

ANNUAL REPORT

2013



한-아세안 산림협력협정
ASEAN-Korea Forest Cooperation

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AFoCo Annual Report 2013

The ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation is a regional cooperation mechanism in the forestry sector between the governments of ASEAN Member States and the Republic of Korea. The AFoCo aims to promote rehabilitation of degraded forest and lands and sustainable forest management focusing on action-oriented field activities while ensuring synergies and complementation of existing cooperation, as well as to broaden the scope to other Asian countries towards the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization.

The AFoCo Annual Report 2013 is the first annual report published since the entry into force of the Agreement and it includes activities before 2013.





About AFoCo

The ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) is an inter-governmental regional cooperation which was formalized by the “Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea on Forest Cooperation”, also known as “AFoCo Agreement”.

Soon after ROK’s proposal for the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) at the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit held in Jeju, ROK in June 2009, a working group was formulated. 5 sessions of working group meetings were held from 2009 to 2011 and finalized the AFoCo Agreement which undertakes the ASEAN-ROK forest cooperation activities and dialogue towards establishment of AFoCO.

The AFoCo Agreement was signed at the 14th ASEAN-ROK Summit held in Bali, Indonesia on 18 November 2011 and came into force on 5 August 2012.

The AFoCo aims to undertake projects and translate sound forest policies and proven technologies into action with a mission to rehabilitate degraded forest land and to prevent deforestation and forest degradation in the context of sustainable forest management as well as under the broader scope of addressing the impact of climate change. It also provides a platform towards Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) to broaden the scope to other Asian countries.

The key areas of cooperation of AFoCo include:

- Promoting sustainable forest management
- Addressing deforestation and forest degradation
- Strengthening capacity-building, public awareness, and research and development in forest sector
- Enhancing forest carbon stocks and supporting initiatives

The AFoCo has an institutional arrangement namely the “Governing Council” and the “Secretariat”.

- The Governing Council is responsible for the implementation of the agreement and will act as a decision-making body. The Members of the Governing Council shall be represented by a senior official on forestry from each ASEAN Member State and the ROK.
- The Secretariat based in Seoul assists the Governing Council in the implementation, coordination, monitoring and reporting of activities under AFoCo. The Secretariat is headed by the Executive Director and is currently operating with 2 teams.



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Message from the Executive Director



The Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Korea and the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Forest Cooperation (AFoCo Agreement) came into effect on 5 August 2012. Since then all ASEAN Member States and the Republic of Korea have been cooperating closely to address the key issues of concern on forestry matters in the region. It has now entered its second year and it is time for us to look back on the activities implemented over the past year and to prepare for a better and more effective undertaking into the future. At this juncture, the Secretariat of ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation presents you an annual report which covers the progress in the implementation of Agreement for the period from the launch in 2012 until the end of 2013.

With the kick-off meeting of Governing Council in August 2012, 2 institutional bodies, namely a Governing Council comprised of 11 representatives from all parties and a Secretariat based in Seoul, have been set up for the purpose of meeting the objectives and requirements of the Agreement. The Governing Council has met 3 times since and guided a number of regional cooperation projects and activities which are now up and running in full momentum. Another key objective of the Agreement is to provide a dialogue platform for the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO). In addition to 11 members of AFoCo Agreement, the Governing Council commended to invite Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Timor-Leste into the dialogue, making it a round of negotiation among 15 dialogue members for the establishment of AFoCO. The Secretariat has been providing services necessary for the dialogue process.

For proper implementation of activities including completion of dialogue for the establishment of AFoCO, the Governing Council has approved the extension of the Agreement for 2 more years. The official process of formalizing extension of AFoCo Agreement has now been underway in order to make it happen timely before 4 August 2014. I would like to take this opportunity to reconfirm the commitment and assurances of the Secretariat in the implementation of AFoCo Agreement. Cooperation of all parties with prompt and timely action at this moment would be pivotal in realizing our vision and mission speculated under the Agreement.

This annual report will give you not only a detailed picture of what has been done with regional cooperation projects over the past year, but will also show the activities being undertaken toward the formal launch of long-awaited AFoCO. I am very pleased to inform that with all your cooperation and effort, we all are marching toward our common goal in an effective manner. Once again, I would like to congratulate all Parties to AFoCo Agreement for your achievement and commitment that have been made. Finally, my heartfelt thanks go to the Korea Forest Service and the people of the Republic of Korea for their generous support to make our dreams come true.

Let's march together toward Greener Asia!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. Pasaribu'.

Hadi S. Pasaribu
Executive Director
March 2014

2013 AFoCo Calendar Activities

DATE	TITLE	VENUE
23-25 January 2013	Technical Meeting for the 2 nd Session of the Governing Council	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
25 January 2013	The 2 nd Session of the Governing Council of the Agreement on ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
05 February 2013	Opening Ceremony of ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation Secretariat	Seoul, Republic of Korea
26 March 2013	Technical Meeting for Assessment for the implementation of the Agreement on ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation	Manila, Philippines
26-27 March 2013	The 1 st Meeting of the Working Group for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization	Manila, Philippines
27 June 2013	Signing MoU with International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)	Seoul, Republic of Korea
28 June 2013	Project Inception Meeting for "Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DFE) in Mekong Basin Countries"	Bangkok, Thailand
17-18 July 2013	The 2 nd Meeting of the Working Group for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization	Pakse, Lao PDR
23 July 2013	Signing MoU with The Export-Import Bank of Korea	Seoul, Republic of Korea
05 September 2013	The 1 st Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation Secretariat	Seoul, Republic of Korea
23-27 September 2013	AFoCo Short-term Training Course on Forest Management for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change	Republic of Korea
26-27 September 2013	Technical Meeting for the Development of Landmark Program	Bangkok, Thailand
16-17 October 2013	Technical Meeting for the 3 rd Session of the Governing Council of the Agreement on ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation	Singapore
18 October 2013	The 3 rd Session of Governing Council of the Agreement on ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation	Singapore
18-19 November 2013	Launching and Regional Technical Meeting for AFoCo Regional Project on "Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resources Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of the Local Communities to Address the Adverse Impact of Climate Change"	Bandung, Indonesia
10 December 2013	Technical Meeting for Update on the Proposed Extension of the Agreement on ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation Agreement	Busan, Republic of Korea
11-12 December 2013	Dialogue for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)	Busan, Republic of Korea

I Governing Council



The Governing Council of the “Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea on Forest Cooperation,” represented by senior officials on forestry from each party, is the decision making, coordinating, and implementing body of AFoCo.

The Session of the Governing Council meets at least once a year and takes decisions on the program for implementation of activities and other actions necessary to achieve the objective of the Agreement. Since the entry into force of the Agreement on the date of 5 August 2012, three sessions have convened.



1. Second Session of the Governing Council, 25 January 2013, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

The 2nd Session of the Governing Council was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 25 January 2013. The session was represented by all 11 parties to the Agreement.

Recalling the decision of the 1st Session, the meeting considered and approved the Staff, Financial and Intellectual Property Right Guidelines of the Secretariat. The Secretariat is established as an independent entity under an intergovernmental agreement bounded by the relevant local laws of the host country. The Governing Council requested the Secretariat to ensure proper and effective working capacity for Secretariat staffs who are non-citizens of the ROK as well as to maintain neutrality of the Secretariat.

The Governing Council welcomed and approved the recommendation of the Recruitment Committee for the appointment of Dr. Hadisusanto Pasaribu as the Executive Director of the Secretariat. The Meeting also considered and approved the proposed budget plan for 2013. It was further highlighted that the ROK will continue to make effort to appropriately plan the scale of operating cost. The Governing Council also took note of schedule of meetings and activities under the Agreement.

The Governing Council approved the final project document of regional projects and agreed on the administrative procedure for its implementation which requires signing on the implementation agreement by all participating countries. Regarding the Individual Cooperation Projects, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam will be implementing respective projects for one year. In addition, the Governing Council welcomed ROK's proposal for a long-term regional project, AFoCo Landmark Project, entitled 'Restoring Degraded Forest in Southeast Asia as a Model for a Greener Asia: Capacity-Building on Forest Restoration and Sustainable Forestry' and tasked the Secretariat to develop detailed project document.

The Meeting finalized the Terms of Reference of the Working Group for the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (WG-AFoCO),

however decided to let the WG-AFoCO to further discuss on the Working Plan and the Rules of Procedure of WG-AFoCO, as well as the vision, mission, objectives, scope and areas of cooperation of the future AFoCO.



