



## **Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI)**

### **Minutes of the Third Early Career Academics Forum**

(19 - 20 September 2023, Hanoi, Vietnam)

#### **INTRODUCTION**

China and ASEAN economies are neighboring with each other and share several similarities particularly in natural resources. This makes an important driving force of Sino-ASEAN communication and cooperation in forest resource management and forestry development. Considering the importance of scientific research in forestry and huge potential improvement in capacity building of forestry researchers, APFNet proposed the Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI) to advance collaboration among forestry research institutes and contribute to sub-regional sustainable forest management.

SANFRI especially through the Early Career Academics Forum aims to build a communication platform for the young forestry scholars of China and ASEAN economies to share research experience and facilitate mutual learning process. Since the official establishment of the SANFRI mechanism in 2018, two Early Career Academics Forums have been successfully concluded, meaningful forestry research outcomes were communicated and exchanged, strong connection among regional young scholars were formed, and innovation ideas were sponsored to become actual research projects owing to the hard work, active participation and significant contributions of the SANFRI Steering Committee and the Young Scholar Team members.

The First Early Career Academics Forum was run in Pu'er city of China in 2019, helping strengthen scientific and technological exchanges under the theme of tropical

forest restoration among the scholars of SANFRI member institutes.

In order to continually maintain a networking and timely update knowledge and experience to forestry researchers, APFNet and YAFG virtually organized the Second Early Career Academics Forum in 13 January 2022. The Forum focused on sharing research works of APFNet Small Research Grant under SANFRI and get to well-know about partners for a closed collaboration. In this regards, all members of the SANFRI Young Scholar Team were invited to attend the virtual event.

Therefore, based on the achievements of the previous years and in order to continually maintain the good networking and timely update research knowledge and experience to members, as chair institution, Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS) cooperated with APFNet to organize the Third Early Career Academics Forum in September 2023 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The Forum is planned to focus on sharing research works and get to well-know about member institutes for a closer collaboration. All members of the SANFRI Young Scholar Team are invited to attend this event.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The main objectives of this forum are given to:

- Consolidate the platform for forestry scholars from ASEAN economies and China through mutual learning process;
- Maintain the good network among the Young Scholar Team members and seek for opportunities of further collaboration.

## **STRUCTURE OF THE FORUM**

The forum was facilitated mainly by Mr. Zhang Jinfeng, Professor of Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland of China, and he briefly introduced the program. Wrap-up and closing of the forum was facilitated by Ratna Uli Damayanti Sianturi, the young scholar from Forestry and Environment Research Development and Innovation Agency of Indonesia, as the representative of the new SANFRI Vice-Chair. This forum was structured by three components in terms of opening

remarks, information-sharing on three funded projects (2022-2023) under the Small Research Grant Program of APFNet and presentations from SANFRI young scholars.

## **PARTICIPATION**

Totally, 36 participants (of which 25 members of the SANFRI Young Scholar Team, 6 Steering Committee representatives, 1 representative from APFNet, and 2 representatives from the SANFRI Coordination Office) attended the event, and these participants are from Cambodia (3), China (6), Indonesia (3), Lao PDR (4), Malaysia (4), Myanmar (3), Thailand (3), Vietnam (4), and APFNet (1). In addition, this forum most consisted of members who are young foresters under 45 years old and vibrant in forest research or forest management.

## **SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIVITIES**

### **Opening remarks**

During the opening remarks in the afternoon of 19 September 2023, Dr. Tran Lam Dong, Vice President of Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS), as the representative of Dr. Vo Dai Hai (President of VAFS), the Chair of SANFRI for



2022 - 2023, expressed the warm welcome to all participants firstly on behalf of SANFRI. Then, he emphasized that Early Career Academics Forum is one of the important activities of Sino-Asean Network of Forestry Research Institutes aims to build a communication platform for the young forestry scholars of China and ASEAN economies to share research experience and facilitate mutual learning process. Finally, the work plan for 2023 - 2024 on the Fourth SANFRI Steering Committee Meeting was mentioned, and a good wish was extended sincerely.

