



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

These past six months have been rather hectic for APAFRI. In February, APAFRI, with financial support from the USDA Forest Service, organized a workshop on coconut beetles together with FAO and Nong Lam University in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. This workshop was an activity of the Asia Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN), and was its second workshop since its launching during the Twentieth Session of Asia Pacific Forest Commission in Fiji last April. Coconut beetle is a pest attacking not only coconut palms but also oil palms, as well as many of the ornamental palms that have been imported by countries in the region for urban greening and landscaping. The workshop participants exchanged experiences and shared information, hoping to sufficiently raise awareness towards preventing the further spread of this pest.

Immediately after this workshop, I, accompanied by the Executive Director, attended the 17th Commonwealth Forestry Conference in Colombo. APAFRI was given a slot in the programme, immediately after the keynote address by the Assistant Director-General of Forest Department FAO, M. Hosny El-Lakany, on the first day, and I took the opportunity to explain to the gathering activities and programmes of APAFRI. APAFRI had also put up display of its publications and distributed various pamphlets and brochures to increase its visibility among those present there.

In April, APAFRI, with financial support from USDA Forest Service again, conducted a training course on *Health of Tropical Forest Trees*. This is one of the rare



courses, if not the first, on the subject of tree diseases conducted in the Southeast Asian region. The training course attracted a few dozen applicants, but we could only accept 16, as this was the maximum beyond which the training may not be effective. Besides providing the financial support, USDA Forest Service also dispatched two senior pathologists, Dr John Kliejunas and Dr

Cynthia Ash, to assist Dr Lee Su See, Senior Pathologist FRIM, in conducting this course. We have received very positive feedbacks from the attendees, and we would consider organizing similar training courses when funds become available.

APAFRI Secretariat has been aggressively seeking funding for the proposed 8th Round Table Conference on Dipterocarps since last year. A proposal submitted to ITTO last June, was amended and resubmitted in time for ITTO's December 2004 Council Meeting. However, no funding has been pledged for this proposal. Meanwhile, preparation of this conference proceeded with the issuing of the first announcement. The conference has been scheduled from 15-17 November 2005, and it will be hosted by the Forest Science Institute Vietnam, in Ho Chi Minh City. Another proposal has since then been submitted, this time to the Forest Sector Support Programme (FSSP) Vietnam which is supported by a consortium of donor agencies. While waiting for the response from FSSP, we have received encouraging news from the ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Project (AKECOP). AKECOP has confirmed that it would sponsor the participation of several researchers from the ASEAN

countries active in its activities relevant to the theme of this conference. The coming months would see the preparation stepping up with the preliminary selection of presentations, choosing a venue, and finalizing a number of details for the issuing of the second announcement.

APAFRI has, since last June, earnestly been building up a Directory of Asia Pacific Forestry Researchers. USDA Forest Service has provided the initial funding for this undertaking. This directory contains information on forestry researchers active in the region, and the online version was launched in April 2005. Users can search researchers' information by nationality or specialization. The directory has more than 300 entries currently, and the number is continuously increasing, albeit slower than expected. Campaigns by sending out pamphlets by mailing and distribution at meetings and workshops, as well as electronically using e-mails, will be stepped up in the coming months to get more researchers to contribute to this directory.

As a follow-up to a meeting for the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN) national coordinators' from the Southeast Asian countries, the APFORGEN Secretariat, currently hosted by APAFRI, has organized a similar meeting for the national coordinators from the South Asian countries of Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) provided the major portion of the funds to hold this meeting, which was convened in Colombo from 13-14 June 2005. The meeting provided opportunities for sharing of experiences

and information on forest genetic conservation and management among the South Asian nations.

APAFRI has reserved a slot to hold a satellite meeting during the coming IUFRO World Congress in Brisbane, 8-13 August 2005. The Executive Committee would like to take this opportunity to hold its annual meeting, and the staff members of all APAFRI member institutions attending the congress are welcome to attend. Among the agenda, the meeting would discuss several pertinent issues, including identifying a host for the next General Assembly to be held in 2006, nomination of new executive committee members, and inviting nominations for the Dr. Y.S. Rao's Award.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Gary Man, USDA Forest Service International Programme, for arranging three grants over the past 12 months. These were the only contributions that APAFRI has received during the past 12 months, besides the regular contribution from FRIM. While the APAFRI Secretariat would continue to seek funding opportunities from other sources, we hope that the USDA Forest Service would continue with its support for conducting more activities and events for our members in the coming months.

With best regards,

Dato' Dr. Abdul Razak Mohd Ali
Chairman, APAFRI
June 2005

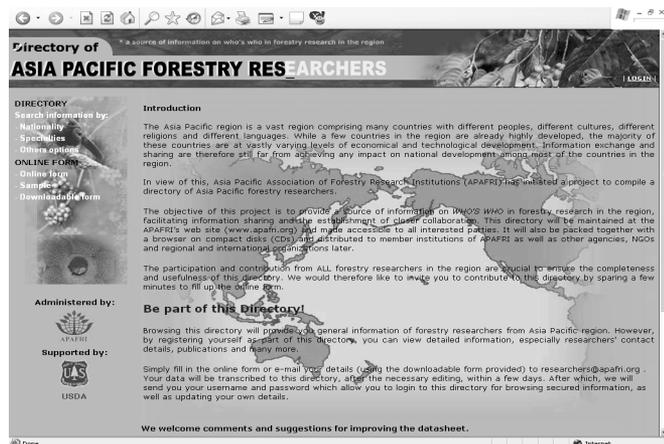
APAFRI WEBSITE

Presentations and other documents of the Asia Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) Workshop, 22-25 Feb 2005, are now available on APAFRI website. While you browse this page, you will notice a few minor changes in the way we present the downloadable documents. Unlike before, we list all related document in more manageable list following the

