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
  - 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