

Report on International Symposium on Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration towards a Greener Asia held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and visit to Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)

Dates of visit: **3.7.2012 to 6.7.2012**

Dr. N. Krishnakumar Director and Dr. A. Karthikeyan Scientist D, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore have visited Kuala Lumpur and participated in the International Symposium on Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration towards a Greener Asia . The Symposium was started with the welcome address by YBhg. Dato' Dr Abdul Latif Mohmod, Director General Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). Dr. Joo-Hoon Lim (representative of Director General, Korean Forest Research Institute) has given congratulatory remarks and the Symposium was inaugurated with address of YB.Dato Shri Douglas Uggah Embas, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia. Totally 60 participants from Australia, India, Indonesia, Korea, China, Philippines, Taiwan, New Zealand, Thailand, Srilanka, Bangladesh and Malaysia have been participated and 40 oral presentations delivered. Dr. A. Karthikeyan has presented a paper on 'Rehabilitation of bauxite mine spoils with beneficial microbes and fast growing tree species' which was discussed in detail. Had interactions with Dr. Sim Heok Cho Secretary, APAFRI, Dr. David Lamb, Australia, Dr. Joo Lim Hoon Korea, Dr. Zhong Chonglu, China and Dr. Baskaran Krishnapilly Malaysia. Later Dr. N. Krishnakumar and Dr. A. Karthikeyan visited FRIM and met Dato' Dr Abdul Latif Mohmod Director General FRIM. It was informed by the Director General FRIM that a MoU can be signed between FRIM and ICFRE/IFGTB in the research areas of Bio technology, Tree improvement and Forest Genetic resources. The Director General FRIM also expressed his willingness to collaborate with IFGTB for research projects and capacity building.

Dr. Novorti Mohommad, Head, Division of Bio Technology took us around the laboratories and Dr. Lee Soon Leong explained the activities of Forest Genetics laboratory. He through a power point presentation explained the main functions of functions of lab in conservation and utilization of Forest Genetic resources, DNA profiling databases for timber tracking and plant species identification, production of quality planting materials and isolation of useful genes. Dr. Lee informed that 9600 individuals of commercially important tree species were analysed and molecular level and their DNA were stored in the Gene bank. With the Korean Forest Research collaboration *Shorea laprosula* genomics is being sequenced. Dr. Lee also took to field experimental station located within the FRIM campus. Dr. Lee explained that FRIM developed a successful inoculation package for *Aquilaria malaccances*. The Germplasm assemblages of *Anthocephalus cadamba*, *Shorea laprosula*, *Dipterocarpus* spp, *Hopea subalata* and *Pinus carribea* were also seen. The See handling techniques of *Dipterocarpus* spp and Non *Dipterocarpus* spp was explained by Dr. Nashatul Zaimah noor azman, Research Officer of Seed Technology lab which is the main component for FGRMN programmes. The problematic seeds were propagated through synthetic seeds as alternative techniques. It was also explained that the tissue culture protocols are available for 53 species in the FRIM with modified techniques. Later visited APAFRI Secretariat and had discussions with Chairman APAFRI and Director General FRIM on Forest Genetic resources.



In the office of Director General FRIM with Dr. Lee soon leong and Dr. Novroti Mohammad



Discussions at FRIM with Director General FRIM



At *Aquilaria malaccances* plantation and observed the artificial inoculation fungi for agar production.



At the Germplasm bank of *Anthocephalus cadamba*



Visit at APAFRI Secretariat, Malaysia