



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2014/SOM2/EGILAT/017**

Agenda: I E

## **Summary Report - 4<sup>th</sup> EGILAT**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: EGILAT Chair



**5<sup>th</sup> Experts Group on Illegal Logging and  
Associated Trade Meeting  
Qingdao, China  
7-8 May 2014**

**4<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE APEC EXPERTS GROUP ON ILLEGAL LOGGING  
AND ASSOCIATED TRADE (EGILAT)  
26-27 June 2013  
Medan, Indonesia**

**Summary Report**

1. The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT)” was held on 26-27 June 2013 in Medan, Indonesia. Delegates from 17 APEC economies, namely Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore Chinese Taipei and United States; representatives from APEC Secretariat and invited guests from World Bank attended the meeting. The EGILAT Chair, Dato' Dr. Hj. Abd. Rahman B. Hj. Abd. Rahim, chaired the meeting.

**Session I - Opening Session**

2. The EGILAT Chair welcomed all the participants to the meeting.
3. Dr. Yetti Rusli Msc., Senior Adviser to the Minister of Forestry o Environment and Climate Change, and Chairperson of Forestry, Ministry of Forestry on delivered the opening remarks on behalf of the host.
4. Participants endorsed the draft agenda of the 4<sup>th</sup> EGILAT Meeting.
5. The APEC Secretariat made a report on key developments in APEC since last SOM2 in April in Surabaya, Indonesia.

**Session II – Exchange of Information on Policies, Regulations, Governance, and Law Enforcement Relating to Combating Illegal Logging and Promoting Trade in Legal Forest Products**

6. Mr. Tuukka Castren from the World Bank, the invited guest to the EGILAT meeting, presented on “Development financing institutions, illegal logging and associated trade”. He introduced the World Bank’s two key strategies and two action plans on combating illegal logging, and highlighted some of its forest governance projects. Also, he briefed on the forestry financing and governance, and pointed out some challenges in this field. EGILAT members observed the presentation, and discussed with Mr Castren on some of its details.
7. Australia reported on its action in combating illegal logging”. The presenter introduced the new legislation in Australian relating to the trade of timber products- from 30 November 2014 Australian importers of regulated timber products will have to do due diligence before they import- as well as its timber legality frameworks, e.g. FSC Forest Management Certification Scheme, PEFC International forest certification scheme, and EU Flegt Licensing. Members welcomed the report and joined discussions on it.
8. EGILAT members discussed on the scope of laws relevant to the definition of illegal logging and quantitative status/situation of illegal logging and associated trade in the APEC Region. Some members express their concerns on the complexity of this issue, and suggested that it’s better to introduce and review the relevant laws and regulations in each economy first, rather than having an in-depth discussion right now. EGILAT members agreed to the suggestion and decided to make introductory presentations in future EGILAT meetings.

**Session III – Capacity Building**

9. The EGILAT Chair reported on the outcomes of self-funded project EGILAT 01/2013S “EGILAT Dialogue with the Private Sector”. Members welcomed the report and noted that the fruitful event

is a good start to promote public-private partnership in combating illegal logging and associated trade. Members also appreciated the United States' effort in organizing it.

10. The EGILAT Chair reported on the outcomes of the EGILAT-ACTWG Joint Meeting and plans for. Members noted the importance in cooperating with ACTWG in combating illegal logging and associated trade and agreed to have further discussion on it, especially on the proposed the joint law enforcement cooperation workshop.
11. The concept note for "*Workshop on Forest Control Systems and Market Chains*," submitted by Peru and the concept note for "*Regional Workshop on Timber Tracking System Development Experience Exchange*" submitted by Vietnam for Session 2, 2013 were not get funded because of the lack of fund for Rank 2 projects in that session. Therefore, there's no update presentation on those two projects.
12. The APEC Secretariat briefed members on the latest information on project management and informed members of timelines for Session 3 this year and the Funding Criteria for 2013. The Secretariat also provided some tips for developing successful proposals to members. Members shared their concerns on the funding criteria which always relegate EGILAT's work as Rank 2 and cause difficulties for the EGILAT to make progress through APEC-funded projects. A few solutions were also suggested by some members, e.g. trying to aligning more with Rank 1 priorities, such as trade, in future projects, trying to get those criteria modified next year, and trying to utilize the resources outside, such as cooperating with World Bank and NGOs. The Secretariat reminded that the *APEC Guidelines on Managing Cooperation with Non-Members* needs to be observed when collaborating with organizations outside APEC.

#### **Session IV – EGILAT Operations: 2013 Work plan, Strategic Plan, SCE Independent Assessment**

13. EGILAT Chair introduced the progress on EGILAT 2013 Work Plan and Strategic Plan which was endorsed in last EGILAT meeting, and asked for members' support to further carry out those two plans.
14. EGILAT Chair invited members to discuss on approach to draft the Work Plan for 2014. Members agreed to form a drafting team and work inter-sessionally on it. Australia was selected as the team leader, with Canada, Chile, China, Peru and the United States as team members.
15. The APEC Secretariat informed EGILAT members that the final report on the Independent Assessment of the EGILAT has been submitted to SCE, and will be discussed during the forthcoming SCE meeting on July 3, 2013 in Medan, Indonesia. Also, the Secretariat briefed members the summary of recommendations made by the independent assessor in the report. Members observed the report and noted that some of the recommendations may involve the change in the structure and role of EGILAT in the future. Therefore, it is suggested that members may need to incorporate those recommendations into the strategic plan and annual work plan through inter-sessional discussion. Members also expressed concerns on the feasibility of some of the other recommendations and inquired the whether those recommendations could be submitted to SCE without getting EGILAT members' consent. The Secretariat explained to the members on the due process of the independent assessment, and informed that EGILAT could make a formal response to them in a later stage through its report to SCE.

#### **Session V – Looking Ahead**

16. Peru reported on the progress of "Virtual Group" on preparations for the 2nd APEC Ministers Responsible for Forestry Meeting which will be held on 14-16 August 2013 in Cusco, Peru, and informed that the first draft of the Joint Ministerial Statement will be circulated for members' consideration in this July.
17. China, as the host of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> EGILAT meeting in 2014, invited all the members to come to China next year and will keep members informed of the date and the venue of the meeting later. As for the agenda of the next meeting, members agreed to develop it inter-sessionally, after the decision on the independent assessment of EGILAT was made by SCE.

18. EGILAT members also discussed about the selection of EGILAT Chair for 2014-2015, and agreed to do it inter-sessionally, while China expressed its interest in nominating a candidate for it.

**Session VI - Closing Session**

19. EGILAT members endorsed the Document Classification List prepared by the APEC Secretariat.
20. The EGILAT Chair summed up the 4th EGILAT Meeting, highlighting some important issues during the discussion in the past two days.
21. Dr. Agus Sarsito, Director of Forestry Development Cooperation for Regional 1, Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia, delivered the closing remark on behalf of the host.
22. The EGILAT closed the meeting and extended his thanks to both Indonesia for organizing the meeting, and all the delegates for their participation in the discussion. Noting that it is the last meeting in his term as the Chair, he also thanked EGILAT members for their support in the past one and a half years.