



**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL
TIMBER COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE ON
REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**

Distr.
GENERAL

CRF(XLIX)/8
2 October 2015

ENGLISH ONLY

FORTY-NINTH SESSION
16-21 November 2015
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

REPORT ON

**THE 1ST REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ITTO VOLUNTARY
GUIDELINES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT
OF NATURAL TROPICAL FORESTS**

**17 – 20 AUGUST 2015
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA**

Prepared by

**Dr Ismail Parlan
Forest Research Institute Malaysia**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Background

The revised ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests was adopted during the 50th Session of International Tropical Timber Council which was held on 3 – 8 November 2014 in Yokohama, Japan. Recognizing that ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests is a vital component to address changes in the tropical forestry landscape ITTO will organize three regional capacity building training workshops to facilitate the effective and wider application of these guidelines.

The 1st Regional Workshop on ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 17th – 20th August 2015. The Workshop was organized by International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) with the cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Malaysia, the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia and Forest Research Institute Malaysia.

A total of 24 participants from forestry agencies of eight (8) member countries in Asia-Pacific region namely; Cambodia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar, The Philippines, Viet Nam, Indonesia and Malaysia attended the workshop (**Annex 1**). Based on the workshop programme (**Annexes 2 and 3**), this report briefly summarizes presentation and discussions of the workshop.

2. Objectives of the Workshop

The main aim of The 1st Regional Workshop on ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests was to enhance the understanding of participants on the ITTO Guidelines and stimulate the development and implementation of national and subnational guidelines on SFM in the region. The workshop also provided participants the opportunity to discuss key issues on sustainable forest management and share experiences of individual countries on issues and challenges of implementing SFM.

The Voluntary Guidelines as well as country reports were presented and discussed. In addition, three discussion groups were formed to further elaborate and provide feedback from participants on the guidelines.

II. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WORKSHOP

1. Introduction to ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests

The main resource persons for the Workshop were Dr. Ma Hwan-ok, Dr. Jürgen Blaser and Mr. Kenichi Shono. Their brief profiles are shown in **Annex 4**. Dr. Jürgen Blaser presented the core aspects of the Voluntary Guidelines. After a brief introduction, it was noted that as forests and forestry are no longer the sole domain of foresters, multiple uses are expected from the management of forests giving emphasis to an ecosystem approach introduced within the guidelines.

The elaborations on the Voluntary Guidelines highlighted that the guidelines constituted an international reference document for the development and improvement of national and subnational guidelines for the sustainable management of natural tropical forests. They also provided a reference on technical issues at the landscape and FMU scales.

The Guidelines entailed 4 objectives covering 7 principles as follows:

1. Providing the enabling conditions for SFM
 - Principle 1: Forest governance and security of tenure.
 - Principle 2: Land-use planning, permanent forest estate and forest Management planning.
2. Ensuring forest ecosystem health and vitality
 - Principle 3: Ecological resilience, ecosystem health and climate-change adaptation.
3. Maintaining the multiple functions of forests to deliver products and environmental services
 - Principle 4: Multipurpose forest management.
 - Principle 5: Silvicultural management.
4. Integrating social, cultural and economic aspects to implement SFM
 - Principle 6: Social values, community involvement and forest-worker safety and health.
 - Principle 7: Investment in natural forest management and economic instruments.

Under each of the seven principles is a set of guidelines, as well as suggested actions for putting the guidelines into practice. The voluntary guidelines drew on the ITTO Criteria and Indicators for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests and complement other sets of guidelines produced by ITTO on various aspects of tropical forest management, including forest restoration and biodiversity conservation. The seven principles are applicable to SFM in natural tropical forests worldwide, with an emphasis on timber production forests. They are designed to encourage multipurpose forest management practices.

The elaborations on the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines were very much appreciated by the participants of the workshop. The deliberations seem to focus more on Principle 1, Principle 3 and Principle 4.

Some issues highlighted by the workshop participants were:

- there is no consensus on how to value environmental services.
- there is much uncertainty on the assessment of the impacts of climate change and climate variability on natural tropical forest.

There were concerns that aspects of SFM within the guidelines related to climate change may be very challenging to implement due to difficulties in correctly predicting climate change patterns at the local level and to assess the impacts of the changes on the growth and productivity of the forest. Participants identified common challenges in implementing the guidelines. Some considered the guidelines too ambitious or too advanced to implement. Most of the participants noted that there is a continuing need to enhance ITTO support for capacity building of producer member countries to facilitate national and sub-national initiatives to advance SFM.

2. Presentations by resource persons

The workshop was also designed to draw experiences and views among participants by presentation from the resource persons, which also demonstrated case studies and experiences from management practices. Most of the workshop was devoted to a lively, open discussion from the floor with the panelists.

Ms. Siti Syaliza Mustapha, Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) presented 'Timber Certification in Malaysia: From Paper to Practice. Experiences in the development and implementation of the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS)'. She highlighted that the awareness on importance and values of forests, biodiversity and ecosystem services has increased in Malaysia which led to the revision of the previous Malaysian Criteria & Indicator (MC&I) 2002 Certification, resulting MC&I (Natural Forest) which had been enforced in 2012. It is important to highlight that Certification is an important tool to promote implementation of SFM. The ITTO Voluntary Guidelines can be useful reference material in developing national standards for certification.

Dr. Samsudin Musa of the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) presented 'Management Prescriptions for SFM, Based on Research Findings'. He demonstrated that tropical forest management is very challenging and requires intensive management input. He introduced a new model of harvesting prescriptions that ensures that the residual forest is able to maintain forest structure, species composition and good recovery. He highlighted tropical forest can be managed sustainably through proper research and strict enforcement.

A forest management case study was presented by Ms. Wilhelmina Cluny from the Sarawak Forest Department, Malaysia. She highlighted the establishment of Trans-boundary Biodiversity Conservation Areas (TBCA) that would reduce forest exploitation and help to alleviate the severe poverty of people living in the area as well as biodiversity losses. In her presentation 'Trans-boundary Biodiversity Conservation Areas – The Sarawak Experience', she indicated that Sarawak and Indonesia were the first ITTO member countries in wet tropics to establish TBCA. One of the main issues echoed throughout the presentation was the importance of good political support, funding and commitment from all stakeholders in the countries involved.

