

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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The Annual Report 2017 covers the activities of from 5 August 2016 to 31 December 2017. This Annual Report is printed and published in March 2018

About the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)

The Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) is a regional inter-governmental organization aiming to strengthen regional forest cooperation by transforming proven technology and policies into concrete actions in the context of sustainable forest management to address the impact of climate change.

Soon after ROK's proposal for the establishment of the AFoCO at the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit held in Jeju, ROK in June 2009, the "Agreement between the Governments of the Member State of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea on Forest Cooperation" which is also known as the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation was signed in 2011 as the initial phase of AFoCO.

Under this cooperation mechanism, various regional forestry activities and projects were implemented. At the same time, the dialogue for the establishment of AFoCO was formed where the Agreement on the Establishment of the AFoCO was finalized and adopted. The ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation successfully completed its effective period by 4 August 2016 and the transition phase towards AFoCO began following the decision of the Governing Council of the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation.

The anticipated entry-into-force of the AFoCO will open a new phase of forest cooperation in Asia with broader regional scope and key areas of cooperation:

- Promoting sustainable forest management;
- Enhancing forest carbon stocks and supporting initiatives;
- Addressing deforestation and forest degradation; and
- Strengthening capacity-building, public awareness, and research & development in the forest sector.

The AFoCO has an institutional arrangement with two (2) organs, namely the "Assembly," and the "Secretariat." The Assembly is the decision-making body comprised of the Representatives of all Parties to the Agreement. The Secretariat, headed by the Executive Director and located in the ROK, is responsible for the implementation, coordination, monitoring and reporting of activities under AFoCO.

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Calendar of Activities

(5 August 2016 ~ 31 December 2017)

DATE	TITLE	VENUE
15-19 August 2016	Training Course on Promoting Effective Participatory Forest Management	Bangkok, Thailand
13 September 2016	Signing of the AFoCO Agreement by Bhutan	Seoul, Korea
26-30 September 2016	Training Course on Learning Lessons from Asia's National Forest Rehabilitation Experiences	Seoul, Korea
10-14 October 2016	Training Course on REDD+ and Forest Governance for Training of Trainers	Seoul, Korea
17 October 2016	Signing of the AFoCO Agreement by Viet Nam	Seoul, Korea
21-30 October 2016	2016 Korea Forest Expo	Yesan, Korea
3 November 2016	Fourth Steering Committee Meeting for RETC	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
4 November 2016	Deposit of instrument of ratification by ROK	Seoul, Korea (Diplomatic channel)
2-3 December 2016	Project Steering Committee Meeting for Regional Project AFoCo/003/2014 (Cambodia, Viet Nam)	Hoa Binh, Viet Nam
5 December 2016	Project Steering Committee Meeting for AFoCo/008/2014 (Landmark Program Component 3- Lao PDR)	Vientiane, Lao PDR
6 December 2016	Project Steering Committee Meeting for AFoCo/006/2014 (Landmark Program Component 3- Viet Nam)	Ha Noi, Viet Nam
8 December 2016	Project Steering Committee Meeting for AFoCo/005/2014 (Landmark Program Component 3- Cambodia)	Siem Reap, Cambodia
14-15 December 2016	Project Coordination Committee Meeting for Regional Project AFoCo/004/2014 (Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand)	Manila, Philippines
16-17 December 2016	Project Steering Committee Meeting for Regional Project AFoCo/009/2015 (Viet Nam, Thailand)	Ha Noi, Viet Nam

DATE	TITLE	VENUE
27–28 December 2016	Project Coordination Meeting for Regional Project AFoCo/010/2016 (Malaysia, Thailand)	Lampang, Thailand
24 January 2017	Roundtable Discussion for AFoCO Strategy Development	Seoul, Korea
14–16 February 2017	Regional Workshop on Urban Forestry and Biodiversity Conservation (AFoCo/011/2016)	Singapore
16 February 2017	Signing of the AFoCO Agreement by Cambodia	Seoul, Korea
14 March 2017	Deposit of instrument of ratification by Viet Nam	(Diplomatic channel)
21 March 2017	Fifth Steering Committee Meeting for RETC	Seoul, Korea
18–21 April 2017	International Conference on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems (ITTO)	Bali, Indonesia
8 May 2017	Signing of the AFoCO Agreement by Brunei Darussalam	Seoul, Korea
22–24 May 2017	Workshop on Land Degradation Neutrality and Sustainable Development in Central Asia (Northeast Asian Forest Forum)	Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan
3–7 July 2017	Technical Meeting for the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization	Bangkok, Thailand
19–29 July 2017	External Project Monitoring for Regional Project AFoCo/009/2015 (Viet Nam, Thailand)	Cao Bang / Bac Kan, Viet Nam and Loei / Nan, Thailand
25 July 2017	Deposit of instrument of ratification by Timor-Leste	(Diplomatic channel)

DATE	TITLE	VENUE
31 July 2017	Signing of the AFoCO Agreement by Myanmar	Seoul, Korea
15–17 August 2017	Regional Seminar on Domestication of Threatened Species in Disturbed Terrestrial Ecosystems (AFoCo/010/2016)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
21 August 2017	Signing of the AFoCO Agreement by Mongolia	Seoul, Korea
13–15 September 2017	2 nd Asia-Pacific Urban Forest Meeting (FAO)	Seoul, Korea
12 October 2017	Fifth Working Group Meeting for RETC	Daejeon, Korea
16–21 October 2017	Training Course on Community Forest Management for Livelihood and Community Forest Based Enterprise Development	Bangkok, Thailand
20–29 October 2017	2017 Korea Forest Expo	Yeongju, Korea
23–27 October 2017	27 th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (FAO)	Colombo, Sri Lanka
24 October 2017	Project Coordination Committee Meeting for Regional Project AFoCo/004/2014 (Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand)	Manila, Philippines
25 October 2017	Project Coordination Committee Meeting for Regional Project AFoCo/011/2016 (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore)	Manila, Philippines
31 October 2017	Special Banquet for AFoCO in conjunction with the Fourth APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry (MMRF4)	Seoul, Korea
20–24 November 2017	Training Course on Lessons Learned from the National Reforestation Experiences of the Republic of Korea	Seoul / Chungju Bonghwa, Korea
21–25 November 2017	Project Coordination Meeting for Regional Project AFoCo/010/2016 (Malaysia, Thailand)	Tapah, Malaysia

DATE	TITLE	VENUE
23 November 2017	Project Steering Committee Meeting for Regional Project AFoCo/009/2015 (Viet Nam, Thailand)	Bangkok, Thailand
20 November 2017	Project Steering Committee Meeting for AFoCo/008/2014 (Landmark Program Component 3- Lao PDR)	Pakse, Lao PDR
22 November 2017	Project Steering Committee Meeting for AFoCo/005/2014 (Landmark Program Component 3- Cambodia)	Siem Reap, Cambodia
24 November 2017	Project Steering Committee Meeting for AFoCo/006/2014 (Landmark Program Component 3- Viet Nam)	Thai Binh, Viet Nam
6-8 December 2017	Second Technical Meeting for the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization	Incheon, Korea
8 December 2017	Deposit of instrument of ratification by Bhutan	Seoul, Korea (Diplomatic channel)
12-13 December 2017	Project Steering Committee Meeting for Regional Project AFoCo/003/2014 (Cambodia, Viet Nam)	Sihanoukville, Cambodia
23 December 2017	Completion of construction of RETC	Hmawbi, Myanmar

I. Secretariat



1. Related Meetings

24
January
2017

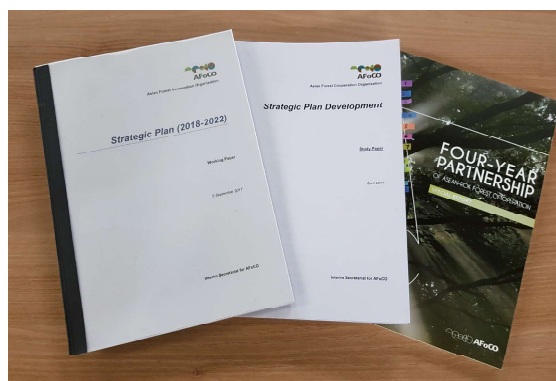
1.1 Roundtable Discussion for AFoCO Strategy Development, Seoul, Korea

The Roundtable Discussion for AFoCO Strategy Development was organized to seek advice and recommendation in setting the direction and planning of AFoCO Strategy. The Secretariat invited six (6) professionals and professors from relevant institutions and universities in the fields of forestry and international development.