Dr. Ismail Parlan of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), the Vice Chair of SANFRI for 2022 - 2023, gave his warm welcome address to all participants and



extended thanks to VAFS for the excellent arrangement of the program, and to APFNet for the funding and technical assistance via SANFRI Coordination Office (SCO) based in Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland (YAFG). He also emphasized that the forum under SANFRI had done very well in supporting capacity building of participated

officers of respective economies. Then, he briefly introduced activities of SANFRI in Malaysia and the significance for FRIM. As in coming Chair for 2024-2025, Dr. Ismail hoped that activities of SANFRI would be maintained and continued for the benefit of all officers of members' economies, and declared that the Fourth Early Career Academics Forum will be scheduled in Malaysia in the year of 2025.

Ms. Xin Shuyu, Acting director, Policy Dialogue Division of APFNet Secretariat, gave a high appraisal to the SANFRI as a very good platform for all economies of ASEAN. She hoped that all young scholars could make good use of the platform to have mutual learning from each other, to make friends not only at the forum, but also after it, and to cooperate with each other. And a good wish was extended finally.



### **Section One. Information-sharing on three funded projects (2022-2023) under Small Research Grant Program**

In the first part of the Forum, there were three presentations were delivered by young

researchers, including Vietnam, Laos, Indonesia and Malaysia, and they gave general introduction on their research projects with phase outcomes under Small Research Grant Program funded by APFNet. A 30-minute was arranged for each presentation and 5 minutes for Q&A.

**Presentation 1:** Research on Policies to Promote Natural Forest Restoration Towards Sustainability in Vietnam and Lao PDR

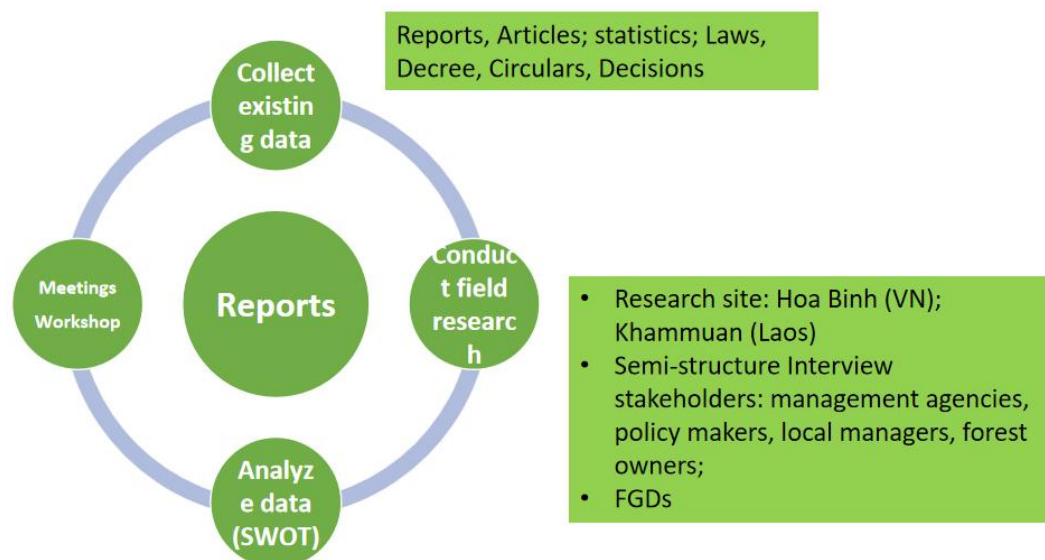
Ms. Hoang Nguyen Viet Hoa (from Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences) and Mr. Kham Phoumi Bounpasaxay (from National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute, Laos) jointly introduced the research. At beginning, Ms. Hoa started with introducing an overview of the natural forest situation both in two economies and objectives of the research. Then, she introduced research methodologies and research results in Vietnam. After that, Mr. Bounpasakxay introduced research results in Laos.