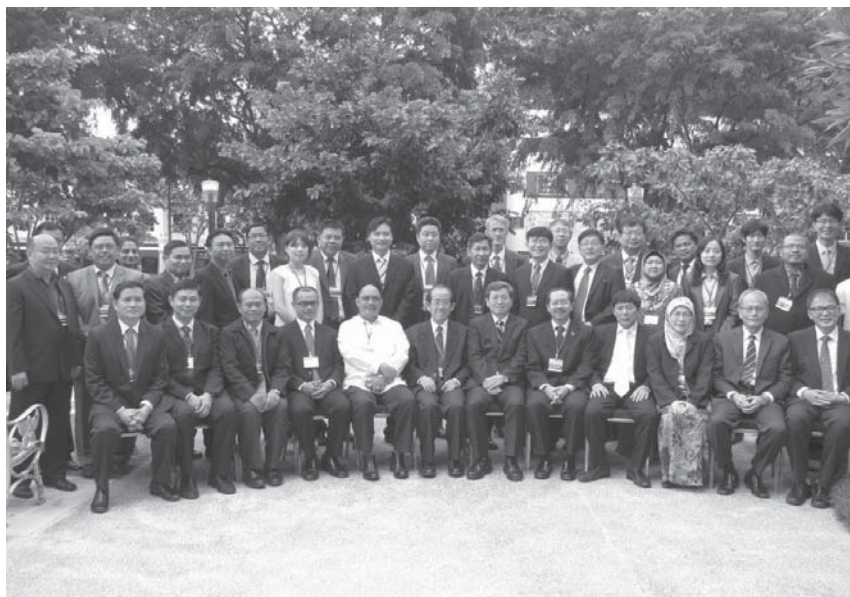
2. Third Session of the Governing Council 18 October 2013, Singapore

The 3rd Session of the Governing Council was convened in Singapore on 18 October 2013. After reviewing the past activities and future plans for the following year, the Meeting approved the schedule of activities and annual budget plan for 2014. The Meeting also took note of the notification and procedures for in-kind and/or in-cash contribution for 2013.

The Governing Council considered the needs for the extension of the Agreement for two more years and unanimously agreed to extend the AFoCo Agreement for 2 more years. The extension procedure will be communicated through diplomatic channel.

Taking note of the outcomes of the 2nd Working Group for the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (WG-AFoCO), the Meeting endorsed the recommendation to form a new dialogue platform under a multilateral protocol, making it independent from the current Agreement in order to properly accommodate the new Prospective Members to AFoCO.

The RRR-DFE for Mekong Basin Countries have officially launched its activities and held the inception meeting in June 2013. Noting some procedural and administrative challenges in respective countries, the Governing Council encouraged countries participating in other regional projects to closely communicate and work with lead coordinating countries to expedite the process for launching of project activities.



Following the decision of the 2nd Session of the Governing Council, the Meeting endorsed AFoCo Landmark Program to be implemented for 10 years with a total budget of USD 15 million. Sites for the AFoCo Landmark Project were finalized after assessment by consultant team. Education and Training Center will be established in Hmawbi, Myanmar and forest rehabilitation projects will be implemented in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam. In addition to the AFoCo Landmark Program, ROK invited the ASEAN Member States to submit new proposals for medium-term or long-term regional projects involving two or more countries.

II Secretariat



The Secretariat established under the AFoCo Agreement assists the Governing Council in the implementation, coordination, monitoring and reporting of activities under AFoCo. The Secretariat has been operational since September 2012 after the Agreement entered into force. The Secretariat is located in Seoul and headed by the Executive Director and is currently operating with 2 teams.



1. Related Meetings in 2013

1.1 Technical Meeting for Assessment for the implementation of the Agreement on ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation, 26 March 2013, Manila, Philippines

The Technical Meeting for Assessment for the implementation of the Agreement convened in Manila, Philippines on 26 March 2013. The Meeting reviewed and finalized the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Taskforce for Assessment for the Implementation of the Agreement for consideration of the Governing Council.



The final draft of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Taskforce for Assessment for the Implementation of the Agreement was endorsed by the Governing Council through official communication on 29 May 2013.

1.2 First Meeting of the Working Group for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization, 26-27 March 2013, Manila, Philippines

The Meeting noted on the Terms of Reference of the Working Group for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (WG-AFoCO) approved at the 2nd Session of the Governing Council and reviewed and provided further inputs to the Rules of Procedure of the WG-AFoCO to seek approval of the Governing Council. The Meeting considered and finalized the Working Plan of the WG-AFoCO.



1.3 Inception Meeting of Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DEF) in Mekong Basin Countries, 28 June 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

After signing of the Agreement for Implementation of ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation project: “Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DEF in Mekong Basin Countries)” on 14th May 2013 between the Royal Forest Department (RFD) of Thailand and ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation Secretariat, the Inception Meeting took place in Maruay Garden Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand on 28 June 2013.

This regional project will be implemented for 2 years with a budget of USD 500,000 supported by Korea Forest Service. The executing bodies are Mekong Basin Countries, namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Thailand, and The Secretariat.

The meeting reviewed and finalized the project work plan and budget, clarified project management and financial matters, and established working relationship and line of communication. All the focal officials agreed to finalize the quarterly budget and work plans.

1.4 Second Meeting of the Working Group for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization, 17-18 July 2013, Pakse, Lao PDR

The 2nd Meeting of the Working Group for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (WG-AFoCO) was organized in Pakse, Lao PDR on 17-18 July 2013. The countries presented respective views and position on the AFoCO including the country's domestic procedure for entering a multilateral Agreement for the establishment of AFoCO. A consensus was reached on the need to form a new dialogue process independent from ASEAN-ROK framework to accommodate a multilateral dialogue protocol with the involvement of all prospective members of AFoCO. The meeting requested ROK to invite all prospective member countries into a new dialogue for the establishment of AFoCo using a diplomatic channel.

1.5 Technical Meeting for the Development of Landmark Program, 26-27 September 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

The Technical Meeting for the Development of Landmark Program was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 26-27 September 2013. Officials from all the ASEAN Member States, Secretariat, and consultants for the development of Landmark program attended the Meeting.

The consultant team made a presentation on development of Landmark Program. The presentation covered development of four projects under the AFoCo Landmark Program: 1) Establishment of Regional Education and Training Center; 2) Development of Education and Training Programs for Capacity Building; 3) Restoration of Degraded Forest Regions; and 4) Development of Advocating Activities.

Following the guidance by the 2nd Session of the Governing Council to further develop the AFoCo Landmark Program, the meeting reviewed the four components of the Landmark Program and provided inputs for further development and finalization.



1.6 Launching and Regional Technical Meeting for AFoCo Regional Project on “Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resources Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of the Local Communities to Address the Adverse Impact of Climate Change”, 18-19 November 2013, Bandung, Indonesia

The regional project, “Capacity Building on Forest Resource Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of Local Communities to Address Adverse Impact of Climate Change” launched upon the signing of its Implementation Agreement (IA) by ROK and three ASEAN Member States, namely, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam, witnessed by The Secretariat, on 18 November 2013 in Bandung, Indonesia. The project will be in effect for two years duration until 18 November 2015 with a budget of USD 2 million.

For the duration of two-year project period, Indonesia will lead the project coordinating the national level project activities and organizing a Regional Workshop on Forest Resources Assessment as well as Study Tour to REDD+ Demonstration Activities to Meru Betiri National Park and Rinjani Barat Protection Forest in Lombok Island. It was further agreed that Lao PDR will organize the Regional Training of Trainers Workshop, while Thailand will organize the Regional Workshop on alternative livelihood for local communities.

1.7 Technical Meeting for Update on the Proposed Extension of the Agreement on ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation, 10 December 2013, Busan, Republic of Korea

In accordance of the decision of the 3rd Session of the Governing Council to extend the Agreement for 2 years, the meeting shared common view on the importance of the extension and discussed on the procedure among technical bodies in ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat. Each country ensured to take respective domestic procedure after receiving the official letter through diplomatic channel.

1.8 First Meeting of Dialogue for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (Dialogue-AFoCO), 11-12 December 2013, Busan, Republic of Korea

The 1st Meeting of Dialogue for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (Dialogue-AFoCO) was organized on 11-12 December 2013 in Busan, Republic of Korea. The Meeting was attended by representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam and Republic of Korea. This is the first meeting following the recommendation of the 2nd Working Group for the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (WG-AFoCO), and the endorsement of 3rd Session of the Governing Council to form a new dialogue platform under a multilateral protocol to properly accommodate the all prospective members to *AFoCO.



* The prospective members to AFoCO are Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam, and the Republic of Korea.

The meeting reviewed and finalized Rules of Procedure and Terms of Reference of Dialogue-AFoCO. The Secretariat presented the draft Agreement of AFoCO and the respective countries agreed to provide official inputs to the draft after domestic consultation for further discussion at the next meeting. The meeting also discussed and agreed to the future action and procedures towards the establishment of AFoCO targeting finalization and signing of the Agreement in late 2014.

