WORKSHOP ON FOREST TRADE AND MARKET REFORMS IN THE MEKONG REGION: CREATING A NETWORK TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY, LEGALITY, AND PRO-POOR OUTCOMES

AGENDA
AUGUST 21 – 22, 2008

Sponsored by: Forest Trends, RECOFTC, the VERIFOR Project and the York Center for Asian Research.

Objective: To gain a better understanding of the dynamic relations currently governing forest trade and industry in the Mekong region. The workshop will aim to identify and champion pro-poor market and trade policy reforms by improving local capacity to better evaluate key timber wood flows and forest governance issues, and by promoting a two-tiered network to advocate for improved policy and market reforms in the Mekong region. The workshop will bring together Mekong national researchers and institutions that are willing and able to support such a network, employing a critical coalition approach.

Location: The Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) P.O. Box 1111 Kasetsart University, Pahonyothin Road, Bangkok 10903, Thailand Phone: (662) 940-5700 Fax: (662) 561-4880, 562-0960

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

6:30 p.m. Welcome Dinner
RECOFTC cafeteria

Self-introductions
• Name, organization & experience

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21:

9:00 – 9:30 Opening & Introduction
Thomas Enters, RECOFTC

Kerstin Canby, Forest Trends
9:30 – 10:00 A Regional Context:

Understanding the Integration Timber Related Trade Flows in the Mekong Region and Beyond
*Kevin Woods, University of California -Berkeley*

Identifying International and Regional Trends in the Forest Sector: Market driven change and opportunities for the Mekong region (FLEGT, REDD, governance reforms)
*Robert Oberndorf, RECOFTC and the VERIFOR Project*

10:00 – 10:10 Q&A

15 minutes plus 5 minutes Q&A each
*Chair: Kevin Woods, University of California -Berkeley*

Burma Country Presentation
*Win Myo Thu, ECODEV, Myanmar*

Burma Country Presentation
*Maung Maung Than, FRED A, Myanmar*

Q&A

10:50 – 11:05 Coffee / tea break

11:05 – 11:25 Country Presentation: Thailand
*Jitvijak Supol, WWF Greater Mekong Thailand program*

Q&A

11:25 – 11:45 The Supply Chain: Transparency & Assessing the Costs
*Stephen Midgeley, Salwood Asia Pacific*

11:45 – 12:25 Vietnam country presentation
*To Xuan Phuc, University of Toronto*

Vietnam country presentation
*Nguyen Quang Tan*

Q&A

12:25 – 12:45 Discussion / Q&A / Summary of main issues for Burma, Thailand & Vietnam

12:45 – 1:30 Lunch

1:30 – 2:10 Country Presentations: Cambodia & Laos
*Chair: Keith Barney, University of York*

Cambodia country presentation
*Hour Lim Chhun, UNDP, Cambodia*
Cambodia country presentation  
_Pryou Chung, East-West Management Institute_

2:10 – 2:50 Laos country presentation  
Khamla Phanvily, Faculty of Forestry, National University of Laos & East-West Center, University of Hawaii

Laos country presentation  
Sithong Thongmanivong, Faculty of Forestry, National University of Laos

3:10 – 3:25 Discussion / Q&A / Summary of Main Issues for Cambodia & Laos

3:25 – 3:45 Clientalism and corruption  
Andrew Cock, Monash University, Australia

3:45 – 4:00 Tea / coffee break

4:00 - 4:40 China and the International Context  
_Chair: Rob Oberndorf, RECOFTC and the VERIFOR Project_

China country presentation  
_Su Yufang, ICRAF_

China: Continued Demand for Wood Products & Investment Trends  
_Kerstin Canby, Forest Trends_

4:50 – 5:20 Discussion: Common issues we share in the Mekong region?  
_Chair: Rob Oberndorf, RECOFTC_
  - _What regional issues are not being addressed adequately?_
  - _What are the most serious forest sector issues that we share in our region (governance, trade, law reform, poverty, etc)_

5:20 – 5:40 Learning Network Approach  
_Chair: Kerstin Canby, Forest Trends_

6:00 Dinner  
_Pola Pola (transport provided)_
FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

9:00 – 12:00 Brainstorm Session: Identification of Region-wide Issues
   *What’s the big picture? Where are there gaps in knowledge? What are priorities?*

9:00 – 9:45 Identification & Prioritization
   *Chair: Kerstin Canby*

   Potential pre-identified topics:
   - Issues Related to Manufacturing Hubs (China, VN, Thailand)
     - Domestic production shortfalls
     - Consumption trends (domestic + export demand)
     - Trade flows (imports & exports)
   - Issues related to Investment Flows / Economic Concessions, demands on land for non-forest sector production, etc.
   - Markets & Livelihood Links
     - Rights, Tenure, etc
   - Central – provincial – local – cross-border relationships

9:45 – 11:00 What are the research gaps for each of the identified topics?
   What are the research question that need to be answered and how would one approach it?

11:00 – 11:45 Open time for individual discussion & networking

11:45 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 Continuation of discussion on research gaps, questions to be answered & methodology

2:00 – 2:20 Coffee/ tea break

2:20 – 4:00 How to Structure the Network?
   - *Is it needed?*
   - *If so, what focus would be most effective?*
   - *What audiences should be targeted? What mechanisms to target to disseminate messages?*
   *Chair: Robert Oberndorf*

4:00 CLOSING