



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**8 June 2015**

### **APRIL GROUP FIRST TO ACHIEVE PEFC SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION IN INDONESIA**

- **APRIL has 45 per cent of its long-term wood supply PEFC certified**
- **PEFC is a globally recognized and accepted independent certification**
- **Boosts global reputation of the Indonesian forestry sector; opens new markets for APRIL**

**JAKARTA, 8 June 2015** – APRIL Group today joined representatives from Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the world’s leading forest certification system, and its Indonesian partner, the Indonesian Forest Certification Co-Operation (IFCC), in announcing it was awarded the first PEFC Sustainable Forest Management certification for an Indonesian forestry company.

APRIL Group now has 45% of its long-term wood supply PEFC certified in Indonesia, with more than 300,000 hectares of its concession area certified. APRIL Group’s manufacturing operations are already PEFC Chain-of-Custody certified, meaning it is now PEFC certified end-to-end throughout its supply chain.

PEFC forest certification is a rigorous, globally recognised standard that works as a mechanism to verify and promote sustainable forest management and sustainably produced wood products.

“We were delighted after much diligent work on the ground to be the first Indonesian forestry company to be awarded our PEFC Certification and to announce it today. It reflects that we have made strong progress in sustainable management of our plantations,” said Tony Wenas, Managing Director APRIL Group’s Indonesia Operations.

PEFC accounts for two thirds of the forests worldwide that are certified under global forest products certification systems. PEFC certification allows consumers around the world to choose wood products sourced from plantations that have been independently verified as sustainably managed according to PEFC’s Sustainability Benchmarks.

“PEFC adds extra trust and assurance for our customers around the world that we are delivering sustainably produced forestry products. It is a positive step for the reputation of Indonesian forestry globally and means new markets and new customers for APRIL Group,” Mr. Wenas said.

PEFC certification adds a strengthening layer to APRIL Group’s existing national and international certifications and other measures under the company’s Sustainable Forest Management Policy (SFMP 2.0), which was updated last week and ensures the elimination of deforestation from the company’s supply chain.



PEFC CEO and Secretary General Ben Gunneberg said: “The achievement of PEFC certification by APRIL Group acknowledges the progress the company and the country have made towards a sustainable future for Indonesian forestry - a future that recognizes the interdependence of environmental, social and economic objectives.”

Dradjad Wibowo, Chairman IFCC said: “Certification brings widespread benefits for the Indonesian forestry sector and the Indonesian export economy, it provides customers around the world with a trusted indicator that the Indonesia-sourced products they have purchased are grown and managed in a sustainable, responsible way.”

APRIL Group noted it is working towards certification of its remaining forestry areas, and expects that work to be completed and additional certification achieved in the coming months.

APRIL Group’s certificates can be viewed at: [http://www.pefc.org/find-certified/certified-certificates?search=riau+andalan&searchtype=universal\\_search](http://www.pefc.org/find-certified/certified-certificates?search=riau+andalan&searchtype=universal_search)

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About APRIL Group:

Asia Pacific Resources International Holdings Ltd 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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