

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Kepong, Malaysia!

I am writing this message as the newly appointed Director General of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) since 1st September 2020. FRIM has been elected as the Chairman of APAFRI for 2018-2021 under the excellent leadership of Dato' Dr Abd Latif Mohmod who had officially retired by the end of August 2020. I am honoured to be part of the Executive Committee Members in contributing to the development of APAFRI.



Although the year 2020 is coming to the end, the COVID-19 pandemic has still not shown sign of better recovery. Despite the successful in flattening of the infection curve in June, Malaysia is experiencing continuous increase in COVID-19 cases since October which led to the implementation of stricter movement control order (MCO) again. The Secretariat operation is also subjected to the restriction as the work from home order has been applied to reduce the number of people working in offices and factories.

APAFRI has its 24th Executive Committee Meeting on 15 October 2020. The meeting was organized virtually and attended by eight out of the nine members of the Executive Committee. I would like to welcome Dr. Kim Myungkil and Dr. Yoshio Tsuboyama as the new representatives of National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) and Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI) respectively.

The current Executive Committee which was elected on 29 November 2018 in Putrajaya is coming to the

end of its three-year term. The Ninth General Assembly will need to be convened in 2021. The main objective of this event is to elect the Executive Committee which would guide APAFRI for the next three years. The Secretariat had proposed to organize the meeting by the end of 2021 to enable the implementation of the 2020's carried forward activities in the first half of 2021. During this uncertain situation of COVID-19, it is my greatest hope that the world will get better and we could physically participate in forestry events as before.

Dr. Sim Heok Choh who had served APAFRI since 2002 had officially retired from APAFRI. Sim is well known as a high calibre person with a pleasant personality. During his time with APAFRI, he had managed this small Secretariat to become a prominent NGO in Asia Pacific Region. We would definitely miss his service which had guided APAFRI over the years.

The year 2020 is rather challenging for all of us. Most of the planned activities were cancelled and postponed. Despite the challenges in 2020, APAFRI is very grateful for the continuous support from NIFoS for APAFRI to organize a list of activities. NIFoS has been a major funding agency for APAFRI's activities since 2007. The Korean Government, through NIFoS had allocated a portion of its contributions to the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) for activities to be carried out in the Asia Pacific for forestry practitioners of this region. APAFRI, as a chapter of IUFRO, is honoured to be entrusted with

the responsibilities of managing this portion of the fund.

APAFRI has signed an LoA with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in support of implementing activities for the study of “Forests and trees in enhancing resilience of people and landscapes in the Pacific Island countries”. APAFRI is honoured to be actively involved in FAO activities in the region.

FRIM has hosted the Secretariat of APAFRI since 2001. The Secretariat was placed in a very spacious five-room units before relocated to a smaller unit due to organizational structural changes in FRIM. In 2010, FRIM Management had renovated two unites of vacant staff quarters to house the APAFRI Secretariat until today. In August this year, FRIM has repaired and repainted the exterior of the Secretariat building which gave a fresh new look of the office.

I would like to extend my appreciation to all the agencies and member institutions that have been supporting APAFRI during this challenging time. Let us continues to work together to play an important role in the development of forestry research and capacity building in the Asia Pacific region.

In conclusion, allow me to take this opportunity to wish all members and friends of APAFRI a prosperous new year in 2021.

With best regards,

Dr Khali Aziz bin Hamzah
Chairman, APAFRI
December 2020

MEMBERS UPDATE

The Secretariat has received some updates on the contact person of the member institutions. The changes in organizational structure of the forestry institutions would somehow resulted in lost in contact as the Secretariat may be using the old email address for communication. The updates are indeed crucial in order to make sure all members are keeping in touch with APAFRI.

M011 Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)

- ▶ **Dr Khali Aziz bin Hamzah** has been appointed as the Director General of FRIM effective 1 September 2020.

M015 Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), Philippines

- ▶ ERDB's new Director is **For. Nonito M. Tamayo** and the new Assistant Director is **For. Mayumi Quintos-Natividad**.

