

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

### *Greetings from Kepong, Malaysia!*

I am honoured and delighted to be back as the newly elected Chairman of the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI)!

Allow me to take this opportunity to express my most sincere thanks and gratitude to all members present at this year's Eighth General Assembly, which had elected me as Chairman of APAFRI Executive Committee for the third time. I was informed that I am the first person to serve as Chairman of APAFRI three times and that is also a record in Malaysia that a Malaysian had been elected to head a regional organization three times. I believe this is yet another testament to the confidence of the members in entrusting me to guide the Association, and also to the capability of the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) to continue hosting the Secretariat.

Allow me also to congratulate and welcome the members of the new APAFRI Executive Committee 2018-2021: the Vice-chairman Dr Hiroshi Tanaka of Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI, Japan), and members: Dr Zhao Wenxia of the Research Institute of Forest Ecology Environment and Protection (RIFEED, China); Mr Uus Danu Kusumah, of Forestry and Environment Research Development and Innovation Agency (FOERDIA, Indonesia); Dr Syam Visawanath of Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI, India); Mr Chen Yen-Chang of Taiwan Forest Research Institute (TFRI); Dr Felix Tamolang of Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI, Philippines); and Dr Kobsak Wanthongchai of Kasetsart University (KU, Thailand). Also to the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau of the Philippines (ERDB) and Bioversity International which were unanimously elected to be the Internal Auditors 2018–2021.

I would also like to thank the immediate Past Chair Dr Park JungHwan of the National Institute of Forest Science



(NIFoS, formerly known as Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI)) for his valuable contributions to APAFRI. Dr Park had served as APAFRI Executive Committee member for three terms: 2004-2006; 2006-2009 and 2012-2015, and as Chair for 2015-2018. The impressive developments of APAFRI during the past two decades or so owed much to the contributions and supports of Dr Park and NIFoS. We have been informed that Dr Park would officially retire by end December 2018, we like to

wish him all the best and enjoy his new chapter in life. We will always remember your years with APAFRI.

As I have mentioned during my closing remarks of the General Assembly that I would urge the governing board of FRIM to continue hosting the APAFRI Secretariat at the facility which FRIM renovated in early 2010 with a cost of more than USD50000. FRIM would also continue with its annual financial contribution of RM10000 (about USD2500), and assign Dr Gan Kee Seng and Mrs Nor Azni Jafar to manage the Secretariat, together with two other APAFRI staff: Mrs Syuqiyah Abdul Hamid and Mrs Nazratul Raudzah Abd Rahman. The board which met in early December 2018 had also approved the contract to reengage Dr Sim Heok Choh (former Executive Secretary) on a part-time basis to assist in the running of the Secretariat.

The coming year will see more challenges confronting the region, and many of these would be directly or indirectly related to forestry. The increased in frequency and severity of the natural calamities which had hurt many countries in the region during the past year, warrants more attentions to mitigation measures many of which could be forestry related. These issues would be critical topics which would take the central stage of regional events in the coming year. I would therefore encourage the members to be proactive in participating in these events, and APAFRI Secretariat would strive to assist in mobilizing the necessary resources.

In closing, on behalf of APAFRI, I would like to extend our thanks to the various agencies for their contributions to support APAFRI's programmes and activities. Thanks also due to the various national research agencies, universities, forestry agencies and private companies for their contributions to many of APAFRI's activities. Let us all work together to play a greater role in the development of forestry research for the sustainable management of forests in the Asia Pacific region

As we are now approaching the New Year, allow me to take this opportunity to wish all members and friends of APAFRI a prosperous new year in 2019.

With best regards,

**Abd Latif Mohmod**  
Chairman, APAFRI  
December 2018

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## THE 23<sup>rd</sup> APAFRI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 29 November 2018 PutraJaya, Malaysia



The Chairman welcomed all the Executive Committee members who were present to this meeting. He was very glad that all members of the current Executive Committee were present. He also welcomed Mr Kenichi Shono, FAO, who attended this meeting as an observer. He then reported his participation at the recently concluded IUFRO Board Meeting in University of Oregon, USA; and also the Chinese Academy of Forestry Sixtieth Anniversary Celebration and Workshop in Beijing, China.

The Executive Secretary tabled the June 2018 unaudited financial report.

