



Chairman's Message

We are now coming to the end of yet another year. This year has really flown by. As I reflect upon 2002, I am proud to note that APAFRI has initiated and successfully carried out a number of activities over the year. As we step into the year 2003, I am optimistic that APAFRI will be able to do more in this region with the generous support from agencies like FORSPA/FAO, GTZ, CIDA, ACIAR and USDA. A chronological order of activities for the year has been appended in this newsletter.

Over the last six months, a number of events have taken place in APAFRI. These I would like to bring to the attention of all our members in my message in this newsletter.

The Tree Link Project has finally come to the end of its term. The project officially ended on 30 September 2002. With the financial support extended by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) through this project, APAFRI has since the project's inception in 1998, been able to provide services and programmes to most of its members in the ASEAN countries. Tree Link has also successfully completed its projects and achieved the objectives smoothly through APAFRI member countries. I am sure that APAFRI's member institutions in the ASEAN nations which had been involved in Tree Link Project programmes and activities would agree that the project has contributed much to building up the capacity in forestry research in the region. As a tribute



to the project, several pages in this issue of the newsletter have been allocated for articles highlighting the activities of this project.

APAFRI was hopeful that a second phase of this Tree Link Project would materialise as had been earnestly expressed by the participating countries.

Unfortunately, owing to CIDA's other more urgent and pressing priorities this did not come to fruition. I am however optimistic that, with the many successful projects that have been effected through this project, APAFRI has built up a strong foundation in project planning and delivery. APAFRI, now without the support of the CIDA's partnership, will be moving into a new phase of operation. We have been preparing for this and I am confident that we will sail through this transition period smoothly. With the closing of the Tree Link Project, we also bid goodbye to Ed and Ingrid Sutherland. Both of them have contributed immensely to the project, and also in moulding APAFRI to its present form. I wish to record my thanks to both of them for their unerring support. I wish them the best for their future endeavours.

The other change that has come to pass in APAFRI is that Mr. Alias Abdul Jalil, who had been serving as APAFRI's Executive Director for the past two years, has moved on to greener pastures. He has left with APAFRI's blessing to take up a job in a forestry-based company in Indonesia. On behalf of APAFRI, I would like to thank him too for all

his valuable contributions to APAFRI over the years, and wish him all the best in his new job.

In conjunction with the closing meeting of the Tree Link Project on 5 October 2002, the APAFRI Executive Committee also held its annual meeting in FRIM. This was the ninth meeting of the Executive Committee. Besides the routine reporting on APAFRI activities and financial matters, the meeting also focused on appropriate actions to be taken to ensure the sustainability of APAFRI after the closing of the Tree Link Project. The members of the Executive Committee also stressed that all efforts should be taken to expand the membership of APAFRI. At this Executive Committee Meeting too, it was also proposed and agreed upon to hold the next APAFRI General Meeting, due in 2003, in the Philippines.

As it stands now, the membership of APAFRI has expanded further with the joining of our 61st member – Asoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE). APAFRI also would like to take the pleasure to welcome Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) which has joined as an associate member, and also Dr. Soedarsono Riswan, a principal scientist at the Herbarium Bogoriense, Indonesia, who has joined APAFRI as an individual member. A couple of forestry institutions in India too have expressed their desire to join APAFRI. We are actively pursuing them

As an year-end activity, APAFRI organised two international conferences: *Bringing Back the Forests- Policies and Practices for Degraded Lands and Forests*, and *The Seventh Round Table Conference on Dipterocarps*, jointly with a number of agencies. Both these conferences were successfully held from 7–10 October 2002 in Kuala Lumpur. The two conferences, held concurrently at the same venue, attracted more than 160 participants, more than half was from outside Malaysia. A total of 70 papers and 20 posters were presented in these conferences. On behalf of APAFRI, I would like to thank all the agencies for their generous contributions towards the organising of these two conferences. I also would like to thank the Organising Committee, comprising mainly the staff members from the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), and also officers from the Forestry Department of

Peninsular Malaysia, for their formidable efforts in organising these conferences.

APAFRI has recently signed two important Memoranda of Understanding. The first was with the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) that officially endorsed the status as well as detailing the roles of APAFRI as the Asia Pacific Chapter of IUFRO. The second one was with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) towards strengthening cooperation and collaboration between the APAFRI and IPGRI.

APAFRI has finally registered and now is the owner of its own web address. The new web address www.apafri.org has been operational since July this year. During the first four months, till end October 2002, a message has been posted on the old website, www.apafri.upm.edu.my, directing visitors to the new address. This new website has been running satisfactorily since then. Following this smooth transition, effective 15 November 2002, we have closed down the previous website hosted by Universiti Putra Malaysia. I would like to thank Universiti Putra Malaysia for providing the Internet services since the beginning of our web operations. Many of the components in the website too, have been upgraded or improved. I hope the members will find the improved website useful and able to provide the services expected. Comments and suggestions for improving the website further are always welcomed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of international agencies, specifically FAO, FORSPA, GTZ, USDA, ACIAR, that have continued their support to APAFRI's programmes and activities throughout the year 2002. Thanks also to FRIM, UPM, UPLB, KU for their contributions to many of APAFRI's activities.

I take this opportunity also to wish all our members and friends around the world a prosperous New Year (2003).

