

Introduction

Background of APRM 2025



Source: APRM 2025

The **Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM)** is an annual flagship event of the **International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)**, the APRM is hosted by a different country within the region, offering participants the chance to learn about local forest ecosystems, national forestry practices, and regional challenges in sustainable forest management.

In **2025**, the APRM was held in the **Republic of Korea**, a country known for its successful forest restoration history and ongoing innovation in forest science. This year's event adopts a theme that reflects the urgency of regional cooperation and youth leadership in addressing environmental challenges.

Objectives and Themes

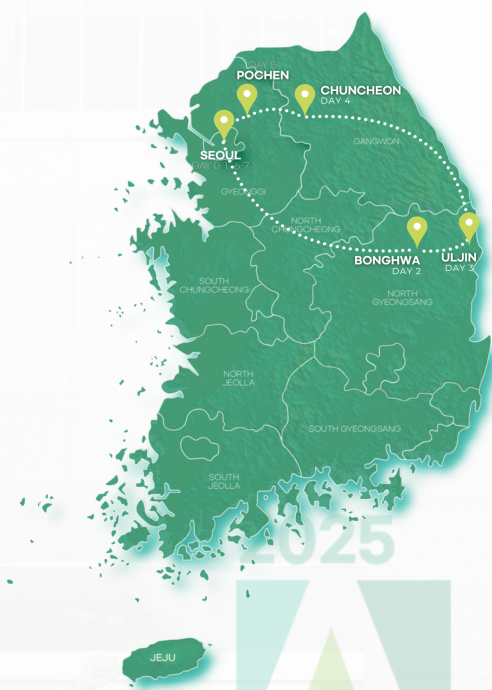
The main slogan of APRM 2025 is:

**“Empower Youth, Build a Sustainable Tomorrow:
Dive into Green Cooperation!”**

This theme embodies the vision of engaging young forestry students in a meaningful dialogue on sustainability and international collaboration.

Overview of the Locations and Itinerary

Overview Locations



Embark on an exciting week-long journey across the Republic of Korea as part of APRM 2025. From the vibrant capital city of **Seoul** to the serene mountains of **Bonghwa**, the coastal beauty of **Uljin**. **Pocheon**, where participants will visit the Korea National Arboretum and explore biodiversity initiatives and the natural wonders of **Chuncheon**. Each location presents an opportunity to learn about a different facet of Korea's forestry system, from scientific research to forest biodiversity and restoration practices. **The APRM 2025 map can be seen in the image (Source: APRM 2025).**

Overview Itinerary

The APRM 2025, held from June 29 to July 6 in the Republic of Korea, featured a week-long program that combined academic exploration, cultural exchange, field visits, and core IFSA activities. The event opened with a warm welcome dinner and recreational session at Seoul Youth Hostel, setting a friendly tone for the days ahead. Participants engaged in technical lectures at institutions such as the National Institute of Forest Science, Kookmin University, Baekdudaegan National Arboretum, Kangwon National University, and the Korea National Arboretum—covering topics from climate change mitigation and digital forestry to biodiversity, seed vault systems, and pest management. Excursions offered firsthand insight into Korea's reforestation, smart nurseries, and wildfire recovery efforts. Alongside these academic components, IFSA's organizational heart was reflected in sessions like IFSA Talks, the election of new Asia-Pacific Regional Representatives, ForeSight idea pitching, workshops, and the IFSA Auction. Cultural bonding was further deepened through International Night and a final Closing Ceremony that celebrated collaboration, learning, and lasting friendships across the region.

Participations

The APRM 2025 in the Republic of Korea gathered a diverse group of **47 participants** and **14 Organizing Committee (OC) members**, including Regional Representatives (RRs), representing a wide range of **Local Committees (LCs)** from across the **Asia-Pacific region** — including Indonesia, Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, Nepal, and South Korea. The event was further enriched by the presence of international participants from **outside the region**, such as **North Macedonia** (Southern Europe), **Mexico**, and **Chile** (Latin America).

APRM 2025 Activities and Session Highlights

Asia Pacific Regional Meeting Day 0 | Jun 29, 2025

The arrival day marks the beginning of an exciting journey for all participants of APRM 2025. Participants gathered at **Seoul Youth Hostel, located at 6, Toegye-ro 26ga-gil, Jung-gu, Seoul**. The official kick-off began with a **Welcome Dinner**, providing the perfect opportunity for participants to meet, greet, and connect in a casual and friendly environment. This warm and lively gathering set the tone for the days ahead.

Following dinner, participants engaged in a T-shirt Printing Station activity. This interactive session allowed everyone to personalize their APRM T-shirts as a fun souvenir. With an Icebreaker Recreation Session, designed to break the ice through Cultural OX Quiz, Bingo Friends games and recreation that encouraged communication, laughter, and teamwork among participants from diverse backgrounds.

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Picture 1. T-shirt Printing Station (Source: APRM 2025)



Picture 2. Breaking the ice (Source: APRM 2025)

Asia Pacific Regional Meeting Day 1 | Jun 30, 2025

Visit to National Institute of Forest Science (NiFoS)



Picture 3. Visit to NiFoS (Source: APRM 2025)

In the morning, participants traveled to the **National Institute of Forest Science (NiFoS)**. Established in **1949**, NiFoS holds the mission of “**Research and Development of forest science and technology bringing the national happiness and virtuous circle of forest value.**” Its vision is clear: “A research institute for people, creating future value with innovative science and technology.” NiFoS operates under a Technology Road Map covering 6 major areas, including forest disaster management and digital circulation systems. It actively participates in global forestry discussions through organizations such as IUFRO and works collaboratively with regional partners like APAFRI.

Lecture 1: The Role of Forests in Climate Change Mitigation

Participants explored how forests are key players in addressing climate change and Korea’s leadership in this domain.