2. Other Events and Activities

2.1 Opening Ceremony of the Secretariat

Opening Ceremony of the Secretariat was held on Tuesday, 2 February 2013. Dr. Suh Kyu Yong, Minister of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr. Kim Sanghyup, Senior Secretary to the President for Green Growth, Excellency Dr. Lee Don Koo, Minister of Korea Forest Service, Mr. Lee Sung-bok, Former Secretary to the President and current Representative of Cannes Lions, Dr. Hadisusanto Pasaribu, Executive Director of the Secretariat, and about 100 distinguished guests who have dedicated and supported AFoCo participated and celebrated the opening of the Secretariat.



Dr. Park Chong-ho, Vice Executive Director of the Secretariat, briefed on the milestones that led towards to the opening of the Secretariat.

Dr. Hadisusanto Pasaribu, Executive Director of the Secretariat, in his welcome remarks, highlighted that “AFoCO will grow into an action-oriented organization” and “The opening of the Secretariat is only the beginning, rather the first step toward the future”.

Dr. Hadisusanto Pasaribu then delivered appreciation plaque to Mr. Kim Sanghyup and Dr. Lee Don koo who have dedicated invaluable efforts since the establishment of AFoCo.

2.2 The First Anniversary of AFoCo

Marking the first year since the AFoCo Agreement entered into force on 5 August 2012, the Secretariat celebrated the 1st anniversary of the Agreement on September 5, 2013 at the Korea Press Center in Seoul, Korea. The ambassadors of the ASEAN Member States to Seoul and high level officials from relevant ministries were invited to the event. The Secretariat presented its current status, progress and outcomes of the last one year and future plans. Dr. Emmanuel ZeMeka, Executive Director of ITTO, and Mr. Kim Taeho, National Assembly Member of ROK, extended congratulations through a video message.



Dr. Hadisusanto Pasaribu, Executive Director of the Secretariat, announced that the Secretariat will comprehensively expand its scope to the Asian region as well as move forward to grow into an international organization in the forest sector through disseminating Korea's past reforestation experiences through ten-year long term project adopted from "Saemaeul Undong," the project that led Korea to be successfully restored.

2.3 AFoCo Short-term Training Course



The first AFoCO training course on Forest Management for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change took place on 23-27 September 2013 in Korea. This training course was organized with the financial support from the Korea Forest Service and Export-Import Bank of Korea.

Acknowledging the significant role of forest to ASEAN Member States for its sustainable development, this training course was planned to provide an excellent opportunity to share the Korean experience of development especially in forest sector and to seek together a collaborative action to respond to climate change and promote sustainable forest management.

The training course was designed for technical-level government officials, researchers, or experts in the field of forest in ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) member countries, aiming to promote human capacity among member countries in coping with climate change and promoting sustainable forest management in its region.

The course was consisted of a series of lectures and field practices and excursions, including visits to cultural and historical sites, as well. Lectures were given by the invited experts ranging from government, research institute, and private sector to international and non-governmental organizations on topics including Forest Policy, Forest Restoration, Forest Biomass, Forest ODA, Climate Change of ROK, and AFoCo overview and Development. A certificate was granted to all 18 participants from 9 ASEAN Member States, and a survey was conducted to improve the program for future deliveries at the last day of the program.

Overall, the training course was delivered with a success in achieving its objectives, enhancing mutual understanding and seeking common strategic areas of cooperation among AFoCo members. The participants appreciated for having an opportunity to improve the apprehension on forest management and climate change policy of Korea and international cooperation activities.

3. Cooperation with Relevant Agencies and Organizations

3.1 Meetings with Embassies

The Executive Director of the Secretariat continued his efforts to extend common ground to cooperate with all Parties to the AFoCo Agreement as well as with related organization and agencies. Starting with a meeting with the Indonesian Ambassador, the Secretariat had a series of meetings with the Embassy of Myanmar, Singapore, Lao PDR, Philippines, Malaysia and Vietnam, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of ROK. The Secretariat updated and highlighted the current status, progress and outcomes of the Secretariat during the meetings. The Ambassadors and the Executive Director of Secretariat also shared views and opinions about moving towards to the establishment of Asian

Forest Cooperation Organization. The Ambassadors committed to support AFoCo as well as its objectives to further broaden the scope to Asia through Asian Forest Cooperation Organization.

Date	Country	View
22 July	Indonesia	Indonesia put a strong emphasis on the expansion of AFoCo and committed to continuously support its expansion. The country restated that it will facilitate any activities of AFoCo in Indonesia.
25 July	Myanmar	Myanmar committed to continuously support the establishment of AFoCo as an organization and pledged that the country will do its best to accelerate its internal process.
29 July	Singapore	Singapore viewed that the initiative of AFoCo offers tangible contribution to promoting regional forest cooperation and the country may consider joining AFoCo at a later stage.
30 July	Lao PDR	Lao PDR expressed its full support and commitment to becoming the member of AFoCo and is looking forward to engaging actively in the future activities.
6 August	Philippines	Philippines acknowledged the intention of ROK as open, transparent and beneficial for the countries involved in the cooperation process. Philippines expressed its optimistic view for joining AFoCo and looked forward to engaging actively in the future.
16 August	ROK	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Korea expressed its continued support to strengthen the ASEAN-ROK cooperation spirit and committed to support in more practical ways possible.
19 August	Malaysia	Malaysia acknowledged the intention of ROK as open, transparent and beneficial for the countries involved in the cooperation process. Malaysia takes note of the vision of AFoCo.
23 August	Viet Nam	Vietnam expressed its full support and commitment for AFoCo and is looking forward to engaging actively in the future activities. Vietnam further suggested ways to improve regional projects and expand our organization.

3.2 MOU with International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

The Memorandum of Understanding between the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation Secretariat and International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) was signed by the Executive Director of Secretariat and the Executive Director of ITTO on 27 June 2013 at the Secretariat in Seoul, Korea.

Through this MOU both organizations will strengthen their cooperation in developing joint projects to promote rehabilitation of degraded forest, promote sustainable forest management, preserve biodiversity and adapt to climate change around the tropical forests of Southeast Asia.



3.3 MOU with the Export-Import Bank of Korea

The Executive Director of the Secretariat and the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank of Korea signed the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation Secretariat and the Export-Import Bank on 23rd July 2013.

Through this MOU AFoCo will strengthen the cooperation activities to support capacity building in addressing climate change as stipulated in the objectives of AFoCo Agreement.

3.4 Workshop with Seoul National University

AFoCo co-organized a workshop with Seoul National University titled “Challenges and Opportunities of Forest Carbon in Korea” on 9 July 2013, in Seoul, to explore options on how to tap international carbon market, to develop land-forest carbon based environmental services and to strengthen the role of private sector involvement.

III Review of Cooperation Projects under the Agreement

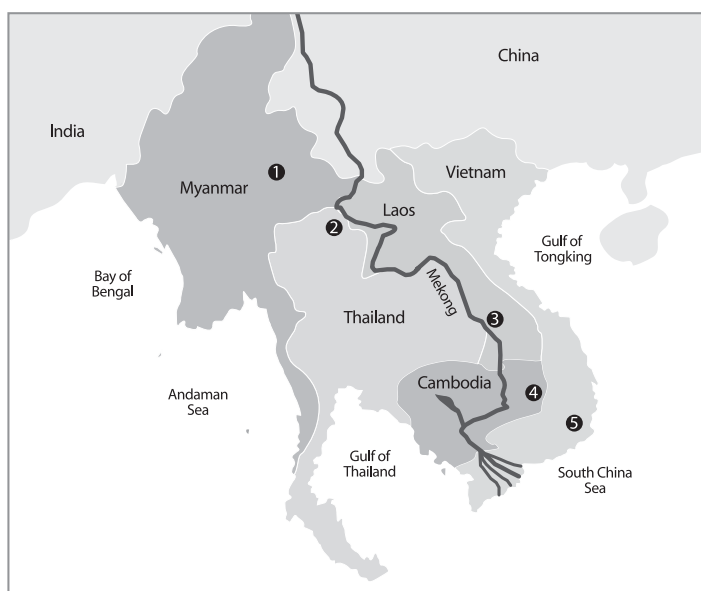


Regional projects are developed on the regional or sub-regional level with several participating countries. These projects are expected to foster close cooperation among participating members and provide a model for future regional forest cooperation. On the other hand, individual projects are designed to support the implementation of national forestry priorities.



1. Regional projects 2013-2014

The Regional program, which comprises 3 projects under 2 main components, was introduced at the 1st Session of Governing Council and the projects were approved by the 2nd Session in January 2013. ROK is committed to support a total of USD 3 million for the implementation of these regional projects.



- ❶ Myanmar: Pindaya (protected watershed)
- ❷ Thailand: Mae Kok (restored forest)
- ❸ Lao PDR: Xebangnouane (community forest)
- ❹ Cambodia: Mondolkiri (protected forest)
- ❺ Vietnam: Bidoup Nui Ba (national park)

Project 1

Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DFE) in Mekong Basin Countries

ROK supported funding of USD 500,000 for the project. An Implementation Agreement between the Secretariat and Royal Forest Department of Thailand was signed on 14 May 2013 and an inception meeting for the project was organized on 28 June 2013.

