

First Announcement

3rd World Teak Conference 2015



Strengthening Global Teak Resources and Markets for Sustainable Development

**11 - 16 May 2015
Guayaquil, Ecuador**

Organised by

Asociación Ecuatoriana de Productores de Teca y Maderas Tropicales,
an Association of Private Companies Growing and Exporting Teak, Ecuador

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome

International Teak Information Network, India

International Union of Forest Research Organizations, Austria

ASOTECA



Background

Teak (*Tectona grandis* L.f.) is recognized as the most favoured tropical hardwood all over the world, reputed for its physical and aesthetic qualities. Natural teak forests occur in only four countries in the world: India, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand. Since the 1980s, the supplies of teak wood from natural forests have started to dwindle; instead, planted teak forests have attracted large investments from the private sector in ca. 70 countries throughout tropical Asia, Africa, Latin America and Oceania. Growing private investment in teak plantations is a clear indication of the perceived potential of the species, although deforestation and unprofessional management have substantially reduced the area of natural stands. The global teak market has been and will continue to be governed by trends in the Asian market. Asia holds more than 90% of the world's teak resources. The major teak trade flows worldwide are directed towards India absorbing 70% to 100% of global teak exports including shipments of plantation logs and sawn timber from Africa and Latin America.

Ecuador is an important teak growing country and the largest teak exporting country in Latin America. An estimated 1242 teak plantations cover a forest area of ca. 45,648 ha. The export of round logs and sawn timber to mainly Asian countries amounts to ca. 150,000 m³ annually. The government of Ecuador has launched a national support program that provides financial incentives for reforestation with commercial species, among them teak. The goal of this program is to reforest 120,000 ha in 5 years.

Objective and key issues

The conference with the theme "*Strengthening Global Teak Resources and Markets for Sustainable Development*" will focus on economical, social, technical and environmental issues that have an impact on the production, marketing and trade of teakwood. It will facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology among teak growing countries and strengthen the globalization of TEAKNET.

Venue, Date and Conference Format

The event is expected to last 5 days including field excursions. A touristic program will be offered for interested participants and spouses. The conference will convene in Guayaquil, the largest and most populous city in Ecuador and the country's main port. The expected number of participants is estimated at over 300 people from Latin American, Asian and African countries.

The event is planned to center around the following major themes:

- ❖ Economics, investments and trade
- ❖ Genetics, tree improvement, silviculture
- ❖ Management models for different value chains, including community forestry
- ❖ Teak plantation management and environmental protection

The official conference language will be English and Spanish; translation will be provided.

Preliminary time schedule and key dates

1st announcement:

07 May 2014

2nd announcement and call for abstracts:

15 Jun 2014

Registration opens:

01 Sep 2014

Deadline for abstract submission:

31 Oct 2014

Submission of full papers:

31 Jan 2015

Registration deadline:

11 April 2015

Final programme:

30 April 2015

Participants

The target audience includes researchers, teak growers, traders, teakwood-processors, and policy makers associated with teak.

Contact

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