

SERIES OF ROADSHOW ON SARAWAK TIMBER LEGALITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM (STLVS) STANDARD

A series of Roadshow on Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS) Standard was jointly organized by the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources (MUDeNR), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd (SFCSB), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (HTSB) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) across Sarawak.

The Roadshow, conducted to brief the forestry and timber industry on the State Government's policy on STLVS, STLVS Standard and its implementation were successfully held at (i) Imperial Hotel, Miri on 12 March, (ii) Promenade Hotel, Bintulu on 14 March 2018, (iii) Kingwood Hotel, Sibul on 19 March, and (iv) Dewan Seminar STIDC on 27 March 2018, attended by approximately 500 participants from the timber industry and forestry agencies.

The Deputy Director of Forests, Tuan Jack Anak Liam made an introduction to STLVS Standard and informed that the STLVS Standard allows licensee or company to engage independent third party auditor to carry out verification on the compliance of STLVS requirements. He added that verification will be able to provide legality assurance to buyers on the timber and timber products exported from Sarawak. He further informed that by 2020, only timber and timber products with STLVS verified allow to be exported.

During the Roadshow, two (2) presentations were made by Ms Eveleen Augustine Lai, Forest Officer of FDS and Mr Afizulmizam bin Afandi, Manager (Industrial Development) of STIDC covering all six (6) Principles in the Standard.

The State Government's policy requires both Forest Management Certification (FMC) and STLVS third party auditing to be carried out. However, the forestry agencies recognize that some criterion in STLVS Standard overlaps with the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (Natural Forest) [MC&I (Natural Forest) and undertaking both audits will burden the licensee or company in terms of cost and time.

Therefore, the FDS, tasked by the MUDeNR, will work together with Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) to conduct an evaluation on the mutual recognition of some of the components in STLVS and FMC to avoid duplication in auditing.



Tuan Hamden, Acting Director of Forests addressing participants of the Roadshow in Bintulu



Group photo of participants in Bintulu



Presentation by Tuan Jack Anak Liam, Acting Director of Forests in Sibuh