



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2025/SOM3/EGILAT/007

Agenda Item: IV

Enhancing Enforcement and Legal Timber Trade Practices Through Stakeholder Collaboration and Innovation

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Malaysia and Korea



**28th Experts Group on Illegal Logging
and Associated Trade Meeting
Incheon, Korea
28–30 July 2025**

SELF-FUNDING PROJECT: EGILAT 01 2025S

ENHANCING ENFORCEMENT & LEGAL TIMBER TRADE PRACTICES THROUGH STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION & INNOVATION

29 July 2025 (Tuesday) | Songdo Convensia, Incheon, ROK

Co-proposing economies: Malaysia and The Republic of Korea (ROK)

Co-sponsor economy: China

Collaborating Fora: EGILAT, SCCP, ACTWG

I. Background

Objectives

- Provide a networking platform for stakeholder engagement to promote legal timber trade.
- Exchange views, information, experiences, and best practices on promoting legal timber trade.
- Outline potential collaborations and concrete actions for enhancing APEC cross-fora efforts.

Key Remarks

There is a strong call for unified, integrated efforts—encompassing collaboration, data sharing, risk profiling, operational alignment, and technology-driven traceability—supported by single-window systems, mutual recognition, and joint border operations, all underpinned by shared objectives across stakeholders.

❑ Total: **102** Attendees

❑ **45%** Female

❑ **55%** Male

❑ **3** Dialogue Sessions

❑ **15** Economies & **3** NMPs

❑ **11** Expert Speakers

❑ **3** Exhibitors



II. Key Takeaways

Output 1: Dialogue on Enhancing Enforcement and Legal Timber Trade Practices through Stakeholder Collaboration

Session 1: Economies' Perspectives

Moderator: Ms. HONG Chin Chin, Malaysia

- i. Dr. WU Chia-Chen, Chinese Taipei
- ii. Attorney Ray Thomas F. KABIGTING, Philippines
- iii. Mr. Razali bin HAZIR, Malaysia

Key Highlights	Technological Innovation Strengthens Timber Traceability and Enforcement	- Multi-Agency Collaboration Enhances Enforcement Capabilities - International Collaboration and Capacity Building Remain Essential	Policy and Regulatory Frameworks Enable Legal Timber Trade
Challenges	Limited availability of reference samples and incomplete DNA databases	- Jurisdictional fragmentation and inconsistent enforcement - Varying technical capacity across agencies - Frequent changes in international regulations	Misdeclaration of products under incorrect codes and concealment of timber among other goods remain persistent issues
Way Forward	Expand scientific research to develop robust identification databases, integrate AI and sensor-based systems and apply advanced analytics for rapid species verification	- Institutionalize regular training and joint task forces, and develop shared reference tools - Promote knowledge exchange, align domestic standards with international benchmarks, and engage in joint projects or technical assistance programs to build institutional readiness	Improve inspection systems at entry and exit points, refine HS classification tools, and enhance digital integration between licensing and customs systems

II. Key Takeaways

Output 1: Dialogue on Enhancing Enforcement and Legal Timber Trade Practices through Stakeholder Collaboration

Session 2: NMPs'
Perspectives

Moderator: Mr. Khairul
ANWAR, Malaysia

- i. Dr. Chen YONG, CAF
China
- ii. Dr. Tetra
YANUARIADI, ITTO
- iii. Mr. Jongmin
HWANG, KOFPI, ROK
- iv. Dr. Topan RENYAAN,
UNODC

