

# Report of ACFN Annual Meeting and 2017 Seminar

KEITI, Seoul, 25 May 2017

## I. Annual Network Meeting

The Network Meeting, which was convened at the Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI) on 25 May, was attended by 22 representatives from 13 member organizations and 4 observers (please see Annex 1 the list of participants).

### *Welcoming new members*

The Meeting welcomed new members: SIRIM Berhad Malaysia and CMA Industrial Development Foundation Limited, Hong Kong. CMA Hong Kong briefly introduced its Product Carbon Footprint Label Project. CMA Hong Kong launched a new product carbon footprint labelling scheme for businesses in Hong Kong in November 2015 with five PCRs on building materials, food, textile, electronic and packaging materials. Due to downturn in retailing and exporting and also cost concern for product labelling, CMA recently develops a simplified scheme titled “Green Manufacturing Index for Hong Kong and Guangdong” in cooperation with the China Qualification Center and the Carbon Trust. SIRIM presented its initiative in the Seminar (please see page 3 for information).

### *Review progress and discuss follow-up actions*

The Secretariat made an overview of the past and current activities. Since its launch in October 2013, the ACFN organized (1) capacity building training programmes in the Philippines and Malaysia, (2) seminar and network meeting in Seoul, Bangkok, and Hong Kong, (3) joint research with the Carbon Trust, UK, on “Common Product Carbon Footprinting Framework for Asia”. As a follow-up to the joint research, KEITI, ITRI and TGO have initiated a pilot project on “Developing Common Product Category Rules for Carbon Footprint”, which will develop a common PCR for beverage and shampoo. The Secretariat also informed of the on-going work on renovating the current website [www.acfnetwork.net](http://www.acfnetwork.net). The renovated website will show detailed information on product carbon footprinting and operating schemes in Asia. To have better understanding on the network members, the Secretariat requested members to fill in and submit the template for member profile which will be circulated by the Secretariat in due course.

The Meeting also reviewed a project proposal submitted by SIRIM on “Carbon Foot-printing and Life Cycle Costing of Flooring Options to Support Building’s Environmental Performance.” The Meeting confirmed to support the project in particular by providing SIRIM with related information on Product Category Rules.

### ***Network Operation***

The Meeting reviewed the Terms of Reference and amended (1) activity area, and (2) network operation (please see Annex II Terms of Reference). For the article of the “Financial Resources”, the co-secretariat, KEITI, proposed to include a “membership fee” for the network operation. The meeting decided to revisit this agenda at the next meeting while members are advised to have internal consultations on this matter before the meeting.

## **II. Annual Seminar**

The Seminar was hosted by and held at KEITI in the afternoon on 25 May under the theme of “Promoting Green Buildings through Carbon Footprinting and Environmental Product Declaration Schemes”. The Seminar brought together (1) speakers from the EU, Australia, Malaysia, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, (2) ACFN members and (3) local practitioners from business, government and academia.

### ***Opening Session and Keynote Presentation***

The Seminar was opened by Mr. Kwang Hee NAM, the President of KEITI and welcomed by Mr. Suk Tae Hwang, Director General of the Ministry of Environment of Korea. Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Director, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office delivered his keynote address on “The Paris Agreement and its implications for the Green Buildings.”

The three speakers reiterated that buildings, accounting for more than one-third of global energy consumption and the similar level of greenhouse gases emissions, can play a major role in reducing the threat of climate change, and green buildings, therefore, have tremendous potential.

### ***Session I Best Practices of the Application of Information on Environmental Performances (EPD) in Green Buildings***

The first session identified how EPDs and CFPs are applied into green building certifications in Australia, the EU and Republic of Korea as well as a new initiative in Malaysia.

Mr. Nigel Howard, President, Clarity Environment, Australia, introduced most commonly used green building rating and certification systems: BREEAM and LEED. Recognizing some shortcomings exist in rating tools, he suggested developing new rating tool credits that systemically and compatibly address the three major components of CO<sub>2</sub>-e arising from buildings including (1) operational energy credits for CO<sub>2</sub>-e/m<sup>2</sup> in absolute terms, (2) transport CO<sub>2</sub>-e/m<sup>2</sup> implications of buildings, and (3) embodied CO<sub>2</sub>-e/m<sup>2</sup>. To complement fundamental problems that LCA and EPD have, he also recommended (1) to develop a single, consistent, universally applicable LCA methodology that exceeds the minimal requirements of ISO

14040/4, (2) to master list of PCR's reconciling the interests of users rather than providers, and (3) to have peer review of all EPD submissions.

Mr. Hakon Hauan, CEO, the Norwegian EPD Foundation & Eco Platform Board Member, introduced "the ECO Platform" system, which provides quantitative and verified information about the environmental performance of products, seen from a comprehensive life cycle perspective. He stressed the added value for industry which is the reduction of efforts to provide environmental information to any interested stakeholder because of the possibility to use these declarations in all European but also international markets.