Responding to questions that persistently repeated by Dr Mohanty that the Secretariat should keep aside a bigger portion from donors' contributions and service contracts to ensure a longer sustainability of APAFRI as well as the Secretariat. Dr Gan, assisted by Dr Sim, explained that APAFRI has been registered as a non-profit organization in Malaysia, and enjoys income-tax waiver and also service tax exemption. To maintain that status, retained

balance at end of each financial year should theoretically be almost zero.

Moreover, donors' contributions and service contracts are often with very specific apportionments with little flexibility. Donors and international agencies often questioned the quantum of service charges and the Secretariat needs to provide lengthy explanations.

However, Dr Gan, stressed that the retained balance over the years, would be more than sufficient to sustain the normal running of the Association comfortably, over at least two years without any additional funding.

The Chairman again thanked the various agencies, especially Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and many others, for the financial and in-kind contributions, which had been vital for the sustainability of APAFRI all these years.

Dr Abd Latif Mohmod mentioned that Malaysia is planning an International Conference on Biodiversity in 2019, and would like APAFRI to take a major role in organizing this event. Dr Abd Latif Mohmod also like APAFRI to be involved in a Mangrove Forest Rehabilitation Project to be coordinated by FRIM in 2019.

Dr Mohanty mentioned about an International Conference on Bamboo to be held in 2019, at IPIRTI, Bengaluru, India. The date of Conference has been tentatively scheduled on 10 February 2019. This will be organized as a sequel to the five-day World Bamboo Workshop to be held at Imphal, Manipur, India; 4–8 February 2019. The Secretariat would follow up with him to get more information for sharing with all members.

Dr Park mentioned that the new President of IUFRO, Dr John Parotta, had reminded him about getting APAFRI, as

a regional chapter, more involved in IUFRO activities, including planning to participate in the World Congress in Brazil next year.

Dr. Gan responding to a question about outdated information kept in the Secretariat, had prompted all present to regularly updating the Secretariat about happenings in their institutions. The Secretariat would also send out reminders to get news, updates, etc. to be uploaded onto APAFRI webpages for wider distribution.

The Chair thanked everyone present for their involvement and contributions to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

*(Adapted from the Minutes of the APAFRI Executive Committee Twenty-Third Meeting)*

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## APAFRI EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### 29 November 2018

### PutraJaya, Malaysia



The Eighth General Assembly of the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) was held on 29 November 2018. Dr Park JungHwan, Chairman of the current Executive Committee, welcomed all the participants. While expressing his gratitude to the support shown by the member institutions sending their representatives to this General Assembly, he called upon them to continue participating actively and contributing inputs for the further development of APAFRI.

The Chairman thanked the current Executive Committee members who were present at this General Assembly – Dr Abd Latif Mohmod of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (the Immediate Past Chair), Mr Uus Danu Kusumah of

Forestry Environment Research Development and Innovation Agency (Vice Chair), and members: Dr B. N. Mohanty of the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), Prof. Dr. Mohamed Zakaria Hussin of University Putra Malaysia (UPM), Mr Chen Yen-Chang of Taiwan Forestry Research Institute (TFRI), Dr Zhao Wenxia of the Research Institute of Forest Ecology, Environment and Protection (RIFEED-CAF), Dr Hiroyasu Oka of Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), and Mr Tevita Bulai of the Department of Forestry, Fiji (DoF Fiji).

He then invited the official representatives of the 17 member institutions present at this General Assembly to

introduce themselves. He also welcomed Mr Kenichi Shono from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); and also a few others from several other institutions, who were present as observers.

The Chairman reported that the membership of APAFRI had reached 69 institutional members and 10 affiliate/individual members since it was established more than 20 years ago in 1995. Quite a number of member institutions had never paid membership fees for many years despite regular reminders from the Secretariat. A few had written to the Secretariat that they wished to terminate their membership, while many remained silent. Discounted all these, the current active members totaled 33. The Secretariat has, however continued to list these *non-paying* members in the registry, and had also continued to send them information and publications. Over the years, a few of these *non-paying* members had decided to rejoin for a few years, and later faded away again.

APAFRI have just been informed that Dr Bambang Trihartono, who represented the Vice Chair: Forestry and Environment Research, Development and Innovation Agency (FOERDIA) of Indonesia, had recently passed away. APAFRI shared the loss of the passing of an eminent forester who has been very active in many regional and international forestry fora.

