

## **AUSTRALIAN FOREST INDUSTRIES DELEGATION AT POZNAN CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS, 1-12 DECEMBER 2008**

### ***About the Poznan Climate Change Negotiations, 1-12 December 2008***

International negotiations on climate change are underway in Poznan, Poland. The negotiations are the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of all the countries who have signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the parent treaty of the Kyoto Protocol.

The Poznan meeting is the midway point in a two year process to develop a long-term international framework to address climate change from 2012 when the Kyoto Protocol expires. The 'Bali Action Plan', agreed at negotiations in Bali in December 2007 also agreed to negotiate a 'shared vision' on long term cooperative action on climate change. Enhanced action on mitigating and adapting to climate change and support for financing and technology development and transfer were identified as key issues underpinning cooperative action.

The outcome of these negotiation activities is scheduled to be adopted at the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the parties to the UNFCCC in Copenhagen in December 2009.

There are two key forestry issues being discussed in Poznan – rules for land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) in the Kyoto Protocol and a possible approach under the UNFCCC to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) in developing countries.

LULUCF rules dictate Australia's accounting and reporting responsibilities for forests under the Kyoto Protocol and they underpin the rules for forestry in Australia's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

The negotiations on forestry in Poznan and leading up to Copenhagen are important for maximising the capacity of forests and forestry in Australia to mitigate climate change. Effective arrangements to promote sustainable forest management and reduce deforestation must be a priority. In particular, there is a need for appropriate recognition of the carbon stored in wood products and of biomass for renewable energy.

We need international rules which reduce deforestation and provide incentives for the establishment of new forest areas and the sustainable management of existing forest.

### ***Australian Forest Industries Delegation at Poznan***

Australian forest industries delegation representatives are participating in the negotiations on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which are being held in Poznan, Poland on 1-12 December 2008.

These representatives include Allan Hansard, Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) and Lisa Marty, Deputy Director of the Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI). Representatives of the CFMEU are also participating.

Forest and Wood Products Australia and Forestworks, the industry council for skills and learning are key supporters of the Australian forest industries' participation at the negotiations.

The representatives from Australia's forest industries aim to:

- Encourage the development of international rules for forest management and forestry which improve the capacity of forests to be recognised for their role in storing carbon, support sustainable forestry management and encourage the use of sustainably produced wood products over high emission materials;
- Provide information to international participants about how forests in Australia are managed responsibly and provide carbon sinks to offset Australia's greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Promote incentives to reduce deforestation and build capacity for sustainable forest management in the Asia Pacific region.

Representatives from Australia's forest industries are undertaking three events at the Poznan conference:

1. A presentation on Sustainable forestry for climate change, employment and the community;
2. An exhibit at the conference venue on sustainable forest management activities in Australia; and
3. An exhibition at the conference's Forestry Day event. This exhibition will promote sustainable forest management in Australia and Australia's role in building capacity for reducing deforestation and implementing sustainable forest management in the Asia Pacific region.

### ***Australian Forest Industries Event on Sustainable Forest Management in Australia and the Pacific***

On 5 December 2008, representatives of Australia's forest industries presented Australia's sustainable forest management credentials and experience in supporting sustainable forest management in the Asia Pacific region.

- Tim Woods, Director of Fitzpatrick Woods Consulting, presented Australia's experience in projects which are building capacity for sustainable forest management outcomes in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands under the Australian Government's Asia Pacific Skills and Capacity Building Program.

- Allan Hansard, CEO of NAFI, described Australia's framework for sustainable forest management and the role of forests and the forestry sector in Australia in storing carbon, including the carbon benefits of wood products and bioenergy.
- Dr Bob Smith, resource economist and forestry expert, provided insight and lessons from Australia's experience in supporting sustainable forest management activities in South East Asia and the Pacific.
- Lisa Marty, Deputy Director of VAFI, discussed the role of forest certification as a measure of sustainable forest certification as well as its limitations in implementation and scope and the need for a capacity building and cooperative approach to sustainable forest management.

Sustainable forest management is fundamental to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) in developing countries and to supporting the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities.

Australia's forest industries and other groups including The Forest Dialogue, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and many official delegations have called for any agreement on REDD to include sustainable forest management.

Australia's forest industries' event at the UNFCCC conference was sponsored by ForestWorks Learning and Skills Development and supported by Forest and Wood Products Australia.

Please visit the UNFCCC website to access the presentation:  
[http://regserver.unfccc.int/seors/reports/events\\_list.html](http://regserver.unfccc.int/seors/reports/events_list.html)

### ***Australia's forest industries at UNFCCC Forest Day***

Representatives of Australia's forest industries participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> UNFCCC Forest Day, hosted by the Government of Poland. The event was supported by a range of organisations including the Center for International Forestry Research and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

Australia's forest industries hosted an exhibit at the event, which provided material on Australia's framework for sustainable forest management and the climate change credentials of Australia's forestry industry, wood products and bioenergy.

In particular, the exhibit showcased:

- Australia's State of the Forests Report 2008;
- Forest and Wood Products Australia's Wood Naturally Campaign and the benefits of wood products;
- ForestWorks' skills, training and learning materials and services; and
- The Australian Forestry Standard forest certification scheme.



The exhibit was supported by a range of forest industry organisations including ForestWorks, the CFMEU, Forest and Wood Products Australia, the National Association of Forest Industries and the Victorian Association of Forest Industries.

The exhibit provided an opportunity to promote sustainable forest management in Australia, the climate change benefits of using wood products and wood waste for bioenergy and Australia's role in building capacity for reducing deforestation and implementing sustainable forest management in the Asia Pacific region.

There was considerable interest in the exhibit from forestry agencies from other countries, researchers and international and non-governmental organisations.

There were also a range of events at Forest Day, focusing on strategies and activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and sustainable forest management.

Also at Forest Day, the Australian Government jointly with the Indonesian Government gave a presentation on the Indonesia-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership and the Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership to demonstrate activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Kalimantan, Indonesia.