



Teak Mekong Newsletter

June 2022 - Volume 4(3)

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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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New Opportunities for Teak Sector in the Post-COVID Scenario

The poster features a green background with a white central box. At the top left is the XV World Forestry Congress logo. To its right, the text reads 'XV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS' and 'Building a Green, Healthy and Resilient Future with Forests' with the dates '2-6 May 2022 | Coex, Seoul, Republic of Korea'. The central box contains the event title 'TEAKNET Side Event' and 'New Opportunities for Teak Sector in the Post COVID-19 Scenario' under the sub-theme 'The green pathway to growth and sustainability'. The date and time are 'Thursday, May 5, 2022 | 9:30 - 11:30 AM (KST)'. At the bottom, logos for TEAKNET, IUFRO, and ITTO are displayed under the heading 'Organizers'.

Under Sub-Theme III: The Green Pathway to Growth and Sustainability Thursday, 5 May 2022 | 09:30- 11:30 AM (GMT +9)

Organizers



An ITTO sponsored TEAKNET Side Event of 2 hr duration entitled “*New opportunities of Teak Sector in the post-COVID Scenario*” was successfully organized alongside FAO’s XV World Forestry Congress in Coex, Seoul, Republic of Korea on 5 May 2022 under the sub-theme ‘*The Green Pathway to Growth and Sustainability*’. The Side Event was jointly organized by TEAKNET in

association with IUFRO Teakwood Working (Div.5.06.02) and ITTO Japan in a hybrid mode that facilitated participants join remotely from different time zones across the globe. The session was moderated by Dr. S. Sandeep, TEAKNET Coordinator. As many as 40 participants from different countries attended the Side Event.

Teak is one of the most valuable tropical hardwoods in the world. As part of the sustainable management of teak genetic resources, TEAKNET is currently collaborating with ITTO Japan in the implementation of ITTO Teak Mekong project in the Greater Mekong sub-region comprising five participating countries *viz*, Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Cambodia. The Side Event gives an opportunity to assess the impact of post COVID-19 Scenario in the teak sector and to highlight

the achievements of the remarkable ITTO teak project results to the wider audience of the World Forestry Congress. The specific objectives of the session was to examine the multiple aspects of sustainable teak management in the Mekong sub-region and the impacts of climate change on natural teak forests; the good practices of conservation, management and sustainable use of teakwood products and an update of the forthcoming 4th World Teak Conference in Ghana during 5-8 Sept 2022.

Programme Schedule

Thursday, 5 May 2022 | 09:30- 11:30 AM (GMT +9)

| Session Moderator: Dr. S. Sandeep, TEAKNET Coordinator | | |
|--|--|--|
| 09:30 – 09:40 | Opening Remarks | Ms. Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director, ITTO, Japan |
| 09:40 – 09:45 | Welcome address (Virtual) | Dr. Michael Kleine, Dy. Executive Director, IUFRO HQ, Vienna, Austria |
| 09:45 - 09:55 | New opportunities for Teak sector in the post COVID-19 Scenario | Dr. S. Sandeep TEAKNET Coordinator, Kerala Forest Research Institute, India |
| 09:55 – 10:05 | Teak in the tropics for a sustainable future | Dr. MA Hwan-ok, Senior Project Manager, ITTO, Japan |
| 10:05 – 10:15 | Sustainable management of natural teak forests in Myanmar (Virtual) | Dr. Zar Chi Hlaing Staff Officer, Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar |
| 10:15 – 10:25 | Teak plantations in Cambodia | Mr. Chheang Dany Dy. Director General, Forestry Administration, Cambodia |
| 10:25 – 10:35 | Smallholders group forest certification in Vietnam | Dr Tran Lam Dong Director, Silvicultural Research Institute, Vietnamese Academy of Forest Science, Hanoi, Vietnam |
| 10:35 – 10:45 | Predicted Climate Change Impact on Natural Teak Forests in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (Virtual) | Prof. Dr. Yongyut Trisurat Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand |
| 10:45 – 10:55 | Modified Taungya Plantation as a Rural Development Initiative to Restore Landscapes and Enhance Livelihoods in Ghana (Virtual) | Mr. Hugh Brown, Director of Operations (Plantations) Forest Services Division, Forestry Commission, Accra, Ghana |
| 10:55 – 11:05 | Q & A session | |
| 11:05 – 11:20 | 4 th World Teak Conference 2022 updates from LOC, Ghana | Ms. Valerie Fumey Nassah Head of Plantations Department Resource Management Support Centre , Forestry Commission of Ghana, Kumasi |
| 11:25 – 11:30 | Wrap up & closing remarks | Dr. MA Hwan-ok, ITTO, Japan |



