

### SESSION 3: MAJOR UNDERLYING CAUSES OF FOREST LOSS AND POLICY CHANGES

Chair : Dr. Masanobu Yamane (IGES)

Rapporteur: Mr. Martinus Nanang (IGES)

1. Dr. Masanobu Yamane, research fellow of IGES, chaired the third session. Dr. Yamane gave a brief explanation of the session, which covered four presentations including the Russian Far East, Russia, Mekong region and Indonesia, with special reference to the major causes of forest loss and political countermeasures.
2. Prof. Dr. Alexander Sheingauz from the Far East Economic Research Institute, Russia, reviewed current forest policy in the Russian Far East. The abundance of forest resources is the source of raw materials and a key factor for the regional economic stability. He presented and described the shift within legislative, institutional, financial, investment and other systems of the regional forest complex. He also talked about the policy situation, international ecological programs in the RFE and efforts of local forestry services. There is an increase in forest area, but gradual worsening of forest structure. The negative factors are commercial logging and fire. The regional forest sector is very complex and the future direction of policy is uncertain. In answering a question from Mr. Hidayat of Indonesia about deforestation in Siberia, Sheingauz emphasized that the RFE is not losing forests today, but diversity in its forest products. Forest quality is degraded but areas are not deforested. Forest regeneration is the responsibility of the forest services (federal and local governments).
3. Prof. Dr. Philip Hirsch, from the University of Sydney in Australia, presented the underlying causes of deforestation in the Mekong Region, Indochina. This region includes Thailand, Burma, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. According to him forest cover in mainland SE Asia has declined rapidly in the past generation, especially in Thailand and Vietnam. In 1970 North and Northeast Thailand was forested but they were cleared before 1990. In 1970 Laos, Central Vietnam and Cambodia were subject to defoliation, and in 1990 those areas were largely deforested and in Lao P.D.R. forests have suffered degradation. In 1970 there were limited cleared areas, but by 1990 the cultivated area had extended considerably. The causes of deforestation should be seen case by case. In analyzing the causes of the deforestation he follows an analytical framework where he clearly distinguished ultimate causes (underlying, background) and proximate (directly observed) causes, structural (development and contextual) and instrumental (agent/culprit, purpose, means). He also talked about the role of national forest policy and points of intervention from international communities.
4. The presentation of Mr. Khampha Chanthirath from FORCAP, Lao-Japan Forestry Cooperation Unit, Lao P. D R., depicted the process of change in forest cover of Lao P.D.R since 1940. Then he talked about the causes of deforestation such as slash and burn, forest fire, illegal cutting, accelerated logging and inappropriate systems of forest utilization. He also talked about policy related issues in the forestry sector such as national biodiversity conservation area, land and forested land allocation, afforestation, stabilization of shifting cultivation and the rights of traditional use of forest products. He also talked about participatory approaches in degraded areas, and their weaknesses and strengths. Weaknesses: low capacity of local officers, unequal distribution of benefits, lack of knowledge, skill of PSS participants, can only be applied in small areas, irregular monitoring and evaluation, unclear forest policy. Strengths: it provides development in remote areas, resources for local people, stabilization of shifting cultivation, boundaries are defined. Mr. M. Nanang, of IGES, wondered why legal cutting was not mentioned as a cause of deforestation. Mr. Chanthirath answered that legal cutting is easy to control, while illegal cutting is difficult to control.
5. Ms. Mia Siscawati, the fourth presenter, from the Indonesian Institute for Forest and Environment, Indonesia, explained the changes in forest cover in Indonesia during the past 30 years. In 1966 75

percent of the land was forested, but now it is only 28 percent. She also said that Basic Forestry Law (BFL) and Basic Mining Law (BML) are causes of deforestation. There is a shift from timber cutting to plantation, land and resources tenure, and a timber centered forestry paradigm. In talking about forestry reform, i.e. the drafting of the New Forestry law, the process is not transparent. It is exclusive. The shortcomings of the new forestry bill draft are that there is no change from the BFL; there is a continuation of state control; it is timber centered; it ignores customary land; there is contradiction with the constitution, and it does not consider socio-economic conditions caused by forest degradation.

6. Mr. Yoichi Kuroda, IGES, reported on the results of the global and regional NGO workshops on the IFF-NGO/UC process. NGOs emphasized the role of trade and consumption as the causes of deforestation, referring to the linkage between consumers' and suppliers' countries. However, IFF excludes the role of trade and consumption. He also talked about the importance of taking into account the world system theory, in which national structure is a part, in analyzing the causes of deforestation.
7. Dr. Yamane, Chairperson of the session, stressed the importance of collaboration among countries and collaborators, because this research covers a very wide issue. In this case this workshop was very useful and keeping close relations is necessary in an effort to develop a strategy in addressing the causes of deforestation.
8. Mr. Yosei Oikawa from Kyoto University asked, "What is the phenomenon of deforestation?" He said that from the viewpoint of agriculture deforestation may be seen as development and not deforestation. No answers were given to this question because of a lack of time.