



STA dan Rakan2



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This monthly news bulletin is produced by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) to disseminate information to our counterparts on training, research and other relevant areas.

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PRESENTATION OF LETTERS OF ACHIEVEMENT AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS



Picture: Mr Lau Swee Nguong presenting a letter of achievement to one of the candidates



Picture: Group photo with the candidates and representatives from the companies

The presentation of Letters of Achievement and Financial Contributions to successful candidates of STAT Trainer Development and Operator Training Programmes was successfully held at ParkCity Everly Hotel, Miri on 22 February 2008.

About 44 persons attended this presentation ceremony. Those present included Mr. Lau Swee Nguong, Vice Chairman of STA, Ms. Loretta Lau, Hon. Secretary of STA, STA Council Members - Mr. Ling Chiong Sing, Mr. Law Kiu Kiong and Mr. Wong Ing Yung, Company representatives, STAT's trainers, trainers from Member's companies and members of the media.

At the presentation ceremony, Mr. Lau Swee Nguong emphasised that the training programmes carried out by STA are in response to Section 54B of the Forests Ordinance

which requires all logging companies to employ only skilled forest workers.

As at 31 January 2008, the number of Trainers and Assessors trained are as follows:

- Trained Trainers – 128 (including 5 from STAT)
- Trainee Trainers – 23 (including 2 from STAT)
- Assessors – 6 (all from STAT)
- Trainee Assessors – 17 (including 2 from STAT)
- Operators – 170 achieved competency status

These candidates who had successfully completed the *Trainer Development Programme* will return to their company to start organising training for their own workers. It is hoped that these candidates will transfer their skills to improve the

efficiency and safety at their work place as well as complement efforts to achieve sustainable forest management in the State.

In this presentation ceremony, each trainer received a Letter of Achievement and Financial Contribution of RM3,000.00, whereas each company received a Financial Contribution of RM6,000.00 per successful candidate. This is to defray part of the high costs of training incurred, such as loss of income due to training, costs incurred to host our training team, etc.

As a token of recognition to the successful trainers and to instil the pride of being skilled workers, STA presented each trainer with a hi-viz T-Shirt, two (2) wedges, a pair of ear muff and a safety helmet for those trainers. This is to

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REGIONAL WORKSHOP— MTCC and FHH PROJECT

Did you know that...

In the Far East, the slowdown of timber and timber product markets in the fourth quarter of 2007 was less severe than at first was expected.

Japan has still high stocks but the plywood market has recovered.

Far Eastern shippers are resisting UK and European efforts to lower lumber prices and delay shipments of existing contracts. Increased freight rates, fuel costs and currency surcharges make European buyers reluctant to close new business.

Log prices have been kept firm as the demand from China and Vietnam is strong. Supply of logs to mills is reported to be tight.

*Source:
Timber Trades Journal
02 Feb 2008*

The Regional Workshop on Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) and the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg (FHH) was held in Kuching on 25 February 2008. It was attended by about 25 participants from various backgrounds e.g. trade associations and government agencies.

Mr Chew Lye Teng, Chief Executive Officer of MTCC in his speech informed that this Workshop is the first of the three Regional Workshops. This MTCC-Hamburg Project was mooted as a result of the Malaysian Timber Certification Mission to Europe in 2002, when the then Minister of Primary Industries, YB Dato' Seri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik held a discussion with and urged the Senator of Economy and Employment in the Hamburg State Legislative Assembly, Mr Gunnar Uldall to review the Hamburg authority's policy regarding public procurement of tropical timber to include certified timber products under the MTCC scheme. This Project aims to provide scientific support to refine the forest management standard i.e. the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification or in short MC&I (2002), to ensure its practical application,

and to fulfill the requirements of the FHH for the use of tropical timber.

