

# Newsletter

## International Forest Cooperation

Korea Forest Service

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### Korea Forest Service - Sharing Hope for Green Growth



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Welcome to the fourth issue of the Korea Forest Service Newsletter on international forestry cooperation. In our quarterly newsletter, we aim to provide you with updates on our international affairs and cooperation projects on forestry as well as key forestry policies of the Republic of Korea. Your comments or suggestions will be highly appreciated in order to improve each and every issue we publish.

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01

#### Korea expands forest cooperation with the African regions

The Korea Forest Service (KFS) is building more partnerships with the African countries that suffer from forest degradation, desertification, land degradation and drought consequently are in need for cooperation on matters on these matters which are related to response of climate change (mitigation & adaptation) forest restoration, and conservation of biodiversity etc.

In October 2012, Dr. Kim, Nam-Gyun, Deputy Minister of the KFS made official visits to Algeria, Benin and Ethiopia, signing MOUs on forestry cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Algeria (Mr. Fodil Ferroukhi, Secretary-General),

with the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban Development of Benin (H.E. Mr. Blaise Ahanhanzo-Glele, Minister) and with the Ministry of Agriculture for Ethiopia (Mr. Sileshi Getahu, Deputy Minister).



The Signing Ceremony between the KFS and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Algeria

Algeria expressed its wishes for Korea to share its experience and technology, and to develop a master plan for the creation of 300-ha Ben Akoun Park with a 107 ha zoo in its capital city of Algiers. In the meeting with Benin, their Minister, H.E. Mr. Ahanhanzo-Glele also asked for technical support from Korea regarding the greenbelt management in its drier northern zones. The MOU with Ethiopia was established amidst the historic relationship the two countries shared with the deployment of six thousand of its royal guards during the Korean War. The idea of building forest cooperation was initially conceived when President Lee Myung-bak visited Ethiopia during his official tour to Africa in July this year. The Ethiopian side requested Korea provide supportive forest cooperation. In the sequel of the first meeting with President Lee, forest cooperation between the two countries was established.



## 02 KFS kicks off a pilot plantation project with Paraguay

One of the key areas the KFS has been pouring its efforts into is the support and promotion of overseas forest investment by Korean companies. Recently, the KFS has expanded its interest towards new potentials in Latin America.



The signing of the agreed minutes of the 2nd session of Korea-Paraguay Forestry Cooperative Committee

In follow-up to the established MOU on forestry with Paraguay, the second session of the Korea-Paraguay Forestry Cooperative Committee was hosted in Asuncion, Paraguay on Nov. 26, 2012 and co-chaired by Mr. Kim, Nam-Gyun, Deputy Minister of the KFS and Ruden Dario Segovia, Presidente of Instituto Forestal Nacional (IFONA). Notably, the ceremony of initiating a pilot plantation project between the two countries was arranged, and both delegation put the first shovel into the project site in Fassardi, Paraguay and agreed to extensively implement the planation on 20,000 ha in total from 2013 throughout 2033.



## 03 Korea and Russia enhance the forestry cooperation

The third session of the Korea-Russia Working Group Meeting was held in Moscow, Russia on Dec. 11, 2012.

The Meeting focused on human resources exchange and forest plantation investment and enhanced mutual understanding. On the same day it was followed by a seminar on forest investment in Russia



Minister of the KFS (left) and Head of Federal Forestry Agency (right)

Korean companies who showed their growing interest in forestry investment in Russia presented their views on overseas resources development. The Russian side also kindly made a presentation on prospects for investment cooperation in Russia. On the sideline of the Meeting, H.E. Dr. Don Koo LEE, Minister of the KFS gave a special lecture at Moscow State Forest University which awarded him an honorary doctorate degree in 2007. The Korean delegation also paid a visit to Aerial Forest Fire Center and discussed the feasibility of future cooperation on aerial fire management.



04

#### **KFS hosts the 1st Forum of DLDD-NEAN**

The first Forum of the Northeast Asia Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought Network (DLDD-NEAN) held on 19 November 2012 in Seoul, Republic of Korea served as a first substantive platform for regional networking, capacity building and exchange of experiences and best practices on combating DLDD and dust and sandstorms (DSS) since its establishment. More than 70 participants from government, academia, research institutes, international organizations and CSOs benefited from learning about their respective challenges with available expertise. Under the theme Sharing Experiences and Expertise on Combating Desertification, experts from member countries, namely the People's Republic of China, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea, presented afforestation activities including best practices on combating desertification.

The importance of capacity building, participation of the local communities and

improvement of their livelihood was reiterated. The KFS introduced the Korea-Mongolia Greenbelt Project and efforts being made to raise public awareness and enhance capacity building of the local participants through establishing forestry education centers in project sites. The projects promote sustainable management of project sites by applying agroforestry practices.

