

SUMMARY REPORT
4th APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry
30 October – 1 November 2017
Seoul, the Republic of Korea

As of 17 November 2017

The 4th APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry (MMRF4) was convened in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, on 30 October-1 November, 2017. Ministers and senior officials from 18 APEC economies and key representatives of international and regional organizations engaged in discussions on ways to strengthen cooperation to increase forest cover in the region, combat illegal logging and associated trade, as well as create forest-related jobs and enhance forest welfare and ecotourism.

Ministers from the host country, the Republic of Korea, took turns to chair the meeting. Dr. Ryu Kwang-Su, Deputy Minister of the Korea Forest Service, chaired the meeting on the first day (30 Oct), while Dr. Kim Jae-Hyun, Minister of the Korea Forest Service, chaired the meeting on the second day (31 Oct). The list of Heads of Delegations is enclosed in **Annex 1**.

I. OPENING CEREMONY

A. Opening Remarks

by Dr. Ryu Kwang-Su (Chair), Deputy Minister of the Korea Forest Service

- The Chair opened the meeting by referring to the ambitious goal of increasing forest cover in the region by at least 20 million hectares by 2020 as set out in the 2007 Sydney Declaration. He noted that although most APEC member economies have reported increases in forest area as well as forest growing stocks, it should be remembered that global environmental issues such as the increasing severity of climate change, decreasing biodiversity and spread of desertification remain as key threats to forest policies.
- The Chair stressed the important role that the sustainable management of all forest types plays in the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He then asked the meeting to build on the past discussions and activities related to the contributions of forests to social, environmental and economic development, and explore ways to enhance cooperation to improve the effectiveness of forest-related policies and implementations.

B. Congratulatory Speech

by H.E. Mr. Lee Nak-Yon, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea

- The Prime Minister highly commended member economies' work in the preservation and restoration of forests. He also acknowledged their efforts in using this as a means to address climate change issues, such as through the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions.
- Emphasizing that forests play an essential role in dealing with climate change and water scarcity, the Prime Minister called on member economies to work together and increase efforts towards forest cover expansion, the eradication of illegal logging, and the effective conservation and management of forests.
- The Prime Minister recalled that Korea received much assistance from the international community in the process of restoring its forests, and pledged to share Korea's experiences and knowledge in forest restoration with the world.

C. APEC Secretariat Remarks

by Dr. Alan Bollard, Executive Director, APEC Secretariat

- Dr. Alan Bollard briefly introduced the theme of APEC in 2017 as well as the challenges and opportunities that APEC economies are currently facing. He reviewed the development of MMRF and forestry-related Working Groups such as the Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) and relevant achievements since the establishment of these APEC mechanisms.
- He highlighted the importance of the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal and the objectives of combating illegal logging and associated trade. Affirming the special session topics on forest welfare and forest-based job creation, he encouraged members to work with other Working Groups such as HRD in this regard. He appreciated the MMRF efforts to explore post-2020 actions in response to APEC's steps after the Bogor Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

II. PRE-SESSION

A. Adoption of MMRF4 Agenda

- The agenda was adopted without amendment.

B. Keynote Speech

by Mr. Hiroto Mitsugi, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department of the FAO

- Mr. Hiroto Mitsugi extended his gratitude to the Republic of Korea for hosting this event and welcomed that the Republic of Korea has kindly agreed to host the next World Forestry Congress in 2021.
- He spoke about the importance of the forests in terms of securing a sustainable future, dealing with climate change, mitigating the impacts of natural disasters, and enhancing the resilience of communities and livelihood. He went on to note that recent global agreements call for integrated approaches across sectors to pave the way for a more sustainable future.
- He mentioned that sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition was one of the principal policy focus areas of *44th Session of the Committee on World Food Security* that was hosted by the FAO. He then emphasized that recognition for the forest sector is particularly important as it highlights the broad contribution that forestry can make to achieving many of the SDGs, beyond the two forestry-related goals (SDGs 6 and 15).
- He noted that the APEC region has a higher forest cover than the global average and that forest resources have been increasing by 0.4% in the 21 APEC Economies between 2010 and 2015. However, the balance is uneven among countries and natural forests continue to decline while forest degradation presents an increasing challenge. He added that being a top destination of the global forest product trade gives the region an additional responsibility in ensuring that forests are sustainably managed.
- He pointed out that the competing demands of feeding a growing world population as well as maintaining and increasing forest cover to satisfy increasing needs for forest products and services are not entirely incompatible. The FAO's *State of World Forests 2016* demonstrated that agricultural productivity can be increased and food security challenges can be solved without further destroying forest resources.
- He reaffirmed that FAO, with its expertise and experience in these areas, stands ready to provide support to the countries in the region to ensure that our forests will continue to benefit us and our future generations.

