

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

*Greetings from Seoul,
Republic of Korea!*

Now time flies, without realizing it I have already served as Chairman of APAFRI Executive Committee for more than two years since the last general Assembly held in 2015. The APAFRI Secretariat would soon preparing for the next General Assembly due in 2018, during which a new Chair would need to be elected.

As we are gearing up to the challenges in the new year, allow me to reflect on what APAFRI has achieved in the past year of 2017. Besides those already reported in the June issue of the Newsletter, APAFRI has involved itself in about half-a-dozen or so activities during the second half of 2017.

The Asia Pacific Forestry commission has its 27th Session Meeting this year in Colombo. APAFRI, under an agreement with FAO, supported three partners' events: TEAKNET, Forest Invasive Species and Outlook Study III, during the week in October.

The generous and very substantial contributions from the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) of the Republic of Korea had continued this year. The contributions allowed APAFRI to organize and/or finance quite a few activities. Those which held during the past six months include: the 2017 Asia Forest Fire Management Training Programme held in Seoul in October, and the 10th Conference on Traditional Forest Knowledge and Culture also in Seoul in late October.

In conjunction with conference in Seoul, the APAFRI Executive Committee convened a meeting prior to the conference on 30 Oct 2017. Among the various things



discussed is the announcement of the coming General Assembly, due in 2018.

Collaborations with FAO in organizing the Executive Forest Policy Course continue in the coming year. The venue for the next one – the eleventh in the series, has yet to be decided, but would probably be held in late June or early July. FAO also recently signed an agreement appointing APAFRI to coordinate a series of activities contributing to the Asia-Pacific

Forest sector Outlook Study III. The activities would include a few workshops/meetings and engaging experts/consultants to conduct various studies contributing to the Outlook Study to be completed by end of 2018.

APAFRI is also grateful to the Forest Research Institute Malaysia to continue hosting the Secretariat at its campus in Kepong, Malaysia; as well as providing financial and personnel supports for the coming year. Last, but not least, on behalf of APAFRI, I would like to extend my thanks to all other agencies, including the various national research institutes, universities, forestry agencies and private companies for their contributions to support APAFRI's programmes and activities.

As we are entering into a new year, on behalf of APAFRI and all its Secretariat staff members, I wish all members and friends of APAFRI a prosperous and happy New Year in 2018.

With best regards,

PARK JungHwan
Chairman, APAFRI
December 2017

THE 8th APAFRI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Seventh APAFRI General Assembly was convened on September 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia attended by 19 representatives from member institutions. According to APAFRI's Constitution, the General Assembly shall meet once every three years after the close of the financial year but not later than a month of April on a date and at a time and place to be decided by the Executive Committee. Therefore the Eighth APAFRI General Assembly is due in 2018.



Traditionally, the General Assembly would be held in association with a major regional event to attract the attendance of representatives from member institution. All APAFRI members are strongly urged to attend this General Assembly, to exercise their rights to guide the Association to serve them better. The election of the

new Executive Committee which is an important agenda of this General Assembly would guide the Association for the next three years.

Article X and XI of the APAFRI Constitution provide guidelines for conducting the General Assembly:

ARTICLE X The General Assembly

General Assembly of the Association shall be represented by one delegate from each member institution.

The General Assembly shall meet once every three years after the close of the financial year but not later than the month of April on a date and at a time and place to be decided by the Executive Committee.

All decisions shall be taken by a simple majority vote. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

The quorum for the General Assembly shall be 33% of the membership.

If half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting of the General Assembly a quorum is not present, the members present shall have the power to proceed with the business of the day but they shall not have the power to alter the constitution of the Association or make decisions affecting the whole membership.

Notice of meeting together with an agenda, minutes of the previous General Assembly and an audited account of the Association shall be forwarded to the members at least 30 days before the General Assembly.

An Extraordinary General Assembly may be convened whenever the Executive Committee deems it necessary or at

the joint request in writing of not less than 1/5 of the members, stating the objects and reason for such a meeting.

Notice and agenda for an Extraordinary General Assembly shall be forwarded by the Executive Secretary to all members at least 15 days before the date fixed for the meeting.

The provisions regarding quorum and postponement of the triennial General Assembly shall also apply to an Extraordinary General Assembly but with the proviso that if no quorum is present after half an hour from the time appointed for the Extraordinary General Assembly requisitioned by the members, the meeting shall be cancelled, no Extraordinary General Assembly shall be requisitioned for the same purpose until after the lapse of at least six months from the date thereof.