With best regards

Dato' Dr. Abdul Razak Mohd. Ali
Chairman, APAFRI
December 2002

APAFRI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET

The Ninth Meeting of APAFRI Executive Committee was held in Kuala Lumpur on 5 October 2002.

The Executive Committee, chaired by Dato' Dr. Abdul Razak Mohd Ali, reviewed the activity report and financial report tabled by Dr. Daniel Baskaran, APAFRI Executive Secretary. The meeting continued to discuss:

- APAFRI after termination of the Tree Link Project
- APAFRI Business Plan
- Roles of Sub Regional Representatives
- APAFRI General Meeting 2003

Executive Committee members attended the meeting were:

Dato' Dr. Abdul Razak Mohd. Ali, Chairman

Dr. Lucrecio L. Rebugio, Vice Chairman
Dato' Dr. Salleh Mohd. Nor, Immediate Past Chairman

Dr. Percy E. Sajise, Executive Committee Member
Dr. Yusuf Sudo Hadi, Executive Committee Member

Among the observers were:

Dr. Simmathiri Appanah, FORSPA

Dr. Suree Bhumibhamon, Kasetsart University,

Dr. Jarkko Koskela, IPGRI

Mr. Hong Lay Thong, IPGRI

Dr. Ramon A. Razal, University of Philippines Los Baños

Dr. Daniel Baskaran, the Executive Secretary, Dr. Sim Heok Choh, the Executive Director and Mr. Alias Abdul Jalil, the Deputy Executive Director from the Secretariat also attended the meeting.

NEW MEMBER

A warm welcome to our 61st member:

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)

ATREE's mission is to:

- advance protection of the environment,
- conserve biodiversity, and
- promote sustainable use of resources.

ATREE emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches and combines principles of ecology and economics to undertake and promote scientific, educational and development activities.

These range from basic to applied research combined with action.

The current areas of concentration are:

- conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity;
- social and economic drivers of land use change;
- mapping of biodiversity;
- enterprise-based approach to conservation;
- conservation and management of forest genetic resources; and
- policy and action related to conservation and use of forests.

ATREE provides a platform for innovative work and particularly encourages the professional growth of young men and women concerned with the environment. ATREE also seeks to strengthen the skills of governmental and non-governmental organisations.

ATREE fulfills its mandate through research and activities by its own core staff and by providing scholarships, fellowships and small grants to young professionals. Capacity building and human resource development of other organizations is achieved through workshops and training courses.

For more information on ATREE, please contact:

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Or you may visit ATREE website at www.atree.org



NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

APAFRI welcomes our 1st Associate Member:

Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)

APAARI's mission is to promote the development of national agricultural research systems in the Asia Pacific region through inter-regional and inter-institutional cooperation.

The agricultural research institutions in the Asia Pacific region:

- Aware of the problems and challenges facing the development of agriculture in the region;

- Conscious of the responsibilities which they must assume if they are to contribute to the process of social and economic development in the region;
- Convinced that the role and impact of the respective institutions can be enhanced through effective collaboration and consultation among them;

have decided to establish a regional association of agricultural research institutions in the pursuit of their common objectives under the sponsorship of FAO.

For more information on APAARI please contact:

Dr. R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary

Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)

c/o FAO Regional Office for Asia Pacific

39, Phra Atit Road, Maliwan Mansion,

Bangkok 10200 Thailand

Telephone: +66 2 697 4371

Fax: +66 2 697 4408

Email: apaari@apaari.org

Or visit APAARI at www.apaari.org

APAFRI welcomes our 2nd Associate Member:

Dr Soedarsono Riswan

who is currently a Principal Research Officer at Herbarium Bogoriense, Research Center for Biology, Indonesian Institute of Sciences.

His areas of research include:

- a) Botany and Forest Ecology
- b) Ethnobotany (traditional medicine and medicinal plants)
- c) Conservation

Dr Soedarsona Riswan can be contacted at:

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BRINGING BACK THE FORESTS POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR DEGRADED LANDS AND FORESTS & THE SEVENTH ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON DIPTEROCARPS

**Dipterocarps in the New Millennium: Conservation, Domestication & Utilisation
7-10 October 2002, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia**

The two conferences were successfully held as scheduled from 7–10 October 2002, at the Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur. The Honourable Minister of Primary Industries, Dato' Seri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik, officiated the occasion.

Bringing Back the Forests

A total of 88 participants registered for the conference, out of which 57 were from outside Malaysia. 36 papers were presented in the five oral presentation sessions and there were seven posters put up during the conference.

A total of 59 participants went out on a field trip on the second day, 8 October 2002. They visited two sites, the Multi-storied Forest Management Project and the FRIM Research Station, all near Bidor in the State of Perak, about 150 km north of Kuala Lumpur.

The Asia Pacific Forest Rehabilitation Network (APFRen) had a satellite meeting on the evening of Wednesday, 9 October 2002. The meeting started with a presentation by Mr. Ismail Harun of FRIM to introduce APFRen and review its activities. This was followed by discussions on issues including reactivation of the network, future activities, collaborations, and funding opportunities.

On the last day, the conference concluded with a Panel Discussion chaired by Dr. S. Appanah, Senior Programme Officer, FORSPA. The theme for the panel discussion was "Plotting a Future Course of Action". The panelists were:

Dr. Patrick Durst, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO-RAP;
Dr. Paolo Pasicolan, Professor, Isabella State University, Philippines;

Dr. Swarna Vepa, Principal Scientist, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, India;
Mr. K.P. Ariyadasa, Additional Conservator General of Forestry, Sri Lanka; and
Dr. Donald Nichols, Senior lecturer, South Cross University.

