

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

*Greetings from Kepong,
Malaysia!*

I would like to introduce myself as the new Director General of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) replacing Dr. Khali Aziz Hamzah who has retired on 29 April 2021. It is a great honour for me to be involved as the Chairman of APAFRI.



The COVID-19 pandemic is still on-going. The emergence of new variants especially the infectious Delta has interrupted the recovery plan in most of the countries. It is sad to see how bad the situation unfolds and number of fatalities recorded daily worldwide. Nonetheless, the positive impact from vaccination has brought us new hope in addressing the threat of this virus and enabling us to live with this virus. We must learn and adapt quickly to the new norms.

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Malaysia has been on an upward trend since April this year. The surge has led Malaysia to further tighten the movement control orders. In line with the implementation of total lockdown in June 2021, FRIM has extended the closure of its main campus to visitors and limited the number of staff working in the office. The staff of APAFRI Secretariat are instructed to work from home during this period.

Despite all the restrictions, the Secretariat managed to participate in two online meetings with the representative of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study under an agreement signed between APAFRI and FAO. Several consultants have been engaged under this agreement to conduct the

necessary analysis and report on the identified areas to be covered for the study of "Forests and trees in enhancing resilience of people and landscapes in the Pacific Island countries".

Several activities which are funded by National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), Republic of Korea have to be postponed. The postponement is inevitable due to the continued and

unprecedented challenges of the pandemic.

The Republic of Korea has announced that the XV World Forestry Congress will be held from 2 to 6 May 2022 in Seoul. The Congress was previously scheduled to held in 2021. The planned activities of the NIFoS contribution to APAFRI in 2021 included three side events to be organized during this prestigious event which are: 'International Expert Symposium on the LTTF', 'Expert Dialog for Joint Research on Combating Desertification and Sand and Dust Storms Reduction in Northeast Asia', and 'Workshop on Forest Monitoring and Management for Resilient Forests in Changing Climate'.

FRIM has hosted the Secretariat since 2001 with well-equipped office, facilities and manpower. Through the years, the relationship between FRIM and APAFRI has gained significant benefits to both parties. As the new Director General of FRIM, I will ensure that FRIM will continue to give full commitment and support to APAFRI.

I hope everyone stays safe and takes great care of health. Thank you.

Dr. Ismail Parlan
Chairman, APAFRI
June 2021

Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study

“Forests and trees in enhancing resilience of people and landscapes in the Pacific Island countries”

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been at the forefront of supporting countries in providing long term strategic perspectives through its global and regional outlook studies. Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study is a follow up project to Asia Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study III which completed in 2019. The study is aimed to make a thorough assessment of the outlook for forests and trees in the Pacific Island countries considering the impact of the various driving forces especially the climate change and the overall changes in society-natural resources interaction.

An agreement between APAFRI and FAO was signed in December 2020 in which APAFRI was appointed as the key institution to provide services in organising and coordinating the activities of the study in collaboration with FAO.

Two virtual meetings were conducted in the first half of year 2021 for implementation of the project. To date, APAFRI has engaged a number of lead consultants to carry out analysis and prepare reports on topics to be addressed in the study.

	<p>Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study Meeting 8 March 2021 Online Meeting</p> <p>The meeting with FOA representatives was conducted virtually to discuss about the selection of the lead consultant and review of other applications for the study.</p>
	<p>1st Advisory Committee meeting 6 April 2021 Online Meeting</p> <p>The meeting was held to launch the initiative and provide introductory information. The meeting introduced the five thematic studies.</p>

TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE APAFRI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 23 September 2021

Since we are now approaching the end of term for the current Executive Committee Members who were elected during the Eighth APAFRI General Assembly (GA) in December 2018, the Secretariat has proposed to convene an Executive Committee meeting in September 2021. Among the important agenda to be discussed is the plan to conduct the next GA which is due at the end of 2021. The plan for a physical GA may not be possible due to the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic and travel

restrictions imposed by many countries, which do not seem to ease till next year.

The Secretariat proposes to conduct a virtual GA to comply with the regulatory requirements by the Registrar of Societies (ROS) Malaysia. As the GA will involve election of new Executive Committee members, it will be appropriate for the Executive Committees to deliberate on the modus operandi of this virtual meeting.

[Upcoming Event]

IUFRO WORLD DAY

Digital Forest Science Forum 2021

28 – 29 September 2021

About the event

Large physical meetings are still not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is also why the IUFRO Regional Congress in Russia scheduled for this September had to be postponed to 2022.

To fill this gap and cater for the need of strengthening networking and communication in IUFRO, a worldwide digital IUFRO event shall be organized at the end of September 2021.

The overall objective is to showcase the diversity of the IUFRO Network, including IUFRO Units and IUFRO Member Organizations, to facilitate networking, and to enhance communication and outreach.

To enable participants from all over the world to take part in their own time zones, the event will be structured into three major time zone groups spreading over two days.

How Can You Participate?

All IUFRO Units (Divisions, Task Forces, Special Programmes and Projects) and Member Organizations are invited to organize live sessions during the event. For these sessions, 15-minute timeslots as shown in the timetable will be available, but all sessions can carry on with a chatroom or networking after the designated timeslot. Every 15 minutes a new event by another unit or organization will start. Units and members that do not wish to organize live sessions can submit pre-recorded content. All live sessions and pre-recorded sessions will be shown in a separate table for each of the three-time zone groups.

