

Korean Society of Forest Science Proceedings

International Symposium on Ecosystem Restoration for Green and Peace Asia

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Asia is Earth's largest and most populous continent, covering an area of 44,579,000 km² (approximately 30% of Earth's total land area and 8.7% of Earth's total surface area). This continent has long been home to the majority of the human population and was the site of many of the first civilizations. Asia is notable not only for its overall large size and population, but also for its large and dense settlements, as well as its vast but barely populated regions. Asia's 4.5 billion people constitute roughly 60% of the world's population.

Asia's economy is growing rapidly, led by a rising middle class, but it faces major policy challenges such as inequality, uncertain land tenure, unsustainable land use, loss of biodiversity, food insecurity, and climate change. In addition, agricultural expansion and unsustainable land use change has made the region one of the world's largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions.

Unsustainable land use can be at the root of a health crisis. Desertification, land degradation, and drought lead to social and environmental challenges such as reduced livelihoods, forced migration, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss. These problems put millions of people at risk.

In particular, deforestation and forest degradation have resulted in both environmental damages – soil erosion, land degradation, and biodiversity loss – and socio-economic damages such as insecure food, water and health, as well as the loss of people's cultural identity and dignity. In order to mitigate and combat these emerging challenges, governments and international organizations among various stakeholders have expended significant effort. Investing in healthy land as part of a green recovery is a forward-looking solution and a smart economic decision. Restoration of land-based ecosystems can help reverse biodiversity loss and protect against future crises.

This year's World Environment Day marks the formal launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (www.decadeonrestoration.org), a global initiative that will promote and support the revival of natural spaces degraded mainly due to human activities. It aims to fight the degradation of ecosystems on every continent. This is an opportunity to help turn the tide and develop a network among forest-related institutions in Asian region.

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Download the proceedings:

<https://www.iufro.org/fileadmin/material/publications/proceedings-archive/11000-virtual21-ecosystem-restoration-program-book.pdf>

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