Mr. Chang-U Chae, Korea Institute of Civil Engineering and Building Technology, introduced the Green Building Certification "G-SEED" in Korea, which has issued 8,363 certifications during the last 15 years. He also presented G-SEED's linkages with carbon footprint labeling (260 building materials as of 2016) and environmental product declarations (EPDs) as a scheme to support earning credits for green building certification. In a way to make more efficient applications, he made a number of suggestions such as making life cycle assessment of buildings mandatory for green building certification and shifting the focus of building impact assessment from used energy to embodied energy.

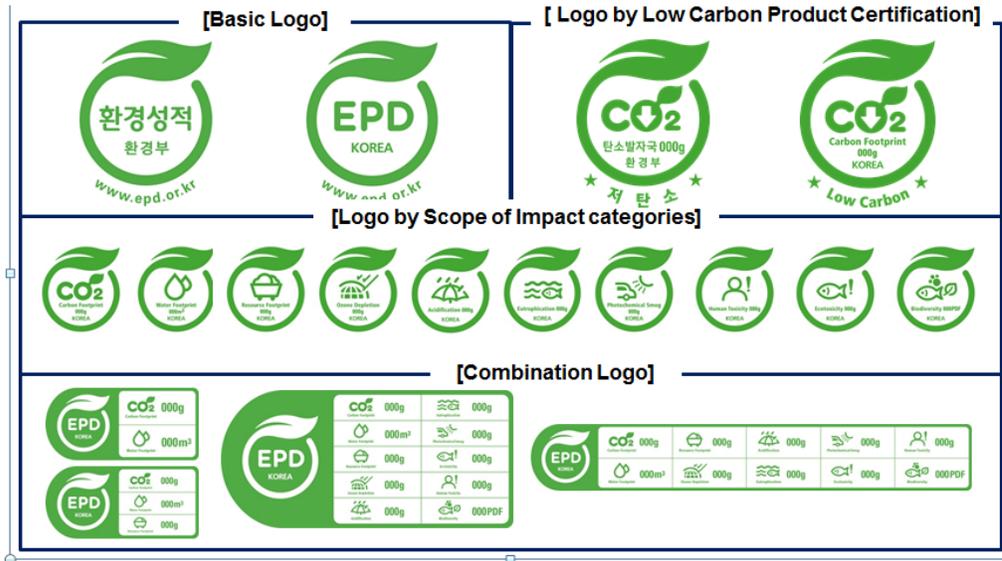
Ms. Mazlina W. Hussein, SIRIM Malaysia, presented the Malaysian Carbon Footprint Labelling Scheme, a part of the SWITCH Asia Project on Environmental Declaration Scheme for Construction and Building Materials. To support the scheme, the SIRIM Ecolabelling Criteria Committee was established and Product Category Rules and In-house Tool for Carbon Footprint Analysis were developed in 2014. As of today, 22 products are certified from 12 product categories. This scheme is expected to align with the Government Green Procurement (GPP) as national initiatives.

### *Session II Recent issues and implications of Carbon Footprinting and Environmental Declaration Schemes in Asia: Challenges and the Way Forward*

Mr. Akira Kataoka from JEMAI, Japan, delivered a presentation on Integrated JEMAI Environmental Labelling Programme. Based on requests and needs of the participating companies of both EcoLeaf and CFP Program, Japan launched in May 2017 a new framework to integrate EcoLeaf and CFP Communication Programme. Under the new framework, it is expected to have (1) integrated PCRs, (2) common LCI Database, (3) new quantification tool to simultaneously calculate both EcoLeaf and CFP Programme, (4) integrated and simplified verification rules and procedure, and (5) new fee structure.

Ms. Hye Won Bang from KEITI presented the status of integrating three labeling, i.e., environmental labeling, carbon footprint labeling and EPD into a new EPD scheme. The integrated scheme harmonizes existing logos, presents more diverse information such as water footprint, ecotoxicity, human toxicity, and biodiversity, and improves the display method of

information. As shown below, there are various logos by impact categories under the umbrella of the unified EPD logo.



### III. Working Group Meeting on “Developing Common Product Category Rules (PCRs) for Carbon Emission Calculation Applied to Products (26 May 2017)”

KEITI, TGO and ITRI convened the second meeting for harmonizing PCRs written on similar identical products. Since the ACFN Guangzhou Workshop in March 2016, the three agencies have held a series of consultations including a meeting on 7-8 Dec 2016 in Taipei. As a result, the agencies came to a conclusion to have a pilot project on beverage and shampoo, and the second meeting identified discrepancies in the beverage category rules and discussed the ways to overcome the dissimilarities. The meeting decided to finalize PCR guidelines on the beverage category in the next meeting to be hosted by TGO tentatively in August 2017.

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- Enclosures: 1. List of participants  
2. Amended Terms of Reference