



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Kuala Lumpur!

The first half of the first year in the second decade of the new millennium had been shaken by many disasters in the region. The east coast of Honshu Island, Japan, was struck by a magnitude 9.0 earthquake on 11 March. It was the most powerful known earthquake to have hit Japan, and one of the five most powerful earthquakes in the world overall since modern record-keeping began in 1900. This most devastating earthquake in a hundred years had triggered a deadly tsunami and causing widespread destruction and fatalities. The nearby Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant was badly affected and the nuclear power generator units experienced meltdown which led to life-threatening nuclear radiation leakage. There were a few other earthquakes such as the ones in New Zealand and Myanmar. On top of these the region was also hit by severe typhoons causing huge damages to countries like China, Vietnam and the Philippines.

After barely recovered from the very hectic week-long IUFRO World Congress in Seoul last August, the forestry fraternity in the region is again aggressively gearing up to the Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week scheduled to be held in November this year. This event, to be organized in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission meeting, will be hosted by the Chinese Government in Beijing. The organizers have planned to attract up to 2000 participants as compared to the 800 participated in the previous one in Hanoi, Viet Nam, April 2008. APAFRI, being an active participant in many previous Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission meetings would certain like to continue with the tradition, and prepare for this grand event. APAFRI Secretariat is in the process of planning several activities including putting up a display booth during the event. Some initial discussions had been going on which include plans to organize side-events on invasive species, forest genetic resources, trans-boundary issues; as well as training workshops on communication. This event would also be an opportune



time to have an Executive Committee meeting during which the Executive Committee members could discuss plans for the coming years, including matters related to the next General Assembly due in 2012.

APAFRI has managed and implemented a number of multi-national and multi-institutional projects over the years. With these experiences, and the increasing requests for inter-institutional collaborations, APAFRI has proposed to establish **Twinning Programmes** for its member institutions primarily for forestry research

and development, education, and other forestry related matters. A preliminary announcement had already been sent out to all members since early this year. The Secretariat had thus far received only a few enquiries. Perhaps many member institutions are unclear of what the programme entails, thus the hesitance of expressing interest to participate. The Secretariat is prepared to provide explanations and other details if so necessary, and will continue to improve the announcement posted on our website with more details.

Since 2007, the Korean Government, through the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI), has allocated a portion of its contributions to 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. APAFRI has used the 2007 allocation for partially financed the International Conference on Traditional Forest-related Knowledge in Kunming China, the 2008 allocation for organizing an Asia Pacific Forest Health Workshop in Kuala Lumpur, and the 2009 allocation for an Asia Pacific Forest Products Workshop in Sri Lanka. Last year's allocation was utilized for a regional symposium hosted by the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) of the Philippines in Manila, 7–9 December 2010. Proceedings for these events have already been published by IUFRO as IUFRO World Series Volumes 21, 24, 27 and 29. I wish to take this opportunity to thank KFRI for these contributions

without which these very successful and beneficial events would not be able to materialize.

The Secretariat has been informed that KFRI would continue its financial support this year and also for the coming years. We are indeed very grateful to KFRI and the Korean Government for the continuous support which is crucial to the very sustainability of APAFRI. These contributions would enable APAFRI to continue servicing its members, as well as the whole forestry fraternity in the region.

As usual, in closing, allow me to thank all agencies and member institutions that have contributed, in one way or another, to supporting APAFRI during the past years. We look forward to receiving comments and suggestions to improve our service to the members, as well as the whole forestry fraternity in the region.

With best regards,
Abd Latif Mohmod
Chairman, APAFRI
June 2011

PROGRAMME ON EMERGING MULTI-NATIONAL TRANSBOUNDARY ISSUES OF FORESTRY

Forests and forestry have contributed more than just significantly over the thousands of years to human wellbeing. Through the endlessly sustainable natural process of photosynthesis, forests provide life for many of the world's living organisms. In addition, trees and other forest plants, store vast quantities of carbon, protecting the topsoil, retain rain water runoff, and providing shelter as well as food for many other plants and animals.

Wood is one of the major end products of photosynthesis in trees. It is a large store of carbon and it provides a rich food source for the many organisms that feed on it, when it is alive and during decomposition. It is also a raw material of almost unlimited versatility. In its natural form it can be cut, sliced, moulded or otherwise shaped. Broken down into small particles or fibres it can be reconstituted as paper products, packaging and absorbents, building panels and so on. It provides extractives for pharmaceuticals, solvents, foodstuffs, preservatives and liquid fuel. Cellulose, the basic component of wood is a source of fibre/cloth and plastic-like materials.

Similarly, many of the non-wood forest produces have been used for various purposes ranging from treatments for all kinds of illnesses, building materials, food, tools and implements, cosmetics, and many others.

Today, people are being urged to use more wood to help protect the environment. This is because if more wood is used, more trees will be planted to meet the increasing demand. If there are a lot more trees – then more carbon dioxide will be taken out of the air and, at the same time, less carbon dioxide will be released because we will be using less of the high energy materials like steel and concrete.

These are but some of emerging issues that could shape policies and research on forests and forestry industries in all countries, more so in the less developed and developing nations which are largely hungry for the huge profit that could be realized by exploiting forests.



Many of the young forestry professionals have rather shallow understandings of global forestry issues including multi-national transboundary problems of pollution, natural and anthropogenic hazards, and pest and diseases. Likewise, many of the young

researchers and forestry students have difficulties in linking their trainings and knowledge gained from traditional forestry curricula to current debates on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Such shallow and narrow views, coupled with complacency, have nurtured inward-looking culture among many young forestry practitioners, which is detrimental to sound policy formulation required for sustainable development.

APAFRI is planning a programme with a general objective of broadening the understanding of forestry issues among young forestry practitioners. The programme would specifically aim to:

1. expose young forestry researchers and practitioners from the Asia and Pacific region to current and emerging forestry issues;
2. raise awareness about multi-national transboundary forestry issues;
3. provide a better understanding of global forestry issues and debates in various forums; and
4. improve networking, communication and information exchange among young forestry professionals on forestry in general.

(For more details please contact APAFRI Secretariat)

REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP TO SUPPORT THE PREPARATION OF THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES IN ASIA

7–9 March 2011, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Following the recognition of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) on the urgency to conserve and sustainably utilize forest genetic resources, a request was made during its Eleventh Session in June 2007, to prepare a *State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (SOW-FGR) report. This report is scheduled to be presented to the Commission at its Fourteenth Session, in 2013. This was discussed by the Committee on Forestry (COFO) at its Nineteenth Session in March 2009, and member countries were urged to collaborate with FAO and partner organizations in producing the Report.

Many countries had prepared national reports on forest genetic resources, and these are the primary sources of data and information for the preparation of the SOW-FGR report. To facilitate coordination, each country is to designate a National Focal Points (NFP). NFPs would serve as the main contact points for FAO during the SOW-FGR preparatory process. A set of guidelines for the preparation of Country Reports on the State of FGR has already been drafted and sent to all countries. Accordingly, the Country Reports should be submitted preferably by July 2011.

A series of workshops had been planned, one for each continent/region, to assist countries in better understanding the guidelines and prepare the country reports. These workshops have the following objectives:

- To support the countries National Focal Points in the preparation of their respective Country Reports on the State of FGR.
- To provide the opportunity for participants to discuss and exchange information on importance FGR and their current programmes on their conservation, management and use.

The workshop will bring together the National Focal Points designated by their Governments to prepare the Country Reports on the State of FGR. The preparation of these reports is an opportunity to review the status, trends, needs and priorities in FGR conservation and management in the countries, to define or update national FGR strategies and programs. NFPs are requested to prepare, as far as possible, first drafts of their Country Reports before the workshop. The workshop will be an opportunity to share experiences, discuss difficulties and constraints encountered during the preparation of the reports and, with the assistance of resource persons, identify options and ways to move forward and finalize the reports.

The workshop for Asia

The workshop for the Asian countries was successfully held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; from 7–9 March 2011.