Several issues were discussed that led to formulating of proposals that would be followed up by the various international and national agencies.

The day after the conference, on the 11 October 2002, a small group of participants, scientists from participating countries in the Asia Pacific Forest Rehabilitation Network (APFRen) flew to Cambodia. The next day, they visited the Rehabilitation Demonstration Plot in Bac Sna Province, north of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The Seventh Round Table Conference on Dipterocarps

A total of 83 participants registered for the conference, out of which 21 were from outside Malaysia. There were five oral presentation sessions crammed into the first three days. Out of the 36 papers presented at these oral presentation sessions, 39% were from foreign scientists and the rests were from Malaysians. Each session began with a keynote, and all the keynote speakers are prominent scientists well known in their respective fields. Eight posters were put up during the conference.

A total of 40 participants went out for a field trip on the last day of the conference, 10 October 2002. During that morning, they visited the Damansara Damai Forest Park to witness the multipurpose

uses of dipterocarp stands, which were planted by FRIM in the early 1980's. They then proceeded to visit the Dipterocarp Arboretum at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) guided by Dr. Lillian Chua, a forest botanist from FRIM. After lunch at FRIM, the next stop was the Bukit Nanas Recreational Forest located at the heart of Kuala Lumpur, managed by the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia. After visiting the Information Centre, the participants climbed up the hill while appreciating the various dipterocarp and non-dipterocarp trees along the way. At the top, the participants were taken to the final stop of the post-conference tour, to visit a famous landmark of the city, the 421 metres tall Kuala Lumpur Tower.

A satellite meeting, called by the Dipterocarp Research Group, convened on the third day, 9 October 2002, after the last session. At this meeting, apart from

discussing on collaborative research and ways of networking more effectively, the venue for the Eighth Round Table Conference to be held in 2005 was also discussed. Vietnam was unanimously chosen to be the venue for the next conference.

Overall the conferences were fairly well received. The committee has received quite a few complimentary remarks that the conferences were well organised.

A number of agencies, specifically FAO-FORSPA, the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and Innoprise Corporation Sdn. Bhd. of Sabah had contributed towards the organising of these conferences. The organising committee, and APAFRI, would like to express our sincerely thanks to all these agencies, for without their contributions we would not be able to organise these conferences successfully.

Field Training Course on

FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION AND THE DESIGN OF LOCAL AUDITING SYSTEMS

10-12 September 2002

Zhang Zhou City, Fujian Province, Peoples Republic of China

In December 2001, FORSPA-GTZ-APAFRI has organized a training course relating to development of a local auditing system in Cambodia. The participants unanimously agreed that the workshop gave an excellent introduction on the general direction to be taken in terms of developing local auditing systems. However, experience being limited, the benefits would be furthered even more if related workshops/training courses are conducted which provide the field training in identifying the specific indicators of sustainable forest management, and measuring them quantitatively. Besides, training in recording, analysis and reporting of these findings would be equally important. The participants further expressed that this training should be individually tailored at national levels, one for each country. The participants from the Chinese Forestry Academy offered to co-organize such a training course.

With financial support from FAO-FORSPA and GTZ, APAFRI, together with the China Academy of Forestry and Fujian Provincial Forestry Department, organised a three-day training course in Zhang Zhou City, Fujian Province, from 10-12 September 2002. A total of 53 participants comprising government officials (forestry department chiefs; senior policy and planning officials; senior field staff) and academicians from the Province of Fujian, attended this training course. We were honoured to have the Major of the Zhang Zhou City officiating the event.

Support from GTZ and FAO-FORSPA are greatly appreciated and we would also like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to our partners, the Fujian Provincial Forestry Department and the China Academy of Forestry, for hosting the training course.

NEW PUBLICATION FROM APAFRI

“Basic Principles of Biotechnology and Their Application in Forestry”

Biotechnology applications in forestry are becoming increasingly important, especially in areas such as conservation, genetic improvement and forest species propagation. All of these have a major bearing on the renewal of the forests.

In view of the need, APAFRI, with support from the CIDA Tree Link Project, engaged a curriculum development team composed of forestry and biotechnology specialists from both Universiti Putra Malaysia and University of Philippines Los Banos to undertake and complete a biotechnology application for forestry curriculum.

After a fairly long journey of two years, the curriculum was designed and it is now published as one of the APAFRI Publications.

Basic Principles of Biotechnology and Their Application in Forestry is organised into four main sections:

Section 1

Biotechnology Applications in Forestry

Section 2

Basic Science of Biotechnology

Section 3

Biotechnology in Forestry: Progress and Prospects

Section 4

Forest Biotechnology: The Challenge Ahead

With its wide scope, this book is a good reference on the topic of biotechnology and its application in forestry.

The book is available at Ringgit Malaysia 60.00 or US\$15.00 from the APAFRI Secretariat. Staff of member institutions get a 30% discount.

DR Y. S RAO FORESTRY RESEARCH AWARD

APAFRI is now calling for nominations for this award to be given out in year 2003. The award is for the most outstanding paper/report on problem solving forestry research with significant practical application value.

