

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

### *Greetings from Kepong, Malaysia!*

The year 2020 surprised us with the disastrous impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. From the first few cases reported in China in early December 2019 the new coronavirus has since then been reported in many countries.

Like many organisations, the APAFRI Secretariat has also been affected by this wide spread disaster and had to cancel two events in February and March. These were activities supported by the 2019 Contributions from the Korean National Institute of Forest Sciences (NIFoS). The Workshop on Plant Tissue Culture Techniques was scheduled to be organized from 25--28 February 2020 in Suwon, Korea. Eight participants from APAFRI member institutions had already been selected and the Secretariat had started the logistic arrangements. However, with the increasing numbers of Covid-19 cases in a number of countries during that time, APAFRI and NIFoS had agreed to postpone the workshop.

The International Symposium on Genetic Conservation and Restoration of Endangered Forest Tree Species in the Asia-Pacific Region was supposed to be held from 16--18 March 2020 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The symposium was planned to be organized by the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN), the Forest Research and Development Agency of Indonesia (FORDA), the Chinese Academy of Forestry, APAFRI and Bioversity International. APAFRI had assisted in making travel arrangements for 14 invited international participants. However, several



participants had to cancel their participations due to travel restriction and it was finally decided that the symposium needed to be postponed until further notice.

In Malaysia, the Movement Control Order (MCO) took effect from 18 March 2020. After seven phases of very strict preventive measures, situation has improved, and the Recovery Movement

Control Order (RMCO) was introduced for a period from 10 June 2020 until 31 August 2020. During the MCO, the Secretariat office was temporary closed and operated on work-from-home basis. All other planned activities need to be put on hold until the situation has improved further.

NIFoS continues its supports to APAFRI with the release of the 2020 Contributions. NIFoS has outlined five activities for 2020:

- International Symposium on Global Forest & Landscape Restoration
- International Workshop on Promoting Legal Timber Trade and Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources in Asia-Pacific Region
- Establishment of ASIA Forest Research Network (AFRN)
- Technical support for the establishment of Forest Tree Breeding Populations for Recovering the Devastated Sites in Cambodia
- Support for Conference and Workshop to Activate the platform on the East Asian Network of Urban Forest (EANUF)

APAFRI is very grateful for the NIFoS continuous contributions which benefited members in improving



their capacity development by participating in the planned activities. As most countries are still under various movement restrictions and travel constraints, these planned activities would not be able to be organized until the situations improved.

As reported in the Eighth General Assembly of APAFRI in 2018, the membership of APAFRI had reached 69 institutional members since it was established in 1995. However, current active members totalled 33 which is just half of the total number according to our records. The APAFRI Secretariat would like to update membership status and other details, and will soon send membership update forms to the contact persons. We would appreciate that all members would respond to this updating process in order for us to serve our members more effectively and efficiently.

This would be the last message from me as APAFRI Chairman as I will be officially retired by the end of August. I have been with APAFRI since 2009 and have served as Chairman of APAFRI three times. Over these years, I have witnessed the phenomenal growth of APAFRI to become a prominent association of forestry research organizations in the Asia Pacific region. I would like to convey my appreciations to all the Executive Committee members who have worked together with me in leading this association, and also most grateful to all members for supporting APAFRI continuously all these years.

With best regards,

Abd Latif Mohmod  
Chairman, APAFRI  
June 2020

---

## FLASHBACK

### When was APAFRI established?

**APAFRI was established in 1995.** The establishment of APAFRI was prompted by the need to provide a viable institutional framework for research collaboration in the region. Since 1991, the Forestry Research Support Programme for Asia and the Pacific (FORSPA) has been fulfilling the networking function. APAFRI, a follow-up of FORSPA, is an outcome of the desire of the countries in the region and the donor community, to develop a more self-reliant and sustainable mechanism to strengthen research networking. It was launched during the meeting of the Heads of Forestry Research Organizations in the Asia-Pacific held in Bogor, 20-23 February 1995. In a session chaired by Dr. Salleh M. Nor, all representatives approved the constitution of the Association and elected the inaugural Executive Committee of APAFRI with Dr. Suree Bhumibhamon, then with Kasetsart University Thailand, as the first Chairman.