Indonesia highlighted the strong commitment and human resource capability from all level to achieve SFM certification at Forest Management Unit (FMU) Level in Indonesia. Based on the presentation 'SFM Practices at FMU Level in Indonesia' presented by Mr. Sugijanto Soewadi from The Association of Indonesia Forest Concessionaires, he emphasized the importance of the government supports portraying the interest of SFM Certification at all FMUs. The implementation of Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) and Timber Legality Verification System are important to the success of SFM in the country.

Dr. Mohd Hizamri Yasin of Perak Forestry Department introduced 'Sustainable Forest Management for Matang Mangroves Forest Reserve'. His presentation outlined the development and achievement of mangroves forest in Matang Forest Reserves which has been sustainably managed for more than a century. A unique management practices for mangrove forest, he provided the essence of the success and state government roles and supports.

3. Presentations by country reports

The workshop was designed to be an interactive and participatory platform to address current challenges relating to the implementation of SFM in the region. All participants shared experiences and views as well as delivered common agreements to address issues on SFM based on country report.

There was general agreement that there was a need for high commitment and efforts on the implementation of the SFM. The introduction of these guidelines would be very useful to advance the coordinated and coherent resolution of some of the open issues to build common ground for developing of country's certification standards. It was noted that certification is an effective market-linked tool to promote as well as evaluate the implementation of SFM in the region.

Most of the member countries have put certification as one important component in their national master plans of forestry development in achieving SFM but only some countries have very clear strategies specifically on formulating the national standard for certification with clear work plan deliverables or at least an on-going process, such as Malaysia, Fiji and Viet Nam. Malaysia has a very strong organization supports in conducting forest certification. The MTCC under the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) is responsible for forest certification schemes in Malaysia. While some countries are developing their own national certification standards, many member countries rely on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification to promote SFM.

It was noted that it was quite difficult to separate REDD from SFM instead many countries viewed REDD is a part of SFM. The Philippines had clear strategy to enact the Climate Change Act and review its forestry law to put up climate change adaptation as an integrated component. While some countries portrayed climate change adaptations under REDD in their SFM activities and National REDD Policies.

There was a clear picture as in the presentations that forestry development has evolved from purely timber production to multiple uses of forests and forest ecosystems. International negotiations and discussions on issues like climate change and ecosystem services have brought SFM to the frontline. New financing mechanisms for forestry has emerged and developed, such as REDD+ and PES, which also bring new opportunities to forestry. The landscape approach of forest restoration represents a new trend of managing forests with more cross sectoral coordination. Those changes require governments and policy supports to make adaptation accordingly. Fiji had clear finance strategy as in her national Forestry Policy in developing resource allocation and funds for forestry through a broad and inclusive collaboration of all stakeholders and government. Nevertheless the challenges concerned from many countries remained, how to bring all these stakeholders, government and efforts together to bridge the financial gaps as SFM requires great financial supports.

Apart from the conventional focus on the political/government and financial supports for SFM, there was a common issue facing all countries to strengthen the competency on forestry personnel as well as forest managers, resulting there is a great need for establishing training programs in bringing up better understanding on accurate information in the field of forest management, certification, conflict resolution, non-timber forest products, climate change, REDD+, and PES etc. Regular training and awareness engagement program were seemed to help in developing collaboration on land tenureship and stakeholder (public/private/government owned forest).

4. Working groups and presentations

Building on the better understanding on these guidelines, working groups were set up to discuss as much as key characteristic concerns drew from the floor with regard to three (3) pertinent issues on (i) SFM & governance and security of tenure; (ii) SFM & environmental services; and (iii) SFM financing and investment. The aim of these groups was to define immediate key messages as following (i) Key messages from ITTO Voluntary Guidelines, (ii) Key challenges; and (iii) Proposed Way Forward, Actions & Indicators as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Immediate key messages for ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests

Working Group 1: SFM & governance and security of tenure

Key Messages from ITTO Voluntary Guidelines	Key Challenges	Proposed Way Forward, Actions & Indicators
Reaffirm political commitment & strengthen & implement effective policies & strategies to promote SFM.	Political will of the government in strengthening and implementing effective policies to promote SFM.	<i>Short Term</i> Conduct at least one (1) dialogue with policy makers/legislators regarding importance of implementing policies & strategies to promote SFM.
		<i>Midterm</i> Issue an updated forestry legislation to meet the standards of SFM implementation & strategies.
	Awareness among stakeholders in the government.	<i>Short term</i> Conduct at least one (1) National Forest Forum with identified stakeholders of forestry. Gather information & data on stakeholders' appreciation on SFM implementation & strategies.
		<i>Midterm</i> Collect feedback reports, resolutions, or commitment statements from at least 50% of the identified stakeholders.
		Lack of capacity in implementing policies & strategies towards SFM.
	<i>Midterm</i> Conduct at least one (1) capacity building workshop with stakeholders and the Government.	

Key Messages from ITTO Voluntary Guidelines	Key Challenges	Proposed Way Forward, Actions & Indicators
	Clear implementations of land use policies.	<p><i>Short Term</i> Conduct table analyses of high resolution satellite images of different land uses nationwide to develop a primary land use map of the country.</p>
		<p><i>Midterm</i> Conduct ground verification of primary table map developed.</p> <p>Produce a final land use map of the country.</p>
	Formulating policies & regulations that would meet grassroots situations & circumstances.	<p><i>Short Term</i> Conduct at least one (1) consultation with local communities, Land Owning Units (LOUs), and other stakeholders in the grassroots regarding issues on SFM implementation.</p> <p>Develop at least one (1) academic analysis or research on SFM implementation on the grassroots level.</p>
		<p><i>Midterm</i> Produce an academic policy study on the issues on SFM implementation.</p>
Formulate regulations and procedures for forest law enforcement.	Existence of coordinated institutional framework.	<p><i>Short Term</i> Conduct policy analysis on forest law enforcement to identify policy gaps on procedures.</p> <p>Create an inter-agency committee to monitor and evaluate procedures on forest law enforcement.</p>
	Administrative resource and capacity gaps.	<p><i>Midterm</i> Review holistic policy framework of the Government every five (5) years.</p>
	Capacity gaps among forest law enforcers.	<p><i>Short Term</i> Include in continuous training and capacity building of forest law enforcers as a procedure in law enforcement.</p>
	Harmonization of all policies & regulations on forest law enforcement.	<p><i>Midterm</i> Capacitate other related government agencies in the procedures of forest law enforcement.</p>
	Strength of legal framework in attending to forestry related issues.	<p><i>Short Term</i> Include in continuous training and capacity building of forest law enforcers as a procedure in law enforcement.</p> <p><i>Midterm</i> Update present procedures on forest law enforcement to meet current needs and gaps.</p>