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Picture 4. Lecture 1 (Source: APRM 2025)

Lecture 2: Introduction to Digital Data & Equipment Demonstration

A hands-on session introducing advanced technology and tools for modern forestry, highlighting Korea's innovation in monitoring and managing forest resources.



Picture 5. Lecture 2 (Source: APRM 2025)

Opening Ceremony at Kookmin University

After lunch, participants headed to **Kookmin University** for the **Opening Ceremony** of APRM 2025. The ceremony featured the following key speeches and acknowledgments:

Welcome Address by **Seohyeon Choi**, Head of APRM 2025 Organizing Committee.

Opening Speeches by: **Tri Nadia Asrini (Rini)** and **Hyojin Shim (Jin)**, Regional Representative of IFSA Asia-Pacific 2024/2025. Both introduced **IFSA** and **IFSA Korea** to Kookmin University staff and academic guests, sharing its mission and vision.



Picture 6. Welcome Address by Seohyeon Choi-Head of OC (Source: APRM 2025)

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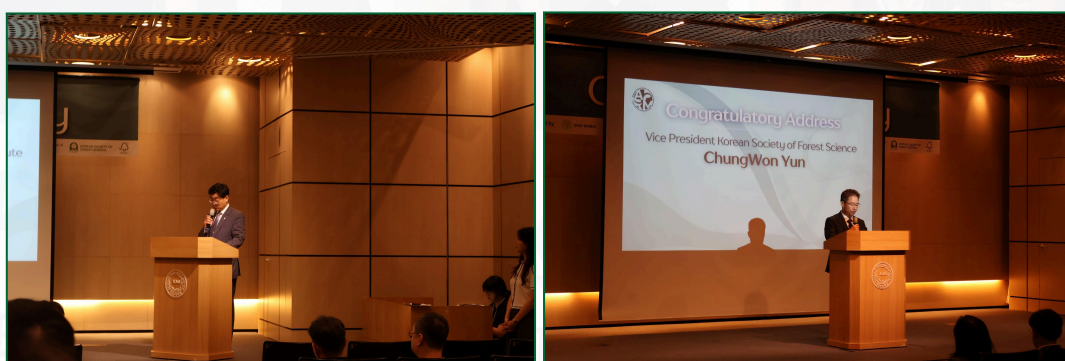
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Picture 7. Rini and Hyojin as APRM 2024/25 sharing about IFSA (Source: APRM 2025)

Further congratulations speeches were delivered by: **HyeongJin Kim**, Vice President of Kookmin University; **Songhee Nam**, Director General of Korea Forest Service; **Chungwon Yun**, Vice President, Korean Society of Forest Science; **Sangtaek Shim**, President, Korea Arboreta and Gardens Institute; **Yongjae Yoo**, Secretary General, Jeonginwork Scholarship Foundation; **Seongok Kwon**, Representative of FSC Korea. The ceremony concluded with **an award** to the Organizing Committee from the Minister of Forestry for its efforts in securing and successfully hosting the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) 2025 in Korea.



Picture 8-1. Congratulations speeches (Source: APRM 2025)



Picture 8-2. Congratulatory speeches (Source: APRM 2025)



Picture 9. Awarding to the OC from the Minister of Forestry (Source: APRM 2025)



Picture 10. Photo Group - Opening Ceremony (Source: APRM 2025)

Introduction Session: FSC Korea

Presented by **Nam Keong Lee, Market Management Manager, FSC Korea.**

About **FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)**: Founded in 1994 as an international NGO dedicated to protecting global forests through sustainable forest management (SFM). FSC is a democratic, membership-based organization divided into three chambers: Social, Indigenous People & Community, and Environmental. Mission: "To ensure that forests are managed in an environmentally, socially, and economically balanced way."



Picture 11. Introduction Session of FSC Korea (Source: APRM 2025)

Introduction to Forest Science Research at Kookmin University

Participants gained insights into cutting-edge forest research at Kookmin University through presentations by several specialized labs: **Landscape Ecology Lab**: Focus: Structure, function, field surveys, remote sensing, AI & big data for sustainability; Research Areas: Nest box monitoring, biota surveys, soundscape ecology, satellite & UAV monitoring for island deforestation, AI-based pest detection, and drone thermal imagery. **BEF Lab (Biodiversity - Ecosystem Functioning)**: Topics: Biodiversity patterns, carbon storage, fruit biomass coefficients, joint research programs; Interdisciplinary: Combines fieldwork, science, policy, and international cooperation. **ENDS Lab (Eco Network & Dynamic Science Lab)**: Focus: AI, GIS, R/Python for urban street tree mapping; Ecosystem service assessments, ICT-based monitoring, hydrological modeling for wetlands. **CLIM Lab (Global Climate Change, Innovative Monitoring & Modeling Lab)**: Focus: Global monitoring (mangrove, peatland), disaster risk modeling, resilience planning; Tools: Satellite SAR imagery, AI-based modeling, UN frameworks for mitigation. **Tree Pathology Lab**: Specializing in disease management strategies and pathology research for forest health.



Picture 12-1. Introduction to Forest Research (Source: APRM 2025)



Picture 12-2. Introduction to Forest Research (Source: APRM 2025)

Lecture 3: History of Forest Restoration in Korea

A comprehensive look into Korea's remarkable journey from severe deforestation to a global model for reforestation. The lecture emphasized the **importance of black locust trees**, erosion control measures, village forest cooperatives, and Korea's ongoing commitment to **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)**.



Picture 13. Lecture 3 (Source: APRM 2025)

Asia Pacific Regional Meeting Day 2 | Jul 1, 2025

The day began with **breakfast** at the accommodation, followed by a **bus trip to the Baekdudaegan National Arboretum**.

