



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It is now over a year since the APAFRI General Meeting decided to move the APAFRI Headquarters to Kuala Lumpur, and we are very grateful to Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) for accepting to host us. Special thanks must go to Professor Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Syed Jalaludin Syed Salim, the Vice-Chancellor, and Associate Professor Dr. Rusli Mohd, the Dean of Forestry, who have been very supportive of APAFRI being located at UPM. They have now also allocated space for us to locate our office and project at the Faculty of Forestry and approved funds for renovation. If all goes well, we may be able to move into our new premise by the end of the year.

The registration of APAFRI is taking longer than I expected as the authorities have special procedures for approving international societies, but we are confident it will be resolved soon. Dr. Kamis and I are working hard to establish APAFRI as an active and dynamic entity within the region.

We had our first "formal" function recently when we hosted the Programme Planning meeting for INBAR in Kuala Lumpur. About 30 persons met to strategise the programmes of INBAR in Asia. The first Director General of INBAR Dr. Cherla Sastry, was present.

We plan to host more such meetings in the future not only to maintain and strengthen contacts amongst scientists in the region but also as a potential source of funding for APAFRI. APAFRI members could also do the same in their own countries and organise meetings under the umbrella of APAFRI, in a similar manner that IUFRO members organise meetings under the IUFRO banner in their own countries. Our only request is that you keep us informed of your plans early so that we could disseminate information through our newsletter.

We also signed an agreement with FORSPA to undertake certain activities for and on behalf of FORSPA and in this regard, we are grateful to Dr. Nair for his continued support to APAFRI.

Nevertheless, the long term viability and sustainability of APAFRI depends upon its members and this is where I would like to appeal to members to support APAFRI in organising activities under the umbrella of APAFRI and in getting more institutions to be members. Together we can make APAFRI work and also make it a model for other regions of the world to follow.

Dr. Salleh M.N.
Chairman of APAFRI

Dr. Y.S. Rao Forestry Research Award

APAFRI is now calling for nominations for this award to be given this year. The award is for the most outstanding paper/report on problem solving forestry research with significant practical application value.

Eligibility is limited to researchers below the age of 35 years from APAFRI member institutions.

Nominations for the award must be made by the member institutions. There is no specific nomination form for this, but the applicants must provide a short curriculum vitae, accompanied by a compilation of research papers or reports.

The deadline for the submission of nomination is 31 August 1998.

Members of APAFRI

As of June 1998, APAFRI members include:

- ASEAN Forest Tree Seed Centre, Thailand
- Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Australia
- BAIF Development Research Foundation, India
- Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, Bangladesh
- CAB International
- Center for International Forestry Research, Indonesia
- College of Forestry, University of the Philippines at Los Banos
- CSIRO, Division of Forestry and Forest Products, Australia
- Department of Forestry, Fiji
- Department of Forest Resources Management, National Chiayi Institute of Agriculture, Taiwan
- Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), Philippines
- Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia
- Forest Department, Sri Lanka
- Forestry Department, National Taiwan University
- Forestry and Estate Crops Research and Development Agency (FORDA), Indonesia
- Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, Japan
- Forest Products Research and Development Institute, Philippines
- Forest Research and Survey Centre, Nepal
- Forest Research Centre, Sabah, Malaysia
- Forest Research Institute, Korea
- Forest Research Institute, Malaysia
- Forest Research Institute, Papua New Guinea
- Forestry Research Center, Solomon Islands
- Forestry Research, Education and Wildlife Institute, Cambodia
- Forestry Institute of Vietnam
- Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education
- Indian Plywood Industries Research & Training Institute
- Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh
- Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, USA
- International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, China
- ITC Bhadrachalam Paperboard Ltd., India
- Japan International Research for Agriculture Sciences, Thailand
- Kasetsart University, Thailand
- Kerala Forest Research Institute, India
- Pakistan Forest Institute
- Philippines Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Research and Development (PCCARD)
- Renewable Natural Resources Research Centre, Bhutan
- Research Institute of Forestry, China
- Taiwan Forestry Research Institute
- TropBio Research, Malaysia