Specific objectives of the research:

- 1) The status of natural forest restoration and its management in Vietnam and Laos is assessed;
- 2) Existing policies related to natural forest restoration in Vietnam and Laos are reviewed and assessed; and
- 3) The experiences and lessons learned in natural forest restoration and management are compared and shared to promote sustainable forest management in Vietnam and Laos.

Research methods:



Key conclusion are:

- 1) Strengths: A legal framework for NFR created: Forest Law, Decrees, Decisions, and Circulars; There has been a new perspective on NFR from the point of view of the total values of forests and SFM; MARD (in Vietnam) is developing a program titled “*Enhancing forest quality to conserve forest ecology system and prevent disasters*”, NF is a significant part;
- 2) Weakness: Forest restoration activities have not yet achieved high efficiency; Lack of demonstration models on natural forest restoration towards multi-effects and

sustainability; Investment resources are limited; Regulations on forest restoration solutions are still approached with the perspective of timber harvesting, not on the overall values of the forest;

3) Recommendations: Promoting and thoroughly implementing land allocation in association with the allocation of NF in the areas currently assigned to the CPCs to ensure that forest is owned; Promoting the implementation of the pilot policy of payment for carbon sequestration and storage services; Necessary to prioritize the restoration of the poor natural forests; Identifying the priority forest areas to address the target of upgrading the quality;

4) Factors identified on essential precursors to ensure successful outcomes: (i) the integration of policies and strategies in programs, plans and projects, (ii) the allocation of sufficient budgets, (iii) the clear assignment of responsibilities, (iv) regular monitoring of implementation.

**Presentation 2: Tree Seed Supply Management Model and Policy for Supporting Forest and Landscape Restoration in Indonesia**

Ms. Desmiwati, Researcher of Forestry and Environment Research Development and Innovation Agency, Indonesia, reported her research project on “Tree Seed Supply Management Model and Policy for Supporting Forest and Landscape Restoration in Indonesia”. She provided an overview of the project consisting of components such as abstract, proposal, research methodology, phase 1 implementation project, and results, etc.



Objectives of the research project:

- 1) Assess the baseline data to identify the stakeholder capacity in seed and seedling production and supply for supporting FLR in Indonesia;
- 2) Create the stakeholder mapping and their critical roles in seed and seedling production and supply for supporting FLR in Indonesia;
- 3) Analyze the institutional framework for tree seed production and supply on the FLR in Indonesia;
- 4) Assess the management model of tree seed production and supply for supporting FLR in Indonesia; and
- 5) Generate information to improve the success of regulating the seed and seedling quality control for FLR programs in Indonesia.

Contents of the projects:

- 1) The study will be conducted in the four provinces in Indonesia: South Sumatra, South Kalimantan, West Java and South Sulawesi Provinces; and
- 2) The research will be carried out for one year, which is planned to start in July 2023-June 2024. In one year, as many as 5 outputs will be carried out with a total budget of USD 11,998.00.

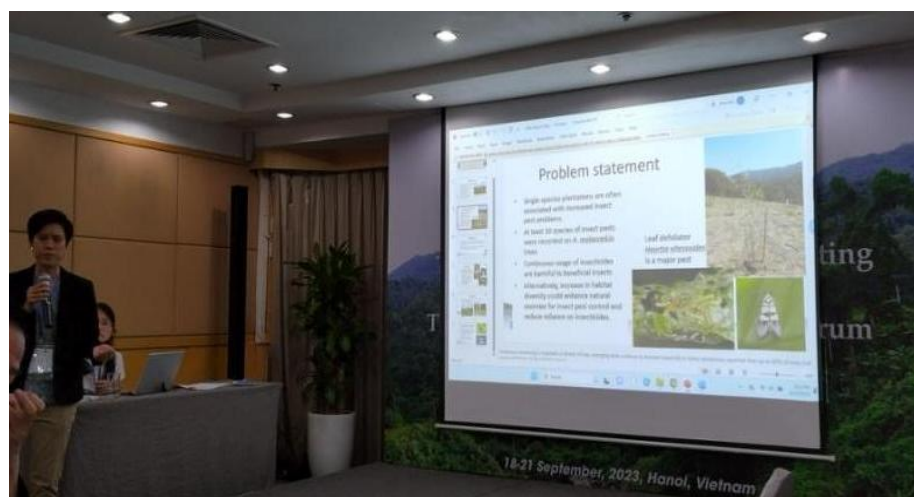
Preliminary Results:

