



Forestry Department

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

INCEPTION WORKSHOP
- STRENGTHENING MONITORING, ASSESSMENT
AND REPORTING ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST
MANAGEMENT IN ASIA -

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PROCEEDINGS

STRENGTHENING MONITORING, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING
ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN ASIA (GCP/INT/988/JPN)

AUGUST 2006, ROME



Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Asia (GCP/INT/988/JPN)

FAO initiated the project "Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in Asia" (GCP/INT/988/JPN) in January 2006. The five-year project is funded by the Government of Japan.

The main objective of this project is to develop a harmonized forest related national monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR) system to contribute directly to the improvement of sustainable forest management (SFM) regimes in the Asia-Pacific region. An allied objective of the project is to enhance the use of the MAR information in national decision-making, formulation of effective forest policies, and sustainable forest management and planning.

The project accomplishes its objectives in two phases. The first two years, the Development Phase, the project would focus on: (a) international activities like the establishment of linkages with forest-related processes; (b) development of a globally harmonized framework, guidelines and database structure, including pilot testing in some countries; (c) use of MAR information in forest planning and development of forest policies at the national level; (d) establishment of a country-level network of national focal points to various forest-related processes; and (e) initiate a set of national activities that facilitate the implementation of the harmonized MAR.

The Implementation Phase spreads over the remaining three years of the project period and focuses on the implementation of the harmonized MAR, including facilitation in the establishment of database at the national level in selected project countries within the Asia-Pacific region through studies, reviews, training, workshops and expert consultations. The detailed design of this phase will be finalized on the basis of a review of the activities and the outputs of the first phase.

All countries in the Asia-Pacific region can participate in the project, although the actual level and intensity of their involvement may vary among them. Forestry departments in respective countries have been requested to nominate their national focal points for this project.

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1 Introduction

FAO has initiated the project “Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment, and Reporting (MAR) on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Asia” (GCP/INT/988/JPN) in January 2006. It is a five year project that is funded by the Government of Japan, with a view to developing a harmonized monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR) system to contribute directly to the improvement of sustainable forest management (SFM) regimes in the Asia-Pacific region. An inception workshop was organised to inform and brief the project countries about its objectives, scope, proposed activities and expected outputs.

2 Background

At national levels countries have repeatedly their expressed similar concerns through Committee on Forestry (COFO) and FAO council on increasing burden of forest related international reporting and request FAO to take lead and assist them. All countries perceive that the MAR system should be simple in reporting and action-oriented both at the international and national levels. Further that at the national level, it should catalyze national discussions, analyses, policy actions and planning that promote SFM. Finally, at all levels, the MAR, should help to clarify the contribution of forests to global environment and to human well-being.

At the international level, the United National Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992 recognized that forest resources in most of the countries are not being managed in a sustainable manner and lack proper MAR systems. It therefore developed a set of “Forest Principles” that demanded worldwide sustainable forest management (SFM) in conformity with multiple functions and values of forest resources. It noted that “Forest resources and forest lands should be sustainably managed to meet the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual needs of present and future generations”. To further this initiative, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) is supporting development of more efficient monitoring, assessment, and reporting (MAR) on SFM both at international and national levels. It shares perception of countries on national MAR and in addition considers that the MAR at the international level should provide opportunities to share experiences among countries and other stakeholders and to identify actions that could be taken at various levels to support SFM.

3 Rationale and Objective

The main rationale of the project resides in its objective to enhance the efficiency of the sustainable forest management through improvements in the existing forest related national MAR systems. Further it contributes directly to the mandate given by COFO to the FAO Forestry Department.

Therefore the general aim of the project is to develop national MAR systems that directly contribute to the improvement of sustainable forest management (SFM). The project aims to address the sustained supply of goods and services from forest resources while recognizing the role of the social, political, economic, and environmental contexts including policies and institutions, in which these forest resources reside. The project plans to facilitate a system of regular and scientific collection, analysis, and reporting of forestry-related information coupled with its enhanced access and sharing with the civil society for better informed national level decision-making and improved formulation of forest policies and management planning.

