

**Summary of the Discussion
(APNEC4) Special Session on 27 Nov. 1998
in the National University of Singapore**

**Chairperson: Mr. Martinus Nanang
Reporter: Mr. Kimihiko Hyakumura**

The participants held a profound discussion on the papers that were presented in the session, the summary of which is presented below;

(1) In regard to the presentation on land allocation policy in Lao P.D.R, a participant from Japan and one from Sri Lanka made the following comments respectively:

(A) It was suggested that due to time constraints RRA(Rapid Rural Appraisal) was used to collect data and information. This method can be made participatory when adequate time and resources are available.

(B)To a question on conflict of interest in land allocation, it was replied that the Forestry Law and the Land Law were put into effect in the last two or three years. The Forestry Law has not caused much conflict in the community but the land allocation policy may give rise conflict over land ownership in the village community.

(C) It was suggested that the Sri Lanka government has also outlawed slash and burn cultivation, but this has been not implemented effectively. It is necessary to compare the experience of different countries to examine regulations on the utilization of lands that have been traditionally utilized for slash and burn cultivation.

(2) Regarding the paper on the introduction of Local People's Participation for Sustainable Forest Management in the Asia- Pacific region, a participant expressed the view that:

In the Asia-Pacific region, it is difficult to develop a uniform institution of local people's participation due to a diverse range of cultural, social and economic situations in this region. It is necessary to develop a unique institution that can cope with each country's unique situation.

(3) Concerning the paper on "Implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system", The following comments were made.

(A) A case was reported in Indonesia where the authority in charge of implementation of the EIA process clashed with the authority in charge of development and the process was deadlocked. Such "sectionalism" inside the administration is one of the obstacles to the effective implementation of the EIA process.

(B) A case was reported from Malaysia where some companies have evaded

the application of the EIA process by not reporting the total logging area, but repeatedly submitting a sufficiently small logging plan. In this way, they are able to discharge their duty of reporting their logging plan to the standard government application process for the EIA system, and they can log a vast forest area. It is therefore necessary to establish a standard application process for the EIA system which takes into account elements such as long term perspectives and the actual impact of each development plan.

It was agreed in this session that it is necessary to conduct case studies in various Asia-Pacific countries in order to develop a strategy for sustainable forest management systems that are suitable for each country.

