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NEWS RELEASE

ITTO Signs MOU with Secretariat of ASEAN-Korea Forest Cooperation (AFoCo)

SEOUL, KOREA, 28 June 2013: A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ITTO and the Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - Korea Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) was signed by Mr. Emmanuel Ze Meka, the Executive Director of ITTO and Dr. Hadisusanto Pasaribu, the Executive Director of AFoCo on 27 June 2013 at the AFoCo Secretariat in Seoul, Korea.

This MOU will facilitate implementation of joint activities to strengthen sustainable forest management in the Southeast Asian region. The areas for joint actions include restoration of degraded forest lands to support sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, soil and water protection, as well as mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The MOU is also designed to promote the provision of environmental services from forests, including the development of payments for environmental services.

For more information on ITTO go to <u>www.itto.int</u>. For more information on AFoCo go to <u>www.afocosec.org</u>