

# German Forestry Alumni Network- Symposium on

## Close to Nature Forestry- Practices for Asia-Pacific towards the Millennium Development Goal Challenges



17-20 December 2008  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Deadline for abstract submission: **20<sup>th</sup> October 2008**  
Send your abstract to: [cetsaf@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:cetsaf@uni-goettingen.de)

[www.tropenzentrum.de](http://www.tropenzentrum.de)

# **Close to Nature Forestry- Practices for Asia-Pacific towards the Millennium Development Goal Challenges**

## **Introduction**

Retrogressive health condition of forests, new knowledge on forest and landscape ecology as well as the increased interest of society in the protection and conservation of the environment call for a change in forest management priorities giving a greater accent to close to nature forest management practices. In many of the Asian countries vast areas of forest land are covered by even-aged and frequently homogenous forest stands. It is difficult to maintain the needed balance of forest ecosystems in these stands, especially under the influence of negative anthropogenic factors. The way to improvement lies in long-term continued application of silvicultural concepts aimed at reaching a close to nature forest structure. Close to nature forest management denotes the application of forms of management where self-regulating natural processes are used with the aim of regulating the required functional efficiency of forests. These forms of management also minimize ecological and economic risks.

The concept of close to nature forestry (CNF) is based on forest management principles in stable stands with native and site adequate tree species.

- Forest is understood as an integrated ecosystem of the forest environment with relationship between site and stand;
- Production targets are subordinated to optimal ecological stability, making use of the productive potential of both site and growth space;
- To a large extent the application of self-regulating processes is required as well as securing rotations by natural regeneration;
- The quality of production needs to be improved by systematic tending;
- The high stability of stands and their operational safety are secured by natural internal and external spatial arrangement;
- The proscription of clear cuttings is necessary;
- The goal is the assurance of a permanently healthy, stable, well-productive forest providing high public benefits.

These characteristics of the structure of natural forests should be systematically maintained by adopting adequate measures in regard to tending and regeneration felling.

While this concept of close to nature forestry is well researched and practiced in Europe, particularly in Germany, it is however relatively new in the Asian context. It would be valuable to start scientific cooperation and education to incorporate this concept into the current forest management practices in the Asia-Pacific region. This symposium therefore will provide a scientific platform for both researcher and practitioners to exchange their experiences with regards to practicing close to nature forestry in their respective countries.

## **Objectives of the Symposium**

The main objective of the symposium is to review the current state of art of close to nature forestry in the Asia-Pacific region and to develop future strategies for scientific collaborations in integrating CNF into current forest management practices; while the specific objectives are:

- Bringing scientists and practitioners together to share their experience in close to nature forestry and forest management in the region
- Develop collaborative projects related to CNF- preparing proposals between interested countries
- To establish and operationalize the German-Alumni Forestry Networks in Asia-Pacific region

## **Thematic scope of the Symposium**

- Genetics and silvicultural tools applied in close to nature forestry;
- Establishment of ecologically stable forest stands; natural regeneration of forests;
- Tending aimed at improving the structure, stability of forests, quality of production and maintenance of tree species composition;
- Site and ecological preconditions of close to nature forestry; assessment of the present structure of forest stands from the potential one, taking into account diversity and ecological stability as a basis for forest management planning;
- Environmentally sound forest operations; ecologically acceptable technologies for forest roads construction;
- Policy and economic aspects of close to nature forestry (notably the increasingly global nature of wood markets); characteristics and assessment of present methods of sustainable forest management.

## **Organization:**

The Symposium is jointly organised by the Centre for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry (CeTSAF), Georg-August University Göttingen, Germany; University of Dresden, Tharandt, Germany and The Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institute (APAFRI) on behalf of the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM). The symposium will be held in Malaysia with the financial support from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

## **Participants:**

The invited participants are requested to take over clearly defined responsibilities of submitting a full paper in line with the above mentioned “Thematic Scope”. Invited participants will be requested to prepare a country report together with their country fellow colleagues to provide the background materials for the symposium. The country report should include- a) current state and challenges of implementing close to nature forestry and forest management in the country; b) history of forest management; c) forest policy relevant to close to nature forestry; and d) perspectives of close to nature forestry in the country. There will also be key notes and overview paper presentations by renowned experts.

The participants of the symposium are mainly graduates from German Universities, coming from the Asia-Pacific region. Preferences will be given particularly those who are in responsible position in

forestry in their respective countries and are involved in research corresponding to close to nature forestry and forest management.

### **Funding**

Travel and accommodation of all the selected participants will be fully covered by the organizers.

### **Venue**

The Symposium will be held at Grand Seasons Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

### **Date**

17- 20 December 2008

### **Abstracts**

Each participant has to submit an abstract. Abstracts should be between 350-500 words and relating to the above mentioned themes and should be sent electronically to CeTSAF ([cetsaf@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:cetsaf@uni-goettingen.de)) not later than **20<sup>th</sup> October 2008**. Please include 4-5 keywords. Abstracts will be reviewed by the scientific committee and will be selected based on the quality and relevance of the papers. Candidates whose abstract has been selected will be notified by **1<sup>st</sup> November 2008**. In order to facilitate availability of the complete proceedings at the time of the symposium, all full papers should be submitted not later than **25<sup>th</sup> of November 2008**.

### **Language**

The language of the Symposium is English

### **Program**

The final program will be distributed to participants soon after the abstracts have been reviewed. The tentative program will be posted on the web, please visit <http://www.tropenzentrum.de> for the updates.

Abstracts should be sent to [cetsaf@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:cetsaf@uni-goettingen.de)

### **Scientific Committee**

Prof. Dr. Christoph Kleinn,  
Dr. Daniel Baskaran  
Prof. Dr. Jürgen Pretzsch  
Prof. Ralph Mitloehner  
Prof. Dr. Reiner Finkeldey  
Dr. Siawuch Amini

## **Contact for further information**

### *Local Organization:*

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