Opening address by Ms. Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director, ITTO, Japan

Ms. Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director, ITTO, Japan in her Opening remarks hailed IUFRO, TEAKNET, ITTO partnership in promoting sustainable management of teak forests in the tropics. The covid-19 pandemic has serious impact on

the forest sector and this includes teak sector as well. Teak forests and hardwood products can contribute to a post Covid-19 world through improvements in securing livelihoods and contributing towards increased sustained economic growth in the long-term. Further, ITTO has always recognized the importance of enhancing the continuous supply of legal and sustainable timber and non-timber products. However, achieving sustainable supply chains requires enabling policies, supporting institutional arrangements, sufficient and sustainable financial resources as well as provision of positive incentives that promote and support them. Given the importance of teak, in 2017, IUFRO, ITTO and Teaknet jointly published a global teak book addressing the best practices of conservation of teak genetic resources and sustainable management of teak forests in Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Africa. Subsequent implementation of ITTO teak project now underway in 5 Mekong countries of the sub-region, the country partners are sharing the project results and lessons learned to the WFC participants. She call upon the international organizations, national governments and other stakeholders jointly promote the key message that has to be disseminated widely is that ***“harvesting sustainably and legally produced timber products from sustainably managed forests is not deforestation”*** to overcome public misconceptions about the role of the timber trade in tropical deforestation. This is in line with ITTO meeting all the targets of Article 6 under the Paris Agreement, the SDGs, the global forest goals and post 2020 global biodiversity framework. It is essential, therefore, that we put our collective effort into increasing public awareness that harvesting timber sustainably is not deforestation while also stimulating and incentivizing legal and sustainable timber supply chains.

She hoped that the side event will propose recommended actions at local, national and international levels for the development and effective implementation of legal and sustainable supply chains of teak in support of SFM in the tropics.



Welcome remarks by Dr. Michael Kleine, Dy. Executive Director, IUFRO HQ, Vienna

Dr. Michael Kleine, Dy. Executive Director, IUFRO in his welcome remarks (virtual) highlighted the longstanding association of IUFRO with TEAKNET in support of its activities of organizing meetings and conferences in many parts of the world. Over the years, IUFRO through its Special Programme for Development of Capacities (SPDC) has repeatedly provided financial resources for the participation of forest scientists in scientific events and conferences organized by TEAKNET such as past World Teak Conferences (WTC) in Thailand and Ecuador and will continue its support for the upcoming WTC in Accra, Ghana during September 2022. IUFRO has a very active teak working party under its Forest Products Division, and since its establishment continuously promoting teak R & D and networking globally. The fruitful collaboration between IUFRO SPDC and TEAKNET resulted in a global teak study report in 2017 that helped to develop a larger project for the genetic conservation of natural teak resources and planted teak forests in the greater Mekong region funded by the German Government through ITTO. The topic of this TEAKNET Side Event is very much relevant today because the economic and social framework conditions have dramatically changed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The session will discuss on redefining the role of teak as an established tropical timber in the global market and how teak trade can help to recover from the devastating events caused by the pandemic. Because today, teak is widely cultivated in plantations outside its natural range, approaches to teak plantation development as part of landscape restoration supporting biodiversity conservation will need to be addressed.



Dr. S. Sandeep, TEAKNET Coordinator

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sandeep, Teaknet Coordinator introduced the side event topic in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic that caused devastating disruptions and recession in the global teak market and trade. The prospects of

long-rotation teak is safer in the long-run even after the pandemic, however, the short-rotation teak especially from smallholder agroforestry systems has been badly affected, and many processing units closed down, workers lost their employment and livelihood, and the recession affected all sectors along the supply/value chains that may continue for another 4-5 years to recoup or recover. In future, the smallholder teak forestry systems will play an important role as it will be the major supplier of teakwood products to the global market. There exists greater opportunities for teak in the landscape restoration, because about 1.5 billion ha area are available globally in which teak could be used with other land use systems. Moreover, teak could be a bridge to green recovery process and the future. Dr. Sandeep concluded his talk by giving a future outlook for the teak sector in the post COVID-19 scenario and call upon the development of region-specific management strategies and partnership between national governments for effective forest policies and legislation towards inclusive and integrated teak-based SFM.



