



Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable
Forest Management and Rehabilitation
亚太森林恢复与可持续管理组织

Summary of the Second SANFRI Steering Committee Meeting

28 October, 2019

Pu'er, Yunnan, China

Overview

As proposed by APFNet, the Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI) aims to advance forestry research by facilitating collaboration among forestry research institutes to contribute to sustainable forest management among ASEAN economies and China. The First SANFRI Steering Committee meeting was successfully concluded on 28 March, 2018 in Beijing, which confirmed the rules and procedures of SANFRI through the adoption of the Framework of SANFRI and General Guidelines for actions under the Network. Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland (YAFG) was elected as the Chair of the Steering Committee during 2018 - 2019.

In line with the Framework of SANFRI, APFNet, together with YAFG organized the Second Steering Committee Meeting of SANFRI during 28 to 29 October 2019 in Pu'er, Yunnan Province of China to review the implementation of SANFRI activities, discuss priorities for program development and explore collaboration opportunities among regional forestry research institutes.

The Meeting was attended by 9 Steering Committee member organizations, namely 1) APFNet, 2) Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development of Cambodia, 3) Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland of China, 4) Forestry and Environment Research Development and Innovation Agency of Indonesia, 5) National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute of Laos, 6) Forest Research Institute Malaysia, 7) Forest Research Institute of Myanmar, 8) Forest Research and Development Bureau of Thailand and 9) Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences.

The meeting has achieved its main goals: 1) revised the framework of SANFRI and elected SANFRI Chair (Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland) and Vice-chair (Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences) for 2020-2021, 2) reported the progress and updates of the activities under SANFRI during 2018-2019, 3) reviewed and adopted Implementation Guidelines for APFNet Small Research Grant, APFNet Conference Attendance Support and SANFRI Work Plan for 2020-2021, 4) determined date and venue of the 3rd Steering Committee meeting and 5) informed all the Steering Committee Members about the establishment of the APFNet center for SANFRI Young Scholar Exchange in YAFG.



Summary of agenda items

This summary reflects key messages of presentations and discussions of the agenda items as well as other points raised in the meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Revision of the Framework of SANFRI and election of SANFRI Chair and Vice-chair for 2020 - 2021

Noting the fact that SANFRI has been established for just over one year and the four key actions proposed in the Framework have not yet been fully implemented, APFNet, the initiator and sponsor of SANFRI, proposed to revise the framework by extending the term of the current Chair for another two years until 2021 to keep the continuation of SANFRI activities and adding a Vice-chair in the Steering Committee to better facilitate the development of the mechanism and ensure the work continuity. After the term of the Chair is completed, the Vice-chair will take over the presidency to be the new Chair, and a new Vice-chair will be elected.

Suggested revision of the Framework was discussed and adopted with consensus. The new Framework is attached in Annex III. The term of Chair for YAFG was extended to 2021 and Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences was elected as Vice-chair of SANFRI.

Agenda Item 2: Report on the progress and updates of the activities under SANFRI during 2018 - 2019

Dr. Zhang Jingfeng from YAFG briefed the Meeting on the progress and updates of the activities under SANFRI during 2018 - 2019 (Annex IV). Some important elements in the report include:

(1) APFNet Visiting Scholar Program

In total 20 applications were received before the deadline of 31 December 2018, among which 10 candidates were admitted after two rounds review meetings held by YAFG, including 5 Indonesians, 2 Malaysians, 2 Laos and 1 Cambodian.

So far 10 participants have all been enrolled, 8 of them already finished the program and returned to their institutes, 2 are still doing research in YAFG.

Each visiting scholar submitted two reports including an academic report and a comprehensive report after completing his/her research work in YAFG. In the comprehensive report, the visiting scholars highly evaluated the program and provided suggestions for the further development of it. After returning to their own economies, all visiting scholars remain close contact with the project management office and their mentors in YAFG. Some co-authored papers with their supervisors based on research data collected and analyzed. Dr. Chen Peng, one of the supervisors, has submitted a plan to visit the Forest Research Institute Malaysia in 2020 to explore long-term cooperation with FRIM in the field of forest pests and diseases control.

(2) Establishment of the Young Scholar Team under SANFRI

To prepare for the implementation of related actions under SANFRI, namely Early Career Academics Forum, APFNet Conference Attendance Support and APFNet Small Research Grant, a Young Scholar Team has been formally established by end September 2019. 24 young scholars recommended by the SANFRI Steering Committee are in the Team. As planned, 22 members of the Team (2 scholars from Vietnam were not able to come due to overlapping commitments) were funded by APFNet to participate in the Early Career Academics Forum under SANFRI during 29 October - 1 November, 2019.

