

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Kuala Lumpur!

The year 2013 has past so fast and by the time this issue of APAFRI Newsletter reaches you, we are already in January 2014.

December is always a hectic month for APAFRI. While most people are already in their festive mood, clearing up their annual leaves, and preparing for the holidays; APAFRI Secretariat staff needs, however, to finalize the various accounts and project reports, besides the usual tasks of monthly reporting, annual account closing, and preparing the December issue of the Newsletter.

This year we have the additional task of closing the project on Forest Transition. Funded by the Asia-Pacific Network on Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), the project was approved in October 2011, and launched officially with a meeting in Beijing, during the Asia-Pacific Forest Commission 24th Session in November 2011. The project with the participation of nine Asia Pacific countries, originally approved for 24 months, was extended by another three months to allow for the satisfactorily completion of all the project activities. The major outputs of this project are a set of nine national reports, several of them with very detailed case study analyses, which identify the causes of forest cover changes, and the drivers of forest transition to sustainable forest management in these countries. All these reports have already been finalized, and uploaded to the APAFRI website and are freely accessible to whoever may be interested. An end-of-project symposium was organized in October, hosted by the Renmin University of China in Beijing to show case the outputs of this project. A compilation of the extended abstracts will be published as the proceedings of this symposium. The project completion report and financial statements have been finalized and would be submitted



to APFNet within the first couple of weeks in January to officially close-off the project agreement.

On behalf of APAFRI, allow me to use this channel to extend APAFRI's thanks and gratitude to Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI) for the rather substantial financial contributions to APAFRI. For the past several years, KFRI has been making annual financial contributions to allow APAFRI to organize various activities in the region. KFRI has increased the annual contributions by several folds during the past couple of years. KFRI is now a major contributor to APAFRI, financing most of APAFRI's activities in the region, complementing the very substantial outlay from FRIM which hosted the Secretariat with full facilities and provided the services of two full-time staff including the Executive Secretary. During 2013, KFRI's contributions enabled APAFRI to support several activities including the Annual Meeting and Workshop of the International Long-term Ecological Research Network, the 6th International Conference on Forest-related Traditional Knowledge and Culture in Asia, the Northeast Asian Workshop for Sustainable Forest Management and Reforestation, among others. Most of the presentations and reports have since then also uploaded onto APAFRI website and freely accessible to all.

APAFRI continues to be actively involved in FAO activities in the region. APAFRI was tasked to co-organize the Policy Short Course in Bhutan for South Asian countries in June. In November, APAFRI participated in the 25th Session of Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, and co-hosted a pre-session seminar on forests and natural disasters.

The much enhanced exposure of APAFRI during the past decade, contributed by its numerous active involvements regionally and internationally, as well as the more than half-a-dozen events organized on average annually, has

attracted more forestry related agencies in the region to join as members. We welcome these new members with open arms and would like to see more forestry research and education institutions in this region to share the many benefits that we could generate.

This has in turn; also helped to attract the attention of more donor agencies, and APAFRI has been able to secure quite a substantial financial support from a number of funding agencies over the last decade. APAFRI has also been invited to sign Memorandums of Understanding with a few national and international agencies for closer collaboration towards mutual benefits. I sincerely hope that these agencies would continue with their support to APAFRI's activities in the future.

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 and capacity building for the sustainable management of forests in the Asia Pacific region

As we are now entering the New Year, allow me to take this opportunity to wish all members and friends of APAFRI a prosperous new year in 2014.

Thank you very much.

