



Korea Forest Service - Sharing Hope for Green World



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Welcome to the sixteenth issue of the Korea Forest Service Newsletter on international forestry cooperation. In our newsletter, we aim to provide you with updates on our international affairs and key cooperation projects on forestry.

Your comments or suggestions will be highly appreciated in order to improve each and every issue we publish.

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1

Korea offers to host the 15th World Forestry Congress

The Korea Forest Service presented its offer to host the 15th World Forestry Congress at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome on the 21st of July.

***World Forestry Congress(WFC):** The World Forestry Congress is the largest and most significant gathering of the world's forestry sector and it has been held every six years since 1926 under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), organized by the government of the host country. It is a forum for the sharing of knowledge and experience regarding the conservation, management and

use of the world's forests, and covers such issues as international dialogue, socio-economic and institutional aspects, and forest policies.

The Republic of Korea's delegation, headed by the Minister Wonsop Shin, attended the 23rd Committee on Forestry (18~22 July) and conducted active publicity activities.

***FAO Committee on Forestry(COFO):** The Committee on Forestry is the highest FAO Forestry statutory body. The biennial sessions of COFO (held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy) bring together heads of forest services and other senior government officials to identify emerging policy and technical issues, to seek solutions and to advise FAO and others on appropriate action.

Minister Shin opened his presentation by stressing that Korea is the most ideal place to hold the WFC as it has abundant reforestation experiences to share with the world that can contribute to the sustainable development in the future.

Following Minister Shin's remarks, Seungyeon Rah, the Communication Advisor of the Republic of Korea's Delegation, and former spokesperson of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics Bid Committee, introduced Korea's bid in detail, making a strong case for why Korea should be the host country for the next WFC in 2021.

The presentation highlighted on the fact that the Congress was held only twice in Asia-Pacific, the last Congress being held in 1978. As no country in Asia-Pacific had the opportunity to host the Congress for the past four decades, Korea stressed the importance of considering the desirability of regional rotation and offered Seoul as the venue for the next Congress.

The presentation also included the readiness of Seoul to host the Congress, emphasizing the rich experience of the Capital hosting several international conferences and the fact that internal process for budget being finalized. During the presentation, a short video clip featuring the charms of Seoul was played, garnering much attention to Seoul that emerged from the ashes of war and grew into a green and dynamic Metropolitan city.

The discussions followed the presentations delivered by the three candidate countries including Korea, Italy and Peru. Of the 34 member countries that made interventions, the overwhelming majority, 24 countries strongly supported Korea as the host country.

Minister Shin showed confidence in his comments saying that even though the competition is stiff, Korea is likely to win the bid considering the overwhelming support from the member countries.

The recommendation paper released by the Committee will be delivered to the 155th Session of the Council (5-9 December 2016) and the selection of the host country will be put on a vote. Minister Shin pledged to strive until the end of this year to make sure Korea wins the bid to host the 15th WFC in 2021.



Minister Shin, presenting Korea's offer to host the 15th World Forestry Congress



2 New forest partnerships

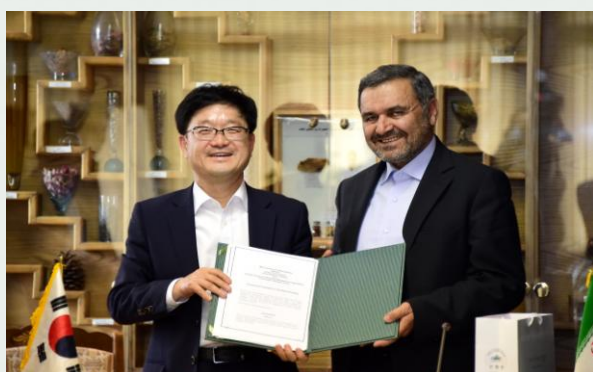
First MOU with Middle East country

The MOU on forest cooperation was signed by Mr. Shin Won Sop, Minister of Korea Forest Service and Mr. Khodakaram Jalali, Head of Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran.

The signing ceremony of the forest cooperation MOU was held on 2 May 2016 in Tehran on the special occasion of the state visit of Korea to Iran.

