



# Regional Workshop on Capacity Building Needs to Support FLEGT in Asia

*“FLEGT in Asia: supporting good governance and responsible trade for Asia’s forests”*

**Swissotel Nai Lert Park Bangkok, Thailand - 16 and 17 October 2013**

**Hosted by the Thai Royal Forest Department**

## Background

In 2003, the European Union (EU) adopted its Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) with the aim to halt illegal logging and promote better governance. The negotiation and conclusion of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the EU and a Partner Country has been the predominant tool, but there are many measures in the Action Plan to support improved governance. The ultimate objective of VPA is to ensure, through a licensing scheme, that only legal timber is imported into the EU. Each VPA is dependent on the development and implementation of a Legality Assurance System (LAS) which includes a definition of legal timber, a verification system, a licensing system and an independent audit. Five countries in Asia have initiated actions to develop a VPA: Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, The Lao Peoples Democratic Republic and most recently Thailand. Indonesia, which concluded negotiations in May 2011, is due to sign its VPA soon, and is making significant progress towards implementation of the VPA requirements.

The EU Timber Regulation became applicable in March 2013. The Regulation prohibits the placing of illegal timber and timber products on the EU market. The United States and Australia have both adopted similar legislation, completing a significant demand side incentive to enhance efforts to address illegal logging in supplier and processing countries. China, Japan and South Korea are contemplating the further development of policy instruments, including legal procedures, to curb the trade in illegal timber and timber products.

A number of programmes support regional and country level action to address illegal logging and to facilitate the implementation of these new trade related legal instruments. The executing agency of the EU FLEGT Action Plan is the European Forest Institute’s (EFI) EU FLEGT Facility. Since 2007 EFI has been providing technical and financial support to VPA processes and other elements of the EU FLEGT Action Plan. Since May 2012 The European Union further strengthened its support with the EU-FAO FLEGT Programme, implemented by FAO. The programme supports local stakeholder groups in developing countries to put the FLEGT Action Plan into practice. In addition, the European Commission has thematic programmes such as the EU-ENRTP (Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources) and country programmes that can support FLEGT related activities. Concurrently, substantial support is also provided by the UK Forest Governance, Markets and Climate (FGMC) Programme, ITTO’s Thematic Programme on Tropical Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (TFLET), the GIZ Forest Governance Programme and the Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade



Implemented by



(RAFT) Partnership and the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) funded through the Chinese, Australian and US Governments.

## Workshop Objectives

1. Learn about available support programmes and identify key regional support priorities;
2. Identify capacity building needs:
  - In support of FLEGT processes, with an emphasis on stakeholder engagement;
  - Of businesses, especially SMEs, to meet existing and emerging international market requirements for timber and timber products;
  - To have support structures for TLAS development and implementation, including the legality of imports from third countries.

## Participants

- Government, Civil Society and Private Sector representatives from regional VPA countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Lao PDR and Thailand) plus The Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, PNG and the Solomon Islands;
- Representatives of EU Delegations of concerned countries;
- Representatives and resource persons from FLEGT related support programmes (EFI, RAFT, DFID, FAO, GIZ);
- Speakers or representatives from Australia, China, European Union, India, Japan, South Korea and the United States.

## Workshop Agenda:

### DAY 1

#### Opening

09.00 – 09.45

- Opening remarks from Thailand Royal Forest Department (by Mr. Boonchob Suthamanuswong, Director General)
- Opening Remarks from EU Delegation to the Kingdom of Thailand (by Mr. Stefan Schleuning, Head of Development Cooperation)
- Presentation of workshop objectives and agenda by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (by Mr. Patrick Durst, Senior Forest Officer)

**Session 1: Panel discussions on existing and emerging international market requirements for timber and timber products (Moderated by Mr. Hugh Speechly, Senior Advisor Forest Governance and Markets, DFID, UK)**

