

INTRODUCTION

ASEAN REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORK ON FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT AND GOVERNANCE (ARKN-FLEG)

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

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1. Background

- The Eleventh Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in August 2008 agreed to promote the use of knowledge networks to:
 - (i) broaden the ASEAN knowledge base in forestry; and
 - (ii) advance dialogues on emerging forest policy issues, e.g. FLEG and REDD.

- As such, the ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG Network) was established and had held a total of 4 meetings till the end of 2009, as follows:
 - (i) the Inaugural Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, 15 October 2008;
 - (ii) the Second ARKN-FLEG Meeting in Manila, Philippines, 10-11 February 2009;
 - (iii) the Third ARKN-FLEG Meeting in Manila, Philippines, 28-29 July 2009; and
 - (iv) the Fourth ARKN-FLEG Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 3 December 2009.

- The Network had also held a total of 3 meetings with ASEAN Partners till the end of 2009, as follows:
 - (i) the First Meeting of the ARKN-FLEG and ASEAN Partners in Manila, Philippines, 12 February 2009;
 - (ii) the Second Meeting of the ARKN-FLEG and ASEAN Partners in Manila, Philippines, 30 July 2009; and
 - (iii) the Third Meeting of the ARKN-FLEG and ASEAN Partners in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2 December 2009.

2. Network Goals And Objectives

- The goals and objectives of the FLEG Network are to:
 - (i) support the implementation of the Work Plan for Strengthening FLEG in ASEAN, 2008-2015;
 - (ii) create a pool of ASEAN experts to undertake policy analysis and research on FLEG issues from the perspective of ASEAN Member States (AMS);
 - (iii) undertake robust benchmarking to determine and promote good FLEG practices, and provide a structured ASOF dialogue;

- (iv) support AMS to learn from each other's approaches in FLEG implementation and good FLEG practices;
- (v) provide a platform for non-official ASEAN stakeholders and the research community to enhance FLEG processes in ASEAN;
- (vi) address any emerging FLEG issues arising from the work programs of ASOF and AMAF;
- (vii) provide specific policy briefs and policy options' papers to ASOF and AMAF to assist them in their decision-making processes; and
- (viii) enhance policy implementation capacity by mobilizing resources and building partnerships with others who are involved in FLEG processes.

3. Network Activities

- The common references for the FLEG Network activities are:
 - (i) the Work Plan on Strengthening Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) in ASEAN, 2008-2015;
 - (ii) the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests, 2007;

(iii) the Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Format for Sustainable Forest Management, 2007; and

(iv) the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Legality of Timber, 2009.

- All the members of the FLEG Network must be an ASEAN national and they act in their personal capacity, while respecting their institutional affiliations.

4. Achievements, 2008-2009

- A total of 9 policy briefs and policy-oriented papers had been produced, as follows:

(i) synergies between FLEG and the CBD, especially its forest and forest-related programs in ASEAN;

(ii) implementation of FLEG through national forest programs (nfps);

(iii) lost in transit: export and import protocols as contributors to discrepancies in international timber trade data;

(iv) synergies between FLEG and REDD;

- (v) policies that support FLEG in AMS;
 - (vi) role, contribution and effectiveness of local governments in FLEG in ASEAN;
 - (vii) key components of good forest governance in ASEAN Part I and Part II;
 - (viii) nurturing FLEG institutions through intersection and evolution; and
 - (ix) need for comparative policy analysis on FLEG implementation in ASEAN.
- The Network had also developed:
 - (i) a structure for “FLEG at a Glance” to enable AMS to prepare policy briefs on FLEG implementation for the general public and policy-makers; and
 - (ii) a “Format for Assessing Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) Implementation in ASEAN Member States”.
 - A number of activities had been planned, but were not completed/achieved at the end of 2009, as follows:
 - (i) 7 policy briefs on:
 - (a) linkages between forest crimes and corruption;
 - (b) impact of EU-FLEGT on ASEAN timber trade;

- (c) impact of the Lacey Act (amended 2008) on AMS intra- and international timber trade flow to the USA;
- (d) implications of the scope and effectiveness of defining timber legality;
- (e) effective coordination among forest enforcement agencies and other related agencies at country level;
- (f) impact of FLEGT on timber trade flow; and
- (g) impact of FLEG on sustainable livelihoods.

(ii) 1 policy-oriented paper on:

- (a) a review on laws that enhance coherence by harmonizing laws and regulations at national level to support FLEG implementation at the ASEAN level.

(iii) the holding of 2 workshops on:

- (a) customs protocol and timber trade statistical discrepancies; and
- (b) role and options for prior notification to combat illegal timber international trade flows.

(iv) develop a “Handbook on Good Practices on FLEG”, with specific reference to the ASEAN region, to complement the “Manual for assessing FLEG implementation in AMS”; and

- (v) develop a guideline for conducting needs assessment at country level for FLEG implementation in ASEAN Member States.

5. **The 5th Meeting on 21 October, 2014**

- Discussed several issues, including:
 - Current ToR of ARKN-FLEG and inputs from AMS
 - Current activities mentioned in the Workplan (2008-2015) and inputs from for further additional activities or new activities
 - The development of Manual/Guidance for Assessing FLEG Implementation in AMS and Pilot Testing.
 - Term of Reference “Stock Taking Study on Existing Initiatives for Ensuring Legal and Sustainable Timber in ASEAN
 - Support GAP-CC ASEAN – German Programme on Response to Climate Change (GAP-CC)
- Potential synergy and complement activities supported by EU-EFI

Thank you