- 1) There are indications of a paradigm shift in the critical land rehabilitation (RHL) or Forest Land Restoration (FLR) policy in Indonesia;
- 2) FLR efforts primarily emphasized the mandatory cultivation of hardwood forest plants;
- 3) There is now a transition towards the utilization of Multi-Purpose Tree Species (MPTS) plants, which offer greater economic value in the short term and can also contribute to reforestation efforts by significantly increasing forest cover;

- 4) The acceptance of the community stems from their ability to utilize Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), with a particular emphasis on fruit-bearing trees;
- 5) The aforementioned situation has significant implications for the economic well-being of suppliers and distributors involved in the provision of forest plant seeds and seedlings; and
- 6) These entities have historically played a crucial role in supplying the Indonesian government with the necessary resources for implementing Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) initiatives.

**Presentation 3:** Documenting the insect natural enemies of insect pests in *ex situ* germplasm conservation of *Aquilaria malaccensis*

Ms. Ong Su Ping, Forest Entomologist of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), delivered her report on the study about “Documenting the insect natural enemies of insect pests in *ex situ* germplasm conservation of *Aquilaria malaccensis*”, covering the specific aspects such as background information for the study, problem statement, objectives, activities, expected outcomes, etc.



Objectives of the study:

- 1) Determine the abundance and diversity of insect predators and parasitoids in the *A. malaccensis* germplasm and its surroundings; and

2) Identify potential plant communities and their association with the insect predators and parasitoids.

Activities in the study:

1) Determine the abundance and diversity of insect predators and parasitoids in the *A. malaccensis* germplasm and its surroundings, as follows:

- (i) Two study sites: FRIM campus and FRIM research station;
- (ii) Monthly sampling for a period of 6 months using sweep net and traps (Malaise trap, pitfall trap, yellow pan trap) set out in the study sites;
- (iii) Survey on the incidence of insect pest attack on the germplasm; and
- (iv) Record weather parameter.

2) Identify potential plant communities and their association with the insect predators and parasitoids, i.e. inventory on plant communities following a 100 m transect line.

Expected outcomes of the study:

- 1) Baseline information on insect natural enemies will provide insights into potential biocontrol agents and their ecology as the first step towards an environmental-friendly approach; and
- 2) A reference database in FRIM Entomological Reference Collection for future studies on natural enemies.

## **Section Two. SANFRI Young Scholar Presentation**

In the second part of the Forum, there were 10 presentations were delivered by young scholars, including Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. This session mainly provided an overview of member institutes in terms of history development, established vision and objectives, manpower and institutional arrangement, key research areas and projects, partnership etc. Among the 10 presentations, there were 2 young scholars came from Malaysia and China

