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Strengthening Forest Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region

Summary Report of the Symposium on Forest Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region

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Forest Management and Rehabilitatio
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CONTENT

| | | |
|--|----|--|
| Acknowledgements | 01 | |
| Acronyms and abbreviations | 02 | |
| Background & Introduction | 03 | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Opening session | 04 | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Key Note Speech | 05 | |
| ❶ Importance of Regional Forest Cooperation and FAO's Role, by Mr. Thomas Hofer, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO RAP | 07 | |
| ❷ ITTO Update on the Current Status of Regional Forestry Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, by Ms. Sheamala Satkuru, Director/D1, Division of Operations, ITTO | 08 | |
| ❸ Regional Forestry cooperation in Indonesia: Challenges and Opportunities, by Ms. Novia Widyaningtyas, Director, Centre for Education and Training of Environment and Forestry Human Resources, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia | 09 | |
| ❹ Forestry Cooperation in the Context of the Belt and Road Initiative: Status and Outlook, by Ms. Dai Guangcui, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), China | 10 | |
| ❺ APFNet's efforts in promoting regional forest cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, by Dr. Lu De, Executive Director, APFNet Secretariat | 12 | |
| <hr/> | | |
| | | Session 1: Forestry Planning and Policies Favoring Regional Cooperation |
| | | 14 |
| <hr/> | | |
| | | Session 2: Experiences and Best Practices of International Organizations in Support of Regional Forest Cooperation in Asia-Pacific Region |
| | | 19 |
| <hr/> | | |
| | | Session 3: Enhancing Regional Cooperation in Capacity Building in Forestry |
| | | 23 |
| <hr/> | | |
| | | Session 4: Economy- Level Best Practices Sharing of Regional Forest Cooperation |
| | | 29 |
| <hr/> | | |
| | | Annex1. Field visit (Wangyedian Forest Farm and Chifeng) |
| | | 38 |
| <hr/> | | |
| | | Annex2. Agenda of the Symposium |
| | | 43 |





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Acronyms and abbreviations

| | |
|---------|--|
| ADB | Asian Development Bank |
| AFoCo | ASEAN – Republic of Korea Forest Cooperation |
| APFNet | Asia Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation |
| APFECM | Asia Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism |
| ASEAN | Association of Southeast Asian Nations |
| BRI | Belt & Road Initiative |
| CAF | Chinese Academy of Forestry |
| CPF | Collaborative Partnership on Forests |
| FAO RAP | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia-Pacific |
| FLAGT | Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade |
| FLR | Forest and Landscape Restoration |
| FLRM | Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism |
| FPN | Forestry Planning Network |
| GCA FCM | Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism |
| GMS | Great Mekong Sub-region |
| Ha | Hectares |
| JICA | Japan International Cooperation Agency |
| IUCN | International Union for Conservation of Nature |
| ITTO | International Tropical Timber Organization |
| NTFP | Non Timber Forest Product |
| NGO | Non-governmental organization |
| RECOFTC | Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific |
| REDD | Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| SANFRI | Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes |
| SFM | Sustainable Forest Management |
| @Wild | Trans-boundary Wildlife Conservation Initiative |

Background & Introduction

Forests provide habitats for countless species and sources of livelihoods to hundreds of millions of people in the Asia-Pacific region, which is covered by 740 million hectares of forests, and endowed with 18 percent of the global forest cover. A critical challenge facing the region is that fast economic development and population growth have led to increasing consumption of forest products, and put immense pressure on forests and the valuable ecosystem services they provide.

The contribution of forests to life and human-being, as well as values for regional prosperity have lead to increased commitments and actions. Efforts have been made by economies and international organizations in support of forest rehabilitation and sustainable forest management (SFM) at regional, sub-regional and national levels. Furthermore, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognize the role of forests in sustainable development, especially SDG15 ("Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss").

However, the implementation of SFM remains a challenge because deforestation and forest degradation continue in the region, which calls for more joint efforts and actions. In this context, there is an urgent need to reduce fragmentation and

strengthen regional collaboration and cooperation among economies, international organizations and institutions to jointly address forest issues.

Co-organized by APFNet, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) of China, the Symposium on Forest Cooperation in Asia-Pacific Region was held during July 22-24, 2019, Chifeng, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China. It aimed to: 1) update the current status of regional cooperation to support the promotion of forest rehabilitation and SFM; 2) exchange information, share experiences and foster closer cooperation among economies in the region, and 3) form synergies in support of achieving the Sydney Aspirational Goal and Goals related to forests for the 2030 SDGs.

In total 180 participants attend the Symposium, including senior officials from APFNet member economies and international organizations, representatives from the APFNet Council, APFNet initiatives, and international experts, APFNet project partners etc..

Opening session

The opening session of the symposium was addressed by a number of ministerial officials, including Mr. Peng Youdong, Deputy Administrator of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), China; Mr. Ajith Mannapperuma, State Minister of Mahaweli Development and Environment, Sri Lanka; Mr. Ung Sam Ath, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia; Mr. Ye Myint Swe, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar; and Mr. Pongboon Pongtong, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand. Additionally, Mr. Li Bingrong, Vice Chairman of the Government of the of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China and Mr. Zhao Shucong, APFNet Chair of the Board of Directors also gave a welcome speech.

Mr. Peng Youdong stressed the importance of international cooperation on ecological protection and restoration contributing to the Belt & Road Initiative. In past decades, NFGA has actively cooperated with regional economies and international organizations to promote dialogue and exchange on forestry policies to build a platform for regional forest cooperation. As one of the co-founders and donors of APFNet, NFGA provides consistent support to APFNet. Lastly, he stated that NFGA will continue working with other regional economies to promote forest cooperation to contribute to forest restoration in the Asia-Pacific region.

The four ministers mentioned above also gave their

welcome remarks. In their addresses, the honorable speakers reiterated the irreplaceable role of forests to address threats and challenges commonly faced by Asia and the Pacific and their respective economies, and pointed out gaps in capacity and resources to develop the forest sector and to fulfill forest-related commitments and goals. They affirmed the positive role played by existing processes and mechanisms in facilitating joint actions across borders and appreciated the support from international/regional cooperative mechanisms, including FAO and APFNet, that have been contributed remarkably to the regional goal of achieving sustainable forest management. They finally stressed that the symposium will be valuable to strengthen future communication and collaboration among the forest sector and other relevant sectors in the region, and wished the event success.

Mr. Zhao Shucong affirmed that since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, economies in the Asia-Pacific region have increasingly implemented sustainable forest management which has become the main force to slow down the decline of global forest resources. In this process, regional forest cooperation has played a key role in information sharing, technology exchange, fund raising and so forth. He noted that in the past decade, APFNet has maintained close cooperation with its member economies and international organizations. In the future, more efforts would be made to promote forest policy dialogue, cooperation in demonstration projects to share experiences and best practices, and capacity building etc.



Key Note Speech

As a core part of the symposium, on July 22, APFNet invited representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Centre for Education and Training of Environment and Forestry Human Resources Indonesia, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) China, to give keynote speeches on the current status, trends and opportunities of forest cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region. This session was chaired by Dr. Preecha Ongprasert, Chief of the International Special Program Section, the Office of International Forestry Cooperation, Thailand Royal Forestry Department (RFD) and also Chair of the Council of APFNet.



1 Importance of Regional Forest Cooperation and FAO's Role, by Mr. Thomas Hofer, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO RAP

Mr. Thomas provided an overview on the state of the Asia-Pacific's forests. He cautioned that although there has been a regional increase in forest area of approximately 20 million hectares between 2000 and 2015, this masks vast differences among sub-regions and economies. In addition, a decline in overall forest quality due to degradation (due to fire, pests and diseases, soil degradation, overharvesting etc.) also remains a serious problem albeit one that presents significant challenges in quantification. In terms of the institutional setup for regional cooperation, he emphasized that regional cooperation in forest restoration is essential and increasingly important due to the regional challenges surrounding degradation increase in scale, so too have the number and extent of partnerships between international organizations seeking to contribute to sustainable solutions for the future. Currently, many established regional institutional platforms (such as ASEAN, SPC, SAARC, APFNET, AFoCO, RECOFTC, UNFF, FAO, etc.) are actively contributing to forestry cooperation to promote regional sustainable forest development.

Through the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), FAO has been providing a remarkable institutional mechanism for regional cooperation. As one of the most important regional commissions established by FAO, APFC provides an important international policy and technical forum for the Asia and Pacific. In terms of thematic and practical commitments, together with other international initiatives, such as the Bonn Challenge and the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal, the recent Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration in Asia-Pacific under APFC in 2016 also provided a good example of FAO's efforts in the field. To further facilitate regional forestry cooperation, FAO also adopts a multi-faceted approach to regional forest cooperation to achieve SFM, including creating and supporting regional policies, knowledge-sharing and facilitating networks, and demonstrating best practices. It provides a broad framework within which economies can define action plans that fit in their national context. All of these efforts work towards a common goal of adopting best practice forest management and landscape restoration in order to facilitate a sustainable future for the Asia-Pacific Region.