Based on the inputs and recommendation, the Secretariat prepared the Study Paper on Strategic Plan Development to systematically study external and internal factors for AFoCO. The study paper was reflected in drafting the AFoCO Strategy.

Three (3) external factors – global megatrends, national policy priorities and regional players in the forestry sector – were studied, and their corresponding opportunities and threats were identified in political, economic, socio-cultural and technological perspectives. On the other hand, three (3) internal factors – key outcomes from 4-year partnership of ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (2012-2016), organizational analysis, and core competencies of AFoCO – were examined to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the organization. The analytical study has finally resulted in identifying our priority areas, namely reforestation and rehabilitation, forest ecosystems and biodiversity conservation, forests in climate change, community forestry, and public services of forests.

The draft AFoCO strategy elaborates on core values, mission, objectives, strategic priorities, institutional arrangement, and plan of actions. The draft AFoCO Strategy (2018-2022) will be submitted for consideration of the 1st Session of the Assembly.



Working Paper for the Strategic Plan (2018–2018), Study Paper on Strategic Plan Development, and Special Report on Four-Year Partnership

3-7
July
2017

1.2 Technical Meeting for the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), Bangkok, Thailand

The Members of AFoCO gathered in Bangkok for the Technical Meeting for the AFoCO from 3 to 7 July 2017 in order intensively review necessary documents and preparatory works for the anticipated entry-into-force of the AFoCO.

The delegates shared on the respective domestic procedures required and undertaken to be a Party to AFoCO. The Meeting reviewed internal regulations for the AFoCO as well as shared ideas on the strategic plan of the organization.



Discussion during the meeting sessions



Group Photo of the Technical Meeting for the AFoCO

6-8
December
2017

1.3 Second Technical Meeting for the AFoCO, Incheon, Korea

As a follow-up to the Technical Meeting for the AFoCO held in July, the Second Technical Meeting for the AFoCO was organized from 6-8 December 2017 at Songdo. The Meeting discussed and finalized the draft for rules of procedure, internal regulations, and strategic priorities in preparation of the anticipated formalization of AFoCO.

During the occasion of this Meeting, the delegation from Bhutan officially deposited the instrument of ratification. Being the fourth ratification to be deposited, the members welcomed the deposit and anticipated the next instrument to be in place for entry-into-force of the AFoCO.

The Meeting also looked into necessary arrangements in preparation of the 1st Session of the Assembly, including the appointment procedures for the first Executive Director, possible timing and venue, as well as the transfer and financial arrangement to be undertaken upon formalization of AFoCO.



Group Photo of the Second Technical Meeting for the AFoCO



Delegates taking floor at the Second Technical Meeting for AFoCO

2. Exhibition and Promotional Activities

January
2017

2.1 Broadcasting of Documentary Film “ForeSTory”

The Secretariat started working on the joint production of the documentary film entitled “ForeSTory” with MBC-Chungbuk upon the endorsement of the Governing Council of the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation in 2016. With the support and cooperation from the members, the filming successfully completed in late 2016.

The film was televised on both national and regional television networks in the Korean language in 2017. Later, both the English version and Korean version with English subtitles are made for further distribution of the film for non-profit and educational purposes.

“ForeSTory Part 1: Forest Blind” explores the intrinsic value of a forest which is much more than the value that the people generally define. Part 1 illustrates how people are “forest-blind” and what they have to say in their defense. It raises the needs to take a moment and contemplate whether we ourselves are forest blind.

“ForeSTory Part 2: Forest is Money” takes a look at forest in terms of monetary value. It illustrates good practices and sustainable way of making actual money directly from trees and forest. Part 2 links forest to source of income proving that forests are more relevant to daily lives.

This film won prestigious awards in Korea including “Best Program” of the Foundation for Broadcast Culture and “Program of the Month” from Korea Communications Standards Commission.



DVD of the ForeSTory

21-31
October
2016

2.2 Korea Forest Expo

20-29
October
2017

The Korea Forest Expo is an annual event bringing all forest related institutions and businesses together. 2016 Korea Forest Expo was held from 21-31 October 2016 in Yesan which is a popular destination for hot spring getaway. It was jointly organized with the Hot-spring Festival attracting more than 600,000 visitors. In 2017, the Korea Forest Expo was held from 20-29 October 2017 in Yeongju with about 500,000 visitors. 2017 Korea Forest Expo highlighted forest in the aspects of healing and welfare.

During the Korea Forest Expo, the Secretariat exhibited international efforts in the forestry sector. It provided a good opportunity to increase awareness on the role of forest and the contribution of AFoCO in the global environment particularly to children and young visitors.



AFoCO Workbook activity for children at the Korea Forest Expo



Exhibition booth of AFoCO at the 2016 Korea Forest Expo

31
October
2017

2.3 Special Banquet for AFoCO in conjunction with the Fourth APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry, Seoul, Korea

The Secretariat organized a Special Banquet inviting the Minister of Korea Forest Service and Ambassadors as well as the delegates of all prospective members of AFoCO to the 4th APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry.

The Banquet was an opportunity to strengthen networking among the members and share update on the formalization of AFoCO. The Secretariat further presented on the potential strategic priorities of the organization.

The Ambassadors and representatives from the members shared high expectations for stronger forestry cooperation in the region through AFoCO in the coming years.



Group photo of the Special Banquet



Welcome remarks by the Acting Executive Director of the Interim Secretariat



Minister of Korea Forest Service extending congratulatory remarks for the AFoCO

3. Cooperation with Relevant Agencies and Organizations

18-21
April
2017

3.1 International Conference on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems, Bali, Indonesia

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) organized the International Conference on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems on 18-21 April 2017 to promote the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of mangrove forest resources in the tropics.



Discussion at Theme 5: Strengthening good governance, law enforcement and monitoring systems

To support the significant conference, the Secretariat provided a resource person to share expert opinion and recommend possible policy actions to be undertaken. In addition, the Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province under the Landmark Program was presented at the seminar. As in the Conference Report, an important objective was to identify ways in which mangrove restoration and sustainable management could contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 13, 14 and 15 and the Paris Agreement on climate change. At its conclusion, the conference adopted the Bali Call to Action for Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems, in which participants urge policymakers, land-use planners, mangrove practitioners and scientists, international organizations, the private sector, donors and coastal communities to redouble their work to ensure the conservation, restoration, protection and sustainable management and use of the world's remaining mangrove forest ecosystems.

22-24
May
2017

3.2 Workshop on Land Degradation Neutrality and Sustainable Development in Central Asia, Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan

The workshop was organized by the Northeast Asian Forest Forum to discuss the major causes of land degradation and the progress made through the regional cooperative projects on land degradation neutrality and sustainable development strategy in Central Asia. Attended by governmental agencies on forestry and forest research institutes from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, and the Republic of Korea, the workshop provided a good opportunity for the Secretariat to explore the potential collaboration with the central Asian countries under the framework of AFoCO.



