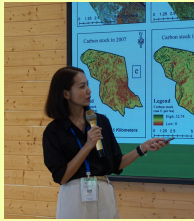


Newsletter



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25-27
JUN

AP-FECM @ 26th IUFRO WORLD CONGRESS



During the 26th IUFRO World Congress, the Executive Office of AP-FECM organized a session "Initiatives and Equity for Forest Education in a New Era" to share insights into the development of forest education, platform sharing and integration, faculty and student exchange, and mutual course articulation and recognition, which can enhance the initiatives and equity of forest education in a new era.

[LEARN MORE](#)

AP-FECM Steering Committee Meeting held in Stockholm

27
JUN

The meeting was held in a hybrid format, joined by the University of British Columbia, Southwest Forestry University, Beijing Forestry University, Nanjing Forestry University, Melbourne University, Chittagong University and APFNET representatives in person, and Pontifical Catholic University, La Molina National Agrarian University, the University of Philippines Los Baños, and Kasetsart University online.



AP-FECM Steering Committee Meeting

Photo: AP-FECM Executive office

The AP-FECM Chair Prof. John Innes chaired the meeting and Dr. Suzy Zeng first presented an overview of the work of the AP-FECM Executive Office last year, followed by a discussion on proposed topics. The Steering Committee agreed to revise AP-FECM Rules and Procedures further and seek funding for online SFM course development, hold a seminar for AI application in Forestry, promote the international master's program for AP-FECM members, explore more funding resources, and promote student mobility and research cooperation.



3
JUL

Inauguration Ceremony Marks the Launch of High-Value Tree Species Breeding Center in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, Cambodia – July 2024



Photo: Zhang Shiyi, APFNet

A significant step forward in sustainable forestry and biodiversity conservation was celebrated with the inauguration ceremony of the Cambodia High-Value Tree Species Breeding Center. The establishment of the Center is a key activity of the APFNet-sponsored 8-year project “Establishing of High-Value Tree Species Breeding Center in Cambodia.” The ceremony, held at the Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development (IRD) in Phnom Penh, drew a diverse crowd of around 200 representatives, including Cambodian government officials, local community leaders, and international partners.

The Establishment of the Cambodia Breeding Center project stands as a catalyst for positive change, paving the way for a shelter for valuable forest genetic resources conservation. This project aims to conserve and develop genetic resources of valuable tree species in Cambodia through germplasm resources collection, propagation, and planting of valuable tree species and promote natural resource conservation through rural economic development and reducing dependence on forests. It is supervised by the Forestry Administration of Cambodia, implemented by IRD, and technically supported by the Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland.

[MORE INFO](#)





Turkmenistan's Forestry Administration delegation visits APFNet and desertification sites in China

8-11
JUL



Photos: Ningxia Forestry Bureau

Turkmenistan delegate learns to build up a grass grid for sand fixation

On July 8, 2024, a delegation led by Mr. Shamammet Saryhanov, Head of the Forestry Administration, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan, visited the APFNet Secretariat. The meeting was around pragmatic exchanges on landscape restoration in the Aral Sea region, sand/dune stabilization along roads, medicinal plant cultivation, tree crop planting such as almonds and olives, and belt/shelter forest plantation establishment.

The meeting was followed by a study visit from 9-11 July to Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region of China, where the delegation visited the Ningxia Greening Deserts and Sand Resource-based Industry Development Foundation, the Baijitan Desertification Control Project sites, the Yellow River Desertification Control Project sites, and the Bairuiyuan Wolfberry Production Base.



Delegates visited National Desertification Prevention and Control Exhibition Hall



19-26
AUG

APFNet Training Workshop Enhances Mutual Learning on Asian Forest Restoration

The APFNet Workshop on Rehabilitation and Management of Degraded Forests was successfully concluded on August 26, 2024, including 13 forestry officials and researchers from 10 Asian economies. The 8-day workshop, the very first in-person training event after the pandemic, was structured with expert lectures, participants' case studies and group work, and visits to field sites.



Certificate ceremony

This workshop was sponsored by APFNet and organized by the Forestry and Grassland Administration of Yunnan Province and Southwest Forestry University, with technical support from APFNet Kunming Training Center, Forestry and Grassland Administration of Pu'er City, Pu'er Forestry and Grassland Research Institute, and Wanzhangshan Forest Farm.





