



Teak Mekong Newsletter

August 2023 - Volume 5(4)

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TEAK Mekong Newsletter support and facilitates teak networking in the Mekong sub-region through ITTO member countries and partners, and support sharing lessons of the project results through short news release, occasional papers, project related teak-based research and development information. The bi-monthly newsletter is released online through TEAKNET webpage www.teaknet.org and co-hosted by Kasetsart University, Thailand.

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Cairns, Australia 4-8 June 2023

IUFRO All Division 5 Conference, 4-8 June 2023, Cairns, Australia

A Side Event hosted by the IUFRO Teakwood Working Party, ITTO and Teaknet examines challenges and opportunities for boosting teak value chain

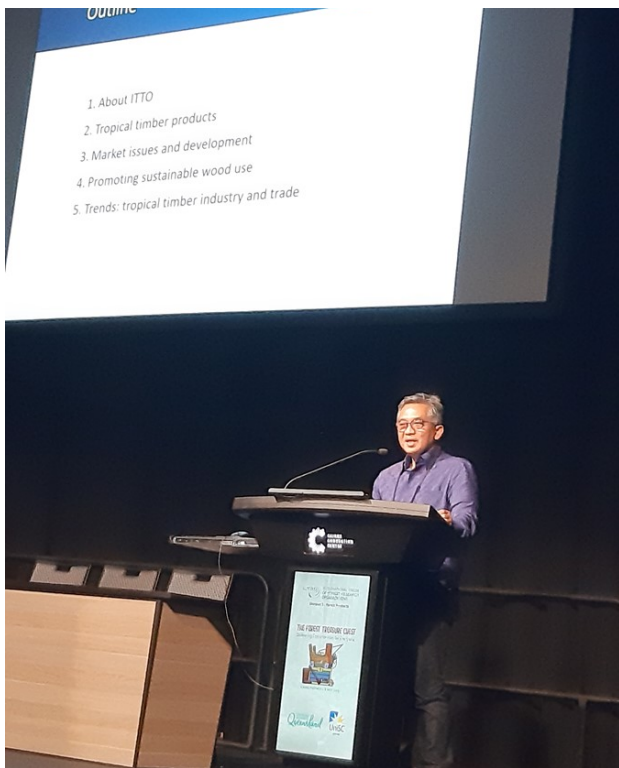


Participants and organizers of Partner Event on Teak

A Teak Side Event entitled "Teakwood Quality: Challenges and Opportunities" was convened jointly by IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (D5.06.02), ITTO, Japan and TEAKNET-India on Tuesday, 6th June 2023 at the IUFRO All Division 5 Conference held in Cairns, Australia.

Teak is a high priority tropical species for industries and planted forest in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The global trade of teakwood is estimated at around 1.02 million m³ per year, dominated by India, China and Thailand followed by marginal volume by Vietnam. About 70 countries have teak plantations and the future world supply is expected to come from 15-25 yr rotations.

The IUFRO - ITTO-Teaknet Side Event examined promoting value chains for teak timber products through value-added product development, establishment of incentive mechanisms to promote legal and sustainable teak supply chains and investment in teak plantations. “Changes in the global trading environment for tropical timbers, including teak, are occurring at a rapid pace,” said Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi, Project Manager, ITTO, Japan in his presentation. This requires a longer-term view to enable tropical timber industry policy decisions to be effective. According to Dr. Yanuariadi, demand for tropical primary and secondary wood products is a derived demand, driven by residential, non-residential and public construction activity and by consumer wealth and spending.



Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi, ITTO

Tropical timber producer countries need to regularly assess the competitiveness of their products in international markets to ensure continued maintenance of production and trade of sustainably managed tropical timber products, said Dr. Yanuariadi. Ensuring a sustainable tropical timber trade requires optimizing the utilization and improving productivity of production forests, which will, in turn, benefit conservation and protected forests, in terms of reducing pressures and disturbances.

According to Mr. Komlan Houelete, Sector Manager, Silviculture and Forest Management, Togo Forest Development and Exploitation Office, teak represents the best opportunity to produce quality timber and is thus of major importance to their forestry economies. For many tropical countries, establishment and management of planted teak forests have attracted large investment from the corporate sector. Teakwood in Togo is mainly produced by state owned company and smallholder teak producers contributing substantially to the country's economy. India is the main destination for teak exports from Togo.



Mr. Komlan Houelete, Togo

Speakers at the side-event also addressed forest biomass utilization for bioenergy industry development. Dr. Jingxin Wang, Director, Center for Sustainable Biomaterials & Bioenergy, West Virginia University, reported an integrated modeling framework for the supply chain management of forest biomass utilization for bioenergy, including components of regional suitability and facility citing assessments and supply chain optimization.