To facilitate the implementation of the project, a Joint Project team (JPT) comprising German and Malaysian forest management and certification specialists has been formed. The team works independently in cooperation with MTCC and other relevant organizations in Malaysia and provides the necessary expertise and advice in implementing activities such as:

- gap analysis of the MC&I (2002) against the requirements of the FHH;
- the identification of appropriate future research activities to generate data and information needed to enable the Indicators in the MC & I (2002) to be further refined during future review of the MC & I; and
- the revision of existing management guidelines and procedures for best management practice for forestry in Malaysia. The revised guidelines shall enable FMU managers in the respective regions to fully meet and implement the requirements of the refined MC & I (2002)

An Inception Workshop to brief and inform all relevant stakeholders with regard

to the scope and implementation of this Joint project was held in Kuala Lumpur early 2007. Four consultants on forest management, social, concession and legality and forest conservation were engaged under this Project. The outcome of the gap analyses by the four consultants were presented for further discussion with stakeholders in the two-day Mid-term Workshop held in Kuala Lumpur on 25 – 26 June 2007.

The Regional Workshop is a crucial milestone in the implementation of this Project as it disseminates important information to the stakeholders. Four papers were presented i.e. MTCC-Hamburg Project – Project Implementation in Malaysia, Results of Gap Analysis, Outcome of Verifier Check and Refinements for MC&I (2002) and Recommendations for Development/Refinement of Guidelines/Procedures and Identification of Future Research Activities.

MoU CEREMONY



Picture: Mr Lau Swee Nguong exchanging the MoU with Mr Law Kiu Kiong

STAT supports the research and development activities of Member Companies of STA. The R&D scheme is to be used for the support of scientific and industrial research and development and other relevant activities which are useful to the forest and timber industry in Sarawak.

A signing of MoU between STA Training Sdn. Bhd. and Zedtee Sdn. Bhd. was carried out on 22 February 2008 in Miri. In the signing of MoU, STAT was represented by Mr. Lau Swee Nguong, Vice Chairman of STA and

Ms. Loretta Lau, Hon. Secretary of STA whereas Zedtee Sdn. Bhd. was represented by Mr. Law Kiu Kiong and Mr. Ling Chiong Sing, both Directors of Zedtee Sdn. Bhd.

The financial contribution aimed to assist the company in its research programme on the IUCN listed species at Anap Muput Forest Management Unit. This will contribute to the better understanding of the said IUCN listed species within the selected HCVF's with emphasis on the establishment of baseline data on timber

species especially those of the *Dipterocarpaceae* family which are being included in the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List. This will result in the formulation of a strategy, training manual for the management and conservation of IUCN listed species and anything related to the State of Sarawak in particular.

It is hope that this contribution will further contributed to the perpetuation of the forest resources and rehabilitation of forest areas affected by logging especially on forest conservation, replanting and good environmental practices, the promotion of research investigation into the methods of assessment and economic valuation of biodiversity in general as well as non-timber forest products.

Did you also know that...

MTCC-certified timber products continue to be exported to more destinations, the latest being New Zealand. This brings the total to 18 countries that import MTCC-certified products, which The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Germany, Australia, Greece, Denmark, Poland, Italy, Norway, Indonesia, South Korea, Mauritius, South Africa, United States of America, Japan and New Zealand. Majority of the certified products exported are sawn timber, mouldings, laminated finger-jointed timber and plywood.

Source:
MTCC News

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promote and improve the safety in the work place amongst the forest workmen.

A parallel programme "Operator Training Programme" is also being implemented to provide assistance to these trainers from our Member Companies to

train their forest workers or operators. In this programme, the Financial Contribution for Training is based on per operator trained. The Financial Contribution will be disbursed in the following manner:

- RM1,000.00 (Ringgit Malaysia One Thousand) to the Operator;

- RM 100.00 (Ringgit Malaysia One Hundred) to the Trainer, and
- RM 300.00 (Ringgit Malaysia Three Hundred) to the Company

Printed Matter



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STA OPEN OFFICE



Picture (top left): Lion dance; (top) some of the guests taking their food; (left) guests enjoying lunch

An annual event of the Association, the STA Chinese New Year Open Office 2007 was held on 14 February at Wisma STA, Kuching. This gathering is a gesture of appreciation to the business associates who had worked closely with the Association throughout 2007.

Around 300 guests from the various government agencies and the private sector attended this gathering. They were entertained to a lion dance as well as music by a traditional Chinese orchestra.