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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ITTO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME (FREEZAILAH FELLOWSHIP FUND) (Item 18 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-seventh Session of the ITTC and outlines measures to be considered at the Forty-eighth 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 on the ITTO website <http://www.itto.int/>.

4. A web-based Fellowship Alumni Network has been designed and shall be implemented upon availability of funding.
5. Status of Fellowship Awards

The Fellowship Programme, which began in 1989, has enabled 1,179 young and mid-career people from 47 countries working for governments, universities, research institutions, NGOs and the private sector to pursue their professional development and improve their career prospects. Forty-two percent of the fellowships have been awarded to people from Asia-Pacific, 31% to people from Africa, 24% to people from Latin America/Caribbean, and 3% 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.

The total value of fellowships awarded to date amount to approximately US\$6.8 million. Funding has been provided through the generous voluntary contributions from Japan (74%), U.S.A (14%), the Netherlands (7%), Australia (4%) and others (1%) including Sweden, U.K. and the Bali Partnership Fund-B. The Programme mainly supports short-term activities, such as short training courses and internships (30%), participation in international conferences and workshops (18%), and study and demonstration tours (9%). In addition, it also helps people to prepare manuals and monographs (14%) and provides small grants for post-graduate study (29%). The Programme encourages capacity development of women foresters, and has supported 330 women to undertake fellowship activities, accounting for 28% of the total number of fellowships. Eighty-two percent of the fellowships have already been completed, while 12% are still operational and 6% terminated for unavoidable reasons.

Funding

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Partnership Fund b.

7. Recalling Decision 4(XXVII) which sets a maximum amount of US\$300,000 per year 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 2013. The Secretariat estimates that to maintain the Programme at the current level of 50-60 awards per year, an amount of US\$420,000 would be needed in 2013.

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