

# Teaknet Bulletin

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## Editorial

The 4<sup>th</sup> World Teak Conference was successfully organized and coordinated by the Forestry Commission of Ghana in association with the TEAKNET, ITTO and IUFRO with the technical support of FAO. The World Teak Conference with the theme 'Global Teak Market: Challenges and Opportunities for Emerging Markets and Developing Economies' was held during 05–08 September 2022 and addressed the most crucial issues of the global teak sector. A total of 273 delegates and experts from 28 different countries across five continents – Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America – representing governments, policy makers, private sector, academia, professional foresters, researchers, development partners, civil society players and students attended the World Teak Conference.

The theme sessions, panel discussions and B2B meetings evolved knowledge, shared experiences and brought out ideas on the multiple economic, social and environmental dimensions of teak resources. In this issue, we bring you a detailed report of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Teak Conference. The conference ended with great enthusiasm with India slated to host the next World Teak Conference (5<sup>th</sup> World teak Conference) in 2025.

A new book on teak titled 'Teak in Mekong for a Sustainable Future' was released during the 4<sup>th</sup> World Teak Conference in Accra, Ghana. The book, comprising of six main sections, details the outcomes and knowledge gained from the ITTO Teak Mekong Project. In addition, market price of plantation teak imported to India and our regular column on teak prices are provided for the benefit of our readers.

We invite your feedback on issues related to teak and request you to enrich us with articles/news items of interest/research papers etc. of non-technical nature for inclusion in the Bulletin.

S. Sandeep

TEAKNET Coordinator



## Highlights of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Teak Conference 2022

### Global Teak Market: Challenges and Opportunities for Emerging Markets and Developing Economies



*Read more on Page 2*



The 4<sup>th</sup> World Teak Conference with the theme 'Global Teak Market: Challenges and Opportunities for Emerging Markets and Developing Economies,' held during the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 at the Kempinski Hotel in Accra, Ghana, brought together a diverse group of people interested in teak. The Conference was organized and coordinated by the Forestry Commission of Ghana in association with the International

Teak Information Network (TEAKNET) India, International Tropical Timber Organization, Japan and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, Vienna with the technical support of Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nations. 273 delegates and experts from 28 different countries across five continents – Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America – representing governments, policy makers, private sector, academia, professional foresters, researchers, development partners, civil society players and students attended the World Teak Conference.

### *Highlights of the conference*

The 4<sup>th</sup> World Teak Conference focused on five major themes. Special sessions by ITTO, Forestry Research Network for Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA), International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) and Maharashtra Forest Development Corporation (India) along with panel discussions and B2B meetings covered a broad range of topics and helped prioritize the research and policy strategies for the coming years. The sessions covered the following broad themes

- \* Smallholder teak farming, marketing and livelihoods of rural communities
- \* Cost-benefit analysis on teak investments and promoting responsible trade & markets of teak wood
- \* Tree improvement, genetics, silviculture and stand management
- \* Management models for community forestry
- \* Environmental protection and biodiversity conservation



***The Special Session focused on*** Sustainable Teak Management for Mekong sub-region (Convened the International Tropical Timber Organization, Japan).

***FORNESSA Session :*** Building Productive and Resilient Forest Landscapes in Africa (Convened by Forestry Research Network of Sub-Saharan Africa)

***IFSA Session:*** Young Champions of sustainable and legal supply chains for forest resources; focus on timber/teak resources





## Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony, which was interspersed with the Ghanaian cultural program and statements about the conference by international forestry representatives. Mr. John Allotey, Chief Executive of the Forestry Commission of Ghana and Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee, delivered the conference welcome address. Prof. Victor Agyeman, Chairman of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Teak Conference, gave the opening remarks. Mr. Kojo Oppong-Nkrumah, Minister of Information, opened the conference on behalf of Hon'ble Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia.



