

5.5 Presentation Materials of Opening Session

Opening Address by FAO

Mr. Jose Antonio Prado
Director
Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation Division
FAO of the UN,

Mr LEE Sang-Gil, Vice Minister of Korea Forest Service, Professor LEE Don Koo, President of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Dr CHOI Wan Yong, Director General of Korea Forest Research Institute, Dr Claude Vidal, Director of France National Inventory, Dr John Coulston, USDA Forest Service, Mr Hiroki Miyazono, Japanese International Cooperation Agency and distinguished and honourable participants, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour and privilege for me to welcome you all to this workshop “*Promoting and Strengthening a Multi-purpose National Forest Inventory System in the Asia Pacific Region in Connection with Climate Change*”, organized by FAO and hosted by the Korea Forest Service and the Korea Forest Research Institute.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we all know, forests are today in the very centre of the international discussion on climate change, on the one hand as one of the most important sources of carbon emissions, with more than 17% of the total global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, and on the other hand, through conservation, sustainable management and restoration, as the most rapid and cost effective way to reduce carbon emissions.

Recently, countries participating in COP 15 of the UN Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen recognized the crucial role of forests in addressing climate change and made a decision on methodological guidance for REDD+, recognizing the importance of the reduction of emissions for deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks and making a call to countries not only to identify the main causes of deforestation and forest degradation, but also to establish national monitoring systems using remote sensing combined with ground based forest inventory approaches. The COP also called the countries to support and strengthen the capacities of developing countries in collecting, accessing and interpreting forest related data.

Additionally, both developed and developing countries agreed that greenhouse gas reductions should be subject to international monitoring and verification.

Under these circumstances, the importance of national forest inventories is receiving widespread attention in the international forestry community.

FAO, with a long history supporting countries in improving their national inventory capacity, is responding to these requirements.

FAO, UNDP and UNEP have created the UN-REDD programme to support countries in their preparations for the mechanisms that are being discussed under the UNFCCC. Nine pilot countries are now recipients of financial and technical support by the UN-REDD programme with a view to establishing sound, national REDD platforms.

In this context, FAO is also strengthening and modernizing its traditional National Forest Monitoring and Assessment programme, in order to respond to the need for broader and more detailed information about forest ecosystems, and also to fully align the programme with the IPCC requirements for REDD+.

In the light of this, the importance of National Forest Inventory in relation to climate change has gained widespread attention in the international forest community.

It is in this framework that we gather here today, to review the situation of the countries in the region as concerns their national forests assessments and to look forward strategically.

The workshop has two objectives: first, to generate a common understanding about the need for NFI for national policy-making systems and for reporting to the international processes; second, to propose a common strategy on how to move forwards, both from the methodological point of view and as regards financial resource mobilization.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Korea Forest Service not only for supporting this workshop but also for its important support to the National Forest Monitoring and Assessment Programme of FAO. I should also like to thank the Korean Forest Research Institute for preparing this valuable workshop. I am deeply grateful too to Korean participants from the University and related organizations and all those others who have contributed to making this workshop possible and successful.

I welcome you all once again and hope that your three days here in Seoul will be a valuable opportunity to think about the importance of forests in relation to climate change and the significant role that forest professionals can play. We are here to provide important knowledge and the opportunity for sharing of experience.

I wish you a very successful workshop.
Thank you.

Welcome address by the Hosting Government

*Lee Sang Kil,
Deputy Minister, Korea Forest Service*

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen.

I'm honored to give a welcoming speech today at this significant workshop on "Promoting and Strengthening Multi-purpose National Forest Inventory System in the Asia Pacific Region in Connection with Climate Change"

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all distinguished participants for attending this workshop, especially, to Mr. Jose Antonio Prado from FAO, Lee Don Koo, president of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations, an official from National Forest Inventory System of Asia Pacific region, three experts in climate change and National Forest Inventory System respectively from the United States, France, and India, as well as two officials from JICA(Japan International Cooperation Agency) and ITTO(International Tropical Timber Organization).

I also would like to express my special thanks to several officials from Green Growth Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and KOICA(Korea International Cooperation Agency) for gracing this workshop today with your presence even during your busy schedules.

Special appreciations to the officials of not only FAO(Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) but also National Forest Research Institute are given for your service and time for the preparatory work.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As many of you know, climate change due to the global warming has been progressing rapidly. Climate change issues which are linked directly with the mankind's survival have emerged as the most important global agenda, and the effort by international societies has been more active with focusing on the UNFCCC.

According to the IPCC 4th report, forest sector stands nearly 18% out of the global greenhouse gas emissions. Most of them are aroused due to deforestation and forest degradation. Having said that, this trend tells us that which direction the forest sector is to set and enforce the policy implication for stabilization of climate system by means of coping with climate change.

