

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Kepong, Malaysia!

As 2020 coming to a close, allow me to take this opportunity to reflect the events and activities that APAFRI had been involved during the year. The year 2019 had been an exciting year for APAFRI.

The Third Asia Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS III) was successfully completed. This is a major project for the Asia Pacific region which APAFRI has undertaken with a grant under a Letter of Agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Asia Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok. APAFRI was honoured to be involved in also the two previous Asia Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Studies, the first Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS I) in 1998 and the APFSOS II in 2010. The final report of the APFSOS III, with the primary objective of providing a better understanding and projection on the challenges and opportunities of forestry in the coming decade, was launched at a side event during the Forth Asia Pacific Forestry Week, 17–21 June 2019, in Incheon Korea.

In September, APAFRI supported the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) in hosting the Eleventh Executive Forest Policy Course in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The course with a duration of ten days ran over two weeks, with a two-day field trip during the week-end. The field trip gave the participants the opportunities of visiting places outside Kuala Lumpur, and also a number of forestry activities related to mangrove swamps. A second field trip, a day-long event, took the participants to



FRIM's main campus at Kepong, an outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. The course was participated by 26 participants, mostly with senior positions, from 10 countries of the Asia Pacific region.

APAFRI is really grateful of the continuous contributions from the National Institute of Forestry Science (NIFoS) of the Republic of Korea which allowed APAFRI in implementing various activities throughout the years. In 2019, out of the nine activities that have been allocated funds from the 2019 NIFoS contributions to APAFRI, five have been successfully completed: the International Symposium on Global Forest and Landscape Restoration held in Incheon in June, the Establishment of Forest Tree Breeding Populations for Recovering the Devastated Sites and Capacity Building (Agreement with Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development (IRD), Forestry Administration of Cambodia), the Establishment of Asia Forest Research Network (AFRN) held in Incheon in June, the Workshop on Nursery, Silviculture, Forest Restoration and Sustainable Management in Central Asian and Northeast Asia held in Almaty in August, and the East Asian Symposium on Urban Forests: Coping with Fine Dusts held in Seoul in October. APAFRI would like to express our deep appreciations to all agencies in assisting APAFRI in organizing these activities.

Many of you may remember that APAFRI was formally launched in Bogor, Indonesia, in 1995 during a regional meeting of the heads of forestry research organizations in the Asia Pacific. Next year, 2020, APAFRI will be 25 years old. With very limited

resources, and support – financial and in-kind – from only half a handful of countries in the region, it is rather amazing that APAFRI had more than survived over a quarter of century. The Secretariat would like to celebrate the silver jubilee of APAFRI next year with a series of activities, subject to the availability of funds and support. I would therefore encourage the members to be proactive in participating in these events, and APAFRI Secretariat would strive to assist in mobilizing the necessary resources.

In closing, on behalf of APAFRI, I would like to extend our thanks to the various agencies for their contributions to support APAFRI's programmes and activities. Thanks also due to the various national research agencies, universities, forestry agencies

and private companies for their contributions to many of APAFRI's activities. Let us all work together to play a greater role in the development of forestry research for the sustainable management of forests in the Asia Pacific region.

As we are now approaching the New Year, allow me to take this opportunity to wish all members and friends of APAFRI a prosperous new year in 2020.

With best regards,

Abd Latif Mohmod
Chairman, APAFRI
December 2019

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF DRYLAND FORESTS IN CENTRAL AND NORTHEAST ASIA

26-30 August 2019
Almaty, Kazakhstan



This three-day workshop consisting of one-day presentation of invited participants from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Mongolia and Republic of Korea; and a two-day field trip to introduce and explore dryland forest ecosystem in the Charyn State National Park and Relict Ash (*Fraxinus sogdiana* Bunge.) groves in the southern part of Republic of Kazakhstan. It brought together more than 50 registered participants from 7 countries and 10 participants from Kazakhstan. This event was jointly organized by the

National Institute of Forest Science, Republic of Korea (NIFoS), Institute of Forest Sciences, National University of Mongolia (NUM), Kazakh Research Institute of Forestry Agroforestmelioration, International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), and State Committee of Forestry and Wildlife, Republic of Kazakhstan; and co-supported by NIFoS, Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), Kazakh National Agrarian University, Republic of Kazakhstan, and IUFRO Special Programme for Development of

Capacities (SPDC), Units 1.06.00 Restoration of Degraded Sites and Units 1.01.13 Long-term Research on Forest Ecosystem Management in Northeast Asia.

