

Rotorua, New Zealand
5-8 November 2013

Issue 1
5 November 2013
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Of Pre-session workshops**



Forests for Prosperity

New Zealand



Haere Mai! Welcome to New Zealand!

New Zealand (in Māori: **Aotearoa**) is geographically comprised of two main landmasses including the North Island and the South Island. **New Zealand** was one of the last major landmasses settled by humans.

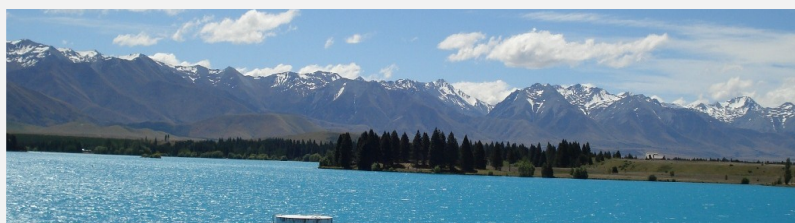
Rotorua from Māori: **Te Rotorua-nui-a-Kahumatamomoe** is a city on the southern shores of the lake of the Kahumatamomoe, in the Bay of Plenty area of the North Island of New Zealand.

Rotorua						
Partly Cloudy						
16°						
Monday	Today				19	12
Now	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	7:55PM	
16	18	18	18	17	Sunset	
Tuesday					18	12
Wednesday					16	11
Thursday					17	11
Friday					18	12
Saturday					18	11

Natural New Zealand: a slice of heaven!



I am from New Zealand!



Sea, snow and sky - stunning!



Take your Kiwi experience home!

What is your first impression of New Zealand?



Portia G. Lapitan - New Zealand is the place where I want to be after my retirement.



Cenon Padolina - Rotorua is a great place for the workshop, perfect natural environment - I love the smell!



Pratini Donosoekarto - New Zealand is beautiful and it is spring time!

Useful tips:

- **Pak' N Save:** the best place you can buy groceries (8am-10pm).
- **No commission or bank charge** if you exchange money at the Kiwi Bank!
- **Free public wifi** is available in most parts of the CBD (Rotorua_Free WiFi)

What has REDD+ done for the forest?

Twenty-two participants gathered to discuss the provoking question “what has REDD+ done for us?” This side event explored the concepts of “no regret” benefits of REDD+ Readiness initiatives. With the substantial investments already made in such initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region, will the anticipated results be of long term benefit to forest sector stakeholders whether or not an international climate

change agreement is eventually forthcoming? Introducing the event, Wulf Killman (GIZ Pacific) noted the timeliness of this topic, particularly with regard to meeting the expectations of forest-dependent communities. Presentations and a panel discussion drew on experiences from Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Viet Nam and the wider Pacific region.

Gordon Ignacio - No regrets! REDD+ benefits us all. Next step is to use all the learning we have from the readiness for scaling up the implementation of REDD+ strategies.

Mainstreaming gender into forest policies

This one-day regional workshop was attended by 13 participants. It enhanced learning among stakeholders, including policy-makers, on promoting integration of gender equality in national forest policy. Stakeholders representing eight APFC member countries - Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam- participated in the workshop. This allowed for cross-country learning and sharing of experiences in integrating

gender perspectives into national forest policy. The workshop concluded the way forward and made a number of recommendations including review policies and action plans; increase the sharing of good practices and examples; allocate resources to more gender-related activities; build capacity specifically for policy makers at all levels, and enhance the number of women in decision making.

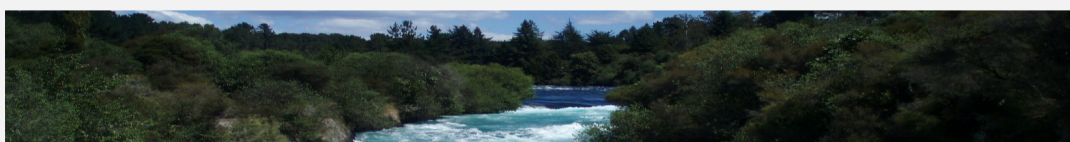
Veikila Vuki - it is very important to integrate gender work into policy and turn it into action to produce positive impact.

Forestry Strategic Planning in the AP Region

Why strategic planning? How can we collaborate in the future on this topic? These were amongst the key questions asked during this particular workshop. Patrick Durst (FAO) and Qu Guilin (APFNet) stressed the importance of building regional collaboration to support countries in their effort to improve strategic planning process. Yurdi Yasmi (FAO) indicated that there is a lot to learn from each other and a wealth of information available, for example Asia- Pacific

Forestry Sector Outlook Study. The following countries shared their experiences: Australia, China, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, PNG, Philippines, Thailand, and the USA. The workshop suggested practical steps forward to continue collaboration and strengthen strategic planning process across the region such as through networking, workshop and capacity building.

Gary Man - The concept of the workshop is very good, it suits FAO and APFC quite well. Next step is to take what we learned and move forward!



Forest landscape restoration

Twenty people attended the workshop, which was convened to bring together key stakeholders in FLR to share knowledge, discuss future steps, and facilitate partnerships among organizations in the region. Presenters reviewed the history of FLR efforts, highlighted the shift towards managing forests for multiple values and ecosystem services, emphasized the need to scale up restoration efforts to the landscape scale, and identified policy and regulatory issues limiting FLP implementation.

Participants reflected on the current state of FLR and requirements for success, including strategic spatial planning, multi-stakeholder consultation, and clear tenure and use rights. The workshop concluded with a brainstorming session, which compiled suggestions for collaboration and future directions. These included identifying key actors, sharing knowledge, and creating new communication platforms and materials.