### Whose idea proposed the establishment of APAFRI?

The very idea of establishing the association was first mooted by **Dr. Y.S. Rao**, one of the outstanding foresters in the region. He was in-charge of FORSPA, a Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO) programme initiated in 1991. FORSPA has been mandated to nurture and support APAFRI in the initial years of the association, with the expectation that APAFRI will become self-supporting before FORSPA ends. He passed away in Bombay in March 1993.



## When was the First APAFRI Executive Committee meeting held?

The first meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the FAO Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand, **5-6 July 1995**. In addition to all the members of the Executive Committee, participants to the meeting included representatives from ACIAR, ASEAN Tree Seed Centre, and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), also participated in the meeting.

## When was the First APAFRI General Assembly held?

The First APAFRI General Assembly was held on **26 March 1997** in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

## Who was the first Executive Secretary of APAFRI?

Realising the urgency to step up the activities of APAFRI, **Dr. Kamis Awang** from University Putra Malaysia (UPM) was appointed as the Executive Secretary during the First APAFRI General Assembly in 1997.

## Location of APAFRI Secretariat

The APAFRI secretariat office was hosted first by the **FAO Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand**. It was then shifted to the University Putra Malaysia in Serdang, Malaysia in 1997; and has been hosted by FRIM at its Kepong campus since 2001.

## What was the impetus for APAFRI development during its early establishment?

In October 1998, APAFRI entered into a CND\$3.5 million agreement with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and a CIDA Executing Agency, Salasan Associates of Sidney, British Columbia, Canada to undertake a four year project, the **TREE LINK Project**.

The project's objective was to increase the ability of APAFRI member institutions to contribute to the renewal of Asian forests through the conservation and domestication of indigenous forest resources. The signing of the agreement with CIDA/Salasan provided the impetus for APAFRI to engage two full time employees to administer the day to day operations of the Association. The project formally ended in October 2002.





## Current list of APAFRI Institutional Membership

No.	Institution Name	Country	Joined date
00001	Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute (PNG-FRI)	Papua New Guinea	27/12/1995
00002	Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)	Indonesia	11/1/1996
00003	<i>CSIRO Division of Forestry and Forest Products</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>19/1/1996</i>
00004	Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI)	India	16/1/1996
00005	<i>Forestry Research Centre (MFETC)</i>	<i>Solomon Islands</i>	<i>18/1/1996</i>
00006	Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI)	Japan	31/1/1996
00007	Forest Science Institute of Vietnam (FSIV)	Vietnam	11/3/1996
00008	<i>ITC Limited, Paperboards and Specialty Papers Division, Unit: Bhadrachalam</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>27/2/1996</i>
00009	Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)	India	22/2/1996
00010	Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)	Malaysia	26/3/1996
00011	Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)	Malaysia	3/4/1996
00012	Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI)	India	15/2/1996
00013	<i>Pakistan Forest Institute (PFI)</i>	<i>Pakistan</i>	<i>17/4/1996</i>
00014	<i>Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Research and Development (PCARRD)</i>	<i>Philippines</i>	<i>24/4/1996</i>
00015	Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB)	Philippines	21/5/1996
00016	Taiwan Forestry Research Institute (TFRI)	Taiwan, R.O.C.	22/9/2000
00017	<i>School of Forestry and Resource Conservation, National Taiwan University</i>	<i>Taiwan, R.O.C.</i>	<i>22/5/1996</i>
00018	Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences (IFES), University of Chittagong	Bangladesh	5/6/1996
00019	<i>Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI)</i>	<i>Bangladesh</i>	<i>3/7/1996</i>
00020	Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI)	Philippines	5/7/1996
00021	Forestry Department	Sri Lanka	25/7/1996
00022	<i>ASEAN Forest Tree Seed Centre (AFTSC)</i>	<i>Thailand</i>	<i>1/11/1996</i>
00023	<i>Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>31/10/1996</i>
00024	Department of Forestry, Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry	Fiji	8/11/1996
00025	National Institute of Forest Sciences (NIFoS)	Korea	16/12/1996
00026	<i>CAB International (CABi)</i>	<i>Malaysia</i>	<i>6/12/1996</i>
00027	College of Forestry and Natural Resources	Philippines	20/1/1997
00028	<i>Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, National Chiayi University (NCYU)</i>	<i>Taiwan, R.O.C.</i>	<i>27/1/1997</i>
00029	Research Institute of Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry	China	3/3/1997
00030	<i>Forest Research Division</i>	<i>Nepal</i>	<i>4/3/1997</i>
00031	Kasetsart University	Thailand	12/3/1997
00032	<i>TropBio Research Sdn. Bhd.</i>	<i>Malaysia</i>	<i>8/4/1997</i>
00033	<i>BAIF Development Research Foundation</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>26/3/1997</i>

