



# ITTO-BMEL Teak Newsletter

August 2024 - Volume 6(4)

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Teak Mekong Newsletter is now re-named as *ITTO-BMEL Teak Newsletter* to reflect changes in the start of 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the project in November 2023 for 3 years for implementation in 6 countries of Asia Pacific and Togo in West Africa. The newsletter support and facilitates teak and other tropical species networking and information dissemination in the Asia Pacific and West Africa through ITTO member countries and partners, and support sharing lessons of the project through short news release, occasional papers, project related research and development information. The bi-monthly newsletter is released online through TEAKNET webpage [www.teaknet.org](http://www.teaknet.org) and co-hosted by Kasetsart University, Thailand.

For more information,

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## Partner Event on

## Teak at XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024, Stockholm, Sweden

28 June 2024 | 08.30-10:30 am (CEST) | Room K21

### Organizers



A 2 hour Teak Session, T2.29 entitled "Strengthening Teak Forest Management for Sustainable Teakwood Supply Chains and Trade" was successfully organised by IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div 5.06.02) on

28<sup>th</sup> June 2024, from 08:30-10:30 am (CEST) in Room K21 alongside 26<sup>th</sup> IUFRO World Congress 2024 at Stockholm Congress Centre, Sweden during 23-29 June. The event was co-sponsored

by ITTO, Japan along with International Teak Information Network (TEAKNET) with the technical and financial support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome. The session was attended over by around 50 participants across different countries. There were altogether 10 Oral presentations and two E-posters.



Part of Participants and speakers of IUFRO-ITTO-TEAKNET-FAO Teak Session

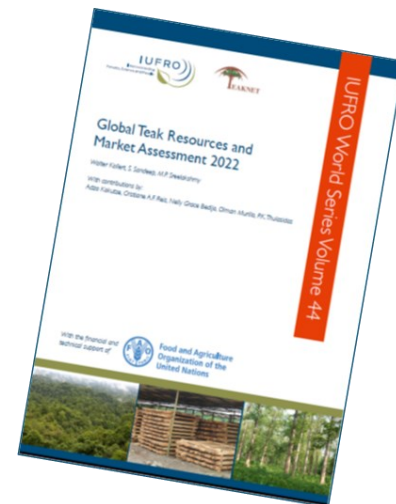
The session was opened by Dr. Michael Kleine, IUFRO Deputy Executive Director. Dr. Michael highlighted the long-standing collaboration of IUFRO's Teakwood Working Party and IUFRO-SPDC with Teaknet for over a decade and to support participation of scientists in many international teak conferences/workshops and projects organised in collaboration with international organizations such as ITTO and FAO. He emphasized IUFRO's network of scientific expertise spread across several research institutions and organisations in 120 countries worldwide have the capacity to pool and get data collected by eminent scientists at no extra cost and made such studies possible within a short span of time like the report on "Global Teak Resources and Market Assessment 2022" released as IUFRO Publication # 44 in the Innovation Stage during the IUFRO World Congress 2024 and is now available for download from [IUFRO website](#)

TEAKNET Coordinator Dr. Sandeep S. presented the results of the "Global Teak Resources and Market Assessment 2022" (TRMA 2022). The major highlights of the study revealed that teak is now growing in over 80 countries worldwide and the area of natural teak and planted teak forests has expanded substantially, the harvest of teak roundwood has increased and teak's share of the global market is growing. India remains the dominant trading partner and imports 97 percent of the total trade volume. Comparing the TRMA 2010 assessment report of FAO, the present 2022 report highlights that area of natural teak forests have increased by 1.180 million ha

globally while the global area of planted teak forests is estimated at 4.854 million ha, of which 80% in Asia, 13% in Africa and 7% in Latin America.



