First Announcement

Discover tropical forest operations summer school

15-19 June 2026

Supported by IUFRO Division 3.00.00 and IUFRO Division 3.03.00
And Nordic Alumni Engagement Initiative Programme 2026
Organized by Department of Forest Engineering, Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University

Rational:

Thailand offers a unique learning environment where natural forests, plantations, and small- to medium-scale forest operations, making it an ideal setting for applied education in forest technology and operations. To respond to the growing need for technically skilled forestry professionals who can integrate productivity, safety, sustainability, and local socio-economic contexts, a five-day intensive Forest Technology Summer School will be organized and hosted in Thailand. The program will combine lectures, practical demonstrations, and hands-on field activities focusing on wood procurement systems, timber harvesting and transportation, forest operations safety and human factors, and wood utilization efficiency. Targeting Kasetsart University undergraduate and graduate students, early-career researchers, and selected participants from partner institutions, the summer school emphasizes experiential, interdisciplinary, and multi-level learning. Co-teaching by Nordic faculty members and KU academic staffs will integrate international best practices with Thai and regional forestry conditions, enabling participants to critically assess how advanced forest technologies and operational standards can be adapted to tropical contexts. Beyond technical training, the summer school will foster professional networking, knowledge exchange, and long-term academic collaboration among students, researchers, and practitioners.

Objectives:

- To strengthen participants' practical skills and understanding of forest technology and operations, including harvesting, transportation, safety, and operational efficiency.
- To promote the application of international best practices and modern forest technologies in Thai and regional forestry contexts.
- To encourage interdisciplinary learning and professional networking among students and early-career researchers.

Target group:

- Undergraduate and graduate students of Kasetsart University, particularly from Forestry, Forest Engineering, Environmental Science, Agriculture, Engineering, Economics, Policy, and GIS (students from other relevant disciplines are also welcome)
- Early-career researchers
- Selected participants from partner institutions
- Maximum number of participants: 15

Learning approach:

- 20% Lecture
- 40% Field excursion
- 20% Hands-on tools & demonstrations
- 20% Group work, reflection and discussion

Duration:

5 Days (15-19 June 2026)

Agenda:

Date	Topic	Instructor	Venue
15 June 2026	**Overview of summer school**	Nopparat K.	FORTROP, KUFF
	Lecture 1: From forest inventory to log quality (comparing Nordic and Thai forest management systems) / 3 hrs - Forest inventory - Silvicultural practices - Timber harvesting practices - Grading and scaling, log quality - Same and differences	Jussi M. Tomi K. Nopparat K. Michael J.	
	Lecture 2: From tree to terminal / 3 hrs - Why logging systems matter - State of the art logging systems (Thailand, Nordics, elsewhere) - Integrated timber harvesting - Key factors that shape logging systems - Pros and cons - Challenges and opportunities	Jussi M. Heikki K. Nopparat K.	
	Evening: Ice breaking dinner		TBC
16 June 2026	**Lecture 3: Forest Roads: The Backbone of Forest Operations** / 1 hr - Why forest roads are important? - What is optimum forest road density? - Key factors determining optimal road density - State of the art in forest road planning - Challenges and opportunities	Tomi K. Jussi M.	FORTROP, KUFF
	Lecture 4: Trust in Timber / 1 hr - Why legality & traceability matter? - Methods of traceability - Situation of forest certification - EUDR – the game changer - Challenges and opportunities	Nopparat K.	
	Afternoon – Travel to Kanchanaburi (4 hrs drive)		Stay overnight at Thongphaphum district

17 June 2026	**Field excursion – Teak** / 4-5 hrs
	- Silvicultural pratices
	  - Site preparation
	  - Planting
	  - Fertilization
	  - Weed control
	  - Thinning
		Jussi M.
		Tomi K.
		Nopparat K.
			Thongphaphum District, Kanchanaburi

	- Timber harvesting
	  ○ Tree felling
	  ○ Processing
	  ○ Extraction
	  ○ Work efficiency
	  ○ Environmental and stand-level impacts of logging
	- Log grading and marketing
	- Work safety		

	Afternoon – Travel back to Kanchanaburi city (2 hrs drive)		Stay overnight at Kanchanaburi city

18 June 2026	**Field excursion – Eucalyptus** / 4-5 hrs
	- Silvicultural pratices
	  ○ Site preparation
	  ○ Planting
	  ○ Fertilization
	  ○ Weed control
	  ○ Fire protection
	- Timber harvesting
	  ○ Tree felling
	  ○ Processing
	  ○ Extraction
	  ○ Work efficiency
	  ○ Environmental and stand-level impacts of logging
	- Log grading and marketing
	- Work safety
		Jussi M.
		Tomi K.
		Nopparat K.
			TBC Kanchanaburi

	Afternoon – Travel back to Bangkok (2 hrs drive)		
19 June 2026	**Morning -** Group work		FORTROP, KUFF
	Afternoon - Presentation		
	Certification	KUFF Dean	

Please note that the program schedule and activities may be adjusted depending on circumstances

Instructors:

Dr.Jussi Manner	Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk)
Dr.Heikki Korpunen	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)
Dr.Tomi Kaakkurivaara	Kasetsart University
Assoc.Prof. Nopparat Kaakkurivaara	Kasetsart University

Application:

- **Please send your motivation letter and CV** to FFORNRM@KU.AC.TH or Nopparat.m@ku.th
- **Application deadline – 4th April 2026**
- If a large number of applications are received, interviews may be conducted as part of the selection process.
- The list of selected participants will be sent to the chosen students.