The Forum allowed information sharing between the public and private sectors as the afternoon session was devoted to presentations of CSOs, international organizations and other relevant organizations from the private sector.

The second DLDD-NEAN Forum will be held in September 2013 in Mongolia.

#### **About the DLDD-NEAN**

The DLDD-NEAN is one of the ongoing activities of the Changwon Initiative under its component on the promotion of partnership arrangements. It was established in October 2011 to better address the growing impacts of DLDD and DSS in the region in line with the context of The Strategy. The Forum will be organized annually to introduce DLDD policies, priority areas and activities in both public and private sectors as well as to gather extensive opinions from various fields.



The first DLDD-NEAN Forum was held in the Forest Vision Center in Seoul on Nov. 19



05

## Inception meeting in preparation for the Second Governing Council of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)

The Inception Meeting for Implementation of the “Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea on Forest Cooperation (The Agreement)” was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 22-23 November 2012. The Meeting was attended by the representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and the Republic of Korea (ROK). The representatives of the ASEAN-Korea Forest Cooperation Secretariat (the Secretariat) and the ASEAN Secretariat were also present to facilitate the meeting. The Meeting was a follow-up meeting to the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the Governing Council of the Agreement on ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation held on 28 August 2012, in Seoul. The objectives of the Meeting were to ;

- (1) finalize the necessary documents for consideration and approval of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Governing Council particularly on three draft regulations of the Secretariat, regional cooperation programme and relevant projects;
- (2) discuss Terms of Reference and procedure for the assessment of the Agreement;
- (3) financial contribution of Parties for the operation of the Agreement;
- (4) matters related



Korean, ASEAN forestry experts pose for a group photo at the meeting's opening ceremony at Sheraton Hotel in Bangkok on Nov 22

to the establishment of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) and (5) consideration of regional projects.

The second Governing Council will be held on 24-25 January 2013 following a Technical meeting on 23.

### Regional Projects under the Agreement

**Project 1** Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems through pilot testing, exchange of expertise and capacity development – *Mekong (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam), BIMPS (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore)*

**Project 2** Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resources Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of Local Communities to address the Adverse Impact of Climate Change – *Indonesia*

06

## Inception meetings of the pilot project under the Greening Drylands Partnership

The Inception Meetings of the pilot projects in the 3 African countries (Ghana, Morocco, Tunisia) under the Greening Drylands Partnership (GDP) were held. The objective of the inception

meetings was to present project activities and outputs to key government officials in the beneficiary countries and to prepare projects work plan and implementation modalities.

The first inception meeting for the project was held in Morocco from 16 to 19 October 2012 and the second and third meetings were held on 22 to 24 October and 5 to 7 November in Ghana and Tunisia, respectively.

The two-year pilot project “Biodiversity Conservation and Local Community Development” is the first activity for implementing the GDP which is funded through the Changwon Initiative. It aims to tackle biodiversity loss and rehabilitate degraded lands by planting trees using treated waste water.

#### **About the GDP**

The GDP is another ongoing activities of the Changwon Initiative under its component on the promotion of partnership arrangements. It was established in October 2011 among the KFS, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UNCCD. The aim is to contribute to the enhancement of livelihood of the affected communities; improve the conditions of the affected ecosystems; protect the biodiversity; and further engage in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, thereby creating the conditions for an enabling environment and using green growth opportunities.

#### **About the Changwon Initiative**

The Changwon Initiative was proposed by the Republic of Korea during the High Level Segment of the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the UNCCD. Many countries welcomed the Changwon Initiative and highly commended that the Changwon Initiative provided an action-oriented approach towards reversing DLDD, further stimulating international action and cooperation towards realizing a land degradation neutral world.

Aimed at leading to an agreement on the setting up global targets towards “zero net land degradation”, main components of the Changwon Initiative include: 1) enhancing the scientific process of the UNCCD, 2) mobilizing additional resources and facilitating partnership arrangements and 3) supporting a global framework for the promotion of best practices: the Land for Life Award.



07

#### **ROK-Central Asia Technical Workshop**

From 12 to 17 November, the Technical Workshop and Short-term Training on “Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management” between Central Asian Region and ROK was held in various places in the ROK. About 20 forestry officials from Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan attended the Workshop and training course.

The objective of this Technical Workshop and short-term training were: 1) to share the ROK’s experience on SFM best practices and rehabilitating its forest, 2) to build the capacity of Central Asian countries in sustainably managing their forest, 3) to enhance the forest cooperation between Central Asian countries and ROK, and 4) to inform the Central Asian countries of the development on the establishment of AFoCO and future cooperation on forests.

Such sharing of successful experiences on SFM will further enhance in-depth and all-round cooperation between the ROK and Central Asian countries and explore possibilities of knowledge exchange and programme implementation.

#### **Upcoming events**

- Jan. 23~25 : the 2nd Governing Council Meeting in Myanmar