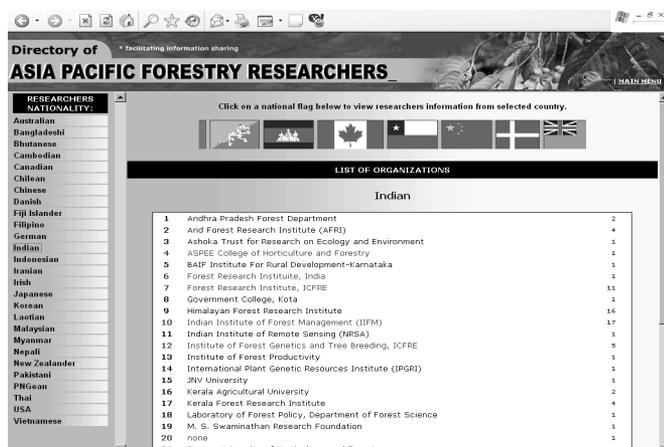
programme of the workshop. Visitors will be able to choose their preferred document or presentation and download it in the available format (PowerPoint Presentation (.ppt) or MSWord documents (.doc)). All these are the unedited versions from the authors. You could also download the whole lot in a single zipped file (.zip) with a single click at the link located at the top of the page.

DIRECTORY OF ASIA PACIFIC FORESTRY RESEARCHERS

The online version of the Directory of Asia Pacific Forestry Researchers is now available at www.apafri.org/mod/researcher.htm. In line with the goal to provide a source of **who's who** in forestry research in the region, APAFRI with financial support from USDA Forest Service, has designed this site to make it easy for users to find researchers' information they need quickly and easily. For the time being, this directory contains information on a few hundreds researchers from 118 forestry institutions/organizations in 27 countries. The number continues to increase, albeit slower than desired. We would continuously step up campaigns to attract more researchers active in the region to contribute to this directory.

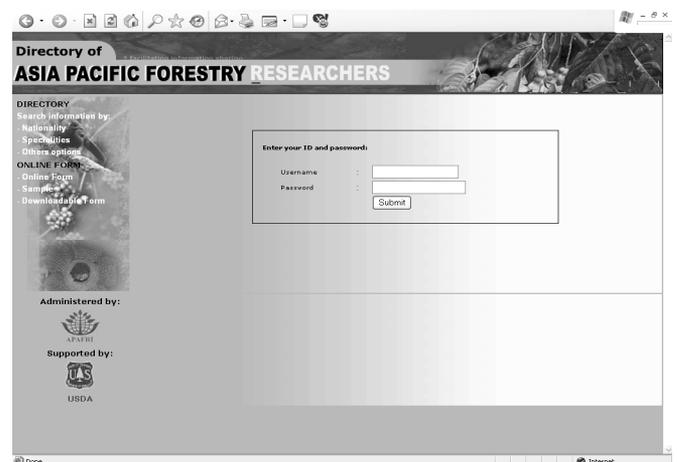


Currently, this newly developed directory offers users access to the information by selecting one of the three options: nationality, specialties, and a combination of both. When one clicks on the 'Nationality' option, a list of nationalities pops up in the left frame, and a row of national flags runs across the upper portion of the page. Selecting a nationality from the list, or clicking at one of the national flags, will bring up a list of institutions/organizations in that country; or a list of all researchers in that country or with that nationality.



When submitting information, each research could list his/her specialization by selecting up to three specialties from the current list of 66 suggested specialties in forestry. This list will be continuously revised to suit the requirements of the users and contributors. By clicking the Specialty option, the list of specialties will pop up, and selecting from this list, one could list all researchers under the specified specialty.

Access to this directory is open to everyone. However, unless you have registered, you could only access the general portion of the directory. Registration is restricted to contributors at the moment. If you have sent your details to us, you would be automatically registered. A username and a password would be sent to you, and these would allow you to access the full directory, as well as allowing you to edit your own details. We welcome comments and suggestions to further improve this directory. For those who have already registered with this directory, you could place your comment or suggestion using the feature provided as you login to the system.



The participation and contribution from all forestry researchers in Asia Pacific region are crucial to ensure the completeness and therefore usefulness of this directory. We would therefore like to invite all forestry researchers active in the region to be part of this directory. Share this with your colleagues and urge them to send in their details by sparing just a few minutes to fill up the form online.

We would like to record our gratitude to Gary Man, USDA Forest Service International Programme, who has mooted the idea, shaped the initial concept, and arranged the financial support for this directory.

For further information, browse www.apafri.org/mod/researcher.htm or email us at researcher@apafri.org.

APFORGEN WEBSITE

APFORGEN Website is being updated continuously to respond to the needs and interests of the users. Over the past six months, some new materials and features have been added, especially in the APFORGEN Links page.