During the meeting, representative of Forest Research and Development Bureau of Thailand made a request on changing one of the young scholars from Thailand as the current young scholar may have schedule conflicts in participating in future SANFRI activities. After discussion, the request was approved by the Steering Committee. Thailand agreed to send APFNet the new nomination soon after the meeting. Besides, the representative of Thailand in Steering Committee - Dr. Suwan Tangmitcharoen will also be replaced by a new person (official appointment letter will be sent to APFNet Secretariat later) as he is no longer working in the Forest Research and Development Bureau.

Agenda Item 3: Review and adopt Implementation Guidelines for APFNet Small Research Grant, APFNet Conference Attendance Support

Ms. Wang Jiayi from APFNet Secretariat presented the Meeting in details about two new activities under SANFRI, namely Implementation Guidelines for APFNet Small Research Grant (Annex V) and APFNet Conference Attendance Support (Annex VI).

Dr. Vo Dai Hai, president of Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences asked about the research duration and suggested that only one year is too short for certain small research program. APFNet explained that while duration of one year is set for effective implementation and operation, Steering Committee may approve for

extended duration of small research program if it is deemed necessary to attain the research results.

Implementation Guidelines were reviewed and adopted with consensus in the Meeting.



Agenda Item 4: Review and adopt work plan for 2020-2021

Dr. Zhang Jingfeng from YAFG presented the Meeting on the SANFRI Work Plan for 2020-2021 (Annex VII). Some important elements in the work plan include:

(1) Further promote and enhance Visiting Scholar Program

Both host institute YAFG and visiting scholars benefit from the research fellowship after less than one year running, yet there is still room for further improvement and here are some suggestions:

- Involve more member economies to the program (4 economies only in 2019);
- Improve management and research plan of scholars in terms of research topic, appropriate visiting time and outcomes;
- Strengthen ties among member institutes by setting up a communication network (Wechat or other SNS channels for example) for supervisors and scholars;
- Provide training course on basic mandarin Chinese;
- Organize more group activities in weekends and public holidays to enhance friendships;
- Upgrade the living condition e.g. more kitchen facility for Muslim scholars and heating equipment for tropical visitors.

The Visiting Scholar Program will announce its call for application at the beginning of each year. After selection process in February, the accepted scholars will carry out their visiting studies based on the program developed jointly with their supervisors.

(2) Carry out APFNet Conference Attendance Support

APFNet Conference Attendance Support is going to be initiated in line with its specific rules and procedures adopted by the Steering Committee. APFNet Secretariat

will announce the formal initiation of the Support in January 2020. The application of the Support is open all year round. Applicants can submit applications based on the potential schedule of conferences.

(3) Launch APFNet Small Research Grant

APFNet Small Research Grant program will launch in early 2020 in line with its specific rules and procedures adopted by the Steering Committee. The call for application for the Grant for 2020-2021 will be announced in January 2020 and the deadline for application will be at end March. Appraisal and selection process will be done in April and May. The first batch of the selected researches could be initiated in June 2020, and the second batch of the researches is expected to be initiated in March 2021.

(4) Hold the Second Early Career Academics Forum

The Early Career Academics Forum is designed to be held every two years back-to-back with the Steering Committee Meeting. The 2nd Early Career Academics Forum will be organized in end 2021 and hosted by Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences. The forum will still focus on the theme of forest restoration in tropical region, aiming to enhance mutual learning and exchange cutting-edge research results among young professionals from SANFRI member institutes.

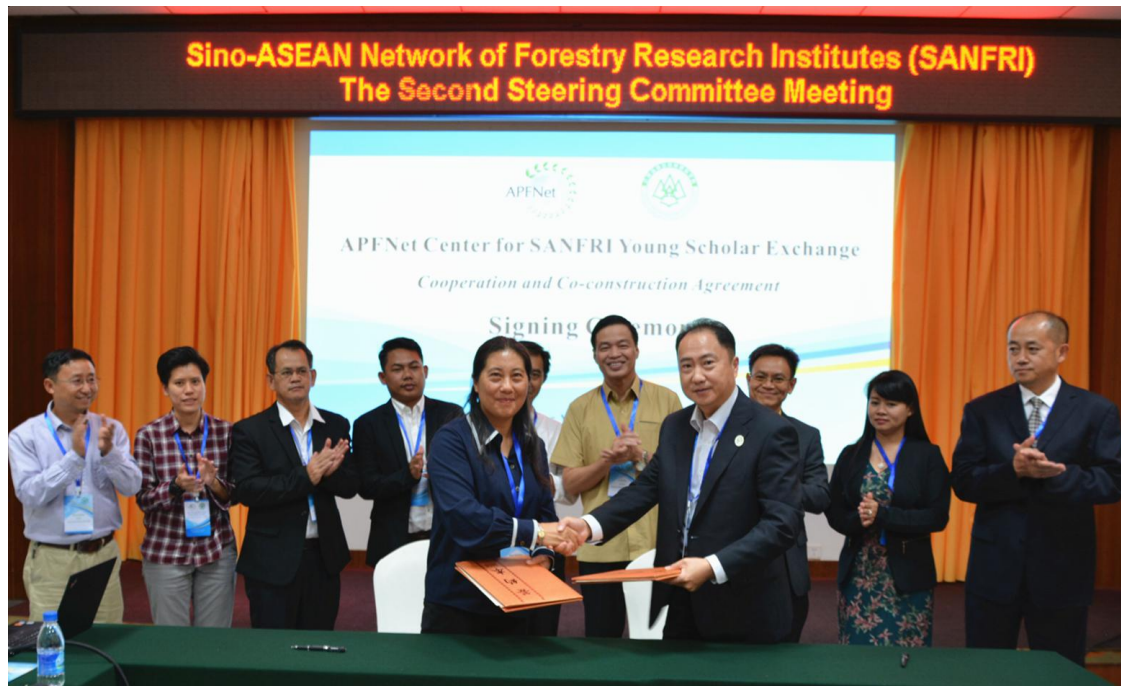
The SANFRI Work Plan for 2020-2021 was reviewed and adopted by the Steering Committee in the Meeting.

