

ANNUAL REPORT

2015



한-아세안 산림협력협정
ASEAN-Korea Forest Cooperation

ANNUAL REPORT

2015



한-아세안 산림협력협정
ASEAN-Korea Forest Cooperation

ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo)

The ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation is a regional cooperation mechanism in the forestry sector between the governments of ASEAN Member State (AMS) and the Republic of Korea (ROK). 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.



About ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (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 State 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. Five 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 & development in forest sector; and
- Enhancing forest carbon stocks and supporting initiatives.

The AFoCo has an institutional arrangement with two (2) organs, namely the “Governing Council,” and the “Secretariat.” The Governing Council is responsible for the timely implementation of the agreement and will act as a decision-making body. The Members of the Governing Council are responsible for the implementation, coordination, monitoring and reporting of activities under AFoCo. The Secretariat is headed by the Executive Director and is currently operating with two teams: Planning, Budget & HR and Management Team, and the International Cooperation Team.

Contents

About ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo)	03
Message from the Executive Director	06
2015 AFoCo Calendar of Activities	07
I. Governing Council	10
1. Sixth Session of the Governing Council	11
2. Seventh Session of the Governing Council	12
II. Secretariat	14
1. Related Meetings in 2015	15
2. Exhibitions and Promotional Activities	20
3. Cooperation with Relevant Agencies and Organizations	23
III. Cooperation Projects under the Agreement	30
1. AFoCo Landmark Program	31
1.1 Component 1: Establishment of Regional Education and Training Center	
1.2 Component 2: Development of Education and Training Programs for Capacity Building	
1.3 Component 3: Restoration of Degraded Forest Regions	
1.4 Component 4: Development of Advocacy Activities	
2. Regional Projects	42
2.1 Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resources Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of Local Communities to Address the Adverse Impact of Climate Change	
2.2 Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DFE) in Mekong Basin Countries	
2.3 Promotion of Forest Rehabilitation in Cambodia and Viet Nam Through Demonstration Models and Improvement of Seed Supply System	

2.4 Facilitating the Participatory Planning of Community-Based Forest Management Using Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing Technologies in Forest Resources Management in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand	
2.5 Developing High Valuable Species in Viet Nam and Thailand as a Mechanism for Sustainable Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement for Local Communities	
3. Forthcoming Regional Projects	57
3.1 Domestication of Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Plant Species in Disturbed Terrestrial Ecosystems in Malaysia and Thailand	
3.2 Capacity Building on the Application of Landscape Approach to Support the Sustainable Forest Management of the Natural Resources Management in the Participating ASEAN Member States	
4. Fellowship Program for Officials from ASEAN Member States	58
IV. Dialogue for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization	60
V. Assessment for the Implementation of the Agreement	64
VI. Issues and Challenges	68
VII. Publication	70
Appendix	73
Appendix 1: Members of the Governing Council	74
Appendix 2: 2016 Plan of Activities	76
Acronyms	77

Message from the Executive Director



The year 2015 has been the busiest in the history of ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation as the AFoCo Agreement reached the penultimate moments before entering its final year in 2016. As the head of AFoCo Secretariat, I have the privilege and honour to execute the activities that have been authorized to do so and I am proud to be part of this historic unfolding moments. I would like to dedicate the year 2015 as "AFoCo Pinnacle Year" and I believe the spirit of this cooperation will build further and lead towards a more dynamic level of regional cooperation in forestry.

At this opportunity, I would like to highlight briefly on the achievements of activities under the AFoCo Agreement. AFoCo Landmark Program is gaining full momentum this year with its projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam while capacity building activities such as technical training courses and scholarship awards have been offered for all ASEAN Member States. Meanwhile, the number of AFoCo regional projects has reached maximum with a total of seven (7) projects. One popular activity among the member countries was AFoCo Fellowship Program in which officials from ASEAN Member States were invited for one-year assignment at the AFoCo Secretariat. Officials from Cambodia, Lao PDR and the Philippines have joined the program for the first time and four (4) more officials have lined up for the second term next year. This year also marked as the conclusion of Dialogue for the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), which has given way to formal process of signing the Agreement and ratification. The Secretariat also has been organizing collaborative activities for deepening cooperation and extending the outreach of AFoCo into global arena with ASEAN-Korea Centre, the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC), AFoCo Forest Week in Seoul and collaborative activities at 6th International Wildland Fire Conference in Pyeongchang, ROK.

I believe this annual report will give a full picture of what have been done throughout 2015. One thing I would like to highlight here is that all the projects under AFoCo Agreement activities are designed to stand on their own and the activities would be carried out without interruption regardless of the presence of AFoCo Agreement. They represents the essence of our forestry cooperation and I would like to encourage all the stakeholders who are involved in these activities to carry forward in bringing about tangible impact in the context of sustainable forest management and the ultimate battle against climate change.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Governing Council of AFoCo Agreement and all the staff members of the Secretariat for their support extended for the implementation of AFoCo Agreement.

Hadi S. Pasaribu
Executive Director
March 2015

2015 AFoCo Calendar of Activities

DATE	TITLE	VENUE
21-22 January 2015	Technical Meetings for AFoCo Projects	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
23-26 February 2015	Study Tour on Community Participation in Protecting Forest Resources to Support REDD+ Programme in Southeast Asia Region	Bangkok & Chiang Rai, Thailand
16-20 March 2015	AFoCo Landmark Program Training Course on Forest Policy and Seamaul Undong	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
23 March – 2 April 2015	Participation at the 8 th Executive Forest Policy Course, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	Chiang Rai, Thailand
26-27 March 2015	2 nd Meeting of Task Force for the Assessment of the Implementation of AFoCo Agreement (TF-Assessment)	Manila, Philippines
2-3 April 2015	Final Meeting for RRR-DFE Mekong Project	Manila, Philippines
20-25 April 2015	AFoCo Landmark Program Training Course on Using GIS for Advanced Forest Management	Jakarta, Indonesia
21-22 April 2015	6 th Session of the Governing Council	Siem Reap, Cambodia
23 April 2015	5 th Meeting of the Dialogue for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)	Siem Reap, Cambodia
14 May 2015	2 nd Steering Committee Meeting for the Establishment of AFoCo Regional Education and Training Center	Seoul, Korea
20-30 May 2015	AFoCo Landmark Program Training Course on Climate Change and REDD+ for Training of Trainers	Hwacheon, Korea
27-28 May 2015	Public Exhibition Booth for Seoul-based International Organizations	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
29 May 2015	Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AFoCo and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Korea

DATE	TITLE	VENUE
8-12 June 2015	AFoCo Landmark Program Training Course on Seedling Production and Nursery System	Seoul, Republic of Korea
10 June 2015	Opening of the field office for the AFoCo Regional Education and Training Centre	Yangon Region, Myanmar
15 June 2015	Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AFoCo and Kangwon National University	Chuncheon, Republic of Korea
7-9 July 2015	AFoCo participation for sharing ROK's Experiences in Community Driven Movement at the Pre-World Forestry Congress event	Bangkok, Thailand
9 July 2015	Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AFoCo and Chungbuk National University	Chungju, Republic of Korea
9 July 2015	Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AFoCo and Chungnam National University	Daejeon, Republic of Korea
20-25 July 2015	AFoCo Landmark Program Training Course on Forest Pest Management	Seoul, ROK
6-8 August 2015	AFoCo participation at the 18th ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) Meeting	Yogyakarta, Indonesia
10-18 August 2015	ASEAN-Korea Youth Network Workshop 2015 "Youth in the Forefront of Forest Conservation in ASEAN & Korea"	Republic of Korea and Indonesia
24-27 August 2015	Workshop for Developing Operational Regulations and Project Manual for Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)	Singapore
24-29 August 2015	AFoCo Landmark Program Training Course on Soil Conservation and Watershed Management	Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines
7-11 September 2015	Public Exhibition Booth at the XIV World Forestry Congress	Durban, South Africa
11 September 2015	Public Exhibition Booth at Incheon International Organizations & MICE Career Fair 2015	Incheon, Republic of Korea
21 September 2015	Technical Meetings of 3 Regional Projects on Internal Clearance and Arrangement	Seoul, Republic of Korea
22 September 2015	6 th Meeting of the Dialogue for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO): Meeting on Legal Scrubbing and Adoption of the AFoCO Agreement	Seoul, Republic of Korea

