

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Seoul, Republic of Korea!

In March, APAFRI organized a week-long event for the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN). The event, supported by an allocation from the annual contributions of National Institute of Forestry Science (NIFoS) to APAFRI, included a workshop to discuss the contribution of biodiversity to Forest Landscape Restoration in the Asia Pacific region, a regional briefing of the FAO Global Plan of Action for Forest Genetic Resources, and also a meeting of the national coordinators for the participating countries of APFORGEN.

This year, the APAFRI Secretariat has again assisted FAO in organizing the Executive Forest Policy Course. The tenth in the series, the course this year was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Twenty-four forestry professionals from various governmental and non-governmental organizations of the Asia Pacific region participated in this 10-day course in May. Thus far APAFRI has been involved in organizing five out of these ten training courses held in various countries in the region, from Fiji in the Pacific to Bhutan in the north of the Indian Subcontinent.

APAFRI has been invited to be a partner in organizing a workshop on 'Promoting the Role of Natural Regeneration in Large-scale Forest and Landscape Restoration' in Nanning, China. This is a follow-up of the 'High Level Consultation on Forest Landscape Restoration' held during the Asia Pacific Forest Week in Clark, the Philippines, in 2016,



which developed the Action Plan for Forest Landscape Restoration for Asia and the Pacific. Forest Landscape Restoration will continue to dominate in forestry related events in the future. While "Forest Landscape Restoration" and "Forest and Landscape Restoration" may generate some exciting debates in different fora, closer to us in this region may be adopting the accepted terminology for

better communication and engagement. APAFRI will continue to seek opportunities to facilitate in this respect.

The financial contribution from NIFoS of the Republic of Korea to APAFRI this year is by far the largest. This year's contribution is to be used to support various forestry activities to be organized in the Asia Pacific region, covering topics ranging from forest fire, forest genetic resources, traditional knowledge, ecological research, and forest rehabilitation and restoration. The Secretariat has begun communicating with colleagues in NIFoS to plan out these activities. A number of these activities have already been scheduled and more details will soon be made known to colleagues in the region.

A letter of agreement (LoA) from FAO has awarded a contract to APAFRI for managing FAO's contributions to a number of regional networks for their activities to be organized in 2017. These include the Asia Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) and TeakNet, which have their secretariats at the Kerala Forest Research Institute, India; the Kids to Forests Initiative, and also the Forest Food initiative.

On behalf of APAFRI, I would like to extend my thanks to all agencies for their contributions to support APAFRI's programmes and activities. My special thanks also go to the various national research institutes, universities, forestry agencies and private companies for their contributions to many of APAFRI's activities. Your continuous support shall further enhance APAFRI's

performance contributing to the betterment of the forestry fraternity in the Asia Pacific region.

With best regards,

PARK JungHwan
Chairman, APAFRI
June 2017

APFORGEN STRATEGY WEEK

20-24 March 2017

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



In the annual financial contribution to APAFRI for the year 2016, the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) of the Republic of Korea allocated funds to support APFORGEN. Specifically, NIFoS requested the funds to be used for an Expert meeting to develop strategies and action plans for further strengthening APFORGEN as a regional programme. With this funding APAFRI organized the first-ever strategy week for APFORGEN, with the following objectives:

- Establish new partnerships between national, regional and international organizations working on topics related to forest genetic resources
- Develop collaborative projects on the conservation of *Dalbergia* spp., tree seed systems, and capacity development on forest genetic resources
- Further strengthen APFORGEN as a regional network by reviewing its operational structure and opportunities to expand country membership

The strategy week was designed and facilitated by Bioversity International, with inputs from APFORGEN's National Coordinators and FAO.

APFORGEN National Coordinators' Meeting

The first day of the strategy week was devoted to reviewing APFORGEN's past and ongoing activities and identifying thematic priorities for future collaboration. The most notable recent achievement of APFORGEN has been the establishment of a Regional Training Centre on Forest Genetic Resources in October 2016. The centre organizes annual training courses and has already trained more than 50 participants from 10 countries, with the next training set to take place in Binzhou, China, September 2017.