- *Literature links*
Those who are interested in finding more downloadable publications should explore the 'Literature Link', a new addition in APFORGEN Links that could lead to online publications that focus on interesting research articles recently published in various sources. All selected sources contain many must-read publications on forest genetic conservation and management. Most of these publications could be downloaded for free.
- *Tree species databases and factsheets online*
Lots of databases on tree species accessible via the links under 'Tree species databases and factsheets online'.
- *Useful tools, databases, etc*
Currently, there are 13 links which point to useful tools and databases for forestry researchers hosted by various international organizations such as FAO, IUCN, etc.

APFORGEN NATIONAL COORDINATORS

Sri Lanka has recently nominated Dr. N.D.R. Weerawardane, the Chief Research Officer of Forestry Research Institute, Sri Lanka, as its APFORGEN National Coordinator.

As for Bangladesh, Dr. Md. Ashraful Haque is the new APFORGEN National Coordinator, replacing Dr. Sk. Sirajul Islam who has retired recently. Dr. Md. Ashraful Haque is the current Director of Bangladesh Forest Research Institute.

APFORGEN National Coordinators and Focal Points contact details have been updated in the APFORGEN website (www.apforgen.org). *For more information, please contact APFORGEN Secretariat (secretariat@apforgen.org)*

APFORGEN SOUTH ASIA NATIONAL COORDINATORS' MEETING

13-14 June 2005
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Following the successful convening of the national coordinators' meeting for the Southeast Asian countries in 2004, a similar meeting was organized for the South Asian countries in Colombo, Sri Lanka. National coordinators from the five participating South Asian countries of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as staff members of APAFRI and IPGRI, attended the lively two-days discussion, which was officially opened by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Department Sri Lanka, Mr Sarath Fernando.

At the close of the meeting, the participants made the following recommendations:

1. Forest genetic resources (FGR) in each country are valuable national assets and governments

are urged to ensure their conservation and sustainable use.

2. Keeping in view the importance of FGR, countries may have to commit sufficient financial and manpower resources to carry out research and conservation activities.
3. Member countries are urged to develop effective partnerships with developed countries (wherever necessary) in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 15, ensuring access to and equitable benefit sharing of wealth through the use of these resources.
4. Quality control systems need to be put in place to ensure the availability and use of quality planting stock from certified sources, to increase the productivity of plantation forests to minimise pressure on natural forests.



5. APFORGEN to facilitate study tours and short-term training, including post-graduate training as a part of capacity building for the member countries.
6. To make communication more effective, the following activities need to be enhanced:
 - a) Establish linkages and improve coordination among the APFORGEN member countries
 - b) Facilitate the exchange of scientists, ideas, experience and expertise among member countries
 - c) Soliciting the support of IPGRI subregional offices for FGR programmes within the region
 - d) Each country to develop FGR information database. APFORGEN to act as coordinating body for exchange of information among member countries
 - e) National Coordinators to collect and document successful case studies demonstrating the potential value of FGR
7. APFORGEN to facilitate regional collaboration on issues of common interest, such as the *Dalbergia sissoo* dieback and any other problems of similar nature.
8. APFORGEN to facilitate germplasm exchange among participating countries, and promote trade in forest reproductive materials.
9. Member countries are encouraged to develop (if not already available) and use C&I for sustainable management of FGR.
10. The draft Action Plan developed in the meeting is to guide national coordinators in the region to monitor and coordinate activities of national FGR programmes in collaboration with the technical support of APFORGEN, IPGRI and APAFRI. The role of national coordinators is to revise the Action Plans with the participation of relevant National Stakeholders, identify priority actions and provide feedback to the APFORGEN Secretariat.
11. The APFORGEN Secretariat will explore ways to pursue support for FGR work in general and APFORGEN activities from the relevant forums at national, regional and international levels such as SAARC, ASEAN (ASOF/AMAF), COFO/FAO, etc.

More information available on APFORGEN website: www.apforgen.org.

ASIA-PACIFIC FOREST INVASIVE SPECIES NETWORK WORKSHOP:

DEVELOPING AN ASIA-PACIFIC STRATEGY FOR FOREST INVASIVE SPECIES: THE COCONUT BEETLE PROBLEM - BRIDGING AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

22-25 February 2005
Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

Recognizing the dangers of invasive species in the sustainable management of forests in Asia and the Pacific, the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) was established at the 20th Asia-Pacific Forest Commission Session in Fiji. The Network's substantive activities began with a workshop on the development of an Asia-Pacific Regional Strategy for *Eucalyptus* rust in October 2004.

Recently, the Network has noted with concern the rapid spread of an invasive species, *Brontispa longissima* (coconut leaf beetle) in Asia. Many member countries of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) have been hard hit by outbreaks of the coconut leaf beetle. An Expert Consultation on Coconut Beetle Outbreak in Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC)

Member Countries, organized in October 2004 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (FAO RAP), recommended further regional collaboration in combating coconut beetle problem.

The experiences and successes of handling the outbreaks of *B. longissima* provide valuable lessons for multidisciplinary approaches to managing invasive species whether in agriculture or forestry. It is increasingly evident that activities, whether with forestry or agriculture, are intimately connected and have profound effects on each other – whether with the movement of invasive species into an area, or solutions to the problems. This reinforces the view that such problems cannot be solved without the active collaboration of both sectors. With this as the



background, APFISN together with the USDA Forest Service, FAO, APAFRI and Nong Lam University of Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, have jointly organized this workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was to share experiences of forestry and agriculture specialists in handling invasive species and to develop an Asia-Pacific strategy to work in a multi-disciplinary manner to address invasive species management.

