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# **Timber Supply Chain and Traceability**

- Taiji Fujisaki
- Hiromitsu Samejima
- Makino Yamanoshita



# Outline

- 1. Timber supply chain and traceability
- 2. National case studies
- 3. Key issues to be taken into account
- 4. Conclusion

## **IGES Forest Conservation Team**







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# **Timber trade regulations in place**

- Required to demonstrate legal origin of timber -
- USA Amended Lacey Act (2008)
- Australia Illegal Logging Prohibition Act (2012)
- EU Timber Regulation (2013)
- Japan Clean Wood Act (2017)
- Republic of Korea- The Revised Act on the Sustainable Use of Timbers (2018)
- Other countries

# **Timber supply chain and legality**



Legality of wood and wood products

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## Traceability



The ability to trace the history and journey of wood products passing through the supply chain, and to help in assessing and verifying that the products come from legal sources.

Following ASEAN (2012), D. Louppe (2015) and FAO (2016)

# How does traceability work at national level in terms of the legality of wood products?

To what extent is traceability sought at national level?
 What approaches and instruments are used to ensure traceability?



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## National case studies

#### (conducted in 2016-2019)

- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Thailand
- Peru



Country	Production / timber sources	Export
Papua New Guinea (PNG)	<ul> <li>Log production from natural forests mainly through logging concessions and forest conversion on the customary land</li> </ul>	Largest supplier of tropical logs for China
Philippines	<ul> <li>Logging ban in natural forest since 2011.</li> <li>Timber production mainly from private plantation</li> <li>Import of raw materials (log mainly from Malaysia and Solomon Islands; sawn timber mainly from Malaysia and Canada)</li> </ul>	Value added products for domestic consumption and for export (secondary and tertiary value-added products)
Thailand	<ul> <li>Logging ban in natural forest since 1989</li> <li>Timber production from planted forests, including a large volume from private land</li> <li>Import of raw materials from New Zealand, Congo, USA, PNG, Solomon Islands</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>World's largest producer of industrial rubber wood</li> <li>Exports of sawn timber, paper and paperboard, fibreboard, particle board and wooden furniture and furniture parts (mostly made from rubber wood)</li> </ul>
Peru	<ul> <li>Timber productions from natural forest on public, private and communal forests and planted forests</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Log export ban since 1972</li> <li>Export of sawn timber and processed products made from natural forests</li> </ul>

#### Papua New Guinea

Traceability of logs back to the forest of origin using log tag and third party verification



## Philippines

### Strict monitoring / control over primary processing plant



## Thailand

Requirements for harvest and transport permits depend on the tree species and the area where trees are grown.



Based on the country report of Thailand at the Clean Wood Navi https://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/j/riyou/goho/kunibetu/tha/info.html

#### Peru

Documentation and post-harvest inspection system serves as a tool for the monitoring of timber production and trade through the supply chain



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https://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/j/riyou/goho/kunibetu/per/info.html

# 1) To what extent is traceability of legality sought at national level ?



- Traceability from primary processing to forest is generally achieved by information accompanying a log or load, but the scope varies due to the types of forest and harvesting, and tree species.
- Imported wood products Information showing that it was legally imported.
   However, the legality of origin relies heavily on the legal system of the exporting country.

Throughout processing stages, full traceability that goes back to forest is not generally sought (except for the case of Philippines):



- Often mixing of wood from multiple sources
- After processing stage, information accompanying to products are not generally connected with forest of origin
- Different authorities and legislations: from forestry to industry and trade jurisdictions

## 2) What instruments are used to ensure traceability?

Documentation and information flow are main mechanisms



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### Other instruments to enhance traceability





#### Identification of sources / origins

- Physical marking: paints, log tags, etc.
- Inventories with geographical data
- Post-harvesting inspection

### **Control within processing facilities**

- Volume based tracking
- Segregated management system

Information management to address the limitation of paper-based system

- Centralized information system
- Electronic documentation

## Key issues to be taken into account

- Every country has its own requirements and traceability should reflect the national contexts, types and values of material and the risks
  - The uniform and strict demand for traceability may exclude small-scale producers even though they are operating legally
- Documentation is the main instrument
  - Need to understand types, issuance conditions and information included to identify linkages between each stage of the supply chain and verify the legality
- Traceability to demonstrate the legal origin is challenged by processing stages
  - Combination documentation with additional measures (volume based tracking, segregated management) to establish a link between legal logs and processed products

## Conclusion

- Growing concern and demand for legal forest products
- Traceability is key to improve and to assess the legality of timber production and trade:
  - > Documentation is a first step, but not perfect answer
  - Traceability of raw products is generally sought, but may require consideration for small-scale producers
  - More focus on processing stages
- Sharing lessons learned and best practices for developing and implementing traceability for the timber supply chain that crosses sectors and countries

## References

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# Thank you!

Taiji Fujisaki fujisaki@iges.or.jp



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