ARTICLE XI Duties of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall determine:

- The policy of the Association;
- Review and endorse the programme of work and budget prepared by the Executive Committee;
- Review progress;
- Exercise other powers conferred upon it by the constitution.
- Elect the Executive Committee and appoint auditors.

22nd APAFRI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

30 October 2017

Seoul, Korea



The Chairman welcomed all the Executive Committee members who were present to this meeting. Four members of the current Executive Committee were present.

The Chairman thanked those present to this second meeting for the present Executive Committee, and remarked that he hope to have one more meeting before the term for the present Executive Committee expires next year. He then introduced a colleague, Dr Shim KugBo from NIFoS, who would attend this meeting as an observer.

The Executive Secretary tabled the June 2017 unaudited financial report.

Responding to questions raised by Dr Mohanty, Dr Gan explained that the major portion of incomes were from donors' contributions and also service contracts with international agencies. The main donors for the past several years are National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), and Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). While NIFoS contributions had enable APAFRI to organize various activities in the region, FRIM's contribution has been in hosting the Secretariat and paid for the salary of two permanent staff members as well as operating expenses. In 2017, APAFRI has a service contract with FAO to support the activities of a

few regional networks such as TeakNet, Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network, Insects for Food, etc. APAFRI typically kept about five to ten percent as service charges to pay for administrative costs of managing these funds. In addition, these funds also earns interest from bank, as it is stipulated in the APAFRI Constitutions that the Secretariat must keep funds in interest-earning bank account. The service charges and interests earned, however, are very small and could barely covered the administration expenses which include paying two permanent staff hired by APAFRI on annual contract basis, of the Secretariat. However, the Secretariat had managed over the past 15 years or so; but the reserve is already depleting fast.

Dr Mohanty further suggested that the Secretariat should perhaps keep aside a bigger potion from these donors' contributions and service contracts to ensure a longer sustainability of APAFRI as well as the Secretariat. Dr Gan, assisted by Dr Sim, explained that APAFRI has been registered as a non-profit organization in Malaysia, and enjoys income-tax waiver. To maintain that status, retained balance at end of each financial year should theoretically be almost zero. Moreover, donors' contributions and service contracts are often with very specific apportionments with little flexibility. Donors and international agencies often

questioned the quantum of service charges and the secretariat needs to provide lengthy explanations.

The Chairman again thanked the various agencies, especially Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and many others, for the financial and in-kind contributions, which had been vital for the sustainability of APAFRI all these years.

Dr Gan, responding to the question on implementing a long term programme on Landscape Restoration, explained that APAFRI has participated in a workshop organized by FAO which discussed the various issues related to implementing FLR in Asia Pacific region. However, the whole concept of FLR is still very hazy, with a number of international agencies, interpret differently according to their priorities. The Secretariat thus would appreciate if the Executive Committee members could assist in sending in suggestions/proposals (a page or two).

Dr Gan explained that the next General Assembly, the Eighth General Assembly, is due next year 2018. The General Assembly would typically be held just around September, allowing sufficient time for the various logistical arrangements. Very soon, an announcement would be prepared for sending out to all members.

As the General Assembly is typically a half-day event, therefore it is traditionally to be held in conjunction with a conference or workshop, in which the members are encouraged to participate, thus making traveling to attend the General Assembly, more attractive which could also easier to justify. Dr Gan, therefore, sought opinions from the Executive Committee, to suggest event that APAFRI could tag its General Assembly to.

Dr Gan, further stressed that a number of Executive Committee members had served the maximum of two terms and are therefore not eligible for re-electing into the Committee.

Dr. Gan had also informed that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) had launched the Family Farming Knowledge Platform (FFKP) to gather digitized quality information on family farming from all over the world. APAFRI was invited to collaborate with this platform. The meeting had no objection to the request.

The Chair thanked everyone present for their involvement and contributions to the meeting.

Adapted from the minutes of the APAFRI Executive Committee Twenty-second Meeting

REGIONAL SEMINAR ON RECLAMATION, REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION OF DISTURBED SITES: PLANTING OF NATIONAL AND IUCN RED LIST TREE SPECIES 15-17 August 2017 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Regional Seminar on "Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Disturbed Sites: Planting of National and IUCN Red List Tree Species" was successfully organised by Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) with the support of Korea Forest Service and Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI).

