



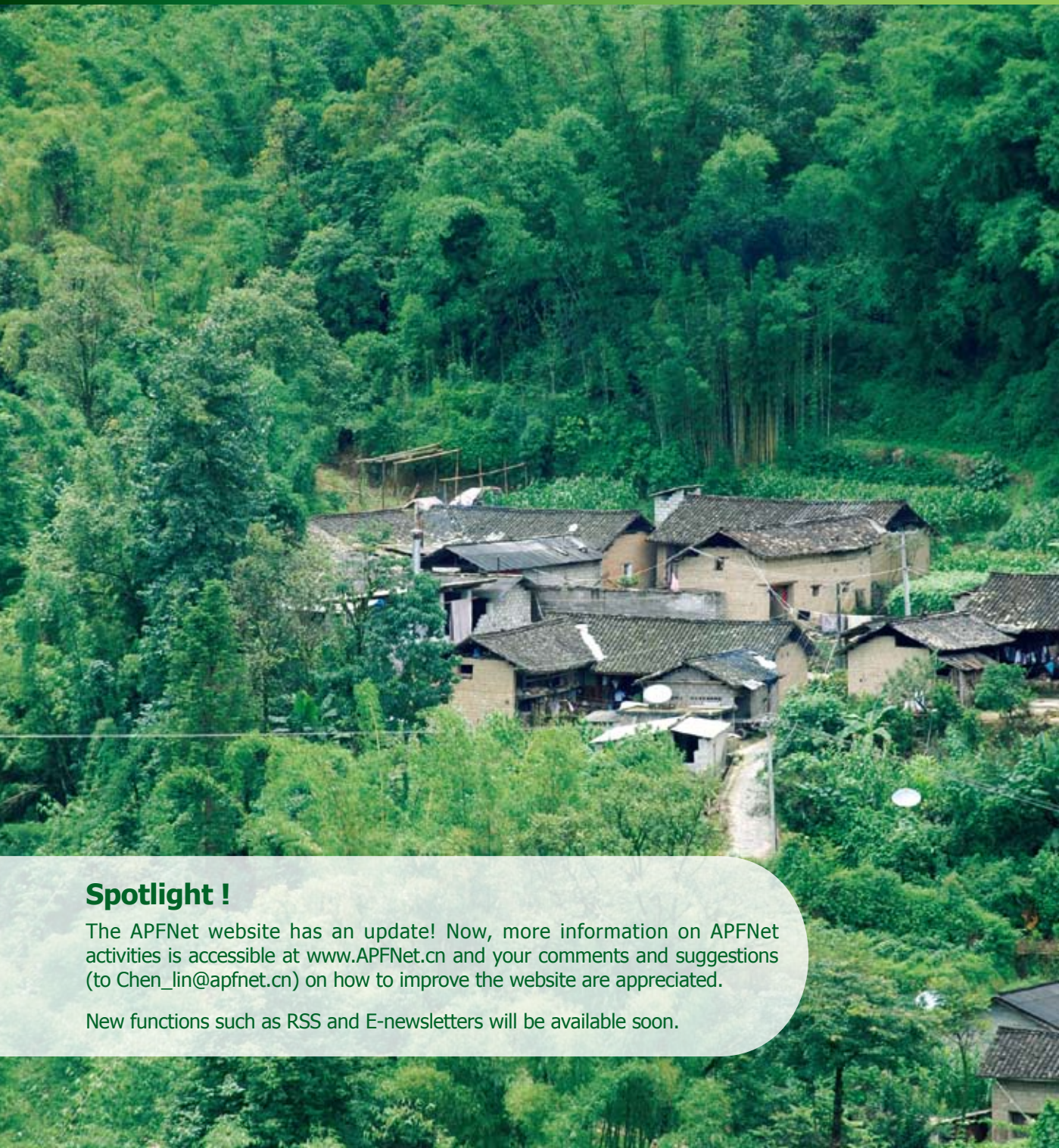
APFNet Newsletter³

Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation

October, 2009—July, 2010

APFNet's Mission

Promoting and improving sustainable forest management and rehabilitation in the Asia-Pacific region



Spotlight !

