

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

### *Warm Greetings from Malaysia!*

The year 2022 is nearing the end, and by the time this newsletter reaches you we would be right into the first quarter of 2023.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continuous participation and support to our organisation. We could not complete the planned activities fruitfully without it.

I would like to highlight here about the 'International Symposium on Restoration of Degraded Peatlands: Connecting Science with Policy and Practice'; the major event that APAFRI had contributed in 2022. The symposium was held on 13 June 2022 in collaboration with the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) and CIFOR-ICRAF. The hybrid event was attended physically and online by about 150 participants. The invited speakers shared the recent findings and lessons learnt from collaborative research and work on peatland restoration for food, energy and environmental conservation in Indonesia's Central Kalimantan and South Sumatra provinces.

On behalf of APAFRI, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr Hyun Park, President, and Dr Hungsoon Choi, Director of Global Forestry of NIFoS, Korea, who paid a courtesy visit to APAFRI on 17 June 2022. NIFoS is one of the most active members in APAFRI. I really appreciate the annual financial contribution of NIFoS which started since 2007 under Dr. Park Jung-Hwan. The fund enables APAFRI to conduct various programs for the benefits of the member institutions.

The second online course of APAFRI entitled "Analysis and Graphic Presentation of Data and Results" was conducted successfully in August 2022.



This course was designed to enhance the skills on data analysis and generating elaborative figures to present research results for both young and experienced researchers. There were about 40 participants from eight countries that benefited from the course. I believe they will apply what they learnt in the future works.

In 2023, you will see more activities from our organisation. There will be several workshops and symposiums to be jointly-organised with our close partners throughout the year. The online courses will be continued because we found that training in online mode can widen the participation from our member institutions across the region.

We are planning to introduce a new APAFRI Scientific Attachment Program to provide opportunities of skill development for young scientists and also to enhance the connections between the member institutions for future collaborations. Further details about this programme will be announced by the secretariat. I would like to sincerely thank the member institutions for your gracious offer to host the participants of this program.

In this respect, we welcome your feedback and suggestions for new programmes. We will provide technical and financial support where we see fit. Let us all work together towards APAFRI's mission in promoting and facilitating the development of forestry and forestry-related research in the region.

I would like to end this message by wishing all members and friends of APAFRI a healthy and fruitful 2023.

Dr. Ismail Parlan  
Chairman, APAFRI  
December 2022

# ONLINE COURSE ON ANALYSIS AND GRAPHIC PRESENTATION OF DATA AND RESULTS 3, 10 and 17 August 2022



This online training course was jointly-organized by APAFRI and Sunway University. Good technical write-up is imperative to communicate any scientific work effectively. This requires appropriate data analysis and presentation of the data and results which are integral parts of the writing process. Many researchers rely mainly on Microsoft Excel to analyse their data and generate necessary figures and graphs to present the results; there may be some limitations using this common software. This course was specially designed to explore another option for researchers to do these using program R.

This course was aimed to enhance the skills on data analysis and generating the necessary figures/graphs of the results for both young and experienced researchers. It was opened to all the scientists from APAFRI member institutions.

The instructor of this course was Professor Gopalasamy Reuben Clements. He is a conservation scientist by training. He is currently the Associate Dean of Research and Postgraduate Studies in the School of Medical and Life Sciences in Sunway University and a Senior Fellow with the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development.

## COURSE FORMAT

The course covered the important topics in three sessions:

- Introduction and installation of program R. Features and analytical processes possible with R.

- Trial data processing and generation of figures/charts for technical publications.
- Discussion on improvement to figures/charts generated by course participants

## PARTICIPATION

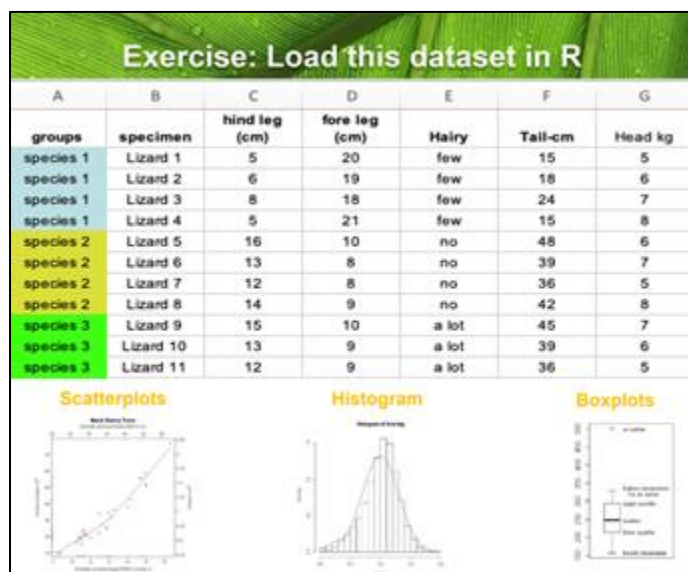
APAFRI received 90 registrations from 10 countries. There were 64 participants attended the first session. The number decreased to 45 and 43 during the second and third sessions (see Table 1). This course had a high level of participation by scientists from the Philippines.

