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8th Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil (RT8)

8-11 November 2010

Hotel Mulia Senayan, Jakarta

'Tis the season! The 8th annual roundtable RT8 is just around the corner, and frantic preparations are taking place in Jakarta to deliver the best RT yet.

This year, we will focus on creating a platform for responsiveness and dialogue. In preparing the programme, we have engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, receiving input from Working Groups and examining past GA resolutions to report back on progress in key areas.

The programme is built over 4 days. The normal side events and pre-meetings are now subsumed into the main programme, enabling a full day of interactive discussion, training and dialogue to progress the RSPO agenda. There will be a total eight sessions, including workshops on biodiversity compensation, overview of dispute settlement processes, debates on NIs for the rest of the world as well as training on trade in CSPO.

Smallholders will take a prominent place at RT8. Finalisation of the Group Certification

scheme and continued progression of the Smallholder NIs are allowing greater access for small growers around the world in implementing better and more sustainable practices and thousands of smallholders around the world now produce certified sustainable palm oil. RT8 will celebrate this, and address key issues for smallholders' continued inclusion in RSPO certification.

The programme will also zoom in on the marketplace. Representatives from Europe, India and China will present the outlook for increased uptake of CSPO in these important markets. In addition, the programme will include an overview of communications and marketing activities which will support the continued growth in sales of CSPO.

In addition, we will look outward in a session on external developments, which examines the impact on RSPO of initiatives such as the Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil initiative and the World Bank review.

Naturally, a large part of the programme will look at aspects of certification

and implementation of the P&C. Sessions will cover key environmental aspects such as GHGs, weed management strategies, gender issues, HCV and overviews of both P&C and supply chain certification.

We will of course continue with the successful world cafe format, enabling stakeholders to discuss the outcome of RT8 and support continued development of RSPO in key areas. Likewise, the democracy wall will provide an outlet for opinions, questions and concerns – an analogue of today's popular social media platforms.

Of course, RT8 will be rounded off by the 7th General Assembly, where members have the opportunity to hear about organisational developments and discuss and vote on submitted resolutions. With the growth in membership to almost 400, it is imperative that members turn up or submit proxy votes to ensure that a quorum is present.

Don't forget to register – we look forward to seeing you in Jakarta.

“Smallholders will take a prominent place at RT8 “

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) is a global multi-stakeholder initiative on sustainable palm oil that was formally established under Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code on 8 April 2004. The not-for-profit Association will have members representing major players along the palm oil supply chain. The RSPO is a unique platform for the pragmatic co-operation to contribute to the expansion of sustainably produced palm oil and its uses.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

President

Jan Kees Vis - Unilever

Vice-President I

Adam Harrison - WWF International

Vice-President II

Derom Bangun - GAPKI

Vice-President III

Jeremy Goon - MPOA

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Abetnego Tarigan - Sawit Watch

Tim Killeen - Conservation International

Paul Norton - HSBC

Mohd Nor Kailany - FELDA

Jose Den Toom - Rabobank

Belinda Howell - British Retailers Consortium

Advisor to the Executive Board

MR Chandran

SECRETARIAT

Rikke Netterstrom (Interim Secretary-General)

Indra Thangavelu (Interim Finance and Administration Manager)

Dr. Chong Swee Teck (P&C Certification Manager)

Siew Pei Erl (Membership Executive)

Poon Chi Sum (Admin Assistant)

INDONESIA LIAISON OFFICE

Asril Darussamin (Interim Indonesia Liaison Officer and Smallholders Affair Coordinator)

Aisyah Mahdi (GHG Liaison Coordinator)

Rahayu Harjanthi (RILO Administrator)

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President's Welcome Message



Dear Sustainable Palm Oil supporters,

RSPO certification has reached the 3 million tonnes production capacity mark. A big congratulation is in order for this, I would say. Your EB will keep a close eye on the annual reports that members should submit, to ensure that there is uptake in the market. Companies need to follow up on the promises they have made about switching to Certified Sustainable Palm Oil.

In the meantime, Dr. Peter Ooi and our interim Secretary-General, Ms. Rikke Netterstrom, are working very hard on the final preparations for RT8. There is an update from Rikke elsewhere in this newsletter. Please make sure that you register in time as we expect a full house. And let me also impress on you the need to register for the Annual General Meeting of members. If you cannot attend in person, then please participate by proxy voting. There are important decisions to be made at the AGM, and we do need a majority to move forward.