III. SESSION 1 –

Efforts to Increase Forest Cover in the APEC Region (APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal)

A. Keynote Speech – Achieving the Sydney Forest Aspirational Goal

by Mr. Lu De, Executive Director, APFNet

- Mr. Lu De recalled that the Sydney APEC Leader's Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Clean Development stated the goal of increasing forest cover in the region by 20 million hectares by 2020 (also known as the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal), which, if achieved, would store approximately 1.4 billion tons of carbon, equivalent to around 11% of annual global emissions. He added that APFNet is mandated to help achieve this goal according to Paragraph 38 of the Beijing Agenda.
- He described the findings of the *Assessment of the Progress Towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal* and highlighted that forest cover in the Asia-Pacific region has increased by 15.45 million hectares from approximately 2.175 billion hectares in 2007 to 2.191 billion hectares in 2015 based on data from the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment in 2015. This indicates that 77% of the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal has been achieved.
- He went on to note that the total forest area and planted forest in APEC economies have increased in majority of the APEC economies, with many economies having specific policies and targets in place aimed at increasing forest cover. He noted that although key challenges such as climate change, forest fires, as well as pests and diseases continue to persist, APEC economies are on track to achieving the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal.

B. Statement Highlights

- **(China)** China's Head of Delegation noted that the Chinese government is focusing on developing an ecological civilization. He also expressed satisfaction that forest cover in the economy has increased to 21.63% as a result of the implementation of key national forestry programs, deepening the extent of forestry reforms, improvements in infrastructure and the development of green industries. He also expressed the view that the MMRF is an effective platform for the promotion of practical forestry cooperation in APEC.
- **(Papua New Guinea)** Papua New Guinea's Head of Delegation highlighted that forests play a crucial role in the economic and social development of his economy and that the utilization of its forest resources must be sustainable and inclusive as 85% of the citizens live in rural areas. He also noted the economy's first *Multi-Purpose National Forest Inventory (MPNFI)*, the recently launched *National REDD+ Strategy (NRS)* as well as the ongoing work to complete its *National Timber Legality standard*.
- **(Peru)** Peru's Head of Delegation delivered a presentation on the economy's efforts to improve forest governance as a means of combating deforestation. He pointed out that Peru expects to decentralize the forest administration as forestry administration in the Amazon region depends on sub-national governments. In spite of ongoing efforts to monitor and implement early warning systems for deforestation and forest fires, he expressed that achieving sustainable forest management remains a key challenge for SERFOR.
- **(Philippines)** Philippines' Head of Delegation presented on the outcomes of the government-led *National Greening Program (2011-2016)*, which aimed to increase forest cover from 22.8% in 2010 to 27.35% in 2015. She also noted that a total of 1.37 billion seedlings of various species have been planted as of 2016, and that the Philippines was also ranked fifth among countries reporting the greatest annual forest area gain in the FAO's *Global Forest Assessment 2015*.
- **(Chinese Taipei)** Chinese Taipei's Head of Delegation, in his presentation, pointed out that forest cover in his economy has increased by 2.18% to 60.71% from 1995-2015. He added that the government will actively encourage participation from civilian communities and businesses in afforestation activities. He also introduced the expected outcomes of the 2018 *Green Network Establishment Project for Ecology Protection*, which represents a

continuation of efforts to reforest landslide areas and afforest coastal areas.

