



# 首届澜湄流域林业大学校长论坛第一次指导委员会会议

Presidents' Forum of Forestry University/Institute in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)

---First Meeting of Steering Committee

## Working Report

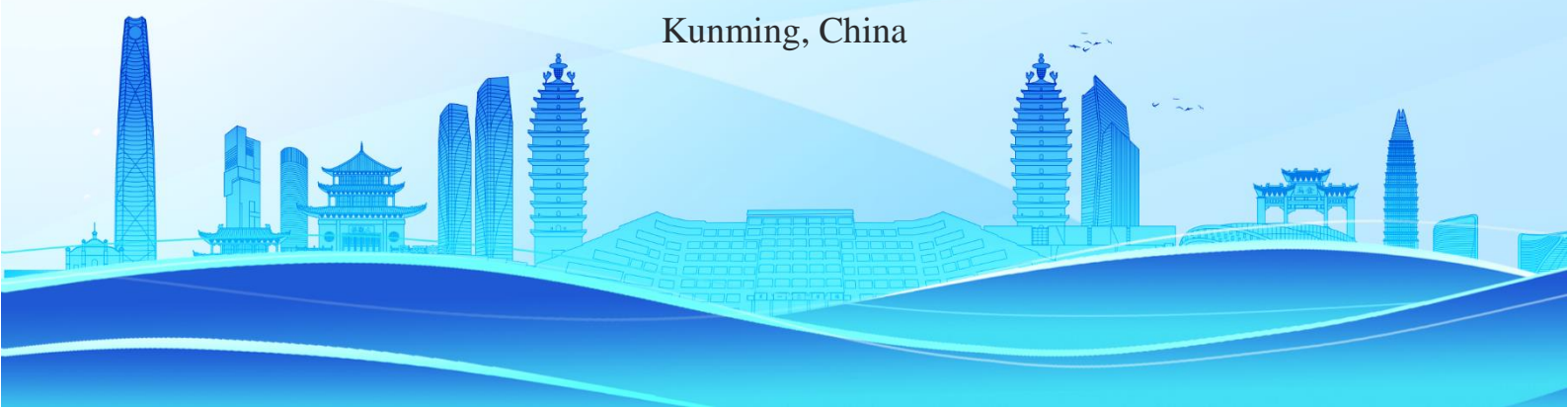


APFNet Kunming Training Center (APFNet-KTC)

Southwest Forestry University (SWFU)

November 2024

Kunming, China



## Acknowledgement

In order to promote the inter-university cooperation and development of forestry higher education and forestry scientific research in the Lancang-Mekong River Basin, the First Meeting of Steering Committee of Presidents' Forum of Forestry University/Institute in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), organized by Southwest Forestry University (SWFU) and Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) with the full involvement of delegates from GMS forestry universities, has successfully launched during November 18-21, 2024, in Kunming City, China. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the First Meeting of Steering Committee of Presidents' Forum.

Firstly, our heartfelt thanks go to the APFNet for their unwavering support in organizing and facilitating this important event, and we would like to acknowledge the distinguished members and contact persons of the Forum Steering Committee (FSC). Their commitment to advancing sustainable forest management, forestry education, and research forms the cornerstone of this Forum.

A special thanks to the government officials from the Yunnan Provincial Department of Education, Forestry and Grassland Administration of Yunnan Province, and the Yunnan Provincial Academy of Science and Technology for their continued support and encouragement.

Our gratitude also extends to the participants from various departments and colleges of SWFU for their active involvement, as well as the faculty, staff, and students who facilitated the informative visits to local landmarks such as Kunming Dounan Flower Market, the College of Forestry, the College of Materials and Chemical Engineering, and the Ancient Tea Tree Resource Museum and World Tea Library.

Lastly, let's look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in promoting sustainable forest management and forestry higher education across the GMS.

APFNet Kunming Training Center (APFNet-KTC)

Southwest Forestry University (SWFU)

# Content

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

<b>PREFACE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
----------------------	----------

<b>BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>2</b>
------------------------	----------

<b>PARTICIPANTS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
---------------------------	----------

<b>ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
-------------------------------------	----------

1. Opening Cerenony .....	3
---------------------------	---

2. Sterring Committee Meeting .....	4
-------------------------------------	---

2.1 Chair election of FSC .....	4
---------------------------------	---

2.2 Confirmation of the Forum Liaison Office .....	5
--	---

2.3 Forum Institutionalized Operational Framework Document .....	6
--	---

3. Cooperative Exchange of Forestry Universities in GMS .....	6
---	---

3.1 Chair election of FSC .....	6
---------------------------------	---

3.2 Confirmation of the Forum Liaison Office .....	7
--	---

3.3 Forum Institutionalized Operational Framework Document .....	8
--	---

3.4 Chair election of FSC .....	8
---------------------------------	---

3.5 Confirmation of the Forum Liaison Office .....	9
--	---

3.6 Forum Institutionalized Operational Framework Document .....	10
--	----

4. Closing Remarks .....	10
--------------------------	----

5. Visiting and Exchange.....	11
-------------------------------	----

<b>PROFILE OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER.....</b>	<b>11</b>
--	-----------

<b>APPENDIX .....</b>	<b>16</b>
-----------------------	-----------

1. Provisional Agenda .....	16
-----------------------------	----

2. Participants List .....	18
----------------------------	----

3. PPT Presentations by FSC Member .....	19
--	----

## Preface

As a follow-up to the first Presidents' Forum of Forestry University/Institute in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) in September 2023, the First Meeting of Steering Committee of Presidents' Forum successfully held from November 18-21, 2024, in Kunming, Southwest China, marked a pivotal moment in advancing regional cooperation for sustainable forest management and forestry development in the GMS.

During the first meeting of FSC, a two-year rotational preside system for the Chair position was established. Dr. Wang Weibin, President of SWFU and Dr. Kim Soben, Dean of the Faculty of Forestry at Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia was nominated as Chair and Co-chair of FSC respectively. SWFU was confirmed as the Liaison Office to serve as a linkage among the forum members, FSC and other sponsors, as well as the drafted Document for Forum Institutionalized Operational Framework was also formal approval by FSC. This marks a new stage of the Forum, one that is more formalized and institutionalized, laying a solid foundation for future cooperation.

In order to reinforce the shared vision of promoting sustainable forest management and advancing forestry higher education in the region, the meeting highlighted significant progress in regional cooperation since September 2023. A consensus was established on strengthening collaboration regarding to the joint research, talent development through regional student and staff exchanges, scholarship programs, joint degree initiatives. Meanwhile, the suggestions will be crucial in shaping the future of the Presidents' Forum and ensuring its long-term success with a strong foundation for ongoing collaboration and knowledge exchange was laid among GMS universities and institutions.

FSC Meeting Secretariat



# **Presidents' Forum of Forestry University/Institute in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)**

## **--- First Meeting of Steering Committee**

(November 18-21, 2024)

### **BACKGROUND**

As an international platform to further promote sub-regional cooperation in sustainable forest management and forestry development, the First Presidents' Forum of Forestry University/Institute in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (referred to as "Presidents' Forum" afterwards), initiated and organized by SWFU and APFNet, has successfully launched with the full involvement of delegates from GMS forestry universities and institutes in Kunming City, Southwest China in September 2023, it aims to promote the inter-university cooperation and development of forestry higher education and forestry scientific research in the Lancang-Mekong River Basin.