Key Highlights	Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration Strengthens Enforcement and Supply Chain Integrity	Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is Fundamental to Legal Timber Supply	Innovative Technologies and Traceability Systems are Essential for Effective Forest Monitoring and Ensuring Legal Timber Trade
Challenges	Fragmented institutional responsibilities and limited stakeholder coordination across the supply chain	Disparity in understanding and implementation of SFM principles across regions; unsustainable practices	• High cost and limited local capacity to deploy and maintain advanced tools • Difficulty in detecting false declarations • Technical barriers in developing robust species databases
Way Forward	Create inter-agency platforms for coordinated enforcement, align roles/responsibilities, and build a culture of collaboration under clearly defined mandates	Broaden adoption of SFM through economies' strategies, ensure forest growth exceeds harvest rates, and promote forest multi-functionality (economic, social, and environmental)	• Scale pilot technologies, promote capacity-building, and secure investment in real-time monitoring platforms and smart forestry systems • Strengthen verification processes through digital customs integration, expand reference libraries (e.g., wood specimen exchanges), and benchmark global best practices in species identification

II. Key Takeaways

Output 2: Dialogue on the Establishment of Wood Identification Framework for Legal Timber Trade

Session 3: Expert
Presentation on Wood
Identification for Legal
Timber Trade

Moderator: Dr. Ratih
DAMAYANTI, Indonesia

- i. Dr. Gerald KOCH,
Thünen Institute of
Wood Research,
Germany
- ii. Dr. Kevin Ng Kit
SIONG, FRIM
- iii. Dr. Hyumi Mi LEE,
NIFOS, RoK
- iv. Dr. Oh Kyung
KWON, Seoul
National University
of RoK.

Key Expert Presentations/ Discussion:

(i) Dr. Gerald Koch (Germany):

- AI and global cooperation are essential for wood products under newly emerging regulation.

(ii) Dr. Kevin(MAS) :

- Established DNA databases and SOP to enforcement and regulation efforts.

(iii) Dr. Hyumi LEE (RoK):

- Building an international specimen database and cross-verification frameworks.

(iv) Dr. Oh Kyung Kwon (RoK):

- Integration of techniques for advanced AI to over come the current limitations.

Panel Discussion Insights

- Key elements: sustainable, database, applicability, and international cooperation.
- Supply chain improvement to ensure transparency for rapid legality verification.
- Need collaboration among each wood identification experts for timber legality.

II. Key Takeaways

Output 3: Mini-Exhibition

Moderator: Mr. Khairul
ANWAR, Malaysia

Exhibitor:

- i. KOFPI, RoK
- ii. Malaysia
- iii. Indonesia

- Compare different approaches to timber legality, enforcement, and traceability
- A valuable platform for **mutual learning**, where economies could **directly engage** with each other's **systems and tools**

Participant

Exhibitor

- **Understand enforcement approach**, wood samples and verification technologies firsthand.
- It provided a **platform to learn across systems, understand differing economies' approaches and explore avenues for regional cooperation.**

III. Deliverables

Networking Platform

- The event created a **multifaceted platform** that engaged stakeholders across various sectors.
- **Cross-sector representation.**
- **Session design:** Four thematic sessions, chaired by experts from Malaysia, Indonesia, and ROK.
- **Mini-exhibition:** These displays bridged scientific innovation with regulatory enforcement.
- **Whole-of-society approach:** Beyond agencies, but also among sectors like trade, law, forestry, and technology.

Information Exchange

- Shared **policy frameworks and enforcement strategies** such as customs single windows, blockchain pilots, and digital certificates of origin.
- **Joint knowledge development:** EGILAT, ACTWG, and SCCP jointly explored on wood identification tools, frameworks like the Timber Legality Guidance Template (TLGT), and aiming to **harmonize approaches and improve risk detection.**

Enhancing Collaboration

- Consistently having cross-fora meeting.
- Conduct joint training – capacity building.
- Co-develop practical tools and reference materials.
- Launch coordinated projects.

IV. Conclusion

The dialogue and exhibition succeeded in bringing together diverse disciplines to exchange knowledge, showcase technology, and lay out clear, coordinated steps toward enhanced legal timber trade enforcement across the APEC region.

Thank you

Project Overseer: Malaysia/ Ms. Emelia Gunggu; Republic of Korea/ Dr. Lee Mi Hyun
Co-sponsoring APEC economies: China
Funded by Self-funding