

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION



NEWS RELEASE

ITTO signs MOU with APFNet in China

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, 25 May 2011: ITTO's Executive Director Emmanuel Ze Meka paid an official visit to China on 16-20 May 2011. The visit aimed at further promoting relations between ITTO and China, the world's largest importer of tropical timber, including signing a MOU with the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) as well as field visits to ITTO projects and Chinese timber markets and enterprises.

During his visit in Beijing, Mr. Ze Meka met with Mr. Yu Jianhua, Assistant Minister of Commerce who is responsible for international cooperation, discussing issues relating to promotion and enhancement of cooperation and collaboration between ITTO and the Chinese government. The meeting with Ms. Yin Hong, Vice Administrator of State Forestry Administration (SFA), focused on how to strengthen the close cooperation between ITTO and SFA in promoting sustainable forest management. Mr. Ze Meka also met Prof. Zhang Shougong, president of the Chinese Academy of Forestry on collaborative initiatives between ITTO and CAF.

On behalf of ITTO, Mr. Ze Meka signed the MOU with APFNet, which will provide for a long-term partnership between ITTO, APFNet and China.

After the official mission in Beijing, the Executive Director visited Shanghai and Guangdong, the two most dynamic regions in China for timber trading and processing. Mr. Ze Meka inspected ITTO projects being implemented in these regions and discussed project implementation with provincial forestry officials and academics. He also took the opportunity to visit local international timber markets and wood processing enterprises which are playing significant roles in world timber trade.

For more information on ITTO related news go to www.itto.int.