During RT8, we plan to present the RSPO Trademark logo. We are still working on the guidelines for its use, and once these are ready we will be registering the logo in various markets. This would allow products to don this proud insignia of sustainability, thereby increasing the visibility of RSPO in consumer markets.

There is no news on the Roundtable on Responsible Soy, but there is rumour that US soybean farmers are also formulating a sustainability standard.

I will keep you informed.

Jan-Kees Vis

Secretary General's Report



We live in interesting times.

In the past two months, the Secretariat has approved 12 P&C certifications, increasing the total volume of CSPO in the market place by almost 1 MT. And we expect another 15 - 20 mills certified by year end. Likewise, six facilities have obtained supply chain certification since 1 August, which means that over 80 facilities are now approved to handle mass balance and segregated CSPO.

The RT8 Organising and Steering Committees are working hard in making RT8 in November the best yet. We expect almost a thousand people in Jakarta from all parts of the world, ranging from smallholders and grassroots NGOs to global brands and agribusinesses. I believe that the success of RT8 relies on the extent to which the meeting addresses stakeholder concerns and questions, and the opportunities it offers for engagement and dialogue, and we are making every effort to design a programme to deliver this.

September also saw a great deal of activity in policy development: The Communications and Claims Working Group, the Peatlands Working Group and the Biodiversity Technical Committee met, and the CHG2WG are meeting this week. These meetings are crucial in shaping and developing the continued robustness and credibility of RSPO certification.

The RSPO Grievance Panel has also been busy. Particular cases have been progressed in a positive way, and been widely covered in the media. The Panel is now progressing a dozen other cases to ensure that complaints are fairly and adequately handled.

To support the increased activity, there will be big changes ahead at the Secretariat and RILO. Over the coming months, RSPO permanent staff will double in numbers as we recruit for senior positions and specialists in key activity areas. This will lead to a whole new way of working for the RSPO, to the benefit of all stakeholders who can expect to see increased service levels once the new organisation is in place.

Of course, all this activity has put immense pressure on the Secretariat. RSPO staff are working nights and weekends to continue to support members and ensure minimal disruption throughout the transition period. One staff cheekily suggested that our status was "Interim dari segala macam interim" - loosely translated as "all kinds of interim". It's not easy working in this state of flux, but staff are doing a tremendous job, working with passion and dedication.

Yes, these are interesting times. There will be mistakes, and there will be delays during this period, but we are thankful for the support and understanding that we are receiving from members around the world, many of who have rallied around and helped us keep a steady course. But we are building the foundation which will encourage and facilitate the continued growth in production and use of sustainable palm oil.

Rikke Netterstrom

Interim Secretary General

Organisational Changes Ahead for RSPO

“...a new model for the Secretariat, as well as a new EB way of working was agreed”

In just a few years, the RSPO has grown from just a handful of organisations to almost 400 members, leading one of the world's most successful sustainability certification schemes. As the organisation and its scope of work expanded, responsibilities of the Secretariat and Executive Board (EB) have increased and altered significantly.

In Q2 2010, the EB asked PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to undertake a thorough organisational review of the RSPO to identify its strengths and weaknesses, and to suggest ways of addressing its future needs. The review was presented in the July 2010 EB meeting, highlighting important gaps in the organisational structure and management model as well as inadequate communications. As a result, a new model for the Secretariat, as well as a new EB way of working was agreed.

Currently, all staff report directly to the Secretary General (SG), with few senior positions in support, necessitating high level of technical and operational involvement by both the SG and EB members.

The proposed new structure strengthens the SG's role as leader of the organisation, supported by a team of specialist senior Directors, who are, in turn, assisted by dedicated managers and/or administration staff.

The Directors are new positions, emphasising the need for strong leadership on technical, communications and admin/finance. Each of these positions will lead strategic development of their area, as well as oversee and operationalise implementation of the strategic direction.