During the event of First Presidents' Forum in 2023, a Forum Steering Committee (FSC) was proposed to be established necessary as the decision-making body to further ensure the institutionalized operation of the biennial Presidents' Forum.

For this regards, the first FSC meeting, under supports of APFNet, is scheduled to be hosted by SWFU in Kunming City on November 18-21, 2024, and the institutionalized operational framework document of Presidents' Forum, progress overview of activities proposed by First Presidents' Forum, as well as preparation and organization for the Second Presidents' Forum in 2025 has fully discussed during this event.

### **PARTICIPANTS**

The participants mainly included FSC members and contact persons of the Presidents' Forum as follows, and distinguished guests from provincial government departments and media, as well as heads from various departments and colleges of SWFU. Additionally foreign students studying in SWFU was also actively participated in the meeting, their

presence highlighted the university's strong commitment to fostering regional international collaboration in forestry higher education and sustainable forest management.



## ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

### 1. Opening Ceremony

The meeting commenced with a formal opening ceremony on November 19, 2024, held at the International Exchange and Cooperation Center of SWFU. The event was chaired by Dr. He Xiahong, Vice President of SWFU.



Dr. Wang Weibin warmly welcomed all participants and expressed sincere gratitude to APFNet for its unwavering support in advancing regional forestry education, fostering joint research, and promoting economic development. He underscored the vital importance of cooperation within the GMS, noting that forests cover 46% of the basin and directly sustain nearly 70 million people. Dr. Wang proposed three key initiatives to further strengthen collaboration through the Forum: deepening scientific research partnerships, improving institutional frameworks for cooperation, and translating collaborative achievements into tangible contributions to regional economic growth.

Honorable officials from Yunnan Provincial Department of Education, Forestry and Grassland Administration of Yunnan Province, and Yunnan Provincial Academy of Science and Technology expressed their strong support for the Forum. They highlighted the region's strategic importance and the role of forestry education in driving sustainable development. Additionally, they addressed the necessity of collaborative initiatives to tackle shared challenges and promote economic growth in the GMS.

Dr. Pham Van Dien, the president of Vietnam National University of Forestry, delivered an inspiring speech on the critical role of inter-university collaboration in addressing regional forestry and environmental challenges. He emphasized Vietnam's commitment to working closely with other member universities to advance forestry research and education in the GMS. He expressed gratitude to SWFU and APFNet for their leadership in organizing the Forum and reaffirmed Vietnam's dedication to contributing to its success.



Dr. Lu De acknowledged the Forum as a vital platform for addressing shared challenges in sustainable forest management and promoting the exchange of knowledge and best practices. He emphasized the importance of diversifying financial support for the Forum, calling on governments, international organizations, and other agencies to join APFNet in ensuring the Forum's sustainability. Dr. Lu expressed confidence that the Forum would continue to strengthen ties among member universities and drive impactful collaboration in the region.

## **2. Steering Committee Meeting**

### **2.1. Chair election of FSC**

In order to ensure equitable participation among member institutions, a rotation system for FSC leadership was formally established by FSC member during the meeting. Under the agreed rotation system, the Chair will rotate every two years among the member economies in the following order: China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.





Dr. Wang Weibin, President of SWFU, was nominated as the first Chair of FSC for a two-year term, and Dr. Kim Soben, Dean of the Faculty of Forestry at the Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia, was nominated as the Co-Chair. All FSC members are expected to take on the responsibilities of the Chair when it is their turn and actively contribute to serving the Forum.

Special provisions were introduced for the initial Chair. If the first Chair is promoted or transitions to another position, the Co-Chair will automatically assume the role of Chair. For subsequent terms, should the Chair be unable to continue, the representing university can nominate another individual to fulfill the role. This approach ensures continuity and adaptability in leadership while maintaining institutional representation.

## 2.2. Confirmation of the Forum Liaison Office

SWFU was designated as the Forum's permanent Liaison Office, responsible for facilitating communication, coordinating activities, and mobilizing resources necessary for the effective functioning of the Forum.



Given the significant operational costs associated with running the Liaison Office, including staff support, administrative functions, and resource management, it was proposed that all member universities contribute financially to sustain the office's activities. The financial contributions would be made in proportion to each university's capacity, ensuring that no single institution bears the full burden of the operational costs. This approach aims to promote fairness and shared responsibility, with each university playing a vital role in sustaining the Forum's operations and ensuring its long-term viability.

### 2.3. Forum Institutionalized Operational Framework Document

The Forum's Operational Framework of Institutionalization document was formally approved in principle by FSC, it is providing a comprehensive guidance for the Forum's governance. This document established clear



governance rules, defined decision-making processes, and set operational guidelines to ensure the smooth and effective functioning of the Forum. The approval of this framework marked a significant step in institutionalizing the Forum, laying the foundation for consistent operations that will guide its activities and ensure long-term sustainability.

Additionally, further clarification was needed regarding the specific responsibilities of key roles within the Forum, including the Chair, the Co-Chair, and the Liaison Office, ensuring the Forum activity would be better positioned to operate efficiently, with all parties understanding their roles and contributing effectively to the Forum's success.

## 3. Cooperative Exchange of Forestry Universities in the GMS



A series of presentation regarding to the progress of cooperation and exchange since the first Presidents' Forum in 2023 were presented by the FSC members, including SWFU, Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia, National

University of Laos, Lao PDR, University of Forestry and Environmental Science, Myanmar, Kasetsart University, Thailand and Vietnam National University of Forestry, Vietnam.

### 3.1. Southwest Forestry University, China

Dr. He Xiaohong, Vice President of SWFU, presented the progress of cooperation within the GMS, emphasizing its increasing importance in fostering regional collaboration.

In September 2023, the First Presidents' Forum was held, marking a key milestone in the strengthening of ties among the six participating universities: Cambodia's Royal University of Agriculture, China's Southwest Forestry University, Myanmar's University of Forestry and Environmental Science, National University of Laos, Thailand's Kasetsart



University, and Vietnam's National University of Forestry. Over the past year, the cooperation between these universities has deepened, with significant efforts in joint talent training programs, international scholarships, summer camps, student exchanges, international forestry training, and academic workshops. SWFU remains committed to expanding educational cooperation within the GMS, continuing to contribute to the development of a shared future in the region.

### **3.2. Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia**



Dr. Kim Soben, Dean of the Faculty of Forestry Science at the Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia outlined key elements crucial for the effective operation of the Presidents' Forum during his presentation. He addressed that the Forum serves as a platform for higher education leaders to share experiences, exchange best practices, and discuss opportunities based on existing or potential areas of common interest in a

collaborative environment. To ensure the sustainability of the Forum, Dr. Kim proposed several activities, including continuous support for student camps, scholarships for master's and PhD programs to build capacity in the forestry field, academic exchanges, joint degree programs, and fostering scientific research and technological innovation for GMS economies. He also emphasized the importance of promoting corporate project developments and fundraising efforts to sustain the Forum, such as joint initiatives focused on biodiversity conservation and reforestation.