The APFNet website has an update! Now, more information on APFNet activities is accessible at www.APFNet.cn and your comments and suggestions (to Chen_lin@apfnet.cn) on how to improve the website are appreciated.

New functions such as RSS and E-newsletters will be available soon.



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFP	Asia Forest Partnership
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
APFC	Asia Pacific Forestry Commission
APFNet	Asia Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ASEM	Asia and Europe Meeting
BFU	Beijing Forestry University
CAF	Chinese Academy of Forestry
CLI	Country-led initiatives
COFO	Committee on Forestry
FAO/RAF	Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
FLEG	Forest Law Enforcement and Governance
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
GACF	Global Alliance of Community Forestry
GOFC-GOLD	Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics
INBAR	International Network for Bamboo and Rattan
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
MRC	Mekong River Commission
NFP	National Forest Programmes
NLBI	Non-Legally Binding Instrument for All Types of Forests
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes
RECOFTC	Regional Community Forestry Training Center
SWFU	Southwest Forestry University
TNC/RAFT	The Nature Conservancy Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
WFC	World Forestry Congress
WWF	World Wild Fund for Nature



Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation

APFNet Secretariat

16 North Street Hepingli Beijing, China 100013

Tel: +86 10 8421 8108 Fax: +86 10 8421 6958

Website: www.APFNet.cn



Institutional Development

APFNet focal points network set up in the region

APFNet organized and sponsored the 1st meeting of APFNet focal points within the Asia-Pacific region in Beijing, June 23-24, 2010. Twenty-four representatives from 12 APEC economies and the APFNet Secretariat discussed the establishment of an effective working mechanism, the purpose of which would be to outline the roles and functions of APFNet focal points, as well as the funding modalities to support regular communication and information exchange of APFNet activities. The document is currently being revised to reflect the suggestions made by the focal points.

So far, 16 APEC and 10 non-APEC economies have named focal points and more are expected to become involved.



Group photo of the participants and the APFNet Secretariat



Presentation at the meeting

16 APEC economies

Australia	Papua New Guinea
Brunei Darussalam	Peru
Canada	The Republic of the Philippines
People's Republic of China	Singapore
Hong Kong, China	Chinese Taipei
Indonesia	Thailand
Malaysia	United States of America
New Zealand	Viet Nam

10 non-APEC economies

Bangladesh	Myanmar
Cambodia	Mongolia
Fiji Islands	Nepal
India	UK
Lao PRD	Sri Lanka

APFNet Steering Committee

Plans are ongoing to establish a steering committee as APFNet's interim decision-making body to provide policy guidance, oversee the management of the APFNet Secretariat, and to formulate plans for the strategic development of APFNet. The first Committee meeting is expected to be convened within the year.



International exchanges and cooperation

Participation in international activities and training workshops

APFNet in the XIII World Forestry Congress and Exhibition

APFNet set up a booth at the exhibition site of the XIII World Forestry Congress which took place from October 18 to 23, 2009 in Argentina. This gathering of forestry practitioners every six years brought together almost 7000 participants.



APFNet booth is popular among WFC participants



APFNet staff presenting publicity materials to a booth visitor

The booth attracted many visitors who viewed a promotional video and eye-catching posters. During the exhibition, APFNet staff distributed flyers and souvenirs, as well as informed guests of its establishment and activities. Staff also visited booths of other international/regional organizations and institutions, exploring their interest in collaborating to promote sustainable forest management in the Asia-Pacific region.



Mr. Jia Zhibang, Minister of the State Forestry Administration of China, visited APFNet's booth

APFNet in the GACF regional workshop



GACF presentation

APFNet, along with other 30 participants from 11 countries participated in a regional workshop co-organized by GACF and RECOFTC 25-29 March, 2010 in Bangkok. The purpose was to discuss the possible development of strategies to strengthen community forestry networks and federations in Asia. On the margin of the session, APFNet met with RECOFTC and GACF to explore options to enhance cooperation.

APFNet in the workshop on Collaborative Conflict Management for Enhanced National Programs



Workshop group photo

This workshop, organized by RECOFTC, FAO and the NFP Facility, is the second of four such meetings to build capacity to deal with conflict. The course was designed to allow participants to engage in ongoing critical reflection, encouraging them to link the information they were given with their own experiences and to tailor conflict management techniques and training methods to their specific circumstances.



