



Asia Pacific Teak Information Network

Minutes of Teaknet Steering Committee Meeting

Asia Pacific Forestry Week, Hanoi, Vietnam, 21 April 2008

During the Asia Pacific Forestry Week 21-26 April 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam, The Steering Committee Meeting of Teaknet was held at 1.00 PM on 21 April 2008. The Meeting was attended by 18 participants from different countries (Annex I).

Dr. Daniel Baskaran Krishnapillay, Teaknet Steering Committee Member Malaysia, moderated the meeting in the absence of Dr. S. Appanah, National Programme Advisor, FAO, Bangkok, who was preoccupied with the organisation of other activities of the Asia Pacific Forestry Week event. The Chair welcomed the Steering Committee Members and other invitees/Observers to the meeting and presented the agenda addressing the following major issues.

Relocation of Teaknet Secretariat

While approving the minutes of the Teaknet Satellite Meeting held during the Regional Teak Workshop, September 2007, Peechi, India, the Meeting called for immediate action in the following lines:

1. FAO Regional Office for Asia Pacific will communicate to The Director General, Forest Department, Ministry of Forestry, Myanmar on the issue of geographic relocation of Teaknet explaining the reasons and the available options:
 - ❖ When TEAKNET was located in Myanmar, most of its activities were managed by Dr. Apichart Kaosard from Thailand. This was already a difficult arrangement, and with the passage of Dr. Apichart, TEAKNET suffered a huge loss.
 - ❖ Mr. Saw Eh Dah took over the management of TEAKNET following the demise of Dr. Apichart, but he too had to take retirement soon after.
 - ❖ There was a problem with financial transactions - it remained difficult for members to pay their annual membership fees, and conversely the

Secretariat could not provide its services to members owing to restrictions relating to foreign currency transactions.

- ❖ It was also becoming difficult to maintain an information portal (website, e-mail, other IT setups) owing to difficulty in getting suitable web linkages.

The options suggested were:

- ❖ Retain the network in Myanmar and find out ways and means to reactivate it;
 - ❖ Retain Myanmar as a Referral Centre for natural teak management and move the Secretariat to an existing strong Network like APP ARI or AP AFRI which could co-host under FAO;
 - ❖ Move the Secretariat to a teak country that is: (a) currently active in teak management, research and trade; (b) willing to host the Secretariat by committing space, staff and funding; and (c) in a country which is able to support the information portal.
 - ❖ The general consensus was that TEAKNET Secretariat be located in Kerala Forest Research Institute if it is willing to host it, and provide the additional support, including space, material and staff-time, to manage it. In addition, the Forest Department of Myanmar will continue to be the Referral Centre for natural teak management.
2. The Ministry of Forestry, Myanmar will endorse the above decision and provide all support by sending the relevant documents/constitution, bylaws, etc to the new host, Kerala Forest Research Institute to run the teaknet activities smoothly.
 3. The new host of Teaknet, Kerala Forest Research Institute India will take further action on nomination/reconfirmation of the Membership of the Steering Committee and chart out the future activities.

Dr. K M Bhat, Teaknet Coordinator Designate, from Kerala Forest Research Institute India made a detailed presentation on the activities and initiatives taken after the establishment of Teaknet Secretariat with the support from FAO RAP as seed money with effect from January 2008. His presentation included the following aspects and proposed activities:

- ❖ Context/rationale and Objectives
- ❖ Structure and functions of the Steering Committee including the tentative present composition (Annex II), framing of new regulations/bylaws, Membership fee (Institutional/individual), and estimated budget to the tune of minimal of US \$ 700,000.
- ❖ The major activities envisaged in the programme include:

1. Collection of all literature pertinent to the teak development and dissemination of relevant information by publication of quarterly newsletters/information bulletins and abstracts of applied research findings to cater to the needs of international stakeholders.
2. Facilitation of the organization of training programme on teak cultivation, management and processing for value-added products
3. Development of data bases/directory on international teak resources, price and trade trends, including directory of teak experts/researchers and scientific literature/world teak bibliography in the Website.
4. Facilitate the exchange of expertise among the countries/institutions which are members of the network.
5. Facilitation of the exchange of genetic material/wood samples as well as improved planting stock for plantation trials
6. Organize Regional/international Seminar at the end of Phase I (after 3 years)
7. Identification of Country level coordinator/Focal points
8. Publication of news bulletins (Electronic and hard copy) and information dissemination
9. Formation of Subject/Working Groups and coordination of collaborative studies in critical areas and holding of review international meetings.