Eligibility is limited to researchers below the age of 35 years from APAFRI member institutions.

Nominations for the award must be made by the member institutions. There is no specific nomination form for this, but applicant must provide short curriculum vitae accompanied by compilation of research papers or reports.

The deadline for the submission of nomination is 30 April 2003.

More information is available at our website www.apafri.org

WWW.APAFRI.ORG

We are pleased to inform you that, since 1 July 2002, APAFRI has been using a new web address www.apafri.org. A message directing visitors to this new web address has been posted at the old web site.

This new website has been running satisfactorily since then, we have thus decided to close down the previous server at Universiti Putra Malaysia (www.apafri.upm.edu.my) on 15 November 2002.

APAFRI would like to take the opportunity to express its sincere thanks to Universiti Putra Malaysia for providing the Internet services since the beginning of our operations.

THE TREE LINK PROJECT – CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FORESTRY RESEARCH CAPACITY OF THE ASEAN NATIONS

The Tree Link Project began with a very limited set of goals. The project was intended to be regional in scope and to engage seven Southeast Asian countries, with the main development focus being on Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Indonesia.

The project began with a “design and deliver” contractual process by a design mission in November-December 1997. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) directed the design team to APAFRI as the potential regional partner and main source of regional advice for the project. As a result, the original formulation of the project was refined to reflect the institutional development vision of APAFRI and the identified priorities of the intended partners. The project began in the field in November 1998 with the establishment of a field office attached to the APAFRI Secretariat.

The project has made use of the expertise of the entire network of APAFRI member institutions. The Project has contributed to the “renewal of Asian forests through the use of indigenous resources” by **enhancing the capacity of the forestry research community at the strategic, systemic, institutional and regional level.**

In pursuing the project objectives it was necessary for Tree Link to collaborate with many other development agencies and regional associations. These include especially FAO/FORSPA, CIFOR and CABI, as well as several German, Swiss, Swedish, Danish and Japanese projects that have common interests in improving research skills, sharing information, and applying results to field practice. The best integrators of this extensive array of initiatives were the APAFRI member institutions. This approach, along with the strategy of contracting for work at locally supportable costing rates, has been extremely productive in making the most efficient use of limited resources and ensuring strong local ownership.

Over the last four years, the project has instituted 85 contracts, through APAFRI, with various agencies in the ASEAN region. These contracts were formulated to contribute towards the expected outputs defined

at the design phase of the project. The actual outputs and their impact on the region are as summarized below.

Improved capabilities in managing APAFRI programmes and activities

The Tree Link Project has assisted in moulding APAFRI into a sustainable institutional mechanism at the systemic and regional level. The Project has contributed to the development of APAFRI’s management, communication, information, contracting and event management capabilities.

An array of management systems has been developed and is utilized by the APAFRI Secretariat to support its operations. Recently, the APAFRI Policy and Procedures Manual has been revised to include a section on Internet usage. The HRD portion of the manual also has been strengthened to incorporate a staff performance appraisal mechanism.

The Tree Link Project has also assisted in developing a business plan from the APAFRI Strategic Plan in 1997, through a participatory process involving the APAFRI Executive Committee and a representative of the FAO Forestry Research Support Programme for Asia and the Pacific (FORSPA). The APAFRI members at the General Assembly in August 2000 approved the Business Plan, and the APAFRI Executive Committee and Executive Director had used the Plan to prepare and deliver subsequent annual work plans of the Association.

APAFRI, as at 30 September 2002, has a membership of 61 regional institutions in the Asia Pacific region, compared to 40 at the time when the Tree Link Project just started in 1997. Out of the 61 members, 38 have renewed their membership during the last twelve months, which represents an increase in renewals from below 25% to the current level of 60%. In some cases, the renewals have included “back payments” representing payments for the previous two to three years. Membership increase and the increase in renewals can be attributed to the growing awareness of the functions and roles of APAFRI, the effectiveness and quality of its services, and a systematic approach by the Secretariat to solicit membership renewal.

Improved system for the exchange and dissemination of applied renewal research information and results

The Tree Link Project has worked with APAFRI and its member institutions to develop and improve the Association's information exchange mechanisms. The mechanisms have been tested and information is flowing among institutions and also to forestry professionals in the government, the private sector and civil society. APAFRI has since recruited a full-time Information Officer to oversee the ongoing development and maintenance of the information exchange services.

One of the major barriers to regional collaborative research is the difficulty and expense of sharing research information and results across international boundaries. As a result many researchers, especially the younger ones who do not have extensive personal networks, are having difficulty in fitting their research into the larger body of scientific information. Tree Link has assisted APAFRI in creating an inexpensive and fast mechanism for international, inter-library electronic loans, focusing initially on the entire collection of forest science journals held in institutional libraries. Discussions had been held with several APAFRI member academic institutions to permit APAFRI to house electronic copies of their theses and dissertations.

The project has also assisted APAFRI in supporting and developing regional networks of Dipterocarp researchers and forestry graduate students. The work on Dipterocarp Specialist Network has focused on improvements to the operating software and the collection of completed research (hard and soft copies) for inclusion in the network database. To date, the database has 348 research reports gathered from researchers throughout Malaysia. The ARO Student Network is a self-developed and self-managed website. The ARO students developed the site and currently use it to post and exchange information. All ARO students along with the ARO programme coordinators and supervisors are aware of the network and over 80% of them use the network.

