Forests play a critical role in supplying clean water, preventing environmental hazards (e.g., soil erosion, floods) and ensuring many other ecological functions. Any forest changes and their interactions with climate can significantly affect water resources and water-related ecological functions and services. Because of this role, managing forests for water provision has been an important priority in various international programs or initiatives such as Bonn Challenge, SDGs, etc. Moreover, forests and water resources were identified as essential elements in the adaptation to climate change in COP24 of the UN Climate Change Conference held in December 2018 in Katowice, and there is an active agenda to use reforestation to mitigate rising atmospheric carbon dioxide content and landscape restoration.

In such a context, research on forest and water interactions under a changing environment attracts increasing attention, and it has been recognized that forests, water and climate should be interactively assessed and managed with a holistic approach at various spatial and temporal scales.

To this end, the Asia-Oceania Science-Policy Forum will provide a dialogue platform involving scientists, decision-makers and forest managers to share insights and experience about forest and water interactions from different perspectives, to enhance the interface among science, policy and practices, and promote communication and collaboration among involved partners and stakeholders.
Programme

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