



Media Release

Date: 5 December 2008

UN Climate Change Negotiations

Australia Assists Pacific Island Nations with Forest Sustainability

Australia is leading the way in demonstrating to the world how sustainable forest management can deliver carbon outcomes as well as meeting important economic and social development issues.

Australia's expertise in sustainable forest management is also being used to assist Australia's Pacific Island neighbours in building skills and capacity for sustainable forest management as an effective means of reducing emissions from deforestation.

At a side event at the United Nations climate change negotiations, Australia's forest industries will showcase the role Australia is playing to assist Pacific Island nations to avoid deforestation and the consequent CO₂ emissions.

CEO of the National Association of Forest Industries, Mr Allan Hansard, will be providing a special address on Australia's contribution to building capacity for sustainable forest management in the Asia Pacific region, along with other representatives of the Australian forest industries, including the CFMEU.

"Under the Asia Pacific Forestry Skills and Capacity Building Program, Australia's forest industry is assisting indigenous landowners, forest workers and managers, and governments to jointly improve forest management practices and outcomes," Mr Hansard said.

'Lock- up and leave' approaches to forest degradation can result in forest-dependent communities losing access to the forests that have provided a home and livelihood to them for centuries.

Sustainable forest management allows forest-dependent communities to retain the traditional contact with their forests while also obtaining a sustainable economic future.

"Just like Australians, the people of the Pacific Islands have a right to develop sustainable industries and jobs and improve their standards of living. Sustainable forest management is key to that, as well as to increasing the carbon stored in well managed forests and wood products," Mr Hansard said.

In Poznan, Australia's sustainably managed forest industry is conducting the following events:

- Side event - Presentation on the role of sustainable forest management in reducing deforestation and providing sustainable livelihoods for forest dependant communities – Friday 5th December
- Exhibition at the Forest Day – Saturday 6th December
- Exhibition of Australia's sustainable forest management – ongoing

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These events are sponsored by ForestWorks, the Australian industry's education and training organisation and Forest and Wood Products Australia. ForestWorks was the major sponsor of the 2008 Asia Pacific Forest Industries Climate Change Conference and is the lead implementation partner for the Capacity Building Project to be showcased at the side event.

Details of the side event are:

Friday 5th December
11.00 – 12.30
White Tail Eagle Room

Media are welcome to attend

[ENDS]

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