

Sustainable Wood Use Promotion in Wood Producing Economies

- Japan's Contribution through ITTO -

February 14, 2022
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1. Japan's Contribution to ITTO

- Japan has been contributing to ITTO for the promotion of SFM and development of trade in wood products since its establishment in 1986 as its **host economy**.
- Annual **voluntary contribution** amounts to 93 million yen (appx. \$850,000), as well as 22 million yen (appx. \$200,000) for **general expenses of the Secretariat**, as of FY2021.
- Currently, Japan assists **24 projects and activities in 20 economies** through ITTO, mostly for forest governance and wood legality.

(Recently finalized and current ITTO projects funded by Japan)

- Development of forest resources surveillance system in **Philippines** (2013-2019)
- Development of legality verification system in **Thailand** (2018-2019)
- Institutional development of forest governing authority in **Panama** (2013-2020)
- Conservation of Cempaka tree species in **Indonesia** (2016-2020)
- Improvement of monitoring system by local residents for the prevention of illegal activities in **Mozambique** (2018-)
- Promotion and sustainable use of lesser-used timber species in **Honduras** (2018-)
- Improvement of transparency in wood supply chain in **Guatemala** (2019-)
- Human resource development for confirmation of wood legality in **Congo-basin economies** (2019-)
- Strengthening of plantation forestry in **Costa Rica** (2021-)
- Sustainable forest management through participatory approach in Sarawak, **Malaysia** (2021-)
- **Sustainable wood use promotion in Vietnam (2021-)**

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2. Contribution of Wood Use to “Decarbonized Society”

- **Wood is a renewable natural resource** that can be sustainably produced from properly managed forests.
- Wood use contributes to the realization of “decarbonized society” through its functions of
 - **carbon storage,**
 - **substitution of energy intensive materials, and**
 - **substitution of fossil fuels.**
- Since 2018, ITTO and other international organizations including FAO have been promoting the “Sustainable Wood for Sustainable World (**SW4SW**)” initiative which emphasizes that **sustainable wood use contributes to sustainable development** as well as the achievement of SDGs.

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3. Recovery from COVID-19 in Wood Producing Economies

- **COVID-19 pandemic** reduced wood demand in consuming economies, severely damaging economy of producing economies dependent on exports.
- In November 2020, ITTO proposed the expansion of wood consumption in wood producing economies, in the report “Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on tropical timber production”.
 - “.. **dependence on exports of unprocessed wood products should be reconsidered..**”
 - “.. **domestic consumption has proven to be a stabilizer for tropical timber production in previous economic crises..**”
- **Wood use can contribute to the “green recovery” from the pandemic**, through the realization of “decarbonized society” and economic growth.

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4. Japan's Experience of Wood Use Promotion

- Japan has rich experiences of wood use promotion through **public-private cooperation** (promotional campaigns) and **government policy** (legislations) since 2000s.
- In 2021, the **Act for Wood Use Promotion in Public Building** was revised to expand its scope to include private sector.

(Public-private Cooperation)

- GOJ has been implementing a **national campaign for wood use promotion** since 2005, named “*Kizukai*,” through dissemination of significance of wood use to general public.
- GOJ also assists **private sector initiatives** for wood use, such as the “**Wood Design Award**” to consumer-oriented products/activities related to wood, and “**Wood Education**” for children as well as adults.
- Many large-scale private companies established the “**Wood Change Network**” in 2020, for the promotion of wooden construction and interiors.

(Government Policy)

- GOJ introduced the “**Act on Promotion of Wood Use in Public Buildings**” in 2010, which urges central and local governments to promote wood use in their own buildings for public use. It was **revised in 2021** to expand the scope to include private sector. (Ratio of wooden structure in public buildings increased from: 8.3% in 2010 to 13.8% in 2019.)
- GOJ introduced the “**Feed-in Tariff (FIT)**” system in 2012, which obliges electric power companies to procure electricity of renewable resources including woody biomass at fixed prices. (Volume of woody biomass used for energy increased from 2.92 million m³ in 2014 to 10.38 million m³ in 2019.)

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5. ITTO Project: Sustainable Wood Use Promotion in Vietnam

- In December 2021, Vietnam started an ITTO project “**Promotion of Sustainable Domestic Wood Consumption**” with financial contribution from Japan.
- Given its **dependence on wood products exports** and **growing resources of planted forests**, Vietnam intends to **expand its domestic wood market** through **policy framework improvement** and **promotional activities**, focusing on urban consumers.

(Title) Promotion of Sustainable Domestic Wood Consumption in Vietnam

(Budget) \$361,000 (Japan's contribution: \$339,500)

(Implementing Agency) Vietnam Timber and Forest Products Association (VIFOREST)

(Duration) 24 months (from December 2021)

(Activities)

I. Improvement/Upgrading of policy framework for wood use promotion

- Preparation of **decision/decreed to promote domestic consumption of wood** and consultations with stakeholders
- Develop **strategy/policy to shift from short-term forest plantation to long-term forest management**

II. Demonstration and capacity building for local wood consumption

- Communicate to **promote the use of planted wood as the most environment friendly material**
- **Training/workshops on wood architecture and designing** for university students
- Conduct **contest on the best designs** of wood products
- Demonstration of wooden houses
- Introduce new technique for bio-energy use
- Promote partnership between household wood business, plantation cooperatives and local companies

(* Japan will provide advice for project implementation, taking advantage of its experiences of wood use promotion)

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6. Conclusion

- Sustainable domestic wood use will **alleviate the pressure of deforestation and forest degradation** through the promotion of sustainable management of planted forests in each economy.
- Sustainable domestic wood use will also **contribute to economic growth** through the development of domestic wood related industry and market.
- The key to sustainable domestic wood use would be the **understanding of growing urban population with strong purchasing power** on the advantages of wood as a sustainable material.

- Japan would like to **further promote the initiative of sustainable wood use in other wood producing economies** through our contribution to ITTO this year.