DATE	TITLE	VENUE
22 September 2015	3 rd Anniversary Ceremony of AFoCo: New Challenges Embracing a New Horizon	Seoul, Republic of Korea
25-26 September 2015	1 st Meeting of Project Steering Committee of regional project between Cambodia and Viet Nam	Siem Reap, Cambodia
7 October 2015	Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AFoCo and Korea Forest Research Institute	Seoul, Republic of Korea
12-16 October 2015	AFoCo Forest Week: Mobilizing Forest and People together for Greener Asia	Goyang/ Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea
12-16 October 2015	Participation at the 6 th International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC)	Phyeongchang, Republic of Korea
3-5 November 2015	Study Tour on Benefit Sharing Mechanisms in REDD+	Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara-Indonesia
19 November 2015	Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AFoCo and Kookmin University	Seoul, Republic of Korea
25 November 2015	7 th Session of the Governing Council	Da Nang, Viet Nam
27 November 2015	Ground Breaking Ceremony for the AFoCo Regional Education and Training Center	Yangon Region, Myanmar
30 November – 4 December 2015	AFoCo Landmark Program Training Course on Forest-based Ecotourism	Mulu Marriot Resort, Sarawak, Malaysia
30 December 2015	Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AFoCo and Dongguk University	Seoul, Republic of Korea

I Governing Council

The Governing Council (GC) of the “Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea (ROK) 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 GC 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. Seven sessions have been convened since the entry into force of the Agreement on 5 August 2012.

1. Sixth Session of the Governing Council, 22 April 2015, Bali, Indonesia

Two main actions of the 6th GC Meeting were adoption of the assessment of the implementation of AFoCo Agreement and endorsement of the 2014 Annual Report and Financial Report.

The Meeting also discussed the implementation of seven (7) on-going projects under the AFoCo Agreement. Among them, the RRR-DFE Mekong Project reported the completion of its activities in May 2015 and the final report to be submitted in June 2015. The Project Implementation Agreement (PIA) between Indonesia and the Philippines was signed during this GC session for the project “Facilitating the Participatory Planning of Community-Based Forest Management using Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing Technologies in Forest Resources Management in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand”.



In addition, the Meeting agreed to develop alternative regional project for an earlier suspended project (RRR-DFE BIMPS). The Philippines volunteered to take the lead in this project and four other ASEAN countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore indicated to participate in the project.

2. Seventh Session of the Governing Council, 25 November 2015, Da Nang, Viet Nam



The 7th GC Session addressed on a number of outstanding issues and key decisions were made on (1) approval of four (4) fellowship officials from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam for one-year term assignment at the Secretariat starting from March 2016; (2) approval for extension of the project “Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resources Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of the Local Communities to Address the Adverse Impact of Climate Change” until May 2016; (3) approval on the schedule of development and implementation of new regional project “Capacity Building for Landscape Approach to support the Sustainable Natural Resources Management in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore”; and (4) approval on the budget and plan of activities for 2016. Regarding the new regional project, it was agreed that an MOU would be signed between the lead country, Philippines, and ROK followed by the signing of bilateral MOUs/Agreements between the Philippines and respective countries.





In addition, the progress for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization was updated by ROK, Cambodia, Philippines and Viet Nam regarding their internal process and progress that have been made so far.

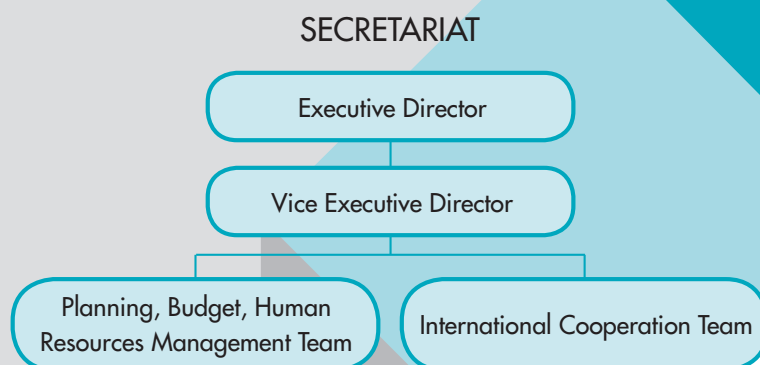


The 7th Session of the Governing Council witnessed the signing of the Agreements on Operational Arrangement (AOA) under Component 3 of the Landmark Program.

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 2015

21-22

January

1.1 Technical Meetings, Bangkok, Thailand

Technical Meetings for AFoCo projects were organized to discuss and resolve the outstanding issues in the implementation of AFoCo projects. Officials in charge of respective projects from participating countries and Secretariat attended the meetings.

The first day, 21 January 2015, was dedicated to the AFoCo Landmark Program to discuss particularly on the establishment of the Regional Education and Training Center and the Restoration projects to be implemented in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam.

On the second day, 22 January 2015, the meetings were held for the four new regional projects: (1) Promotion of forest rehabilitation in Cambodia and Viet Nam through demonstration models and improvement of seed supply system;(2) Facilitating the Participatory Planning of Community-Based Forest Management Using Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing Technologies in Forest Resources Management in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand; (3) Developing High Valuable Species in Vietnam and Thailand as a Mechanism for Sustainable Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement for Local Communities; and (4) Domestication of Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Plant Species in Disturbed Terrestrial Ecosystems in Malaysia and Thailand. For the project (1) and (2), the MOUs of which were already signed in December 2014, the meetings discussed on finalization of work plan and budget breakdown in order to start implementation. Regarding the project (3) and (4), the discussion focused on the internal process, finalization of MOU and schedule for signing.

Finally, a meeting was organized between the Secretariat and regional project office of RRR-DFE Mekong Project to discuss the update of its activities and the completion/termination of the project in May 2015.

24-27
August

1.2 Workshop for Developing Operational Regulations and Project Manual for Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), Singapore

A regional workshop for Developing Operational Regulations and Project Manual for Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) was intended to develop the necessary internal rules and regulations as well as the project manual for the future AFoCO. During the workshop, the Secretariat presented the draft documents for inputs from AFoCo member countries in order to develop the essential rules and regulations for AFoCO. The Workshop was arranged in two sessions and the first session discussed on the “Project Development Manual” while the second session was dedicated on the “Headquarter Agreement & Internal Rules and Regulations for AFoCO”.