Key Messages from ITTO Voluntary Guidelines	Key Challenges	Proposed Way Forward, Actions & Indicators
		<p><i>Short Term</i> Conduct policy analysis on forest law enforcement and other related policies to identify policy gaps and overlaps.</p>
		<p><i>Midterm</i> Issue a harmonized policy on the procedure for forest law enforcement.</p>
		<p><i>Short Term</i> Develop at least one (1) information campaign for the judiciary and lawyers on the gravity of forestry-related offenses & the importance to prosecute.</p> <p>Conduct a training-needs assessment among forest law enforcers on court procedures on prosecution of forestry-related offenses.</p>
Put in place effective formal systems for ensuring the security of forest tenure.	Defining customary land ownership boundaries.	<p><i>Short Term</i> Conduct table analyses of high resolution satellite images of different land uses nationwide to develop a primary land use map of the country.</p>
	Conflict on land use or development priorities.	<p><i>Midterm</i> Conduct ground verification of primary table map developed. Produce a final land use map of the country.</p>
		<p><i>Short Term</i> Conduct an assessment of the conflicts on land use and development priorities.</p> <p>Consultation of LOUs on land use conflicts with development priorities & its effects.</p>
	Reforming laws on indigenous rights on natural resources.	<p><i>Midterm</i> Integration of comprehensive land use plans in formulating development priorities for the country.</p>
		<p><i>Short Term</i> Appraise the present system on indigenous rights on natural resources (land, forests, water, etc.)</p> <p>Assess gaps and issues in indigenous rights on natural resources.</p>
	Incorporating customary laws into formal land allocation laws.	<p><i>Midterm</i> Update present law on indigenous rights on natural resources incorporating results of assessment of gaps and issues.</p> <p><i>Short Term</i> Assess present customary laws on land allocation & their integration with formal land</p>

Key Messages from ITTO Voluntary Guidelines	Key Challenges	Proposed Way Forward, Actions & Indicators
		<p>allocation laws.</p> <p>Conduct consultations on stakeholders involving customary land allocation laws.</p> <p><i>Midterm</i> Update present land allocation laws using the results of the assessment and consultations regarding integration of customary laws on land allocation laws.</p>

Working Group 2: SFM & environmental services

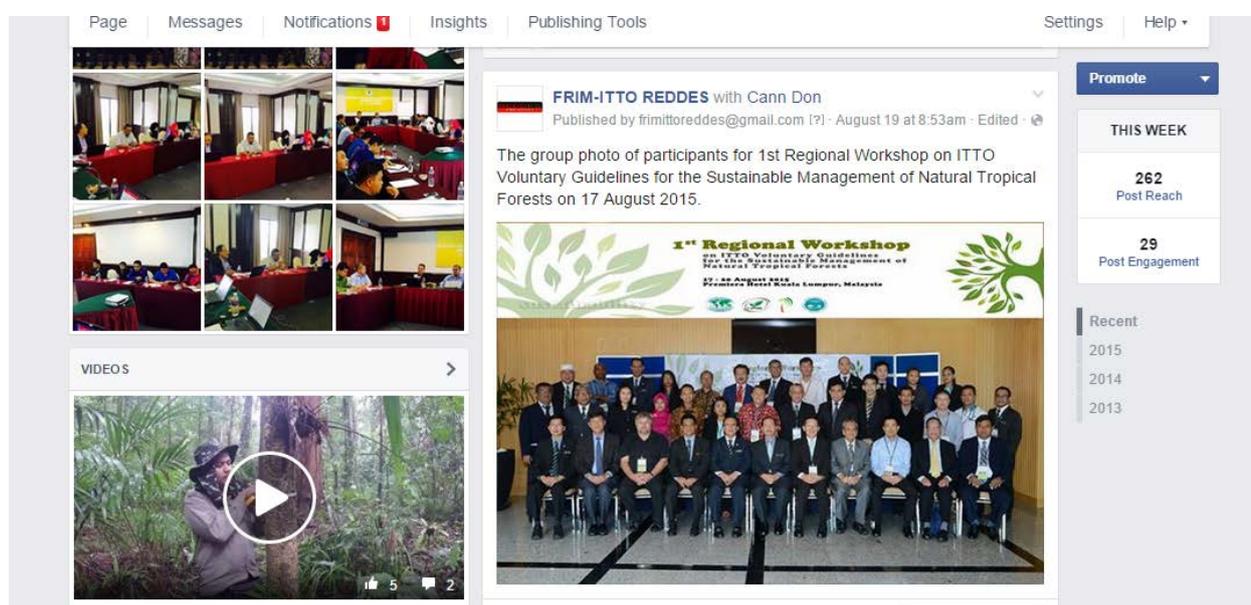
Key Messages from ITTO Voluntary Guidelines	Key Challenges	Proposed Way Forward, Actions & Indicators
<p>Principle 3: Ecological resilience, ecosystem health & climate change adaptation</p> <p>Principle 4: Multipurpose forest management</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Incentives received for environmental services in regards to forest protection is inadequate. 2. How to value environmental services? 3. Developing countries depending on natural forests on livelihood/economy (competing land use). 4. Lack of expertise & financial resources to manage forests & environmental services. 5. Stringent requirement and lengthy process. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifying, quantifying & valuating ES appropriate/ suitable to be promoted for SFM e.g. revenue to generate income; 2. Formulating policy & strategy in recognizing ES as one of the forest produces; 3. Creating an appropriate organizational & institutional structure (focal point); Who, How to coordinate?; 4. Education & awareness to create appreciation on value of ES (willingness to pay); 5. Ensure commitment of consumers of ES to provide incentives in the form of funding and technical assistance 6. International mechanisms develop to provide incentives for SFM should be simple, practical and cost-effective

Working Group 3: SFM financing and investment

Key Messages from ITTO Voluntary Guidelines	Key Challenges	Proposed Way Forward, Actions & Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable a favorable environment for investment in natural tropical forest management. • Provide guidelines for optimum efficiency in timber harvesting to reduce log waste. • Monitor the distribution of the costs and benefits of forest management among stakeholders • Encourage economic instruments to support natural tropical forest management. • Provide preferential access to markets for products from sustainably managed tropical forests. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of support from financial institutions. 2. Lack of government transparency. 3. Low return on investment (e.g., palm oil vs timber). 4. Market distortion (low profit margin). 5. Lack of political will. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assistance from the government (e.g., soft loans). 2. Boost the ecotourism and non-timber product sectors. 3. The establishment of more forest plantations. 4. Promote value-added products. 5. Share the information of timber products with the consumers (“green” = premium).