The Chairman concluded his opening remarks by thanking the funding agencies which had supported APAFRI all these years. Dr Gan Kee-Seng, the Executive Secretary took the General Assembly through a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting a number of high profile activities during the past years. He expressed his gratitude to various agencies and organizations which had assisted in organizing the numerous activities over the years. With a very small Secretariat, it would be highly unlikely to organize this large number of activities without the support and generous contributions from various donor agencies, regional organizations, member institutions and many others.

The Chairman noted that the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS, formerly known as Korea Forest

Research Institute (KFRI)) has been a major funder for APAFRI activities during the past several years. NIFoS's annual financial contributions had enable APAFRI to provide crucial support to member institutions in organizing activities in the region. The Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), being the largest funder of APAFRI, has hosted the APAFRI Secretariat since 2000. FRIM besides providing office premises well equipped with Internet and telecommunication facilities, also assigned a senior researcher with an office assistant, to administer the daily operations of the Secretariat.

He went on to thank the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); and all the other agencies, for their financial as well as in-kind contributions to APAFRI. The Chairman expressed his appreciation to the Executive Committee members for their contributions and support during the term of office. He then declared that the term of the present committee terminated and the committee dissolved. As a token of appreciation, he presented a pewter plaque and a certificate of appreciation to each one of them. In return, the Immediate Past Chair, as represented by Dr Abd Latif Mohmod, also presented a plaque and a certificate to Dr Park JungHwan.

The current Executive Secretary then proceeded with the election of the new Executive Committee for 2018–2021.

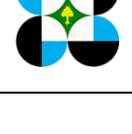
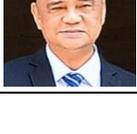
The new Executive Committee members 2018-2021 are as listed in the table below. ERDB and Bioversity International were unanimously elected to be the Internal Auditors 2018–2021.

The incoming Chairman, Dr Abd Latif Mohmod thanked the members present for electing FRIM as the Chair of APAFRI Executive Committee 2018–2021. He announced that he would retain Dr Gan Kee-Seng, the Director of Forest Products Division, FRIM, as the Executive Secretary of APAFRI. He would also suggest to the FRIM's governing board to reengage Dr Sim Heok-Choh on a part-time basis to assist in the running of the Secretariat.

*(Adapted from the Minutes of the Eighth General Assembly)*



## APAFRI EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2018-2021

Chair			<b>Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)</b> Dato' Dr Abd Latif Mohmod
Vice Chair			<b>Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI)</b> Dr Hiroshi Tanaka
Immediate Past Chair			<b>National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), Republic of Korea</b> Dr Park Jung-Hwan
Member			<b>Research Institute of Forest Ecology, Environment and Protection (RIFEED-CAF)</b> Dr Zhao Wenxia
			<b>Forestry and Environment Research Development and Innovation Agency (FOERDIA)</b> Mr. Uus Danu Kusumah
			<b>Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI)</b> Dr. Syam Viswanath
			<b>Taiwan Forestry Research Institute (TFRI)</b> Mr Chen Yen-Chang
			<b>Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University</b> Dr Kobsak Wanthongchai
			<b>Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI)</b> Dr. Felix B. Tamolang

Internal Auditor			<b>Bioversity International</b> Dr. Riina Jalonen
			<b>Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB)</b> Dr. Bighani M. Manipula

# 2018 INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON LESSONS LEARNT FROM LONG-TERM FOREST RESEARCH AND FUTURE COOPERATION AMONG NORTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES

3 – 7 September 2018

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



Forests in the Northeast Asian region are unique because of their diverse ecosystems and high biodiversity, and those ecosystems have not only stood at its dignity as itself but also provided essential and valuable services to human beings. These forest ecosystems, however, has been under enormous pressure of deforestation and forest degradation, induced by both natural factors (i.e., climate change, fire, flood and drought) and anthropogenic factors (i.e. illegal logging, livestock farming, land conversion for agriculture and over exploitation).

These deforestation and forest degradation have resulted in environmental damages of soil erosion, land degradation and biodiversity loss; and also socio-economic damages of insecure food, water and health, as well as the loss of cultural identity/dignity of the people. In order to mitigate and combat these challenges, various levels of communities among various stakeholders have taken significant efforts during the last decades.

In particular, together with international research communities, research group in forest science in the Northeast Asian region has contributed through conducting relatively large scale of plot-based integrated research investigating long-term responses of forest ecosystem to natural and human disturbances and environmental changes over broad spatial and temporal scales.

