



Report on APFNet work in 2008-2009

APFNet development



The establishment and announcement of the APFNet

One year after the proposal being put forward at the 15th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in 2007, the APFNet was launched in Beijing in September, 2008. The event was co-organized by China and Australia, in collaboration with US and TNC.

During the occasion, the APFNet website (www.apfnet.cn) was initiated and APFNet Framework Document was introduced, followed by an international symposium during which future priority areas of the APFNet were explored and experiences and lessons learned in the development and implementation of sustainable forest management were shared.

At the 16th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in the same year, Mr. Hu Jintao, the President of China announced the launch of the APFNet and encouraged active participation in the APFNet activities in the APEC region.

In his address at the 17th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in November 2009, Mr. Hu Jintao recognized the APFNet as one of the constructive initiatives to contribute to an increase in carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation, and welcomed a continuous support to and closer cooperation with the APFNet.

Institutional development

The founding members of the APFNet, i.e. China, Australia and the US engaged in several rounds of negotiation on the development of the APFNet, with a focus on membership expansion, APFNet's relationship with APEC as well as roles and functions of the APFNet Secretariat.

An international symposium was held in August 2009, which brought together representatives from a number of APEC member economies and international organizations. A summary report was drafted which includes specific views and suggestions on priority areas of APFNet activities, capacity building, pilot projects, relationship of APFNet with APEC, membership and modalities as well as the financial arrangement.

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Report on APFNet activities 2008-2009

a) International exchanges and cooperation

International conferences and events in 2008-2009 provided a platform for the APFNet to participate in global and regional forest processes. With attendance to the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting under UNFF, Partner's Roundtable Meeting of Asia Pacific Forestry Commission of FAO, the 8th session of UNFF, the 8th meeting of Asia Forest Partnership and the XIII World Forest Congress, the APFNet shared and exchanged views to promote SFM and explored the possibility for further cooperation with potential collaborators both at the regional and international level.

b) Capacity building programmes

Since 2008, the APFNet set to explore how capacity, in particular in the Asia-Pacific region, could be enhanced to help with the work of forest practitioners in the region. Two series of training workshops- namely Forestry and Rural Development and Forest Resource Management- were designed with regional expertise and resources facilitated. Four workshops were organized in collaboration with international organizations and institutions in China, bringing together nearly 80 participants from 17 Asia and Pacific countries. These four training workshops are as follows:

- Sustainable Forest Management
- Forestry and Rural Sustainable Development
- Methods, Tools and Skills for Promoting Legal and Sustainable Forest
- Management and Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region, and Sustainable Forest Resource Management

c) Regional policy dialogue

An international workshop on policies on trade in timber and timber products was held in 2008, co-hosted by the US-China Bilateral Forum on Combating Illegal Logging and Associated Trade and the APFNet, to introduce policies and regulations on combating illegal logging and trade, to share experiences of responsible practices on trade in timber and timber products, and to promote cooperation among governments, industry associations, private sectors, and NGOs.



The APFNet also engaged in facilitating regional policy dialogue through providing technical and financial support to the Country-Led Initiative Workshop on "Forest for People" which was held in China in November 2009. The workshop brought together almost 150 participants from round 40 governments and international organizations. The workshop was a great success and a summary report was drafted, providing recommendations on forest policy as an input to the 9th session of UNFF to be held in 2011.