Mr. Kojo Oppong-Nkrumah, Minister of Information, Ghana



Dr. Walter Kollert from TEAKNET Steering Committee

Dr. Walter Kollert from the TEAKNET Steering Committee stated that the effective teak sector management had immense potential to address the current challenges of rural livelihoods and climate change. The President of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, (IUFRO) Dr. John Parrotta in his statement gave an overview of IUFRO and its linkage with teak, adding that he was proud of the commitment governments and organizations to invest in research and development in the teak sector. Dr. Yurdi Yasmi, Deputy Regional Representative for Africa, represented FAO in the opening ceremony. Dr. Ma Hwan OK delivered the welcome message representing the International Tropical Timber Organization, Japan.



## Overall programme

The delegates from 28 countries representing the 5 continents actively participated the theme sessions, panel discussions and B2B meetings and shared knowledge, experience and ideas on the multiple economic, social and environmental dimensions provided by teak resources. Ten oral papers and an equal number of posters were presented under the five major themes. The general keynote address was delivered by Mr. Rahul Ahuja, Founder & CEO of Aron Global. Each session started with a keynote delivered by an expert with immense experience in the topic, which set the tone for the entire thematic session.

International Tropical Timber Organization, Japan conducted a dedicated session on 'Sustainable Teak Management for Mekong sub region' and highlighted the research outcomes of the ITTO Teak Mekong project. The book 'Teak in Mekong- for a Sustainable Future' was released during the session. Forestry Research Network of Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA) conducted a session on 'Building Productive and Resilient Forest Landscapes in Africa' and International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) held a discussion forum on Young Champions of sustainable and legal supply chains for forest resources; focus on timber/teak resources.

Maharashtra Forest Development Corporation, India conducted a special session on 'Thinning of Teak Forests – A key to a productive, sustainable and profitable forest'. The sessions brought out fresh ideas and developed deep insights on the emerging trends in the teak sector.



Mr. Rahul Ahuja, Aron Global, General Keynote



Teak book launch by Dr. Ma Hwan OK , ITTO, Japan



View of Audience



IFSA and FORNESSA Session



### *Closing Ceremony*

Deputy Minister for Land and Natural Resources, Benito Owusu-Bio officially closed the conference on behalf of the government of Ghana and thanked all the participants from across the globe for their immense support and contributions to advance the future of forest economies across the globe. Dr. Walter Kollert from TEAKNET expressed the confidence in mobilization of innovative ideas for the future of teak production.



Benito Owusu-Bio, Deputy Minister for Land and Natural Resources, Ghana and Victor Agyeman, Chairman of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Teak Conference in the Closing Ceremony

At the end of the conference, participants advanced the need to make available superior planting material to private companies and local communities to improve the planted teak forests across the globe. Furthermore, it was agreed that since teak plantations enhance livelihoods of local communities, there was the need to build their capacity and that of field workers, particularly in teak management techniques and intercropping of teak with profitable agricultural crops. It is recommended that there was the need to scale up teak investments among small holders and farmers through the provision of realistic cost-benefit analyses, market price information and enabling government policies. The conference further recommended the need to commit more resources to research and development to advance the sustainable management of planted teak forests and investigate in particular the quality of teak wood grown in plantations as compared to natural forests.

### *Field Trip*

Three field tours were organized in connection with the 4<sup>th</sup> World Teak Conference



Visit to Shai Hills Resource Reserve



Visit to Cape Coast Slave Castle, Kakum National Park Canopy walkway (Rain forest)



Visit to Teak plantations in Ashanti region - Commercial Private plantations of Form Ghana

## Communiqué of the 4th World Teak Conference

### *Sponsors*

The conference was supported and sponsored by 23 national and international entities, the most important among them Aron Global, SRS Group, Liaison Group for Mining in Forest Reserves, Form Ghana and the Forest Plantation Development Fund. In a demonstration of government support for forestry, the Forestry Commission of Ghana, the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources and the Minister for Information contributed to the opening ceremony.

### *Significance*

Teak makes only a small proportion of world timber production and trade however it has become a major component of the forest economies of many tropical countries. Planted teak forests have attracted large investments from the private sector in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Globally, teak constitutes the only valuable hardwood resource that is increasing in terms of area.

