

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

Issue 3
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Inside this issue: highlights of
agenda items & speed geeking

Have a good fieldtrip!

Kiwi slang

- Sweet as = cool or awesome
- Good on ya, mate! = congratulations!
- Jandals = flip-flop/sandals
- Chilly bin = ice box/cooler

*I am NOT a speed geeker but a
speed EATER!!!!*



Did you have fun & learn
from speed geeking?

Speed Geeking

- 17 presenters
- NGOs, research institutions, government agencies, and forestry student associations
- Topics covered included REDD+, FLEGT, environmental education, strategic planning, forest restoration, invasive species, and gender

Forests for Prosperity

Quote of the day: "Go to the people, live among the people, plan with the people, work with the people, start with what people know, build on what people have, teach by showing, learn by doing" - James VC Yen

SPEED GEEKING & SPEED EATING - MOVE, MOVE, MOVE NOW!!



Building resilience in forests, landscapes and communities

Patrick Durst introduced this session by highlighting resilience as a critical, emerging topic. Hosny El-Lakany introduced terms associated with forest resilience, and outlined aspects such as genetic and functional biodiversity across scales. Yurdi Yasmi stressed the need to build resilience of local communities in the face of increasing threats. Chris Perley challenged the "command and control", industrial model of forest management, arguing for integrated management of socio-ecological landscapes. During the discussion, Myanmar urged that more attention be paid to traditional practices in forest management. Bangladesh emphasized their shift towards co-management systems, incorporating disaster risk management approaches. Panel members responded by acknowledging the need for FAO to support capacity building and local knowledge, and of the importance of social institutions in enhancing resilience.



Heads of Forestry dialogue: wood-processing development

Barney Chan facilitated a discussion in which many countries identified problems and difficulties faced in developing wood-processing while others shared their successes. Two main factors contributing to successful wood-processing were identified as political will and markets. Delegates discussed regional strategies to address the challenges, as well as the differences of land tenure systems among countries and their impacts on resource availability and production.

Progress in implementing APFC & FAO supported activities

Aru Mathias summarized the progress of the APFC and FAO in implementing activities in the region. Highlights included the two-week executive forest policy short course in Bhutan, establishment of regional forestry communications network, and activities of the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank. Delegates urged better analysis and communication of successes and failures of projects and activities. It was suggested that FAO coordinate a new effort along the lines of the previous “In Search of Excellence” initiative, and improve communication through country offices to member countries and partners.

Forests and climate change: pathway to prosperity?

Ben Vickers introduced the session by highlighting the potential role of forest in climate change adaptation and mitigation, outlining challenges that climate change poses to the forest sector and local livelihoods, and the high expectations associated with forest-climate change initiatives. Delegates expressed strong support for a regional forum to share forest data and experiences of the role of forests in climate change adaptation. Delegates also highlighted the need for climate change initiative to address the immediate needs of forest-dependent communities.

Strategic developments in FAO and the UN

Eva Muller introduced FAO’s response to the forestry strategic evaluation, and FAO’s new strategic, cross-cutting framework and objectives. Several delegates expressed concern over the potential loss of focus on core forestry work of FAO. Ms Muller responded by assuring delegates that forestry was still well covered in the new strategic framework. Ms Muller also presented an update on the formulation of new sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the possibilities for incorporating forests and related indicators. There was widespread support among delegates for the development of a stand-alone forest SDG.

Highlights of the speed geeking session.....

