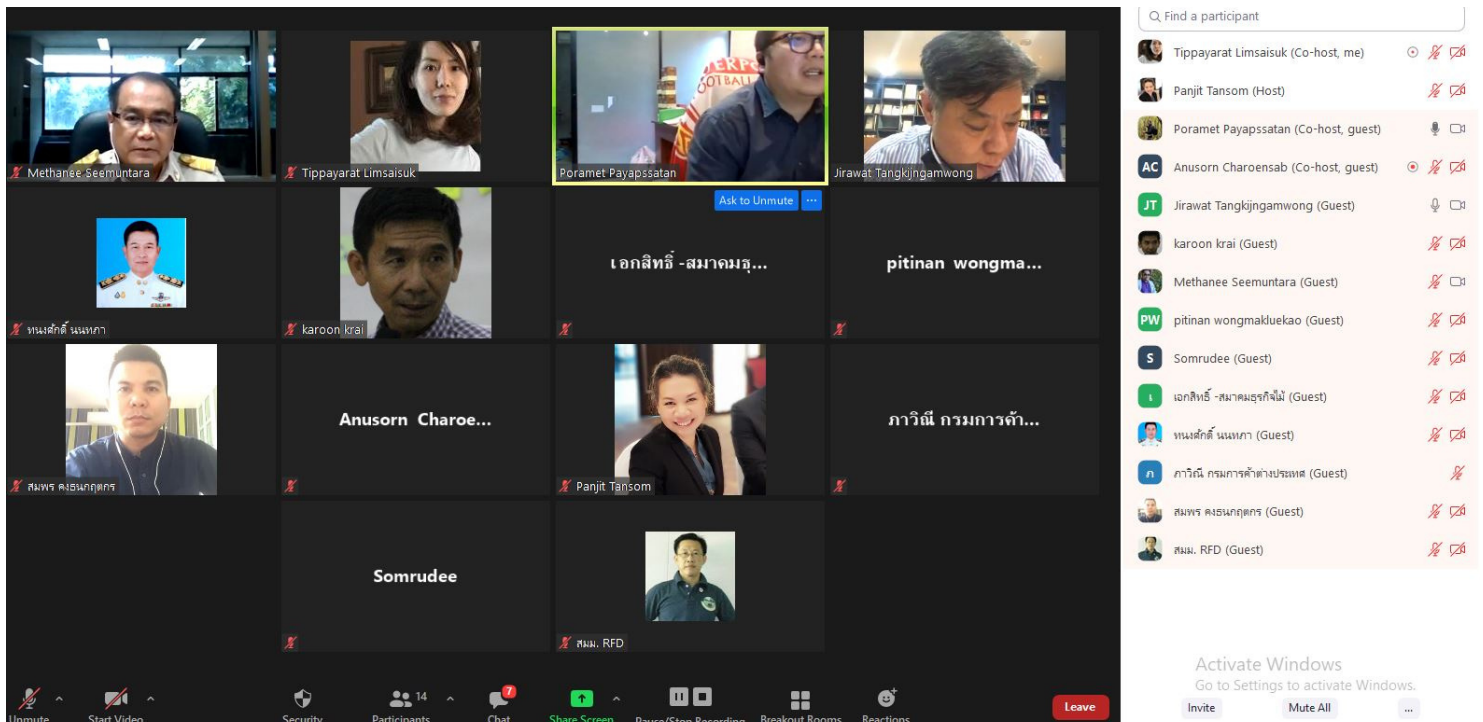


The Import Control SWG reviewed the concept note before sending to the EU

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Written by TEFSO

On 25 January 2021, the Import Control sub-working group called for the first meeting of the year online to discuss the Thai timber import concept note. Provisionally, it is agreed that import control should be co-implemented by relevant gov. departments such as the Royal Forest Department and the Customs Department on which the two agencies oversee checks and controls related to their field of works.

The Customs Department may be in charge of the document verification at customs check and customs clearance, then transfer to the Royal Forest Department to do a physical inspection and other related specialized timber checks. To achieve this, data sharing should be prioritized to ensure smooth operation.

The sub-working group appointed the Customs Department, the Royal Forest Department, and the Thai Timber Association as the main ad-hoc group to review the import control concept note before submitting the draft to the EU. As the EU greatly emphasizes import control as a tool to not only assert legality to Thai timber but also improve the timber legality of the whole lower Mekong region, the sub-working group whose members are government, private, and civil society organizations will make sure that the draft is effective in stopping illegal timber import, yet not adding unnecessary burden to the business sector.



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