This seminar is one of the many activities under the AFoCo Regional Project entitled "Domestication of Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Plant Species in Disturbed Terrestrial Ecosystem in Malaysia and Thailand". The project is being carried out according to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which was

signed among FRIM, Royal Forest Department (RFD), Thailand and Korea Forest Service (KFS) on 18 May 2016.

The two-day seminar was attended by 40 participant from nine ASEAN member countries. There were 19 presentations including nine by ASEAN member state representatives; and 21 poster presentations. Dr Stephen David Elliott, the Chiang Mai University (CMU) Forest Restoration Research Unit (FORRU) Co-Director in Thailand, presented the keynote address entitled, 'Principles of restoring tropical forest ecosystems and opportunities for conserving endemic, endangered and threatened tree species'.

2017 INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON LESSONS LEARNT AND CHALLENGES FROM FOREST LONG-TERM ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH (LTER) IN THE NORTHEAST ASIAN REGION

29 August - 1 September 2017
Hokkaido, Japan



Forests in the Northeast Asian region are unique because of their diverse ecosystems and high biodiversity, and those ecosystems have not only stood at its dignity as itself but also provided essential and valuable services to human beings. Those forest ecosystems, however, has been under enormous pressure of deforestation and forest degradation, induced by both natural factors (i.e., climate change, fire, flood and drought) and anthropogenic factors (i.e., illegal logging, construction, land conversion for agriculture and over exploitation). Those deforestation and forest degradation have resulted in both environmental damages of soil erosion, land degradation and biodiversity loss and socioeconomic damages of insecure food, water and health, as well as the loss of cultural identity/dignity to the people. In order to mitigate and combat those emerging challenges, various levels of communities (i.e. community, domestic, regional and international) among various stakeholders (i.e. community leading group, university, research institute, government agency and international organizations) have been proceeded significant efforts for last decades.

In particular, together with international research communities, research group in forest ecology in the Northeast Asian region has contributed through

conducting relatively large scale of plot-based integrated research investigating long-term responses of forest ecological dynamics to natural and human disturbances and environmental changes over broad spatial and temporal scales. Those forest dynamic plot research results have been useful in providing important information for forest structure and species composition as well as ethnobotanical data, understanding of species habitat requirements, and providing quantitative data for testing theories and hypothesis in population and community ecology. Moreover, the long-term data obtained by these forest dynamics researches over last 40 years has enabled the researchers to evaluate the nature and pace of ecological change, to interpret its effects, and to forecast the range of future biological responses to the changes through establishing relevant mid- and long-term plans in forest conservation, restoration and management, which had been unable to do only through short-term observations or experiments.

This workshop, co-organized by Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI) and the IUFRO Working Party 1.01.13 and sponsored by Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) and National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) of the Republic of Korea, aimed mainly at sharing knowledge

and research experiences on Long-term Ecological Research (LTER) particularly in forest sector in the Northeast Asian region (i.e. China, Japan, Mongolia, Russia and Korea). As one of the series of annual workshop followed by the years of 2015 (Yanji, China) and 2016 (Harbin, China), the 2017 workshop this year

which was attended by 11 participants discussed some lessons learnt and challenges while conducting the LTER researches as well as occurred in the practical field in Hokkaido, Japan.

Adapted from the report prepared by Dr. Ho Sang Kang

THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRADITIONAL FOREST KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE IN ASIA 31 October – 3 November 2017 Seoul, Korea



The 10th International Conference on Traditional Forest Knowledge and Culture in Asia was participated by 28 participants from over 10 countries who had shared the latest information on Traditional Forest Knowledge (TFK). 17 oral presentations and 4 poster presentations were delivered in the symposium.

In 2007, the Chinese Academy of Forestry, the International Union of Forest Research Organization's (IUFRO) Task Force on TFK, and APAFRI with support from Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI), the State Forest Administration of China, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, and various organizations in Asia held the First International Conference of Traditional Forest-related Knowledge.

Subsequently, it has become an annual event for the past nine years. Celebrating the 10th year of the International Conference on Traditional Forest Knowledge and Culture in Asia, this conference aimed to explore values of TFK as well as to develop the sustainable use of non-wood forest products related with TFK in Asia through sharing information on TFK. Furthermore, this conference contributed to the development of Asian Network of Traditional Forest Knowledge (ANTFOK).

Asian Network of Traditional Forest Knowledge (ANTFOK) was established during the 10th conference. Future missions and duties of Asian Network of Traditional Forest Knowledge (ANTFOK) were identified and discussed by participants from Asian countries.

