



Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Consultation Inje University, South Korea, 4 February 2009

Between 2 and 4 February 2009 the first Pan-Asia Forest Fire Consultation has been held in Busan and Inje University. The conference was sponsored by the Korean Forest Service and the Korean Forest Research Institute, and supported by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC).¹

Participants from the four Regional Wildland Fire Networks operating under the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) gratefully acknowledged the kind invitation and sponsoring to attend the Consultation. Foreign national and regional representatives from Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Russian Federation, and Thailand, as well as from the ASEAN Secretariat.



While on the first day the pressing issues of the implications of climate changes and socio-economic developments on fire regimes in the Asian region were discussed in the *Climate Change Symposium*, the *Incident Command System Symposium* on the second day provided a forum to present and discuss the status of wildfire incident management systems in the Asian countries, and a discussion about the need for developing internationally standardized and harmonized approaches in capacity building and transboundary cooperation in fire management (Incident Command System Symposium).



National and International official delegates at the Opening Session

The third day was devoted to discuss the development of closer ties for cooperation within the Asian region. After the reports from the four Regional Wildland Fire Networks / ASEAN the participants of the consultation discussed the need to create a Pan-Asian Wildland Fire Network and to initiate a series of periodical Pan-Asia Wildland fire conferences in order to foster cooperation in fire management within the Asian region.

¹ The proceedings of the Climate Change Symposium and the Incident Command System (ICS) Symposium are available on the website of the Consultation:

http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/Northeast-Asia/Northeastasia_7q.html

Conclusions and recommendations

The moderator and chair of the consultation, Prof. Goldammer, summarized the conclusions and recommendations by the Korean hosts and the representatives of the regions:

- The proposal of the foundation of the Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network has been endorsed unanimously
- The network shall operate under the auspices of the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network
- The network should work as a networking arrangement of the four Asian Regional Wildland Fire Networks, thus an inter-regional cluster within the Global Wildland Fire Network
- ASEAN member states are encouraged to actively participate in the Asia network
- An Asia Wildland Fire Network Advisory Board shall be created in which each of the four regional networks should be represented, primarily by the regional chair and others to be determined
- Countries belonging to the four regional networks should nominate focal points to the Asia Wildland Fire Network
- It was endorsed that the First Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Conference be held in Republic of Korea in 2013 aimed at bringing the 4 networks and 21 countries of Asia together and foster international cooperation in fire management
- The future dates / sequences of follow-up conferences should be harmonized with the International Wildland Fire Conferences; and hosts to be determined.
- A Regional Liaison Committee (RLC) for the 2013 conference should be created, in which representatives from forest and / or fire management agencies, academia and NGOs from the 4 regional networks would participate and assist in the preparation and evaluation of the conference.

Note by the Editor of IFFN:

At the time of publication of this issue of International Forest Fire News the process was ongoing that the Republic of South Korea was preparing the offer to host the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference in South Korea in 2015. The coming months will show if the idea of organizing the First Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Conference will be replaced by the realization of the International Wildland Fire Conference in 2015.



A field trip to burned areas and post-fire restoration demonstrated the efforts of the Korean Forest Service and the Korean Forest Research Institute to reduce the impacts of wildfires by prevention and post-fire rehabilitations measures.