APFNet in the ASEM Conference



The plenary of the ASEM conference

Entitled “Forests, Forest Governance and Forest Products Trade: Scenarios and Challenges for Europe and Asia”, this conference brought together policy-makers, academics and representatives of civil society and the private sector to build synergies with other regional processes and programs such as FLEGT, ASEAN forestry initiatives, AFP, and East Asia FLEG process. It took place in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, May 4-5, 2010. APFNet attended the conference and explored ways to expand cooperation with all sectors.

APFNet actively participated in the 23rd Session of APFC

The 23rd session of APFC was held in Thimphu, Bhutan from June 9 to 11, 2010. It was organized around the theme “Forests—our heritage, our future”; it was attended by 150 participants from 29 member countries and more than 20 international organizations; and presented an exciting array of events and discussions on forest management and forestry in the region. The APFNet representative informed participants in an open forum of the network’s activities and answered questions.



Plenary of the 23rd Session of APFC

APFNet in the Major Group-led Initiative Forest Workshop



Invitees at the opening ceremony

With an aim to support the 9th session of the UNFF and the International Year of Forests in 2011, a major group-led initiative forest workshop, entitled “Applying Sustainable Forest Management to Poverty Reduction” was held from 26-30 July, 2010 in Accra, Ghana. APFNet sent a representative and also financially supported the participation of a professor from Renmin University who is an expert on traditional knowledge. Focusing on forest and people in Asia-Pacific, APFNet will consider drawing on the outcomes of the workshop in its plan for 2011 to celebrate IYF.



Partnerships

Internship with FAO/RAF

As part of a cooperative venture, APFNet will send a staff to FAO/RAF in Bangkok as an intern for six months. During the implementation of the one-year APFNet-FAO joint study, APFNet staff will assist administrative work and provide necessary technical supports.

Cooperation with TNC/RAFT continues (2009-2011)

Follow-up to the 2009 workshop

Follow-up to the workshop on “Methods, tools and skills for promoting legal and sustainable forest management and trade in the Asia-Pacific region”, jointly sponsored by APFNet and TNC/RAFT, is underway, including on ways to strengthen capacity to achieve sustainable forest management and making publication of training outcomes.

Meeting of Forestry College Deans in the Asia-Pacific Region, China, July 21-22, 2010

In collaboration with TNC/RAFT, Beijing Forestry University and FAO, APFNet convened a meeting of forestry college deans from the Asia-Pacific region at the Beijing International Hotel on July 21 and 22, 2010. Participants identified challenges and opportunities related to the development of forestry



Panel discussion

curricula and reached agreement to explore the feasibility of establishing a regional mechanism to address issues on an ongoing basis.



Group photo of participants



Group rapporteur presenting to the plenary



Discussion in Group C

APFNet-RECOFTC MOU

APFNet and RECOFTC signed a 5-year MOU for technical cooperation to promote and strengthen capacity for sustainable community-based forest management in the Asia-Pacific Region. Joint activities are now being planned.



Cooperation with international experts and volunteers

APFNet has invited two international consultants to join the team as part of efforts to broaden its expertise and to provide technical support: Rosalie McConnell, former FAO forestry officer, and David Cassells, senior policy advisor to TNC. An international volunteer from the Australian National University will work for APFNet as well.



Capacity Building

Sustainable forest resource management

Workshop on sustainable forest resource management (Kunming, China, November 20- December 11, 2009)

This training workshop brought together policy makers and resource managers in the forest sector in the Asia-Pacific region to share information and expertise on sustainable forest management. Focusing on China's experience in forest resource management, the workshop informed participants of the latest developments in China's forest sector. Through the discussions, participants also identified priority areas and actual needs for future capacity building.