Field Excursion to Kazalinsk Nursery



Presentation and discussion session of the International Workshop on Land Degradation Neutrality and Sustainable Development in Central Asia

13–15
September
2017

3.3 Second Asia–Pacific Urban Forest Meeting, Seoul, Korea

The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Korea Forest Service, the Korean National Institute of Forest Science, and the city of Seoul jointly organized the Second Asia-Pacific Urban Forest Meeting in Seoul, Korea. Under the slogan, “Acting together for greener and cooler cities,” the meeting welcomed some 200 scholars and members of governmental and nongovernmental organizations looking to tackle environmental and socioeconomic issues caused by increasing pollution across the world’s largest metropolitan areas.

Representatives from 17 countries gathered for this Meeting in a global cooperative effort to find ways to make city living both safe and sustainable by expanding the number of urban forests.

The Secretariat showcased AFoCO’s efforts and activities in the region in support of the international endeavors to expand awareness on the benefits of urban forests, trees, and green infrastructure to communities.



AFoCO booth at the Second Asia-Pacific Urban Forest Meeting

23-27
October
2017

3.4 27th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), Colombo, Sri Lanka

The FAO together with the Government of Sri Lanka organized the 27th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), on 23-27 October 2017, at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The APFC is one (1) of six (6) regional forestry commissions established by FAO to provide a policy and technical forum for countries to discuss and address forest issues on a regional basis. This year's session was attended by around 250 participants, including delegates from 22 member countries, forestry experts, and decision-makers.

The President of Sri Lanka, Hon. Maithripala Sirisena, who also serves as the Minister of Mahaweli Development and Environment, graced the event by sharing forests and rural development initiatives of Sri Lanka for poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation.

The theme of the Session was "Forestry in a new landscape". The keynote address from Dr. Tony Simons, Director General of the World Agroforestry Center, elaborated the importance of the role of forests in evolving landscape approaches and management.

AFoCO booth exhibited the challenges and efforts to address the regional priorities in the forestry sector. The Secretariat also presented on the AFoCO's experiences in various projects at a partner event.



AFoCO booth at the 27th Session of the APFC



Dr. So Thea, Deputy Director of the Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development of Cambodia delivered presentation on AFoCO experiences at the Partner Event: The 15th World Forestry Congress in the Republic of Korea and the Regional Forest Cooperation through AFoCO

II.

Cooperation Projects



1. Landmark Program

The Landmark Program was established with long-term goals under a holistic approach of “Restoring Degraded Forest in Southeast Asia as a Model for a Greener Asia”. Following the approval by the 3rd Session of the Governing Council of the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation held on 18 October 2013 in Singapore, the 10-year Landmark Program was launched in 2014 with a total budget of USD 16 million. The Landmark Program provides a practical model for forest rehabilitation in the region and aims to narrow the technical gap among the ASEAN Member States. There are four (4) components under the Program and summary of activities under each component from 5 August 2016 to 31 December 2017 are as below.

1.1 Component 1: Establishment of Regional Education and Training Center (RETC)

The Secretariat completed the construction of the Regional Education and Training Center (RETC) at Hmawbi, Myanmar on 23 December 2017. The establishment of RETC aims to strengthen the capacity building of the member countries in forestry sector by providing modern facilities and equipment necessary for forestry education and training.

To oversee the progress of construction and to make decisions on the operation plan for the RETC, the 4th Steering Committee Meeting was held on 3 November 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, and the 5th Steering Committee Meeting was held on 21 March 2017 in Seoul, Korea. Further consultations were done at the 5th Working Group Meeting for the establishment of the RETC held on 12 October 2017 in Daejeon, Republic of Korea.

Following the guidance of the Steering Committee on the general framework of the RETC administrative organization, the organizational structure of RETC and detailed staff duty assignment plan will be finalized in early 2018. Further to the architectural construction, installation of additional furniture, fixture, and equipment is to follow. The grand opening of the RETC is planned in 2018.



Group photo at the 4th Working Group Meeting for RETC in Myanmar on 27 June 2017

Table 1: Facilities of RETC

Zone	Floor	Facilities	Unit Area (m ²)
Education & Training Zone	1F	Head Office	68.2
		Administrative Office 1	56.0
		Administrative Office 2	28.6
		Lecture Room 1	83.6
		Lecture Room 2	83.6
		Lecture Room 3	83.6
		Meeting Room 1: Bamboo Room	68.2
		Meeting Room 2: Mangrove Room	68.2
	2F	Multimedia Room	90.4
		Laboratory 1	123.5
Laboratory 2		123.5	
Support Zone	1F	Conference Hall: AFoCO Hall	361.6
		Exhibition Hall	64.6
		Dining Hall & Kitchen	60.0
		Management Office	42.3
		Maintenance Room	31.0
		IT Room	8.4
		Security Office	12.6
		Prayer Room	15.0
	2F	Community Hall: Pine Hall	172.2
		Fitness Room	171.7
		Technical Room	14.0
		Control Room	14.0
Accommodation Zone	1F	Lecturer' s Accommodation: 101~105	138.0
		Trainee' s Dormitory: 106~112	194.6
		Laundry Room	28.4
	2F	Lecturer' s Accommodation: 201~205	138.0
		Trainee' s Dormitory: 206~212	194.6
		Laundry Room	28.4

The two-story RETC has a total floor area of 5,014.4 m² divided into three (3) functional zones: education & training zone, accommodation zone, and support zone. Annex to the main building are electrical house equipped with transformer and emergency generator, deep well pump house, and outdoor gas storage.



Photo of the RETC taken by drone



Lecture room



Exhibition hall

1.2 Component 2: Development of Education and Training Programs for Capacity Building

The Secretariat organized five (5) training courses from 5 August 2016 to 31 December 2017.

15-19
August
2016

1.2.1 Promoting Effective Participatory Forest Management, Bangkok, Thailand

The Secretariat, in collaboration with RECOFTC, planned a five-day customized course that covered key concepts and practices related to effective forest management, participatory processes and tools, and good forest governance for 24 participants.



Participants during group presentations and small group discussions

26-30
September
2016

1.2.2 Learning Lessons from Asia's National Forest Rehabilitation Efforts, Seoul, Korea

The training course on national forest rehabilitation efforts aimed to share the best practices on the management of and policies related to national forest rehabilitation in Asia. The training course also discussed the challenges faced in the past experiences to guide on-going and future rehabilitation efforts. The Workshop on Silviculture for Sustainable Forest Management was jointly organized with the Forest Practice Center for Advanced Forest Technology for one (1) day during the training course. 31 participants attended this training course.



Visit to the Forest Practice Research Center

10-14
October
2016

1.2.3 REDD+ and Forest Governance for Training of Trainers, Seoul, Korea

The training course focused on the technical aspects involved in developing REDD+ projects, as well as REDD+ safeguards and stakeholder engagements. The objectives of the training course were to share best practices on REDD+ and to provide practical guidelines. The course provided a comprehensive understanding of REDD+ and relevant forest governance issues and guided in the identification of potential country-specific strategies of REDD+ awareness development.



Discussion session at the International Workshop on REDD+ and Forest Governance

16-21
October
2017

1.2.4 Community Forest Management for Livelihood and Community Forest Based Enterprise Development, Bangkok, Thailand

The training course focused on providing participants with a conceptual understanding of community livelihoods and community forest based enterprise development, while sharing basic implementation experiences on how to support communities. The training course specifically aimed to:

- Facilitate identification of entrepreneurs and assess local context supportive to enterprise development;
- Use participatory tools to facilitate the short-listing of potential enterprise ideas;
- Facilitate simple value chain surveys to select promising enterprise ideas, and strategy development steps to commercialize products/services;
- Enhance understanding of the importance of developing enterprise strategies and business plans; and
- Enhance understanding of start-up challenges and support required, including adaptive learning.