Improved training programmes to facilitate the dissemination and application of forestry research

One of the greatest challenges in forest renewal is getting research results communicated to practitioners so that the results can be applied in the field. One of the means is through continuing professional education (CPE) programmes offered to the professional foresters employed throughout the region by governments, communities, NGO's, development agencies and industries. Tree Link has worked with APAFRI to create

a regionally shared programme of CPE for foresters in the ASEAN region. The programme, based initially on the model created by the College of Forestry and Natural Resources at UPLB, has now being adapted by the Society of Professional Foresters in Malaysia and the Tree Link partners in Vietnam. The Project has also worked with the Deans of University Faculties of Forestry to establish regional collaboration through active sharing of curricula and training resources.

To date, 12 training courses have been developed, tested, revised and delivered. Five of these training courses have also been cut on compact disks; further facilitate their use in self-paced learning or in support to courses delivered at a distance from the training institution. The latest training course, Biotechnology Applications in Forestry, has been compiled into an APAFRI publication, *Basic Principles of Biotechnology and Their Application in Forestry*, in October 2002.

In the development of training courses, particular attention has been paid to insuring multi-national, multi-disciplinary participation to insure adaptability. The Participatory Research Methodology Course was developed in Vietnam, with significant inputs from the Philippines. The course was subsequently revised for delivery by Vietnamese trainers in Cambodia. A multi-disciplinary team in Malaysia developed the Technical English for Forestry course. The course has been adapted for use in Cambodia and Vietnam.

Training courses for trainers have been contracted and delivered to faculty members in the Faculty of Forestry, UPM and the College of Forestry and Natural Resources, UPLB. The course in Malaysia was developed and delivered by the contract division of the Faculty of Education, UPM. In the Philippines, a private sector firm delivered two blocks of training to faculty members. In total 58 trainers were trained. In Vietnam, trainers for the Participatory Research Methods course had been previously trained in training techniques through a Swiss development project. They subsequently trained four trainers (two from the FRI and two from the Faculty of Forestry) in Cambodia.

Applied research outreach (ARO) programme

Young researchers face an environment different from their senior colleagues. In the past there were many scholarship programmes that created the network of senior alumni who now lead the educational and research establishments. Scholarship programmes are now very limited. In addition, decreased research funding for young researchers is also limiting their ability to conduct field studies.

Tree Link has supported APAFRI in developing a sustainable programme of applied research outreach. The programme has been able to encourage regional forestry faculties and research institutes to assist young researchers to conduct applied research in collaboration with end-users. It has also brought young researchers together for training and networking to establish the international professional bonds needed for career-long collaboration.

The ARO programme has been successfully implemented in three regional institutions (Kasetsart University, Thailand, Universiti Putra Malaysia and University of the Philippines Los Baños). Twenty-seven regional students had been funded. To date, 20 of these 27 students have completed their research and received their degrees. Programmes for

undergraduate students have also been developed in conjunction with the faculties of forestry in the Royal University of Agriculture and Forestry, Cambodia and the University of Agriculture and Forestry in Vietnam.

As an integral part of the design of the ARO programme, a strategy was developed to increase the degree of awareness of gender equity issues among the ARO students. The strategy called for assessing initial awareness of gender equity issues, in a pre-test prior to a series of three planned interventions delivered as integrated components of the three ARO clinics. Following the third clinic (April 2001), a post-test was conducted. The pre-test results showed a low awareness of gender equity issues among the students. The results of the post-test indicated that the level of awareness had not increased significantly.

THE START OF THE END...

by Marilyn Q. Landicho

The CIDA-APAFRI Tree Link Project has reached its end and it was formalized in 4–5 October 2002 at FRIM, Kepong, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Looking back, I, together with Ms. Monette S. Santos, got involved in this project in 1999 when Cyndi Bertram of Salasan Associates, Inc. visited our office, the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines. Former Dean Lucrecio Rebugio of UPLBCFNR introduced her to us. Miss Bertram discussed the need for gender specialists in the project. Fortunately, Ms. Santos and I were chosen because both of us are Foresters and Ms. Santos is the Chair of ERDB GAD Focal Point System. From then on, we were designated as Philippine Gender Advisors. Other countries with Gender Advisors included Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Our lone workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 6–8 September 1999, which aimed to create a strong gender team and to work cooperatively on specific tasks. It was a tiresome and fruitful workshop where we got to know each other. During the workshop, we prepared work plans based on the activities conducted by the National Core Group of the respective countries. We identified the possible needs and suggestions for a network, and finally, we were requested to evaluate the workshop based on its objectives and agenda.

We (the Philippine Gender Advisors) were then contracted to prepare the Resource Package on Gender Issues in Forestry Research for Students

Participating in ARO Programme and to conduct the assessment of Gender Sensitivity and Awareness also for the ARO students. We delivered lecture on the same topic during the Third ARO Clinic held in the Philippines in March 2001. Mr. Ed Sutherland, the very able and active Field Coordinator of the project kept on communicating with us regarding the contracts. We had several meetings and discussions.

Now that the Tree Link Project has formally ended, and we, as gender advisors were asked how are we going to rate our outputs, outcomes, and impact! How???... Although we have accomplished the service agreements contracted to us (on time and with satisfaction, I hope), personally, I do not think we have accomplished much in the true sense of “gender mainstreaming” since not all the components of the Tree Link Project have gender concerns. We were only involved in the ARO Programme. Hence, I believe that this is just the start of our “gender advocacy” through our proposed “Network for the Promotion of Women Participation in Forestry in the Asia-Pacific Region” and perhaps other collaborative efforts that may come in the future.