2nd SUGEAR Meeting

Kuala Lumpur, 25 May 1998

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) Sustainable Use Specialist Group of the East Asian Region or SUGEAR held its second meeting on 25 May 1998 in Kuala Lumpur. SUGEAR was established on 29th March 1997 to provide a forum to discuss, document and improve understanding on sustainable use of renewable natural resources, including transboundary or shared resources. SUGEAR now has a membership of eleven with representatives from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

The recent meeting in KL was attended by Dr. M.N. Salleh (Chair), Ms. Hasna J. Moudud, Mr. Chen Kin Keong, Dr. Lim Hin Fui, Mr. Nao Thuok and Professor Cao Van Sung. The meeting brought members up-to-date on SUGEAR issues and it also served as a preparation for the IUCN Sustainable Use Initiative (SUI) 5th Working Group Meeting for the Steering Committee of the Sustainable Use Specialist Groups (SUSG) in Antigua, Guatemala on 13–15 June 1998. During the KL meeting, the progress of the three projects previously commissioned on the sustainable use in East Asia were discussed and two new projects were approved. The projects currently undertaken by SUGEAR are:

- i. "Success Stories in Coastal Management Asia: Implications in the Sustainable Development of the Region" by Prof. Miguel D. Fortes.
- ii. "Sustainable Commercialised Utilisation of Renewable Natural Resources in their Natural Environment: the Case of Matang Mangroves in Malaysia" by Dr. Lim Hin Fui.
- iii. "Tiger Conservation in the Sundarbans Forest of Bangladesh" by Ms. Hasna Moudud.
- iv. "Sustainable Use of Crocodiles Resources in Cambodia and Vietnam" by Prof Cao Van Sung and Mr. Nao Thuok.

As an outcome of the meeting, SUGEAR has agreed to increase its focus on the sustainable use of fresh water resources. The group also reaffirmed its commitment in promoting the sustainable use of natural resources.

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ASIAN EXPERT CONSULTATION ON BAMBOO AND RATTAN

Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), in collaboration with International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), organised an expert consultation on 8–9 May 1998 at Grand Continental Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The purpose of the consultation was to assist INBAR in the development of a regional strategic research plan and identifying research partners under the existing INBAR mandate areas on bamboo and rattan. The consultation was attended by high-level people from all relevant institutions or academies from the region.

There were 34 participants as well as INBAR staff representing institutions from different countries including China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar. The consultation was opened by Dr. Salleh Mohd. Nor, Chairman of Executive Committee, APAFRI and Dr. Cherla B. Sastry, Director General of INBAR.

The plenary discussion on the whole of the first day was focused on the areas of production systems, biodiversity and genetic resources conservation, processing and utilisation, socio-economics, markets, and policy.

On the morning of the second day, the meeting discussed on networking and information. This was later followed by two brainstorming sessions on strategic research activities, program initiative activities, and project ideas.

The consultation agreed that the overriding background to the Strategic Research Agenda of INBAR in Asia has to address the supply-demand gaps of raw material and lead to rapid increase in plantations of bamboo and rattan. Production has to become more sustainable and address the needs for poverty-alleviation, and economic development. In particular, the recommendations which follow fully endorse the current programme thrusts of INBAR. The following are recommended:

1. A state of the art review of bamboo and rattan in rehabilitating degraded lands and watersheds. It was stressed that this should take a holistic approach and include aspects of planting supply systems of priority species, better matching of species to areas and better production of planting material. This review should be followed by sharply-focused research across the region.
2. Attention should be paid to priority economic species of bamboo and rattan to synthesise information on taxonomy, anatomy, biochemical and molecular markers. Strategic research needs to be developed on identifying patterns of genetic diversity and use of representative samples from populations for improved production. A team-work approach with emphasis on biotechnology is proposed across the region.
3. There is a need to accelerate suitable systems to provide planting stocks for bamboo and rattan using a range of technologies. For bamboo, the

immediate emphasis should be on culm production and yield maximisation.

