



APFNet Newsletter

Aisa-Pacific Network for Forest Management and Rehabilitation

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Proposal of Establishing the APFNet

Transfer and sharing of experiences and expertise in sustainable forest management and rehabilitation are increasingly needed among economies in the Asia-Pacific region to help address climate change and promote economic and social development. In this regard, the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), proposed by China and co-sponsored by Australia and the United States, was agreed by the 15th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in September 2007 in Sydney, Australia and was incorporated in the Sydney APEC Leaders' Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Clean Development to "enhance capacity building and strengthen information sharing on sustainable forest management in the forestry sector" in the region.

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Launch of the APFNet

After one-year preparation, co-organized by China and Australia, with the support from the United States of America and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Symposium on Sustainable Forest Management-Launch of the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) was held in Beijing September 25-27, 2008, signifying the inauguration of APFNet.

The Symposium brought together more than 120 participants from APEC and non-APEC economies, regional and international organizations, scientific institutions, the private sector and the civil



Mr.JIA Zhibang, Minister of SFA,
Launches the APFNet Website

society.

The launch ceremony of APFNet was chaired by China, with high-level officials from Australia, USA, APEC Secretariat, and related ministries in China delivering the welcome remarks.

The website of APFNet (www.apfnet.cn), established by China, was launched following the opening remarks of the ceremony. An Information Center was set up to update and maintain the website, which serves as a crucial instrument for information sharing under the Network.

After the launching ceremony and initiation of the website, participants



Mr. ZHU Lieke, Vice Minister of SFA,
Chairs the Opening Ceremony



Mr. QU Guilin, DG of SFA, Introduces
APFNet Framework Document



Symposium on Sustainable Forest Management

actively participated in the open discussions, explored the future priority areas and approaches of APFNet and shared experiences and lessons learned in the development and implementation of sustainable forest management. A report was composed to conclude the Symposium.

During the APFNet launch event, Vice Premier of the State Council

of China, Mr. HUI Liangyu, met a number of high-level participants from Australia, US, APEC, UNFF and TNC, stressing the significance of forestry synergy at regional and international level. He also appreciated the input by the co-sponsors of the APFNet and other organizations, and committed continuous efforts to develop the APFNet.



H.E. Mr.HUI Liangyu, Vice Premier, meets high-level participants

Framework Document of the APFNet

APFNet Framework Document was officially introduced during the APFNet Launch Ceremony. This fundamental document defines the APFNet's background, nature, mission, objectives, potential priority areas, modalities and its financial mechanism. It will be further developed as the Network gradually gets improved.

The Framework Document can be found at the APFNet website:

<http://en.apfnet.cn/modules/about/item.php?itemid=1>

Main Activities Organized under the APFNet in 2008

Since the launch of the Network, activities designed to promote capacity building and information sharing on sustainable forest management and rehabilitation in the Asia Pacific region were organized under the APFNet.

Training Workshop on Sustainable Forest Management



Training Course, Discussion and Field Trip

The first capacity building program under APFNet, the training workshop on Sustainable Forest Management, was organized from October 22 to 30, 2008 in Beijing, bringing together 15 participants from 14 countries in the Asia-Pacific region to share the experiences on sustainable forest management.

The training course, combined with

field trip to forest farms and nature reserves, covered prominent forest issues, such as forest policies in a changing environment, illegal logging as well as the cooperation from Chinese government in this regard, forest laws and regulations, forest certification and timber products trade.

International Workshop on Policies on Trade in Timber and Timber Products



Opening Ceremony of the Workshop

The international workshop on policies on trade in timber and timber products was held during December 6-7, 2008 in Beijing, co-hosted by the US-China

Bilateral Forum on Combating Illegal Logging and Associated Trade and the APFNet.

About 180 participants from government agencies, international organizations, famous enterprises as well as forestry-related enterprises attended the workshop, introducing policies and regulations on combating illegal logging and trade, sharing experiences of responsible practices on trade in timber and timber products, and promoting cooperation among governments, industry associations, private sectors, and NGOs.

Announcement of the APFNet Launch at APEC Meeting

At the 16th APEC leaders' meeting held in November 2008 in Peru, Chinese President, Mr. HU Jintao announced the establishment and launch of the APFNet, and committed initial funding for early-stage functioning of the APFNet. APFNet welcome broad participation and support.

Participation in International Events

APFNet participated in many international conferences and workshops hosted by such international organizations as FAO, UNFF and APFC, as well as NGOs to increase worldwide recognition, enhance synergies

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting under UNFF



Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting (UNFF) was held during 10-14 November in Vienna, Austria to develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework. APFNet was invited to attend the meeting and a brief introduction on the APFNet development was made during the meeting.

APFC Executive Committee



The Fifth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forest Commission (APFC) Executive Committee was held in Hua Hin, Thailand during 13-14 November 2008. During the meeting, an in-depth discussion on fields and means of further cooperation between the APFNet and FAO was held. The possibility of jointly carrying out regional policy studies and conducting forest research was explored during this occasion. Details of the next session of APFC which will be co-hosted by China and FAO in 2010 were further explored. This will provide another good opportunity for strengthening such cooperation.

COFO Meeting under FAO



The 19th Session of the Committee on Forestry/World Forest Week under FAO was held during March 16-20, 2009 in Rome, Italy. The Asia Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), the new regional forestry organization, was invited to attend the COFO meeting.

During the meeting, the side event “Glimpses of Developments in Asia-Pacific Forestry” was organized by APFC, inviting forestry organizations and initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region to participate. A presentation on APFNet development was made by Ms. LIU Xin, Deputy Director of APFNet Secretariat, introducing the objectives, mission, priorities, recent activities and follow-up work plan of the APFNet. A number of government



Glimpses of Developments in Asia-Pacific Forestry Organised by APFC during COFO2009

agencies, international and regional organizations showed interest and willingness to build up cooperation with the APFNet.

APFNet also had consultation with FAO on further cooperation, and a discussion on project activities and future development of APFNet was held among China, US and Australia.

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