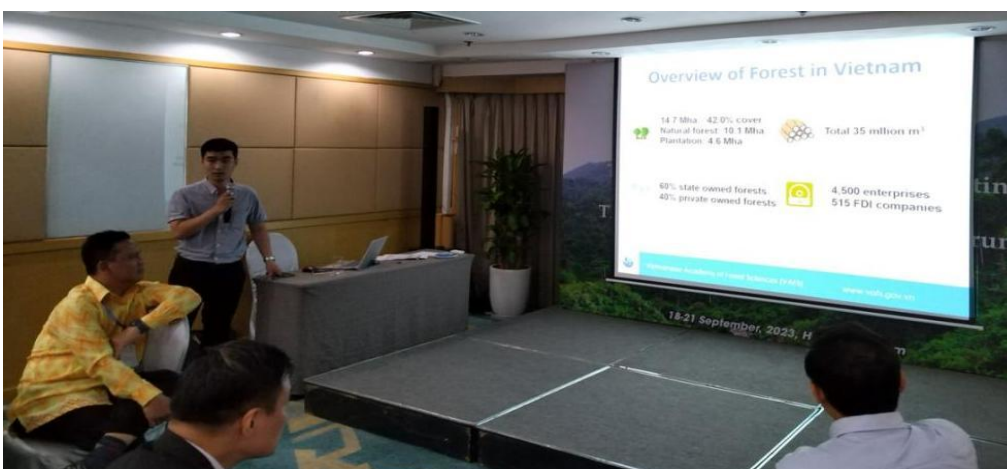
respectively, sharing their previous researches with all participants at the beginning of the section. Through the information exchange, it deepened the mutual understanding of institutes from economies, which was conducive to finding the direction of further cooperation in the future. The presentations were given by the representative from each member institute, and each presentation was constituted of a 15-minute in presentation and 5-minute for Q&A.

**Table 1** The list of SANFRI young scholar presentations in Section Two

No.	Speaker	Economy	Title of Presentation	Note
1	Ms. Nurul Farhanah Zakaria	Malaysia	Conservation Genetics of Tropical Forest Plants in Malaysia	New member
2	Mr. Sun Zhenhua	China	Implication of tree species environmental niche and functional trait diversity for habitat restoration	New member
3	Mr. Sreng Syneath	Cambodia	Improvement of seed supply system in Cambodia	
4	Mr. Wang Lei	China	Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland (YAFG)	Research achievements of the team included
5	Ms. Ratna Uli Damayanti Sianturi	Indonesia	Research Center for Plant Conservation, Botanic Gardens, and Forestry	A short video included
6	Mr. Bounpasaxay Kham Phoumi	Lao PDR	Forest Research Center	
7	Ms.Thi Bee Kin	Malaysia	Introduction to FRIM Research, Development & Commercialization (R, D & C) and Opportunity for Cooperation	
8	Ms. Ei Ei Swe Hlaing & Ms. Swe Swe Tun	Myanmar	Myanmar Forest Research Institute	
9	Ms. Chayaporn Pinyarat	Thailand	Forest Research and Development Office of Thailand	
10	Mr. Tran Hai Long	Vietnam	Forestry Science and Technology Cooperation	New member







## WRAP-UP AND CLOSING

During the session of wrap-up and closing, Ms. Ratna Uli Damayanti Sianturi, on behalf of new Vice Chair of SANFRI, made some closing remarks for the Third Early Career Academics Forum. She expressed her sincere gratitude to APFNet for supporting regional young researchers to facilitate their mutual learning process and further deepen regional cooperation. At last, all members (especially the 15 speakers) were acknowledged for their numerous efforts made to the forum.



To sum up, the Third Early Career Academics Forum of SANFRI was successfully completed. All participants highly appreciated and valued the forum, which provided them a good platform to communicate and develop.

## ANNEX 1 Agenda

Day 1 - 18 September 2023		
Arrival		
Day 2 - 19 September 2023		
Time	Agenda	Facilitator
13:30 - 13:45	<b>Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Tran Lam Dong, Vice President of Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS) (representing SANFRI Chair)</li> <li>Dr. Ismail Parlan, Director General of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (SANFRI Vice-Chair)</li> <li>Dr. Xin Shuyu, APFNet</li> </ul>	Prof. Zhang Jinfeng
<b>Section One (13:45 - 15:15)</b> <b>Information-sharing on three funded projects (2022-2023)</b> <b>under Small Research Grant Program</b>		
13:45 - 14:15	Research on Policies to Promote Natural Forest Restoration Towards Sustainability in Vietnam and Lao PDR - by Ms. Hoang Nguyen Viet Hoa and Mr. Bounpasaxay Kham Phoumi	Prof. Zhang Jinfeng
14:15 - 14:45	Tree Seed Supply Management Model and Policy for Supporting Forest and Landscape Restoration in Indonesia - by Ms. Desmiwati	
14:45 - 15:15	Documenting the insect natural enemies of insect pests in ex situ germplasm conservation of <i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i> - by Ms. Ong Su Ping	
15:15 - 15:35	Coffee Break	
<b>Section Two (15:35 - 17:50)</b> <b>SANFRI Young Scholar Presentation</b>		
15:35 - 15:50	Conservation Genetics of Tropical Forest Plants in Malaysia - by Ms. Nurul Farhanah Zakaria (Malaysia)	Prof. Zhang Jinfeng
15:50 - 16:05	Implication of tree species environmental niche and functional trait diversity for habitat restoration	

