



FORTY-SIXTH SESSION
13-18 December 2010
Yokohama, Japan

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ITTO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME
(FREEZAILAH FELLOWSHIP FUND)**

(Item 20 of the Provisional Agenda)

Introduction

1. This document is prepared pursuant to Decision 4(XXVII), which requested the Executive Director to prepare progress reports on the implementation of the ITTO Fellowship Programme for Council's review during its regular Sessions.
2. In keeping with this Decision, this document reports on the work related to the implementation of the ITTO Fellowship Programme since the end of the Forty-fifth Session of the ITTC and outlines measures to be considered at the Forty-sixth Session regarding the operation of the Freezailah Fellowship Fund.

Progress in Implementation

3. Advertisement and Dissemination of the ITTO Fellowship Programme

The Secretariat continues to advertise the ITTO Fellowship Programme in the ITTO Newsletters, Tropical Forest Update (TFU) and the Tropical Timber Market Information (TTMI), both of which can be accessed on the ITTO Homepage, <http://www.itto.int/>. TFU volume 19 No.1 published excerpts of a Ph.D dissertation on "Revegetation of tin-mined land using various local tree species in Bangka Island" submitted by Dr. Eddy Nurtjahya (Indonesia) to Bogor Agricultural University, and TFU volume 19 No. 3 carried excerpts of an interview about the achievements of Mr. Zahinda Elikia Amania (Democratic Republic of Congo) who successfully completed training on community forestry at World Forestry Institute in U.S.A. TFU volume 19 No. 4 published excerpts of a technical document on "The Economics of Bababassu Trees Products and Derivatives in the Amazon: Trade and Forest Conservation" prepared by Mr. Vag-Lan Borges (Brazil). Information on the Fellowship Programme together with fellowship application forms is available on the ITTO website.

4. New Application Process

An on-line application system is currently being designed and will be available on the ITTO website during the later part of the year. This system is intended to enhance the efficiency of the application process.

5. Status of Fellowship Awards

The Fellowship Programme, which began in 1989, has enabled 1,083 young and mid career people from 44 countries working for governments, universities, research institutions, NGOs and the private sector to pursue their professional development and improve their career prospects. Thirty-two percents of the fellowships have been awarded to people from Asia-Pacific, 30% to people from Africa and 23% from Caribbean/Latin America. Eleven percent (11%) of the fellowships have been awarded to people from developing consumer countries, such as China and Nepal, and 4% to people from developed consumer countries who carried out their activities in producer member countries. Seventy percents of the fellowships awarded were in the field of Reforestation and Forest Management, 21% in Forest Industry and 9% in Economic Information and Market Intelligence.

Total value of fellowship awarded to date amounts to approximately US\$6.3 million. Funding has been provided through the generous voluntary contributions from Japan (75%), U.S.A (13%), the

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Netherlands (7%), Australia (4%) and others (1%) including Sweden, U.K. and Bali Partnership Fund-B. The programme mainly supports short-term activities, such as short training courses and internships (30%), participation in international conferences (19%), and study and demonstration tours (9%). In addition, it also helps people to prepare manuals and monographs (15%) and provides small grants for post-graduate study (27%). The Programme encourages capacity development of women foresters, and has supported 290 women to undertake fellowship activities, accounting for 27% of the total number of fellowships. Eighty-nine percent of the fellowships have already been completed, while 9% are still operational and 2% terminated for unavoidable reasons.

6. Impact Assessment of the Fellowship Programme

An impact assessment of the Fellowship Programme was conducted in Spring 2010 by the Secretariat. Two hundred and six fellows from 34 countries, who completed their fellowship activities between 2000 and 2009, responded to a survey questionnaire. Almost all of the respondents indicated that they have been contributing to promoting sustainable forest management in their home countries. About 85% of the respondents indicated that they have improved their productivity and performance of their home institution by developing new programs or innovative ways of working. Majority of respondents (83%) indicated that the knowledge and skills acquired through the Fellowship program has helped them to influence national forestry and environmental policy in their home countries. About fifty percent (50%) of respondents indicated that they are currently working on international forestry issues, particularly on climate change and REDD.

Eighty five percent of the respondents currently hold either Ph.D. (39%) or Masters Degree (46%) in forestry and related disciplines, and about a half of the fellows received these degrees through the activities supported by the Fellowship Programme. More than half of the respondents (59%) achieved a relevant job position or job promotion immediately after completion of their fellowships, and 83% replied that their job promotion was related to the skills and knowledge that they gained from their fellowship activities.

The Programme has, therefore, made significant contribution to human capacity development in ITTO producer member countries. A summary of the survey results will be reported in a special issue of the TFU dedicated to the Fellowship Programme.

Funding

7. Recalling Decision 4(XXVII) which sets a maximum amount of US\$150,000 per Council session for fellowship awards, until such time that appreciable increases in funding become available, Council may wish to approve additional funds to cover awards, programme support and other costs for 2011. Voluntary pledges to the Programme for 2010 fell short by an amount of US\$100,000, and, therefore, the Secretariat estimates that to maintain the Programme at the current level (25-30 awards per Council Session) an amount of US\$500,000 would be needed in 2011.

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