### *Teak prices*

Since 2010 prices of teak wood had shown an upward trend in most countries. This trend was interrupted by the Corona pandemic. Ever since the price trends have been erratic and difficult to evaluate.

### *Future belongs to planted teak forests*

The supply of quality teak logs originating from old-growth natural teak forests will decrease due to the impact of the log export ban in natural teak growing countries. This has led to increased interest and investment in establishing and managing planted teak forests. The quality of teak wood originating in planted teak forests has improved where superior planting material and good management practices are applied.

### *Gene pool*

A prerequisite for sustainability is to conserve the highly differentiated gene pools of teak both within and outside its natural habitat in order for breeding programs to maintain and renew diversity in the planting stock. In addition, there is a particular need of amplifying the genetic base in planted teak outside its natural habitat.

### *Rural livelihoods and food security*

In many tropical countries smallholders and farmers own planted teak forests or trees and depend on them for their livelihoods. They gain employment and income from nursery operations, land preparation, plantation establishment and maintenance, and in wood-based industries. Hence, planted teak forests support rural development and sustainable livelihoods.

### *Environmental protection*

Apart from a utilitarian perspective, teak plantations could play a major role in sequestering carbon and represent a viable option in Forest Landscape Restoration, in particular on degraded lands. Tapping into the carbon credit markets would provide additional incentives and support the global effort on climate change mitigation.

TEAKNET was identified as a global teak information network that supports knowledge transfer to stakeholders at a global level. Its outreach to the public was appreciated by its members

### Conference Recommendations for Action

- ⇒ Make available superior planting material to private companies and local communities to improve the planted teak forests.
- ⇒ Facilitate capacity building for local community and field workers, particularly in teak management techniques and intercropping of teak with profitable agricultural crops.
- ⇒ Establish confidence in teak investments with small holders and farmers through the provision of realistic cost-benefit analyses, market price information and enabling government policies.
- ⇒ Encourage smallholder growers to apply better silvicultural techniques, to use intercropping systems in order to bridge the initial years without earnings from forestry, to organize group marketing and to make better use of marketing data and information.
- ⇒ Investigate the opportunities of linking teak plantations with carbon credit markets.
- ⇒ Commit more resources to research and development to advance the sustainable
- ⇒ Management of planted teak forests and investigate in particular the quality of teak wood grown in plantations as compared to natural forests.

### Next World Teak Conference in 2025

It was officially declared that the next World Teak Conference would be held in India in 2025.



The baton for the next WTC in 2025 received by Dr. Syam Viswanath, Director of Kerala Forest Research Institute on behalf of TEAKNET from the Chair of 4th WTC, Prof. Victor Agyeman

## Upcoming Events

### THE FOREST TREASURE CHEST

Delivering Opportunities for Everyone



Cairns, Australia 4-8 June 2023

## IUFRO All Division 5 Conference 2023

4-8 June, Cairns, Australia

### Teak Session in IUFRO All Division 5 Conference, 4-8 June 2023, Cairns, Australia

The IUFRO All Division 5 (Forest Products) 2023 Conference will be held at the Cairns Convention Centre, 4 - 8 June 2023 with the theme "*The Forest Treasure Chest: Delivering Outcomes for Everyone*".

IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div 5.06.02) is organising a 2 hr session entitled "*Sustainable Supply and Value Chains of Quality Teakwood Products: Global Challenges and Opportunities*" during this conference in collaboration with TEAKNET- India and ITTO, Japan. The Teak Session is coming under S13 as shown in the Conference Website <https://www.iufro-div5-2023.com/copy-of-call-for-session-proposals>

### If you are interested in this event, please contact:

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Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi, Projects Manager, ITTO, Japan  
Email: [tetra@itto.int](mailto:tetra@itto.int)

For more details, please visit Conference website: <https://www.iufro-div5-2023.com/>

### Organizers



IUFRO Div 5.06.02



International Teak Information Network



International Tropical Timber Organization



## Upcoming Events

### XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024



The IUFRO World Congress, held at 5-year intervals, is one of the largest global forest events attended by more than 2,000 participants. It brings together scientists and stakeholders from all parts of the world to discuss scientific and technical issues related to priority areas of forest research, policy and management. It is interdisciplinary and integrative in scientific content.