Under this two-year regional project, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, collectively called as Mekong Basin Countries (MBC), will undertake activities related to biodiversity conservation, forest certification, watershed management, forest restoration and eco-tourism. The Project will start from selection and establishment of pilot project sites within the Mekong Basin. Land use change studies, survey and documentation of biodiversity will be undertaken in these sites. Potential sustainable forest management models and methods of promoting eco-tourism within the pilot sites will be formulated. Finally, the pilot sites shall be used for training, exchange of visits and technology transfer among the MBC, through national and regional workshops, inter-country visits, and publication.

Thailand started its activities since June 2013 while Cambodia and Lao PDR were able to start from the 3rd quarter of 2013 followed by Viet Nam in the 4th quarter of 2013. Myanmar will start the activities in the 2nd quarter of 2014. The four project sites, one each in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Thailand have been selected and mapping for their projects development. The necessary equipment were also provided for further project implementation. A regional workshop entitled “Lesson Learned from Thailand: Ecotourism Linked with Forest Restoration, Mae Yao sub-watershed, Mekong Basin” will be organized in Chiang Rai, Thailand in early 2014. The ecotourism linked with forest restoration model in term of Mae Yao Model (MY Model) has been proposed and will be later shared with the local tourist guides.

Project
2

Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DFE) in BIMPS Countries

ROK supported funding of USD 500,000 for the project. The project was approved by the 2nd Session of the Governing Council in January 2013 and Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore (BIMPS) are participating in this project.

Under this two-year regional project, at least five pilot sites will be selected by BIMPS countries and at least three models of rehabilitation will be established in Indonesia and Malaysia and Philippines. Throughout the project duration, the countries will formulate models and methods of promoting sustainable management and share their report through workshop conducted at both national

and regional levels. The pilot sites will also be used for training and technology transfer among the BIMPS countries, through national and regional workshops, inter-country visits, and publication.

Project
3

Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resources Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of Local Communities to address the Adverse Impact of Climate Change

ROK is committed to support a total budget of USD 2 million for this 2-year project. The project was approved by the 2nd Session of the Governing Council in January 2013. The Forestry Research and Development Agency of Indonesia is the lead coordinating agency of the project.

The project was launched on 18 November 2013 following the signing of implementation agreement by ROK, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam. Up to date, Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand and Brunei Darussalam have completed signing of the Agreement. Myanmar is expected to sign it in the near future after internal clearance while Singapore is still considering on the options of implementation.



The project activities cover country workshops and a regional workshop of Forest Resource Assessment; procurement of high resolution satellite imagery and its equipment; comparative study of remote sensing and GIS technology for Forest Resource Assessment to the ROK as reference; and syllabus and module development of remote sensing and GIS technology application for Forest

Resource Assessment. In addition, some regional activities have been identified, namely a regional training for trainer entitled “Application of Remote Sensing and GIS Technology to Support Forest Resource Assessment” in Lao PDR; a comparative study of REDD+ demonstration activities in Indonesia; study and training of local community alternative livelihood to address impact of climate change in each participating country; and a regional workshop of local community for alternative livelihood to address impact of climate change to be held in Thailand.

Indonesia will conduct a national workshop on Forest Resource Assessment in early 2014. Syllabus and module for Training for Trainer “Application of Remote Sensing and GIS Technology to Support Forest Resource Assessment” are being developed by Indonesia. Meanwhile, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines and Vietnam are organizing their respective national workshop of Forest Resource Assessment within the period from February to May 2014.

2. Individual Cooperation Projects 2012-2013

There are seven (7) individual cooperation projects for 2012-2013 being implemented with the support by ROK. Cambodia, Indonesia and Viet Nam signed the Implementation Agreements on 29 August 2012 at the occasion of Special ASEAN-ROK Ministerial Meeting. Later, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand signed the implementation agreements in December 2012.

CAMBODIA

Improving Capacity on Forest Restoration in Cambodia (Phase II)

The project was implemented from Dec 2012 to December 2013. A research study on reforestation of degraded forests by direct seeding was conducted in Siem Reap province as a comparative study between exotic and native species. Equipment and training support for existing plant tissue culture laboratory have been provided. 2 laboratory technicians were trained at Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI) in March 2013 and KFRI expert provided technical advice for the laboratory to be operational.

INDONESIA Developing of Wood Processing Workshop and Capacity Building for Forestry Vocational High School (SMK) at Kadipaten, West Java, Indonesia

The project started in Mar 2013 and will terminate in Feb 2014. The objectives of the project are to support the installation of wood-based biomass energy processing workshop and to enhance capacity of Forestry Vocational High School (SMK) at Kadipaten, West Java.

As of end December 2013, the project conducted equipment survey at Korean wood-based biomass energy industry in Wonosobo, Central Java. With domestic funding of USD 129,000 equivalent, the building renovation and installation of utilities at the workshop were completed in August 2013. The project supported purchase of equipment and installation at the workshop in September 2013.

LAO PDR Enhancing capacity for Village Forestry in Lao PDR

The project activities started in Mar 2013 and will be operational for one year. 3 Forestry and 2 Agriculture staff were assigned to assist in project implementation. Village forest land boundary demarcation and mapping has been completed followed by compilation of village forest management plan in June 2013. In the same month, a village nursery was established and planting has been started. Growth monitoring posts for village bamboo forest were also established.

MYANMAR Mitigation of Climate Change Impacts through Restoration of Degraded Forests and REDD+ Activities in Bago Yoma Region, Myanmar (Phase II)

The project is planned to implement from March 2013 to March 2014. As this is continuation of the existing project titled "Mitigation of Climate Change Impacts through Restoration of Degraded Forests and REDD+ Activities in Bago Yoma Region, Myanmar", this project followed up and further strengthened activities implemented by previous project last year.

Based on the experiences of the project activities from the last year, the main objectives are to improve the institutional and technical capacity for national

coordination to manage REDD+ activities in Myanmar, to improve awareness raising about climate change and REDD+ for all relevant stakeholders, and to promote the livelihoods of local communities through participation of REDD+ activities. The awareness raising and capacity programme for other relevant ministries, NGOs and local communities at the project site is also covered.

Starting with maintenance activities of the last year's project, the project held technical seminar and consultation meeting with REDD+ Core Unit of Forest Department and NGOs. The project then translated documents related to REDD+ and held training session for field staff or trainers on REDD+ and Climate Change. Technical guides such as manual for REDD+ and Climate Change, guidelines for measuring carbon storage and a book entitled "Forest and Environmental Conservation" were published. Relevant technical training courses for the staff and livelihood improvement training for local communities were also organized during 2013.

PHILIPPINES Climate-Proofing of the Philippine Revised Master Plan for Forestry Development

The project is scheduled to implement from March 2013 to March 2014. The main objective of the project is at assessing, updating and revising the Philippines' Master Plan for Forestry Development, which was developed in 2003, in order for it to be responsive to climate change.

Consultation and coordination meetings were held to inform forestry stakeholders on the need to review, assess, update and climate proof the current Master Plan, not only at the national but also at the international level. The Forest Management Bureau, in collaboration with stakeholders, reviewed and assessed the relevance of the major programs, strategies, and strategic targets under the current master plan according to present situation. Thereafter, a number of workshops were held with the stakeholders on the relevance of the different programs and strategies for the development of forests and forestlands. Altogether 16 Workshops, 12 small groups, 3 major island groups, and 1 national level were organized.

The outcomes from consultation and coordination meetings and workshops were translated and incorporated into a document entitled "Climate-Proofed Master

Plan for Forestry Development” covering a period of twenty-five years (2014-2038). The revised Master Plan is packaged, reproduced and disseminated to stakeholders in the late 2013.

THAILAND

REDD in Nam Reab Watershed at Nam Province of Thailand: A Community Forestry Initiative for REDD+ Concept Based on Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Forest Management

The project is planned to be implemented from May 2013 to April 2014. The project sought to build the capacity of the four local communities where is located within Nam Leab Watershed, who possess agricultural activities and gathers non-timber forest products from the watershed area. Meanwhile, the project will design and implement climate adaptation activities in order to reduce deforestation and degradation under REDD+ concept. The project will also address on how local communities and administration organizations can work together in REDD+ initiatives.

Community network and regular meetings were held for 4 villages in Nam Province in July 2013. Watershed restoration activities such as building check dam and planting trees were started in August 2013. In the meantime, periodic carbon stock measurement and monitoring mechanism were developed.

VIET NAM

Developing Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in the Northwest of Vietnam as the Mechanism for Sustainable Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement for Local Communities (Phase II)

The project was implemented from February to November 2013. As this project is the continuation of the existing project entitled “Developing Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) in the northwest of Viet Nam as the mechanism for sustainable forest management and livelihood improvement for local communities”, the activities were designed to build on the successes to date and to continue the transfer of knowledge and skills to the local people

With the participation of local people, tending models and planting models were established in 4 provinces on an 8 ha area for each site. 4 workshops on policy and marketing, 8 technical trainings for local communities and 4 field study tours were organized in 4 provinces. Advertisement campaigns were also made to raise local public awareness on developing and marketing of NTFPs.

