

THIRD EXECUTIVE FOREST POLICY SHORT COURSE ENHANCING FOREST POLICY IN THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION

RECOFTC Headquarters
Kasetsart University Campus Bangkok, Thailand
8-19 March 2010



Over recent decades, natural forests have come under increasing pressure to meet the ever-growing demands of nation-states. In order to balance vital, but often conflicting needs, the need for strong forest policy has never been greater.

However, forest policies are not always crafted as a result of thorough analysis and multi-stakeholder consultation. In reality they are often developed and implemented as a knee-jerk response to political pressure, or unforeseen circumstances such as natural disasters. As a result, they can impact negatively on the very people and forests whose interests they were designed to protect.

Our response

The Third Executive Forest Policy Short Course has been designed to improve country-level policy development by addressing current shortcomings in policy formulation, implementation, and review.

Building on the success of two similar courses conducted by the FAO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), this third course focuses on the needs of the Greater Mekong Subregion. It emphasizes the significance of strong rights, good governance and equitable benefits, as well as the need for effective communication.

Building Skills

The course will build the skills of those involved in forest policy development to be able to:

- critically analyze problems and identify solutions
- identify current cross-sectoral developments affecting people and forests
- evaluate economic, environmental and social aspects of forest policy options
- practice effective communication of solutions, decisions and opportunities to a wide range of stakeholders

A variety of training methods will be used, including course assignments, group work and practical development of communication skills.



Real issues: Participants will be encouraged to bring 'real issues' from their countries and use them as learning tools through facilitated team activities.

Case-studies: Throughout the course, a number of carefully selected case studies will be presented, analyzed and discussed.

Field trip: A one-day field trip will be organized at the end of Week 1 for participants to observe and discuss a topical issue in the field.

Guest speakers: Eminent guest speakers will complement the coursework, leading discussions on fundamental and topical issues related to forestry.

Informational materials: Participants be given an outline of reading materials for each session, a list of additional literature on the specific subject, as well as access to the RECOFTC documentation center.

Topical Issues: Discussion will emphasize the current challenges of:

- climate change mitigation
- forest tenure reforms
- forest law enforcement and governance
- the role of forests and forestry in poverty reduction
- constraints in financing sustainable forest management

Who should participate?

The course is best-suited for senior and middle-level forestry officials and civil society representatives, ages 35 to 50, working on forest policy issues in the Greater Mekong Subregion. To enhance learning opportunities, the course will be limited to a maximum of 20 individuals.

What else is important?

When: 8–19 March 2010

Where: RECOFTC Headquarters at the Kasetsart University Campus Bangkok, Thailand

Course fee: US\$2,500

Enrolment deadline: 31 January 2010



Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank

The course is organized and promoted under the umbrella of the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank. The Think Tank espouses a variety of activities and approaches for invigorating forest policy processes in the Asia-Pacific region through sharing of knowledge, experience and expertise among countries and institutions.

For further information please contact:

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RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests • Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
• FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific • National Forest Programme Facility • USDA Forest Service