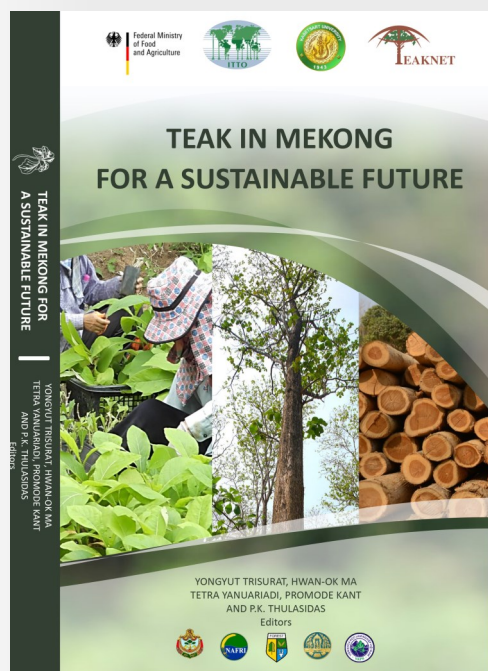
Next IUFRO World Congress will be held at Stockholm, Sweden from 23 to 29 June 2024.

Stockholm, supported by the Nordic and Baltic countries, for the IUFRO World Congress 2024 is RIGHT ON!

For more details please visit <https://iufro2024.com/>

## New Release

### Teak in Mekong for a Sustainable Future



'Teak in Mekong for a Sustainable Future' is the outcome of the ITTO executed Teak Mekong Project in the Greater Mekong Sub-region implemented with the financial support of the Federal Ministry of Food Agriculture, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMEL) with the participating countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The book comprises six main sections dealing mainly with the teak distribution across the GMS region, silviculture and teak improvement, SFM and certification, teak genetics, policy and regional and international cooperation and guidance and recommendations for promoting SFM of natural and planted teak forests in the tropics. Yongyut Trisurat, Hwan-ok MA, Tetra Yanuariadi, Promod Kant and PK Thulasidas (Eds). Teak in Mekong for a Sustainable Future. Kasetsart University, Thailand; ITTO, Japan and TEAKNET, Bangkok, Thailand. 360 p. ISBN: 978-616-278-693-8

[Download](#)

## Price of Plantation Teak Imported to India

Prices of recent shipments of plantation teak logs and sawnwood imported to India

Teak Logs	US\$ per cu.m C&F
Brazil	313-600
Colombia	245-615
Costa Rica	350-652
Ecuador	246-495
Gabon	370
Ghana	270-559
Guatemala	277-594
Ivory Coast	263-458
Mexico	322-439
Panama	252-539
PNG	389-595
Tanzania	344-930
Togo	259-532
S. Sudan	367-676
Nigeria	290-630
El Salvador	328-520
Solomon Island	248
Surinam	222

Sawnwood	US\$ per cu.m C&F
Benin	325-712
Brazil	489-777
Cameroon	974
Ghana	485
Ivory Coast	375-752
Mexico	373-585
PNG	492-677
Tanzania	471-1068
S. Sudan	342-633
Nicaragua	328-564
Myanmar	791-980

Price range depends mainly on length and cross-sections

*Courtesy: ITTO TTM Report 26: 18; 16-30 Sept 2022*

### Editorial Committee

Dr. S. Sandeep  
Dr. E. M. Muralidharan  
Dr. P.K. Thulasidas

**Teaknet Bulletin** is a quarterly electronic newsletter of TEAKNET brought out through its website. It is intended for circulation among the members of TEAKNET and other stakeholders of global teak sector. The views expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization. The readers are welcome to express their opinions or pass on information of value to teak growers, traders, researchers or others concerned with teak. However, TEAKNET reserves the right to choose the contributions for publishing and also to make necessary editorial modifications in the articles in consultation with the authors.

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