

AFOCO NEWSLETTER



Mongolia gets on board as a full-fledged Party to AFoCO



Donation Ceremony
Computer Equipment and Sanitary Masks
7th July 2020, Hanguan Hall, AFoCO Secretariat

KNA donates computers & masks to RETC

MEETINGS & EVENTS



Cultivating high-value species to help secure livelihoods



First AFoCO project in Bhutan targets community-based enterprises



LỄ KÝ KẾT BIÊN BẢN GHI NHỚ
MOU SIGNING CEREMONY
FOREST SCIENCE CENTRE OF NORTH-EASTERN VIET NAM
AND
ASIAN FOREST COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

AFoCO signs MOU with Forest Science Centre of Northern VN

PROJECT NEWS

AFoCO
Asian Forest Cooperation Organization

*Greener Asia,
Greener Tomorrow!*

AFoCO

*Building Capacities
in Forestry*

**New AFoCO leaflet
& brochures**

OTHER UPDATES



AFoCO adds value to empower people

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



MEETINGS & EVENTS

Mongolia gets on board as a full-fledged Party to AFoCO

On 1 July 2020, H.E. Ms. Erdenetuya Namsrai, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Mongolia deposited the Instrument of Ratification to the Agreement on the Establishment of AFoCO. Mr. Chenko Norbu, Executive Director of AFoCO warmly welcomed Mongolia as a full-fledged Party to AFoCO.

Mongolia coming on board marks the day where all signatory countries become Parties to AFoCO. Now we are bolstered with the support of all members to move forward in response to climate change and strengthen forest cooperation in Asia.

With much appreciation for Mongolia's commitments in the international forest-related goals such as Bonn Challenge, the Secretariat looked forward to reinforcing its programs and projects through the continued support and commitment from Mongolia along with other Member Countries.

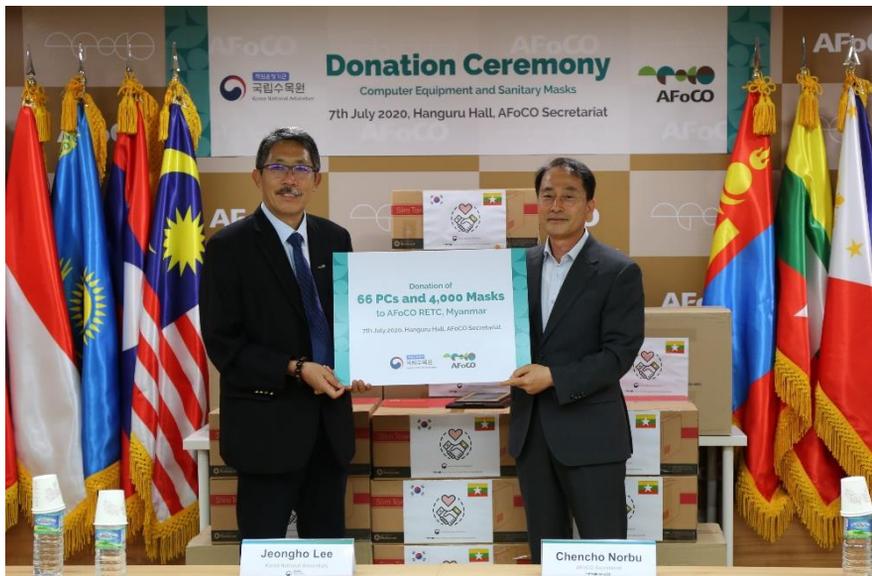
The Deputy Chief of Mission reiterated that the Embassy will maintain close communication with the Secretariat and looked forward to the active participation and involvement of Mongolia in the future works of AFoCO.

Korea National Arboretum donates computer equipment and facemasks to AFoCO RETC

AFoCO is happy to receive a donation of 66 computer equipment and 4,000 face masks from the Korea National Arboretum (KNA). The donated items will be sent to the AFoCO RETC in Myanmar for use in capacity building activities and to help maintain a safe working environment for government officials in Myanmar.

Officials from the KNA were invited to the donation ceremony held in the Secretariat on 7 July to commemorate the KNA's donation and extend appreciation to the KNA officials.

