-22-999 0232  
Fax : +41-22-999 0020  
Email : ursula.hiltbrunner@iucn.org  
Web : www.iucn.org

### **International Conference on Multipurpose Trees in Tropics: Assessment, Growth and Management**

Date : 22–25 November 2004  
Venue : Jodhpur, India  
Contact : Dr V.P Tewari  
Tel : +91-291-272 2588  
Fax : +91-291-272 2764  
Email : vptewari@afri.res.in

### **Third International Symposium on Surfacing and Finishing of Wood**

Date : 24–26 November 2004  
Venue : Kyoto, Japan  
Contact : Dr Makoto Kiguchi  
Forestry and Forest Products Research  
Institute

Incorporated Administrative Agency  
1 Matsunosato, Tsukuba  
Ibaraki 305-8687, Japan

Tel : +81-29-873 3211  
Fax : +81-29-874 3720  
Email : surface2004@ffpri.affrc.go.jp

### **Tenth Session of the Conference Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Date : 6–17 December 2004  
Venue : Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Contact : UNFCCC Secretariat, PO Box  
260124, D-53153, Bonn, Germany  
Tel : +49-228-815 1000  
Fax : +49-228-815 1999  
Email : secretariat@unfccc.int  
Web : www.unfccc.int

### **Forest Biotechnology Workshop 2004– Biotechnology Towards Rainforest Conservation**

Date : 14–17 December 2004  
Venue : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Contact : Dr. Norwati Mohamad  
Forest Research Institute Malaysia  
Kepong, 52109 Kuala Lumpur  
Tel : +603-6279 7144  
Fax : +603-6280 4614  
Email : norwati@frim.gov.my  
Web : www.frim.gov.my

### **17<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Forestry Conference: Forestry's Contribution to Poverty Reduction.**

Date : 28 February–5 March 2005  
Venue : Colombo, Sri Lanka  
Contact : Libby Jones  
Tel : +44-131-314 6137  
Fax : +44-131-334 0442  
Email : forlib@sltnet.lk  
Email : Libby.jones@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

### **XXII IUFRO World Congress–Forests in Balance: Linking Tradition and Technology**

Date : 8–13 August 2005  
Venue : Brisbane, Australia  
Contact : Congress Managers  
PO Box 164, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006  
Australia; Level 2,  
15 Wren St, Bowen Hills QLD  
4006, Australia  
Tel : +61-7-3854 1611  
Fax : +61-7-3854 1507  
Email : iufro2005@ozaccom.com.au  
Web : www.iufro2005.com

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

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**ASIA PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**



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