

# AFoCo LANDMARK PROGRAM

## "Restoring Degraded Forests in Southeast Asia as a Model for a Greener Asia: Capacity Building on Forest Restoration and Sustainable Forestry"

**Project Duration** 2014~2023 (10 years)

**Project Budget** USD 15 million

**Participating Countries**

Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam

### ► Overview

The AFoCo Landmark Program is a regional project launched in 2014 with a holistic approach for long-term activities and goals to tackle the unequal distribution of resources, technology and funding amongst ASEAN Member States (AMS). The program will cover the restoration of degraded forest, a wide range of regional training, academic activities and public awareness in the field of restoration and sustainable forestry. It aims to contribute to the 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 AMS.

### ► Four Components under AFoCo Landmark Program

The AFoCo Landmark Program is expected to contribute to enhanced regional capacity of forest officials, scientists and related institutions to address the main issues in the forestry sector; and enhanced knowledge sharing among the stakeholders and public awareness on sustainable forest management.

#### **Component 1 Establishment of AFoCo Regional Education and Training Center (RETC)**

Component 1 aims to construct a centralized scientific research and training center that is supplied with research equipment and training facilities in order to deliver regular training courses under AFoCo Landmark Program which will enhance the regional capacity of forest-related personnel and institutions.

The RETC, located in Hmawbi, Myanmar, is expected to be completed in 2016. The center is approximately 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> wide and its research equipment and training facilities will be made available to all AFoCo member countries for relevant activities, including for AFoCo Landmark training courses.



AFoCo Regional Education and Training Center to be established in Hmawbi, Myanmar

#### **Component 2 Development of Education and Training Program for Capacity Building**

Component 2 aims at developing an integrated pool of experts through educating and training government officials in AMS. In order to enhance human capacity building, there are education and training courses bimonthly as well as degree programs in Korea annually.

##### • Education and Training Courses

Education and training courses are divided into 4 different courses (short-term, long-term, special and domestic) depending on its target trainee, duration, and training venue. Training courses are carried out targeting government officials in specific topics and issues in forestry.

In 2016, there will be 5 selected training courses including total 160 expected participants as below:

- Sustainable Forest Management Policy (March, Indonesia)
- Forest Fire Management (May, Thailand)
- Governance and Community Management of Forests (July, Thailand)
- National Forest Rehabilitation (October, Korea)
- Forest Carbon and Biodiversity Measurements (TBD)

Until the completion of the AFoCo RETC, scheduled at the end of 2016, the training courses under the AFoCo Landmark Program will be held at various forestry-related institutions, organizations and universities in AMS as well as in Korea.

##### • Landmark Scholarship Program

This Scholarship program is designed to provide advanced education in the field of forestry in Korea for government officials from AMS to produce more than 30 graduate students. Since 2015, there have been 6 students enrolled in degree programs in 5 universities in Korea. The AFoCo Secretariat provides all financial supports including tuition fees, monthly allowance, travel costs, and other relevant expenses.



AFoCo Landmark Program Training Course on Seedling Production and Nursery System (8-12 June 2015, Forest Training Institute of the Korea Forest Service, the Republic of Korea)



AFoCo Landmark Program Training Course on Climate Change and REDD+ for Training of Trainers. The information of the trainee (25-30 May 2015, Center for Forestry Education and Training, Bogor, Indonesia)

### Component 3 Restoration of Degraded Forest Regions

Sites in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam have been selected for forest restoration in 2014. Component 3 is expected to establish best practice in forest restoration and different types of model forest for AFoCo, as well as promote public awareness and actual practices of local communities on forest conservation. According to the Work Plan as of 2015, the restoration projects will begin in respective countries from 2016.

### Component 4 Development of Advocating Activities

Component 4 aims to implement publicity programs to raise awareness on both forest restoration and related socio-economic aspects of local communities simultaneously. This project will develop a framework that facilitates the improvement of public awareness on forest conservation and the improvement of communication among various levels of stakeholders.

· Facebook : [www.facebook.com/AFoCoLandmark](http://www.facebook.com/AFoCoLandmark)  
 · Website : [www.afocosec.org/afoco/pc/en/activities/landmark.php](http://www.afocosec.org/afoco/pc/en/activities/landmark.php)  
 · E-mail : [contact@afocosec.org](mailto:contact@afocosec.org)

### ► Expectations

- Capacity building of young foresters and researchers who will lead sustainable forest management and restoration of degraded forest in the region
- Provide practical model for forest rehabilitation applicable to the Asian region
- Contribute to narrowing the gap among the ASEAN Member States under the strategic framework of IAI



The ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) is a regional cooperation mechanism in the forest sector between ASEAN Member States and the Republic of Korea. It 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", which was entered into force in August 2012. The AFoCo aims to tackle the issue of deforestation and forest conservation in the context of sustainable development, and broaden the scope to other Asian countries.