2 ITTO Update on the Current Status of Regional Forestry Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, by Ms. Sheamala Satkuru, Director/D1, Division of Operations, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

On behalf of ITTO, Ms. Sheamala's speech focused on sharing the current status of forestry cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region and ITTO's efforts and priorities. In terms of forestry cooperation at the regional level, Ms. Sheamala firstly stated that the establishment of various regional international organizations, such as APFNET and AFoCO, has injected vitality into international forestry cooperation across the region. ITTO recognizes that it is essential to consolidate partnerships with other international organizations in the region, avoid duplication and work together to advance the achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs). Ms. Sheamala also suggested that collaboration should be enhanced in the forestry sector among stakeholders including forestry departments and agencies, local communities, and enterprises. At the same time, attention should be paid to the economic benefits of forests and efforts should be made to reinforce the sustainable timber production industry chain. Particularly concerning the development and utilization of forest products, it should be made clearer that driving the sustainable production and consumption of forest products and meeting the

demands of the forest products trading market will contribute to improving the livelihood of the community, raising the living standards and boosting the employment of local people.

She also pointed out that the direction and goals of forestry cooperation need to be implemented supporting the national strategy and national policy. "Over the years, ITTO has been discussing how to use forest resources sustainably and has reached a consensus that forest and forest products, including timber forest products and non-timber forest products (NTFP), play a vital role in addressing climate change and advancing the Paris Agreement goals.", she said. In her speech, she called upon economies to understand the importance of forestry while developing the goals and strategies at the national level in addressing climate change. In regional forestry cooperation, it is essential to accept and adapt to different situations in economies, identify gaps and adjust cooperation strategies in a timely manner, and continue to promote cooperation and mutual support in policy dialogue, incentive mechanisms, platform development, and capacity building.



3 Regional Forestry cooperation in Indonesia: Challenges and Opportunities, by Ms. Novia Widyaningtyas, Director, Centre for Education and Training of Environment and Forestry Human Resources, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia

As one of the key member economies of APFNet, Ms. Novia shared Indonesia's efforts and experience in forestry and human resource development as well as cooperation with APFNet. "Indonesia's forests provide a multi-dimension of benefits for the nation and its people; forests are not only important in terms of economy but also have significantly important values in terms of social and environmental. ", Ms. Novia said.

As part of global cooperation, Indonesia is engaged in some international initiatives, showing its strong commitment to sustainable landscape management, including that of forests resources. On the other hand, this commitment has also been well-reflected in its national development strategy, shaping an inclusive and sustainable economic development. Within this perspective, Indonesia is actively involved in some bilateral, multilateral, as well as regional cooperation, including on forestry. Indonesia is eager to work with many partners collaboratively, based on the principles of mutual respect, mutual trust and mutual benefits, followed with transparency and accountability between partners.

Ms. Novia highlighted one of the great cooperation projects with APFNet, which is currently ongoing through the project of "Development Participatory

Management of Micro Catchment at the Bengawan Solo Upper Watershed". She said that the project is progressing well and has the opportunity to expand the benefits from its existing activities and results so that the success of the project could become a best practice replicated in other related catchment management units. She also observed that another important and strategic field for regional cooperation is on human resources development and capacity building. This is in line with global initiatives' goals as well as with priorities for Indonesia's national development, which is currently highlighting the urgency of human resources development and poverty alleviation.

Ms. Novia concluded by advocating that there is a need for a dynamic collaborative transformation in this changing world. In order to strengthen further collaboration, a strong commitment is a key factor. With regard to the coming challenges, it is important to maintain the spirit and context of "filling the gap" in managing regional cooperation. She further proposed that reorienting and refocusing the objectives of cooperation to be well-aligned with the national development strategy and development priorities will also be important for mutual cooperation towards a better future.



4 Forestry Cooperation in the Context of the Belt and Road Initiative: Status and Outlook, by Ms. Dai Guangcui, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), China

On behalf of the Department of International Cooperation, National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), Ms. Dai Guangcui's remarks focused on sharing the status and outlook for forestry cooperation in China's forestry sector in the context of the "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI). She pointed out that the development of the BRI also provides good opportunities for promoting cooperation on ecological conservation and restoration. In her speech, she introduced the background and purpose of BRI, as well as the widespread support from the international society. She also enumerated the great efforts that NFGA has made to identify cooperation channels and deepen partnerships.

Ms. Dai Guangcui addressed China's forestry cooperation in various scales. Bilaterally, NFGA has signed agreements with 56 economies along the Belt and Road (B&R) to facilitate forest policy dialogue and cooperation. Regionally, the China-Central and Eastern European Economies Cooperation Mechanism on Forestry, China-ASEAN Forestry Cooperation Forum, and China-Greater Central Asia Ministerial Meeting on Forestry have been set up in collaboration with relevant economies and international organizations. Internationally, NFGA continues to support developing economies in the Asia-Pacific region through APFNet, cooperates with the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), and established the B&R Cooperative Mechanism to combat desertification together with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat.



Ms. Dai Guangcui has also outlined the NFGA's effort to promote the pragmatic cooperation with economies along the B&R in six areas:

- ① **Conduct Bilateral and Regional Pragmatic Cooperation:** NFGA works closely with economies along the B&R through channels like official development funds, special funds for Lancang-Mekong river cooperation and special funds for regional cooperation in Asia, to share China's experience and technology, and support the improvement of the ecosystems of the economies along the B&R.
- ② **Conduct Trilateral Cooperation:** NFGA has actively sought the support of the China South-South Cooperation Fund to support trilateral cooperation and recommended 12 agencies as eligible project applicants, including international organizations, research institutions, social organizations and enterprises, such as the UNCCD Secretariat and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC).
- ③ **Support Capacity Building:** Since 2012, China has trained more than 3,000 forest managers and technical personnel from 106 developing countries including economies along the B&R, which is also the implementation of the outcomes of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum.
- ④ **Support and Cooperate with International Organizations:** NFGA has supported cooperation and exchanges with developing economies through working closely with APFNet, INBAR and the UNCCD Secretariat in areas of forest research and education, ecological conservation, forest restoration and sustainable management, innovative technology and industrial development

⑤ **Encourage and Support Chinese Enterprises to Invest in Forestry Overseas:** NFGA jointly held forestry investment forums with some economies, and provided guidelines for enterprises to invest overseas in SFM. At present, Chinese enterprises have nearly 200 large and medium-scale investment cooperation projects abroad, covering forest cultivation, wood processing, machinery, etc., providing more than 30,000 jobs for local communities..

⑥ **Strengthen Cooperation in Combatting Illegal Logging:** China has signed MoUs with many economies on combatting illegal logging and associated trade, and actively participated in the APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) and the China-EU Bilateral Coordination Mechanism on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance to combat illegal logging and support legal trade.

NFGA emphasized its willingness to continue to use existing multilateral and bilateral channels to promote cooperation and exchanges with various economies, deepen cooperation with ITTO, FAO, INBAR and APFNet, working together to promote sustainable development of regional and global forestry, particularly on the following aspects: (1) ecological protection and restoration; (2) addressing climate change; (3) cooperation on sustainable forestry industry and trade; (4) promoting cultural and educational exchanges in green industry. "We are ready to continue to work together with all of you to promote sustainable forest management regionally and globally through forestry cooperation in the context of BRI, so we can together build a green silk road and contribute to the achievement of UN SDGs.", Dai said.

5

APFNet's efforts in promoting regional forest cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, by Dr. Lu De, Executive Director, APFNet Secretariat

On behalf of the APFNet secretariat, Dr. Lu De, the Executive Director, provided an overview of APFNet's efforts to promote regional forest cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. He stressed the openness of APFNet as a forest-related network in the Asia-Pacific region, and the importance of cooperation in the field to advance regional SFM. In his speech, Mr. Lu De vividly expounded the relationship between human beings and forests, and their complementary nature. He stressed the significance of a "people-oriented" principle in forest management.

Dr. Lu informed about APFNet's efforts in promoting SFM and forest restoration in the Asia Pacific region in the past a decade through the four key pillars: capacity building, information sharing, supporting policy dialogues and demonstration projects. He also clarified the role of APFNet's key tools/mechanisms and their complementary relationship in facilitating regional interconnection.

- Through demonstration projects, APFNet ensures that its objectives and vision can be translated into concrete actions on the ground and benefit its member economies. Best practices in SFM and forest restoration shown through the projects can also be well summarized and duplicated in other similar economies in the region.

- Through the Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI), the APFNet Transboundary Wildlife Conservation Initiative (@Wild), the Forestry Planning Network (FPN), the Asia Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (APFECM) and the Greater Central

Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism (GCA FCM) APFNet has furthered regional political commitments and fostered collaborative actions in different fields. These mechanisms have also played a vital role in facilitating the exchange and mutual learning among policy makers, forest researchers, forestry educators, young scientists and grass-roots workers in communities.

- Through the Thematic Training Workshops and Scholarship Programs, APFNet's capacity building activities have directly contributed to enhancing the knowledge and skills of many forest practitioners and policy makers from regional economies, including young officials and researchers.

- Through communication and information sharing, APFNet facilitates knowledge transfer by sharing the best practices on SFM and forest restoration in the Asia-Pacific region. This includes the establishment of a regional forestry information database, the publication of relevant reports and dissemination on our experience during international conferences and meetings.

Dr. Lu summarized that APFNet advocates nature conservation while focusing on livelihood improvement. In the future, APFNet will continue its work in alignment with its principles of being action-oriented, need-driven with openness and participatory. APFNet will work closely with all members to help the economies and people in the Asia-Pacific region by promoting and improving sustainable forest management and rehabilitation.