21

September

1.3

Technical Meeting for three (3) regional projects on Internal Clearance and Arrangement, Seoul, ROK

The main purpose of this meeting was to clarify the internal procedure of each country in the implementation of regional projects and discuss the outstanding issues to speed up the implementation process. The meeting discussed on three regional projects, namely (a) Facilitating the Participatory Planning of Community-Based Forest Management Using Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing Technologies in Forest Resources Management in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand; (b) Developing High Valuable Species in Vietnam and Thailand as a Mechanism for Sustainable Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement for Local Communities; and (c) Domestication of Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Plant Species in Disturbed Terrestrial Ecosystems in Malaysia and Thailand. After clarification of issues related to internal procedure of each country, the follow-up actions were identified.

12-16

October

1.4

AFoCo Forest Week: Mobilizing Forest and People Together for Greener Asia, Goyang and Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea

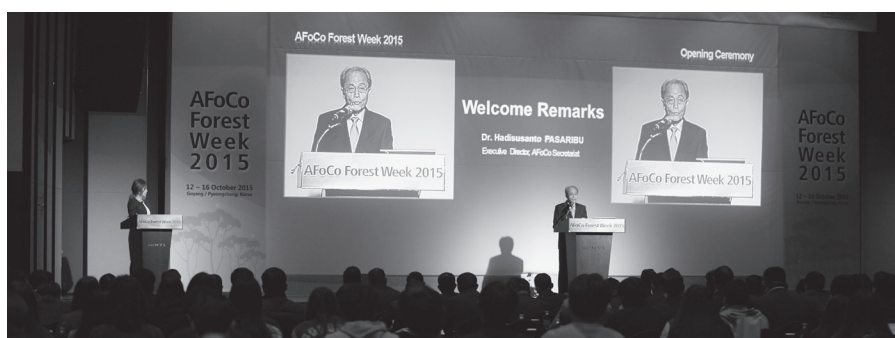
< Welcome Dinner for the AFoCo Forest Week 2015 >

The AFoCo Forest Week (AFW) was organized under the theme of “Mobilizing Forest and People Together for Greener Asia”. Participants from the AFoCo member countries as well as the prospective members of AFoCO, namely Bhutan,

Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Timor Leste were invited to the event. About 100 participants from Korea, including representatives of respective diplomatic missions to ROK, attended the opening session.



< Welcome Performance at the Opening Ceremony >



< Welcome Remarks by Dr. Hadi Pasaribu, Executive Director of AFoCo Secretariat >



< Congratulatory Remarks by
Dr. Kim Yongha of KFS >



< Key-note Speech by Dr. Tint Lwin
Thaung of RECOFTC >

The first part of the 2015 AFW was organized in Goyang City on 12-14 October 2015 with two technical sessions: (1) Reforestation and Rehabilitation through a Landscape Restoration Approach and (2) Enhancing Local Livelihood Through Participatory and Ecofriendly Approach. Prominent resource persons were



< Booth Exhibition during the AFoCo Forest Week 2015 >



< Speakers and guests at the AFoCo Forest Week 2015 >

invited for presentation and discussion. An exhibition session was also organized at the event, in which the Center for International Forest Research (CIFOR), The Center for People and Forest-(RECOFTC), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN), ASEAN-Korea Environment Cooperation Project (AKECOP), Royal Forest Department of Thailand, and the Viet Nam Forestry Administration participated with their promotional activities and publication display.

As second part of AFW, all participants joined the parallel sessions and closing ceremony of International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC) held on 15-16 October 2015 in Pyeongchang, ROK.

2. Exhibition and Promotional Activities

27-28

May

2.1

Exhibition at Seoul International Organization Forum, City Hall, Seoul, Republic of Korea

In order to promote public awareness, the AFoCo Secretariat participated at the “Seoul International Organizations Forum” on 27-28 May 2015 in Seoul City Hall. Aside from the forum, an AFoCo exhibition was organized together with 22 other international organizations and Non-Government Organizations stationed in Seoul.



7-11
September

2.2 Exhibition at the XIV World Forestry Congress, Durban, South Africa

The Secretariat organized an exhibition booth at the World Forestry Congress held in Durban, South Africa held on 7-11 September 2015. During the event, the Secretariat jointly supported a side event entitled “I am the forest - forest smallholders, community forest members and indigenous peoples in Asia” organized by RECOFTC.



11
September

2.3 Exhibition at International Organization and MICE Career Fair 2015, Incheon, Republic of Korea

As part of AFoCo promotional activities, the Secretariat organized an exhibition at “International Organizations & MICE Career Fair” held on 11 September 2015 at Songdo Convention in Incheon, ROK. This fair was a part of Korea Regional Hope Expo 2015 held on 9-11 September 2015, hosted by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy. About 1,000 participants from academic sector, private companies, international organizations, NGOs and public sectors attended the said event.

22
September

2.4 3rd Anniversary of AFoCo Secretariat, Seoul

The 3rd Anniversary of AFoCo Secretariat was organized in Seoul, ROK on 22 September 2015 in conjunction with the 6th Meeting of Dialogue for the Establishment of AFoCO. The Minister of Korea Forest Service (KFS), Minister of Agriculture and Forests of Bhutan, ambassadors and representatives of prospective members of AFoCO, Director General of South Asian & Pacific Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, participants of the 6th Dialogue for the Establishment of AFoCO and distinguished guests were invited to commemorate the accomplishments over the past three years of AFoCo at the event.



13-14
October

2.5 AFoCo International Thematic Workshop on Payment for Ecosystem Services, Da Lat, Viet Nam

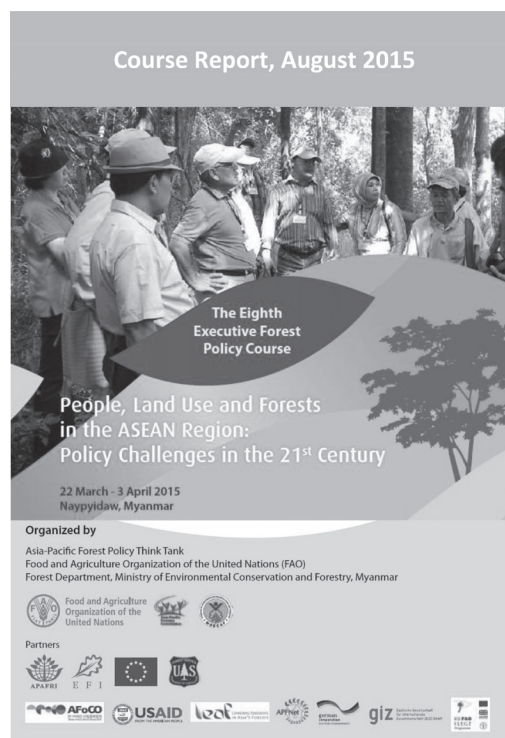
The AFoCo international thematic workshop on PES entitled “How PES serves Livelihood of Forest Community in the Southeast Asia Region?” was organized on 14-16 October 2014 in Da Lat, Lam Dong Province, Viet Nam. Participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam attended 3-day Workshop which includes a field visit to Sun Lat District in Lam Dong Province.

3. Cooperation with Relevant Agencies and Organizations

23 March
2 April

3.1 Participation at the 8th Executive Forest Policy Course, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) organized the 8th Executive Forest Policy Course on 23 March – 2 April 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. As part of joint collaboration with FAO, the AFoCo Secretariat supported participation of eight (8) officials among ASEAN Member States for attending the course and a resource person for delivery of lecture at the event.



29

May

3.2

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AFoCo and FAO

On 29 May 2015, the Executive Director of the AFoCo Secretariat and the Assistant Secretary General of the Regional Office of FAO for Asia and the Pacific signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the Regional Office of FAO for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand. The MOU laid down a framework between the AFoCo and FAO to promote technical cooperation, policy development, capacity building and partnership in the area of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), particularly in the ASEAN region.



