



Working in partnership to bring sustainable management to Myanmar's forests

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MFCC NEWSLETTER

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Training Workshop on Independent
Verification based on
Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance

Message from the Chairman

It is a great honor for me being the Chairman of Myanmar Forest Certification Committee for the 3-years from 2018 to 2021.

In fact, Myanmar is a country largely endowed with natural forest resources -almost all the forest belongs to the country- and the forestry sector has practiced top-down management system with the assistance of devoted professional foresters.

On the other hand, the forestry sector has been watched globally because of the rampant deforestation and forest degradation, which is consequently blamed for the global warming.

Especially, the international environmentalists emphasize on the tropical forests and Myanmar is one of timber producer countries located in the tropics.

Forest certification has been introduced since the early 1990s as a tool to promote sustainable Forest Management. Most of the importing countries also concentrate on the issue of ensuring timber legality. Generally, legality is a basic part of sustainability and they are more interrelated in many aspects. In this connection, the type of institution also plays an important role.

Currently, The Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC) serves as a National Governing Body of the Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance System (MTLAS) and the Myanmar Forest Certification Scheme (MFCS). We are fully aware that MFCC or any other National Governing Body should be independent. However, MFCC is not fully independent yet due to some circumstances such as financial condition and poor institutional capacity.

We have set the objectives to meet the requirements that MFCC can be independent in the current 3-year term. In the meantime, MFCC will strive her best to contribute to the country's roadmap to build the reliable Legal Supply Chain, under which not only the traceability but also the legality shall be guaranteed. Furthermore, the transparency and the accountability of MTLAS will also be enhanced.

We are fully confident that the Myanmar Forestry Sector will be better in future by strengthening the institution of MFCC and implementing MTLAS.

Yours sincerely,

Khin Maung Yi

Chairman

Myanmar Forest Certification Committee



ABOUT MFCC

Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC) is the National Governing Body (NGB) of forest/timber certification schemes in Myanmar and a central part of the mandate is to carry out forest and timber certification and create an enabling environment for the sustainability of Myanmar Forests. MFCC also aims to promote market access of Myanmar forest products in international trade. MFCC's activities cover the entire forest and forest products, and MFCC has been empowered to execute all processes of forest and timber related certification.

For more information, please visit :

www.mfcc.org.mm

Our Mission:

To deliver Sustainable Forest Management and timber legality certification in Myanmar. MFCC also support and coordinate standard setting processes and promote access to international markets for timber supply chains.

Our Purpose:

- MFCC promotes sustainable forest development in Myanmar through conducting forest certification;
- MFCC is responsible for coordinating all stakeholders to conduct work, and is also responsible for the establishment and development of Myanmar Forest Certification Scheme;
- MFCC promotes MFCS to conduct certification activities, and extends the scopes of certification;
- MFCC leads the process of certification scheme endorsement and international recognition.



MFCC-PEFC project Soft Launching of MFCC's Third Party Certification System (8th August 2018, Inya Lake Hotel)

The morning session of the soft launch was attended by a range of stakeholders, including Forest Department, Myanmar Timber Enterprise, Environmental Conservation Department, Department of Research and Innovation, Myanmar Forest Products Merchants Federation, private saw mills, Certification Bodies, plantations companies, media/journalist and FAO, FLEGT VPA advisors, international and national NGOs.



Figure: Permanent Secretary from MONREC, MD from MTE, South East Asia Representative from PEFC International, MFCC chairman and CEO, representatives from FAO, FLEGT, NGO, Private Sector and four Certification Bodies took a group photo at morning session of soft launching ceremony

The Myanmar Forest Certification Committee formally launched Myanmar's third party timber certification system and conducted the Certification handing ceremony of the four notified Certification Bodies: United Forestry Services, Nature Watch, Myanmar Forest Association, and Double Helix Tracking Technologies. This launch was a very important step for MFCC to audit the timber against a robust system for wider acceptance on the international market. For the full event summary, please visit our website.

Recent Activities

■ 24 July 2018:

System Documentation Professional Mr. Paul Wilson conducted the “Preparation for MFCC Acceptance and ISO Accreditation Training” for Certification Bodies. Key topics were how to prepare for MFCC acceptance, ISO accreditation for Certification Bodies, and the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

■ From 24 July to 1 August 2018:

MFCC participated in the field trip of the “FFI project FLEGT preparedness for Community Forestry Timber Legality Operational Procedures (CF TLOPS) in Myanmar”. At this field trip, FFI held the consultation meetings which included the various sectors (Government, CSO, FUG Networks) in Kachin State. For the full event summary, please visit our website. www.mfcc.org.mm/events

■ 30 August 2018:

MFCC shared knowledge on the MTLAS and its auditing support documentation to be used in the verification of Legal Timber against MTLAS System at the Ingyin Hall, Forest Department Office, Naypyitaw. For the full event summary, please visit our website. www.mfcc.org.mm/events

■ 22 September 2018:

“1st meeting of the reformed MFCC” was held in Yangon. For the full event summary, please visit our website. www.mfcc.org.mm/events

■ 24 September 2018 - 25 September 2018:

MFCC conducted the two-days “Training Workshop on Independent Third Party Verification based on MTLAS No.1” at the Forest Research Institute in Yezin, Naypyitaw. For the full event summary, please visit our website. www.mfcc.org.mm/events

■ 29 September - 2 October 2019:

Delegation of MFCC including CEO and Technical Officer of MFCC-PEFC project attended two days’ workshop “South East Asia (SEA) National Governing Body (NGB) Collaboration Workshop” and “Forestry Certification Capacity Building for Future Cooperation (ASEAN Consultative on Standards and Quality Working Group ACCSQ-2)” at Vientiane, Laos. It is aimed for identifying potential opportunities for collaboration intra- NGB, leveraging on strengths, best practices and sharing of ideas from country representatives.

■ 30 October 2018:

MFCC conducted the “Training workshop on Independent Third Party Verification based on MTLAS No.2” for timber exporters at Tawwin Hall, Myanmar Timber Enterprise. For the full event summary, please visit our website.

■ www.mfcc.org.mm/events

■ 17 December 2018:

“2nd MFCC meeting” for the confirmation of the committee members was held at Director General Office, Forest Compound, Yangon.

■ 26, 27, 28 January 2019:

MFCC conducted the Auditors Training Course No. (2) for the Certification Bodies at the MFCC Office. For the full event summary, please visit our website. www.mfcc.org.mm/events

■ 4 March - 8 March 2019:

MFCC and representatives of PEFC attended three and one half day workshop “U.S Government sponsored workshop to combat timber trafficking”. For the full event summary, please visit our website. www.mfcc.org.mm/events

Condolences

MFCC was very sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Gan Boon Keong in January 2019. Mr. Gan was a great supporter of MFCC and over a series of visits to Myanmar led our auditor training programme.

Mr. Gan's expertise, support and kindness will be missed. MFCC would like to offer our condolences to Mr. Gan's family.



Certification Bodies Profiles

Myanmar Forest certification committee notified three local Certification Bodies and one international Certification Body. Three local CB are United Forestry Services, Nature Watch and Myanmar Forest Association. One international CB is Double Helix.

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