

International Seminar for Tackling Illegal Logging, 2007 II in Yokohama
“A credible and distributable system for verifying Goho (=legal) wood and wood
products”

Summary Statement

The Japanese Government included wood and wood products verified as being legally and sustainably produced (hereinafter referred to as Goho-wood) in its Law on Promoting Green Purchasing in 2006. The Forestry Agency of Japan announced “Guideline for verification on the legality and sustainability of wood and wood products”. The wood industries in Japan have been promoting Goho-wood in accordance with the “Guideline”. In line with such efforts, the “International Seminar for Tackling Illegal Logging, 2007 in Tokyo” last February proposed “Let us build a worldwide network of Goho-wood” for further activities. Following the 1st seminar, the “International Seminar for Tackling Illegal Logging, 2007 II in Yokohama” was held with 200 participants from the world.

The aim of this international seminar was to discuss the role of Goho-wood in promoting sustainable forest management, by sharing experiences between wood exporters taking efforts to supply Goho-wood and Japanese enterprises endeavoring to promote the purchase, sale and use of Goho-wood. The participants;

- recognized that the effort to tackle illegal logging is an important step to achieve sustainable forest management in the world,
- considered that the implementation of the Japanese procurement policy and the experiences of similar policies in other countries have a potential to contribute to eliminate illegal logging,
- expected that the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit to be held next year in Japan will provide a place for international discussion on sustainable forest management,
- and seeking further actions to tackle illegal logging through promotion of Goho-wood.

Based on these discussions, the executive committee of this seminar concludes the followings with regard to the Japanese Goho-wood scheme and its contribution to tackling illegal logging:

1. Expansion of the trading of Goho-wood in Japan, which depends on imported wood and wood products for around 80% of its wood consumption, will have a positive influence on reducing illegal logging and realizing sustainable forest management.

2. The verification scheme for Goho-wood developed by the Japanese wood industries is regarded as an efficient and realistic scheme. To meet consumers' and also international reliance of the Goho-wood scheme, the wood industries should realize the importance of sustainable forest management and carry out their mission of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
3. For the purpose of reinforcing the actions tackling illegal logging, it is important to establish an accountable supply chain of Goho-wood. This chain will provide a basis for promoting Goho-wood procurement not only from public sector but also from private sector as CSR and even to individual consumers. It is expected that the guideline of Japan and the measures taken by the wood industries will encourage demand and supply for Goho-wood in the international market.
4. It is vital to secure the reliability of supply chain for the promoting of Goho-wood in consuming countries. This international seminar contributed to sharing experiences of both producers and consumers. The discussion identified comprehensive and useful criteria for legality and sustainability and the reliable schemes for verification. It will guide further discussions and actions.
5. To inform discussion during 2008 G8 presidency we note the following points,
 - 1) It is important to promote uptake of public procurement policies by other countries and seek consistency between these policies so as to minimize verification costs to suppliers and to facilitate trade. Furthermore, we note the potential of the independent auditing which gives credibility to public procurement policies.
 - 2) In response to trade globalization, both of producer and consumer countries should be encouraged to verify legality and sustainability, preventing displacement of trade to less discriminating markets and promoting sustainable forest management.
6. To strengthen the effort in tackling illegal logging, it is important to maintain the worldwide network of Goho-wood and to enhance international cooperation.