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First announcement

Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum 2023

21–22 November 2023

Galaxy International Convention Center, Macao SAR, China

Background

The timber industry is facing major challenges. It must produce legal and sustainable timber products while also maintaining other important forest values. It must address issues in global timber supply chains arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. And it must bridge the widening gap between demand and supply as the world population grows and requirements escalate for construction timber and other wood products.

Given these and other challenges, it is essential to maintain and increase collaboration, and exchange views and information, among timber industry stakeholders worldwide—producers, buyers, processors and market players.

The **International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)** formulated its Legal and Sustainable Supply Chain (LSSC) Programme with the aim of building legal and sustainable tropical timber supply chains through a multipronged, integrated approach of governmental frameworks, private-sector initiatives, financial resources and capacity building. In collaboration with partners, ITTO convened the international forum, *Together Towards Global Green Supply Chains*, in October 2019 in Shanghai, China—the first global dialogue on improving the legality and sustainability of tropical timber supply chains. As part of the LSSC Programme and given strong interest among actors in the global timber industry ITTO and the **Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM)** have entered into a collaborative framework agreement to co-host the **Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum** to accelerate the development of legal and sustainable wood product supply chains.

Objectives

The aim of the **Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum** is to increase networking, collaboration and business exchange among timber industry stakeholders—producers, buyers, processors and market players—with a view to promoting sustainable forest management, creating legal and sustainable wood product supply chains, facilitating the legal and sustainable use and trade of wood products in a stable, transparent and predictable business environment, and contributing to sustainable development and climate-change mitigation.

Forum structure

The Forum will be held annually, and it will comprise two components:

- 1) The Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum.
- 2) Several specialized parallel forums (see below).

In 2023, the Forum will:

- Raise the profile of productive forests and their contributions to sustainable development and climate-change mitigation.
- Identify challenges and opportunities for the recovery of the global wood industry.
- Review the role of the wood products sector in global supply chains and its contributions to sustainable development and climate-change mitigation.
- Discuss issues relating to sustainable forest management and deforestation-free practices within the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and the CPF initiative, Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World.
- Promote the sustainable production and consumption of legal and sustainable wood and other forest products in international and domestic markets.
- Review advanced technologies and machinery for timber processing and production.
- Discuss green finance, blockchain-based technologies and other tools to improve legal and sustainable timber supply chains.
- Make recommendations to promote partnerships for further building legal and sustainable timber supply chains.

Co-hosts & organizer

The Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum will be co-hosted by ITTO and IPIM and organized by the Secretariat of the Global Green Supply Chain Initiative (GGSC). The specialized parallel forums will be co-organized by partner agencies; ITTO, IPIM and the GGSC Secretariat may also organize such forums.

The **theme** of the 2023 Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum will be “connect, cooperate and share to promote the recovery of the global tropical timber market”.

Specialized parallel forums will be organized by partner agencies to contribute to the theme of the main forum. These might be on selected topics related to timber legality and sustainability, sustainable timber resources and trade, advanced technology and machinery for wood processing, green finance, and the sustainable development of the timber industry.

A **legal and sustainable timber industry display** will be organized in parallel with the Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum and specialized forums, at a trial scale of 20–30 booths.

Other events and activities

The Global Timber Index (GTI) annual report and the Blockchain-based Timber Tracking System technical report will be released at the 2023 Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum. Other business activities, such as B2B matchings, can be arranged.

Date and venue

The Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum 2023 will be held on **21–22 November 2023** at the **Galaxy International Convention Center** in **Macao SAR, China**.

Participants

The Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum 2023 is expected to attract around 500 participants from wood enterprises and trading companies, industrial and business associations, governments, international organizations, research institutions, etc.

Sponsorship

Select speakers and panellists will be sponsored while limited sponsorship will be available for participants from selected developing countries.

Languages

The Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum 2023 will feature simultaneous interpretation in Chinese (Mandarin), English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

Detailed information on the venue, registration procedures and accommodation will follow soon.

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