Dr. Ma Hwan-ok, ITTO, Japan

Dr. Ma Hwan-ok, Senior Projects Manager from ITTO, Japan gave an overview of sustainable management of teak in the tropics and the ITTO supported teak project currently underway in Mekong sub-region. Teak has great potential and high demand in the international market due to its

sterling properties. The teak genetic resource base is losing its biodiversity in its natural range. Good teak

plantations can come up from good quality seedlings obtained from well-maintained seed orchards. Citing examples of teak plantation investments in countries like Brazil, where Teak Resources Company in Mato Grosso has around 40,000 ha planted teak with enhanced yield of around MAI 14-20 m³/year/ha under strict silvicultural production systems followed in their plantations with the use of own teak clones. Similar is the case with W. Java in Indonesia where 1.5 million smallholder households grow teak and their high demand of teakwood furniture find place in the export market in EU. In Indonesia, growth of improved teak clones of incredible yield of MAI 17.8 m³/ha/yr harvestable dimension achieved at 8 years. Likewise, intensive management of teak plantations and irrigation management shorten the rotation length to 5 years with MAI of around 20 m³/ha/yr as per the initial results recorded in the case of FARM TEAK from Cambodia. The Form Ghana Ltd in Kumasi, Ghana grows teak and the partnership with farmer group is supported with incentives and livelihood for a decent living. If smallholder teak planters can get technical support and incentives, teak plantations and woodlots could serve as 'tree bank' offering secured interest and acts as a personalized 'pension fund' to the farmers. The wood quality of such fast grown teak of short rotations and products manufactured do not have the matching quality as that of mature teak and the processing technologies need to be improved for its wide acceptance in the market. Dr. Ma then highlighted the salient achievements of the Teak Mekong project in 5 countries of the Mekong sub-region promoting improvement of teak genetic resources enhancement, smallholder teak supply and value chains.

Dr. Zar Chi Hlaing from Myanmar Forest Department in her virtual talk on the sustainable management of teak in Myanmar informed that the forest management system in

the country has been redefined to bring conservative silviculture into harmony with profitable extraction of timber including teak on a sustainable basis. According to GFRA (2020), Myanmar is still endowed with a forest cover of 42.19 % of the country's total land area, which is considered as one of the highest forested areas in the Asia-Pacific region.



Forest Department apply the Myanmar Selection System (MSS) to manage the forest resources since 1856 until now; however, MSS is needed to either modify or implement a gradual transformation to cover the natural forest to a uniform system. Accordingly, the Modified Myanmar Selection System (MMSS) was revised to include in-situ and ex-situ conservation of natural resources, introduction of log export ban for (one year) the whole country in 2014 and 10 years in Bago Yoma Region. And also a 10-year Myanmar Reforestation and Rehabilitation programme (MRRP) launched in 2016 that allow a 10-yr fallow period in the natural forests in Bago Yoma Range which is the home of teak in Myanmar. The legality programme like FLEGT and MTLAS (Myanmar Timber Legality and Assurance System) was also recently redefined for the effective implementation of conservation of natural resources.

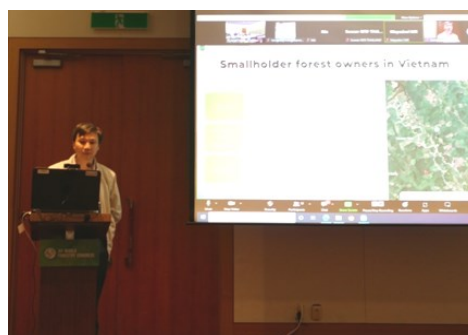


Mr. Chheang Dany, Dy. Director General, Forestry Administration, Cambodia

Mr. Chheang Dany, Dy. Director General, Forestry Administration of Cambodia and National Coordinator of ITTO Teak Mekong project in his talk on teak plantation in Cambodia highlighted that

the country do not have natural teak and have about 6,100 ha of teak plantations mostly owned by the private sector like Grandis Timber Ltd, Teak Farm etc. practicing intensive silviculture management like irrigation, thinning and pruning to maximize the yield for harvesting at short rotation of 8-10 years. There are challenges in investment opportunities of teak as it requires substantial capital investment for a long-term of 20-25 years and the smallholders cannot afford to it as a profitable business unless incentivizing and enabling policy support to interim livelihood options provided. Moreover, limited knowledge on genetically improved planting material and lack of silvicultural techniques, insufficient technology and innovation in product development and market supply and value chain to reach to international market hinder the investment in tree planting. Hence, the way forward for the inclusive sustainable development of teak sector is to facilitate and develop modalities for public-private investment in

plantation development and teak product value chain, access to market information sharing of price trends in domestic and international market opportunities, improvement of teak genetics and silvicultural practices etc. as mentioned before, develop and promote tree planting initiative via ITC infrastructure platform and encourage green investment in tree planting.