M024 Department of Forestry, Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry, Fiji

- ▶ Updating contact persons: **Ms. Sanjana Lal, Mr. Semi V. Dranibaka and Mr. Jale Tauraga**.

M025 National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), Republic of Korea

- ▶ **Dr. Myungkil KIM**, the Director of Div. Global Forestry will take charge in the representative of NIFoS in collaboration with APAFRI.

M065 Forest Research Institute, Yezin, Myanmar

- ▶ Updating contact person. **Mr. Aung Thu**, the Director of Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

THE APAFRI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING

15 October 2020

Selangor, Malaysia



Dr. Gan Kee Seng, the Executive Secretary, started the meeting by welcoming all the Executive Committee members who participated in this virtual meeting. He mentioned that this was a long-planned meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic which was still on-going since early this year. Thus, it was still not possible to convene a proper Executive Committee meeting as before.

He drew members' attention to **Article XII** of the APAFRI's Constitution which stated that the 'Executive Committee members elected are representing member institutions and not on individual basis'. He then informed the meeting that Dr. Khali Aziz bin Hamzah is the new Director General of FRIM, replacing Dr. Abd Latif Mohmod who had retired at the end of August 2020 and officially the signatory of APAFRI's banking account; Dr. Kim Myungkil is the new representative of National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), replacing Dr. Park JungHwan who had retired at end of 2019; and Dr. Yoshio Tsuboyama is the new representative of Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI), replacing Dr. Hiroshi Tanaka in March 2020. He announced that Dr. Sim

Heok Choh had officially retired from APAFRI. He then invited Dr. Khali Aziz bin Hamzah to chair the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed all the Executive Committee members and thanked everyone for their efforts to attend this meeting via Zoom. He promised to give full commitment and support to ensure that all the APAFRI activities are successfully carried out.

The Chairman conveyed his thanks and appreciation to Dr. Abd Latif Mohmod, Dr. Park JungHwan and Dr. Hiroshi Tanaka for their excellent contributions in leading this association. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to Dr. Sim Heok Choh who had served APAFRI since 2002 which was almost 18 years.

During the short remarks given by every member, Mr. Uus Danu Kusumah informed that under the new re-organisation in Indonesia, FOERDIA is no longer under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Therefore, there will be a new nomination for APAFRI representative in the near future.

Dr. Gan Kee Seng reported the activities carried out for the past months since the last meeting. Mr. Uus Danu Kusumah reckoned that his colleagues had the opportunities to attend the various APAFRI activities. He delivered his sincere appreciation to APAFRI and all the contributors. Dr. Kim Myungkil highlighted the difficulties to organize the planned activities under NIFoS allocation this year due to COVID-19 and suggested to postpone all activities to year 2021. Dr. Gan Kee Seng responded and confirmed that all activities will be carried forward to next year.



Dr. Gan Kee Seng informed that the Ninth APAFRI General Assembly is due in 2021. Since most of the activities could not be implemented in 2020 because of the spread of COVID-19, the first half year of 2021 will be allocated to organize the postponed activities. He then proposed the Ninth General Assembly to be held towards the end of 2021 to allow participation from all members. All members agreed unanimously to the suggestion.

Dr. Kim mentioned that NIFoS would like to hold discussion with APAFRI Secretariat and APAFRI members to boost cooperation in organizing projects in Asia Pacific region before the ninth APAFRI General Assembly meeting. She suggested to held discussion between NIFoS and APAFRI Secretariat and APAFRI members in developing long term strategies for enhancing international cooperation

together with the IUFRO to strengthen forest cooperation and forest genetic network in Asia Pacific region. She also mentioned that NIFoS plans to utilize from the international contribution which is co-organized by NIFoS and APAFRI as materials for promoting APAFRI activities. NIFoS welcomes the active participation from APAFRI members in the World Forestry Congress which is scheduled in May 2021 in Seoul, Korea.

Dr. Syam suggested that all members could promote activities conducted in their respective institutions in APAFRI Newsletter. Dr. Gan clarified that instead of reporting activities organized by APAFRI, the Newsletter is also open for all members to contribute the content and announce upcoming events.