Participants listening to the presentation



In-classroom discussion



Group photo of the workshop participants

Forestry and rural development

Workshop on forest land tenure reform (Kunming, China, July 5-16, 2010)



Group photo of workshop participants

The 12-day workshop aimed to improve forest development and community forestry in Asia-Pacific countries by identifying the key challenges they face with regard to forestland tenure reform and by proposing possible solutions. Fourteen senior forestry officials attended from 12 countries. Course modules combined



classroom lectures, case studies, country presentations and a field trip to showcase community forest tenure reform in Yunnan. Follow-up activities to build on the workshop, such as a regional symposium and case studies were discussed.



Mr. Tint L. Thaung, TNC/RAFT, presenting forest land tenure and management authority



The participants communicating with local foresters



Participants enjoying the field trip

Scholarship program

APFNet scholarship program launched in March 2010

As part of APFNet's efforts to build the capacity of member countries to achieve sustainable forest management, this scholarship program is designed to attract talented foresters to complete Masters Degrees or to conduct research. Beijing Forestry University is currently the first host institution and more regional universities will become involved in future. This year, eight candidates have been chosen to pursue graduate work. They are from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea, and Thailand.

Who can apply?

An APFNet scholarship candidate must:

1. Be a non-Chinese citizen with a valid passport and good health;
2. Hold a bachelor's degree in forestry or a related field;

Officials currently involved in the forest sector or related sectors will be given priority consideration for admission.

How to apply?

The deadline for scholarship application is the end of each May. Candidates are requested to submit completed application package to the Focal Points of APFNet in their resident countries (www.APFNet.cn). Admission will be notified by the end of each July.

What are the fields of study?

Now Beijing Forestry University is providing three master programs in the fields of Forestry, Forest Economics and Management, and Forest Engineering, all conducted in English and have a duration of 2 years. (<http://www.studybeijing.com.cn/>).



International policy dialogues

APFNet's support to China's country-led initiative (CLI)



The plenary session of CLI-China



Ms. Yin Hong, Vice Minister, State Forestry Administration of China addressing the opening ceremony



Working group discussion

The CLI was hosted by China in Guilin from November 17 to 20, 2009 as part of its support to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). In line with its nature of complementing UNFF in terms of promoting the global forest objectives which are contained in the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (NLBI), APFNet provided financial and technical assistance to the meeting, including development of the agenda and expected outcomes, identification of resource persons, and logistical arrangements. The theme of the workshop was "Forests for people – the role of national forest programs (NFPs) and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests". It brought together about 150 participants from 41 governments and 21 organizations. They shared experiences and lessons learned in the use of NFPs to achieve sustainable forest management and as a means to implement the NLBI.



APFNet team provided support to CLI-China



Participants planting trees with Felix Finkbeiner, Plant for the Planet



International Workshop on Forest Monitoring in Support of Sustainable Forest Management in Asia-Pacific Region (29-30 April, 2010, Beijing)

APFNet co-organized and sponsored an international workshop on forest monitoring, in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Forestry and GOFC-GOLD. Some 35 experts from FAO, GOFC-GOLD and 10 Asia-Pacific countries discussed policies and techniques in terms of actively promoting SFM. They requested APFNet to support follow-up courses to further improve the capacity and the skills for forest monitoring using remote sensing technology.



35 officers and experts in the field of forest monitoring attended the workshop

Symposium on Sustainable Forest Management in the Greater Mekong Subregion (21-23 June, 2010, Lijiang, China)



The opening ceremony

The Symposium on Sustainable Forest Management in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), more like a brainstorming session, provided a venue to exchange experiences on forest rehabilitation and sustainable forest management, identify priorities, and explore ways in which APFNet and GMS countries can enhance collaboration on forest issues in the region. 22 representatives from forest agencies, the Mekong River Commission (MRC), TNC/RAFT, Southwest Forestry University (SWFU) and the APFNet Secretariat were in attendance. Country reports on national forest policies and strategic plans for SFM, as well as main challenges were presented. Priority activities at both national and regional levels were proposed for future cooperation with APFNet.



The field trip



Discussions in the workshop



Pilot Projects

Project management documents

Project documents formulation

Implementation of pilot projects is one of the important channels for APFNet to realize its objectives and mission. In order to standardize and regulate project management, the APFNet Secretariat has formulated *guidelines on the call for proposals, project management and the appraisal of projects*. In 2010, it invited all developing economies and organizations in the Asia-Pacific region to submit proposals for possible funding.

