



## 38<sup>th</sup> Monthly Report on Working Progress of TEFSO in June 2017

---

*In June 2017, TEFSO has performed the following tasks:*

### **1. The preparation meeting for the second Joint Expert Meeting and the first TH-EU FLEGT VPA negotiation**

On 15 June 2017, Thai – EU FLEGT Secretariat Office arranged the preparation meeting for the second Joint Expert Meeting and the first TH-EU FLEGT VPA negotiation at meeting room no.301, 3<sup>rd</sup> floors, Krit Sama Bhudhi Building, Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation. The meeting aims to preparing for the second Joint Expert Meeting and the first TH-EU FLEGT VPA negotiation, Mr.Pralong Damrongthai, Inspector General of MNRE was the chairman of the meeting. The TEFSO officer reported the current progress on logistics and procurement for JEM2 and NEG1 and including discuss on the press conference towards the first negotiation on FLEGT VPA which which will be arranged on 26 and 30 June 2017.

### **2. The TH-EU FLEGT committee meeting No.3/2017**

On 16 June 2017, Thai EU FLEGT Secretariat Office (TEFSO) under The Royal Forest Department arranges The TH-EU FLEGT committee meeting No.3/2017 at the 17th floors meeting room, Ministry of Natural and Environmental (MNRE). Mr. Wijarn Simachaya,Permanent Secretary of MONRE is the chairman of the meeting.The objectives of the meeting are;

To be acknowledged on the preparation for Joint Expert Meeting (JEM) and Negotiation (NEG)

To give comments and provide the guide for the sensitive issues in the negotiation process

To discuss towards the guideline on the public relations

### **3. The 2nd Joint Expert Meeting (JEM 2) between Thailand and EU**

On 27th – 28th June 2017, Thai EU FLEGT Secretariat Office (TEFSO) under The Royal Forest Department arranges The 2nd Joint Expert Meeting (JEM 2) between Thailand and EU at Centara Grand Central Plaza Ladprao Bangkok

Mr.Chonlatit Surasawadi, Director General of The Royal Forest Department is the leader of Thai side. Together with Mr. Pralong Damrongthai, Inspector General of Ministry of Natural and Environmental (MNRE), Mr. Banjong Wongsrisoontorn, Director of Thai-EU FLEGT Secretariat Office and also representatives from The Ministry of Commerce, The ministry of International Affairs,



## 38<sup>th</sup> Monthly Report on Working Progress of TEFSO in June 2017

---

*In June 2017, TEFSO has performed the following tasks:*

Forestry Industry Organization, Business and Private sector were attended the meeting as leader committee. And the committee of European Union Side led by Ms. Helene PERIER and her team as leader committee.

The objective of this meeting is to discuss technically between Thailand and European Union about the content creation under The Voluntary Partnership Agreement of Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade. And the results of the meeting will be brought into the negotiation on 29th – 30th June.

Contents of the meeting, The Thai side has update the Development of Forestry Policy of the country. Also appointment of the Forestry Policy Committee of the country concerned with VPA. At the same time, the European Union has updated their FLEGT and EUTR action plan assessment which get from the meeting at Brussel in the middle of last month.

The Thai side has expressed their determination to confirm that the VPA process will be supported by Thai government and relevant government agencies. Thailand attaches great importance to the participation of all stakeholders (Government, civil society, private sector) including government agencies/organizations that are not directly involved in forestry, for instance Environmental, Social, Labor and Anti-Corruption. The content will be promoted to those agencies to let them know the whole process.

In terms of major progress of Legality Definition (LD), both sides discuss the identification of wood sources which need to clearly identify the sources. Also Include the revisions to rules that may affect content under the definition. In addition, the two sides also discussed about the Legality Definition Field Test which is upcoming on the second half of the year. The results of the Legality Definition Field Test will be reported to the Working Group of The Voluntary Partnership Agreement of Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade for further improvement.

The European Union recognizes the importance of joining the furniture group under the Product Scope because those product have value of exports to the EU is quite high compared to other products. The representatives of the Association of Wood Business confirmed to the meeting



## 38<sup>th</sup> Monthly Report on Working Progress of TEFSO in June 2017

---

*In June 2017, TEFSO has performed the following tasks:*

that the furniture will be surely join VPA in the second phase. In the meantime, they will use the Due Diligence System to ship wood to the European Union and other countries to confirm the source of the wood.