Thus, we (the gender group), during the presentation of Dr. Daniel Baskaran, APAFRI Executive Secretary, on 5 October 2002, had stressed the importance of including the gender strategy/mechanism in the post Tree Link Period of APAFRI. Isn't it just the **START OF WHAT THEY CONSIDER END OF TREE LINK PROJECT FOR THE GENDER GROUP?** You bet!

LEGACY OF THE TREE LINK PROJECT

adapted from the speech of
Dato' Dr. Abdul Razak Mohd.Ali, Chairman, APAFRI,
at the Tree Link Annual Dinner,
4 October 2002.

Although the Tree Link Project will finish within the next few days – its legacy will remain.....

Within the SE Asia region, the forest research community is small. Many of the researchers have known and worked with one another since university days. They have attended the same workshops and seminars, and in informal moments, shared comments on successes and failures. They have collaborated in regional initiatives and international projects. They have seen projects come and go.

Over the past four years, researchers and educators have collaborated with APAFRI in the implementation of the Tree Link Project. Tree Link is one more of many international projects addressing the issue of forest management in SE Asia. What sets Tree Link apart from many of the others is its focus on people and processes, not on the sciences and practices of forestry.

The *Legacy of the Tree Link Project* will be in the processes now resident in the APAFRI Secretariat. These include the processes of planning and delivering of programmes, and the increased use of the information exchange mechanisms that have been developed.

The *Legacy of the Tree Link Project* will be in the undergraduate and graduate students of the Applied Research Outreach Programme. The provision of financial support to encourage applied research and at the same time nurturing collegial links among them will create a future cadre of researchers and foresters in this region. These are our next generation. While the academic and research performance of the young people is wonderful to see – the evidence of future collaboration lies in the small indicators not captured in formal reporting.

Among the students there is an active exchange of information pertaining to forest research, which is to be expected. However there is also an exchange in goods and services, *Tom Yam* cubes from Thailand to the Philippines; wedding presents from the Philippines to Malaysia and jokes of all kind being e-mailed throughout the region. These are the activities that bind the collegial ties.

Tree Link has, to a great extent, relied on regional expertise to assist in the implementation of the Project. This has contributed to the strengthening of linkages and the building of the foundation for future collaboration. The physical transfer of dipterocarp seedlings from Vietnam to Cambodia is a wonderful sign of cooperation and given the rotation period for dipterocarps – it is likely to be a long-term association.

Closer to home, Tree Link has nurtured the APAFRI Secretariat. Yes, systems and process of management are in place, but so are the laughter and the commitment to work long hours towards the goals of our Association. Tree Link has supported and encouraged Secretariat staff to complete postgraduate studies. Within the duration of the programme, Ms. Noridah has completed her M.Sc. and Ms. Yeang received her MBA from Southern Cross University.

Another legacy will be the continued friendships that Ed and Ingrid have made during the past four years. These will stand the test of time and in the years to come will be strengthened from exchange visits.

These important intangibles should be recognized in the overall assessment of the Tree Link Project. In many ways, it will be these intangibles that will ultimately contribute to the impact of the Tree Link Project in this region.

APAFRI JOURNAL OF DIPTEROCARP RESEARCH

APAFRI Journal of Dipterocarp Research has been developed to permit researchers and scientists working on dipterocarps to actively and inexpensively share the results of their collective research. This journal was developed as a web-based electronic journal, you may view the articles at your desk, without sharing with others, for 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The electronic journal system works 24 hours a day. All researchers are welcomed to submit their articles related to the topic. When there is an uploaded article, the administrator will be notified within two hours. Then the administrator will notify the relevant editors to start the editing process. The editors can communicate with the author directly or through the administrator, for the necessary modification or revision of the article. When the article is ready, the administrator will upload it and electronic notification will be sent out to all the subscribers.

This Journal of Dipterocarp Research was developed by APAFRI as a pilot e-journal template. It is a tool that can be used for the management, publication and distribution of scientific journals. The e-journal template can substantially reduce the editing time with interactive communication between the author and the editor. With the APAFRI e-journal template, printing and shipping costs are effectively eliminated. The e-journal also eliminates the need to compile an entire volume prior to distribution.

Starting from 1 November 2002, APAFRI would like to request to those who are interested to subscribe, or would like to have more information on this journal, to contact our Secretariat or visit our website at www.apafri.org under the e-journal services

For more information on currently available journals or how to start a new journal, please contact our Information Officer, Ms Yeang at yeang@apafri.org

APAFRI E-LOAN SYSTEM NOW READY FOR USE

APAFRI Electronic Library Loan Services is also known as APAFRI E-loan System. This is a web-based system that provides services for researchers to request and receive electronic copies of journal articles, theses and dissertations.

The E-loan System is designed to operate on a cost recovery basis. Institutions or individuals using the service will be charged a nominal fee. This service fee is expected to be considerably lower than that charged by existing commercial services. The initial phase of the system has been completed. At the time of writing the service is free of charge to member organisations, however, a fee structure will be established next year.

The design of the system allows for the inclusion of an infinite number of libraries. This makes it possible to connect all libraries and document centres within the APAFRI network within the foreseeable future.

