The Context

Rapid changes and developments in the forestry sector, coupled with innovations in education, have increased the need for a fundamental transformation of forestry education. The Asian region is at the forefront of these changes. The time has therefore come to take stock of the basis of forestry education. Should the main focus in forestry education be on science and technology? Or should the emphasis be on pragmatic, problem-solving skills directed towards non-technical issues addressing human and social dynamics?

This electronic forum is taking place as a lead-up event to a workshop on "Changing Learning & Education in Forestry" which will be held in Sapa, Vietnam from 16-19 April 2000. While this forum is designed to be a complete event in itself, it is also intended to enable a wide spectrum of actors from around the world, who are concerned with improving the relevance and quality of forestry education, to actively contribute to the on-the-ground workshop.

A Web-Email Forum

The forum is innovative in combining a Web-based discussion with e-mail participation. As a Web-based participant you will be able to see and react to contributions and comments made by e-mail participants. Similarly, e-mail participants will be kept up-to-date with what happens on the Web.

The forum will run from 6 March to 3 April 2000. Discussions will be focused on the workshop’s four themes as illustrated below. The discussion on each theme will run for one week.

What are the Objectives?

The forum has three objectives:

- to give those who can’t attend the workshop the opportunity to contribute to the workshop’s thematic discussions;
- to further refine the workshop’s four themes - The Profession, Educational Change, Change Processes, Change Strategies;
- to provide feedback on the seven papers commissioned for the workshop.

The Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forum Homepage: You are here</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please register to enter the thematic discussions outlined below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Forum Timeline: a line will change colour every week to indicate the status of the forum (i.e. a current theme, a closed theme(s), a future theme(s))
How to participate?

- Step 1: Read "Information for Participants"
- Step 2: Register with MekongInfo (click back arrow to go back this homepage after registration)
- Step 3: Login and join the forum

Once you register you will be taken to the forum, which is being hosted on MekongInfo, you can:

- Click on "On-going Discussion" to this week thematic discussions;
- Click on "Closed Discussions" for previous week discussions;
- and upcoming week discussions are available in the "Up-coming Discussions"

Supporting documents

Seven technical papers (listed below) have been prepared for the workshop. Please click on the title to view document.

The Profession

- "Forestry: from a colonial discipline to a modern vision" (Marlene Buchy)
- "Profiling the Forestry Profession: Trends, Realities and Needs" (Juan Pulhin, John Freeman, Lourdes A. Breva)

Educational Change

- "Of Reform and Transformation: A Case Study in Curriculum Renovation" (Richard Bawden)
"Field Based Learning and Training in Participatory Approaches to Rural Development. A Decade of Experience with PRA from the Viet Nam - Sweden Cooperation Programme and the Challenge for Formal Education, Research and Donor Organisations" (Bui Dinh Toai & Edwin Shanks)


"New perspectives, new curricula. A case study of participatory curriculum development (PCD) in forestry education in Vietnam" (Peter Taylor)

"Human Resource Development in Support of Changing Professional Forestry Education" (B.M.S. Rathore & Sejal Worah)

For information of Ongoing Workshop in Sa Pa, please Click Here
Web/E-mail Forum on "Changing Learning & Education in Forestry Education"
Information for Participants

1. Why is this forum being organized?

This forum is taking place as a lead-up event to a workshop on "Changing Learning & Education in Forestry" which will take place in Sapa, Vietnam from 16-19 April 2000.

2. What is the purpose of the forum?

The forum has three objectives:

- to give those who can't attend the workshop the opportunity to contribute to the workshop's thematic discussions;
- to further refine the workshop's four themes - The Profession, Educational Change, Change Processes, Change Strategies;
- to provide feedback on the seven papers commissioned for the workshop.

3. What is different about this forum?

This forum is innovative in combining the use of Internet and e-mail. A Web-based system is being used to allow for maximum interaction between participants. Participants will be able to view the entire discussion, propose new threads and make comments online. These comments will appear as soon as they are posted. At the same time, participants without Web access, will be able to fully join in the discussion using e-mail.

4. What is the timeframe for the forum?

The forum will run from 6 March to 3 April 2000. It is designed to permit sequential discussions around the four themes as illustrated in Figure 1. Discussion on each theme will be limited to one week in order to keep the forum moving forward. Once the discussion on a particular theme is closed, participants will be able to view the discussion in the forum's archive on the Web. It will not be possible to post new comments to a theme once it has been closed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thematic Discussion</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theme 1 The Profession</td>
<td>6 March</td>
<td>12 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theme 2 Educational Change</td>
<td>13 March</td>
<td>19 March</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. How will the discussion be organized?

The discussion will be organized around four themes:

- The Profession
Discussion threads will emerge from the four themes. Participants will be able to make comments under these threads to make the forum actually happen. All comments and threads posted by participants will show their name, and the date and title of posting. The language of the discussion is English.

