

**UNISDR Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network Meeting 2013**  
Korea Forest Research Institute  
Seoul, Republic of Korea, 23-25 October 2013

**Meeting Statement**

**Background and Rationale**

The UNISDR Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network Meeting 2013 was held in Korea Forest Research Institute, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 23-25 October 2013. The meeting was hosted by the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI) and supported by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) and the Korea Forest Service (KFS). Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Johann G. Goldammer conveyed an opening statement to the representatives of Regional Wildland Fire Networks from seven countries (China, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation). The meeting participants agreed that wildfires often do not only affect individual countries, since they are often crossing borders or have other transboundary impacts such as long-distance smoke transport. They expressed strong concern at the escalation of wildfires across the Asia region and wildland fire regime change induced by humans and aggravated by climate extremes. The meeting participants elaborated on both the need of international cooperation at all levels from local to global and concluded that efforts be strengthened in capacity building in wildland fire science and management, and this can be fostered through international cooperation and sharing of expertise and resources.

The establishment of the UNISDR Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network to support international cooperation in wildland fire management in the Asia region has been suggested by the Korea Forest Service at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC), Spain, 2007. At the preparatory meetings of the Pan-Asia Network in 2009, 2011 and 2012 the establishment of the Pan-Asia Network was agreed upon by the four coordinators of the Regional Wildland Fire Networks of the Asia region. They concluded that:

The Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network is a cluster of the Regional Wildland Fire Networks of Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia and Central Asia, representing 21 countries in the region.

The secretariat has been established at the occasion of Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Conference in Republic of Korea in 2013. Future conferences will take place in 4-yearly intervals scheduled half-way between the IWFCs.

## **Mission**

The UNISDR Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network, formally launched in 2013 by representatives of Central Asia, North East Asia, South Asia, and South East Asia Wildland Fire Networks and organized under the umbrella of the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network, advocates and supports the interests of its members towards reducing the negative impacts of vegetation fires on the environment and on society, and to advance the knowledge and application of the ecologically and environmentally benign role of fire in fire dependent ecosystems, and the sustainable application of prescribed fire in land-use systems and forest management.

The Network aims at realizing these goals through enhanced international cooperation in wildland fire management research, development, capacity building, sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources, and mutual support. The cooperation is based on the principle of partnership between/among the participating countries and the international community.

## **Objectives**

Member countries shall

1. Share fire management data and information, experience, knowledge and resources
2. Harmonize definitions and terms related to fire management, especially in the main regional languages.
3. Strengthen national and local fire management capacities, notably through advanced training.
4. Create mechanisms of cooperation in fire management between member countries through bilateral and multilateral agreements and through the establishment of Regional Fire Management Resource Centers<sup>1</sup>.
5. Contribute to the international efforts to mitigate the consequences of global change on increasing wildfire threats.

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<sup>1</sup> Regional hub for fire information and data repository; monitoring and information dissemination (early warning, detection and monitoring of fires, with emphasis on cross boundary fires and smoke transport); capacity building at national and regional level; science-technology interface; facilitation in global and regional networking.

## **Recommendations**

The participants of the Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network meeting expressed strong concern about the escalation of wildfires in the region and across the globe, and the adverse impacts on communities and the environment. The meeting participants acknowledged the benefits derived from international collaboration in developing collective visions and solutions in fire management.

The participants of the meeting recommend the following concrete actions:

### Developing regional fire management capability

Within the next two years, the following activities shall be implemented and results presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> IWFC:

1. Add new languages (Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian and Nepalese) to the International Wildland Fire Terminology (current languages: English, Russian, Mongolian, German).
2. Translate the EuroFire Competency Standards and Training Materials into Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian, Nepalese and Mongolian languages.
3. Conduct a regional advanced fire management training course in Republic of Korea in 2014.
4. Establish the first Regional Fire Management Resource Center in Central Asia (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia) and North East Asia (Seoul, Republic of Korea), and develop plans for establishment of such Regional Centers in South East Asia (Bogor, Indonesia) and South Asia (Kathmandu, Nepal).
5. Develop project proposals for enhancing national fire management capability, notably application of community involvement in fire management for Nepal and Mongolia.

### International cooperation

Within the next two years, the Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network shall contribute to the following international activities:

1. Attend the UNECE/FAO Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management, United Nations, Geneva, November 2013, and explore opportunities to cooperate with UNECE and other regions to expand a cooperation agreement in fire management to

the global level (e.g., a Global Agreement on Transboundary Cooperation in Fire Management).

2. Participate at the meeting of UNISDR-Global Wildland Fire Network / Wildland Fire Advisory Group, GFMC, Freiburg, Germany, June 2014.
3. Support actively the preparation and success of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Wildland Fire Conference, Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, October 2015.


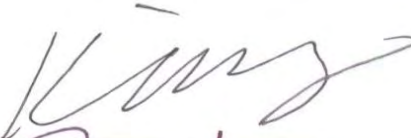
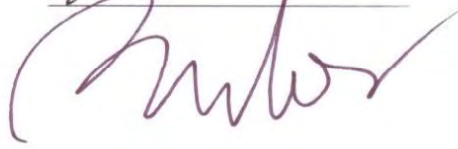

## Conclusions

1. Establishment of Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network Secretariat
  - A. Chairperson: Kyong Ha KIM, Division Director, KFRI
  - B. Secretariat Location: Korea Forest Research Institute, Seoul, Republic of Korea
  - C. Steering committee

Name	Nationality	Affiliation	Remarks
Bambang H. Saharjo	Indonesia	Professor and Dean, Bogor Agricultural University	Representative of South East Asia Wildland Fire Network
Sundar P. Sharma	Nepal	Soil Conservation Officer, Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention	Representative of South Wildland Fire Network
Oyunsanaa Byambasuren	Mongolia	Deputy Chief, GFMC, and Future Head of the Central Asia Fire Management Resource Center	Representative of Central Asia Wildland Fire Network

2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Conference
  - A. Date: 2017
  - B. Venue: Indonesia
3. Next meeting of Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network
  - A. Date: October 2014
  - B. Venue: Republic of Korea
4. Wildland Fire Training Program
  - A. Host: Korea Forest Research Institute, AFoCo Support, GFMC auspice
  - B. Date: October 2014
  - C. Location: Seoul and field sites, Republic of Korea
  - D. Trainee candidates: Fire managers from Asian countries

25 October 2013

Name	Affiliation	Signature
<b>Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Johann G. Goldammer</b>	Global Fire Monitoring Center	
<b>Dr. Kyongha KIM</b>	UNISDR Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network and North East Wildland Fire Network	
<b>Dr. Bambang H. Saharjo</b>	UNISDR South East Asia Wildland Fire Network	
<b>Mr. Sundar P. Sharma</b>	UNISDR South Asia Wildland Fire Network	
<b>Dr. Oyunsanaa Byambasuren</b>	UNISDR Central Asia Wildland Fire Network	