Participants visited the village producers of bamboo mat

20-24
November
2017

1.2.5 Lessons Learned from the National Reforestation Experiences of the Republic of Korea, Seoul, Korea

The training course shared the best practices on policy and management of national reforestation efforts of Korea, and provided a platform to discuss challenges and lessons learned from reforestation experiences. It further provided guidance on on-going and future reforestation efforts in ASEAN countries to support in the development of respective reforestation models.



Lecture on management of national reforestation policy



Visit to the Baekdu-daegan National Arboretum in Yeongju-City

1.2.6 Scholarship Program

From pioneer batch of the scholarship program, Mr. Neab Keng and Mr. Vo Trung Kien completed their dissertations on “Community-Based Monitoring of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Cambodia’s REDD+ Pilot Projects”, and “Impact of Local Livelihood Activities on Mangroves and Sustainable Forest Management in Bac Lieu Province, Viet Nam” respectively. They graduated in February 2017.



2017 Commencement of Yeungnam University

In 2017, a total of five (5) new scholarship recipients from Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam were selected for the scholarship.

1. Ms. Siriluck Thammanu, Doctoral degree program (Thailand)
2. Ms. Baisone Inthirath, Master’s degree program (Laos)
3. Mr. Aung Aung, Master’s degree program (Myanmar)
4. Ms. Ma. Carmina M. Canua, Master’s degree program (Philippines)
5. Ms. Tran Thi Mai Anh, Master’s degree program (Viet Nam)



2017 Scholarship Award Ceremony on 23 June 2017

1.3 Component 3: Restoration of Degraded Forest Regions

The restoration projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam under the Landmark Program mainly consist of two (2) parts: (i) establishment of AFoCO model forests through rehabilitation of degraded forests, and (ii) capacity building for government officials, local people, and students. Each project has been well implemented as planned since its initiating year of 2016, and below is the summary of progress from August 2016 to December 2017 of the respective projects.

1.3.1 AFoCO model forest for SFM based on conservation of tree genetic resources: “Establishment of Forest Genetics Research Center for Restoration of Major Timber Species in Cambodia”

As part of Cambodia’s national initiatives to restore the degraded and denuded areas, the project has two (2) objectives to implement the long-term tree breeding plan and strengthen the restoration and tree breeding capabilities of the Forestry Administration of Cambodia. The main project site is in Khun Ream, Siem Reap, Cambodia. The project team selected more than 300 plus trees for three (3) target species, *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*, *Dipterocarpus intricatus* and *Pterocarpus macrocarpus* throughout the nation in 2016 and 2017. Until the end of 2017, the project team has established progeny test plantation site (12 ha), clonal seed orchard (2 ha) and seedling seed orchard (1 ha) in Khun Ream, and progeny test plantation site (8 ha) in Chan Sor. All the data for plus trees and seedlings at the plantation sites are collected and monitored regularly.



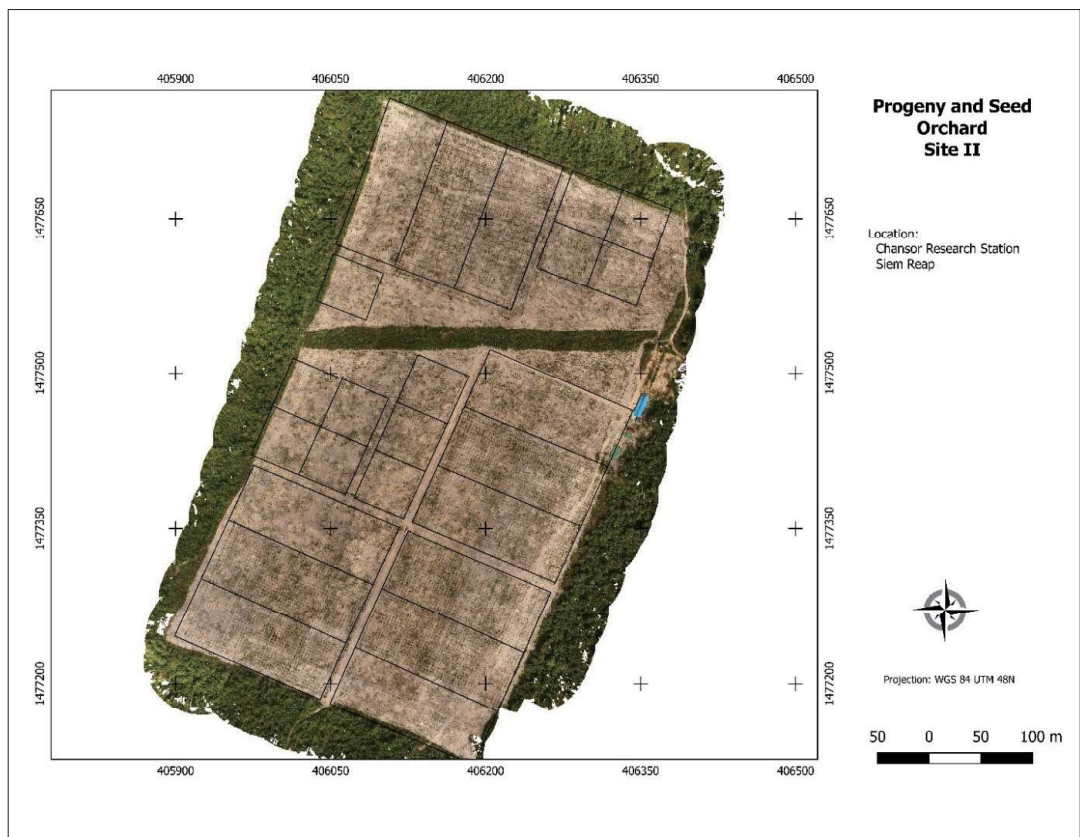
Asexual propagation experiment in the greenhouse and ex-situ, Cambodia



Asexual propagation experiment in the greenhouse and ex-situ, Cambodia

As much as this is the first clonal seed orchard for Cambodia, the project team has endeavored to enhance technical capacity under the second objective. Vegetative propagation experiments have been continuously conducted to find out optimal condition for grafting and cutting of timber species. The project team has developed human resources in the field of tree breeding through organizing various programs more than five (5) times a year, including training courses for government staffs and university students, public awareness programs for the local communities, and site-promotion activities to domestic/foreign visitors. In September 2017, the project has been presented at the IUFRO Seed Orchard Conference in Bålsta, Sweden. The project also collaborates with National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) of the Republic of Korea to provide qualified technical consultation and capacity

development activities to the project staff. Currently, the project site is also used as a study site for a graduate student of Seoul National University.



Map of seed orchard in Chan Sor, Cambodia

1.3.2 AFoCO model forest for village-driven forest management in SFM: “Village-based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR”

Drawing on the ROK’s experiences in national forest rehabilitation, the project is introducing a new concept to Lao PDR, “village-driven forest rehabilitation”, focusing on capacity building to boost villagers’ ownership of forests in the project sites to ensure sustainable management in the long-run. The objectives of the project are to increase forest cover through the rehabilitation of 3,020-ha degraded forest areas, raise public awareness about the importance of national forest rehabilitation programs, contribute to poverty reduction by providing direct income to local people, and strengthen capability of stakeholders at all levels for successful implementation and replication of the project. After launching field offices in Paksong district of Champasak province and Sangthong district of Vientiane Capital in 2016, local project staff and villagers in each project site established two (2) main village groups to lead the project: Village Forest Development Groups for seedling production and planting activities, and Village Forest Protection Groups for forest patrol and fire-fighting activities. Since the year of 2017, all activities (e.g. seed collection, seedling production, demarcation, nursery establishment, plantation, protection, etc.) have been implemented by the village groups in guidance of the project team.