The day concluded with a formal meeting of the National Coordinators, in which network representatives for the next three year period were elected. Professor Zheng Yongqi from the Chinese

Academy of Forestry was elected as Chair, Dr Suchitra Changtragoon of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation and Dr Bandara Ariyaratna from Sri Lanka Forestry Institute as Vice Chairs, and Professor Enrique Tolentino jr. of the University of the Philippines Los Baños as Secretary. With the election of the Chair, APFORGEN's Secretariat moved to the Chinese Academy of Forestry, from APAFRI Secretariat that had hosted it since the establishment of the network in 2003. APFORGEN's membership also expanded, with the decision to invite the Republic of Korea as member.

Regional Briefing – Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action of Forest Genetic Resources

The second day of the strategy week was organized by Dr Jarkko Koskela, FAO Forestry Officer, to inform country representatives about the process for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on FGR. The plan was developed by FAO in 2013 based on an extensive global study that covered more than 80 countries. It details approaches and priority actions for integrating genetic considerations in diverse aspects of forest and landscape management. Genetic diversity provides the foundation for species survival, biomass growth and productivity and adaptation to a changing environment. Hence, it is broadly relevant to forest and landscape management projects and programmes, for example forest and landscape restoration, ecosystem-based approaches to mitigating climate change, species conservation programmes and community forestry. The Global Plan of Action is designed to support the implementation of international conventions and agreements that concern forest biodiversity, including the UN Convention on the Conservation of Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the UN Framework Convention on Combating Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr Koskela outlined this Global Plan of Action and the various recommendations and decisions from the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on

Forest Genetic Resources and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. He explained the plan for monitoring of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including its schedule, targets, indicators, and verifiers. Dr Koskela also presented the set of guidelines for preparing the Country Progress Report, with a glossary of terms and sample questionnaire. Countries are requested to report on their progress in implementing the Plan by the end of 2017.

Expert Workshop – Enhancing the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable forest and landscape management in Asia-Pacific: Focus on genetic diversity

The last three days of the strategy week brought together 25 forestry professionals and researchers from 15 countries to develop collaborative research and development projects that would support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and form the heart of APFORGEN's updated strategy. The participants agreed on the following four objectives for APFORGEN for the next five years.

- 1) Mobilize political and financial support for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on Forest Genetic Resources in the Asia-Pacific region
- 2) Make available information on forest genetic resources in the region
- 3) Develop conservation and sustainable use strategies for regionally important and threatened tree species
- 4) Strengthen tree seed programmes to facilitate ecosystem restoration, support local livelihoods and climate change adaptation and mitigation

The workshop has already resulted in two submitted multi-country project proposals, with two more in the pipeline in 2017. The strategy document is being finalized and is set to be presented to the region's decision-makers at the 27th Session of the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission in Sri Lanka, October 2017.

For more information log on to www.apforgen.org



APFORGEN enhanced with a formal structure and new Secretariat

Established in 2003, the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (**APFORGEN**) is a regional programme with a holistic approach to conservation and management of forest genetic resources. It aims to enhance technical and scientific cooperation, training and information exchange among countries in the region. Target beneficiaries of this programme include forest research institutions, policy-makers, local communities, government forestry departments, NGOs and private forestry companies. Other international and regional organizations such as FAO are also participating in the development of the programme and its activities.

The objective of APFORGEN is to manage tropical forest genetic diversity more equitably, productively and sustainably in the participating countries. Specifically the programme aims to:

- Strengthen national programmes on forest genetic diversity
- Enhance regional networking and collaboration
- Facilitate to locate and conserve genetic diversity of selected priority forest species
- Increase sustainable use of genetic diversity in natural and man-made forests

APFORGEN has fourteen participating country organizations: Bangladesh (*Bangladesh Forest Research Institute*), India (*Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education*), Nepal (*Department of Forest Research and Survey*), Pakistan (*Pakistan Forest Institute*), Sri Lanka (*Forest Department*), Cambodia (*Department of Forestry and Wildlife*), China (*Research Institute of Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry*), Indonesia (*Centre for Plantation Research and Development, Bogor*), Lao PDR (*Forest Research Centre*), Malaysia (*Forest Research Institute Malaysia*), Myanmar (*Forest Research Institute, Yezin*), Philippines (*College of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Philippines Los Baños*), Thailand (*Royal Forest Department/National Park,*

Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department) and Viet Nam (*Forest Science Institute of Viet Nam*).

