



ORGANISED BY



BPA 一般社団法人
バイオマス発電事業者協会



**F O R E S T
T R E N D S**

ROUNDTABLE

UNDERSTANDING THE LEGALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY ASPECTS OF VIETNAM'S WOOD PELLETS AND PROMOTING WOOD PELLET TRADE BETWEEN VIETNAM AND JAPAN

Time: 15:00 – 17:30 pm, 30 Nov 2023

Venue: Novotel Saigon Centre, 167 Hai Ba Trung Street, Ward 6, District 3, HCMC

1. Background

Vietnam has become the world's second biggest wood pellet exporter after the US. Statistics from ITC show that in 2022 Vietnam exported 2.6 million tons of this product, earning nearly \$775 million USD. Japan and Korea are Vietnam's biggest export markets which account for over 95% of the total export volume. In particular, the wood pellet export of Vietnam to Japan has been increasing for the last few years.

However, there are some key factors that hamper the sustainability of Vietnam's pellets sector, which indeed affects Vietnam's export to Japan. These factors include the limited understanding of Japanese buyers and government officials on Vietnam's wood pellet sector, especially the legality and sustainability aspects of this product.

Secondly, the connection between the Vietnam Wood Pellets Association (VWPA), which represents Vietnamese producers and exporters, and the Biomass Power Association (BPA) representing pellet users in Japan has not been established. This has constrained the opportunity to strengthen mutual understanding and collaboration among the members of the two association.

Thirdly, Vietnamese producers and exporters have limited knowledge about the regulations of the Japanese government on product quality, including legality/sustainability requirements, and the dynamics of the market demand.

Finally, the bilateral exchange between Vietnamese and Japanese governments on wood pellet has remained relatively scarce. The lack of mutual understanding on the Vietnamese government's requirements on the legality and sustainability aspects of wood materials used for pellet production and the Japanese government's requirements on quality, legality and sustainability of this product has not only hindered pellet trade but also hampered the opportunity for trade expansion between the two countries.

2. Objective

The roundtable is organized back-to-back with the 7th Biomass and Bio-energy Asia Conference and aims to connect Vietnamese producers and government authorities with Japanese buyers and officials to:

- (i) Enhance the understanding of legality and sustainability aspects of Vietnam's wood pellets;
- (ii) Establish and tighten the connection between the governments and members of VWPA and BPA; and base on (i) and (ii)
- (iii) Promote wood pellet trade between the two countries in the future.

3. Organizers

Forest Trends	Renewable Energy Institute (Japan)
Vietnam Wood Pellets Association	Biomass Power Association (Japan)

4. Participants

Organizers	Vietnam Department of Forestry
Vietnam Forest Certification Office	Vietnam Timber & Forest Products Association
Representatives from 10 large-scale Vietnamese wood pellet producers	Representatives from Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Ministry of Forestry and Economy, Trade and Industry
Representatives from Japanese buyers	Member of Japan's Biomass Power Association (online)

5. Format

- Hybrid format: in-person in HCMC and online
- Participation in person by invitation only

6. Agenda

Time	Topic	Responsible
15:00 – 15:05	Introduction	- Forest Trends - Renewable Energy Institute
15:05 – 15:20	Vietnam's Wood Pellets Sector: Some aspects of raw materials, legality and sustainability	Dr. Phuc To, Forest Trends
15:20 – 15:35	Vietnam's legality framework and sustainable forest certification program	Representative of Vietnam's Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
15:35 – 16:00	Q & A	All participants
16:00 – 16:15	Japan's pellet demands and future prospects	Biomass Power Association
16:15 – 16:30	Japan's requirements on legality and sustainability aspects of wood pellet Imports	Renewable Energy Institute
16:30 – 17:00	Q & A	All participants
17:00 – 17:30	Discussion: What's needed for future collaboration? B2B, B2G, G2G between Vietnam and Japan?	All participants
17:30	Drink /networking	All participants