Introduction to Baekdudaegan National Arboretum (BDNA)



Picture 14. Introduction to BDNA (Source: APRM 2025)

Established in **May 2018**, BDNA aims to: **Collect, conserve, exhibit, and utilize forest biological resources** from the Baekdudaegan and alpine regions to promote biodiversity; Preserve Baekdudaegan, recognized as a **biodiversity hotspot**; Provide **educational and experiential programs** related to forest biodiversity. **Key Characteristics:**

- **Asia's largest outdoor arboretum** (5,179 hectares).
- Houses major facilities such as: **Seed Vault** (one of only two globally recognized by the UN); **Seed Bank** and **Native Plant Supply Centers**.
- It also serves as a **tiger conservation site** for biodiversity research.

Lecture 4: Introduction to Seed Vault and Arboretum



Picture 15. Lecture 4 (Source: APRM 2025)

Participants were introduced to:

- **Seed preservation** as a cost-effective, space-efficient method for safeguarding plant genetic diversity.
- The distinction between **Seed Banks** (short- to medium-term storage) and **Seed Vaults** (long-term storage, up to 2 million seeds at -20°C).
- **Global cooperation efforts** through GSCC+, UNDP, and the International Seed Conservation Network.
- The **BGSV 100-Year Seed Project**, which studies the long-term vitality of stored seeds every five years.

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Excursion 1: Seed Bank and Seed Vault



Picture 16. Excursion 1 (Source: APRM 2025)

Participants visited both the **Seed Bank** and the **Global Seed Vault**:

- Observed the **preservation systems** in controlled environments.
- Learned about **storage methods, seed vitality testing, and the SeedPedia project**.
- Understood Baekdudaegan's role in securing the future of plant biodiversity.

Excursion 2: Forest Interpretation at Baekdudaegan Arboretum

- A guided **field excursion through the arboretum grounds**.
- Explored **native plant species, alpine forest ecosystems, and conservation strategies**.
- Discussed the **importance of preserving Crop Wild Relatives (CWR)**, like the wild banana, and endangered plant species



Picture 17. Excursion 2 (Source: APRM 2025)

International Night

The **International Night** celebrated cultural diversity through traditional clothing, food sharing, and performances. Participants from **Indonesia, Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, Nepal, and South Korea** proudly wore their **traditional attire**, introduced their cultures, and shared homemade or packaged traditional snacks. International participants from outside the Asia-Pacific region — **North Macedonia (Southern Europe), Mexico, and Chile** — also contributed to the global exchange of cultures.

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Picture 19-1. International Night (Source: APRM 2025)



Picture 19-2. International Night (Source: APRM 2025)



Picture 19-3. International Night (Source: APRM 2025)



Picture 19-4. International Night (Source: APRM 2025)

Asia Pacific Regional Meeting Day 3 | Jul 2, 2025

On the third day of our journey, July 2nd, 2025, we continued to deepen our understanding of forestry, biodiversity, and international collaboration through a perfect blend of **field excursions and IFSA activities**.

The morning began with meaningful visits to **Dohwa Hill and a wildfire site**, where we explored the natural environment of Uljin and witnessed firsthand the impacts of natural disasters on forest ecosystems, as well as the importance of resilience and restoration efforts. These excursions gave us a broader perspective on the challenges faced by forests in the Asia-Pacific region.

Excursion 3: Dohwa Hill

Participants visited **Dohwa Hill**, enjoying the scenic beauty and understanding its ecological and cultural importance within the region.



Picture 20. Excursion 3 (Source: Lucky Valentino)

Excursion 4: Wildfire Site

The next excursion was to a **Wildfire Site**, where participants learned about:

- The ecological impact of wildfires on Korean forests
- Restoration efforts and the resilience of ecosystems post-fire



Picture 21. Excursion 4 (Source: Lucky Valentino)