Opening remarks by Dr. Michael Kleine, IUFRO Dy. Executive Director, Vienna



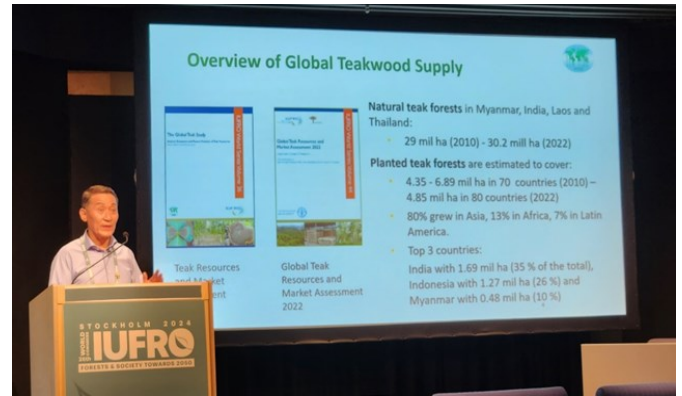
Dr. Sandeep, S, Teaknet Coordinator



Dr. Tetra from ITTO, Japan

ITTO Projects Manager, Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi gave the audience an overview of recent trends in international trade and market access for tropical timber and timber products. Dr. Tetra outlined the case for sustainable forest management (SFM) and trade in legally and sustainably produced tropical timber and wood products, noting the ecosystem services and economic benefits provided by forests, and the need to value them properly. He underlined ITTO’s mission to support member countries – with work including policy guidance, market information, capacity building, and field projects – to master the challenges of SFM and to expand and diversify trade in sustainable, legally harvested wood. Describing recent market trends, Dr Yanuariadi reminded the audience of how major crises had impacted the sector like the COVID-19 pandemic which severely affected supply chains, demand and prices for tropical timber and wood products, including teak. He further explained the critical issues surrounding market access and market requirements, including the new European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). Dr. Tetra said it would be a challenge for producers to meet the requirements of the EUDR, which is to be implemented starting 30 December 2024.

ITTO Consultant, Dr. Hwan-Ok Ma presented the market access issues in his topic *“Promoting legal and sustainable supply chains for sustainable global teak market”*. Certification requirements for teak and other tropical timber products imposed high transaction costs for developing countries and small producers. Challenges include the development of monitoring systems to demonstrate legality and sustainability, where the digitalization of forest management activities and cost-effective verification tools play an increasingly important role. Dr Ma also described ITTO-supported projects to improve teak silviculture, including smallholder enterprises; conservation of teak genetic resources; and promote value chains across the Greater Mekong Sub-region, as well as teak plantation development in countries including Brazil, Ghana and Indonesia.



Dr. MA on sustainable teak supply chains and markets

Dr. Dong Lam Tran, Dy. Director General from Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences, Hanoi, who presented *“Development of Smallholder Teak Plantations in Vietnam”* mentioned that 70% of the total 14.8 million ha of forested area (42% of the total forest area) in Vietnam is managed by smallholder farmers of 1-3 ha /household and the total timber harvest is around 30 million m<sup>3</sup> annually. Teak is not indigenous to Vietnam and the current teak plantation area is approx. 7,650 ha only, spread mostly in Sona La Province, and 74% is managed by households and the rest by private entities.



Dr. Dong from VAFS, Hanoi

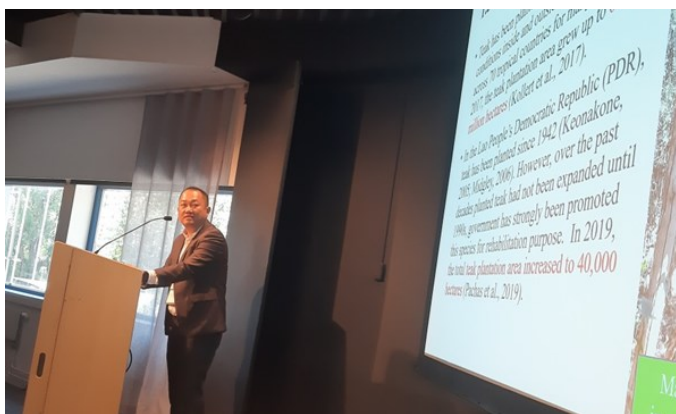
He elaborated that there exists high potential for development of smallholder teak plantation in Vietnam that requires:

- ⇒ Improvement of germplasm quality and seedling production;
- ⇒ Technical capacity building to teak growers and stakeholders;
- ⇒ Development of diverse silviculture options for diversifying income regime (teak-based agroforestry, intensive planting for short rotation, tree-outside-forest planting);

- ⇒ Improvement of the value chain and marketing by building partnerships among the chain actors;
- ⇒ Micro-finance mechanism for long-term investment, are some of the promising solutions.