Agenda Item 5: Date and venue of the 3rd Steering Committee meeting

As newly elected Vice-chair of SANFRI, Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences proposed to host the 3rd Steering Committee meeting back to back with the 2nd Early Career Academics Forum 2021 in Vietnam and the Meeting adopted that with consensus.

Agenda Item 6: Establishment of the APFNet Center for SANFRI Young Scholar Exchange in YAFG

Ms. Zhong Mingchuan, President of Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland announced in the Meeting that an APFNet center for SANFRI Young Scholar Exchange will be established in YAFG in order to support, coordinate and carry out the visiting scholar program. Under the witness of all Steering Committee Members, Mr. Xia Jun, Assistant Executive Director of APFNet and Ms. Zhong Mingchuan together signed an Agreement on Cooperative Construction of the APFNet Center for SANFRI Young Scholar Exchange.



Annexes:

Annex I - Meeting Agenda

Annex II - List of participants

Annex III - Framework of SANFRI

Annex IV - SANFRI Working Report for 2018-2019

Annex V - Implementation Guidelines for APFNet Small Research Grant

Annex VI - Implementation Guidelines for APFNet Conference Attendance Support

Annex VII - SANFRI Work Plan for 2020-2021

Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI)

The Second Steering Committee Meeting

Agenda

Day 1 - 28 October, 2019		
Time	Agenda	Facilitator
09:00 - 09:30	Registration	
09:30 - 09:40	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. Xia Jun, Assistant Executive Director of APFNetMs. Zhong Mingchuan, president of Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland (YAFG)	Ms. Zhong Mingchuan President of YAFG
09:40 - 10:00	Revision of the Framework of SANFRI	
10:00 - 10:20	Election of SANFRI Chair and Vice-chair for 2020 - 2021	
10:20 - 10:50	Group photo & coffee break	
10:50 - 12:00	Report on the progress and updates of the activities under SANFRI during 2018-2019 & discussions - Presenter: Dr. Zhang Jinfeng, YAFG	Ms. Zhong Mingchuan President of YAFG
12:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 15:00	Review and adopt Implementation Guidelines for APFNet Small Research Grant and Conference Attendance Support - Presenter: Ms. Wang Jiayi, APFNet Secretariat	Dr. Vo Dai Hai President of Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS)

15:00 - 15:20	Coffee break	
15:20 - 16:10	Review and adopt work plan for 2020-2021 - Presenter: Dr. Zhang Jinfeng, YAFG	Dr. Vo Dai Hai President of Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS)
16:10 – 16:20	Date and venue of the 3 rd Steering Committee meeting	Ms. Zhong Mingchuan President of YAFG
16:20 – 16:40	Other matters	
16:40 - 17:00	Wrap-up of the meeting and closing	

Day 2 - 29 October, 2019	
Time	Agenda
09:00 - 18:00	Visit APFNet project site in Wanzhangshan Forest Farm

Annex II - List of participants

The Second Steering Committee Meeting

List of Participants

Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)			
No.	Name	Organization	Position
1	Xia Jun	APFNet	Assistant Executive Director
Cambodia			
2	Seab Kimsrim	Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development	Deputy Chief of Forest Soil and Wildlife Research Center
China			
3	Zhong Mingchuan	Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland	President
Indonesia			
4	Dede Jajat Sudrajat	Forestry Research, Development and Innovation Agency	Researcher
Laos			
5	Vongvilay Vongkhamsao	National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute	Director of Forestry Research Centre
Malaysia			
6	Ong Su Ping	Forest Research Institute Malaysia	Researcher
Myanmar			
7	Yu Ya Aye	Forest Research Institute	Assistant Director
Thailand			
8	Suwan Tangmitcharoen	Royal Forest Department	Acting Expert of Forest Plantation Promotion Office
Vietnam			
9	Vo Dai Hai	Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences	President