Dr. Bhat has informed that the website has already been designed with a modified logo of teaknet, which is in editorial process before launching soon with the contents mentioned above including biannual electronic newsletters.

Steering Committee Composition

Discussion was held on the composition of Steering Committee to represent different sectors, viz. teak growers/resource managers, traders, focal points of major producer countries/regions and the donor agencies including private sectors for supporting teaknet activities.

1. The general consensus was that the membership may be expanded to accommodate the supporting donor agencies, active NGOs of teak development concerns/ private sectors and other teak growing regions like Latin America by not restricting to the Governmental focal points of the countries, subject to the approval by FAO.
2. To receive technical support from various countries/regions, formation of Regional/Country Working Groups will facilitate charting out of teaknet activities especially to meet the needs of international/national stakeholders.

Support from Donor Agencies to Teaknet

The issue of the support from developmental agencies was raised by many participants. The major outcomes of the discussions include:

1. The representative from the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) mentioned that they have primary interest in teak development programme as it is a high quality tropical hardwood extensively planted in more than 36 tropical countries while its natural occurrence is confined to Asian Region representing India, Myanmar, Thailand and Laos.
2. Although Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) supports the development programme, being a bilateral agency, has limited opportunity of offering direct support to teaknet. Nevertheless, the focal point from Japan- the Forest Tree Breeding Centre may negotiate with ITTO for mobilising the support if such a proposal comes from the host country.
3. After reviewing the present activities presented from Kerala forest Research institute India, Mr. Søren Moestrup, the Special Consultant, Development Assistance of the Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape & Planning (DANIDA), Faculty of Life Sciences University of Copenhagen showed keen interest and offered the opportunity of getting substantial financial support from European Union. He invited the representatives of Teaknet Steering Committee to visit Copenhagen for making a joint proposal from Denmark in the immediate future.

The meeting concluded at 4.00 PM, when the Chair thanked all the participants for their active participation in the deliberations of the meeting to make it a grand success..



Annex I: List of Participants

No.	Name	Organization/Address	E-mail
1	Mr. Ahmad Loman	Ministry of Plantation industries and commodities, Level 6-13, Lot 2G4, Precint -2, Federal Government Administrative Centre- 62654, Putrajaya, Malaysia	ahmad@kppk.gov.my
2	Mr. Amha Bin Buang	Assistant Director, ITTO, Japan	amha@itto.or.jp
3	Dr. Ashok Kumar	Division of Genetics, Forest Research Institute, P.O IPE, Dehradun- 248 195, India	ashokumar@icfre.org , ak_meena@yahoo.com
4	Dr. K.M Bhat	Programme Coordinator, , Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi - 680 653, Kerala	kmbhat@kfri.org
5	Mr. Chudchawan Sutthisrisilapa	Department of National Park, Wild Life and Plant Conservation, Thailand	csutthi@gmail.com , chudsut@yahoo.com
6	Dr. Daniel B. Krishnapillay	Director (Rtd), Forest Plantation and Medicinal Plant Division Forest Research Institute, Malaysia, Kepong- 52109, Kuala Lumpur	baskaran@frim.gov.my
7	Mr. Hiroshi Nakata	Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Japan	bx05436@niffy.com
8	Mr. Ichiro Nagame	Director- General, Tree Breeding Center, FFPRI, Japan	inagame@affrc.go.jp
9	Mr. Khorn Saret	Forestry Administration(MAFF), Cambodia	ksr_nang@yahoo.com
10	Dr. Michael Truckenbrodt	Faculty of Forestry National University of Laos, Vientiane, Laos	michael.truckenbrodt@cimonline.dc
11	Prof. Dr. Mond Hamami Sahri	Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia 43400, Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia	hamami@putra.upm.edu.my
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14	Mr. Søren Moestrup	Forest and Landscape, University of Copenhagen, Denmark	smoe@life.ku.dk
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