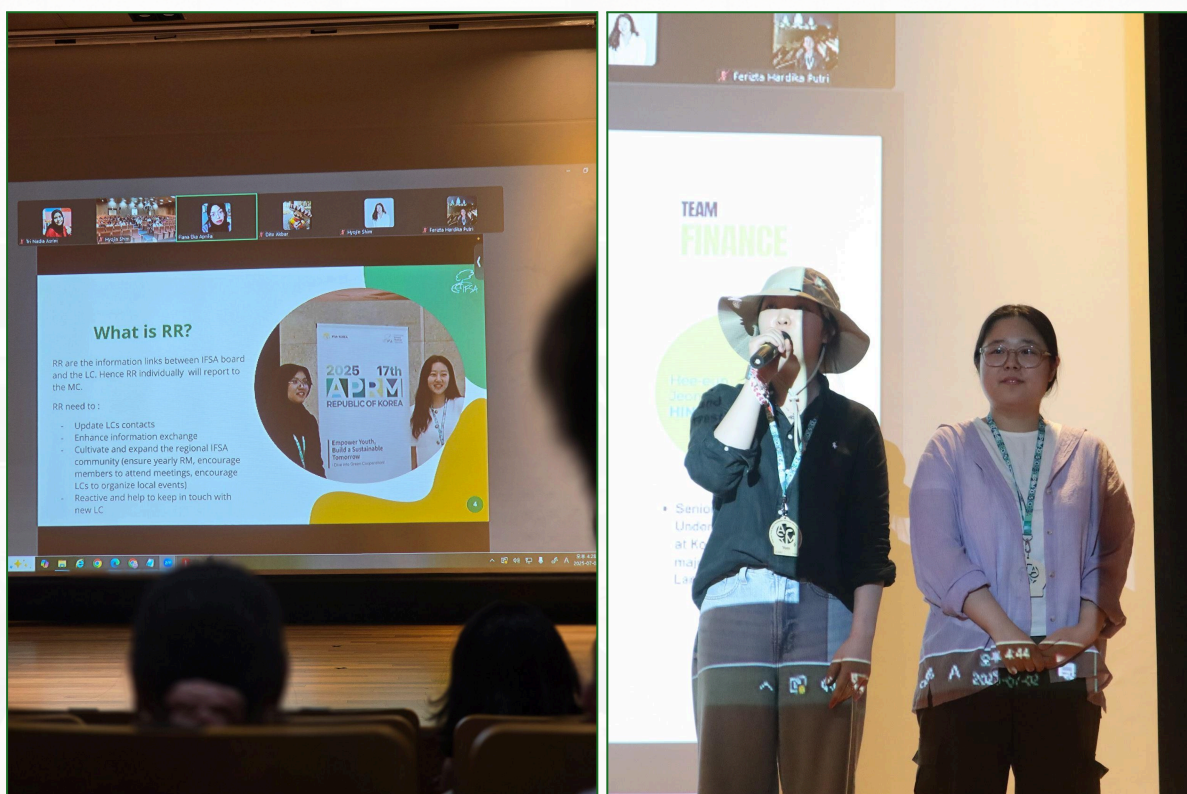
IFSA activities by APRR 2024/26

After enjoying some free time to relax and connect with one another at the beach, we shifted our focus towards the core of our gathering — **the IFSA sessions led by the Asia-Pacific Regional Representative (APRR)**. These sessions brought together inspiring voices from across the region, with presentations from experienced IFSA leaders who shared their journeys and valuable insights on leadership, collaboration, and organizing international forestry events.

IFSA Talkshow

Speakers & Topics

1. **Fiana Eka Aprilia.** Position: Membership Department Councilor, IFSA Official; Former Asia-Pacific RR 2023/2024. Topic: **Sharing her personal experiences of serving as Asia-Pacific Regional Representative (APRR).** Key messages focused on challenges, growth, and advice for future leaders.
2. **Yoon and Hini.** Position: Official Representatives from the Organizing Committee (OC). Topic: **Reflections on the experience of hosting APRM 2025 in South Korea.** Emphasized the teamwork, preparation process, and cultural exchange that shaped this successful meeting.



Picture 22. IFSA Talk (Source: APRM 2025)

IFSA Vetting and Election

We also took part in the **Asia-Pacific IFSA Election 2025/2026**, where new leaders were elected to carry the IFSA vision forward.

Candidates

APRR 2025/2026 Candidates

1. **Dito Akbar** (IFSA LC UGM / Gadjah Mada University)
2. **Lo Sheng Hao** (NTUFSA / National Taiwan University)
3. **Adityas Janua** (IFSA LC UGM / Gadjah Mada University)

APRM OC 2026 Candidate

IFSA Taiwan (NTUFSA & NCHUFSA)



Picture 23. IFSA Vetting 2025 (Source: APRM 2025)

Voting Results (after 24 hours of vetting and voting)

Asia-Pacific Regional Representatives 2025/2026

Dito Akbar (UGM, Indonesia) & **Lo Sheng Hao** (NTUFSA, Taiwan)

APRM 2026 Organizing Committee

NTUFSA & NCHUFSA (Taiwan)

IFSA Workshop

A session dedicated to introducing and re-explaining:

- **What is IFSA? How to become an Official?**
 - Its structure, goals, and ongoing projects
 - **Interactive quiz** to test participants' knowledge about IFSA and its global activities.
- This created a fun, engaging atmosphere.



Picture 24. IFSA Workshop (Source: APRM 2025)

IFSA ForeSight - Idea Pitching Competition

ForeSight is a flagship initiative of IFSA Asia-Pacific (2024/2025). It's designed to encourage innovation among students by giving them a platform to propose creative, feasible ideas for forestry challenges. **Inspired by:** IFSA Asia-Pacific Forestry Idea Pitching Competition and ForGraph

Goals of ForeSight: Pitch bold, impactful forestry ideas; Tackle real-world forestry challenges; Encourage international collaboration; Empower young voices for sustainable forestry



The Awardees of "Best ForeSight" awarded to Group 2

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Picture 25. ForeSight (Source: APRM 2025)

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IFSA Auction



Picture 26. IFSA Auction (Source: Lucky Valentino)

The evening concluded with a **fun and lively IFSA Auction**, where participants auctioned their unique items by proposing minimum starting prices. Everyone actively competed for various goods, creating a joyful and spirited atmosphere.

Asia Pacific Regional Meeting Day 4 | Jul 3, 2025

Introduction Session at Kangwon National University

In this session, Kangwon National University will formally introduce us to their vision and ongoing efforts in forestry education and research, particularly their contributions to forest sustainability and conservation across Asia-Pacific.



Picture 27. Introduction to KNU (Source: APRM 2025)

Lecture 5: Forest Entomology & Major Forest Pests in Korea

We delve into the fascinating world of **forest entomology**. This session covers:

- Insect community ecology
- Long-term monitoring in **LTER sites**
- The diversity and distribution of pollinating insects
- The impact of disturbances like forest fires on insect communities, focusing on **coleopteran diversity**
- Outbreak cases, such as the **walking stick insect (Ramulus milkado)** in temperate forests
- The role of entomopathogens in these outbreaks

We'll also learn why insects are the most diverse organisms. Finally, we focus on **major insect threats in Korea**, such as **Pine Wilt Disease (PWD)**, pine needle gall midges, oak wilt disease, and the fall webworm.



Picture 28. Lecture 5 (Source: APRM 2025)

Field Lecture 1: Dendrology (Study of Trees)



Picture 29. Field Lecture 1 (Source: APRM 2025)

A practical session where participants will engage in the identification and classification of tree species. This is crucial for understanding biodiversity, forest dynamics, and sustainable management.