The workshop was successfully organized, 22–25 February 2005, in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. APAFRI, with funding from USDA Forest Service, had sponsored 11 participants, three from China, and one each from Cambodia, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, CABI and the Asia Pacific Coconut Community (APCC).



The four-day workshop included a one-day field trip to the Ben Tze Province at the Mekong Delta. Participants visited a laboratory which has a fairly good collection of beetle samples, and also observed the infestation of beetles in a coconut plantation.

Appreciating that national governments and international agencies should work together towards developing a comprehensive programme for an ecologically sound integrated pest management (IPM) programme, and further recognizing that this forum will provide a platform to co-ordinate efforts for the sharing of experiences and consolidate the achievements made to date, the workshop recommended that further efforts be made to strengthen the taxonomy of the hispine beetle found on palms and enhance the exploration for and use of microbial agents in a sustainable manner. The workshop also noted that while there is a need to speed up implementation of classical biological control, there is an urgent need to address the needs according to the three situations presented by the incidence of this coconut leaf beetle and hence

the type of interventions:

1. The need to carry out classical control quickly in areas where the beetle is already present;
2. The need for containment of the beetle when it is first detected as an invasive species;
3. The provision of appropriate information to countries facing the threat of being invaded so that quarantine services can be better prepared to prevent arrival of the invasive species.



In this respect, it is suggested that centres of excellence for the management of palm hispine beetles be planned and established to enhance the skills and capabilities of national scientists to meet the challenges of invasive species. It is further clarified that this does not mean maintaining a culture of the biological control agents but rather have centres that are able and ready to assist countries that request for such biological control agents. Such activities will greatly reflect the strength of the network.

During a plenary discussion, participants concluded that while there is a wealth of information available with the two major sectors agriculture and forestry, the information would need to be integrated and put into effective use in the larger interest of understanding and utilization of invasive species. It was further felt that the other related sectors like trade, fishery, health, tourism, etc., are also to be involved while looking at the invasive species in seclusion. It was also felt that governments should encourage the exchange of experts in forestry and agriculture to solve cross-sectoral problems. In line with the concept and nature of invasive alien species (IAS), classical biological control options of IAS should receive serious consideration when developing sustainable control measures for long-term suppression of these pests, either in agriculture or forestry.

Details, as well as the papers and presentation materials, of this workshop are available on the web site of APAFRI, www.apafri.org.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH BAMBOO-BASED DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA: POLICIES, STAKEHOLDERS AND SUPPLY CHAINS.

18-28 April 2005,
Lin'an and Anji, Zhejiang Province, China

This special workshop on poverty eradication via bamboo planting, processing and marketing was attended by 22 participants from Myanmar, India, Tanzania, Columbia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Kenya, Nepal and India.

The workshop placed much emphasis on field visits to farms and processing mills, provided opportunities allowing participants to interact with the various stakeholders. This proved to be very useful and effective as we were able to understand better how commercial cultivation and utilization of bamboo have since the liberalization of the Chinese economy in early 1980s, transformed rural Chinese households to get out the vicious circle of poverty. This is a very impressive model of rural development from which other countries could learn from the experience.

A number of reasons were given for the success of the bamboo industry in uplifting rural livelihood in China. These include:

New technologies and new products development, research and extension

Extensive research and also extension in areas such as bamboo taxonomy, ecology, physiology, pest and diseases control, high-yielding bamboo plantation and propagation, and genetic improvement, have greatly improve the production of bamboo in terms of quality and quantity. Technology and product development, including improving bamboo processing, bamboo shoot processing, bamboo composite materials, bamboo laminated furniture, bamboo extracts and their utilization, bamboo

charcoal, bamboo vinegar, bamboo fiber, have created many new income generating opportunities.



An effective technology extension system

- Local governments, scientists, enterprises and farmers participate jointly in technology extension. County mayor is often personally involved in the discussion with scientists to sign technology service contracts with enterprises and local farmers.
- Demonstration sites have been set up for bamboo plantations, and use success stories to motivate people to participate.
- Training workshops are regularly conducted.
- Use the actual technology contributions in production practices as an important factor for assessing the achievements of a scientist, encourages the scientists to not only make achievements in academic researches, but also actively participate in technology extension.

Policies

- Clear policy on the development of the bamboo-based industries. The commitment of this policy is “no policy change for the next 50 years”.

- Sign land contracts with farmers, extend the term of contract to 30-50 years, allow the transfer of management rights.
- Encourage farmers to plant bamboo by giving technical support and incentives (RMB300) during initial years of planting.
- Separate the ownership and managing right: allow local individual farmers or enterprises to use the low valued secondary forest in natural reserves, and at the same time managing the local natural resources. The output of the plantations belongs to the operators/managers.
- Financial support: local government extends credit with low interest rate to farmers and enterprises in support of bamboo plantation and processing at the primary development period; provide subsidies for the improvement of low-yielding plantation and newly established plantations; and provide finances for technology research, technical services, demonstration sites and product and market developments.
- Encourage the setting up of rural bank for farmers.
- Award excellent and successful demonstration households, entrepreneurs, scientists, and technicians.
- Identify medium and long-term bamboo development plans, including analysis on feasibilities, goals and correspondent/necessary government policy and financial supports.
- Formal mechanism to allow technical personnel to go on no-pay leaves and take up position and share in company (up to 30%) by providing useful technological inputs.

