



Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2019
Forests for Peace and Well-being
17-21 June 2019 | Incheon, Republic of Korea

CONCEPT NOTE

The contribution of the United Nations Forum on Forests to international governance and in the promotion of Sustainable Forest Management

Songdo Convensia Convention Center, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Wednesday, 19 June 2019 | Room 206 at 13:30 – 15:00

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2019 (APFW2019), to be held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 17-21 June 2019, has as overall theme ***Forests for peace and well-being***, reflecting the positive dimensions of forestry and suggests the need to proactively integrate forestry into the wider context of environment, society and sustainable development, under which economic, social, human and cultural dimensions are considered in a holistic manner. The Korea Forest Service (KFS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), will host the event.

APFW2019 will be held alongside the 28th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) and will be organized along five parallel streams. FAO is responsible for stream 5, ***Innovating governance and institutions***, which will include a segment entitled ***“The contribution of the United Nations Forum on Forests to international governance and in the promotion of Sustainable Forest Management”***. FAO invited the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat to co-host and co-organize stream 5.

Considering that the last APFW (Philippines, 2016) attracted more than 1000 participants, as well as encompassed around 40 individual workshops, seminars and other activities, it is expected that this year’s Asia-Pacific Forestry Week will be an event of similar or even larger magnitude, which will provide the UNFF Secretariat with an opportunity to raise awareness on the Forum, the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF), the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and the United Nations Forest Instrument (UNFI) to a significant audience.

Therefore, the UNFF Secretariat will make a presentation on the history of the international arrangement on forests in general and UNFF, the UNSPF and UNFI during the segment of stream 5 dealing with international governance.



PANEL OBJECTIVE, FORMAT, MODALITIES AND OUTCOME

Objective

The main objective of the session is to showcase how far UNFF has gone since its creation in 2000, including through the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of two system-wide documents, namely UNSPF and UNFI. Moreover, the linkages between the GFGs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be demonstrated, while also publicizing the role of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in the achievement of the SDGs.

Expected outcome

Enhanced knowledge and awareness of the participants from the region of the role of the United Nations Forest Instrument (UNFI) and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) as a governance framework for the achievement of sustainable forest management and the contributions of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Format

The session will last 90 minutes, and the presentation will be followed by a highly interactive exchange with the audience; the engagement of participants through the discussion should be the central part of the segment.

Participants

It is expected that hundreds of meeting participants, including country representatives, private sector, academia and stakeholders will attend the event.

Language

The event will be conducted in English

Presenters

- Mr. Hiroto Mitsugi, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, FAO
- Ms. Barbara Tavora Jainchill, Forest Affairs Officer, UNFFS/UNDESA
- Mr. David Gritten, Senior Program Officer, The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)

Moderator – Ms. Afsa Kemitale-Rothschild, Senior Programme Officer, UNFFS/DESA