Lectures, presentations and group work

Participants shared their forest restoration practices, challenges, and conflicts they confronted, and they explored possible policy solutions that could more effectively support future interventions. Participants were grouped to represent forest authorities, local community organizations, and large corporate partners. SWOT analysis was practiced to present strengths and opportunities of the three main stakeholders to play greater roles and collaborate in forest rehabilitation and management.

Through the field visits, participants learned more about:

- A watcher system for 24/7 monitoring and early alarming of forest fires, and modern techniques and approaches for more effective forest fire management.
- The germplasm resource banks of *Dendrobium* spp (a rare and high-value medical herb) plantations under natural forests to boost local economic development.
- The seedlings production in Pinus Kesiya Engineering Technology Research Center of National Forestry and Grassland Administration to help upgrade the forestry industry and contribute to green development in Yunnan Province.
- Household goods and high-end particleboard production using wood waste.
- Protected Area management policies and practices.



Photos: APFNet Kunming Training Center



Field visits

25-29
AUG

APFNet Training Workshop Bridges Sino-Mongolian Cooperation on Desertification Control and Forest Restoration



Lectures

Ten management and forestry technicians from Erdenet Mining Corporation SOE of Mongolia participated in the training, and a team of renowned experts in forestry and desertification control in Inner Mongolia were invited to share their expertise.



Participants' presentations

Erdenet Mining Corporation SOE stands as the largest copper and molybdenum ore mining and beneficiation complex in Asia, maintaining ecological balance and supporting green development as one of its values. Supporting Mongolia's One Billion Trees Campaign, Erdenet Mining Corporation SOE has launched a 100 Million Trees Program.

Participants also visited several field sites to observe hands-on practices in Inner Mongolia, on shelter forest plantations, multifunctional forest management, ecosystem restoration, tree seedling production systems, and forest carbon sequestration research sampling sites. Participants' enthusiasm was palpable as they witnessed innovative techniques being used and remarkable accomplishments achieved.



Field visits

The training workshop was sponsored by APFNet through its Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism (GCA-FCM), hosted by the Forestry and Grassland Administration of Inner Mongolia, and organized by the Forestry Academy of Inner Mongolia.

2-7
SEP

APFNet supports forestry education exchange and cooperation in the Greater Mekong Sub-region



Students visited a local ecological tea garden

The Lancang-Mekong River Basin or Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) is endowed with unique forest resources, and forestry is one of the pillars of regional development. Promoting and strengthening practical exchanges and cooperation among forestry universities in the region will help effectively respond to the rapid transformation of the forestry sector in the GMS region by fostering high-quality forestry talents.

In September 2024, APFNet and Southwest Forestry University successfully organized the GMS region Forestry University Summer Camp. As the host, Southwest Forestry University invited 24 faculty members and students from the Royal University of Agriculture (Cambodia), the National University of Laos, the Forestry and Environmental University of Myanmar, the Kasetsart University (Thailand), and the Vietnam National University of Forestry.

The summer camp, featuring lectures, field trips, and various activities, aimed to provide forestry students with a more direct understanding of regional forestry conditions, foster dialogues with forestry professionals, strengthen inter-university learning and communication.



Certificate ceremony

Photos: APFNet Kunming Training Center

The faculty members and students expressed that the summer camp was an unforgettable experience. Sreang Soklin, a student from the Royal University of Agriculture in Cambodia, remarked that the summer camp helped him fill in the gaps in his professional knowledge and gained friendships through mutual learning and exchanges. Kyaw Sann Linn from the Forestry and Environmental University of Myanmar said that the event gave him a chance to observe China's practical achievements in biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management, which he found beneficial.



Explaining the research findings of ancient tea trees



Experts gave an introduction to Simao Pine and Pu'er diversity species



A survey on national demonstration spot to showcase Chinese Medicinal Materials (Dendrobium) in-forest planting



Local enterprises, to learn more about sustainable development practices such as wood waste recycling

The summer camp is a mechanism activity under “Presidents’ Forum of Forestry University/Institute in the Greater Mekong Sub-region”, and was supported by APFNet Kunming Center, Pu'er Forestry and Grassland Administration, Pu'er Forestry and Grassland Research Institute, and Wanzhangshan Forest Farm in Yunnan, China.