Mr. Ban Gi Moon, the UN Secretary emphasized that the climate change is impossible to be coped without the global forest conservation at the inaugural meeting of UN REDD Programme in September 2008. Also, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland who has become famous by her report about the sustainable development, 「Our common future」, emphasized that the destiny of earth and forest is completely up to the decisive action implementation at the 19th FAO Committee on Forestry in March 2009.

At Copenhagen climate change conference being held last year, the Parties agreed on the need to provide positive incentives to such actions through the immediate establishment of a mechanism including REDD-plus to enable the mobilization of financial resources from

developed countries. So, it is expected that the forest sector will be considered as a core element influencing the design of the Post 2012 Climate Change Regime.

Considering this global trend, there will be an introduction about the related activities of FAO and the UN-REDD programme that is promoted, domestic and overseas Multi-purpose National Forest Inventory System coping with climate change, topic presentation by each country from Asia Pacific region and in-depth discussion during the workshop hosted by Korea Forest Service and FAO.

I hope that we would come to conclusion in drawing the basic set-out plan for the forest sector in Asia Pacific region where deforestation and forest degradation is severe in order to practically perform the leading role that cope with climate change of the earth through the workshop.

Today, I am grateful to host the workshop with all experts in the fields of national forest inventory system and climate change.

Your valuable suggestions will be extensively helpful in deciding future climate change policies and directions in the forest sector.

At last but not least, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all distinguished foreign and Korean participants for attending the workshop today once again.

And I desire everyone for your health and good luck on everything you are doing and planning for in the future.

Thank you.

(Appendix 5.5.3)

Congratulatory speech by IUFRO

*Prof. Don K. Lee
President of IUFRO*

Dr. Kwangsoo Chung, Minister of the Korea Forest Service; Mr. Jose Antonio Prado, Director of Forest Management Division, FAO;

Distinguished guests and participants from the Asia Pacific Region, ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

First of all, I would like to congratulate FAO for organizing and sponsoring this Workshop in Seoul, Korea as well as the Korea Forest Service for hosting this activity in collaboration with related international organizations, such as UNFCCC, UNFF, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank, GEF, UNCCD, UNCBD, ITTO, IPCC, and of course IUFRO.

It is indeed a great honor to welcome you all to this “Workshop on Promoting and Strengthening Multi-Purpose National Forest Inventory (NFI) System in the Asia Pacific Region, in Connection with Climate Change.” I believe that this Workshop is very significant in determining the best strategies for reducing deforestation and degradation, especially in the Asia Pacific.

The relationship between forests and climate is, needless to say, a complex one. We know that climate has a profound impact on the way forests grow, function, regenerate, and interact with the natural world around them. It is fair to say that this complex relationship between forests and climate has never been as well recognized and studied as it is today.

Since the release of the IPCC’s Fourth Assessment Report there has been increased certainty that climate change is an inevitable consequence of past and present human activities. Although mitigating and adaptation for climate change have received a great deal of media and scientific attention these days, it is still important that we further investigate the capabilities of forests as carbon storage units and determine the amount of GHGs that trees can uptake and absorb.

Acknowledging that forests play a large role in the influence of our society – whether that is through economic or social means – it is clear that the impact of climate change on forests will directly influence society. It is now up to us to determine how best to minimize and mitigate the impacts of climate change on forests, and consequently, society. We must evaluate the ongoing effects and implications of climate change on forests and tailor our research, policies, and practices accordingly in order to plan for and manage healthy and productive forests. It is critical that the importance of forests in mitigating climate change be recognized and acknowledged at the national, regional and global level.

In relation with this, National Forest Inventory System one of the strategies that will provide relevant information for creating and implementing national policy associated to climate change. Through this, we can also determine the level of capacity building that needs to be

improved in one country. These and all others are the reasons why you are here in this Workshop, to better understand NFI, to improve its activities and to identify funding needs for its implementation.

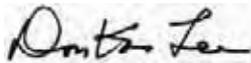
Today's Workshop will focus on the current state of knowledge and understanding on climate change and REDD. The importance of NFI in dealing with climate change and its status in terms of policy will be examined, and the long-term or future strategy for NFI activities in Asia and the Pacific region will be discussed.

I, as the IUFRO President, sincerely hope that this Workshop will serve as a successful venue for the active exchange of scientific and technical information among countries in the region and will help seek for better partnerships and collaborations. I am very certain that this event will provide a meaningful chance for all the participants to identify new approaches and strategies to address climate change. Special thank is given to Dr. Hyung Kwang Kim for his endless efforts and contributions for great success of this important workshop.

With this end, please allow me to take this opportunity to invite you all to participate in the 23rd IUFRO World Congress to be held this year on the 23rd-28th of August in Seoul, Korea. I hope you could be part of this significant event in forestry.

I wish you all great success in this Workshop and a pleasant stay in Seoul!

Thank you very much!



Don K. Lee
IUFRO President