With best regards,

Abd Latif Mohmod
Chairman, APAFRI
December 2013

APAFRI Chairman named as MALAYSIA'S TOP SCIENTIST

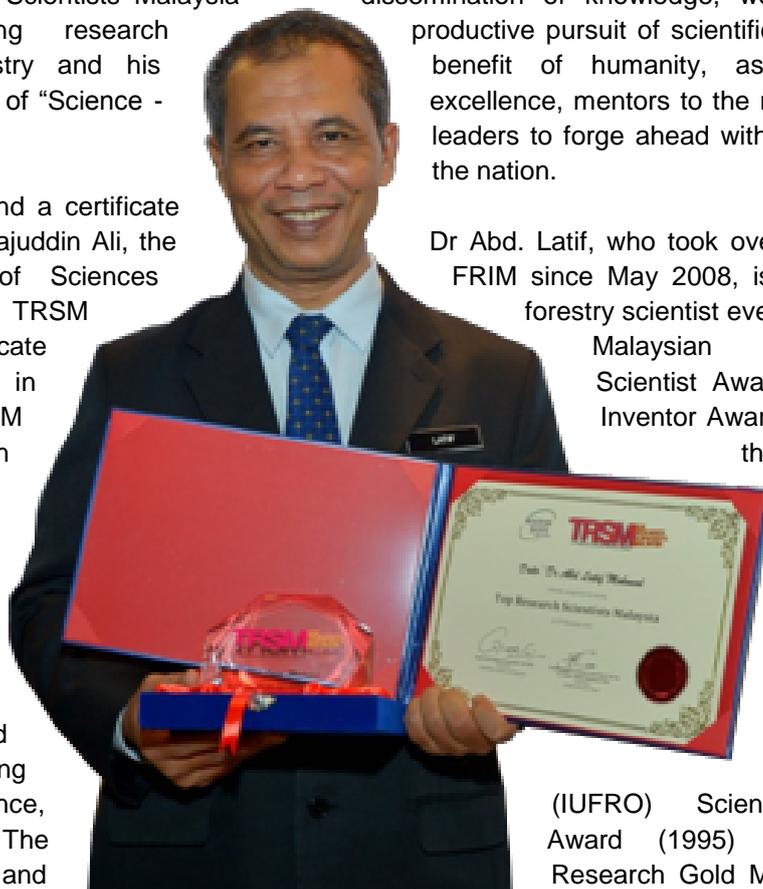
The Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) Director-General, Dato' Dr Abd Latif Mohmod, also the APAFRI Chairman, has been named as one of the 2013 Top Research Scientists Malaysia (TRSM) for his outstanding research achievements in tropical forestry and his contributions to the development of "Science - Green Products".

Dr Abd Latif received trophy and a certificate from Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali, the President of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM), at the TRSM Announcement and Certificate Presentation Ceremony held in conjunction with the ASM Fellowship Conferment Dinner on 17 December 2013 in Kuala Lumpur. The event was officiated by the Honorable Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Najib Tun Razak.

The TRSM honour, first launched in 2012 was established as part of ASM's focus on fostering a culture of excellence in science, technology and innovation (STI). The TRSM aims to recognize and

showcase the accomplishments of Malaysian research scientists, who have contributed significantly to the economic growth of the nation via generation and dissemination of knowledge, wealth creation, and productive pursuit of scientific excellence for the benefit of humanity, as role models of excellence, mentors to the next generation and leaders to forge ahead with the STI agenda of the nation.

Dr Abd. Latif, who took over the leadership of FRIM since May 2008, is the first and only forestry scientist ever honoured with the Malaysian National Young Scientist Award (1993), National Inventor Award 1997, recipient of the Eisenhower Fellowship of USA (1999), Outstanding Young Malaysian (1999), International Union of Forest Research Organisations' (IUFRO) Scientific Achievement Award (1995) and the Rotary Research Gold Medal Award (2012)



for his exemplary research contribution in the field of 'Science - Green Products'. Dr Abd. Latif was also conferred the Science and Technology (S&T) Achievement Award in November 2012 by the Malaysian Scientific Association (MSA) to recognise his outstanding contributions to the S&T developments in Malaysia.

Under his guidance, FRIM continues to flourish and gain recognition as the authoritative reference especially in the tropical forestry and forest products research. In 2012 alone, FRIM chalked up a total of seven prestigious international and nine national awards, as well as 12

records in the Malaysia Book of Records. In 2013, FRIM clinched the National Innovation Award for the High Temperature Drying (HTD) Lumber Treatment System and won the National Book Awards for the third consecutive year.

The way forward for FRIM under Dr Abd. Latif's leadership, is centered on establishing the institute as the best role model for reforestation, rehabilitation, conservation and utilisation of natural resources towards sustainable development via strategic, creative and innovative Research, Development and Commercialisation (R,D&C), and Application (A).

INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY GRADUATE STUDENTS' CONFERENCE 2013 (FORGRAD2013) 2–4 July 2013 Serdang, Malaysia

The Forestry Graduate Students' Society (FORGRAD), in collaboration with the Faculty of Forestry and the Marketing and Communication Unit (MARCOMN) of Universiti Putra Malaysia had successfully organized the International Forestry Graduate Students' Conference 2013 (FORGRAD2013) 2–4 July 2013. Sponsored by the Ministry of Education (MOE) Malaysia; and Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), FORGRAD2013 congregated postgraduate students from various backgrounds from countries including Indonesia, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Iran and Estonia, besides Malaysia.

The main purpose of this conference is to gather all postgraduate students with forestry background to meet and share their current research and also to confer issues related to forestry, climate change, environmental health and also eco-tourism in line with the FORGRAD2013 theme: *Navigating Knowledge Exchange for Future Excellence*. A total of 70 papers were presented, of which 64 were presented orally while the others are posters. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Salleh Mohd. Nor, adjunct professor of the Faculty of Forestry, UPM was the keynote speaker, and he shared with all the participants and audiences his views on the current situation of forest around the world in his talk entitled *The Challenges to Our Future Environment: How can a Knowledge Economy*

Address This? FORGRAD2013 plenary speakers include Prof. Dr. Toshinori Okuda, from Graduate School of Integrated Arts and Sciences, Hiroshima University, Japan; Mr. Zulkepli Abd. Rani, Director Manager of Malaysian Timber Industry Board; Dato' Prof. Dr. Haji. Abd. Rahman B. Hj. Abd. Rahim, Director General of Forest Department Peninsular Malaysia; and Mr Arham Syazaili Bin Yahya from the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Malaysia.