The specific objectives of the project include,

- a. to develop national network of all national focal points of various forest related national, regional and international processes.
- b. to develop a regional network dedicated to sharing information, experiences and new knowledge among project countries, region and the world.
- c. to co-ordinate, harmonize and standardise the national MAR processes of the countries in the Asia Pacific region ;
- d. to facilitate streamlining and reduce the burden of international and regional reporting by the countries;
- e. to promote use of MAR information in making key-decisions, formulation of forest polices and development of forest planning in a country;
- f. to improve links between existing national forest policies and with other related national policies like environmental, social and economic policies in a country;
- g. to strengthen linkages between processes of development of sustainable management of forests development and the overall sustainable development processes in a country;
- h. to disseminate information concerning the forestry sector and its development to all stakeholders and the civil society;
- i. to satisfy international policy dialogues, institutions, conventions and processes dealing with global issues like global biodiversity, carbon sequestration, soil condition, and the effects of climate change.

4 Organization of the inception workshop

FAO organized the inception workshop of the project in Sapporo, Japan from 24th to 28th July 2006 in collaboration with the Forestry Agency of Japan, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), and the FAO-Norwegian project.

5 Objectives of the inception workshop

The Inception Workshop aimed at the following objectives.

- a. Introducing the project to national focal points of the participating countries
- b. Initiating actions to:
 - develop a national network of national focal points of forest related processes/agencies (national, regional and international) in each project country
 - start a process of harmonization of MAR information
 - promote and use MAR information in development of forest policy and planning
- c. Establishing a regional network of national project coordinators
- d. Formalising the structure of steering committees

6 Structure of the inception workshop

The inception workshop was organised in conjunction with 17th meeting of the working group of the Montreal C&I process in the same building and same dates in Sapporo, Japan. It comprised of

six sessions (joint opening session, introductory sessions, detailed technical sessions, joint open forum sessions, wrap-up session, and a session on the Project Steering Committee). The day-wise program elements are contained in Annex 1. In addition a one-day field visit was also conducted by the Government of Japan. The inception workshop shares one full day long session (joint forum) with the 17th meeting of the working group of the Montréal Criteria and Indicators process. **This meeting, which a parallel event organised at the same venue and FAO-MAR inception workshop.**

7 Participants and Resource persons in the inception workshop

A total of 34 professionals (Annex 2) actively participated in the workshop. Sixteen professionals from 16 project countries in the Asia-Pacific region and three professions from two (USA and Canada) of the Montréal process countries came to attend the workshop. In addition, two professionals from two international organizations (CBD and ITTO), five professionals from three Japanese organizations (FFPRI, JICA, JAFTA), three professionals from the Forestry Agency of Japan and five professionals from FAO participated in the workshop. The representatives of international processes or organizations and FAO served as the resource person for this workshop.

8 Deliberations in workshop sessions

The following provides the brief summary of the deliberations in each of the six sessions of the workshop. The Annex 3 provides details of these deliberations.

8.1 Joint opening Session

Mr. Ichiro Nagame, the Director, International Cooperation Office, the Forest Agency of Japan gave the inaugural address to the joint session of the inception workshop and the working group meeting of the Montreal C&I process and declared both events open. He underlined existing positive synergies and future need of more collaboration between the Montreal Process and the FAO-MAR project. It was followed by self-introduction by the participants of the joint session. Mr. Hiroki Miyazono, Deputy Director, International Cooperation Office, the Forest Agency of Japan then briefed the participants on the organization, management and logistic details of both the events being implemented simultaneously in the same building.

8.2 Introductory Session

Participants were briefed on the Project activities, the workshop themes and objectives, the regional and international reporting, the Collaborative Partnership on Forest activities related to MAR and the National Network of Forest related Reporting. The participants deliberated in detail on the information provided to them and raised following key issues during the introductory session:

a. Capacity building at the field level

- Connection to local-level knowledge and non-governmental sectors is important for effective collection of data. However, their perceptions of SFM and methodologies for MAR are still limited, therefore capacity building is essential for field-level personnel and local stakeholders.
- Participants also highlighted lack of national professionals at the field level

b. Development of methodologies

- Participants pointed out lack of appropriate methodologies to conduct surveys, inventories, assessments including pilot studies, especially since the SFM concept has changed and the information needs are evolving. They requested to explore possibility of support through “Support to National Forest Assessment” programme of FAO Forestry.

c. Broadening horizons of planning

- The participants made a point that the strategic planning horizons are expanding and asking for new information and integrations.
- The countries now need to develop information projections /scenarios for longer period like next 20 years.