With the establishment of the first MOU with Middle East country, Korea Forest Service will continue to expand its international cooperation, sharing Korea's experience and knowledge in forest restoration.

In follow-up to the MOU, Director of Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands of Iran visited Korea National Arboretum to initiate one of joint projects discussed in Teheran, for forest seeds exchange and joint research in forest genetic resources.



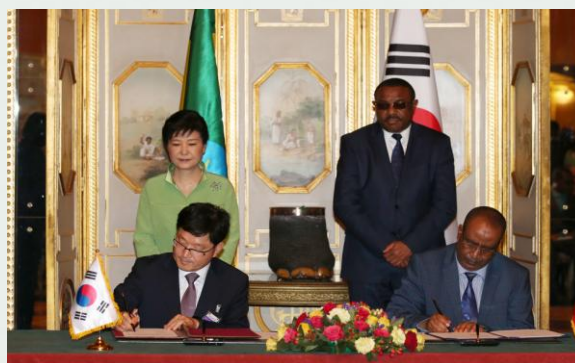
The Signing of the MOU with Iran on the special occasion of ROK's state visit

Renewed MOU with Ethiopia

Upon the request of Ethiopian side, the Korea Forest Service and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the Federal

Democratic Republic of Ethiopia established a new MOU in the field of forestry and climate change, recognizing the importance of forestry development for rural development and overall economic growth and environmental protection and considering the Ethiopian Government's national response to tackling environmental degradation and climate change, particularly through the design and implementation of the Climate Resilient Green Economy ("CRGE") vision and strategy.

The MOU was signed in the presence of the two Heads of both countries, President Park Geun-hye and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn at the Presidential Palace in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,



The Signing of the MOU with Ethiopia on the special occasion of ROK's state visit



3

MOU on Combating Desertification with Mongolia

Dr. SHIN Won-sop, Minister of the Korea Forest Service of the Republic of Korea and Mr. Battserreg Namdag, Minister of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Korea Forest Service of the Republic of Korea and the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia on Cooperation in Combating Desertification and Dust/Sandstorms.

The signing ceremony was held on 17 July 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on the sidelines of the Official Visit of President Park Geun-hye to Mongolia.

The MOU holds a significant meaning since it is a follow-up measure of the Korea-Mongolia Greenbelt Plantation Project which was implemented since 2007. Through the Project, trees were planted on the degraded land in the Gobi desert for a decade.

The Korea Forest Service has made tangible achievements through the Project, not only greening the degraded lands, but also raising awareness of the local people. Two governments will continue its efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effect of the dust and sandstorms and further strengthen cooperation in the forestry field. The new MOU would contribute to creating jobs for the local residents, increasing income and transferring knowledge.



The Signing Ceremony of the MOU in the presence of two Presidents



A New chapter towards Asian Forest Cooperation

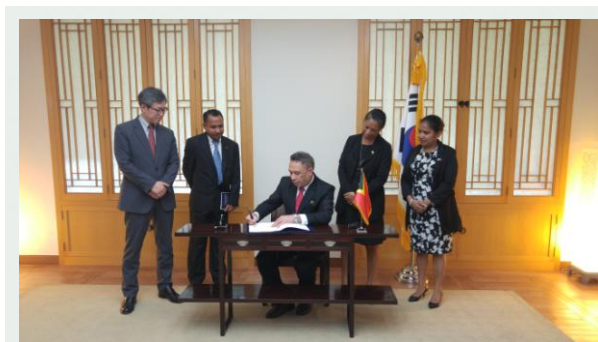
The Agreement on ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo Agreement) was terminated on 4 August 2016 after 4-year of implementation. Under the Agreement, various projects and activities have been carried out

and positive feedbacks were received from member countries.