Field Lecture 2: Forest Disease & Pest Management



Picture 30. Field Lecture 2 (Source: APRM 2025)

Here we explore the **relationship between forest health and pathogens**. Topics include:

- Definition of tree diseases
- How plant pathogens (especially fungi) impact forests
- Examples like chestnut blight and pine wilt disease

Practical Sessions

- **Optical Observation** of fungi and nematodes using cover glass techniques
- **Microscopic Observation** of phytopathogenic fungi

Excursion 5: Paper Materials Research Center

We'll visit the **Paper Materials Research Center** to learn how forest resources, especially wood pulp, contribute to sustainable material production and innovation in eco-friendly industries.



Picture 31. Excursion 5 (Source: APRM 2025)

Excursion 6: Wood Science Research Center

A visit to the **Wood Science Research Center**, where participants explore modern wood technology, sustainable use of wood resources, and research on advanced materials derived from forests.



Picture 32. Excursion 6 (Source: APRM 2025)

Poster Session

To conclude the day, we will hold a **Poster Session** where participants from across Asia-Pacific showcase their unique forestry-related projects:

- **Adityas, Ari (UGM, Indonesia):** Agroforestry for Forest Rehabilitation in Wanagama
- **Li Xin Yue (NTU, Taiwan):** Research on **Tree-Related Microhabitats (TreMs)**: cavities, deadwood, epiphytes, nests, and how management intensity influences them
- **Miwa, Yumi, Machika (Kyushu University, Japan):** Exploring **Japanese Forests**, dominant species, World Heritage sites like Yakushima, biodiversity, Satoyama landscapes, forest resources, and cultural connections such as shrine forests
- **Rini, Sakila, Lucky (UNHAS, Indonesia):** Cultural heritage presentation on **Lipa Sabbe**, traditional cloth dyed with forest-sourced colors (sappan wood, pandan leaf, teak leaf, tarum leaf) reflecting nature's connection to identity, economy, and sustainability

- **IFSA LC IPB. Kasepuhan Cipta Mulya (Indonesia):** The relationship between **Leuweung Tutupan** (traditional protected forests) and the people who preserve them, emphasizing storytelling and cultural preservation



Picture 33. Poster Session (Source: APRM 2025)

Asia Pacific Regional Meeting Day 5 | Jul 4, 2025

Lecture 6: Land of Forests and Gardens at the KNA

Speaker: Dr. Lim Young-Seok, Director of KNA. We learned about the history and vision of the KNA, which operates under a **client-based governance system**, collaborating with both central and local governments. Among their key initiatives is the **DMZ Botanic**

Garden, preserving endangered species and biodiversity. The KNA stands as a cornerstone for ecological stewardship in South Korea.



Picture 34. Lecture 6 (Source: APRM 2025)

Lecture 7: Overview of Artificial Insect Rearing and Its Applications

Speaker: Dr. Kim Chang-Jun, Insect Research Scientist. This lecture emphasized the **ecological importance of insects**, the most diverse organisms on Earth (49% of all species). We explored the alarming threat of insect extinction and ongoing efforts to **restore endangered species**, including the majestic *Callipogon relictus*. The speaker introduced advanced indoor insect breeding systems, highlighting Korea's innovation in biodiversity conservation.



Picture 35. Lecture 7 (Source: APRM 2025)

Excursion 7: Forest Biodiversity Specimen Center

We visited the Biodiversity Specimen Center and observed Korea's efforts in archiving and preserving various forest specimens. This space allowed us to appreciate the vast range of species maintained for research and education.

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 KOOKMIN UNIVERSITY
  Korea Forest Service
 Sponsored by  정인목학술장학재단
  국립수목원
  국립수목원



Picture 36. Excursion 7 (Source: APRM 2025)

Excursion 8: Forest Interpretation at the KNA

Through hands-on interpretation sessions, participants experienced Korea's educational approaches to forest science, emphasizing **interactive learning** and **ecosystem awareness**.

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Picture 37. Excursion 8 (Source: APRM 2025)

Field Lecture 3: Afforestation Sites & Smart Tree Nurseries

A short transfer brought us to our next destination: a research hub focusing on cutting-edge forestry technologies. We explored the development of **smart nursery systems**, including innovative soil techniques like gravel application to prevent moss growth. These smart technologies aim to improve the quality and sustainability of afforestation efforts.

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Picture 38. Excursion 7 (Source: APRM 2025)

Field Lecture 4: Forest Machinery

Speaker: Dr. Oh Jae-Hyun, Forest Harvesting Technology Lab. This session introduced **next-generation forest machines** and their role in sustainable forestry. From **tele-operation systems** to **cable-assisted vehicles**, the lecture demonstrated how robotics and human-centered engineering are changing forest operations. Notably, Korea is shifting from traditional **single-tree selection** methods to **strip thinning**, optimizing efficiency and environmental health.

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Picture 39. Field Lecture 7 (Source: APRM 2025)

Asia Pacific Regional Meeting Day 6 | Jul 5, 2025

Lecture 8: Asia Forestry Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)

Speaker: Ari Bima Putra, Program Officer – Strategic Planning Team, AFoCO. Mr. Ari Bima Putra introduced the mission and work of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) — a treaty-based intergovernmental organization working to advance the shared goals of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and global forestry agendas.

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Picture 40. Lecture 8 (Source: APRM 2025)

AFoCO, a **Permanent Observer to the UN General Assembly** and **ODA-eligible organization under the OECD DAC list**, bridges policy with practice through **member-driven, site-specific actions**. Its programs aim to increase forest cover, mitigate climate change, and implement the **Paris Agreement** effectively. The session inspired participants with examples of AFoCO's collaborative projects and its pivotal role in the Asia-Pacific region.