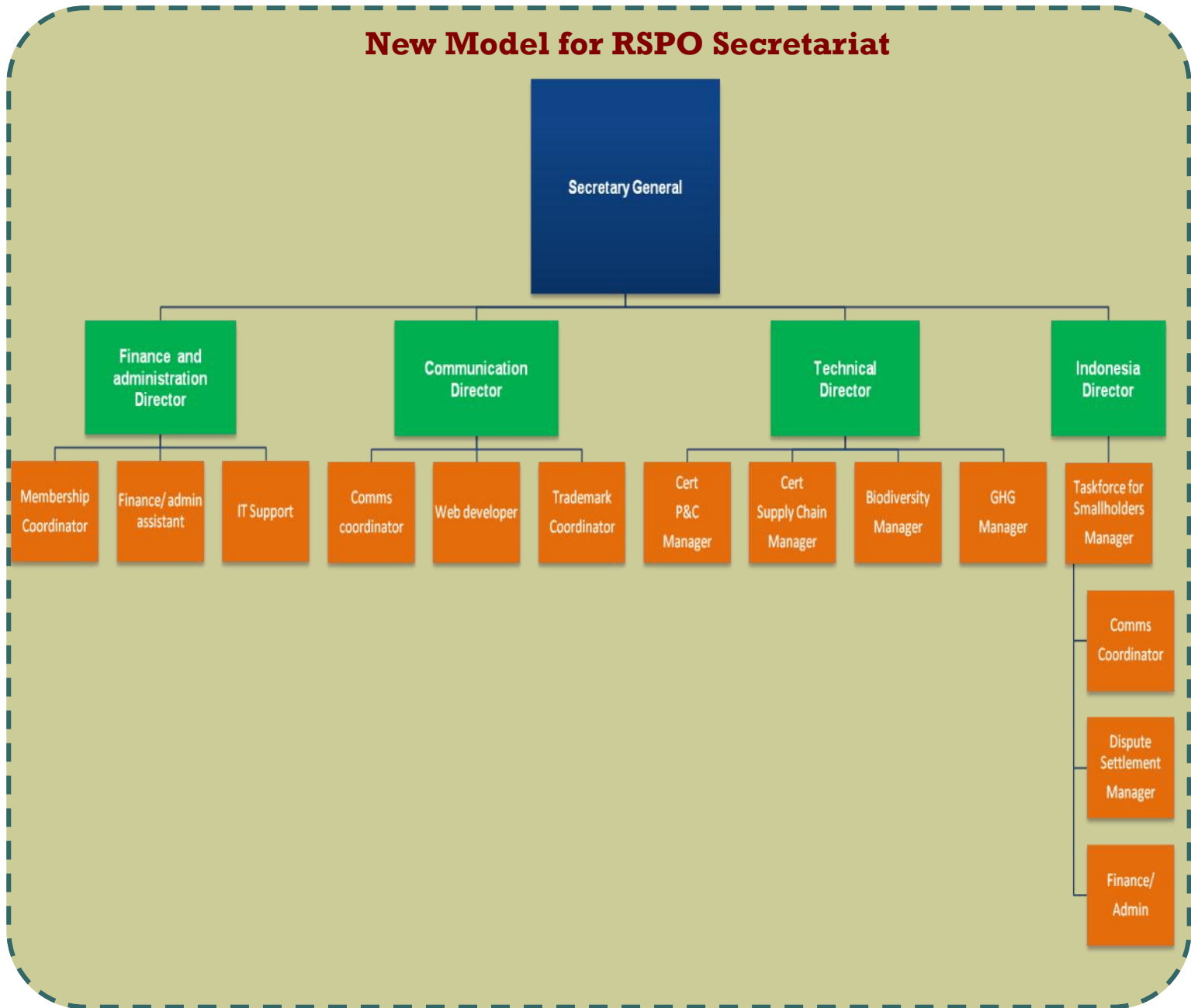
RILO – the RSPO Indonesia Liaison Office – will continue as before, but boosted by a number of key posi-

tions. These are the Taskforce for Smallholders Manager and Dispute Settlement Facilities Manager. Their roles will be global in scope, albeit requiring a high level of knowledge of the Indonesian and Malaysian contexts.

The Secretariat is actively recruiting, and most positions are expected to be filled by year end.

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Organisational Changes Ahead for RSPO (continued)



PwC also highlighted the need for the EB to evolve its way of working. Over the years, EB work has expanded significantly to include a number of operational tasks, and the number of working groups, taskforces and committees have expanded sig-

nificantly. The new structure sets out the role of each of these. There are now four EB-led standing committees: Communications and Claims, Trade and Traceability, Certification and Finance, each to be supported by a dedicated Manager in the Secretariat.