Fifteen invited speakers (two invited speakers from People's Republic of China could not joined due to visa problems) including one plenary lecture provided overviews, broad perspectives, and challenges of dryland forests conservation and restoration in Central Asia and Mongolia.

Welcoming address was kindly delivered by Dr. Sung Joo Han, Senior Researcher, Division of Forest Industry Research, NIFoS, Republic of Korea; and he expressed his honour to welcome all participants to Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan. He stressed the common problems in drylands of Mongolia and Central Asia including livestock grazing, forest and land degradation.

Dr. Sim Heok Choh, Representative of APAFRI has delivered congratulatory address on behalf of APAFRI, one of the main sponsors of the event. He has acknowledged the great support of the NIFoS, Republic of Korea, and International Union of Forest Research Organizations, for their financial supports; and National University of Mongolia and other partner Institutions in Republic of Kazakhstan for their excellent arrangements and organization; and warmly welcomed all participants to Kazakhstan. He also stressed that this series of workshops has become an annual gatherings of forestry researchers and academicians from the Central and East Asian countries to share their experiences and knowledge on sustainable forest management. Starting with the first one in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in 2014, the series continued with the second one in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in 2015, then in 2016 in Beijing, China; in 2017 back to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; in 2018 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and this year in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Mr. Maxat Elemesov, State Committee on Forestry and Wildlife, Republic of Kazakhstan kindly attended the whole workshop and delivered congratulatory address on the behalf of the Government of Republic of Kazakhstan. He had briefly introduced the State Committee on Forestry and Wildlife; its role and duties at regional and national level; and kindly asked

all participants for their active participation and discussion during the workshop.

Workshop Opening Remarks were given by Dr. Aliaksandr Kurdzeka, Vice-Rector for the Scientific Work and International Relations, on behalf of the Rectoriat of the Kazakh National Agrarian University, the host Institution in the Republic of Kazakhstan. He introduced Kazakh National Agrarian University and expressed his deepest appreciation to the organizers and participants for taking time out of their busy schedule to attend the workshop.

Prof. Nyam-Osor Batkhuu briefed about the series of the Expert Workshops, agenda and field trip; and gave plenary presentation entitled "The Role of International Cooperation in Science, Technology and Capacity Building for Restoration of Drylands" covering different topics, challenges and experiences in dryland forest restoration with several case studies in Central and Northeast Asia.

Valuable information and insights about dryland forests, their ecological importance, conservation and restoration experiences in Central Asia and Mongolia, were shared by speakers which also described conditions in their home countries with specific challenges, and opportunities in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia.



The two-day field trip on 28-29 September 2019, included a visit to the Charyn State National Natural Park. During the field trip all participants visited one of the greatest canyons in Central Asia and the Relict Ash groves (*Fraxinus Sogdiana* Bunge.)

(Adapted from the report prepared by Prof. Nyam-Osor Batkhuu (nbatkhuu@gmail.com))

ELEVENTH EXECUTIVE FOREST POLICY COURSE

ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTS AND FORESTRY IN 2030 AND BEYOND: WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS?

17–27 September 2019
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), FAO in collaboration with various partner organizations has been organizing the Executive Forest Policy Course since 2007 to strengthen policy analysis and strategic thinking skills in the Asia-Pacific region. To date ten such

courses have been held – in Thailand (2007 and 2009), Fiji (2008 and 2014), Viet Nam (2010), China (2011), Bhutan (2013), Myanmar (2015), Indonesia (2016) and Sri Lanka (2017) – involving more than 250 senior forestry professionals and managers from 25 countries. The eleventh course in the series was successfully held in Malaysia, hosted by APAFRI and the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM).

Participated by 26 participants from 10 countries, the course was a highly interactive learning programme of lectures, debates, dialogues, role-playing sessions, panel discussions and drafting of policy briefs. The seven modules of the course addressed key issues confronting forests and forestry in the Asia-Pacific region with an emphasis on how they will shape the future. Particular thrust was given to sharing participants' experiences and analyzing case studies.

