



ANNOUNCEMENT

Symposium on Forest Cooperation in Asia-Pacific Region

July 22-24th, 2019, Chifeng, China

I. Co-organizer

Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP)

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

II. Background

Forests provide habitats and sources of livelihoods to hundreds of millions of people in Asia-Pacific region where covered by 740 million hectares of forests, being endowed with 18 percent of global forest cover¹. However, with the rapid socio-economic and environmental development taking place in past decades, high speed economic development and population growth have led to increasing demands and consumption of forest products, and brought immense pressure to forests and risk of losing valuable ecosystem services that forests provide.

The contribution of forests to life and human-being, as well as values for the regional prosperity have drawn increasing 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

¹ FAO, Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), <http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/apfc/en/>

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes 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 persists to be 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 instruments addressing forest issues.

III. Objectives

1. To update current status of regional cooperation in supporting promote forest rehabilitation and SFM;
2. To exchange information, share experiences and foster closer cooperation among economies in the region; and
3. To form synergy in support of achieving Sydney Aspirational Goal and Goals related to Forest in 2030 SDGs.

IV. Expected Outcomes

To identify needs, priorities, and key areas for regional forest cooperation.

V. Dates & Venue

1. Dates: 22-24th July, 2019
2. Venue: Chifeng City, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China
3. Note: Participant is suggested to arrive in Beijing on 20th July, provided with hotel accommodation by organizer. Shuttle bus will be arranged on 21th July taking participants to the meeting venue in Chifeng (around 4 hours’ drive).

VI. Participants

Senior officials of APFNet member economies, senior officials of international organizations, honorable guests and renowned speakers will be invited to the symposium.

Representatives of APFNet council members, representatives of APFNet initiatives, international experts, representatives of APFNet project partners, and APFNet scholarship students are welcome to participate.

VII. Funding Policy

APFNet will cover the costs for participants from developing economies, including round-trip economy class airfare, accommodation and food during the meeting, plus a lump sum of allowance at APFNet standards. Please note that other expenses not mentioned in the Announcement will not be covered or reimbursed.

VIII. Tentative Program

22th July 2019 (Monday)	
09:00-09:30	Opening Ceremony & Welcome remarks
09:30-12:00	Plenary session with keynote speeches <i>Updating current status of regional forest cooperation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO RAP - ITTO - High level Officials from APFNet member economies - National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China - APFNet Secretariat
12:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-18:00	3 Concurrent sessions
18:00-20:00	Reception
Concurrent session I Forestry Planning and Policies Favoring Regional Cooperation	
14:00-14:20	Opening & Icebreaking
14:20-16:00	Presentations by APFNet member economies to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - present the efforts made and processes adopted for strengthening regional

	<p>cooperation component in forestry strategic planning, and to</p> <p>- share experience on how to enhance regional cooperation when implementing forestry plans in their respective economy.</p> <p>*5 representatives from different economies will give a 15-minute presentation each</p> <p>Q&A</p>
16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-17:30	Panel Discussion on forestry planning from the perspective of further enhancing regional cooperation; Q&A
17:30-18:00	Wrap-up
<p>Concurrent session II Experiences and Best Practices of International Organizations in Support of Regional Forest Cooperation</p>	
<p>Topic 1: Building Regional Cooperation for Effective Forest Restoration</p>	
14:00-14:05	Opening & Welcome
14:05-14:25	The Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM): Cooperation is key(FAO)
14:25-14:45	Building Cooperation on forest landscape restoration in the Asia-Pacific Region – Experiences learnt from IUCN projects
14:45-15:05	The Restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded and secondary tropical forests (ITTO)
15:05-15:25	Restoring Degraded Forest in Southeast Asia as a Model for a Greener Asia (AFoCo)
15:25-15:45	Q&A
15:45-16:15	Tea Break
<p>Topic 2: APFNet’s effort in Promoting Regional Forest Cooperation through Demonstration Projects</p>	
16:15-16:35	Supporting cooperation on regional forest observation in the GMS and Malaysia (present by CAF & IAs)
16:35-16:55	Supporting GMS economies on integrated forest ecosystem management planning and demonstration (present by APFNet)
16:55-17:10	Facilitating regional research cooperation on forest transition in nine economies in AP region

17:10-17:25	Networking researchers in six economies to study adaptation of Asia-Pacific forests to climate change (present by UBC)
17:25-17:40	Promoting cooperation among universities to innovate education in sustainable forest management (present by UBC)
17:40-17:55	Q&A
17:55-18:00	Wrap-up
Concurrent session III Promoting Capacity Building on Forest Cooperation in Asia Pacific region	
Topic 1: Higher forestry education	
14:00-14:15	Presentation from AP-FECM
14:15-14:30	Presentation from international organization
14:30-14:45	Presentation from regional university
14:45-15:00	Q&A
Topic 2: In-service training	
15:00-15:15	Presentation from independent expert
15:15-15:30	Presentation from forestry human resource development officials
15:30-15:45	Presentation from international organization/ university
15:45-16:15	Q&A
16:15-16:45	Tea break
16:45-17:45	Panel discussion
17:45-18:00	Wrap-up
23th July 2019 (Tuesday)	
09:00-11:00	Session 4: Economy- Level Best Practices Sharing of Regional Forest Cooperation * Representatives from Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and PNG will give a 20-minute presentation each
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)
24th July 2019 (Wednesday)	
09:00- 17:00	Field visit (forestry development in Chifeng, Inner Mongolia)

IX. Working Language

English

X. Administrative arrangements

Information note on detailed instructions on accommodation, and logistical arrangements will be sent to participants in due course.

XI. Deadline

Submission of the registration form: 30th May 2019.

XII. Contact Persons

- **High-level Official Attendance**

Ms. Lu Qian

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- **Keynote Speaker Attendance**

Mr. Huang Kebiao

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- **General Information of the Symposium**

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