



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

### *Warm Greetings from Malaysia!*

I'm glad to see that the COVID-19 pandemic is under control in most of the countries after struggling for more than two years. It was a very challenging period for all of us. Once again the resilience of mankind enables us to come out on top of this tough times. But we must learn humbly from the lessons that Mother Nature presented to us.

The Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the APAFRI Executive Committee (EC) was conducted virtually on 15 February 2022. It was the first meeting of the newly elected Executive Committee for 2021-2024. The EC members agreed to implement two new programs namely Scientific Attachment Program and Online Course for technical skills development of the scientists among member institutions. The EC members also exchange views and suggestions in broadening the collaborations with other international organisations.

APAFRI organized the first online course entitled "Online Scientific Writing Course" for the researchers from member institutions in April 2022. The training was conducted in three 2-hours sessions in four days to address the time zone issue. The registration was closed well ahead of the deadline due to the overwhelming response. The training was completed successfully and the participants were satisfied with the tips shared by the instructors. Owing to the great response, another online course on data analysis and presentation will be carried out in August 2022.

APAFRI co-organised four side events with National Institute of Forestry Science (NIFoS) and one side



event with Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) during the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC) in Korea, 2-6 May 2022. The events were conducted in hybrid mode to accommodate the participants whose travel was restricted due to the pandemic. The topics that covered were urban forestry, forest restoration, reduction of desertification and sand and dust storm, and timber trading system. It was a privilege for

APAFRI to contribute to the success of XV WFC which was one of the most significant events in the forestry sector.

During the XV WFC, I and Dr. Pin Kar Yong, the Executive Secretary, paid a courtesy visit to Dr. Hyun Park, President of NIFoS. The visit was to strengthen the relationship between both organisations and express our appreciation for NIFoS's contribution to APAFRI. We had a fruitful deliberation on the present programs and areas which APAFRI could venture into in the future for the betterment of the organisation.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate NIFoS for its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary which will be on 22 August 2022. My best wishes for the continuous success of NIFoS in years to come.

I hope all of us can work together via the platform of APAFRI to contribute to the worldwide efforts in making our planet more liveable for human, as well as flora and fauna.

Dr. Ismail Parlan  
Chairman, APAFRI  
June 2022

# ONLINE SCIENTIFIC WRITING COURSE

## 6, 13, 20 and 27 April 2022



This online course was jointly-organized by APAFRI and Sunway University with the objective to provide useful tips in preparing scientific manuscripts intended for journal. It is an effort of enhance the research skills of the scientists from member institutions. This free course was participated by 58 participants from Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam.

The course was instructed by Professor Gopalasamy Reuben Clements who is a conservation scientist by training. He is currently the Associate Dean of Research and Postgraduate Studies in the School of Medical and Life Sciences in Sunway University and a Senior Fellow with the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development. His research focuses on forest and biodiversity conservation. He has published over 90 articles that include *Nature*, and his work has been featured in the *BBC*, *New York Times* and *National Geographic*.

The course was conducted in four sessions to cover the important topics.

### 1st SESSION on 6th APRIL 2022 Introduction to Writing Scientific Manuscripts

Prof. Reuben listed out the common misconceptions in scientific writing. He changed the misconceptions by sharing the correct information with actual examples.

In his presentation, Prof. Reuben explained that a scientific manuscript presents research findings written by researchers and scientists. They are generally considered primary sources and are written for other researchers. The most recent articles will contain the latest work in the field, with references to previously published works.

### 2nd SESSION on 13th APRIL 2022 Introduction and Methodology

In the second session, Prof. Reuben explained that introduction should define the topic, problem, and emphasize its importance. It should also relate to current knowledge on what has been done and what needs to be done. The main objectives should be

mentioned as well as to start with a short macro-overview and end with concise objectives.

For materials and method, we should describe experimental set-up, describe study object or site, and be like a cook-book (be specific and provide necessary detail). Prof. Reuben also presented on how to write a review paper, which is a timely update of major studies on a narrow topic.