APFORGEN was initially managed by the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (**APAFRI**) with technical support from Bioversity International (**Bioversity**). However, during the past few years, it has become increasingly challenging for APAFRI to manage the programme. Bioversity International has kindly offered to host and maintain the webpages since a couple of years ago.

During a meeting of the national coordinators and representatives from a few international and regional networks including APAFRI and Bioversity International, a formal structure was proposed to facilitate effective communication and decision making.



Dr Zhen Yongqi is the Chairman of APFORGEN

Following this, the meeting has elected Dr Zheng Yongqi of the Chinese Academy of Forestry as the Chairman, and Dr Suchitra Changtragoon (Royal Thai Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation) and Dr K M A Bandara (Sri Lanka Forest Department) as vice-chairpersons. Dr Enrique L. Tolentino, Jr. from University of the Philippines, Los Baños, was elected as the Secretary. The Secretariat will be hosted by the Chinese Academy of Forestry in Beijing, China.



TENTH EXECUTIVE FOREST POLICY COURSE

REVISITING THE POVERTY REDUCTION AGENDA IN THE CONTEXT OF SDGs: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY

15–25 May 2017

Colombo, Sri Lanka

APAFRI is again assisting FAO in organizing the Executive Forest Policy Course this year, which is the tenth in the series.

The involvement of APAFRI actually began with the initial establishment of the Forest Policy Think Tank way back in 2008. But APAFRI's involvement in the organizing of this course began with the Sixth Course in Bhutan – 2013, then the Seventh in Fiji, the Eighth in Myanmar, and the Ninth in Indonesia.

Twenty-four forestry professionals from various governmental as well as non-governmental agencies participated in the 10-day course. The local host, the Sri Lanka Forest Department, with its Conservator General, Mr Anura Sathurusinghe had personally involved in many aspects during the preparation. Dr NDR Weerawardane, Additional Conservator General of Forests (Research and Education), had assisted in lots of logistics, including identified the conveniently located hotel as the venue for the course.

Dr CTS Nair was again the main course coordinator. Incidentally, Dr Nair was the de facto founding father of APAFRI. He was instrumental in organizing the Heads of Forestry Research in the Asia-Pacific Region in Bogor, Indonesia, way back in 1995, which had led to the establishment of APAFRI. For this particular course, he was the one, with assistance from Dr Yurdi Yasmi of FAO Asia Pacific, who have put in all the elements of this training course, and invited the many experts who shared with us their experiences over the 10 days or so during the course.

The course materials, including all the presentations of the resource persons and the policy briefs produced by the participants had since uploaded onto FAO and APAFRI websites:

- <http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/events/detail-events/en/c/1413/>
- <http://www.apafri.org/activities/10th%20Policy%20Course/10thpolycourse.html>

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

Against the background of economic development, depletion and degradation of forests is inevitable especially the lowland forests. Loss or fragmentation of forests means also destruction of habitats for precious biodiversity of many life forms. Clearing of forest for mining, in particular, results in a denuded land or a complete loss of biodiversity. The reduction of forestland and uncontrollable extraction of some plant species for timber and resins may lead to the extinction of certain species. These plant species are normally classified in conservation efforts as endemic, endangered and threatened species (EETS). The awakening call for conservation of these precious plant species has successfully placed them in species lists of tree planting programs in the Peninsular Malaysia organized by FRIM together with both public and private sectors.

The Regional Seminar on "Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Disturbed Sites: Domestication of National and IUCN Red List Tree Species 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 Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Royal Forest Department (RFD), Thailand and Korea Forest Service (KFS) on 18 May 2016.

Please visit the Seminar website at <https://3rdomestix.blogspot.my/> for more details.