APFNet @ the 8th IUCN Asia RCF

Partnerships enhanced and experience shared for regional conservation efforts

During the forum, APFNet and IUCN renewed an MoU for another five years, marking the continuation of their partnership in shared priorities.

The 8th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) was held from 3-5 September in Bangkok, Thailand, bringing more than 600 participants across the region, with the theme of 'Reimagining Conservation in Asia: A Nature Positive Future,' to assess conservation progress, revisit IUCN priority goals, and propose strategic directions to effectively address environmental and biodiversity challenges over the next 20 years.

At the side event "Strengthening landscape approaches in Asia: Restoring and conserving ecosystems, reducing risks, and empowering communities", APFNet was invited together with AFoCO, RECOFTC, and Coorg Wildlife Society, to showcase the contributions of landscape approaches, including FLR, to addressing environmental and social challenges in Asia.

APFNet met many new and old friends, partners and individuals at the booth exhibition, along with other 20 + exhibitors. Visitors were interested in APFNet's activities, projects, scholarship and research programmes and publication materials, brochures were handed out. To expand the network, upscale projects and impacts in the region, APFNet displayed an overall introduction of the organization, implementation tools and shared contact information for further cooperation.

27-28
SEP

Demonstration Project Launched to Support Large Sandalwood Plantations in Fiji

The project, "Promoting the Sustainable Production of Sandalwood in Fiji", was successfully launched from September 27-28, 2024. The project launch workshop, held in Suva, Fiji, brought together high-level representatives from key project stakeholders, including Fiji's Ministry of Forestry, local forestry research institutes and universities, participating NGOs and communities, and APFNet, as well as honored guests from the National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China (NFGA) and the Chinese Embassy in Fiji.



Dr. Lu De discussed the sandalwood host options with the Project Director Dr. Naikatini

Photo: Xin Shuyu, APFNet

The project steering committee (PSC) was officially established to discuss the arrangements for the initial project year. With PSC guidance and technical support from local and regional expertise, the project team would focus on fundamental work such as nursery construction in Suva and Nadi, high-quality sandalwood seed collection, plantation designing and land preparation, as well as planting demonstration.

Visits were then arranged to the planned project sites, i.e. (1) the Colo-i-Suva Forestry Research Station and Lololo Forestry Research Station, where 2 nurseries (3500m²) will be established, (2) a 60-ha plot identified in Matacaucau, Namalata District, Tailevu Province to demonstrate mixed plantations of sandalwood and other valuable tree species or fruit trees, and (3) a research site in the Navuso Agricultural Technical Institute, where hosts species best for sandalwood growth would be tested.

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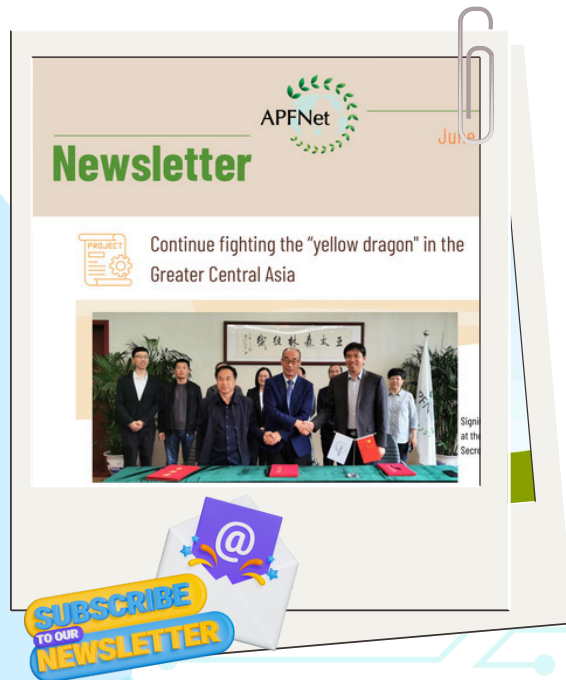
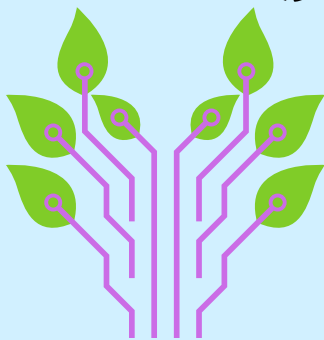
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