3. AFoCo LANDMARK PROGRAM

“Restoring Degraded Forest in Southeast Asia as a Model for a Greener Asia: Capacity Building on Forest Restoration and Sustainable Forestry”

The AFoCo landmark Program is a regional project under the framework of the “Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea on Forest Cooperation,” with holistic approach for long-term activities and goals to tackle the unequal distribution of resources, technology, and funding amongst ASEAN Member States.

The program will cover restoration of degraded forest, wide range of regional training, academic activities, and public awareness in the field of restoration and sustainable forestry. It aims to contribute to socio-economic development of local communities in accordance with the strategic framework of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) to narrow the developmental gaps among ASEAN Member States.

Program Overview

- **Title:** “Restoring Degraded Forest in Southeast Asia as a Model for a Greener Asia: Capacity Building on Forest Restoration and Sustainable Forestry”
- **Implementation Period:** 2014-2023 (10 years)
 - * 1st Phase: 2014-2018 (5 years)
 - * 2nd Phase: 2019-2023 (5 years)
- **Total Budget:** US\$ 15,000,000 for 10 years
- **Implementation Region:** ASEAN Member States and ROK
- **Main Projects**
 - Project 1 Establishment of Regional Education and Training Center
 - Project 2 Development of Education and Training Programs for Capacity Building
 - Project 3 Restoration of Degraded Forest Regions
 - Project 4 Development of Advocating Activities

Current Progress and Future Plans

The Republic of Korea proposed the AFoCo Landmark program at the 2nd Session of the Governing Council held in January 2013 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The Governing Council considered and welcomed the proposal, and tasked the Secretariat to further improve and develop the project document.

A consultant team was formed and started developing the project document in March 2013, taking into consideration the inputs and comments from all Parties. The Technical Meeting for the Development of Landmark Program was organized on 26-27 September 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand for further review and finalization of the project details among the Parties.

The 3rd Session of the Governing Council held on 18 October 2013 in Singapore endorsed the AFoCo Landmark Program to be implemented for 10 years with a total budget of USD 15 million.

Education and Training Center will be established in Hmawbi, Myanmar and forest rehabilitation projects will be implemented in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam. The capacity building and degree programs as well as advocating activities will involve all Parties.

The official Launching Ceremony will be held in early 2014 and necessary MOUs will be signed between respective agencies for each project components. Specific work plan for respective projects will be finalized in 2014.

IV Extension of the Agreement



The AFoCo Agreement had initially a two-year term projected to terminate on 4 August 2014. The Governing Council shared common views on the importance of the extension and further discussed on the procedure among technical bodies in ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat to extend the Agreement for 2 more years.



Following the signing of the AFoCo Agreement on 18 November 2011 in Bali, it entered into force on 5 August 2012. By March 2013, all 11 Parties to the Agreement completed respective domestic procedure and participated fully in the activities under the Agreement.

In order to support the implementation of on-going regional projects which are expected to continue beyond the current term of the Agreement as well as to support on-going dialogue for the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), the 3rd Session of the Governing Council approved the proposal by the Republic of Korea to extend the Agreement for 2 more years.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea extended an official proposal dated 31 December 2013 for extension to the Secretary General of ASEAN together with draft amendment through the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN in Jakarta.

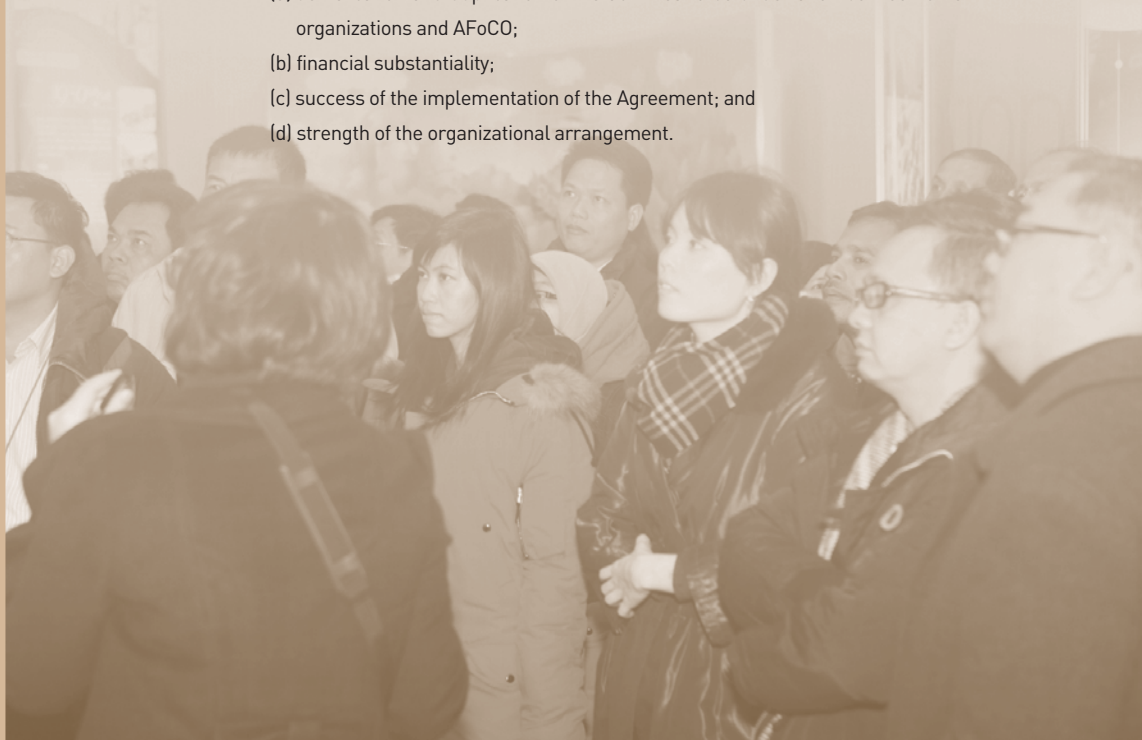
The ASEAN Secretariat will consolidate common views among the ASEAN Member States on the format and formality procedures regarding the extension.

V Assessment for the Implementation of the Agreement



In order to continue promoting and expanding cooperative activities towards the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCo), the AFoCo Agreement stipulates that the Parties shall carry out a mutually agreed assessment of the Agreement, particularly on the issues of:

- (a) demarcation and duplication of the activities to be undertaken between other organizations and AFoCo;
- (b) financial substantiality;
- (c) success of the implementation of the Agreement; and
- (d) strength of the organizational arrangement.



Soon after entry into force of the Agreement on 5 August 2012, the institutional bodies, namely, the Governing Council and the Secretariat were established and implementation of activities has been underway in accordance with the objectives and areas of cooperation stipulated under the Agreement. The Agreement also stipulates the Governing Council to develop specific procedure and terms of reference, and to carry out a mutually agreed assessment of the Agreement in order to continue to promote and expand cooperative activities towards the establishment of AFoCO. The assessment process is initially scheduled within the last three months before the termination of the Agreement.

In this regard, a Technical Meeting for Assessment for the Implementation of the Agreement was convened on 26 March 2013 in Manila, Philippines to review and finalize the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Taskforce for Assessment for the Implementation of the Agreement (TF-Assessment). The Governing Council endorsed the documents on 29 May 2013. On 6 November 2013, the Secretariat requested each Members of the Governing Council to nominate Members of TF-Assessment by 29 November 2013.

The 3rd Session of the Governing Council recommended organizing the first meeting of the TF-Assessment in conjunction with the following session of the Governing Council. The methodology and timeline of the assessment activities will be decided by the TF-Assessment.

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VI Dialogue for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization



One of the key objectives of the Agreement is to provide a dialogue platform for the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO). In addition to 11 members of AFoCo Agreement, the Governing Council commended to invite Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Timor-Leste into the dialogue, making it a round of negotiation among 15 dialogue members for the establishment of AFoCO.



The AFoCo Agreement stipulates that a dialogue for the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) shall commence soon after entry into force of the Agreement in anticipation of finalizing a separate arrangement for AFoCO within two years from the entry into force of the Agreement. In accordance with these provisions of the Agreement, a work plan for the establishment of AFoCO and formation of a Working Group for the establishment of AFoCO has been considered by the 1st Session of the Governing Council and later approved at its 2nd session.

The First and Second Meetings of the Working Group for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (WG-AFoCO) was held in March and July 2013 in Manila, Philippines and Pakse, Lao PDR respectively. Through the two meetings, a consensus was reached on the needs to form a new dialogue process independent from ASEAN-ROK framework to accommodate a multilateral dialogue protocol.