The Director General of Department of Forestry and the project team visited forestry agencies and research institutes of the Republic of Korea as a study tour, to learn technical background of “village-driven forest rehabilitation” in October 2016. Technical capacity building programs to villagers have been regularly provided through job training and technical consultation by the project team, for establishment of ex-situ conservation sites in Paksong (20 ha) and Sangthong (40 ha), and enrichment plantation in Paksong (160 ha) and Sangthong (630 ha). The “Guidelines for Village-driven Forest Rehabilitation and the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Framework” was developed in 2016, and is being improved by reflecting on-site practices from each project site.



Plantation for ex-situ conservation site, Lao PDR



Internal monitoring jointly conducted by the project team and the Secretariat, Lao PDR

1.3.3 AFoCO model forest for climate change adaptation and mitigation through coastal forest rehabilitation: “Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam”

The project has two (2) objectives to establish total of 960 ha of healthy mangrove forest through new and supplementary plantation and protection activities, and raise capacity and enhance knowledge through training and promotion activities. Achieving the objectives, the project aims to sustainably rehabilitate and develop mangrove ecosystem, protect biodiversity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimize impacts of climate change, protect the coastal dyke system, enhance knowledge related to mangrove forest and improve livelihoods of local people in the long run. During the year 2016 and 2017, the project team, in cooperation with villagers of four (4) communes in Thai Binh province, planted three (3) species of mangrove seedlings, *Avicennia marina*, *Kandelia obovata*, and *Sonneratia caseolaris*, at 50 ha of new plantation site and 50 ha of supplementary plantation site. The local mangrove protection group was formed in 2016, and is conducting regular patrolling activities to protect the existing 800-ha mangrove forests.



Replacement of dead seedlings, Thai Binh, Viet Nam

The project has various activities aiming at the second objective. The project organized more than three (3) training courses every year, targeting local government staff and villagers. Regularly, the project was introduced to the Thai Binh local news for disseminating importance of mangrove forests to local people in the province. In April 2017, the project was presented at ITTO’s International Conference on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems in Bali, Indonesia. In July 2017, the project team visited mangrove forests in five (5) provinces in Thailand to learn lessons of their



Meeting among project staffs and villagers, Thai Binh, Viet Nam

firsthand experiences on mangrove ecotourism for improvement of local livelihoods. The project takes technical support from the Research Institute for Forest Ecology and Environment, whose main role is to provide technical advice to local communities, verify planting and protecting performances, and develop training materials and guidelines. At the end of 2017, the project has accomplished “Guidelines for Forest Plantation and Protection, and Monitoring and Evaluation” for mangrove forest management in Thai Binh province.

1.4 Component 4: Development of Advocacy Activities

Public advocacy activities are carried out in order to promote strategies and achievements of the Landmark Program. These activities are intended to raise awareness and understanding of both the general public and stakeholders on the activities implemented under the Landmark Program. This could further build the confidence on Landmark Program as well as foster the relationship among stakeholders.

As part of the advocacy activities, the development of AFoCO RETC website was completed in September 2016.

The Landmark Program is continuously promoting its activities through official AFoCO website and AFoCO RETC website, social networking services, and mass media. Furthermore, the 2016 Annual Report, 2017 Annual Plan, materials and textbooks for Landmark Training Courses, brochure on RETC, brochures on the restoration projects under the Landmark were published in 2017.



News coverage of mangrove plantation in Thai Binh Province



Training materials for the Landmark Training Courses

2. Regional Projects

2.1 Promotion of Forest Rehabilitation in Cambodia and Viet Nam through Demonstration Models and Improvement of Seed Supply System (AFoCo/003/2014)

The Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development (IRD) of the Forestry Administration (FA), Cambodia, and the Research Institute for Forest Ecology and Environment (RIFEE) of the Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS), Viet Nam, are implementing agencies for this five-year project (2014-2019) with a total budget of USD 1,000,000. The selected project sites are Khum Ream, Siem Reap in Cambodia, and Hoa Binh Province in Viet Nam.

Under the activities of identification and improvement of seed sources, Cambodia established two (2) seed production areas after identifying and developing the list of seed sources in natural forest. One (1) ha each for two (2) different fast growing species are planted in this seed production area.

Based on the recommendation of an international consultant, necessary equipment is installed at the seed laboratory in both implementing countries.



Growth monitoring of direct seeding reforestation site in Khun Ream, Cambodia

As for the demonstration models, one (1) ha of reforestation model by direct seeding was planted in Cambodia. While in Viet Nam, one (1) ha of new planting model, one (1) ha of enrichment model, three (3) agroforestry models, and community-based forest management-model with one (1) ha of medicinal plant model was planted. In accordance with the work plan, the project is regularly conducting maintenance and monitoring activities such as weeding and making fire lines for the demonstration model sites as well as seed source areas.



Testing of rooting media at tissue culture lab in Cambodia



Development of community based forest management model in Mai Chau, Viet Nam



Site preparation for enrichment planting and new reforestation in Mai Chau, Viet Nam

2.2 Facilitating the Participatory Planning of Community–Based Forest Management using Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing Technologies in Forest Resources Management in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand (AFoCo/004/2014)

Following the signing of MOU in December 2014 between the Philippines and the KFS, the five-year project launched in 2014 to be implemented until 2019 with a total budget of USD 1,500,000.

The project activities started with evaluation of existing community-level forest management in each implementing country and making a comparative assessment. Based on the findings from the literature review and in-country workshops, the implementing countries identified three (3) project sites in each country. The selected sites are as below:

a. Philippines:

- Sto Domingo, San Manuel, Pangasinan
- Maonon/Cabarian, Ligao, Albay
- Salaysay, Marilog, Davao City

b. Indonesia

- Cempaka Forestry Partnership, Pringsewu Regency, Lampung
- Tuar Tana Community Forestry, Sikka Regency, East Nusa Tenggara
- Paru Village Forest, Sijunjung Regency, West Sumatra

c. Thailand

- Mae Tha CF, Chiang Mai
- Sahakorn Nikom CF, Kanchanaburi
- Klong Cha Un CF, Surathani

The implementing countries conducted orientation cum training for facilitators and completed area profiling on the identified project sites for the application of the enhanced procedures in the community forest management planning.

The local community groups are closely involved in the development of community-based forest management plan. As part of implementation of the management plan, the easy-to-use database system is developed, and village nursery is established in the project site. Indonesia started implementing livelihood enhancement activities and made a short documentary about participatory mapping in Sikka District.



In-country workshop on implementation of community based forest management in Thailand



Training for the local people on rattan processing in Indonesia



Community mapping for community based forest management in the Philippines



Village nursery in Indonesia

2.3 Developing High Valuable Species in Viet Nam and Thailand as the Mechanism for Sustainable Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement for Local Communities (AFoCo/009/2015)

The project is scheduled for three (3) years (2015-2018) with a total budget of USD 720,000 of which USD 600,000 is sourced from KFS and USD 120,000 is estimated as in-kind contribution from Thailand and Viet Nam. The Research Institute for Forest Ecology and Environment (RIFEE) in collaboration with Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences and the Royal Forest Department of Thailand are the implementing agencies of the project.

Under this project four (4) highly valuable species and study sites were identified.

- Bamboo species *Cephalostachyum pergracile* in Loei, Thailand
- Bamboo species *Dendrocalamus sericeus* in Nan, Thailand
- Star anise *Illicium verum* in Cao Bang, Viet Nam
- Cinnamon *Cinnamomum cassia* in Bac Kan, Viet Nam

Demonstration models were planted in respective project sites. The demonstration model in Thailand include planting models of two (2) ha each in four (4) different communes, and tending model of two (2) ha each in four (4) different communes. In Viet Nam, planting model of four (4) ha and tending model of five (5) ha were completed. Training courses for the local people on selected species were also conducted in Viet Nam.

This project is entering its final year in 2018. Remaining activities including development of training module and report on technical guidelines, policy and marketing recommendations will continue in 2018.



Designing the model of star anise species in Cao Bang Province, Viet Nam



Star anise (*Illicium verum*)



Manufacturing of bamboo non-timber forest products, Thailand



Cinnamon (*Cinnamomum cassia*)



Bamboo shoots

2.4 Domestication of Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Plant Species in Disturbed Terrestrial Ecosystem in Malaysia and Thailand (AFoCo/010/2016)

This project is scheduled for six (6) years (2016-2022) with a total budget of USD 1,200,000. Malaysia and Thailand are designated as implementing countries. The selected disturbed terrestrial sites are ex-tin mine in Tin Tailing Afforestation Center, Bidor, Perak in Malaysia; Mae Moh Mine, Lampang and Takua Pa Experimental site in Thailand.

Malaysia completed planting of three (3) ha (10 species, 1500 seedlings) in 2017. Tending activities are done monthly while survival and growth monitoring are done quarterly. Under this project Malaysia held the Seminar on Reclamation, Rehabilitation, and Restoration of Disturbed Sites: Planting of National and IUCN Red List Species in 15-17 August 2017 participated by 39 participants. The Seminar also generated a wide public interest in the planting as reported in several local media. The edited proceedings have been made available online for public access.

For Thailand, planting of three (3) ha (6 species, 1800 seedlings) in Meh Moh site, and 0.5 ha (4 species, 400 seedlings) is Ta Kua Pa in 2016 was followed by planting of nurse tree, tending, site monitoring, and refilling activities in 2017. Soil analysis and microclimate analysis of the project site were also conducted. Development of website for the project was completed and is currently operational.



Plantation site in Tin Tailing Afforestation Center, Bidor, Perak, Malaysia

Cross-country visit will be organized in early 2018 to Los Banos, Philippines for study on low-land dipterocarp forest conservation and its link to development of eco-tourism.



Refilling activities in Mae Moh site, Thailand



Drip irrigation in Takua Pa, Thailand



Collage of photos during Opening Ceremony of the International Seminar on Reclamation, Rehabilitation, and Restoration of Disturbed Sites on 15 August 2017

2.5 Capacity Building on the Application of Landscape Approach to Support the Sustainable Natural Resources Management in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Philippines, and Singapore (AFoCo/011/2016)

This is a three-year project with a budget of USD 539,726 for three (3) years among Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Philippines, and Singapore. This project primarily aims to strengthen trans-boundary forestry cooperation among the four (4) implementing countries as well as within the ASEAN region through the application of landscape approach in natural resources management.

Following the inception meeting in June 2016, the implementing countries identified the landscape and project sites.

- Brunei Darussalam: beach forest in Berakas Forest Reserve
- Indonesia: peat swamp forest in Tumbang Nusa Forest and Sebangau National Park
- Philippines: Community forest in Barangay Malabon, Candelaria, Zambales and Barangay Taposo, Candelaria, Zambales
- Singapore: Urban forest

Brunei, Indonesia, and the Philippines conducted site identification and vegetation assessment for the establishment of demonstration plots. Necessary preparatory works for planting was conducted such as demarcation and procurement of equipment. Indonesia and the Philippines installed kiosk for field training and education in the project sites. Indonesia further studied on the utilization of microbes to decompose the wood waste in peatland.

Each of the implementing countries conducted in-country assessment workshops on forest management approach in different landscape. Singapore organized the Regional Workshop on Urban Forestry and Biodiversity Conservation on 14-16 February 2017 in Singapore in order (i) to develop capabilities in urban forest management and biodiversity conservation, using case studies from technical officers from Singapore and (ii) to understand various perspectives and issues related to urban forest management. 24 participants from nine (9) countries participated in the workshop.



Regional Workshop on Urban Forestry and Biodiversity Conservation



Field Visit to Rainforest Trek of the Singapore Botanic Garden during Regional Workshop on Urban Forestry and Biodiversity Conservation



Site survey in the Philippines



Berakas Forest Reserve in Brunei Darussalam



Agroforestry model in Indonesia

III.

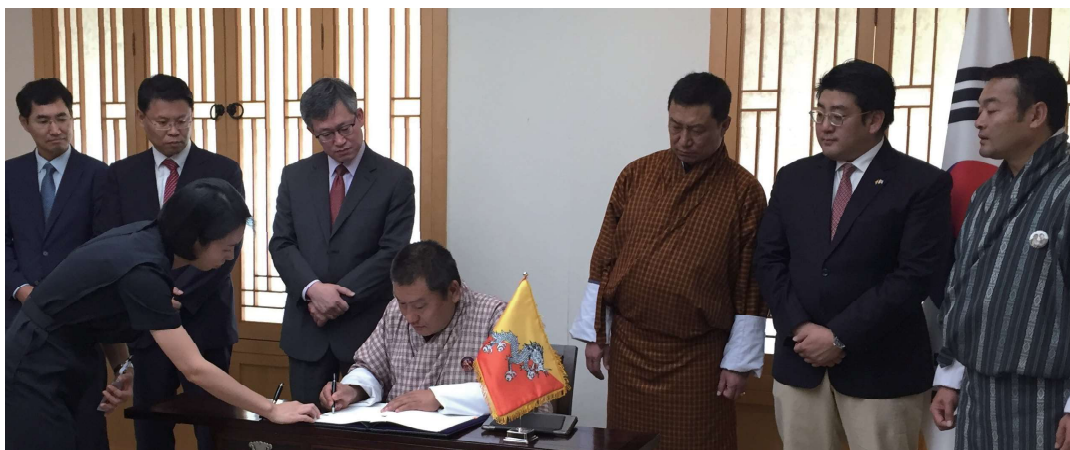
Transitional Arrangements and the Establishment of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization



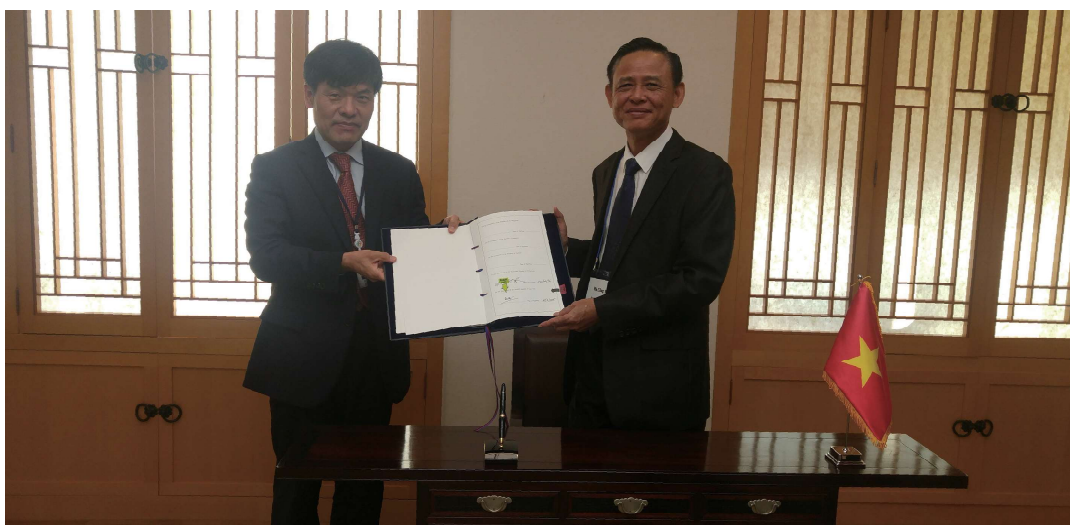
The Dialogue for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) held six (6) meetings since 2013 and adopted the Agreement on the Establishment of the AFoCO in September 2015. Since then, the legal and protocol arrangement have been underway for the entry into force of the AFoCO.