The Thai side also asserted that Thailand would have only the Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) to accommodate the market both Domestically and Internationally. If it is found any illegal timber, the impound wood will be used for public use only and it will not add the source of those wood as another source in the Legality Definition.

For import verification issues, the Royal Forest Department of the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Natural and Environmental have discussed about the issue of amending the rules of wood imports. In the future, the wood which is imported into Thailand must show the Certificate of Origin (CO) or other evidence that can identify the source and legality of the wood.

In addition, representatives of the European Forestry Institute (EFI) described the use of Vietnam's document review system to be used as a guideline for screening imported wood from risk countries. The European Union has praised the advances in wood navigation control systems of Thailand which was systematically develop. Those system is important to the development of TLAS system in Thailand a lot.

#### **4. The First FLEGT VPA Negotiations between Thailand and EU**

On 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Thai EU FLEGT Secretariat Office (TEFSO) under The Royal Forest Department arranges the 1<sup>st</sup> FLEGT VPA Negotiations between Thailand and EU (NEG1) at Centara Grand Central Plaza Ladprao Bangkok

Mr. Wijarn Simachaya, Permanent secretary of Ministry of Natural and Environmental (MNRE) is the leader of thai side. Together with Mr.Chonlatit Surasawadi, Director General of The Royal Forest Department, Mr. Pralong Damrongthai, Inspector General of Ministry of Natural and Environmental (MNRE), Mr. Banjong Wongsrisoontorn, Director of Thai-EU FLEGT Secretariat Office and representatives from relevant ministries as leader committee. And the committee of European Union Side led by Mr. Jorge RODRIGUEZ ROMERO, Head of European Commission, DG Environment – Unit F.3: Global Multilateral Cooperation and his team as leader committee.



## 38<sup>th</sup> Monthly Report on Working Progress of TEFSO in June 2017

---

*In June 2017, TEFSO has performed the following tasks:*

The main topics of the negotiation consists of Legislative developments, Discussion of FLEGT operations, Legality definition, Product scope, Verification mechanisms, Import verification, TLAS and endorsement of road map for the next meeting.

In the topic of Legislative developments, both sides pay attention to set a clear way forward to address gaps in a systematic way, including technical issues under the control of RFD, but also broader actions coordinated through recently established National Forest Policy Committee.

The European Union is interested in the understanding of legal requirements for consultation under the new Thai Constitution and also interest to learn more about RFD 4.0/RFD National Single Window computer systems that allow real time monitoring of forest resources and all timber movements.

In terms of important processes that have been implemented at the technical level through field test on LD and its operational aspects to start at upcoming July. This process will be work through the operation of both Thai and foreign consultants with EFI support.

In the topic of Product Scope, the agreement to include furniture into product scope at a later stage, but to develop a legality definition and TLAS that already include furniture. The European Union also share import/export data of timber and timber products according to EUTR. And the Thai side will share export data structure according to the draft product scope later.

In the topic of Verification mechanisms, Involvement of civil society and private sector into the identification and design of such verification mechanisms, including on unregulated species – Design of a proportionate and balanced system.

Finally, both sides endorse of roadmap developed by JEM as follows:

- The Upcoming Video Conference will be held in upcoming October
- The Third Joint Expert Meeting (JEM3) will be held in upcoming December
- The next Video Conference will be held in February 2018
- The Fourth Joint Expert Meeting (JEM4) and the Second FLEGT VPA Negotiations

(NEG2) will be held in March 2018



38<sup>th</sup> Monthly Report on Working Progress of TEFSO  
in June 2017

---

*In June 2017, TEFSO has performed the following tasks:*

**5. Bimonthly E-Newsletter no.7 on May – June, 2017**

TEFSO published Bi-Monthly E-newsletter No.7 on May - June 2017 to report the FLEGT VPA implementation in Thailand and circulate the interested news around the world. The E-newsletter is now available at <http://tefso.org/en/category/newsletter-en/>.