- **(Thailand)** Thailand's Head of Delegation noted that the Thai government aims to increase forest cover to 40% in 2021. With regards to forest-related initiatives, Thailand has been carrying out various forest-related initiatives, improving forest law enforcement and governance arrangements as well as strengthening tenure provisions. He mentioned that the Thai government has also been developing new types of forests that fit changing needs and lifestyles, as well as utilizing advanced information technology to monitor and identify illegal forest activities.
- **(Viet Nam)** Viet Nam's Head of Delegation noted that forest cover in Viet Nam has increased from 33.3% in 2010 to 41.2% in 2016, and that the economy is currently implementing a *Forestry Sector Restructuring Program*, which includes a key objective of increasing forest cover to 43% by 2020. Viet Nam is also placing a strong emphasis on strengthening international cooperation to successfully implement the *Target Program for Sustainable Forest Development (2016-2020)*. He concluded by reaffirming Viet Nam's commitment to realize the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal.
- **(Indonesia)** Indonesia's Head of Delegation, in response to the keynote presentation, clarified that a certain portion of the economy's production forests has been allocated for planned deforestation as there is a need for adequate land to meet the needs of food production and infrastructure development. He indicated that it is stipulated in the economy's basic constitution that natural resources must be utilized for the highest benefits of the people. He concluded that forest cover in Indonesia changes in both directions and the economy is working hard to minimize unplanned deforestation and forest degradation to ensure a positive aggregate change in forest cover.

IV. SESSION 2 –

Cooperation to Combat Illegal Logging and Associated Trade

A. Keynote Speech – Support for Forest Sector Development and Governance in Tropical Countries

by Dr. Gerhard Dieterle, Executive Director, ITTO

- Dr. Dieterle provided the APEC MMRF meeting with the context in which forest law enforcement and governance has to be dealt with. He stressed that this complex issue can only be addressed within the broader context of development, the legal, institutional and policy frameworks and the general state of forests in tropical countries.
- He argued that urgent action is needed to enhance the role of productive forests and landscapes in climate and development action. New scientific research indicates that forest degradation has been vastly underestimated; contributing a much higher share to CO₂ emissions from forests than deforestation and land use change. At the same time, if not addressed, rapid population growth will lead to a dramatic supply deficit of timber and other harvested forest products which could be as high as 6 billion m³/year by 2050.
- Dr. Dieterle's key message to the audience was therefore very clear: We need to look at forest products the same way we look at food. If the rapidly growing demand against a dwindling resource base is not addressed as a matter of urgency more deforestation and forest degradation will happen or compensated by using non-renewable materials. Both have the potential to strongly undermine current efforts to fight climate change and sustainable development.
- He went on to point out that if efforts are scaled up in landscape restoration and more efficient forest management as well in legal and sustainable supply chains at national and international levels, forests and harvested wood products can provide significant contributions to green and inclusive growth, jobs and income as well as to global public good benefits. In this context, the international forest and climate regime should take account in particular, of the huge opportunities of substituting non-renewable construction materials with legally and sustainably harvested wood products. These substituting effects could be higher than all forest-related measures together.

B. Statement Highlights

- **(Australia)** Australia's Head of Delegation described Australia's efforts to provide opportunities for trade in legally harvested timber, including implementing illegal logging laws, producing country specific guidelines, developing fund toolkits to enhance importers' understanding of Australia's laws, providing translated factsheets for key trading partners, working cooperatively through bilateral relationships, as well as recognizing the role of third party certification.
- **(Chile)** Chile's Head of Delegation presented on new measures to combat illegal logging in Chile. In addition to the measures and tools, the National Forest Corporation (CONAF) also employs systems to allow for the total traceability of forest products. He also noted the development of a WEB system for filing denounces of suspected infringements of forest laws.
- **(Indonesia)** Indonesia's Head of Delegation emphasized that strong cooperation among countries is vital to eliminate illegal logging and timber trade. He went on to note that Indonesia only allows the export of legal timber produced from sustainably managed forests. He pointed out that the Indonesia Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS/SVLK) has been acknowledged by the EU in the framework of the FLEGT-VPA, and the government is also working to deepen cooperation with Australia, Canada and Japan in this area.
- **(Japan)** Japan's Head of Delegation agreed that illegal logging and associated trade is a complex issue that requires the cooperation of all economies, and noted that Japan's Clean Wood Act came into force this year. He explained that the Clean Wood Act promotes the use and distribution of legally-harvested wood and wood products throughout entire wood supply

chains by requiring entities to check the legality of wood and wood products they deal with.

