



**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING
THE ASIA FOREST PARTNERSHIP**

**YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA
30 AUGUST – 1 SEPTEMBER 2004**



Ministry of Forestry
The Republic of Indonesia



ITTO

INTRODUCTION

Serious obstacles continue to hamper good intentions among governments, business and civil society in Asia to achieve sustainable management and conservation of their forests. As a result the extent and quality of forests continue to decline, opportunities for poverty alleviation are foregone, and economic growth is perturbed. Many stakeholders are particularly concerned about the spread of fire in previously fire-prone areas, invasion of exotic pests that impede natural regeneration, illegal or harmful logging, trade in illegally harvested timber and other forest products, and the need to restore degraded lands to productivity and conservation value.

Recognizing the growing seriousness of these issues, four leading partners – the Government of Japan, the Government of Indonesia, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR–Intergovernmental Organization), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC–Civil Society) – agreed to create and launch the Asia Forest Partnership (AFP) at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002.

AFP is a regional forum, the objective of which is to promote Sustainable Forest Management in Asian region by addressing the following urgent issues: good governance and forest law enforcement; developing capacity for effective forest management; control of illegal logging; control of forest fire; rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded forest and land. The objective of the partnership corresponds with the ITTO goals contained in the Yokohama Action Plan. More available information could be obtained directly from afp@cgiar.org.

In line with the above, ITTO supports the AFP to convene a regional workshop that brings together a broad range of stakeholders, including relevant civil-society and private-sector organisations in the Asia and Pacific region, from both consumer and producer countries, in accordance with the objective of the workshop to strengthen the partnership.

Within the perspective outlined above, the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of

Indonesia with the support from the ITTO, is going to convene the **Regional Workshop on Strengthening the Asia Forest Partnership (AFP)**.

ASIA FOREST PARTNERSHIP

Recently, the AFP had been convened three meetings in Tokyo (November 2002), Yogyakarta (July 2003), and Kisarazu City (November 2003).

The first meeting for the promotion of AFP was held on November 11, 2002, in Tokyo. Among the 106 participants were representatives from 12 governments, 7 inter-governmental organizations, and several NGOs or civil society. The meeting was agreed that the purpose of the AFP is to build partnership among Asian Governments and other concerted partners for sustainability of forest in Asian region by addressing the following urgent issues: good governance and forest law enforcement; developing capacity for effective forest management; control of illegal logging; control of forest fire; rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded land.

Pursuant to the decision made at the first Meeting, Indonesia convened the 2nd Meeting of AFP in Yogyakarta from 9 – 10 July 2003. The objectives of the Meetings were (1) to enhance the prospects of the partnership adding significant value to ongoing efforts in the region; and (2) to identify and explore potential activities, which are of particular interest to the partners in addressing forest issues in the region.

A total of 125 delegates representing governments of 10 countries, 7 inter-governmental organizations and 26 non-government organisations and companies participated. The agenda included: forest and timber certification as a means to verify legality of timber sources; forest fires and trans-boundary haze pollution; and reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded land.

Participants on the 2nd Meeting was of the view that the concept of “partnership”, in which like-minded individuals at the level of both policy-making and implementation on the ground shared ideas, was valuable. The

partnership had the following comparative advantages: A multi-stakeholder equal partnership; Flexibility; and Informality.

The Meeting had been a first opportunity for partners to discuss the next steps or concrete actions to be taken. Partners should continue their active support and participation, and to try to expand the partnership to a broader international community whereas understandings and mutual respect among partners should be one of the basic principles for AFP.

As agreed by participants on the Meeting in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, the 3rd Meeting of Asia Forest Partnership was held in Kisarazu City, Japan on 21 November 2003. The Meeting benefited from the participation of 21 Asian, European and American countries, 6 international organizations, and many non-governmental organizations (NGO), research institutions and industry participants.

Main results of the third meeting were:

1. Further deliberation was undertaken concerning concrete actions that should be prioritised by the AFP in the fields of “measures to combat illegal logging”, “prevention of forest fires”, and “rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded lands” which are the main objectives of the AFP agreed on the occasion of the 2nd meeting of AFP, Indonesia, July 2003. In each field, various work plans were submitted and deliberated. As a result, agreement was reached among the partners on the completion of work plans that incorporate the proposals made by each partner.
2. Discussions were also focused on organisational issues including the creation of an information network and a decision-making mechanism among AFP partners, fund raising and management, and the way to expand and strengthen the partnership, and the importance was the reaffirmation of strengthening and promoting AFP activities.

