

**CONSULTATION MEETING OF THE SOM-AMAF+3 AND SOME+3 ON  
BIOENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY (BEFS) IN ASEAN**

**AND**

**FAO BEFS ASEAN PROJECT INCEPTION MEETING**

**30-31 October 2012  
Plaza Athenee Hotel  
Bangkok, Thailand**

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**PROVISIONAL PROSPECTUS**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Many ASEAN Member States (AMS) have implemented policies to encourage development of green renewable energy including bioenergy to achieve a range of national development objectives, including energy security, improved environmental performance and rural employment and development. In response to these policies, bioenergy developments are expanding at a fast pace; particularly in the biofuel sector. These developments are forging ahead with little coordinated assessment of the potential impact on the region's natural resource base, the environment and food security.

In support of the ASEAN Heads of State/Government Cha-am/Hua Hin Statement on ASEAN plus Three (ASEAN+3) Cooperation on Food Security and Bioenergy Development, the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) has been tasked to develop a comprehensive strategy on sustainable and integrated food and biofuels production and consumption that will promote better allocation of resources for the production of both food and biofuels. As part of this strategy ASEC has been encouraged to enhance partnership with regional and international organizations to promote collaborative research and technology transfer on the topics of food security and bioenergy.

The Bioenergy and Food Security in ASEAN (BEFS ASEAN) project, will be jointly implemented with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to support ASEC and AMS develop and implement the strategy on sustainable and integrated food and biofuels production. As part of the project, FAO will work with ASEC and AMS to develop regional and national BEFS mainstreaming strategies in ASEAN to ensure that bioenergy provides more effective energy services in AMS with minimal or no impact on food security and the environment. In developing these strategies a range of supplementary activities will be implemented including capacity building with the FAO BEFS initiative, measures to promote sustainable, food secure and climate-friendly bioenergy technologies and the establishment/reinvigoration of national bioenergy policy bodies. The ultimate intended impact of the project is that sustainable, food secure, climate-friendly bioenergy contributes to economic development in AMS.

To launch the BEFS ASEAN project, ASEC and FAO are organizing a regional inception meeting that will incorporate a Consultation Meeting of the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (SOM-AMAF Plus Three) and Senior Officials Meeting of the Ministers of Energy Plus Three (SOME Plus Three). The inception meeting will provide key policy stakeholders from around the region an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the FAO BEFS initiative and review planned activities under the BEFS ASEAN project.

## **II. REFERENCES**

Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 11th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (SSOM-11th AMAF Plus Three) held on 11 July 2012 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia:

*“11. In view of the approval and implementation of the ASEAN-FAO BEFS Project, the Meeting was informed and supported the plan to conduct the first high level consultative meeting tentatively set on the last week of October or first week of November 2012. This meeting is expected to clarify existing strategic frameworks on bioenergy being undertaken by agriculture and energy sectors, as well as to identify common issues and possible joint approaches to synergise efforts in bioenergy development and in the context of food security.”*

Senior Officials Meeting on Energy of the Thirtieth ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (30<sup>th</sup> SOME) held on 2-3 July 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia:

*“83. The ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the Inception and High-level Consultation Meeting on Bioenergy and Food Security in ASEAN, which appears as ANNEX 39. The Bioenergy and Food Security in ASEAN (BEFS ASEAN) project, supported by FAO, aims to support ASEAN develop and implement the strategy on sustainable and integrated food and biofuels production provided for under the ASEAN+3 Comprehensive Strategic Framework on Food Security and Bioenergy. The Meeting noted that under this project, two Inception and High level Consultation Meetings involving high-level and operations-level representatives of the SOM-AMAF+3 and SOME+3 are proposed to be held, with the Inception Consultation Meeting tentatively scheduled in late October 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand.”*

## **II. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Consultation Meeting of the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three and Senior Officials Meeting of the Ministers of Energy Plus Three are as follows:

1. Review the regional policy and cooperation framework for bioenergy in ASEAN+3;
2. Introduce the FAO BEFS initiative and the BEFS ASEAN project;
3. Review, discuss and approve the BEFS ASEAN program of activities; and
4. Identify mechanisms for improved regional collaboration on bioenergy issues, policy and planning.

### **III. EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

The Meeting is expected to come up with:

1. An overview of the regional bioenergy situation;
2. A revised program of activities and timeline for the BEFS ASEAN project;
3. Potential mechanisms to improve regional cooperation on bioenergy; and
4. Next steps for implementation of the BEFS ASEAN project.

### **IV. DATE AND VENUE**

The special session of the Senior Officials Meeting ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three and Senior Officials Meeting Ministers of Energy Plus Three will be held on 30-31 October 2012 at the **Plaza Athenee Hotel** in **Bangkok, Thailand**.

### **V. EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS**

The participants of the Meeting will be the high-level and operations-level representatives of the SOM-AMAF Plus Three and SOME Plus Three. The Meeting will be supported by regional bioenergy experts and instructors from FAO.

In addition, development partners, including Asian Development Bank (ADB), Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) will be invited as observers to the Meeting. ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) will also be invited as observer to participate in the meeting.

The ASEC and FAO will serve as the secretariat of the committee. Co-Chairs of the Meeting will be the current Chairs of SOM-AMAF+3 and SOME+3.

### **VI. COUNTRY REPORTS & POSTER SESSION - GUIDELINES**

On the first day of the program, a special country poster session will be held to provide participants with an overview of bioenergy developments in the region without requiring full, spoken presentations from each country. This session has been suggested by ASEAN Secretariat as a way to save time and allow significant time for in-depth discussion regarding regional cooperation and the FAO BEFS Project.

As each country delegation will be comprised of representatives from both the Ministries of Agriculture and Energy, the delegations are asked to jointly prepare a country poster for this session. Each delegation is also requested to prepare a report on the bioenergy situation in their respective country. The reports will serve as the basis for the country posters and will be made available to all participants prior to the Consultation Meeting.

A template for both the country poster and report has been provided as an attachment. The poster power point template has been specially designed for printing into an A0 size poster. Text on the poster should be a minimum size of 40 points to ensure readability from a distance.

***To allow sufficient time for the country posters to be printed and country reports to be circulated to participants in advance of the meeting, country delegations are requested to submit these items to ASEAN Secretariat and FAO by e-mail on or before 22 October 2012 (Monday).***

## **VII. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

Please see attached provisional agenda.

## **VIII. CONTACT DETAILS**

For detailed information of the Meeting, please contact:

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## **IX. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Reference documents for the meeting:

- a) Provisional Meeting Agenda; and
- b) Country report and poster requirements