

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Kuala Lumpur!

Without realizing it, it is already well past half of the term of the present Executive Committee elected at the Sixth General Assembly, held in Guangzhou on 31 August 2012. For a small regional association with limited resources, it is always a big challenge to have Executive Committee meetings as regularly as desired. The diverse specializations and official portfolios of the members had further compounded the challenge.

The present Executive Committee has therefore not been able to have any meeting after the members were elected in 2012. However, the Secretariat has been sending out monthly reports promptly every month to all the Executive Committee members. Major happenings were captured in the twice-a-year newsletters that have been regularly published in June and December every year, and widely distributed to all members as well as partners and collaborating agencies in the region and beyond. In addition, the Secretariat has also been sending out announcements and updates using emails; besides posting these on the official website, www.apafri.org.

During the first half of this year, APAFRI has supported/organized a number of regional events. The major ones include the *Acacia 2014 Conference* in Hue, Vietnam, in March; and the *International Long-term Ecological Research East Asia and Pacific Regional Network Meeting and Conference* in Manila early June. APAFRI has also organized a small workshop in Kuala Lumpur



discussing initiatives to document forest-related traditional knowledge in Southeast Asia.

The Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI) has continued with its rather substantial financial contributions to APAFRI. The contribution this year would enable APAFRI to support and organize various activities in the region. Already committed for this year include support to the *Mangroves of the Asia*

Pacific to be held 11–13 November 2014 in Kuala Lumpur. Also a project would be launched to document forest-related traditional knowledge in a number of Southeast Asian nations; the outputs would be discussed at a workshop to be convened early next year. APAFRI has also been invited by Forest Research Institute Malaysia to co-host a workshop on *Wood Products Standards for ASEAN Member Nations* to be held in Kuala Lumpur later this year.

APAFRI continues to be actively involved in FAO activities in the region. Extending from the very successful *Policy Short Course* in Bhutan for South Asian countries in 2013, APAFRI has provided support, albeit on a much reduced scale, to a similar course organized this past month in Fiji.

APAFRI has continued to make its presence felt in the region and beyond. Consistently and constantly communicating with members and others has been a major effort of the Secretariat which taken up a huge portion of the meager resources of APAFRI.

The Secretariat has also regularly published and distributed proceedings which compiled the

extended abstracts of the presentations of events hosted and organized by APAFRI. Although most of the artwork and editing have been done by Secretariat staff, printing and mailing incurred high costs and these had further drained the rather small coffers of APAFRI. All these, however, are essential to maintain the exposures, and ensure the relevancy, of APAFRI in the region.

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

With best regards,

Abd Latif Mohmod
Chairman, APAFRI
June 2014

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

24–26 March 2014

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Currently, about half of the world population lives in urban areas. Even though the proportion of world population living in the rural areas dwindles over the years, amidst world population increase many people will continue to live in the rural areas. Urban migration caused by rapid economic developments can affect the cultural and social binding of local communities 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 factors 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. 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.

Workshop Objectives and Participation

A workshop was convened in Kuala Lumpur, 24–26 March 2014, with the objective of sharing the experiences of KFRI researchers in documenting TFRK using this questionnaire with colleagues from other Asia countries. Since this questionnaire was discussed outside Korea for the first time, it was felt that a small group discussion would be effective. Hence, the workshop participation was limited to just researchers from Southeast Asia. A total of 15 participants from Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam, participated in the three-day workshop.

There were a total of 10 presentations, two each from Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam, on various aspects of TFRK. Colleagues from KFRI presented two case studies using the questionnaire. Dr Antonio Daño from the Philippines presented the only survey outside Korea using this questionnaire. The others presented case studies and research including documentation mainly on utilization of plants and other forest produce. Discussions which followed were mainly around the issues of documentation and utilizing TFRK to supplement modern conservation and management practices. All the presentations and the other documents have been compiled on to compact discs given to the participants, and also uploaded onto APAFRI website: www.apafri.org.