These forest ecosystem research results have been useful in providing important information for forest structure and

species composition as well as ethnobotanical data, understanding of species habitat requirements, and providing quantitative data for testing theories and hypothesis in population and community ecology.

Moreover, the long-term data obtained by these forest ecosystem researches over last few decades has enabled the researchers to evaluate the nature and pace of ecological change, to interpret its effects, and to forecast the range of future biological responses to the changes through establishing relevant mid- and long-term plans in forest conservation, restoration and management, which had been unable to do only through short-term observations or experiments.

This workshop, co-organized by National University of Mongolia and the IUFRO Working Party 1.01.13 and sponsored by the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) and National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) of the Republic of Korea, aimed mainly at sharing knowledge and research experiences on Long-term Forest Research (LTFR) in the Northeast Asian region (i.e. Mongolia, Russia and Korea). As one of the series of annual workshops after 2015 in Yanji, China; 2016 in Harbin, China and 2017 in Sapporo, Japan, the 2018 workshop aimed at discussing lessons learnt and challenges while conducting the LTFR researches and future cooperation among Northeast Asian countries.

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

# TRAINING WORKSHOP ON PLANT TISSUE CULTURE TECHNIQUES

## 10 – 14 September 2018

### Suwon, Korea



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

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

This training workshop on basic laboratory techniques in plant tissue culture was successfully organized by APAFRI and the Division of Forest Biotechnology, National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) on 10 – 14 September 2018.

The workshop was designed to provide plant tissue culture techniques for the relevant scientists from the developing countries of the Asia-Pacific Region. The workshop included specialized techniques for direct and indirect organogenesis, somatic embryogenesis, micropropagation for large scale multiplication of plants, and cryopreservation of plant cell cultures.

The workshop was attended by eight participants from APAFRI member institutions: Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development, Cambodia; Forestry and Environment Research Development and Innovation Agency (FOERDIA), Indonesia; University Gadjah Mada, Indonesia and Kasertsart University, Thailand. Ms. Nazratul Rauzah represented APAFRI in this workshop.



# IMPROVING CAPACITY BUILDING OF FOREST PEST AND DISEASE EXPERTS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA REGION

24 – 29 September 2018

Hanoi, Vietnam



**N**on-native fast-growing forest tree species plantations have expanded rapidly in South East Asia. Longer rotations have been accompanied by the emergence of new pests, diseases and new host-pest combinations that has never been seen before. New pest and disease problems have also emerged in areas that were previously free from such pests and diseases.

Since the pests and diseases in planted forest of these countries are increasing both in number and severity, cooperation and collaboration between researchers and managers among these countries is essential to mitigate their impacts. However, the number and expertise level of forest pathologists in South East Asia is limited. Thus this mini training aims to improve the capability South East Asia pathologist experts through capacity building and forming an informal group of South East Asia pest and disease experts.

Department of Forest Pathology, Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS), Hanoi, Vietnam was chosen as the host of this training. This institution have many experts on forests pathology with advanced capability to update the techniques on forest pathology among the participants. In addition, they also have complete facility for conducting standard assessment on forest pathogen.

Professor Pham Quang Thu together with his team in VAFS, was the instructor during this mini training. There were 15 participants from Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam. The mini training was financially supported by the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The training included field identification and collection of *Phytophthora* and *Ceratocystis*, also their signs and symptoms. *Phytophthora* fungus collection were conducted at the river inside Tram Kiem Lam Mui Xe National Park, Sapa (approximately 800 km from Hanoi), while *Ceratocystis* fungus sample were collected from Acacia plantations near the highway in Lao Cai Region, Vietnam.

Laboratory training was conducted in VAFS where the participants learnt to isolate the samples using various techniques.

The next training is planned to be held in Thailand or Indonesia.

(Adapted from the report prepared by Dr. Sri Rahayu ([tatarahayu@yahoo.com](mailto:tatarahayu@yahoo.com)))



# INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON NURSERY, SILVICULTURE, FOREST RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL ASIAN AND NORTHEAST ASIA

15 – 19 October 2018  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

This three-day workshop consisting of 16 presentations Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, United States, Mongolia, and Republic of Korea, and a two-day field trip of Pistachio (*Pistacia vera* L.) provenance trials and research trials for combating land degradation in Samarkand region. This event was jointly organized by National University of Mongolia, National Institute of Forest Science, Republic of Korea (NIFOS), Research Institute of Forestry, Republic of Uzbekistan, International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Units 1.06.00 Restoration of Degraded Sites and Units 1.01.13 Long-term Research on Forest Ecosystem Management in Northeast Asia; and was co-sponsored by the National Institute of Forest Science, ROK, and Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI). Fifty international researchers, managers, government officials, and research institutions and students, participated in this three-day workshop.



emphasized that no similar International Workshop had been organized in Tashkent within the last 10-years.