8.3 Detailed Technical Sessions

The detailed technical session comprised of following components. The session design provided for initial briefing to be followed by discussion and or presentation by the participants.

A. National Network

The participants were briefed on the core project activity of establishing National Network on MAR (NN-MAR) consisting of all national focal points to various forest related international/regional processes and agencies in each project country. The participants shared the basic perception of the project that such a network will improve co-ordination among various forest related processes and agencies provide opportunities for harmonization and contribute to enhanced use of MAR information in decision making, policy development and formulation of forest programmes.

The participants were informed about some core attributes of the NN-MAR including the following. The NN-MAR should be a fair, transparent, and accessible network. The project desires participation of all stakeholders in the MAR processes including NGOs. The network should meet regularly and frequently. Its meeting should be thematic and technical in nature with pre-decided topic for deliberation.

The national focal points of the project should take the lead of establishment and implementation. Therefore, during the life of the MAR project, the national focal points should serve as the secretary of the NN-MAR. The country should decide who should be the chairman of this network.

During life of the MAR project the NN-MAR should also serve a national project steering committee. In this respect, it should review, approve for submission to project steering committee for support as well as monitor all national activities under the project.

The participants were told that the project will initially render support to meet some of the direct costs of organisation of the local meetings of NN-MAR. In doing so it expects that there will not be any expenses on DSA and travel etc. in organising local meetings of NN-MAR.

The participants were informed that the guidelines on management and support to NN-MAR are under development and will soon be provided to all the countries. The participants were requested to articulate their national needs and prioritise them through deliberation in their respective national networks as early as possible so as to bring them to the next workshop planned in October 2006.

B. Use of MAR information for policy development and planning

In many countries, lack of harmonization coupled with infrequent and sub-optimal use of MAR information in decision making, development of forest policies, planning and management programmes has led to its current low value and therefore to insufficient investments to develop and support national MAR systems.

The project therefore also aims to improve value of MAR information by promoting its use. This is expected to attract necessary and sufficient investments for sustenance of national MAR systems.

The participants were informed that the next workshop planned in October 2006 will focus on finalizing activities for project support. Therefore they may like to formalise country specific proposals for enhancing use of MAR information in national level decision making, development of forest policy and formulation of forest programmes. For example, a country may like to develop long-term visions of states and trends of stocks, goods, and services of forests or methodologies to formulate normative, strategic, and operational planning to realize the visions.

C. Collaboration and financing

The participants were informed about various forestry initiatives being coordinated by FAO regional office in Bangkok and other institutions in the region like ASEAN. They were also briefed on some of international initiatives at FAO like and national forest programme facility (nfp), which may provide further support to strengthen monitoring assessment and reporting on sustainable forest management.

There was general agreement among the participants that there is a need to synergize various forest related activities and resources in the Asia-Pacific region and that the project secretariat should address this felt need. Further that the project should use its resources to leverage such opportunities in favour of AP countries.

D. Project leveraged activities - Remote sensing

The participants were informed about the need and a proposal to take up harmonization of remote sensing. The proposal dealt with organisation of a training workshop at Indian Institute of Remote Sensing in Dehradun on remote sensing in December 2006. The training workshop aims to provide opportunity for learn and use of Land Cover Classification System (LCCS), lay basis and initiate harmonization of remote sensing based forest classification, and build capacities to develop indicators on degradation, deforestation and fragmentation.

The participants appreciated the utility of the remote sensing in MAR and supported the proposal. They indicated current problems related to remote sensing in their countries, which

included high costs of imageries, difficulties in their procurement and frequent changes of software packages. They suggested that project takes up the task of standardization of remote sensing based forest classification, making available remote sensing imageries free or at affordable prices, and training of national professional in use of LCCS and other effective tools to take advantage of remote sensing for MAR

E. Country Case Study Session

Most (11) the project countries made presentations to inform the status of MAR in their country including its use in their forest policy and planning. This included countries Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, and Thailand. In addition, Canada and USA delegates to the Montreal process (parallel meeting) enriched the discussion by informing the state of MAR and its use in their countries.

These presentations indicate that countries, the MAR systems have evolved along with other developments in forestry sector in their country. Therefore, the design of national MAR is slightly different among countries. Overtime they have tried to link it with their C&I reporting, however this link is quite weak in most of the countries.

