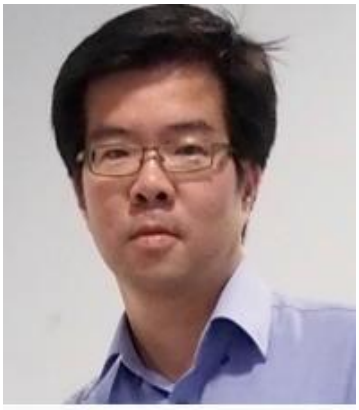
10th Regional Arboriculture Seminar 2025
Speakers' Profile and Presentation Synopsis



Oh Cheow Sheng
Group Director (Streetscape)
National Parks Board

Mr Oh oversees 120 staff managing Singapore's street trees, state lands and horticultural estates. A certified arborist with a Bachelor of Forestry Science (Hons.) from the University of Canterbury, he holds professional membership and Tree Risk Assessment Qualification from the International Society of Arboriculture.
He was instrumental in establishing Singapore's Heritage Trees Panel in 2002, evaluating and endorsing significant mature trees with heritage value, and remains an active panel member. His career began with the former Parks and Recreation Department, progressing through various greenery management roles.
In park planning, he collaborated with URA on Singapore's long-term Concept Planning. In 2000, he led the Garden City Action Committee's overseas study to Tokyo and Toronto, examining rooftop garden policies—work that evolved into Singapore's national Skyrise Greenery programme. He also participated in a 2012 landscape productivity study trip to European cities with the Landscape Industry Association of Singapore.
Currently leading the enlarged Streetscape Division, Mr Oh oversees major initiatives including the One Million Trees Movement, Nature Ways, and Rewilding corridors, while championing technology integration in tree management. His extensive experience spans urban greenery planning and management, making him a key figure in Singapore's evolution as a City in a Garden.

Presentation Title:
Managing the Urban Forest of a City-In-Nature

Outline:
The journey to green up Singapore started in the early 1960s, during the rapid urbanisation of the city. Over the past 6 decades, Singapore has made remarkable progress: from a largely grey urban environment to one where greenery is deeply embedded in city planning, buildings, streetscapes, parks and community life.

Key to success has been integrated policy (land use, building codes, environmental design), institutional leadership from agencies, legal protection for trees and greenery, public participation, and long-term vision.

To sustain this urban forest, continued focus will need to be on strengthening tree management programme, improving tree care standards for urban trees, partnerships with landscape industry, leveraging technology, adapting to climate risks and maintaining an engaged public.

10th Regional Arboriculture Seminar 2025
Speakers' Profile and Presentation Synopsis

Kevin Eckert
Founder and Managing Director
Arbor Global

Arbor Global's founder, President, and Managing Director is Kevin K. Eckert. Kevin brings a strong, international reputation for proven expertise and results to clients. With over 20 years of active, hands-on program research, design, implementation, and management experience, Kevin has developed a high level of knowledge, skills, and abilities with the diversity of issues and challenges encountered in tropical and temperate arboriculture and vegetation management. He is an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist and ISA Certified Utility Specialist. In recognition of his significant contributions to Utility Arboriculture, Kevin was awarded the International Society of Arboriculture Utility Arborist Award at its Annual Conference in Birmingham, England.

Presentation Title:

Tree Risk Assessment Rating Methodology to Correct Common Rating Errors to Increase Reliability and Reduce Inappropriate Tree Removal

Outline:

Most arborists overrate likelihood of failure and likelihood of impact assessments resulting in unreliable and indefensible risk ratings. These errors are likely committed to address inherent uncertainty, inadequate assessor experience and/or the tree manager's or assessor's general discomfort with any risk, especially as it relates to people. In order to produce more objective and reliable tree risk assessments, this presentation seeks to identify the foundational problems that cause these errors and provide proven, defensible considerations and techniques to help assessors avoid these types of errors.