Summary

In response to the challenges facing the forestry sector in the Asia Pacific region, with the aim to achieve SFM and contribute to the SDGs of the UN, active efforts are made by international organizations and government agencies. Multi-faceted approaches to further facilitate regional forest cooperation were adopted, which includes creating and supporting regional policies, knowledge-sharing and demonstrating best practices. Consensus has been well achieved by parties to further consolidate partnerships among stakeholders ranging from international governmental organizations to NGOs and government authorities in the region. In the context of changing international cooperation on forestry, all parties agreed that a dynamic cooperative transformation in various forms should be carried out to maintain the spirit and context of “filling the gap”. In addition, it is also necessary to attach importance to the connection between people and forest, link SFM and forest restoration practices with livelihood development of local communities. We need to further enhance the contributions of forests to social development, livelihoods and poverty eradication. Applying a “people-oriented” principle to the forest management process will be vital, and all parties should continue to take advantage of the current multilateral and bilateral channels to promote forest cooperation, exchange best practices on SFM, and work together to promote sustainable development in the region and beyond.



Concurrent Session 1

Forestry Planning and Policies Favoring Regional Cooperation

Overview

Over the past three decades, the practice of forestry planning has undergone a paradigm shift. This shift involves replacing the long-standing commodity paradigm with a more integrated and multi-scaled ecosystem management strategy that emphasizes collaborative, adaptive multi-stakeholder approaches. In this context, developing and supporting strong collaboration across borders has become more and more crucial in responding to the new paradigm of forestry planning.

To further facilitate comprehensive communication and strengthen regional cooperation in forestry planning and contribute to shaping regional forestry planning strategies in Asia and the Pacific, APFNet held an event on Forestry Planning and Policies Favoring Regional Cooperation as one of the three parallel sessions of the Symposium on Forestry Cooperation in Asia-Pacific Region during 22-24 July in Chifeng, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China. The following is a summary of key messages and ideas that emerged from the event. About 20 government officials from national forestry authorities who are responsible for forestry planning participated in the meeting.

The meeting invited participants from different sub-regions to show how forestry strategic planning and international cooperation affect each other and look into how forestry strategic plans support and respond to the various international and regional forestry targets and goals. (see Annex 1 for the detailed agenda). Specifically, the meeting aimed to accomplish the following objectives:

- Provide a better understanding of the efforts made and processes adopted for strengthening international cooperation component in forestry strategic planning in the Asia-Pacific region;
- Exchange information and experience on how to enhance international cooperation when implementing forestry plans
- Identify areas for further collaboration in forestry planning in the region.

Key messages and insights emerged from the event are summarized as follows:

Experience in international cooperation for forestry planning

Participants from 4 economies gave presentations on formulating and implementing forestry plans in their respective economy and how international cooperation is involved. Below are the main insights based both on the presentations and the Q&A sessions afterwards.



Both forests and the forestry sector in the Asia-Pacific region are undergoing rapid changes in line with larger societal changes. Sustainable forest planning and management has become a basic principle in almost all economies in the Asia-Pacific region and as such in China. In the 13th Five-year National Plan for Forestry Development, adopted in 2016, China selected forest cover and stock volume as binding indicators, which reflects China's determination to improve both quantity and quality of forests.

China has a well-established system of planning at various levels – national, provincial and local – with varying degrees of integration. The planning vision and direction are set at the national level and this is translated to action through legislation and allocation of resources. However, globalization has led to closer integration of economies and development at different levels, obviously planning in forestry needs to consider a larger picture including the international view.

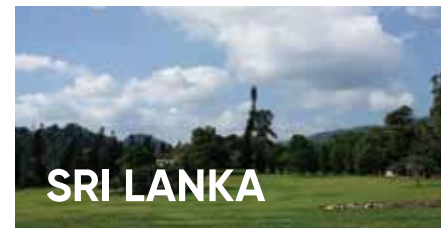
In 2013, China established the “Belt & Road Initiative (BRI)” forestry cooperation platform, and implemented the GMS cooperation mechanism to promote integrated forest ecosystem management and regional demonstration projects. China also actively promoted international forestry development goals and incorporated the goals/indexes of CITES, UNCCD and UNFCCC into national forestry planning. In 2016, NFGA formulated the Forestry Action Plan of China's National Plan for implementing the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

China's international cooperation not only coordinates with the global ecological governance process, but also contributes to the competitiveness of its forestry industry. In 2018, China's trade value in forest products with the economies under BRI increased by 4.7%, accounting for 32% of the total trade, and the foreign investment in forestry is also developing towards high quality.



Global commitments and climate change mitigation have played a key guiding role in Fiji's national forestry planning in recent years. All commitments under the SDGs, Bonn Challenge and so on are taken into account during Forestry planning and are embedded in the National Development Plan, the Ministry of Forestry's Strategic Development Plan, and the annual operational plans for various divisions and staff of the Ministry of Forestry. The main focus of forestry planning also started to shift from harvesting to replanting and establishing new plantations and forest areas under long term conservation.

In 2019, Fiji launched the 4 Million Trees in 4 Years Initiative (4MT4Y), which is primarily focused on addressing the decreasing forest cover, the rehabilitation of important landscapes, mitigating loss of biodiversity, soil and nutrients, and the silting of the main water systems. The initiative will plant various kinds of trees ranging from timber trees, fruit trees, and ornamental trees to non-wood species, which could significantly increase contributions of the forestry sector to both ecological restoration and economic growth. Apart from the 4 million trees, it's also intends to plant to not less than 500,000 mangroves over the next four years to protect coastal ecosystems. At the same time, the initiative is Fiji's contribution to “Climate Action” and encourages inclusivity through “public-private-partnership” arrangements, as well as multi-sectoral and integrated approaches to combating climate issues.



Forest degradation and deforestation are the main environmental problems in Sri Lanka. Annual deforestation rate from 1999 to 2010 was estimated as 0.23% but forest degradation has not been estimated even though it has continuously progressed at an alarming rate. These problems contribute to climate change and UNFCCC has estimated it contributes to 17% of the CO₂ emissions. Therefore, Sri Lanka made a national commitment to protect the existing forest area of the economy, and plans to expand the existing forest cover (29.7% of total land area) to 32% by 2030. The main methods include: 1) Improvement of quality of natural forests and forest plantations; 2) Increase river basin management for major rivers; 3) Forestation of underutilized private lands and marginally used tea/rubber lands; 4) Urban forestry; 5) Establishment of a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS); 6) Promotion of private and public sector companies for investment.

Sri Lanka also highlighted the positive impact of forest restoration and sustainable management on the national economy. Promotion on non-timber forest product (NTFP) make a significant contribution the livelihoods of local economies by providing food and medicinal resources, which lately are emerging as export commodities. Moreover, forestry also make a vital contribution to the ecological service infrastructure and nature-based tourism, for which it has already gained global recognition.



Thailand has always attached great importance to international forestry cooperation, adhering to the basic principles of “partnership, mutual respect, mutual trust and mutual benefit”. The core need of Thailand in international forestry cooperation is support or contribution to Thailand's effort in implementing programs and achieving the set goals of national forestry development, and the Royal Forest Department of Thailand has made a lot of efforts in this regard. With the support of multiple regional cooperation platforms, Thailand has participated in a variety of forestry improvement programs, including forestry sustainable management, community forestry, urban forestry and REDD+, and shared its best practices/lessons learned in forestry planning and management through these platforms.

As a member of ASEAN, Thailand also actively participates in forestry cooperation activities under the ASEAN framework. According to the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, the vision for ASEAN cooperation in forestry is “Forest resources are sustainably managed at the landscape level to meet societal needs, both socio-economically and culturally, of the present and future generations, and to contribute positively to sustainable development”. Moreover, based on the Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry, there are 5 Strategic Thrusts as follows: 1) Enhancing Sustainable Forest Management; 2) Enhancing Trade Facilitation, Economic Integration and Market Access; 3) Enhancing Forestry Sector Resilience and its Role in Climate Change; 4) Institutional Strengthening and Human Resource Development and; 5) Strengthening ASEAN's Joint Approaches on Regional and International Issues Affecting the Forestry Sector. Obviously, the above strategies reflect the common needs and goals of ASEAN economies in forestry cooperation and have crucial reference value for future cooperation in the region.

Panel discussion

A panel of participants further clarified the formulation and planning process of forestry strategic plans and discussed potential areas and directions for further international collaboration. For many economies, in the last century the priority of their forestry strategic plans was timber production to support economic development, but a shift to balancing economic and environmental benefits took place in the past few decades. Some economies have also gone through a shift from focusing on forest area increase to both forest area and forest quality enhancement in their forest strategies and policies.

When making national level forestry strategic plans, most of the economies have incorporated the SDGs and other global goals and commitments, for instance UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNFF, CBD. Despite these aspirations, the implementation of the strategic plans

and policies has been less than satisfying. This result has the following reasons:

Firstly, there is a mismatch of the land use plan in forest areas and the customary use of forests, which has been carried out by the local communities for the past few decades. Secondly, there is also a mismatch of the land use plans developed by different sectors. Different government departments are competing for the land. In some economies, the need for economic development in some areas could result in forest degradation and deforestation. Thirdly, there is a lack of both human and financial resources to implement the strategies and policies that have been developed.

Last but not the least, it is difficult for people from other sectors to understand the value of the products and services forests provide, which is posing challenges for cross-sectoral cooperation.



Way forward for future cooperation

In summary, international cooperation can facilitate the development and implementation of the strategy and policy in three dimensions:

First is providing capacity building opportunities, especially opportunities to enhance the understanding of the current prevailing international goals. Second is to provide funding to support the implementation and monitoring of the forest strategies. Another way is through technique and knowledge transfer, as well as exchange of experiences and lessons learned. Economies can learn from each other through platforms offered at the regional and international level. Meanwhile, cutting-edge technologies, if provided, can greatly enhance efficiency and accuracy of policy making.

