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Teak Mekong Newsletter is now re-named as *ITTO-BMEL Teak Newsletter* to reflect changes in the start of 2nd phase of the project in November 2023 for 3 years for implementation in 6 countries of Asia Pacific and Togo in West Africa. The newsletter support and facilitates teak and other tropical species networking and information dissemination in the Asia Pacific and West Africa through ITTO member countries and partners, and support sharing lessons of the project through short news release, occasional papers, project related research and development information. The bi-monthly newsletter is released online through TEAKNET webpage www.teaknet.org and co-hosted by Kasetsart University, Thailand.

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60th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC 60)

02-06 December 2024, Yokohama, Japan

A Brief Report by Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand

The International Tropical Timber Organization's 60th Council Session (ITTC 60) was successfully held at Yokohama, Japan during 2-6 December 2024. On the concluding day of 6th December, Council took major decisions including one that extended the term of appointment of ITTO Executive Director Ms. Sheam Satkuru by two years, until 31 January 2028 to ensure organizational continuity during the ramp-up of the negotiations.

Members reaffirmed the central role of sustainable tropical timber trade in meeting global environmental and development objectives through the formalization of its programmatic approach to projects.

The four Council approved Programmatic Lines are:

- 1) Legal and Sustainable Supply Chains
- 2) Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- 3) Forest Landscape Restoration and Resilient Livelihoods
- 4) Emerging Issues and Innovation

The ITTC was attended by over 103 delegates from 40 member governments and the EU, and approximately 60 observers from intergovernmental organizations, technical agencies, certification bodies, civil society, the private sector, and academia.



ITTO Executive Director Sheam Satkuru

(Photo courtesy: ITTO/Japan)

On Monday, 2nd December 2024, the Committees on Finance and Administration (CFA) on Economics, Statistics and Markets (CEM), and Forest Industry (CFI) discussed promotion of sustainable wood use in domestic markets through reports from Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia on on-going and recently completed projects. They described experiences related to domestic policy frameworks, capacity building, and opportunities for scaling impact.



Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi, ITTO Secretariat examining credentials
(Photo courtesy: ITTO/Japan)



The Thai delegation with the members of ITTO secretariat on CFI

For Thailand, Dr. Wirongrong Duangjai from the Royal Forest Department and Project Coordinator presented key outputs and activities generated by the Sustainable Wood Use (SWU) project entitled *“Promotion of Sustainable Domestic Consumption of Wood Products in Thailand”* implemented during the period January 2023 – November 2024.

The Council’s Annual Market Discussion and its look at the preliminary findings of the Biennial World Timber Situation

report also reminded participants that the ITTO has forged a role for itself in assisting the industry, trade, and governments involved in tropical timber to green supply chains in the era of transparency, traceability, legality, and certification.

On Thursday, 5th December, Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Kasetsart University, Thailand, and Regional Project Manager, ITTO-BMEL Teak project presented a status report of the on-going project “PP-A/54-33A” *Promoting Quality Timber Production in Smallholders and Community-based Teak and Other Valuable Species Plantations in the Tropics*, which is being funded by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), Germany for 3 years (2023-2026).



Prof. Yongyut Trisurat at the ITTC presenting the progress of on-going project PP-A/54-33A

He reported that MoU is completed with Cambodia, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Togo, and one pending approval with Indonesia. He also reported the progress towards the three desired outputs:

- Strengthening supply chains and management systems through easy availability of high-quality planting stock, implementation of improved practices in silviculture, and timber processing and legality.
- Financing schemes (contract farming, remunerative prices, micro-financing, access to voluntary carbon markets, etc.
- Regional and international collaboration, information sharing and knowledge management.

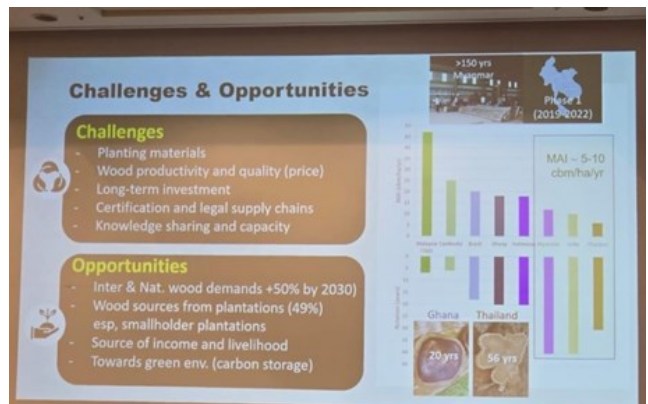
Intervention by the member of CÔTE D'IVOIRE sought if the project could be expanded to include his country. Prof. Yongyut responded that the project's scope is now limited, but conveyed that the lessons learned from the outcome of the project will be shared widely, including neighboring African nation of Togo. He further indicated the project partners' intention to include other countries in the next phase of the Teak project, and to raise this possibility with the primary donor, Germany.

Members appeared energized by ITTO's recent accreditation with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Executive Director's efforts to secure cooperation and collaboration agreements with diverse agencies, multilateral and regional organizations, and development banks. During the week, they offered ideas and support for raising ITTO's profile, including in forums such as the G7 and G20. However, there is still a great deal of work to be done before any of these efforts can bear fruit.

On the concluding day, 6th December, many members expressed hope that ITTC-60 had laid the foundation for a better future for the organization. There is structure for the preparatory working group (PWG) to advance renegotiation preparations and the Secretariat has the drive to diversify ITTO financing, and the incoming ITTC-61 Chair (and former ITTO Fellow) Mr. Carlos Espinosa Peña (Panama) look forward to the next ITTO Council meeting in Panama during 20-24 October, 2025.



Photo Gallery



Glimpses of the ITTO-BMEL Teak project presentation at the ITTC 60th session by Prof. Yongyut Trisurat

For a detailed report, visit <https://www.itto.int/itc-60/>

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Call for Abstracts now Open!!

Submission deadline: 28 February 2025

Submit your Abstract online

<https://worldteakconference2025.com/abstract/>



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5th WORLD TEAK CONFERENCE

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17-20 SEPTEMBER 2025

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“ Sustainable Development
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THEMATIC SESSIONS:

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- ⇒ Recent advances in teak genetics and stand management of natural and planted teak forests
- ⇒ Management models for smallholder teak plantations and agroforestry systems in Asia, Africa and Latin America
- ⇒ Environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and Forest Landscape Restoration

Visit <https://worldteakconference2025.com/> for more information

Contact: Conference Secretariat at: infowtc2025@gmail.com

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ITTO - BMEL Teak Newsletter is a bi-monthly electronic newsletter of the Project Team which is intended for circulation among the stakeholders of global teak sector. The views expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization. The readers are welcome to express their opinions or pass on information concerned with teak. However, we reserves the information on the project and publishing through this newsletter for our esteemed readers.

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