

Congratulatory Address

November 1, 2017

Magnolia Hall of Convention Center at Hoam Faculty House, Ho-Am, SNU

Distinguished **Prof. Liu Jin Long** of Renmin University of China, **Prof. Ko Shaka Ryo** of Tohoku University of Japan, **Prof. Youn Yeo-Chang** of Seoul National University, Korea, **Dr. Sim Heok Choi & Dr. Gan Kee-Seng** of APAFRI, **Prof. Monica Gabay** of National University of San Martin of Argentina,

Distinguished participants, and
Ladies and Gentlemen!

Good morning,

Let me firstly express my sincere congratulations to NIFoS for hosting the **10th International Conference on Traditional Forest Knowledge and Culture in Asia**. I also warmly welcome all participants in many countries in Asia, especially Korea, China and Japan. It is a phenomenal moment to continue this conference for 10 years on the topic of “Traditional Forest Knowledge (TFK)”.

The National Institute of Forest Science has led this conference on traditional forest knowledge and culture since it began in 2008. However, I believe that this achievement was only possible with the help and dedication of the members of the advisory committee, Prof. Liu, Prof. Youn, and Dr. Sim. Thank you again for your devotion to this gathering.

In the global discourse such as the **Convention on Biological Diversity** and the **Nagoya Protocol**, all of us aware that to preserve traditional knowledges creatively is one of the significant factors for the sake of sustainable development.

Under the motto of pursuing action-oriented field activities, we, AFoCO, aim to broaden the regional cooperation through undertaking projects and programs in the context of sustainable forest management and addressing climate change.

As serving many countries in Southeast Asia, our organization always watches on the importance of traditional forest knowledge among indigenous people. In line with that, unfortunately, we also watch ourselves that sometimes we easily tend to neglect their precious knowledges by pressing and showing off our ‘noble’ or ‘advanced’ knowledge and technologies.

With learning by doing, we are pursuing to develop various projects and programs to support traditional forest knowledge and wisdoms of local communities in many countries. In this regard, it is my sincere honor and pleasure to meet many professors and researchers in this area, and I hope we can cooperate more creatively for Asian TFK.

Before closing my remark, please let me briefly share with you one thing about AFoCO. This December, we finish the construction of AFoCO Regional Education and Training Center (*shortly, we call it AFoCO RETC*). The location is Yangon, Myanmar, and it will be opened in next year. I hope to meet all of you in our center again.

I hope you have a delightful stay in building up of good relationship and network from this event. I wish the **10th International Conference on Traditional Forest Knowledge and Culture in Asia** the best success.

Thank you.

Jun Seok, Choi
Acting Executive Director, AFoCO