

MEMBERS'
BULLETIN**July 2009****No 6****IN THIS ISSUE:**

- ▶ **Welcome**
- ▶ **FWPA report reviewing timber procurement mechanisms available**
- ▶ **Timber legal sourcing code of conduct project**
- ▶ **Code of conduct project workshops**
- ▶ **Asia Pacific Forestry Skills and Capacity Building, second funding round**
- ▶ **Other news**

Welcome

This members' news bulletin is designed to keep you, as a member of the ATIF up-to-date with activities being directed by the ATIF Board. This issue reports on major areas of effort since the last *Members' Bulletin* in May 2009. Since the last bulletin email-based *Member's Updates* have been initiated to keep members informed about ongoing activities on a more regular basis. If member companies would like additional recipients included in the *Member's Update* email address list please advise.

FWPA report reviewing timber procurement mechanisms available

The ATIF-sponsored project reviewing legality mechanisms has now been completed. The project report is available on the Forest and Wood Products Australia website: www.fwpa.com.au under Latest Reports (*International review of timber procurement mechanisms for the development of a legality framework for Australia*).

Timber legal sourcing code of conduct project

As reported previously, the ATIF is participating in the TDA-lead project to develop a generic draft code of conduct. As part of the project an in-depth workshop about development of a code related to importation and trade of legally-verified wood-based products was held in Sydney.

The workshop, with over 50 participants from across the country, represented diverse wood-based industry sectors including paper, sawn timber, panels, engineered wood, windows, doors, joinery, flooring and furniture.

The independently facilitated workshop was conducted to assist in understanding the drivers for an industry code of conduct and for the project team developing the code to understand the concerns and get feedback from the industry.

TDA's project manager Stephen Mitchell confirmed that legality of forest harvesting and trade in forest-based products is a complex issue. "The participation from industry representatives from such diverse sectors will assist the development of a cross sectoral generic code of conduct directed at ensuring that all wood products are from legally harvested and traded sources."



“A code will incorporate and build on existing industry codes and company procurement policies and on related codes from non-wood sectors. It will include appropriate objectives, rules and administration arrangements for verifying that wood-based products are obtained from legally harvested and traded sources.”

He added that helpful direction was provided by participants on the tasks required to keep development of the code moving forward. “Workshop participants included Australian Government representatives from the Australian Customs Service and Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry who informed the meeting about how the code of conduct fitted within a raft of projects and the present Regulatory Impact Statement consultation funded by the Government to implement Government policy.”

Code of conduct project workshops

As part of the code of conduct project, further industry consultation is scheduled. Although details are yet to be finalised workshops are planned for Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth on 24, 25 and 27 of August respectively. Venues and further information will be provided to ATIF members.

Asia Pacific Forestry Skills and Capacity Building, second funding round

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke announced the second round of funding under the Asia Pacific Forestry Skills and Capacity Building Program on 28 July. This funding round will involve \$12.1 million in new projects to improve forest management and reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

In his media release the Minister advised that the first round of funding last year supported 15 projects in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Vietnam, Fiji and the Solomon Islands. He said the funding was part of the Government's \$200 million International Forest Carbon Initiative aiming to show that reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries can be an equitable and effective part of a post-2012 global climate change agreement.

"This funding will help organisations work together to improve the certification of legally-sourced timber, forest management, law enforcement and regulation," he said.

Applications under Phase II of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Skills and Capacity Building Program will close on Tuesday 8 September 2009. ATIF is holding discussions with other relevant parties in relation to possible projects that might qualify under the funding criteria (see www.daff.gov.au/forestry/international).

Other news

- ▶ The next ATIF Board meeting will be held in Adelaide in September or October. Discussions are underway with Board Member David Eldridge (Ridgewood Timber) and some South Australian members over possible interaction with local timber importers and others in the supply chain.
- ▶ Dialogue is continuing with Customs regarding tariff policy and rates in relation to free trade and other bilateral trade initiatives.