III. WAY FORWARD

Outcome of the workshop was presented at the ITTO side-event on SFM during the XIV World Forestry Congress which was held in Durban, South Africa in 7-11 September 2015. It is expected that the workshop's results will be reported to the 51st session of the International Tropical Timber Council which will take place on 16-21 November in Kuala Lumpur. It is recommended for the tropical countries to use the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests as an additional guide in managing their forests in a sustainable manner. These guidelines are dynamics and subject to adaptation for enhancement and modification by each country in their forest management practices.



Some activities were uploaded in the facebook of FRIM-ITTO REDDES project (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/FRIM-ITTO-REDDES/27707655767504>)



**1st Regional Workshop on ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests
(Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 17-20 August 2015)**

Participants List

Country/ Organization	Name	Title Designation/Organization/Contact
ITTO	Dr. Ma Hwan-ok	Projects Manager Division of Forest Management ITTO Yokohama, Japan ma@itto.int
Bern University	Dr. Jürgen Blaser	Professor for International Forestry and Climate Change at the Bern University of Applied Sciences, School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences, Switzerland juergen.blaser@bfh.ch
FAO	Mr. Kenichi Shono	Forest Resources Officer Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Bangkok, Thailand Kenichi.Shono@fao.org
Cambodia	Dr. Khorn Saret	Department of Forest and Community Forestry dfc200007@hotmail.com
	Dr. Kao Dana	Department of Forest and Forestry Community Management Forestry Administration kaodana@yahoo.com
Fiji	Ms. Sanjana Lal	Department of Forestry Ministry of Fisheries and Forests lal.sanjana@gmail.com
	Ms. Jashika Lal	Department of Forestry Ministry of Fisheries and Forests lal.jashika@gmail.com
Myanmar	Mr. Phyo Zin Mon Naing	Forest Department Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry phyo.zmn@gmail.com
	Dr. Chaw Chaw Sein	Forest Research Institute Forest Department chaw.chaw4@gmail.com

Country/ Organization	Name	Title Designation/Organization/Contact
Indonesia	Mr. Sugijanto Soewadi	Association of Indonesia Forest Concessionaires sugijanto.soewadi@gmail.com / sugijanto_soewadi@yahoo.com
	Mr. Tedi Surya Apriadi	Ministry of Environment and Forestry, The Republic of Indonesia surya.tedi@gmail.com
	Mr. Yoga Hadiprasetya	Ministry of Environment and Forestry, The Republic of Indonesia yoga.hadiprasetya@gmail.com
	Ms. Selli Fidi Yani Wardani	Ministry of Environment and Forestry, The Republic of Indonesia selli.wardani@gmail.com
Philippines	Mr. Ray Thomas Fernandez Kabigting	Forest Management Bureau Department of Environment & Natural Resources, Philippines kabigtingraythomas@gmail.com
PNG	Mr. Beno Ningisere	Projects Officer Project Allocations Directorate PNG Forest Authority BNingisere@pngfa.gov.pg
Viet Nam	Mr. Nguyen Tuan Hung	Deputy Director Department of Forest Production Management Vietnam Forest Administration nguyentuanhung07@gmail.com / hung@vnforest.gov.vn
	Mr. Nguyen Hoang Tiep	Vietnam Academy of Forest Science (FSIV) tienguyenhoang@gmail.com
Malaysia	Dr. Samsudin Musa	Forest Research Institute Malaysia samsudinmusa@frim.gov.my
	Mr. Othman bin Deris	Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia othman@forestry.gov.my
	Mr. Mohammed Kassim Wasli	Forest Department Sarawak mohdkw@sarawak.gov.my
	Mr. Mashor Mohd Jaini	Sabah Forestry Department Mashor.MohdJaini@sabah.gov.my
	Ms. Wilhelmina Cluny	Forest Department Sarawak wilhelmina@sarawak.gov.my
	Mr. Chng Devern	Malaysian Timber Council devern@mtc.com.my
	Ms. Karen Chow Kai Wai	Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities Malaysia karen.mpic@1govuc.gov.my
	Mr. Aldrich Richards	Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia aldrich@forestry.gov.my
	Mr. Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani	Malaysia Timber Industry Board kheruddinrani@mtib.gov.my
	Dr. Wan Mohd Shukri Wan Ahmad	Forest Research Institute Malaysia shukri@frim.gov.my

Country/ Organization	Name	Title Designation/Organization/Contact
Workshop Secretariat	Ms. Siti Fatimah Ramli	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia sitifatihah@nre.gov.my
	Mr. Jeffri Bin Abd Rasid	Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia jeffri@forestry.gov.my
	Mr. Mohd Jinis Bin Abdullah	Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia jinis@forestry.gov.my
	Mr. Muhammad Ezhar Yusuf	Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia ezhar@forestry.gov.my
	Mr. Harry Yong	Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia harry@forestry.gov.my
	Dr. Ismail Parlan	Forest Research Institute Malaysia ismailp@frim.gov.my
	Mr. Azharizan Mohd Norizan	Forest Research Institute Malaysia azharizan@frim.gov.my
	Mr. Muhammad Safuan Sulaiman	Forest Research Institute Malaysia msafuan@frim.gov.my

Annex 2

**1st Regional Workshop on ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests
(Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 17-20 August 2015)**