The presentations highlighted the dependence of the content and quality of the national MARs systems on National forest inventories (NFI) or their equivalent surveys. Although some of advanced countries have evolved mechanisms to link their MAR systems from international to local levels with a verification processes, however, it seems that most of the countries in the region have not been able to do so, especially linking with inventory or survey information at the field (FMU) level.

Some countries have established a streamlined system of network of their forest-related MAR system located inside a single organization, while others extend it across several organizations. Both have advantages and disadvantages in quality and content of their MAR systems including its capacity to coordinate MAR activities.

The presentations demonstrated variation in the efficiency of MAR systems with variations in ownership and centralization/decentralization of authority and control. This variation was quite distinct in case of private and communal tenured land. Similarly, poor inefficiency of centralised MAR with decentralised authority and control and vice versa was very evident. Most of the presentations were limited to the national MAR on their state land and informed nothing or very little on MAR on private/communal land. The discussion highlighted this

In summary, all the participating project countries reported that they fulfil obligations for reporting to regional and international processes and agencies. However, the extent to which they are satisfying these process and agencies varies among countries depending on the capacities of their national MAR system. As regards satisfaction of national needs is concerned, they expressed need to improve their MAR to facilitate better governance (control of illegal/excessive logging, supervision etc.), enhance social support to programmes like poverty alleviation, secure and maintain a well defined forest tenure system, and increase participation of civil society. In short all countries wanted to improve MAR at all levels (field sub-national and national) through harmonization / standardisation of variables and process, better information (inventory, surveys and assessment), capacity building (generation and use of information), necessary financial support and finally better coordination among various national focal points.

8.4 Information management and International reporting Session

The participants were briefed on systems of information management and international/regional reporting through various presentations made by FAO, CPF, ITTO, CBD and EURO COST 43. These presentations covered Forest Resources Information System (FORIS) of FAO, Global Forest Resources Assessment (FAO), CPF, Joint Forest Sector Questionnaires (JQ), C&I in AP region, Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study, Euro COST E43 initiative.

These presentations indicated that an ideal national MAR has to be innovative, adaptive and cover a vast field. It also detailed studies may be required to develop country specific proposals to upgrade national MARs in AP region. Further that it provides for possibilities of collaborative work between various organization at the international (FAO and ITTO, CBD, or EURO COST) as well as national level. The participants accordingly solicited help of the project on harmonization /standardisation of MAR on SFM in their countries.

The session, therefore, recognized and stressed on the need for systematic information management and communications, effective sharing and exchange of expertise in and among countries, and the effective management and dissemination of information on websites and other media.

8.5 Open Forum Session

The Joint Open Forum was organized with the FAO-MAR project and the Montréal Process to promote the awareness of the civil society on SFM, MAR, and C&I. Three keynote speeches were made on initiatives of FAO, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) on SFM, MAR, C&I. These initiatives were exemplified through country presentations by USA, India, Australia, PNG, Japan, Russia, Canada, Indonesia, China, Chile, and Republic of Korea. These presentations spanned a spectrum of field related to MAR like linkages with outlook studies, deforestation, SFM regimes, FRA data beyond country reports, economic values of forests, joint (public and communal) assessment of forests resources, forest conversion to other land uses (like oil palm plantations), forest certification, factors for change (increase/decrease) in forests, and large and small-scale plantations.

The forum was closed with following synthesis, recognizing progresses in MAR and C&I processes despite different conditions, constraints (financial and technical) and need for continuous collaboration for further improvement in MAR on SFM.

- The objective of C & I or MAR is not to collect data in itself, but to use it for influencing decision makings or planning on SFM. Involvement of all stakeholders is essential at national/sub-national levels.
- Countries benefits from data collection to manage forests sustainably. Furthermore, such data collection promotes people to be interested in forests.
- However, development of expertise of MAR is a technical challenge. No countries can produce data for all indicators. In particular, developing countries lack financial sources, technical tools for remote sensing, or human resource capacities, and thus they cannot conduct monitoring easily.
- Nevertheless, all countries make progress in development of national reports. Many countries set criteria at national and sub-national levels. Regional or international processes like FAO, UNFF, CBD are beneficial to exchange information and help implementation of C&I with national coordinators.