Martin Tay
Principal Consultant and Director
Arborculture Pte Ltd

Martin Tay is the Principal Consultant and Director of Arborculture Pte Ltd. He is an ISA Certified and Tree Risk Assessment Qualified Arborist with 20 years of experience in land development planning, tree assessment, and conservation strategy.
Martin's interest lies in incorporating arboricultural knowledge with technological expertise and to enhance the evolving landscape of urban forestry. He is passionate about tree conservation and is committed to elevating the standards of arboriculture practices in Singapore and across the region by contributing to promote industry skills and standards.
He is an active Co-Op Council Member with Landscape Industry Association (Singapore) – LIAS and was the Vice President of its Certified Arborist Subcommittee from 2023 to 2025. In addition to his professional work, Martin is a WSQ ACTA-certified trainer.

Presentation Title:
Introducing the Code of Practice for Pruning of Trees in Urban Landscapes in Singapore

Outline:
Singapore - From a Garden City, to a City in a Garden, and onwards to a City in Nature.

As an industry specialist, you play an integral role as a custodian of our urban trees. Get to know the Code of Practice (CoP), a framework for the safe, effective, and sustainable pruning of trees in our tropical urban environment. We will walk you through the best practices for maintaining tree health, aesthetics, and structural integrity while minimizing risks to public safety and infrastructure.

Cheong Tak Leong
Director, Standards (Services)
Enterprise Singapore

Mr Cheong Tak Leong is the Director of the Standards Division (Services) at Enterprise Singapore (EnterpriseSG) for over 10 years. He oversees the national standardisation activities administered by EnterpriseSG and works closely with industry players, academia and government agencies in the identification, development and promotion of national and international standards to support national and industry initiatives. He also takes on the role as the Secretary of the industry-led Singapore Standards Council and supports the Council in the development and implementation of its 5-year strategic plan. Mr Cheong is also the Secretary of the Singapore National Committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), to coordinate Singapore's participation and involvement in IEC standardisation activities in policy and governance matters, as well as technical areas such as electric vehicles, smart manufacturing, solar PV systems, etc.

Presentation Title:
Importance of Standards and How It Benefits Industry Practitioners

Outline:
To be updated

Samuel Ma
Director and Consulting Arborist
Kassod Arbor Tree Consultancy & Services Ltd

Samuel serves as the Director, Consulting Arborist and Climbing Specialist of Kassod Arbor Tree Consultancy and Services Limited (Hong Kong) and EmCypress Arborist Consultancy Limited (Taiwan). Also, he teaches the Higher Diploma Program of Tree Management and Conservation at Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education, VTCHK, aimed to teach the proper practices and manner to the youngster besides of the regular Arborist works. On the other side, Samuel speaks fluently in three languages including English, Cantonese and Mandarin, and fair in Japanese. He was invited by various University, Institute, organization to provide the Arboriculture training, teaching, sharing in different countries such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, United States, etc.

He is also an ISA Master Certified Arborist, Certified Tree Worker - Climber Specialist, Qualified Chainsaw and Pruning (Ground) Technician and Tree Risk Assessment Qualified.

Presentation Title:
Inspection and Mitigation Experience for Super Typhoon.

Outline:
To be updated

Anthony Paul Diaz
Superintendent
Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR)

Anthony Paul Diaz (AP) is the Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation, serving in Mayor Bruce Harrell's cabinet. With over 27 years of experience, he previously served as the Executive Officer and General Counsel for the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, leading significant projects like the Greek Theatre's management and the PlayLA Youth Sports initiative for the 2028 Olympics.

In Seattle, he manages a large park system, overseeing 500 parks, a $1B budget, and 2,500 employees, while navigating city governance and policy. He also contributes to the community through board roles with the Seattle Aquarium, Zoo, Arboretum, and Olympic Sculpture Park.

A licensed attorney in both California and Washington state, AP holds degrees from Georgetown and Loyola Law School and teaches at Seattle University Law School. His legal background includes extensive litigation and municipal law experience in Los Angeles.

He is involved with national parks organizations, serving on boards for the National Recreation and Parks Association and World Urban Parks, and is a fellow of the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration. He also teaches law, leadership, and park management, specifically Park Planning andDevelopment, Marketing, Communications and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, through the NRPA's Directors School.

Presentation Title:

Urban Forest Regeneration in Seattle: Keeping the Evergreen City Resplendent and Healthy!