A successful management model suitable for bamboo industry development

- “Company + farmer”: in this model, the company contracts with farmers for mutual benefits, thus the company provides technologies, finances or equipment to farmers, while the farmers cultivate the bamboo and participate in processing.
- “Company + processing factories + farmer households”: in this model the three parties benefit each other, at the same time, the bamboo resource utilization rate and product quality is improved. This is the most successful model currently.

The active involvements of NGOs

- NGOs at national level include the Bamboo Research Branch of China National Forestry Research Academy, China Bamboo Society, and the Sodality of the “Ten Bamboo Homelands”. A national wide academic seminar is held every two years, and the latest research results are presented in the seminar. A national wide “Bamboo Cultural Festival” was held every two years to exhibit the progress of bamboo industry development and to provide opportunities for domestic and international exchanges. The Annual Sodality of the “Ten Bamboo Homelands” played an important role in exchanging experiences.
- NGOs at provincial and county level includes local bamboo academies and societies, they played the role of linking the government, enterprises, scientists and farmers. They advise the government on policies and decision-making, provide technical services and market information to enterprises and farmers, etc.

The Impacts of Bamboo Industry Development

The development of the bamboo sector helps to increase the income of local farmers, and improves the rural environment and the sustainable development of the economy. These include:

- Increase the employment opportunities of rural farmers (about 3-4 million), especially poor rural women. 80% of these farmers are involved in management of the bamboo plantations. Most factory workers are women.
- Increase the income of rural farmers, for example, by selling bamboo products such as bamboo poles, bamboo shoots, fibre for pulp and paper, etc.
- Improve the local ecological environment and beautifies the landscapes. The water-and-soil-control ability of bamboo plantations is 1.5 times that of pine plantations and 1.3 times that of Chinese firs.
- The beautiful bamboo forests provide conditions for developing eco-tourism.

The International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) (www.inbar.int) organized this workshop, as well as many regular training courses on various aspects of bamboo cultivation, processing and marketing.

TRAINING COURSE ON HEALTH OF TROPICAL FOREST TREES

4–8 April 2005, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

In recent years, South-East Asia has seen a very rapid expansion of forest plantations, particularly of fast-growing exotic species. This has been accompanied by the emergence of previously unreported or unknown tree diseases. However, technical capacity in tree pests and diseases is either weak or difficult to obtain in the region and there are very few personnel with the necessary training and knowledge to tackle these problems. There is therefore an urgent need for expertise in tropical forest pathology to safeguard and ensure sustainable management of these plantations for the generation of economic forest products.

Dr Lee Su See, a senior pathologist in FRIM, and the chair of the IUFRO Working Party 7.02.07: Diseases of Tropical Forest Trees, mooted the idea of organizing this training course during a meeting held on 4 February 2003 in conjunction with the 8th International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP2003). By conducting such a course, the IUFRO Working Party hopes to stimulate interest and increase the number of researchers in forest health and forest pest and disease management

This present training course was jointly organized by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and the Asia Pacific Association of Forest Research Institutions (APAFRI), the Asia-Pacific regional chapter of IUFRO, with financial and technical support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service. Matrix Optics (M) Sdn. Bhd., a local company supplying microscopy and imaging solutions, loaned a number of microscopes, including a research/teaching microscope with projection facilities, and provided support service personnel during the laboratory sessions.

The resource persons were Dr John Kliejunas, Regional Forest Pathologist, Pacific Southwest Region, USDA Forest Service, Dr Cynthia Ash, Plant Pathologist, USDA Forest Service, and Dr Lee Su See, Forest Pathologist, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM).

A total of 16 participants from six ASEAN countries, namely Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, and China attended the course.

The course consisted of lectures, practicals in the laboratory, field visits and group discussions. Participants were asked to make short presentations of their work and/or tree/forest ill-health problems in their countries so that they could share information and learn about each other's experience. A quiz was held at the beginning of the course to assess the participants' knowledge of general principles of forest pathology.



An evaluation of the course was carried out by the participants on the last day before the closing and certificate presentation ceremony. There was also discussion about setting up a listserv among the group present for discussion and exchange of information, ideas and advice on health of tropical forest trees. This idea will be discussed further between APAFRI and the USDA Forest Service.



In their home institutions or countries, the participants would have been expected to conduct research in or teach forest pathology, monitor forest and/or tree health or make management decisions affecting forests and plantations. Yet it was clear that many had had no prior training in many of the topics relevant to plant/forest pathology whether in the forest or urban setting. Therefore this training course was very important in providing an understanding of the principles of tropical forest tree health.

After having attended this course, participants should now be able to recognize, detect and diagnose some of the more important disease threats and/or diseases in their home countries. As the opportunities for research in tropical forest pathology were also discussed and highlighted, it is hoped that some of the trainees will be able to practice what they learned during the training course and also conduct related research upon return to their home institutions and countries. The contacts and networking established during the

training course will hopefully continue and flourish so that this small pool of trainees will be able to develop and enhance their expertise to contribute to the sustainable development of their countries thereby also increasing the number of tropical forest pathology researchers in South-East Asia.

We are grateful for the generous contribution of the USDA Forest Service and the Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Kepong, that made this training course possible. We would particularly like to thank Drs. John Kliejunas, Cynthia Ash and Lee Su See, for their excellent services as resource persons and for having so generously shared their knowledge. We would also like to thank Matrix Optics (M) Sdn. Bhd. for their very kind loan of equipment as well as the excellent technical support during the course. Thanks are also due to the Perak Forest Department for the permission to visit their nursery and plantations.