6. Can I propose new themes or threads for the discussion?

The themes for discussion will be limited to the four themes listed above. Participants can open new threads of discussion if they consider that an important issue related to the particular theme is not covered. However, participants are requested to open a new thread only when really necessary in order to prevent the discussion from becoming fragmented and difficult to follow.

7. How will the forum be moderated?

The forum will be moderated by Ms Georgina Houghton. The moderator will seek to stimulate and keep the discussion on track, and will provide regular summaries of the main issues being discussed. Censorship will be limited to contributions which are clearly outside the scope of the subject area, or which are offensive in one way or another.
8. How can I participate in this electronic forum?

You can participate in this electronic discussion using either Internet or e-mail:

- If you have Internet access, you are encouraged to use the Web-based system in order to take full advantage of the interactive opportunities offered by the Web. Go to [http://www.socialforestry.org.vn](http://www.socialforestry.org.vn) and click on the forum banner to go to the forum homepage, from where you can reach the discussion.

- If you lack reliable Internet access, you can participate by subscribing to the forum e-mail list, which is called "forested".

9. Do I need to register to participate in the forum and how?

Yes, you have to register to participate in the forum.

- To register for the Web-based forum, simply follow the steps at the bottom of the forum homepage. When you register, make sure to remember your user name and password - you will need to provide these each time you re-enter the online discussion.

- To subscribe to the e-mail discussion, send a message to <majordomo@vn-gw.net.vn> with the body reading:

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subscribe forest-ed <your email address>
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10. If I participate in the forum via e-mail, how will I know what is happening in the Web-based discussion?

Every day the moderator will send you one e-mail, which will transmit all the communications contributed to the Web-based discussion that day.

11. If I participate in the Web-based discussion, how will I know what e-mail participants are contributing?

The moderator will input contributions and comments made by e-mail participants to the relevant thread of the Web-based discussion as they are received. Comments will always show the name of the original author and date of contribution.

12. Are there any supporting documents?

Seven technical papers (listed below) have been prepared for the workshop. It is hoped that these papers will provide a background for the forum discussion, and that participants will
contribute their comments and opinions on the contents of these papers to the relevant theme of the discussion. All participants are encouraged to read the technical papers before the forum begins.

The Profession

- "Forestry: from a colonial discipline to a modern vision" (Marlene Buchy)
- "Profiling the Forestry Profession: Trends, Realities and Needs" (Juan Pulhin, John Freeman, Lourdes A. Breva)

Educational Change

- "Of Reform and Transformation: A Case Study in Curriculum Renovation" (Richard Bawden)

Change Processes

- "Field Based Learning and Training in Participatory Approaches to Rural Development. A Decade of Experience with PRA from the Viet Nam - Sweden Cooperation Programme and the Challenge for Formal Education, Research and Donor Organisations" (Bui Dinh Toai & Edwin Shanks)
- "New perspectives, new curricula. A case study of participatory curriculum development (PCD) in forestry education in Vietnam" (Peter Taylor)
- "Human Resource Development in Support of Changing Professional Forestry Education" (B.M.S. Rathore & Sejal Worah)

13. How can I get supporting documents?

- Web-based participants will be able to download and print the above documents from the forum Web site by clicking on the relevant document icon.
- E-mail participants will be sent the papers as e-mail attachments.

14. What should I remember when participating in the forum?

i. Remember to focus on the themes being discussed and the related issues. Please try not to go off the subject.

ii. Give your postings and e-mail messages clear subject titles.

iii. Remember that the language of the discussion (English) will not be the mother tongue of many participants. Please take this into account when making contributions, and keep it in mind when reading contributions made by others.

iv. Take responsibility for your contributions, comments and inputs to the forum. Please
avoid personal attacks, abusive language and other contributions which may be offensive to others in any way.

v. Review your messages before posting, for instance, to pick up on phrases that could be misinterpreted. Once sent, editing is no longer an option and you may be faced with the uncomfortable task of apologising.

15. What should I do if I experience technical problems or difficulties?

- Web-based participants should request assistance by e-mail from the MekongInfo System Operator at hoapp@mekonginfo.org
- E-mail participants should request assistance from sfsp.webmaster@hn.vnn.vn

16. Who is organizing this electronic forum?

The lead organisers for this electronic forum are the Social Forestry Support Programme (SFSP) in Viet Nam, the Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC) in Bangkok, the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra, and the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) in Silang.

The forum is being organized with the support of the MRC-S/GTZ Sustainable Management of Resources in the Lower Mekong Basin Project (SMRP), UNDP Vietnam, Australia-Vietnam Science Technology Link (AVSL) and the Australia National University (ANU):

- The Web-based forum is hosted on MekongInfo, the regional information system for natural resource management, developed by SMRP.
- UNDP Vietnam, the Australia-Vietnam Science Technology Link (AVSL) and ANU are supporting the e-mail component of the forum.