Following recommendations were raised during the meeting for further guiding future cooperation in

forestry strategic planning in the region:

- Promote information exchange between policymakers in the Asia-Pacific region on the status, plans, challenges and outlook of their respective forestry plans and planning processes;
- Match human and financial resources with forestry strategic plans through capacity building and a broadening of funding sources;
- Provide technical and policy support to improve the knowledge pool and strengthen the process of strategic planning;
- Build awareness in forestry policymakers to respond to issues at the regional and international levels, and increase coordination between the demands of economy-level and international-level.

Concurrent Session 2

Experiences and Best Practices of International Organizations in Support of Regional Forest Cooperation in Asia-Pacific Region

Overview

Globally, there are growing challenges like climate change, deforestation and forest degradation, which make forest restoration an area of increasing interest and activity in recent years. Forest restoration can range from small-scale efforts by communities to large-scale international commitments which need cooperation on different levels within economies, as well as regional and global levels. The international & regional organizations have played an important role in supporting regional forest cooperation, especially for large-scale forest restoration. FAO has been promoting Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) through the FLR Mechanism (FLRM), which provides direct support to economies with a focus on a) developing enabling conditions, b) providing innovative technical support and capacity development, and c) supporting work in the monitoring, reporting, assessment and evaluation of FLR. IUCN supports economies on forest restoration with technical expertise like assessing FLR opportunities with the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), and tracking

progress from Bonn Challenge commitments to implementation with the Bonn Challenge Barometer. ITTO has targeted tropical forests, and has committed to develop new guidelines for the implementation of FLR in the tropics as a joint initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). AFoCo strives to undertake and promote action-oriented forest cooperation programs in Asia, and strengthens regional partnerships by promoting proven technology and transforming policies into concrete actions.

To explore current and future initiatives, projects and practices aiming to enhance forest cooperation for effective forest restoration in the Asia-Pacific Region from international & regional organizations, APFNet held an event on Experiences and Best Practices of International Organizations in Support of Regional Forest Cooperation in Asia-Pacific Region during the Symposium on 22 July. Four international & regional organizations and five APFNet funded project representatives shared their presentations.

The objectives of the session were:

- ❶ Share best practices and lessons learnt from regional forest cooperation in supporting sustainable forest management and forest restoration;
- ❷ Identify key challenges/problems in regional forest cooperation;
- ❸ Discuss key areas for future forestry cooperation and possible ways of cooperation.

The session consisted of 9 presentations, divided into two topics as follows:

Topic 1: Building Regional Cooperation for Effective Forest Restoration

- Forest and Landscape Restoration – from global momentum to action in the Asia-Pacific, by Mr. Thomas Hofer, FAO RAP
- Towards regional cooperation on implementing the Bonn Challenge in Asia, by Ms. Li Jia, IUCN
- The restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded and secondary tropical forests, by Ms. Sheamala Satkuru, ITTO
- Restoring degraded forests in Southeast Asia as a model for a greener Asia, by Mr. Lee Yeong Joo, AFoCo

Topic 2: APFNet' s effort in Promoting Regional Forest Cooperation through Demonstration Projects

- Supporting cooperation on regional forest observation in the GMS and Malaysia, by Mr. Yong Pang, Chinese Academy of Forestry
- Supporting GMS economies on integrated forest ecosystem management planning and demonstration, by Ms. Anna Finke, APFNet Secretariat
- Facilitating regional research cooperation on forest transition in nine economies in the AP region, by Mr. Wil de Jong, Kyoto University
- Networking researchers in six economies to study adaptation of Asia-Pacific forests to climate change, by Mr. Tongli Wang, University of British Columbia
- Promoting cooperation among universities to innovate education in sustainable forest management, by Ms. Michelle Zeng, University of British Columbia

Key messages of the session are summarized as follows:

Urgent need of forest restoration

- **The global challenge of forest degradation and deforestation.** Forest area in the region is increasing overall but deforestation and forest degradation remains high in many economies. The world lost 129 million hectares of forests between 1990 and 2015, which accounted for 3.1 percent of its total forest area. One quarter of the land is already degraded and this trend continues. Restored forests, while crucial, in the short-term generally cannot fully supply all the ecosystem functions natural forests can. Thus, further deforestation and forest degradation has to be stopped.
- **Global opportunities for forest restoration.** On the other hand the global challenge on forest degradation and deforestation, while having its limits, also means global opportunities for forest restoration. 2 billion hectares of degraded and deforested land are available for restoration, among which 400 million hectares are in the Asia Pacific region alone. Restored forests can supply many key forest ecosystem services, such as clean water, timber, carbon capture and so on, making it crucial to realize those opportunities.

Cooperation is essential and becoming increasingly important on different levels.

- Multiple international & regional organizations have devoted their effort to forest restoration through different mechanisms, initiatives and tools. The cooperation at national, regional, and international levels to address forest degradation and deforestation is essential and getting increasingly important to achieve synergy in the joint efforts, learn from each other's experience and avoid unnecessary duplication.

FLR is an important pathway for achieving restoration goals, but needs cooperation and engagement of multiple stakeholders

- Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) is complex process over large area, which needs the cooperation and engagement of multiple stakeholders (between the forests and forestry and other sectors) to achieve its goal.
- Awareness of the importance of adopting integrated landscape approaches to restoration is growing, and participants emphasized that FLR is far beyond only tree planting. It includes appropriate and diverse restoration activities at a landscape scale based on zoning and determining the best uses of different parts of the landscape. Activities can range from agroforestry and silvopasture to planting native tree species to shelterbelts and buffer forests for watershed protection and more.

International commitments to ACTIONS on the ground.

- In addition to the ambitious commitments and pledges on forest restoration, the focus should be on on-the-ground actions.
- Demonstration projects are an effective on-the-ground measure to demonstrate successful restoration practices and increase the impacts.
- Multiple funding sources, both from governments and the private industry, are needed for large scale restoration.

Recommendations for future APFNet projects

- APFNet demonstration projects should be linked more closely with other networks and initiatives established by APFNet or other organizations to increase impacts.
- Project should consider the needs of local people more, and balance technology support and livelihood improvement.
- Project achievements should be replicable and sustained after completion; the replicability and sustainability of projects should be considered at the planning stage.
- Collaboration established by projects should also be sustained and expanded upon in the long run.



Concurrent Session 3

Enhancing Regional Cooperation in Capacity Building in Forestry

Background and Key question

Forests and forestry have emerged as key components in accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals and in meeting the greenhouse gas emission targets as envisaged under the 2015 Paris Agreement. The collective impact of multiple drivers – in particular, demographic changes, economic development, environmental changes (in particular climate change, loss of biodiversity, increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters, and watershed degradation), growing demand for amenity values etc. will require appropriate responses from the forestry profession. The nature of forestry in the 21st century will be significantly different from the 20th century. Particular attention will be required on the following:

- Address the challenges of climate change, reduce green-house gas emissions and enhance sequestration by forests;
- Reinvent forest management with thrust on the provision of ecosystem services;
- Enhance the resilience of people and ecosystems and implement adaptive management;
- Undertake large scale restoration of degraded lands to restore their ability to sustainably produce a wide range of ecosystem goods and services;
- Develop and apply landscape approaches to resource management, ensuring that economic, social and ecological linkages between different land uses are enhanced, transcending the sectoral boundaries.

Larger societal changes are accelerating and thus are necessitating continuous learning. Large-scale training of professionals through traditional institutions based on rigid curricula appropriate to an industrial society is becoming outdated, especially in the context of rapid economic, social and technological changes. In fact, the existence of unemployment amongst forestry graduates (which is also the situation in other sectors) is a symptom of the mismatch between what society needs and what forestry education and training institutions are providing. The fourth industrial revolution that is already underway and is bound to reshape society in view of the rapid development of artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, big data analytics, synthetic biology, etc. We will need a very different approach to education and training including on what is taught and how it is taught. Increasingly emphasis is being given to impart skills based on clearly defined problems rather than addressing a problem based on a set of skills already learned. It seems that the entire approach to learning and capacity building needs major overhauling and the currently prevailing incremental approach of tinkering at the margins is unable to keep pace with the rapidity of changes. It is in this context that this session aims to discuss the issue of capacity building and what the Asia-Pacific region needs to do to develop learning institutions and learning professionals in the region.



Specifically, the session aims to address the following questions:

- To what extent are existing institutions in the Asia-Pacific region able to impart knowledge and skills required to deal with the complex problems facing forestry/ land use in the Asia-Pacific region?
- Is the model of education and training developed in the 20th century still relevant?
- In what way are other professions – especially agriculture –addressing the challenges of changing demands for skills and competencies?
- How to design in-service training system that enables professionals to continuously update knowledge and skills in a rapidly changing world?
- How do we develop a learning culture in institutions and people to enable timely response to deal with the complex problems transcending sectoral/ disciplinary barriers?
- What are the new tools/ approaches that could be effectively used to build problem solving capacity in the land use/forest sector?
- What should be done at the regional level to strengthen institutional/human resource capacity to undertake large-scale ecosystem restoration efforts in the Asia-Pacific region?
- How could APFNet help in the transformational development of forestry, specifically focusing on resource capacity development?

The presentation by the different speakers and the panel discussion attempted to address the above questions particularly aiming to develop concrete follow up efforts to strengthen human resource capacity development to improve forest land management in the Asia-Pacific region.