THE FUTURE OF FORESTS AND FORESTRY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: THE PATH TO 2030 AND BEYOND

23 October 2017
Colombo, Sri Lanka



During the 27th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in October 2017, the Commission discussed the proposal to update the forest sector outlook study in view of the larger changes that have taken place since the completion APFSOS II. Elaborating the idea and enabling wider consultation FAO and APAFRI organized a partner event on 23 October 2017 seeking ideas as to what the new outlook study should consider and how it could be implemented as a collaborative effort involving interested partners.

Why the next outlook study?

Forests and forestry in the Asia-Pacific region continue to undergo rapid changes in response to the collective impact of several drivers at the global, national and local levels. While some of the countries have been able to address deforestation and reversed forest loss, many are yet to accomplish forest transition. Understanding the probable pathways of change is critical to identify appropriate interventions to ensure that forestry meets the changing needs and aspirations of an evolving society. FAO has been undertaking

regional and global outlook studies to assess how the future is likely to unfold and the challenges and opportunities that are likely to emerge. Such outlook studies are a key to meaningful planning at the national and sub-national levels.

In 1998 the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific under the guidance of Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission and in collaboration with member countries and partners completed the first Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS I). This outlook study identified key forestry issues in the region, provided a broad perspective of the state of forests and forestry and the probable direction of developments to the year 2010. Taking into account the post-2000 developments, FAO revised the first outlook study and APFSOS II, completed in 2010, extended the time horizon of the outlook to 2020, incorporated the varied changes at the global, regional and national levels, identified different scenarios and assessed what could be expected during the following ten years. APFSOS II was an elaborate exercise that led to the preparation of 24 country outlook papers, 15 thematic studies on topical issues, 5 sub-regional outlook reports, and a regional overview outlook report. A wealth of

information has been compiled and analyzed providing a solid base for long term strategic planning.

While the broad trends outlined in APFSOS II are still valid, there is a need to refine them taking into account some of the important post-2010 developments and provide an indication of the probable paths of forestry development to the year 2030 and beyond. Some of the following developments could significantly influence the future pathways of forestry:

- The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed by the international community in September 2015 provide a robust framework for the post-2015 global development agenda.
- The Paris Agreement on Climate Change endorsed in November 2015 has come into force with effect from 4 November 2016 and has already been ratified by 159 of the 197 parties to the convention. Most of the countries have included forestry as an important component in their NDC suggesting the possibility of a different pathway for forestry development.
- Continued shift in forestry objectives focusing on the provision of environmental services, especially

water-shed protection, biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration and amenity values.

- Changing pace of globalization, including the uncertainties posed by the inward focus of some of the countries and their impact on forestry investments and trade.
- Increased recognition of the importance of adopting a landscape approach in resource management making the historical sectoral differentiation less relevant.
- Emergence of new technologies – artificial intelligence, 3D printing, nanotechnology, etc. - and the potential opportunities and challenges stemming from the adoption of such technologies.

All the above could possibly take forestry along a trajectory different from what was visualized in the 2010 outlook study. It is in this context that the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission recommended a revision of APFSOS II and this was taken up for detailed discussion by the Commission during the current session.

Adapted from the report prepared by Dr. CTS Nair

Activities Organized/ Participated by APAFRI in 2017

Date	Activity	Venue
20–24 March	APFORGEN Strategy Week	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
15–25 May	Tenth Executive Forest Policy Course	Colombo, Sri Lanka
19-23 June	Promoting the Role of Natural Regeneration in Large Scale Forest and Landscape Restoration: Challenges and Opportunities	Nanning, China
15–17 August	Regional Seminar on Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Disturbed Sites: Domestication of National and IUCN Red List Tree Species	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
29 August – 1 September	2017 International Workshop on Lessons Learnt and Challenges from Forest Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) in the Northeast Asian Region	Hokkaido, Japan
15–22 Oct	Forest Fire Management Training	Seoul, Korea
23–27 October	27th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC)	Colombo, Sri Lanka
30 October	22 nd APAFRI Executive Committee Meeting	Seoul, Korea
31 October – 3 November	The 10th International Conference on Traditional Forest Knowledge and Culture in Asia	Seoul, Korea
16–17 November	Wood and Biofiber International Conference 2017 (WOBIC2017)	Selangor, Malaysia



Season's Greetings 2018 & Happy New Year



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

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