### 3.3. National University of Laos, Lao PDR

Dr. Sithong Thongmanivong, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Forest Science at the National University of Laos, expressed gratitude to SWFU and APFNet for their support and the opportunity to participate in the meeting. He highlighted that Laos faces significant limitations in research facilities and capabilities and continues to rely heavily on support from neighboring economies. The Forum has provided a valuable platform for Laos to learn from its partners through research collaboration and knowledge exchange. Dr.



Sithong emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships to address shared challenges, including climate change, forest fires, and air pollution, by launching joint research initiatives, particularly in areas like water management and hydropower in the GMS. He also acknowledged the effectiveness of activities such as summer camps and training programs for tea farmers in building capacity and fostering regional collaboration.

### 3.4. University of Forestry and Environmental Science, Myanmar



On behalf of President Dr. Khin Maung Sint, Mr. Chit Oo Ko, Lecturer at the University of Forestry and Environmental Science in Myanmar, proposed several initiatives to enhance the effective operation of the Presidents' Forum. He emphasized the importance of establishing a clear vision, mission, goals, and objectives for the Forum while considering the needs of all stakeholders. Recognizing that the priorities of each nation and university may differ, he highlighted the need to define and prioritize diverse areas of cooperation to

reflect varied stakeholder requirements. For Myanmar, key areas of interest include student and teacher exchanges, online and in-person lectures, joint research, laboratory upgrades, funding for postgraduate studies, curriculum revision, and hosting research conferences. However, Myanmar faces several challenges, such as outdated curricula, limited resource personnel, educators with insufficient capacity and skills, inadequate

teaching facilities, and a lack of field exposure, underscoring the need for technical and financial support.

He further suggested joint working areas, including forest management, biodiversity conservation, wood science and technology, plantation silviculture, non-timber forest products development, and environmental management. For the Forum's sustainability, he stressed the importance of developing a robust organizational framework, preparing short- and long-term plans, and establishing control mechanisms to ensure activities remain on track. Effective communication among stakeholders, regular monitoring, and evaluation of performance are critical to measure progress, identify limitations and challenges, and capitalize on opportunities. A detailed monitoring and evaluation plan, conducted regularly, is essential for ensuring the Forum's long-term success and achieving its objectives.

### **3.5. Kasetsart University, Thailand**

Dr. Sapit Diloksumpun, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University (KUFF), presented extensive initiatives and collaborative activities undertaken by KUFF. These initiatives emphasize networking with experts, agencies, and researchers both locally and internationally to foster cooperation and discussions on critical forestry issues. KUFF showcased its advancements in science and technology supporting carbon forestry, highlighting



techniques for carbon measurement and monitoring, the development of allometric equations, and innovative applications such as the eddy covariance technique. To support the Presidents' Forum, KUFF proposed activities including research collaborations to address regional challenges such as wildfire management, PM 2.5 pollution, and deforestation in the GMS border areas. The presentation also advocated for scholarships for joint degree programs, the creation of a GMS forestry students' association, and enhanced international educational opportunities through events and intercultural exchanges. Additionally, KUFF detailed its collaborative partnerships with institutions like SWFU, Yunnan University, APFNet, and Technische Universität Dresden, Germany, and highlighted ongoing projects focused on sustainable wood use, wildlife conservation, and ecotourism.

### 3.6. Vietnam National University of Forestry, Vietnam



Dr. Hoang Van Sam, Director of International Cooperation Department at Vietnam National University of Forestry delivered an insightful presentation emphasizing the achievements and future prospects of Vietnam's forestry sector. He highlighted its dual role in both its economic and environmental contributions, such as increased timber production from plantations, rising revenue from forest environmental services, and income generated through forest carbon credits. Looking forward, they outlined a strategic vision for sustainable forestry development from 2021 to 2030, with a long-term focus extending to 2050, aiming to balance economic growth with ecological preservation. Dr. Hoang also proposed various initiatives to strengthen international collaboration including staff and student exchanges, joint training programs, research initiatives, and academic exchanges to foster regional partnerships and enhance forestry education and sustainability efforts.

## 4. Closing Remarks

The First Meeting of Steering Committee of Presidents' Forum of Forestry Universities/Institutes in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) concluded with closing remarks from Dr. Wang Weibin, Chair of the FSC and President of SWFU.

Dr. Wang expressed gratitude to APFNet and member institutions for their support in establishing the forum as a vital platform for advancing regional forestry education, research collaboration, and knowledge exchange since its launch in September 2023. He highlighted the forum's



progression towards formalization and outlined its strategic priorities: enhancing communication through regular meetings, implementing annual work plans with task forces addressing key issues, deepening education and talent development via joint research, training, and exchange programs, and securing policy support to align with regional goals. SWFU, as the Liaison Office, will oversee daily coordination and preparations for the Second Presidents' Forum in 2025. Dr. Wang reaffirmed his



commitment to openness, cooperation, and shared efforts to elevate forestry education and sustainable development in the GMS.

## 5. Visiting and Exchange

As part of the meeting activities, participants visited the Kunming Dounan Flower Market, the College of Forestry, College of Materials and Chemical Engineering, Ancient Tea Tree Resource Museum and World Tea Library of SWFU on November 20, 2024.



## PROFILE OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER

- **Dr. Lu De (APFNet)**

Dr. Lu De, who holds a Master of Science in Forestry from Melbourne University (2009) and a PhD in Ecology from the Chinese Academy of Forestry (2011), was appointed as the second Executive Director of APFNet. He was recommended by China, the host economy of the APFNet secretariat, interviewed and appointed by APFNet Board of Directors as the second Executive Director of APFNet, succeeding Mr. QU Guilin, who has held this position during 2011 and 2017.

Before taking office on 19 September 2017, Dr. Lu De has served the State Forestry Administration of China for more than 20 years on forestry related international cooperation.

He's gained rich experience through the active engagement in negotiations at international processes and conventions, and promoting cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experience between China and the region.

Dr. Lu De's engagement in APFNet has been as early as more than ten years ago, when the Organization was proposed at APEC Leaders' Summit in 2007. He has been taking part in developing APFNet strategies and designing programs. His international outlook for the regional forest sector, knowledge and skills in executive management and team mobilization have helped the secretariat a stronger team and APFNet a respected partner in the region.

- **Dr. Kim Soben (Cambodia)**

Dr. Kim Soben is the Dean of the Faculty of Forestry Science and Director of the Center for Agricultural and Environmental Studies (CAES). He holds an MSc in Life and Environmental Sciences from the University of Tsukuba, Japan, and an MSc in Renewable Natural Resources from the Royal University of Agriculture in Cambodia, where he also earned his bachelor's degree in forestry. With over 15 years of professional experience, Dr. Kim has specialized in teaching and research, particularly in capacity-building training focused on climate change adaptation and mitigation, hazard vulnerability, impact assessment, climate modeling, wetland ecology, forestry, agriculture, rural development, and environmental studies.

He has extensive experience coordinating, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating various projects, and has worked closely with national government institutions and international development partners such as MoE, CCCA, MAFF, FA, MoEYS, WCS, UNDP, IFAD, USAID, EU Erasmus+ CBHE, WOCAT, ADB, ICF, Wetland University Network, UNCCD, World Bank, UNEP, IGE, GEF, MRC, WWF, IUCN, JICA, SUMERNET, KCC, and METI.