This three-day conference also included a half-day tour to Putrajaya Botanical Garden. After the conference, many of the participants joined the three-day post-conference tour which included a visit to the Paya Indah Wetland and the Sultan Idris Shah Forestry Education Centre (SISFEC), UPM at Hutan Simpan Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve, Perak; as well as camping out a night at the Kampung Jahang Camp Site, Gopeng, Perak.



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION: THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND ROAD MAP

21–23 October 2013
Beijing, China



The International Symposium on Transition to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation: The Enabling Environment and Road Map, was successfully organized by the Renmin University of China at the main campus of the university in Beijing, 21–23 Oct 2013.

This symposium was organized as an end-of-project event for the project: Comparative Analysis of Transitions to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation in Asia Pacific Region, funded by the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), which was officially launched with an Inception Meeting on 6 November 2011 in the same venue in Renmin University of China.

This APFNet project aims to formulate a set of categorization models using data collected from a number of economies in the Asia Pacific region that have already experienced net forest cover increase and also those that are still experiencing net forest cover decline. The launching in Beijing was followed by an international workshop on Forestry Transition to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation, 10–11 November 2011, which had gathered several academicians and forestry practitioners to share and exchange information and experiences related to forest transit study towards

sustainable forest management and rehabilitation. The meeting and workshop certainly helped in gaining a good overview on the objectives, approaches, main research contents, outputs expected, timetable, and project management, of the APFNet funded project. These activities had paved the way for further discussions on the various details including approaches to conduct national case studies and comparative analyses.

The second training workshop was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9–11 July 2012. This training workshop had successfully achieved its objectives in improving the understanding on the comprehensive theories and approaches for forest transition study, formulating detailed work plans for the report and case study in each economy; and sharing experiences on transition studies. In order to update information on the progress of the various reports and transition studies, as well as to further enhance the understanding of the various components of the project, an international workshop was proposed during the workshop in Kuala Lumpur. The third workshop was held in Indonesia, near to the site of the Indonesian case study, and discussed progress of the reports and tentative results of case studies with presentations by the Focal Points. During the workshop, field visit was made to areas that have been chosen as research sites of the Indonesian studies.

The symposium

The APFNet funded project was approved for 24 months, and supposedly to end by September 2013. As stipulated in the original proposal, an end-of-project symposium shall be organized by the end of the project duration to report and showcase the various outputs of this project.

After several rounds of discussions, the symposium was given the title: International Symposium on Transition to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation: The Enabling Environment and Road Map, and Renmin University of China has offered to host it in Beijing, China.

The objectives of the three-day symposium held in Renmin University of China, 21–23 October, 2013, were

- To report on the outputs of the project, finalizing the reports, as well as reports of the various case studies from the participating economies;
- To finalize the comparative analysis in the nine participating Asian economies;
- To gather inputs for the completion report of this project.

The symposium was attended by representatives from the participating economies in Asia-Pacific Region, as well as all the three Technical Assistance Partners: Prof Dr Liu Jinlong of Renmin University China, Prof Dr Youn Yeochang of Seoul National University, and Prof Dr Wil de Jong of Kyoto University. Dr C.T.S. Nair, formerly Chief Economist Forest Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; and Matthias Seebauer of International Climate Initiative (ICI) Project Low Carbon Land-use (LoCLU), German International Cooperation (GIZ), also presented keynotes in this symposium.

Dr C.T.S. Nair, Matthias Seebauer and Prof Dr Wil de Jong started the sessions by giving overviews of forest transition in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Their presentations detailed the various factors contributing to forest transition: societal changes, sustainable forest management, forestry baseline scenario and forest rehabilitation, in selected countries in the region.

In the next session, the Focal Points gave presentation based on their final reports. They shared their conclusions and future scope with all the representatives.

In the afternoon on the second day, Prof Dr. Liu with his team, together with Mr. Jawaid Ashraf and Prof Dr Youn Yeochang, started the discussion on comparative analysis of forest transition in Asian countries. Mr Liang Ming postulated that forest transition in Asia does not conform to the Environmental Kuznets Curve model. Prof Dr Youn suggested a model for forest cover change to interpret the impacts of institutions and policies. Mr. Jawaid Ashraf, proposed a regression analysis of forest transition in Asian, and found that:

- Country-wise empirical relationship of forest cover/deforestation with regards to different drivers like GDP, Agricultural production/productivity, urbanization, forest plantation, population growth, etc.
- Country-wise empirical relationship of forest cover/deforestation with regards to different functions like linear and non-linear.

