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EU FLEGT VPA Process in THAILAND

Banjong Wongsrisoontorn

Director

Thailand-EU FLEGT
Secretariat Office (TEFSO)

Royal Forest Department



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Outline

- Background
- Legality Definition Preparation in Thailand
- Next step



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Background

2009

- First introduction of FLEGT in Thailand by Ambassador of Thailand to Belgium

2010

- RFD FLEGT committee established

2011

- National FLEGT Committee set up

2012

- 3 National sub-committees on FLEGT set up



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Background - 2013

- In Feb' 13 Thailand requested to start VPA negotiations and EU had official accepted in April' 13
- First official video conference between Thai and EU negotiation teams took place
- The Thai-EU FLEGT Secretariat Office (TEFSO) established
- Launching of the Official VPA Negotiations
- First Technical Level meeting between Thailand and EU (Joint Expert Meeting 1)



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Legality Definition Development in Thailand

1. Background studies
2. Stakeholder identification and activities
3. Multi-SH dialogues on LD content



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1. Background studies

- Timber flow and their control in Thailand
- Forestry Stakeholder Mapping in Thailand
- Review of related laws and regulations (with 2 SH consultation workshops in 2013)
- Draft supply chain control model developed by the Forest Certification Office of RFD



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2. Stakeholder identification and activity

- Stakeholder mapping study (RFD/EFI 2012) forest & timber sector: are directly involved or affected by forestry operations
- Series of stakeholder meetings
 - CSOs: 2 meeting, 5 workshop in regional area, 2 training workshop, etc.
 - Private sector: LD development meeting, etc.



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3. Multi-SH dialogues on content of LD

- Ad-hoc multi-SH working group was established (5 from Govt., 5 from CS-CF, 6 from Private sector)
- Four Ad-hoc multi-SH Working Group meetings already held between June-Sept 2014



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Draft LD in Thailand

The draft consists of 3 modules:

- Timber sources: (1a) private land, (1b) public land and (1c) imports,
- Processing
- Trade and export: (3a) domestic distribution (3b) export



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Consensus reached

LD Ad-hoc SH working group has agreed to:

- Keep records of all comments from the meetings, will have those which cannot be pursued right away attached to the VPA as Annex;
- Establish an independent entity to certify timber resource, if there is institutional support



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Challenges

- Inadequate understanding and low level of awareness on FLEGT and existing regulations among relevant agencies, SHs and general public
- Need more contributions from relevant government agencies i.e. key contact person, etc.
- Lack of information on verification process for timber with unregulated sources



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LD Development in Thailand – Next Steps

Meeting/workshop:

- More Ad-hoc Multi-SH Working Group meetings are organized
- At least one Multi-SH consultation meeting is planned for each region outside Bangkok

Study:

- Study on unregulated timber sources verification



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LD Development in Thailand – Next Step

Capacity building:

- Capacity building for VPA related government agencies on FLEGT VPA to raise their awareness and cooperation among government agencies.

Communication:

- Public awareness raising on FLEGT i.e. produce brochure, disseminate relevant information via website, etc.
- Advocacy strategy i.e. increase understanding and sharing information (problem and solution) to decision maker who has authority to push forward concrete actions.



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