*Prof. Reuben during the online course*

### **3rd SESSION on 20th APRIL 2022 Results and Discussion**

Just like the previous two sessions, the third session was very informative and insightful. Prof. Reuben introduced various useful online tools to improve the quality of a paper such as Turnitin, one of the online software that can be used to check for plagiarism or similarity scores of a paper.

Prof. Reuben explained that results should give summary results with main findings, include the most important result first and least important last, and use subheadings that match the flow of the methodology.

Meanwhile, the discussion should answer our research questions, support answers with results and start in the first paragraph with a summary of our main findings and emphasize novelty. The discussion should also compare the result with other studies, highlight contrasting results or unexpected findings, and state limitations.

### **4th SESSION on 27th APRIL 2022 Presentation by the Management of Journal of Tropical Forest Sciences (JTFS)**

The resource person for the last session was Mr. Chee Beng Jin, the managing editor of Journal of Tropical Forest Science (JTFS). JTFS is an international reviewed journal concerning the science, technology and development of tropical forests and forest products. It welcomes articles reporting original fundamental or applied research on tropical forest biology, ecology, chemistry, management, silviculture, conservation, utilisation & product development.

Mr. Chee shared the tips on how to increase the chances of acceptance for a paper. He also explained some examples of the reviewers' comments so that the participants could understand their expectations.

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

At the end of the participants provided their feedbacks on the course by completing an online questionnaire. They assessed the overall organization of the course based on the following criteria:

1. Information received on the course
2. Information on Zoom arrangement
3. Overall arrangements of the course

37 respondents aggregated the different components of the course, 56.8% were rated as very good and another 40.5% as good. One of the participants rated all components as fair.

Participants also evaluated the eight topics presented during the course. Overall, the participants found the course quite satisfactory with more than 95% indicating the topics as very good or good. No module was rated as poor or very poor.

## XV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS 2 – 6 May 2022 Seoul, Republic of Korea



*From left: Dr. Pin Kar Yong, Dr. Wan Mohd Shukri Wan Ahmad, Dr. Ismail Parlan, Dr. Hyun Park, Dr. Byungdoo Lee and Dr. Hyungsoon Choi.*

The XV World Forestry Congress (XV WFC) was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea at the COEX Convention and Exhibition Center in Seoul. The World Forestry Congress is held approximately once every six years and the first Congress was held in Italy in 1926. Since 1954, The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) plays important roles in assisting host countries organize the Congress.

With the theme of “Building a Green, Healthy and Resilient Future with Forests”, it was the first time the Congress had convened in the Asia-Pacific region since it was held in Indonesia 43 years ago.

APA-FRI involved as a co-organizer for five side events in this important event. APA-FRI also took this opportunity to pay a courtesy visit to Dr. Hyun Park, President of National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) which was one of the hosts of the XV WFC on 6 May 2022. As an active member institution of

APA-FRI since 1996, NIFoS has played an important role in supporting the activities of APA-FRI technically as well as financially. The aim of the visit was to discuss the collaboration between the two organisations and convey the appreciation for the continuous support and contribution of NIFoS to APA-FRI in all these years. There was a fruitful discussion between the delegates in which ideas and recommendations were exchanged to strengthen the role of APA-FRI in forestry research in Asia-Pacific Region.

APA-FRI was represented by Dr. Ismail Parlan, Chair of APA-FRI Executive Committee and Dr. Pin Kar Yong, APA-FRI Executive Secretary. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Byungdoo Lee and Dr. Hyungsoon Choi from NIFoS, and Dr. Wan Mohd Shukri Wan Ahmad from Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM).

# INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON INTEGRATED FOREST RESTORATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

(Side event of XV World Forestry Congress)

3 May 2022

Seoul, Republic of Korea



As animal viruses spread widely along with climate change, natural disaster, ecological change and increasing contact between human and animals, the importance of forest restoration is increasingly stressed based on an analysis that such animal viruses are a result of forest degradation and habitat loss. In particular, immediate efforts are required to achieve goals for addressing 'Climate Change (SDG13)' and 'Life on Land (SDG15)', out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This event mainly aimed to share the successful examples and lesson-learnt in the forest sector regarding implementation of SDG15 and discuss each level's cooperation to forest policy and forest science technology. The event also discussed the action plan for forest restoration related to SDG15.

Dr. Jae Soo Bae, Director General of Future Forest Strategy Department of NIFoS, delivered the opening remarks. He welcomed all the participants both presented physically and online. He stressed on the importance of forest restoration in achieving the goals for sustainable development. Though with different climate and environmental conditions, the lessons learned from forest reforestation were still

applicable in different regions. He hoped that the participants would learned from the experiences shared by the speakers.

There were four speakers invited to share their successful experience including:

- i. Dr. Anne Juepner, Director of UNDP Seoul Policy Centre – *UNDP's forestry work and SDGs partnerships program*;
- ii. Mr. Orlando A. Panganiban, Director of Cooperation & Project Division, AFoCO – *Regional project in Asia to implement SDG 15*;
- iii. Ms. Noah Tal, Director of Northern Region Forest Department, KKL-JNF – *Israel forest success story from degraded land to sustainable forest ecosystem*; and
- iv. Dr. Young-hwan Kim, Senior Research Officer of Forest Policy and Economics Division, NIFoS – *Forest strategy for net zero carbon emission in Korea*.

This hybrid side event was jointly organized by National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) and Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), Korean Society of Forest Science, and Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO).

# EXPERT DIALOG FOR JOINT RESEARCH ON COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND SAND AND DUST STORMS (SDS) REDUCTION IN NORTHEAST ASIA

(Side event of XV World Forestry Congress)

3 May 2022

Seoul, Republic of Korea



Desertification and land degradation are directly related to the occurrence of sand and dust storms (SDS) and create major environmental issues every year due to their cross-border nature. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) also recognized the severity of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) issues.

In 2011, Northeast Asia DLDD Network (DLDD-NEAN) was established as a sub-regional cooperation platform for the implementation of the UNCCD in Northeast Asia, with Mongolia, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea as founding members.

Since its launch, the network has served as a platform for promoting regional cooperation, focusing especially on knowledge and information sharing of best practices, technical cooperation, and a joint forestry project at the regional level in the Asia-Pacific region.

This event aimed to explore opportunities, define directions and establish a consortium of experts for joint research and further cooperation within DLDD-NEAN, by sharing research findings and policy measures on combating desertification and reducing SDS in Northeast Asia.

Six experts from Northeast Asia were invited to share their works in combating desertification and SDS. The experts were:

- i. Ms. Min-Young Chang, Korea Forest Service – *Global SDS trends & policies of UNCCD and the introduction to DLDD-NEAN project;*
- ii. Dr. Ki Yung Park, NIFoS – *Research trends of combating desertification and SDS reduction in Korea;*
- iii. Prof. Lei Lei Cheng, Chinese Academy of Forestry – *Research trends & policies of combating desertification and SDS reduction in China;*
- iv. Prof. Yi Ming Feng, Chinese Academy of Forestry – *Assessment of land degradation and National standard in China;*
- v. Dr. Mandakh Nyamtseren, Institute of Geography and Geo-ecological, Mongolia – *Case study: Research trends & policies of combating desertification and SDS reduction in Mongolia;* and
- vi. Dr. Tatiana Kuderina, Institute of Geography of Russian – *Case study: Research trends & policies of combating desertification and SDS reduction in Russia.*

# INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DUE-DILIGENCE SYSTEM FOR KVTL

(Side event of XV World Forestry Congress)

4 May 2022

Seoul, Republic of Korea



The symposium was co-organised by National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) and Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI). This hybrid side event was attended by 50 participants including eight experts from Republic of Korea, Germany and Peru. Its purpose was to share implications for the implementation of an effective Korean Verification of Timber Legality system (KVTL).

