



PRESS RELEASE

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Continued Collaboration Driven by Commitment towards Environmental Stewardship

NREB and STA displayed yet another significant milestone in their long term collaborative relationships in the recently concluded “*Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony for the Second Batch of Pilot Projects for Environmental Compliance Audit*”. The event held on 29 November 2018 at Wisma STA was attended by approximately 100 representatives from STA member companies, Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources, government agencies such as Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd (SFCSB), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, Department of Environment (DOE) as well as higher institutions such as Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and Swinburne University of Technology.

Prior to the signing ceremony, a series of presentations were delivered by NREB officers and representatives from participating STA member companies from the inaugural pilot projects, and provided the attendees with background to the pilot projects and highlighted the challenges faced as well as benefits obtained from the pilot projects. Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, STA Chairman shared in his text of speech, read by Mr Philip Choo Kwong Hui, STA Honorary Treasurer, that over the years, STA has undertaken many collaborative works with forestry agencies and higher learning institutions alike, not only to promote scientific and industrial research but also to facilitate effective implementation of the State’s forestry policies.

He added that STA has explored many ways and amplified efforts to leverage capacity within its member companies in the forestry and timber industry on the common grounds that will achieve environmental stewardship through self-regulation.

Among some of the initiatives undertaken was the Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) Training Course offered and partially funded by STA since 2015. To date, four (4) ECA Training Courses had been successfully conducted exclusively for STA member companies and benefited 89 representatives from the State’s forestry and timber industry. In addition to that, Training on Environmental Quality Monitoring (EQM) was conducted beginning this year to further equip the industry with the necessary knowledge and skill to propel the industry towards self-regulation. A total of 44 representatives had been trained by trainers with specialty in the field of water sampling and analysis. The 3rd Training is scheduled 6-7 December in Sibul and had received registration from 26 representatives.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between three (3) parties; STA, NREB and the seven (7) participating member companies of STA, namely Jutakayu Sdn Bhd, Kastima Trading Sdn Bhd, Limba Jaya Timber Sdn Bhd, Polima Forest Bintulu Sdn Bhd, Raplex Sdn Bhd, Shin Yang Trading Sdn Bhd and Zedtee Sdn Bhd. These pilot projects

adopt the same processes adhered to by parties in the inaugural pilot projects, launched in November 2017 with the voluntary participation from eight (8) participating member companies in the forestry and timber industry.

Mr Peter Sawal, Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak, NREB in his address shared that NREB intends to extend the ECA to the plantation industry. He added that as environment is one of the three (3) pillars for sustainable forest management practices, hence the pilot projects are useful in preparing the forestry and timber industry for Forest Management Certification (FMC).

He further congratulated STA for continuing to provide assistance to the forestry and timber industry to ensure that the products from Sarawak are acceptable by the global market.

STA hopes that more forestry agencies can draw on examples from the pilot projects and engage collaboratively with STA in activities to address common goals as well as effective and efficient implementation of policies.



Exchange of MOU documents between Mr Peter Sawal, Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak of NREB (6th from the right) and Mr Philip Choo Kwong Hui, Honorary Treasurer of STA