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Announcement and Call for Oral and Poster Presentations

**International Workshop on REDD+ and Sustainable Land use Management in Myanmar**

**16-18 December 2014, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**

1. **Introduction**

Climate change is one of the big challenges in tropical countries and the protection of tropical forests has been recognized as an essential part of the international effort to reduce global GHG emissions. The forestry sector is encouraged to effectively support collective efforts to halt global temperature rise at below 2 degrees Celsius. The mechanism of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) has been promoted as an international framework to reduce GHG emissions by avoding deforestation and forest degardation as well as promoting sustainable forest management in developing countries. The restored forests will be resilient to climate change impacts while enhancing ecosystem services. The presence of climate-resilient forests will play an important role in stabilizing degraded areas and the communities within them through providing a buffer against climate extremes.

Since Myanmar is a signatory country to the UNFCCC, the Forest Department has been undertaking every possible measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation. With the financial and technial supports of Norweigan Government, UN-REDD Programme, ITTO, RECOFTC, and other partner organizations, Myanmar prepared REDD+ Readiness Roadmap in June 2013 with the participation of government line Ministries, regional governments, CSOs, NGOs, INGOs, academia and local communities. The implementation of the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap is in progress.

Nowadays, Myanmar has also been preparing a natioanl landuse policy in order to utilize land resources efffectively and efficiently and to support the sustainable development of the country. This is the first time in the history of the country that a comprehensive land policy should be formulated to support the development of the country’s sustainable development goals. Up to date, land has been managed through various legal instruments and customary practices in the country. Therefore, it is a very important and urgent challenge of how to successfully formulate the effective land use policy. Forests, representing 46% of the total land areas of the country of which about 26% are under permanent forest estatesand 20% are unclassified forest lands, are an integral part of on-going landuse policy development. There is the need for the country’s land use planning and management systems to fulfill the basic needs of the people, development of national economy and conservation of ecosystem services including carbon sequestration, watershed conservation, and biodiversity conservation. Within this context, National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan should be linked and contributed to the establishment of improved landuse policy formulation process in order to maximize the benefits from the sustainable use of land resources. This workshop will provide an important opportunityto review the role of forests in landuse formulation process to ensure the enhancement of the conservation and management of forest lands from conversion to non-forest uses in the context of REDD+.

1. **Objectives**

The Objectives of this workshop are

* To update the recent development of REDD+ negotiations and discussions by raising the pubclic awareness of the multiple benefits of forests as an natural capital
* To increase the potential roles of forests and REDD+ in landuse policy formulation
* To share information and experiences of landuse planning and management policy development to support the effective design and implementation of REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan
* To accelerate the implementation of REDD+ Readiness Process in the context of sustainable forest management to support the sustainble development.
1. **Expected Outputs**

The workshop will contribute to a better understanding of REDD+ mechanims development at the Internataionl level and sharing the outcome of on-going REDD+ and carbon assessment research activities. It will also provide valuable inputs to the establishment of sound landuse planning and management policies and systems to support the long-term sustainability of REDD+ and sustainable forest management.

1. **Date and venue**

The workshop on REDD+ and Landuse will be organized on 16-17 December 2014 at the Forest Department of the Ministy of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. A field visit to Tangwoo District, East Bago Yoma, will be organized on 18 December 2014.

**5. Organizer and Partners**

The workshop on REDD+ and Landuse will be jointly organized by the Forest Department and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in collaboration with the Kyusu University of Japan, Seoul National University of Korea and other partners.

6. **Paper and poster presentation**

The workshop is designed to present technical papers and/or posters about REDD+, land use policy and landuse planning by local and international experts from Japan, Korea, Cambodia, etc.

**7. Sponsorship**

With the budget limitation of the organizer, international speakers and participants should cover all costs for participating in the Workshop.

**8. Deadline for registration and submitting abstract of paper/poster**

International speakers and participants are encouraged to register not later than **15 November 2014**. Submission of an abstract of paper/poster is encouraged by **30November 2014.** Guidelines for the preparation of a paper/poster is provided as Annex.

**Call for poster presentations:**

Any interested person is very welcome to submit abstract for poster presentations not later than **30 November2014**. Poster submissions can be accepted from any tropical forestry or REDD+ and sustainable landuse related disciplines at any stage of findings such as preliminary or complete scientific results, project activity reports, and research proposals, etc. Each poster presenter will be given 1-2 minutes time to briefly explain the concept and findings of her/his poster to all the participants, but she/he will remain at her/his poster for individual discussion until the end of the Poster session.

If you are interested in poster presentation, you are kindly requested to submit **abstract** in English to the Organizing Committee of **International Workshop on REDD+ and Sustaianble Landuse Management in Myanmar**” (tnoo71@gmail.com and

mizouenn@gmail.com) **by 30th November 2014**.

Abstract submission for poster presentation should include Poster Title, Author(s), abstract of about 200 words. Each submission should include full name of author(s), affiliation(s), and e-mail address(es). An example of abstract submission is shown in the last page of this announcement. Available size of each poster will be 84cm width by 119cm length (A0 size).

9. **Contact persons**

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ANNEX

**Example of Abstract**

Guide for abstract submission for oral/poster presenters

Due date of submission:

E-mail address to be sent: tnoo71@gmail.com, mizouenn@gmail.com

**Format of Abstract;**

1) Title

2) Full name of author(s), affiliation(s), and e-mail address(es)

3) Text with length of around 200 words

Please follow the style as in the following example.

**Implications of strip and group cutting systems in conifer plantations in Japan.**

Nobuya Mizoue (Kyushu University, Japan; mizoue@agr.kyushu-u.ac.jp), Satoshi Ito (University of Miyazaki, Japan) and Akio Inoue (Tottori University, Japan).

There have been increasing concerns on alternative silvicultural systems to a large-scale clear-cutting system in many countries. In Japan, plantation forests occupy about 10 million ha, 40% of forested lands, most of which are simple even-aged conifer forests of sugi (*Cryptomeria japonica*) or hinoki (*Chamaecyparisobtusa*). Applying group and strip cutting system are being considered as an effective way to transform simple even-aged to uneven-aged plantation forests. These systems had been originally adopted in the 1940s in Hokkaido, northern Japan, in order to encourage the early growth of planted trees and to prevent frost damages. In 1970s, they were applied to coniferplantation in the central and southern Japan in order to maintain scenic beauty from sightseeing roads in mountainous terrain by arranging small logging areas. What advantages strip and group cutting systems in sugi and hinoki plantations have in temperate regions, southern Japan in terms of sustainable forest management concept? In this talk, we re-evaluate the small-scale group and strip cutting systems in terms of tree growth and biodiversity, based on case studies in old group and strip cutting sites of sugi and hinoki. Then we propose spatial arrangement methods of cutting areas based on case studies.