- C & I processes are under exercise since 1995 for better monitoring processes. MAR is a long journey to seek out together at different paces by various countries.
- Excellent speeches contributed much to the improvement of knowledge on C&I and MAR. Results of presentations will be applied to member countries.
- Forest management is not given high priority in national programmes because of it takes a long time. In order to overcome this constraint, it is essential to work together and this workshop is a good basis for our collaboration. C&I are not panacea, and it is necessary to continue to support each other to overcome challenges to SFM.

9 Joint Field Visit

Participants from both workshops (MAR and Montreal process), on fourth day (Thursday) of the workshop went on a field visit organized by the Government of Japan to four sites. These are briefly described below. The participants took keen interest and derived full utility from this field visit. Hitsujioka Experimental Forest (Hokkaido Research Centre, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute) aims to study the linkage of ecosystem and atmosphere which will contribute to carbon cycle modelling efforts, and to enhancing understanding of productivity controls specific to the mixed hardwood ecosystems. Hokkaido Prefectural Citizen's Forest (Ichibangawa Area) is established for the study of effects of low-impact logging on stream runoff and sediment discharge in catchment's forests. Hokkaido Prefectural Citizen's Forest (Kamuishiri Area) is one of the sites for forest resources monitoring surveys on vegetative conditions, state of standing trees, state of stumps, and state of fallen trees. The Tokyo University Forest in Hokkaido was established to perform research and education on planning and implementation of forest management and plantations or tree breeding.

10 Overall focus of the project

There was consensus on the overall focus of the project to stimulate synergies of MAR activities at national level, based on needs defined by the individual countries participating in the project. The immediate emphasis of project activities relating to national MAR should therefore be:

- support establishment and institutionalization of National Networks
- support development of formats and guidelines for establishment, maintenance and other identified functions of national MAR systems
- strengthen networking, information management and communication
- support harmonization and standardisation of generation, reporting and use of information
- link project activities with ongoing forest related national, regional and global initiatives
- co-ordinate additional inputs at national level to strengthen national MAR like capacity building including capacity building at the grass root level , financial support
- support the regional network of national focal points to share and learn among countries

11 Conclusions

The forenoon of the last day was devoted to conclusion session and organization of the project steering committee. The participants came with following conclusions.

11.1 Development of National Network of National Focal Points

The workshop deliberated on the establishment of the national network of all national focal points (various forest related processes and agencies (national, regional and international) based in a country) to streamline and harmonize the reporting as well as to enhance the participation of major stakeholders in the planning and policy processes using MAR. The countries welcomed project support in establishing and organising thematic meetings of the national network including development prioritised proposals of activities under the project. It was recognised that some countries may require capacity building to develop and maintain national web-site and MAR related information. It was also suggested that to indicate national ownership, the website should be national and use national logo.

Further that the project countries will organise the first meeting of the national network as early as possible to inform FAO about the following,

- a. their willingness to participate in the remote sensing training workshop in December 2006
- b. their prioritised proposals for activities under the project, specially suggestions and issues for upcoming October 2006 workshop on Use of MAR information

11.2 Use of MAR Information

The project countries recognise the importance of enhancing the use of MAR information in development of forest planning and forest policies. They agreed to provide a list prioritised themes, as early as possible, for the proposed MAR workshop in Bangkok in the last week of October 2006.

11.3 Remote Sensing

The project countries agreed with the need of a standardised land cover classification system (LCCS) for spatial and temporal consistency and agreed to participate in the upcoming MAR training workshop on use of LCCS that is linked with MAR and FRA. The workshop will be jointly organised by the SDRN and MAR project in the second week (4 to 8 December 2006) at Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (UN University for Remote Sensing for the AP region), Dehradun, India.

The project countries also appreciated the need of a regional grid for remote sensing survey and its linking with the existing national and sub-national grids for more précised and robust development of national and regional estimates of forest cover and its dynamics.

The project countries requested that more information should be provided on the training workshop on remote sensing to help them decide their participation and nomination of its participants (technical staff). They agreed to formally intimate their willingness to participate in pilot exercise for this purpose as early as possible.

11.4 Role of Project as Facilitator and Coordinator

The project countries supported continuance of the current role of the project as facilitator and co-ordinator between various international agencies and processes to support country needs in the field of MAR.

12 Project Steering Committee

Peter Holmgren briefed the participants on the structure, purpose and role of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) of the project. After detail deliberations the participant and thus the PSC took following decision.