	- by Dr. Sun Zhenhua (China)	
16:05 - 16:20	Improvement of seed supply system in Cambodia - by Mr. Syneath Sreng (Cambodia)	
16:20 - 16:35	Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland (YAFG) - by Dr. WANG Lei (China)	
16:35 - 16:50	Research Center for Plant Conservation, Botanic Gardens, and Forestry - by Ms. Ratna Uli Damayanti Sianturi (Indonesia)	
16:50 - 17:05	Forest Research Center - by Mr. Bounpasaxay Kham Phoumi (Lao PDR)	
17:05 - 17:20	Introduction to FRIM Research, Development & Commercialization (R, D & C) and Opportunity for Cooperation - by Ms. Thi Bee Kin (Malaysia)	
17:20 - 17:35	Myanmar Forest Research Institute - by Dr. Ei Ei Swe Hlaing & Ms. Swe Swe Tun (Myanmar)	
17:35 - 17:50	Forest Research and Development Office of Thailand - by Ms. Chayaporn Pinyarat (Thailand)	
17:50 - 18:15	Forestry Science and Technology Cooperation in Vietnam - by Mr. Tran Hai Long (Vietnam)	
18:15 - 18:30	Wrap-up and closing - by Ms. Ratna Uli Damayanti Sianturi (Indonesia, representing Vice Chair of 2024-2025)	
18:30 - 20:00	Welcome Dinner	VAFS
<b>Day 3 - 20 September 2023</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Organizer</b>
09:00 - 18:00	Field visit	VAFS
<b>Day 4 - 21 September 2023</b>		
Departure		

## ANNEX 2 List of participants

### I. Representatives of SANFRI Steering Committee

No.	Economy	Name	Gender	Organizations	Email
1	Cambodia	<b>Ma VuThy</b>	Male	Deputy Director, Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development, Cambodia	vuthydalin@yahoo.com
2	China	<b>Zhong Mingchuan</b>	Female	President, Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland, P.R. China	zmingchuan@vip.163.com
3	Indonesia	Ratna Uli Damayanti <b>Sianturi</b>	Male	Head of Research Center for Plant Conservation, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia	nauliratna@gmail.com
4	Lao	Vongvilay <b>Vongkhamsao</b>	Male	Director, National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute of Lao PDR	vongvilay7566@gmail.com
5	Malaysia	Ismail Parlan	Male	Director General, Forest Research Institute, Malaysia	<a href="mailto:ismailp@frim.gov.my">ismailp@frim.gov.my</a>
6	Myanmar	<b>Hlaing Ei Ei Swe</b>	Female	Director, Forest Research Institute, Myanmar	eieiswehlaing@gmail.com
7	Thailand	Phuangphan <b>Whuangplong</b>	Female	Director of Silviculture Research Division, Royal Forest Department, Thailand	Pyf49@hotmail.com
8	Vietnam	<b>Vo Dai Hai</b>	Male	President, Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences	haivodai@gmail.com
9	Vietnam	Tran Lam <b>Dong</b>	Male	Vice President, Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences	dong.tran@vafs.gov.vn

## II. APFNet

No.	Economy	Name	Gender	Organizations	Email
10	China	<b>Xin Shuyu</b>	Female	Director, Policy Dialogue Division of APFNet Secretariat	xinshuyu@apfnet.cn