IFSA Panel Discussion

As one of the most insightful sessions of APRM 2025, the **Panel Discussion** brought together youth leaders, forestry professionals, and institutional representatives to collectively explore sustainable solutions for long-term impact in the forestry sector. The dialogue revolved around a central question: *How do we ensure that community-driven forestry initiatives, knowledge-sharing efforts, and inclusive education do not end when external projects do?*



Picture 41. IFSA Panel Discussion (Source: APRM 2025)

Panelists

- **Ari Bima Putra** – AFOCO, Program Officer
- **Tri Nadia Asrini** – IFSA LC UNHAS, Indonesia
- **HanSungSu** – IFSA LC KJNU, Korea
- **Li Xin Yue** – NTUFSA, Taiwan
- **Machika Shimizu** – IFSAQ, Japan
- **Aditya Janua Rivansyah Juanda** – IFSA LC UGM, Indonesia

APRM Workshop

The APRM Workshop was one of the most engaging and collaborative sessions of APRM 2025, bringing together participants to apply their knowledge and perspectives in designing practical solutions for forest governance in Asia. With the theme “*Designing Forest Cooperation Projects and Governance Models to Address Shared Challenges in Asian Countries*,” participants were divided into six diverse groups and tasked with creating a visual poster that reflected their ideas. Each team collaborated intensively—sharing experiences, discussing regional forestry issues, and proposing innovative cooperation models. Once completed, all teams presented their posters to the larger group, explaining their concepts and highlighting key strategies for regional

collaboration. This workshop not only enhanced participants' understanding of transboundary forestry challenges, but also emphasized the importance of inclusive governance, youth engagement, and cross-cultural teamwork in shaping sustainable forestry solutions across Asia.



Picture 42-1. APRM Workshop (Source: APRM 2025)



Picture 42-2. APRM Workshop (Source: APRM 2025)

Closing Ceremony

The official closing ceremony marked the culmination of APRM 2025. Speeches, appreciations, and heartfelt farewells underscored the shared growth and unforgettable memories formed during the week. The atmosphere was filled with both pride and bittersweet emotion.



Picture 43. Closing Ceremony (Source: Tri Nadia Asrini and APRM 2025)

Testimonials from the APRM 2025 OC and Participants

Beyond the academic sessions and IFSA programs, APRM 2025 was a meaningful experience shaped by the people who made it happen — the Organizing Committee (OC) who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, and the participants who brought energy, passion, and diversity into every moment. This sub-chapter presents selected testimonials that reflect the personal journeys, reflections, and emotional takeaways from both the organizing team and attendees, highlighting how APRM 2025 created lasting impact not only professionally, but personally.

Testimonials from the Organizing Committee

Seohyun Choi – LC KMU, Korea

“At first, I thought it would be easy since I’d be working with people I knew. But bringing together individuals with completely different backgrounds, personalities, traits, and work styles — and then grouping them into teams that could collaborate effectively at that level, mediating communication between individuals and teams — was far, far more difficult than I had expected. Yet that turned out to be where I grew the most. None of us can be perfect or the same. Acknowledging that and communicating frequently with each other proved helpful. Another major concern I had regarding running the OC was balancing between raising individual enthusiasm for our event so that everyone was fully committed and reducing each person’s workload by taking on more myself to show consideration for individuals. Ideally, mixing both would be the right answer, but I had to choose, and I think I opted for the latter. Looking back now, I believe the former would have been the correct choice. I still don’t know what the definitive answer is, but I regret thinking the former might have been better for our OC too. While preparing the event, I communicated with many stakeholders: professors who helped us closely, the Korea Forest Service’s International Cooperation team, and all the institutions we visited. This kind of communication was really challenging. There were so many organizations involved that we assigned specific contacts per institution; sometimes the person in charge changed midway or misinformation was conveyed. Because we were requesting from national agencies in our capacity as students, we didn’t know how to address sensitive issues like speaker honoraria. We solved this by sharing our internal email writing guidelines and seeking advice from professors. By officially communicating with multiple national institutions, we

not only learned business communication methods but also built networks with many of the institutions we contacted. What surprised us during outreach was how many IFSA alumni were spread out everywhere. During meetings, many people mentioned “I’m an IFSA alumnus” and said they’d obviously be happy to help. Even those who weren’t IFSA alumni were very supportive of our event, wanting to help as much as they could. I felt the warmth of the forestry field, and whenever things got tough, advice and encouragement from active professionals lifted my spirits. Even as an undergraduate student, there were many moments when it felt overwhelming: professors, external national agencies, and even the OC were waiting on my decisions or asking me questions. I wanted to ask others for help too, but I was in a position where I needed to give the answers. At times this felt stifling, lonely, and difficult. Whenever I felt burdened, our OC members shared in the struggle, pushed past embarrassment, and asked once more (to professors or agencies), resolving issues—and that too became a great asset to me. We wrote and sent many proposals—and spoke with agencies—to secure budget support. Because we had no prior cases, getting support was difficult, and sometimes what we had to offer didn’t align with stakeholders’ interests, so support wasn’t granted. In offline events, the budget is a most critical piece. Though it was the hardest part, I believe that submitting proposals, being rejected, and seeking help from professors to contact sponsors became valuable experiences for all of us. We discussed and revised the schedule literally hundreds of times. We wanted to give the IFSA family visiting Korea every possible experience. But we had to consider time constraints of just one week, transportation costs, accommodation, what could be learned at each institution, and balancing indoor vs. outdoor lectures. Everyone deliberated seriously about the schedule, and we collaboratively created the optimal plan. I want to express my gratitude to all OC members who persisted through that long process, never grew tired, and worked tirelessly to finalize the best schedule..”

