Forest Products Society Expands Its Member Network to APAC

New ASEAN Chapter to Support Forestry and Wood Industry Professionals In the Region With Professional Networking and Scientific Information Exchange

PEACHTREE CORNERS, GA – November 1, 2016 – The Forest Products Society today announced the creation of a Southeast Asian membership section of the organization.

The ASEAN Section of the Forest Products Society will support the forestry and wood industry by providing a forum for networking and exchange of scientific and technical information about the sustainable use of wood and other renewable cellulosic materials. The creation of the new section came in response to the 1.8 million people employed by the wood industry in Southeast Asia. The region generates close to $35 billion in export earnings annually, marking a significant global socioeconomic impact.

The ASEAN Section will be lead by Dr. Jegatheswaran Ratnasingam of the Universiti Putra Malaysia. With 30 years of experience in industry-academia, including industrial development consultancy assignments in more than 30 countries throughout the world, Dr. Ratnasingam is the leading rubberwood utilization expert in the Asian region. Under the auspices of many top international organizations, such as FAO, ITTO, UNDP, ITC, UNIDO, World Bank and the ADB, Dr. Ratnasingam has served an expert in the field of wood products. He has also held senior management and technical positions with many of the largest wood products manufacturers in the world.

In addition to the newly created ASEAN Section, the Forest Products Society has also established a Student Chapter at the Universiti Putra Malaysia. As one of the founding tertiary forestry academic centers, the faculty at Universiti Putra Malaysia produced quality foresters for the needs of the country, both in the public as well as in the private sectors. Together with local experts, the faculty built a reputation as being one of the most established tropical forestry education and research centers in the South East Asian region, making it the ideal location for the Student Chapter.

The ASEAN Section of the Forest Products Society will include Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and the Philippines, and will all have substantial forest cover and wood resources. For more information on the ASEAN Section or Forest Products Society membership, please visit http://www.forestprod.org/become_a_member/.

About FPS

Founded in 1947, the Forest Products Society’s vision is to be the international leader for advancing the sustainable use of renewable cellulosic resources through science and technology. www.forestprod.org.

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