On the third day, all participants were taken to visit Badaling Forest Farm and Badaling Great Wall. **Badaling Forest Farm**, which is located in Yanqing County, Beijing, with a total area of 2940 hectares, has the largest area of native *Syringareticulata* in North China and has 549 species of plants and 158 species of animals. Badaling Forest Farm is an ecological public welfare forest farm whose main task is to protect and nurture the forest resources, control and protection of forest pest, and forest management.

The **Badaling Great Wall** is the most visited section of the Great Wall of China, approximately 80 km northwest of urban Beijing in Yanqing County. The portion of the wall running through the site was built in 1505 during the Ming Dynasty, along with a military outpost reflecting the location's strategic importance.

Presentations had since then all uploaded onto APAFRI website, together with the finalized national reports.



ASIA PACIFIC WORKSHOP ON FOREST HYDROLOGY WATER AND FORESTS – BEYOND TRADITIONAL FOREST HYDROLOGY 23–25 September 2013 Dehradun, India

Many of the forests constitute head water catchments for large rivers and play a major role in regulating the hydrological services of the river basins and beyond. The consequences and influences have far-reaching impacts affecting many of the global environmental issues currently hotly debated at many of the international forums.

In the Asia Pacific region, many of the rivers have crossed national boundaries, and forests at the catchment and upper basin could have critical impacts on the hydrological characteristics with serious influences on the climate, environment, and livelihood further down streams, often across a few nations.

The science of forest hydrology allows analysis of forest and water connections over larger areas to make predictions about forests and water that can address current and anticipated future issues, including cumulative watershed effects, climate change, and forest management practices. Considerable progress has been made in forest hydrological research all over the world. Recently however, the research focus has shifted to studying reforestation hydrology, large-scale watershed hydrology, climate change impacts, and application of hydrological models.

A regional workshop, was convened in Dehradun, India, to address these and other related issues. The main objective of the workshop was to provide a forum for linking various international, regional and national

agencies and institutions dealing with forest and water issues to share strategies, experiences and knowledge. The workshop had provided valuable opportunities for individuals and their associated agencies, organizations and networks to build collaborative linkages and better align programmes to capture synergies.

The three-day workshop organized jointly by Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, India and the Asia Pacific Association of Forest Research Institutions (APAFRI) with financial support from Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI) and the APAFRI. covered the following topics:

- Water and forests – the role of forest hydrology in an era of climate change
- Forests : sources of water and food security
- Forest and water – implications for biodiversity and human livelihood

attracted 127 participants, 20 of which were from eight countries in the Asia region outside India. The workshop has a total of 55 presentations organized into 7 thematic sessions, and 12 posters. All the presentations were available on the APAFRI website.

The extended abstracts of the presentations would be compiled into the proceedings of the workshop to be published in early 2014.



**ARBONAUT USER DAYS 2013 WORKSHOP:
“Paving the Way to Sustainable Forest & Carbon Management” and
“Preventing Forest Fires with Biomass Maps and Crowd-sourcing”
19–21 August 2013
Serdang, Malaysia**



The Arbonaut User Days 2013 workshop: “Paving the Way to Sustainable Forest & Carbon Management” and “Preventing Forest Fires with Biomass Maps and Crowd-sourcing” was held successfully on 19–21 August at the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia. The event was organized by Arbonaut Ltd., Finland together with its local organizer, Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia and it was held in Malaysia and Asia for the first time.

APAFRI and Optech provided generous sponsorships in realizing the AUD’13 workshop a success in Malaysia. The workshop was well-received by the local and international participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal and Singapore. The participants had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the field data

management and airborne LiDAR application in numeric forest inventory during the workshop. They also learned the hands-on practice of LiDAR based and LiDAR assisted forest inventory processes with particular focus on Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of forest carbon according to UN REDD+ program.

The workshop provided lots of information to the participants related to LiDAR-Assisted Multisource Program (LAMP) which is a good tool for REDD+ and carbon stock inventories. The ArboWebForest, a complete service for natural resource data was demonstrated and its ways to engage crowd-sourcing in forest fire prevention was also discussed at the workshop.