Hee-eun Jeon (Hini) – LC KU:rest, Korea

“Before sharing my reflections, I want to sincerely thank everyone who made APRM 2025 possible. Being part of the Organizing Committee has been one of the most challenging, but also one of the most meaningful, experiences of my university life. When I first joined this journey a year ago, I was full of excitement and ready to do my best. But as the work began, I sometimes doubted myself—wondering if I could really handle such a big responsibility. It wasn’t always easy. But as I’ve come to learn, growing pains always lead to growth. Among

the many lessons and moments I experienced, what I value the most is the “power of being together”. Through all the ups and downs, we moved toward a shared goal - supporting one another, communicating honestly, and growing side by side. That sense of unity and mutual trust was more valuable to me than anything else. When I speak of “together,” I mean the incredible OC members who have worked alongside me for over a year, the participants who supported one another with such warmth during the event, and all those who contributed behind the scenes. Their dedication and spirit gave me the strength to keep going. Even during difficult times, I was reminded that I was never alone—and that gave me great comfort and encouragement. These words are not just formal expressions of thanks. APRM allowed me to meet truly inspiring people, to grow through teamwork, and to build meaningful connections that I will cherish for a long time. That, to me, is the true value of APRM and of IFSA Regional Meetings. I sincerely hope that the next APRM Organizing Committee and all future participants will also experience the similar growing pain and gain growth, sense of accomplishment, and most importantly meaningful connections that I did. There will surely be difficult moments, but I truly believe that every step of the journey will be precious and an experience you’ll never forget. To empower the youth of APRM 2025, thank you so much for being part of this journey with me and for giving me so many moments to remember.”

Seoyeon Kim (Riley) – LC KMU, Korea

“During my university career in the third semester, it was my first time to host such a big event. While spending 8 days and 7 nights with more than 40 students, introducing Korea's forest was more difficult and harder than I thought, but at the same time, it was more enjoyable and informative than I thought. Even though I was the youngest among OC's, I did my best with great responsibility for the event and our team's work (finance team). So many things happened during APRM, but the decision to participate in this event was the best choice in my life. In particular, I am very happy to make good friends from various countries. I would like to say thank you to our OCs and all of the participants for giving me a valuable experience.”

Seongmin Park (Bob) – LC SNU, Korea

“Hello, I'm Seongmin Park from Seoul National University, Republic of Korea. I served as the OC of APRM 2025 KOREA! It took more than a year to prepare, but I think APRM 2025 is

worth it. We could visit sites with various fields and learn a lot of things, like about forester machines, forestry research by LiDAR, and wildfire damage areas. Also, I was so thankful that everyone prepared and shared their own culture passionately. APRM 2025 was especially amazing, because participants from outside Asia also joined. I've never met people from North Macedonia, Mexico, and Chile. We could exchange valuable opinions and knowledge about forests. Everyone was nice, and kindly respected our plan and schedules. Everyone became friends, and I expect that our friendship and network will be valuable throughout our entire career. I'm already looking forward to our next meeting. Thank you cordially for visiting!”

Testimonials from Participants

Lorenz – AFFS UPLB, Philippines

“I don't have much to say now because they've already said what I want to say. But I just want to emphasize that you guys don't have to say sorry. We are having a good time, we feel being cared for, and we see your efforts. We don't even know that there were mistakes or flaws because everything is going great. So thank you so much for making this event such a great one! And of course, this would not be possible without the participation of my co-delegates. I appreciate how everyone is so friendly that you can just approach anyone and have a good conversation. The effort of everyone made this event much more wonderful. Thank you so much!”

Guian – AFFS UPLB, Philippines

“Hi everyone! I am Guian representing AFFS-UPLB from the Philippines! It's a great opportunity to delegate in the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting 2025 in South Korea. By far, from what we've learned in Day 1, we saw how much forest land cover South Korea has managed to restore since the 1970s. My learnings from this day made me realize how we can store more of this opportunity, to take home and apply what we learned in our respective countries. And for that, I think that I am excited to know more about the forestry sector in South Korea through the APRM 2025.”

Emmagil – AFFS UPLB, Philippines

“As a graduating student, APRM Korea was both my first and last opportunity to participate in IFSA's APRM. That's why I am deeply grateful to the organizing committee and my fellow

participants for giving me such a memorable and meaningful experience. This event felt like the perfect conclusion to my journey as a forestry student. I made new friends and deepened my knowledge and understanding through the connections I formed—connections I will always treasure as I move on to the next chapter of my life in forestry.”

Karkee – IFSA Pokhara, Nepal

“APRM 2025 in Korea was honestly one of the most meaningful experiences I’ve ever had. From the moment I arrived, I felt this beautiful energy like we were all connected by the same passion for nature and change. One thing that really inspired me was learning about Korean forestry and how they approach forest restoration. It was amazing to see how deeply they respect the environment while using innovative ideas. I also got to hear so many unique research ideas from other participants, which really opened my mind and gave me fresh motivation for my own journey. This experience also helped me understand IFSA so much more how global, diverse, and supportive the community truly is. I met people from so many backgrounds, and yet we all felt like one big family. From serious discussions to fun cultural exchanges, every moment felt special. I came back home with so much more than I expected new knowledge, new friends, and memories I’ll carry forever. I’m really grateful to have been part of something this special. Thank you for making it all possible. You guys are really awesome and I wish to meet those people in future as well.”

Annisa – IFSA LC IPB, Indonesia

“As delegates from IFSA LC IPB (Annisa Nur Fadillah and Ramadanasakina Tsuzuki), we’ve had an experience that we honestly won’t forget. The six months of preparation were way beyond what I ever imagined — from working on our paper presentation, which brought us to new places and opened our eyes to the world of indigenous forests, to the exciting moment of finally heading off to Korea. The organising team did such an amazing job — everything was so well put together, and it really made APRM something special for us. Korea itself is full of tech and unique forest management systems, and it was fascinating to learn more about how things are done over there. It truly gave me a new perspective on what forestry can look like in different parts of the world. Beyond the main agenda, we had the chance to meet so many fellow IFSA friends from different countries. Every day was filled with fun moments, insightful chats, and eye-opening discussions. Hearing the

perspectives of young people on how they see forests in their own countries really sparked my curiosity to learn even more. I genuinely can't wait to see what kinds of collaborations we can create and build together with the rest of the IFSA community."

