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ASIA PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Incheon, Republic of Korea, 17 - 21 June 2019

FORESTS FOR PEACE AND WELL-BEING: REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK 2019 STREAMS

Background

1. Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW) 2019 is the fourth Forestry Week organized in the region, following events held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in April 2008, Beijing, China, in November 2011 and Clark, Philippines in February 2016. APFW 2019 will take place 17-21 June 2019, in Incheon, Republic of Korea. The Korea Forest Service (KFS) will co-host the event with FAO. APFW 2019 is held alongside the 28th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC). As in the previous Forestry Weeks, APFW 2019 is supported by many partners and collaborators, including governments, civil society organizations, research institutions, private sector entities and development agencies.

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW 2019)

2. The overall theme of APFW 2019 is “Forests for Peace and Wellbeing”. The theme reflects important roles that forests can play in promoting peace and enhancing the wellbeing of people in the Asia-Pacific region. The major contributions of trees and forests to people’s physical and mental wellbeing are largely self-evident and broadly documented. However, forests can also make significant direct and indirect contributions to conflict reduction and resolution and to peace-building. Given the broad propensity for disagreements over the use of natural resources to be a fundamental source of both violent and non-violent conflicts, forests can potentially contribute to peacebuilding by bringing together adversarial parties to collaborate in resource management. Less directly, forests and trees play critical roles in the provision of ecosystem services, economic development and ensuring healthy environments in which people and societies can flourish, thereby removing many potential sources of dissatisfaction and conflict.

3. APFW 2019 is organized along five thematic streams that will run a series of events (meetings, workshops, seminars, etc.) throughout the week. The five parallel streams are led by “stream leader” organizations as follows:

- Restoring our forests and landscapes: Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO); Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet); The Pacific Community (SPC)
- People and forests living in harmony: ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWG-SF); The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC); Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA)
- Building a resilient environment: Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR); Green Climate Fund (GCF); Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI); World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF)
- Promoting responsible trade and markets: European Forest Institute (EFI)/EU FLEGT Facility; Forest Trends; International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP); World Resources Institute (WRI); International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR); FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme
- Innovating governance and institutions: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFF)

4. The overriding rationale for APFW 2019 is to create synergies, increase efficiency and enable economies of scale by bringing together a large number of forestry stakeholders at a single venue and enabling attendance at a range of cross-cutting events. APFW 2019 embraces broad principles of pooling resources, mobilizing and sharing participants and covering incremental costs.

5. Stream leaders, in close coordination with FAO and the host country, Republic of Korea, have taken overall responsibility in designing, organizing and implementing the streams. To ensure that they are lively, innovative and generates maximum interest, each stream will organize participatory activities, including plenary sessions, discussion groups, workshops, mini-seminars, moderated debates, visual events, and similar.

Key messages and recommendations from APFW 2019

6. Each of the five thematic streams will report to the Commission, scheduled for Wednesday, 19 June 2019, under Agenda Item 13. The reports will concisely summarize key messages from each stream and propose one actionable recommendation to be considered by APFC for adoption and follow-up implementation. Each stream leader report will be followed by debate and deliberation by APFC delegates.

Points for considerations

7. The Commission may wish to consider:

- adopting the proposed actionable recommendations, where appropriate, and requesting FAO and member countries to act upon them;
- requesting the Secretariat to bring these recommendations to the attention of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific and the Committee on Forestry.