PROGRAMME

Time	Monday, 17 August	Tuesday, 18 August	Wednesday, 19 August	Thu, 20 August
8:30	Workshop Registration Plenary (9:00 a.m.) Opening Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remarks by Dr. Ma Hwan-ok International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) Welcoming Remarks by YBhg. Dato' Sri Dr. Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Rahim Director General, Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM) Opening Remarks by YBhg. Datuk Dr. Abdul Rahim bin Hj. Nik Deputy Secretary General (Environment), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia (NRE) Group Photo	Plenary (Moderator: Mr. Jeffri Abd Rasid, FDPM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on <i>ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests (SFM) - Part II</i> (Dr. Jürgen Blaser, Bern University) Followed by Q+A	Plenary (Moderator: Dr. Chaw Chaw Sein, Myanmar) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on <i>ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests (SFM) - Part III</i> (Dr. Jürgen Blaser, Bern University) Followed by Q+A	Field visit to SFM demonstration site in Sungai Tekala Forest Reserve, Selangor.
10:00	Morning Break			
10:15	Plenary (Moderator: Dr. Ismail Harun, FRIM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives of the workshop and Introduction of participants (Dr. Ma Hwan-ok, ITTO) Introduction to ITTO SFM policy and projects (Dr. Ma Hwan-ok, ITTO) Presentation on overall of ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests (SFM) - (Dr. Jürgen Blaser, Bern University) Followed by Q+A	Plenary: Presentations from resource persons (Moderator: Dr. Khorn Saret, Cambodia) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timber certification in Malaysia: from paper to practice (MTCC) Management prescription for sustainable management of forest in Malaysia (FRIM) Trans-boundary biodiversity conservation in Sarawak (Sarawak FD) SFM for Matang Mangrove Forest Reserve (FD Perak) SFM practices at FMU level in Indonesia (APHI) Followed by Q+A	Plenary (Moderator: Mr. Nguyen Tiep, Viet Nam) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback on Revision of ITTO SFM Criteria and Indicators (45 min) (Dr. Jürgen Blaser, Bern University) Three Parallel Working Groups (cont.) (60 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WG 1 – SFM & governance and security of tenure WG 2 – SFM & environmental services WG 3 – SFM financing and investment 	
12:00	Lunch			
13:00	Plenary (Moderator: Dr. Samsudin Musa, FRIM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress towards SFM in the Asia-Pacific region (13:00-13:30; Mr. Kenichi Shono, FAO) Presentation on <i>ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests (SFM) - Part I</i> (Dr. Jürgen Blaser, Bern University) Followed by Q+A	Plenary: National SFM lessons and challenges (Moderator: Ms. Selli Fidi Wardani, Indonesia) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country presentations Fiji Papua New Guinea Malaysia* Viet Nam Followed by Q+A	Plenary (Moderator: Dr. Ma Hwan-ok, ITTO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report by each working group on their discussion WG 1 – SFM & governance and security of tenure WG 2 – SFM & environmental services WG 3 – SFM financing and investment Followed by Q+A	
14:45	Afternoon Break			

<p>15:00 to 16:30</p>	<p>Plenary: National SFM lessons and challenges (Moderator: Ms. Sanjana Lal, Fiji) Country presentations Cambodia Indonesia Philippines* Myanmar Followed by Q+A</p>	<p>Three Parallel Working Groups (Moderator: Dr. Ma Hwan-ok, ITTO) <i>Interactive discussion on lessons learned from the implementation of SFM policies and activities; and challenges for the effective implementation of SFM.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>WG 1 – SFM & governance and security of tenure</i> • <i>WG 2 – SFM & environmental services</i> • <i>WG 3 – SFM financing and investment</i> 	<p>Plenary (Moderator: Dr. Jürgen Blaser, Bern University) The way forward: Identification of key actions to promote the effective implementation of SFM at national, and regional levels (Dr. Jürgen Blaser, Bern University) Conclusion of workshop (Dr. Jürgen Blaser, Bern University) Closing ceremony (FRIM, FDPM, ITTO)</p>	
-------------------------------	---	---	--	--

Annex 3

Speeches from Opening Session

**Remarks by Dr. Ma Hwan-ok,
International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)**

Yang Berbahagia (YBhg) Datuk Dr. Abdul Rahim bin Nik, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia,
Dato' Sri Dr. Abdul Rahman Abdul Rahim, Director General, Forest Department Peninsular Malaysia,
Dato' Dr. Freezailah Che Yeom, Chairman of Malaysia Timber Certification Council (MTCC),
Dr. Jürgen Blaser, International Forestry and Climate Change expert at the Bern University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland,
Distinguished representatives from Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities Malaysia,
Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Very good morning!

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to welcome you all, on behalf of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), at this opening ceremony of the 1st Regional Workshop on ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests which is being jointly organized with ITTO, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia, Forest Department Peninsular Malaysia, and Forest Research Institute Malaysia. This 1st Regional Workshop is organized under 2015-2016 ITTO Biennial Work Programme Activity on "Promote the publication, dissemination and application of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests".

First, I would like to extend the best wishes of ITTO Executive Director, Emmanuel Ze Meka and my colleagues at ITTO Secretariat for the success of this important regional workshop. Main outcomes of this workshop will be presented at ITTO side event on SFM during the coming World Forestry Congress in Durban and to the 51st session of the International Tropical Timber Council which will take place on 16-21 November in Kuala Lumpur (KL).

Second, I wish to put on record ITTO's profound appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for raising the funds required to make this important workshop possible in Kuala Lumpur in the Asia-Pacific region. Besides this regional workshop, a substantial support from the Government of Switzerland has been to the revision of the 1990 SFM Guidelines into 2015 SFM Guidelines. In the development of the Voluntary Guidelines, we appreciate very much the long-term commitment and remarkable contributions made by Dr. Jürgen Blaser, who is now with us as a key resource person.

Third, I would like to express ITTO gratitude to Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia, Forest Department Peninsular Malaysia, and Forest Research Institute Malaysia for jointly organizing this workshop in KL. ITTO gratitude also goes to the workshop resource persons including Mr. Kenichi Shono, Forest Resources Officer, FAO (Bangkok), Perak State FD, Malaysia Timber Certification Council (MTCC) as well as to the workshop facilitators including Mr. Muhammad Ezhar from Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia and Dr. Ismail Parlan from Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) for their various logistical arrangements

Furthermore, I wish to thank all participants from Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam who have made serious efforts to participate in the KL workshop to promote the achievement of SFM in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

2015 is an important year for sustainable development, and climate change. We need to ensure that the SFM we have built over several decades before and after Rio+ Conference is not lost. This is why ITTO and many organizations are thinking about how we can develop national initiatives focused on SFM commitments in the post-2015 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

As we are aware, addressing forests has been included in the Sustainable Development Goals, which will be adopted in soon September 2105 as the post-2015 development agenda. We believe this vision is expected to guide international organizations, the private sector, civil society, and governments in all countries in

pursuit of a healthier world and a better tomorrow. In particular, SDG 15 specifies “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”. In light of importance of implementing the SDG 15, considerable work lies ahead in bringing SFM development into action to translate into real transformative change on the ground.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

In both its policy and project work, ITTO has always stressed the importance of conserving the sustainably managing tropical forests as natural tropical forests are so essential to fostering community development, preserving biodiversity and achieving climate change mitigation and adaptation. The ITTO Strategic Action Plan covering the period 2013-2018 also elaborates a clear strategy and guidance on ITTO’s priorities to member countries, stakeholders, partner organizations and the international community in relation to six strategic priorities to promote the achievement of sustainable forest management in the tropics. These include a strategic priority of “Building and Developing Human Resource Capacity to Implement SFM and Increase Trade in Forest Goods and Services from Sustainably Managed Forests”. I am certain that human resource development is a critical component of broad success in SFM in the tropics.

