WORKSHOP / TRAINING

HARMONIZATION OF FOREST AND LAND COVER CLASSIFICATION USING LCCS - ASIA PACIFIC REGION

**4-8 Dic. 2006
DEHRADUN, INDIA.**

It was organized by GLCN and by the MAR ("Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment, and Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in Asia") project of the FAO, with the logistic support of the FAO Representative for India, the technical support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare (IAO) and the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), and with the financial support of the Governments of Italy, the Netherlands and Japan.

COUNTRIES

The workshop was intended for technical individuals from national institutes involved in land cover mapping. Workshop's participants were envited from the following countries:

- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Brunei Darussalam
- Cambodia
- China
- India
- Indonesia
- Japan
- DPR Korea
- Laos
- Maldives
- Malaysia
- Mongolia
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Republic of Korea
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Vietnam.

GOALS

The scope of the meeting was to review the forest classifications in Asia Pacific countries and initiate discussion and dialogue on their harmonization/standardization. The workshop provided training to land mapping experts, especially forestry professionals dealing directly with remote sensing based estimation of forest cover and or national forest inventories, in use of the GLCN technologies including the Land Cover Classification System (LCCS). The purpose of the training was to assist in harmonizing and standardizing the estimation of forest cover using remote sensing among Asian countries. The benefits of LCCS in allowing standardization of mapping legends was demonstrated and participants discussed the generation of standard classes for FRA 2010. In addition the workshop was also an opportunity to train participants on 2D/3D data visualization techniques and information requirements of CBD 2010, like degradation (change in density), deforestation and fragmentation (based on an agreed LCCS classification).

INTRODUCTION TO MAR PROJECT

The MAR project ("Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment, and Reporting (MAR) on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Asia") is organised in FAO Forestry Department in Rome. It is a five year project that was launched in January 2006. It is funded by the Government of Japan and technically and institutionally supported by FAO to contribute directly to the improvement in the sustainable forest management (SFM) regimes in the Asia Pacific region. The project seeks to establish a functioning national network in each project country. This network would consist of national focal points to various forest related national, regional and international processes. It attempts to institutionalise the process of co-ordination, standardization and harmonization of the national MAR system by promoting frequent technical dialogue among various stakeholders. The project aims to reduce the reporting burden on countries and build up more precise, consistent, and useful national information on forests It plans to organise expert consultations, training workshops and thematic studies at national and regional level to achieve its objectives. The project also aims to enhance efficiency and use of MAR information for better decision-making and formulation of forest policies and planning at the national level.