Dr. Tran Lam Dong, Vietnamese Academy of Forest Science

Dr. Tran Lam Dong from Vietnamese Academy of Forest Science gave a talk on smallholder group forest certification in Vietnam with emphasis on

the pilot models of PEFC/VFCS. The objective of the PEFC/VFCS was to formulate guidelines for implementation of SFM in smallholder group certification in Vietnam and recommend suitable linkage modes for group certification. Teak is not the priority species in the country where Acacia and Eucalyptus are the commercial plantation species with a cutting rotation of 4-7 years and the major export is in the form of wood chips. There are about 1.5 million ha households and approx. 2 million ha of commercial plantations. The productivity (MAI) is about 20 m³/ha/yr. The income is around USD 350-450 ha/yr. Dr. Dong continued to elaborate the difficulties and challenges in implementing SFM in the country owing to fragmented small-scale land owners having inadequate knowledge and compliance about SFM coupled with multiple factors of access to scientific support and availability of high quality seedlings. Linkages of smallholders and wood processing company for group forest management and certification are an important solution. Presently there are about 31 smallholder groups with approx. 75,000 ha are FSC certified in Vietnam that include the pilot models of cooperative and cooperative alliance-PEFC/VFCS. For effective linkages with farmer groups and cooperative alliance a platform for connecting smallholders, iTWood (<http://itwood.org.vn/>) was developed, which facilitates a traceability system (QR code of plantations), capacity building and market access. The VFCS certification is still new with the all enterprises/smallholders in Vietnam.



Prof. Dr. Yongyut, Project Leader, ITTO Teak Mekong Project from Kasetsart University, Thailand in his short virtual address highlighted the results of the studies carried out on the impact of climate change, especially the temperature and rainfall on the distribution pattern of teak in Lao, Myanmar and Thailand based on species distribution model (SDM). The study report warned that there are chances of slight decrease in the area of teak from the already estimated 29 million ha to 20-25 ha in future due to temperature increase and low rainfall, since teak is a climate resilient tropical timber species. Further, the natural distribution of teak may shift towards north in Myanmar and Lao PDR. Hence, it is encouraged to undertake *in situ* conservation measures by expanding the protected areas to safeguard natural teak forests to cope with shift in distributions in line with anticipated future climate changes. At the same time, *ex-situ* conservation is also required to arrest the genetic erosion and conservation of teak genetic resources for which ITTO Teak project with the support of German government is implementing action oriented teak management in Mekong sub-region.



In the brief virtual address by Mr. Hugh Brown from the Forestry Commission of Ghana explained the unique feature of Modified Taungya System (MTS), how it promotes job creation and wealth through forest-based livelihoods, income from timber sales, enhancing food security and landscape restoration by exploring the enormous possibilities

Forestry Commission piloted and rolled out in partnership with smallholder farmers in fringe communities that allows inter-cropping with timber plantations in the benefit sharing of harvested timber. At the end of 2021, approx. 230,000 ha of plantations have been established across the country, out of which 60,000 ha established under MTS with almost 70% planted with teak. Promotion of plantations likely to provide enormous benefits of sustainable livelihoods, increased supply of timber, job creation and income generation to land owners and farmers, increased industrial production of raw material and foreign exchange earnings, increased food supply by proper integration of agricultural component. Thus, it contributes directly and indirectly to SDG1, 13 and 15 as well as Ghana’s commitment to AFR100/Bonn Challenge.

On the updates of 4th World Teak Conference (WTC 2022), Accra, Ghana during 5-8 September 2022 being jointly organized by TEAKNET, Forestry Commission of Ghana, IUFRO, ITTO with the technical support of FAO of United Nations, Ms. Valerie representing the Local Organizing Committee of WTC call upon the participants of WTC to actively consider joining and sponsoring this global event convened by TEAKNET once in every 4-5 years exclusively for the high value globally traded teakwood and timber products. The previous three WTC’s were held in Thailand, Costa Rica and Ecuador.



