



The Sixth General Assembly for Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (AP-FECM)

Summary Report

15-17 August, 2023, Kunming, China

With the recovery of international travelling gradually, after three years of postponement, we finally held the sixth AP-FECM General Assembly in Kunming between 15-17 August 2023, with the team support of organizers from APFNet, UBC AP-FECM Executive Office and Southwest Forestry University in China. There were over 50 guests from 34 regional economies and institutions who joined the General Assembly, including university presidents, deans, professors, directors of international offices and representatives. The objectives of the General Assembly were to envision the future development of the AP-FECM, enhance the effective and efficient communication and partnership among AP-FECM members, and promote and improve forest education and research in the Asia Pacific region. Based on the goals and objectives, over three days of the event period, we organized multiple activities and generated fruitful outputs. The main activities included:

1. The Asia Pacific Forestry Education Forum with the theme: Opportunities, challenges and solutions of online education and AI technology for forestry education in the post-pandemic era
2. Overview and planning of the online program “Innovative Sustainable Forest Management Education in the Asia-Pacific Region”
3. AP-FECM work report and award ceremony recognizing outstanding contributions over the past 10 years
4. Election of AP-FECM Steering Committee and Chair, Co-Chairs

Summary of main activities

1. The Asia Pacific Forestry Education Forum

During the Asia Pacific Forestry Education Forum, 15 invited keynote speeches from regional leaders and experts shared valuable experiences and remarkable insights in forest education. The theme of the forum was determined after consultation with all members and contributors. The keynote speakers shared their knowledge on the topics: Online Education during the Pandemic; Expectation of Online Education in Forestry; AI Applications in Forestry Teaching and Learning; Multidisciplinary Forestry Education: Integration with Other Subjects Technologies; Transition of Forestry Education from Traditional Forestry to Sustainable Forest Management. The abstracts and PowerPoint slides of the keynote speeches are posted on the AP-FECM website.

2. Overview and planning of the online program “Innovative Sustainable Forest Management Education in the Asia-Pacific Region”

A session was specially organized for the online program “Innovative Sustainable Forest Management Education in the Asia-Pacific Region”, which is the main collaborative project under the framework of AP-FECM. Dr. Suzy Zeng from the AP-FECM Executive Office at UBC Forestry gave the overview of the online program Phase I and Phase II. Dr. John Innes, the chair of AP-FECM, led the discussion and planning for Phase III of the program. Some new courses were proposed by AP-FECM members, for example, forest governance, new technology application in forestry, and agroforestry. To save budget and time, voluntary sharing of more course materials from AP-FECM members was proposed. Efforts on course articulation and credit exchange among AP-FECM member universities were proposed in the next phase of the project.

3. AP-FECM Work Report and award ceremony recognizing outstanding contributions over the past 10 years

Chair Dr. John Innes gave the AP-FECM work report for the term 2016-2023. The effort and achievements of UBC Forestry in chairing the AP-FECM, running the Executive Office, strengthening the international collaboration in forest education and enhancing the AP-FECM regionally and globally in the past seven years were highly recognized and appreciated by member institutions. After the work report, the award ceremony was held to recognize the outstanding contributions over the

past 10 years. Four groups of awards were presented, including Outstanding Contribution in Forestry Education in the Asia Pacific region, Outstanding Contribution in Forestry Online Course Development, Outstanding Contribution in Forestry Education Leadership, and Outstanding Contribution in Support in Forestry Education. The full award list is attached to the AP-FECM website.

4. Election of AP-FECM Steering Committee and Chair, Co-Chairs

The highlight of the General Assembly was to elect the new steering committee of AP-FECM. Based on the application before the General Assembly and the self-nomination during the General Assembly, 18 candidates from different institutions competed for the seats of the steering committee. At the beginning of the election, the chair reviewed the AP-FECM Rules and Procedures. The following proposals were proved by the General Assembly. Due to the missing role of the incoming Co-Chair who was supposed to be the new Chair, the seat for the new Chair was open to competition among all members of the new steering committee, including the current outgoing Co-Chair and Chair, which was an exception only for the election of this term. To recognize the contribution of the local organizer of the AP-FECM General Assembly and motivate the member institution to host the events, the General Assembly passed the rule that the local institutional organizer of the General Assembly was assigned as the additional steering committee member, which would not occupy the seat quotas of the steering committee if this was consistent with the intention of the local institutional organizer.

There were 12 seats for the new steering committee of AP-FECM. Following the AP-FECM election rules, two seats of the steering committee were reserved for the current Chair and Co-Chair, that is UBC and Beijing Forestry University. The rest 10 seats were open to competition among all applicants. To ensure diversity and equality amongst member economies, a maximum of two steering committee members from any one economy was permitted. Each applicant gave a 3-minute presentation to express the motivation to join the Steering Committee; vision, strategy, and action plan for AP-FECM Steering Committee; contribution to AP-FECM as a steering committee member and recommendation for AP-EFCM. After all presentations, all AP-FECM members in the General Assembly voted for their choices of 10 steering committee members. All the votes were counted and recorded by the APFNet Secretariat. After careful counting and verification, APFNet Secretariat announced the 10 institutions with the higher votes as the new members of the steering committee. The election results were approved by the General Assembly.

After the election of the steering committee, the new steering committee with 13 members had a closed-door meeting to elect the Chair and two Co-Chairs. With the agreement of the steering committee, Dr. John Innes from UBC Forestry was elected as the Chair, Dr. Xiong Li from BFU as the outgoing Co-Chair and Dr. Wenbin Wang from Southwest Forestry University as the incoming Co-Chair. The election results were announced to all participants. Dr. John Innes as the newly elected Chair of AP-FECM represented the new steering committee to propose the work tasks for the new term 2023-2027. In the coming term, the Executive Office

of AP-FECM at UBC Forestry will continue to make efforts to enhance the sharing mechanism among AP-FECM members, specifically in the aspects of applications for funding, course articulation, joint programs, student mobility and research cooperation.

Annex: (will be posted on the AP-FECM website)

1. Attendant list of the 6th AP-FECM General Assembly
2. Agenda of the 6th AP-FECM General Assembly
3. Abstracts of Keynote Speeches
4. Presentation slides of Keynote Speeches
- 5 Award list for the outstanding contributions over the past 10 years
6. AP-FECM Rules and Procedures (updated on August 16,2023)