

Fourth Session of the Assembly
25-26 November 2020, Virtual

Agenda Item 2.6

Updates on the capacity building activities

1. In accordance to Article 3 of the Agreement on Establishment of AFoCO, one of the objectives of AFoCO includes capacity building of stakeholders through research and development, sharing of experiences and the transfer of technology, as well as education and exchange programs.

Operation and Management of Regional Education and Training Center

2. Since the Third Session of the Assembly held on 28-29 October 2019, Seoul, Republic of Korea, the RETC organized a total of 8 training and education programs: five short-term training courses, three community development training courses in accordance with the education and training plan for 2019. However, due to the pandemic of the COVID-19, the training and education programs planned in 2020 have been cancelled and adjusted based on the instruction of the AFoCO Secretariat. The detailed table is listed in **Attachment-1**.

3. Through AFoCO, Korea National Arboretum donated face masks and computers to be installed at the RETC and the Myanmar government. Those items will be used in capacity building programs and activities and to enhance the safety of the working environment for people at the RETC and the forestry sector of Myanmar.

Update on the Operation of the 2020 AFoCO Fellowship Program

4. Pursuant to the AFoCO Fellowship Program approved by the First Session of the Assembly (DECISION 11-I-18R), the Secretariat welcomed three Fellowship Officials each selected from Bhutan, Cambodia, and Vietnam with the service term of 12 months from January 2020. In accordance with the Decision 33-III-19R adopted by the 3rd Session of the Assembly, the Secretariat also completed the selection of the 2021 Fellowship Officials as follows: four Fellowship Officials each from Indonesia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam for the first-half batch and five Fellowship Officials each from Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Mongolia, and Myanmar for the second-half batch.

Update on the AFoCO Landmark Scholarship Program in 2020

5. Three scholarship recipients each selected from Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam were graduated with master's degree in 2020 under the Landmark Scholarship Program. Two (2) new scholarship candidates each selected from Thailand and Vietnam for Master's program were awarded the scholarship in 2020 academic year upon their successful admission to the relevant graduate program.

Update on the 2020 AFoCO Science and Technology Exchange Partnership (STEP) Program

6. Four technical level government officials/researchers in the field of forest plant biodiversity from Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Thailand were selected for the 2020 AFoCO STEP Program according to the work plan in 2020. However, due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, and upon consultation with the participants, the 2020 Program, which is scheduled to be implemented on 31 August 2020 to 25 September 2020, was indefinitely postponed to CY 2021.

Points for Consideration

7. The Assembly may wish to take note of the information.

List of Training by the Regional Education and Training Center

Table 1. Short-term training course

No.	Title	Time	Participants (Countries)	Gender Ratio
1	(High-level) Accelerating Projects through Resource Diversification	5-7 Nov. 2019	14 (8)	M11/F3
2	Facilitating Community-based Enterprise	9-13 Dec. 2019	20 (8)	M12/F8
3	Community-based Forest Fire Management	13-17 Jan.	22 (10)	M15/F7
4	Project Development and Project Proposal Writings	3-7 Feb.	22 (9)	M18/F4
5	Forest Reforestation and Rehabilitation	24-28 Feb.	22 (8)	M15/F7
sum			100	M71/F29

Table 2. Community Development Training

No.	Title	Time	Participants	Gender Ratio
Community Development Training (RETC)				
1	Bamboo-shoot production and rattan Furniture making	25-31 Jan.	27	M26/F1
In-Country Development Training				
2	Community Awareness Raising Education on Climate Change (Cambodia)	Aug.-Oct.	54	M35/F19
3	Forest Fire Suppression and Sustainable Forest Management for Community (Viet Nam)	16-18 Sep. 21-23 Sep.	50	M25/F5 M15/F5
sum			131	M101/F30

*Note: The in-country community development training planned in the Philippines in 2020 was postponed to 2021 due to the severe impact of the COVID-19.

Table 3. Status of Training and Education Programs in 2020 (As of 15 October 2020)

No	Course	Time	Remark
AFoCO Regular Training (Short-term)			
1	Community based Forest Fire Management	13-17 Jan.	Completed
2	Project Development and Project Proposal Writing	3-7 Feb.	Completed
3	Forest Restoration and Reforestation	24-28 Feb.	Completed
4	Climate Change Adaptation	20-25 Apr.	Cancelled
5	Payments for Ecosystem Services	8-12 Jun.	Cancelled
6	Project Inception Training for New IA	14-18 Sept.	Held in each implementing country
7	Project Management and Performance Review	21-25 Sept.	Cancelled
8	(High-level) AFoCO projects and ways forward	9-13 Nov.	Cancelled
9	Community-based Forest Enterprise Development	7-11 Dec	Postponed

AFoCO Regular Training (Long-term)			
10	Capacity building for RETC staff (14 days)	5-16 Oct./Korea	Cancelled
Community Development Training			
11	Empower Forest Communities (7days)	Jan-Dec../RETC, AMC (30 persons x 6 times)	3 times (completed) 3 times (postponed)
12	Eco-Schools for Teachers (1day)	Jun, Nov. (60 persons x 2 times)	Cancelled
13	Eco-Schools for Students (1day)	Jan.-Nov. (120 persons x 9 times)	Postponed
Green Fund Project			
14	Young Forester Academy(14 days)	Mar-Aug (26 persons x 5 times)	Cancelled
Co-organizing			
15	Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on FLR	10-13 Mar.	Postponed
Workshop			
16	Establishment of AFoCO Experimental Forest	7-8 May	Cancelled
Customized Training & Others			
17	Cooperative activities with other organizations		Cancelled