09.45 – 10.15	Moderated panel: <b>Australia</b> (Mr. Tom Black, Agricultural Counselor, Australian Embassy in Bangkok), <b>China</b> (Dr. Zhao Jie, Associate Professor, Center for International Forest Products Trade, State Forestry Administration of China) and <b>European Union</b> (Mrs. Delphine Brissonneau, Programme Officer, EU Delegation to the Kingdom of Thailand)
10.15 – 10.35	Q&A
10.35 – 11.00	Tea and coffee
11.00 – 11.30	Moderated Panel: <b>Japan</b> (Mr. Daiji Kawaguchi, Deputy Director, Wood Products Trade Office, Forestry Agency of Japan), <b>South Korea</b> (Mr. You Younghan, First Secretary, South Korean Embassy in Bangkok) and <b>United States</b> (Mr. John Webb, Retiree, Department of Justice).
11.30 – 12.00	Q&A Session
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch

**Session 2: Presentations by different Forest Governance support programmes (Moderated by Ms. Aimi Lee, Asia Regional FLEGT Associate, EFI, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)**

13.00 – 13.10	EU EFI FLEGT Facility (by Mr. Vincent van den Berk, Programme Coordinator, European Forest Institute, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
13.10 – 13.20	EU FAO FLEGT Programme (by Mr. Bruno Cammaert, Forest Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand)
13.20 – 13.30	RAFT Facility (by Mr. Andrew Ingles, Chief Technical Advisor, Asia Pacific Forest Program, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Bangkok, Thailand)
13.30 – 13.40	UK Forest Governance, Markets and Climate Programme (by Mr. Hugh Speechly, Senior Advisor Forest Governance and Markets, DFID, London, UK)

13.40 – 13.50	GIZ Forest Governance Programme (by Mrs. Nora Heil, Forest Governance Advisor, Eschborn, Germany)
13.50 – 14.00	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (by Ms. Kong Zhe, Programme Officer, APFNet Secretariat, China)
14.00 – 14.10	UNODC Programme on Combating Illegal Logging and other Forest-related Crimes (by Mr. Giovanni Broussard, Programme Officer, UNODC, Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand)
14.10 – 14.30	Q&A
14.30 – 15.00	Tea and Coffee

**Session 3: Identification of priority needs for technical support and knowledge products (Moderate by Dr. Bernd-Markus Liss, Principal Advisor for BMU Projects, GIZ, Manila, The Philippines)**

15.00 – 16.00	Group discussions (3 groups: government, civil society and private sector)
16.00 – 17.00	Report back to plenary
18.30 – 20.30	Reception dinner

**DAY2:**

09.00 – 09.30	Summary of Day 1 and introduction to Session 4 (by Dr. Alex Hinrichs, Regional Advisor for Asia, EU-FLEG Facility, EFI)
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**Session 4: Identification of priority capacity building needs at country and regional levels (Moderated by Mr. Bruno Cammaert, Forestry Officer, EU-FAO FLEG Facility, FAO, Bangkok, Thailand)**

09.30 – 12.00	<p>Group (3 groups) discussions based on preliminary introductions/presentations:</p> <p>Group 1: (Facilitators: Mr. Vincent van den Berk, Programme Coordinator EU-FLEG Facility, EFI and Mr. Agus Djalaili, DFID Indonesia Multi-stakeholder Forestry Programme) Implications for businesses, especially SMEs, to meet existing and emerging international market requirements for timber and timber products.</p> <p>Group 2: (Facilitators: Mr. Tim Dawson, EU-FLEG Facility, EFI, Ms. Pham Thi Bich Ngoc, Climate Change manager, SRD Vietnam and Mr. Hongthong Sirivath,</p>
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Programme, Coordinator for Land for Land and Livelihood, Village Focus International) Support to FLEGT processes with an emphasis on stakeholder engagement, consultation and participation.

Group 3: (Facilitator: Dr. Alex Hinrichs, Regional Advisor for Asia, EU-FLEGT Facility, EFI) Support structures for TLAS development and implementation, including the legality of imports from third countries

12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 14.00	Group discussions continued
14.00 – 15.30	Plenary with 3 group presentations and Q&A
15.30 – 16.00	Tea and coffee

### **Closing**

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| 16.00 – 16.30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Summary of the workshop outputs and next steps by the FAO Regional Office for Asia-Pacific</li><li>• Closing remarks by the Thai Royal Forestry Department</li></ul> |
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### **Language**

The workshop will be held in English. It is requested that only stakeholders able to work in English be recommended for participation.

### **Venue**

The workshop will take place at the Swissotel Nai Lert Park Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. Detailed information about workshop logistics will be provided to participants in due course.