Dr. Simone Vongkhamho, Forest Research Centre, NAFRI, Lao's People Democratic Republic whose talk was on *"The Effect of Topographic Conditions on Teak Heartwood Quality in a Mountainous Area"* demonstrated that planted teak have been established in various site conditions across the country; mountainous land in northern part, flat land in central and southern part and southern plateau land of Bolaven. However, northern part covers 64% of total area with planted teak. The main highlights of the study were:

- \* Heartwood content of basal area increases with tree size.
- \* Lower shrinkage with higher basic density indicates better wood properties. Therefore, basic density and tangential shrinkage has an increasing quality with tree age.
- \* The darker color (low L\*) is associated with the south-west facing gentle slope in lower elevation. Red color (high a\*) showed a relationship with south-east facing straight slope. Yellowish color (high b\*) has higher value at south-west facing slope in lower elevation and lower stand density.



Dr. Simone Vongkhamho, NAFRI, Lao PDR

Mr. Outhai Soukkhy from Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR presented the results of a Nelder wheel experiment in an agroforestry system in Luang Prabang province by reducing the initial stocking rates in smallholder teak woodlots for livelihood support to farmers in northern Lao PDR after 15 growing seasons. The results demonstrate:

- ⇒ the potential for teak to be grown under shorter rotations, by either planting at around 625 trees/ha or adopting early pre-commercial thinning to reduce stocking levels to 500-600 trees/ha. This approach can allow intercropping with the developing teak for longer periods, increase diameter, thereby reducing time to first commercial harvest with increased profitability.
- ⇒ woodlots can be commercially thinned at 12-15 years of age, or potentially clear-cut at 15 years, and the coppice managed to regenerate, providing long-term, sustainable timber production, with limited management requirements.



Mr. Outhai Soukkhy from Lao PDR on Nelder wheel experiment in Luang Prabang



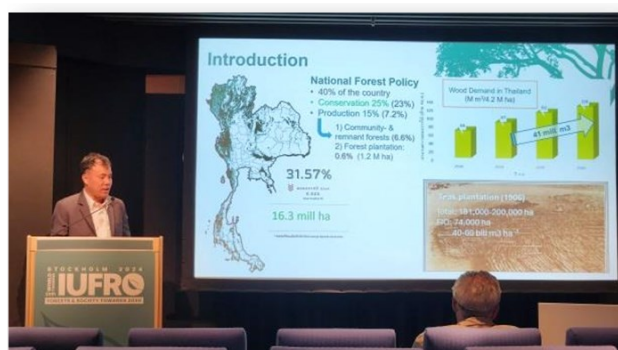
Dr. Andrew Callister, Treehouse Forest Research, USA on teak genomics

Dr. Andrew Callister from the United States of America who spoke next presented the paper *“Genomic Selection of Superior Quality Teak Clone for Productivity Enhancement and Value”* has given important messages that genomic selection tools have improved tree improvement outcomes across species. Teak improvement programs could benefit enormously by :

- ⇒ Correcting pedigree and identity errors;
- ⇒ Pedigree reconstruction and population merging; Improved genetic value accuracy;
- ⇒ Faster clone selection. Their study demonstrates pedigree reconstruction and genomic prediction for teak clone selection.