The KNA is currently involved in the site survey for the construction of ex situ conservation sites in Myanmar. From 2021, starting with the construction of these ex situ conservation sites in the vicinity of the AFoCO RETC in Myanmar, the KNA hopes to establish other such sites in Southeast Asian countries such as Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam. KNA representatives also expressed hopes of further expanding the KNA-AFoCO cooperation by embarking on joint research activities with other Asian countries.



All donated computer equipment were inspected and packaged for shipping to Myanmar by the KNA officials.

AFoCO adds value to empower people

Forest is an essential resource and people are the greatest asset. AFoCO places great value in empowering people as it engages diverse stakeholders ranging from government officials to local people and students of different ages groups. Through more effective empowerment, application of appropriate tools, resource management, and administration of processes, we can provide enabling conditions to make most out of existing forestry knowledge and experiences.

AFoCO established the Regional Education and Training Center (RETC) in Yangon, Myanmar, to function as a hub for capacity building and knowledge sharing in forestry.

In 2019, 40 training courses were organized, benefitting some 650 government officials in **regular training courses**; more than 3,000 local people in **community development trainings**; and 612 researchers and students in **customized training courses**.



Other key capacity building initiatives by AFoCO include the Landmark Scholarship Program, the AFoCO Fellowship Program, and the AFoCO Science and Technology Exchange Partnership (STEP).

AFoCO remains firmly committed to adding value to capacity development activities and looks forward to resuming its regular schedule of educational and training programs as soon as the pandemic is contained.



PROJECT NEWS

First AFoCO project in Bhutan targets community-based enterprises

Sustainable Community-Based Enterprises for Improved Livelihood in Bhutan

On 1 July 2020, AFoCO launched its first project in Bhutan on “**Sustainable Community-Based Enterprises for Improved Livelihood in Bhutan**”. The 5-year project will target 120 community forestry and non-timber forest management groups in 12 districts across the country. The target districts were selected based on their potential for community-based enterprise development and the need to address issues faced by community groups, including the lack of support from donor agencies in these districts. Community forests and non-timber forest product programs have received positive

responses from the rural communities as they create livelihood opportunities for rural communities and promote participation in sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation practices.

The project seeks to strengthen the livelihoods of rural people through the establishment of small and medium-scale rural enterprises and marketing of forest products while encouraging them to manage forest resources sustainably. Capacities of key stakeholders in central and local governments as well as rural communities will also be enhanced.

AFoCO signs project MOU with Forest Science Centre of North-Eastern Viet Nam (FSNE)

Improving Pinus caribaea Morelet for plantation on degraded land in Viet Nam's northern mountainous region

The Forest Science Centre of North-Eastern Viet Nam (FSNE) held the signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Asian Forestry Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) to implement a new project titled, **“Improving *Pinus caribaea* Morelet for plantation on degraded land in Viet Nam’s northern mountainous region”**.

A value-chain approach that includes the production of high-quality seedlings, development of forest plantations, as well as the processing and marketing of forest products will be applied in the project. The

project will also develop and replicate demonstration models in localities that have the potential for forestry development, especially in poverty-stricken mountainous provinces, in which the project expects to contribute to income generation and livelihood improvement for local people.

This mutual partnership is in line with AFoCO’s Strategic Priority area in the initiation of customized restoration and reforestation models and is expected to positively impact the development and management of forests in Viet Nam.





PROJECT NEWS

Cultivating high-value species to help secure livelihoods in Viet Nam & Thailand



Developing High Valuable Species in Viet Nam & Thailand as a Mechanism for SFM & Livelihood Improvement for Local Communities

Following extensive field surveys and analysis by the implementing agencies and consultations with local communities, 2 bamboo species in Thailand (*Cephalostachyum pergracile* in Loei and *Dendrocalamus sericeus* in Nan); and 2 multipurpose tree species in Viet Nam (Star Anise- *Illicium verum* in Cao Bang, and Cinnamon - *Cinnamomum cassia* in Bac Kan) were identified as pilot species.

Demonstration models were established at the study sites to apply new techniques, breed the

selected tree species, and technical trainings and study visits. Agreements were signed with local communities, who provided land for the establishment of the models, and maintained and protected the models. The project focused on the needs of local people by incorporating participatory approaches to allow local people to make decisions on planting model plans with guidance from the project staff and local authorities. Local authorities, officials of the forestry extension center and forest rangers also imparted knowledge and techniques and provided advice on how to manage the models.