Outline:

Managing over 2,600 hectares of land, the Seattle Parks Department prioritizes a Thriving Environment as one of its three foundational pillars. Seattle is ranked the 6th-best park system in the United States, thanks in part to its natural beauty and the Department's commitment to caring for more than 500 parks, including specialty gardens, developed parks and natural areas.

Superintendent Diaz will speak to the blessings and challenges of managing such a large park system, while highlighting the power of public-private partnerships such as the Green Seattle Partnership (GSP), a successful community and urban forest restoration program. GSP engages community partners, volunteers, and professional crews to create a network, thousands strong, to care for natural areas, restore and regenerate urban forests, and expand the city's tree canopy. Now celebrating its 20th anniversary, the program is looking ahead at long-term plans for urban forest stewardship. Superintendent Diaz will also share why Seattle is the only U.S. city recognized by the United Nations Environment Program as a "Role Model City" for its leadership in urban forest regeneration, offering insights into effective models and forward-looking strategies in urban tree management.

John Parker
Chief Executive Officer
Arboriculture Association

John Parker has been Chief Executive Officer of the Arboricultural Association since July 2021 and previously held the role of Technical Director at the Association from August 2019. John is UK and Ireland President of the International Society of Arboriculture, a member of the European Forum on Urban Forestry (EFUF) International Steering Group and a UK representative on the European Arboricultural Council. He has a degree in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry and is a Chartered Environmentalist and Chartered Forester. John is a Fellow of the Arboricultural Association, the Institute of Chartered Forestry, the Royal Society of Biology and the Linnaean Society.

John is a frequent presenter at international conferences. Since spring 2020 John has chaired the Arboricultural Association webinar series, covering a huge range of topics to a global audience.

John has achieved multiple noteworthy awards such as Young European Urban Forester of the Year (2018), 25 Most Influential People in Horticulture by Pro Landscaper Magazine (2022) and ENDS Power List of the 100 most influential environmental professionals in the UK (2024).

Presentation Title:
The challenge of improving standards in an unregulated sector

Outline:
Arboriculture in the UK remains an unregulated profession. In theory at least, anyone can buy themselves a chainsaw and call themselves an arborist. This situation has serious implications for health and safety, standards of tree work and for the reputation of the sector, and this presentation will explore some of the ways in which the Arboricultural Association and partner organisations seek to raise standards and drive forward professionalism in a difficult environment. This includes accreditations such as the Approved Contractor and Registered Consultant Schemes, professional membership and charterships, continuous professional development and training, best practice guidance documentation, political lobbying and public engagement. There is also an important link here with the succession crisis in arboriculture – where is the next generation of tree care professionals coming from, and how do we attract them to the sector and offer them a clear pathway of career development? Things have certainly improved in many ways over the six decades since the Arboricultural Association was founded, but there is still much to do.

Joey Gan
Manager (Landscape Operations)
Changi Airport Group

ISA certified arborist with more than 10 years of working with trees, including nature outreach programmes, nature conservation and indoor landscape maintenance.

Started career in NParks in 2008 with three years managing outreach programmes related to trees (Young Arborist Programme, Heritage Trees Scheme and tree planting events). This was followed by two years managing Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. Currently with Changi Airport Group's Horticulture team and seconded to Jewel Changi Airport since 2019 to manage the Landscape operations there.
John is a frequent presenter at international conferences. Since spring 2020 John has chaired the Arboricultural Association webinar series, covering a huge range of topics to a global audience.