Prof. Yongyut Trisurat from Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Thailand who presented paper on *“Strengthening Smallholder Community-based Teak Plantations in Thailand”* touched upon the challenges and prospects of smallholder teak plantations in the country with emphasis on the outcome of the completed ITTO Teak project, Phase I (2019-2022) and the newly initiated ITTO-BMEL Teak project, Phase II (2023-2026) in which it was envisaged:

- \* to improve the production of high-quality timber from teak and other valuable species plantations established by smallholders and communities;
- \* to improve livelihoods and social and environmental outcomes through better silviculture practices, financial schemes (long rotations) and access to voluntary carbon markets, etc.



Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Kasetsart University, Bangkok

At the end of the project, it is anticipated that the legal supply chains of smallholder plantation improved with the production of high-quality timber making use of quality germplasm

materials and adopting right silvicultural practices and micro-finance (land- and tree collateral schemes) available to smallholders. Thereby, the livelihood enhancement and social and environmental concerns are well addressed.

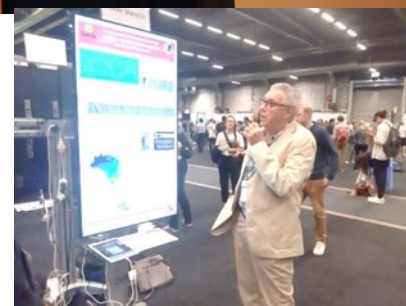
Prof. Mario Tomasiello Filho from University of Sao Polo, Brazil spoke on the comparative study on the wood quality of 22-year old fast-grown teak plantations in three different locations in Brazil emphasized that:

- ⇒ The heartwood production is proportional to the diameter growth.
- ⇒ The growth ring width is constant from the 10th ring onwards.
- ⇒ The average density ranged from 550 to 650 kg/m<sup>3</sup>
- ⇒ Wood density is higher at the base and apex, and low near the pith, increasing radially towards the bark. However, growth is not directly associated with wood density.

He informed that 6% of the global teak plantations are in Latin America and Brazil top in the list with 76,000 ha mostly found in Mato Grosso state.



Prof. Mario Tomasiello Filho, Brazil



In addition to the Oral presentations, two poster presentations with Short oral by Prof. Mario Tomasiello Filho from University of Sao Polo, Brazil and Mr. Mark Hanewinkel, University of Freiburg, Germany.



Mr. Mark Hanewinkel, University of Freiburg, Germany in the poster session

The Teak Session was moderated and chaired by Dr. PK Thulasidas, Dy. Coordinator of IUFRO Teakwood Working Party, together with Prof. Mario Tomasiello Filho from the University of Sao Polo, Brazil. All the presentations of the Teak Session is available for download from the websites of [TEAKNET](#) and [ITTO](#).

**Announcement of 5<sup>th</sup> WTC 2025:** During the session the participants were informed of the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Teak Conference to be held in Cochin, India during 16 -20 September 2025 under the theme “*Sustainable development of the global teak sector—adapting to future markets and environments*”. The conference is being organised under the umbrella of TEAKNET in close collaboration with Kerala Forest Research Institute with the financial support of ITTO, Japan together with IUFRO and FAO of the United Nations. For further information, watch announcements in the WTC website [www.worldteakconference2025.com](http://www.worldteakconference2025.com).



5<sup>th</sup> WTC announcement by Dr. Thulasidas

**ITTO-BMEL Teak Spl Meeting at Stockholmsmässan:** Following the teak session, Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Regional Project

Manager of ITTO-BMEL teak project convened a meeting in the foyer of the auditorium in Stockholmsmässan to discuss the project progress regarding the Togo component with Prof. Adzo Kokutse from the University of Lome, Togo. The ITTO-BMEL project partners who were attending the IUFRO World Congress assembled and participated in the meeting.



Progress review of Togo component by Prof. Yongyut Trisurat with project team members in Stockholmsmässan

The XXVI World Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) was successfully organised in Stockholm during 23-29 June 2024 that brought together 4,300 participants from 102 countries with over 3,500 presentations. This global event is conducted by IUFRO once in 5 years. It provided a global forum for the exchange of knowledge, perspectives, and visions between scientists across a broad spectrum of disciplines, and dialogue with youth, policy makers, forest managers, business representatives, and civil society organizations.