Key Messages

The introductory presentation given by Dr. CTS Nair helped us understand the opportunities and challenges facing the human resources development in the region and set a clear logical framework for the following discussion. The entry point of Prof. Cris Brack to this question is to question the nature of education, how our beliefs and behaviors are being shaped by many factors including education, giving the audience a lot of refreshing ideas and inspiration. Prof. Rex Cruz clearly described the future forestry professional, what the competences of relevant forestry graduates are, what skills they should be equipped with.

Ms. Wang Jin and Prof Liu Jinlong take the cases and practices of Beijing Forestry University and Renming University of China as examples, and conveying quite a few encouraging messages. It was also a pleasure to hear from the Indonesian Human Resources Development Department through Ms. Indri's presentation, where she explained why developing proper human capacity for social forestry is becoming more and more important in Indonesia, and how training institutions have been organized using various methods to implement the national human resource development strategy.

Through sharing in the presentations and the panel discussion, we think the following **MESSAGES** are important and answered our questions.

- **Forestry education will remain relevant only if it promptly adapts.** Human resource development in forestry faces unprecedented challenges, we will need regional and global collaboration on a scale and quality not seen before.
- **What kind of talents are needed for future forestry?**

- We need to produce top talents/ scientists who are able to enhance our knowledge on the complexities of managing ecosystems and develop technologies and tools that can be applied by all the stakeholders.

- We also need a very large number of professionals who are able to provide leadership in managing landscapes, fully understanding human-nature interactions and are able to effectively communicate and work with a wide array of stakeholders.

- We need hundreds of thousands of field practitioners who can implement ecosystem management practices on the ground.

• What actions can we take?

- As technology changes, pedagogy has to keep up too. The rise of E-learning and blended learning, application of new technologies like virtual reality shows that pedagogy should evolve accordingly.

- Education and training institutions have to reform, necessary institutional mechanisms include: a) strengthen partnership with and involvement of the private sector in enhancing forestry curricular programs and in creating new learning opportunities b) facilitate more active engagement of local government units in forestry education c) Increase mobility of students, faculty members and researchers for cross-fertilization of forestry programs d) strengthen existing bilateral and multilateral collaboration in the region

• Recommendations for APFNet to consider

The existing capacity building programs of APFNet, such as scholarship programs, thematic training courses, and online courses have played a positive role in strengthening regional cooperation and development of human capacity. It is recommended to:

- Identify and support innovative forestry education practices, such as e-learning
- Deepen cooperation with current partners, make good use of the AP Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism, form an active network, promote the mobility of students, faculty members and researcher within the network.



Recommended priorities for regional cooperation in forestry education and training

With a view to improving the efficiency of regional cooperation in forestry education and training, it was agreed that cooperation should be developed in the following areas:

Expanding learning mobility: Work together to gradually eliminate barriers and to expand opportunities for learning mobility within the region for higher and other levels of education, including new objectives and financing instruments.

Professional development of teachers and trainers: Focus on early career support for new teachers and on raising the quality of continuing professional development opportunities for teachers, trainers and other educational staff (e.g. those involved in leadership or guidance activities).

New skills for new needs: Ensure that the assessment of future skill requirements and the matching of labor market needs are adequately taken into consideration in education and training planning processes. Include climate change adaptation in higher forestry education to enhance the development of young professionals in the field of climate change adaptation.

Partnership: Develop partnerships between education and training providers and businesses, research institutions, cultural actors and creative industries, and promote a well-functioning knowledge triangle. Build/strengthen national and regional networks for long-term research and monitoring of ecosystems across landscapes

More joint and dual degree programs. The University of the Philippines is offering a new program on Tropical Marine Ecosystem Management, a tricampus program. More joint or dual degree programs in agriculture and forestry with other national universities should be encouraged and supported.

Existing bilateral and multilateral collaboration in the region. Existing collaboration such as ASEAN University Consortium, APFNet Forestry College Deans Meeting Mechanism, ASEAN University Network should be strengthened and tapped into.



Session 4

Economy- Level Best Practices Sharing of Regional Forest Cooperation

Overview

In the face of global challenges, such as deforestation, climate change, land degradation and poverty, cooperation plays a crucial role. To date, using cooperation to improve forestry in economies has already made a good start. Many things remain, however, to be done.

This session focused on the experiences of different economies in Asia-Pacific in the realm of forest cooperation. Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Thailand talk about their experiences of both working with other economies, but also international organizations and donors and describe achievements to date, challenges that still exists and gaps to be filled.



Forest Cooperation in Cambodia

Mr. So Thea, the Deputy Director of the Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development (IRD) of the Forest Administration, introduced forest cooperation in Cambodia. He explained that in the past decade, the Forestry Administration (FA) of Cambodia has been cooperating with other economies in the region and development partners under various programs of forest management, based on priorities outlined in their National Forest Programme 2010-2029.

By 2019, around 10 development partners, including ADB, AFOCO, APFNet, ITTO, and the World Bank, have provided financial and technical support to FA to addressing critical issues in the forestry sector such as forest protection, forest rehabilitation, biodiversity conservation, and human resources development. Specifically, the following was supported:

APFNet funded multiple projects ranging from multi-functional forest restoration to watershed management and planning to agroforestry and the establishment of high-value tree species breeding center. AFOCO helped FA to improve their seed supply system and establish a Forest Genetic Research Center for the restoration of major timber species in Cambodia. Meanwhile, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) supported Cambodia in their efforts to control galling insect pests of eucalypt plantations. The Darwin Initiative helped conserve rosewood genetic diversity for resilient livelihoods, while ITTO supported two projects in Cambodia. One dealt with sustainable forest management through REDD+, the other was the famous trans-boundary cooperation project of the Emerald Triangle (refer to Thailand for more information). The National Institute of Biological Resources (NIBR) supported the collection of plant and wildlife specimens, while the World Bank supported another project focusing on building REDD+ Readiness.

The presentation highlighted some outcomes and lessons learned from recent cooperation programs/projects with regional economies, which contribute to sustainable forest management and local communities' livelihood development, such as overcoming the challenge of establishing community tree nurseries able to compete with private nurseries or involving ageing members of the community in select forestry activities. He emphasized that some things, like the adoption of soil and water conservation measures by local farmers may be a slow process as local farmers are only slowly convinced of the advantages of these practices. Finally, Mr. Thea also proposed priority areas including community-based resource management for livelihoods development, watershed and water resource management, landscape management, and trees in agricultural landscape for future cooperation.



Indonesia's Role in Regional Forest Cooperation

Indonesia plays an active role in forums to foster global cooperation to address climate change, biodiversity, and other forestry issues. In this regard, Ms. Susi Susanti, the Head of the Asia-Pacific and Africa Sub-Division of the Bureau of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry emphasized, Indonesia applied its international cooperation policy, such as the three principles of cooperation, mutual trust, mutual respect and mutual benefit, followed with transparency and accountability between partners. All of the international cooperation projects have to be in line with the national development strategies. It is required that the cooperation fills gaps that will accelerate in achieving those targets through complementary activities, not overlapping with the existing programs supported by the national budget. The Ministry implements a one gate policy for international cooperation that is under the Secretariat General (Bureau of International Cooperation and Bureau of Planning).



Indonesia actively involved in bilateral and multilateral events and play an active role at the ASEAN in regional level. In the region, Indonesia is one of the leading economies for these issues, as follows:

- ❶ Forest Law Enforcement and Governance implementation, in ASEAN, Asia Pacific.
- ❷ Mangrove Ecosystem Management in ASEAN
- ❸ Forestry Extension, Education, and Training in ASEAN: Capacity building to support SFM implementation in ASEAN.
- ❹ Social Forestry, initiative for social forestry network.
- ❺ Wildlife enforcement and biodiversity
- ❻ Tropical Peatland Center, under the Global Partnerships Initiative scheme.

In the form of south-south cooperation, Indonesia helps Timor Leste in capacity building in the forestry sector to support SFM in the region. In terms of project cooperation in the region, Indonesia has many projects under AFoCo, GEF scheme, ITTO, ACB and APFNet.

To combat illegal logging and associated trade, and as a follow up to the Bali Declaration, in 2003 Indonesia developed and implemented a national Timber Legality Assurance System, namely the "Sistem Verifikasi Legalitas Kayu" or SVLK to verify traceability of timber and timber products from legal and sustainable sources. Implementation of SVLK has been a soft approach to combat illegal logging and associated trade, improve forest governance, and simultaneously fulfill legality requirements of markets. The SVLK has been implemented mandatorily since 2013.

Further to the negotiation on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement or FLEGT VPA between Indonesia and Uni Eropa since 2007, SVLK has been recognized and accepted as instrument to verify sustainability of forest management and legality of Indonesian timber products to be exported and circulated in territories of European Union. Since November 2016, Indonesia has become the first economy to issue FLEGT License. Exports of timber products from Indonesia to European Union accompanied with V-Legal Documents or FLEGT Licenses based on SVLK certification will undergo due diligence process in port of destination in EU territory.

In building regional cooperation for effective forest restoration, the challenges that may arise in the regional sphere are differences of national development strategies, standards in each economy, domestic regulations, the condition of forest resources and international commitments. In this regard, the cooperation has to be synergize with international cooperation, standardize common initiatives, and strengthen cooperation on SFM in the region. Promoting online information systems in forest management might be useful in the region for sharing information, as well as improving capacity building through workshops, symposia, meetings, trainings and other types of international forums.