8-10

July

3.3

AFoCo participation for sharing ROK's Experiences in Community Driven Movement at the Pre-World Forestry Congress event, Bangkok, Thailand

From 8-10 July 2015, RECOFTC organized an event in Bangkok, Thailand “The Pre-World Forestry Congress Regional Meeting on People and Forests: investing in local communities for sustainable forests”. About 20 smallholders, indigenous people and community forestry leaders from Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Thailand and Nepal were invited to the event.

AFoCo supported for the participation of a resource person to share ROK's experiences in community driven movement through presentation entitled

“Saemaul Undong and Its Implications” .The presentation provided a scenario of different approaches used in ROK for promoting local community and involvement in natural resource management.

Concept note



The pre-World Forestry Congress regional meeting on people and forests
and
Participation of smallholders, indigenous peoples and community forestry
members in the World Forestry Congress



In partnership with

With support from



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



6-8

August

3.4

AFoCo participation at the 18th ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) Meeting, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

The AFoCo Secretariat participated and updated the progress of its cooperative activities at the 18th ASOF Meeting held on 6-8 August 2015 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The presentation covered the achievement from June 2014 to July 2015.

10-18

August

3.5

ASEAN-Korea Youth Network Workshop 2015 “Youth in the Forefront of Forest Conservation in ASEAN & Korea”, Indonesia and Republic of Korea

The Secretariat and ASEAN - Korea Center jointly organized an event entitled ASEAN-Korea Youth Network Workshop 2015 under the theme of Youth in the Forefront of Forest Conservation in ASEAN & Korea from 10-18 August 2015.



The activities were organized in two countries, ROK and Indonesia, and about 100 ASEAN and Korean students participated at this event. The first part was

organized in ROK on 10-12 August 2015 and the students learned the forest restoration in Korea through lectures and interactive field activities at Soopchewon in Gangwon Province. The second session was organized on 13-18 August 2015 and about 70 students participated at the lectures and field visits at the ASEAN Secretariat, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Wanagama Forest, and Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.



12-16
October

3.6

Participation at the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC) Pyeongchang, ROK

As part of the plan of activities, the AFoCo member countries were invited to the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC) organized under the conference theme “Fire of the Past, Fire in Future,” in Pyeongchang, ROK on 12-16 October 2015. AFoCo supported eight (8) officials and six (6) students nominated from AFoCo member countries to participate at the event. Students from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam presented their papers at the Youth Program competition of IWFC.



< Thailand student at the Youth Program >

Among 18 presentations at the Youth Program, Thai student sponsored by AFoCo won 3rd prize with his presentation entitled “Overground Fuel Characteristics, Fire Behaviors, and Carbon Loss at Kuan Kreng Peat Forest, Nakon Si Thammarat Province, Thailand”.



III

Cooperation Projects under the Agreement

AFoCo projects implement activities related to rehabilitation and conservation of forest resources, as well as capacity building, in line with the goals of AFoCo to carry out action-oriented field activities while ensuring synergies and complementation of existing cooperation, regional and international organizations.

1. AFoCo Landmark Program

The AFoCo Landmark Program was established with long-term goals under a holistic approach “Restoring Degraded Forest in Southeast Asia as a Model for a Greener Asia”. Following the approval by the 3rd Session of the Governing Council held on 18 October 2013 in Singapore, a 10-year AFoCo Landmark Program was launched in 2014 with a total budget of USD 15 million. The Landmark Program provides a practical model for forest rehabilitation in the region and aims to narrow the technical gap among the ASEAN Member States. There are four (4) components under the Program and progress of activities under each component were reported below.

1.1 Component 1: Establishment of Regional Education and Training Center (RETC)

21
January

1.1.1 2nd Working Group Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand

The 2nd Working Group (WG) Meeting was held on 21 January 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. The progress of the Project, since the 1st WG Meeting held on 7 August 2014, was updated and reported on the annual plan for 2015. The Construction Management Agency presented a conceptual design for the AFoCo RETC and the implementation plan for the construction.



14

May

1.1.2

2nd Steering Committee Meeting, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

The 2nd SC Meeting was held on 14 May 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The progress of the Project, since the 1st SC Meeting held on 26 August 2014, was updated. The Construction Management Agency updated at the meeting on the schematic design and the Committee discussed the ways to improve the detailed design, particularly on the drainage system in view of the intensive rainfall during the rainy season in Myanmar.

10

June

1.1.3

Opening of the Field Office for the AFoCo Regional Education and Training Centre

The AFoCo RETC is situated within the Seed and Seedling Centre of Forest Department, Hmawbi Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar. On 10 June 2015, an opening ceremony was held for the field office of AFoCo RETC. Senior officials



from the Forest Department of Myanmar and invited guests and officials from the Regional Level and Township Level participated at the event. The field office would serve for coordination and implementation of AFoCo RETC and enhance AFoCo's mission in the region

27

November

1.1.4

Ground Breaking Ceremony for the AFoCo RETC in Yangon, Myanmar

The ground-breaking ceremony for the AFoCo RETC was held on 27 November 2015 at Hmawbi, Yangon, Myanmar. The Executive Director of the AFoCo Secretariat, Dr. Hadi Susanto Pasaribu and Deputy Minister for Environment

Conservation and Forestry, Mr. U Aye MyintMaung, Ambassador to Myanmar from Korea, Mr. Lee Baek Soon, and Director-General of International Affairs Bureau, Dr. Kim Yongkwan, officiated the opening ceremony along with officials from Myanmar and ROK.

The Center is consisted of a faculty room, lecture rooms, an auditorium, and a dormitory as well as a separate building for laboratories. A total of seven (7) lecturerooms and five (5) laboratories would be established to facilitate an educational environment. The Center will be equipped with a solar energy system to operate an environment-friendly facility. The Center is scheduled to finish its construction by October 2016. Upon completion, the Center will be used to offer training courses and capacity building activities for the AFoCo member countries.



1.2

Component 2: Development of Education and Training Programs for Capacity Building

16-20

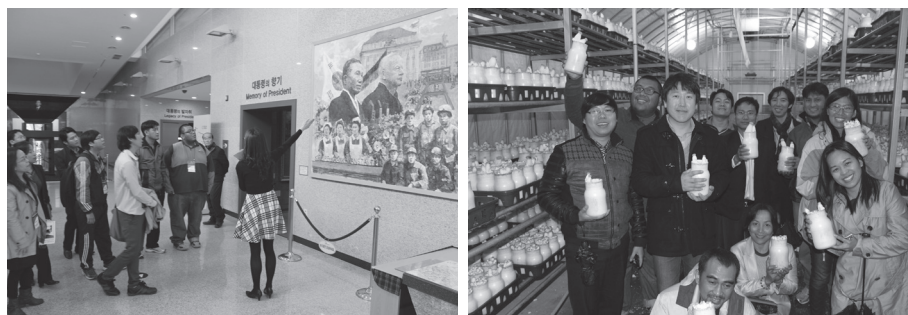
March

1.2.1 Training Courses

1.2.1.1

Forest Policy and Saemaul Undong, Yeungnam University, Republic of Korea

The first AFoCo Landmark Program Training Course was on “Forest Policy and Saemaul Undong” which is a well-known national program in ROK in the 1970s. The program targeted at promoting community development through poverty reduction and improving the standard of living in the rural area. Since the Saemaul Undong played a prominent role in developing the ROK’s economy during that era, it is relevant to share and benchmark the ROK’s successful experience, particularly on forest rehabilitation policy during the Saemaul Undong, with the developing countries. Ten (10) trainees who are technical-level government officials from AFoCo member countries joined the training course and five (5) trainers from ROK provided the lectures on the overall framework of the Saemaul Undong and the details of forest rehabilitation policies along with the field visits.



