

International Symposium on Ecosystem Restoration for Green and Peace Asia

14:00–18:30 August 18, 2021 (Alpensia, Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea)



KOREAN SOCIETY OF
FOREST SCIENCE



1. Background

Globally, forests absorb and store approximately 30% of current carbon emissions in their biomass and soils and within wood products, and serve as home to 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity. Forests also play a major role within economies worldwide, with an estimated value of \$150 trillion (www.globalforestsummit.org).

Asia is Earth's largest and most populous continent, covering an area of 44,579,000 km² (approximately 30% of Earth's total land area and 8.7% of Earth's total surface area). This continent has long been home to the majority of the human population and was the site of many of the first civilizations. Asia is notable not only for its overall large size and population, but also for its large and dense settlements, as well as its vast but barely populated regions. Asia's 4.5 billion people constitute roughly 60% of the world's population.

Asia's economy is growing rapidly, led by a rising middle class, but it faces major policy challenges such as inequality, uncertain land tenure, unsustainable land use, loss of biodiversity, food insecurity, and climate change. In addition, agricultural expansion and unsustainable land use change has made the region one of the world's largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions.

Unsustainable land use can be at the root of a health crisis. Desertification, land degradation, and drought lead to social and environmental challenges such as reduced livelihoods, forced migration, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss. These problems put millions of people at risk.

In particular, deforestation and forest degradation have resulted in both environmental damages – soil erosion, land degradation, and biodiversity loss – and socio-economic damages such as insecure food, water and health, as well as the loss of people's cultural identity and dignity. In order to mitigate and combat these emerging challenges, governments and international organizations among various stakeholders have expended significant effort. Investing in healthy land as part of a green recovery is a forward-looking solution and a smart economic decision. Restoration of land-based ecosystems can help reverse biodiversity loss and protect against future crises.

This year's World Environment Day marks the formal launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (www.decadeonrestoration.org), a global initiative that will promote and support the revival of natural spaces degraded mainly due to human activities.

Ecosystem restoration means assisting in the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded or destroyed, as well as conserving ecosystems that are still intact. It is an opportunity to prevent, halt, and reverse degradation; an attempt to recover the lost balance and ensure that both humans and nature have a sustainable future.

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration aims to fight the degradation of ecosystems on every continent. It could help end poverty, combat climate change, and prevent mass extinction (www.decadeonrestoration.org).

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is an opportunity to help turn the tide and create a sustainable future for Earth's nature and Earth's people. To develop a network among forest-related institutions in Asian region, policymakers and international organizations will be invited to share their ideas for Ecosystem Restoration for Green and Peace Asia.

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UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION
2021-2030

2. Objectives

The objectives of this symposium are as follows:

- i. To share successful cases and lessons learned, and current projects or programs on ecosystem restoration;
- ii. To discuss effective and efficient strategies for ecosystem restoration for Green and Peace Asia; and
- iii. To strengthen a cooperative network for ecosystem restoration at the regional level among Asian countries and international organizations.

3. Date/Venue

This symposium will be held **from 14:00 to 18:30 on Wednesday, August 18th, 2021 (UTC/GMT +9 Time Zone in Seoul, Korea)** in hybrid format (in-person and virtual).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87515872362?pwd=dVovaFVIME8yZmFHaWxad2xSRjl0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 875 1587 2362 | Passcode: 430339

4. Organizers

Korean Society of Forest Science
Institutes of Green Bio Science and Technology, Seoul National University

5. Sponsors

Pyeongchang County
Gangwon Convention & Visitors Bureau
Korean Federation of Science & Technology Societies
National Institute of Forest Science
International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
Korea Forest Service

6. Contact person

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Title	Invited Speakers
1st Session (14:00 – 16:00 UTC/GMT +9 Korean Time, 18 August 2021)	
Moderator: Dr. Ho Sang KANG (Chair of International Exchange Committee, KSFS)	
Welcoming Remarks	
Dr. Jungkee Choi (President of Korean Society of Forest Science)	
Congratulatory Remarks	
Dr. Don Koo Lee (Emeritus professor, Seoul National University)	
Ecosystem Restoration and Forest Conservation in Cambodia	H.E. Dr. Chea Sam Ang Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
Greening the former bottom of the Aral Sea (Aralkum) in Uzbekistan	H.E. Dr. Abdushukur Hamzaev Deputy Chairman, State Forestry Committee, Director General, Forestry Research Institutes, Uzbekistan
Why much forest landscape restoration become an economic enterprise?	Dr. Robert Nasi Director General, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
Restoration and Reforestation Models Initiated by AFoCO	Mr. Ricardo Calderon Executive Director, Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)
Challenges and Strategy for Green and Resilient Mekong Regions and Partnership by Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund	Dr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn Executive Director, Mekong Institute (MI)
Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Ecosystem in ASEAN Region	Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim Executive Director, ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB)
Health Break (16:00-16:20 UTC/GMT +9 Korean Time)	
2nd Session (16:20 – 18:30 UTC/GMT +9 Korean Time, 18 August 2021)	
Moderator: Dr. Su Young Woo (President-elect, KSFS)	
International Cooperation on Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiated by Korean Government	Dr. Eun Sik Park Director General, Korea Forest Service, Republic of Korea
Challenges and National Strategy for Ecosystem Restoration in Philippines	Dr. Portia Lapitan Retired Professor and Vice Chancellor, University of Philippines at Los Banos, Philippines
Successful Forest Restoration in Vietnam; Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Dr. Bui The Doi Vice President, Vietnam National University of Forestry, Vietnam
Ecosystem Restoration on Ex-Mining Areas in Indonesia	Dr. Irdika Mansur Associate Professor, IPB University, Indonesia
Restoration and Sustainable Management on Burnt Areas in Mongolia	Dr. Oyunsanaa Byambasuren Director, Fire Management Resource Center-Central Asia Region and Professor, National University of Mongolia
Ecosystem Restoration for Carbon Sequestration and Livelihood Enhancement in Indonesia	Dr. Himlal Baral Senior Scientist, Climate Change, Energy and Low Carbon Development, CIFOR