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Proposal on Formation of a South East Asian / ASEAN Regional Network on Wildland Fire within the Global Network on Wildland Fire

Submitted at the occasion of the World Conference and Exhibition on Land and Forest Fire Hazards, 10-12 June 2002, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

by

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At the first plenary session of the World Conference and Exhibition on Land and Forest Fire Hazards and at the ASOEN Haze Technical Task Force Meeting (10 June 2002) the chair of the *Working Group on Wildland Fire*, United Nations Interagency-Task Force for Disaster Reduction, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), and Director of the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) introduced the overall objectives of the *Working Group on Wildland Fire*. The Working Group is facilitating the establishment of, and operational procedures for, a global network of regional- to national-level focal points for early warning of wildland fire, fire monitoring and impact assessment, aimed at enhancing existing global fire monitoring capabilities and facilitating the functioning of a global fire management working programme or network.

The global network of Regional Wildland Fire Network is currently built by the GFMC. These regional networks will consist of a number of dedicated regional activities or sub-nets, e.g. wildland fire early warning, monitoring, information (data) management, science, fire management, and national to multilateral cooperative policy development. It is envisaged to activate regional networks or regional precursor initiatives in preparation of the 3rd Global Wildland Fire Conference and Summit (Australia, 2003).

The World Conference on Land and Forest Fire Hazards provides an opportunity for South East Asia and / or the ASEAN region to set up a regional network. The ASEAN ministers are encouraged to support building of such a network at regional level.

The regional South East Asian network could build on existing regional arrangements that would serve as focussed sub-nets:

- the government agencies of the ASEAN countries, on the basis of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, organized through the ASEAN Secretariat, ASOEN Haze Technical Task Force, or any other coordination center established under the agreement
- the wildland fire science network that is currently being built by scientists of Bogor University (Indonesia) and University Putra Malaysia
- the SEARIN Southeast Asian Regional of *Forest Fire Monitoring and Mapping Working Group* of the Global Observation of Forest Cover (GOFC) / Global Observations of Landcover Dynamics (GOLD) (Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) (SEARIN chaired by University Kebangsaan Malaysia)
- the Peat Network organized by the Global Environment Center
- the fire early warning capabilities of the ASMC
- the fire management regional and national projects, such as the IUCN WWF Project Firefight, in conjunction with foreign-supported fire management projects

The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), will facilitate the establishment of the global network on behalf of the UN-ISDR Working Group on Wildland Fire and liaise the South East Asian Wildland Fire Network with existing operational and proposed international networks, notably:

- ECE/FAO/ILO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire
- FAO Fire Management Network
- Global Observation of Forest Cover (GOFC) / Global Observations of Landcover Dynamics (GOLD) of the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS)
- Committee of Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS). Disaster Management Support Group (DMSG), Fire Working Group
- Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN international)
- International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), Fire Group
- Biomass Burning Experiment (BIBEX) of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), International Global Atmospheric Chemistry (IGAC)
- International Union of Forestry Research Associations (IUFRO), 8.05 Forest Fire Research

Furthermore the ASEAN Ministers are encouraged to establish permanent formal contact with the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) and investigate common proposals for external funding, e.g. through the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

ANNEX

Figure 1. Draft structure of international fire management working programme supported by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).

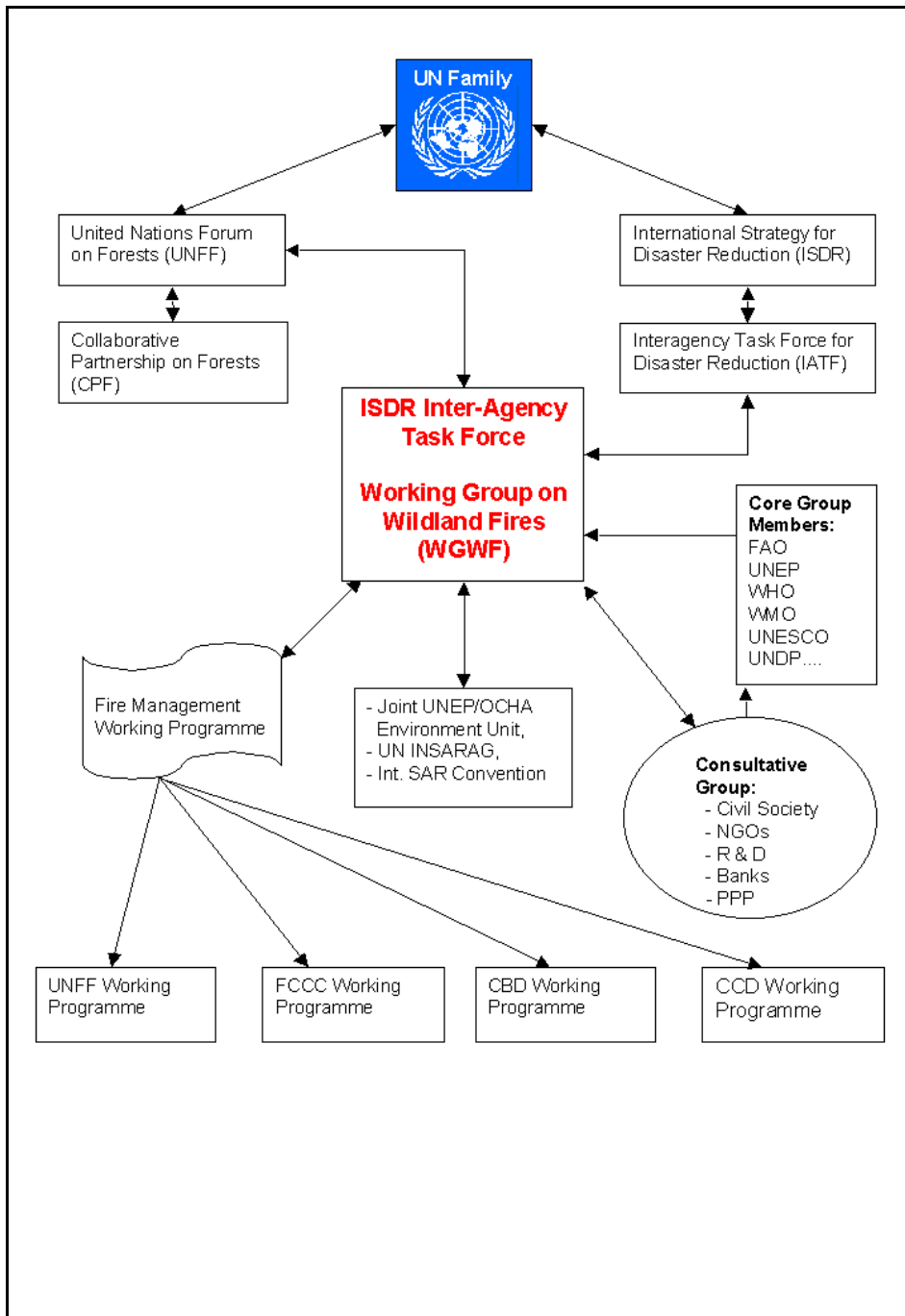


Figure 2. Matrix, showing the envisaged structure of a global network for early warning, monitoring and decision support for fire management and fire disaster reduction.