- **(Republic of Korea)** Korea's Head of Delegation recognized the ongoing discussions of the Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) and the legislations put in place by other economies. He pointed out that Korea is in the process of introducing legislation on illegal logging and associated trade restrictions and reaffirmed Korea's commitment to ensure that only legally harvested timber is imported.
- **(New Zealand)** New Zealand's Head of Delegation expressed that domestic policies support a significant domestic processing sector and thriving export industry from its sustainable managed forests. She mentioned that assurance systems must be recognized, and further noted that while there is considerable momentum currently to make progress tackling illegal logging, this will not be maintained if participants do not see the rewards of their efforts in terms of market demand and facilitated market access.
- **(The Russian Federation)** Russia's Head of Delegation, acknowledging that regulatory tools are an efficient means of counteracting illegal logging and related trade, noted that a mandatory requirement to mark every piece of valuable wood for their turnover within the country is intended to be introduced in the Russian Federation in 2017. He also spoke on the use of advanced techniques to remotely monitor and counteract illegal felling, efforts to educate the younger generation, as well as the importance of developing international cooperation.
- **(United States)** The United States' Head of Delegation noted that the US government combats illegal logging and associated trade mainly through implementing and enforcing the US Lacey Act, building capacity to help trading partners implement their legality legislations, and investing in innovative technologies to identify and track illegal logging and promote trade in legally-obtained wood products.

V. SPECIAL SESSIONS

A. Special Session 1 – Forest-based Job Creation

Presentation – Creating Good Jobs through Forests

by Mr. Hwang Hyo-Tae, Director-General, Korea Forestry Promotion Institute

- Mr. Hwang Hyo-Tae highlighted that forest policy direction in Korea is shifting its focus from the fostering of forest resources to the development of an economy based on forest resource circulation and the creation of job opportunities. In line with this policy direction, the government set the goal of creating 60,000 jobs in the forestry sector by 2022.
- He noted that the strategy for creating jobs through forests includes providing support for start-ups in the forestry sector, nurturing socio-economic entities, increasing the value of forest resources, and supporting people's return to mountain villages. He then mentioned that the Korea Forestry Promotion Institute will leverage on its core competencies of developing talent and establishing customized support systems, finding best practices and expanding their scopes, as well as collaborating with professional organizations.
- He concluded by proposing several suggestions for cooperation, including supporting international cooperation for the social economy of the forestry sector, forming networks for human exchanges, as well as promoting business exchanges such as educational and consulting programs.

B. Special Session 2 – Ecotourism and Forest Welfare

Presentation – Improvements in Quality of Life through Forests

by Dr. Yoon Young-Kyoon, Director, Korea Forest Welfare Institute

- Dr. Yoon Young-Kyoon described the history and current status of forest in Korea, and noted that in 2015, the economic value of Korea's forests in terms of forest products production and public benefits amount to 8.3 billion USD and 126 billion USD respectively.
- He pointed out that 'Forests for human well-being', one of the six strategies to advance Korea's forest policy, encompasses offering economic, social and emotional support for the improvement of people's well-being by providing forest-based welfare services for individuals and the society.
- One aspect of the strategy is aimed at providing forest welfare services at all the key stages of life, including prenatal education in forests, forest kindergartens for the children in their formative years, forest education centers for children and adolescents, forest trails and leisure mountain sports for young adults, recreational forests and mountain tours for mature adults, forest healing services for the older generation as well as eco-friendly tree burial services. He went on to introduce the forest welfare system, which involves the fostering of forest welfare experts, a registration system for forest welfare businesses, and the distribution of forest welfare service vouchers to the underprivileged.
- He concluded his presentation by noting that forests will function as places for relaxation, residential areas and workplaces in the future.