The next 27<sup>th</sup> IUFRO World Congress will be held in Kenya 2029. The outcome of the 26<sup>th</sup> IUFRO World Congress is briefly summarized in the [Stockholm Congress Statement](#) and is available in the congress website [www.iufro2024.com](http://www.iufro2024.com)



Report by

**Dr. PK Thulasidas**  
Dy. Coordinator, IUFRO Teakwood Working Party &  
Consultant # 5, ITTO-BMEL Teak Project



**1<sup>st</sup> Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting on  
“Promoting Quality Timber Production in Smallholders and Community-based Teak and  
Other Valuable Species Plantations in the Tropics” (PP-A/54-331A)**

**17 September 2024  
Rama Garden Hotel Bangkok, Thailand**

## Draft Provisional Agenda

16 September 2024:

Arrival of international delegates at Suvarnabhumi Airport, Bangkok

Stay overnight at Rama Garden Hotel

17 September 2024

Item	PSC Meeting: 09:30 – 12:00
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Opening of the Meeting</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remarks by the donor representatives (BMEL)</li> <li>• Remarks by the representative of ITTO (Dr. Nurudeed, TI Division Director)</li> <li>• Remarks by Kasetsart University (Prof. Kobsak Wanthonchai, Dean of KUFF)</li> <li>• Remarks by the Chairperson of the PSC</li> </ul>
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Group Photo</b>
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Special presentation: ITTO Sustainable Wood Use</b> Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi, ITTO Projects Manager
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>Review of the project structure and progress (including financial and inputs applied)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The project's overall objectives, outputs, work plan, and financial matters (Prof. Yongyut, Project Coordinator)</li> <li>ii) Report on the first-six months of project implementation (Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Project Coordinator)</li> </ul>
<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>	
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>Consideration of the First Yearly Plan of Operation (YPO)</b>
	Draft YPO (consisting of work plans and consolidated budgets) and proposed budget modification of project implementation will be presented by Prof. Yongyut and be discussed by the members of the PSC.
<b>Item 5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>Project Steering Committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review, evaluate, approve, and adopt reports presented at the PSC meeting</li> <li>• Discuss any issues arising from presentations, including possible modification/improvement to the project implementation and/or the budget</li> <li>• Provide recommendations to contribute to the effective implementation of the project</li> </ul> <p>The chairperson may summarize the main recommendations made during the meeting.</p>
<b>Item 6</b>	<b>Other Business</b>
	<p>Project Steering Committee will review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the involvement of Teak Project in the 5<sup>th</sup> World Teak Conference in Kerela, including organizing a special side event</li> </ul> <p>Other business matters</p>



<b>Item 7</b>	<b>Closing of the Meeting</b>
	<b>Lunch 12:00-13:00</b>
<b>13:30 - 16:30 hrs</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Project Technical Committee (PTC) Meeting moderated by Dr. Suwan Thanmitcharoen, RFD, Chair of PTC</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review the recommendations from the 1st PSC meeting and follow up actions</b> By Prof. Yongyut Trisurat</li> <li>• <b>Review the TORs of the project's consultants and status of recruitment</b> By Prof. Yongyut Trisurat and contributed by consultants</li> <li>• <b>Discuss the work plan and implementation schedule and proposed Lead Consultants</b> By consultants</li> <li>• <b>Review of the work plans of the Thunen Forestry Institute and joint data collection</b> By Thunen Forestry Institute</li> <li>• <b>Expected contribution of consultants at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Teak Conference in Kerela</b> By Prof. Yongyut Trisurat and contributed by consultants</li> <li>• <b>Summarize the main recommendations by the Chairperson</b></li> </ul>

**Sponsorship:** The Project will support the PSC members and PTC members.

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Federal Ministry  
of Food  
and Agriculture



Draft Concept Note

## Regional Workshop on “Enhancing Smallholder Plantations Towards Quality Timber Production of Teak and other Economic Species and Carbon Neutrality in the Tropics”

