

TI-M Forest Governance Integrity (FGI) Project

The Transparency International Malaysia Forest Governance Integrity (FGI) Project commenced as a regional project in 2009, with China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vietnam as participating countries. The project serves as a preliminary step to contribute to improved and strengthened transparency, integrity and accountability of forest governance systems and related target groups in national, transnational and sub-national forest sector governance in Asia Pacific.

During 2009-2010, FGI Project team had carried out an extensive research and analysis of corruption risks in forestry chains of regulation, licensing, timber supply, revenue, reporting and enforcement. From 2011 till the current phase (Phase 3- 2013-2014) of project, the Royal Norwegian Embassy-Malaysia has generously provided substantial amount of required funds to enable TI- M FGI to spearhead the project. TI-M is deeply appreciative of all the support that has been provided by the Royal Norwegian Embassy-Malaysia for the past few years. Their funding has enabled TI-M FGI to work towards diffusing corruption and promoting good governance in the forestry sector in Malaysia.

Visit by Postgraduate Students from Malaysian Anti- Corruption Academy (MACA)

About 35 postgraduate students currently pursuing courses in MACA and four lecturers visited Transparency International-Malaysia (TI-M) to learn about the anti-corruption activities and advocacies conducted by TI-M.

They were briefed by the Business Integrity Programme and the Forest Governance Integrity Programme managers. The participants showed a keen interest in TI-M's programmes and took part in a lively discussion on many aspects of governance and advocacy.



TI-M President with the students from MACA

Forest Watch Task Force Meeting (Peninsular Malaysia)

The 8th Task Force Meeting was held at Transparency International Malaysia's office on 1 October 2013. A total of nine participants attended the meeting, comprising senior officers from the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia Headquarters, Institute of Foresters Malaysia (IRIM), Wildlife Department of Peninsular Malaysia and Malaysia Anti-Corruption Council (MACC). The meeting reviewed the reports retrieved from forest watch website: www.ti-malaysia-forestwatch.org.my. Two new reports received were from the State of Selangor - Bukit Gasing and Puchong.

The two reports will be reviewed by the Forestry Department and feedback to be provided at the next meeting. The Task Force was informed that there would be more engagements with NGOs and that TI-M FGI project will encourage the public to submit more reports.



TI-M FGI-Forest Watch Task Force team has requested for follow-up information from Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia on the reports posted by the public.

Introduction to Green Zone Project and Meeting with Coalition Partners

An introduction on Green Zone Project to discuss on strategic partnership and coalition building with other TI-M coalition partners was held at Shah's Village Hotel on 5 October 2013. The main objective of the Green Zone Project is to create a mechanism where the public, government and non-government agencies can work together to improve and maintain the current ecological state in various areas and create awareness of forest governance while promoting anti-corruption and preparing tools for the forestry sector. Urbanites will be drawn to participate in Voluntary Forest Monitors (VFMs) activities and be informed of anti-corruption tools and that can assist in forest governance



TI-M FGI Project team with the coalition members

A total of 20 participants from the Federation of Malaysia Consumer Associations (FOMCA), Institute of Foresters (IRIM), Pertubuhan Perlindungan Khazanah Alam (PEKA), Southeast Asia Council for Food Security and Fair Trade (SEACON), The Malaysians for Free and Fair Elections (MAFREL), EcoWarriors Malaysia, Bioversity International and representatives of indigenous people attended the meeting. The main

objective of the meeting was to enlighten FGI coalition partners on the Green Zone Project and have discussions with them. The meeting also wanted feedback on the proposed framework of the Green Zone project and to establish cooperation and partnerships with coalition partners.

Meeting with Sabah Forestry Department

An introduction to Transparency International - Malaysia (TI-M) Forest Governance Integrity (FGI) Programme and Forest Watch Initiative was given to the officials of Sabah Forestry Department on 7 October 2013. A total number of 16 officers from the Forestry Department attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by two deputy directors of Sabah Forestry Department. There was positive feedback from the Sabah Forestry Department and it was agreed that a task force will be formed for the Forest Watch Initiative.



From left: Nurahim Hj Abd.Rahim (MACC Sabah), Augustine Tuuga (Sabah Wildlife Department), Fidelis Edwin Bajau (Sabah Forestry Department), Dato' Baharuddin Ghazali (Institute of Forester Malaysia), Frederick Kugan (Sabah Forestry Department), Victor Soosai (Transparency International-Malaysia)

The Terms of Reference for the Forest Watch Task Force in Sabah will be drafted and sent to Sabah Forestry Department and others relevant agencies to be reviewed.

Meeting with Sabah NGOs

A meeting with NGOs in Sabah was held at Cititel Express, Kota Kinabalu on 8 October 2013. A total number of 19 participants attended the meeting and gave their views and suggestions on the Forest Watch Initiative that will be launched in Sabah in the near future.



TI-M FGI Project team with the coalition NGOs in Sabah

Meeting with Sarawak Forestry Department

A Second Task Force meeting with the officials of Sarawak Forestry Department was held on 9 October, 2013. A total number of 23 participants attended the meeting. The participants were given a briefing by the Department on the status of the forestry sector in Sarawak. TI-M updated the participants on the current status of the FGI Project and Forest Watch Programme. The Forest Watch Mobile Application was also introduced to the participants. TI-M FGI team highlighted that there

will be more engagements with Sarawak Forestry Department and other NGO's. TI-M FGI will provide a platform for more dialogues between the Government agencies and the NGOs in Sarawak.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being prepared for the Forest Watch Project Task Force in Sarawak. Sarawak Forestry Department will discuss with their relevant ministry and agencies on the signing of the final MOU. The FGI Project in Sarawak will look at having more events and collaborative partnerships with the Forestry Department.