Currently, Dr. Kim serves as a project coordinator for several initiatives, including Scaling Up Climate Resilient Agriculture (SUCRA); the Innovative Curriculum in Smart Agriculture through Satellite and Remote Sensing Data in Southeast Asia (AGRISAT); Sustainable Solid Waste Management and Policies (SWAP); Phases I & II of the Forest Inventory Survey for the national and sub-national capacity development for Sustainable Natural Resource Management; the UNEP/GEF Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (SCS SAP project); and projects related to forest restoration, haze training, and monitoring.

- **Dr. Wang Weibin (China)**

Dr. Wang Weibin, the President and Professor of Southwest Forestry University (SWFU), China. He got his PHD in Ecology from Yunnan University, China, and had held various significant positions in forestry and ecological institutions before transferred to SWFU, including President of the Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Deputy Director General of Yunnan Forestry and Grassland Administration. His research focuses on ecology, forestry silviculture, and the management of forest and grassland resources.

As scientific researchers, Dr. Wang was awarded various governmental prizes for his outstanding contributions to the field, such as the First Prize of Natural Science in Yunnan Province, the Second Prize of Yunnan Science and Technology Progress, and awards for his technological innovation and professional achievements. His leadership continues to shape the direction of forestry education and sustainable forest management practices in the region.

- **Dr. Sithong Thongmanivong (Lao PDR)**

Dr. Sithong Thongmanivong is a professor at the Faculty of Forest Science at the National University of Laos, where he has served as Vice Dean for Academic Affairs since 2017. He earned his Ph.D. in Human Ecology from the University of Vienna, Austria, providing him with a strong foundation of knowledge and expertise in his field. As a distinguished lecturer, Dr. Sithong specializes in remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and land use planning, making significant contributions to the academic community at the National University of Laos.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Dr. Sithong is actively engaged in research covering various topics related to forestry, natural resources, environmental concerns, and social development initiatives in Laos. His research plays a vital role in enhancing the understanding of land use and livelihoods in the region, reinforcing his status as a leading authority in the field.

Dr. Sithong's ongoing commitment to education and research is crucial in shaping the future of forestry and environmental science in Laos, reflecting his dedication to advancing knowledge and promoting sustainable practices within the discipline.

- **Dr. Khin Maung Sint ( Myanmar)**

With over two decades of experience in the forestry sector, Dr. Khin Maung Sint began his career as a research assistant (Range Officer) at the Forest Research Institute, where he



worked from 1996 to 2006. He then transitioned to Myanma Timber Enterprise, serving as an assistant general manager from 2006 to 2015, followed by his role as assistant secretary at the Union Minister's Office between 2015 and 2020. Since 2020, he has been a professor at the University of Forestry and Environmental Science, and he currently holds the position of rector at the same institution.

Dr. Khin Maung Sint's academic background includes a doctoral degree in wood science and technology (2007-2010) and a master's degree in tropical forestry (2000-2002), both from Georg-August University in Germany. He also earned an MBA from the University of Economics, Meiktila (2018-2020), and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Policy and Administration from the Postgraduate School of Administration and Development, Myanmar (2016-2017). His first degree is a B.Sc. in Forestry, completed in 1996.

In addition to his professional roles, he has made notable contributions to academic research, publishing 19 articles and theses primarily focused on wood science and technology. His work has been featured in both international and domestic journals.

- **Dr. Kobsak Wanthongchai (Thailand)**

Dr. Kobsak Wanthongchai currently serves as the Dean of the Faculty of Forestry at Kasetsart University, Thailand, and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Silviculture. He holds a B.Sc. and an M.Sc. in Silviculture from Kasetsart University, and earned his PhD in Silviculture with a focus on forest fire ecology from the University of Freiburg, Germany. With over two decades of experience in teaching, research, and academic leadership, Dr. Kobsak's areas of expertise include forest fire management, forest fire ecology, forest protection, silviculture, and forest insect pest management.

His involvement in more than 15 significant research projects has contributed to key areas such as fire ecology in tropical forests, haze reduction, and peat swamp conservation. Some notable projects include the Prevention and Management of Kuankreng Peat Swamp Forest Fire, funded by the National Research Council of Thailand, and Integrated Highland Wildfire and Haze Management, supported by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research. These initiatives have advanced forest conservation and climate change mitigation efforts in the region.

With over 15 published academic articles in international and domestic journals, his research has focused on the ecological effects of fire, prescribed burning for pest control, and the dynamics of fire in tropical ecosystems. Beyond his research, he has held key roles

within Kasetsart University, such as Associate Dean for Research and Director of the Forestry Research Center. His leadership continues to influence forest conservation practices and environmental management in Southeast Asia.

- **Dr. Pham Van Dien (Vietnam)**

Dr. Pham Van Dien was born in 1970 and is the president of the Vietnam National University of Forestry. He was a visiting scientist at Colorado State University, USA, from 2013 to 2018 and at Bayreuth University, Germany, from 2011 to 2015. The president of the socialist republic of Vietnam has awarded him the title of prominent lecturer since 2010.

Dr. Pham Van Dien has experience working as a governmental official, such as vice director of the Ha Giang Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (2015 - 2017), deputy director general of the international cooperation department that belongs to MARD (2017 - 2018), and deputy director general of Vietnam forestry administration that belongs to MARD (2018 - 2022).

Dr. Pham Van Dien has published 75 scientific papers, 21 textbooks, reference books, and monographs. He has also led the research teams for ten ministry-level and higher scientific projects. He has 08 authorities' registration and intellectual works.

## Appendix 1:

### Presidents' Forum of Forestry University/Institute in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)

#### --- First Meeting of Steering Committee

(November 18-21 2024      Kunming, China)

#### Provisional Agenda

Time	Agenda	Moderators
<b>Day 1 / Monday</b> (November 18, 2024): <b>Participants Arrival</b>		
<b>Day 2 / Tuesday</b> (November 19, 2024)		
08:00-08:30	<i>Breakfast</i>	
08:30-09:00	<b>Meeting Registration</b>	APFNet-KTC
09:00-09:40	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome Remarks --- Dr. Wang Weibin (President, Southwest Forestry University, China)</li><li>• Guests Speeches --- Honorable Officials from Provincial Departments.</li><li>• Representative of Forum Steering Committee --- Dr. Pham Van Dien (President, Vietnam National University of Forestry) --- Dr. Lu De ( Executive Director, APFNet)</li></ul>	<b>Venue:</b> Conference Hall  <b>Chairperson:</b> Dr. He Xiahong
09:40-10:00	<i>Group Photo &amp; Tea Break</i>	
10:00-11:30	<b>Steering Committee Meeting</b> (Closed door session) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair election of FSC</li><li>• Confirmation of the Forum Liaison Office</li><li>• Discussion and approval of Forum Institutionalized Operation Framework document.</li></ul>	<b>Venue:</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting Room, (4 <sup>th</sup> Floor) <b>Chairperson:</b> Dr. Preecha Ongprasert
12:00-13:00	<i>Lunch (Buffet)</i>	SWFU