VI. SESSION 3 – Forests of the Future

A. Keynote Speech

by Dr. Manoel Sobral Filho, Executive Director, UNFF

- Dr. Sobral highlighted that there needs to be sufficient areas for both conservation and production. The simple designation of areas as protected area in some cases is not effective, as it is not accompanied by measures to ensure they are protected from encroachment and unsustainable activities. He stressed that there is a need to promote and achieve sustainable forest management of all forests.
- Recognizing the important role that forests play in dealing with climate change and conserving biodiversity, he reaffirmed that forests are closely linked to many aspects of human development, such as improving livelihoods, supplying freshwater and supporting food security, and can contribute to most, if not all the UN SDGs.
- He pointed out that over two billion people worldwide depend on firewood and charcoal for their cooking and heating needs, and that this dependency, linked to an inability to afford and/or access other energy sources, is expected to remain the greatest cause of forest loss and degradation in many developing countries, particularly in Africa and parts of South Asia.
- He spoke on the *United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests*, which features 6 Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets, including a target to increase forest area globally by 3% (120 million hectares) and eradicate extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people by 2030. He noted the need for a concerted effort to stop deforestation, improve the management of existing forests, and address other threats to forests.
- Describing the forest outlook for the future, Dr. Sobral said that if the current trend of slowing forest loss, combined with forest restoration and plantation efforts continues, achievement of the target to increase forest area by 3% will be feasible.
- In closing, he expressed that while growth and shifts in population, changes in climate, and innovation in knowledge and technology will undoubtedly impact our future forests, forests will continue to be essential to the planet and to people's well-being.

B. Statement Highlights

- **(Australia)** Australia's Head of Delegation noted that the SDGs serve as reminder that the forestry sector does not operate in isolation and hence, the development of forest management policies requires an integrated and cross-sector approach. She noted that Australia is committed to the delivery of sustainable forest management and welcomes strengthened international commitments to achieve this goal. The Australian government has committed to the extension of its *Regional Forest Agreements* to ensure the sustainable management of native forests in Australia, and is working to create a positive trade environment for industries and producers of legal forest products.
- **(Canada)** Canada's Head of Delegation noted that the health of the economy's forests now and in the future is attributed to the important relationship with indigenous peoples; the government's responsibility as a steward of its resources and the related laws in place; the recognition of forest certification systems as a tool to demonstrate sustainable forest management and compliment the forest management system; and research to improve knowledge regarding the impacts of climate change on forests. He pointed out that the recently released *Forest Bioeconomy Framework for Canada* outlines a bold vision and puts forth a comprehensive approach for the utilization of forest fiber, and that Canada is seeking to increase the use of forest biomass throughout the economy to help meet other priorities.
- **(China)** China's Head of Delegation stressed that it is crucial to integrate forestry with the development of APEC economies in the regional and global context. He also suggested developing a post-2020 APEC forestry goal and vision to guide future forestry cooperation in line with the *Paris Agreement on Climate Change*.

