



Regional Fire Management Resource Center
South East Asia (RFMRC-SEA)



Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Republic of Indonesia

**National Inter-Agency Round Table on Fire Management, Republic of Indonesia
and
Inauguration of the Regional Fire Management Resource Center – South East Asia
Region (RFMRC-SEA)**

Jakarta, Manggala Wanabhakti, Room Sonokeling Besar
10 July 2017

Background and Rationale

The repeat fire and haze crisis of 2015 has resulted in renewed national and international efforts in the Southeast Asia region, particularly in Indonesia, to address the serious challenges in the arena of fire management. A widely perceived positive and earnest shift in the political landscape to tackle fire and smoke problems has similarly prompted the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), through the financial support of the Federal Republic of Germany to assist in establishing the Regional Fire Management Resource Center – South East Asia Region (RFMRC-SEA). This effort is in alignment with decentralization efforts of the GFMC to, in large part, build up local country-wide and regional capacities. Since 2011, Indonesia and other Southeast Asian nations, comprising the Southeast Asia Regional Network, have been a voluntary member of the greater 14-region Global Wildland Fire Network¹ – for which the GFMC is serving as coordinator and secretariat. For some years now, the work of the GFMC has been decentralizing into the regions through the establishment of Regional Fire Monitoring Centers or Regional Fire Management Resource Centers. Three other Centers are already operating for Southeast Europe / South Caucasus based in Skopje, FYR Macedonia² (established 2010), for Eastern Europe based in Kiev, Ukraine³ (est. 2013) and for Central Asia based in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia⁴ (est. 2015). Two more Centers will be established in 2017 for Central Eurasia based in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, and for South America (t.b.d.). Between 1 March 2017 and 28 February 2019, the Regional SE Asia Fire Management Center (RFMC-SEA), hosted by the Bogor Agricultural University, is being established. The RFMRC-SEA will draw on the successful and effective experiences and models of the already operational centers.



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

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Global Fire Monitoring
Center (GFMC)

¹ <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/globalNet.html>

² http://www.rfmc.mk/about_us.php

³ <http://nubip.edu.ua/en/reefmc>

⁴ <http://rcafmrc.num.edu.mn/>

The objective of the RFMRC-SEA will be to function as an independent regional center of competency and excellence for fire management, operating at the interface between science and informed policy development (Science-Policy Interface – SPI). The RFMRC-SEA has been established by the Faculty of Forestry Sciences, Bogor Agricultural University (Indonesia), with the assistance of the GFMC. These two institutions have been working together in fire science and fire management since the mid-1990s at bilateral level as well as within international projects. The Center shall successively build the following capacities:

1. Development of an internet-based information portal, which will include the science of vegetation fires and related scientific disciplines;
2. Development of a web-based documentation and information portal on the practices that are prerequisite for the application of scientific principles in informed fire management;
3. Creation of an interface and promotion of the dialogue between services of specialized governmental institutions and civil society organizations;
4. Provision of advisory service for sustainable forestry & land management and relevant policies;
5. Promotion of regional cooperation through networks, notably within the UNISDR Regional Southeast Asia Wildland Fire Network under the Global Wildland Fire Network; and
6. Training and continuing vocational training in fire management (main task: Information, training, training and education and the promotion of human resources and institutional capacities).

While the RFMRC-SEA will with time grow to serve the region, its first initial phase will focus on Indonesia both as the host country and as hot-seat for regional fire management challenges. The proposed National Round Table will serve as a symbolic inauguration of the RFMRC-SEA, but more importantly to be an initial kick-off activity supporting the planned intensification of collaboration in the months and years to come. This event is intended to bring many of the important actors together to meet anew in the context of the establishment of the RFMRC-SEA. The activities and institutional arrangements to be pursued are proposed as voluntary in nature – yet ambitiously poised to integrate fire science, management, policy assistance and cross-border cooperation under one umbrella.

Sponsors

The RFMC-SEA is being funded through the Federal German Ministry of Food and Agriculture, based on a decision by the German Bundestag under the program *Bilateral Research Cooperation and the Knowledge Exchange for International Sustainable Forest Management*. The funds are being administered through the Max-Planck Society for the Advancement of Science. The Global Fire Monitoring Center, a sub-division of the Max-Planck Institute for Chemistry, has been tasked with implementing the two-years project. The National Round Table is an activity of the RFMC-SEA and will be supported by the Bogor Agricultural University and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), Directorate of Forest Fire Prevention.