Following the recommendation of the WG-AFoCO and the endorsement of the 3rd Session of the Governing Council to form a new dialogue platform under a multilateral protocol to properly accommodate the all prospective members to AFoCO, ROK invited all prospective member countries into a new dialogue for the establishment of AFoCO using a diplomatic channel. The prospective members to AFoCO are Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam, and the Republic of Korea.

The 1st Meeting of Dialogue for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (Dialogue-AFoCO) was organized on 11-12 December 2013 in Busan, Republic of Korea. The Meeting was attended by representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam and Republic of Korea.



The meeting reviewed and finalized Rules of Procedure and Terms of Reference of Dialogue-AFoCO. The Secretariat presented the draft Agreement of AFoCO and the respective countries agreed to provide official inputs to the draft after domestic consultation for further discussion at the next meeting. The meeting also discussed future action and recommended procedures towards the establishment of AFoCO targeting finalization and signing of the Agreement in late 2014.



VII Issues and Challenges



The activities under the Agreement were implemented upon approval and guidance by the Governing Council. The Governing Council, during its 2nd and 3rd sessions, approved key activities, namely dialogue for the establishment of AFoCo, 3 regional cooperation projects, AFoCo Landmark Program and extension of current Agreement. In the implementation of these activities, some issues and challenges were encountered and they are presented briefly under each main activity below.



1. Extension of AFoCo Agreement and Formality Procedure

Following the approval by the 3rd Session of the Governing Council to extend the AFoCo Agreement for 2 more years until 5 August 2016, ROK has sent an official proposal to ASEAN countries through ASEAN Secretariat in order to formalize the extension. In accordance with Article XVI of the AFoCo Agreement which clearly stipulate the notification procedure, ROK has formally sent the proposal through diplomatic channel to the ASEAN Secretariat with an expectation that the ASEAN Secretariat will notify all ASEAN Member States on the same date of receiving notification from the ROK. It was further expected that upon completion of notification of formal acceptance by all ASEAN Member States to the ROK via the ASEAN Secretariat, the extension of AFoCo Agreement will come into effect.

2. AFoCO Regional Project

2.1 Project “Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DFE) in Mekong Basin Countries”

This project is the first regional project to be able to launch under the Agreement. Due to active cooperation and support of Thailand, a project management office was set up in Bangkok and the project was able to launch with its inception meeting on 28 June 2013. Among the 5 Mekong Basin Countries, however, Myanmar was unable to participate in the project at early stages due to its legal requirement to enter an agreement with the lead country, Thailand. Myanmar and Thailand is expected to conclude their legal document in early 2014 and Myanmar will have less than one and a half years to complete the activities prior to project termination date (14 May 2015).

2.2 Project “Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DFE) in BIMPS Countries”

This project was approved in January 2013 by the Governing Council, however, the Implementation Agreement is unable to finalize due to complex internal procedure and legal concern among some countries. Unlike the previous Mekong project, this project document is required to be signed by 5 ASEAN participating countries with ROK and it is required to be cleared by relevant agencies in each country. The project is still pending subject to internal clearance by all participating countries.

2.3 Project “Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resources Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of Local Communities to address the Adverse Impact of Climate Change”

Indonesia is taking the lead for this project and the project was able to launch on 18 November 2013. Due to internal financial regulation in Indonesia, the fund transfer to each participating country has to be done from the Secretariat upon recommendation by the Project Manager who is based in Indonesia. At the date of launch, only 4 out of 10 participating countries were able to sign the Implementation Agreement.

3. Dialogue for the establishment of AFoCO

The 2nd Session of the Governing Council, held on 25 January 2013, approved a Working Group for the establishment of AFoCO and accordingly, the Working Group had 2 meetings in March and July 2013. Under the framework of current Agreement, the 11-member Working Group was unable to continue due to its limited capacity for other countries to be involved and ceased its activities in July 2013.

Upon endorsement by the Governing Council, a new dialogue was initiated by the ROK and is being conducted independently with the facilitation of

Secretariat. Under its own terms and procedures, the members of dialogue had held the first meeting in December 2013. A draft legal instrument for the establishment of AFoCO is being considered by 15-member dialogue at the moment.

VIII Publication



The Secretariat has been making efforts to disseminate relevant information through publicity activities, newsletters, publications and other publicity materials.



1. Newsletter

The quarterly publication provides news and updates on the progress of cooperation activities under the AFoCo Agreement. It also provides forest information and current forest issues of the Parties. The newsletter is to increase awareness on the initiative and to exchange relevant information among the parties.

The newsletter is composed of four main sections: the headline, the AFoCo activities and feature article, and news from the parties. The headline post recent news on AFoCo meetings and activities, providing up-to-date information and progress of the implementation of the Agreement on ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation. The AFoCo activities mainly focus on the progress of regional projects, individual cooperation projects and other activities under AFoCo. The feature article is a special articles section. The news from the parties will present short articles on related domestic news from the parties.

Three issues of the newsletters were published in 2013. The first issue was published in April 2013, and the following issues were published in August and November.



2. AFoCo Project Reports Volume 1

Individual Forest Cooperation Projects 2011-2012

The Secretariat published a compilation of project reports of AFoCo Individual Cooperation Projects 2011-2012. This publication with 482 pages includes extensive report of 9 Individual Forest Cooperation

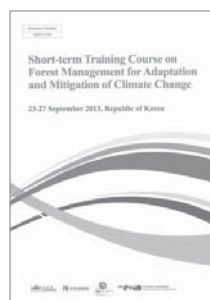


Projects implemented from 2011 to 2012 with photos and recommendation from the review team.

3. Short-term Training Course on Forest Management for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change

The report of the Short-term Training Course on Forest Management for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change held on 23-27 September 2013 in the Republic of Korea was published in 2013.

The report is comprised of the summary and evaluation of the training course and compilation of the lectures.



4. Other Publicity Materials

The Secretariat published materials for publicizing our current event and news concerning AFoCo and its programs.

4.1 Video

The Secretariat produced a video clip for the 1st anniversary of AFoCo Agreement. Video clip shows current status, progress, outcomes, and vision of the Secretariat.

The Secretariat has produced visual advertisement of AFoCo Landmark Program expecting its launching in early 2014.

4.2 Booklet and brochures

The Secretariat published series booklet and brochures introducing the overview of the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation and its activities. The booklet published in English with 18 pages.





Appendix



Appendix 1

Past Achievements

1. First Session of the Governing Council, 28 August 2012, Seoul, Republic of Korea

The 1st Session of the Governing Council was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 28 August 2012. The Session was attended by the Members of the Governing Council from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and the Republic of Korea. Representatives from Indonesia and Lao PDR as Signatories of the Agreement as well as the ASEAN Secretariat as a permanent observer were also present. It was the inaugural session of the Governing Council following the entry into force of the Agreement on 5 August 2012, and Dr. Lee Don Koo, the Minister of the Korea Forest Service at that time, delivered congratulatory remarks at the opening session.

As it was the first session, the Meeting adopted the draft Rules of Procedures for the Governing Council and the Secretariat. The Governing Council agreed on the establishment of the Secretariat office in Seoul and took note with great appreciation it will be operational with the voluntary contribution from ROK for the transitional period, and also tasked the Secretariat to develop staff, financial, and intellectual property guidelines for its operation.



The meeting also approved the recruitment procedure for the Executive Director of the Secretariat. The Governing Council approved ROK's nomination of Dr. Park Chong-ho as the Acting Executive Director for the transitional period who will continue to serve the Secretariat as a seconded official after Executive Director officially assumes his or her office.

The 2-year regional projects* were approved with a support office which will be stationed at each lead coordinating countries and some proposals for individual projects were submitted. The Meeting further considered and approved forming a Working Group for the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (WG-AFoCO) as well as the working plan and dialogue process for the establishment of AFoCO, which will be considered and finalized as a separate arrangement.

* Regional projects

- ① Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems through Pilot Testing, Exchange of Expertise and Capacity Development(RRR-DFE) for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam (Mekong Region) (2-year activity with budget of USD 0.5million)
- ② RRR-DFE for Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore (BIMPS) (2-year activity with budget of USD 0.5million)
- ③ Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resources Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of the Local Communities to Address the Adverse Impact of Climate Change (2-year activity with budget of USD 2 million)

2. Individual Cooperation Projects 2011

In early 2010 during the process of negotiation for the Agreement, ROK proposed to support the individual cooperation projects to be implemented in each ASEAN Member State. The projects were designed to support the implementation of national forestry priorities and strengthen the forestry cooperation between ASEAN and ROK in anticipation of the establishment of AFoCO. In order to develop the project proposals, an International Workshop on Forest Cooperation was organized on 8-10 December 2010 in Korea and

identified the four potential cooperation activities for individual cooperation projects as follows:

- i. Mitigation of climate change effects through rehabilitation/restoration of degraded forest and ecosystem, environmental service, community forestry and REDD+ activities;
- ii. Conservation of biodiversity and eco-tourism;
- iii. Non-timber forest products development and renewable biomass energy; and
- iv. Human capacity development (scholarship and training programmes).

