

**EAST ASIA FLEG
Regional Steering Committee
Informal Meeting
HYATT REGENCY HOTEL
Yogyakarta, Indonesia
September 8, 2006**

Attendees:

1. Neria Andin- Philippines
2. Nonito Tamayo TWC Philippines
3. Pablito Ofrecia TWC Philippines
4. Mario Boccucci -WB
5. Bill Magrath -WB
6. Nalin Kishor - WB
7. Hugh Speechly – DFID UK
8. Tachrir Fathoni - Indonesia
9. Agustinus Taufik - Indonesia
10. Kumiko Shimamoto - Asia Forest Network Philippines
11. Nobuo Saito - Japan
12. Hiro Miyazono – Japan
13. Janie Friedlein – State Dept USA
14. Fred Stolle – WRI USA
15. Charles Barber – USAID
16. Bernhard V.D. Heyde - GTZ Germany
17. Yayat Afianto - TELAPAK Indonesia
18. Kebut Deddy Muliata - SEKALA Indonesia
19. Zulfikar Adil - BRIK Indonesia

Highlights:

1. Neria Andin presided the Pre Regional Steering Committee Meeting that was participated by TF/AG group and Observer status members. The objective of the meeting was to maximize the input of attending and leaving participants for the day. Leveling off of topics to be discussed and identify gaps for the upcoming RSC formal meeting.
2. Tachrir Fathoni suggested to the RSC Secretariat to look into the possibility of conducting study or simple questionnaire for FLEG members to identify the needs/purpose as well as other activities to be carried out in the process, similar to a study done on AFP which was presented at its 6th meeting.

3. In the course of the discussion, the group agreed the necessity of RSC members in RSC in drafting the press release and/or draft statement for AMAF taking into consideration the following :
 - Political will of member countries
 - Timing on submission of report deadline middle of October
 - Consensus of the statement among member countries
 - RSC as non inclusive for ASEAN countries. The other countries may be included either within or outside the region, i.e., South Korea, China , Japan, Australia, New Zealand &EU
4. Discussion on the necessity to come up with a robust 2-3 paragraph statement either in trade or enforcement, taking into consideration the bilateral/multilateral agreements.
5. Bill Magrath stressed the need of RSC members' commitment in the event of press release. All members must be prepared to work in formulating the agenda for Ministerial Meeting.
6. He also pointed out that the development and identification of mechanism for sufficient ownership and other procedural aspect of member countries particularly the government they represent need to be considered as a way forward to make it enforceable.
7. He emphasized that the preparation process must be formalized for a greater participation of the Ministers.
8. Mario Broccucci suggested that participation and recognition of NGOs in the FLEG process .
9. Hiro Miyazono sought clarification on how FLEG processes are different and can add value to the current efforts to combat illegal logging, especially on the commitment at higher political levels and expected functions in the region.
10. He also introduced Mr. Saito as the official representative from Japan for Asia FLEG RSC Task Force.
11. Meeting adjourned: 4:00 pm.

**Minutes of Organizational Meeting of the Asia FLEG Regional
Steering Committee
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
September 9, 2006**

Attendees:

RSC Task Force:

1. Neria Andin- Philippines
2. Hugh Speechly – DFID UK
3. Tachrir Fathoni - Indonesia

RSC Advisory Group:

4. Kumiko Shimamoto - Asia Forest Network Philippines
5. Zulfikar Adil - BRIK Indonesia
6. Julian Newman – EIA USA

Donor Agencies:

7. Mario Boccucci -WB
8. Bill Magrath -WB
9. Nalin Kishor - WB

Observers/Participants:

10. Janie Friedlein – State Department USA
11. Fred Stolle – WRI USA
12. Charles Barber – USAID USA
13. Bernhard V.D. Heyde – GTZ/ASEAN
14. Yayat Afianto - TELAPAK Indonesia
15. Apichai Thirathon – USAID-RPM/Bangkok
16. Nazir Khan Nizam Khan- Malaysia

ASEAN Secretariat:

17. Prabianto Wibowo – ASEAN Secretariat

RSC Secretariat:

18. Agustinus Taufik – Indonesia

Technical Working Committee:

19. Nonito Tamayo - Philippines
20. Pablito Ofrecia - Philippines

Absent:

- Lu de-China (RSC TF)
- Hu Yuan Hui – China (RSC AG)
- Chen Lin Keong – Malaysia (RSC AG)

Highlights:

Agenda 1: Introductory Statement

The meeting started at 9:00 am.