**WOOD AND BIOFIBER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2017
(WOBIC2017)
16-17 November 2017
Selangor, Malaysia**

Being as an institute which is competitive in tropical forestry and forest products area, the Institute of Tropical Forestry and Forest Products (INTROP) of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) has taken proactive action to organize an international conference in order to make sure the excellence of INTROP as leader in such area. 'International Conference of Kenaf and Allied Fibers' (ICKAF) was a conference which held every four years began 2009 and followed in 2013. The conference of ICKAF focused on the research and development related to kenaf and wood fiber.

INTROP has taken initiatives to wider its networking by organizing conference of international level which involves bigger area compared to ICKAF. The conference is called 'Wood and Biofiber International Conference (WOBIC)' that will be held from 16 to November 2017 in Selangor, Malaysia. With the theme of "Biofiber for Future Bioeconomy", among WOBIC2017 main focus is to provide a channel in order to share and discuss research findings and recent technology related to wood materials and biofibers.

More information can be accessed at the official WOBIC2017 website at www.wobic.upm.edu.my.

THE SECOND REGIONAL TRAINING ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

18–22 September 2017

Binzhou, Shandong Province, China

The World's Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) Report highlighted how populations of many important tree species are declining due to a variety of threats (FAO, 2014). The alarming results led to the development of a Global Plan of Action on Forest Genetic Resources, as a call for governments, international organisations and others to respond before it is too late. Forest trees are long-lived species with high genetic diversity that is crucial for their survival, regeneration and adaptation. Genetic diversity also provides the foundation for selection and breeding programmes to improve the productivity, resistance or quality of trees and their products. Conservation of tree genetic diversity can be achieved together with the use of trees to produce wood or non-wood products, including food for humans and animals – as long as management and sustainable use practices are designed to safeguard this diversity.

This training course provides an introduction to the principles of genetic conservation of tree species. It demonstrates the use of a Forest Genetic

Resources Training Guide, developed by Bioversity International, as a flexible tool for teaching and learning about FGR issues in formal and informal education, or on-the-job training. Targeting non-specialists, it uses real case studies to focus on the links between sustainable forest management and FGR, covering areas such as conservation strategies, trees outside forests, seed supply chains, forest management, forest restoration and logging. The Guide demonstrates the value of FGR for responsible decision-making in forest and natural resource management. It has a global geographic scope and covers issues of practical relevance to local conservation and sustainable use of FGR.

The course is organized in collaboration with United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, and contributes to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on Forest Genetic Resources.

Please contact Dr. Huang Ping (pippin09@163.com) for more details.

27TH SESSION OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION (APFC)

23–27 October 2017

Colombo, Sri Lanka

The 27th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) will convene in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 23 to 27 October 2017, hosted by the Forest Department - Sri Lanka.



APFC is one of six regional forestry commissions established by FAO to provide a policy and technical forum for countries to discuss and address forest issues on a regional basis.

FAO encourages wide participation of government officials from forestry and other sectors as well as representatives of international, regional and sub-regional organizations that deal with forest-related issues in the region, including NGOs, academia, and the private sector.

More information will be posted at www.bit.ly/APFC27session.

NEW PUBLICATION

Collecting Proverbs, Old Sayings and Community Rules related to Climate Change and Forest Management in ASEAN Countries



Collecting Proverbs, Old Sayings and Community Rules related to Climate Change and Forest Management in ASEAN Countries

The surveys, which produced the reports for this compilation, were supported by an allocation in the annual contribution from the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) of the Republic of Korea (formerly known as Korea Forest Research Institute, KFRI) to APAFRI.

The initial proposal was discussed during a workshop in Kuala Lumpur, organized by APAFRI, 2–4 March 2016; and participated by colleagues from four SEA nations: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam.

For copies, please write to Ms Syuqiyah Abdul Hamid (syuqiah_apafri@frim.gov.my). The PDF version of this book is available at APAFRI's website: www.apafri.org.



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

Acknowledgements

APAFRI extends its thanks to the followings for their continuous support:

- ❖ Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)
- ❖ National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), Republic of Korea
- ❖ Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO)
- ❖ Bioversity International
- ❖ Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
- ❖ United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service