The Modules

1. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and forests
2. Drivers of change and future scenarios for forests, landscapes and people
3. Environmental issues – climate change, natural disasters and provision of ecosystem services
4. Forest governance for a sustainable future
5. Science and technology for the future
6. Communication and presentation skills for a changing world
7. Preparation of effective policy briefs



The course had included two field trips to further provide opportunities to learn what is really happening on the ground and how forestry is adapting to changing field realities. The first was a two-day field trip to Taiping Lake Garden and Taiping Botanical Garden. Established in 1880, the Taiping Lake Garden is one of the oldest gardens in Malaysia. The huge lake was formerly a tin mine but has since been transformed into a beautiful and well maintained park where flowers, birds, insects, animals and lush greenery thrive. One particular attraction is the huge rain trees by the side of the lake. Visitors could notice the branches that stretch across the road and dipping into the water of the lake.

The next day, participants visited the Matang Mangrove Forest Reserve, one of the world's best managed mangrove forests. The 40,537.6 ha Matang Mangrove Forest was gazetted as a Permanent Reserved Forest (PRF) in 1902. It has 19 forest reserves with 108 compartments distributed in 3 ranges. About 75% of the total area is allotted for production while the remaining is for protection and others. In 1904, the first Management Plan was introduced with a Working Plan that had been revised in every 10 years. At present, the Matang Mangroves is on their Ninth 10-year Working Plan (2010-2019).

The second field trip was a day-trip to visit the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) at Kepong, Selangor.

EAST ASIAN SYMPOSIUM ON URBAN FORESTS : COPING WITH FINE DUSTS 17-18 October 2019 Seoul, Republic of Korea



Social issue of urbanization and the importance of urban forests in Asia

In 2014, 54% of the world's population lives in cities, and by 2050 it is projected to increase to about 66%. Along with climate change, various factors such as urban population growth, environmental degradation, extreme climate increase, economic crisis and social inequality change the cities' environment to become unstable and unpredictable.

In particular, Asia predicts severe environmental changes over the next 20 years, including water and air pollution, deforestation and degradation, and climate change. On the other hand, urban forests are known to provide diverse ecosystem services such as removal of air pollutants, heat island mitigation, energy conservation, conservation of biodiversity, water conservation, and mitigation of climate. In particular, it has the advantage of enhancing socioeconomic health, well-being, and quality of life for residents living in urban areas.

How to use urban forests to mitigate the effects of urbanization and minimize environmental degradation has been neglected as unfavorable policy area, especially in many developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. In particular, the differences and insufficiency of knowledge, information and capacity building among countries in the Asia-Pacific resulting in constraints that do not improve the functions and benefits of urban forest resources.

Recent movement for urban forests in Asia

Coping with the urbanization and air pollution in the Asian region, there has been a couple of international conferences since 2016. The first conference entitled "Urban and Peri-urban Forestry Programme" had been held by FAO and the Urban Forest Research Center of China's Forestry Bureau in Zhuhai City, 2016. The Second Asia-Pacific Urban Forest Conference was hosted by the Korea Forest Service, FAO, and the Seoul Metropolitan Government, in Seoul in 2017, and more than 180 urban forest experts from 17 countries including China, Japan, and the United States attended. The Seoul Action Plan was adopted during this conference.

In 2018, the Korea Forest Service hosted the Korea-China Research Cooperation on Urban Forests coping with Fine Particles, along with the Korea-China Symposium on Urban Forests Coping with Fine Particles.

The Symposium

The East Asian Symposium on Urban Forests: Coping with Fine Dusts, was successfully organized by NIFOS from 17 to 18 October 2019 in Seoul, Korea. Researchers and academicians from China, Japan, Korea and USA, presented research and discussed the issues related to the functions and roles of forestry in greening and improving urban environment, NIFoS has been using the i-Tree

modules to investigate and assess the value of urban forests at a mobile platform since 2018 with the collaboration of USDA Forest Services. The i-Tree Platform can provide the structural assets and functional values of urban forests. It also facilitates the benefit-based approach including networks of structure, function, value, and strategic management of urban forests.

