



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Agenda Item: 6

Proposal for a Joint ACT-EGILAT Law Enforcement Cooperation Workshop

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: ACT Chair



**17th Anti-Corruption and Transparency
Experts' Working Group Meeting
Jakarta, Indonesia
25 June 2013**

Proposal for a Joint ACT-EGILAT Law Enforcement Cooperation Workshop

Introduction

APEC economies account for approximately 53 percent of the world's forests, 60 percent of global production of forest products, and 80 percent of global trade in forest products. Illegal logging and associated trade is a significant problem facing the Asia-Pacific region with adverse economic, environmental, and social impacts. Illegal logging and associated trade is linked to organized crime, money laundering, and corruption. Illicit revenues generated from this activity are estimated to be in the range of \$10-15 billion annually.

APEC Leaders in recent years have agreed to enhance cooperation and undertake activities to combat illegal logging and associated trade. A core function of EGILAT as provided in its Terms of Reference is to facilitate law enforcement cooperation and information sharing related to combating illegal logging and associated trade, including by creating sub-groups, exchanging enforcement personnel, holding joint law enforcement meetings and exercises, and participating in and/or establishing law enforcement networks. In 2012, APEC Leaders' agreed in the Vladivostok Declaration to further "combat corruption and illicit trade" and recognized that:

Corruption facilitates and is fueled by illicit trade as criminal entrepreneurs and illicit networks traffic, costing APEC economies jobs and vital tax revenue, corroding the integrity of legitimate supply chains, endangering the welfare, health and safety of our families and communities, and harming the economic interests of our businesses and markets. Corruption threatens our common goals of securing open markets, economic prosperity, and the rule of law.

In an effort to enhance law enforcement cooperation to combat illegal logging and associated trade and related corruption, it is proposed that the EGILAT and the ACT conduct a joint law enforcement cooperation workshop on the margins of a SOM meeting in 2014.

Description of the Event

The proposed event is a one-day workshop in conjunction with regular ACT and EGILAT meetings to provide an opportunity for law enforcement and other relevant officials to meet and share best practices, information, and experiences with enhancing law enforcement and timber/forestry cooperation to target corruption and dismantle illicit trade networks. As a joint initiative between two APEC groups, the proposed workshop would bring together anti-corruption, law enforcement, forestry, and trade officials to further collaboration with the goal of combating the corruption that fuels illegal logging networks. This project would elevate the issue and help to drive political will and build interest among the audience.

Purposes of the Event

This proposed workshop would strengthen inter-regional communication and collaboration on law enforcement matters related to combating illegal logging and associated trade. It would lay the groundwork for law enforcement and other relevant personnel in APEC economies to work together in the future through the sharing of information and intelligence exchanges on movements of illegally harvested wood, and through capacity building on methods of investigating and prosecuting illegal logging crimes. Additionally, it is expected that the proposed workshop would increase coordination efforts among important stakeholders (civil society and local communities, law enforcement and forestry agencies, and other experts) to reduce illegal logging practices, combat corruption, and promote good governance.

Participants and Potential Speakers

EGILAT and ACT representatives would be expected to identify potential participants and speakers for the proposed workshop. It is anticipated that participants and speakers would include environmental criminal prosecutors who prosecute forestry crimes, other law enforcement officials (police, border enforcement/inspectors, anti-corruption units) who are responsible for law enforcement on forestry crimes, experts on investigating financial crimes/tracking illicit funds, forestry and trade

officials, and representatives of relevant international organizations, such as INTERPOL, UNODC, and the World Bank.

Expected Outcomes

Expected outcomes of the proposed workshop include:

- Enhanced understanding and collaboration of various stakeholders involved in order to strengthen coordination and capacity building efforts;
- Creation of a basis for further constructive dialogue and collaboration between EGILAT and ACT to reduce illegal logging and associated trade and related corruption; and
- Establishment of an informal network of relevant anti-corruption and law enforcement officials as well as forestry and trade officials from APEC economies to facilitate information sharing and intelligence exchanges regarding illegal timber trade flows.

Milestones

- Solicit approval of EGILAT and ACT for proposed workshop.
- Proponents circulate proposed agenda and speakers for EGILAT and ACT consideration.
- Finalize agenda and speakers.
- Conduct workshop in conjunction with EGILAT and ACT meetings in 2014.

Funding and Logistics

It is anticipated that the host economy would provide the venue for the proposed workshop. Proponents will identify sources for other necessary funds.