

**Rotorua, New Zealand  
5-8 November 2013**

*Issue 2*  
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**Inside this issue:**  
**Highlights of agenda items**



*Quote of the day: "Prosperity grows from a healthy environment" - Scion Video*



**Election of officers** - Chair: Mr Jarred Mair (New Zealand); Vice chairs: Mr Taisuke Shimada (Japan), Mr Harry Santoso (Indonesia), and Mr Kantharaj Jude Sekar (India); Rapporteur: Mr Marcial Amaro Jr. (Philippines).

**The Powhiri** - The 25th session of the APFC was opened with the Powhiri, the traditional Maori welcome and followed by welcome remarks and keynote speeches.



#### Fun facts:

- Due to its unique aroma, Rotorua is nicknamed the Sulfur City
- The local Maori tribe name is Ngati Whakaue
- Kiwifruit is native to the Yangtze River valley on the coast of Eastern China.
- New Zealand's first sheep were set ashore by Captain Cook in 1773.

## Forests for prosperity

In this keynote address on the APFC session theme, Warren Parker, CEO of Scion, provided an overview of Scion, including its history, research and development program and goals. Mr Parker outlined the challenges faced by NZ forestry in meeting global demands for wood products, and the importance of Maori land ownership and economies. Forests' multifunctional values, and integration with other land uses, were emphasized. Delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines and Viet Nam offered contributions and their perspectives on the issues discussed.

**Today.....Agenda items 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 and Speed Geeking**

Speed geeking,  
are you ready?



Don't forget about speed  
geeking today! Meet @  
5:45pm at the Grand Hall!





## *Forest financing: investing for prosperity*

Kenichi Shono introduced this session by highlighting the key challenges in attracting investment in SFM, such as lack of enabling environment, restrictive regulatory frameworks, and weak governance or institutional structures. However, increasing demand for forest products and services, presents significant opportunities for strengthening forest financing in the region.

Delegates from seven countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand and Viet Nam) commented on this agenda item. Delegates expressed the need for consistent methodologies for valuing forest goods and services. Mr Mair concluded the session by highlighting scope for regional collaboration, knowledge and skills sharing.

## *FLEGT and Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure*

Bruno Cammaert provided a short overview of existing or emerging legal restrictions developed by consumer countries or the “demand side” in response to illegal logging and the corresponding illegal trade in timber and wood products. Yurdi Yasmi introduced the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forestry. Ten countries provided comments on these FLEGT and tenure is-

ssues. For example, China shared information and initiatives taken to improve legality verification of forest product trade, and Indonesia highlighted the signing of a VPA with the EU. Eva Muller commented that FAO has started to receive funding from donors to support the implementation of the voluntary guidelines. The first step is to disseminate the guidelines and to develop tools and practical steps on how to implement the guidelines.

### *Dinner in the Redwoods!!!*



## *State of forestry in the Asia-Pacific Region*

In this agenda item, Patrick Durst highlighted the positive trend in forest area at the aggregate level, alongside continuing deforestation, forest degradation and declining forest health in much of the region. Efforts have been made to develop and implement tools and mechanisms designed to move towards SFM. This provided the opportunities for member countries to discuss key forest trends and issues in the region. Country delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand and Papua New

Guinea, Philippines provided comments on this topic. Patrick Durst summarized the interventions and challenges faced by countries on land conversion, illegal trade and effective monitoring and assessment of forests. He also observed that countries highlighted REDD+ Readiness activities offered opportunities but also entailed serious challenges. Mr. Shimada concluded the session by noting that mutual understanding is needed to pave the way for SFM in the region.

*Tomorrow...Field trip - Do not forget to bring warm/windbreak/waterproof jacket & comfortable shoes!*