- **(Chile)** Chile's Head of Delegation noted that the Chilean government is addressing the challenges of the forestry sector by creating a council to establish plans for the forest sector with the participation of forest stakeholders, implementing a new forest policy (2015-2035), establishing protocols for forest plantations, and implementing the *National Strategy for Climate Change and Vegetation Resources (ENCCRV)* 2017-2025. He described the strategic areas of the new forest policy, which include new institutional arrangements, productivity and economic growth in the forestry sector, equity and social inclusion, as well as protection and restoration of forest lands.
- **(Indonesia)** Indonesia's Head of Delegation noted that one of Indonesia's key interventions is the improvement of production forest management through the mandatory implementation of RIL-C, which is expected to reduce per hectare emissions by more than 40% as compared to conventional logging. He explained that Indonesia has been strengthening legal instruments on peat lands and sustainable forest management criteria will be revised to include peat lands. He also acknowledges that it is possible to achieve economic growth and reduce GHGs emissions at the same time.
- **(Japan)** Japan's Head of Delegation noted that forest resources in Japan have encountered a transition from a period of intensive care to that of maturation. Accordingly, Japan hopes to develop the forestry sector as a key element of its rural economy. He further mentioned that basic policy directions related to forests and forestry have been incorporated into the nation's development policy, which is illustrated by the UN SDGs implementation framework.
- **(Republic of Korea)** Korea's Head of Delegation stressed that there is a need to explore ways in which the forestry sector can contribute to the achievement of the UN SDGs, including those that have a direct relation to the forestry sector as well as those that can be achieved through the role of forests. In this context, he noted that the Korean government is currently promoting policies involving the utilization of forests increase citizen welfare, provide employment opportunities and contribute to economic development.
- **(Malaysia)** Malaysia's Head of Delegation pointed out that in addition to international commitments, Malaysia is also committed to pursue sustainable forest management through the *Heart of Borneo* and *Central Forest Spine* initiatives. Noting that Malaysia's timber sector contributes significantly to its national economy, he pointed out that Malaysia has developed its own *National Timber Certification Scheme* and *Timber Legality Framework*, and has been implementing the *Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme*.
- **(Mexico)** Mexico's Head of Delegation highlighted that the economy has completed 82.2% of its 2012-2018 reforestation plan, which aims to reforest 1 million hectares. He noted that Mexico's strategy in the forestry sector is strongly based on the promotion of sustainable forest management in order to maintain the provision of ecosystem goods and services, and the delivery of social and economic benefits to forest land owners.
- **(Papua New Guinea)** Papua New Guinea's Head of Delegation noted that the economy will continue to maintain the balance between economic development and the sustainable management of forest resources. The economy's first MPNFI will aid the implementation of policies and measures related to climate change mitigation and support the Forest Authority's implementation of a continuous and multi-purpose NFI. He also recognized the importance of supporting partnerships across sectors as well as maintaining engagements with local and international communities to ensure the continuity of relevant initiatives.
- **(Peru)** Peru's Head of Delegation, in addition to focusing on the key themes of the MMRF4, expressed the economy's intention and efforts to promote the establishment of forest plantations for production, protection and forest landscape recovery; recognize and encourage policies to improve investment transparency; develop training programs for sustainable forest management and law enforcement; encourage research and technical cooperation; and recognize the efforts of the private sector and create enabling conditions to

increase its competitiveness.

- **(Philippines)** Philippines' Head of Delegation identified future policy directions in four areas – strengthening forest governance through and expanded and enhanced National Greenign Program; encouraging and enabling investments in forest plantations, agroforestry, ecotourism and for energy purposes; establishing forest certification system to promote sustainable forest management; and enacting priority legislation such as the *Sustainable Forest Management Act* and the *Forest Boundary Delineation Act*.
- **(The Russian Federation)** Russia's Head of Delegation emphasized that the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal is especially important and noted that forest rehabilitation works in Russia will be performed over an area of 1 million hectares in 2017. He also expressed the view that the exchange of experience and knowledge can contribute significantly to the efficient fighting of wildfires as well as combating illegal logging and associated trade.
- **(Chinese Taipei)** Chinese Taipei's Head of Delegation noted that in addition to establishing a green network for linking coasts, farmlands and mountains, the economy will also place an emphasis on promoting sustainable forest management, establishing policies related to the under-forest economy, encouraging the development of green economies for villages, and strengthening collaboration and support for indigenous communities.
- **(Thailand)** Thailand's Head of Delegation pointed out that the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) forms the basis for the economy sustainable development approach and further noted that the Thai government believes that it is equally important to address the needs of the people and the community as it is to protect and preserve forests. He reiterated that building healthy and sustainable forests is a shared responsibility and that the continued cooperation and commitments of all economies is of great importance.
- **(United States)** The United States' Head of Delegation proposed that in economies work together to restore the health and resilience of degraded forest landscapes; persist in combating illegal logging and associated trade, and work towards creating supportive environments for a healthy wood products market; and recognize that forestry budgets will be determined by an increasingly urbanized pool of voters and decision makers.
- **(Viet Nam)** Viet Nam's Head of Delegation reaffirmed the economy's commitment to increase national forest cover to 43% by 2020, increase the quality and value of forest biodiversity, and ensure the rehabilitation and preservation of 15% of degraded forest ecosystems. He also indicated that Viet Nam will pursue the closing of natural forests by eradicating timber harvesting from natural forests; exercising strict control over the land use conversion of natural forests; and enhancing measures to combat the illegal logging of natural forests.
- **(APFNet)** Mr. Zhao Shu-Cong, Chair of the APFNet, reasserted APFNet's commitment to assist member economies with their efforts in achieving the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal and expressed the view that with joint efforts, the goal is very likely to be achieved ahead of time. He highlighted the importance of the MMRF in building political consensus, enhancing policy coordination and promoting regional cooperation, and expressed APFNet's eagerness to collaborate with economies on the ideas and projects inspired by this MMRF.

