

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Colombo!

The year 2008 must be one of the most eventful years for the Asia-Pacific region. A growing number of natural disasters had caused huge damages to the region. Some of these were deadly devastating, such as the Nargis cyclone which hit Myanmar in early May; and the severe earthquakes of Sichuan Province, China. There were also a number of human-induced ones like the bombings in Mumbai, India; and the political unrests in countries such as China, the Philippines and Thailand. The later was so serious that the International Airport of Bangkok was seized by the demonstrators and shut down completely for several days, disrupting many activities in the region, including one workshop organized by APAFRI.

This year too is a very eventful year for APAFRI. After the hectic first-half of the year as was reported in the previous issue of our newsletter, the second-half was as hectic. APAFRI organized half-a-dozen meetings and workshops during this period, averaging one per month. The biggest event was the Asia Pacific Forest Health Workshop in Kuala Lumpur, 1–3 December. The two-and-a-half-day workshop was funded by the contributions of Korea Forest Research Institute to the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). APAFRI, the Asia-Pacific chapter of IUFRO, was given the task of organizing this event together with the Asia Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN). The workshop attracted 54 participants from 18 countries. These included representatives of a number of international and regional organizations, programmes, networks and projects dealing with invasive species and forest health, as well as, individuals working in policy, research and operations related to forest pests and diseases, environmental services, and forest management from the Asia and the Pacific region. APAFRI had



also assisted FAO in organizing two meetings: one on forest genetic resources in Kuala Lumpur in October, and another one on forest fire management in Pekanbaru, Indonesia, in November. Details of these and other events of APAFRI during the year can be found on our website. We have also produced compact discs for many of these events, which are available on request.

A number of member institutions, including Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), have new heads during the year. Dr Abdul Razak Mohd Ali, the Immediate Past Chairman of APAFRI Executive Committee, and the Director General of FRIM, had retired from Malaysian Civil Service in late April. On behalf of APAFRI, I wish to convey our most sincere gratitude to him for the numerous contributions to APAFRI which had propelled APAFRI to its current status. When he was elected chairman of APAFRI Executive Committee in 2000, he had convinced the FRIM Board to host APAFRI Secretariat in the FRIM campus. He had again, in 2006, persuaded the FRIM Board to continue this commitment of hosting APAFRI Secretariat even though he was no longer the Chairman, as he had served the maximum two terms of six years. FRIM's outlay in hosting APAFRI Secretariat is quite substantial in financial terms. Besides providing a fairly large office space and Internet connections, FRIM had also assigned Dr Sim Heok-Choh, a senior researcher to serve as the Secretariat's full time Executive Director, together with a personnel assistant, since 2002.

Dr Daniel Baskaran, APAFRI's Executive Secretary since 2000, had also just submitted his resignation to me. He is leaving FRIM to join a private conservation foundation. Daniel is well known to be a highly charismatic person, always full of energy. His excellent skill in conducting meetings and moderating discussions had made many a meeting or workshop interesting and fruitful. While wishing him every success in his new endeavour,

we would certainly miss his service which had guided APAFRI all these years. With Daniel's resignation, I have suggested, and got the endorsement from the Executive Committee, that Dr Sim Heok-Choh, the current Executive Director, be designated as the Executive Secretary of APAFRI. This would be a temporary measure till the next General Assembly due in 2009. The Director General of FRIM, in assuring FRIM's continued commitment to host APAFRI Secretariat, had previously mentioned about assigning another officer from FRIM to assist Dr Sim. This person could eventually takeover the responsibilities of Executive Director. This is also part of a succession plan to ensure the long term sustainability of APAFRI.

APAFRI's next General Assembly, the fifth since its establishment in 1995, is due in 2009. The Forestry Research and Development Agency of

Indonesia (FORDA) has earlier consented to host this event. To attract better attendance at the General Assembly, it would be held together with a regional conference. The Secretariat had already initiated discussion with FORDA on the tentative theme of the conference and other details. The discussions would be intensified during the months to come, and more information would be made available well in advance to allow members to plan to attend this important event.

I would like to end this message wishing you all a VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROPEROUS 2009.

