Proceedings of International Conference on Forest Environment in Continental River Basins; With a Focus on the Mekong River

Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI), Japan
Forestry Administration (FA), Cambodia
International Union of Forest Research Organization (IUFRO)

5-7 December 2005
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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Forest and Wildlife Science Research Institute (FWSRI),
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Preface

The International conference on "Forest Environment in Continental River Basins; with a focus on the Mekong River" is held in Phnom Penh, December 5-7, 2005, by the help of the IUFRO Working Party 4.02.08, 8.02.00, 8.03.00, and FFPRI to call scientists from around the world to share their science of forest environment in a large watershed.

Decreases of forest resources and declines of forest environmental benefits have been worldwide issues which are caused by development and devastation of forest area together with by the global warming. These situations have brought about international conflicts which have direct influences on human life in continental river basins, e.g. the Mekong River Basin.

It is our honor that we have this opportunity to organize this conference for sharing scientific knowledge to tackle with these global problems. This conference aims to integrate scientific data and individual research component related to vegetation, soil, forest hydrology, and remote sensing for sustainable development of river basins. We discuss upon researches related to the assessment and management for whole and local basin levels. In particular, the research circumstances and data acquisitions in each study are shared by taking up the Mekong River as a main sample area, assuming that researches in other regions are indispensable for comparing researches in the world and giving the distinction even to the Mekong River Basin. The conference is consists of three sessions, as follows: Forest Management (including remote sensing and socioeconomics), Forest Ecology (including vegetation), and Forest Hydrology.

I would like to give my sincere gratitude to all the members of organizing committee who have made this conference successful. Most of them are involved in the Japan-Cambodia joint research program "Changes of Water Circulation in the Mekong River Basin (CWCM)" which is related to the RR2002 (Research Revolution 2002) project "Development of Simulation Models for Hydrology and Water Resources in the Mekong River Basin" and the MAFF project "Assessment of Water Circulation Dynamics in the Mekong River Basin". We should mention that the financial support makes us possible to have this conference in Cambodia, which is applied from the IUFRO/Japan, the CWCM program, and FFPRI as the host institution of the conference.

SAWADA Haruo
Conference secretariat:
Principal Research Coordinator for International Activities
Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, Japan

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