

# AFOCO NEWSLETTER



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CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



Signing of agreement for restoring Asian drylands: Landscape Partnership for Asia

AFoCO welcomes two new scholars



First Kazakhstan project with A.N. Bukeikhan Kazakh Research Institute of Forestry and Agroforestry

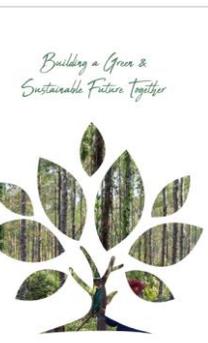


Bhutan project on forest pests and diseases to kickoff in October



Significant steps made towards restoring and rehabilitating forests in Cambodia & Viet Nam

PROJECT NEWS

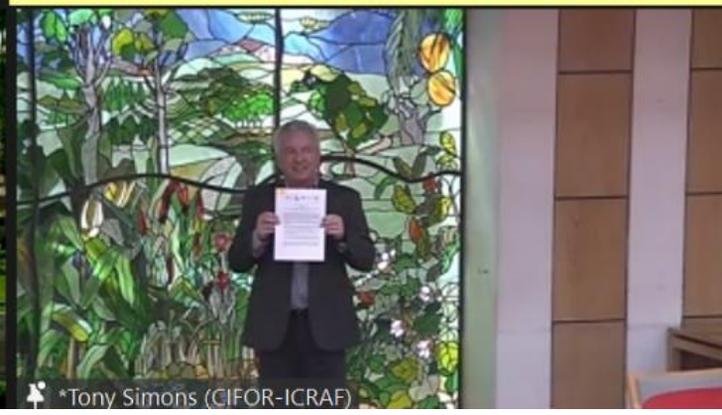
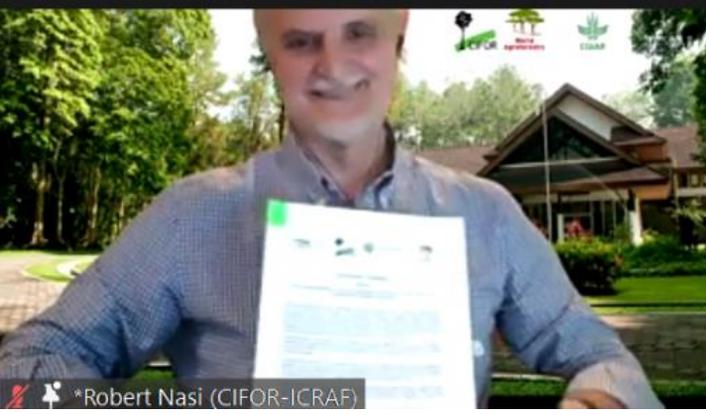


New Brochures & Leaflets



AFoCO RETC commemorates donation of face masks & computers from the Korea National Arboretum

OTHER UPDATES



MEETINGS  
& EVENTS

## Signing of agreement for restoring Asian drylands: Landscape Partnership for Asia

Leaders of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), World Agroforestry and Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR-ICRAF), Global EverGreening Alliance (Alliance) signed on 22 October a landmark partnership agreement to restore drylands and drought-prone areas in Asia. The **Landscape Partnership for Asia** will contribute to efforts to restore economic and environmentally productive functions to drylands and drought-prone areas to achieve national and global targets for food security, climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, social equity, bioenergy, governance and economic growth, specifically, to prevent more land degradation, store substantial amounts of carbon and increase biodiversity. Knowledge will be shared across Asia, inviting specialist expertise from Africa and other dryland regions, to establish a coherent body of 'green, blended development' knowledge and successes on the ground. The Partnership will deploy proven techniques with a well-established track record for dryland restoration across a range of biophysical and socioeconomic landscapes at wide scale to speed regreening and improve livelihoods.