Upon successful completion of the effective period of the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation by 4 August 2016, the transition to the Interim Secretariat for AFoCO has taken effect in accordance with the decision of the Governing Council of the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation. The Interim Secretariat will be operational until the entry-into-force of the AFoCO in order to ensure efficient transfer of work and accountability as well as the continuity of all on-going activities.

As of 31 December 2017, nine (9) members of the Dialogue for the Establishment of AFoCO have signed the Agreement and four (4) members have deposited respective instruments of ratification.



Signing by H.E. Mr. Lyonpo Yeshey Dorji, Minister of Agriculture and Forests of Bhutan, 13 September 2016, Seoul



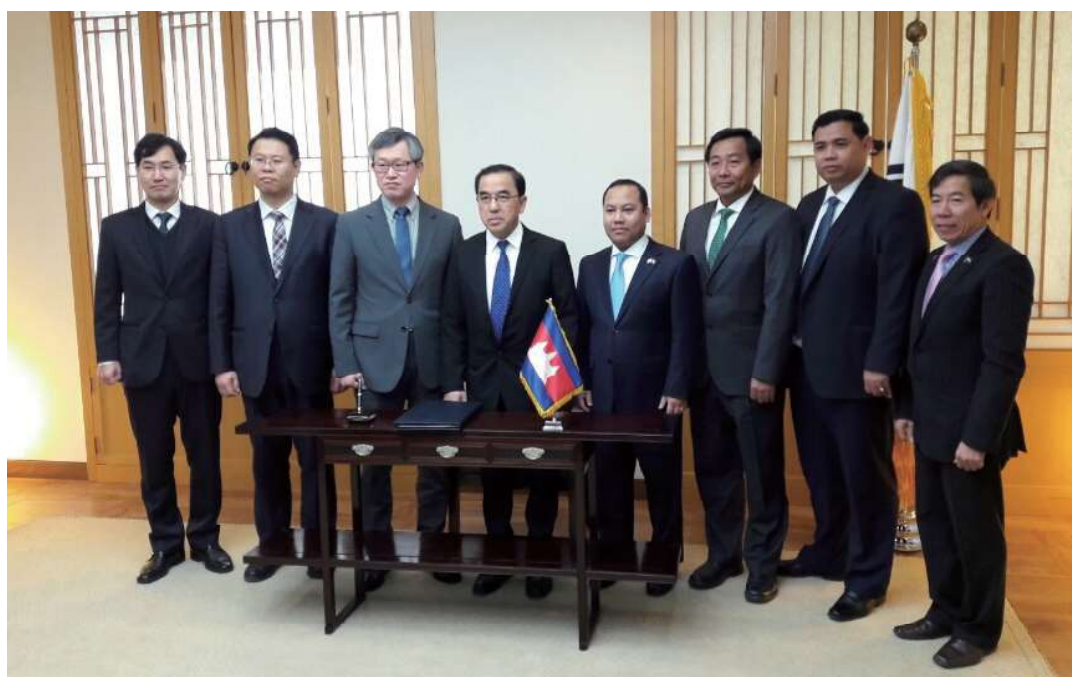
Signing by H.E. Mr. Ha Cong Tuan, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam, 17 October 2016, Seoul

Table 2: Date of signing and deposit of instruments on the Agreement on the Establishment of the AFoCO as of 31 December 2017

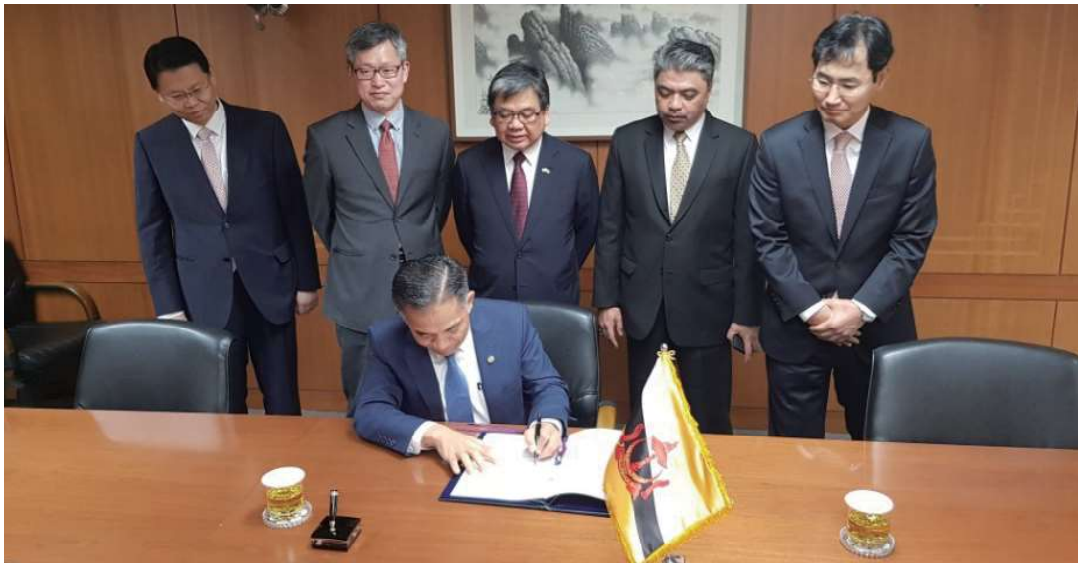
	Country	Date of Signing	Deposit of Instrument
1	Bhutan	13 September 2016	8 December 2017
2	Brunei	8 May 2017	in process
3	Cambodia	16 February 2017	in process
4	Indonesia	2 August 2016	in process
5	Korea	10 December 2015	4 November 2016
6	Mongolia	21 August 2017	in process
7	Myanmar	31 July 2017	in process
8	Timor–Leste	20 June 2016	25 July 2017
9	Viet Nam	17 October 2016	14 March 2017

Lao PDR and the Philippines have indicated their readiness for signing in early 2018 while Kazakhstan and Thailand are in the process of internal clearance and designation of signatories for the signing of the Agreement.

The AFoCO is expecting its formalization very soon as it will come into effect 30 days after the deposit of the fifth instrument of ratification.



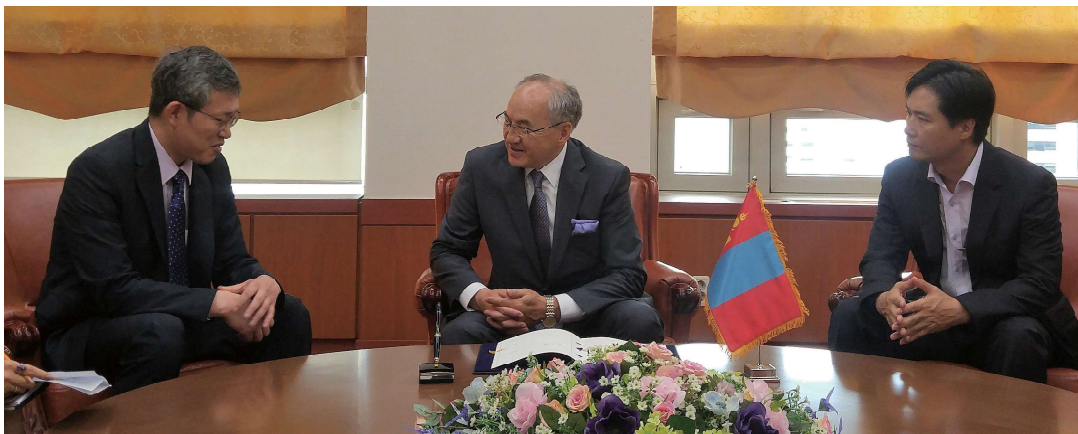
Signing by H.E. Mr. Veng Sakhon, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries of Cambodia, 16 February 2017, Seoul



Signing by H.E. Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism of Brunei Darussalam, 8 May 2017, Seoul



Signing by H.E. Mr. Ohn Winn, Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation of Myanmar, 31 July 2017, Seoul



Signing by H.E. Mr. Baasanjav Ganbold, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Republic of Korea, 21 August 2017, Seoul

IV.

