



The 8th International Conference on Traditional Forest Knowledge and Culture in Asia: Linking Biological and Cultural Diversity with Landscape Management

7-9 November 2015, Nanjing, China

First Announcement

1. Background

Asia is populated by about half of the world's population, has a vast land area, and important centres for culture and biodiversity. Asia has one of the world's highest diversity of ethnicities, languages and cultures. The Asian region is the home of very rich ancient wisdom that had been passed down through the generations, has also two of the ancient civilizations, India and China, with recorded histories that date back many thousands of years.. A major portion of this is directly or indirectly linked to its vast stretches of forests, which have been the lifeline for the millions of people living in and around them. Ecological diversity in Asia is matched with diverse cultural heritages, including forest-related cultures. There is a rich tradition of managing forests, in accordance with traditional religious customs of the local communities, biodiversity conservation and landscape management. People of village groves and community common forests such as the 'fengshui' forest in China, 'satoyama' in Japan, and 'maeulsoop' in Korea, have rich traditional knowledge about forest ecosystems that provide physical, cultural and spiritual amenities. Although most of these age-old techniques and practices had been deemed outdated and no longer relevant to present day forestry, increasingly they are being re-discovered and explored for solving current problems, including loss of biodiversity and degradation of natural resources.

The Asia Traditional Forest-Related Knowledge and Culture Network was informally established during the International Conference on Sustainable Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation: Roles of Traditional Forest-related Knowledge, 17-20 December 2007. Since then, several annual conferences have had been organized:

5-10 October 2008: hosted by the Korea Forest Research Institute, Seoul National University and

the Society of Forest and Culture in Seoul, Korea.

19-24 October 2009: organized by the Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences on, Kunmin China;

14-15 December, 2010: organized by the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature and Kanazawa University, in Kanazawa, Japan;

23-26 November 2011: organized by the Korea Forest Research Institute on Jeju Island;

4-9 November 2011: organized by the Renmin University of China and the Northwest A & F University in Yangling, China;

6-8 November 2013: organized by the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto University at Aya, Japan, and lastly

3-5 October 2014: organized by the Korea Forest Research Institute, at Seoul, Korea.

The topic of this year's conference was selected to rediscover and explore traditional forest related knowledge and culture in relation to protection of culture and biodiversity and landscape management. Culture activities and tourist industry has developed Asia forest region, in particular in East Asian countries, and provided many benefits to the local residences and tourists. The conservation and development of biodiversity and cultural values and local community participation is essential for the development of forest culture. The appreciation of rural areas is related not only to intrinsic environmental qualities but also to perceptions about the identity of a place provided by the quality of its landscape. The sense of identity of a place is created by economic, social and cultural aspects through time and space, and it is comprised of meanings often associated with specific landscapes features. The preservation of such features contributes towards higher quality of life for local populations through material and immaterial means. These features often improve livelihoods, fulfilling their recreational, emotional and spiritual needs, and their sense of identity, while contributing to local economies by attracting visitors seeking the aesthetic and spiritual qualities of the area.

With all these as the backdrop, the 8th International Conference on Traditional Forest Knowledge and Culture in Asia- Linking Biological and Cultural Diversity with Landscape Management will be held at Nanjing, China, 7-9 November 2015.

2. Objectives

The conference, by providing a platform for sharing of information and exchanging experiences

related to TFRK in the Asia Pacific region, aims to:

- share information on how traditional forest knowledge and culture links to cultural and biological diversity, and landscape management;
- share information on forest culture related to sustainable forest management and quality of life and wellbeing.
- discuss the establishing of cultural forest heritage; and
- strengthen regional networking on traditional knowledge and culture, forest and biodiversity, and sustainable development at rural landscape in Asia.

3. SCOPE

The conference will cover the following specific topics:

- Cultural and spiritual identity of forest-dwelling peoples, and traditional beliefs of their relationship with village common forest lands;
- Historical interrelationships between cultural and biological diversity;
- Cultural values in sustainable forest management;
- Forest landscape for the quality of life and wellbeing;
- Beauty of rural and forest region, and rural homesickness of forest beauty in the rural region in a rapid urbanization era;
- Policy recommendation for sustaining and promoting forest-related traditional knowledge and culture.

4. ORGANIZATION

The Conference will be sponsored by the Renmin University of China, Nanjing Forestry University, National Seoul University, and IUFRO Working Parties 9.03.04 (Traditional Forest Knowledge in Temperate and Boreal Regions), and 0.03.05 (Traditional Knowledge in Tropical and Subtropical Regions). It will be hosted by the Centre of Forestry, Environmental and Resources Policy Study under the School of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, Renmin University of China, and Institute of Forestry and Community Development in the School of Forestry Economics and Management, Nanjing Forestry University.

The conference will be held from 7-9 November 2015, on the campus of Nanjing Forestry University, Nanjing, China. The organizer will reserve university guestrooms for participants with rate of around USD 60 per day.

The official language of the conference will be English.

A one-day field visit would be organized to witness the rich and diversified cultural heritage related to forests in local communities nearby Nanjing, China.

5. REGISTRATION FEE

Conference registration fees:

- a. Participants from outside China (including non-Chinese residing in China) – USD300, USD200 for participants from IUFRO member organizations.
- b. Local Chinese participants - RMB500
- c. Students are entitled to a 50% discount.

The conference fee covers a welcome dinner, all refreshments and lunches, conference materials and field trip.

6. SUBMISSION OF PRESENTATION AND POSTER

Priority will be given to papers or presentations done jointly between indigenous community members or practitioners and researchers. If you wish to present a paper, or exhibit a poster, send your abstract of no more than 500 words to Dr. **Yu Huizhong** (yhzljje@qq.com), and copy to: Prof. **Liu Jinlong** (liujinlong@ruc.edu.cn).

Deadlines

- Submission of Registration Form and Abstract (500 words): **10 September 2015.**
- Notification of acceptance: **30 September 2015.**
- Submission of Extended Abstract (within 5 pages) or full paper: **31 October 2015.**

7. Support for participants

The Organizers have limited fund to provide support for participants to cover the costs in China.

Priority would be given to participants from developing countries who have been selected to give oral and poster presentations.

8. Organizing Committee

Prof. Wen Zuomin: Najing Forestry University

Prof. Youn Yeo-Chang: Seoul National University (Korea)

Prof. Liu Jinlong: Remin University (China)

Prof. Yumoto Takakazu: Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University (Japan)

Dr. John Parrotta: US Forest Service

Dr. Sim Heok-Choh: APAFRI

Visa: You may be required to show your visa upon entry to China. Please check with the **China Embassy about visa requirements.**

Registration Form

The 8th International Conference on Traditional Forest Knowledge and Culture in Asia- Linking
Biological and Cultural Diversity with Landscape Management, Nanjing China,
7-9 November 2015

Name	
Title/Position	
Organization/Institution	
Address, Tel, Fax and Email	
Presentation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Title of presentation	
Field Trip	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>