

FNN Representatives Attend Investment Forum for Food Security in Asia and Pacific

July 4-10, 2010

From July 7-9, 2010, FNN President Mr. Uon Sophal, FNN Managing Director Mr. Pan Sopheap, and Mr. Lim Sokun Darun, CEDAC staff member, attended the **Investment Forum for Food Security in Asia and Pacific**, which was held at the headquarters of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila, Philippines. Hundreds of policymakers, development experts, and public and private sector representatives participated in this forum.

The forum was co-organized by ADB, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to explore new approaches to tackle the region's food security challenges.

The forum put most attention and concern on food security since world population growth is rapid and expected to reach 9 billion people by 2050. The rapid population growth will drive up demand for more land for residential development, thereby reducing availability of agricultural lands. In the past year alone, more than 100 million people joined the ranks of the global hungry as a direct result of soaring food prices. Two-thirds of those hungry people are in the Asia and Pacific region, ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda said in his opening speech.

In this regard, there will be more global hunger and food insecurity in the future, especially among the poor in urban and rural areas, if all major development actors do not pay more attention to direct investment in food security. Therefore, the Investment Forum for Food Security looked at existing barriers to achieve food security, and practical mechanisms to overcome those concerns.

ADB/IFAD/FAO have signed an agreement on investment for food security in Asia and Pacific. These three organizations will focus more direct investment in small-scale farmer organizations to boost agricultural productivity, which will be essential to guarantee food security.

During the trip, FNN representatives also attended three other important meetings on similar issues, including the Pre-Investment Forum for Food Security in Asia and Pacific meeting at the Asian Farmer Association for Sustainable Development (AFA) office, the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) side meeting at Crown Hotel and the Medium-Term Cooperation Program (MTCP) meeting at Linden Suite Hotel in Manila, Philippines.

As a national farmer organization network and as a member of the Asian Farmer Association for Sustainable Development (AFA), FNN has been proud to be a partner in a network with regional and international levels on agricultural development. Since it has emerged on the national and international arena, FNN has learned, shared and contributed several major aspects on agricultural development to promote food security and food sovereignty.