20-25

April

1.2.1.2

Using GIS for Advanced Forest Management, Seoul, Republic of Korea

A training course on “Using GIS for Advanced Forest Management” was held from April 20–25, 2015 in Seoul, ROK. It was provided by the Korea Forestry Promotion Institute (KOFPI) to 17 participants from nine ASEAN countries (with the exception of Brunei Darussalam) including nine trainees who are technical-level government officials with experience working with ArcGIS software.



The main objective was to give training on Geo-data application and Geographic Information System (GIS) tools for forestry field. Lectures and practices on Geo-spatial data management and GIS technology and tools were provided and field visits were organized to the Korea Forest Service Northern Office for a hands-on experience of the Korea Forest Fire Danger Rating System. The training also provided for an opportunity for sharing experience among the participants.

20-30

May

1.2.1.3

Climate Change and REDD+ for Training of Trainers, Bogor, Indonesia

Training of Trainers for Climate Change and REDD+ was organized on 20-30 May 2015 and 20 technical-level government officials with experience working on REDD+ projects attended the training course. It covered Climate Change background, deforestation and forest degradation, concept of REDD+, framework implementation, awareness development, and designing action plans on REDD+. 8 resource persons provided a series of lecture sessions and a field visit to the Gunung Walat Education Forest was organized to provide participants with insight on the role of education forests in REDD+ and research activities.



8-12

June

1.2.1.4**Seedling Production and Nursery System, Seoul, Republic of Korea**

16 participants from AFoCo Member Countries participated this training course organized in ROK from 8 to 12 June 2015. It was aimed at sharing knowledge on the activities and policies associated with seedling production, strengthening the capacities for the planning and management of seedling production and contributing to the development of plans in the respective countries.



The training course covered lectures and practice sessions on Forest Resources and Seed Management, Seedling Production and Nursery System and Management of Nursery Diseases in ROK. Participants also went on study tours to the Korea Forest Seed & Variety Center and the National Yongmun Nursery to gain firsthand experience on seedling production and nursery management. The participants shared their country experience and presented action plans for seedling production and nursery systems for their respective countries.

20-25

July

1.2.1.5**Forest Pest Management, Seoul, Republic of Korea**

10 technical-level researchers from AFoCo member countries attended this training course held on 20-25 July 2015 in Seoul. Its main objective was for the improvement of technical capacity in the field of forest pest management through various laboratory experiments for the researchers working in forest research institutes. The topics covered during the training course included plant physiology and dendrology, forest pathology, forest pests, tree diseases and plant virology. Laboratory practices also occupied a huge proportion of the curriculum wherein trainees had the opportunity to examine and identify fungi cultures and forest

insect pests. The field study held on the last day of the training gave trainees the opportunity to observe tree diseases, collect insects and participate in the treatment of forest diseases.



The training also provided a valuable opportunity to exchange information and techniques on pest management among the AFoCo Member Countries. The course provided deep insight into SFM through the sharing of methodologies on the detection of forest diseases in the Southeast Asian region.

24-29

August

1.2.1.6

Soil Conservation and Watershed Management, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines

A training course on Soil Conservation and Watershed Management was conducted in Laguna, Philippines on 24-29 August 2015 with 31 participants, including 21 trainees who are technical-level government officials from AFoCo member countries.



The objectives of this training course were to share various activities and policies, and to practice problem-solving scenarios in an effort to improve the current soil

conservation and watershed management system in each ASEAN Member State. Two experts from FAO and the Seoul National University gave lectures and shared their experiences on soil and watershed management projects in the ASEAN region. In addition, the participants learned about management planning and implementation process of soil conservation and watershed management, reflecting the experiences and technical knowledge in the Philippines. The participants visited the local management office at Kaliraya-Lumot Watershed and the national watershed project fields at the University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB) and Silang, Cavite.

7-14
October

1.2.1.7

Forest Fire Management for Training of Trainers, Seoul/Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea

In collaboration with the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), a training course on “Forest Fire Management for Training of Trainers” was organized on 7-14 October 2015 for 16 technical officials from AFoCo Member Countries. 13 well-known international experts provided lectures and practice sessions for 4 days at the Korea Forest Research Institute, Seoul and later the participants joined the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC) in Pyeongchang, ROK.



The objective of this training course was to enhance capacity in the forestry sector, while providing a platform to discuss current issues among the AFoCo Member Countries. Topics covered in this training were Ground Suppression Techniques, Prescribed Burning and Community-Based Fire Management, among others. Specifically, this training aimed to foster specialists to be able to train the local people in their respective countries, share information on forest fire issues in Southeast Asia, and learn about advanced forest fire management technology

through actual experience at the 6th IWFC in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

30 November

4 December

1.2.1.8

Forest-Based Ecotourism, Mulu Marriot Resort, Sarawak, Malaysia

Wide range of natural assets in Southeast Asian countries represents a huge potential for economic development in the tourism sector. In view of promoting this sector, a training course on forest-based ecotourism was conceptualized and organized in Malaysia from 30 November to 4 December 2015. There were 30 participants who joined the training course, including 16 technical-level government officials from AFoCo member countries. The aim of this training course was to provide knowledge on forest-based ecotourism; the challenges in program implementation; and how to maintain the quality standard of natural assets. It covered topics on global trends in sustainable tourism, ecotourism concept and development, ecotourism enhancement, community involvement and capacity building, visitor management and monitoring, and sustainable tourism. A field visit to village community, Gunung Mulu National Park and several nature caves were organized to provide participants with a deeper insight of ecotourism.



1.2.2 Scholarship Program

The Scholarship Program is designed to provide AFoCo Member Countries an opportunity for higher education in forestry at ROK universities. The first year program offers three scholarships – one recipient for doctoral degree and two for the master's degree program. In order to be eligible to apply for the scholarship program, one of the general requirements is that the applicant must be a citizen of one of the ten AFoCo Member Countries.

Following the announcement and application process, the following three scholarship recipients were selected and they have commenced their studies at their respective universities in the fall semester of 2015.



- Mr. Muhammad Sulaeman from Indonesia (Doctoral program, University of Seoul),
- Mr. Keng Neab from Cambodia (MSc program, Yeungnam University), and
- Mr. Vo Trung Kien from Viet Nam (MSc program, Yeungnam University).

For the second 2016 Scholarship Program, an Evaluation Committee was formed to evaluate the study and career plans, work experiences, language proficiency, self-introduction, awards and publications of six (6) applicants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar and the Philippines. The Committee selected two candidates from Lao PDR and Myanmar to join the master's degree course at Kangwon National University and Chungbuk National University, respectively, while one candidate from Cambodia will pursue the doctoral degree course at Kongju National University. Their academic study is scheduled to start from March 2016.

1.2.3

Signing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation in capacity building activities

The Secretariat signed six MOUs with the following institutions in ROK in order to strengthen the implementation of the scholarship programs and the training courses for capacity building.

- Kangwon National University (15 June 2015);
- Chungbuk National University (9 July 2015);
- Chungnam National University (9 July 2015);
- Korea Forest Research Institute (7 October 2015);
- Kookmin University (19 November 2015); and
- Dongguk University (30 December 2015).