The system to prohibit the trade of illegal logging was established in six countries, starting with the United States in 2008, to protect the natural environment in developing countries and fair wood trade. This symposium examined international cases of due-diligence system and discussed the future policy directions.

Dr. Yeon-Kok Jung, Director of Korea Forest Service and Dr Rhee-Hwa Yoo, Director of NIFoS, delivered the welcome remarks. The following presentations were delivered:

- i. Dr. Joo-Young Lee, Deputy Director of Korea Forest Service – *Verification on timber legality system*;
- ii. Dr. Alfredo Rodriguez Zunino, Consultant of Forest Trends – *Regulating the trade in illegal timber*; and
- iii. Dr. Alexander Hinrichs, Head of FLEGT Asia Program, European Forest Institute – *Challenges and opportunities to ensure transparency in the supply chain of wood exporting countries*.

The event was followed by a panel discussion on the way forward for establishment of the Korean Due-Diligence System for KVTL which was moderated by Dr. Oh-Kyung Kwon, Professor of Seoul National University. The panel was consisted of Dr. Dong-Hyun Kim from NIFoS, Dr. Hyun-Jin Ahn from Korea Rural Economic Institute, Dr. Yoon-Ho Jang from Korea Forestry Promotion Institute, and Dr. Yoon-Seok Noh from Green Carbon Research Centre.

# GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PEOPLE & ENVIRONMENT

(Side event of XV World Forestry Congress)

4 May 2022

Seoul, Republic of Korea

This workshop was conducted successfully on 4 May 2022 during the XV World Forestry Congress. It was jointly organized by National Institute of Forest Science, Republic of Korea (NIFoS) and Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI). It took place in hybrid format in which the participants could attend physically and also online. The participants were mainly researchers who were involved in the field of urban forestry.



The welcoming address was delivered by Dr. Seok Woo Lee Director General Forest Environment & Conservation Department of NIFoS. He welcomed the participants and thanked the speakers for attending the event. He stressed the importance of re-examining the role of urban forests in the era of climate crisis by integrating academic disciplines such as urban meteorology, atmospheric science, and soil environment science, and to seek ways to utilize urban forests as a sink of greenhouse gases. He hoped that the meeting would serve as a cornerstone for building a strong network to expand green infrastructure in major cities worldwide.

Dr. Su Young Woo, President of Korean Society of Forest Science, and Dr. Mark Majewsky, Supervisory Forester of Northern Research Station of USDA Forest Service delivered congratulatory remarks for the workshop. They urged the attendees to take this opportunity to build up relationships and extend the network for future collaborations.

The keynote speech was delivered by Prof. Sujong Jeong from Seoul National University. He explained that the climate crisis is an unavoidable reality but at least urban forests are mitigating climate change, and urban forests will serve as a buffer so that humans can adapt to the climate crisis. Dr. Satoshi Hirabayashi from Davey Institute of USDA Forest Service introduced the development process of Korean i-Tree Module, a tool for economically evaluating the value of urban forests, and Chan Ryul

Park stated that Korea will take the lead in urban forest value evaluation.

Dr. Chan Ryul Park of NIFoS introduced the research findings on the function of urban forests as a carbon sink. Prof. Chang Eui Park of Korea Institute of Science and Technology has spoken about the importance of urban forests in megacities in preparing for the extremely hot heat wave. Furthermore, Prof. Hang Su of Max Plank Institute of Chemistry Germany raised the necessity of research on the interaction of vegetation-air quality and urban forest management because volatile organic compounds generated in urban forests affect air quality and human health.

The panel discussion on Direction and Perspective on East-Asian Network for Urban Forests (EANUF) was moderated by Prof. Gayoung Yoo of Kyung Hee University. The panellists were Ms. Alexis Ellis of USDA Forest Service, Prof. Hyun Seok Kim and Prof. Seok Woo Son of Seoul National University.

