

International Training Course on Sustainable Urban Forestry and Arboriculture Management in Thailand

I Course Title: International Training Course on Sustainable Urban Forestry and Arboriculture Management in Thailand

II Duration

3 weeks (expected period of course organizing will be in 2025)

III Rationale:

Urbanization is significantly influencing urban forest ecosystems by changing their structure, function, and composition. The rapid urban growth worldwide during the past 50 years has put great pressure on urban space resources especially the physical and biological urban environment. Increasing population and need for residential land have strained the city for inadequate infrastructures and basic services. To be worse, urban migrant attracted by the growth and promises of jobs, has increased resulting in environmental pollution and environmental degradation. Urban forestry itself comprises of complex intervention between human systems and urban ecosystems. Traditional forest management as used in wildland management may not be appropriate to deploy in urban forest management in all cases. The management may require non-traditional urban forest management techniques and must be flexible enough to allow for adjustment in appropriate management activities based on actual desires and needs of stakeholders. Indeed, most researchers seem to agree that an understanding of the connections among land use, population characteristics, ground cover, and vegetation patterns at the local level, can assist the planning of urban trees to sustain the urban ecosystem.

Up to the present, concern for the environmental sustainability urban development and planning have grown with increases in urbanization and recently caused the influenced shift in development thinking in forestry sector. Unlike earlier forest management paradigms that primarily based on environmental factors, the sustainable development paradigm explicitly recognized the interrelation of environmental, social, and economic factors. Those conceptual ideas were brought to define sustainable urban forests as “...*the naturally occurring and planted trees in cities which are managed to provide the inhabitants with a continuing level of economic, social, environmental, and ecological benefits today and in the future*”. Thus, sustainable urban forest also requires a healthy tree and forest resource, support from communities, and comprehensive management strategies in order to achieve this aim.

Apart from the management of all trees within the urbanized areas which is called urban forestry, the management of individual trees in the city is also crucial for physical maintenance and manipulation of urban trees to ensure good health and aesthetic value. Such concept is defined as “Arboriculture” which means the cultivation, management, and study of individual trees, shrubs, vines, and other perennial woody plants. The science of arboriculture studies how these plants grow and respond to cultural practices and to their environment. The practice of arboriculture includes cultural techniques such as selection, planting, training, fertilization, pest and pathogen control, pruning, shaping, and removal.

As all people have perceived that, city without forests and trees is an unsustainable city. Therefore, urban forestry which is contained the body of knowledge on art, science and technology of managing trees and

forest resources in and around urban community ecosystems for the ecological, sociological, economic, and aesthetic benefits trees provide society. This training course aims to integrate the fields of landscape architecture, forestry and ecology – all in an urban and peri-urban context - through collaboration between the authorized agencies and environmental institutes in Thailand. The course will provide participants with knowledge and skills for multiple-use planning and management of the urban tree resource, emphasizing social, cultural, economic and ecological perspectives. Focus is on urban wooded areas but many links to the other parts of cities' tree populations (such as park and street trees) are also included. The course offers theoretical and practical knowledge on how to link environmental aesthetics, socio-cultural values and biodiversity through design, planning, management, and maintenance of the urban forest through urban forestry and arboriculture practices. Study visits to the demonstration sites will be provided for better understanding regarding the urban forestry and arboriculture concepts.

IV Course Objectives:

This training programme offers three-week time which is featured an intensive weeklong lecture, workshop and study visits. The programme will be coordinated by the Forestry Foreign Affairs Office of RFD and the lectures will also be taught by specialists in related topics from RFD itself and other related agencies. The lectures will be consisted of multidisciplinary regarding urban forestry and arboriculture practices. In particular, the main objectives of this training course are to:

- to illustrate the current status of urban forestry and arboriculture practices including base practices and models in Thailand,
- to figure the economic, social and environmental impact from urbanization involving in urban forestry and arboriculture practices including their

implications on such efforts through various programmes participatory under RFD and related agencies in Thailand,

- to explain the future scenarios for ensuring overcome challenges and threats and implement well-balanced policies for urban forestry and arboriculture practices by using Thailand's best practice as model cases,
- to provide an opportunity to share knowledge, ideas, and recommend future plans to enhance urban forestry and arboriculture practices from both Thailand and participants of the training course regarding to identification of future options, particularly drawing upon successes and failures and the emerging approaches for future collaboration of both countries in the future.