Out of the 20 countries invited: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, PR China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam; all except India, had nominated at least one representative to this workshop. Japan and Korea had sent two representatives each.

Quite a few of the countries present had already made some progress in preparing the country reports. Acknowledging their appreciations to FAO for organizing this workshop to assist them in preparing the country reports, most of them expressed confidence of submitting draft reports within this year, if not by the preferred deadline of July. The participants also suggested setting up discussion forum, with the assistance of regional networks, for exchanging experiences and keeping them updated on relevant issues.



APAFRI Website has a fresh new look!



APAFRI website has been redesigned with several new features to be more user-friendly. The main changes to the website include rebuilding the navigation of the website, reviewing and editing all the contents and uploaded lots of photographs. Contents of this site have been grouped into seven categories to make navigation much faster and to help one finds the information quickly.

A GFIS News Box on the main page

The Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) provides the framework to share forest-related data and information through a single gateway. Browsing GFIS at <http://www.gfis.net> allows you to access a lot of information resources which provide direct access to the original information.

Currently, GFIS supports the following types of information: News, Events, Recent publications, Library and document collections, Datasets and Databases and Job vacancies. GFIS also provides a powerful search tool

and browsing capability for latest news, events, publications and job opportunities.

GFIS is built as a global partnership, across sectors and institutions, and aims to maximize the value of all forest information resources and providers worldwide. Through a bottom-up approach, partners determine the volume, coverage and type of information they would like to share through GFIS. All APAFRI members are invited to share forestry information through this gateway. APAFRI Information Officer, Ms Syuqiyah Abdul Hamid (syuqiah_apafri@frim.gov.my), will be able to provide more details and assist.

APAFRI website has added a GFIS News Box on the main page displaying fresh news directly from GFIS. The box is linked to <http://www.gfis.net/gfis/widget/news/en/200/>, which its contents are updated every two hours. All members are welcomed to insert this News Box onto your own websites to integrate a brand-new, automatically updated feed widget into your website.

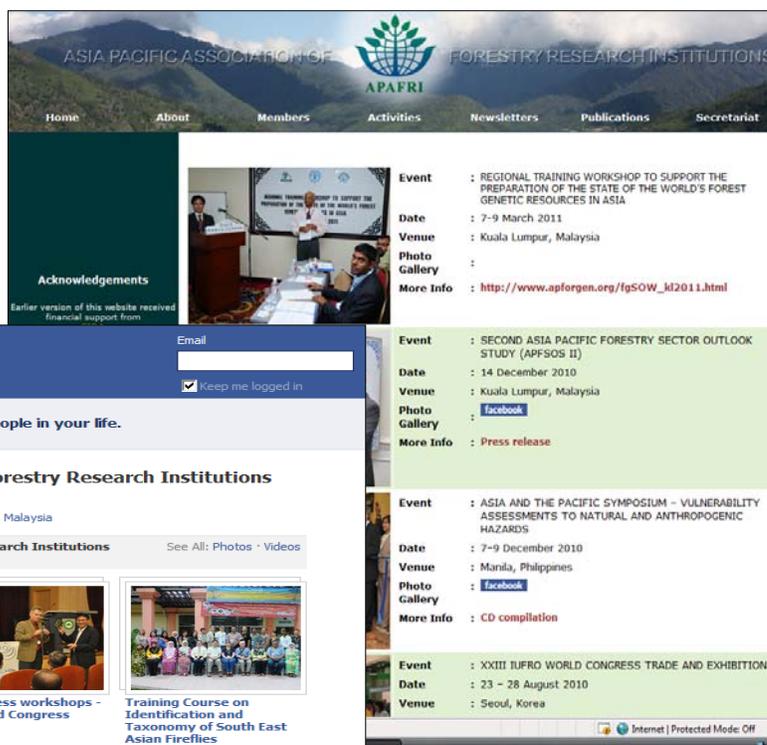
APAFRI has used the following syntax to insert GFIS News Box on APAFRI's website homepage:

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<iframe src="http://www.gfis.net/gfis/widget/news/en/200/" width="220px" height="300px" frameborder="0"
scrolling="no">
<p>Forest News Worldwide: <a href="http://www.gfis.net/">GFIS.net</a></p>
</iframe>
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APAFRI is on Facebook!

