



**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
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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
- 10:10 – 10:50 Country Presentations: Burma, Thailand, Vietnam
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 Phamvilay, 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