With best regards,
Sarath Fernando
Chairman, APAFRI
December 2008

DR Y. S RAO

FORESTRY RESEARCH AWARD 2009

This award is presented to a young researcher who has made outstanding contributions in forestry research and development. It is given once every three years and presented in conjunction with the APAFRI General Assembly. The next General Assembly, to be convened in 2009, will present the award consisting of a specially designed plaque and a citation. The recipient will also be fully supported to attend the award presentation ceremony and the General Assembly. Dr. Rao, in whose honour the award is named, was one of the outstanding foresters in the Asia Pacific region. He contributed significantly to the promotion of forestry research, particularly research related to poverty alleviation, sustainable resource development and the needs of young researchers. He had also mooted the idea of setting up APAFRI. The first Dr. Y.S. Rao Forestry Research Award was presented in 2000.

The award went to Dr. Wu Bo, Associate Professor at the Research Institute of Forestry (RIF), Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), Beijing, in recognition of his outstanding research on desertification. The recipient of the reward given out the second time in 2003 was Dr Ashok Kumar, Scientist and Head, Division of Tree Improvement and Propagation, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, Assam, India. Dr Ashok Kumar has made considerable contributions in various areas ranging from forest genetics, genetic improvement, tree improvement to tissue culture. The APAFRI Secretariat is now calling for nominations for the 2009 award. Eligibility is limited to researchers from APAFRI member institutions, and nominations are to be submitted by member institutions. There is no specific nomination form, but applicant must send in short curriculum vitae accompanied by a compilation of research papers or reports. Deadline for submission is 30 April 2009.

More information available from www.apafri.org.

THE FIFTH APAFRI

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The once-in-three-year APAFRI General Assembly is due in 2009. This shall be the fifth since its establishment in 1995.

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 of 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.

The General Assembly shall elect the Executive Committee and appoint auditors.

As the last General Assembly was convened in July 2006 the next one, the Fifth General Assembly, should be held not earlier than July 2009. The Forestry Research and Development Agency of Indonesia (FORDA) has earlier consented to host this event. Traditionally, the General Assembly would be held in association with a major regional event to attract the attendance of representatives from member institutions.

More information would be made available well in advance to allow members to plan to attend this important event.

Daniel Baskaran is leaving APAFRI.....

..... and Sim is the new Executive Secretary

Dr Daniel Baskaran, APAFRI's Executive Secretary since 2000, is leaving FRIM to join a private conservation foundation, and has decided to discontinue his service as the Executive Secretary of APAFRI. While wishing him every success in his new endeavour, we would certainly miss his service which had guided APAFRI all these years.

With Daniel's resignation, the Executive Committee has designated Dr Sim Heok-Choh, the current Executive Director, as the Executive Secretary of APAFRI, effective 1 January 2009.

COMPILATIONS OF PRESENTATIONS

APAFRI has adopted the practice of compiling presentations and relevant documents on compact discs (CDs) for most of the events it organized since a few years ago. The followings are the compilations for the events organized during 2008:

	<p>Towards Responsible Management of Planted Forests – A regional workshop for the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Management of Planted Forests Chiang Mai, Thailand 21–24 January 2008</p>
	<p>Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network Workshop – Risk-based targeted surveillance for forest invasive species Hanoi, Vietnam 20–23 April 2008</p>
	<p>Training Workshop on Forest Biodiversity – Conservation and Management of Forest Genetic Resources Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 7–11 July 2008</p>
	<p>Fire Management Needs and Actions in the South East Asian Region – Implementation of the Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines Pekanbaru, Indonesia 10–13 November 2008</p>
	<p>Asia and the Pacific Forest Health Workshop – Forest Health in a Changing World Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 1–3 December 2008</p>
	<p>SEAG International Symposium/Workshop- GAForN: Close to Nature Forestry-Practices for Asia-Pacific towards the Millennium Development Goal Challenges Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 17– 20 December 2008</p>

ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED/PARTICIPATED BY APAFRI IN 2008