For the effective implementation of the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018, it requires a considerable amount of cooperation and commitment from all member countries and stakeholders. Indeed, the long-term commitment of donors and good practices of SFM are so essential to the sustainability of tropical forests. We at ITTO believe that donors support will be strengthened to support SMF initiatives through projects and thereby contribute to the achievement of ITTO’s essential goal of sustaining tropical forests.

The ITTO voluntary guidelines for the sustainable management of natural tropical forests were adopted in accordance with Decision 4 (XLIX) in 2014 after a great effort of member countries in particular various comments from Malaysia. The voluntary guidelines update and replace the original 1990 ITTO Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests. The new voluntary guidelines are supported with improved knowledge and the emergence of a wide range of new challenges and opportunities for tropical forest management. It is designed to serve as guidance for addressing the policy, legal, governance, institutional, ecological, social and economic issues that need to be taken into account in the planning, implementation and evaluation of SFM in natural tropical forests.

We trust that good SFM practices in the tropics will certainly contributes to real transformative change and actions to ensure the full and accountable implementation of the forest related targets in the post-2015 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, we do hope that the sustainable provision of forest goods and environmental services will be further enhanced with many innovative, inclusive and integrated SFM initiatives in line with ITTO voluntary guidelines for the sustainable management of natural tropical forests.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

In the 1st Regional Workshop on ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests, it’s important to learn from each other and to use good experiences and practices of the recent years – to overcome weaknesses and to build on strengths. I believe distinguished participants inputs, interactions and contributions in the coming days will be valuable to the success of the KL workshop.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the workshop joint organizers - NRE, FDPM, FRIM, partners and all participants for their valuable cooperation and support in organizing the workshop in KL, a beautiful evergreen city with the presence of outstanding SFM experts such as Dato' Dr. Freezailah Che Yeom, Dr. Abdul Rahim, Dr. Abdul Rahman, Dr. Jürgen Blaser and Mr. Amha Bin Buang.

SFM in the tropics requires long-term commitments from local, national, regional and international levels. I would like to conclude my remarks by wishing that KL SFM partnership established under the 1st Regional Workshop on ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests will be sustainable like evergreen forests in KL in the coming years.

Thank you for your attention.

**Welcoming Remarks by YBhg. Dato' Sri Dr. Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Rahim,
Director General, Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM)**

Bismillahir-rahmanir-rahim,

Solawat and Salam to our Beloved Prophet Muhammad SAW.

Assalamualaikum WBT;

Salam Sejahtera;

Salam 1 Malaysia; and

Very good morning.

Thank you very much Master Ceremony.

The Honourable Datuk Dr. Abdul Rahim bin Nik, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia

Dr. Ma Hwan Ok, Projects Manager, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

Yang Berusaha Dr. Ismail Harun, Director (Forestry and Environmental Division), Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM),

Representatives from various government agencies,

Distinguished guests, speakers, participants, ladies and gentlemen.

At the outset, please join me to extend our prayer to Al-Mighty Allah SWT for granting us this opportunity for us to gather in this important occasion in conjunction with the Official Opening of the First Regional Workshop on International Tropical Timber Organization Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests in this Premiera Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

2. At this juncture, let me thank the Organizer of this Workshop for inviting me to deliver my welcoming remarks this morning session in conjunction with the official opening of this important gathering. Please allow me to welcome and thank the Honourable YBhg. Datuk Dr. Abd. Rahim bin Nik, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia for having to take his time off from his busy schedules to be with us this morning. Let me also welcome Dr. Ismail Harun representing DG of FRIM and my colleague Dr. Ma Hwan-Ok from ITTO, Yokohama, Japan for been able to attend in this morning occasion.

3. I am pleased to record my utmost congratulation and thank to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia (NRE) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) for jointly organized this Workshop. This workshop will be convened from 17th to 20th August 2015 with financial support from the ITTO. I am also pleased and honoured to record my heartfelt gratitude and thank to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia (NRE) and ITTO for giving the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia and Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) to be part of the Organizing Committee of this Workshop.

4. To all our distinguished guests, speakers and participants, in particular who have travelled long distances and from abroad, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome or in our culture "Selamat Datang" to all of you to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I hope all of you will take this opportunity to enjoy the many touristic sites in this metropolitan city of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and experience our warm local hospitality while participating actively in this important Workshop.

Distinguished Guests, Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen.

5. Malaysia is very fortunate to be endowed with large tract of Tropical Rainforests. These forests have evolved over millions years and have continuously providing many products and services to the community livelihoods. Forest management practices in Malaysia, in particular the Permanent Reserved Forest (PRF) is fully committed under the principle of Sustainable Forest Management

(SFM). Malaysia is fully subscribed to the ITTO (1992) definition of SFM, which has expressed SFM as “the process of managing forest to achieve one or more clearly specified objectives of management with regard to the production of a continuous flow of desired forest products and services without undue reduction of its inherent values and future productivity and without undue undesirable effects on the physical and social environment”. In this regard, Malaysia will continue to adopt and implement SFM in our PRF areas. We fully believed that SFM is paramount importance to generate continuous wide arrays of forest products and services for community livelihoods, both for present and future generations in perpetuity.

