

## Media Release

For Immediate Release

### **The inaugural FSC Asia Pacific Business Forum successfully held in Hanoi, Vietnam**

***FSC benefits both environment and businesses, says Deputy Director General of the Vietnam Forestry Administration***

**(13 Nov 2017, Hanoi, Vietnam)** The demand for sourcing forestry products responsibly from the Asia Pacific region has increased exponentially. To bridge the gap between sourcing and supplying certified forestry products, Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC™) Asia Pacific held the first regional business forum entitled “Diversifying your FSC Supply: Connecting Suppliers and Buyers” at Sheraton Hanoi Hotel, Vietnam on 8 November 2017.

The forum presented an exclusive and excellent opportunity for the FSC certificate holders in the APAC region to connect themselves to local and international buyers, and vice versa, while promoting their range of FSC labelled products available in the region. The event attracted more than 100 FSC certificate holders across the region from countries such as Vietnam, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and India to attend.

Mr Cao Chi Cong, Deputy General Director of the Vietnam Administration of Forestry from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development inaugurated the forum with an opening address about the importance of sustainable forestry in Vietnam and the mutual benefits that FSC can bring to both environment and businesses.

The forum also featured representatives from industry leaders on sourcing responsible forest products, such as Tetra Pak, Kimberly-Clark and Fuji Xerox, to share their case studies and insights on using FSC as a procurement requirement and opportunities and challenges that arise with the growing market demand. Representatives from FSC and WWF also talked about the industry trend of the increasing demand for FSC-certified rubber, while speakers from Olam, Ikea and Scancom shared their experience on the growing demand of sourcing FSC certified timber in Asia Pacific, particularly on up-and-coming solid wood timber species and market trends.

Adam Beamount, the Regional Director of FSC Asia Pacific, says the great turnout is a confidence boost to FSC's work in Asia Pacific. “With more than a hundred representatives ranging from suppliers, buyers, traders and manufacturers across a great variety of fields, from Paper, Packaging to Timber, Constructions and Furniture, it is evident that FSC certification is a great solution to fulfil the ongoing market demand for sustainable forest products,” he adds. “This is an encouraging sign for market-driven sustainable forest management, and we are looking forward to working further with the governments and the businesses in the region.”

Nearly half of Vietnam's land is covered by forests, and among them, 6.9 million hectares are productive forests. As one of the major natural resources of Vietnam, it produces major timber products such as acacia, bamboos, eucalyptus and rubber. To halt deforestation, it is imminent for those area to be sustainably



managed. Besides working with businesses, FSC is currently engaging with stakeholders, NGO partners and the Vietnamese government to develop the National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS).

### About FSC

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a global not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting responsible forest management around the world. As the world's most trusted sustainable forest management solution, FSC certification ensures forests products are responsibly managed and harvested, enables businesses and consumers to make informed choices about the forest products they buy, and create positive change to keep our forests healthy for generations to come. Officially established in 1994, FSC operates in 80 countries around the world. Today, there are 199 million hectares of forests certified to the FSC standard globally, with 11 million of those in Asia Pacific. As well, there are more than 10,000 Chain of Custody (CoC) certificates in the region. <http://blogapac.fsc.org>

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### Notes to the Editors

- **APAC Context:** Asia and the Pacific is covered by 740 million hectares of forests, accounting for 26 percent of the region's land area, and 18 percent of global forest cover. The annual value of trade in primary forest products in the region exceeds US\$90 billion.
- **Types of Certification:** FSC scheme covers Forest Management (FM) which sets standards for responsible management of natural and plantation forests, and Chain of Custody (CoC) Certification, which applies to those (mainly companies) who process, trade or manufacture FSC-certified wood or derived materials.
- **Purpose of Certification:** FSC CoC certification verifies that FSC-certified material has been identified and separated from non-certified and non-controlled material as it makes its way along the supply chain with traceability. Besides ensuring the material are sourced from responsibly managed forests, it also covers labour rights and health and safety of workers as supply chain integrity.
- **Forest Management:** FSC's FM standards are set through our three chambers of membership representing economic, social and environmental interests. Across the 112 countries we operate, these standards follow the same global principles and criteria set by FSC's membership. All FSC country standards contain indicators set by local country based stakeholders representing the three chambers. FSC standards are therefore unique, both global consistent and locally relevant.