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



DR SIM HEOK CHOH



Dr. Sim Heok Choh was born on 17 March 1952 in Johor, a southern state in Malaysia. He started working in Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) in 1977 as a research officer at the Timber Research Laboratory (TRL). He completed his doctoral study in early 1990 and was appointed as the unit head at the Department of Corporate Management which automatically became the member of FRIM's Directorate.

In May 2002, Dr. Sim was assigned as the Executive Director of APAFRI. The appointment had strengthened the Secretariat. His dedication to increase APAFRI's presence in many regional events had made him very synonymous with APAFRI. He had established excellent relationships with all members as well as many from various forestry agencies which contributed to APAFRI's active involvement in regional activities.

After almost 18 years with APAFRI, Dr. Sim has officially retired in 2020.

DATO' DR ABD LATIF BIN MOHMOD



Dato' Dr Abd Latif bin Mohmod started working in FRIM in 1985. Since his appointment as the FRIM Director General in May 2008, he had strengthened FRIM's position as a leading tropical forestry research institution through the attainment of numerous national and international awards. He was elected as the Chair of APAFRI Executive Committee for three terms which were in 2009-2012, 2012-2015 and 2018-2021.

APAFRI had experienced tremendous growth under the leadership of Dato' Dr Abd Latif. He had ensured the continuous support to APAFRI in hosting the Secretariat in FRIM's campus. Besides the financial contribution, FRIM provides the office premises with internet facilities and also assigns a senior officer with a supporting staff to manage the Secretariat.

Dato' Dr Abd Latif had officially retired in August 2020.

DR PARK JUNG HWAN



Dr Park Jung Hwan was elected as Chairman of APAFRI 2015-2018 during the Seventh APAFRI General Assembly in 2015. Representing the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), Republic of Korea, he was very committed on pushing APAFRI to achieve even greater heights and ensuring sustainability.

Since 2007, the Korean Government through NIFoS has allocated a portion of its contributions to International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) for activities to be carried out in the Asia Pacific for forestry practitioners of this region. APAFRI is honoured to be entrusted with the responsibilities of managing this portion of the fund. The generous and very substantial annual contributions from NIFoS had allowed APAFRI to organize and/or finance various activities over the last decade.

Dr Park Jung Hwan had officially retired at end of 2019.

ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREST TREE BREEDING POPULATIONS FOR RECOVERING THE DEVASTATED SITES

(Supported by NIFoS allocation 2019-2020)



Capacity Building of Project Staff

In conjunction with 5th PSC meeting held on 9 December 2019 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, an expert from NIFoS was invited to visit the project sites for seeking technical advices on field operation. The expert together with project staff were discussed at the site to deal with challenges such as insect infestation to the Progeny Test Plantations and Seed Orchards, unknown causes of death of plus trees and slow growth of planted grafted seedlings especially *Pterocarpus macrocarpus* among others. The Korean expert made a comment on the field operation, especially on weeding using tractor during soil tillage. He suggested not to plough the soil anymore as it compact the soil and strip the organic-rich top soil needed for tree growth. In addition, he suggested to the project staff to replace the dead plus tree with new grafted seedlings using the scion from the same plus trees. There was recommendation on collection of insect specimen and photos of symptom of diseases in order to present to the experts for identification. Moreover, assigning the university students to conducting research on pest and tree diseases was recommended.

Due to COVID 19 pandemic, the virtual online consultations was conducted. With facilitation from the AFoCO secretariat, two online consultation sessions between an expert from NIFoS, the Professor from SNU, AFoCO secretariat and

Cambodian project team were arranged to discuss the enhance the draft tree improvement guideline, address the issues on field operation such as tree diseases, and pollen contamination. Based from the result of the meeting, the structure of Tree Breeding Guideline has improved intended to be a practical document for use in trainings and other reference. Regarding the tree diseases and insect attack, the meeting suggested not to conduct any treatment to the progeny test plantation so as to include the resistance to pest and disease attack as part of the selection criteria of the good plus trees. Instead, the project staff has to carefully maintain the seed orchard by providing more treatment to ensure higher survival.

