



Press release

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Forestry officials and partners from the Asia-Pacific region commit to taking action to strengthen community forestry in countries around the region

Bangkok, Thailand - More than 100 representatives of governments, civil society organizations, local communities, NGOs, academia, and international organizations from the Asia and the Pacific region made commitments to strengthen community forestry through Joint Community Forest Country Action Plans developed over the past two days. The participants came together for the *Third Regional Forum for People and Forests - Pathways to Sustainable Livelihoods: From Learning to Action*, which took place in Bangkok 19-20 November.

At the end of the Forum, participants presented action plans that will serve as the basis of succeeding National Forums, which will take place in five countries in the region in 2014: Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The Plans seek to prioritize increasing forest area under community management; strengthen the active control of communities over their forests; and ensure that institutions are able to effectively implement community forestry laws in their country.

“Through lively discussion and the active participation of everyone at the Forum, each of us have made important commitments to make community forestry a reality on the ground,” said Dr. Tint Lwin Thaug, Executive Director, RECOFTC, “We look forward to sharing the learning from this Forum and fulfilling the commitments made in the Joint Community Forest Country Action Plans that have been developed over the past two days.”

The Third Regional Forum for People and Forests - Pathways to Sustainable Livelihoods: From Learning to Action was a joint collaboration with Thailand’s Royal Forest Department, RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests, the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). For further information on the 3rd Forum see: <http://www.recoftc.org/site/resources/The-Third-Regional-Forum-for-People-and-Forests.php>

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