

ASIA-PACIFIC CHANGE AGENT SERIES

Natural Rubber Roundtable 2025

20-21 May 2025 | In-Person | Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



Post-Event Summary

OVERVIEW

The second edition of FSC Asia-Pacific's exclusive Natural Rubber Roundtable convened industry leaders and sustainability decision-makers in Ho Chi Minh City for two days of hands-on exchange. The choice of Vietnam as host spotlighted the country's rising influence in sustainable natural rubber, and important role in multiple associated value chains including footwear, mobility and soft latex products.

Participants representing every link of the supply chain tackled real-world challenges in traceability, regulatory compliance, and smallholder integration, all focused on practical solutions for an industry in rapid transition.



IN NUMBERS



56

Attendees



14

Countries



18

Organizations



2

Days of curated content and strategic dialogue



© FSC / Nguyen Hoang Minh

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED



Smallholder Barriers and Industry Response

- FSC Country Representatives outlined a regional cross section of persistent challenges for smallholders from high certification costs and complexity.
- Practical solutions like group certification and the associated financial assistance under the Regional Forest Stewardship Standard (RFSS) as a tool to incentivise smallholders participation.
- Delegates also evaluated what FSC and market players are doing for smallholder support ending with a pointed debate on premium payments as a lever for equitable certification.



EUDR Compliance Made Inclusive

- The roundtable introduced new tools including the FSC Regulatory Module and streamlined risk assessments to help every actor in the supply chain meet EUDR requirements.
- The rolling out of FSC technologies, including blockchain-based FSC Trace marked a step change in transparency and transaction verification.
- Showcases and insights from FSC EUDR Aligned Early Adopters offered an inside look at practical journeys toward compliance.



Focus on Value and Impact

- Leading brands across key sectors using natural rubber demonstrated that valuing ecosystem services and prioritising responsible sourcing in procurement is driving industry standards and expectations far beyond basic compliance.



Field Progress on Display

- A field trip took stakeholders from forest sites to an aggregation factory, offering an on the ground view of Vietnam's proactive approach to meeting new compliance and market benchmarks across the supply chain.

ASIA-PACIFIC CHANGE AGENT SERIES



WHAT THE ATTENDEES SAY



Scan to watch the full testimonial series.



“

EUDR brought a major challenge—costly, complex, and putting compliance squarely on importers. FSC's regulatory tools have made meeting these demands much more manageable. As an FSC EUDR Aligned Early Adopter, we could share practical insights from those living these challenges every day, ensuring real solutions are grounded in reality.

Hans Evers
Sustainability Manager,
Weber & Schaefer GmbH & Co. KG



“

Being an FSC EUDR Aligned Early Adopter gave us a real head start. Instead of rushing to meet compliance, we had time to carefully plan, involve both direct and finished product customers, and bring clarity to our supply chain. FSC solutions have proven robust and up to date, not only for today but for the future, truly supporting certificate holders like us.”

Jerry Foo
Executive Director,
TATWIN Latex



“

Sustainability is no longer just an add-on. It's now rushing into the supply chain faster than we expected and becoming absolutely essential to our industry's future.

Gabriele Pilger
Senior Manager Sustainability,
Global Footwear Brand



“

Returning this year, I realized sustainability isn't the only decision-making factor. Here, you find new partnerships and a group moving forward with you, so you feel greater than just yourself because the strength is in our collective force.

Mai Luyen
Managing Director,
AGRIAC Global Co. Ltd



“

Our role is to bring FSC-certified rubber to customers and expand its reach. I'm here to deepen my understanding of the supply chain and to connect with customers, farmers, and other stakeholders.

Geert Last
Commodity Trader,
Corrie MacColl Europe B.V.



“

We are delighted to host this year's roundtable in Vietnam, bringing together key stakeholders to witness first-hand the dynamic growth of our natural rubber supply chain and our readiness for regulatory requirements such as EUDR.

Thi Que Anh Vu
Country Manager,
FSC Vietnam



“

Bigger brands used to ask not just where our rubber comes from, but about the practices of our suppliers and if we have FSC certification. Over the years, this has become more of a requirement.

Charlie Smith
Global Sales Manager,
Natural Fiber Welding



“

I'm glad so many in the value chain are prioritizing smallholders and traceability—not just for compliance, but out of genuine care for the origins of raw materials. FSC solutions make this possible by ensuring legality, enabling traceability, and supporting communities.

Charmaine Chee
Country Director, FSC Malaysia



“

I've known about FSC for paper and timber for a long time, but now it's great to see FSC rubber progressing and becoming available in Thailand and Vietnam where we're based.

Paul Grant Means
Senior MD Polymers,
Hwasueng Vina Co. LTD.



“

My expectation to be here is to engage with the robust stakeholders, understand their requirement, and how we can solve the bottlenecks that they're facing currently.

Anuj Sharma
Deputy Country Director,
FSC India