Seminar on project appraisal

Experts from the UNDP, TNC, WWF, INBAR, PEFC, and CAF, Renmin University of China met to assist APFNet to finalize draft guidelines for appraising project concept notes. Their valuable insights and comments served to improve both the approach and the process.



Experts discussing in the seminar

Project implementation

Cooperation with FAO



Group photo of participants in the workshop

APFNet and FAO jointly launched a one-year project entitled "Making forestry work for the poor: adapting forest policies to poverty alleviation strategies in Asia and the Pacific" in February 2010. It focuses on assisting forestry agencies to conduct strategic planning and to reduce poverty through sustainable forest management and rehabilitation.

As an initial activity, the Third Executive Forest Policy Short Course took place in Bangkok,

8-19 March, 2010. Its aims were to provide up-to-date information and strengthen expertise and practical skills of professionals from the Greater Mekong Subregion to develop forest policies. Participants raised real issues in their own countries, learned from each other, and improved their analytic and communication skills from carefully selected case studies on a wide array of topics in the forest sector. The main findings and feedback concerning the curriculum will support new editions of the courses in this series.



Pilot Project in Viet Nam

"Demonstration of capacity building for forest restoration and sustainable forest management in Vietnam" was launched in July 2010 to demonstrate how to maximize the contributions of forests in terms of eliminating hunger, alleviating poverty, improving livelihoods and providing environmental services.



Field visit to APFNet pilot project site



Discussions on the pilot project

Pilot Project in Nepal



Gender participation in local community

As the name suggests, "Demonstration of Sustainable Forest Management with Community Participation in Nepal" aims to promote participatory sustainable forest management to improve the livelihood of forest dependent poor people. The 3-year project will be launched in the second half of this year.



APFNet staff in talk with local people

Multifunctional Forestry Pilot Project

The Agriculture and Rural Development Department of Renmin University of China issued a report entitled "Review and Prospect of International Multifunctional Forestry Development" which summarizes research and best practices related to the management of forests for multi-purposes. Findings will pave the way for APFNet to develop projects in this area.

New project development

APFNet's call for proposals in 2010 so far has resulted in the submission of 15 concept notes from the Asia-Pacific region and international organizations, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Vietnam, FAO, and the International Model Forest Network. A panel of experts will soon be constituted to evaluate these and other concept notes which APFNet expects to receive.



Information sharing

New publications

Books on research and study

APFNet will publish The Reform of Forest Land Tenure in China in book format in the coming months. It describes forest tenure reform in the country and is being made available so that other Asia-Pacific countries can perhaps learn and benefit from China's experiences.

A book on forest resource management in China also is planned, again so that other countries in the region can build on good practices and lessons learned.

Proceedings of training workshops and meetings

The proceedings of training workshops such as the ones on sustainable forest resource management and on forest land tenure reform will soon be available in hard copy and on the internet. The report of the China-hosted country-led initiative in support of the UNFF will also be released soon.

Upcoming Events

Activities under APFNet

The planning of a second training workshop on sustainable forest management in November, 2010 is well underway. It will focus on forest law enforcement to promote forest resource management.

Participation in international activities

To continue its involvement in international forestry processes, as well as explore cooperation, APFNet plans to attend:

- the 9th Meeting of AFP & Dialogue (August 3-5, 2010);
- the 23rd IUFRO World Congress with APFNet booth (August 23-28, 2010);
- COFO and 2nd World Forest Week (October 2010);
- 46th Session of ITTO (December).

Celebration of the International Year of Forests, 2011

To help celebrate the IYF2011, APFNet plans to organize events as follows:

UNFF9 will be one of the key topics of the 1st annual meeting of APFNet.

A side event will be organized during the UNFF 9 to report APFNet activities and progress as well as to discuss regional forest development.

It will provide technical support for

1) The 24th APFC Session and 2nd Asia Forestry Week to be held in China.

2) The 2nd forest ministerial meeting for ASEAN and China.

Following the Meeting of Forestry College Deans in July, APFNet will organize follow-up activities, to build on higher forestry education and training in the region.