VII. ADOPTION OF MINISTER'S STATEMENT & CLOSING

A. Adoption of 'The Seoul Statement of the MMRF4'

- The Meeting adopted 'The Seoul Statement of the MMRF4', which contains the key discussion points of the MMRF4. Echoing the views of the Chair, the Viet Nam delegation expressed hopes of the incorporation of the contents of the Statement into the 2017 Joint Ministerial Statement and the Da Nang Declaration.

B. Closing Remarks

by Dr. Kim Jae-Hyun (Chair), Minister of the Korea Forest Service

- The Chair noted that the MMRF4 facilitated the sharing of diverse information and best practices on key issues in the region's forestry sector.
- The Chair thanked all participants in the meeting and expressed his view that the consensus that was reached in 'The Seoul Statement of the MMRF4' would contribute to guiding policy directions and forming the basis for closer cooperation among member economies to ensure sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

- *End of Report* -

Annex 1. List of Heads of Delegations

No	Economy	Head of Delegation	Position & Organization
1	Australia	Ms. Michelle Lauder	Assistant Secretary, Forestry Branch, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
2	Canada	Mr. Eric Matthew Walsh	Ambassador of Canada
3	Chile	Mr. Jose Antonio Cristian Prado Donoso	Ministerial Senior Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture
4	China	Mr. Peng You-Dong	Vice Minister, State Forestry Administration of China
5	Indonesia	Dr. Putera Parthama	Director General, Sustainable Management of Production Forest, Ministry of Environment and Forestry
6	Japan	Mr. Koji Hongo	Director-General, National Forest Management Department, Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
7	Republic of Korea	Mr. Kim Yong-Kwan	Director General, International Affairs Bureau, Korea Forest Service
8	Malaysia	Mr. Mohd Shahnaz Yazid	Head of Strategic Planning and International Unit, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
9	Mexico	Mr. Carlos Vladimir Rubio Nogueurola	Head of Economic and Cooperation Affairs, Embassy of Mexico
10	New Zealand	Mrs. Janet Lowe	Acting Ambassador, New Zealand Embassy
11	Papua New Guinea	Mr. Andrew Yamanea	Ambassador of Papua New Guinea
12	Peru	Mr. Alonso Hector Rizo	Director, SERFOR (National Forest and Wildlife Service)
13	Philippines	Ms. Nonita Caguioa	Assistant Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Forest Management Bureau
14	The Russian Federation	Mr. Mikhail Klinov	Deputy Head, Russian Federal Forestry Agency
15	Chinese Taipei	Mr. Lin Hwa-Ching	Director General, Forestry Bureau of Chinese Taipei
16	Thailand	Mr. Sarun Charoensuwan	Ambassador of the Royal Thai Embassy
17	United States	Mr. Alexander Samuel Moad	Assistant Director, US Forest Service
18	Viet Nam	Mr. Ha Cong Tuan	Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development