As IUFRO aims to enable the greatest possible range of participants worldwide to follow the live sessions, we strongly recommend holding these sessions in English.

We accept static content from IUFRO Units and Member Organizations in other languages than English - preferably French, German and Spanish – but recommend English for the above reason.

Registration for the Event

A registration system for the IUFRO World Day 2021 will be put in place by IUFRO Headquarters. The system will allow participants to register for the whole 24-hour event including all associated sessions and content (parallel sessions, networking sessions, science policy forums and further content by IUFRO Units and Member Organizations). The registration will be accessible through the event website and generate a code for you to access the user interface of the forum.

If you are not a IUFRO Member, we would like to cordially invite you to attend the event as part of the audience.

Science Policy Forums

The IUFRO World Day will comprise three Science Policy Forums, one in each time zone group. In these forums, cutting edge research and emerging issues of relevancy for policy and decision makers as well as new and promising approaches to global challenges will be discussed. IUFRO as the global voice of forest research wants to inform decision-makers who shape policies related to climate change, the use of land and natural resources, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The central goal of the Science Policy Forum is to make a policy impact.

(Information source from the IUFRO World Day 2021 website at <https://www.iufroworldday.org/>. Please visit the website for more details or send your email to egger@iufro.org)

[Upcoming Event]

The XV World Forestry Congress 2021 (WFC 2021) 2–6 May 2022 Coex, Seoul, Republic of Korea

WFC 2021

The XV World Forestry Congress will be hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea from 2 to 6 May 2022 and held at the COEX Convention and Exhibition Center in Seoul. The Congress will bring together global forest stakeholders to review and analyze key challenges facing the sector and ways to address these. Participation is usually diverse, with representation from all regions and sectors; including the public and private sector, NGOs, CSOs, scientific or professional bodies, and forestry societies, as well as those who simply care about forests and the environment.

The WFC 2021 will provide a unique opportunity for the global forestry community to consider the state and future of world forestry, particularly in the context of the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, while striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Congress will focus on defining the role of forests in the global developmental agenda (2030 Agenda) and other major agreements (Global Forest Goals, Paris Agreement, post-2020 global biodiversity framework) and identify key measures that must be put in place as the forest sector adjusts to the new reality and aims to help 'build back better'. Forests must be an integral part of discussions and decisions to be made on sustainable development, because this will determine the health, wellbeing and stability of the planet and the people.

Historical Context

The World Forestry Congress is held approximately once every six years. The first Congress was held in Italy in 1926. FAO has helped host countries organize the Congress since 1954. Responsibility for



the organization and financing of each Congress lies with the host country.

The Congress is a forum for the exchange of views and experiences on all aspects of forests and forestry, which may lead to the formulation of broad recommendations applicable at national, regional and global levels. The Congress also provides a

periodical opportunity to produce an overview of the sector, in order to discern trends, adapt policies, create awareness in decision-makers, and influence public opinion. Given the high number of participants (several thousands in each conference), it is a valuable forum for strengthening the role of forests in general as well as in the context of critical environmental, economic and social issues and taking into account the developments in the global sustainable development agenda.

The Congress is not an intergovernmental meeting; it has no formal constituencies nor country delegations. The implementation of recommendations is a matter for those to whom these are addressed – stakeholders like governments, international organizations, scientific bodies, forest owners, among others – in the light of their own particular circumstances.

Exchanges of knowledge within the forest sector, and between the forest sector and other sectors, benefit all countries. The diffusion of scientific and technical advances as well as the human contacts promoted by these congresses contribute to a better global understanding of the sector.

(Information source from the WFC 2021 website at wfc2021korea.org. Please visit the website for more details or send your email to info@wfc2021korea.org)

MEMBERS' UPCOMING EVENTS

[M002 CIFOR]

FOOD. NATURE. PEOPLE.

Date : 2 September 2021
Venue : Online via Zoom and Livestream
Website : <https://www.cifor-icraf.org/event/food-nature-people/>

[M011 FRIM]

Regional Webinar on “Ex-Situ Conservation and Carbon Sequestration Potentials of Red List Tree Species”

Date : 20–21 October 2021
Venue : Webinar
Website : <https://www.frim.gov.my/webinar>

[MO40 FORDA]

The 6TH INAFOR 2021 (International Conference of Indonesia Forestry Researchers)

Date : 7–8 September 2021
Venue : Combination virtual and real room events
Website : <https://inafor.forda-mof.org/>

[FAO]

Third Asia-Pacific Urban Forestry Meeting

Date : 25-29 October 2021
Venue : Online Forum
Website : <http://www.fao.org/forestry/urbanforestry/en/>

[IUFRO]

IUFRO WORLD DAY - Digital Forest Science Forum 2021

Date : 28–29 September 2021
Venue : Online event
Website : <https://www.iufroworldday.org/>

[M045 FD SARAWAK]

3rd IUFRO Acacia Conference 2021

Date : 26-28 October 2021
Venue : Virtual Conference (Webinar)
Website : <https://iufroacacia2020.com/>



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

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