“E-loan” is a secure system, in order to gain access to the system; members need to notify the APAFRI Secretariat of staff members who are authorised to use the system. This is a simple process, the member institution submits a list of authorised staff, including their e-mail addresses, in order for APAFRI to assign user codes.

During the promotion period, starting from 1 July 2002 till 30 June 2003, **all requests are free of charge**. If you are interested to enroll as a user, please contact the Secretariat for more details.

SPECIALIST NETWORK

APAFRI has designed a package of software programmes to support the electronic exchange of information among communities of common interest. The comprehensive package permits the development of and access to databases of information on a particular subject. The databases hold names and contact details for researchers, their areas of specialisation, institutions conducting research, funding agencies supporting the research, current research being undertaken and abstracts of completed research projects.

The software package supports electronic discussions, which can be adapted to permit online participation in conferences and workshops. With the use of the available software, a specialist network can also create and distribute an electronic, refereed journal.

The information collected by the specialist network is housed and maintained within the APAFRI Website. Members of the network can determine the extent to which the information can be shared. Access to the information can be limited, via user names and passwords, or can be made available to the scientific community at large.

For the time being APAFRI is hosting the **Dipterocarp Specialist Network**, if you are interested to be in this network, please contact the Secretariat. And if you need more information on establishing a specialist network or to learn about existing networks, please contact our Information Officer, Ms Yeang at yeang@apafri.org

DIPTEROCARP SPECIALIST NETWORK

For the past two years, APAFRI has established a Malaysian Dipterocarp Specialist Network, which acts as a platform for dipterocarps researchers in Malaysia to share information.

In October 2002, APAFRI in collaboration with a number of agencies had organized an international conference, "The Seventh Round Table Conference on Dipterocarp" from 7–10 October 2002 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Quite a few participants from countries other than Malaysia, have indicated desires to join the network. As such, we would like to expand our network outside of Malaysia. All the participants from this International Conference have been included in the network and could share all the available information.

More information has been placed in the website. If you would like to join our Dipterocarp Specialist Network, please visit us at www.apafri.org

APPLIED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH IN VIETNAM

APAFRI jointly with the Faculty of Forestry, University of Agriculture and Forestry, Ho Chi Minh City and Forest Science Institute of Vietnam had organised a participatory forestry research methodology course for the students in Vietnam.

With support from the Canadian International Development Agency through its Tree Link Project, APAFRI was able to fund 17 out of 19 research proposals resulted from this training course. They were eight students from the South and nine from the North of Vietnam. Each of them will receive USD2000 to conduct their research.

A management committee, headed by Dr Dang Dinh Boi (boilamngghiep@hcm.fpt.vn), Faculty of Forestry, University of Agriculture and Forestry and Dr Nguyen Hoang Nghia (vkhln@hn.vnn.vn), Forest Science Institute of Vietnam, has been formed to manage and monitor the applied research project.

Upcoming Event

APAFRI ACTIVITIES

The Third APAFRI General Assembly

Date : September 2003

Venue : TBA

Contact : Dr Sim Heok Choh

APAFRI Secretariat

c/o Forest Research Institute Malaysia

Kepong, 52109 Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia

Tel : +60-3-6272 2516

Fax : +60-3-6277 3249

Email : sim@apafri.org or secretariat@apafri.org

Others

Conservation of Wetlands – Conflicts or Compromise

Date : 16–19 January 2003

Venue : Hambanthota, Sri Lanka

Contact : P.K.S. Mahanama

Department of Town & Country Planning

University of Moratuwa

Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

Tel : +94 1 650921

Fax : +94 1 645534

Email : pksm@mail.ac.lk

Others

Increasing Effectiveness of Transboundary Conservation Areas

Date : 17–21 February 2003
Venue : Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand
Contact : Sonja Canger and/or Dena Cator,
TBCA Meeting Secretariat,
IUCN – The World Conservation Union,
Switzerland
Tel : +41-22-999-0263
Fax : +41-22-999-0025
Email : transboundary@iucn.org

Properties and Utilization of Tropical Woods

Date : 11–15 March 2003.
Venue : TBA
Contact : Dr Gan Kee Seng
Forest Research Institute Malaysia,
52190 Kuala Lumpur Kepong,
Malaysia
Tel : +60-3-6279 7000
Fax : +60-3-6279 7753
Email : ganks@frim.gov.my

The Role of Planted Forests in Sustainable Forest Management

Date : 24–30 March 2003.
Venue : Wellington, New Zealand.
Contact : ECPF Secretariat,
c/o International Policy, Ministry of
Agriculture and Forestry,
PO Box 2526, Wellington,
New Zealand
Tel :
Fax : +64-4-498 9891
Email : plantedforestrymeeting@ maf.govt.nz
Web : www.maf.govt.nz/unff-plantedforestry-
meeting

International Workshop on *Gmelina arborea*

Date : 6–11 April 2003
Venue : Samarinda, East Kalimantan,
Indonesia.
Contact : Bill Dvorak, Box 7626,
Grinnells Lab. NCSU, Raleigh,
NC 27695 USA
Email : info@CAMCORE.org;
Web : www.CAMCORE.org

34th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council.