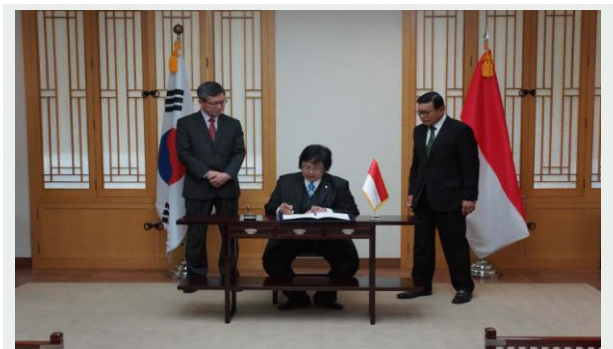
In order to build on this cooperative momentum, Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) should be established in time.

As a field-oriented intergovernmental organization, the AFoCO would play an important role in various fronts including tackling climate change, preventing deforestation and forest degradation as well as promoting Sustainable Forest Management at a regional level. And as primary steps towards the AFoCO, some of prospective member countries started to sign the AFoCO Agreement.

Following the signing of the Republic of Korea (Dec 10 2015), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Timor-Leste (Hernâni Coelho) and Minister of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia (Dr. Siti Nurbaya Bakar) paid a visit to Korea and signed the Agreement on June 20, 2016 and on August 2, 2016, respectively.



Hernâni Coelho, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Timor-Leste



Dr. Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Minister of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia

The AFoCO Agreement will enter into force on the 30th day after the date of deposit of the 5th instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval including that of the Republic of Korea.



5 KFS Good Governance Series held at Korea National Arboretum

KFS Good Governance Briefing Session was hosted by the KFS as part of Good Governance Series in Korea organized by the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) to introduce outstanding policies and cases of Korean government agencies enhancing further cooperation with the participating countries, and making ways to contribute greatly to the progresses of the public governance in different parts of the world.

The session held at the Korea National Arboretum on 25th of May was joined by Costa Rica Ambassador Rodolfo Solano Quirós, Paraguay Ambassador Raul Silvero Silvagni, and Myanmar Ambassador Thura Thet Oo Maung, along with other dozens of foreign diplomatic envoys and the press.

The KFS announced its success of the past and presented the vision of the future by introducing Korea's success story of forest restoration over the shortest period in world history and its plan to host the 15th World Forestry Congress scheduled to be held in 2021.

The KFS announced that the past achievement has led to development of forest ICT management system, forest disaster monitoring system, forest information web-service 'DADREAM', and global forest resources cooperation, and the KFS resolves to build upon the legacy of the success story and host the World Forestry Congress in the near future.

The Korea National Arboretum prepared forest interpretation programs in English for foreign envoys and delegation to experience the beauty of the forest in first hand.



Deputy Minister Dr. Kim Yong-ha with foreign diplomatic envoys in Korea



6 The 4th Korea-Cambodia Forest Cooperative Committee

The 4th Meeting of Korea-Cambodia Forest Cooperative Committee was held in Seoul, Korea, June 2016, to sign the MOU on Korea-Mekong Forest Cooperation Center.

The Korea-Mekong Forest Cooperation Center, soon to be launched, will support Korean private companies engaged in businesses in Mekong basin countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) and encourage more Korean businesses to participate.

As of now, 32% of Korean companies in overseas plantation business are engaged in the markets of the 4 countries mentioned above.

The Korea Forest Service and Cambodian Forestry Administration plans to expand cooperation scope, and conduct joint researches, support engagement of Korean companies in Mekong basin countries, and etc.

Dr. Kim Yongkwan, Director General of International Affairs Bureau of the KFS and Mr. Chea Sam Ang, Deputy Director General of the Cambodian Forestry Administration participated in the meeting as head delegates of each side, along with forest public officers and officials of Korean companies participating in overseas plantation.



7

Regional Meeting for Country Parties of Annex II of UNCCD

The Regional Meeting preparatory to the 15th session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 15) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) for country Parties of Annex II was held from 7 to 8 September 2016 in MVL Hotel, Goyang-si, Republic of Korea. The Meeting will be organized by the UNCCD Secretariat and hosted by the Korea Forest Service.

The country Parties had discussions on the agenda items of CRIC 15, to be held from 18 to 20 October 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya, as well as on the regional affairs.

On the sidelines of the Regional Meeting, experts on Sand and Duststorms attended the Expert Workshop on Economic Impact of Sand and Duststorms held from 6 to 7 September 2016 in MVL Hotel.