International Forest Cooperation – Malaysia's Experience

Malaysia, home to a rich biodiversity and using a selective cutting forest management system, has been involved in many conservation initiatives, both in- and ex-situ. It also emphasized forest certification under the Malaysia Timber Certification Scheme and is endorsed by the PEFC.

Yet, there are still many opportunities for international cooperation, which Mr. Ahmad Fadzil Bin Abdul Majid, the Director of the Silviculture and Forest Biodiversity Division of the Forestry Department in Peninsular Malaysia, outlined. Malaysia cooperates with many international organizations, such as the UNDP-GEF, DANCED-DANIDA, GIZ, ASEAN ROK and AWG.

The perhaps most famous example for regional cooperation is, however, the Heart of Borneo (HoB) Initiative. HoB is a cooperation between three economies, that is Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam, on the island of Borneo. As a voluntary transboundary cooperation, it enables conservation and environmental protection, while enhancing sustainable development that improves the welfare of the communities. It covers over 23 million ha of tropical rainforest, of which 6 million ha are in Malaysia (Sabah and Sarawak). Key pillars include forest restoration and rehabilitation, community engagement, sustainable agriculture development, eco-tourism, forest protection, the development of a REDD+ strategy, agroforestry activities and watershed management.

The institutional framework for this initiative divided responsibilities by level. There was an international level, where the trilateral meeting was held, an economy-level expert working group, a state-level steering committee and under this a technical working group. To illustrate that on the example of Sarawak, on the international level, the Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources of Malaysia was responsible, while on the national level the NWEF, the National Expert Working Group were represented and then below the Steering Committee.

While all economies and even states engage in slightly different activities, they are all built on the same aforementioned pillars. Key achievements include trilateral annual meetings, information sharing and gathering, closer transboundary ties enabling more effective conservation, and enhanced community involvement and social forestry. Among the remaining challenges are land tenure issues, land development projects, financial constraints, communication barriers and a lack of capacity. They hope through future cooperation the scientific knowledge base and general exchange of information can be further enhanced, international cooperation further strengthened, the heart of Borneo effectively protected through the forest conservation program and skills strengthened.

Economy-Level Best Practices for Regional Cooperation – The Case of Papua New Guinea (PNG)

PNG has one of the highest forest cover rates in the world and the third largest tropical rainforest after the Amazon and Congo. Largely still undeveloped, the forestry sector is a major contributor to this developing economy's government budget. Ms. Susan Velma Kulukul, a Senior Export Administration Officer of the Forest Authority in PNG, explained.

PNG has had a number of cooperation initiatives with different international organizations, such as the ACIAR-PNG Research Projects, the DAFF Australia-PNG DSS Project, the ACP-Pacific Research Project, projects targeting illegal logging and timber certification and so on. Some specific examples, are:

ITTO funded a lot of PNG's sustainable forest management-related projects, ensuring that processes and practices are sustainable and governance is maintained. Notably, the Forest Law Enforcement and Governance was done in consultation and collaboration with relevant stakeholders including the industry, landowners, civil society, as well as regional and international organizations based in PNG; including relevant government organizations. This project resulted in the formation of the PNG Timber Legality Standards (PNGTLS).

The Australian Government through the Responsible Asia Forest Trade, which was managed by the Nature Conservancy, complemented the FLEG- PNGTLS development through coordinating further stakeholder consultations, testing, workshops and refining of the PNGTLS. The PNGTLS is completed and forwarded for approval.

With the support of UNREDD, the EU and FAO, PNG's first national forest inventory is being conducted, to be completed by the end of 2019. Through this cooperation the first National Forest Inventory Office was established.

Through a project with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) PNG's GIS and Remote Sensing capacities were also increased. The Japanese government has also supported the



development of selective logging practices, as well as train national staff on using GIS in a previous project.

There were, of course, projects and meetings done in cooperation with APFNet, such as the Asia-Pacific Cooperation Third Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry (APEC-MMRF).

Generally, cooperation projects that can be well-integrated into the national agenda, have identified common entry points and show synergies for all partners, are preferred. Ms. Kulukul also mentioned, however, that one of the key challenges for PNG currently is the lack of interest from international partners in cooperating with PNG.

International Forestry Cooperation in Thailand – Experiences of the Royal Forest Department

Mr. Montri Intasen, a Forestry Technical Officer of the International Forestry Cooperation Office of the Royal Forest Department (RFD) in Thailand, reported on this topic. As only one agency under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), he emphasized that the cooperation examples given mainly applied to the Royal Forestry Department, but there are certainly many more under the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) or the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR).

The National Strategy for Eco-Friendly Development and Growth, aiming to establish 55% forest cover within 20 years, serves as the basis for international cooperation efforts. Especially cooperations with AFoCo, ITTO and APFNet have proven successful in supporting the national strategy.

Specifically, AFoCo has supported Thailand in facilitating participatory planning of community-based forest management using GIS and remote sensing technologies and in developing high value species as a mechanism for sustainable forest management and livelihood improvement.

The perhaps most famous transboundary cooperation project in the GMS region is the transboundary biodiversity conservation project in the “Emerald

Triangle” protected forests complex between Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand. This project was initiated and funded by ITTO and promoted the common vision of the three economies of establishing a cooperation for the conservation and sustainable management of the Emerald Triangle in order to strengthen the protection of the transboundary habitats of wide-ranging wildlife species and to maintain the integrity of the ecosystem at large. It was the hope that the Emerald Triangle Project would be a symbol for successful transboundary cooperation. ITTO also supported another project focusing on the development and implementation of Criteria & Indicators for Sustainable Management of Planted Forests and Community Forests.

Finally, APFNet has helped Thailand strengthen urban forestry through a project in Bang Kachao, Bangkok, where both demonstration and learning sites were established and the habitat for endemic flora and fauna species improved, while also supporting eco-tourism in the area. Furthermore, with APFNet’ s support an International Training Course on forest-based eco-tourism in the context of the SDGs was developed.

Closing his presentation Mr. Intasen emphasized that the SDGs will play a key role in determining Thailand’ s future international cooperation.



Key Needs for Future Forest Cooperation

Based on the presentations given by the participants, the following needs have crystallized:

- Differences of national development strategies, standards in each economy, domestic regulations, the condition of its forest resources and international commitment need to be taken into account when trying to establish new cooperation or expand upon existing cooperation
- Land tenure issues remain a large challenge in Asia-Pacific and thus need to be a priority area of work
- Much basic information and knowledge is still not available throughout the region

Key Recommendations for Future Forest Cooperation

Based on the presentations given by the participants the following priority areas for future cooperation for APFNet emerged:

- A stronger focus on community-based resource management for livelihood development that leaves sufficient time to get buy-in from local communities to achieve sustainable local cooperation
- Cooperation has to be synergized with existing international cooperation, common entry points and benefits for all parties should be identified early
- Promoting an online information system in forest management might be useful in the region for sharing information



Annex

1. Field visit (Wangyedian Forest Farm and Chifeng)

2. Agenda of the Symposium

Annex 1: Field visits

Field visit for APFNet's Multi-functional Forestry Demonstration Projects in Wangyedian Forest Farm

Background

In 2011, APFNet launched the first phase of the project: "Construction of Multifunctional Forest Management Demonstration" in Wangyedian Forest Farm, demonstrating a multi-functional forest management approach and exploring how economic, social and environmental benefits can be balanced and enhanced, both on site and in the wider region. The project developed a forest management plan incorporating close-to-nature forest management (CNFM) principles and extended the planning phase from five to ten years. Additionally, a separate management plan for non-timber forest products was developed. Next, plots were selected to be managed under multi-functional close-to-nature forest management, while employing co-management mechanisms for the forest farm and the local community. In order to ensure the success of this cooperation, capacity building for the local communities was offered.

In its second phase, which started in 2016, the objectives were expanded to demonstrate multifunctional forest restoration on a wider range of sites than before, including clear-cut forests and also young and middle-aged natural secondary forests. It also aims to test close-to-nature management on mature forests (previously done mostly in young and middle-aged forests), focusing especially on soil and water conservation and increasing the overall carbon storage capacity of the forests. The second phase also aims to establish forest recreation areas and a forestry experience and training center, where education on multi-functional management, CNFM and forest rehabilitation can be provided. These facilities can be used to improve the capacities of local communities and forest farm employees on sustainable forest management, and also provide a space for learning for an international audience.

In 2018, based on the outcomes of previous projects, APFNet launched the "Wangyedian Forest Experience Base Project" in Wangyedian Forest Farm. The project aims to further promote cultural services of forests and enhance the "forest culture" development in the farm. A forest-oriented experience and education base, which guided by sustainable development principles, was established. Specifically, the base in Wangyedian will serve as a multi-purpose facility which can be used as a forest experience and education platform, host exhibitions on forest-related themes, and provide outdoor trails for forest eco-tourism and forest therapy.