Date : 12–17 May 2003
Venue : Panama City, Panama.
Contact : Collins Ahadome
Tel : +81-45-223 1110
Fax : +81-45-223 1111
Email : itto@itto.or.jp

Third Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Date : 26 May–6 June 2003
Venue : Geneva, Switzerland.
Contact : Mia Soderlund, UNFF Secretariat
Tel : 1-212-963 3262
Fax : 1-212-963 4260
Email : unff@un.org
Web : www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm

Applications of Statistics, Information Systems and Computers in Natural Resources Monitoring and Management

Date : 8–12 September 2003
Venue : National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan
Contact : Biing T. Guan
Department of Forestry
National Taiwan University
Taiwan ROC.
Tel : +886 2 2362 6942
Fax : +866 2 3639 247
Email : btguan@research.ntu.edu.tw

XII World Forestry Congress

Date : 21–28 September 2003
Venue : Quebec City, Canada.
Contact : XII World Forestry Congress, PO Box 7275,
Charlesbourg, Quebec G1G 5E5, Canada.
Tel : +418 694 2424
Fax : +418 694 9922
Email : sec-gen@wfc2003.org
Web : www.wfc2003.org

Quality Timber Products of Teak from Sustainable Forest Management

Date : 2–5 December 2003
Venue : Peechi, India.
Contact : Dr. K.M. Bhat
Convener, International Teak Conference 2003
Kerala Forest Research Institute
Peechi 680 653, Thrissur District
Kerala State, India.
Tel : (91) 487-699 037, (91) 487-699 365
Fax : (91) 487-699 249
Email : kmbhat@kfri.org
Web : www.kfri.org

XXII IUFRO World Congress.

Date : 8–13 August 2005
Venue : Brisbane, Australia.
Contact : Dr Russell Haines
Queensland Forestry Research Institute,
PO Box 631, Indooroopilly 4068, Australia
Tel : +61-7-3896 9714
Fax : +61-7-3896 9628
Email : hainesr@qfri1.se2.dpi.qld.gov.au
Web : http://iufro.boku.ac.at

APAFRI ACTIVITIES FOR 2002

Month	Activities/Events
January	Preparatory meeting on "Participatory Forestry Research Methodology" training course, 16 January, Kuala Lumpur.
February	APAFRI-CIDA-FORSPA discussion on APAFRI's annual work plan, 7-8 February, Bangkok, Thailand.
March	APAFRI participated in the Asia Europe Forestry Exchange Programme (ASEFOREP) Meeting, 22-23 March. ASEFOREP is a collaborative exchange programme of Asian and European higher forestry educational institutions.
April	APAFRI participated in the ASEM Workshop on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forests, 19-21 April.
May	APAFRI Secretariat strengthened with the assignment of Dr. Sim Heok-Choh, a senior researcher from FRIM, as its new Executive Director.
June	APAFRI Newsletter Issue No.9 (June 2002) published and distributed.
July	APAFRI's new server and new web site: www.apafri.org are fully operational. Dr. Don (Koo) Lee from Korea visited APAFRI office on 22 July. He was given a briefing focusing on the major activities of APAFRI such as the setting up of the E-loan System and Specialist Networks.
August	APAFRI's membership increased to 61. The 61st member is Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) (India). APAFRI Executive Director participated in the 19th Session Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, 26-30 August, Mongolia. An introduction of APAFRI was presented to promote the activities and programmes of APAFRI. A package has been put together for a membership drive. A folder has been designed and printed to hold various pamphlets and brochures. The package, together with an invitation letter, has been sent to several potential members starting August. Ed Sutherland and Alias visited Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia and Vietnam during the month, to meet officials who have been directly and indirectly involved in the Tree Link Project. The purpose of the meeting was to get their feedbacks on the outputs and outcomes of the projects for preparing the closing reports.
September	Workshop on Forest Management Certification and the Design of Local Auditing Systems, 10-12 September, Zhang Zhou, Fujian Province, China. Launching of E-loan System, which provides access to over 1.5 million forestry research articles in the libraries at Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Forest Research Institute Malaysia and the College of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of the Philippines, Los Baños. Demonstrations were conducted at FRIM (17 September) and Royal Thai Forest Department (16-19 September).
October	Tree Link Project Steering Committee Meeting, 4-5 October. Ninth Meeting of APAFRI Executive Committee, 5 October, Malaysia. Bringing Back the Forests- <i>Policies and practices for degraded lands and forests</i> , 7-10 October, Kuala Lumpur The Seventh Round Table Conference on Dipterocarps – <i>Dipterocarps in the new millennium: Conservation, Domestication & Utilisation</i> , 7-10 October, Kuala Lumpur. Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) joined APAFRI as an Associate Member. Dr. Soedarsono Riswan, a principal scientist at the Herbarium Bogoriense, Indonesia, has joined APAFRI as an Individual Member. APAFRI bid goodbye to Ed Sutherland and Ingrid, and also Alias.
November	Permanently closing down of APAFRI's old website: www.apafri.upm.edu.my , 15 November.
December	Workshop on "Obtaining Effective Research Result with Scarce Resources: strategies for research and innovation in forestry", 2-4 December, Sri Lanka. December Managing with scarce resources: strategies for research and innovation in forestry, 2-4 December, Sri Lanka.

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

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- ❖ USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Forest Service
- ❖ GTZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit)

Contributions in kind:

- ❖ Universiti Putra Malaysia
- ❖ Forest Research Institute Malaysia

ASIA PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS



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