18-21 September 2024, Rama Garden Hotel Bangkok, Thailand

### Background:

The project ITTO-BMEL Promoting Quality Timber Production in Smallholders and Community-based Teak and Other Valuable Species Plantations in the Tropics (PP-A/54-331A) aims to support the six participating countries' policies and strategic goals in promoting the sustainable management of teak resources and plantation efforts on public and private land. Additionally, the project focuses on the certification and legality of sustainably produced timber, including that from small- and medium-sized enterprises, along with enhanced value chain processes in the wood industry and promoting carbon-supported plantation development. Building on ITTO's comparative advantage, the project leverages the organization's expertise in addressing forestry issues that require strong public, private, and community collaboration. ITTO's proven track record in policy development and capacity-building initiatives in its producer member countries further strengthens the project's foundation.

The development of management models for smallholder value chains in teak and other valuable species plantations and the introduction of supportive finance systems will encourage smallholders and forest communities to plan the sustainable management of plantation resources and quality timber production in longer rotations and efficient timber and timber products processing. Cooperation with smallholder farmers and entrepreneurs will increase livelihood opportunities for local residents and reduce pressures on the unsustainable use of forests. The Project also will assist in the practical application of the certification of sustainability of forest management, and the verification of timber legality. The capacity-building program of the Project will be based on a rapid, participatory training needs assessment that will be implemented in close cooperation with forestry authorities, academic and research institutions, NGOs, and interested development partners.

The project leverages existing experiences and knowledge from relevant ITTO projects on teak and other valuable species through South-South cooperation in the two tropical regions. Field activities in selected countries in the Asia-Pacific and West Africa will focus on smallholder farming systems, integrating valuable native multifunctional species to provide alternate income sources alongside teak planting for long rotations. Key collaborating agencies include the Cambodia Forestry Administration, Thailand's Royal Forestry Department and Kasetsart University, Vietnam Administration of Forestry/Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences, Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, Dehra Dun, and the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry. In Togo (West Africa), the University of Lomé will play a pivotal role.

The project also aims at harnessing synergies with other organizations working in the same field such as IUFRO and TEAKNET. A specific collaboration with the Thünen Institute of Forestry will be arranged to carry out feasibility studies for financing schemes for smallholders' teak and other valuable species plantations. The project will explore recent incentive programs and improve smallholders' access to finance and long-term investments to meet market specifications.

Knowledge sharing and outreach efforts for the two tropical regions will be strengthened through webinars and workshops, and participation in important events such as IUFRO World Congress 2024 and the fifth World Teak Conference in 2025.

The first regional workshop on **Enhancing Smallholder Plantations Towards Quality Timber Production of Teak and Other Economic Species and Carbon Neutrality in the Tropics** is being jointly organized by the Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, and ITTO in collaboration with the six participating countries in Asia-Pacific and West Africa.

#### Objectives:

The overall goal of this workshop will focus on the planning and implementation of research and development activities of good quality timber production along with enhanced value chain processes in the wood industry and promoting carbon-supported plantation development, while the specific objectives are to:

- i) Review status of smallholder and community-based teak and other valuable species plantations and management in the Asia-Pacific and West Africa regions

- ii) Review policy and institutional arrangements for legal and sustainable supply chains and micro-finance mechanisms for longer restoration and carbon restoration.
- iii) Review and share experiences on case studies, good practices and policy options to promote local communities and smallholders in planted teak and other valuable species, and agroforestry systems to support sustainable livelihoods.

A post-workshop field excursion to teak wood industries and teak plantations in northern Thailand will be organized.

The outputs of the First Regional Workshop will be shared among the six participating countries in the Asia-Pacific and West Africa, interested individuals and organizations. In addition, workshop outputs will be shared at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Teak Congress to be held in Kerala, India in 2025. The ITTO-BMEL Teak Newsletter and ITTO TFU will also share the outcomes.

**Language of the Meeting:** English

**Sponsorship:** The ITTO-BMEL Teak Project will support invited participants from the participating countries and selected experts.