00034	Renewable Natural Resources Research Centre (RNR-RC)	Bhutan	26/3/1997
00035	Forest Research Centre, Sepilok	Malaysia	1/7/1997
00036	Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Science (JIRCAS)	Japan	28/8/2001
00037	<i>Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry (IPIF)</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>13/2/1998</i>
00038	<i>International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>16/3/1998</i>
00039	Department of Forestry and Wildlife	Cambodia	4/7/1998
00040	Forestry Research, Development and Innovation Agency (FOERDIA)	Indonesia	4/7/1998
00041	<i>State Forest Research Institute (SFRI)</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>16/11/1998</i>
00042	<i>Forest Research Institute of Kalimantan (FRIK)</i>	<i>Indonesia</i>	<i>17/10/1998</i>
00043	Sarawak Timber Association (STA)	Malaysia	15/11/1998
00044	Rakyat Berjaya Sdn. Bhd.	Malaysia	30/12/1998
00045	<i>Sarawak Forest Department</i>	<i>Malaysia</i>	<i>7/8/2001</i>
00046	<i>Nonglam University of Ho Chi Minh City (formerly UAF)</i>	<i>Vietnam</i>	<i>9/4/1999</i>
00047	<i>Institute of Applied Ecology (IAE)</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>20/4/1999</i>
00048	<i>Sustainable Management of Resources in the Lower Mekong Basin Project (SMRP)</i>	<i>Vietnam</i>	<i>27/4/1999</i>
00049	<i>University of Northern Philippines (UNP)</i>	<i>Philippines</i>	<i>7/7/1999</i>
00050	<i>Queensland Forestry Research Institute (QFRI)</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>6/12/1999</i>
00051	Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS)	Malaysia	24/2/2000
00052	Faculty of Forestry, Bogor Agricultural University	Indonesia	9/8/2000
00053	Faculty of Forestry, University Gadjah Mada	Indonesia	26/6/2000
00054	<i>Indian Institute of Forest Management</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>9/8/2000</i>
00055	<i>Save The Environment – Afghanistan SEA</i>	<i>Pakistan</i>	<i>17/8/2000</i>
00056	Research Institute of Tropical Forestry (RITF)	China	9/8/2000
00057	<i>Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>9/8/2000</i>
00058	<i>The Experimental Forest, College of Bioresources and Agriculture, National Taiwan University</i>	<i>Taiwan, R.O.C.</i>	<i>19/8/2000</i>
00059	<i>Fiji Pine Ltd., Research and Development</i>	<i>Fiji</i>	<i>28/12/2001</i>
00060	Biodiversity International	Malaysia	18/4/2001
00061	<i>Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>13/8/2002</i>
00062	<i>Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI)</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>30/1/2003</i>
00063	<i>Forestry Research Centre</i>	<i>Laos PDR</i>	<i>16/7/2003</i>
00064	<i>Research Institute of Forest Ecology, Environment and Protection</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>12/7/2003</i>
00065	<i>Forest Research Institute, Yezin</i>	<i>Myanmar</i>	<i>9/10/2010</i>
00066	<i>Renmin University of China (RUC)</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>22/4/2011</i>
00067	<i>Institute of Forest Genetics &amp; Tree Breeding</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>6/11/2012</i>
00068	Institute of Wood Science & Technology (IWST)	India	3/12/2012
00069	Forest Research Institute	India	3/10/2013

(Institutions name in italic have not been active for some times)



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

Contact us:

APAFRI Secretariat  
Forest Research Institute Malaysia  
Kepong, 52109 Selangor  
Malaysia  
Tel: (6) 03 6272 2516; (6) 03 6279 7536  
Email: [secretariat@apafri.org](mailto:secretariat@apafri.org)  
Website : [www.apafri.org](http://www.apafri.org)

## Acknowledgements

APAFRI extends its thanks to the followings for their continuous support:

- ❖ Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)
- ❖ National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), Republic of Korea
- ❖ Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO)
- ❖ Bioversity International
- ❖ Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
- ❖ United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service