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**Dr Robert Fenton** is a freelance consultant specializing in plantation forestry, trade and economics, especially in Southeast and East Asia. He was formerly at the New Zealand Forest Research Institute where he was in charge of Economics of Silviculture. The work has transformed softwood silviculture there and the ideas are spreading in the Southern Hemisphere. He has also conducted strategic studies which have included deep analysis of the Japanese market, and the supply potential of the Siberian forests. He has published over sixty papers. Since completing this study, he has worked on plantation analyses for Sabah and countries in the Southern Hemisphere, as well as continued work on wood panels.