

# **Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG): An Electronic Roundtable**

**20 May – 15 July 2001**

We would like to announce the Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG): An Electronic Roundtable (May 30 - July 15), an Internet forum that seeks to connect practitioners from around the world as well as to facilitate the sharing of their knowledge and experience. We invite you to actively participate in this event and enrich the discussion with your thoughts. Participation information follows.

## **Objective**

The problems of illegal logging and forest crimes are global and serious and cover a wide range of activities. Studies find significant negative impacts on economic revenues and ecosystem health. Furthermore, illegal acts generally harm the most vulnerable sections of society, often those dependent on forest resources for their livelihoods. While reliable statistics are scarce, as much as 15 percent of the global timber trade is estimated to involve illegalities and corrupt practices.

Given the complexity and the institutional nature of the problem it calls for greater participation and discussion between all interested parties (government, private sector, NGOs). This roundtable seeks to provide a venue. We hope this would foster a process of building and strengthening sound law enforcement approaches and greater cooperation among various stakeholders within and across nations. While information regarding the extent and scope of forest crimes is useful in understanding the criticality of these issues the purpose of this seminar is to draw out examples of strategies of law enforcement, policy reforms and to focus on formulating solutions. As there are a number of activities ongoing in the East Asia region in this regard a special emphasis is placed on that region. However, the discussion is by no means limited to East Asia as the issues are of universal concern and apply as significantly to other geographic regions.

## **Issues**

The issues for discussion include: (1) Governance; (2) Forest Policy; (3) Forest Law Enforcement and Forest Management; and (4) Forest Law Enforcement Operations (Prevention, Detection and Suppression). For more information, please see the overview paper by Contreras Hermosilla (2001) 'Forest Law Enforcement', Working Paper, World Bank Institute Environment and Natural Resource Division

## **Format**

The electronic roundtable will run for approximately 6 weeks with an opening plenary featuring broad and general exchange on themes followed by a sequential discussion of specific topics, tentatively listed below. The format is flexible and depending on levels of interest will be adjusted to allocate time efficiently. This is a moderated discussion space.

Any message that is posted will be sent to the moderator first who will forward it to the entire group (and if necessary edit it first). Weekly summaries will be posted.

1. Welcome and Plenary (General Discussion of Issues) – 30 May 30 to 1 June
  2. Topic I: Governance – 4-8 June
  3. Topic II: Forest Policy – 11-15 June
  4. Topic III: Forest Law Enforcement and Forest Management – 18-22 June
  5. Topic IV: Forest Law Enforcement Operations (Prevention, Detection and Suppression) – 25-29 June
  6. Topic V: The case of East Asia – 2-13 July
  7. Wrap-up and Final Summary – 14-15 July
- (Additional details will be provided on each of the above 5 topics later to help guide the discussions)

### **How to Join**

Please click on the link below to complete the participant information section and to register for the seminar:

<http://wbweb4.worldbank.org/nars/eWorkSpace/ews004/GroupWare/registration.asp>

After you have registered you can go to the following website to join in the discussions:

<http://wbweb4.worldbank.org/nars/eWorkSpace/eWS004/mydevforum1.asp>

If you do not have access to the Internet you may alternatively, fill out the Participant Information Sheet and return it to Stefan Sittig via email at: [ssittig@worldbank.org](mailto:ssittig@worldbank.org) or via fax at: + 1 202 676 0977 and you will be registered.

After registration, you will receive email notification and information to access the discussion space and can begin posting! We look forward to your active participation.