# AFoCO welcomes two new scholars at Annual Meeting

AFoCO is pleased to welcome our sixth cohort of scholars under the 2020 AFoCO Scholarship Program at our Annual Meeting and Certificate Award Ceremony held on 6 August. Mr. Nguyen Minh Quang from Viet Nam and Ms. Aomjitr Sena from Thailand embarked on their Master's degree programs at Yeungnam University and Kongju National University respectively in March this year and were excited to be able to meet and interact with the other Landmark scholars as well as the AFoCO staff. The meeting also included a series of presentations and Q&A opportunities for scholars to share their experiences and research progresses.



We also extended our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Nur Syamsi Muhammad from Indonesia for receiving a Master's degree in Forest Resources and Ecological Restoration at Yeungnam University. Mr. Syamsi is the eleventh scholar to graduate from the AFoCO Landmark Scholarship Program. During his time at Yeungnam University, Mr. Syamsi investigated the sustainability of international cooperation projects, focusing on the case of the Korea-Indonesia Forest Recreation and Ecotourism Development Project. Mr. Syamsi is slated to return to Indonesia to continue his career as a government official.

*Launched in 2014, AFoCO Landmark Scholarships finance government officials from ASEAN Member states to study for a graduate degree in the field of forestry in the Republic of Korea. The Landmark Scholarship Program is a nomination-based scholarship, which accepts high-caliber applicants who have been nominated by Focal Officials of participating countries of the Program.*

## PROJECT NEWS

# First Kazakhstan project with A.N. Bukeikhan Kazakh Research Institute of Forestry and Agroforestry

*Investigation of the resistance of black saxaul (*Haloxylon aphyllum*) forms to gall-forming insects*

The On 3 September 2020, AFoCO and A.N. Bukeikhan Kazakh Research Institute of Forestry and Agroforestry (A.N. Bukeikhan KazRIFA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement the project titled “**Investigation of the resistance of black saxaul (*Haloxylon aphyllum*) forms to gall-forming insects**”. The research project is funded by the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) of the Republic of Korea, as a part of the AFoCO-NIFoS collaboration.

Beginning in October 2020, the two-year project will study the resistance of specified black saxaul plants among species damaged by gall-forming insects. To achieve these objectives, researches will be conducted together with NIFoS to identify resistant plants and study their anatomical and morphological features, biochemical properties, and genetic structures. There are also plans to conduct seminars with the staff of regional forest institutions and work on a research article to be published in foreign and domestic scientific journals.

Isolating economically valuable forms of saxaul that are not damaged by pests will be an initial stage for the establishment of sustainable plantations. The widespread planting of resistant saxauls will increase the productivity of plantations in the Aral Sea region. Valuable scientific observations from this project will also contribute to the reforestation of fields and pastures, the creation of green umbrellas, and the protection of settlements from drifting sand.





## PROJECT NEWS

# Bhutan project on forest pests and diseases to kickoff in October

● ● ● *Assessment of Adelgid diversity and distribution in conifer forest of Bhutan to mitigate future outbreaks*

Mr. Chenchu Norbu, Executive Director of the AFoCO, initiated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Royal Government of Bhutan for the implementation of a research project on “**Assessment of Adelgid diversity and distribution in conifer forest of Bhutan to mitigate future outbreaks**”. The research project will be implemented by the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research (UWICER), a forestry research institute under the Department of Forests and Park Services.

This will be the second AFoCO project in Bhutan, since the country formally became a member of the organization in the year 2018. The research project is funded by the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) of the Republic of Korea, as a part of AFoCO-NIFoS collaboration. The implementation of the project will commence in October 2020 and is expected to be completed within two years.

It is anticipated that this research project will help contribute to strengthening sustainable forest management practices in Bhutan, especially in areas of forest pests and diseases management.

## FEATURE: Significant steps made towards restoring and rehabilitating forests in Cambodia & Viet Nam

*Promotion of forest rehabilitation in Cambodia and Viet Nam through demonstration models and improvement of seed supply system*

Forest restoration and rehabilitation is one of the key areas of focus of AFoCO, which prioritizes addressing regional as well as international concerns related to forest cover losses and climate change. AFoCO's focus on forest restoration and rehabilitation will help accelerate the establishment of forest restoration models that are suitable in local contexts while building capacities of relevant stakeholders to develop and maintain these models.

The Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development of Cambodia (IRD) and the Research Institute for Forest Ecology and Environment of Viet Nam jointly implemented a regional project, "**Promotion of forest rehabilitation in Cambodia and Viet Nam through demonstration models and improvement of seed supply system (AFoCO/003/2014)**", which was supported by the Korea Forest Service through AFoCO from 2015 to 2019. The regional project aimed to promote reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forests in Cambodia and Viet Nam by initiating a tree seed supply and distribution system to improve tree seed collection and nursery practices, and make quality seeds readily accessible to seed users and forest restoration practitioners.



The project was completed successfully with tangible outputs and outcomes that contribute to the efforts of Cambodia's and Viet Nam's Government in implementing their national forest restoration programs. Drawing from the project's results, Cambodia and Viet Nam are ready to share their experiences and lessons learned, particularly in the development of forest restoration and rehabilitation models, with other countries in the region.

## AFoCO RETC commemorates donation of face masks & computers from the Korea National Arboretum

A donation ceremony was held at the AFoCO RETC in Myanmar on 7 September to celebrate the handing over of 4,000 face masks and 50 computers to the Myanmar government. These items were generously donated by the Korea National Arboretum (KNA) and will be used in capacity building programs and activities and to enhance the safety of the working environment for people in the forestry sector of Myanmar as well as at the RETC.



“The fact that AFoCO RETC sits in Yangon is a reflection of the immeasurable value of the agro-forest and environmental infrastructure that Myanmar offers. Myanmar was one of the first member countries that endorsed AFoCO’s candidature for the UN observer status. AFoCO’s institutional link with the United Nations will allow this burgeoning body to reap the benefits in many aspects, including fighting against climate change and preventing deforestation. I am pleased that today’s event reminds us of the inextricable connection between the prevention of infectious diseases on the one hand and strengthening environmental conservation and climate resilience on the other,” said Ambassador Lee.

Mr. Soe added that “This donation reflects the strong interest to promote collaboration in the environment and forestry sectors among Myanmar and the ROK through AFoCO. In light of the COVID19 pandemic, the donated face masks will be very useful to the Myanmar government when carrying out disease prevention work.”

# New Brochures & Leaflets

*Building a Green & Sustainable Future Together*



**AFoCO**

**Building a Green & Sustainable Future Together – Proposal to OECD DAC** provides brief information on AFoCO's flagship programs to seek support for its inclusion in the ODA List of ODA-eligible international organizations along with the annual process of reviewing the list at the WP-STAT.



**Exploring the Forest with Tory and Sully (Khmer version)** is a comic-based textbook for young children.



**AFoCO MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES**

AFoCO-003

The Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) is an intergovernmental organization established in 2018 with its headquarters based in Seoul, the Republic of Korea. AFoCO aims to strengthen regional forest cooperation by transforming proven forest-related technologies and policies into concrete actions to combat climate change. The Assembly is the highest decision-making body, which meets annually to approve the work plan and budget. The Republic of Korea provides 80% of the operation cost and the remaining 20% consists of contributions from other member countries.

**MILESTONES**

- 2009**: Proposal to establish AFoCO
- 2012**: Formalization of the initial phase through the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation
- 2013-2015**: Dialogue for the establishment of AFoCO
- 2016**: Successful completion of the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation
- 2018**: Establishment of AFoCO

**MEMBERS**  
13 PARTIES AND 2 OBSERVERS  
(As of April 2022)

**AREAS OF COOPERATION**

- Promoting sustainable forest management
- Strengthening capacities and R&D in the forest sector
- Reversing degradation and forest destruction
- Addressing climate change

**AFoCO Membership leaflet** provides brief information on the procedures to be taken to become a member of AFoCO, including links to key documents containing details on the application procedures.