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Media advisory

Investing in local communities for sustainable forests

The Asia and the Pacific pre-World Forestry Congress regional meeting on people and forests

In advance of the XIV World Forestry Congress (WFC), which will be held 7-11 September 2015 in Durban, South Africa, RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests and its partners will bring together leaders representing different rights groups from Asia - **indigenous peoples, community forest members, and smallholders** - for a three-day meeting to ensure their voices will be heard at the WFC in South Africa. The regional meeting will bring together more than 20 local leaders representing seven countries – Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam – to discuss forest issues that are priorities from their perspectives. The meeting aims to empower local community members from the region to advocate on why forest decision-makers should invest in them, recognizing that the management of forests by local communities is of benefit on local, national and global levels. *For more information: www.recoftc.org/events/pre-world-forestry-congress-regional-meeting-people-and-forests*

WHAT: The pre-World Forestry Congress regional meeting on people and forests

WHO: Speakers available for interview include:

- **Tint Lwin Thaug**, Executive Director, RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests
- **Trevor Abrahams**, Secretary General, XIV World Forestry Congress
- **Patrick Durst**, Senior Forestry Officer for Asia and the Pacific, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- **Kanoksak Duangkaewroen**, community forestry network leader, Mae Tha Sub-District, Thailand
- And local community representatives from seven countries in Asia

WHERE: KU Home, Kasetsart University (Bangkhen campus), Nonsi Conference Room, 4th Floor, Bangkok, Thailand.

WHEN: Media are invited to the opening session on 8 July from 9:00 to 10:00am, with key speakers available for interview from 10:00 to 10:45am.

This event is organized by RECOFTC and its partners: ASEAN-Korea Forest Cooperation (AFoCO), ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) with support from Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

In partnership with:



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