In the morning of the second day, Dr Park ChanRyul assisted by Dr Oh JeongHak, introduced the questionnaire, followed by discussions on

modifying the questionnaire to suit the different countries. Dr Lim Hin Fui, FRIM, with his many years of experience working with the Orang Asli (Indigenous People) of Malaysia, led a brainstorming session to gather inputs which will be compiled for a revised questionnaire to be redrafted later. Dr Oh has taken notes during the discussions, and these have been summarized as in Appendix 3. As a follow up to this workshop, the participants had expressed desires to conduct surveys back in their countries using the revised questionnaires. APAFRI would propose to KFRI and request allocation for such study. The findings of these national surveys shall be reported in a workshop proposed to be held sometime in 2015.

The participants visited the FRIM Museum and Kepong Botanic Garden in the main campus of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) in Kepong on the second day afternoon. Then, after a brief stop at a tourist spot – the Batu Caves, they continued traveling north and put up a night in Kampar.

The next day, the group visited a gaharu (agarwood, *Aquilaria spp.*) plantation near Gopeng town, before traveling to the Ulu Geroh Village, an *Orang Asli* (Indigenous People) settlement at the fringe of a natural forest. Discussions were held at the village multipurpose hall with a few of the village elders. These elders mentioned about various changes happened over the years, brought along by increasing logging activities and economic developments in nearby areas. With this place becoming popular for nature lovers and more adventurous tourists, a number of the youngsters in the village had been trained and earned steady incomes as tour guides. After the discussions, the group trekked into the forest for more than an hour to find the huge flower – *Rafflesia*.



2014 ILTER EAP BIENNIAL MEETING

2–7 June 2014

Manila, Philippines



The 2014 International Long Term Ecological Research East Asia Pacific (ILTER EAP) Biennial Meeting was successfully held from 2–7 June 2014 at the University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD), in Quezon City. The 2014 ILTER EAP Meeting this year has three separate but related activities: the Fourth Information Management System (IMS) Workshop, the Tenth Biennial ILTER Conference and a field visit to two LTER sites in the Makiling Forest Reserve, University of the Philippines Los Banos (MFR UPLB).

These activities were organized jointly by the top universities in the Philippines: the University of the Philippines (UP), the Central Mindanao University (CMU), the Silliman University (SU), the Visayas State University (VSU); and also the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (BMB-DENR)

The IMS workshop was facilitated by an 8-person training team from member networks of ILTER EAP: Dr. Lu Sheng Shan and Dr. Lin Chau Chin from the Taiwan Forest Research Institute (TFRI), ILTER IM Committee Chair Dr. David Blankman from Israel, Dr. Masae Ishihara and Dr. Maita Eiichi from Japan LTER (JaLTER), Mr. Omarali Abdul Rahim and Dr. Abdul Rahman Kassim from the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM), Dr. Yu Xiubo of the Chinese Ecological Research Network (CERN). A total of 90 participants signed up online for the IMS

workshop while another 3 signed up on site. Of these 83 showed up, for an 87% turn out rate; and 71 participants completed the 3-day training course for an amazing 88% completion rate.

A total of 30 international participants from 12 countries: Australia, China, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Thailand, USA and Vietnam, participated the 2014 ILTER EAP meetings. These included the chairs or representatives of the nine LTER networks from East Asia and Pacific, and an observer from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). During the conference which began on 5 June, the nine member networks presented status reports and provided updated information. The representative of ICIMOD gave an overview which introduced ICIMOD. A number of researchers from the region presented their research on various aspects of ecology and biodiversity. About 40 posters, from member networks as well as universities in the Philippines, covering topics spanning from environmental and ecological monitoring to biodiversity conservation, were displayed during the event.

APAFRI, with an allocation from KFRI's contribution for 2014, provided substantial support to this important event for the region.

(Adapted from a report from Dr Perry S. Ong (ongperry@science.upd.edu.ph))



FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES AND FIRST-EVER STATE OF THE WORLD'S FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES REPORT UNDER SPOTLIGHT AT THE FORESTS ASIA SUMMIT



Douglas McGuire, FAO, Judy Loo and Riina Jalonen, Bioversity International, at Forests Asia Summit that took place in Jakarta, Indonesia in May 2014. Credit: Bioversity International/M.Millere

Forest scientists from Bioversity International and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) urged for the Global Plan of Action for Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources to be woven into national and international programmes and strategies at the Forests Asia Summit.

