

Towards the 3rd Asia-Pacific Urban Forestry Meeting

Urban forestry innovations: Transforming landscapes for human well-being in the post- Covid-19 era

Zoom Webinar, 19-21 October 2020

Asia is home to more than 55% of the world's urban population, and is projected to experience the world fastest urban growth over the coming decades with two out of three inhabitants of the region living in cities by 2050. Depletion of natural resources, quality water scarcity, increased air pollution, and adverse climate change effects are among the main issues that Asian cities are facing as a consequence of this fast urbanization process. If well-managed, forests and trees in and around cities can provide a wide range of socio-economic and environmental ecosystem goods and services towards a more sustainable and resilient urban development. A number of countries in the Region are leading the way in the implementation of national and local programmes to promote urban forestry as a tool for sustainable and resilient urban development however, the potential of urban forests and trees is still far from being fully exploited.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, the Royal Forestry Department of the Government of Thailand are co-organizing an online event "Urban forestry innovations to transform landscapes and well-being in the post-Covid-19 era" that will be held from 19 to 21 October 2020, as part of the effort to promote and bridge towards the third Asia-Pacific Urban Forestry Meeting (APUFM), planned in February 2021.

The event will be held online and hosted on the Zoom platform. The links to register to the different sessions are provided below.

Attendance

Target participants are from various sectors including governmental and international forestry organizations, academic institutes, private sector, NGO, civil society organizations, and youth groups.

Expected results

It will stimulate the exchange of policies, best practices, lessons learned and opportunities for the proper planning, design, maintenance/restoration of urban and peri-urban forests and green spaces, and make cities in the Asia-Pacific safe, resilient and sustainable.

Session 1 – Key challenges and urban forestry solutions

Date: Monday, 19 October 2020

Time: 2:00 to 3:30 pm ([Bangkok time](#))

Link to register to the session: [link](#)

Moderator: Mr Thomas Hoffer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Agenda of the session:

- **Welcome remarks:** Rep. of the Royal Forestry Department
- **Opening remarks:** Mr Jong-Jin Kim, Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
- **Setting the stage:** Context, objectives and structure of the event – Mr Thomas Hoffer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- **Thematic presentation #1:** How urban forests towards can help mitigate the challenges of the post-Covid-19 era – Mr Simone Borelli, FAO Headquarters
- **Thematic presentation #2:** Access to and of to urban parks at the times of CoVID19 – Ms Wendy Chen, University of Hong Kong
- **Panel discussion**
Mr Chencho Norbu, Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
Mr Bernhard Barth, UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Ms Noor Azlyn Yahya, Forest Research Institute Malaysia
Ms Seema Mundoli, Azim Premji University India
- **Q&A**

Session 2 – Innovations in urban forestry and arboriculture

Date: Tuesday, 20 October 2020

Time: 2:00 to 3:30 pm ([Bangkok time](#))

Link to register to the session: [link](#)

Moderator: Representative of the Royal Forestry Department

Agenda of the session:

- **Thematic presentation #1:** Technologies for improving monitoring and making arboriculture intervention more precise – Mr Paul Barber, ArborCarbon Australia
- **Thematic presentation #2:** Innovative design and practices for the integration of trees and plants in the urban fabric – Mr Stefano Boeri, Architect and Urban Planner
- **Panel discussion**
 - Mr Chan Ryul Park, Korea Forest Service
 - Mr Tan Puay Yok, National University of Singapore
 - Mr Makoto Yokohari, University of Tokyo
 - Ms Brenda Lin, The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
- **Q&A**

Session 3 – Turning aspirations to actions

Date: Wednesday, 21 October 2020

Time: 2:00 to 3:30 pm ([Bangkok time](#))

Link to register to the session: [link](#)

Moderator: *tbc*

Agenda of the session:

- **Thematic presentation #1:** Innovative approaches for citizen engagement and participation – Ms Cecilia Andersson, UN-Habitat
- **Thematic presentation #2:** Tree City of the World Programme – Mr Dan Lambe, Arbor Day Foundation US
- **Panel discussion** - *The third Asia-Pacific urban forestry meeting and the Seoul Action Plan: how to revolutionize urban forestry*

Mr Thomas Hofer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Rep. Royal Forest Department

Rep. Bangkok Metropolitan Administration

Rep. Korea International Cooperation Agency

Ms Oraya Sutabutr, Bangkok Big Trees

Mr Matthew Perkins, The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Rep. Association of South-East Asian Nations

- **Q&A**
- **Closing remarks:** Ms Mette Wilkie, Director, Forestry Division