



**Launching Ceremony of the ITTO Project:
“Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Management of Teak Forests and Legal and Sustainable Wood Supply Chains in the Greater Mekong Sub-region” (PP-A/54-331)**

Dear All,

It is a great pleasure to invite you to the opening ceremony of the **ITTO Project: “Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Management of Teak Forests and Legal and Sustainable Wood Supply Chains in the Greater Mekong Sub-region” (PP-A/54-331)**.

The ITTO Teak Project in Mekong is jointly implemented by International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and 5 countries in the Mekong region, namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. This project is funded by the Federal Republic of Germany through the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture for 3 years from 2019-2022. This project aims at assisting governments, local communities and smallholders to enhance natural teak forest management, production and marketing through the establishment of legal and sustainable wood supply chains improve local economy and local communities' livelihood in the Mekong region.

Mr. Jan Scheer, Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Economic Section, German Embassy to Thailand, Dr Gerhard Dieterle, Executive Director of ITTO, Ms Silke Hertrich, the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), Mr. Athapol Charoenshunsu, Director General of the Royal Forest Department and Dr. Damrong Sripraram, Vice President of Kasetsart University will present welcome remarks.

Furthermore, Prof. Sanit Aksornkoe, a Senator of Thailand and Chairman of the National Economic and Social Development Council Boards (NESDB) presents his views *on Sustainable Forest Management for Economic Promotion in Thailand*, hereafter Dr. Suwan Tangmitcharoen, a Senior Expert of the RFD, shares his viewpoints on *Gene Conservation, Research and Development of Teak*.

The Launching Ceremony takes place at the Chaophya Park Hotel, 247Ratchadaphisek Road, Din Daeng, Bangkok, on Tuesday 24 April from 10.30-12.00, and followed by a launch reception.

We look forward to seeing you.

Kind regards,

(Dr. Nikhom Laemsak)

Dean of the Faculty of Forestry

Program of the Launching Ceremony

Time	Item
10:00 - 10:30	Registration
10:30 - 11:10	<p>Opening ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks by Mr. Athapol Charoenshunsa, Director-General, Royal Forest Department, Thailand • Welcome remarks by Dr. Damrong Sripraram, Vice President of Kasetsart University • Welcome remarks by Ms Silke Hertrich, Representative of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture • Welcome remarks by Mr. Jan Scheer, Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Economic Section, German Embassy to Thailand • Welcome remarks by Dr Gerhard Dieterle, Executive Director, ITTO <p>Group photo</p>
11:10 – 11:50	<p>Key note speeches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable forest management for economic promotion in Thailand by Senator Prof. Sanit Aksornkoe, Thailand Parliament • Gene Conservation, Research and Development of teak (<i>Tectona grandis</i> L.f.) in Thailand by Dr Suwan Tangmitcharoen, Senior Expert, RFD
11:50 – 12:20	<p>Press release</p> <p>Participants: RFD DG, German Embassy, BMEL, ITTO ED, Senator Prof. Sanit Aksornkoe, RFD and selected teak experts</p>
12:20 – 13:40	Lunch at Chaophaya Park Hotel



Prof. Sanit Aksornkoe obtained his Ph.D. from the Michigan State University, USA. He is a Professor Emeritus and former Vice-President of Kasetsart University, and a former President of Thailand Environment Institute (TEI). He has coordinated many research and development projects and published numerous papers relating to mangroves. Based on his outstanding academic achievements, he received many awards and prizes. At present Senator Prof. Sanit Aksornkoe is a fellow of the Royal Institute of Academy of Science of Thailand. Furthermore, he is a key person to engage the Promotion of Marine and Coastal Resources Management Act of 2015 and a new National Park Act of 2019, as well as Thailand National Forest Policy.



Dr. Suwan Tangmitcharoen is an Acting Expert on Forest Plantation Promotion of the Royal Forest Department. He obtained PhD in Marine and Environmental Science from the University of the Ryukyus, Japan. His research involves forest tree improvement, forest seed management and genetic conservation and management of forest trees. He is also the Chairman of Technical Committee of the ITTO Teak Project in Mekong. He also serve as a national coordinator of Asia-Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Program-APFORGEN and steering committee of Sino-ASEAN Network of Forest Research Institutes (SANFRI) supported by APFNet.