Andrew Ingles- Everyone contributed to an enthusiastic discussion, and we developed a long list of possibilities for collaboration.

Tools for ecological and economic impact assessment

Patrick Durst (FAO) welcomed participants to the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) workshop on tools for ecological and economic assessment of invasive alien species in forest ecosystems. Kenichi Shono provided opening remarks. Eighteen participants attended the workshop, representing 14 countries. The workshop aims to conduct hands-on training to the nodal officers of APFISN to undertake both economic and

ecological impact assessment of alien invasive species in their forests. This is an essential pre-requisite to communicate the alien species to government officials and the general public. The training was facilitated by Shiroma Satyapale, Melaine Newfield both from Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand and Gary Man from USDA Forest Service.



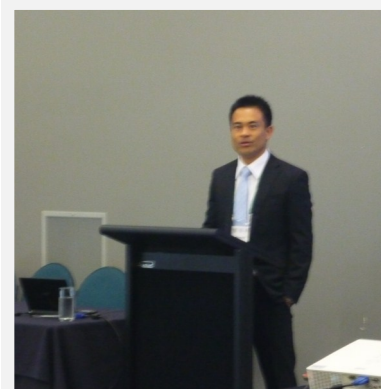
Su-See Lee- The workshop is very useful as it has practical sessions. It is very good to see how the FAO forest health guide has been put into practice.



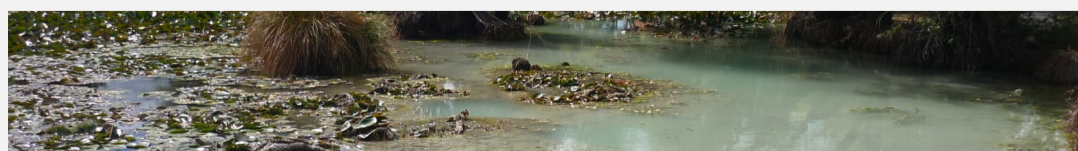
Patrick Durst welcoming participants.



Group discussion from APFISN workshop.



Kenichi Shono - With some of the leading experts in forest restoration present, the workshop promises to be an exciting and successful one.





Tint Lwin Thauung - People need access to the right information. People power is the only game changer.



Christine Fung - It's nice to know different perspectives and how SFM is implemented in different countries.



Qu Guilin (APFNET) - Pragmatic actions have been implemented under the mechanism, which reflects the "action-oriented" principle APFNET always follows.

Forests and natural disasters

This session addressed the multiple roles of forests and the forest sector in the various stages of disaster risk management, from mitigation and preparedness through to response and recovery. Session 1 summarized the underlying science and technical knowledge of the relationships between forests and hazards such as landslides, wildfires and floods. In session 2, the focus shifted to the human dimensions of disaster risk management. In this session, presenters highlighted the contributions of community forestry in building resilience, and

how social vulnerabilities, access to resources, and local capacities act to mediate disaster impacts. The workshop then broke into groups in order to brainstorm potential actions and directions for governments and international organizations to take at each stage of the "5 Rs" of disaster risk management. Simmathiri Appanah closed the workshop by reiterating that disasters can provide opportunities to redesign and rebuild, and that it is forest *management* rather than forests that can contribute to mitigating, or increasing, the risk of disasters.

SFM in Pacific island countries

SFM in the Pacific island nations, a workshop composed of 40 participants, served as the forum for countries to share their SFM methods and issues faced. Art Klassen, the keynote speaker, addressed the dilemma of SFM and stressed the need to "think globally, act locally." Country presentations on SFM from each region were given by Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, and Solomon Islands. Each representative introduced the current country statuses and the challenges

encountered, as well as the guidelines and government policies. The final session titled "A dream or a reality?" was moderated by Wulf Killman, together with five panelists: representatives of Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia, SPC and private sector. Every country agreed that they were on the way to achieving SFM. SFM is more than a dream, and each country is working in different ways to accomplish this reality.

Third Forestry College Deans Meeting

On 4 November 2013, the Third Forestry College Deans Meeting in the Asia-Pacific region was held in the Rotorua Energy Events Center, New Zealand, gathering about 14 deans and chancellors from 13 regional economies. Facing the emerging challenges of forestry and education development, the deans and professors this time dwelled on the meeting theme

of "Evolving methods of curriculum delivery in post-secondary forest education" and agreed in principle on a concrete action plan for advancing the Forestry College Deans Meeting Mechanism in the Asia-Pacific Region (the Mechanism).

Preparations...

Reaching the stress level....



Still relax and enjoy NZ!



Serious team meeting



I can't take it anymore!



Ken in action!

Secretariat team in action....



What do we need to bring tomorrow?



Happy smiling in the end!



Almost done!



The publication booth team.

Welcome note from Eduardo Rojas, FAO Assistant Director General for Forestry



Distinguished participants,

Welcome to the 25th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission!

I would like to express my apologies that I could not attend this important event due to an unavoidable commitment. I would, however, like to extend a warm welcome to the 25th "Silver Anniversary" Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission. I sincerely hope the week's discussions will result in recommendations for effective collaboration in tackling the challenges ahead and contribute positively to the aims of the APFC—most particularly the achievement of sustainable forest management throughout the region.

Coming today.....

- *Opening ceremony*
- *Adoption of agenda and election of officers*
- *Agenda items 3, 4, 5, & 6*
- *Reception dinner*

Tomorrow.....

- *In-session seminar*
- *Agenda items 8, 9, 10 & 11*
- *Speed geeking*