From left: Hamden B.Mohammed (Sarawak Forestry Department), Dr.Pola Singh (Transparency International Malaysia), Hj Wan Shardini Wan Salleh and Hi Tow Peck (Sarawak Forestry Department)

Meeting with Sarawak NGOs

A meeting with the Sarawak's NGOs was held at Grand Continental Hotel, Kuching on 9 October 2013. The meeting was attended by 17 participants. The current status of the Forest Watch Project was presented to the participants. The Forest Watch Mobile application was also introduced to the participants. Participants were asked to provide their views on the Forest Watch Project. Suggestions by participants included on how to increase the number of Forest Watch reports in Sarawak.

TI-M FGI will be co-organising a workshop/forum with the Forestry Department and NGOs in Sarawak to understand issues relating to forest governance. There is also a need to identify threatened sites and map out the locations of the sites in Sarawak.



TI-M FGI Project team with the coalition NGOs in Sarawak

TI-Madagascar's official visit to Malaysia

Executive Director of Transparency International-Madagascar, Mr Florent Andriamahavonjy, visited TI-Malaysia to study the implementation of the FGI project in Malaysia. This was to provide Mr Florent an idea on the proposal of implementing FGI project in Madagascar. A detailed introduction on FGI together with the latest mobile applications used in Forest Watch project was presented to Mr. Florent.



FGI team with Mr Florent Andriamahavonjy (third from left)

A discussion was held with Dato' Khairi, Director, Forestry Department (FD) Enforcement Division and his officers on FD's enforcement mechanism on 23 October, 2013. A total number of six officers from the Enforcement Division attended the discussion. Dato' Khairi and his team shared their experiences on forest governance efforts in Malaysia, particularly on forest offences. Records show that the number of forest offences is declining with FD aiming zero illegal logging cases by 2016.



Discussion at Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia

On the same day, TI-M participated in a field trip to Forest Reserve Sungai Tekala, where a briefing was given by the District Forestry Officer of Selangor Tengah, Mr Awang Shaffie, on the management and monitoring of Forest Reserve Sungai Tekala. Mr. Awang shared the information and resources about Malaysia's medicinal plants and other forest resources with Mr Florent.



FGI team with the District Forestry Officer of Selangor Tengah, Mr Awang Shaffie (Second from left).

On 24 October 2013, FGI team and Mr Florent visited the Malaysia Anti-Corruption Academy (MACA). A total number of seven officers from MACA attended the meeting. Mr Ganason, the Deputy Director of MACA gave a briefing on the training modules available and its related courses on anti-corruption. A tour of the facilities at MACA showed the various facilities available and how training is being conducted.



FGI team with Mr Ganason (Fourth from left) at MACA

If required, there will a follow-up and assistance to TI- Madagascar with regards to their requirement for the implementation of the FGI project in Madagascar. Mr Florent highlighted that if FGI project did materialize in Madagascar it will start with grassroot level by educating and providing information to the public on what is going on with regards to forestry in the country.

Appointment of Project Coordinators in Sabah and Sarawak and FGI Consultant Dr Razali

TI-M has appointed two FGI coordinators, Marathamuthu Suppanainar for Sabah and Krystle Amanda Rabai Nasip for Sarawak. They will be responsible to monitor the management of forests in East Malaysia. Krystle, hailing from Kuching, holds a Master's Degree in Science from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) majoring in Agrotechnology, while Marathamuthu has been an active member of the Sabah Environmental Protection Association

(SEPA) since 1989, where he later served as an Exco member, vice-president and secretary-general, before becoming an advisor to the association. He is also a member of the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) since 2008, and became the Exco member of MNS-Sabah from 2008-11. Since 2010, he was picked as a National Council Member of MNS.

Dr Razali bin Abdul Kader, who was formerly the Chairman/Senior Consultant of K-Spatial Sdn Bhd, a geospatial technology service provider company, has joined TI-M FGI team as a consultant on 1st November. He has authored/co-authored over 80 articles for journals and conferences, and travelled widely in the course of conducting wood-based business, attending conferences and trade exhibitions.

Facts on Forests in Malaysia

The total land under natural forest in Malaysia is estimated to be 18 million hectares in 2011, covering 54.5% of the land area. An issue of great concern is the steady rate of deforestation in the country. The Department of Statistics figures show deforestation across the 13 states between 1990 and 2011, averaged more than 66,000 hectares per year - an equivalent of the size of Perlis – or almost 1.4 million hectares of forest land (7.2% of forest cover) were lost in the past 21 years. Their degradation is a pressing social, economic and environmental challenge, affecting the daily lives of millions of people. Transparency International recognises that these problems of systemic corruption must be addressed. The FGI Project committed in bringing greater potential to improve forest governance.

CORRUPTION in forestry degrades the environment, threatens rural communities and robs the public of millions of ringgit each year. TI-M is committed to a corruption-free forest governance and sustainable management enabling increased economic development, poverty reduction and environmental protection.



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