Time	Agenda	Moderators
14:00-14:30	<b>Presentations of Forum Steering Committee Members</b> (Open session)	<b>Venue:</b> Conference Hall  <b>Chairperson:</b> Dr. Preecha Ongprasert
14:30-14:40	• Progress Review of the activities proposed by the First Presidents' Forum --- Southwest Forestry University (SWFU)	
14:40-14:50	• Faculty of Forestry Science, Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia.	
14:50-15:00	• Faculty of Forest Science, National University of Laos.	
15:00-15:10	• University of Forestry and Environmental Science, Myanmar.	
15:10-15:20	• Faculty of Forestry Kasetsart University, Thailand.	
15:20-15:30	• Vietnam National University of Forestry, Vietnam. • APFNet	
15:30-16:00	<b>Tea Break</b>	
16:00-17:00	<b>Planning of Next Presidents' Forum</b> --- Organizing institution, funding supports and date.	<b>Venue:</b> Conference Hall  <b>Chairperson:</b> Dr. Preecha Ongprasert
17:00-17:15	<b>Meeting Summary</b>	
17:15-17:30	<b>Closing Remarks</b> --- Chair of Forum Steering Committee	
18:00-19:00	<b>Welcome Dinner</b>	Dining Room SWFU
<b>Day 3 / Wednesday</b> (November 20, 2024)		
08:30-12:00	<b>Visit the Kunming Dounan Flower Market</b>	SWFU
12:30-13:30	<b>Lunch</b> ( <i>Buffet</i> )	Dining Room
14:30-15:30 15:30-16:30 16:30-17:30	<b>Exchange visit in SWFU campus.</b> • College of Forestry • College of Materials and Chemical Engineering • Ancient Tea Tree Resource Museum, World Tea Library	SWFU
18:00-19:00	<b>Dinner</b>	SWFU
<b>Day 4 / Thursday</b> (November 21, 2024): <b>Participants Departure</b>		

## Appendix 2: Participants List

The participants mainly included FSC members and contact persons of the Presidents' Forum as follows, and distinguished guests from provincial government departments and media, as well as faculties and foreign students of SWFU was also actively participated in the meeting.

### Members and contact persons of FSC

No.	Name	Title/Organization
1	Dr. Lu De	Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
2	Ms. Song Yu An	Program Officer, Capacity Building Division, Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
3	Dr. Kim Soben	Dean, Faculty of Forestry, Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia
4	Ms. Yutha Nida	Deputy Director, Faculty of Forestry, Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia
5	Dr. Wang Weibin	President, Southwest Forestry University, China
6	Dr. He Xiahong	Vice President, Southwest Forestry University, China
7	Dr. Sithong Thongmanivong	Vice Dean, Faculty of Forest Science, National University of Laos, Lao PDR
8	Dr. Bouthavong Saykham	Deputy Head, Faculty of Forest Science, National University of Laos, Lao PDR
9	Dr. Khin Maung Sint	Rector, University of Forestry and Environmental Science, Myanmar
10	Mr. Chit Oo Ko	Lecturer, University of Forestry and Environmental Science, Myanmar
11	Dr. Kobsak Wanthongchai	Dean, Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Thailand
12	Ms. Pichayapak Suriwong	International Relations Officer, Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Thailand
13	Dr. Pham Van Dien	President, Vietnam National University of Forestry, Vietnam
14	Dr. Hoang Van Sam	Director, International Cooperation Department, Vietnam National University of Forestry, Vietnam
15	Dr. Preecha Ongprasert (Meeting Facilitator)	Director, International Forestry Cooperation Office, Royal Forest Department, Thailand

## Appendix 3: PPT Presentations by FSC Member

Southwest Forestry University, China



西南林业大学  
SOUTHWEST FORESTRY UNIVERSITY

南木树人 至真至善

# Progress of Cooperation

## Presidents' Forum of Forestry University/Institute in the Greater Mekong Sub-region

Prof. & Dr. **HE Xiahong**  
Vice President  
Southwest Forestry University

19 November, 2024



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- As we all know, Great Mekong Subregion (GMS) Cooperation is more important.
- In September, 2023, we held the first Presidents' Forum of Forestry University/Institute in GMS.





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- Over the past year, the cooperation among our 6 universities is getting closer and closer.
- Cambodia: Royal University of Agriculture (RUA)
- China: Southwest Forestry University (SWFU)
- Myanmar: University of Forestry and Environmental Science (UFES)
- Laos: National University of Laos (NUOL)
- Thailand: Kasetsart University (KU)
- Vietnam: National University of Forestry (VNUF)



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# Outline

- 01 Joint Talent Training Programs
- 02 International Forestry Training
- 03 International Academic Exchanges
- 04 Efforts for new programs



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# 01 Joint Talent Training Programs

## 1.1 Master's Scholarship Program

- With the support of APFNet, we offer scholarship to the foresters of Cambodia and Laos, to study master's degree in Forestry at SWFU.
- The scholarship covers:
  - international round-trip airfare
  - tuition fees
  - accommodation
  - living expenses 2000 yuan/month
  - insurance, etc.



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# 01 Joint Talent Training Programs

## 1.1 Master's Scholarship Program

- Now, there are totally 6 students studying at College of Forestry.
- 2 from Cambodia, 3 from Laos, and 1 from Fiji.

Students	Nationality	Affiliation
THOUN SEAKLY	Cambodian	NA
YON CHIVKA	Cambodian	Center for Agricultural and Environmental Studies - CAES
PHANINOLETH NONTILATH	Laotian	Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture
SHOUTHICHAC KLIN PALINDA	Laotian	Department of Forest Economics and Wood Technology
LERDVILAY SINBANDITH	Laotian	Laos People Democratic Republic Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity
NAKASAVA BELO	Fijian	Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry





**01 Joint Talent Training Programs**  
1.2 Ph.D Scholarship Program

- We offer scholarship to students of our GMS partners, to study Ph.D programs in *Forestry, Forestry Engineering, Landscape Architecture, Agriculture and Forestry Economics and Management*.
- The scholarship covers:
  - ✓ international round-trip airfare
  - ✓ Tuition fees
  - ✓ accommodation
  - ✓ international round-trip airfare,
  - ✓ living expenses 3500 yuan/month
  - ✓ insurance, etc.

**01 Joint Talent Training Programs**  
Now, there are totally **4** students from Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand.

Students	Nationality	University	Major
SIVILAY	Laotian	National University of Laos	Wood Science and Engineering
NGUYEN	Vietnamese	Vietnam National University of Forestry	Wood Science and Engineering
DUANGNALLY	Laotian	National University of Laos	Agriculture and Forestry Economics and Management
LA ONGDAO	Thai	Kasetsart University	Forest Breeding



**01 Joint Talent Training Programs**  
1.3 Undergraduates Summer Camp Program of Forestry Universities

- We held a **6** days summer camp in Kunming and Pu'er, September 2 to 6, 2024.
- 24** participants from **6** universities:
  - ✓ Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia
  - ✓ Southwest Forestry University, China
  - ✓ National University of Laos
  - ✓ University of Forestry and Environmental Science, Myanmar
  - ✓ Kasetsart University, Thailand
  - ✓ Vietnam National University of Forestry



**01 Joint Talent Training Programs**  
1.4 Students Exchange Programs

- Sponsored by China Scholarship Council, we have a program with KU.
- 4** master's students from College of Materials and Chemical Engineering, went to KU for a 4-month study in December 2023.
- 1** professor and **4** master's students will join the program in December 2024.