While looking for the best way to share the photographs of APAFRI activities with members, we have recently diving into the world of social media by joining **Facebook**. From our newly redesigned “Activities” page, we provide a link to APAFRI page on **Facebook** where a collection of photographs is being posted.



APAFRI's Twinning Programme

The Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) is an association of institutions with an active interest in forestry research and development, education and other forestry related matters in the Asia Pacific. Its objective is to promote institutional cooperation and collaboration and to enhance forestry research capacity in the region. APAFRI does not involved in direct research activities; its role is to act as a catalyst, facilitator, and information hub.

APAFRI has managed and implemented a number of multi-national and multi-institutional projects over the years. With these experiences, and the increasing requests for inter-institutional collaborations, APAFRI has proposed to establish **Twinning Programmes** for its member institutions primarily for forestry research and development, education, and other forestry related matters.

What is a Twinning Programme

A **Twinning Programme** is a cooperation and collaboration arrangement between two institutions towards achieving mutually beneficial expectations. Institution here could also cover group of administratively and technically closely related institutions or agencies.

Partners in the **Twinning Programme** could benefit from sharing each others' expertise and experiences, through various arrangements including joint research activities, staff (and students) exchanges, and scholarships/grants.

A **Twinning Programme** will:

1. Strengthen the linkages between the partner institutions, and create and strengthen partnerships among individual staff members in the institutions;



2. Assist institutions to widen their areas of research and development, education and other forestry related matters, by sharing each others' expertise, facilities, and experiences;
3. Assist institutions achieving their international strategic objectives and uplifting their international standings;
4. Provide a platform to share experiences on multi-national and multi-institutional cooperation and collaboration;
5. Provide opportunities for exchanging and sharing experiences between institutions on best practices in forestry, environment, biotechnology and natural products research for mutual benefits;
6. Assist in capacity building and strengthening in terms of research leadership and management.



A **Twinning Programme** is not a legally binding instrument. Partner institutions, if deemed necessary, may want to enter into legally binding instrument such as formal agreement for specified subject matters.

It is an overall ambition to strengthen the cooperation and collaboration between universities, research institutes and practical training and educational units within the forestry sector in the Asia Pacific region, many of these are members of APAFRI.

Role of APAFRI

APAFRI would maintain its role as a facilitator in establishing **Twinning Programme** for interested member institutions. APAFRI could propose a **Twinning Programme** between institutions when approach by a member institution, and initiate the process of establishing such a **Twinning Programme**.

The decision to accept such a proposal and entering into the **Twinning Programme**, however, would rest entirely with the member institutions. APAFRI would not, in any



manner, influence or interfere in the final decision of the institutions.

APAFRI could organize and facilitate meetings to discuss matters of mutual interests, pertaining to the **Twinning Programme**, upon request from the partner institutions. However, APAFRI could not, and would not, act as mediator to settle disputes, legal or otherwise.

Roles of the Twinning Partners

The partners, once agreed to enter into a **Twinning Programme**, shall discuss in details the scope of cooperation and collaboration, including technical subject matters, commitments and contributions. If deemed necessary, additional documents such as Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement could be discussed and endorsed by the partners.

Organization and Management of the Twinning Programme

A Programme Steering Committee, with equal membership from the partner institutions, shall set out the general guidelines for the **Twinning Programme** and keep an overall supervision of the activities. A representative of APAFRI, serving as the facilitator, shall be an ex-officio member of this Committee.

Each partner institution shall nominate a person, preferably also serves as a member in the Programme Steering Committee, to be the Programme Coordinator and contact person under the **Twinning Programme**.

A Programme Management Committee consisting of the two Programme Coordinators and an appropriate number of staff members from the institutions, will plan and coordinate activities to be implemented under the **Twinning Programme**.