Date	Activity	Venue
21–24 January	A regional workshop for the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Management of Planted Forests	Chiang Mai, Thailand
11 February	National Workshop on Forest Genetic Resources Conservation and Management in Cambodia	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
26 February	National Workshop on Forest Genetic Resources Conservation and Management in Myanmar	Yezin, Myanmar
12 March	National Workshop on Forest Genetic Resources Conservation and Management in Thailand	Bangkok, Thailand
25-26 March	Seminar Rattan & Bamboo 2008	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
20–23 April	Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network Workshop – Risk-based Targeted Surveillance for Forest Invasive Species	Hanoi, Viet Nam
21–26 April	Asia Pacific Forestry Week	Hanoi, Viet Nam
22 April	Fifteenth APAFRI Executive Committee Meeting	Hanoi, Viet Nam
24 April	Forestry Research and Education in a Changing World: Vision for Asia-Pacific Region	Hanoi, Viet Nam
25 April	Introduction to Global Forest Information Service	Hanoi, Viet Nam
7–11 July	Training Workshop on Forest Biodiversity – Conservation and Management of Forest Genetic Resources	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
30 July	National Workshop on Forest Genetic Resources Conservation and Management in Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
14–15 October	State of the World Forest Genetic Resources (SOW FGR) Asia Pacific Meeting	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
20–22 October	Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions General Assembly	Tsukuba, Japan
27–28 October	CAF 50 th Anniversary and International Symposium of Heads of Forest Research Institutions	Beijing, China
30–31 October	ASEAN Knowledge Network on Forests and Climate Change	Jakarta, Indonesia
10–13 November	Fire Management needs and actions in the ASEAN region – implementation of the Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines	Pekanbaru, Indonesia
13–14 November	Asia Pacific Forestry Commission Executive Committee Meeting	Hua Hin, Thailand
1–3 December	Asia Pacific Forest Health Workshop – Forest Health in a Changing World	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
17–20 December	German Alumni Network Symposium – Close to Nature Forestry	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Scientific Congress on Climate Change," Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions"

Date : 10-12 Mac 2009
Venue : Copenhagen, Denmark
Contact : Jane Søgård Hansen
Person : Head of Section
Climate Office, University of Copenhagen
Noerregade 10, P.O. Box 2177
1017 Copenhagen K
Tel : 4535324251
Email : jsha@adm.ku.dk
Web : <http://climatecongress.ku.dk/>

LIGNA Hannover 2009

Date : 18 - 22 May 2009
Venue : Hannover, Germany
Contact : Mr. Kenneth Fong
Person : Trade Fairs Consultant
Edaran Anfas (M) Sdn. Bhd.
Tel : 03-78032276
Email : kennethfong@edaranfas.com
Web : www.ligna.de; www.edaranfas.com

XIIIth World Forestry Congress (WFC).

Date : 18 -25 October 2009
Venue : Buenos Aires, Argentina
Contact : Mr. Leopoldo Montes
Person : Secretary General
Email : lmontes@cfm2009.org
Web : <http://www.wfc2009.org/en/index.asp>

The 14th Australasian Plant Breeding & 11th Society for the Advancement of Breeding Research in Asia & Oceania Conference

Date : 10 – 14 August 2009
Venue : Cairns Convention Centre
Contact : Conference Managers
Person : Event Planners Australia , P.O.Box 1517,
Eagle Farm Qld 4009, Australia
Tel : 61 7 3858 5515
Fax : 61 7 3858 5499
Email : info@plantbreeding09.com.au
program@plantbreeding09.com.au

The First Global Forum of Ecological Economics in Forestry – Harmonious Future for Human Well-being

Date : 19-21 August 2009
Venue : Nanjing, China
Fax : +86-25-85427972
Contact : Ms. Xiaojing Zhu
Person : College of Economy and Management
Nanjing Forestry University
159 Longpan Road, Nanjing
Email : info@gfeef.org

The 5th International Canopy Conference

Date : 25 – 31 October 2009
Venue : Karnataka, India
Tel : +91-80-23638771, 23530069
Fax : +91-80-23530070
Web : www.atree.org

UNDERSTANDING WOOD - AN UTILIZATION PERSPECTIVE

Jegatheswaran Ratnasingam & Robert McNulty



The study of Wood Science and Technology has come a long way since the publication of pioneering books on the subject matter in the early 1900s. However, with the rapid advances in information and communication technologies (ICT), education providers are forced to assimilate such technologies into their day-to-day practice.

This educational CD on 'UNDERSTANDING WOOD – An Utilization Perspective' is a collaborative effort between the Faculty of Forestry of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI). The aim of this educational CD is to provide its readers, particularly students

studying Wood Science and Technology throughout the Asia-Pacific, a simplified perspective to wood, with an emphasis on the influences that the wood characteristics and properties have on its utilization. It provides a new approach to the study of wood and highlights the important aspects of the material, which must be appreciated in order to work with it successfully. The compilation and production of this educational CD is very much in line with APAFRI's commitment to enhance the forestry research and development capacity and capability in the Asia-Pacific region. APAFRI's support will potentially contribute to a wider circulation of this educational CD.

(Contact the APAFRI Secretariat for copy of this CD)