Averyl – NTUFSA, Taiwan

"I would like to thank the OCs and I know everyone has gone through a long journey even before the event starts! It has been a great opportunity to be there meeting everyone and learning from all of you. Throughout the event I gained professional knowledge and even got to know different cultures!! I would like to thank the OCs again, as they were really professional, enthusiastic and kind even when they are really tired but they still put on their smile when we see each other in the morning!! I never thought I would learn that much in this event, and I'm also looking forward to seeing everyone next year in Taiwan!"

Machika – IFSAQ, Japan

"First, I want to express my big appreciation for you guys who support us to be part of IFSA. I feel truly grateful to have participated in APRM 2025. One of the most valuable experiences was connecting with so many IFSA members across Asia—we shared a lot of things and got new perspectives and insights. I made so many new friends and meaningful connections as well. The poster session and panel discussion were also unforgettable opportunities. They gave me the chance to step outside of my comfort zone and made me realize how much more I want to improve my English, broaden my knowledge, and keep learning from others around the world. Thank you again for organizing such a wonderful event. This was a big first step for us, and I'm truly looking forward to continuing our journey as part of IFSA in the future."

Armando – CHAUPEA, Mexico (Latin America)

"The experience of having participated in the Asia Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) was amazing. The excellent organization, the well-prepared young people, and the good teamwork made the event very enriching in terms of knowledge, wisdom, and culture, thanks to the diversity of countries that participated. What I liked most about the APRM was the interest and unity in the fight against climate change; it was inspiring and managed to give hope in the face of the climate crisis."

Antonia – LCM, Chile (Latin America)

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“Participating in APRM 2025 has been one of the most enriching and memorable experiences of my life. From the moment we landed in Korea, I felt a mix of excitement, nerves, and deep gratitude for being part of something so special. I remember that when we arrived, it was very hot and I was exhausted from the trip, but even so, the excitement was stronger than the fatigue. Throughout the days of the event, I learned so much about sustainability, youth leadership, and international cooperation. I was pleasantly surprised by how well-organized everything was and how people from so many different countries and cultures came together for a common purpose. The activities, workshops, and visits were all thoughtfully designed and truly valuable. What touched me the most was the warmth of the people. Even though my English isn’t perfect, I felt included, valued, and heard every step of the way. I loved being able to connect with people from different Asian countries and form meaningful bonds. I was surprised at how easy it was to grow close, despite language or cultural differences. I leave this experience with new knowledge, friendships I hope to keep for a long time, and a deep affection for everyone who made APRM possible. Thank you for creating such a meaningful space for young people like me, and for making me feel part of something bigger.”

Post-Event Recap: APRM 2025 Highlights

To share the spirit, atmosphere, and key moments of the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) 2025, a **post-event recap video** has been produced and published through IFSA Asia-Pacific’s official social media platforms:

Instagram: @ifsa_asiapacific

Facebook: IFSA Asia-Pacific Region

Day	Link to Video	Credits
Day 0	Recap Day 0	Editor Tri Nadia Asrini IFSA LC UNHAS - RR Videographer Lucky Valentino, IFSA LC UNHAS Tri Nadia Asrini, IFSA LC UNHAS - RR
Day 1	Recap Day 1	
Day 2	Recap Day 2	
Day 3	Recap Day 3	
Day 4	Recap Day 4	
Day 5	Recap Day 5	
Day 6	Recap Day 6	

2025 IFSA
APRM
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Asia Pacific Regional Meeting

For Youth, Build a Sustainable Tomorrow : Dive into Green Co



Author: Tri Nadia Asrini | APRM 2025 Korea Date: July/2025

IFSA - International Forestry Students' Association - <https://ifsa.net> - @IFSAdotnet

Conclusion & Acknowledgements

The Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) 2025 marked a meaningful milestone in IFSA's journey to foster youth-led cooperation in forestry and sustainability across the Asia-Pacific region. Through a week-long program of academic exchanges, field-based learning, cultural sharing, and organizational development, APRM 2025 successfully empowered young forestry students to connect, collaborate, and envision solutions for a greener future. The event not only deepened participants' knowledge and leadership capacity but also strengthened regional solidarity and long-term engagement within IFSA.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the **Organizing Committee of APRM 2025**, whose dedication, creativity, and hard work made this event not only possible but truly memorable. Sincere thanks also go to all **participants**, whose active engagement and diverse perspectives enriched every session. We would also like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our **partner institutions**—including the **National Institute of Forest Science (NiFoS)**, **Baekdudaegan National Arboretum (BDNA)**, **Kangwon National University (KNU)**, **Korea National Arboretum (KNA)**, **Kookmin University**, and others—who provided meaningful academic content, research exposure, and institutional support.

Special appreciation goes to all **lecturers, researchers, staff, mentors, and invited speakers** who generously shared their time and expertise. Finally, we thank every individual and supporter—named or unnamed—who contributed to the success of this event. Your support continues to inspire the next generation of forestry leaders to grow together, hand in hand, for a more sustainable and inclusive future.

With heartfelt gratitude, **Thank you** – 감사합니다 – Terima kasih – Salamat po – ありがとうございました – धन्यवाद – Salamat – 谢谢 – Благодарам – Blagodaram – Gracias.

APRM 2025 Organizing Committee and Delegates



Asia Pacific Regional Meeting
Empower Youth, Build a Sustainable Tomorrow : Dive into Green Cooperation