



**The Summary of Video Conference Technical Level between the Royal Forest Department,
Thailand and DG Environment, EU
At EU Delegation Meeting, Kian Gwan House 2, Bangkok
On 6th October 2015, 16:00-18:00 hrs.**

Thailand Participant

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| 1. Mr. Pralong Damrongthai | DDG, RFD |
| 2. Mr. Sapol Boonsermsuk | Director of International Forestry Cooperation Office |
| 3. Mr. Banjong Wongsrisoontorn | Director of TEFSO |
| 4. Mr. Boonsuthee Jeravongpanich | Director of Certification Standard Division |
| 5. Ms. Panjit Tansom | Technical consultant, TEFSO |
| 6. Ms. Isiyanee Samrit | Database Officer, TEFSO |
| 7. Mr. Isarawin Chalakorn | DDG's secretary |

EU Participant

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|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Luca Perez | Policy Officer and EU-Thailand VPA focal point, DG Environment–Unit E.2, European Commission |
| 2. Mr. Hans Stielstra | Acting Head of Unit, DG Environment-Unit E.2, European Commission |
| 3. Mr. Bryan Fornari | Head of Operation, Thailand and Laos, EU Delegation |
| 4. Ms. Jenni Lundmark | Attache (Cooperation), EU Delegation |
| 5. Mr. Alexander Hinrichs | EU FLEGT Facility Thai Country team, European Forest Institute |
| 6. Mr. Sebastian Schrader | EU FLEGT Facility Thai Country team, European Forest Institute |
| 7. Dr. Somrudee Nicro | Consultant to EU FLEGT Facility in Thailand |

Absentee

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| 1. MR. Theeraphat Trangkathumkul | First Secretary, Department of European Affairs |
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The meeting started at 16.00 hr.

Summaries

1) Background

- Mr. Pralong Damrongthai, DDG of RFD, expressed his willingness to join the video conference and hope that the two sides will have meetings and communicate with each other even more, Since DDG had the opportunity to meet the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment; MONRE, he emphasized that the government of Thailand intended to carry out the VPA and also to support related stakeholders participating in FLEGT VPA process.
- Thailand participating to VPA is not only to get FLEGT license but also to facilitate trade exporting to EU market. Since EU has enforced EUTR, Thailand need to adapt to this regulations as well. The VPA is a channel and opportunity for Thailand to export goods to EU market more easily. Currently Thailand is setting the wood monitoring and tracking system. It aims to link these systems within ASEAN member countries and contributes TLAS system.

- Moreover DDG informed the meeting that the new Plantation Act 2558 B.E. has allowed planters to register 58 species of wood themselves. This registration system allows RFD to verify original timber source. The Act. intrigues large enterprises, and small plantations to plant more and also encouraged to plant economic plantation and increase green area. It is not only recognized the communities right, but also to improve the lives of community as well.
- The FLEGT process is an important indicator to instruct the forestry policy. The Kick-off event on September 21st, 2015, has been participated by 3 sectors of stakeholders; government, civil society and the private sector showing that Thailand started to have true governance. At the event the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment emphasized the working group to listen to stakeholders, and take those comments to develop LD which reflects transparency. Finally, DDG emphasized that the engagement and transparency working is essential in eliminating corruption.
- Mr.Hans Stielstra, Acting Head of Unit, DG Environment-Unit E.2, European Commission, informed that EU has seen the progress on FLEGT VPA in Thailand particularly in stakeholder's participation, which is the key of FLEGT VPA.
- He also emphasized that the EU has to focus seriously on the operation and the attention of importing wood legally into the EU. Understanding the involved process is important and takes time. EU also takes this action continuously as well as EU member countries.
- EU gave example on Indonesia implementing FLEGT VPA process which has reflected the problems and how to solve the problems. EU expects that Indonesia is getting FLEGT license soon.

2) FLEGT VPA Negotiation Structure

- DDG presented the negotiation structure of Thai side, which is the same structure in JEM on 1st November 2013 (Annex 1). The head of policy level is Minister, Permanent Secretary of MONRE is the head of negotiation level, and DDG of Forestry Department is the head of technical level.
- Mr. Hans thanked Thai side for improving and confirmed the negotiation structure of EU which is the same as JEM1 just different name in each level. (Annex 2)
- Mr. Luca Perez, a policy officer and EU-Thailand VPA focal point, informed that the head of negotiator for EU is normally the head of Unit E2, but this position is currently vacant. The EU will informed Thai side as soon as the appointment is made and Mr. Perez remained himself is the technical focal point.
- Dr. Alexander Hinrichs, EU FLEGT Facility, EFI, asked Thai side on improving the structure of negotiation committee structure by adding other related stakeholders. DDG assured EU to revise and adjust the structure.