(Please see the Wangyedian Brochure for detailed information)

Schedule

| Date/Time | Visiting Sites |
|----------------------------|---|
| 23 July 14:00-18:00 | Fast-growing and high-yielding larch timber production forest |
| | Planted Chinese pine forest under close-to-nature forest management |
| | Large diameter larch forest |
| | Thinning of natural secondary forest |

1 Fast-Growing and High-Yielding Larch Timber Production Forest

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Location | Gushan forest management area, forest division 31, stand 16 |
| Forest area | 500 mu (33.3 ha) |
| Year established | 1985 |
| Main tree species | Dahurian larch (<i>Larix principis-rupprechtii</i>) |
| Planting Spacing | 333 seedlings/mu (49995 seedlings/ha) |
| Current Spacing | 80 trees/mu (1200 trees/ha) |
| DBH | 18 cm |
| Tree height | 17 m |
| Stock volume | 14.39 m³/mu (215.85 m³/ha) |



Before and after thinning
of the larch plantation

This timber production forest was managed under the strict principle of “suitable trees, meticulous soil preparation, strong seedlings, close but reasonable planting spacing, careful planting, nurturing management”. It has undergone 3 thinnings in the past. The objective for this forest is to produce medium diameter timber. One more thinning is planned in order to reduce the number of trees to about 60/mu (900/ha). The target diameter is 24cm, the target volume is 21m³/mu (315m³/ha).

2 Planted Chinese Pine Forest under Close-To-Nature Forest Management

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Location | Gushan forest management area, forest division 31, stand 14 |
| Forest area | 240 mu (16 ha) |
| Year established | 1979 |
| Main tree species | Chinese pine (<i>Pinus tabulaeformis</i>), 2–5% white birch, less than 2% poplar |
| DBH | 24.4 cm |
| Tree height | 16.5 m |
| Stock volume | 13.53 m³/mu (203 m³/ha) |

The natural regeneration in this forest is very good. The objective for this forest is timber production in a multi-purpose forest. The target tree species composition is an uneven-aged, multi-layered mixed Chinese pine-broadleaved tree species forests. The management includes: identifying and marking “target trees” , liberation from competition of those trees through thinning (e.g. crown thinning), supplemental plantings of broad-leaved species, artificial scarring of the soil in order to promote natural regeneration. The final spacing should be about 10 trees/mu (150 trees/ha), the target diameter is 38cm.



Chinese Pine Forest under CNFM

3 Large Diameter Larch Demonstration Forest

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Location | Meilin forest management area, forest division 48, stand 39 |
| Forest area | 150 mu (10ha) |
| Year established | 1959 |
| Main tree species | Changbai Dahurian Larch (<i>Larix olgensis</i>) |
| Stocking | 36 trees/mu (540 trees/ha) |
| Diameter at breast height (DBH) | 32cm |
| Tree height | 22m |
| Stock volume | 23.86 m³/mu (357.9 m³/ha) |

The large diameter larch demonstration forest is a planted forest and located in the Meilin forest management area. This forest was created in the early period of the forest farm. To this date 4 thinnings have been conducted here.

The plan is to conduct preparatory cut after which the stocking will be reduced to about 20 trees/mu (300 trees/ha), the goal diameter is about 40cm, upon reaching this diameter a regeneration cut will be made.



Changbai Dahurian Larch Large Diameter Forest

4 Thinning of a Natural Secondary Forest

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Location | Dadian forest management area, forest division 128, stand 40 and 42 | |
| Forest area | 1000 mu (66.7ha) | |
| Main tree species | 60 % Aspen (<i>Populus davidiana</i>), 30% white birch (<i>Betula platyphylla</i>), 10% black poplar (<i>Populus nigra</i>) | |
| Thining in 2018 | Before thinning | After thinning |
| Stocking | 147 trees/mu (2205 trees/ha) | 110 trees/mu (1650 trees/ha) |
| Diameter at breast height (DBH) | 13cm | 14cm |
| Tree height | 14m | 15m |
| Stock volume | 10.4 m³/mu (156 m³/ha) | 9.25 m³/mu (138.75 m³/ha) |

This natural secondary forest is dominated with aspen (*Populus davidiana*) which has high tree density and relatively low stocking volume. The management goal is to cultivate multi-purpose forests with increase its ecological benefits. Thinning will be conducted every 5 years afterwards to finally adjust the stocking to 50 trees/mu (750 trees/ha). Enrichment planting of coniferous species such as spruce (*Picea asperata*) and Korean pine (*Pinus koraiensis*) will be implemented to form a mixed broadleaf-conifer forest.



Annex 2:

Field visits

Field visit to Chifeng

Background

Chifeng is a prefecture-level city in southeastern Inner Mongolia, China. The city has a total administrative area of 90,275 km², among which, 47,000 km² is mountainous area, and 35,000 km² is sandy area. Chifeng has a seasonal, monsoon-influenced, continental steppe climate, with long, cold, windy, dry winters, and hot, humid, short summers. Monthly mean temperatures range from -10.7 °C in January to 23.6 °C in July, with an annual mean of 7.49 °C. The annual rainfall is 300-400 mm, and nearly half of the year's rainfall occurs in July and August, and even then dry and sunny weather dominates the city.

After the establishment of PR. China, the forest area of Chifeng was 455,000 ha (4,550km²), which accounted for only 5% of the total land area. Large-scale desertification and degradation

caused severe water loss and soil erosion in Chifeng, and restricted the economic development of the city. To reverse poverty and improve the natural environment, since the 1950s large-scale restoration activities were conducted. Especially after 1978, the Chinese Government began implementing a protection forest development program in the northwestern, northern and northeastern regions of China, which has come to be known as the "Three North Shelterbelt Program". The "Three North Shelterbelt Program" and the Desertification Combatting Program around Beijing and Tianjin (launched in 2000) have largely improved the environmental conditions in Chifeng. In 2019, the forest area increased to 3,030,000 ha (30,300 km², 15,000 km² is planted forest, 1,530 km² is natural forest), and accounted 33.6% of the total land area.

Schedule

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 8:00–10:30 | Drive to Songshan district of Chifeng city |
| 10:30–11:30 | Visit the ecological restoration project of Longtan Basin in Songshan District |
| 11:30–12:30 | Drive to Fuxing Oriental Hotel |
| 12:30–13:30 | Lunch in Fuxing Oriental Hotel |
| 13:30–15:00 | Go to Xiaochengzi Town, Ningcheng County |
| 15:00–16:30 | Visit an "Economic Forest" in Xiaochengzi Town |
| 16:30–18:30 | Return to the APFNet Forest Experience Base |
| 18:40– | Dinner at the APFNet Forest Experience Base |

01

The ecological restoration project of Longtan Basin in Songshan District

The Longtan River Basin in Songshan District is located in Guduhe Village, Mujiayingzi Town, Songshan District, Chifeng City. The total land area is 5,200 ha (78,000 mu), and is a typical loess hilly area. Before the restoration, the gullies in the basin were deep, the soil was thin, and soil erosion was serious.

In order to improve the ecological environment of the Longtan River Basin, with the support of the forestry department, an overall plan for the ecological restoration of the Longtan Basin was formulated in 1996, and construction was started in July of the same year. After ten years of hard work, the comprehensively managed area of the river basin has reached more than 4,000 ha, including 2,260 ha of forests restored under the Three-North Shelterbelt Project and Beijing-Tianjin Desertification Combatting Project, 1,200ha by creating horizontal terraces, 1,500ha of forests restored under the Grain for Green Program, 2100ha restored by creating of horizontal ditches, repaired 7.5 km of road around the mountains,

established 30 km of road in the forest and greened 35 km road.

In river basin management, we adhere to the basic principles of comprehensive management of mountains, water, fields, forests and roads, aiming at increasing the income of the people, using the technology of drought-resistant afforestation, and adopting afforestation and land preparation methods such as digging horizontal grooves and fish scale pits along contour lines. It adopts technical measures such as film mulching of the seedling (to keep temperature and soil moisture rate) and container seedling afforestation. Following the principle of using site-adapted species, a total of 2100 ha of apricot, plum and apple were planted, and 666ha of shrubs, including various types of shrubs for slope protection were planted. A total of 2200 ha of crash crops and livestock land, such as pasture and medicinal materials were also planted.



Results of the restoration efforts in Longtan River Basin

Through years of effort, the ecological, economic and social benefits of the Longtan River Basin have significantly improved. The ecological environment has improved remarkably, and the forest coverage rate has increased from 16% in the past to 74% now. The local farmers' economic income has increased significantly. The total amount of subsidies for the Grain for Green program, where farmlands are returned to forests, has been more than 7 million USD (50 million RMB). The annual income from NTFPs is more than 58 million USD (400 million RMB). The average annual income has increased by USD 145 (1,000 RMB) per person.

02 Economic Forest of Xiaochengzi Town, Ningcheng County

Xiaochengzi Town is located in the northern part of Ningcheng County, Chifeng. It is a typical hilly region with a total area of 318 km², including 16,666 ha of forest land, 52% forest coverage and a total population of 30,100.

Since 2002, Xiaochengzi Town has promoted the forest and fruit industry as the leading industry of the town. It has invested more than 9 million USD (64 million RMB) in various projects and vigorously developed the forest and fruit industry. Up to now, the economic forest area of fruit orchards in the town has reached 2,666 ha, including 1,000 ha of fruits in full production. The annual output of fruit is 30,000 tons, the value is nearly 22 million USD (150 million RMB), the net income is more than 17 million USD (120 million RMB), and the per capita income is 581 USD (4,000 RMB).



The 333ha best-management forest and fruit picking and sightseeing park in Molyhaigou is located in Taipingzhuang and Liushuyingzi Village. This year, the total investment is nearly 1 million USD (6.4 million yuan), where 73ha of fruit orchards have been newly added, and 63ha of terraced fields are restored. The eight fruit industry demonstration parks have had an investment of 670,000 USD (4.6 million yuan), with 53ha of added fruit trees. The total area has reached 650ha, including 366ha of producing orchards and 33ha of terraced fields.

