Technical Session (Div.5.06) on "Teak Resources for a Sustainable Future"

As part of IUFRO 2017 All Division 5 Conference with the theme ‘Forest Sector Innovations for a Greener Future’, IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div 5.06.02) in collaboration with TEAKNET –India organized a side event “Teak Resources for a Sustainable Future” on Friday, 16 June 2017 at Port of Singapore, Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront, Vancouver. Delegates from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, US and from other countries attended the session.

Prof.(Dr.) Yafang Yin from Chinese Academy of Forestry and Executive Secretary of International Association of Wood Anatomists (IAWA), Leiden, The Netherlands chaired and moderated the session. Five oral papers and one poster was presented in the session.

- Development of Teak Market and Industry: Challenges and ways forward
  Tetra Yanuariadi, ITTO, Japan

- Genetic gain in clonal deployment of teak (Tectona grandis Linn. f.) and operational implications at Novelteak Costa Rica
  Mario Espinoza, Novelteak, Costa Rica

- TEAKNET: a complete networking solution for the teak stakeholders
  Sreelakshmy MP, Thulasidas PK; TEAKNET, India
Effect of thermo-treatment on the physical, chemical and mechanical properties of wood *Tectona grandis* and *Gmelina arborea* from forest plantations

*Roger Moya, Costa Rica*

Global Teak Support Program for conservation and sustainable use of teak genetic resources

*Thulasidas PK (TEAKNET); Michael Kleine (IUFRO); Walter Kollert (FAO)*

**Poster:**

Shrinkage characteristics of plantation grown Teak (*Tectona grandis* Linn.) in Edo State, Nigeria

*Stephen Amiandamhen; David Izekor; University of Stellenbosch, South Africa*

The major highlights of the deliberations were:

Tetra Yanuariadi from ITTO, Japan presented the increasing trade potential of teak wood in international markets. Current trends show that global demand and importance of Teak will significantly increase as a business opportunity for the private sector and thereby providing a means of income for smallholder farmers. Interest and investments in establishing teak plantations in many tropical countries have increased. However, there are a number of challenges in the years to come in ensuring that plantation teak becomes as accepted in the market as teak from old growth forests in Myanmar. It is now essential and urgent for reforming and strengthening forest governance and reining in illegal logging and trade more efficiently and effectively. ITTO through different interventions facilitates member countries to increase competitiveness in the trade of teak wood.

Mario Espinosa from Novelteak Costa Rica explained the genetic improvement program undertaken by the company for increased genetic gain by commercial volume of 40% in average from their clonal plantations and identified clones with outstanding wood properties that could be used in future to fulfil market expectations.

M.P. Sreelakshmy from the TEAKNET Secretariat made a presentation on the network services provided on a global scale with regard to the dissemination of information on all aspects of teak cultivation and management and its current activities.

Roger Moya from the Technology Institute of Costa Rica presented the results of the effect of thermo-treatment carried out for increased durability and stability of teakwood and Gmelina wood.

P.K. Thulasidas, Coordinator of TEAKNET and WP Coordinator explained the Global Teak Support Programme currently initiated by TEAKNET, IUFRO and FAO with the objectives to conserve the existing natural teak resources for future genetic breeding programmes and sustainable management of planted teak in view of the imminent threat to its natural gene pool. As part of it, ITTO Japan commissioned a study on the ex-post evaluation and analysis of ITTO funded teak projects in Myanmar. Along with it, a Technical Report was also prepared. This Global Study Report now published includes policy recommendations and guidelines for future ITTO teak projects in promoting sustainable management of natural and planted teak in the tropics. He further informed the audience that the study report has been published as IUFRO World Series Publication No. 36 and is available online.

The paper by Stephen Amiandamhen, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa highlighted the shrinkage behaviour of plantation grown teak of 15, 20 and 25 years and postulated that plantation teakwood is stable with low shrinkage values and has high resistance to splits and end-checks in outdoor conditions.
Following the presentations by experts on various aspects of teak management, marketing and trade, the participants lauded the joint initiative by IUFRO, TEAKNET and FAO for the future efforts to conserve and sustainably manage the world’s teak genetic resources.

TEAKNET also set up an exhibition booth together with IAWA for the network activities and membership drive for greater visibility among the forest products community and delegates of IUFRO Division 5 conference.

The Local Organising Committee arranged an In-Conference tour on 14th June to some of the sightseeing locations including visit to Museum of Anthropology of the University of British Columbia and the historical UBC Botanic Garden and Tree-walk which was enjoyed by the delegates.

Report by Dr. P. K. Thulasidas
Coordinator, IUFRO Teakwood Working Party & Coordinator, TEAKNET

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Photo Gallery

Conference Opening ceremony

Tetra Yanuariadi from ITTO, Japan

Mario Espinoza, Novelteak Costa Rica

M.P. Sreelakshmy, TEAKNET - India