

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Attachment 1

MINUTES OF THE APAFRI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SEVENTEENTH MEETING

Date : 8 November 2011
Time : 1330 - 1530
Place : China National Convention Centre, Beijing, China
Attendance : As in Appendix I

Min 17.1 Introduction

Action & Information

The Chair welcomed all the members. The Chair welcomed Dr. Jeremy Broadhead from FAO, and a number of colleagues who were present as observers, to this meeting. Since no other issues were at hand, the Chairman proposed to proceed with the adoption of the agenda and moved on to read the minutes of the last meeting.

Information

Min 17.2 Adoption of the Agenda

The Chairman informed that there were four items to be discussed in the proposed agenda as per distributed documents. It was agreed unanimously to adopt the agenda.

Information

Min 17.3 Confirmation of Minutes of the 16th Executive Committee Meeting

Dr. Sim HC, the Executive Secretary, took the members very quickly through the minutes highlighting only the salient points. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

Information

- Concerning organizing activities by APAFRI, such as conference, symposium, workshop and the like; the members all agreed that these types of activities are highly beneficial to capacity building in the region, and more should be organized. Dr Aida Lapis mentioned about the Symposium on Vulnerability Assessment last year in Manila which was hosted by her organization, ERDB of the Philippines; and also a number of smaller workshops with her project on rattan.
- The issue of payment of fees for membership was again discussed. The meeting was told that the Secretariat had early this year sent out a round of reminders to collect membership dues. Quite a few members had responded thus far. The Secretariat would only intensely collect unpaid membership dues once in three years, coincides with the announcement for the General Assembly. Member institutions were reminded to pay up their membership dues to be able to nominate and vote during the General Assembly as stipulated in the APAFRI Constitution. This in effect allows the member institutions to pay their membership fees only once in three years, greatly reduces the burden and paperwork of paying every year.
- Two more members: Myanmar Forest Research Institute at Yetzin, and the Renmin University, Beijing, China; had recently signed up as members.

Secretariat

Information

Information

Min 17.4 Report on APAFRI Activities

Dr. Sim reported the APAFRI activities for the past months since the last meeting. The details are as per Appendix II.

Information

Min 17.5 Report on Financial Statement

The Executive Secretary tabled the September 2011 unaudited financial report, details are in Appendix III. Information

The Chairman again thanked the various agencies, especially FRIM, FAO, Korea Forest Research Institute, USDA and many others, for the financial and in-kind contributions, which had been vital for the sustainability of APAFRI all these years. Information

Min 17.6 Other Matters

The Chairman mentioned that the next General Assembly is due next year, and he would like to seek member institution to host this General Assembly. Announcement will be sent out early next year. To make traveling to this General Assembly more meaningful, APAFRI General Assemblies in the past had always been held in conjunction with a major event in the region, such as a conference, symposium or workshop; member representatives were encouraged to stay on for the event. Secretariat

The meeting was informed that earlier this year, Dr Park JungHwan of Korea Forest research Institute, a former Executive Committee member who has been very supportive of APAFRI activities and facilitated financial contributions for several years, mentioned that Korea Forest research Institute would be celebrating its 90th Anniversary next year. The Institute is planning to organize an international event in conjunction with the celebration. This could be a good opportunity to also have APAFRI General Assembly. The Secretariat is to follow up with Korea Forest research Institute. Secretariat

The Twinning Programme launched earlier this year had received limited response. The Secretariat would promote this further by sending out another round of the announcement. Secretariat

Dr Aida Lapis submitted a proposal for organizing an ASEAN Congress on Mangrove Research and Development. The meeting suggested that this event should be expanded to include other countries in the Asia Pacific region, not just ASEAN. Dr Aida Lapis will discuss with her colleagues in ERDB and shall resubmit if appropriate. Secretariat

There were some discussions about giving awards to recognize excellent forestry researchers in the region. The meeting was informed that APAFRI has instituted Dr YS Rao Forestry Research Award since its beginning. So far two persons: Dr Wu Bo (Chinese Academy of Forestry) and Dr Ashok Kumar (Rain Forest Research Institute, India) had received this award. There were however no nominations during the last two General Assemblies. The Secretariat will send out the announcement together with that for the General Assembly early next year. Secretariat

Min 17.7 Concluding Remarks

The Chairman thanked every one present for their involvement and contributions to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 15.30.

Attendance List

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS & SECRETARIAT STAFF

Dato' Dr Abd Latif Mohmod (Chairman) Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)

Dr VK Bahuguna (Vice Chairman) Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)

Dr M Al Amin Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science, Chittagong University (IFES)

Dr Isamu Okochi Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI)

Dr Aida B Lapis Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB)

Dr Sim Heok Choh Executive Secretary, APAFRI Secretariat, c/o FRIM

B. OBSERVERS

Dr Jeremy Broadhead FAO

Dr VRR Singh Forestry Research Institute, ICFRE (ICFRE)

Dr Pawan Kumar Kaushik Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI)

Dr KV Sankaran Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI)

Dr Tadao Gotoh Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI)

Dr HS Ginwal Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)