1.3

Component 3: Restoration of Degraded Forest Regions

Several meetings and field surveys were carried out in 2015 to complete the project planning on “Restoration of Degraded Forest Regions” for each implementing country. A technical meeting was organized with Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam on 22 January 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand and agreed on the “Guidelines for the Work Plan” for each implementing country. It was agreed that the Project Manager for Restoration Projects (PMR) will be appointed from the AFoCo Secretariat while one National Project Director (NPD) each will be appointed by the implementing countries.

During 2015, the respective work plans were developed in collaboration with the AFoCo Secretariat for the specific restoration projects shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Titles and main themes of the restoration projects.

Country	Title of the Project	Main Theme of the Project
Cambodia	Establishment of the Forest Genetics Center for Restoration of Major Timber Species in Cambodia	Forest rehabilitation through a long-term genetic improvement of major timber species
Lao PDR	Forest Restoration in Deforested Areas in Paksong District of Champasak Province, Lao PDR	Forest rehabilitation based on community forestry
	Forest Restoration for Water Source Protection in Sangthong District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR	Forest rehabilitation based on community forestry
Viet Nam	Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam	Rehabilitation of mangrove forest

Upon the completion of the respective work plan, the Agreement of Operational Arrangements (AOA) was signed between the AFoCo Secretariat and the Forestry Authorities of the three implementing countries as shown below.

- Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development (IRD) under Forest Administration (FA) of Cambodia on 25 September 2015
- Viet Nam Forest Administration (VNFOREST) of Viet Nam on 25 November 2015
- Department of Forestry (DoF) of Lao PDR on 25 November 2015

1.4

Component 4: Development of Advocacy Activities

Under this program component, materials related to the activities of the Landmark Program were published in 2015 to disseminate information on each Component of the Landmark Program. They included (a) five reports, including the RETC design and the work plans for the restoration component; (b) eight training materials for the AFoCo Landmark Program Training Courses; and (c) one brochure and two video clips that introduce the AFoCo Landmark Program. As part of promoting public awareness about the Landmark Program,¹³ AFoCo website updates, 65 posts on the social network services, and eight news articles have been released in 2015

2. Regional Projects

2.1

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

A Study Tour on Community Participation in Protecting Forest Resources to Support REDD+ Programme in Southeast Asia Region was organized on 23-26 February 2015 in Jember, East Java and Bali, Indonesia as one of the regional



activities under this project. This study tour was organized by AFoCo Regional Project Management Team in Indonesia in cooperation with Forestry Research Development Agency (FORDA), Meru Betiri National Park and Bali Mangrove Center. This tour aimed to: (a) share experience and knowledge of the implementation of demonstration activities of REDD+ in Meru Betiri National Park in Indonesia; (b) share the status of climate change mitigation programs (REDD+ programs) in each implementing country of the project; and (c) identify key issues on the implementation of climate change activities including the involvement of local communities. There were 45 participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam who attended the four-day long program and studied community participation programs in Bali Barat National Park, Meru Betiri National Park and Bali Mangrove Center.

A second Study Tour on Benefit Sharing Mechanisms in REDD+ was held in Lombok, Indonesia from 3–5 November 2015. Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam officials participated the study tour. It provided an opportunity for the attendees to visit successful REDD+ sites such as project sites in Lombok by organizations such as KOICA, and Flora & Fauna International. This study tour focused on building the capacity of AMS in the area of REDD+ through lectures, field visits, country presentations and discussions. This was in continuation of the first study tour held on 23–26 February 2015 in Meru Betiri National Park, Indonesia.

In addition, Ms. Pina Leticia, Forestry Officer for Global Forest Assessment and Reporting of FAO and Mr. Kenichi Shono of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific participated in relation to 2015 and 2020 Global Forest Resource Assessment. They presented the results of the 2015 Global Forest Resource Assessment for each country and discussed the key outcomes and issues encountered. The capacity building needs among ASEAN Member States towards 2020 Global Forest Resource Assessment were identified at this event.

2.2

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

The Final Meeting for Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DFE) in Mekong Basin Countries was organized on 2-3 April 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. In the meeting, focal officials from all countries discussed the procedures and timeline in finalizing activities and submission of the final report. An external auditor was also invited to clarify on the documents needed to submit financial audit.



< Final Meeting for RRR-DFE-Mekong >

All activities were completed in May 2015 and the final report together with the audited financial statement was submitted in July 2015. Following photos are highlights of project activities in the implementing countries.

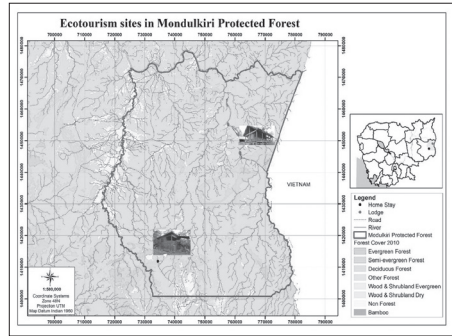
Cambodia: Ecotourism Linked with Biodiversity



< Exchange visit >



< Site survey and documentation of biodiversity >



< Local community in the project site >



< Technology transfer activities >

Lao PDR: Participatory Forest Management Linked with Forest Certification



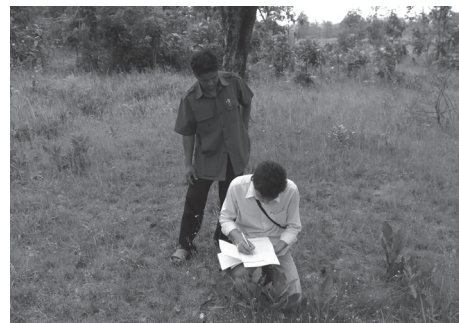
< Inception Meeting >



< Tree planting activity >



< Establishment of village nursery >



< Selection of pilot site >

Myanmar: Ecotourism Linked with Watershed Management



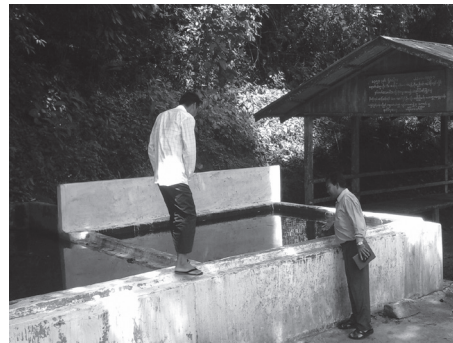
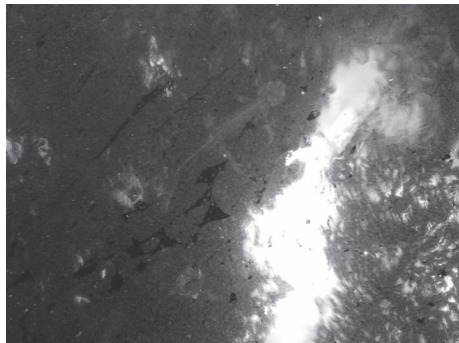
< Establishment of dormitory facility at the Watershed Management Training Center >



< Revitalization of community forest >



< Building check dams >



< Improvement of natural water spring >

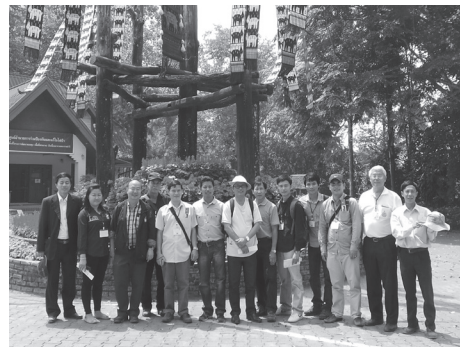


< Establishment of forest nursery >



< Training and planning meetings >

Thailand: Ecotourism Linked with Forest Restoration



< Regional workshop and exchange visit >

Viet Nam: Ecotourism and Payment for Forest Environmental Services Linked to Biodiversity Conservation



< Ecotourism and environmental education >



< Payment for Forest Environmental Services (PFES) in Viet Nam >



< Regional workshop and exchange visit >



< Developing model of payment for ecosystem services linked to ecotourism >

2.3

Promotion of Forest Rehabilitation in Cambodia and Viet Nam through Demonstration Models and Improvement of Seed Supply System

The Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development (IRD) of the Forestry Administration (FA), Cambodia, and the Research Institute for Forest Ecology and Environment (RIFEE) of the Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS), Viet Nam, are implementing agencies for this project for five years (2015-2019) with a total budget of US\$1,000,000.

