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Haruo Sawada  
Sopha Chann  
Akira Shimizu  
Makoto Araki (Eds.)

**Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, Japan  
Forestry Administration, Cambodia  
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**DR. HARUO SAWADA**  
CWCM Project Coordinator  
Principal Research Coordinator  
Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI)  
Matsunosato 1, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-8687 Japan

**MR. SOPHAL CHANN**  
CWCM Project Coordinator  
Forest and Wildlife Science Research Institute (FWSRI)  
Forestry Administration (FA)  
40 Preah Norodom Blvd., Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**DR. AKIRA SHIMIZU**  
Regional Research Coordinator  
Kyushu Research Center  
Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI)  
4-11-16 Kurokami, Kumamoto, Kumamoto, 860-0862 JAPAN

**MR. MAKOTO ARAKI**  
Team Leader, Department Forest Site Environment  
Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI)  
Matsunosato 1, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-8687 Japan

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Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute  
Matsunosato 1, Tsukuba, Ibaraki , 305-8687 Japan  
Forestry Administration  
40 Preah Norodom Blvd., Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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## **Preface**

Forests have a great influence on the welfare and development of human society. In the Least Developed Countries the linkage between forests and the people is more intense due to high dependence of the rural population for their daily subsistence. At the same time world forest ecosystems have become fragile and forest sector development faces some challenges due to changing global technology, climate, demand for energy and water, and others. Within this context we need a better and deeper understanding of all aspects of forestry and the knowledge of local, regional and global scale of importance.

Forestry research during the past century has been focusing on the basic disciplines of silviculture, forest product utilization, wood technology, entomology, pathology, mensuration and soil science, etc. Though all these are of immense relevance to the development of forestry science, today the additional focuses have to include research that could generate benefits for the poor as well as ensure sustainable development, leading to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The objective of forestry research today should pinpoint on high quality research that improves the well-being of forest-dependent people, and ensures the health of the forests. The issue "to separate facts from fiction" is also an agenda of forestry research. Among other topics, Forests and Livelihoods, Environmental Services and Sustainable Use of Forests are today focuses for forestry research.

This is the fourth time that the International Workshop on Forest Research in Cambodia convened in Phnom Penh. We started an internal seminar among research staff only at Forestry Administration meeting room in 2003. In 2004, we organized the seminar as an international workshop. Since 2004, the International Workshop has convened every year. Valuable research results were presented by many Japanese and Cambodian researchers, and most of presentations were co-research results of Cambodia and Japan. Many Cambodian researchers, staff of Forestry Administration and university students participated in the International Workshop, and they discussed important issues of Cambodian forests and forestry.

I would like to conclude my words by taking advantage of this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Japan and other donors for their valuable contribution to the Cambodia's forestry. I would also like to acknowledge and highly appreciate the friendly and good cooperation between the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute of Japan and the Forestry and Wildlife Research Institute of Cambodia's Forestry Administration, especially to Dr. Haruo Sawada and other colleagues. I do sincerely hope that outcomes from the project will make an effective contribution for sustainable forest development in Cambodia.

Ty Sokhun  
Head  
Forestry Administration

# CONTENTS

## Preface

## Forest Ecology

### E01

Evaluation of soil thickness in the Chinit River Basin in Kampong Thom Province, Cambodia  
OHNUKI Yasuhiro, KIMHEAN Chansopheaktra, KETH Samkol, POL Sopheavuth, ITO Eriko, SHIMIZU Akira1

### E02

Soil physicochemical properties of four forest types in Kampong Thom, Cambodia  
TORIYAMA Jumpei, ARAKI Makoto, OHTA Seiichi, KANZAKI Mamoru, KHORN Saret, TITH Bora, PITH Phearak, LIM Sopheap, POL Sopheavuth

### E03

Soil carbon storage of four forest types in Kampong Thom, Cambodia: comparison between Cambodian and Japanese forests  
ARAKI Makoto, TORIYAMA Jumpei, OHTA Seiichi, ITO Eriko, OHNUKI Yasuhiro, KANZAKI Mamoru, TITH Bora, POL Sopheavuth, KHORN Saret, LIM Sopheap

### E04

Importance of long-term ecological research (LTER) to understand of forest dynamics with environmental changes: some findings from evergreen broad-leaved forest in southwestern Japan  
SATO Tamotsu, SAITO Satoshi, KOMINAMI Yohsuke, NAGAMATSU Dai, MANABE Tohru, NIIYAMA Kaoru, NISHIMURA Naoyuki, NOMA Naohiko, TANOUCHI Hiroyuki, YAMAMOTO Shin-Ichi

## Forest and Forestry Information

### F01

Characteristics of Environmental Condition in Mekong River Basin  
SAWADA Haruo, SAWADA Yoshito

### F02

Possibilities of obtaining cloud-free Landsat images in Cambodia and LaoPDR  
FURUYA Naoyuki, AWAYA Yoshio, ITO Eriko, SAITO Hideki, MATSUMOTO Mitsuo

## Forest Hydrology

### H01

Diurnal variation in rainfall in a forested watershed in central Cambodia  
NOBUHIRO Tatsuhiko, SHIMIZU Akira, KABEYA Naoki, TAMAI Koji, SHIMIZU Takanori, TSUBOYAMA Yoshio, CHANN Sophal, KETH Nang

## **H02**

Water balance and flow regime in forested watersheds in Kampong Thom, Cambodia

KABEYA Naoki, SHIMIZU Akira, TAMAI Koji, NOBUHIRO Tatsuhiko, IIDA Shin'ichi,  
SHIMIZU Takanori, CHANN Sophal, KETH Nang

## **H03**

Turbulence exchange of heat and water vapor over a Cambodian natural forest in the rainy season

SHIMIZU Takanori, SHIMIZU Akira, TAMAI Koji, NOBUHIRO Tatsuhiko, IIDA Shin'ichi,  
KABEYA Naoki

## **H04**

Diurnal changes in sap flux densities observed in an evergreen broadleaf forest in Kampong Thom, Cambodia

IIDA Shin'ichi, SHIMIZU Akira, SAWANO Shinji, KABEYA Naoki,  
NOBUHIRO Tatsuhiko, TAMAI Koji, SHIMIZU Takanori,  
ITO Eriko, CHANN Sophal, KETH Nang

## **H05**

Effect of select cutting of large tree on the transpiration and surface temperature - Predictive study for evergreen broad-leaved forest in central Cambodia-

TAMAI Koji, SHIMIZU Akira, NOBUHIRO Tatsuhiko, KABEYA Naoki, SHIMIZU  
Takanori, ARAKI Makoto, IIDA Shin'ichi, CHANN Sophal, KETH Nang

## **H06**

Seasonal variation of forest environment of 0.1-degree grid in Chinit river, Cambodia: Result achieved with the first stage of CWCM

SHIMIZU Akira, ITO Eriko, ARAKI Makoto, TSUBOYAMA Yoshio, OHNUKI Yasuhiro,  
CHANN Sophal, SAWADA Haruo

## **General**

### **G01**

Project on Changes of Water Cycle in Mekong River Basin (CWCM) - Phase I

CHANN Sophal

### **G02**

Project on Changes of Water Cycle in Mekong River Basin (CWCM) - Phase II

SAWADA Haruo

### **G03**

A Feasibility Study on REDD "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries"

MATSUMOTO Mitsuo