4. Physiological research needs to be extended to address the constraints of juvenility in rattan species with an aim to reduce time to maturity.
5. There is a need to ascertain the value and application of modern techniques for inventory surveys. The aim is to produce practicable methodology which can be widely implemented.
6. For conservation and sustainable use of germplasm, there is a need to critically assess community systems of conservation and utilisation and to develop guidelines which can be used for conservation.
7. INBAR should develop models for integrated development.
8. Research is needed to identify and compare enabling policies for sustainable development of bamboo and rattan production-to-consumption systems.
9. Research needs to be framed on valuation of non-market bamboo and rattan uses specifically subsistence and sectoral uses. This, combined with assessing the environmental value of improvement of degraded land, can be applied towards including bamboo and rattan in national income accounts.
10. There is a need to assess indicators and criteria which can be used to develop schemes to certify that rattan products have come from sustainable managed systems of production.
11. There is a need to develop new products, both low and high technology applications.
12. A state of the art review needs to be prepared on current industrial uses of bamboo. This is needed in order to identify areas where current processes can be made more eco-friendly.
13. There is a need to work towards integrated utilisation of bamboo and rattan for zero waste production. Currently, up to 50% of the raw material is wasted.
14. Studies are needed to establish the carbon sequestration potential of bamboo species.

INBAR has now been officially formed as an International Intergovernmental Organisation and the first international organisation based in Beijing. Currently there are ten member countries and a Board of Trustees formed.

For further information on INBAR, please contact:

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International Network for Bamboo and Rattan
Anyuan Building No. 10
Anhui Beili, Asian Game Village
Chaoyang District, Beijing
The People Republic of China
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MEETINGS AND COURSES

June-December, 1998 & 1999, Laguna, Philippines. During 1998 and 1999, the University of the Philippines offers 12 short courses covering forest product marketing, agroforestry for sustainable forest development, wood preservation and biodeterioration, forest resource management and project planning for sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, reforestation planning and plantation establishment and management, participatory techniques in forestry and natural resource development projects, integrated watershed resource management, social forestry for sustainable rural development, silvicultural practices and wood quality, and forestry training education and development. Special training courses may also be arranged covering a broad range of subjects. Contact: Training Program Leader, Institute of Forest Conservation, College of Forestry, University of the Philippines, PO Box 434, College, Laguna 4031, Philippines. Tel: (6349) 536-2268; Fax: (6349) 536-3340.

October 12-15, Nikko Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. IUFRO Seed Symposium 1998. "Recalcitrant Seeds" (IUFRO Research Group 2.09-00), including a satellite meeting on IPGRI-DFSC project on "recalcitrant or intermediate tropical forest tree seeds" and workshop on cryopreservation of tropical tree germplasm. Contact: Dr. Daniel Baskaran Krishnapillay, Organising Committee IUFRO Seed Symposium, Forest Research Institute Malaysia, 52109 Kepong, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Tel: (603) 6342633; Fax: (603) 6367753, 6342758; E-mail: baskaran@frim.gov.my.

NEWS ITEMS:

Yes, we need them and members are encouraged to send anything relevant they want to share with others.

For enquires or sending news items, please contact
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Second Training Course on Forestry Research Strategy Formulation, Planning and Management

The course was held at the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia (formerly known as Universiti Pertanian Malaysia) from 11-23 May, 1998. Participants from Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia and India, several of whom were sponsored by FORSPA, attended the course. Postgraduate students (who have previously been in service in their respective countries) from the Philippines, Indonesia and Sudan also took an active part in the course.

The course was designed for senior and middle level managers or personnel in research institutes, departments, universities and the private sector. Experienced resource persons from various institutes locally and from the Australian National University, contributed towards the success of the course.

The course consisted of three major components, namely: methods for formulation of organisational vision, mission and objectives, methods for strategic and operational plans as well as methods for research planning, monitoring and evaluation. The programme composed of lectures followed by country report presentations and discussions. Participants were also exposed to important aspects on information technology including GIS, forestry modelling and the use of the internet. Visits to the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia and a forest reserve were also organised.

The course was very well received by the participants who had interacted actively. They also recommended that such a course be conducted annually.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

This Newsletter was
produced with financial
support from
The Netherlands-FAO
Regional Project FORSPA.