12.1 Composition of Project Steering Committee

All national focal points, donors and FAO staff will be members of the PSC. Those project countries which are unable to participate can provide their advance inputs through email. As far as possible, the PSC will be organized in conjunction with the regional meeting to avoid additional expenditure on travel and meetings.

The PSC will generally be open to all partners including donors and invited experts. However, PSC may setup closed sessions for internal discussions to deal with sensitive issues, in which only national focal points, donors and FAO staff will participate.

12.2 Responsibilities

PSC should give over all direction to the project in addition to reviewing and monitoring of the project activities and approving of the work plan for next 12 months.

12.3 Project Priorities

The PSC supports long term priorities identified (see conclusions) in the inception workshop. It requests national focal points to come with national priorities or issues in the October 2006 meeting for development of project priorities for next one year. This meeting will be an open and participatory meeting with all stakeholders to develop project priorities for next one year.

13 Acknowledgments

The Project would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Forestry Agency of Japan, Hokkaido Prefecture, CPF, FFPRI, ITTO, INBAR, SCBD, and other collaborating organizations for their active participation in and cordial support to the workshop.

Wrapping up the presentations and discussions, participants discussed conclusions of the workshop and organization of PSC. Results of the discussions are summarized in the conclusions below. Several points were brought forward in the discussions:

- Most of the countries have developed their websites, to which new MAR sites could be combined.
- It is desired that the project could ensure grass-root level mechanisms or “training of trainers” approaches.

14 Annex 1. Participants

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15Annex 2 – Agenda of the workshop

Inception Workshop Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) on Sustainable Forest Management in Asia

24(Mon) - 28(Fri) July 2006, Sapporo Japan, Kaderu 2 • 7

Agenda

Sunday, 23 July 2006

- Resource Group Meeting
- Confirm chairs to forenoon and afternoon sessions on 24, 25 and 28 July
- Brief rapporteurs
- Identify technical group to review proceedings

DAY 1: Monday, 24 July 2006

- | | |
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| 09:00 | Registration |
| 09:30 | Joint opening session |
| | - Welcome |
| | - Self-introductions by MPWG & FAO Workshop |
| | - Introduction of “Joint Forum” (objectives and mutual benefits) |
| 10:00 | Coffee Break (After this MP-WG and FAO-WS participants work separately) |
| 10:20 | Introduction - Project and Inception workshop - Dr. Kailash Govil |
| 11:00 | Introduction to International Reporting - Dr. Peter Holmgren |
| 11:20 | Introduction to CPF Activities related to MAR - Ms. Marguerite France Lanord |
| 11:40 | Introduction to Regional Activities related to MAR- Mr. Patrick Durst |
| 12:00 | Lunch Break |
| 13:30 | State of forest related reporting in project countries - Mr. Masahiro Otsuka |
| 14:00 | National Network of Forest related Reporting (NNFR) - Dr. Kailash Govil |
| 14:30 | Discussion on National Network of Forest related Reporting |
| 15:00 | Coffee Break |
| 15:15 | Use of MAR Information in Policy and Planning - Dr. Kailash Govil |
| 15:45 | Introduction to Project Activities - Mr. Masahiro Otsuka |
| 16:15 | Discussion on project activities and use of information |
| | End of Day 1 |

DAY 2: Tuesday, 25 July 2006

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 09:00 | Reporting to CBD and CBD 2010 |
| 09:15 | FAO Forestry Knowledge and Information Management - Dr. Peter Holmgren |
| 09:35 | Europe COST43 and Potential for similar action in Asia - Dr. Erikki Tomppo (presented by Dr. Kailash Govil) |
| 09:50 | Remote Sensing Meeting in October 2006 : Information and discussion |
| 10:00 | Coffee Break |
| 10:15 | Case Studies on MAR – Myanmar – Mr. Sann Lwin |
| 10:30 | Case Studies on MAR in Japan- Dr. Toshiro Lehara |
| 11:00 | Case Studies on MAR – Australia- Mr. Krishna Gounder |
| 11:30 | Case Studies on MAR - New Zealand- Mr. John Novis |
| 12:00 | Lunch Break |
| 13:30 | Case Studies on MAR in Japan- The primary information of forest monitoring with time-series observation data" – Mr. Wataru Ohira |
| 14:00 | Case Studies on MAR in USA –Robert Hendrics |