Sharing knowledge on how South-east Asia can accelerate the shift toward a green economy by better managing its forests and landscapes was the focus of the Forests Asia Summit. Forests Asia took place on 5–6 May 2014 in Jakarta, Indonesia and was organized by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and co-hosted by the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry.

Researchers and colleagues from Bioversity International and FAO spoke at a co-organized side-event at the Forests Asia Summit. An enthusiastic group came together to learn about the first ever State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report and the associated Global Plan of Action, which, if implemented fully, will greatly improve the outlook for forest sustainability and their valuable tree genetic resources.

Bioversity International and FAO speakers recommended that the Strategic Priorities of the Global Plan of Action for Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources should be integrated into national programmes and strategies, and international processes and conventions.

Judy Loo, Theme Leader on Forest Genetic Resources at Bioversity International stressed the urgency for resources to be mobilized for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for forest genetic resources at multiple levels, including funding for research and monitoring.

The first ever State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report was released on 3 June 2014 and constitutes a major step in building the information and knowledge base required for action towards better conservation and sustainable management of the planet's precious forest genetic resources.

Policymakers, researchers and forest managers have a lot of work on their hands to increase awareness of the importance and vulnerability of forest genetic resources and options for improving livelihoods through its use; and strengthen capacity for conserving, managing and equitably sharing benefits of forest genetic resources.

“One reason is that genes are not visible when looking at a plant, and that the link between these invisible resources contained in plants or in any other living organism is not always easy to understand without the help of experts or geneticists. However, any development activities affecting forests should adequately address the genetic resources dimension to avoid irreversible loss of important resources for present or future production of goods and services,” said Albert Nikiema, Forest Officer for Forest Genetic Resources at FAO.

"Forests are expected to play a key role in climate change mitigation, but they will only be able to fulfill that role if the trees themselves are able to survive and adapt to changing climate conditions. Genetic diversity provides the necessary material for natural selection under a changing climate. Genetic diversity in planting material is the foundation for its good growth, reproduction and resilience over generations," said Riina Jalonen, Associate Forestry Scientist at Bioversity International, based in Malaysia.

Bioversity International is honored to be a member of the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research

Organizations (APAFRI) in South-east Asia. Bioversity International is a global research-for-development organization. We have a vision – that agricultural biodiversity nourishes people and sustains the planet. We are a CGIAR research center. Learn more about Bioversity International's research on forest genetic resources: <http://www.bioversityinternational.org/research-portfolio/forest-tree-genetic-diversity/>

(Report prepared by Marta Millere (m.millere@cgiar.org))

ACACIA 2014 – SUSTAINING THE FUTURE OF ACACIA PLANTATION FORESTRY 18–21 March 2014 Hue, Vietnam

Plantations of Australian Acacias have expanded rapidly in the past three decades and there are now about 3M ha planted worldwide. The most significant areas are of tropical acacias in SE Asia where *A. mangium*, its hybrid with *A. auriculiformis* and *A. crassicarpa* are the main taxa.

The **Acacia 2014** meeting held on 18–21 March 2014 in Hue City, Vietnam, drew a total of 182 participants representing 22 countries. APAFRI provided support for the participation of three colleagues from the region to this meeting. Discussions during the meeting, which was organized around three themes, could be summarized as follows:

Plantation Management for Sustainable Wood Production

Plantation sites are at their most vulnerable from the start of the harvest to canopy closure of the next rotation. Managing for an appropriate balance between harvesting efficiency and long term productivity is therefore critical. Furthermore, maintaining stocking is one of the keys to maintaining productivity. The opportunities for producing combined solid wood/pulpwood crops are increasing but it needs to be ensured that the added value is shared fairly with the growers.