Presentation Title:
Indoor Tree Management in Jewel Changi Airport

Outline:
To be updated

Dr. Charles Cannon
Director / Forest & Tree Research
Singapore Botanic Gardens

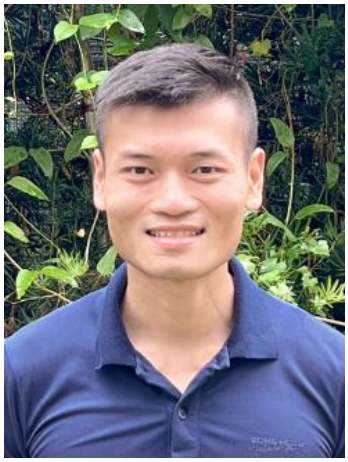
Introduced to Southeast Asia's amazing rainforests through a research project on primate behaviour, Dr. Cannon realized that trees create the forest environment, shaping the lives of the gibbons and macaques. After many years of ecological, conservation, and evolutionary work on trees and forests primarily in natural landscapes, he extended his research into urban forests and arboriculture when he became Director of the Center for Tree Science at the Morton Arboretum (USA) in 2015. Currently, his work as Director of Forest and Tree Research in the Singapore Botanic Gardens connects the ecological principles and detailed knowledge gained in both natural and built environments to help create resilient and healthy forests to benefit humans, trees, and wildlife across the spectrum of land use.

Presentation Title:
When do trees become a forest? Prospects and challenges for managing and understanding urban forests

Outline:
In Singapore, woody vegetation exists along a continuum—from individual roadside trees and layered park plantings to dense urban forest fragments. Understanding how these different structural forms influence ecosystem services and disservices is central to how we map, manage, and plan urban nature. This question also illuminates broader ecological dynamics in urban forestry, including thresholds for canopy cooling, habitat formation, and regeneration.

In this talk, Dr Cannon will examine current knowledge on how key ecosystem functions emerge from different planting types and spatial configurations, and how these insights can be organized into scenarios to guide decision-making. He will also discuss how climate change and continued urban development may alter these scenarios, shifting the resilience and vulnerability of urban forest systems.

Singapore's "City in Nature" initiative provides a unique setting to test these ideas and to clarify when it is sufficient to manage "trees as trees," and when investment is needed to enable them to function as forests. Ongoing NParks research will be highlighted, offering new evidence on how urban greenery can be designed and managed to maximize ecological and social benefits while anticipating future challenges.



Derrick Nguyen
Senior Scientist, Plant Health Laboratories & Advisory
National Parks Board

Derrick Nguyen is a Senior Scientist at the National Parks Board of Singapore, specializing in entomology, integrated pest management (IPM), and applied remote sensing. He holds a BSc in Plant Sciences and an MSc in Entomology from the University of California, Davis. His work focuses on plant and tree health monitoring through early detection of pests and diseases using hyperspectral sensors, satellite imagery, and drone surveillance. By combining machine learning, geospatial analytics, and nature-based control strategies, Derrick delivers operational solutions that support proactive and sustainable landscape management.

Presentation Title:
Raintree Diseases Management

Outline:
To be updated

Dr. Ahmad Nazarudin Bin Mohd Roseli
Senior Research Officer
Forest Research Institute Malaysia

Dr. Ahmad Nazaruding is currently leading the Urban Forestry Branch at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), which manages the trees on the FRIM campus, particularly those near public spaces and properties. In addition to research, Dr Ahmad provides technical advice to stakeholders. He has helped to advise for development projects such as the Mutiara Rini Urban Forest Park in Skudai, Johor, which was previously an oil palm plantation and has been converted into a public park, now home to various tropical tree species, including Shorea and Hopea.

Presentation Title:
Paclobutrazol as a growth regulator: effects on plant physiology and flower induction

Outline:
To be updated

James Lim
Chief Executive Officer
Uniseal Singapore Pte Ltd

Mr. James Lim is an entrepreneurial leader of the Uniseal Group with 30 years of construction industry expertise. He has expanded Uniseal into more than 20 countries, pioneering innovations in green roofs, living walls, tree-root protection systems, and stormwater management solutions. A recognized enabler of sustainable built environments, he holds over 60 patents, 44 design registrations, and nine trademarks, establishing leadership throughout the ASEAN region.

Presentation Title:
Tree Root Protection Systems

Outline:
TBC.

Jeremy Barrell
Founder & Managing Director
Barrell Tree Consultancy

Jeremy Barrell manages Barrell Tree Consultancy), one of the UK's largest Arboricultural Practices, advising on sustainable urban tree management in the planning and legal sectors, with a team of 15 enthusiastic professionals. Jeremy started his career working for the British Forest Service in 1978, establishing his own tree contracting business in 1980, which evolved into his consultancy in 1995. He regularly delivers keynotes at international conferences and has authored more than 150 articles and scientific papers on tree management. He is a Trustee of the Trees and Design Action Group (https://www.tdag.org.uk/) and is currently pioneering a new UK approach to modelling urban tree canopy cover impacts in a planning context.