A general Introduction to the Agenda of the Workshop, Field trip and previously organized series of annual Workshops was introduced by Prof. Nyam-Osor Batkhuu, National University of Mongolia and he moderated the whole Workshop activity.

Valuable information and insights on Central and Northeast Asian forests, their ecological importance, conservation and restoration experiences were shared by speakers who described conditions in their home countries, including challenges and opportunities in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia.

The two-day field trip included a visit to the Galliya-Aralsky forest experimental station which is located 360 km to the south of Tashkent in the territory of Galliya-Aralsk district, Djizak region. The experimentation-demonstration plot was established under Mirzachulsk forest-experimental station according to a Decree of the Uzbekistan Academy of Agriculture on 25 October, 1957. Since establishment of the station, several experiments on selection of woody species were started and a 50 ha arboretum was established where 80 different species of woody plants were planted. Beginning in the 1980's, Pistachio plantation and provenance trails for selection of genetically superior varieties were established in this experimentation-demonstration station.

*(Adapted from the report prepared by Prof. Nyam-Osor Batkhuu (nbatkhuu@gmail.com))*

During the welcoming address, Dr. Joo Han Sung, Director, Forest Technology and Management Research Center, NIFOS; and Dr. Sim Heok Choh, APAFRI expressed their deepest appreciation to the organizers and participants for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the Workshop and stressed the importance of promoting regional synergistic efforts towards sustainable forest management and restoration of forest ecosystems that are essential for conservation of forests and enhancing functionality of the dryland forests.

Dr. Abdushukur Hamzaev, Vice-chairman of State Committee on Forestry and Director, Forestry Research Institute, Republic of Uzbekistan delivered a Congratulatory address on behalf of Mr. Bakirov Nizomiddin, Chairman of State Committee on Forestry, Republic of Uzbekistan. He acknowledged the great support of the National Institute of Forest Science, Republic of Korea, and Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions for their financial support and to the Department of Environment and Forest Engineering, National University of Mongolia for their excellent arrangements and organization. He then briefly introduced the state of forestry and state committee on forestry of the Republic of Uzbekistan and strongly

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

23 – 27 October 2018

Beijing, China



Asia is the Earth's largest and most populous continent, covering an area of 44,579,000km<sup>2</sup>, about 30% of Earth's total land area and 8.7% of the Earth's total surface area. The continent, which has long been home to the majority of the human population, was the site of many of the ancient civilizations. Asia is notable for not only its overall large size and population, but also dense and large settlements, as well as vast barely populated regions. Its 4.5 billion people constitute roughly 60% of the world's population.

In recent years, the Asian economy is growing rapidly led by a rising middle class but it faces major policy challenges: inequality, uncertain land tenure, unsustainable land use, a loss of biodiversity, food insecurity and climate change. In addition, agricultural expansion in Southeast Asia threatens the world's third-largest tropical forest and the many ecosystem services they provide. Unsustainable land-use change including fires in peatland has made the region one of the world's largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions.

These deforestation and forest degradation have resulted in both environmental damages of soil erosion, land degradation and biodiversity loss and socio-economic damages of insecure food, water and health, as well as the loss of cultural identity/dignity to the people. In order to mitigate and combat these challenges, public research institutes and universities among various stakeholders have taken significant efforts.

Researchers working in publicly funded institutions and universities usually share the knowledge they generate with other researchers via publications or presentations and discussions at international meetings. And in many cases, public research establishments closely cooperate and create knowledge jointly. To further strengthening the networks among forest related institutions (e.g. research institutes, universities, non-government organizations) in the Asian region, relevant organizations were invited and shared their ideas.

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



# INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FOREST & LANDSCAPE RESTORATION- KOREA'S SUCCESSFUL FOREST RESTORATION & ITS IMPLEMENTATIONS FOR THE GREENER WORLD

25 - 26 October 2018  
Seoul, Korea



The Symposium was successfully held at The Shilla Seoul, Korea, 25-26 October 2018. Organized by the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) and Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Symposium was also participated by six individuals from APAFRI member institutions: Kasetsart University, Thailand; Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Forest Department Sri Lanka and University of the Philippines Los Baños.