Risk Evaluation and Management

Diseases and pests present ongoing and ever evolving challenges for plantation growers. A cumulative increase in pests and disease problems of acacia species can be expected in the future. A sound understanding of basic science, epidemiology and ecology of every target organism is critical for a successful management.

Genetic solutions, including long term genomics applications, will be appropriate in many cases and closer collaborations are needed between breeders and pathologists/entomologists. Acacias produce copious amounts of long lived seed, and can present a potential weediness problem and impact on biodiversity in certain environments. Growers may need to consider procedures for managing these potential impacts which vary around the world and are not considered a current problem in SE Asia.

Genetics and Breeding

The maintenance and expansion of genetic diversity in breeding populations requires attention. The issue of cross-contamination of breeding populations is emerging for *A. mangium* and *A. auriculiformis* in countries where the two species and their hybrid are grown together.

The emergence of serious disease threats to acacia plantations represents the most important challenge that breeders must address in collaboration with pathologists and entomologists. There are immediate applications for molecular markers as breeding tools. Substantial work on genomics and gene action of acacias is now underway but routes to operational application are still to be determined.

The conference proceedings can be found at: <http://iufroacacia2014.com.vn/conference-proceedings>.

(Adapted from a report prepared by *Rod Griffin, Griffin Tree Improvement Pty. Ltd., Coordinator of IUFRO Working Party 2.08.07*)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MANGROVES OF ASIA-PACIFIC

11–13 November 2014

Kuala Lumpur

An international conference will be convened in Kuala Lumpur to gather researchers and managers for sharing of new ideas and techniques, and enhancing networking for mangrove conservation in the Asia Pacific region. The conference will be organized around the following themes:

- ❖ Mangrove forests of the Asia Pacific: ecology, biodiversity, degradation and vulnerability to climate change
- ❖ Research and development towards mangrove sustainability in the Asia Pacific

- ❖ Climate change adaptation: national management and policy options for mangroves
- ❖ Restoration of mangroves in coastal areas
- ❖ Social, economic and educational aspects of mangrove forests

APAFRI is honoured to be invited as a joint organizer of this conference, and will contribute to support the participation of colleagues from member institutions to this conference.

For more details, please contact Dr Wan Rashidah (rashidah@frim.gov.my).

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOOD IS GOOD: CURRENT TRENDS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS IN WOOD UTILIZATION

21–23 October 2014

Bangalore, India

The International Conference on 'Wood is Good: Current Trends and Future Prospects in Wood Utilization' will be held in Bangalore, India from 21 to 23 November 2014. This conference is organized by the Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST), Bangalore, India.

Abstracts may be submitted to the Organizing Secretary preferably by email before 31 July 2014. Acceptance of the paper will be communicated to the authors by 10 August 2014.

For more information, please contact:

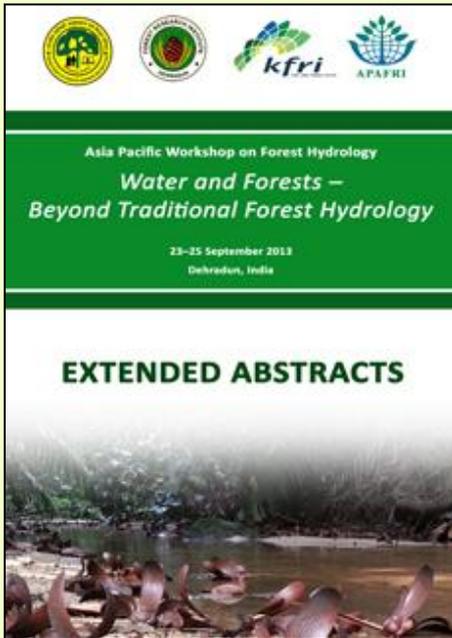
Conference themes are:

- Theme 1 : Wood Trade and Policy
- Theme 2 : Advances in Wood Science and Technology
- Theme 3 : Wood in Reducing Carbon Footprint

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NEW PUBLICATION

Extended Abstracts

Asia Pacific Workshop on Forest Hydrology

Water and Forests – Beyond Traditional Forest Hydrology

23–25 September 2013, Dehradun, India

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.



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