



First Announcement

3rd IUFRO Acacia Conference 2020

Embracing Transformation for Sustainable Management of Industrial Forest Plantations

**22-24 September 2020
Bintulu, Sarawak, Malaysia**

The IUFRO WP 2.08.07 on Acacia Genetics and Silviculture was set up in 2014 to provide a forum for researchers and managers to share information on the problems and opportunities which are facing tropical acacia plantation forestry in Southeast (SE) Asia. This meeting jointly hosted by Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and Forest Department of Sarawak (FDS) is the first opportunity the WP has had to meet in Malaysia

The Sarawak State Government has embarked on industrial forest plantation (IFP) since 1997 with the introduction of Planted Forest Rule (1997). To date, IFP covering 2.5 million hectares were issued as a step to reduce pressure on natural forest and to ensure sustainable supply of raw material to the timber industry. A target has been set for one million hectares of IFP, to be achieved by 2025. In order to achieve the target, the State Government urged the relevant agencies and licensees to intensify R&D to enhance production of high quality planting material, pest and diseases control, forest management, harvesting and the production of higher value added products in order to improve IFP performance. The IFP target has not yet been achieved, with only 435,000 ha of plantations established by 2018. R&D collaboration with international research organizations has been identified as an important contributing factor to strengthen plantation development. Tropical acacias comprise a large proportion of Sarawak's forest plantations, so hosting of the IUFRO Acacia Conference is timely.

Non-native acacias have become dominant components of many SE Asian plantation landscapes. They are increasingly being threatened by insect pests and pathogens. Regional collaboration in SE Asia is urgently needed to lower the arrival and subsequent movement of invasive pests and pathogens and to better manage damage to trees by 'new encounter' or established pests.

The theme of the 3rd IUFRO Acacia Conference "Embracing Transformation for Sustainable Management of Industrial Forest Plantation" will address the application of technology and innovation in upstream and downstream R&D.

Researchers, plantation managers and policy makers from around the world are encouraged to participate. The conference will share knowledge, research findings and

experience from different disciplines, discuss current issues on IFP management and ways forward, and strengthen collaboration among participants. The conference will include invited and contributed presentations, posters, exhibition and post-conference tours.

CONFERENCE THEME

Embracing Transformation for Sustainable Management of Industrial Forest Plantation

SUB-THEMES

The programme will be organized along the following sub-themes:

1. Industrial Forest Plantation Policy

- State/national policies on industrial forest plantation
- Issues and challenges faced in the implementation of policies

2. Plantation Management for Sustainable Wood Production

- Nursery and silviculture practices
- Drone/GIS and IoT application in IFP management
- Economic value of IFP
- IFP management certification

3. Risk Management

- Biosecurity
- Climate change, forest fire
- Environmental impact of the invasiveness of *Acacia*
- Environmental conservation and social aspects of IFP

4. Genetics and Breeding

- Genetic resources, breeding and propagation
- Molecular genetics and genomics, including marker-assisted selection
- Polyploid breeding

5. High Value-added Timber Products

- Wood properties
- Engineered wood products

TARGET AUDIENCE

Researchers of different scientific disciplines underlying the conference themes, plantation managers and policy makers.

POST CONFERENCE TOUR

The organizing committee has arranged provisional options for the post conference tours. Numbers for each tour are limited and tours will be confirmed in later conference announcements, depending on demand.

1. GP Pusaka- plantation

2. BTSS- plantation
3. Daiken- plantation
4. Similajau National Park
5. Niah National Park

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