Presentation Title:
Progress towards an evidence-based model for assessing urban tree canopy cover on new development sites

Outline:
It is now widely accepted there is an international climate and nature crisis, with an urgent need to develop practical approaches to reverse harmful and negative trends. Trees are important in the urban realm because they add height to the landscape, making neighbourhoods pleasant places to live and work by delivering the dual benefits of assisting nature recovery, and enhancing human health and wellbeing. Thoughtful and well-informed community planning can be an effective mechanism for making the most of tree benefits, but the quality of the outputs is only as good as the inputs! In the past, assessing the impact of development proposals on urban tree canopy cover was little more than guesswork, but that is changing.
In this presentation, Jeremy will outline an innovative UK approach to modelling the impact of new building developments on trees, based on measurements of the baseline canopy cover now, and expected future projections without development. These baselines can be compared to the expected tree loss from development, and the growth of newly planted trees, to assess whether the lost canopy cover can be replaced, and how many years it will take to break even. Assessing the environmental impact of new development on trees with this evidence-based modelling can assist built-environment managers in demonstrating measurable climate adaptation progress within the planning process.

Jamie Lim
Urban Forestry Manager
Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR)

Jamie Lim is the Urban Forestry Manager for Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR), where she leads the department's comprehensive urban forestry program. Jamie brings 14 years of experience in municipal and nonprofit urban forestry, having worked in Singapore, New York City, and Seattle.

She is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, who is active in industry work like serving on Arborist News Editorial Board, reviewed the ISA's Best Management Practices for *Root Management* and *Managing Trees During Construction and* has published a novel academic research on arboriculture work safety standards and database. Jamie is also a frequent conference speaker in local, regional, and past ISA annual conference events, where she had shared on arboriculture work safety, advance tree diagnostics, SPR's Urban Forestry program, tree inventory and her experience in managing invasive urban forest pest programs.

Presentation Title:
Seattle Parks Urban Forestry: Managing risk, stewardship and canopy equity

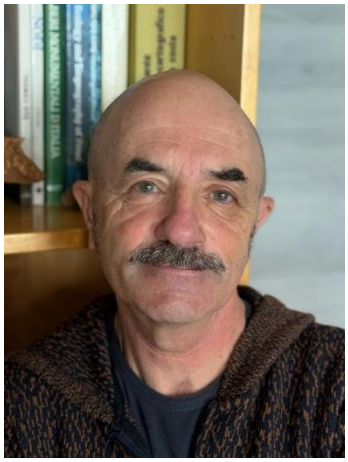
Outline:
This presentation provides an overview of the Seattle Parks Urban Forestry program that specializes in arboriculture operations. It introduces the arboriculture team and their role in managing trees across the city's park system, highlighting how risk inspections and assessments are integrated into the tree inventory to guide data-driven decisions on work priorities. The presentation also features the *Trees for Seattle Parks* program, a recent investment that established a dedicated planting team to strengthen stewardship, expand capacity for young tree care, increase canopy cover and how planting priorities are guided by an equity lens, ensuring resources are directed to high equity priority neighborhoods and urban heat island zones.

Nelson Li
Chairman
Treegarden Corporation

Nelson is the Chairman of Treegarden Corporation which is one of the largest arboriculture companies in Taiwan. He graduated from National Taiwan University (NTU) for his Bachelor's degree in business, a MBA from Wharton School, and a Master's degree in computer science of U. Penn. He has versatile working experiences in the construction, furniture, information technology and the arboriculture and landscape industries. Treegarden has engaged in many arboriculture and landscape projects including the transplant of brown-rotted heritage trees which involved many stakeholders and sophisticated processes.
He went back to NTU to study at the age of 64 and obtain Ph.D. degree in horticulture at 68. He is an ISA Certified Arborist, Urban Forest Professional and TRAQ. He founded both Taiwan Greenroof and Greenwall Association and Taiwan Arboriculture Society and served the first two terms.