The project activities were launched in Cambodia in April 2015 and in Viet Nam in August 2015. The 1st Meeting of the PSC for the Cambodia-Viet Nam Regional Project was held on 25-26 September 2015 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The progress of the implementation activities were updated and the annual work plan for 2016 for Cambodia was approved at the meeting. It was agreed that financial audit will be conducted annually in each country based on domestic regulations. Viet Nam will host the 2nd Meeting of PSC in 2016.

a. Cambodia

- i. A working group of ten members was formally established in Cambodia
- ii. Four sites and respective contact persons were identified as seed source areas for eleven priority tree species.
- iii. The seed production areas of indigenous tree species and reforestation (10 hectares) were identified and placed under monitoring.
- iv. One staff from IRD attended a training course at the National Forest Seed and Variety Center, ROK from 21 November to 20 December 2015. The course covered seeds and tree improvement, seed collection and processing, seed storage and testing, and tree seed management.
- v. Cambodia have been working with the testing of medium for orchids and a number of high-value timber species such as *Dalbergiacochinchinensis*, *Dalbergiaoliveri* and *Pterocarpusmacrocarpus*.
- vi. A seed demand survey was conducted between September and October to estimate the amount of seed and tree/plant species used in reforestation.

- vii. Three sub-activities, namely site identification, design of the demonstration plots and purchase of seedlings were also completed.
- viii. The previous 2 trials on reforestation by direct seeding were also maintained and closely monitored.

b. Viet Nam

- i. A Project Management Unit (PMU) with five members was established in Viet Nam.
- ii. The survey on nursery system, seed sources, seedling production and management in the province was conducted by a national consultant. A meeting among relevant stakeholders was held to review and provide comments on the survey results.
- iii. Master and annual plans for training and capacity building activities in the region were developed.
- iv. The training curriculums were developed based on the survey results and existing documents available. A meeting was held to discuss on the training documents.
- v. A three-day training course on seedling production and nursery management was held in Hoa Binh Province and 25 participants from relevant nurseries and organizations attended the training.
- vi. Two staff from the Environmental Experiment Research Center in Hoa Binh province attended on-the-job training at the Research Institute for Tree Breeding and Biotechnology in Ha Noi to operate the tissue culture lab at the regional level.
- vii. The survey and designs for new planting and enrichment models were carried out.
- viii. A meeting of relevant stakeholders was held to discuss on the design of planting and enrichments, as well as the plan for their establishment and management.
- ix. Two dissemination programs were developed and broadcasted for a period of two months in two communes to introduce the AFoCo Regional Project, the role of forest on the environment and human beings and the techniques of forest rehabilitation in the region.

2.4

Facilitating the Participatory Planning of Community-Based Forest Technologies in Forest Resources Management in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand

Following the signing of MOU in December 2014 between the Philippines and the KFS, the five-year project was launched from 2015 to 2020 with a total budget of USD 1,500,000.

The following activities have been completed in 2015.

- The Philippines had launched its activities in April 2015 and set up the regional project office;
- Project Implementation Agreement between the Philippines and Indonesia was signed on 22 April 2015 at the occasion of 6th Session of Governing Council in Bali, Indonesia;
- The activities of literature review and in-country workshop were completed for Indonesia and Philippines;
- Project Implementation Agreement between the Philippines and Thailand was signed in November 2015 by circulation; and
- The administrative requirements for Thailand, particularly on the designation of the Project Manager, were completed.

2.5

Developing High Valuable Species in Viet Nam and Thailand as the Mechanism for Sustainable Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement for Local Communities

The project is scheduled for 3 years (2015-2018) with a total budget of USD 720,000 of which USD 600,000 is sourced from KFS and USD 120,000 is estimated as in-kind contribution from Thailand and Viet Nam. Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS) would be the signatory and implementing body for this project while Thailand would be represented by the Royal Forest Department.

It was agreed that Viet Nam and Thailand would identify two (2) project sites in each of four (4) provinces (altogether 8 project sites) and two (2) Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) per project site would be identified. Under the scope of this project, a total of 16 NTFPs would be identified and studied.

Following the clearance of internal process in Thailand and Viet Nam, the signing of MOU was completed by circulation by 4 signatories, namely Viet Nam, Thailand, KFS and AFoCo Secretariat on 28 December 2015.

3. Forthcoming Regional Projects

3.1

Domestication of Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Plant Species in Disturbed Terrestrial Ecosystems in Malaysia and Thailand

This project is scheduled for 6 years (2015-2020) with a total budget of USD 1,200,000. Malaysia and Thailand are designated as implementing countries. However, due to delay in their internal clearance, the project was unable to launch in 2015 and rescheduled to start in 2016.

3.2

Capacity Building on the Application of Landscape Approach to Support the Sustainable Forest Management of the Natural Resources Management in the Participating ASEAN Member States.

Following the decision of the 6th Session of the Governing Council, development of a new regional project was agreed with the budget of USD 652,472 and it was agreed to be led by the Philippines. Participating countries were identified as Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore. The project is designed on the theme of landscape approach and scheduled to launch in 2016 for the duration of three (3) years.

At the 7th Session of the Governing Council held in November 2015, it was agreed that the MOU would take into effect upon signature of ROK and the Philippines (the lead country) and the other participating countries would enter into implementation agreement (IA) or MOU with the Philippines on bilateral basis.

4. Fellowship Program for Officials from ASEAN Member States to AFoCo Secretariat

Following the verification and ad-referendum approval by the Governing Council, the three fellowship officials from Cambodia, Lao PDR and the Philippines had assumed their respective duties at the Secretariat for a duration of one year commencing from 30 March 2015.



The main assignment for these fellowship officials was to act as focal points for respective AFoCo regional projects being implemented by AFoCo Member Countries. They have to establish direct communication with designated officials for the projects in respective countries to ensure that the project activities are implemented in a timely manner. Aside from this, they were also requested to assist in administrative work and promotional activities, namely operating public

exhibition booths, arranging the meetings/workshops, and communicating with their countries for specific purposes.

For the second batch of fellowship officials for 2016 from the ASEAN Member States, an invitation for 2016 fellowship program was circulated on 10 June 2015 and six (6) nominations from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam were received by the deadline of 31 October 2015. The 7th Session of the Governing Council approved to accommodate four (4) officials from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam as 2016 Fellowship Officials for one-year term starting from March 2016.



IV

Dialogue for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization

The Dialogue for the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) is one of the mission of current AFoCo Agreement and there were 2 meetings organized in 2015.