The Fruit Orchard Demonstration Zone

In 2019, the town took advantage of the opportunity of being listed as a demonstration pilot site of the municipal-level rural revitalization program. According to the principle of “unified planning of forests and roads, unified management of mountains, farmlands, gullies to create a green and beautiful landscape”, the project will integrate nearly 1.5 million USD (more than 10 million RMB) of project funds. In the four villages of Taipingzhuang, Liushuyingzi, Bajia and Changchun, the establishment of Xiaochengzi Town’s 666ha forest fruit orchard demonstration zone will focus on building a 333ha best-practice forest fruit picking and sightseeing park in Molihaigou and eight forest and fruit orchard demonstration parks.

Economic forests: trees mainly aimed at the production of fruits; edible oils, soft drinks and ingredients; industrial raw materials; and medicinal materials.

AGENDA

22nd July 2019 (Monday)

| TIME | ACTIVITY | VENUE |
|---|--|----------------|
| PLENARY SESSION Opening Ceremony , Chaired by Dr. Lu De, Executive Director of APFNet | | |
| 09:00–09:40 | Remarks delivered by: –Deputy administrator of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) of China –Representatives of APFNet Member Economies (Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand) –Representative of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region,China –APFNet Chair of Board of Directors | Mongolian Yurt |
| 09:40–10:00 | Tea Break | |
| Keynote Speeches, Facilitated by Mr. Preecha Ongprasert | | |
| 10:00–10:20 | Importance of Regional Forest Cooperation and FAO’ s Role, by Mr. Thomas Hofer, FAO RAP | |
| 10:20–10:40 | ITTO Update on Regional Forestry Cooperation in the Asia Pacific, by Ms. Sheamala Satkuru, ITTO | |
| 10:40–11:00 | Regional Forest Cooperation in Indonesia : Challenges and Opportunities, by Ms. Novia Widyaningtyas, Centre for Education and Training of Environment and Forestry Human Resources, Indonesia | |
| 11:00–11:20 | Forestry Cooperation in the Context of the Belt and Road Initiative: Status and Outlook, by Ms. Dai Guangcui, National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) | |
| 11:20–11:40 | APFNet’s Efforts for Promoting Regional Forest Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, by Mr. Lu De, APFNet Secretariat | |
| 11:40–12:00 | Q&A | |
| 12:00–14:00 | Lunch Break | |
| 18:30–20:00 | Welcome Dinner @ Mongolian Yurt | |

TIME

22nd July 2019 (Monday)

| | ACTIVITY | VENUE |
|---|--|---|
| Concurrent session I Forestry Planning and Policies Favoring Regional Cooperation, Facilitated by Ms. Kong Zhe | | |
| 14:00-14:20 | Opening | Meeting Room B, 2nd floor of Service Center |
| 14:20-14:40 | Presentation 1: Forestry planning and policies favoring regional cooperation in China , by Mr. Xie Hesheng, Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, Chinese Academy of Forestry | |
| 14:40-15:00 | Presentation 2: Forestry planning and policies favoring regional cooperation in Fiji | |
| 15:00-15:20 | Presentation 3: Forestry planning and policies favoring regional cooperation in Sri Lanka | |
| 15:20-15:40 | Presentation 4: Forestry planning and policies favoring regional cooperation in Thailand | |
| 15:40-16:00 | Q&A | |
| 17:20-17:30 | Recap and closing | |
| 17:30-17:35 | Group Photo | |

22nd July 2019 (Monday)

| Concurrent session II Experiences and Best Practices of International Organizations in Support of Regional Forest Cooperation, Facilitated by Mr. Li Zhaochen | | |
|---|--|---|
| Topic 1: Building Regional Cooperation for Effective Forest Restoration | | |
| 14:00-14:05 | Opening & Welcome | Meeting Room at the Multi-functional Forest Training Center |
| 14:05-14:25 | Forest and Landscape Restoration –from global momentum to action in the Asia-Pacific, by Mr. Thomas Hofer, FAO RAP | |
| 14:25-14:45 | Towards regional cooperation on implementing Bonn Challenge in Asia, by Ms. Li Jia, IUCN | |
| 14:45-15:05 | The Restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded and secondary tropical forests, by Ms. Sheamala Satkuru, ITTO | |
| 15:05-15:25 | Restoring Degraded Forest in Southeast Asia as a Model for a Greener Asia, by Mr. Lee Yeong Joo, AFOCo | |
| 15:25-15:40 | Q&A | |
| 15:40-16:10 | Tea Break | |
| Topic 2: APFNet’ s effort in Promoting Regional Forest Cooperation through Demonstration Projects | | |
| 16:10-16:35 | Supporting cooperation on regional forest observation in the GMS and Malaysia, by Mr. Yong Pang, Chinese Academy of Forestry Regional cooperation to support forest sustainable management – Malaysia experiences, by Mr. Khali Aziz Bin Hamzah, Forest Research Institute Malaysia | Meeting Room at the Multi-functional Forest Training Center |
| 16:35-17:05 | Supporting GMS economies on integrated forest ecosystem management planning and demonstration, by Ms. Anna Finke, APFNet Secretariat | |
| 17:05-17:20 | Facilitating regional research cooperation on forest transition in nine economies in AP region, by Mr. Wil de Jong, Kyoto University | |
| 17:20-17:35 | Networking researchers in six economies to study adaptation of Asia-Pacific forests to climate change, by Mr. Tongli Wang, University of British Columbia | |
| 17:35-17:45 | Promoting cooperation among universities to innovate education in sustainable forest management, by Ms. Michelle Zeng, University of British Columbia | |
| 17:45-17:55 | Q&A | |
| 17:55-18:00 | Tea Break | |

| Concurrent session III Enhancing regional cooperation for capacity building in Forestry, Facilitated by Dr. CTS Nair | | |
|---|---|---|
| Introduction | | |
| 14:00-14:15 | Redefining the Relevance of Forestry Education in a Changing World: The Case of Asia Pacific Region, by Prof. Rex Cruz, University of the Philippines Los Banos | Meeting Room A, 2nd floor of the Service Center |
| Topic 1: Higher Forestry Education | | |
| 14:35-14:55 | Education changes people. People change "education" , by Prof. Cris Brack, Australian National University College of Science | Meeting Room A, 2nd floor of the Service Center |
| 14:55-15:15 | How to strengthen the National and regional cooperation between higher forestry institutions in the Asia-Pacific Region, by Ms. Wang Jin, International Exchange and Cooperation Office of Beijing Forestry University | |
| Concurrent session III Enhancing regional cooperation for capacity building in Forestry, Facilitated by Dr. CTS Nair | | |
| Topic 2: In-service Training and continuous capacity augmentation | | |
| 15:15-15:35 | Redefining the Relevance of Forestry Education in a Changing World: The Case of Asia Pacific Region, by Prof. Rex Cruz, University of the Philippines Los Banos | Meeting Room A, 2nd floor of the Service Center |
| 14:35-14:55 | Education changes people. People change "education" , by Prof. Chris Brack, Australian National University College of Science | |
| 14:55-15:15 | How to strengthen the National and regional cooperation between higher forestry institutions in the Asia-Pacific Region, by Ms. Wang Jin, International Exchange and Cooperation Office of Beijing Forestry University | |
| 15:15-15:35 | Forestry Human Resource Development Support to National Program on Social Forestry and Forest Management Unit in Indonesia, by Ms.Indri Puji Rianti, Extension and Human Resource Development Agency, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia | |
| 15:35-16:00 | Cultivate top talents to meet the needs of forestry research in the Asia-Pacific Region: The Case of Renmin University of China, by Prof Liu Jinlong, Renmin University of China | |
| 16:00-16:30 | Tea break | |
| 16:30-17:30 | Panel discussion | |
| 17:30-17:45 | Wrap-up | |

23rd July 2019 (Tuesday)

| TIME | ACTIVITY | VENUE |
|---|---|---|
| PLENARY SESSION | | |
| Session IV Economy- Level Best Practices Sharing of Regional Forest Cooperation, Facilitated by Ms. Anna Finke | | |
| 09:00-09:20 | International Forest Cooperation – Experiences from Cambodia, by Mr. So Thea, Institute of Forest and Wildlife Development and Research, Cambodia | Meeting Room A, 2 nd floor of the Service Center |
| 09:20-09:40 | International Forest Cooperation – Experiences from Indonesia, by Ms. Susi Susanti, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia | |
| 09:40-10:00 | International Forest Cooperation – Experiences from Malaysia, by Mr. Ahmad Fadzil Bin Abdul Majid, Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia | |
| 10:00-10:20 | International Forest Cooperation – Experiences from Papua New Guinea, by Ms. Susan Velma Kulukul, Forest Authority, PNG | |
| 10:20-10:40 | International Forest Cooperation – Experiences from Thailand, by Mr. Montri Intasen, Royal Forest Department, Thailand | |
| 10:40-11:00 | Q&A | |
| 11:00-11:15 | Tea break | |
| 11:15-11:45 | Reporting key findings of 3 Concurrent Sessions (10 minutes each) | |
| 11:45-12:00 | Summary & Closing | |
| 12:00-14:00 | Lunch | |
| 14:00-18:00 | Field visit (Wang Ye Dian forest farm) | |
| 18:30-20:00 | Dinner Buffet | |

24th July 2019 (Wednesday)

| TIME | ACTIVITY | VENUE |
|-------------|---|-------|
| 08:00-18:00 | Field visit (forestry development in Chifeng, Inner Mongolia) | |
| 12:00-14:00 | Lunch | |
| 18:30-20:00 | Dinner Buffet | |