6. With regard to Peninsular Malaysia, sufficient Permanent Reserve Forest (PRF) areas have been gazetted under the National Forestry Act 1984 for the effective implementation of SFM practices. These PRF areas are sustainably managed both for ‘production’ and ‘protection’ purposes. The production forest is sustainably managed for the supply in perpetuity, at reasonable rates of all forms of forest produce which can be economically produced within the country and are required for agricultural, domestic, industrial purposes and for export. While, the protection forest is being sustainably managed for the purpose of ensuring favorable climatic and physical conditions of the country, safeguarding of water resources, soil fertility, environmental quality, preservation of biological diversity, minimization of damage by floods and erosion to rivers and agricultural land. The greatest challenge would be how do we strike an effective balance between both production and protection purposes of PRF areas. This challenge continue to remain to majority of forest managers.
7. To ensure effective and coordinated implementation of SFM practices, in particular for timber production, a *National Committee on Sustainable Forest Management in Malaysia* was established in 1994. This further led to the establishment development of a set of Malaysian Criteria And Indicators (MC&I) use for the assessment of SFM compliancy. This set of MC&I was based on the fundamental principal of ITTO criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management of natural tropical forests. Our first MC&I was adopted in 2002 and since then this version has been successfully adopted for implementation of sustainable forest management at the forest management unit (FMUs) levels or State level for monitoring, assessment and reporting of Malaysia’s progress towards the attainment of sustainable forest management, particularly critical for the assessment of SFM compliancy in the PRF areas for timber production *vis a vis* “Timber Certification”. Until today, this MC&I continues to evolved and has been revised in tandem with increasing global consumer demands for timbers produced from certified forest areas. The most recent MC&I has been adopted in 2014 and it has been adopted for the assessment of SFM compliancy under the National Certification Scheme initiative called Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS). Under this scheme, a total of 4.6 million hectares of the existing PRF areas in Malaysia have been certified. Of this total, 4.5 million hectares have been PRF areas in Peninsular Malaysia and these forest areas are under the jurisdiction of the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM).

Distinguished guests, participants, ladies and gentlemen.

8. I am very glad to update today Workshop that Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia is very much concern and fully committed to this ITTO initiative to ensure full implementation of SFM in the natural Tropical Rainforests. As we are aware that the first ‘ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests’ was published in 1991 and over the years it has been subjected to constant reviews in tandem with increasing global consumer demands for timbers produced from certified forest areas. The most revised version of the ‘ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests’ has been published in 2014. We are indeed and very pleased to inform that FDPM has been very actively involved in this important SFM engagement. We will continue to support ITTO works in this endeavour, even to actively participating and hosting in today, 1st Regional Workshop on ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests.

9. Before I conclude my welcoming remarks, let me take this opportunity again to thank the Honourable Datuk Dr. Abdul Rahim bin Nik, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia for having to take time off from his busy schedules to be with us this morning and will officially officiate the opening of today Workshop.
10. I would like also to congratulate the organizing Committee for the excellent arrangement made here at this venue. My sincere thanks also goes to Dr. Ismail Harun, as representative of Director-General Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and Dr. Ma Hwan OK from ITTO for your tremendous efforts and supports. I would like also to express my appreciation to all speakers who are willing to share their experiences on SFM, all participants for attending this workshop and all parties who have made this Workshop possible. Finally I wish all of you a very fruitful deliberations and successful Workshop and enjoyable stay in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Thank you very much.

Wabillahitaufik-Walhidayah, Assalamualaikum WBT.

**Opening Remarks by YBhg. Datuk Dr. Abdul Rahim bin Hj. Nik,
Deputy Secretary General (Environment), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Malaysia (NRE)**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Sri Dr. Hj Abd Rahman bin Hj Abd Rahim, Director General, Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia,

Yang Berusaha Dr. Ismail Harun, Director (Forestry and Environmental Division), Forest Research Institute Malaysia,

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Dr. Freezailah Che Yom, Chairman, Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC),

Dr. Ma Hwan Ok, Projects Officer, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO),

Dr. Jürgen Blaser, University of Bern, Switzerland,

Tuan Haji Amha Buang, Former Assistant Director, ITTO,

Senior Officials from NRE and MPIC,

Distinguished Guests and Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

A very good morning and Salam 1Malaysia.

I am very glad to be here this morning to see many familiar faces. First and foremost let us first express our gratitude to Allah SWT who has granted us with blessings and grace that we could gather here this morning to attend the 'First Regional Workshop on International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests'. Thank you the organising committee, for giving me the honour to officiate this important workshop.

2. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, allow me to take this opportunity to extend my warmest welcome or 'Selamat Datang' to our colleague from ITTO, the consultant and participants, particularly from abroad. It is indeed our great pleasure and honour to be the first country to host this First Regional Workshop on ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests in Kuala Lumpur. Likewise, thank you to Tuan Hj. Amha Buang, for taking your time to accept the invitation to attend this workshop as well.

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) in 2001 has established the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), of which the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) is one of its members. We understand that the task of the Partnership is to promote sustainable management of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end. As we know, the CPF has two main objectives i.e. to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its Member States; and to foster increased cooperation and coordination on forests.

4. During the recent Eleventh Session of the UNFF held in May 2015, Member States reiterated their commitment to implement sustainable forest management (SFM) and promote the vital significance of forests in the global sustainable development agenda. Member States also committed to support the work of the CPF as a strategy for improving coherence and synergy on forest issues at all levels and to promote the integration of SFM into the strategies and programmes of the member organisations of the CPF.

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. In Malaysia, forestry sector is still one of the contributors to the foreign exchange earnings of the country. Export earnings of Malaysia's timber products amounted to USD6.2 billion in 2014 and it also provides employment for more than 300,000 people. Besides providing direct benefits, forests play a vital role in maintaining environmental stability and quality; protecting soil and water resources; conserving biological diversity; and preserving cultural, recreational and other intrinsic values which enhance people's quality of life.

6. In many multilateral environmental processes, including UNFF, bridging the gap between international policy and national implementation is a big challenges and an ever present problem. In the UNFF, the role of the CPF in bridging the 'science-policy gap', which in was a constraint for the Forum previously, has provided scientific knowledge and technical support, including tools to support SFM implementation. However, translating these solutions into real tangible on-the-ground actions in SFM remains a noticeable gap in UNFF's ability to assist in implementation. Hence, Malaysia sincerely hopes for the CPF and ITTO to continue to provide technical and scientific advice to the UNFF and Member States, especially developing countries.

7. In this regards, ITTO has strived for almost 30 years to assist its tropical member countries towards achieving sustainable management of forests. I am sure we have seen notice the remarkable programme in many countries. Based on the survey on status of tropical forest management in 2011, there appears to have been continuing progress towards SFM in tropical forests for the period of 2005-2011. Some of the developments that were identified included greater interest in forest certification, enactment of new laws and regulation, significant increase in areas of production and protection of Permanent Forest to management plans.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. In order to sustain the multi-functionality of our forest, Malaysia will remain to subscribe to SFM. Malaysia will continue to support the efforts by ITTO in promoting the conservation and sustainable management, use and trade in tropical forest resources. I reckon the selection of Malaysia for hosting this regional workshop is an honour given by ITTO in recognizing Malaysia's contribution in promoting SFM and surely, the organisation of this workshop demonstrates our efforts to support ITTO's program.

