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Contact: Saurabh Upadhyay: [supadhyay@inbar.int](mailto:supadhyay@inbar.int); Wu Junqi: [jquwu@inbar.int](mailto:jquwu@inbar.int); Charlotte King: [cking@inbar.int](mailto:cking@inbar.int)

## INBAR welcomes its 42<sup>nd</sup> member: Thailand

*Flag raising ceremony at INBAR headquarters in Beijing marks the official joining of the Kingdom of Thailand as INBAR's 42<sup>nd</sup> member state*

*Beijing, China:* On 6<sup>th</sup> December, the Kingdom of Thailand joined the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), becoming its 42<sup>nd</sup> Member State. The occasion was marked with a flag-raising ceremony, attended by representatives and dignitaries from various countries.

The event began with Dr. Hans Friederich, the Director General of INBAR introducing the attendees; which was subsequently followed by addresses by Professor Mme. Jiang Zehui, Vice Chair, Committee of Population, Resources and Environment, CPPCC and Co-Chair, Board of Trustees of INBAR, Ms. Cherett A. Campbell Charge d'affaires of Jamaica Embassy (on behalf of INBAR Council Chairperson), Mr. Peng Youdong Vice Minister of State Forestry Administration of China (on behalf of the Government of China) and finally Miss Karntimon Ruksakiati Charge d'affaires of Royal Thai Embassy.

The representatives from the Royal Thai Embassy, Jamaican Embassy and the State Forestry Administration of China reaffirmed their support for harnessing bamboo and rattan as sustainable resources to support livelihood of communities around the globe, protect environments and facilitate pro-poor trade. Marking the momentous occasion Dr. Hans Friederich, stated, "I am positive that Thailand's cooperation would reinforce the use of bamboo and rattan as sustainable resources for green development. Thailand joining INBAR strengthens the willingness and capacity of our member states to move towards a green economy that can help address the most pressing challenges and meet the UN SDGs."

Warmly welcoming Thailand, Mme. Jiang Zehui, Co-Chair, Board of Trustees of INBAR stressed the need for greater cooperation, between member states for the promotion of bamboo and rattan and said, "Thailand was one of the six observer countries present at the establishment of INBAR 2 decades ago. With more than a decade of communication through various channels and in initiatives between Thailand and INBAR, Thailand joining as the 42<sup>nd</sup> member state of INBAR will help add greater vitality in promoting bamboo and rattan as a sustainable resource."

Thailand has significant bamboo resources, which if utilized optimally could support various aspects of the country's development. As a member, Thailand will be able to draw on INBAR's resources and policy expertise: from increasing value-added production of bamboo resources, to integrating bamboo and rattan into the country's National Determined Contributions.

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## NOTES

### ***International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)***

*INBAR is a multilateral development organization of 41 Member States for the promotion of Bamboo and Rattan. INBAR plays a unique role in supporting its members to find and demonstrate innovative ways of using bamboo and rattan to protect environments and biodiversity, and alleviate poverty.*

*INBAR connects a global network of partners from the government, private, and not-for-profit sectors to define and implement a global agenda for sustainable development with bamboo and rattan.*

[www.inbar.int](http://www.inbar.int)