

Over a cup of coffee

RECOFTC-ASFN Updates

3rd ASFN Conference



Host country Cambodia with other Member States and ASFCC partners.

The 3rd ASFN Conference 'Strengthening ASEAN Civil Society Engagement in Social Forestry and Climate Change' was launched with great fanfare on 12 June in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Hosted by the Kingdom of Cambodia, and attended by over 180 participants, the conference concluded with a series of recommendations to cement the budding relationship between civil societies and policymakers in the ASEAN region.

RECOFTC launched two of its latest publications: Training Manual on Putting Free, Prior, and Informed Consent into Practice in REDD+ Initiatives; and Forests and Climate Change after Durban, during the Knowledge Fair and Products Exhibition, held concurrently with the conference.

Touching base

Welcome to the third quarterly news update for 2012.

It has been a very busy first half of 2012, with a flurry of activities, at both regional and national levels. The 3rd ASFN Conference, therefore, provided a nice pause for ASEAN Member States and Implementation Partners to exchange lessons learned so far. It was also an opportune time to take stock and strategize

for upcoming activities in 2012.

National ASFCC activities in Thailand and Myanmar are also moving ahead, and you will read more about these updates in page 2.

For more details about any of the activities in this issue, please drop me a line at celina.yong@recoftc.org

Courtesy Call to Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Malaysia



RECOFTC, NTFP-EP and the ASFCC Advisor paid a courtesy call to Datuk Dr Abdul Rahim Nik, the Deputy Secretary General of Environment from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), on 10 April in Putrajaya. The call was also attended by the Forest Department of Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak Forestry Department, Forest Research Institute of Malaysia and the Department of Orang Asli

(Native) Affairs. NRE welcomed the ASFCC project, and provided guidance to consolidate and strengthen future ASFCC activities in the country. RECOFTC and NRE are in the final stages of planning for national and regional activities in Malaysia.

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Special points of interest:

- 3rd ASFN Conference
- Courtesy Call to Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment on Malaysia
- Regional Capacity Building Activities
- Introduction to Community Forestry in Myanmar
- ASFCC Activities in Thailand
- Upcoming Activities

Regional Capacity Building Activities

RECOFTC continued its series of regional capacity building activities with 'Introduction to Climate Change', and 'Introduction to Community Forestry in the context of Climate Change'. The former took place 2 to 6 April in Bangkok, and the latter, 28 May to 1 June in Lombok, Indonesia.



Tuan Haji Artim Yahya (second from left), Headman of Santong Community Forest sharing the history of the community.

Both events were designed based on adult learning principles and incorporated RECOFTC's signature approach of experiential learning. Concepts and tools introduced not only built upon participants' existing skills and knowledge, but also challenged them to internalize lessons learned for further growth. Whenever possible, field trips are organized to allow participants to interact with various stakeholders.

ASFCC Activities in Thailand

The months of May and June saw RECOFTC's Thailand Country Program busy with a 'Dialogue on REDD+ and Climate Change', held 16 May, followed immediately by a 'Workshop on Criteria and Indicators Initiative' on 17 May. Both events were held in Bangkok.

The dialogue introduced the national master plan as a response to climate change as well as address the implementation of REDD+ in the future. The workshop was an initiative to establish criteria and indicators for community forests and sustainable forest management. Both events were well-attended by stakeholders from the government, civil society and academia.

Upcoming Activities

August

The Seventh Executive Forum on Natural Resource Management: Watershed Governance in the context of Climate Change, focused on Tenure and Policy Reform Processes, 6 to 10 August 2012, Los Baños, Philippines

Action Research Formulation Meeting, 15 to 18 August, Nyaung Oo Township, Myanmar

Introduction to Community Forestry in Myanmar

RECOFTC and Forest Research Institute jointly organized a 'Community Forestry Training-Workshop: Innovative Ideas and Practices' for high-level government officers from 14 to 18 May, in Ywa-Ngan Township, Shan State.



Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Deputy Director General of Forest Department delivering his Welcome Remarks.

Thirty-eight participants attended the training which focused on the concepts, strategies and principles of community forestry; and basic elements to facilitate the process to develop community forestry. Ya Gyi and Nyaung Pin Gwa community villages, two sites for the field visit, provided ample instances for a comparison study. Participants walked away with the practical realities of establishing and maintaining community forestry.



Brainstorming ideas.

From 6 to 8 June, over 45 participants from various government agencies joined the 'Introductory Training on Climate Change and REDD+'. The aim was to increase understanding on the concept, context of climate change and REDD+ at the national and global levels.

National Training on REDD+ and FPIC, 22 to 24 August, Thailand

September

ASFCC Learning Group Workshop, 3 to 7 September, Thailand