After the welcome address rendered by Tachrir Fathoni of Indonesia, Neria Andin, Chair of the Regional Steering Committee presided the meeting. Subsequent to the brief introduction made by the participants, the Chair presented the highlights of the previous meetings on Asia FLEG, brief background and other related activities undertaken by the Asia FLEG.

Agenda 2: Reports on the outcomes/agreements

Prabianto Wibowo reported the outcomes and agreements during the ASOF 9, Special SOM-27th AMAF held in Bohol, Philippines.

The Chair made some clarifications in the statement presented in the AMAF. She stated that the draft statement prepared by the Philippines is in pursuance to the request of ASEAN Secretariat to formulate Asia FLEG statement mutually acceptable to ASEAN Member Countries (AMCs).

Charles Barbers reiterated that the agenda in the FLEG Ministerial Meeting should focus on information sharing, transparency and regional cooperation.

Bernhard V.D. Heyde stated the need for background document on paragraph 109 of Special SOM-27th AMAF which provides for a review on the draft statement as a Ministerial Statement for the consideration of the 28th AMAF in Singapore.

Prabianto Wibowo confirmed that ASEAN Secretariat agreed to the proposal of the RSC members to be Asia FLEG's "Institutional Home". He also informed the RSC members that the purpose of the statement is to raise awareness of AMAF members about FLEG initiatives. Accordingly, the process of making the Ministers signed the document for FLEG takes time, and all the necessary background document should be in placed prior to the meeting.

He further emphasized that for purpose of facilitation, RSC must come up with a statement for press release in the AMAF meeting this

November. Submission of the documents should be made before AMAF meeting, probably in mid October.

He also discussed the process by which ASEAN Secretariat works and requested the RSC members to come up with the Asia FLEG statement to be submitted by the Philippines to ASEAN Secretariat for comment and recommendation of AMCs. It will then be returned to ASEAN Secretariat for consolidation.

Tachrir Fathoni stated possible options, one is to formulate draft statement for the Ministers to sign and the other is to draft statement for press release for the Ministers to raise awareness, recognize the issues on Asia FLAG and seek possible support on the process. He also offered a combination to certain decision in the 9th ASOF and Special SOM AMAF Meetings.

Bernhard V.D. Heyde suggested that RSC members might concentrate on press release to expand other aspect not mentioned on the draft and recommended for the inclusion of the phrase “eradication of unsustainable practices”.

Nalin Kishor suggested that two statement to be developed, one for AMAF and the other for AMAF+3 considering that in the latter, FLEG is not associated, thus the statement should focus on what to do and what is the process.

Prabianto Wibowo responded that we can expect the Plus Three countries will support the statement/press release by AMAF.

Hugh Speechly suggested RSC members to work on both the statement and the press release, to have two strings to rely on.

Nazir Khan Nizam Khan stated that his participation is only as an observer and reiterated the agreement in Bohol meeting that the draft FLEG statement should be circulated by the ASEAN Secretariat to AMCs for their comments.

A draft statement for AMAF press release was formulated reflecting comments and edited by the participants. A copy of draft statement was distributed to RSC members for their comments. The same shall be posted and sent thru email for comments by AMCs.

The RSC has agreed to hold a series of preparatory meeting prior to the Ministerial Meeting, the first of which will be held back to back AMAF Meeting in November.

The RSC also welcome the membership of Charles Barbers of USAID in the RSC. Emphasis was made on the support of USA in the Bali Declaration.

Agenda 3 Discussion and adoption of TOR of the RSC

Hugh Speechly stressed the need to determine the role of RSC for Ministerial Meeting. Under par 21 of the TOR, identification of institutional home must be considered.

He further stressed to look for a possibility of having a background material on regional cooperation.

Julian Newman requested for further discussion on task of RSC in order to reduce vagueness and ambiguity particularly the role of China. He pointed out the need of identifying representative from China and offered his services to coordinate with the Chinese government for this purpose

Neria Andin emphasized under par 21.B of the TOR, the RSC FLEG action plan is the road map that includes the pre, during and post ministerial activities. This should clearly identify, specify and delineate definite activities and milestones.

She elucidated further that membership in the TF/AG is not inclusive and open to any volunteer who may wish to participate and support the FLEG process.

Bill Magrath reminded the RSC members relative to resource implication, though the WB is there to support the Ministerial meeting, support from EU and other donor partners must be seriously considered.

Neria Andin stated that in the 9th ASOF, the Philippines is tasked to undertake resource mobilization and seek global partners, funding institution for their commitment and expected delivery for the success of Asia FLEG initiatives.

