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ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines, 22-26 February 2016

GROWING OUR FUTURE: REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK STREAMS

SECRETARIAT NOTE

Background

1. Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW) 2016 is the third Forestry Week organized in the region, following events held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in April 2008, and Beijing, China, in November 2011. APFW 2016 takes place 22-26 February 2016, in Clark, Philippines. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources of Philippines (DENR) will be co-hosting the event with FAO. APFW 2016 is held alongside the 26th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC). As in the previous Forestry Weeks, APFW 2016 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 2016)

2. The overall theme of APFW 2016 is Growing Our Future! The theme reflects the need for society to proactively integrate forestry into the wider context of sustainable development. The theme also explicitly suggests that forestry should no longer be seen as a standalone extractive sector but rather encompass a holistic approach to an integrated and sustainable development paradigm, under which economic, social and environmental objectives are holistically addressed.

3. APFW 2016 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 so-called “stream leader” organizations as follows:

- Pathways to prosperity: future trade and markets (International Tropical Timber Organization and the World Resources Institute)
- Tackling climate change: challenges and opportunities (Center for International Forestry Research and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community)

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- Serving society: forestry and people (RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests and the ASEAN Social Forestry Network)
- New institutions, new governance (FAO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community)
- Our green future: green investment and growing our natural assets (Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation and ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation)

4. The overriding rationale for APFW 2016 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 2016 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, Philippines, have taken overall responsibility in designing, organizing and implementing the streams. To ensure each stream is lively, innovative and generates maximum interest, each stream will organize participatory activities, including plenary sessions, discussion groups, workshops, mini-seminars, moderated debates, visual events, etc.

6. To ensure good coordination among FAO, the host country and the stream leaders, regular communication was critical. A dedicated mailing list was created to facilitate communication among stream leaders, FAO and the host country, which proved to be useful. The Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016 Stream Leaders' Coordination Meeting was held 12-13 November 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was attended by representatives of organizations that have agreed to lead or co-lead the five thematic streams of APFW and several other partner organizations, representatives of the host government and FAO staff.

Key messages and recommendations from APFW 2016

7. Each of the five thematic streams will report to the Commission, tentatively scheduled on Wednesday, 24 February 2016, under agenda item 11. The reports will concisely summarize the key results of 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

8. The Commission may wish to consider:
- Including the key results from the five streams as an annex to the formal report of the 26th session of the APFC.
 - Adopting the proposed actionable recommendations, where appropriate, and requesting FAO and member countries to act upon them.