**01 Joint Talent Training Programs**  
1.4 Students Exchange Programs

- In collaboration with Vietnam National University of Forestry, we applied 1 program sponsored by China Scholarship Council.
- If approved, **51** teachers and students will benefit from the program in the coming 3 years.



**02 International Forestry Training**  
2.1 Workshop on Degraded Forest Rehabilitation and Management in the Asia-Pacific Region

- 9** days workshop was held in Kunming and Pu'er, August 19 to 27, 2024.
- 13** participants of forestry administrators and researchers across **10** economies (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam) attended.




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02 International Forestry Training

2.2 Cross-border field trip for tea producers

- 6 days cross-border field trip was held in Pu'er, October 27 to November 1, 2024.
- 1 officer from the Lao National Forestry Administration and 6 tea producers from Laos participated.



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03 International Academic Exchanges

- We hosted the "China-South Asia and Southeast Asia Forestry Education Collaboration Symposium", in October, 2024.
- 41 foreign experts from 19 universities in 15 countries participated in.



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03 International Academic Exchanges

- participants from GMS universities:
  - ✓ President **Khin Maung Sint**, and other 1 expert from University of Forestry and Environmental Science, Myanmar
  - ✓ Vice-president **Pham Minh Toai**, and other 5 experts from Vietnam National University of Forestry
  - ✓ 2 experts from Royal University of Agriculture of Cambodia.
  - ✓ 2 experts from National University of Laos
  - ✓ 6 experts from Kasetsart University



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04 Efforts for new programs

Efforts with Kasetsart University

In December, 2023, Prof. **Li Yongqin**, Chairman of the University Council, SWFU, visited KU (Kasetsart University), and the College of Forestry of KU.




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Efforts with Kasetsart University

- In September, 2024, Prof. **Dokrak Marod**, Vice-President of KU visited SWFU.
- Now we are promoting 9 cooperation programs including academic exchange, summer camp, cultural performance etc.




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Efforts with Royal University of Agriculture of Cambodia

In July, 2024, Prof. **Wang Weibin**, President of SWFU, visited Royal University of Agriculture of Cambodia, and signed an agreement with Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development, Forestry Administration.








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桃李树人 至真至善



Efforts with Vietnam National University of Forestry

Last week , Prof. **Guo Hua**, Vice-President of SWFU visited Vietnam National University of Forestry, and signed agreement about students exchange and Chinese language education.





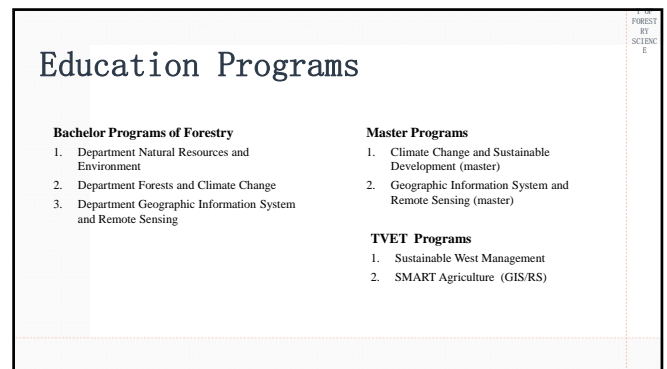
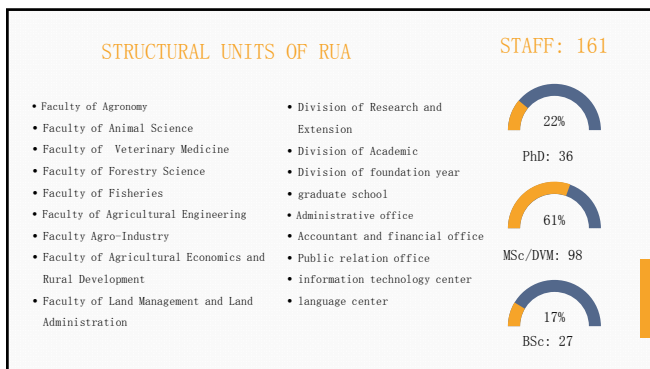
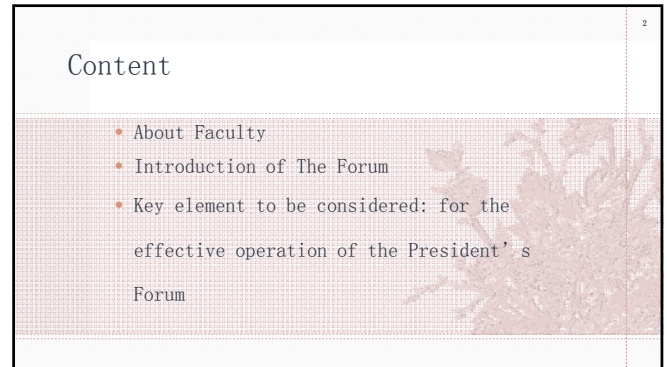
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桃李树人 至真至善

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- ▶ Over the past year, our programs have flourished significantly. More crucially, we have harvested bountiful achievements.
- ▶ We deeply appreciate the support of APFNet and our GMS partners.
- ▶ Looking ahead, SWFU is eager to collaborate with forestry universities within the GMS, fostering ever-greater educational cooperation. Together, we aspire to build a shared future for the GMS Community.





## From my point of view

- The Presidents' Forum is a place for higher education leaders with shared experiences and responsibilities to work collectively and collaboratively in a closed environment.
- The forum is designed to discuss opportunities based on the existing or potential area of common interest or concern.
- It addresses opportunities, challenges, and issues important to member organization chief executives from a collaborative and supportive approach.
- It serves as a place for them to share best practices and discuss the challenges and opportunities that come with high-level strategic leadership.

## The effective of operate the Presidents' Forum



## Proposed Activities for the

No.	Activities
1	Continuous support for student campus
2	Support master and PhD programme for capacity building in the field of forestry
3	Academic exchange programme and joint degree
4	Promote scientific research and innovation technology for GMS countries
5	Corporate Project developments and fund raising for maintain the program
6	Joint the conservation of biodiversity and reforestation

Thank You!