During the symposium, NIFoS has proposed to establish an East-Asian Network for Urban Forestry. This could facilitate initiating a platform to discuss

issues related to fine dusts at local, national, and regional levels. This would be the first step in establishing the Asia-Pacific Networks of Asia-Pacific Urban Forestry Meeting (APUFM) in the near future, which should be followed by periodic meetings with cooperation of international entities like APAFRI and the other international research organization focusing on urban forests.

(Adapted from the report prepared by Dr. Park ChanRyul (maeulsoop@korea.kr))

ANNOUNCEMENT

TRAINING WORKSHOP ON PLANT TISSUE CULTURE TECHNIQUES

25 –28 February, 2020

Suwon, Korea

Plantation forestry is recognized as a raw-material base for industrial and domestic wood products, which provides renewable energy, fiber and timber. Because of the growing global demand for forest products, higher yields and uniform product quality are needed. In terms of environmental issues such as global warming and climate change, the requirement for forest protection and biodiversity conservation is increasing. Especially, the biodiversity conservation is a global concern because biodiversity has declined by more than a quarter in the last 35 years.

Plant tissue culture enables the production of plants with superior characteristics and uniform quality for different uses of forest biomass. These techniques are currently in use for the large-scale propagation of important tree species and the sustainable conservation of rare and endangered plant species. The biotechnological methods such as plant cell culture, organogenesis, somatic embryogenesis, and cryopreservation are quite applicable and useful for the conservation and sustainable utilization of forest resources.

The Division of Forest Biotechnology, National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), is organizing a

training workshop on basic laboratory techniques in plant tissue culture on 25–28 February 2020. The workshop is designed to provide plant tissue culture techniques for the relevant scientists from the developing countries of the Asia-Pacific Region, including Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and so on.

The theme of the workshop is the applications of plant tissue culture in clonal propagation of forest tree species and conservation of rare and endangered plants. The workshop includes specialized techniques for direct and indirect organogenesis, somatic embryogenesis, micropropagation for large scale multiplication of plants, and microcutting of plantlets.

APAFRI would like to invite interested participants from APAFRI institutional members to submit the registration form to Dr. Ji-A Kim (jiahkim@korea.kr) before **14 January 2020**. Successful candidates will get full support to attend the workshop.

The registration form can be downloaded from APAFRI website (www.apafri.org).

Activities Organized/ Participated by APAFRI in 2019

Date	Activity	Venue	Notes
11-12 February	International Conference on Bamboo Composites	Bangalore, India	APAFRI Sponsorship
7-8 March	APFSOS III - Expert Review Meeting	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	FAO LoA 2019
18-21 March	Regional Workshop on Conservation Priorities for Asian Tree Species and Their Genetic Resources	Colombo, Sri Lanka	2018 NIFoS allocation
20 March	APFSOS III -Regional Youth Consultation Workshop on the Outlook towards the Future of Forests and Forestry	Bangkok, Thailand	FAO LoA 2019
11-12 April	APFSOS III - Third Meeting of the Advisory Committee	Bangkok, Thailand	FAO LoA 2019
7-10 May	Fourteenth UNFF Meeting	New York, United States of America	UNFF
17-21 June	Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2019 (APFW 2019)	Incheon, Korea	FAO LoA 2019
17 June	The 28th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC)	Incheon, Korea	FAO LoA 2019
18 June	Launching of the report of Asia Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study III	Incheon, Korea	FAO LoA 2019
18 June	International Symposium on Global Forest & Landscape Restoration	Incheon, Korea	2019 NIFoS allocation
19 June	Roles of Research Institute on Forest Plantation and Landscape	Incheon, Korea	2019 NIFoS allocation
26-30 August	International Workshop on Restoration and Sustainable Management of Dryland Forests in Central and Northeast Asia	Almaty, Kazakhstan	2019 NIFoS allocation
17-27 September	Eleventh Executive Forest Policy Course – Asia-Pacific Forests and Forestry in 2030 and Beyond: What The Future Holds?	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	FAO, FRIM and APAFRI
17-18 October	East Asian Symposium on Urban Forests: Coping with Fine Dusts	Seoul, Korea	2019 NIFoS allocation

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

Contact us:

APAFRI Secretariat
 Forest Research Institute Malaysia
 Kepong, 52109 Selangor
 Malaysia
 Tel : (6) 03 6272 2516
 Email: secretariat@apafri.org
 Website : www.apafri.org

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- ❖ United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service