Country	Number of Participants		
	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
Bangladesh	1	2	2
Fiji	2	2	2
India	7	7	8
Indonesia	3	3	3
Malaysia	10	8	6
P. R. China	15	10	7
Philippines	25	12	14
Vietnam	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>43</b>

Table 1: Number of participants per session

## 1<sup>st</sup> SESSION ON 3 AUGUST 2022

### INTRODUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF PROGRAM R. FEATURES AND ANALYTICAL PROCESSES POSSIBLE WITH R.



Prior to the session, all participants were requested to install program R in their own computers based on the guidelines provided by Prof. Reuben.

On introducing program R to the participants, Prof. Reuben listed eight reasons for using R:

- It's free and open-source (don't be a slave to licences)
- You can ask global online community for help anytime
- Every error is googleable, you don't need a teacher
- It's evolving and becomes more stable/powerful everyday with new packages created for analysis in different fields
- You can produce much more publication-worthy graphics
- It is becoming increasingly compulsory in journals to share R code to ensure the science is reproducible
- It could mean the difference between getting a paper accepted or rejected at the peer-review stage
- Because it's cool and could even help you get a job/scholarship

Participants were guided to run simple codes in R in order to getting familiar with the basic features. In addition, Prof. Reuben had also explained about data types and statistical concepts.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> SESSION ON 10 AUGUST 2022

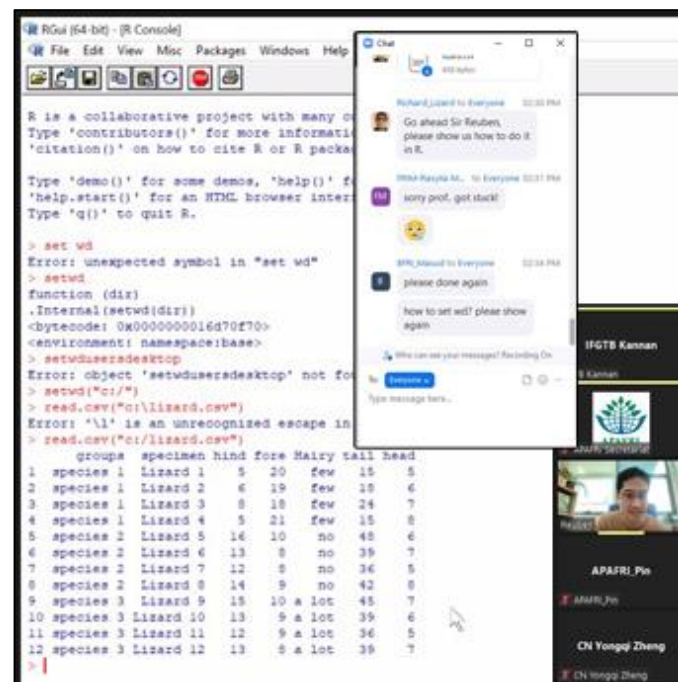
### TRIAL DATA PROCESSING AND GENERATION OF FIGURES/CHARTS FOR TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS.

Exploring program R had become more interesting during the second session. Participants were guided to import dataset into R and execute basic analysis using the statistical functions.

Prof. Reuben shared the tips in presenting the data and statistical outputs in various types of graphs such as scatterplots, histograms and boxplots. Prof. Reuben also introduced some useful R packages and encouraged participants to practice and familiarize with the functions in R.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> SESSION ON 17 AUGUST 2022

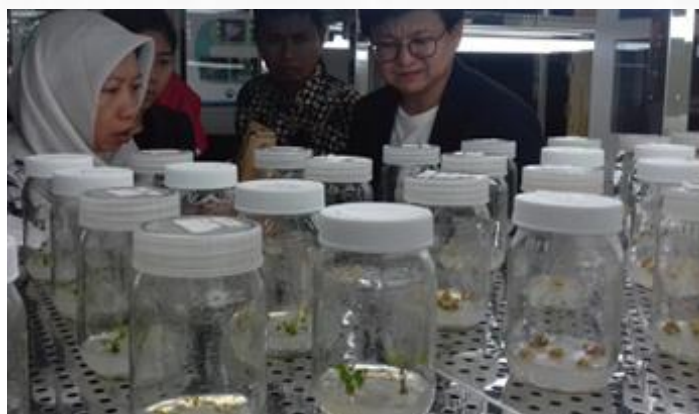
### DISCUSSION ON IMPROVEMENT TO FIGURES/CHARTS GENERATED BY COURSE PARTICIPANTS.



