



Global Session

Friday, 01 November 2019

Regional Statement Southeast Asia Region



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Regional Fire Management Resource Center-Southeast Asia (RFMRC-SEA)

Specific landscape fire problems of the region

- Fire has been traditionally used in Southeast Asia
- Climate change and economic pressures, have changed the way of local life (fire use culture).
- Many forests are too frequently burned for non-timber forest products (NTFPs) harvesting.
- Forested area has shifted from native forest cover (mostly deciduous forest) to cultivation (agroforestry) or monoculture, in which traditionally, slash and burn methods are commonly practiced.
- This has led to frequent unplanned fires and hence more prevalent smoke and haze pollution.
- The fire, smoke and haze problem caused by humans; therefore, not only fire science, dealing with social issues need to be addressed as well.

Gaps / shortcomings in landscape fire science, management and policies

- There has been little dedicated research and intervention strategies dealing directly with wildland and human-caused fires, smoke and haze occurring in the vegetation types, geographic conditions, weather patterns, and related human behaviors of Southeast Asia including Mainland Southeast Asia
- Understanding the breadth of these issues, along with utilization of suitable and effective knowledge of science-based tools and advanced technologies, is needed for fire and haze control and management in ASEAN.
- The finally goals is to have scientific findings which will enable more efficient fire and smoke management system that can be used by all parties in order to have the most possible fire and smoke control and management system including reducing of fire emissions in upper ASEAN region.

Main advances achieved since the last International Wildland Fire Conference

The establishment of the Regional Fire Management Resource Center – South East Asia Region (RFMRC-SEA), which will function as an independent regional center of competency and excellence for fire management and will operate at the interface between science and informed policy development (Science-Policy Interface – SPI).

The RFMRC-SEA established by the Faculty of Forestry, Bogor Agricultural University (Indonesia), with the assistance of the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) (Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, c/o University of Freiburg). These two institutions have been working together in fire science and fire management since the mid-1990s at bilateral level as well as within international projects. Prof. Dr. Ir. Bambang Hero is serving as coordinator of the UNISDR Regional Southeast Asia Wildland Fire Network, one of 14 regional networks of the Global Wildland Fire Network.

Responsibilities of the Regional Center

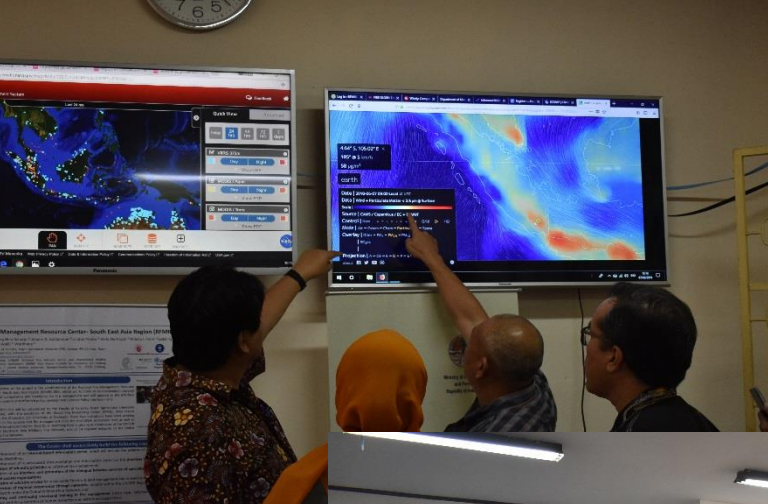
1. Development of an **internet-based information portal**, which will include the **science** of vegetation fires and related scientific disciplines;
2. Development of a web-based documentation and information portal on the **practices that are prerequisite for the application of scientific principles** in informed fire management;
3. Creation of **an interface and promotion of the dialogue between services of specialized governmental institutions and civil society organizations**;
4. **Provision of advisory service** for sustainable forestry & land management and relevant policies;
5. **Promotion of regional cooperation through networks**, notably within the UNISDR Regional Southeast Asia Wildland Fire Network under the Global Wildland Fire Network; and
6. **Training and continuing vocational training in fire management** (main task: Information, training, training and education and the promotion of human resources and institutional capacities).

Launching RFMRC-SEA, 10 July 2017



REG-SEA ROUND TABLE MEETING (2018)







EuroFire in different languages:

- *Bahasa Indonesia**
- *Malay language**
- *Thai language**
- *Vietamese language**

<https://rfmrc-sea.org/>



The condition hotspots and smoke haze



Upcoming Conference: 7th International Wildland Fire Conference



Meet Bambang Hero Saharjo, Indonesia's go-to expert witness against haze-causing plantation firms (Mongabay)



Multistrata Fieldwork (IPB and NASA) Riau, 18 Apr 2019



The Amazon, Siberia, Indonesia: A World of Fire (Credit By: Reuters, Butte County Sheriff's Department Via Storyful, Broward Sheriff Via Storyful and Chantal Louw Via Storyful)

Fires in the SEA-region in 2019

Chiangrai-Thailand



Indonesia



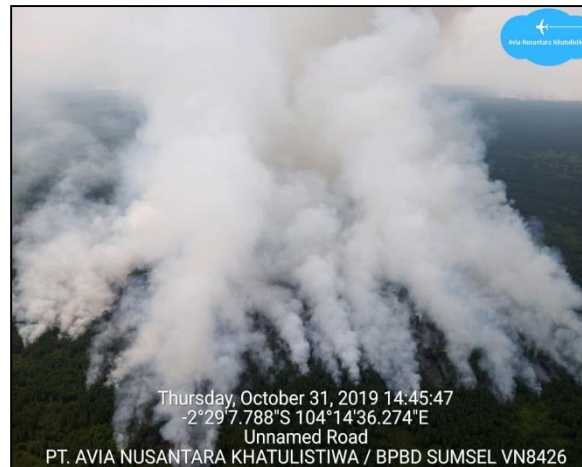
Cambodia



Sarawak-Malaysia



Indonesia



Chiangmai-Thailand



Conclusions

It had been clearly understood that to solve the landscape fire in Southeast Asian Countries is strengthening the research collaboration among the member ASEAN and developed countries especially to those which working on fires, smokes/haze. The other important also is sustainable funding.

Recommendations

- The expansion of fire, smoke and haze research, study, collaboration and management to cover the whole Southeast Asia is really needed.
- Fire science and fire weather need to be seriously deploy in the region
- The awareness recognition of the problem needs to be emphasized to regional leaders top down from IWFC through all possible international channels.
- Since it is actually the social issue that causes most of the fires in this region, a fire and water community based management is a crucial approach to improve local people livelihood.
- The real incomes need to be generated in order to sustain such management.