For further information contact APAFRI Secretariat (secretariat@apafri.org)

– FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT –

8TH ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE ON DIPTEROCARPS ENHANCING CAPACITIES IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

15–17 November 2005
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Dipterocarpaceae is a very important family of timber trees in tropical Asia. The family includes many species that are highly in demand for various uses. These species have been and still are the major species that are sought after, and they form a bulk of the timber trade that continues to contribute more than substantially to the economic well-being of many of the countries in this region. However, over-exploitation and unsustainable harvesting techniques have threatened the natural sustainability of many of the species in the family. There is therefore, an urgent need to conserve, regenerate, protect and properly manage these economically important dipterocarp forests to ensure their sustainability to perpetuity.

Many countries in the region have over the years initiated a wide range of programmes ranging from rehabilitation of logged-over and poorly stocked forests to forest plantation establishments to enhance the sustainability of these species. These will help to reduce pressure on natural forests and also conserve the dipterocarp forests, which are important to the global environment.

Poverty alleviation would be another factor, which should be given emphasis, taking into consideration the forest dwellers and the communities that live in the peripherals and depend on the forest for their livelihood. This aspect would also be in line with the first Millennium Goal that seeks to reduce by

half the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by year 2015.

The issues relating to conservation and management along with the national policies in the respective countries is another aspect that needs to be seriously addressed if natural dipterocarp forests in these countries are to be maintained intact and its resources utilized sustainably.

The Eighth Round-Table Conference on Dipterocarps organized by the Forest Science Institute of Vietnam (FSIV), together with the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), and other related regional and international agencies, therefore seeks to address these issues. This conference, we hope, would also provide opportunities to give directions and also to establish cooperation among the dipterocarp producing countries.

Objectives

- ❑ Review the current state of knowledge on species in the Dipterocarpaceae family.
- ❑ Identify new directions and strategies for sustainable management of dipterocarps.
- ❑ Encourage information sharing and exchange on dipterocarps among researchers, technologists, resource managers, policy makers and other concerned stakeholders.

Call for Paper and Poster Presentations

Oral and poster presentations on dipterocarps are invited worldwide. The abstract, of not more than 300 words, to be written in English must contain title of the paper, author(s), institute/company, complete mailing address with the name of the corresponding person, e-mail, telephone/fax, and specify the type of presentation (oral or poster). Send a soft (electronic) copy, prepared using a standard PC word processing programme, preferably Microsoft Word, to the Conference Secretariat.

Guidelines for full paper preparation will be given in the second announcement.

<i>Deadline for submission of title and abstract</i>	<i>30 June 2005</i>
<i>Notification of acceptance</i>	<i>15 July 2005</i>
<i>Deadline for submission of the full paper</i>	<i>30 Sept 2005</i>

Conference Secretariat

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Tentative Conference Programme

The conference will be divided into five technical sessions, and a one-day field tour.

- Session I: State of the art in the sciences of dipterocarps
- Session II: Dipterocarp plantations—approach towards reducing pressure on natural forests
- Session III: Natural dipterocarp forests towards poverty alleviation
- Session IV: Conservation and rehabilitation status of dipterocarp forests
- Session V: Policies and issues relating to the national sustainable management programmes of dipterocarps

Registration Fee

The conference registration fee is US\$200 per registrant (US\$160 for staff of APAFRI member institutions; US\$100 for students). The fee includes a welcome reception and dinner, all refreshment and lunches, conference materials and field tour.

CHANGES IN BAMBOO BASKET UTILIZATION AND ITS IMPACTS ON BAMBOO BASKET INDUSTRY AND INDIGENOUS BAMBOO HARVESTERS IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

In many parts of Asia, bamboo is important in rural livelihood. It is known as “friends of the people” in China, “the wood of the poor” in India and “the brother” in Vietnam.

The changes in the use of these bamboo products have affected local livelihood. In 1991, research in the main bamboo basket making area in Tapah, Peninsular Malaysia, showed that bamboo harvested by the Orang Asli (aborigines) was the main raw material for the manufacturing of disposable baskets. In Peninsular Malaysia, semantan (*Gigantochloa scortechinii*) is the main species of bamboo uses for making these baskets. Other species used include buluh beti/raga (*Gigantochloa wrayi*). Bamboo baskets were used to transport vegetables from Cameron Highlands, the main vegetable growing area in Peninsular Malaysia, to various parts of Malaysia and Singapore. In 1965, about 1 500 baskets were sent to Cameron Highlands daily and this figure reached the peak of 6 500 a day in 1991. In the nearest lowland town, Tapah, a total of eight main suppliers of bamboo baskets sourced bamboo baskets from 145 craftsmen living in surrounding villages in 1991.

Before 1995, bamboo baskets were highly demanded in the transportation of vegetables. Once the vegetables were transported to their destinations, the relatively fragile baskets were of little economic value and use. They were thrown away and this was allowed, as environmental awareness was low then. It was more economical for the vegetable lorry drivers to transport home other goods of higher economic values than the low value empty bamboo baskets. Such a “use and throw” bamboo baskets thus generate income to not only the basket craftsmen in Tapah but also the Orang Asli in the Tapah region. The residents in 52 Orang Asli villages

located in the Tapah region harvested raw bamboo pole from Tapah Forest Reserve thus supplying resources to sustain the bamboo basket making industries in Tapah.

