



Side Event at XXIII IUFRO World Congress

Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT): Opportunities and Challenges

Wednesday, 25 August 2010 at 18:30 – 20:30
Meeting Room No. E6, COEX Centre
Seoul, Korea

This is an event sponsored by

Chinese Academy of Forestry, EU-EFI FLEGT Asia, International Tropical Timber Organization

EU FLEGT Action Plan

In 2003, the EU adopted the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance & Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan as a response to the global problem of illegal logging and its associated trade. The Action Plan aims at using the leverage of the EU market to contribute to sustainable forest management. The newest FLEGT element in place is the long awaited EU Timber Regulation. This new legislation issues a ban on illegally harvested timber, covering the whole timber supply chain from logging sites to European consumers. The European Parliament recently backed a compromise proposal from the EU Council and once adopted in October the new timber legislation makes it a crime to place illegal timber on the EU market. This legislation will apply throughout the 27 member states of the EU in January 2013.

The other centre piece of the Action Plan is the option for Voluntary (but binding) Partnership Agreements (VPAs) between the EU and timber-exporting countries. These VPAs assist partner countries to improve governance and transparency in the forest sector while also setting up control systems that ensure only legally harvested timber is exported to the EU. Three countries have signed VPAs with the EU – they are Ghana, Cameroon and the Republic of Congo. Other countries are in various stages of discussions and negotiations with the EU on the VPA.

China is the EU's largest supplier of timber and timber products, with exports amounting to around Euro 5 billion in 2009, estimated to be equivalent to a round wood volume of 9.6 million cubic metres. In 2009, China agreed with the EU on a Bilateral Coordination Mechanism to exchange information and to explore joint activities that could be carried out, starting in 2010.



Objective of the Event

This Side Event is aimed at informing on new developments in global markets requirements for timber, in the form of government procurement and also legislation in the EU and the US. It will examine the impacts of these developments on supply chain relationships and timber/timber product trade between China and the countries/regions that she sources her timber from, and at the opportunities and challenges posed by FLEGT.

Event Agenda

- 18:30-18:40: Opening Remarks
- 18:40-19:00: "Changing Global Market Requirements Affecting Timber Exporting Countries"
– Dr. Steve Johnson, ITTO
- 19:00-19:20: "FLEGT: Opportunities and Challenges for China"
– Prof. Lu Wenming, Chinese Academy of Forestry
- 19:20-19:40: "Malaysia - EU VPA Negotiations"
– B C Y Freezailah, Malaysia
- 19:40-20:30: Discussion