



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2025/SOM1/EGILAT/SUM

Summary Report - 27th Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade Meeting 2025



**APEC 2025
KOREA**

**27th Experts Group on Illegal Logging
and Associated Trade Meeting
Gyeongju, Korea
26-27 February 2025**

The 27th Meeting of the APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT 27)

**Gyeongju, Korea
26-28 February 2025**

1. The 27th Meeting of the APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT 27) was held in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, on 26-27 February 2025. The meeting was chaired by the EGILAT Chair, Ms. Noraihan Abdul Rahman (Malaysia).
2. Fourteen (14) economies including Australia; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; Peru; the Philippines; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; and the United States participated in-person in the meeting. The meeting achieved quorum.
3. International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and International Wood Products Association (IWPA) participated as EGILAT's 3-year guests.

Session I – Opening Session

4. Members appreciated the opening remarks of the EGILAT chair, Ms. Noraihan Abdul Rahman, and representative from APEC Host economy, Dr. Nam Songhee, Director General of International Affairs Bureau, Korea Forest Service. Delegates introduced each of their delegation. APEC Secretariat Program Director, Ren Hao, shared APEC projects update and a brief recap of intersessional work.
5. Members appreciated the briefing on APEC 2025 Priorities by the Korea SOM Chair's Office.

Session II – Exchange of Information Relating to Combating Illegal Logging and Promoting Trade in Legal Forest Products

6. Eight (8) economies shared updates on existing efforts and domestic work to combat illegal logging and promote the trade of legal forest products, followed by Q&A.
 - Australia noted its illegal logging prohibition law reforms is finalized and effective from 3 March 2025. More information was presented on implications for overseas suppliers, CSGs under legislative reforms and supporting compliance efforts.
 - China presented on its practice of combating illegal logging and associated trade, emphasized the importance of strengthening source management in wood production areas, increasing sustainable forest cultivation and utilization, and effectively raising the income of residents in forest areas to enhance their motivation for protecting forest resources, thereby more effectively combating illegal logging and related trade.

- Japan presented on its amended Clean Wood Act and efforts to combat illegal logging and promote SFM, including assistance to tropical timber producing areas through ITTO and contribution to FAO.
- Korea presented on the Development of DNA analysis technologies and efforts on wood species identification in Korea, including development of AI wood identification and collaboration to reinforce timber legality management system.
- Malaysia presented on empower forest enforcement activities at log export points through innovation initiatives and stakeholder collaboration, including the application of digital tools such as Revlog Mobile and iTimC in Sarawak, as well as collaboration between FDS and MMEA.
- New Zealand shared updates on its legal harvest assurance system including the timeline so far.
- Peru presented on its domestic initiatives to strengthen prevention against illegal logging activities, which included: a) the approval of a regulation to standardize control and supervision procedures for the traceability of wood products; b) the application of technological tools for the identification of timber species and forest management; c) the implementation of an interoperability mechanism for public institutions on forest management plans.
- Thailand shared its efforts in combatting illegal logging covering its source, transform, transport and export, including application of *etree*, policies in supporting forest-sector smallholders and electronic system for sharing information.

Session III – EGILAT ToR (2026-2029)

7. The Chair led a half-day dedicated discussion session on EGILAT ToR (2026-2029). Based on intersessional progress, the meeting discussed substantive issues where members have diverging views. The Meeting noted that for any non-consensus on matters discussed, it will revert back to the original text. Economies engaged in candid discussion on their positions. The meeting agreed to continue the refinement of the ToR text and discussed the approach of Drafting Committee, including intersessional virtual meeting if necessary.

Session IV – Review of 2025 workplan

8. Members noted the delay in endorsement of the EGILAT 2025 workplan and the timeline required by SCE. Members agreed on the need to work toward submitting to SCE in time.

Session V – Update and Exchange of Information Relating to Resources of EGILAT

9. Economies indicated support for continued efforts to advance TLGT drafting and update. Canada noted its plan to work on the TLGT in 2025. Chile and China noted plans to update the TLGT.

Session VII - EGILAT Policy Theme III 2024-25 Activities

10. Malaysia shared progress of preparation for the Self-funded project proposal co-proposed by Korea titled *Enhancing Enforcement and Legal Timber Practices through*

Stakeholder Collaboration and extended invitation to members to the workshop during SOM 3.

Session IX – Cross-Organization Information Exchange

11. The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) shared its work on sustainable wood use projects in the region, updates on tropical timber market and efforts in ensuring sustainable supply chains.
12. IWPA underscored the vital importance of EGILAT work to industries.

Session X – Thematic Discussion “Sustainable and Legal Timber Trade: Addressing Market Challenges and Opportunities”

13. Malaysia initiated discussion on sustainable and legal timber trade to address market challenges stemming from trade barriers, as well as identify and learn best practices from other economies. Whereby, Malaysia raised the importance of effective communication on any new laws of timber and timber products, in minimizing the risk of disruption to legal trade. Malaysia commended New Zealand for soliciting feedback from international stakeholders through notification via the website of New Zealand's Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), WTO ePing, and newsletter, intervention at the 60th International Tropical Timber Council session in 2024, and updates on the progress in EGILAT for its Forests (Legal Harvest Assurance) Amendment Act.

Session XI – Discussion on Policy Theme (2026-2027)

14. Members noted lack of implementation and anticipated outputs from the current policy theme (2024-2025). Some members expressed support for extension of the current policy theme. There are also members expressing the need to incorporate new elements going forward, e.g. supporting SFM from the perspective of wood utilization, better incorporation of local and indigenous communities into combating illegal logging and associated trade.

Session XII – Other Business and Closing Session

15. Members approved documents classification list. Members expressed appreciation to the hospitality of the host economy.

16. The meeting organized a field trip to Baekdudaegan National Arboretum (BDNA) on 28 February.