The Symposium provided a forum for showcasing successful evidences of Korea's restoration initiatives taking place at the country level, as well as for discussions on the role of regional and international platforms in drawing attention to such projects.

The Symposium lined up many distinguished speakers from various international organizations. Mr. Robert Nasi, Director General of CIFOR delivered the special lecture on "Forest landscape restoration: Turning the bare land into a great nation". In his presentation, he listed out seven factors of deforestation and forest degradation in the Republic of Korea during the 1950's. In the 1960's, there was a few drivers of deforestation such as the over-exploitation of forests, expansion of agricultural land and the Korean War. In a global scope, around 12 million hectares of land are lost each year to degradation and the drivers vary between the subregions. The challenge for advocates of forest Restoration is to make it financially viable.

The first session was chaired by Prof Youn Yeo-Chang. Profesor Emeritus Kyung Joon Lee from Seoul National University highlighted the history and causes of forest devastation and the implementation of major forest policies which lead to the successful restoration. Mr. Douglas McGuire introduced the implementation of FAO's Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM). The ROK experience and funding is the key for FLR and FLRM. The achievements of FLRM could be seen at global, regional and country levels. Dr. Ki Yeon Ko informed that once ROK was an Official Development Assistance (ODA) recipient country, but now ROK is providing ODA to the countries in need. Korea's support mechanism are by providing bilateral ODA to seven countries and by supporting 11 international organizations. ROK also hosted bilateral forestry cooperation meetings every two years and facilitates the exchange of technology and information through multilateral channels.

Session Two was chaired by Dr. Christopher Martius. Dr. Himlal Barat outlined CIFOR's strategies which aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. The collaborative project between CIFOR and NIFoS on "restoring land and growing renewable energy" is the example of the effort on how sustainable bioenergy can be developed to avoid-energy-environment trilemma with alternative feedstock while restoring degraded lands in Indonesia. Mr. Craig R. Beatty from International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) introduced the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM). ROAM is a methodology to identify

and prioritize FLR opportunities at the national and subnational levels. In Asia, there are five countries committed 24 mha to Bonn Challenge and at least six countries are carrying out ROAM to prioritize actions and investment for landscape restoration. Ms Sarwat Chowdhury then talked about the capacity building of developing countries based on the successful case of Korea's greening. The presentation was followed by Mr. Utchang Kang who gave brief explanation about the implementation of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) on the Korean Peninsula. Among the objectives of LDN are to maintain or improve ecosystem services and to increase resilience if the land and population dependent on the land. The last session was chaired by Profesor Yowhan Son. Dr Myungkil Kim highlighted the current status of forests in Korean Peninsula and the future direction of International

forest cooperation. Dr. Liu Jinlong from Renmin University of China then pointed out the priorities for the action planning for FLR in DPRK which should be in the form of pilot projects and scaling up of field experiences. Dr. Jae Soo Bae ended the session by presenting the useful information of the win-win forest cooperation between South Korea and North Korea.

A Panel Discussion was held before the closing of the Symposium. A short trip to the Korean Demilitarize Zone (DMZ) was organized on the second day. The participants had a wonderful experience walking inside the Third Infiltration Tunnel and visited the Dora Observatory which was built by the Ministry of National Defence in 1986.

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## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BAMBOO COMPOSITES

### 11 - 12 February 2019

### Bangalore, India

Keeping in view the vast untapped potential of the bamboo sector and in order to boost value addition of bamboo resources in the country, IPIRTI is organizing a Post Workshop – One-day International Conference on Bamboo Composites at IPIRTI Conference Hall, Bangalore, India. It is a sequel to the five days World Bamboo Workshop being organized at Imphal, Manipur, India ([www.worldbambooworkshop.com](http://www.worldbambooworkshop.com)). This conference will be one of the flagship events of the IPIRTI and is expected to bring in the finest experts of the world together to chalk out the strategies for the sustainable

growth of the bamboo industry and disseminate the information on the latest advances and future opportunities for the development of bamboo pan global.

There is no registration fee. Limited funding for selected participants are available to cover the accommodation in Bengaluru and travel within India to attend the conference.

To register for the one day post workshop International Conference, please contact Ms. Sujatha D ([dsujatha@ipirti.gov.in](mailto:dsujatha@ipirti.gov.in)).

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

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- ❖ Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
- ❖ United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service