9. Since the acceptance of ITTO's first policy guidance document on the management of natural tropical forests in 1990, Malaysia has been supportive of the policy guidelines. The new voluntary guidelines is designed to serve as guidance to address issues related to policy, legal, governance, institutional, ecological, social and economic. We understand that the guidelines need to be taken into account in the planning, implementation and evaluation of SFM in natural tropical forests to ensure the sustainable provision of forest goods and environmental services. Malaysia has actively contributed in the formulation of the new guidelines by presenting comments and suggestions based on our vast experiences when dealing with the ITTO's first policy guidance document.

Ladies and gentlemen,

10. Pursuing green growth for sustainability and resilience green growth – that is efficient in its use of natural, clean in that if minimum pollution and environmental impacts and resilient or that if accounts for natural hazards and role of environmental management and natural capital. Adopting green growth has become an imperative for Malaysia. Its represent Malaysia's commitment to renew and indeed its

commitment to the environment and long term sustainability. How to achieve – requires fundamental shift away to grow first, clean up later model towards low carbon, resource efficient, socially inclusive.

11. Malaysia is fully aware that currently, there is a wave of green consumerism spreading around the world. Timber and timber products are not excluded, this is demonstrated in the public procurement policy of certain consumer countries which demand timber sourced from sustainably managed forests. As a major producer and exporter of tropical timber, Malaysia has made tremendous efforts to ensure that it is able to supply timber that is sourced from sustainably managed forests. As mentioned by the Dato' Sri Director General just now, Malaysia is the first tropical timber-producing country to establish a forest and timber certification system as proof to the international market that the nation's forests are sustainably managed. We hope that the revised guidelines will assist Member Countries especially producing countries, to enhance their product and meet the current market requirements.

12. In this connection to practicing SFM, Malaysia is the only country so far that submitting its Forest Reference Emission Levels to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for sustainable management of forest under REDD+ mechanism. I recognise the guideline is called voluntary and very preferred to remain so. We have learnt a difficult lesson from the implementation of other international connection in UNFCCC. We have to submit a biennial report for every four years. In this report, we have to updates on emissions from all sources. Similarly under REDD+ initiatives, we are expected to develop many systems and submit reports to participate in result-based payment.

13. As some of us may probably know, Malaysia will be hosting the '51st Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) and Associated Sessions of the Committees' from 16 to 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, making it the second time Malaysia had the opportunity to host meeting (1993). I was informed that several Ministers from ITTO member countries as well as local dignitaries have confirmed their attendance. I hope all of you could come again to Kuala Lumpur and be present at the upcoming ITCC meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen,

14. Finally, I would like to congratulate organizing committee for the excellent arrangement of this workshop. My appreciation also goes to Dr. Ma Hwan Ok of ITTO, who together with the committee has made this event possible. I have full confidence all participants will actively participate and contribute valuable ideas in this workshop. Please use this golden opportunity to ask questions on the new ITTO Voluntary Guideline to the expert and consultant. I wish all participants a productive discussion throughout the workshop and enjoyable stay in Kuala Lumpur. On that note, I declare the 'First Regional Workshop on ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests' officially opened.

Thank you.

Wabillahitaufig walhidayah assalamualaikum warahmatulahi wabarakatuh.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia.

17 August 2015

Short profile of main Resource Person

Profile of Dr. Ma Hwan-ok

Dr. Ma Hwan-ok is currently a Project Manager, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in Japan. He joined ITTO in 1996 after working at the Korea Forest Services. Since 2008 in ITTO he has followed the capacity building issues of forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation in the tropics. He used to teach the subject of tropical forests and REDD+ at the United Nations University – Institute for Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) in Japan. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at Seoul National University. He holds BSc in forestry from Korea University and PhD in forest resource economics from University of Washington, Seattle, USA.



Profile of Dr. Jürgen Blaser

Dr. Jürgen Blaser is Professor for International Forestry and Climate Change at the Bern University of Applied Sciences, School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences. He also acts as the Global Advisor on Forests to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Between 2002 and 2011 he was the head of the Forest and Environment Team and Deputy Director General of Swiss Intercooperation, the Swiss Organization for Intern. Development. Between 1996 and 2001 he was the Senior Forestry Advisor at the World Bank.



From 1981 to 1995 he worked in international forest development cooperation with assignments in various educational and research institutions in Latin America, Africa, Asia, Russia and Central Asia. Dr. Blaser was a former chair of the International Tropical Timber Organisation and led the development of the Status of Tropical Forest Management Reports 2005 and 2011 of the ITTO. Since 2006, he is a member of the Swiss Delegation to UNFCCC dealing with the international Forestry portfolio. More recently, he has advised the World Bank on the design of the Forest Investment Programme and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. He coordinated the external review of the work of FAO in forests and forestry in 2011-2012 and he was the lead consultant of the independent assessment of the UN Forest Forum for in view of development of the post-2015 global forest arrangement. Dr. Blaser reviewed co-authored the ITTO Guidelines on Forest Restoration, two revisions of the ITTO C&I (and is currently coordinating the third revision of the C&I) and he was the main consultant in the revision of ITTO's Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests (2015).

Profile of Mr. Kenichi Shono

Mr. Shono has broad experience in forest management and conservation including project coordination, research and policy analysis. He first gained experience as field researcher conducting an ecological study on big-leaf mahogany in Central America for CIFOR. Subsequently, he coordinated a research project on forest restoration in Singapore for the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. From 2005 to 2008, Mr. Shono worked as Associate Professional Officer at FAO where he was involved in various programmes and projects related to sustainable forest management in Asia-Pacific.



From 2008, Mr. Shono worked for PT Hatfield Indonesia as Senior Forestry Specialist and as Technical & Operations Director, fulfilling his corporate management role and providing technical inputs to a range of forestry-related projects, including: forest management certification audits; high conservation value assessments; forest restoration; carbon stock assessments; REDD+ project feasibility studies; and land use carbon project certification audits. In 2013, Mr. Shono rejoined FAO as Forest Resources Officer based in the Asia-Pacific regional office.

Photos on the session
Opening session



Plenary session



Country Report and invited resource person presentation



Working group discussion



Field visit to SFM demonstration site in Sungai Tekala Forest Reserve, Selangor