In addition, working groups and taskforces are now better defined as fixed-term bodies charged with specific tasks and reporting to standing committees.

Organisational Changes Ahead for RSPO (continued)

Overview: Executive Board Way of Working

3 Standing Committees:

- Certification & Standards
- Trade & Traceability
- Communications & Claims
- Finance

Broad goals and mandate

No fixed time frame

Chaired by an EB member

Work programme approved by EB

Dedicated budget

Each supported by a manager from Secretariat

Working Groups (report into Standing Committees)

- Specific goals and mandate

- Fixed time frame

Task Forces (report into WG's)

- To deliver on specific area

- Fixed, short term time frame

The EB believes that the changes will bring about great improvements in the management of the RSPO, service to members and ability to address the challenges ahead. And this is just the beginning of a renewed commitment to ongoing reviews of governance and management. As the RSPO and its members continue their journey, the EB will monitor the changing needs and requirements.

An Update on the RSPO Grievance Panel

In the last issue of this newsletter, the grievance mechanism of the RSPO was described in detail. Since then, the work of the Grievance Panel has received a great deal of attention, due to the public interest in the SMART/GAR case.

However, recent media coverage and stakeholder questions has highlighted that some confusion persists over the composition and workings of the Grievance Panel, which has produced some distorted opinions.

Composition of the Grievance Panel

The Grievance Panel is made up of individuals from amongst the Executive Board who represent a wide range of expertise on the technical issues involved as well as the stakeholder groups of the RSPO. The Grievance Panel consists of:

- One social NGO representative
- One environmental NGO representative
- One representative from the growers sector
- One individual affiliate member with significant producer experience
- One representative from the market

The current composition of the Grievance Panel can be found on the RSPO website

Addressing conflict of interest

Recognising that many RSPO members are commercially involved, each case is preceded by clarifying whether any of the Grievance Panel members have a significant conflict of interest, in which case that member will withdraw from the Grievance Panel for the specific case. In the SMART/GAR

case, Unilever withdrew from the panel and Belinda Howell who represents a group of European retailers on the EB is acting as a replacement. Oxfam International is chairing the proceedings.

In addition, the grower representative will alternate between

the various members of the Executive Board producer representatives, to avoid a situation where any member is involved in a case which could cause a conflict of interest.

RSPO Vacancies

RSPO

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

Executive positions at the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil:

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) is a not-for-profit association that unites stakeholders from seven sectors of the palm oil industry - oil palm producers, processors, manufacturers, retailers and investors, environmental and social NGOs - to develop and implement global standards for sustainable palm oil.

The RSPO is restructuring to reflect the global reach and success of the organisation, including a new executive team to oversee the organisation's management and growth. The roles are senior management positions, each supported by a team of 3-5 specialist staff, and are based in Kuala Lumpur. Available positions are:

Secretary General

The Secretary General leads and represents the organisation globally. The role requires significant advocacy skills and the ability to lead and build a self-sufficient team. The position will report to the Executive Board and be supported by a team of senior Directors

Technical Director

The Technical Director spearheads the organisation's technical and certification activities. Applicants are required to understand certification schemes in tropical agriculture and be strong team leaders.

Communications Director

The Communications Director will lead global communications with stakeholders throughout the supply chain. Significant experience in issues management and branding at a global level is a requirement.

Finance and Administration Director

The Finance and Administration Director is responsible for controlling and managing all financial and related areas. The position includes oversight of membership coordination and ongoing improvements in service levels to stakeholders.

The RSPO is also looking for specialists within **supply chain certification, smallholder affairs, biodiversity and dispute settlement**. Please visit www.rspo.org for further requirements and information on all available positions.

Contact: Please provide a CV and cover letter to SG@rspo.org by 20 October 2010. Include indicative salary expectation.

Confidentiality: To safeguard the privacy of candidates, shortlisting and candidate assessment will be handled by CSR Asia, Egon Zehnder and Robert Walters Malaysia. Only final candidates will be made known to the RSPO Executive Board

Numbers of RSPO Certified Companies as of October 2010

Growers' Certification

Companies : 19
 Palm Oil Mills : 71
 Volume CSPO : 3,088,075 T
 Volume: CSPK : 966,777 T
 Production Area : 607,602 ha

Supply Chain Certification

Companies : 46
 Facilities : 87

Membership Profile as of October 2010