Presentation Title:
How to transplant heritage Ficus trees which was infected with brown root-rot disease?

Outline:
To be updated



Giovanni Gasperini
Owner and Principal Consultant
Progetto Verde

Giovanni Morelli, agronomist and arborist, owner of Progetto Verde since 1994, is a consultant in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry, specialized in tree risk and tree stability assessment and in management of veteran trees. He has written numerous articles; he is one of the authors of the manual for the management of veteran trees in Emilia Romagna (Italy) and he is a lecturer at Venice University and in some training schools. He has been a speaker at about 130 national and international conferences. He is recognized as one of the leading experts in morphophysiology and tree architecture at international level.
He is a member of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), of the Società Italiana di Arboricoltura (SIA), and of SAG Baumstatik e.V..
He is an ISA Certified Arborist, ETT – European Tree Technician, Board Certified Master Arborist (ISA), QTRA Qualified and TRAQ Qualified (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification).

Presentation Title:
Understand Tree Morphophysiology

Outline:
To be updated

Stefania Gasperini
Owner
AR.ES

Stefania Gasperini, agronomist and arborist is the owner of an Italian private company qualified in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry for municipalities and private owners since 1996. Gasperini is specialized in garden design, tree inventories, tree risk and tree stability assessment and in management of veteran trees. With Giovanni Morelli -partner in life too - Stefania worked for many years with Pierre Raimbault applying the morphophyhsiological approach, based on Raimbault research. She is an ISA Certified Arborist and TRAQ Qualified (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification).

She is a speaker at many conferences and workshops, Past-President of EAC - European Arboriculture Council, board member of SAG Baumstatik e.V., member of ISA - International Society of Arboriculture and of the ISA Italian Chapter, member of the ISA Conference Program Committee.

Presentation Title:

Understand Tree Morphophysiology

Outline:

To be updated

Dr Steffen Rust
Professor
University of Applied Science and Art in Göttingen, Germany

Steffen Rust is Professor of Arboriculture at the University of Applied Science and Art in Göttingen, Germany. His main fields of research are non-destructive methods for tree risk assessment and tree water relations. Steffen is one of the developers of stress wave tomography for trees. Recent studies concentrate on ground penetrating radar, electrical resistivity tomography for stems and root systems, as well as static pulling tests, analysis of tree vibration, and the application of artificial intelligence in tree risk assessment He studied forestry in Göttingen and Oxford, and environmental science in Cottbus

Presentation Title:

Recent Results from Research on The Pulling Test Method for Living and Dead Trees

Outline:

The pulling test method is widely used in advanced tree risk assessment

Results of over a decade of research provide evidence, that the method can be used to assess anchorage and load bearing capacity of trees non-destructively. Factors that can influence results and limitations of the method, such as the size and age of the tree or weather and soil properties, and further directions for research will be outlined

To date, the method has been mostly applied to living trees, but in recent years, more and more dead trees are left in urban areas for nature conservation. We studied, how the pulling test method can be applied to assess their safety and are in the process of testing new instruments

Abdulkadir C. Yucel
Assistant Professor
Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore

Assistant Professor Abdulkadir C. Yucel received his B.S. degree in Electronics Engineering (with highest honors) from Gebze Institute of Technology, Türkiye, and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA. Following his doctoral studies, he served as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at several leading institutions, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore.

Professor Yucel's research focuses on physics-driven, AI-powered radar technologies for civilian applications such as tree structural health assessment. He has authored over 160 peer-reviewed publications, holds an h-index of 20, and has led numerous research projects with a total budget exceeding SGD 5 million. His accolades include the Fulbright Fellowship (2006), the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Symposium Student Paper Competition Honorable Mention Award (2009), the IEEE Transactions on Power Electronics Prize Paper Award (2024), and the NTU EEE Early Career Teaching Excellence Award (2024). He currently serves as an Associate Editor for the *IEEE Antennas and Propagation Magazine*, the *IEEE Journal on Multiscale and Multiphysics Computational Techniques*, and the *International Journal of Numerical Modelling: Electronic Networks, Devices and Field*

Presentation Title:

Radar Technologies for Structural Health Assessment of Trees

Outline:

Structural health assessment is vital for urban tree management and risk mitigation. Among the available methods for detecting internal trunk defects and underground root decay, radar technology stands out as a non-invasive, rapid, and versatile solution that works across varying tree species and sizes.

