

MEMORANDUM ON COOPERATION IN
FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
UNDER THE
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM IN THE AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
BETWEEN THE
AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN
AND THE
COORDINATION COUNCIL FOR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS


1. This memorandum of cooperation is undertaken pursuant to the guidelines for the Cooperative Program in the Agricultural Sciences between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Coordination Council for North American Affairs (CCNAA) which became effective January 28, 1986.

2. During the November 1990 visit to the territory represented by CCNAA of forestry representatives from AIT's designated representatives, the Forest Service of USDA, and the University of Arkansas at Monticello at the invitation of CCNAA's designated representatives, the Council of Agriculture (COA), a number of subjects of mutual interest and possible future cooperation were identified. In particular, it was noted that important and similar trends were taking place both in the territory represented by CCNAA and in the territory represented by AIT which are resulting in increasing emphasis being placed on forest land management for the protection of watersheds, wildlife, and biological diversity and for the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities for expanding urban societies. Wood, however, remains an important commodity both in the territory represented by CCNAA and in the territory represented by AIT, and efforts are underway to stimulate its production from private land and to foster mutually beneficial marketing and trade opportunities.


3. Two broad areas for future AIT-CCNAA cooperation were identified: 1) professional enhancement and 2) cooperative research. An important means of enhancing the professional development of forestry and natural resource officials of the territory represented by CCNAA is to provide on-the-job training opportunities in the territory represented by AIT under the auspices of USDA's Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Interior for periods of a few months to a year or more. Subjects of particular interest are Geographical Information System (GIS), forest resources inventory, outdoor recreation, wilderness management, wildlife management, landscape ecology, and interdisciplinary planning and management. The Council of Agriculture (COA), CCNAA's designated representative, will seek to identify candidates for such training from throughout the forestry and natural resources community in the territory represented by CCNAA, and AIT's designated representative, the USDA Forest Service, will seek to identify sites for such training in the territory represented by AIT both at USDA Forest Service facilities and cooperatively with the U.S. Department of Interior.

4. Cooperative research remains a high priority for future collaboration. Although past research has been of high quality and great benefit to both the authorities represented by CCNAA and the authorities represented by AIT, this ongoing program has failed to reach its full potential, and there is scope to expand it in a number of areas. In particular, benefit could accrue from cooperative research in wildlife management, ecology, and recreation as identified in the 1988 report by Sweeney, Dwyer, and Conrad, but also in other areas such as forest products marketing. A target would be to have at least two cooperative projects underway per year. Both CCNAA's designated representative, the COA, and AIT's designated representative, the USDA Forest Service, will intensify efforts to expand this excellent program.

5. Cooperation on both professional enhancement and research programs can best be facilitated through the existing Guidelines for a Cooperative Program in the Agricultural Sciences Jointly signed by the CCNAA and the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) on January 28 and January 15, 1986 respectively, and managed by COA and OICD/USDA as their designated representatives.



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