National Round Table on Fire Management

Informal contact and discussions have taken place over the past months in preparation for the National Round Table. Inputs from invited parties are being collected ahead of the Round Table to prepare for discussions in the following areas:

- a. What are the [institution's] strongest capabilities and most effective tools they can offer?
- b. What are the [institution's] most critical limitations they face and?
- c. What types of data / information is needed to more effectively execute duties / organizational objectives?

Round Table Objectives

The objectives of the National Round Table will be threefold. First, the event will serve as a ceremonial opportunity to officially inaugurate the RFMC-SEA, established in March 2017 at the Bogor Agricultural University (IPB). Second, the event aims to bring together the institutions of the country who are working on tackling the issue of illegal fire application and more generally damaging fire and smoke-haze episodes stemming from Indonesia but affecting the region and global atmosphere. In bringing these actors to the table, the objective is to encourage actors to voice *Statements of Intent* towards tackling challenges in a collaborative way. This will be an opportunity to align efforts, explore a common problem framing, and state individual envisaged objectives and capacities / competencies. The third and final objective is to interactively facilitate the identification of capacity gaps and challenges (already initiated in the pre-Round Table discussion) and match agencies and institutions to collaborate in overcoming identified limitations.

The Round Table will be held under the auspice of the Minister of Environment and Forestry, H.E. Siti Nurbaya Bakar.

After the National Round Table a second consultation will be held in 2018, to which the representatives of the private sector, academia and civil society as well as representatives from the ASEAN neighbor countries will be invited and their views and contributions for a larger cooperative effort be solicited.

National Institutions Participating at the National Round Table

- Indonesian Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs, Estate Crops and Horticulture Division
- Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), Forest and Landscape Fire Prevention Division
- Indonesian Peatland Restoration Agency (BRG)
- Indonesian Ministry for Estate Crops and Horticulture, Estate Crop Protection Unit
- Indonesian National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN)
- Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics (BMKG)
- Indonesian Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK)
- Indonesian National Board for Disaster Management (BNPB)
- Indonesian Production Forest Management Unit (KPHP), MoEF
- Indonesian Protection Forest Management Unit (KPHL), MoEF
- Indonesian Special Crimes Unit (National Police Headquarters)

Invited Observers

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- The World Bank
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- University of Palangkaraya (Central Kalimantan)
- Bogor Agricultural University (IPB)
- Monash University (Australia)
- PT Wana Subur Lestari/HTI
- Wetland International Indonesia
- Indonesian Center for Environmental Law (ICEL)
- Other (t.b.d.)

Expected Outcomes of the National Round Table

The anticipated outcomes of the National Round Table include:

- *Statements of Intent* by relevant stakeholders / participants
- Arrive at common problem framing for fire management challenges in the country
- Generate strategic alliances between institutions to address targeted goals for current and near-future collaboration
- Establish short-term priorities for the newly established RFMC-SEA and related cooperative activities
- Deepen existing relationships between relevant stakeholders who are working to address fire and smoke pollution in the country
- Share lessons identified
- Identify capacity gaps and implementation barriers
- Develop recommendations for short-term national fire management priorities

The agenda of the National Round Table will be distributed separately. During the Round Table the Regional Fire Management Resource Center – South East Asia Region (RFMRC-SEA) will be officially inaugurated.

Round Table Facilitators and RFMC-SEA Project Coordinators

Division of Forest Protection, Department of Silviculture Faculty of Forestry, Bogor Agricultural University

Prof. Dr. Ir. Bambang Hero Saharjo, MSc
P.O. BOX 168, Bogor 16001, West Java, Indonesia
bhherosaharjo@gmail.com

Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)

Prof. Dr. Johann Georg Goldammer & Lindon N. Pronto, MSc
Secretariat, UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group and
International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM)
Max Planck Institute for Chemistry
c/o Freiburg University / United Nations University
Georges-Koehler-Allee 75, 79110 Freiburg, Germany
Contact: Lindon N. Pronto, RFMRC-SEA Project Manager (at GFMC)
lindon.pronto@gmail.com