24TH SESSION OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION & SECOND ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK 7–11 November 2011, Beijing, China

This year, China will be hosting the 24th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) in Beijing, 7–11 November. In conjunction with this session, the Commission, together with the local host, will also organize the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week.

With the experience gained from the very successful first Asia-Pacific Forestry Week held in Hanoi in 2008, this coming second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, with the theme: "New challenges – new opportunities", is expected to be the largest and the most important forestry-related event in the region in 2011. The event is expected to bring together 1500–2000 participants from governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutions, regional and international networks, UN agencies and the private sector. High-level forestry officials from throughout the Asia-Pacific region will attend the event. It will provide a unique opportunity for diverse stakeholders and forest managers to share perspectives and seek solutions to the most challenging issues facing forests and forestry today.

The APFC is a member-based body comprised of 33 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Invitations to its general sessions are extended to official delegates of the member countries, although others can also participate as observers. However, the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week is open to regional and international organizations, networks and NGOs as well as other stakeholders, and



there is no registration fee for participating in the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week.

As a regional network, APAFRI has been invited and participated actively in many of the previous sessions of APFC. APAFRI has organized side-events during some of the past sessions, and also setup display booth during the first Asia-Pacific Forestry Week.

For this coming event, APAFRI Secretariat had initiated some discussions to jointly organize side-events covering subject matters ranging from forest genetic resources, invasive species to transboundary issues. APAFRI will setup a display booth during the week to further uplift the profile of APAFRI in the region. The Secretariat is also planning to organize a meeting of the Executive Committee to discuss, among other matters, the next General Assembly due in 2012.



NEW PUBLICATION

IUFRO World Series Volume 29

Asia and the Pacific Symposium

Vulnerability Assessments to Natural and Anthropogenic Hazards

Editor: Antonio M. Daño, Karen Rae M. Fortus and Sim Heok-Choh



Upcoming Events

Second Regional Forum for People and Forest (REOCFTC)

Date : 8–10 August 2011
Venue : Bangkok, Thailand
Email : forum@recoftc.org
Web : <http://www.recoftc.org/site/resources/Second-Regional-Forum-for-People-and-Forests.php>

2nd World Biodiversity Congress

Date : 8 – 12 September 2011
Venue : Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia
Contact : WBC Secretariat,
Person : C/o Century Foundation
No.1, Jagajyothi Layout
Mariyappana Palya
Bangalore- 560056, India.
Email : biodiversity2011@gmail.com
Tel : 9180 22961315, 919845056044
Fax : 91 80 23181443
Web : <http://worldbiodiversity2011.com>

International Conference and Exhibition on the Art and Joy of Wood

Date : 19 – 22 October 2011
Venue : Bengaluru, India
Contact : Dr V R R Singh
Person : Organising Secretary
Indian Forestry Congress 2011
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun - 248 006
Uttarakhand, India
Tel : 91 9902003499
Email : vrrsingh@icfre.org
Web : <http://ifc2011.icfre.gov.in>

Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week

Date : 7–11 November 2011
Venue : Beijing, China
Contact : Patrick Durst
Person : FAO Regional Office for Asia
and the Pacific
Maliwan Mansion
Phra Atit Road
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Email : Patrick.durst@fao.org
Tel : 61 1 8275770
Web : www.fao.org/world/regional/rap

Workshop on Micro Satellite DNA Profiling and Plant Genetic Transformation

Date : 15 – 18 November 2011
Venue : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Contact : Dr Salwana Hashim &
Person : Mr. Mohd Rosli Haron
Email : salwana@frim.gov.my;
mrosli@frim.gov.my
Web : www.frim.gov.my/v1/seminar/genetic-%20final220311.pdf

International Conference on Multipurpose Forest Management under Changing Conditions

Date : 23–25 November 2011
Venue : Nanning, Guangxi, China
Contact : Ms. Chen Yujie
Person : Programme Officer
Chinese Academy of Forestry
Email : chenyj@caf.ac.cn
Tel : +86-10-62889092
Fax : +86-10-62884229

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

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