A total fund of USD 100,000 was allocated for each project and All ASEAN Member States except Singapore submitted their project proposals. The projects were implemented over the period of one year during 2011 and 2012.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

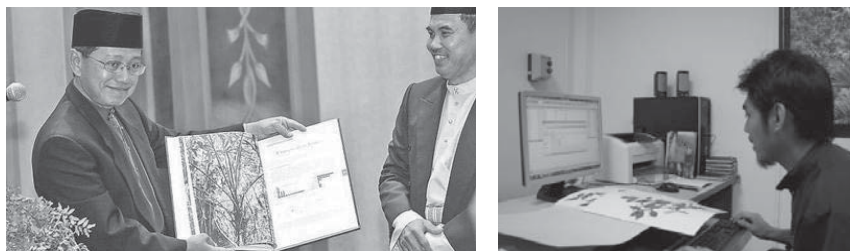
◆ Title : Brunei Plant Biodiversity: Endemics and Database

◆ Implementation Agreement was signed on 7 October 2011 and project was implemented by the Forestry Department of Brunei Darussalam from January 2012 to March 2013 with a total budget of USD 80,000.

◆ Activities implemented:

The project had 3 components: (1) the documentation of the flowering plants endemic to Brunei, (2) the development of a Brunei plant database and (3) Training of selected governmental and university staff in the database system. Sixty five flowering plants endemic to Brunei have so far been documented in detail in individual reports amounting to more than 800 pages. The endemics and their associated conservation issues have been summarized in the book entitled “The Flowering Plants Endemic to Brunei Darussalam 2012” which was published in April 2013. The information on the 30,000 plant vouchers of the Brunei National Herbarium (BRUN) have been entered in database developed using the software BRAHMS (Botanical Research and Herbarium Management System). A one-week training in the BRAHMS database system was organized in October at the Brunei Herbarium, with trainers from the National Herbarium of the Netherlands. 11 local participants from the Brunei Herbarium, the

Ministry of Agriculture and from the University of Brunei Darussalam participated the training course.



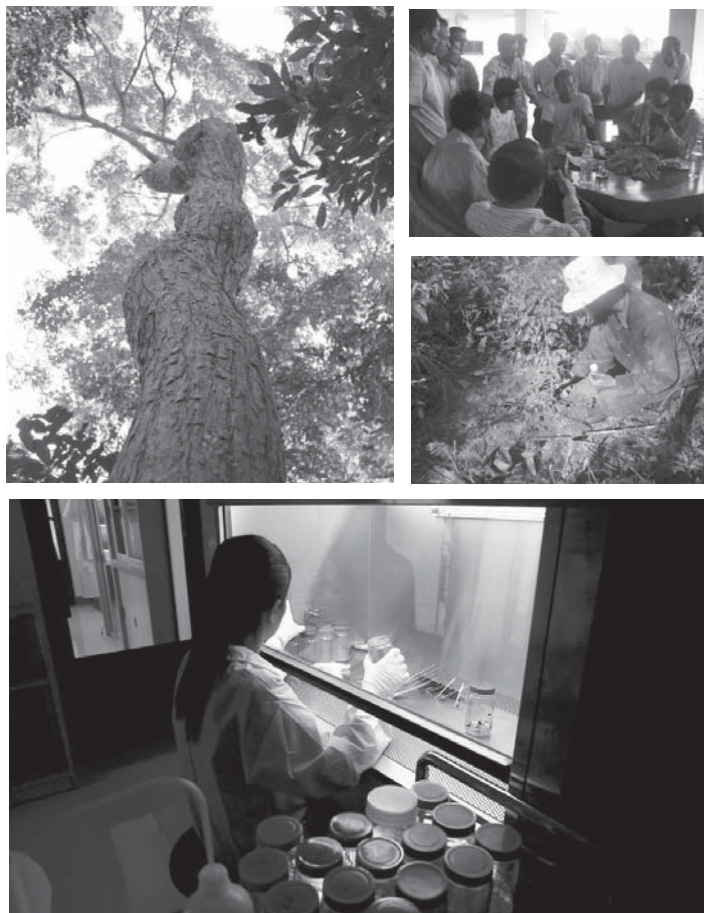
CAMBODIA

◆ Title : Improving Capacity on Forest Restoration in Cambodia

◆ Implementation Agreement was signed on 31 May 2011 and project was implemented by the Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development of Cambodia from June 2011 to June 2012 with a total budget of USD 100,000.

◆ Activities implemented:

Overall, the project has significantly contributed to the restoration of biodiversity in community forestry and improvement of local livelihoods through increasing forest products. Through the project intervention, the forest in Leap Kuy has been diversified with high-value timber species, particularly those that had been extinct locally, such as *Dipterocarpus alatus* and *Hopea odorata*. The project had produced a booklet with the result of the trial on response of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* to fertilizers in Siem Reap province, for distribution to the beneficiaries and other interested stakeholders such as NGOs and local Universities. Experience from the forest restoration activities in Leap Kuy community forestry was also presented and shared at two training courses organized by the Centre for People and Forests (RECOFTC) in December 2011 and May 2012, respectively. In addition, plant tissue culture technology was introduced in order to establish a tissue culture laboratory at the Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development.



INDONESIA

- ◆ **Title :** Database Management and Development for Forestry Research and Development Results and Capacity Building on Biomass Energy in FORDA-Indonesia
- ◆ Implementation Agreement was signed on 20 July 2011 and project was implemented by Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA) of Indonesia from July 2011 to July 2012 with a total budget of USD 100,000.

◆ Activities implemented:

The key activities implemented by the project in accordance with the plan of FORDA for the development of database for forestry R&D were briefly described as follows:

- For the development of database management in FORDA, 2 workshops were organized in Makassar and Palembang for identification of spatial data and entry database. Altogether 86 participants from R&D centers under FORDA attended the workshops.
- Collection of land / forest cover data and spatial information were conducted in coordination with relevant agencies.
- For capacity building on spatial database management, a training on spatial analysis and GIS for operator and junior analyst was organized for 6 specialists in September - October 2011. It was followed by 4 training workshops for operation of ArcGIS software and related hardware for both operator level and junior analyst level.
- As part of GIS center development, hardware equipment and software (ArcInfo and ArcGIS) were installed at FORDA Secretariat and 4 sub-centers.
- For Bio-energy training, 2 FORDA researchers participated at 8-day training course organized in April 2012 at the Korea Forest Research Institute in Seoul, ROK.



LAO PDR

◆ Title : Capacity building to support Village and Village Cluster Forestry

◆ Implementation Agreement was signed on 27 April 2011 and project was implemented by Forestry Department of Lao PDR from October 2011 to December 2012 with a total budget of USD 100,000.

◆ Activities implemented:

- Reviewing and compiling experiences from community-based forestry programme and projects was done by a local consultant compiling concepts applied by different organizations abroad namely FAO and RECOFTC as well as the different concepts and methodologies of village forestry and community based forest management that were developed through different programmes, projects and institutions in the country.
- Developing a base model for village and village cluster forestry was implemented in 2 steps, first making a basic model based on university practical site in August 2012 followed by developing a draft of guidelines in October 2012
- Testing, refining and finalizing the base model at the model village, Ban Vang
- Formation and development of a core group of master trainers was done through a training of master trainers in November - December 2012, in which 27 participants from 8 local agencies attended one-month training course.
- Support to a student to complete his PhD course in ROK.
- Support to Souphanouvong University for research activities under AKECOP project, namely (1) method for enriching degraded forest, (2) assessment of biomass contents and carbon stocks of dry dipterocarp forest, mixed deciduous forest, fallow and teak plantation, and (3) agroforestry as alternative to shifting cultivation.





MALAYSIA

◆ Title :

- (i) Plant Biodiversity Enrichment Program of a Greened Man-made Ecosystem in Peninsular Malaysia
- (ii) Human Capacity Development in key important areas to further enhance the implementation of sustainable management in Forest Department of Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM)

◆ Implementation Agreement was signed on 31 May 2011 and project was implemented by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Malaysia from June 2011 to November 2012 with a total budget of USD 100,000.

◆ Activities implemented: There were 2 sub-project implemented by two different agencies, the one by Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and the other by FDPM. They are briefly described as follows:

- Plant Biodiversity Enrichment Program implemented by FRIM was implemented from July 2011 to July 2012 and an area of 3.0 ha enriched with



tropical rainforest species was successfully established at Tin Tailings Afforestation Centre (TTAC), Bidor. The enrichment site needs tending for another four years and the site will serve as a demonstration plot for training and collaborative research activities of any interested parties.

