



Asia and the Pacific Workshop – Multinational and Transboundary Conservation of Valuable and Endangered Forest Tree Species 5-7 December 2011 Guangzhou, China



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Background

Forests and forestry have contributed significantly to human wellbeing over thousands of years. Through the continuous never-ending natural process of photosynthesis, forests provide life for many of the world's living organisms. In addition, trees and other forest plants, store vast quantities of carbon, protecting the topsoil, retain rain water runoff, and providing shelter as well as food for many other plants and animals.

Wood is one of the major end products of photosynthesis in trees, it is a large store of carbon and it provides a rich food source for the many organisms that feed on it, when it is alive and during decomposition. It is also a raw material of almost unlimited versatility. In its natural form it can be cut, sliced, moulded or otherwise shaped. Broken down into small particles or fibres it can be reconstituted as paper products, packaging and absorbents, building panels and so on. It provides extracts for pharmaceuticals, solvents, foodstuffs and preservatives. Cellulose, the basic component of wood is a source of fibre/cloth, liquid fuel and plastic-like materials. In Southeast Asia and South Asia, for example, there are many tree species which are very valuable resources for local people as well as international trade. Many of these tree species, like *Aquilaria crassna*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*, *Santalum album* and *Hopea hainanensis*, are becoming rare and endangered. Although lot of efforts have been made to conserve and protect these valuable trees, rapid economic development in most countries have reduced the natural habitats of these species, threatening their existence in these countries..

A number of countries in the region have initiated some bilateral or multilateral collaboration on various aspects including conservation and efficient utilization of some valuable tree species common to these countries. There are also networks such as the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN), a network of 14 countries which was launched in 2003 with a primary objective of enhancing the technical and scientific cooperation, training and information exchange in conservation and management of forest genetic resources among countries in the region. With its Secretariat currently hosted by the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), APFORGEN had organized various activities over the past several years and contributed substantially to enhancing the capability and capacity in conservation and sustainable utilization of forest resources.

In addition, there are other multinational transboundary problems such as natural disasters like typhoons and sand storms that sweep across several countries, as well as the spread of pests and diseases across boundaries. As countries in this region are developing very rapidly, such problems will become increasingly serious, further threatening the very existence of forests and human wellbeing in the region.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are as follows:

1. To exchange and share experiences and knowledge on multinational transboundary forestry issues related to conservation and protection of valuable tree species, mitigation of natural disasters, and spread of pests and diseases.
2. To provide opportunity for exploring potential multinational collaboration and transboundary cooperation on conservation and protection of valuable tree species, mitigation of natural disasters, and spread of pests and diseases.
3. To improve networking, communication and information exchange among forestry professionals on multinational transboundary forestry issues.

Who should attend?

The workshop is open to all interested participants. It will be of particular relevance to representatives of international and regional organizations, programmes, networks and projects dealing with multinational and transboundary issues such as natural disasters and hazards mitigation, conservation and protection, as well as forest management and land use planning. Individuals working in policy, research and operations related to forest pests and diseases, environmental services, biodiversity conservation and protection, and forest management will find the workshop especially useful.

Programme

The workshop will focus on the following current and emerging multinational and transboundary forestry issues:

- Conservation and protection of rare and valuable tree species
- Natural disasters and hazards mitigation
- Pests and diseases

If you wish to present a paper, or exhibit a poster, send your abstract of 300–500 words to Dr Xu Daping (gzfsrd@163.com), copy to Dr Sim Heok-Choh (simhc@frim.gov.my; sim@apafri.org). Abstracts should include the full names, addresses of authors, and e-mail address for the corresponding author. The working language of the workshop will be English.

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| Deadlines: | Submissions of abstracts | – 30 September |
| | Notification of acceptance | – 15 October |
| | Final Papers/Presentations | – 15 November |

Sources of Funding

Participants should seek their own resources to attend the workshop. Efforts are being made to mobilize resources to support a limited number of invited participants, especially from developing countries in Asia and the Pacific. Those who are interested in participating in the workshop, but do not have their own funding, are still encouraged to register. The workshop organizers will attempt to provide partial support.

Organization

The workshop is an initiative of the International Union of Forest Research Organization (IUFRO). It is being organized by Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) in technical collaboration with the Research Institute of Tropical Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry (RITF-CAF) of China, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI). It will be hosted by RITF-CAF in Guangzhou, Guangdong, China.

Registration

The deadline for registrations for the workshop is 31 October 2011.

Contact for Enquiries

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REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and send one copy to each of the following addressees as soon as possible (preferably no later than 31 October 2011).

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DELEGATE DETAILS

Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Other: Family Name:.....
Given Name:.....
Company/Organization:.....
Department:.....Position:.....
Mailing Address:.....
State:.....Postcode:.....Country:.....
Telephone:..... Facsimile:.....Email:.....

ACCOMMODATION

Please organize my accommodation as follows: Arrival:.....Departure:.....
Single, Double or Twin share:.....
I wish to share with:.....
Special Dietary Requirements:.....

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Arrival: Flight:.....Time:.....Date:.....
Departure: Flight:.....Time:.....Date:.....

PASSPORT INFORMATION

Passport No:Date of issue:.....Date of expiry:.....
Issuing Authority:.....Date and place of birth:.....