

## Report of International Conference

### 1. Title: FORTROP II. Tropical Forestry Change in a Changing World

Venue: the KU Golden Jubilee Building & Amorn Bhumirat Building, Kasetsart University  
Bangkok, Thailand

Date: November 17 (Mon) - 20(Thu)

Organizer: Kasetsart University

Co-organizers: Royal Forest Department (RFD)

Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA)

National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC)

Smithsonian Institution (SI)

Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR)

Forest Industry Organization (FIO)

Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA)

Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific  
(RECOFTC)

National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department (DNP)

Titan Wood Ltd.

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)/South East Asia Network for Agroforestry  
Education (SEANAFE)

Sponsors: Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB)

Global COE Program "In Search of Sustainable Humanosphere in Asia and  
Africa", Kyoto University

Japan Society of Tropical Ecology (JASTE)

Suankitti Allicance Group

International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)

Kasetsart University Graduate School

King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT)

Hornbill Research Foundation (HRF)

Program: Symposium I: Tropical Forests and Climate Change

Symposium II: GIS/GPS/RS: Applications in Natural Resources and  
Environmental Management

Symposium III: International Long-Term Ecological Research

Symposium IV: Dry Forest Ecology and Conservation

Symposium V: Mangrove and Wetland Ecosystems

Symposium VI: Commercial Plantation Forestry

Symposium VII: Urban Forestry and Urban Greening

Symposium VIII: Trends and Issues in Community Forestry

Symposium IX: Protected Areas and Sustainable Tourism

Symposium X: Forest Products and Bio-Based Material

Symposium XI: ASEAN Forestry Student Association (AFSA) Meeting

2. Number of Participants: 510 ( 350 Thai, and 160 Non-Thai from 30 countries)

3. Report of Conference

In this three-day conference, three keynote speeches, 148 oral papers and 44 poster papers were presented. 510 participants came from 30 countries, including Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, India, Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, North-Korea, USA, Australia, UK, France, etc. The symposium focused on the forest and forestry related studies and 11 symposiums covered various research activities. More than 10 G-COE members from Initiative 2 and 3 attended the six symposiums as oral or poster presenters.

The biggest symposium was Symposium I “Tropical Forests and Climate Change” which consisted of three sessions. The advancement of dendrochronology in tropical region was reported on during the first session chaired by Dr. Kwanchai Duangstaporn (Kasetsart Univ.). Papers presented here clearly indicated that the application of tree ring analysis is feasible even in the case of tropical trees and a lot of data clearly suggests the recent acceleration of the growth rate possibly due to recent global climate change. The carbon sequestration in the primary forests and man-made forests was also a hot topic/issue in the second session chaired by Dr. Jesada Luangjame (Royal Forest Department). Several papers on Para rubber plantations, which are rapidly extending in the seasonal tropics and sub-tropics, reflected the increasing attention on the carbon credit market in the Post-Kyoto Protocol framework.

In Symposium V, studies on mangrove and wetland ecosystems of various countries were presented, those covered included Thailand, Australia, Iran, Japan, India, Indonesia and Myanmar. The research topics also varied from biology, ecology, to the management of mangroves. The symposium provided a half day excursion to mangrove and wetland areas in Samut Songkram Province. Participants observed the community plantation of *Rhizophora* as well as the local process of charcoal making for export.

In Symposium VI titled “Commercial Plantation Forestry”, papers on acacias and eucalypts were most abundant indicating that these fast-growing species were still important in tropical plantation forestry. Although many studies focused on the usage of timbers and the genetic improvement of these species, a few studies focused on soil in terms of sustainable productivity. Mr. Konda (Kyoto University) presented a paper on greenhouse gas emissions

from an acacia plantation which absorbed the attention of participants.

Symposium XI was a unique activity in this conference. The forestry students of five ASEAN countries and UK students enjoyed excursions in Thailand and meetings at Kasetsart University. This kind of networking of the students in the ASEAN countries could possibly contribute to the regional and trans-border policy making and forest management/utilization in the future.

As a whole, the conference was well organized and successfully run contributing to extending the network among researchers and administrators of forest sectors in Asia and surrounding areas. We would like to express sincere thanks to Dr. Damrong Sripraram and his staff of the Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University for their efforts devoted to the conference and their warm hospitality. (Mamoru Kanzaki, Ya Min Thant, Ryota Konda)



Photo 1. Cutting the tape ceremony (Photo provided by FORTROP II).



Photo 2. Thai dance presented by the students of Kasetsart University at the opening ceremony.



Photo 3. Keynote Speech by Prof. Dr. Don K. Lee, the President of IUFRO (Photo provided by FORTROP II).



Photo 4. Symposium III presentation (Photo provided by FORTROP II).



Photo 5. Poster session (Photo provided by FORTROP II).



Photo 6. Students assisting the conference (Photo provided by FORTROP II)

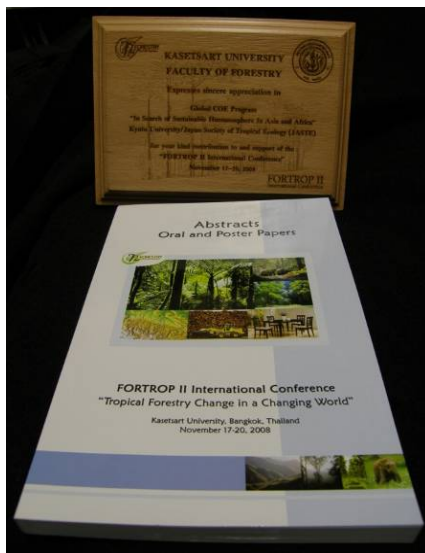


Photo 7. Plaque presented from FORTROP II to the Global COE in appreciation of the financial support by the Global COE and an abstract (259 pages) printed by the Global COE support.

Proceedings: Abstracts of the conference were published with the financial support of the Global COE Program “In Search of Sustainable Humankind in Asia and Africa”. Papers accepted for oral/poster presentations will be published in the peer reviewed proceedings and sent to participants after the conference. The proceedings of 10 symposia, excluding symposium XI ASEAN Forestry Student Association, are expected to be published successfully within 3 months after the conference.