In his wrap-up message, Dr. Im Kyun Lee of NIFoS emphasised the importance of urban forest and green infrastructure in creating a more liveable environment for human and all lives around urban areas. He also expressed his appreciation to the speakers and participants for this fruitful meeting.

*(Adapted from the report prepared by Dr. Chan Ryul Park (maeulsoop@korea.kr))*

# MANGROVE PLANTING INITIATIVES IN ASEAN COUNTRIES: POST INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI 2004

(Side event of XV World Forestry Congress)

6 May 2022

Seoul, Republic of Korea

The side event 'Mangrove Planting Initiatives in ASEAN Countries: Post Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004' was themed, 'Turning the tide: reversing deforestation and forest degradation' and 'Nature-based solutions for climate-change adaptation and mitigation and biodiversity conservation'.



This event was a platform to present the efforts to plant mangrove trees and coastal species as well as studies conducted in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand after the tsunami disaster on 26 December 2004. It was jointly organised with Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Forestry Department

Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM), Wetlands International Malaysia (WI), Mangrove Action Project (MAP), and Institute of Foresters Malaysia (IRIM).

The seminar was conducted in a hybrid with 30 participants attending physically and 36, online. The following presentations were delivered:

- i. Dr. Wan Mohd Shukri Wan Ahmad, FRIM – *Lessons to be shared from Malaysia's post tsunami research;*
- ii. Mr. Harry Yong, Forest Department Peninsular Malaysia – *Issues and challenges in mangrove restoration from Malaysia's perspective;*
- iii. Ms. Yong Huaimei, Wetlands International – *Local community empowerment in mangroves restoration – case studies from Malaysia and Indonesia;* and
- iv. Dr. Dominic Wodehouse, Mangrove Action Project – *Lessons and guidance for policy people from MAP's community-based ecological mangrove restoration best practice.*

(Adapted from FRIM's Website: [www.frim.gov.my](http://www.frim.gov.my))

## APAFRI MEMBERS' UPDATES

Updates on new contact persons:

- **(M028) Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, National Chiayi University (NCYU), Taiwan**  
Prof. Chinsu Lin, Head of Remote Sensing and Forest Biogeoscience Laboratory (RSFBiol)
- **(M032) TropBio Research Sdn. Bhd., Malaysia**  
Mr. David Leo, Corporate Services Coordinator
- **(M036) Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), Japan**  
Dr. Noguchi Shoji, Director of Forestry Division
- **(M038) International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), China**  
Mr. Jayaraman Durai, Director of Global Programs
- **(M049) University of Northern Philippines (UNP), Philippines**  
Dr. Edelyn A. Cadorna, Director, University Research and Budget Office

# INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RESTORATION OF DEGRADED PEATLANDS: CONNECTING SCIENCE WITH POLICY AND PRACTICE

13 June 2022

Bogor, Indonesia



Peatlands provide critical ecosystem goods and services such as food, energy, climate regulation and biodiversity. These ecosystem goods and services have been severely impacted through unsustainable land-use practices, which have altered the structure and function of peatlands with adverse impact on critical ecosystem goods and services. Scientists, policymakers and practitioners have become increasingly concerned about the impacts of unsustainable land-use practices on peatlands, with their concerns leading to a consensus to take urgent action.

This international symposium was conducted successfully in hybrid mode with the collaboration among Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), World Agroforestry (ICRAF), NIFoS and APAFRI. It highlighted recent findings from collaborative research and work by CIFOR-ICRAF and partners supported by NIFoS on peatland restoration for food, energy and environmental conservation in Indonesia's Central Kalimantan and South Sumatra provinces.

The symposium began with a high level panel discussion entitled "Restoration of degraded peatland science, policy and practice" which was moderated by Michael Brady, principal scientist and CIFOR-ICRAF's Value Chains, Finance and Investment Team Leader.