The last session focused on improving the figures/charts generated using program R. As most of the participants had never used R before, they found it very challenging as more codes for data visualization were introduced.

Overall, the course had successfully introduced program R to the participants as an alternative tool for data analysis and visualization.

## APAFRI SCIENTIFIC ATTACHMENT PROGRAM



APAFRI are well aware of the importance of fostering the young talents in the forestry research in addressing the challenges in sustainable forest management in our region. In view of this matter, APAFRI is introducing this attachment program with the objectives as below:

- i. To provide opportunities for skill development to young scientists
- ii. To provide regional/international exposure to young scientists
- iii. To encourage sharing of latest technology among the member institutions
- iv. To enhance the connections between the member institutions for future collaborations

APAFRI will offer a grant of USD 2000 annually for up to TWO young/early-career scientists from member institutions to have short attachment in member institutions. The grant is open to any individual below the age of 45 (at the time of

application) from active member institutions of APAFRI.

This grant is to be used to cover the travel expenses and allowances during the period of attachment. The grantees are allowed to apply additional grant from other funding sources.

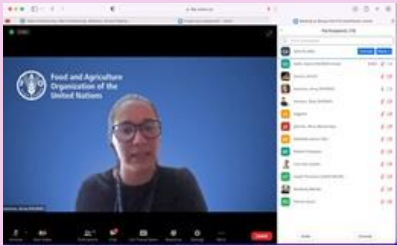




The duration of the attachment is three to six weeks. The specific duration of the short scientific visits will be dependent on the complexity of the proposed projects, the location of the visit, and the availability of leveraged funding sources.

APAFRI Secretariat shall make announcement and look for member institutions which are interested to be the hosting organizations in the first quarter of ever year. The hosting organization shall provide the information of the attachment activities, accommodation and subsistence allowance (if possible). APAFRI Secretariat shall submit the information of the applicant for acceptance by the hosting organization.

	Role/Responsibilities
APAFRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a grant of USD 2000 for each grantee to cover the travel expenses and subsistence costs</li> <li>• Coordinate the program</li> </ul>
Hosting Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer the attachment opportunity</li> <li>• Provides details of the attachment program to APAFRI Secretariat</li> <li>• Provides accommodation and/or subsistence allowance to the grantee</li> </ul>
Applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit application to APAFRI Secretariat</li> <li>• Apply additional grant from other funding sources if necessary</li> <li>• Submit a report to APAFRI Secretariat after completing the attachment program</li> </ul>

***Please contact us if your organization is willing to be the hosting organization.***

## ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED/ PARTICIPATED BY APAFRI IN 2022

	Activity
	<p>8 February 2022, Online Meeting  <b>Focused meeting to discuss forest and landscape restoration (FLR) practitioner course</b></p> <p>The meeting discussed the draft concept note for the FLR practitioner course, responsibilities and possible funders. Dr. Gan represented APAFRI in this virtual meeting.</p>
	<p>15 February 2022, Online Meeting  <b>Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the APAFRI Executive Committee</b></p> <p>Participated by eight Executive Committee members, the meeting discussed the programs to strengthen the engagement of members with APAFRI and also the relationship among the members.</p>
	<p>22-25 February 2022, Online Meeting  <b>29th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC29)</b></p> <p>The 29th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission was hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia. This event highlighted the theme “Forests and green recovery in Asia and the Pacific”. APAFRI was represented by Dr. Pin Kar Yong, Dr. Manoj Kumar Dubey (Executive Committee member) and Ms. Syuqiyah.</p>
	<p>6, 13, 20 and 27 April 2022, Online Meeting  <b>Online Scientific Writing Course</b></p> <p>This online course was jointly-organized by APAFRI and Sunway University with the objective to provide useful tips in preparing scientific manuscripts intended for journal. It was an effort of enhance the research skills of the scientists from member institutions. This course was participated by 58 participants from Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam.</p>
	<p>3 May 2022, Seoul, Korea  <b>XV World Forestry Congress            International Forum on Integrated Forest Restoration for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b></p> <p>This event mainly aimed to share the successful examples and lesson-learnt in the forest sector regarding implementation of SDG15 and discuss each level’s cooperation to forest policy and forest science technology. The event also discussed the action plan for forest restoration related to SDG15.</p>



4 May 2022, Seoul, Korea  
**XV World Forestry Congress**  
**International Symposium on the Establishment of the Due-Diligence System for KVTL**

The symposium was co-organised by NIFoS and APAFRI. This hybrid side event was attended by 50 participants including eight experts from Republic of Korea, Germany and Peru. Its purpose was to share implications for the implementation of an effective Korean Verification of Timber Legality system (KVTL).



