

## Opening Address

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to welcome all of you to Seoul, Korea.

As a president of NIFoS, it is a great pleasure that **IUFRO, APAFRI, National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS)**, co-host the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference on Traditional Forest Knowledge and Culture, especially in the meaning of commemoration on the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of this Network.

Let me extend my gratitude to **Prof. Liu JinLong of Renmin University of China, Prof. KoShaka Ryo of Tohoku University of Japan, Prof. Youn Yeo-Chang of Seoul National University, Korea, Dr. Sim Heok Choh & Dr. Gan Kee-Seng of APAFRI, Prof. Monica Gabay of National University of San Martin of Argentina** and participants for attending this conference. Also, I would like to thank moderators, speakers and all the distinguished guests for being here with us today.

This conference on TFK goes back to the first time pre-meeting on TFK, starting at Kunming in November 2007. Due to the continued attention and concerns of China, Japan, Korea and ASEAN Countries, this 10<sup>th</sup> conference has come to be here at this Seoul National University. Thanks again **Prof. Liu JinLong and Prof. Youn Yeo-Chang** who had founded this network.

Most countries over the world have come to recognize the decrease of

biodiversity and they have been arguing and debating the importance of biodiversity at the COP meeting of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Also, The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement which aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way.

On Friday, 19 May 2017, the Republic of Korea became the 98th country to ratify the Nagoya Protocol. Korea Forest Service also prepares the legislative and administrative measurements for implementation of Nagoya Protocol in next year. In this perspective, this 10th conference will provide the platform for the practical sharing and communication of TFK among participated countries.

Two thirds of the world's indigenous peoples, 260 millions of indigenous people live at Asian Region; these indigenous people have been transcending the treasure and wisdom of traditional forest knowledge.

Recognition of intellectual property rights (IPRs) over traditional knowledge (TK) held by indigenous peoples and local communities (ILCs), particularly TK associated with biodiversity and genetic resources (GRs), is an important step in actualizing sustainable development.

TFK can be linked to the SDGs' targets, # 2, the achievement of food security, # 6 the sustainable management of water, and # 15 the protection

and restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity. Among them, target of food security cannot be emphasized too much for sovereignty and safety for peoples in each country.

Asian Network of TFK (ANTFOK) needs to leap to new platform through this 10<sup>th</sup> conference, and so it is a great honor to have a chance to invite all of you in here **Seoul, Korea**. I hope you can share and coexist by adoption of diverse training programs of cooperatives, APAFRI and AFoCO based on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization on Traditional Forest Knowledges among you.

I believe this conference is very significant and timely since now forest cooperation among Asian countries is highly required. I hope our discussions here will result in fruitful outcomes through your active participation.

Once again, I would like to offer my appreciation to all of you for joining us today despite your busy schedule.

Thank you.

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