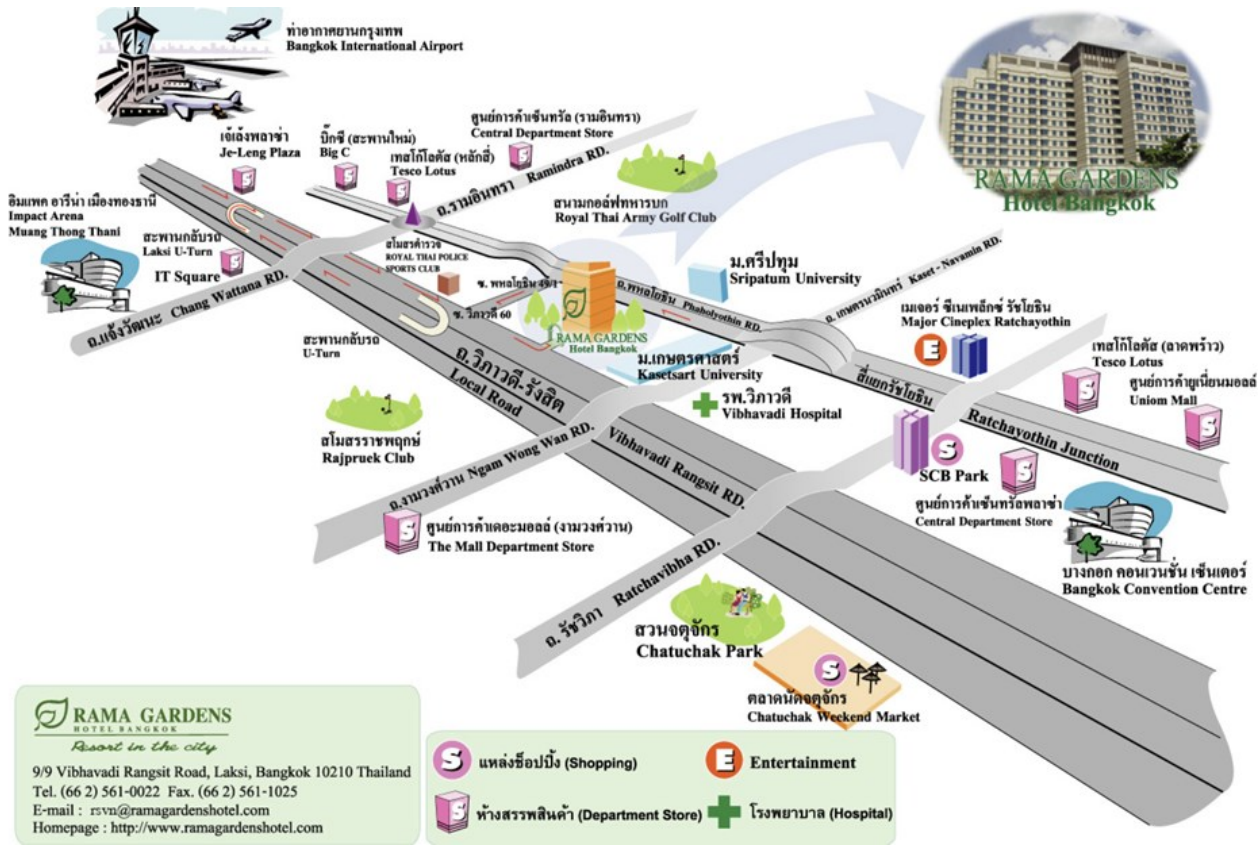
#### Meeting venue:

RAMA GARDENS HOTEL BANGKOK (SHA+ Certified)  
9/9 Vibhavadi Rangsit Road, Laksi, Bangkok 10210  
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*ITTO - BMEL Teak Newsletter* is a bi-monthly electronic newsletter of the Project Team which is intended for circulation among the 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 concerned with teak. However, we reserves the information on the project and publishing through this newsletter for our esteemed readers.

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