In this talk, I will present two advanced radar systems recently developed at NTU in collaboration with NParks. Both systems integrate artificial intelligence, advanced signal processing, and state-of-the-art antenna design. The first radar can detect defects inside tree trunks in just 3–4 minutes when operated along a straight trajectory. When moved along a circular path around the tree, it produces detailed images showing the defect's location, size, shape, and permittivity. The second radar maps root systems in 3D, capturing size, position, orientation, and dielectric properties, enabling clear differentiation between healthy and decayed roots. Together, these radars provide a truly transformative approach to tree health monitoring, combining speed, precision, and intelligence in ways that were previously unimaginable.

Dr. Dzaeman B. Dzulkifli
Executive Director
Tropical Rainforest Conservation Research Centre

Dzaeman Dzulkifli is the current Executive Director at Tropical Rainforest Conservation and Research Centre in Kuala Lumpur and is currently developing a range of sustainable land use strategies in efforts to realise the global dream of using underutilised land to mitigate climate change. Dr Dzaeman carried out his PhD at Institut für Evolutionsbiologie und Umweltwissenschaften, University of Zurich, focusing on restoration ecology.

Presentation Title:

Merging landscape approaches to habitat connectivity in urban settings

Outline:

Forest fragmentation due to a rapid expansion of urbanisation has been on the rise in the greater Klang Valley region, Malaysia. In this paper, we present baseline results of flora and fauna studies carried out by Tropical Rainforest Conservation and Research Centre (TRCRC) at the Elmina township that neighbours a forest reserve, and the preliminary plans to connect and restore ecological connectivity, showcasing the need to integrate these fragments by urban planning and the adoption of biodiversity focused development. As a result of these preliminary findings, TRCRC along with Sime Darby Property (SDP) developed strategies and are embarking on extending the fragmented habitat into an integrated 300-acre Elmina Central Park. The restoration strategies will inform and integrate habitat connectivity and ecological restoration plans for future development. The use of native species and focusing on rare and endangered to achieve multiple national biodiversity targets including achieving Sime Darby Property's sustainability pledges. This collaborative effort between a non-governmental environmental organisation and a real estate player to restore the ecological functions of townships also demonstrates the growing importance of strong partnerships in bringing back (rewilding) urban biodiversity into spaces where communities thrive.

Jaren Wong
Scientist, Plant Health Laboratories & Advisory
National Parks Board

Jaren Wong is a Scientist at the National Parks Board of Singapore. He has been working in NParks for 3 years. He specialises in entomology and integrated pest management (IPM), with his current work focusing on termite research in urban trees.

Presentation Title:

Subterranean Termites Guide and Management Strategy

Outline:

This presentation provides a comprehensive overview of termite management in urban trees. It begins by exploring the biology and characteristics of common termite species in urban trees. The discussion will then pivot to detection techniques, from Visual Tree Assessments (VTA) to advanced inspection techniques. Finally, the presentation highlights the effective management strategies, featuring Integrated Termite Management (ITM), chemical treatments, baiting techniques, and application of IoT termite sensors

Terence Chia
Lead Arborist
Gardens by the Bay

Jaren Wong is a Scientist at the National Parks Board of Singapore. He has been working in NParks for 3 years. He specialises in entomology and integrated pest management (IPM), with his current work focusing on termite research in urban trees.

Presentation Title:

Balancing Safety, Tree Health, and Landscape Aesthetics Through Tree Pruning

Outline:

Tree pruning is a fundamental aspect of tree management, carried out daily to help tree managers maintain the safety of the trees under their care. Beyond ensuring the safety of visitors, tree pruning at Gardens by the Bay also prioritizes maintaining the aesthetics of the gardens, welcoming guests with the best that Singapore has to offer. In this presentation, we will explore the thought processes involved in carrying out tree pruning, ensuring that the gardens remain safe, the trees stay healthy, and the landscape remains visually appealing