Publication and Publicity Materials



Video Productions in 2017



Documentary Film “ForeSTory”

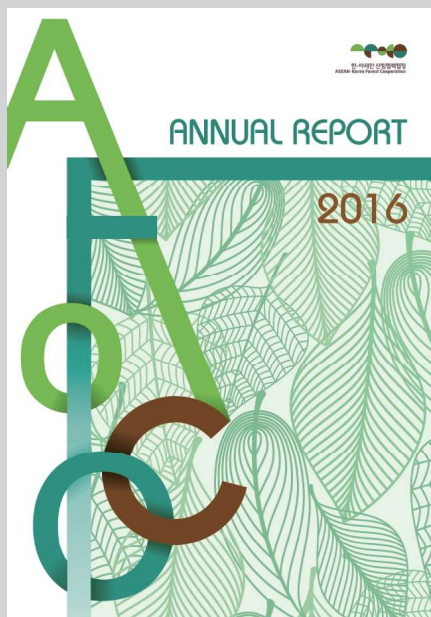
- ForeSTory Part 1: Forest Blind (running time: 50 minutes)
- ForeSTory Part 2: Forest is Money (running time: 50 minutes)



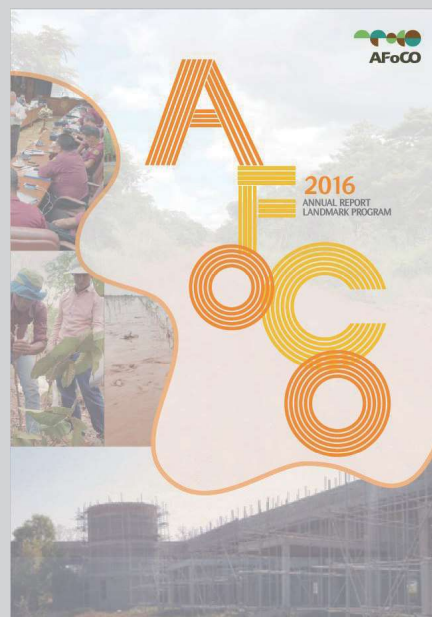
AFOCO, New Challenges Embracing New Horizon

- Video presentation of the past activities towards the establishment of AFOCO and strategic priorities of the organization (running time: 7 minutes)

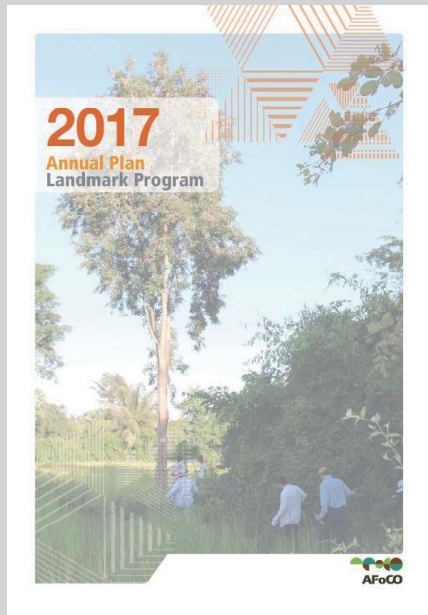
Publications in 2017



Annual Report 2016



2016 Landmark Annual Report



2017 Landmark Annual Plan



AFoCO RETC Brochure



Landmark Scholarship Program

Overview

The Landmark Scholarship Program was established in 2011 under the Landmark Program. The program offers scholarships to support the education of students who are committed to working for the environment in Cambodia. The program is open to students who are currently enrolled in a university or college in Cambodia. The program is open to students who are currently enrolled in a university or college in Cambodia. The program is open to students who are currently enrolled in a university or college in Cambodia.

Objectives

- To provide financial support to students who are committed to working for the environment in Cambodia.
- To support the education of students who are committed to working for the environment in Cambodia.
- To support the education of students who are committed to working for the environment in Cambodia.



Landmark Training Courses

Overview

The Landmark Training Courses are designed to provide participants with the skills and knowledge needed to work in the environmental sector. The courses are open to students who are currently enrolled in a university or college in Cambodia. The program is open to students who are currently enrolled in a university or college in Cambodia. The program is open to students who are currently enrolled in a university or college in Cambodia.

Objectives

- To provide participants with the skills and knowledge needed to work in the environmental sector.
- To support the education of students who are committed to working for the environment in Cambodia.
- To support the education of students who are committed to working for the environment in Cambodia.



Landmark Program

Establishment of Forest Genetics Center for Restoration of Major Timber Species in Cambodia

Overview

The Forest Genetics Center for Restoration of Major Timber Species in Cambodia is a center for research and conservation of forest genetic resources. The center is located in Cambodia and is dedicated to the study and conservation of forest genetic resources. The center is located in Cambodia and is dedicated to the study and conservation of forest genetic resources. The center is located in Cambodia and is dedicated to the study and conservation of forest genetic resources.

Objectives

- To establish a center for research and conservation of forest genetic resources in Cambodia.
- To study and conserve forest genetic resources in Cambodia.
- To study and conserve forest genetic resources in Cambodia.



Landmark Program

Village-based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR

Overview

The Village-based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR is a program that aims to restore degraded forest areas in Lao PDR. The program is implemented through a series of activities, including tree planting, forest management, and community engagement. The program is implemented through a series of activities, including tree planting, forest management, and community engagement. The program is implemented through a series of activities, including tree planting, forest management, and community engagement.

Objectives

- To restore degraded forest areas in Lao PDR.
- To engage local communities in forest rehabilitation activities.
- To engage local communities in forest rehabilitation activities.



Landmark Program


Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam

Overview

The Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam is a program that aims to restore and develop mangrove forest ecosystems in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam. The program is implemented through a series of activities, including tree planting, forest management, and community engagement. The program is implemented through a series of activities, including tree planting, forest management, and community engagement. The program is implemented through a series of activities, including tree planting, forest management, and community engagement.

Objectives

- To restore and develop mangrove forest ecosystems in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam.
- To engage local communities in mangrove forest rehabilitation activities.
- To engage local communities in mangrove forest rehabilitation activities.



Project Leaflets

- Landmark Scholarship Program
- Landmark Training Courses
- Establishment of Forest Genetics Center for Restoration of Major Timber Species in Cambodia
- Village-based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR
- Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam



AFoCO is engaging in online publicity through official website, Facebook pages and Twitter.

- <https://www.facebook.com/afocosec>
- <https://www.facebook.com/AFoCoLandmark>
- <https://twitter.com/afocosec>

| Acronyms

AFoCO	Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
APFC	Asia Pacific Forest Commission
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CFM	Community Forest Management
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
DoF	Department of Forestry
Dialogue-AFoCO	Dialogue for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
FA	Forest Administration
FAO	The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GIS	Geographical Information System
IRD	Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
KFS	Korea Forest Service
MMRF	Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
PDR	People's Democratic Republic
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RECOFTC	The Center for People and Forests
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
RETC	Regional Education and Training Center
RIFEE	Research Institute for Forest Ecology and Environment
ROK	Republic of Korea
RS	Remote Sensing
TTAC	Tin Tailing Afforestation Center
USD	United States Dollar
VAFS	Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences
VNForest	Viet Nam Administration of Forestry



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