Aside from providing an alternative source of income to local communities, the three-year project has achieved its primary goal of empowering local communities to develop sustainable sources of income and helped them decrease their dependence on cash crops while promoting sustainable forest management.



PROJECT NEWS **Successful Mangrove Rehabilitation in Thai Binh, Viet Nam**



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

In the last week of June, an Inspection Team from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development conducted a verification of the mangrove plantation sites. The Inspection Team evaluated that the Project's mangrove rehabilitation activities have shown significant progress thus far.

The Project, in cooperation with the Research Institute for Forest Ecology and Environment (RIFEE), has produced 5 technical guidelines on mangrove rehabilitation of Thai Binh province in both English and Vietnamese. Embracing the traditional knowledge of local communities in Thai Binh province, these guidelines focus on the project's experience in nursery establishment, seedling production, and planting.

The technical guidelines on mangroves produced by the project are:

- Instruction on Nursery Technique for 3 Mangrove Species
- Develop Seedling Standard, Approval Standard for Silvicultural Activities
- Guidance on New Planting and Supplementary Planting Technique for 3 Mangrove Species
- Guidance on Mangrove Forest Community-based Management
- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan of Silvicultural Activities

**These publications are available on the AFoCO website.*



AFoCO reaches out to the diplomatic missions and institutions in Seoul

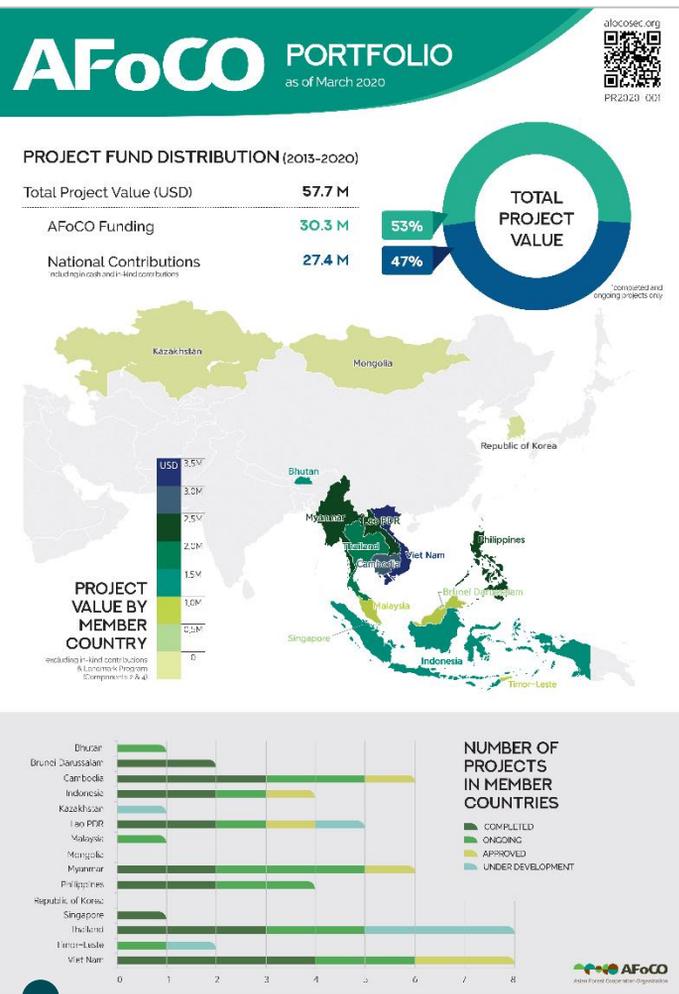


The AFoCO team made courtesy calls to the embassies and missions of Member Countries in Seoul such as Malaysia, Singapore, Mongolia, Laos, Thailand and Timor-Leste during the first quarter of 2020 to share about AFoCO's activities and future work.

Courtesy visits were also made to the embassies of Norway and Germany to introduce AFoCO and explore potential cooperation and partnership opportunities with their implementing agencies working in the forest sector.

The Secretariat has also renewed its MOU with the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) of the Republic of Korea.

New AFoCO Portfolio Leaflet & Brochures



AFoCO – Greener Asia, Greener Tomorrow introduces the organization’s priority areas, projects & capacity building programs



AFoCO – Building Capacities in Forestry features the Regional Education and Training Center (RETC) and its training programs

AFoCO Portfolio Leaflet provides information on the organization’s operations in Member Countries & statistics on key initiatives