NEW MEMBER

APAFRI welcomes its 69th member:

Forest Research Institute

For more information on the institution, please contact:

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21ST INTERNATIONAL LONG-TERM ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH NETWORK (ILTER) ANNUAL MEETING

7–12 October 2013
Seoul, Korea



International Long-Term Ecological Research Network (ILTER) is a 'network of networks', a global network of ecological research sites located in a wide array of ecosystems that can help understand environmental changes across the globe. ILTER's focus is on long-term, site-based research and monitoring. There are about 40 member networks in the world, which belong to either one of the regional networks of Asia-Pacific, Europe, Southern Africa, or America. In the region of the East Asia-Pacific (EAP), there are nine member networks of ILTER: China, Chinese-Taipei, Korea, Japan, Australia, Mongolia, Philippines, and Thailand. The Malaysia LTER Network officially joined the ILTER Network this year. The LTER Networks of Vietnam and Laos did not officially join the ILTER, yet, but are participating as regional member networks of EAP Regional Network of ILTER.

Since the establishment of the ILTER Network in 1993, annual meeting was held each year for the last twenty years. At the ILTER annual meeting, various issues of ILTER network were discussed, conferences covering the issues of LTER science at local and global levels were held, and field visits to local LTER sites of host member networks were also included. During the period, four annual meetings were held in the East Asia and Pacific Region: 1997 in Taiwan, 2006 in China, 2009 in Australia, and 2011 in Japan.

The 21st ILTER Annual meeting was held in Korea during the period of 7–12 October 2013 with the central theme, "Challenges and Opportunities in Long-Term Ecosystem

Studies for the Conservation of Biodiversity and the Advancement of Ecosystem Services". It was co-organized by the Ecological Society of Korea (ESK), Kookmin University (KMU), Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI), Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI), and the ILTER East Asia-Pacific Regional Network (ILTER-EAP) under the auspices of the International Long-Term Ecological Research Network (ILTER), Korea LTER Network (KLTER), and the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER). This event was generously sponsored by the Ministry of Environment of Korea (MOE), the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), the East Asian Federation of Ecological Societies (EAFES), and the International Association for Ecology (INTECOL).

Representatives from more than 25 networks participated in the oral and poster sessions, the special workshops on



ecological data/information management and ecological observatory network (EON), field visits, and discussions.

During the science conference on ILTER, the presentations and discussions were focused on sharing the visions and strategies of the LTER Networks and scientists towards next decades, exchanging ideas, and, also, sharing experiences on the activities for the development and promotion of LTER networks at local, regional, and international levels. A special focus was given to the links between biodiversity and ecosystem services and bridging the gaps amongst LTER researchers/scientists, policy makers, and general public.

During the latter part of the meeting, the ILTER Coordinating Committee for the representatives from the ILTER member networks met in Jeju Island, where the

issues on science, public policy, and information management were also included in discussion with the major focus on the business of the International LTER Network.

In conjunction with this meeting, a number of field visits have been organized including the pre-meeting field visit to Gwang-Neung Forest LTER site and Seoraksan National Park, mid-meeting field visit to the newly established National Institute of Ecology of Korea, and post-meeting field visit to the Hallasan National Park and LTER Site on Jeju Island.

The meeting was adjourned after announcing that the next meeting will be held in Chile around early December 2014.

1ST INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM ON AGARWOOD (ISSA 2013) 3–5 September 2013 Serdang, Malaysia

The First International Scientific Symposium on Agarwood (ISSA 2013) was organized by the Faculty of Forestry, UPM, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rozi Mohamed, in collaboration with the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM), Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), Malacca State Forestry Department and Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB). Asia Plantation Capital and its sister company, Fragrance Du Bois, were the Platinum Sponsors.

A total of 44 scientific papers including 12 posters were presented in the two-day symposium, which was attended by 104 delegates from 15 countries, 50% were international participants. Among the attendees, eight were from APAFRI member institutions in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Vietnam. The invited speakers were renowned scientists in agarwood research from countries such as Japan, China, Korea and Malaysia. On the third day, participants went for a post-symposium tour where they observed agarwood induction and distillation processes. They also visited *Aquilaria* trees growing in the natural forest and in plantation.

ISSA was the first symposium dedicated to the science of agarwood. Its goal was to bring people in academia and



industry together for information and technology exchange. In line with the symposium's theme "*Agarwood in the New Era*", ISSA 2013 appropriately highlighted new scientific advances in agarwood, specifically in the fields of biotechnology and genomics, showcased a novel induction technique, and explored new uses for agarwood. The symposium received overwhelming responses from both scientists and people in the industry, and many are looking forward to the sequels.

LONG-TERM FOREST RESEARCH AND POLICY ON RESTORATION OF DEGRADED FORESTS AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN NORTHEAST ASIA

1–6 December 2013
Shenyang, China



Forests cover approximately 30% of the Earth's land surface and provide critical ecosystem goods and services, including food, fodder, water, shelter, nutrient cycling, and cultural and recreational value. Forests also store carbon, provide habitat for a wide range of species and help alleviate land degradation and desertification. Forests are biologically diverse system.