Bamboo harvesting and basket making was able to sustain till the mid-1990s because of cost and demand factors. By the mid-1990s, market demand on bamboo baskets to transport vegetables gradually changed. Wholesale markets in Malaysia and Singapore faced problems in disposing the used bamboo baskets after the vegetables from various parts of Malaysia were unloaded. Normal disposal meant additional cost while open-burning polluted the environment. As such plastic baskets, that could be used many times even though the initial cost was higher, have gradually replaced the bamboo baskets. Since the mid-1990s, vegetable farmers in Cameron Highlands have gradually switched to the use of renewable plastic and paper baskets to transport their products.

The decline in market demand thus resulted in reduced bamboo basket production. By early 2005, the maximum daily bamboo baskets sent to the Cameron Highlands dropped to between 2 000 and 2 300. This decline in demand brings tremendous impacts on local economy. Employment and income of both bamboo harvesters and bamboo basket manufacturers were affected. In 1991, there were 8 main licensed basket producers in Tapah and this has dropped to 4 in 2005. A main licensed producer employed 17 full-time workers in 1991 but has only 8 part-time workers in 2005. In 1991, this producer produced 1 500 baskets daily but now the production dropped to an average of 1 000 baskets a month or 33 baskets a day. The number of households with members engaged in basket making dropped from 145 households in 1991 to 50 in 2005.

The number of Orang Asli depending on bamboo harvesting also decreased. In one village of 20 Orang Asli households, eight had harvested bamboo for sale on a part-time basis in 1992. In 2005, only two Orang Asli harvested bamboo for sale. Income of bamboo harvesters has generally reduced. In 1992, at the ex-farm price of RM0.60 a piece of 6.7-meter bamboo pole, a part-time bamboo harvester could earn an average of RM100 (USD26) a month. However, by 2005, even though the price of bamboo pole has increased to RM1.20 per pole, a harvester earned only an average of RM60 (USD16) a month. Faced with the reduced demand for bamboo, Orang Asli villages are now turning to other employment in the region. The overall consequence was the reduction in bamboo harvested, number of basket produced, and employment and income to the local population.

Will the bamboo basket making survive in the Malaysia? Despite the declining demand for bamboo baskets by vegetable farmers, it does not mean a total replacement. Some farmers still use bamboo baskets for transporting vegetables and fruits to various parts of Peninsular Malaysia. Data collected indicated that for the months from January to June, from the total bamboo baskets produced by a licensed bamboo basket producer in Tapah, 30% sold to vegetable farmers, 20% to guava, 30% to durian and 20% to other fruit farmers. Between July and December, of the total baskets produced, 20% sold to vegetable farmers, 30% durian, 30% rambutan and 20% other fruits (especially langsung and mango farmers).

The decline of the bamboo basket making industry in Malaysia means that more bamboo culms are available for harvesting and value-added processing. Bamboo is one of the most important renewable forest resources and is fast-growing with a growth rate ranging from 30 to 100 cm per day during fast-growing season. Bamboo can be harvested for use after 3–4 years of planting, a short production cycle. At the international level, it is seen

as an ideal resource for sustainable development and environmental protection. It is increasingly used to supplement timber for plywood, flooring and pulp and paper. It is also used in modern engineered structures, housing, towers, bridges and others.

Bamboo industry had witnessed very rapid development, and the trades of bamboo products have flourished, in many countries in recent years. The current situation of bamboo processing industry in Peninsular Malaysia, however, does not match up with the international scenario. Currently, there are only about 150 bamboo enterprises, mostly cottage and small-scale, in Peninsular Malaysia. Most of these enterprises are engaged in basket and cage making while a few are producing handicrafts, utensils such as skewers, bamboo strips for incense sticks, and joss sticks. While some entrepreneurs begin to realize the potential of bamboo products manufacturing, large investment has yet to be seen in Malaysia.

Bamboo has a potential role to play in rural and economic development in Malaysia. The issue is how the bamboo resources could be best utilized to develop value-added products, to help eradicate poverty among the Orang Asli and raise income in rural Peninsular Malaysia. It is important for Malaysia to learn from the experience of countries such as China and Thailand where bamboo product development is generating income and creating employment. Collaborative research and foreign investment in bamboo product development would surely boost the Malaysian bamboo product industry.

Adapted from an article prepared by Dr Lim Hin Fui (limhf@frim.gov.my) for the International Workshop on Poverty Alleviation through Bamboo-Based Development in China: Policies, Stakeholders and Supply Chains, 18–28 April 2005, Lin'an and Anji, Zhejiang Province, China. APAFRI partially supported Dr Lim's participation at this workshop.

UPCOMING EVENTS

XXII IUFRO World Congress – Forest in the Balance: Linking Tradition and Technology

Date : 8–13 August 2005
Venue : Brisbane, Australia
Contact Person: The Congress Manager
P.O. Box 104
RBH Post Office Qld 4029
Australia
Tel : 61 7 3854 1611
Fax : 61 7 3854 1507
Email : iufro2005@ozaccomm.com.au
Web : www.iufro2005.org

International Pulp and Paper Conference 2005 “Plantation, Recycle and Non-wood Fibers—The Way Forward”

Date : 16–18 August 2005
Venue : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Contact Person: Dr. Mohd Nor Mohd Yusof
International Pulp and Paper
Conference 2005
Forest Research Institute Malaysia
(FRIM)
52109 Kepong Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 603 6279 7279/7280/7314
Fax : 603 6280 4620
Email : mdnor@frim.gov.my
sharmiza@frim.gov.my
rushdan@frim.gov.my
Web : www.frim.gov.my/
newevent_reg2.ctm