4 May 2022, Seoul, Korea  
**XV World Forestry Congress**  
**Green Infrastructure for People & Environment**

The workshop was jointly organized by NIFoS and APAFRI. It took place in hybrid format. The participants were mainly researchers who were involved in the field of urban forestry. The welcoming address was delivered by Dr. Seok Woo Lee, Director General Forest Environment & Conservation Department of NIFoS.



6 May 2022, Seoul, Korea  
**XV World Forestry Congress**  
**Expert Dialog for joint research on combating desertification and Sand and Dust (SDS) reduction in Northeast Asia**

This event aimed to explore opportunities, define directions and establish a consortium of experts for joint research and further cooperation within Northeast Asia DLDD Network (DLDD-NEAN), by sharing research findings and policy measures on combating desertification and reducing SDS in Northeast Asia. Six experts from Northeast Asia were invited to share their works in combating desertification and SDS.



6 May 2022, Seoul, Korea  
**XV World Forestry Congress**  
**Courtesy Visit to President of National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS)**

The aim of the visit was to discuss the collaboration between the two organisations and convey the appreciation for the continuous support and contribution of NIFoS to APAFRI in all these years. There was a fruitful discussion between the delegates in which ideas and recommendations were exchanged to strengthen the role of APAFRI in forestry research in Asia-Pacific Region.



6 May 2022, Seoul, Korea  
**XV World Forestry Congress**  
**Mangrove Planting Initiatives in ASEAN Countries: Post Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004**

This event was a platform to present the efforts to plant mangrove trees and coastal species as well as studies conducted in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand after the tsunami disaster on 26 December 2004. It was jointly organised with Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM), Wetlands International Malaysia (WI), Mangrove Action Project (MAP), and Institute of Foresters Malaysia (IRIM).



13 June 2022, Bogor, Indonesia  
**International Symposium on Restoration of Degraded Peatlands: Connecting Science with Policy and Practice**

This international symposium was conducted successfully in hybrid mode with the collaboration among Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), World Agroforestry (ICRAF), NIFoS and APAFRI. It highlighted recent findings from collaborative research and work by CIFOR-ICRAF and partners supported by NIFoS on peatland restoration for food, energy and environmental conservation in Indonesia's Central Kalimantan and South Sumatra provinces.



16-17 June 2022, Selangor, Malaysia  
**NIFoS Official Visit to APAFRI**

Two representatives of the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), Korea, namely Dr Hyun Park, NIFoS President, and Dr Hungsoon Choi, Director of Global Forestry Division, paid courtesy visit to APAFRI on 17 June 2022. They were given a brief tour of the Secretariat office and had a discussion on APAFRI's operation with Dr. Pin and Dr. Gan.



25-26 July 2022, Online Meeting  
**APFC Informal Consultation**

The main objective of the informal consultation is to further discuss and refine the proposed options identified in the APFC Governance Review to reform the APFC governance structure to provide greater relevance, efficiency and effectiveness. Dr. Pin Kar Yong represented APAFRI in this meeting.



3, 10 & 17 August 2022, Online Meeting  
**Online Course on 'Analysis and Graphic Presentation of Data and Results'**

This course was aimed to enhance the skills on data analysis and generating the necessary figures/graphs of the results for both young and experienced researchers. It was opened to all the scientists from APAFRI member institutions. The instructor of this course was Professor Gopalasamy Reuben Clements.



10-20 October 2022, Online Meeting  
**FLR Days – Advancing Forest and Landscape Restoration in Asia**

FLR Days constitutes part of a series of events aiming to harness the opportunities to address key barriers in advancing the regional strategy and catalyse a massive regional FLR movement for sustainable landscapes and livelihoods. APAFRI shared the experiences in capacity building programs and ideas for engaging local authority in FLR efforts.

# Season's Greeting & Happy New Year



Dear Members & Friends of APAFRI,

We are nearing the end of 2022. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your valuable support and contribution.

Wish you and your family a blissful festive season and a great year ahead.

I look forward to your active involvement in our coming activities in 2023.

Warmest regards,  
Ismail Parlan, Ph.D  
Chairman, APAFRI

# 2023



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 6262 4485  
Email: [secretariat@apafri.org](mailto:secretariat@apafri.org)  
Website: [www.apafri.org](http://www.apafri.org)

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