The 5th Meeting of Dialogue for the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization was organized on 23 April 2015 in Bali, Indonesia and attended by representatives from Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam. The Meeting finalized the text of the Agreement for the Establishment of AFoCO with the exception of editorial corrections and legal scrubbing.



The 6th Meeting of Dialogue for the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization was organized on 22 September 2015 in Seoul, Republic of Korea for legal scrubbing and adoption of the text of the Agreement. The Dialogue was attended by representatives from Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam. The final text of the Agreement for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization was adopted at the meeting.



It was agreed that following the adoption of AFoCO Agreement by this 6th Dialogue-AFoCO, the next important steps are signing procedure, notification by parties and entry-into-force of the AFoCO Agreement. According to the Agreement, the Government of the ROK would be designated as Depository for the instruments of ratification to this Agreement.

In order to have an efficient, timely and smooth entry-into-force of the Agreement, it was agreed on the flexible actions for the entry-into-force of the Agreement. It was further agreed on the proposal of ROK to open the Agreement for signature at the Government of the ROK for signature by respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs or designated representatives after securing full power or authorization. The ROK circulated the certified copy of the Agreement on 19 November 2015 through a diplomatic channel. As for Korea, the Agreement was signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, upon approval of the President, on 10 December 2015.

V

Assessment for the Implementation of the Agreement

The 2nd Meeting of the Taskforce for Assessment for the Implementation of the AFoCo Agreement (TF-Assessment) was held in Tagaytay City, Philippines on 26 March 2015. The objective of the Meeting was to consider the draft of assessment report submitted by the external consultant team and agree on the future action and procedures for submission of the final report to the Governing Council.



During the 6th session of Governing Council, ROK as the Chairperson of the Taskforce for the Assessment of the AFoCo Agreement (TF-Assessment) reported the process of assessment, summary findings and recommendations of the report, which was approved by the TF-Assessment. Following the comments and clarification, the Governing Council adopted the report labeled as “Assessment for Implementation of Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea on Forest Cooperation”.



VI

Issues and challenges

As the year 2015 was the busiest with highest number of projects and cooperation activities, many issues and challenges were also encountered. Among them, the most prominent challenges were presented below.

1. Domestic procedure necessary for clearance and issuance of “Full Power” for signing of the Agreement for the establishment of AFoCO was found to be a big challenge. Although the Agreement text was finalized and adopted in September 2015, the prospective member countries had to go through their domestic procedures for signing and as of December 2015, only 2 countries (including ROK) have been able to clear. For most ASEAN Member States, the current AFoCo Agreement was managed under the ASEAN protocol and their internal process was straight forward; however, handling the AFoCO Agreement appeared more complicated as it is treated as multilateral protocol and such complication has led to a long process for a number of countries.
2. The domestic approval process of some AFoCo member countries is also causing a long delay and another big challenge for the implementation of many AFoCo regional projects. Although the funding support has been secured, the Governing Council has given its approval and the MOUs were signed for some regional projects since the end of 2014, some countries needed substantial time to clear domestically or even to open a bank account before the start of the activities. Such domestic process has led to a long delay and many projects are now way behind the schedule. In addition, there is onemore regional project yet to be signed its MOU until the end of 2015 due to a delay for domestic clearance.
3. Weak record keeping, book keeping and financial management in some implementing countries are posing another challenge. This may be due to lack of skilled personnel or shortage of staff; however, it has been a persistent problem in getting regular reports, financial statement and balance sheet at the Secretariat. Due to lack of regular progress reports and accurate financial statements, there have been unnecessary delay in handling financial transactions and project implementations.

VII

Publication

AFoco ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Publications in 2015

- Final Report “Assessment for Implementation of Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea on Forest Cooperation” published in April 2015.
- Final Report “Improving Capacity on Forest Restoration In Cambodia (Phase II)” published in September 2015.
- Final Report of the project “Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DFE) In Mekong Basin Countries” published in September 2015.
- The fifth issue of the newsletter was published in November 2015.
- Several other publicity materials were printed including leaflets introducing Landmark Program and accomplishments of the individual project.
- Brochure “Toward Greener Asia” (English and Korea) published in May 2015.
- Brochure “AFoCo Landmark Program - Restoring Degraded Forests in Southeast Asia as a Model for a Greener Asia: Capacity Building on Forest Restoration and Sustainable Forestry” published in September 2015.
- Forestry Education and Research in Asia: Reality, Challenge, and Way Forward.
- AFoCo International Thematic Workshop on Payment for Ecosystem Services.
- AFoCo Forest Week 2015: Mobilizing Forest and People Together for Greener Asia



AFoCo is engaging in online publicity through online newsletter, Facebook pages and Twitter.

<https://www.facebook.com/afocosec>

<https://www.facebook.com/AFoCoLandmark>

<https://twitter.com/afocosec>

<https://afconews.wordpress.com/>





Appendix

Appendix 1

Members of the Governing Council

Member of the Governing council are represented by 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.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Mr. Hj. Saidin Salleh
Director, Department of Forestry
Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism

CAMBODIA

Dr. Chea Sam Ang
Deputy Director General, Forestry Administration
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

INDONESIA

Dr. Henry Bastaman, MES
Director General for Research, Development and Innovation
Ministry of Environment and Forestry

LAO PDR

Mr. Thongphath Vongmany
Director-General, Department of Forestry,
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

MALAYSIA

Dato' Sr. Dr. Azimuddin bin Bahari
Deputy Secretary General (Environment)
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

MYANMAR

Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw
Director General, Forest Department
Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry

PHILIPPINES

Mr. Ricardo L. Calderon
Director, Forest Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

SINGAPORE

Dr. Lena Chan
Director National Biodiversity Centre
National Parks Board

THAILAND

Mr. Pralong Dumrongthai
Deputy Director General, Royal Forest Department
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

VIET NAM

Ms. Nguyen Tuong Van
Deputy Director
Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation
Representing Head of Viet Nam Administration of Forestry

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Dr. Kim Yongkwan
Director General of International Affairs Bureau
Korea Forest Service

The ASEAN Secretariat (Resource Person)

Senior Officer
Agriculture Industries & Natural Resources Division
The ASEAN Secretariat

Appendix 2

2015 Plan of Activities

MONTH	TITLE
January	Development of Advocating Program
February	The 3 rd Asia-Pacific Forest Week 2016 (APFW 2016) Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines
March	8 th Session of the Governing Council and its Technical Meeting (Brunei Darussalam)
April	
May	
June	Special Session of the Governing Council (tbd) International Conference for the New Horizon for Greener Asia (ROK)
July	
August	

Acronyms

AFoCO	Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
AFoCo	ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BIMPS	Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore
Dialogue-AFoCO	Dialogue for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
GC	Governing Council
IAI	Initiative for ASEAN Integration
IIDC	Institute of International Development Cooperation of Yeungnam University
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
KFS	Korea Forest Service
MBC	Mekong Basin Countries
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
PDR	People's Democratic Republic
PSPS	Park Cheong Hee School and Saemaul Undong Policy of Yeungnam University
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in developing countries; and the Role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks in developing countries
ROK	Republic of Korea
RRR-DFE	Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems
SU	Saemaul Undong (New Village Movement)
TF-Assessment	Taskforce of the Assessment of the Agreement
USD	United States Dollar



ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation Secretariat

8th Floor, 9 Gukhoe-daero 62 gil, Yeongdeungpo-gu,

Seoul, Republic of Korea 07236

Tel: +82-2-785-8961 Fax: +82-2-785-8970

www.afocosec.org