The Importance of Mangrove and Other Coastal Ecosystems in Mitigating Tsunami Disasters

Date : 23 August 2005
Venue : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Contact Person: Veronica Poopathy
Forest Research Institute Malaysia
(FRIM)
52109 Kepong Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 603 6279 7501/7534
Fax : 603 6273 1076/6272 9952
Email : veron@frim.gov.my
Web : www.frim.gov.my

International Symposium on Non-Timber Forest Products, Community Economic Development and Forest Conservation

Date : 25–27 August 2005
Venue : British Columbia, Canada
Contact Person: Centre for Non-Timber Resources
Royal Roads University
2005 Sooke Road
Victoria, B.C. V9B 5Y2
Canada
Tel : 250 391 2600 ext. 4328#
Fax : 250 391 2563
E-mail : ntfp@royalroads.ca
Web : www.royalroads.ca/cntr

Natural Resources Related Conflict Management in Southeast Asia

Date : 6–8 September 2005
Venue : Khon Kaen, Thailand
Contact Person: Ms. Ang Ming-Chee
Institute for Dispute Resolution
Khon Kaen University
Amphur Muang
Khon Kaen 40002 Thailand
Tel : 66 43 20 2425
Fax : 66 43 20 2788
Email : mingchee@kku.ac.th
Web : http://idr.kku.ac.th

Mapping for Change International Conference on Participatory Spatial Information Management and Communication (PGIS 2005)

Date : 7–10 September 2005
Venue : Nairobi, Kenya
Contact Person: Dr. R. Sliuzas PGIS 2005
ITC, P.O. Box 6 7500A A
Ehschee, The Netherlands
Tel : 31 53 4874575
Fax : 31 53 4874175
Email : PGIS2005@itc.nl
Web : www.kcct.ac.ke

19th International congress On Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)

Date : 10–18 September 2005
Venue : Beijing, China
Contact Person : Chinese National Committee
on Irrigation and Drainage
No. 20 West Chegong Zhuang Road
Beijing 100044
People's Republic of China
Tel : 86 10 6841 5522/6841 6506
Fax : 86 10 6845 1169
Email : cncid@iwhr.com
Web : www.icid.org/index_e.html

**Interactive Forest and Nature Policy in Practice
"Managing multi stakeholder learning in sector
wide approaches and national forest
programmes"**

Date : 12 September–1 October 2005
Venue : The Netherlands
Contact Person: International Agricultural Center
P.O. Box 88
6700AB Wageningen
The Netherlands
Tel : 31 317 495 495
Fax : 31 317 495 395
Email : training.iac@wur.nl
Web : www.iac.wur.nl

**ITTO International Conference on Tropical
Plywood**

Date : 26–28 September 2005
Venue : Beijing, China
Contact Person: International Forestry Cooperation
Center
Tel :
Fax : 86 10 84238950
Email : wangzhi@forestry.gov.cn
Web : www.glomis.com

**Southeast Asian "Conflict Management" Regional
Training Workshop**

Date : 26–30 September 2005
Venue : Pattaya, Thailand
Contact Person: Ms. Ang Ming-Chee
Institute for Dispute Resolution
Khon Kaen University
Amphur Muag
Khon Kaen 40002 Thailand
Tel : 66 43 20 2425
Fax : 66 43 20 2788
Email : mingchee@kku.ac.th
Web : http://idr.kku.ac.th

**1st International Conference on Construction
Engineering and Management**

Date : 16–19 Oct 2005
Venue : Lotte Hotel Jambi,
Seoul, Korea
Contact Person: Secretariat
Convention Team
Hanjin Travel Service Co., LTD
#51 Sogong-dong, Jung-gu,
Seoul 100-770, Korea
Tel : 82 2 726 5556
Fax : 82 2 778 2514
Email : iccem2005@hanjinpc.com
Web : http://idr.kku.ac.th

**First Diversitas International Conference on
Biodiversity**

Date : 9–12 November 2005
Venue : Oaxaca, Mexico
Contact Person: Diversitas Secretariat
Tel : 33-1-4525-9525
Fax : 33-1-4288-9431
Email : secreariat@diversitas-international.org
Web : www.diversitas-international.org

**8th Round Table Conference on Dipterocarps –
Enhancing Capacity in Sustainable Development
and Poverty Alleviation**

Date : 15–17 November 2005
Venue : Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Contact person: Dr Nguyen Hoang Nghia
Forest Science Institute of Vietnam (FSIV)
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Kepong 52109,
Selangor, Malaysia
Tel : 603-6272 2516, 6279 7536
Fax : 603-6277 3249
Email : secretariat@apafri.org

XII World Congress

Date : 22–25 November 2005
Venue : New Delhi
Contact Person: Mr. G.N. Mathur
Central Board of Irrigation and
Power, Malcha Marg,
Chanakyapur New Delhi-
110021, India
Tel : 91 11 26115984/26116567
Fax : 91 11 26116347
Email : cbip@vsnl.com.or or
bip@cbip.org
Web : www.cbip.org

**Conference on Forestry and Forest Products
Research 2005 (CFFPR 2005)**

Date : 22–24 November 2005
Venue : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Contact Person: Dr. Lim. Hin Fui
Forest Research Institute Malaysia
(FRIM)
Kepong 52109,
Selangor, Malaysia
Tel : 603 6279 7541/7539
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