



The General Assembly of FSC Members in Malaysia

Date : 13 December 2012

Venue : Crystal Crown Hotel, Petaling Jaya

Present

Name/Designated Member	Name of Organisation	FSC Membership
Mr. Anthony Sebastian	aonyx Consultancy	Individual, Environmental South
Ms. Kanitha Krishnasamy	TRAFFIC Southeast Asia	Individual, Environmental South
Mr. Lim Si Siew	Grassroots Consulting	Individual, Social South
Mr. Raymond Abin	SCANE	Individual, Social South
Mr. Tan Chin Tong	Independent	Individual, Economic South
Mr. Dariush Kahrobaei	MDK Asia Sdn. Bhd.	Organisation, Economic South
Mr. Bill Maynard	GFS (M) Sdn. Bhd.	Organisation, Economic South
Dr. Sundari Ramakrishna	World Wide Fund for Nature Malaysia	Organisation, Environmental South
Mr. Balu Perumal	Malaysian Nature Society	Organisation, Environmental South
<u>Web Conference</u>		
Dr. Agnes Agama	Independent	Individual, Social South
<u>Observer</u>		
Mr. Alistair Monument	Forest Stewardship Council	FSC Asia Pacific Regional Director
<u>Secretariat</u>		
Ms. Jayashree Kanniah	Forest Sustainability (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd.	Secretariat

1.0 Call to Order

The first meeting of the General Assembly of FSC members in Malaysia was held on 13th December 2012 at 10:00am and was called to order by Mr. Sebastian, the Chairman of the BoD of Forest Sustainability (Malaysia) called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum of members was present, and the meeting having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business. Recording of minutes was tasked to the FSM secretariat.

2.0 Welcome Remarks

Mr. Sebastian welcomed all the members to the meeting and acknowledged the designated proxies that were present. The Chair invited all present to a round of introductions.

3.0 Election for Chair

Mr. Sebastian was unanimously nominated as the Chairperson for the meeting, which he accepted.

4.0 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the day was adopted as presented; proposed by Mr. Maynard and seconded by Dr. Sundari.

5.0 Session 1: Presentations by FSC and FSM

5.1 Overview of FSC and FSC Development in Malaysia

Mr. Monument presented an overview of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the Asia Pacific Regional Office, FSC systems, strategies, Principles and Criteria, the development of the International Generic Indicators, certified suppliers and the FSC market growth. This was followed by a presentation from the Chair on the history of FSC in Malaysia, the establishment of FSM, its purpose and the development of the National FSC Standards.

The meeting acknowledged the recent strategic developments within FSC (i.e. policies and process) that had subsequently caused delays in the progress for establishing a National Office in Malaysia.

The Chair highlighted the expressed desire for a National Office through his communications with the general and key stakeholders in Malaysia.

5.2 Briefing on the Standards Development Progress in Malaysia

Ms. Krishnasamy provided an overview on the National FSC Standards Development process. She also shared that all developments on this process has been made available on the FSM website (<http://www.forestsustainability.org/>).

Mr. Abin stated that the involvement of social NGOs in the certification process is not new. When the MTCC scheme first started in Malaysia, representatives from a wide range of community-based organisations (CBOs) and social NGOs participated actively. However, failure of the scheme to recognize Indigenous Peoples' rights in land matters forced them to withdraw from further involvement in the process. With the FSC, Indigenous Peoples' rights and concerns are more firmly entrenched in the certification scheme, and therefore the social NGOs and local community organisations are more willing to be involved.

5.3 Briefing on the FSC National Office Development Process

Ms. Kanniah presented the Procedure for the Operation of the FSC Network (in accordance to FSC-PRO-60-001 V1-0 EN), including the categories of FSC network partners and the definition of each partner. Ms Kanniah then proceeded to highlight the roles and operations of a National Office (do's and don'ts) and the selection criteria in establishing national FSC offices.

5.4 Question and Answer

Mr. Maynard enquired about the number of successful and efficient National Offices that are in existence. Mr. Monument shared the various operational structures of existing National Offices that are successful, these are National Offices in the Netherlands, United States, United Kingdom, Peru, Bolivia, Japan and Australia.

Mr. Perumal enquired about the roles, responsibilities and deliverables of the National Office which he observed to be an extension of FSC in the country. Mr. Monument explained that the roles identified in the Procedure for the Operation of the FSC Network consist of a range of terms of reference and it does not prescriptive to every National Office. A binding agreement between FSC and each National Office will be developed to ensure coherence within the global FSC network structure. This agreement will be developed jointly with respective National partner.

Mr. Perumal enquired about concerns regarding the binding agreement and if it would suppress the objectives of Organisations that have been nominated and elected, highlighting an example of MNS' plan that advocates for no logging in the Belum Temengor forest. Mr. Monument explained that FSC represents not just timber removal operations but various other activities such as ecosystem services, non-timber products and protected forest reserves. He noted the significance of these being included within National FSC Standards.

6.0 Session 2: Nomination and Election of the Board of Directors (BoD)

Before proceeding to the nominating session, the Chair informed members that FSM was formed as a vehicle to establish a National Office in Malaysia. He clarified that the newly elected Board have the option to continue to use FSM for this purpose or disband FSM and establish a new entity to serve as the National Office. He proceeded to inform the meeting about stepping down as the Chair of the Board since 2007 and expressed his reasons for doing so. He further added that the newly elected Board members will jointly determine the future of FSM. He informed the members that he is also the Chair of the FSC National Standards Development Group. In this regard, he expressed his agreement to continue to serve as the Chair for the FSC National Standards Development Group to ensure continuity and consistency of the process.

Mr. Monument reminded the members that FSC would like to see a balance representation of members from Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak on the Board.

The members then adjourned for a break-up session within their respective chambers for further deliberation. The members finally decided to elect six (6) members on the Board. Mr. Sebastian explained that having six members gives the Chairman of the newly elected Board, a casting vote/second vote. Casting vote occurs when a vote is taken in a meeting when there are an equal number of votes in favour as there is against.

Arising from the General Assembly, the following individual and organisation was elected by the FSC members in Malaysia.

Environment Chamber	Social Chamber	Economic Chamber
Dr. Sundari Ramakrishna (<i>Organisation</i>)	Dr. Agnes Agama (<i>Individual</i>)	Mr. Kevin Grace (<i>Organisation</i>)
Mr. Balu Perumal (<i>Organisation</i>)	Mr. Raymond Abin (<i>Individual</i>)	Mr. Tan Chin Tong (<i>Individual</i>)

7.0 Adjournment

The Chairman thanked all the members for their participation and placed on record acknowledgment to the previous members of the Board. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4.00 p.m.