The distinguished panellists were:

- i. Ir. Sri Parwati Murwani Budisusanti, Ministry of Environment and Forestry;
- ii. Haruni Krisnawati, International Tropical Peatland Center (ITPC);
- iii. Rujito Agus Suwignyo, Sriwijaya University;
- iv. Budi Leksono, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN); and
- v. Dr. Afentina Nanyu Ludjen, University of Palangkaraya.

There were five specialists who shared their work on the topic of "Peatland restoration in Indonesia: lessons from the field" including:

- i. Bastoni, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) - *Paludiculture to restore degraded peatland*;
- ii. Yustina Artati, CIFOR-ICRAF - *Farmers' perceptions of peatland restoration and livelihoods*;
- iii. Mohamad Amin, Sriwijaya University - *Inland fishery on degraded peatlands: lessons from Perigi*;
- iv. Siti Maimunah, Institut Pertanian Stiper - *Peatland restoration and bioenergy in Central Kalimantan*; and
- v. Eunho Choi, NIFoS - *Strategies for expanding peatland and restoration project*.

# NIFoS OFFICIAL VISIT TO APAFRI AND FRIM

## 17 June 2022

### Selangor, Malaysia



Two representatives of the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), Korea, namely Dr Hyun Park, NIFoS President, and Dr Hungsoon Choi, Director of Global Forestry Division, paid courtesy visit to APAFRI on 17 June 2022.

They were given a brief tour of the Secretariat office and had a discussion on APAFRI's operation with Dr. Pin and Dr. Gan.

The guests later visited Dr. Ismail Parlan, Director General of FRIM cum APAFRI Chairman, to learn more about FRIM as well as to discuss possible research collaborations among NIFoS, FRIM and APAFRI.

After the discussion, they were brought to a nature trekking within FRIM campus to experience the uniqueness of tropical forest and see the 'Crown Shyness' phenomenon.

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

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- ❖ Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)
- ❖ National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), Republic of Korea
- ❖ Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO)



School of  
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## ONLINE COURSE

# Analysis and Graphic Presentation of Data and Results

3, 10 and 17 August 2022

**1400 - 1600 (GMT+8)**

**Live in Zoom**

- Open to all the scientists from APAFRI member institutions
- Free of charge
- Certificate of Attendance will be issued to participants who have successfully attended all the sessions.

**Please register with the Google Form:**

<https://forms.gle/qVMUM6mjp17vBzZQA>

**We invite the participation of researchers who are**

- interested to install and use **program R**.
- **have research datasets** (of their own) for trial analysis and generation of figures/graphs, and
- **committed** to attend all the scheduled training sessions.

**Registration deadline: 31 July 2022**

Date	Time (GMT+8)	Topic/Activity
<b>3 August 2022</b>	1400 – 1600	Introduction and installation of program R. Features and analytical processes possible with R
<b>10 August 2022</b>	1400 – 1600	Trial data processing and generation of figures/charts for technical publications.
<b>17 August 2022</b>	1400 – 1600	Discussion on improvement to figures/charts generated by course participants.

Good technical write-up is imperative to communicate any scientific work effectively. This requires appropriate data analysis and presentation of the data and results which are integral parts of the writing process. Many researchers rely mainly on Microsoft Excel sheet to analyse their data and generate the necessary figures and graphs to present the results; there may be some limitations on these. This course is specially designed to explore another option for researchers to do these using program R.

Participants will be guided to use program R. This requires the installation of the program R in their respective computer/ notebook and carry out simple data processing using a common dataset made available during the course. However, participants must have a set of their own research data available to carry out data processing exercises and generate at least three good graphical presentations of their data and results intended for preparation of a technical write-up.

This course is suitable for both young and experienced researchers to enhance their skills on data analysis and generating the necessary figures/graphs of the results. It is opened to all the scientists from APAFRI member institutions



### About the Instructor:

Professor **Gopalamy Reuben Clements** is a conservation scientist by training. He is currently the Associate Dean of Research and Postgraduate Studies in the School of Medical and Life Sciences in Sunway University and a Senior Fellow with the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development.

**For more information**, please contact

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