Regarding those issues, with a generous support from the ITTO, AFP would organize a regional workshop on strengthening the AFP, which will be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 30 August–1 September 2004. It is expected

that the workshop will answer partners' question on organisational matters of AFP.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE

The theme of the workshop is formulating and developing mechanism and structure of partnership for strengthening the Asia Forest Partnership, while the workshop objectives are to:

- Refine and operationalize the goals of the AFP and the mechanisms for its implementation.
- Draw from experiences and lessons learned in similar partnership, especially the Congo Basin Forest Partnership.
- Formulate the programs and activities of the AFP.
- Formulate the structure and modalities of the AFP.

In addition, the workshop will also discussed an issue of developing minimum standards of legality, timber tracking and chain of custody systems, verification systems among AFP members.

The Workshop is expected to produce a **recommendation to enhancing further development of programs and activities to strengthen the AFP.**

PARTICIPANTS

The three-day workshop will be most useful to those involved in the promotion and/or implementation of the Asia Forest Partnership (AFP), and experienced in similar partnership, particularly the Congo Basin Forest Partnership including supporting sustainable forest management, combating illegal logging, managing forest fire, and promoting forest rehabilitation in the Asian Region. Thus, the participants in the workshop include representative from Partners of the AFP, ITTO member countries, relevant International Organisations, relevant stakeholder groups, particularly those from civil society, the private sector, and Universities. Roughly, 100 participants are expected to attending the workshop of which about 50 participants will be funded. Funded participants shall be allocated to support participation of civil society and private sector organisations and (governments of) ITTO producing member countries.

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Organisation of work for the Workshop is as follows:



Day –1

- ❖ The opening ceremony will be officiated by the Hon. Minister of Forestry, Indonesia or representative, and the Executive Director of the ITTO or representative.
- ❖ Plenary Presentation and discussion by stakeholders (Congo Basin Forest Partnership, ITTO, AFP Partners, ASEAN Countries). The topics for presentations may include:
 - Experiences and lessons learned in similar partnership.
 - Refine the goals and mechanisms for its implementations.
 - Views in formulating the structure and modalities of the AFP.
 - Views in formulating the program and activities of the AFP.

Day – 2

Morning – Working Group discussion

1. Mechanism for the goals of AFP implementation
2. Developing structure and (working) modalities of AFP
3. Formulating program and activities of AFP

Afternoon

1. Plenary session/discussion – report from working group on their outcomes
2. Wrap up session – recommendations for AFP partners

Day – 3

Morning – Plenary session/discussion (additional issues to be discussed)

Program and activities of AFP on combating illegal logging (especially on developing minimum standards of legality, timber tracking and chain of custody systems, verification systems among AFP members)

Afternoon

Wrap up session – recommendations for AFP partners

LANGUAGE

The working language of the Workshop is English.

PAPER CONTRIBUTIONS

Participant will be kindly requested to submit a paper on his/her views and/or experience relevant to the objectives of the workshop (either to develop mechanisms for the goals of AFP

implementation, to develop structure and modalities of AFP or to formulate program and activities of AFP) to serve as a basis for fruitful recommendations to enhancing further development of programs and activities to strengthen the AFP. The paper shall reach the organizer well in advance of the meeting in order to ensure effective preparation. (For details please refer to the enclosed "Guidelines for Paper Preparation").

DATE

30 August – 1 September 2004. The opening ceremony commences at 09.00 on 30 August 2004.

REGISTRATION

No registration fee will be charged but please complete and submit the registration form as soon as possible as places are limited. Successful applicants will be directly informed.

INFORMATION FOR FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS

In addition to possession of a valid passport, foreign participants are advised to seek information on entry requirements into Indonesia and obtain entry visa as necessary.

WORKSHOP SECRETARIAT

For further information please contact the workshop secretariat:

Mr. Nandang Prihadi

Bureau of International Cooperation and Investment, Ministry of Forestry
4th Floor, Block VII, Gedung Manggala Wanabakti, Jalan Gatot Subroto
Jakarta 10270 Indonesia

Tel. +62 21 5730 159

Fax. + 62 21 5720 210

E-mail: nandangp@dephut.cbn.net.id