However, forests are increasingly being threatened as a result of deforestation, fragmentation, climate change and other disturbances that can be linked to human activities. Climate change, in particular, is expected to impact on forest biodiversity and the ability of forests to provide soil and water protection, habitat for species and other ecosystem services. Climate change and forests are intrinsically linked: climate change is a threat to forests, and protecting forests from conversion and degradation helps mitigate the impacts of climate change. The complexity of natural and human systems is however a formidable barrier to quantifying climate change impacts and vulnerabilities.

One critical goal of forest research is to create general knowledge through long-term, interdisciplinary studies, synthesis of information, and development of theory. Increased need for ecologists to examine

global change, biodiversity, and sustainability is resulting in research and synthesis at larger spatial and temporal scales than traditionally addressed in forest studies. Adaptation strategies are needed to minimize potential negative impacts on the forest ecosystem, from national to regional scales.

Integration of long-term forest research data and technologies from long-term forestry research in North East Asian countries would provide better scientific understanding of Northeast Asian forest ecosystem concerns and provide important support for developing



adaptation strategies to climate change impacts.

A workshop was organized by the Institute of Applied Ecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, with funding from the contributions of Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI) to APAFRI. The key objective of the workshop was to gather researchers to discuss topics ranging from long-term forest research, national strategy and policy on sustainable forest management, restoration on degraded

forests, biodiversity conservation, climate change, agroforestry, and share information and experiences.

The workshop, convened in Shenyang, China, was attended by researchers from China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, and Russia. UNCCD, which is quite active in that part of Asia, has also a representative participated in this workshop.

6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FOREST RELATED TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE IN ASIA 6–8 November 2013 Miyazaki, Japan



The 6th international conference on Forest Related Traditional Knowledge and Culture in Asia was held in Aya, Miyazaki, Japan, 6–8 November 2013.

During the pre-conference excursion with the theme *Traditional Food Culture, Industrial Art and Handicrafts in Aya*, the participants visited two studios specializing in woodcrafts and textile to gain a feel of the craftsmen's traditional skills and knowledge. During the post-conference excursion themed *Life and Culture in Mountain and Forest Heritage*, the participants visited an old growth of naturally regenerated evergreen broad leaved forest, with forest heritages such as a forest railroad, a lumber mill, a charcoal kiln, houses of forest workers and their family, and an old shrine.

The technical sessions for the conference discussed traditional knowledge on non-timber forest products, local

landscape, participation of local residents, etc. Also discussed was how to save and utilize traditional forest knowledge for managing forests in the Asian region, where social and economic situation were drastically changing.



SEMINAR ON FORESTS AND NATURAL DISASTERS
PRE-SESSION SEMINAR:
25TH SESSION OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION
4 November 2012
Rotorua, New Zealand

Increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters all over the world have drawn attention to the need for a more holistic approach in dealing with such natural disasters including floods, landslides, storm surges, tsunamis, earthquakes, cyclonic winds and wildfires. In the period 2002–2011, the International Emergency Disasters Database (EMDAT) recorded an annual average of 396 disasters. The average annual total of disaster fatalities in the period is 114,500 people. Average annual economic losses total more than US\$142 billion. Annually, 268 million people have been affected by disasters during 2002–2011. Floods and storms account for most of the fatalities and damage to property.

Most recent assessments indicate that anthropic factors have significantly enhanced the severity of these disasters and many so-called natural disasters are triggered by human actions, often driven by population expansion and economic development. In the wake of increasing losses of life and damage to property, many countries are making efforts to take preventive measures to minimize damage and to improve their abilities in disaster management, i.e. preparedness, response and recovery.

While disasters have always occurred, there are indications that their frequency and intensity are increasing. In particular, climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of disaster events in the future. The most vulnerable in this regard are the small island developing states (SIDS). Their very existence is being called into question in the context of rising sea levels and the potential for recurring disasters such as typhoons and storm surges. There are also clear indications that the impacts of natural disasters are particularly severe on the poorer segments of society. They often live in the most hazard-prone areas and their ability to take appropriate measures – even when early warnings are available – remains limited.

Land uses in hazard-prone areas are a critical issue, both in reducing the severity of natural disasters and in the speedy recovery of affected populations. Forests and forestry often can play crucial roles – but, also have limitations – in mitigating some natural disasters and their impacts, and in post-disaster reconstruction and recovery. Evidence from the Asia-Pacific region demonstrates that forests, when appropriately planned and managed, can withstand and protect against natural

disasters of varying degrees and types including tsunami, storm surges, cyclones, landslides, and floods. Appropriately planned forests and tree planting can mitigate the spread and impacts of wildfires, rehabilitate landslide-affected areas, help to stabilize slopes, and protect riparian zones. Wood is an important building material in post-disaster reconstruction and particularly appropriate in earthquake-prone areas.

