

The Ethiopian Policy Makers' Study Tour to China (April 14-20, 2007)

1. Background

The enormous experience of Eastern Asian countries in the development of the industry for bamboo production and processing has shown that these natural resources have an important potential for poverty reduction in developing countries.

In Ethiopian context, bamboo supports the livelihoods of millions of local people in small-scale cottage industries since time immemorial. The country's forest coverage has drastically declined from about 40% to about 3.56% at the moment and is still decreasing at an alarming rate. Thus, as bamboo is one of the non-timber forest products, it is very important as it can be a substitute for almost all timber products. It is also a commodity indigenous to various countries in Africa; Ethiopia, for example, hosts a total area of 1.3 million hectares of bamboo representing the largest bamboo source in Africa accounting 67% of the African bamboo resources, and about 7% of the world total. Therefore, the development of industrial utilization of bamboo in Ethiopia would help to solve problems of housing, furniture shortage and provide more job opportunities.

Bamboo has additional advantages such as providing a link between rural and urban communities, employment generation, poverty reduction, environmental protection and community development. These benefits can not be tapped without understanding and realizing that this potential exists. Identifying and addressing the constraints for the development of the sector is also important besides the cooperation and coordination of various stakeholders as well as availability of sustainable training and other services to the beneficiaries. Moreover, ensuring a supportive enabling environment and devising the follow-up action is decisive.

In light of these, 16 participants from 7 countries including Chinese politicians and potential investors in the bamboo sector and higher officials from Ethiopia and Kenya have jointly attended this Study Tour in China. Visits were made to different bamboo products manufacturing companies, ornamental bamboo plantations, bamboo botanical garden and museum, micro bamboo enterprises and the product laboratory. Furthermore, the team has participated in various workshops with local politicians and potential investors in the perspective of bamboo development. Accordingly, the policy makers along with the National Project Coordinator for the project in Ethiopia shared excellent and enormous experiences from different bamboo based industries and from the constructive discussions and dialogues with local politicians and decision makers on bamboo policy and strategic considerations and its sustainable utilization for the development of the country.

2. Theme

The theme of the study tour is to initiate a policy dialogue to Ethiopian higher officials on the potential of bamboo to contribute to sustainable development in the country with the view of:

- Promoting the development of an enabling environment for realizing the potential of the bamboo industries in Ethiopia
- Creating knowledge and interest about the sector among bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies and organizations
- Attracting investments to the sector

- China supported the request within the framework of the already strong collaboration in the field of agriculture between China and Ethiopia and acknowledged the great potential of bamboo in this collaboration given the fact that Ethiopia has considerable bamboo resources,
- The visit of the Chinese delegation to Ethiopia in December 2006 which included a national bamboo workshop was acknowledged.
- The history of successful training on bamboo in Ethiopia by Chinese experts was mentioned
- China will give serious consideration to the idea of including a centre for bamboo in the envisaged Agricultural Development Centre (ADC). A Chinese delegation will be sent soon to Ethiopia to discuss the organization of the ADC.
- CFC/UNIDO and INBAR's continuous involvement in the sector was acknowledged and encouraged by China.
- Ethiopia expressed her/its satisfaction with the remarks and suggestions of China, and reminded those present of the importance of an update of the bamboo resource assessment in Ethiopia as the basis for the successful development of the sector.

4.1 Participants from Ministry of Commerce (MOC) include;

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From the Ethiopian Embassy

6. H.E. Mr. Hailekiros Gessesse, Ambassador;
7. Mr. Eyassu Dalle, Minister Counsellor
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5. Program agenda of the study Tour

During the study tour, various kinds of activities relating to bamboo were prearranged such as

- Visits to the following sites:
 - Bamboo products manufacturing companies,
 - Ornamental bamboo plantations,
 - Bamboo botanical garden and museum,
 - Micro bamboo enterprises,
 - Product laboratory and
 - Bamboo research center
- Conducting various workshops and meetings with:
 - Local politicians and potential investors
 - Higher officials from China and the Ethiopian diplomatic corps in China

5.1. Itinerary of Bamboo Study Tour Zhejiang, 14-20, April 2007

14-15.04		Arrival on 15.04 Sunday and stay in Hangzhou Hotel
16.04 Monday	7:30	Breakfast
	8:00-9:00	Dasso Bamboo Floor Co.Ltd http://www.china-bamboo-flooring.cn/
	9:00-10:30	Visiting the Research Institute of Subtropical Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry
	10:30-13:30	Driving to Lin'an County, lunch
	13:30-18:00	Visiting Bamboo forest for shoot and Tihuyuan ornamental bamboo garden
17.04 Tuesday	7:30	Breakfast
	8:00-12:00	Visiting Kangxin bamboo shoot-processing factory http://www.linanwindow.com/sun/kangxin/company.htm
	12:30-13:30	Lunch in Qianwang Hotel
	13:30-16:30	Visiting the product laboratory of Zhejiang forestry college http://www.zjfc.edu.cn/ Workshop with local politicians and experts
	16:30-18:00	Driving to Anji County
	18:00-19:00	Dinner
18.04 Wednesday	7:30	Breakfast
	8:00-9:00	Visiting Anji Xueqiang Bamboo Mat and Curtain Co Ltd http://www.lfmachine.com/english/machine.htm
	9:00-10:30	Bamboo Botanic Garden and Museum
	10:30-11:30	Visiting Anji Yafeng bamboo Co Ltd (Flooring) http://www.yafengbamboo.com/en/index.asp
	11:30-13:30	Lunch
	14:00-15:00	Bamboo Sea Movie Base and Micro bamboo enterprises
	15:00-16:00	Visiting Jianzhong Bamboo Co Ltd (Bamboo Charcoal and Bamboo Vinegar) http://www.bamboocarbon.com/aboutus.asp?lang=english
	16:00-16:30	Visit Shengshi Bio-products Co Ltd (Bamboo flavones) http://www.shengshi-bio.com/english/index.html
	16:30 - 18:00	Bamboo products market, Bamboo fiber products store and bamboo handicraft store
	18:00-19:00	Dinner
19.04 Thursday	7:30	Breakfast
	8:00-9:00	Visiting Chenbao Bamboo Co Ltd (Bamboo Concrete Board)
	9:00-10 : 00	Visiting Yongyu Bamboo Co Ltd (Bamboo Flooring) http://www.zjgsqi.com.cn/redian/ajyyzm/
	10:00-11:00	Visiting Anji Jitai Bamboo Machinery Co. Ltd
	11:00 -12:00	Visiting Anji Huachun Bamboo Co. Ltd (Bamboo Furniture)
	12:00-13:30	Lunch
	13:30-16:30	Workshop with policy maker and potential investors
	16:30-18:00	Driving to Hangzhou
20.04 Friday	7:30	Breakfast
	8:00-10:00	Silk Museum
	10:00-12:00	West Lake tour in Hangzhou
	12:00-13:30	Lunch
	13:30-15:00	Driving to Hangzhou airport

6. List of Delegates and Participants

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