

### 3<sup>RD</sup> ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AUDIT TRAINING COURSE

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) in collaboration with the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) Sarawak has organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> Environmental Compliance Audit Training Course solely for its members. This was one of the initiatives taken by STA to enhance the capacity building in environmental aspects within its member companies.

Twenty five (25) staff from fifteen (15) member companies had enrolled into this course which was conducted in two weeks of 5 days each from 9 to 13 April 2018 and 7 to 12 May 2018 in Wisma STA, Kuching as internal auditors under the *Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008* upon passing the prerequisite examinations.

The Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak, Mr Peter Sawal in his welcoming remarks mentioned that the Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) aims to promote self regulation within a company and enhance the regulation and monitoring of environmental performances against the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Approval Terms and Conditions. He also highlighted that a pilot project for ECA in forestry sector undertaken by NREB and STA was launched in November 2017 to testify feasibility of the *Guidelines for Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008*.

During the two (2) weeks training, participants were taught on environmental laws and regulations as well as key principles of auditing which includes systemic audit process, audit scope, systematic approach during site audit and writing of audit report. The trainer emphasized that ECA is conducted based on the approved terms and conditions stated in EIA report through methods such as interview, document review and site inspection.

Three (3) presentations (i) *the Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008*; (ii) *the Natural Resources and Environment (Prescribed Activities) Order, 1994*; and (iii) *the Guidelines for Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008* were presented by Mr Tsai Koh Fen, Head of Compliance & Enforcement Section and Ms Elizabeth Nyomek, Senior Environmental Controller Officer (Environmental Audit) both from NREB.

A site audit practical was held on 11 April 2018 at a forest plantation in Sampadi, Lundu. This was to provide participants with first hand audit experience. Participants were divided into five (5) groups to carry out audit practical and submit individual audit report within one week thereafter. In the last day of training, participants were assessed through closed and opened book examinations.

A total of 64 staff from STA member companies had participated in and benefited from this ECA Training Course since it started in 2015 which STA has subsidized half of the expenses of conducting the Training Course for all participants.



Opening remarks by the Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak



Presentation by NREB's Officer on Environmental Laws and Regulations



Participants interviewing knowledgeable person during site audit practical



Group photo after completion of site audit practical