



Sustainable Green Ecosystem Council

Nagata-cho Building 4F, 2-4-3 Nagata-cho
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN

TEL:03-6273-3358, FAX:03-6273-3368

E-mail:info@sgec-eco.org <http://www.sgec-eco.org>



September 29, 2017

Mr. Ben Gunneberg
CEO and Secretary General
the PEFC Council
World Trade Center 1
10 Route de l'Aéroport
1215 Genève, Switzerland

CC: Mr. Michael Berger, PEFC Secretariat
Mr. Johan Vlieger, PEFC Secretariat

CC Dr.Satohiko SASAKI,
President, SGEC

**Revision of procedures related to SGEC Document 3 “Principles, Indicators and Guidelines for SGEC Forest Management Certification”
(Revision of SGEC Operational Document 3-1 “ Certification Procedures related to Principle 5-1-5 of SGEC Document 3”)**

Dear Ben,

With respect to the two conditions imposed on the endorsement of SGEC by the PEFC Council as described in Motion 7 (Note1) of the General Assembly Postal Vote 2-2016, particularly Ainu people's issue, SGEC has been conducting management of SGEC scheme based on the procedures set up through consultation with Ainu Association of Hokkaido and adopted by SGEC Board of Directors on October 14 in last year 2016 , as I reported by my letter dated October 30, 2016. In setting the procedures, SGEC had expressed that the certification procedures would be reviewed further, based on examination of implementation of certification evaluation by the certification bodies.

Following the last amendment, SGEC stipulated in SGEC Operational Plan (Note2) that “certification evaluation procedures will be reviewed based on examination of the actual implementation of certification process and opinions expressed by the Ainu Association of Hokkaido”. I hereby report that SGEC has recently further amended certification procedures after a series of consultation with the Ainu Association of Hokkaido as shown in Attachment and Annex.

Regarding this new amendment of certification procedures, the Ainu Association of Hokkaido expressed their views that they recognized this new amendment as an



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intermediate step and urged further review in next fiscal year and later, reflecting the result of examination of international standards of certification schemes, etc.

SGEC is now planning to set up a working group for further discussing this issue under the Expert Committee in the next fiscal year. Candidates of members of the working group are the Ainu Association of Hokkaido, environmental NPOs, academics and overseas working experienced experts. SGEC will further continue its effort to establish certification evaluation procedures for better reflection of the actual situation in the field through a series of discussion in the working group.

It should be noted that, however, it would be unavoidable that the issue of tenure or ownership of land and forest resources be discussed in the working group, since NGOs and the Ainu Association strongly request compliance with ILO169 and UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The discussion in the working group is foreseen to be extended beyond the scope of not only domestic laws but also international and domestic customary laws.

Deliberation of the working group needs to consider the actual situation of certification evaluation by certification bodies, opinions and views from experts in related fields, status of domestic legislation and other factors, and it might be difficult to reach a consensus based on common understanding and acceptance by all the members in a short period. If unanimous agreement is difficult, there might be possibility of a case that the working group concludes with a report appended with a minor opinion.

In spite of the above situation, SGEC will exert its utmost effort to reach a consensus in the working group in the shortest period of time with necessary examination and deliberation in order to secure credibility of SGEC forest certification scheme.

The amended certification procedure and the process of the amendment are shown in Attachment and Annex.

Sincerely yours,

Kiyoo NAKAGAWA (Mr.)
Director and Chief of Secretariat
Sustainable Green Ecosystem Council
JAPAN



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Note1: Motion 7 of PEFC 2016 general assembly on the endorsement of SGEC certification scheme :

To endorse the SGEC forest certification scheme, subject to the fulfillment of the two following conditions within six months after a scheme endorsement:

- a) SGEC shall actively engage with the AINU Association of Hokkaido in order to develop a mutually acceptable solution for the recognition of AINU people's rights in the SGEC forest management standard.

Note2: SGEC Operational Plan FY 2017 (April 1st, 2017 – March 31st, 2018)

3. Dissemination and smooth implementation of internationally endorsed SGEC forest certification scheme

Dissemination of SGEC certification scheme, which is internationally endorsed, and PEFC certification scheme, whose administration is commissioned to SGEC from PEFC Council, should be further promoted.

(1) Review of SGEC certification scheme toward its on dissemination and establish its foundation

Any issue which arises in the course of application of SGEC standards in the field should be examined by the Expert Committee in order to secure smooth implementation of the certification.

Regarding standards related particularly to AINU people's issue, actual situation of certification should be examined and certification evaluation procedures should be further reviewed with consultation with the AINU Association of Hokkaido.

Attachment:

Revision of principle 5-1-5 “Principles, Indicators and Guidelines for SGEC Forest Management Certification ” , Operational Document 3-1,SGEC Document 3 – Comparative table on Revised and Previous document

Revised document , SGEC Board approved in September, 2017	Previous document
<p>SGEC Operational Document “3”-1 Procedures of Certification Evaluation with respect to Principle 5-1-5 of SGEC Document 3</p> <p>1. General principle A forest manager, respecting Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (ILO169) and UN Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples, following international laws such as International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of International Covenants on Human Rights, also following related articles of domestic laws such as Act on the Promotion of Ainu Culture, and Dissemination and Enlightenment of Knowledge about Ainu Tradition, etc., paying sufficient attention to rights under customary law which are generated or being generated through general customary practices recognized internationally and domestically, shall make consultation with a regional organization(s) of Ainu people in accordance with FPIC (Free Prior Informed Consent) in conducting forest management in an area where Ainu people reside, with respect for culture of Ainu people related to forests and recognition that the Ainu are the indigenous people who have their original culture and identity.</p> <p>2. Certification Evaluation Process</p> <p>In conducting certification evaluation related to Principle 5-1-5 (Ainu people), it shall be evaluated whether a forest manager deliver explanation and/or make consultation in a fair manner in accordance with FPIC with the following procedures.</p>	<p>SGEC Operational Document * 3-1 formulated in October 2016 Procedures of Certification Evaluation with respect to Principle 5-1-5 of SGEC Document 3</p> <p>(* SGEC Operational Document: Guiding documents formulated by SGEC as supplements to SGEC Documents to define and describe detailed matters necessary for smooth implementation of SGEC Documents)</p> <p>In operation of Principle 5-1-5, certification evaluation shall be conducted in accordance with the following procedures.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A forest manager in Hokkaido (hereinafter referred as “forest manager”) shall identify a local organization(s) of Ainu people located in the area concerned as a stakeholder when acquiring forest management certification. In this case, information on a local organization(s) of Ainu people in Hokkaido to be engaged is acquired from municipal governments and other relevant organizations such as Ainu Association of Hokkaido upon necessity. 2. When acquiring forest management certification, the forest manager shall hear views of the local organization(s) of Ainu people identified through the section 1 above and consult with them on the matters related to the forest management concerned through meetings, communication measures, etc. in accordance with FPIC. 3. In carrying out the consultation defined in the section 2 above, the forest manager shall make efforts to arrive at a fair solution by taking necessary measures while fully understanding and respecting indigenous peoples` rights and others stipulated in ILO 169 and “UN Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples”, and also following International Convention on the

(1) A forest manager shall identify a local organization(s) of Ainu people located in the area concerned as a stakeholder.

In identifying the local organization(s), the forest manager shall conduct necessary survey by, for example, acquiring information from local governments and/or other relevant organizations such as Ainu Association of Hokkaido.

(2) The forest manger shall deliver explanation and/or make consultation with the local organization(s) of Ainu people regarding a management plan (timber harvesting, forest road construction, etc.) of the forest which the forest manager(s) applies for certification, through meetings and/or communication measures. The forest manager(s) shall pay particular attention to the following issues in managing the forest;

- ①protection of customary practices of Ainu people in the forest concerned such as hunting or gathering of plants used as dye or food
- ②protection of sites of spiritual significance for Ainu people such as “chiminoshiri” (sites for prayer)
- ③protection of other culture and customs of Ainu people related to the forest concerned

<references> Board of Education, Hokkaido

- List of cultural assets designated by the national government, Hokkaido prefectural government and municipal governments
- Candidates of designated cultural or scenic sites related to Ainu culture
- List of historical remains or monuments of Ainu people
- Other Ainu concerned documents related to particular attention shown in the above (2)

(3) In case a solution is not reached through the consultation described in the above, the forest manager(s) shall seek advice from relevant organizations such as municipal governments and make further effort to reach a fair solution

Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The following matters shall be well considered in the consultation.

- Protection of traditional, cultural and customary rights of Ainu people
- Protection of sites of historical, anthropological, cultural and spiritual significance for Ainu people

4. The forest manager shall keep written records of the process taken, when the forest manager identifies a local organization(s) of Ainu people, hears their views and carries out consultation with them based on the section 1 to 3 above.

Note 1: Procedures stipulated in this document are subject to further examination with taking into account review of implementation of certification evaluation in the future based on “Note 1” and “Note 2” of Principle 5-1-5 of SGEC Document 3.

through, for example, additional explanation based on a field survey and document survey upon necessity.

(4) The forest manager(s) shall keep written records of the content and process of the consultation with the local Ainu organization(s). When necessary, a written record agreed by both sides shall be made.

Note1: Certification evaluation procedures stipulated in this standard are to comply with 5.6.4 “Forest management activities” of PEFC 1003:2010 “Sustainable Forest Management -Requirements”.

Note2: This evaluation procedures are to be further reviewed in the next fiscal year and after, based on the actual implementation of certification evaluation and opinions provided by stakeholders.

<reference>

**SGEC Document 3:
Principles, Indicators and Guidelines for SGEC Forest Management
Certification
Requirements for Forest Management Certification**

<principle related to Ainu people>

5-1-5 Forest manager, recognizing that the Ainu living around the northern part of the Japanese Archipelago, especially in Hokkaido, are the indigenous people who have their original language, religion and cultural characteristics, shall give consideration, from a forest management viewpoint, to promotion of the Ainu policy based upon “the Experts’ report on the promotion of the Ainu policy” (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Report’), while respecting ILO No.169 and UN Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples, and following Act on the Promotion of Ainu Culture, and Dissemination and Enlightenment of Knowledge about Ainu Tradition, etc. (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Ainu Culture Promotion Act’) and International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Moreover, forest manager in the district where the Ainu are living shall have

a process/ mechanism to hear views of a regional organization(s) of Ainu as a stakeholder through explanatory meetings or other measures of communication and consult with them on the matters related to management of the forest concerned in accordance with FPIC. With respect to the consultation, forest manager shall also have a process/mechanism to arrive at a fair solution, while respecting/following the above-mentioned conventions, declaration, etc.

Note 1: Application of this principle should be conducted in accordance with the PEFC standard documents, and should not be distinguished between “respecting” and “following” in weighing importance.

Note 2: FPIC: Free, Prior and Informed Consent

Note 3: “Ainu Culture Promotion Act” was enacted in 1997, aiming to realize a society in which the pride of Ainu people as an ethnic group is respected. “Advisory Council for Future Ainu Policy” was established within the Japanese government, in response to the “Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)” adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007, and the “Resolution to Recognize the Ainu as an Indigenous People” adopted by the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors in 2008 based on the aim of international conventions on human rights such as International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Afterwards, the final report of the advisory council, released in July 2009, stated that the future Ainu policy should be developed based on the recognition of indigenusness of Ainu people. Furthermore, following the above report, the “Council for Ainu Policy Promotion” was established in the Government in order to promote integrated and effective Ainu policy reflecting opinions of Ainu people etc.

In light of the above historical context, the Government is currently promoting policies in which priorities are put on promotion, enlightenment and dissemination of Ainu culture, and improvement of livelihood of Ainu people.

ANNEX

Revision Process of SGEC Document 3 “Principles, Indicators and Guidelines for SGEC Forest Management Certification”

(Revision of SGEC Operational Document 3-1 on certification evaluation procedures on Principle 5-1-5 of SGEC Document 3)

Content

1. Drafting of a working document

2. Consultation with Ainu Association of Hokkaido on certification evaluation procedures on Principle 5-1-5 of FM standard related to Ainu people
 - (1) First consultation meeting
 - (2) Second consultation meeting

3. Seminar titled “For better understanding of Ainu peoples in Hokkaido”

4. Expert Committee Meeting

5. Councilors Committee meeting

6. Board of Directors meeting

1. Drafting of a working document

A working draft of the amendment of the operational document on FM certification evaluation procedures concerning the issue of Ainu people was formulated after hearing opinions of certification bodies who have engaged in consultation with Ainu organizations in the course of certification practices in the field, as well as organizations, academics and NPOs who had submitted opinions when the previous standards were amended last year.

- List of organizations or persons whom SGEC secretariat heard opinions of
 - (1) Certification bodies
 - >Japan Forest Technology Association (June 28, 2017)
 - >SGS Japan (June 30, 2017)
 - >Japan Gas Appliances Inspection Association (JIA) (June 28, 2017)
 - (2) Stakeholders in Hokkaido
 - >Director of Forest Planning Division of Hokkaido Prefectural Government (July 31, 2017)
 - >Director General of Hokkaido Regional National Forest Office(July 31, 2017)
 - >Other administrative organizations, associations related to forestry and forest products industries (August 2, 2017)
 - (3) Forestry Agency
 - >Senior Officer in charge of National Forest Planning and other FM certification concerned Forestry Agency officials (June 28, 2017)
 - (4) Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies, Hokkaido University (July 31, 2017)
 - (5) NPOs who submitted opinions in the process of standard revision in 2016
 - >Japan Tropical Forest Action Network (JATAN) (July 6, 2017)
 - >Global Environmental Forum (June 29, 2017)

2. Consultation with Ainu Association of Hokkaido on certification evaluation procedures on Principle 5-1-5 of FM standard related to Ainu people

(1) Record of 1st consultation meeting with Ainu Association of Hokkaido

- i) Date and time: August 17, 2017 13:30-14:30
- ii) Venue: Ainu Association of Hokkaido
- iii) Attendant: Secretary General of Ainu Association of Hokkaido
Secretary General and Division Chief in charge of International Affairs of SGEC
- iv) Agenda: A working draft of the amendment of the operational document on FM certification evaluation procedures concerning the issue of Ainu people
- v) Minutes (draft, amendment requested but not yet confirmed by Ainu Association of Hokkaido)
 - Explanation by Secretary General of SGEC
The working draft on the principle 5-1-5 was used as basic text for the explanation.
 - (a) SGEC is planning to amend the operational document related to SGEC forest management certification 5-1-5, as shown in a working draft of the amendment of the operational document on FM certification evaluation procedures concerning the issue of Ainu peoples. The draft was formulated by hearing opinions of certification bodies who have engaged in consultation with Ainu organizations during certification practices in the field, as well as organizations, academics and NPOs who had submitted opinions when the previous standards were amended last year.
 - (b) In formulating the draft, the following points (①、②、③) raised by Ainu Association of Hokkaido in the consultation meeting on August 10, 2016 and the expert committee meeting on October 3, 2016 were considered.
 - ① Regarding Japanese government unratified conventions; ILO169 and UN Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples, the ambiguous wording “respect” should be replaced by “follow”.
 - ② Process of FPIC should be elaborated.
 - ③ To determine the procedures, FSC standards should be examined.
 - (c) Basic standpoints of SGEC regarding the above opinions in drafting the amendment are as follows;
 - >Regarding ①, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of International Covenants on Human Rights, in which the rights of religious or

linguistic minorities to enjoy their own culture are stipulated in Article 27, is added to reference, and the wording “paying sufficient attention to rights under customary law which are generated or being generated through general customary practices recognized internationally and domestically” is also added.

>Regarding ②, concrete examples of protection of customary practices by Ainu people and sites of spiritual significance are listed. Also reference documents are listed.

>Regarding ③, since FSC standards are now on the process of amendment and the amended standards are to be enacted in 2018, status of implementation of the amended FSC standard will be examined in the future during review of the SGEC procedures.

(d) Based on the above standpoints, SGEC secretariat explained major points of the amendment as follows;

i) As already stipulated in the previous standard, a forest manager shall identify a local organization(s) of Ainu people located in the area where locates the forest concerned as a stakeholder.

ii) A forest manager shall follow FPIC when making explanation/consultation with the local organization of Ainu peoples regarding following issues.

①As already stipulated in the previous standard, a forest management plan such development plan as timber harvesting and construction of forest roads shall be sufficiently explained.

② Customs and culture of Ainu peoples such as Customary practices by Ainu peoples in the forest concerned and sites of spiritual significance shall be protected.

③ Regarding tenure issue that goes back before establishment of current land ownership in Meiji era over 100 years ago, since there is a view that it is difficult to be recognized as a generating right under international customary law in the current situation, the issue is not described in the working draft.

c) SGEC will consider raised issues reflecting various circumstances and will review the standard accordingly.

(e) The working draft is subject to deliberation in SGEC expert committee meeting followed by a councilors meeting and a Board of Directors meeting scheduled in September. Experts and NPOs who attended the expert committee meeting last year or submitted opinions in other occasions will be invited to the expert committee meeting.

(f) Certification practices should be conducted based on sufficient understanding on the actual condition of Ainu people for applying standard related to Ainu people. SGEC secretariat is planning to hold a seminar on Ainu people`s issue inviting speakers from Ainu Association of Hokkaido.

➤ Opinions by Secretary General of Ainu Association of Hokkaido

The working draft is appreciated as a step forward from the previous standard. There is a question whether the draft document presented as amendment of the operational standard is to be applied to actual FM certification practices.

It should be noted that, even with the explanation from SGEC, Ainu Association of Hokkaido does not accept the draft as the final solution. Amendment of FSC standards currently under consideration will be reportedly enacted next year. Ainu Association request that SGEC standard be further reviewed in a prompt manner based on the examination of the FSC standards and other international standards.

Request for dispatching speakers to the proposed seminar will be duly considered.

➤ Answer by Secretary General of SGEC

The draft document presented today is to be applied to actual FM certification practices as certification standard after formerly adopted via SGEC standard setting procedures.

The document is to be further reviewed and amended based on opinions from Ainu Association of Hokkaido, status of application of FSC standards and actual situation of SGEC certification practices.

SGEC appreciates positive consideration of dispatching speakers to the seminar.

(2) Record of 2nd consultation meeting with Ainu Association of Hokkaido

i) Date and time: September 5, 2017 16:00-17:00

ii) Venue: SGEC office

iii) Attendant:

- Vice Chairman and Secretary General of Ainu Association of Hokkaido
- Chairman, Secretary General, Division Chief in charge of International Affairs and Division Chief in charge of Certification Practices of SGEC

iv) Agenda: The amendment of the operational document on Principle 5-1-5 of FM certification standard

v) Minutes (draft, amendment requested but not yet confirmed by Ainu Association of Hokkaido)

➤ Vice Chairman of Ainu Association

The draft amendment is accepted as an interim step.

SGEC`s effort to make consultation with Ainu Association of Hokkaido and to organize a seminar for better understanding of Ainu people is appreciated. It is

expected that culture and customs of Ainu people are understood well and protected through forest certification scheme.

Regarding SGEC`s explanation on international customary law, Ainu Association requests SGEC to understand that the basis of Ainu Association stands on its aim to realize the recommendation by UN Human Rights Council, an auxiliary body of UN General Assembly, in 2008 on reconsideration of land rights and other rights of Ainu people and harmonization of those rights with UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Ainu Association requests further review of the standard based on the above.

➤ Secretary General of SGEC

The meaning of remarks by Vice Chairman is well understood.

However, it is requested to understand that SGEC certification scheme is a voluntary non-governmental scheme. SGEC will make effort to cope with Vice Chairman`s remark within the scope of SGEC as a non-governmental organization.

SGEC hopes its certification scheme should contribute to better understanding and protection of Ainu culture and customs in Hokkaido.

SGEC will continue to consult with Ainu Association to make the certification standard better.

3. Seminar “For Better Understanding of Ainu Peoples in Hokkaido”

The seminar had a significant impact to people engaging in SGEC certification scheme for better understanding of Ainu peoples.

- i) Aim: To deepen understanding of Ainu peoples in Hokkaido in order for securing appropriate application of SGEC forest certification standard related to Ainu peoples
- ii) Title: “Concerning Ainu Peoples”
– For better understanding of Ainu people as an indigenous peoples –
- iii) Date and Time: September 6, 2017 10:30-12:00
- iv) Venue: Conference Room of Japan Forest Conservation Association in Tokyo
- v) Speakers: Vice Chairman of Ainu Association of Hokkaido
Secretary General of Ainu Association of Hokkaido
- v) Participants: around 40 people (SGEC directors, councilors, expert committee members, certification bodies, NPOs, government organizations)

4. Expert Committee Meeting

An expert committee meeting in FY 2017 was held as follows and approved the draft of amendment of certification evaluation procedures on Forest Management Certification Principle 5-1-5 related to Ainu people as a final draft.

(1) Background

The agenda of the expert committee meeting in FY 2017 was new amendment of the certification procedures on Forest Management Certification Principle 5-1-5 related to Ainu people. Its previous amendment was approved by the expert committee meeting held on October 30, 2016. Those who had delivered opinions in the 2016 meeting were invited to FY 2017 meeting, in addition to the regular members. Information of the meeting was also publicly announced in order to invite attendants widely. Attendants were from Ainu Association of Hokkaido, NPOs, academics and experts, governmental organizations, etc. as listed below.

(2) Date and time: September 6, 2017 13:30-15:00

(3) Venue: Conference Room of Japan Forest Conservation Association in Tokyo

(4) Agenda: A working draft of amendment of SGEC Operational Document “3”-1 on certification evaluation procedures on Principle 5-1-5 of SGEC Document 3

(5) Result of Discussion

The working draft on the principle 5-1-5 was approved with minor changes as a final draft. The meeting, in approving the draft, imposed a condition that the document should be reviewed for further amendment in the next fiscal year and after based on examination of application of the amended procedures to actual certification practices by certification bodies, and status of application of amended FSC standards planned to be enacted in April 2018 and other international standards.

It was explained that the approved final draft was subject to adoption by the Board of Directors after hearing opinions in a councilors meeting.

(6) Attendants

The working draft on the principle 5-1-5 and other Materials for the meeting were sent to the members of expert committee, and, in case of absence, opinions were requested to be sent to secretariat beforehand.

Fifteen members of the expert committee and 6 observers attended. Observers were those who would like to refrain from attending under expert status. They have no voting rights but are free to express opinions at the meeting. Experts exerted voting rights after hearing opinions from attendants including observers.

Table1 Affiliation of Experts

Affiliation	Attendance
Japan Forestry Association	○
Tsukuba University	○
Tsukuba University	
Japan Plywood Inspection Association	○
ex Japan Accreditation Board	
Japan Lumber Inspection Association	○
ex Forestry Agency	○
Federation of Forestry Labor Unions	○
Global Environmental Forum	○
Nippon Association of Consumer Specialists(NACS)	○
ex Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Center	
National Land Afforestation Promotion Organization	
Japan Federation of Forestry Associations	○
Japan Association of Laminated Lumber Manufactures	○
Japan Plywood Manufacture`s Association	
Oji Forest and Products Co., Ltd.	○
Japan Federation of Wood Industry Associations	○
Japan Federation of Forestry Associations	○
Japan Flooring Association	○
Japan Wood Products Export Promotion Council	
Nippon Paper Industries Co., Ltd	○
ex Council for Promotion of Utilization of Domestic Certified Products	○

Table 2 Observers

Affiliation	Number of Attendants
Ainu Association of Hokkaido	2 (Vice Chairman and Secretary General)
Japan Tropical Forest Action Network (JATAN)	2
Forestry Agency	4 (Senior Officer of Planning Division, etc.)

5. Councilors Committee meeting

(1) Date and Time: September 15, 2017 13:30-15:00

(2) Venue: Conference Room of Japan Forest Conservation Association in Tokyo

(3) Attendants

List of councilors is listed below.

Materials for the meeting were sent to councilors, and in case of absence opinions were requested to be sent to secretariat beforehand.

(4) Agenda: A final draft approved by the expert committee on amendment of SGEC Operational Document 3-1 on certification evaluation procedures on Principle 5-1-5 of SGEC Document 3

(5) Result

No particular opinions were expressed regarding the content of the proposed final draft.

Regarding the condition imposed by the expert committee on September 6 that “the document should be reviewed for further amendment in the next fiscal year and after based on examination of application of the amended procedures to actual certification practices by certification bodies, etc.”, there was a proposal to set up a working group under the expert committee comprised of Ainu Association of Hokkaido, environmental NGOs, academics and experts, administrative organizations, experts with overseas experiences, etc. as further efforts to establish certification evaluation procedures better reflecting actual situation in the field.

Table 3 Affiliation of Councilors

Institute for Global Environment Strategies	
Atelier4A	
Professor Emeritus of Tokyo University	
Professor Emeritus of Tokyo University	
Nippon Association of Consumer Specialists(NACS)	
Japan Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute	Vice Chair
Japan University of Economics	
Tsukuba University	
Tsukuba University	
Global Environmental Forum	
Federation of Forestry Labor Unions	
Japan Forestry Association	Chair
ex Japan Accreditation Board	
The Nature Conservation Society of Japan	
ex Forestry Agency	

Wild Bird Society of Japan	
Conservation International Japan	
Wood Miles Forum	
Morimori Network	
Forest Management Association of Japan	

6. Board of Directors Meeting

(1) Date and Time: September 26, 2017 10:30-12:00

(2) Venue: Conference Room of Japan Forest Conservation Association in Tokyo

(3) Attendants

Seventeen directors (among 22 directors) and 2 auditors (among 2 auditors)

Materials for the meeting was sent to directors and, in case of absence, opinions were requested to be sent to secretariat beforehand.

(4) Agenda:

A final draft on amendment of SGEC Operational Document "3"-1 on certification evaluation procedures on Principle 5-1-5 of SGEC Document 3

(5) Result:

The amendment of SGEC Principle 5-1-5, Operational Document 3-1, SGEC Document 3 was adopted as proposed.

Regarding the proposal given by the councilors meeting on September 15, it was decided to carry it out as a SGEC activity in the FY 2018 and after as follows:

"Regarding the condition given by the expert committee in approving the draft amendment on September 6 that the document should be reviewed for further amendment in the next fiscal year and after based on examination of application of the amended procedures to actual certification practices by certification bodies, etc., further efforts are to be made to establish certification evaluation procedures better reflecting actual situation in the field by setting up a working group comprised of Ainu Association of Hokkaido, environmental NGOs, academics and experts, administrative organizations, experts with overseas experiences, etc.

It should be noted that it would be unavoidable that the issue of tenure or ownership of land and forest resources is discussed in the working group, since NPOs and the AINU Association strongly request compliance with ILO169 and UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and, therefore, the discussion in the working group is foreseen to be extended beyond the scope of not only domestic laws but also international and domestic customary laws.

Deliberation of the working group needs to consider the actual situation of certification evaluation by certification bodies, opinions and views from experts in related fields, status of domestic legislation and other factors, and it might be difficult to reach a consensus based on common understanding and acceptance by all the members in a short period. If unanimous agreement is difficult, there might be possibility of a case that the working group conclude with a report appended with a minor opinion.

In spite of the above situation, utmost efforts should be exerted to reach a consensus in the working group in the shortest period of time with necessary examination and deliberation in order to secure credibility of SGEC forest certification scheme.

Table 4 Affiliation of SGEC Directors and Auditors

Affiliation	Title
Consumption Science Center	Director
Professor Emeritus of Tokyo University	Director
Forest Culture Association	Director
National Land Afforestation Promotion Organization	Director
Japan Paper Association	Director
Japan Plywood Manufacture`s Association	Director
Professor Emeritus of Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology	Director
Tokyo University	Director
Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Center	Chairman of the Board
Tsukuba University	Director
Federation of Forestry Labor Unions	Director
PEFC Asia Promotions	Director
Japan Forest Conservation Association	Director
Expert (ex Federation of Japan Forestry Associations)	Director and Secretary General
Japan Wood Housing Industry Association	Director
Japan Federation of Wood Industry Associations	Director
Japan Federation of Forest Owners Associations	Director
OISCA	Director
Federation of Japan Forestry Associations	Director
Expert (Japan Federation of Wood Industry Associations)	Director
Expert (ex Japan Forest Conservation Association)	Executive Director
Expert (Japan Wood Products Information and Research Center)	Auditor
Expert (ex Japan Forest Foundation)	Auditor