

Over a cup of coffee

RECOFTC-ASFN Updates

1st ASFCC Learning Group Workshop



ASFCC Learning Group members.



*Saichon Puangpikul,
Chairman of Community
Forestry Network in
Chainat province.*

What does social forestry look like in your country? What does climate change mean for social forestry? Seemingly straightforward, the answers to these questions are anything but. All the more so in South East Asia where not only culture, language, norms, religion and values are diverse; but also national objectives and their eventual metamorphosis into a plethora of policies, rules and regulations.

One of the main objectives of the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC) learning group therefore, is to demystify social forestry by establishing a platform to understand the common principles of social forestry through a network that shares and exchanges relevant experiences.

Touching base

Welcome to the fourth quarterly news update for 2012.

The ASFCC project has gained a much needed momentum to accelerate and move ahead. This, however, is where I must bid the ASFCC family a farewell.

Personally, it has been a challenging but rewarding journey. A big thank you to SDC, the ASFCC Advisor, ASFN Secretariat, ASEAN Secretariat, CIFOR,

NTPF-EP, the ASEAN Member States, and of course, to you, the readers, for your support and belief that 'Local people hold the key to healthy forests'. May we see more and more of that manifestation in all levels of society.

For more details about any of the activities in this issue, please drop me a line at celina.yong@recoftc.org, which is available until 26 September.

The learning group met for the first time from 3 to 7 September in Chainat Province, Thailand. The workshop focused on story-telling as way to communicate the common principles of social forestry. During the workshop, learning group members were coached to develop and refine their story lines. A field visit to Khao Rao Thian Thong Community Forest provided further opportunities to experiment with the many different ways to tell a story. Armed with an action plan, learning group members are now ready to craft their own stories to share within and beyond the group.

The workshop also looked into relevant indicators for regional and national databases on social forestry and climate change for the ASEAN region. Once completed, these databases will be able to track changes and provide a picture of how social forestry and climate change evolve over a period of time. The next ASFCC learning group workshop is slotted for February 2013.

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Special points of interest:

- 1st ASFCC Learning Group Workshop
- Watershed Governance Executive Forum
- Community Forestry Action Research Formulation Meeting in Myanmar
- Free, Prior and Informed Consent and REDD+ in Thailand
- Upcoming Activities

Watershed Governance Executive Forum



Juanito Mercado, leader of SAMALUP, a farmers' organization sharing the history of the community.

RECOFTC recently partnered with Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) for their Seventh Executive Forum on Natural Resource Management: Watershed Governance in a context of Climate Change. The forum which focused on Tenure and Policy Reform Processes, ran from 6 to 10 August in Los Baños, Philippines. It brought together 23 high-level policy makers and academics from the ASEAN region.

Participants highly lauded the forum for its melding of governance concepts with practical tools for more effective watershed, as well as ecosystem goods and services management. A field trip to Mulawin-Dampalit Microwatershed of the Mount Makiling Forest Reserve further helped to bridge the gap between concepts and practice.

Community Forestry Action Research Formulation Meeting in Myanmar



U Zaw Win, Deputy Director General of Planning and Statistics Department delivering his Welcome Remarks.

RECOFTC and Forest Research Institute (FRI) jointly organized a 'Community Forestry Action Research Formulation Meeting' from 15 to 18 August, in Bangan, with the aim of equipping participants with concepts and tools to conduct participatory action research (PAR).

Thirty participants including the Directors from FRI, Planning and Statistics Department, the Principal of Myanmar Forestry School, as well as representatives from Dry Zone Greening Department, various Forest Department divisions and civil society, took part in the meeting. A field visit to Kabani Village and Nyaung Gyi Village of Nyaung Oo Township, gave participants an opportunity to practice PAR tools learned from the meeting. RECOFTC is expected to provide direct technical support in the coming months.

Free, Prior and Informed Consent and REDD+ in Thailand

RECOFTC's Thailand Country Program (TCP) recently concluded a training course on 'FPIC: A safeguard process for community rights under REDD+ mechanism', held 21 to 25 August in Erawan National Park, Kanchanaburi, Thailand. A total of 28 participants from government and civil society organizations attended the training, which included a one-day field visit to Bann Yang Tone. More than 80% of the participants are part of a learning network, and had attended TCP's workshop on REDD+, which was held earlier from 6 to 8 June 2012.



Group exercise: Providing information through television.

FPIC, or Free, Prior and Informed Consent, is a relatively new concept for most forestry practitioners. However, by the end of this training course, more than 60% of the participants demonstrated better understanding of the FPIC concept and its link to community participation.

Upcoming Activities

October

Community Livelihood and Markets: Improving market access in the context of climate change, 1 to 5 October 2012, RECOFTC, Bangkok, Thailand

National Seminar on Climate Change, Land Tenure and Reform, Thailand (specific dates and venue to be

confirmed)

November

REDD+ Exchange Forum, Thailand (specific dates and venue to be confirmed)