KIM Soben  
(855) 12 724 685  
kimsoben@gmail.com





**First Meeting of Steering Committee for Presidents' Forum of Forestry University/ Institute in Greater Mekong Sub-region**

**Effective operation of Presidents' Forum: Suggestions from University of Forestry and Environmental Science, Myanmar**

(November 18-21, 2024, Southwest Forestry University)

### **Establishment of Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives for forum**

- ☐ Agree on vision, mission, goals and objectives
- ☐ Assess all stakeholders' needs and revised based on the results
- ☐ Translate these needs into comprehensive vision, mission, goals and objectives
- ☐ To assess takeholders' needs and end with results

### **Defining and prioritizing areas of cooperation**

- ☐ Vast and varied areas of cooperation to reflect different stakeholder's needs or issues
- ☐ Prioritize those areas that most stakeholders' are interested in or areas with quick win, or relevant to stakeholders' needs

### **Areas of interest and limitation (Myanmar)**

- ☐ Student and teaching staff exchange
- ☐ Online and in-person lectures
- ☐ Joint research
- ☐ Laboratory upgrading
- ☐ Funding for postgraduate studies
- ☐ Curriculum revision
- ☐ Information sharing
- ☐ Research conference

### **Areas of interest and limitation (Myanmar)**

- ☐ Need to update the curriculum
- ☐ Limited resource person
- ☐ Limited capacity and skills of educators
- ☐ Limited teaching facilities and field exposure
- ☐ Need technical and financial support

### **Defining activities**

- ☐ Define activities for implementation to achieve the goals and objectives
- ☐ The activities might, not limited to, include
  - ☐ Forest management
  - ☐ Biodiversity conservation
  - ☐ Wood science and technology
  - ☐ Plantation silviculture
  - ☐ Non-timber forest products



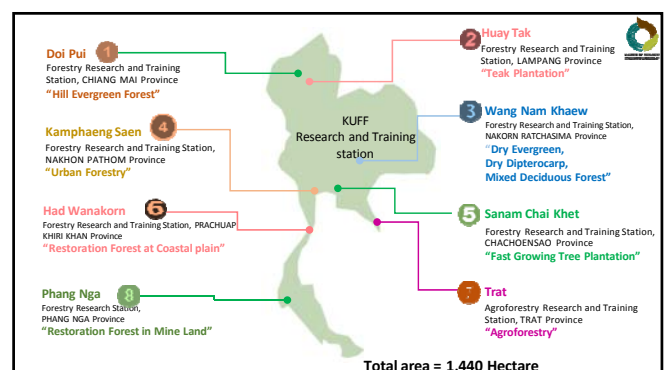
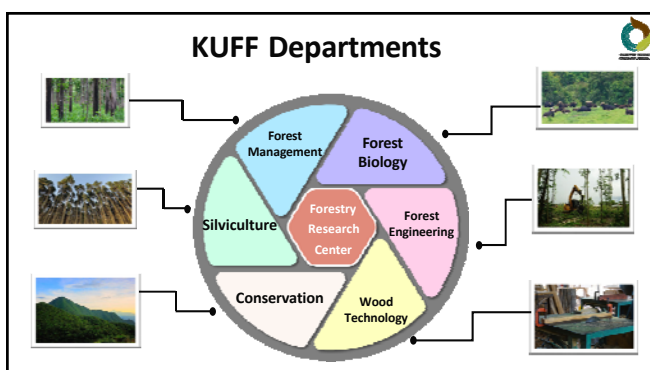
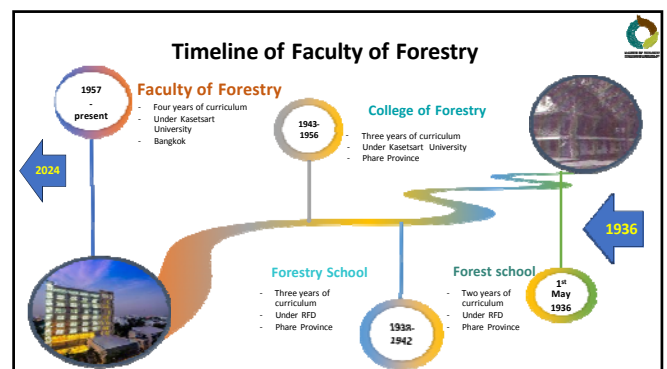
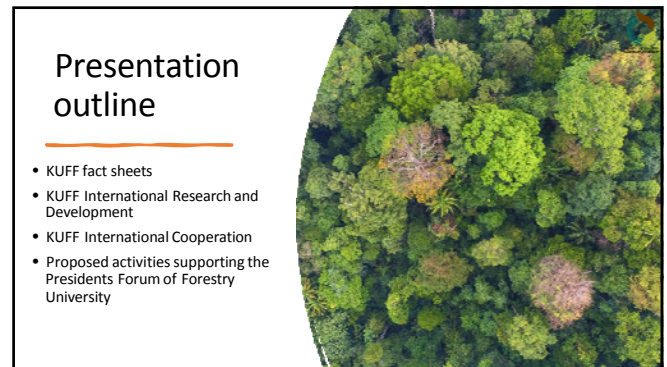
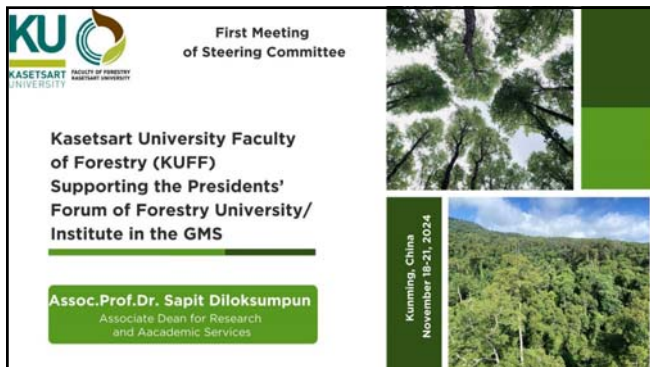
## Sustainability of the forum


- ❑ Need to develop strong organizational framework
- ❑ Need to prepare short and long term plans
- ❑ Need to develop control mechanism to keep the activities on the right tracks
- ❑ Need to build strong and effective communication between stakeholders
- ❑ Need to monitor and evaluate performance to check whether stated objectives and goals are achieved or not (Important for sustainability)

# Thank you

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[uchitooko.env@gmail.com](mailto:uchitooko.env@gmail.com)







**Number of Students**

- 1,293 undergraduate
- 270 master
- 26 Ph.D. candidate

**Academic curriculum**


- B.Sc.
- M.Sc.
- Ph.D.





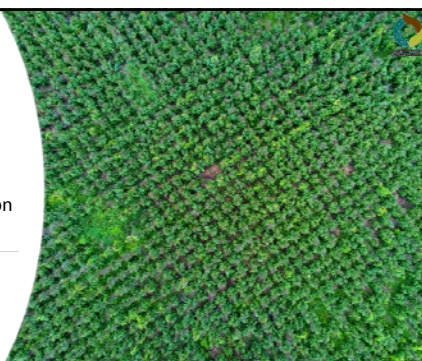
**Number of Staffs**


- 71 academic staffs
- 86 supporting staffs
- 9 researchers





**Hub of Knowledge for Integrated Economic Trees: Plantation Establishment, Management, Utilization and Industry**







**Hub of Knowledge** links with networks of researchers with specific expertise both in Thailand and overseas

- Gather relevant experts
- Establish cooperation with relevant agencies
- Network with relevant people
- Collaborate with relevant agencies to organize meetings and discussions on relevant issues.




