

ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK

Forestry in a changing world



A summary of events of the first Asia-Pacific Forestry Week



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ISBN 978-92-5-106212-8

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Cover design: Chanida Chavanich

Photo credits: Session plates, FAO

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Printed and published in Bangkok, Thailand



Asia-Pacific Forestry Week

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**A summary of events of the first Asia-Pacific Forestry Week
Hanoi, Viet Nam**

21-26 April 2008





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication, summarizing the outcomes of various events held throughout Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, is the end product of efforts by many individuals and organizations. The Week was in some senses a series of self-contained, “mini-events” – the organizers of many of which produced their own reports–the banner of “Forestry Week” provided the venue, the direction and the coherence to the various independent efforts, and this publication attempts to serve the same purpose. The original concept and direction behind Forestry Week and this resulting publication came from Patrick Durst (APFC Secretary), though the various partner organizations strongly shaped their respective events.



Deserving of particular acknowledgement is the tremendous role played by Viet Nam in hosting and co-organizing the event. Following this are acknowledgement of the roles played by the organizations that led the skilful planning and coordination of the three thematic days. These include: for the “Social Day,” The Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) and the Asia Forest Network (AFN); for the “Environment Day,” the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); and for the “Economic Day,” the Asia Forest Partnership (AFP), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

Thanks go to the multiple parallel event organizers, the reports of those who produced them, are compiled here. Specifically, summaries and final reports are included here from the following organizations: Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), Asia-Pacific Network on Research and Development of Teak (TEAKNET), National Forest Programme Facility (NFP)/FAO, International Model Forests Network Secretariat (IMFNS), East Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Task Force and Advisory Group, Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN), Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Netherlands Development Organization (SNV), University of Melbourne, Southeast Asian Network for Agroforestry Education (SEANAPE), The Nature Conservancy, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Asia Forest Network (AFN), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), British Council, World Conservation Union (IUCN), World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF), International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF).

Sincere thanks to the many organizations that provided financial support to Forestry Week, as well as the vast array of colleagues and institutions who lent their time, energy and expertise to make Forestry Week a success.



FOREWORD

It was not without some reservations that some of us at FAO, not to mention our colleagues in Viet Nam, entertained the idea of hosting a first-ever “Forestry Week for Asia and the Pacific”. It seemed a bit grandiose, both in name, and in ambition. While it appeared that there was considerable scope to positively impact the regional forestry sector with this event, it also presented challenges of an entirely new scale – including potential for logistical disaster! In hindsight, the event turned out to be visionary – leading to synergies that otherwise would not have taken place, in a sector which stands to benefit greatly from collaboration and multidisciplinary approaches. I can say with conviction that the first Asia-Pacific Forestry Week was a great success and an initiative for which all the organizers can be proud. It has even led to calls for similar initiatives in other regions.

This is not to minimize the effort that went into organizing and hosting this event. Our Vietnamese colleagues were every bit as hospitable as could be hoped for. While they may not have fully recognized the magnitude of the task from the offset – few of us did – they graciously rose to the occasion. Significant amounts of time and energy were invested to expand and reinvent the 22nd session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission session into a far more encompassing and innovative event. The lead in organizing the three thematic pillars: social, environmental and economic was undertaken by partner organizations, bringing an infusion of new thought, creative synthesis and strengthened collaboration. The partner organizations have left their stamps on the resulting summaries of each of these sessions with the result being a mosaic of dialogues, presentations and insights emerging from the Week.

“Asia-Pacific Forestry Week: Forestry in a Changing World - A summary of events of the first Asia-Pacific Forestry Week” provides a roadmap of the week. For those who had the good fortune to be in attendance, this publication offers a colorful and comprehensive review – for those who were not able to be there, a flavor of what transpired. This publication truly represents the best of what can result from translating forward-thinking into action.



He Changchui

Assistant Director-General and
FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific



Photo contest winning photograph



"My Forest, My Home"
Eko Bambang Subiantoro
2008

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