Dr. Jingxin Wang, West Virginia University, USA

The model indicated 30 industrial sites as the top priority sites for forest biomass-based bioenergy industry development in high- suitable areas, which accounted for 24.26% of the total area of the entire region. The delivered cost of forest biomass for these sites is assumed to range from

\$41.90 -50.17 per dry Mg, with a mean of \$44.77. When the carbon emission of the biomass supply chain is reduced from 0 to 3.3%, the average delivered cost of biomass would increase 13.63% from \$44.77 to \$50.87 /dry Mg, and the average opportunity cost of the carbon emission reduction is \$15.37/Mg CO₂ eq.

During the side-event, Dr. PK Thulasidas, representing Teaknet, reported that ITTO, Thailand’s Kasetsart University and Teaknet collaborated in implementing the BMEL supported project, “Enhancing the conservation and sustainable management of teak forests and legal and sustainable wood supply chains in the Greater Mekong Sub-region”, which was completed in 2022. The planning of the second phase of this collaboration, which will have a greater focus on the production of high-quality teak timber is in progress, including the organization of teak side events at the IUFRO World Congress in June 2024 at Stockholm, Sweden, and at the upcoming 5th World Teak Conference 2025 in India.

The 5- day conference concluded with an optional post-conference tour on Friday, 9th June to ride on the Skyrail to the Kuranda, flying above the world’s oldest tropical rainforest, and to the Walkamin Research Station, to see first-hand 20 years of research trials. The IUFRO All Division 5 conference was attended by over 300 participants from 26 countries.



A view of audience in teak partner event



Report by

PK Thulasidas, Dy. Coordinator, IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div5.06.02) & Tetra Yanuariadi, ITTO, Japan

Teak producers and traders are invited to participate in the global teak resources and market assessment study



Teaknet, the international information network on teak (*Tectona grandis*), has undertaken a worldwide study through a questionnaire survey on the global importance and market of teak with the aim of analysing the teak resources available for the next couple of decades for multilateral trade relations between exporting and importing countries. Producers from around 80 countries that sell wood from this species are participating in the study, which is supported by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) through its Special Program for the Development of Capacities (IUFRO – SPDC) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). This work is supported by five regional coordinators¹, mainly from national forest research institutions, who will manage the communication with the identified contact persons and monitor the distribution and collection of the questionnaires. In Asia and Oceania, the regional coordinator is PK Thulasidas (email: thulasidas.teak@gmail.com), Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div. 5.06.02) who is making contact with government officials/forest department, research organisations, producers and companies in the 22 teak growing countries in the region. Other regional coordinators are concentrating on Africa and Latin America for collating information.

The study is a continuation of work carried out by FAO, “Teak Resources and Market Assessment 2010”, as part of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 (FRA 2010). The results of the 2010 study estimated the area of natural teak forests at 29 million hectares in India, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand, almost half of which was in Myanmar. Planted teak forests were found to be the only valuable tropical hardwood to constitute a globally emerging forest resource at an estimated 4.346 million hectares, of which 83% were located in Asia, 11% in Africa, and 6% in tropical America. However, due to the lack of data from 22 teak-producing countries, it is considered that these numbers on plantations are underestimated.

Ever since the 2010 study was carried out, several events have had an impact on the international teak sector: the area of forest plantations with the species has increased in many African, Asian and Latin American countries and the international trade in teak wood in logs and sawn wood expanded. However, Myanmar, the most important producer of teakwood from natural forests, imposed a log export ban in April 2014 aimed at conserving its natural forests. These events led the 4th World Teak Conference, held in Ghana in September 2022, to recommend that an update to the 2010 report on global teak resources and markets be urgently undertaken.

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The data will be collated through a standardized questionnaire available in Chinese, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish language (The questionnaire is available with the regional coordinators and Teaknet secretariat). As many teak plantations are owned or managed by private companies, particularly in South America, it is of utmost importance to note in this context that the resource data reported in each particular questionnaire will be aggregated at national level. Thus, it will not be possible to trace resource data back to any public or private entity within a given country, thus protecting the interest of each participating organisations. Information on the international trade of teak roundwood and sawn timber also to be included in this report will be captured from official customs records - for instance, the UN Comtrade database - that publishes teak data since January 2022.

The information on teak resources and markets will be published nationally and globally in 2024 by IUFRO, in one of its publication series and made available free of charge to all interested parties. "It is hoped that these results and findings will facilitate a better assessment of the importance of teak resources and international trade, providing policy and decision makers, investors and managers with a better understanding of the important role that teak is playing in the world today. supplying wood products to the national economies of many countries", evaluate Walter Kollert and S. Sandeep from Teaknet, who are coordinating this study. The study team cordially invite the respective forest ministry/forest departments of country, research organisations, private planters, producers and traders of teakwood to take part in this important study and share data to any of the regional coordinators listed in this report.

(Source: Teaknet News Release. www.teanet.org)

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ITTO Teak Mekong Newsletter is a bi-monthly electronic newsletter of the Project Team which is intended for circulation among the stakeholders of global teak sector. The views expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization. The readers are welcome to express their opinions or pass on information concerned with teak. However, we reserves the information on the project and publishing through this newsletter for our esteemed readers.

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