**Application of technology for carbon measurement and monitoring**

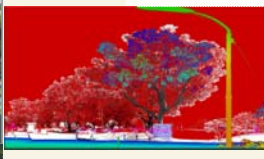



KU Forest towards Carbon Neutrality Goal


Carbon measurement and monitoring through Terrestrial Laser Scanning Technique: TLS



Forest biometric technique

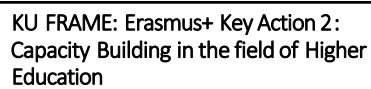
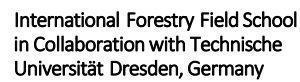
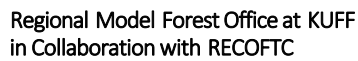


Forest biometric technique using TLS for tree dimension measurement

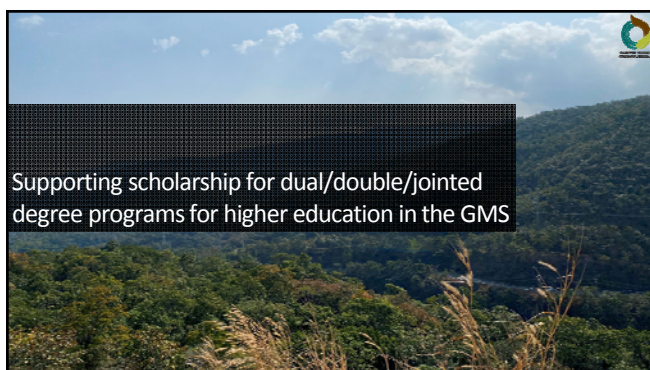










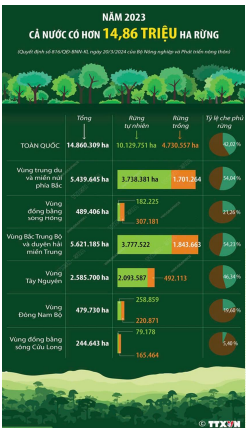




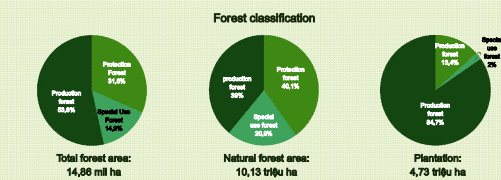
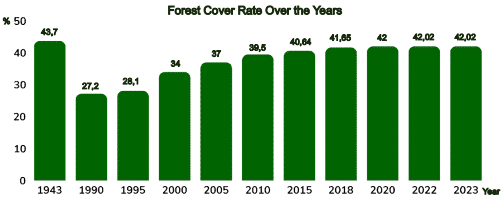
# FORESTRY SECTOR AND FORESTRY EDUCATION IN VIETNAM

Prof. Dr Pham Van Dien – Prof. Dr Hoang Van Sam  
Vietnam National University of Forestry  
samhv@vnuf.edu.vn

Kunming, November 19th, 2024



## CURRENT SITUATION OF VIETNAM'S FORESTS



## RESULTS OF VIETNAM'S FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT (2021-2024)



### Export Value of Timber and Forest Products



15,8 bil USD/year;  
2024: 17 tỷ USD

### Sustainable Forest Management Certificates



Reached 537,000 ha,  
107% plan till 2025

## RESULTS OF VIETNAM'S FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT (2021-2024)

Growth rate of forestry's added value:  
an average of 4.6% per year

The volume of timber harvested from  
concentrated plantations reaches  
21.5 million cubic meters per year

Annual revenue from forest environmental  
services exceeds 3 trillion vnd

In 2023, successfully transferred 10.3 million  
forest carbon credits, generating 51.5 million  
usd



## RESULTS OF VIETNAM'S FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT (2021-2024)

### Forestry mechanisms and policies

Forestry Law; Decree No.  
156/2018/ND-CP; Decree No.  
91/2024/ND-CP

Investment Policies in Forestry  
(Decree No. 58/2024/ND-CP)

Payment for Forest Environmental  
Services, credit, decree on cultivation,  
development, and harvesting of  
medicinal plants in forests, etc



## RESULTS OF VIETNAM'S FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

### Key programs

- 01 Vietnam's forestry development strategy for the period 2021-2030, vision to 2050
- 02 National forestry planning for the period 2021-2030, vision to 2050
- 03 Sustainable forestry development program for the period 2021-2025
- 04 Project: Development of Agricultural and Forestry economy associated with forest protection and enhancing income for local people
- 05 REDD+ program; vietnam ginseng development program





## DEVELOPMENT ORIENTATION FOR FORESTRY SECTOR IN THE PERIOD 2021-2030, VISION TO 2050

### Vision to 2050

Create a wide range of diverse products and high value-added services, actively participate in the global value supply chain, and increasingly contribute to the sustainable development of the country.



The forestry sector will truly become a modern, efficient, and effective economic-technical industry with high competitiveness; effectively leveraging the potential and advantages of tropical forest resources; and environmentally friendly technology.

## EDUCATION ON FORESTRY IN VIETNAM

A total of 235 Universities in Vietnam

01 University: Vietnam National University of Forestry



QUY HOẠCH TỔNG THỂ TRƯỜNG ĐHLN

### 07 other University with Forestry Faculties/Departments

- Thai Nguyen University
- Hong Duc University
- Hue University
- Tay Nguyen University
- Nong Lam Ho Chi Minh University
- Tay Bac University
- Bac Giang agriculture and Forestry University



Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam Excellency Nguyen Hoa Binh gives speech at VNUF' 60 years anniversary





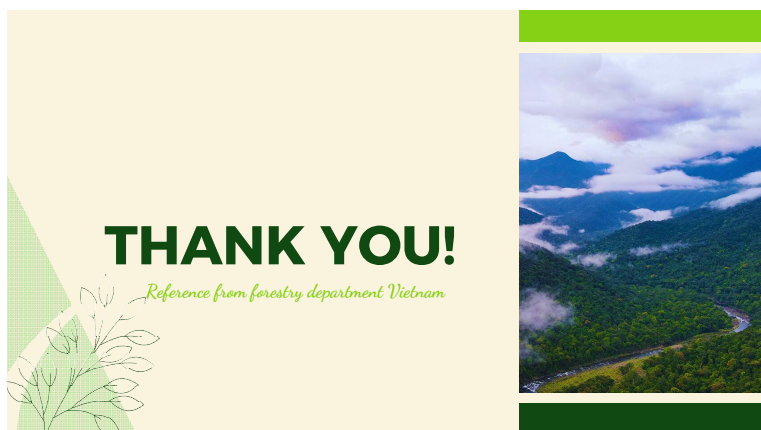
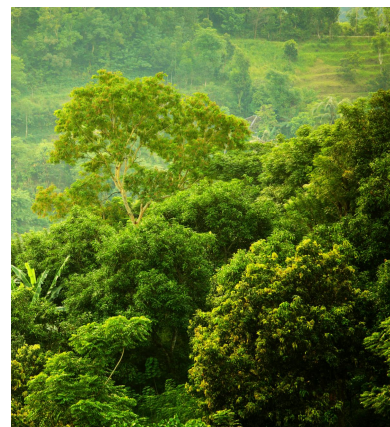






#### POTENTIAL COOPERATION

- Exchange of staff and students.
- Joint training program, double degree (short courses BSc, MSc, PhD), summer courses
- Joint research projects
- Joint publication
- joint conferences/forums
- Online seminar
- Other academic exchanges





**Presidents' Forum of Forestry University/Institute**  
**in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)**  
**--- First Meeting of Steering Committee**  
**(November 18-21, 2024)**

**Sponsored by**

The Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation  
(APFNet)

**Organized by**

APFNet Kunming Training Center (APFNet-KTC)

Southwest Forestry University (SWFU)