14:30	Case Studies on MAR –Canada - Dr. John Hall
15:00	Coffee Break
DAY 2: Tuesday, 25 July 2006 (Continued)	
15:15	State of MAR - China - Dr. Su Chunyu
15:45	State of MAR - India - Mr. J. V. Sharma
16:15	State of MAR - Indonesia - Dr. Toni Soehartono
16:45	State of MAR - Thailand - Mr. C. Sutthisrilapa
17:15	State of MAR - Pakistan - Dr. Bashir Ahmed Wani
17:45	Regional Network of NPC and Discussion on MAR in countries in AP countries
18:00	End of Day 2
DAY 3: Wednesday, 26 July 2006	
09:00	Reporting to FAO - Dr. Peter Holmgren
09:30	Reporting to ITTO- Steve Johnson
10:00	Workshop on "Use of MAR meeting" in October 2006 - Information and Discussion
10:30	End of Forenoon Activities
Early Lunch	
OPEN FORUM (JOINT MP and MAR Workshop)	
12:00	Opening Ceremony –Introductory addresses - Forestry Agency and Hokkaido Prefecture
12:15	Keynote speech – FAO’s Initiatives on SFM and Forest Resources Assessment 2005 -Dr. Peter Holmgren
	Keynote speech - Status of Tropical Forest Management 2005 – ITTO
	Keynote speech - MCPFE’s initiatives for the promotion of SFM - MCPFE
13:00	3 presentations (20 minutes each) - USA, India, Australia
14:10	Questions and Answers
14:10	2 presentations (20 minutes each) - PNG and Japan
14:50	Questions and Answers
15:00	Tea/Coffee Break
15:20	3 presentations (20 minutes each) - Russia, Canada, Indonesia
16:20	Questions and Answers
16:30	3 presentations (20 minutes each) - China, Chile, Republic of Korea
17:30	Questions and Answers
17:40	Closing of Joint Open Forum
	Reception hosted by Director-General, Forestry Agency of Japan
	End of Day 3
DAY 4: Thursday, 27 July 2006	
08:00	Field Trip
19:00	End of Day 4
DAY 5: Friday, 28 July 2006	
09:00	Draft proceeding of the workshop
10:00	Coffee Break
10:20	Wrap up - Draft proceeding of the workshop
11:45	Project Steering Committee meeting
12:00	End of the Workshop

16 Appendix 3 – Opening Address

24 July, 2006

Opening address

Mr. Ichiro Nagame
Director, International Forestry Cooperation Office
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Good morning, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honour to announce the commencement of both the 17th Meeting of the Montreal Process Working Group and the FAO MAR project inception workshop at this Joint Opening Session, and I am pleased to welcome all of you here in Sapporo on behalf of the Forestry Agency of Japan.

As an initiator of these parallel and sometimes mutually supportive meetings between the Montreal Process and the FAO MAR in Asia, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all participants who have kindly understood and agreed to work on primarily-designated meetings and concurrently contribute to other meetings as resource persons or facilitators.

The Montreal Process is one of the front runners among the various C&I initiatives, and I expect that this 17th working group meeting will be able to mark a milestone by carefully reviewing its indicators and discussing a future strategic plan in a constructive manner. This type of deliberation among the member countries of the Montreal Process may provide guidance to some participating countries of the FAO MAR project in implementing their C&I efficiently or in reducing the reporting burden.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I plan to produce a short and positive report on this first collaboration between the Montreal Process and the FAO MAR in Asia at the next UNFF7. I sincerely wish to be able to report on the effectiveness and synergy created under this initiative. I will draft such report based upon your final evaluation on the questionnaires to be collected at the end of the whole sessions. In order to get higher ranks in your evaluation sheet, I decided to have a buffet-dinner party with young dancers' performance and a full day field trip in the latter half of the week.

Honestly speaking, this large number of participants, such as 23 countries, 5 international organizations and 53 foreign participants is almost beyond the capacity of my office. Nevertheless, we are very pleased to be able to invite this many people to our country, and in particular to Sapporo. Hokkaido and Sapporo are very popular places to visit among Japanese people, while it could be a little complicated for foreign people to come and stay. During your stay, my staff and the contracted conference service agent, Japan Convention Services, will try to provide best available services to you for your success in the meetings and memorial stay in Sapporo.

It is my hope that this week gathering will be beneficial to both the Montreal Process and the FAO MAR in Asia. Thank you very much for your kind attention.