# APF Net Curriculum 3 INternational dialogue on forestry issues

## **Welcome Video TranscriptsDuration: 00:10:21**

Welcome to the International Dialogue on Forestry Issues. This online course is part of six courses offered by the Innovative Sustainable Forest Management Education in Asia Pacific Region, sponsored by the Asia Pacific Forest Network.

My name is Hosny El Lakany, I'm an Adjunct Professor in the Forest Resource Management Department of the Faculty of Forestry at UBC, Vancouver, Canada, and a Professor Emeritus at Alexandria University, Egypt, and it is my pleasure to be your instructor for this course.

This course, as the title states, about understanding international dialogue and processes of the forest sector, in other words, the current issues under discussion globally in forestry, and how the debate on forest issues shaping the forest sector around the world.

Among the main subject is international forestry, but from this angle, we will be talking about the negotiation, and the art of diplomacy in discussing forestry issues at international level.

Upon completing this course, we hope that the students will be able to master a few things, for example, be able to discuss the complex issues that influence international forest debate; would be able to communicate with international organizations, regarding forestry; would appreciate the international forest diplomacy and the negotiation processes; participate in inter-governmental negotiations if the student has a job in the circle; Finally, the students should be able to follow up the development in the international forest debate.

This course is designed to be given without an instruction. So you would be free, you would have a set of lectures for this course and other five, to take the course at your own pace.

And for this particular one, it will be given in several modules, as I will explain later on.

But because you will be on your own, I will provide you beside the texts and the PowerPoint presentation. I will provide you with a list of references at the end of each lecture, so that you can get more information on any particular point that you want to know more about. In the meantime, I would insert a few questions at the end of each lecture on the power point so that you can check your information how much we have learned about.

This course consists of 4 modules. Each module consists of 3 lectures, so in total you will have 12 lectures.

The first module deals with forest on the global stage in terms of discussing, reviewing and informing why are forests of global concern, why should people in one part of the world worry about forestry in other parts of the world, and then this would be followed by some detail information about the status of the forest in the world, based on the global forest resource assessment produced by FAO every five years, and the state of world forests produced mostly by FAO every two years. Second lecture deals with the terms, the concepts and the implications of sustainable forest management. I will give you some historical background, where the terms come from and the different interpretations and then we will inform you about the internationally accepted definition of sustainable forest management and all other aspects related to it. The third lecture, we will try to inform about why we need to have effective policies governing sustainable forest management globally, why not, why is it an international issue, not a national one only. And then looking at the linkages between international, national and local management policies, how the international discussions are reflected at the local level.

Second module deals with diplomacy, and negotiation of inter-governmental agreements, instruments or what we called, multi-lateral agreements.  So in the first lecture of second module, you will be informed about the types of regulatory framework, the types of agreement, legally or non-legally binding and so on. Second lecture on the same module, we will discuss the general principles governing the negotiation process and the art of diplomacy, especially forest diplomacy. And the third lecture in the second module will deal with the status of the international forest policy negotiations, what are they today.

Module three, we will address the international convention related to forests, and this would include the global policy issues affecting sustainable forest management because forest is not alone, there are so many other sectors and so many other interests affect the forest.

Second lecture in the third module, we will deal with the intergovernmental conventions with interests related to forest, e.g. the most famous is the one on climate change and biodiversity and so on. The last lecture in the third module, we will look at the mandates, activities and admissions and the methods of work of major international organizations dealing with forests as it is a main mandate or part of its mandate, and we will focus mainly on the UN organizations, like FAO, UNDP and so on, you hear a lot with, as well as some of research institutions, international research institutions and international NGOs, giving you background who is talking about forestry internationally, or who is dealing with.

The fourth and final module, we will update you on the national and international linkages in sustainable forest management and the road ahead, what are we going from here. The first lecture in this last module, we will deal with the other players in the field, like forest is not only the business of governments and international organizations, there are so many other stake holders, people who are interested in the forest, many NGOs, indigenous people, private sectors and so on. These groups are shaping the debate in international forestry and sometimes affect the outcome. Second lecture, depending on the year that you are taking the course, we will be talking about the current issues under discussions in forestry, and where is it leading us, for example, this year 2015, we will be talking mainly about the landscape approach, which is now the most important part of the discussion, and the future of the international arrangements of forest, in other words, the future of the United Nation’s forum on forests, where are we heading. And finally, I will inform you in details about the only instrument that we have for forestry, the only international instrument, which is called the non-legally binding instrument for all types of forests.

As I say, you will have an information package for the course, consisting of videos, PowerPoint presentations, and my oral presentations based on the PowerPoint, as well as videos borrowed from other organizations. And hopefully, by the end of this course, you will find it is an enjoyable course, you will learn a lot, and you will be much more informed about the international forestry. Thank you very much and best of luck.