

## World Teak Conference 2013

Report by P.K. Thulasidas, Coordinator, IUFRO WP 5.06.02 Utilization of Planted Teak

The World Teak Conference 2013 “Sharing our Planet: Teak Model Development Towards the Improvement of Mankind” was held in the Bangkok Convention Centre at Central World, Bangkok, Thailand, from 25-30 March 2013. The Conference was jointly hosted by TEAKNET, The Plant Genetic Conservation project under the Royal Initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri of Thailand (RSPG), FAO, ITTO and the IUFRO Teakwood Working Party 5.06.02. This conference followed the successful 2011 conference held in CATIE, San José, Costa Rica on the topic “Planted Teak Forests - a Globally Emerging Forest Resource” organized by FAO in association with TEAKNET and CATIE. Visit: [http://web.catie.ac.cr/conferencia\\_teca/presentaciones/presentaciones.htm](http://web.catie.ac.cr/conferencia_teca/presentaciones/presentaciones.htm)



Substantial experience has been gained in the management of teak resources for sustainable teak wood production from tropical plantations worldwide. Teak was found to cover only a small proportion of world timber and its natural occurrence is limited to India, Myanmar, Thailand and Lao PDR in about 29.035 million ha and the planted teak in 38 tropical countries covers 4.346 million ha.

The superior qualities of teakwood make it a preferred species for ship building, construction purposes, for furniture making and other multiple end-uses. The estimated market share of teak logs in the total tropical round wood production is less than 2%, however, teak is part of the high-value hardwood market, and is a major component of the forest economies of many tropical countries.

The major objective of the program was to examine the multiple aspects of teak cultivation and management in the context of sustainable development with social, ecological and economic implications. The conference covered four main topics relevant to the teak timber:

- 1 Genetics, Silviculture & Utilization,
- 2 Environment, Climate change & Carbon trading,
- 3 Economics & Investments, and
- 4 Rural development.

The conference was formally inaugurated by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindorn and she opened the World Teak Conference 2013 Exhibition.

Thailand has initiated a massive teak planting program and distributed about 8.4 million saplings to the villages in the country with people's participation to commemorate the 84th birthday of their King.

In the panel discussion IUFRO President Professor Niels Elers Koch outlined IUFRO's greater role to promote global cooperation in forest related research and to spread the message and disseminate scientific knowledge to the stakeholders and to decision makers that contribute to sustainable management of forest resources.

The conference was attended by over 200 participants, mostly teak growers, timber traders, researchers, regional and international organizations from more than 37 countries from all continents. There were plenary talks by leading organizations like FAO, ITTO, TEAKNET, IUFRO followed by keynote addresses every day. About 45 oral papers and 52 posters were presented during the 3 conference days. The summary session was entitled “Bangkok Dialogue: Ways forward to Teak Plantation Opportunities”.

Proceedings from the conference will soon be posted at: <http://www.worldteak2013.org> and the IUFRO unit website 5.06.02: <http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-5/50000/50600/50602/>

Photo courtesy: Arsenio Ella, FPRDI, Philippines.  
Delegates after teak planting.