Prabianto Wibowo suggested for the inclusion of resource mobilization of the Philippines under par 12 of the TOR.

Hugh Speechly stressed the need for resource mobilization to come up with the outline budget In country Programs.

Charles Barbers conveyed to the members the willingness of USAID to support Asia FLEG process and looking forward for a smooth way for US to participate.

Bill Magrath expressed that preparation will start after the press release. Citing previous experience on ENA process through RSC and sub working groups.

Bernhard V.D. Heyde stressed the financial consideration in the preparation of Ministerial Meeting. At early stage discussion must be made on the time frame, revisiting the plan and providing financial support to institutional home.

Fred Stolle sought clarification on the various roles of ASEAN Secretariat for RSC and to the Ministers.

It was clarified that the ASEAN Secretariat shall facilitate the synchronization of Asia FLEG process with the ASEAN processes. The RSC may ensure a "task oriented" role in the Asia FLEG processes.

Hugh Speechly explained several paragraphs and shared his comments on TOR. Participants were asked to forward their comments to him at their earliest convenience.

Some comments on TOR were made for the following:

- Need to check the list of countries that adopted the Bali Declaration
- In 3. Responsibilities of the RSC under 12, need to include resource mobilization
- In 3.2 Secretariat of RSC, under 16, the wording should be "Philippines as a chair, represented by DENR"
- In 3.4 Political support, under 20, the last sentence should be "...both to ASEAN, ASEAN Plus Three Members and other dialogue countries"
- In 3.5 Other RSC Tasks under 21 (b), FLEG Action plan is mentioned but this is not clear – comment made by DENR that this is a roadmap of FLEG but can be revisited after the ministerial meeting.
- In 4.RSC Membership, under 22 – needs to note that although TF/AG members are listed, this is not to limit participation
- Same section under 24, need to update focal points. Note ASEAN as its institutional home

Bill Magrath stated that there is no need to redefine the structure of RSC TF/AG at the moment.

Tachrir Fathoni reminded that RSC's role is to assist FLEG in the preparation and smoothly convene the Ministerial Meeting. He also encouraged RSC to continue working after the Ministerial Meeting. Revision of the list of members is welcome. Great number participation is encouraged, however, mechanism on the procedure must be established. He made mentioned on the possibility of adopting the AFP mechanism. He also acknowledged that AFP is task driven.

Mario Boccucci suggested the possible next step, such as output discussion on 1) Regional cooperation on customs and trade, 2) Development of national strategy, 3) transparency.

Tachrir Fathoni stressed that in the preparation of Ministerial Meeting, there is a need to determine the participants, whether it would be East Asia or Asia Pacific.

Updates on other Asia FLEG related topics were shared among the participants.

- Charles Barber reported that GEF replenished USD 3.13 million under new system of resource allocation which makes it easier for biodiversity-rich countries to receive funding. This would give more power to national focal points of biodiversity-rich countries.
- Julian Newman informed that a new yahoo e-mail group for Advisory group members is set up by EIA
- Mario Boccucci introduced a new initiative on illegal logging, "Global Organizations for Better environment dialogue (GLOBE)" to be launched at WB/IMF meeting in Singapore in mid-Sept. GLOBE has its secretariat in UK and already launched its Climate Change initiative in July.
- Nalin Kishor shared his experience in his North Asia EC FLEG process involvement. He foresees more work for Asia FLEG process which would require preparation for the 2nd declaration. This needs to be further sharpened and focused from the Bali Declaration.

The Chair made the following wrap up:

1. The Asia FLEG is well supported by the 9th ASOF and Special SOM AMAF Meeting.
2. Draft statement of RSC for press release was prepared.
3. The draft statement prepared for the SSOM AMAF in Bohol shall be circulated to AMCs for review
4. There was a rigorous discussion on the TOR. The updated version will be posted for the member's affirmation
5. Holding of Ministerial Meeting in the Philippines in 2007 was affirmed. All background documents should be made available in mid October.
6. Road map to include pre, during and post ministerial meeting activities shall be prepared with corresponding logistical support and arrangements.
7. The Philippines affirmed its willingness to work as RSC Secretariat.
8. ASEAN countries and other global partners area welcomed in taking up roles in Ministerial Meeting and other FLEG Initiatives.

The meeting was closed by a brief statement of support from Advisory Group members of the RSC namely; Kumiko Shimamoto of Asia Forest Network (Philippines) and Zulfikar Adil - BRIK Indonesia.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm