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## **APRIL applauds EU-Indonesia pact to certify timber**

*Pulp and paper leader sees boost for customers and forest product sector*

**BRUSSELS, SEPT. 30, 2013** – Pulp and paper leader APRIL applauded an agreement reached here today that requires Indonesia to certify timber exports to the European Union. The Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) signed by Indonesia and the EU mandates that Indonesian exporters will use only legally sourced timber in their forestry products.

The agreement designates Indonesian timber certification schemes as the required authentication for timber exports. EU recognition of the schemes is considered important validation of Indonesia's production forest management policy.

"This is an important day for our customers and for Indonesia's forest product sector," said Kusnan Rahmin, Jakarta-based President Director of APRIL, in Brussels for the signing ceremony. "European customers get added assurance that they're dealing with responsible suppliers, and that can help us grow our share of an important market."

In 2010, APRIL became the first Indonesian plantation company to receive the country's Sustainable Production Forest Management (PHPL) and Timber Legality Verification (SVLK) certificates for its forestry operations. APRIL's pulp and paper mills received SVLK in 2012.

The SVLK certification describes a chain-of-custody process that ensures mills only receive and process timber from legal sources. The PHPL certification verifies that timber is sourced from sustainably managed forests.

The EU is Indonesia's second-largest export market. According to one Indonesian government estimate, the Voluntary Partnership Agreement could boost the country's forest product exports by 20 percent.

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About APRIL:

*Asia Pacific Resources International Limited (APRIL) is a leading producer of fibre, pulp and paper with manufacturing operations in Kerinci, Riau Province, Indonesia. APRIL has been a pioneer in implementing sustainability practices in the pulp and paper industry in Indonesia.*

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