## III. SANFRI SCO

No.	Economy	Name	Gender	Organizations	Email
11	China	<b>Zhang Jinfeng</b>	Male	Manager, the SANFRI Coordination Office	1910323166@qq.com
12	China	<b>Sun Rui</b>	Female	Coordinate among APFNet secretariat, rotating chair and vice-chair and the coordination office of SANFRI	sunrui@yafg.ac.cn

## IV. Other participants

No.	Economy	Name	Gender	Organizations	Email
13	Cambodia	<b>Sreng Syneath</b>	Male	Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development	sineathsreng@gmail.com
14	Cambodia	<b>Seab Kimsrim</b>	Male	Agricultural Cooperative Office, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Siem Reap	kimsrim71@gmail.com
15	Cambodia	<b>Sem Rida</b>	Male	Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development	semrida168@gmail.com

16	China	<b>Wang Lei</b>	Male	Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland	wang-lei-yaf@foxmail.com
17	China	<b>Sun Zhenhua</b>	Male	Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland	sunzhenhua@yafg.ac.cn
18	China	<b>Hu Qing</b>	Female	Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland	qing-hu08@163.com
19	Indonesia	<b>Ratna Uli Damayanti Sianturi</b>	Female	Research Center for Plant Conservation, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)	nauliratna@gmail.com
20	Indonesia	<b>Dede Jajat Sudrajat</b>	Male	Forestry and Environment Research Development and Innovation Agency	djsudrajatbtp@yahoo.com
21	Indonesia	<b>Desmiwati</b>	Female	Forestry and Environment Research Development and Innovation Agency	desmiwati.wong@gmail.com
22	Laos	<b>Kham Phoumi Bounpasaxay</b>	Male	National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute	bounpasakxay@yahoo.com
23	Laos	<b>Keothoumma Khamsing</b>	Male	National University of Laos	Khamsing54@yahoo.com
24	Laos	<b>Soukphaxay Khonethong</b>	Male	National University of Laos	khone_soukphaxay@yahoo.com
25	Malaysia	<b>Thi Bee Kin</b>	Female	Forest Research Institute of Malaysia	thibeekin@frim.gov.my
26	Malaysia	<b>Nurul Farhanah Zakaria</b>	Female	Forest Research Institute of Malaysia	nurulfarhanah@frim.gov.my

27	Malaysia	<b>Ong Su Ping</b>	Female	Forest Research Institute Malaysia	ongsuping@frim.gov.my
28	Myanmar	<b>Hlaing Ei Ei Swe</b>	Female	Forest Research Institute of Myanmar	eieiswehlaing@gmail.com
29	Myanmar	Aung Pyae Phy	Male	Forest Research Institute of Myanmar	New young scholar
30	Myanmar	Tun Swe Swe	Female	Forest Research Institute of Myanmar	New young scholar
31	Thailand	<b>Tedsorn Narin</b>	Male	Forest Research and Development Bureau of Thailand	narin67@gmail.com
32	Thailand	<b>Chayaporn Pinyarat</b>	Female	Royal Forest Department	Pinyarat118864@gmail.com
33	Thailand	<b>Trakuldit Thanaporn</b>	Female	Forest Economics Office, Royal Forest Department of Thailand	Trakuldit.m@gmail.com
34	Vietnam	<b>Nguyen Phuong Thao</b>	Female	Forest Science Center for Central Northern Vietnam, Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences	Phuongthao150495@gmail.com
35	Vietnam	<b>Hoang Nguyen Viet Hoa</b>	Female	Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences	Hoa.hnv@vafs.gov.vn
36	Vietnam	<b>Tran Hai Long</b>	Male	Silviculture Research Institute, VAFS	longtran.vfu94@gmail.com
37	Vietnam	<b>Do Thi Hoai Thanh</b>	Female	Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences	Provide assistance
38	Vietnam	<b>Dao Le Huyen Trang</b>	Female	Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences	Provide assistance