

DENR signs framework deal on forest conservation

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The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has signed a regional framework agreement seeking to strengthen cooperation for the conservation and sustainable management of forests in Asia.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) which is among the many accords signed by the Philippines during the president's recent state visit in South Korea was signed with ten other Asian countries.

"With the Philippines signing the agreement, this seals our participation and commitment for the stronger regional cooperation towards the sustainable management of forests across Asia... I fervently hope that our ties will be greater, as these from the start are founded from mutual trust and respect, mutual understanding and mutual benefits" said Cimatu, adding that this will provide mutual benefits to all parties in terms of forest conservation and sustainable management.

Other signatories of the accord include South Korea, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Bhutan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar, Mongolia and Laos.

DENR noted that AFoCO is an intergovernmental organization in Asia aiming to strengthen regional forest cooperation by transforming proven technology and policies into concrete actions in the context of sustainable forest management to address the impact of climate change.

It also facilitates forest cooperation between Asean countries and the Republic of Korea focusing on action-oriented field activities while ensuring synergies and complementation of existing cooperation, regional and international organizations.

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