V Course Contents:

The Training course and study visit will attempt to provide a broad perspective of urban forestry and arboriculture practices of Thailand under management of RFD and related agencies in order to enhance understanding and preparedness of current matters on such issue which will specifically focusing on the following:

- Plenary session with key-note presentations
- Inter-sessional field excursion to model site for urban forestry and arboriculture practices in collective sites in Thailand.
- Technical discussion session and presentation of each participant

1. Course Outline. In particular, the structure of this Training course and study visit is designed to provide the maximum learning opportunity to the participants based on lecture, group work, discussions and study visit as listed below.

- (i) Concept of urban forestry and arboriculture
- (ii) Technique of urban forestry management and arboriculture practice
- (iii) Building capacity of on landscape design and planning for urban forestry program
- (iv) Environment sciences in relation to urban forestry management and arboriculture practice
- (v) Ecosystem rehabilitation and landscape architecture for urban forestry management

2. **Study/field trips** will be conducted during the training course is commenced in order to visit best performances and practices of urban forest management and arboriculture in selected sites. Those collective models and sites will be carefully selected to suit the course objective and interest of participants.

In general, the programme is primarily comprised of the following components:

- interaction with experts in both lecture room and field 80%
- group work 10%
- Wrap-up and feedback from participants 10%

3. **Advance assignment.** Participants of the training course will be assigned to prepare a country report regarding to urban forest management and arboriculture practice within the country where the participant comes from (format of the report will be attached). Moreover, a 15-30 minutes presentation will be made by each participant. Related documents, articles and reports will be sent to each participant in further before the training course commenced.

VI Number of Participants:

15-20 participants

VII Participants Criteria:

Being a highly interactive training programme, the following aspects need to be given to selective participants:

- participant should have substantial experience in addressing issues related to urban forest management and arboriculture practice and other related fields,
- able to actively participate in the debates, discussions and field trips; and
- provide a detailed case study/ participant report outlining the different aspects of urban forest management and arboriculture practice in their countries.

The Training course and study visit is designed for policy makers, planners and managers, specifically dealing with ecotourism management and promotion in forestry sector and other related field from Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

VIII Invited country:

All regions across the world according to list of eligible countries provided by Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA).

IX Venue:

The Training course and study visit will mainly be held at the Royal Forest Department meeting rooms in Bangkok for lecture session while study visit will be based on the sites across Thailand. Accommodations and meals will be arranged at the hotels in both Bangkok and study visit sites.

X Expected outcome:

Outcome of the training and study visit programme can be anticipated from the fruitful of the course which would be:

- Understand the different perspectives of urban forestry and arboriculture including aspects of biodiversity, forest health, aesthetics, recreation, cultural heritage and ecosystem services. Enhanced understanding on policies urban forest management and arboriculture practice through the observation of best practices in Thailand
- Able to develop suitable plans for the management of urban forests and trees.
- Sharing relevant knowledge and experience among participants from different countries
- Proposal of collaboration and networking among participants regarding to forest-based ecotourism. Number of contacting list will be recorded while social media channels will be set up for long-term communication and collaboration.

XI Evaluation:

Successful of the training course will be measured from:

- Each participant should have at least 80% of program attendance
- Pre and post evaluation forms will be distributed to each participant for filling up the form to illustrate perception, background understanding on related topics, comments, recommendations, and so on. Completed evaluation forms will be analyzed and included within the report after the training course complete.

XII Executing/Implementing Agency:

This training course will be under the executing/implementing of Forestry Foreign Affairs Office, Royal Forest Department. Details of Coordinator of the course and contact information are listed below:

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XIII Expenditure/Funding:

Expected source of funding for this training course and study trip would be come from Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA).