



NEWS RELEASE

ITTO launches Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation Project in the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex in the Mekong River Basin between Thailand, Cambodia and Laos (Phase III)

Phnom Penh, 1 October 2012: ITTO Executive Director Emmanuel Ze Meka attended the Launching Ceremony for the ITTO Project on "Management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex to Promote Cooperation for Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation between Thailand, Cambodia and Laos, Phase III" which was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Mr. Ze Meka commended the financial contribution made by the Government of Japan to this project under the ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity at the COP 10 of CBD in Nagoya, Japan in 2010.

He highlighted the importance of conserving forest biodiversity in the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex situated between Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR, under the framework of a transboundary biodiversity conservation area (TBCA). The Emerald Triangle has some of the most extensive unfragmented natural forests in Southeast Asia containing large numbers of globally threatened species. He furthermore hoped the partnerships established from Phase I to Phase III in conserving the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex as part of Mekong River Basin will be further enhanced for the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecoregional cooperation for the current and future generations.



ITTO ED Ze Meka addresses the Launching Ceremony (R-left: H.E. Dr Yin Kim Sean, Secretary of State of Environment, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Chheng Kimsun, Director General of Cambodia Forestry Administration; H.E. Uk Sokhon, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia; H.E. Mr. Yoshihiro Higuchi, Minister of the Embassy of Japan in Cambodia; H.E. Mr Surapol MAneepong, Minister of the Royal Thai Embassy; and Dr. Prayut Lorsuwansiri, Deputy Director General of the Royal Forest Department of Thailand)
Photo: Ma Hwan-Ok/ITTO.

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