A seminar, organized as a pre-session event to the 25th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission in Rotorua, had gathered experts and practitioners from the Asia Pacific region, to discuss the linkage between people, forests and natural disasters, and identify what forests and forestry could do in the first place to avert or reduce the impact and help in the relief and rehabilitation including preventing future recurrence of disasters. The event provided opportunity to showcase extensive work carried out in relation to the role of forests in protecting against and mitigating floods, cyclones, landslides, tsunami impacts and wildfire risks as well as highlighting the use of wood in earthquake rebuilds.

Organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), important issues and questions that were addressed during the seminar include:

- The role of forests in reducing and mitigating the impacts of natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, landslides, storm surges, tsunamis, wildfires, etc.
- The role of forests in the rehabilitation of communities and areas affected by natural disasters.
- Formulating a holistic, ecosystem approach in managing natural disasters and in what ways should forests and forestry fit into such a strategy.
- Mainstreaming forestry into disaster management strategies at different levels.
- Community involvement in disaster management and the roles of forestry departments play in strengthening community initiatives.

The presentations and other materials of the seminar had since then compiled and uploaded on to FAO website and accessible through the link:

http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/rap/home/meetings/list/detail/en/?meetings_id=888&year=2013



REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON SHARING TRADITIONAL FOREST-RELATED KNOWLEDGE FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN ASEAN COUNTRIES

24–25 March 2014

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Currently, half of the world population lives in urban area, so population size continuously decreasing in rural areas. Urban migration caused by rapid economic developments can affect the cultural and social binding of local community which forms and maintains traditional forest-related knowledge. In this fast changing environment, each community has been confronted with the world-wide common problem of global warming, as well as local level factor of human disturbances.

Most of, if not all, the ecosystem services, can be evaluated at local level. This evaluation process can provide a better understanding of the traditional forest-related knowledge, and facilitate establishing sound and long-term sustainable forest management policies and strategies.

Countries in the Asia Pacific region, especially in the sub-region of Southeast Asia, have very diverse types of forests, which have been providing various different types of ecosystem services. It is a challenge to understand and properly document the ecosystem services at local, regional and global levels.

The Asian Centre for Traditional Forest Knowledge (ACTFOK), currently hosted by Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI) has suggested a questionnaire incorporating four criteria: subsistence (provisioning) services, environmental (regulating) services, cultural services and conservation (supporting) services, with 25 questions. While This questionnaire, while designed for the Korean local communities, could also be used with modifications in other countries, to collect information and data for a better understanding of the traditional forest-related knowledge focusing on ecosystem services in these countries.

OBJECTIVES

The workshop is aimed to provide a platform for sharing of information and exchanging experiences related to traditional forest-related knowledge with special emphasis on ecosystem services in the Southeast Asian region.

Specifically, the workshop would like to discuss the means and ways of collecting and documenting traditional forest-related knowledge categorizing into the four functions of forests: subsistence (provisioning), environmental (regulating), cultural and conservation (supporting).

DATE, LOCATION AND ORGANIZATION

The workshop is scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 24–25 March 2014, and organized by APAFRI, in collaboration with FRIM. The workshop is supported by the contributions of KFRI to APAFRI.

PARTICIPATION

Scientists and academicians active in the areas of ecosystem services, community forestry and traditional forest-related knowledge should find this workshop interesting and beneficial. Furthermore, individuals working in policy, research and operations related to traditional knowledge and indigenous forest-dependent communities would find this event especially useful.

There would be no registration fees, and the organizers have funds to support one or two persons from each of the 10 ASEAN countries. Sponsored participants are expected to present country perspectives, and actively involved in all discussions.

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT

If you wish to present a paper, or exhibit a poster, send your abstract of 300–500 words to Dr. Sung Joochan (jhs033@korea.kr) copy to Dr. Sim Heok-Choh (simhc@frim.gov.my, sim@apafri.org;).

Deadline for submitting abstracts: 15 February 2014.

For more details, contact:

Dr. Sung Joochan (jhs033@korea.kr) or

Dr. Sim Heok-Choh (simhc@frim.gov.my, sim@apafri.org)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Fifth International Casuarina Workshop

Date : 3-7 February 2014
Venue : Chennai, Republic of India
Contact : Dr A. Nicodemus
Person : Secretariat, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, PB 1061, Forest Campus, R.S.Puram, Coimbatore 641 002, India
Email : casuarina2014@gmail.com; nico@icfre.org
Tel : +91 422 2484100, +91 422 2484194
Fax : +91 422 2430549
Web : www.ausbiotech2011.com.au

World Congress on Agroforestry, Trees for Life: Accelerating the Impact of Agroforestry