3) Product Scope

- DDG presented the drafted Product Scope (PS) of Thailand. He also commented that this draft need to be developed and Thai side will discuss on this issue with stakeholders afterward.
- Mr. Luca Perez commented the PS draft is in the right direction which covered the list in EUTR and based on trade between both countries. However EU thought if Thai side makes a broader scope to cover all illegal wood, it will be more beneficial to Thailand.

- He highlighted that the furniture is very important and suggested Thai side to identify HS code from 4 digits to 6 digits for more specific identification. However Thai side should consider it to consist with practices and existing system.
- EU understand that there is a misunderstanding on identifying items in the PS. EU clarified that though items are not in the scope, they are still covered by EUTR, and they must follow DDS (Due Diligence System). Therefore Mr. Luca asked Thai side to explain this issue to stakeholders.

4) Legality Definition Structure and Next Step

- Mr. Luca Perez appreciated that Thai side had submitted the first draft of LD to EU to ask for comments and EU has sent the comments back on April 24th, 2015. Overall he deemed that Thai side is on the right direction.
- Developing LD should consist with Supply Chain Control and Wood Product which may revised and issue new regulation to address the problem.
- Especially the verifying timber from other countries is the significant key to submit FLEGT License and it can assure that is not a tool for illegal timber from the third countries.
- Mr. Luca Perez also advised Thai side to studied the regulations of other countries such as The Lacey Act of the United States or The Illegal Logging Prohibition Act of Australia, etc., for guidance. For example, the Importing Act laws of Indonesia that controls timber importing from other countries, ensures that all imported timbers comes from legal sources.
- In the uncontrolled timber part, EU proposed that Thai side should issue regulation covering those in the future.
- DDG informed the meeting that Thai side has been considering adding more species continuously; adding controlled species in Plantation Act.
- Mr. Banjong Wongsrisoontorn enhanced that Asean member countries will discuss on import-export timber issue on occasion of PAN ASEAN.
- Dr. Alexander Hinrichs informed the meeting that the LD consultants will be in Thailand on 13–23 October 2015 to discuss with related stakeholders. Ms. Jenni Lundmark, Attache (Cooperation), EU Delegation, added that the consultant contract will be done in 2 days.

5) VPA Roadmap

- DDG presented VPA roadmap of Thailand (Annex 3)
- Mr. Luca Perez suggested that Thai side should plan VPA roadmap consisting with facts which is 18-month plan until the end of 2016. It should identify the main annex implementing such as PS, LD, TLAS and Supply Chain Control.
- On the policy level, DDG suggested that the head of policy level on both side can informally discussion on the occasion of CoP21. The meeting agreed on that and both focal point will coordinator on this with their head of policy level.

6) Preparation of the first negotiation

- DDG proposed the first negotiation meeting in March 2016. The meeting agreed to arrange the meeting in March 2016 and both focal points will coordinate their negotiation committee to see the possibility to set the date.
- Dr. Somrudee Nicro, Consultant to EU FLEGT Facility in Thailand, suggested EU to present the agenda to Thai side for discussing on preparing document. EU will send the agenda by the end of 2015.

7) Agreed actions to be taken

- DDG will coordinate with Permanent Secretary of MONRE to set the date of the first negotiation.
- Mr. Luca Perez will also coordinate with the head of negotiation of EU to set the set as well.
- Mr. Luca Perez sent the agenda to Thai side for discussing on preparing document.
- Mr. Luca Perez will inform the new head of negotiation of EU as soon as the appointment of the head of Unit E2.
- Mr. Luca Perez will inform Thai side the one from EU attending Cop21
- DDG will coordinate with Minister of MONRE on having discussion with EU on occasion of CoP21.
- DDG will send EU the strategy plan 2016 and long term strategy for negotiation.
- EU will send Thai side VPA context and outline including drafted annex before negotiation.
- Thai side will prepare draft LD, drafted PS, and TLAS guidelines for negotiating.
- EU will send the report of EUTR implement submitted by Parliament of the EU in December 2015.

8) The meeting finished at 18.00 hr.

Ms. Panjit Tansom
Recorder