Field Monitoring



One of the key success of the project is monitoring. The management team has regularly visited the field to check the progress on the ground and understand real challenges and keep the project moving and be on track of the plan. The head of project team and the Forestry Administration

visited the project site to check the progress on the ground. In addition, online consultation was also made with the head of the project and the field staff to keep abreast of the progress.

Public Awareness Raising

Referring to its original concept, one the activity is to raise awareness of the public on the importance of tree seed orchards including its role in forest restoration and rehabilitation in Cambodia. Public awareness raising activities was carried through meetings with local communities and organizing study tours and visits by researchers and students to the two sites (Khun Ream and Chan Sar).

Following the suggestion in the 5th Project Steering Committee meeting, to utilize the available budget from NIFoS for organizing international seminar on

plant disease and pest management in Mekong countries aimed at sharing experiences on the mentioned topics and enhance the capacity of the project staff, it was agreed to use the budget under activity 1.0 “Capacity building and 3.0

Public awareness raising” to cover the seminar. Unfortunately, the seminar could not be organized due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the project team, with concurrence from NIFoS and AFoCO

Secretariat, decided to move the activity to 2021. Promotion of the project is one of the key activities and the Project team has already shared the information and experience in several workshops.

(Adapted from the report prepared by Dr Sokh Heng (sokhhengpiny@yahoo.com))

SECRETARIAT BUILDING REPAINTED



Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) has hosted the APAFRI Secretariat office since 2001, which is almost 20 years. Back in 1995, the Secretariat was hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand. It was then shifted to the University Putra Malaysia in Serdang, Malaysia before moving to FRIM during the leadership of Dato’ Dr. Abdul Razak Mohd Ali, the Director of FRIM.

In 2010, under the leadership of Dato’ Abd Latif Mohmod, FRIM had refurbished two units of old staff quarters to house the APAFRI Secretariat, complete with the all utilities. FRIM has generously repainted the building and built a walkway to the back entrance of the office. Instead of that, the roof leaking problem had been solved and some repairs activities were taken to maintain the proper condition of the building in 2020.

APAFRI Ninth General Assembly

The once-in three-year APAFRI General Assembly is due in 2021. Article X and XI of the APAFRI Constitution provide guidelines for conducting the General Assembly.

ARTICLE X The General Assembly

General Assembly of the Association shall be represented by one delegate from each member institution.

The General Assembly shall meet once every three years after the close of the financial year but not later than the month of April on a date and at a time and place to be decided by the Executive Committee.

All decisions shall be taken by a simple majority vote. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

The quorum for the General Assembly shall be 33% of the membership.

If half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting of the General Assembly a quorum is not present, the members present shall have the power to proceed with the business of the day but they shall not have the power to alter the constitution of the Association or make decisions affecting the whole membership.

Notice of meeting together with an agenda, minutes of the previous General Assembly and an audited account of the Association shall be forwarded to the members at least 30 days before the General Assembly.

An Extraordinary General Assembly may be convened whenever the Executive Committee deems it necessary or at the joint request in writing of not less than 1/5 of the members, stating the objects and reason for such a meeting.

Notice and agenda for an Extraordinary General Assembly shall be forwarded by the Executive Secretary to all members at least 15 days before the date fixed for the meeting.

The provisions regarding quorum and postponement of the triennial General Assembly shall also apply to an Extraordinary General Assembly but with the proviso that if no quorum is present after half an hour from the time appointed for the Extraordinary General Assembly requisitioned by the members, the meeting shall be cancelled, no Extraordinary General Assembly shall be requisitioned for the same purpose until after the lapse of at least six months from the date thereof.

ARTICLE XI Duties of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall determine:

- The policy of the Association;
- Review and endorse the programme of work and budget prepared by the Executive Committee;
- Review progress;
- Exercise other powers conferred upon it by the constitution.
- Elect the Executive Committee and appoint auditors.

*Season's Greetings
& Happy New Year*

2021



APAFRI

From: APAFRI Secretariat



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