- FDPM officers made technical visits to Bukhan-san National Park, Korea National Authority Headquarter, Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Yumyeong-san Recreation Forest, Korea Forest Seed and Variety Center, Historical Sites in Andong City, Uljin National Forest Station, Pine Trail at Sogwang-ri Forest, Korea Green Promotion Agency (KGPA) and Korea Forest Service (KFS) Headquarter. The visits had successfully shared common platform on forest management and conservation towards sustainable forest management. Overall, the undertaking of this study tour had enhanced knowledge and experiences of FDPM officers and this technical exposure also benefiting them. Another component of this project is the formulation of Human Resource Development Policy, Training/Course Curriculum and Matrix Training Structure for forestry personnel of all level and rank. All the documents are bilingually documented i.e. in national language and English.



MYANMAR

- ◆ Title : Mitigation of Climate Change Impacts through Restoration of Degraded Forests and REDD-Plus Activities in Bago Yoma Region, Myanmar

◆ Implementation Agreement was signed in November 2011 and project was implemented by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry of Myanmar from December 2011 to December 2012 with a total budget of USD 100,000.

◆ Activities implemented:

The project is located at a degraded forest area in central region of Myanmar, which became a pilot study site for field-testing of REDD activities in Myanmar. The implemented activities are: (1) conservation of degraded ecosystem and restoration of degraded forests through various techniques; (2) developing operational guidelines and field manuals; (3) measurement of baseline carbon stock and reference emission level for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) methodology development; (4) forest resource inventory survey on stand structure and species composition; (5) establishment of permanent sample plots as demonstration site for REDD+; and (6) human capacity building activities for staff from public and private sectors through organizing local trainings and workshops. This one-year project supported: (1) the establishment of a demonstration site on about 25 hectare area on conservation, mixed species plantation, agro-forestry, arboretum, and community woodlot; (2) quantitative information and reports on baseline carbon stock and reference scenarios at the project site; and (3) delivery of a training course and technical consultation / workshop for local forestry staff.



PHILIPPINES

◆ **Title : Addressing Climate Change through Community-Based Fuelwood Plantation Development and Management**

◆ Implementation Agreement was signed on 7 July 2011 and project was implemented by the Forest Management Bureau of Philippines from October 2011 to December 2012 with a total budget of USD 100,000.

◆ **Activities implemented:**

- A fuelwood plantation of twenty (20) hectares with mixed indigenous species was established at Barangay Santo Tomas, Tagkawayan, Quezon Province;
- A fuelwood plantation management mechanism was established demonstrating the advantages and benefits of utilizing alternative source of energy in lieu of using fossil fuels or crude oil;
- A 3-day training course entitled “Capacity Building on Community-Based Fuelwood Plantation to Mitigate Climate Change” was organized by the University of the Philippines at Los Banos (UPLB) to enhance technical capacities of local community on forests development and management;
- A simple monitoring system for carbon sequestration accounting and inventory was developed and introduced to local community;
- A study was conducted to determine the socio-economic importance of fuelwood and charcoal as a forest-based market product to the local community; and
- The economic capacity of the recipient community was improved through increased income from the establishment of the fuelwood plantation.



THAILAND

◆ **Title : Strengthening Collaboration of Forestry Research and Sustainable Forest Management with Local People Participation**

- i. Youth Training Camps on Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Environment
Prachuapkhirikhan Province
- ii. Capacity Building of Local Community in Planning and Management of
Community forest, at Srinaparn, Ruang Sub-district, Muang District, Nan
Province
- iii. Workshop and Other Resources to Facilitate Participatory Research and
Extension in Forest Restoration

◆ Implementation Agreement was signed on 7 July 2011 and project was implemented by the Royal Forest Department of Thailand from October 2011 to November 2012 with a total budget of USD 100,000.

◆ Activities implemented:



- Series of Youth Training Camps were organized in January-February 2012 for the students in Prachuapkhirikhan Province, Thailand to learn the role and importance of biodiversity, ecosystem and environment. Five one-day training camps were organized and four three-day camps were organized under this program.
- For the capacity building of local community at Ban Srinaparn, Nan Province, a need assessment Workshop was organized in January 2012 followed by a stakeholder analysis Workshop in February. A third Workshop was organized

in March to develop a participatory Forest Management Plan. In June 2012, a community forestry networking workshop was organized involving all stakeholders related to Ban Srinaparn community forest.

- This activity was managed by the Kasetsart University Faculty of Forestry. A broad range of consultation with 20 experts was taken place in the first two workshops to develop the topics and content for the training and support material. A third workshop was organized with academics, policy makers and practitioners to make policy recommendations for the Royal Forest Department. Another important result from the project was the opportunity that the three workshops provided for extended interaction and exchange of knowledge between researchers and senior officials in the agencies of the varying stakeholders in the development of policy, on-ground outcomes and research procedures, which will facilitate more effective interaction on future research proposals and projects.



VIET NAM

◆ **Title : Developing Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) in the Northwest of Vietnam as the Mechanism for Sustainable Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement for Local Communities**

◆ Implementation Agreement was signed on 31 May 2011 and project was implemented by the Vietnam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST) and relevant agencies from July 2011 to September 2012 with a total budget of USD 100,000.

◆ Activities implemented:

The purposes of the project are to assess the status and uses of main Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in the Northwest region of Viet Nam and to develop

appropriate techniques and methodologies for their development, processing and trade in the region. Activities of the project included organizing inception meeting, conduct of pre-survey, survey, meetings and workshops, collection and analysis of suitable data and information regarding NTFPs status and cultivation in the region. Based on these data and information, 4 technical guidelines to plant, tend, harvest, process and preserve 4 NTFPs of Luong (*Dendrocalamus membranaceus*), Sa Nhan tims (*Amomum longiligulare*), Tao meo (*Docynia doumeri*), and Thao qua (*Amomum aromaticum*) were developed. Furthermore, 4 strategies to conserve and develop NTFPs in 4 provinces were created, contributing to the sustainable use and management of forest.

As part of dissemination of the project outcomes, 4 training courses to transfer technical guidelines to plant, tend, harvest, process and preserve 4 NTFPs species were held in 4 provinces. All participants successfully completed the training courses and recommended to consider extending the training, workshop and activities of the project to other relevant areas in the country.



Appendix 2

Members of the Governing Council

Members of the Governing Council are represented by a senior official on forestry from each member country. Functions of the Governing Council include adopting relevant Rules of Procedures, approval of program and budget for activities, and promoting and strengthening cooperation with other relevant organizations to ensure synergies and avoid duplication of efforts.

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Appendix 3

2014 Plan of Activities

MONTH	TITLE	VENUE
January	Workshop for Development of AFoCo Long-term Cooperation Strategy	ROK
February	Launching Ceremony of the Landmark Program	Myanmar
March	Meeting of Task Force for Assessment of the Implementation of the Agreement/ 4th Session of the Governing Council and its Technical Meeting	Philippines
	1 st AFoCo International Thematic Workshop: Payment for Ecosystem Service	Vietnam
	2 nd Meeting of Dialogue for the establishment of AFoCO	Myanmar
April	Workshop on Human Resource and Research Development through AFoCo/AFoCo International Thematic Workshop: Forest Resource Assessment	Indonesia
May	2 nd AFoCo International Thematic Workshop: Ecotourism Development/ International Knowledge Sharing Workshop for AFoCo	tbd
June	3 rd Meeting of Dialogue for the establishment of AFoCO	Cambodia
July	High level Workshop on SaemaeulUndong Spirit for Reforestation in Southeast Asia	ROK
August	3 rd AFoCo International Thematic Workshop: Forest Disaster Management and Photograph Exhibition on Forest Disaster Management in Southeast Asia	ROK
September	4 th Meeting of Dialogue for the establishment of AFoCO	tbd
October	4 th AFoCo International Thematic Workshop: Forest Carbon Management	tbd
November	High Level Meeting on Seed Source and Nursery Management	tbd
December	5 th Session of the Governing Council and its Technical Meeting	tbd

Acronyms

AFoCo	Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
AFoCo	ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation
AKECOP	ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Project
AMS	ASEAN Member States
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nation
ASOF	ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry
BIMPS	Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore
CLMV	Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam
DMZ	Demilitarized Zone
FDPM	Forest Department Peninsular Malaysia
FMB	Forest Management Bureau
FMB	Forest Management Bureau
FPIC	Free Prior Informed Consent
GC	Governing Council
IA	Implementation Agreement
IAI	Initiative for ASEAN Integration
INFOCO	International Forest Cooperation
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRD	Institute for Research and Development
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
KFS	Korea Forest Service
KPGA	Korea Green Promotion Agency
MBC	Mekong Basin Countries
MOECAP	Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NDG	Narrow the Development Gap
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
PDR	People's Democratic Republic of
PRMPFD	Climate-Proofed Master Plan for Forestry Development
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
RFD	Royal Forest Department
ROK	Republic of Korea
ROP	Rules of Procedures
RRR-DFE	Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems
SMK	Forestry Vocational High School
TOR	Terms of Reference
TTAC	Tin Tailings Afforestation Centre
USD	United States Dollar
VNFOREST	Vietnam Administration of Forestry
WG-AFoCo	Working Group for the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization



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