Ms. Valerie Fumey Nassah, LOC, Forestry Commission of Ghana



Major deadlines

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Registrations opens | : 01 Jan 2022 |
| Abstract submission opens | : 01 Jan 2022 |
| Deadline for abstract submission | : 28 th Feb 2022 |
| End of early bird registration | : 30 th June 2022 |
| 3 rd announcement /Preliminary prog. | : 31 st July 2022 |
| Registration deadline | : 31 st August 2022 |
| Conference starts | : 05 th Sept, 20 |

There are ample opportunities during the 3-days WTC event for direct network and B2B meet with leaders in teak trade, processors and developers to boost teak trade. The deadline for early bird registration is until 30 June 2022. For the WTC updates, please visit the website <https://www.worldteakconference2020.com/>

Key messages of TEAKNET Side Event

The side event proposes recommended actions at local, national and international levels for the development and effective implementation of legal and sustainable supply chains of teak in support of SFM in the tropics.

The salient key messages shared with the participants of WFC are:

- * Harvesting sustainably and legally produced timber products from sustainably managed forests is not deforestation;
- * increase the productivity of smallholder teak plantations by using high quality genetic planting material and follow appropriate silvicultural practices for quality timber production;
- * Create smallholder teak farmer group for effective value chains and support incentive mechanism for their sustainable livelihoods;
- * Promote innovative certification schemes for smallholders;
- * Enhance networking between growers, processors and traders as well as public-private partnerships.

The TEAKNET, IUFRO, ITTO teak project team and the participants of Side Event are looking forward to the long-term gains of teak sector beyond Covid-19 pandemic for a sustainable teak in the tropics for a sustainable future. The 2 hr side event came to a close with the vote of thanks by Dr. Ma from ITTO for actively participating in the deliberations and hopes to meet again during the forthcoming 4th World Teak Conference in Ghana in September 2022.



Key speakers and delegates of TEAKNET Side event at WFC, Seoul, S.Korea

[Photo courtesy: TEAKNET]

The video presentation of Side Event is available in TEAKNET YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHVS5xeMSBQ>

Report by

PK Thulasidas, International Consultant, ITTO Teak Mekong project & Former TEAKNET Coordinator



IUFRO All Division 5 Conference 2023

4-8 June, Cairns, Australia

The IUFRO All Division 5 (Forest Products) 2023 Conference will be held at the Cairns Convention Centre, 4 - 8 June 2023 with the theme *"The Forest Treasure Chest: Delivering Outcomes for Everyone"*. The previous conference was held in 2017 in Vancouver, Canada 5 years ago in which more than 800 delegates from different countries participated.

Abstract submission for the conference is now open !

All Abstracts are to be submitted online on or before
8 August 2022

Teak Session in IUFRO All Division 5 Conference

IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div 5.06.02) is organising a 2 hr session during this conference in collaboration with TEAKNET- India and ITTO, Japan. The Teak Session is coming under S13 as shown in the Conference Website <https://www.iufro-div5-2023.com/copy-of-call-for-session-proposals>

Organizers



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For more details : <https://www.iufro-div5-2023.com/>

Session Description

Teak (*Tectona grandis* L.f.) is the most common priority species for industries and planted forest in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Oceania. The high demanding teak timber is traded across the world because of its unique aesthetic properties of golden brown color, medium density and strength, ease of workability, high durability and decay resistance to invading fungi and insects. As per the latest reports of ITTO, the COVID-19 pandemic on wood products production, consumption and trade has caused major disruptions in the global economy to an estimated contraction of 3.3 percent in 2020 and in the second half, the global financial situation improved after ease of lifting the lockdown in many countries and is expected to grow by 6% in 2021-22. Global trade in teak roundwood is over 1.02 million cubic meters annually dominated by India, China and Thailand followed by marginal volume by Vietnam. Of the managed teak plantations in about 70 countries, it is certain that in future, world's supply of teakwood will come from short rotation plantations of 15-25 yrs and other proportions from commercial thinnings. This session will examine 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 for teak forests. Other areas of interest include genetically improved planting material for quality timber production, application and adoption of enhanced processing technologies, appropriate trading policies and standards, scaling up international cooperation, partnerships and networking to promote the contributions of sustainable teakwood products in addressing climate change and SDG's.

WTC is here again !!

All roads and flights leads to Ghana in West Africa for the 4th World Teak Conference in September 2022

Don't miss the early-bird registration!

Deadline: 30 June 2022!

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For more details please visit the conference website

www.worldteakconference2020.com

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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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