

Leveraging In-House Resources to Fuel Transition towards Self-Regulation in the Forestry and Timber Industry

The shared interest between the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) to ensure smooth and full implementation of the Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008 within the forestry and timber industry dates back to years ago and involves efforts to improve guidelines on the Rules as well as to build capacity through the conduct of Pilot Projects for Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) and trainings. All these efforts on a self regulatory basis, set out to impart greater accountability on the part of the companies to comply to terms and approval conditions issued by the NREB, as required under the Rules.

The NREB and STA have once again affirmed their commitment by successfully conducting the second “Training on Environmental Quality Monitoring” for personnel from member companies of STA at Promenade Hotel, Bintulu on 26 – 27 July 2018.

The Training, held in support of the ECA, was conducted by a team of trainers with vast experience in the field of water sampling from UNIMAS. The team, led by Dr Tay Meng Guan was engaged by STA to train its member on the knowledge and correct techniques in water sampling and water quality analysis to its member companies.

The Training was also tailored to include a presentation on regulations and policy in environmental management, delivered by Mr Justine Jok Jau, the Deputy Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak. 21 personnel from STA member companies attended the 2-day Training and obtained knowledge on protocols on water sampling and handling of equipment for *in-situ* and *ex-situ* analysis as well as hands on and guided experience on water sampling.

Mr Justine Jok, in his closing remark, recognized the dedication showed by every parties involved in the Training; the participants who committed their time and effort in the Training, the team of trainers who shared their expertise in the field of water quality sampling and analysis as well as STA who funded the full cost of the Training.

He further shared that NREB is pleased with the progress made by the forestry and timber industry players in the State, in particular the eight (8) companies participating in the Pilot Projects for ECA who have shown steady progress towards self-regulation and will be ready to fully implement the ECA by end of this year.

With the inception of this structured Training course, STA and NREB looks forward to providing more Training in the future not only to build capacity but also to enhance environmental stewardship and inculcate self regulation in environmental management and protection in the State within the forestry and timber industry.



Group photo



The Trainer (far left) demonstrating how to use water sampler to participants of the Training at the water sampling point site