

Rationale

Rapid and multitude changes in the society in recent times brought about by fast-paced technological advances in information and communication coupled with globalization has heavily influenced even the forestry sectors in the local, national, regional and global levels in varying degrees and importance. Concomitant with the global economic slow-down, the challenges and issues affecting the forestry sector have become more complex and diverse.

FAO (2009) cited that in many developing countries there is little or no credible science capacity that has stunted long-term development. Furthermore, access to available information and technologies among and within countries is sometime hindered particularly for those in the marginalized sectors like the poor tree farmers.

Education and research will play a vital role in capacitating the forestry professional in maintaining the forest ecosystems' integrity and function towards the benefit of the society who depend on these human life-sustaining systems. This is therefore the main focus of the conference.

Objectives

In general, the international conference aims to strengthen the contribution of forestry education and research to sustainable forest management in the context of the changing priorities and needs of the Asia Pacific Region.

Specifically, the objectives are:

- To assess the state of forestry education and research in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- To identify major issues and challenges confronting the forestry education and research sectors.
- To initiate the process of charting the future direction of forestry education and research.

Themes

1. MARKETING THE FORESTRY PROFESSION

Identifying and analyzing the reduction in investment for forestry education and even a declining regard for forestry professionals.

2. EVOLVING FORESTRY EDUCATION MODELS

Exploring the innovative systems and methods and techniques of providing the new breed of foresters with capabilities to tackle the modern challenges of the 21st century.

3. CONTINUING FORESTRY EDUCATION

Identifying continuing education strategies and approaches to continually equip forestry professionals so they can effectively and efficiently tackle their jobs in the context of changing demands and needs.