Date : 10-14 February 2014
Venue : Delhi, India
Contact : World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF),
Person : C/O MCI India - PCO - 406, Millennium Plaza, Tower A, Sector 27 - 122002, Gurgaon Haryana, India
Email : wca2014@mci-group.com
Web : <https://b-com.mci-group.com/Registration/WCA2014.aspx>

Fifth International Conference on Water Resources and Hydropower Development in Asia

Date : 11-13 March 2014
Venue : Colombo, Sri Lanka
Contact : SureFire Events,
Person : Unit 8, Hinton Business Park, Tarrant Hinton, Blandford DT11 8HY, UK
Phone : +44 (0)1258 447040
Fax : + 44 (0)700 349 7034
Email : asia2014@surefire-events.com
Web : http://www.hydropower-dams.com/ASIA-2014.php?c_id=89

Acacia 2014 "Sustaining the Future of Acacia Plantation Forestry"

Date : 18-21 March 2014
Venue : Hue, Vietnam
Contact : Ass/Prof. Trieu Van Hung
Person : Vietnamese Academy of Forest, Sciences, Dong Ngac – Tu Liem, Hanoi, Vietnam
Phone : +84 4 3838 9722
Email : hungvt.khcn@mard.gov.vn
Web : <http://iufroacacia2014.com.vn/>

Sustainable Resource Management for Climate Change Mitigation and Social Security

Date : 13-15 March 2014
Venue : Entrepreneur Development Centre, IT Park, Chandigarh
Contact : Dr. Pankaj Panwar,
Person : Organising Secretary, Central Soil and Water Conservation, Research and Training Institute, Research Center, Chandigarh – 160 019 India
Tel : 09779852184
Email : secretary@ists.in; dr_pankajp@yahoo.co.in

International Conference - Forest Change 2014

Date : 2-4 April 2014
Venue : Freising / Germany
Contact : Prof. Thomas Knoke
Person : Institute of Forest Management, Hans-Carl-von-Carlowitz-Platz 2, 85354 Freising, Germany
Tel : +49 (0)8161 71-4701
Email : knoke@forst.wzw.tum.de
Web : <http://www.fchange2014.wzw.tum.de/Contact-Imprint.9.0.html>

Sustainable Landscapes for Green Growth in Southeast Asia

Date : 5-6 May 2014
Venue : Jakarta, Indonesia
Contact : Daniel Cooney
Person : d.cooney@cgiar.org
Web : <http://www.cifor.org/forestsasia>

International Conference Ozone and Plants

Date : 18-21 May 2014
Venue : Beijing, China
Contact : Lijun Jiang
Person : Research Centre for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
Email : jlijun@rcees.ac.cn
Tel : 086-010-62923513
Web : <http://www.bj-ozone.com/index.html>



Activities Organized/ Participated by APAFRI in 2013

Date	Activity	Venue
24–28 February	International Workshop on Transitions to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation in Asia-Pacific Region	Kuningan, Indonesia
7–13 April	Tenth Session of United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF10)	Istanbul, Turkey
27 May – 6 June	Forest Policies for the 21st Century	Thimphu, Bhutan
6–7 June	Fourth Annual Meeting of the APFNet Focal Points	Kunming, China
2– 4 July	International Forestry Graduate Students' Conference 2013 (FORGRAD2013)	Serdang, Malaysia
19– 21 August	Arbonaut User Days 2013 Workshop: Paving the Way to Sustainable Forest & Carbon Management, and Preventing Forest Fires with Biomass Maps and Crowd-sourcing	Serdang, Malaysia
20–21 August	Regional Workshop for Asia, Pacific and Oceania: Identification of Species and Origin	Beijing, China
3–5 September	First International Scientific Symposium on Agarwood (ISSA 2013)	Serdang, Malaysia
23–25 September	Asia Pacific Workshop on Forest Hydrology	Dehradun, India
7–10 October	21st International Long-term Ecological Research Annual Meeting	Seoul, Korea
21–23 October	International Symposium: Transition to SFM and Rehabilitation	Beijing, China
4 November	Seminar on Forests and Natural Disasters Pre-session Seminar: 25th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission	Rotorua, New Zealand
5–8 November	Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission 25th Session	Rotorua, New Zealand
6–8 November	6th International Conference on Forest Related Traditional Knowledge and Culture in Asia	Miyazaki, Japan
20–22 November	International Symposium on Climate Change and Subtropical Forest Ecosystem	Jeju, Korea
1–6 December	Forest Research and Policy on Restoration of Degraded Forests and SFM in NE Asia	Shenyang, China

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

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- ❖ Korean Forest Research Institute (KFRI)
- ❖ Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
- ❖ Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO)
- ❖ United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service
- ❖ Bioversity International



**Season's Greetings
&
Happy New Year**



Azni



Latif



Rauzah



Sim



Syuqiyah

