



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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STA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Pictures (left): The out-going Office Bearers and Committee Chairmen; (Below) Some of the representatives from Member Companies



Pictures (above): A Member collecting his ballot paper; (Right) Members casting their votes

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 31 March 2008 with the attendance of representatives from 212 members companies. Datuk Leo Chai, Chairman presented his report on the association's activities throughout 2007.

In his report, he thanked all members for

their guidance and support throughout the years he had served as Honorary Secretary (2000 – 2001) and Chairman (2002 – 31/3/2008) of the Association.

He informed members that STA through its wholly-owned company, STA Training Sdn Bhd had trained 116 trainers and

assessed 127 operators. This is in compliance with Section 54B of the Forests Ordinance which states that "No employer shall hire, engage or appoint any workman under a contract of service or of apprenticeship or under any other arrangement whatsoever, to carry out,

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Did you know that...

Sarawak's Forest Department is going high-tech in its enforcement against encroachment and illegal logging activities in protected areas. Its monitoring, enforcement and prevention (MEP) system, which was unveiled during the state-level commemoration of World Forestry Day, incorporates remote sensing, image processing, mobile mapping and web-based applications to detect illegal activities. The data is then sent to field officers via a web-based platform from which it will be downloaded to a mobile component such as a PDA.

Source:
Star Online
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undertake or perform any forestry activity unless that workman has successfully completed a course of training in such forestry activity which is conducted by an institution approved by the Director in consultation with the Minister...".

STA also presented financial contributions to educational institutions such as the Riam Institute of Technology and the Independent Chinese Schools. 2 donations of RM200,000 each to date – first in October 2005 and second in September 2007 were made to Riam Institute of Technology. And 4 donations of RM300,000 annually for the past 4 years – from 2005 to 2008 were made to the Independent Chinese Schools as they do not receive much funding from the Government.

Besides financial contributions to educational institutions, STA also provided financial contribution for research and development on forest plantation. Among the

companies that are receiving financial contributions are Borneo Tree Seeds and Seedlings Supplies Sdn Bhd, Grand Perfect Sdn Bhd and the Sarawak Forestry Corporation

STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM), a wholly-owned company of the Association provides scholarships to needy students to attend local colleges and Universities. To date a scholarship each had been provided annually to Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) since 2005 with an additional scholarship awarded to Swinburne University from 2008 onwards.

STA also addressed the global issues such as the European Union – Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade – Voluntary Partnership Agreement (EU – FLEGT – VPA) which is an initiative from the Federal Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities to address the issue of legality verification of timber. Besides that, there is also issue on

timber certification, Sarawak Labour Ordinance, Industrial Relations, EN 636 Plywood Specifications, IUCN Red List and New International Standards affecting Trade on Tropical timber such as ISPM #15 – Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade.

The Chairman's report was followed by a detailed report of the Association's audited financial statements. The meeting ended with the election of Council Members who will serve the Association for the years 2008 and 2009. The new Council Members met immediately after the AGM to elect Office Bearers. Datuk Wong Kie Yik, the Managing Director of WTK Group of Companies and Chairman of the Log Marketing Category was elected new Chairman of the Association.

TIMBER GRADING REGULATIONS 2008

STA has received a letter ref: STIDC .12.PI(KM) .02.2 (16) dated 25 March 2008 from the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation informing us that in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 24 of STIDC Ordinance, 1973 (Ord. No. 3 of 1973), the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri has approved the Timber Grading Regulations, 2008 with effect from 1 January 2008.

For more information on this, please contact STIDC at Tel:082-443477 or Email pusaka@po.jaring.my

STA COUNCIL MEMBERS (2008 and 2009)

The newly elected STA council members for years 2008 and 2009 are as follows:

- Chairman: **Datuk Wong Kie Yik**
- Vice Chairman: **Tan Sri Datuk Tiong Hiew King**
Datuk Ling Chiong Ho
- Hon. Secretary: **Dato Henry Lau Lee Kong**
- Hon. Treasurer: **Mr. Philip Choo Kwong Hui**

Committee Chairmen:

- Log Marketing: **Datuk Wong Kie Yik**
- Hill Logging: **Datuk Ling Chiong Ho**
- Swamp Logging: **Mr. Philip Choo Kwong Hui**
- Sawmilling: **Ms. Annie Wong Haw Bing**
- Panel Products: **Mr. Stephen Lau Lee Kiong**
- Moulding: **Mr. Law Buong Hoo**
- Furniture & Other Woodworking: **Mr. Yek Siew Liong**
- Timber Products Marketing: **Mr. Wong Hee Sing**
- Forest Plantation: **Datuk Abdul Hamed Haji Sepawi**

FORESTS (TRAINED WORKMEN) RULES 2008

STA has received a letter ref: DF.93.20(II)-32 dated 7 April 2008 from the Forest Department informing us that the State Government has approved the Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules 2008. The rules come into force on 1 January 2008. The gazette notification is now being prepared.

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INSPECTION FOR TIMBER PRODUCTS EXPORTED USING CONTAINER(S)

STA has received a letter from the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) ref STIDC.20.PPD.08.10 (12) dated 29 February 2008. Please be informed that with effect from 3 March 2008, all timber products exported using container(s) must be physically inspected by STIDC officers first before the said container (s) can be sealed/closed. Without physical inspection being done, STIDC will not issue any Export Licence to the timber products concerned. This procedure is vitally important to fulfill the requirements of STIDC MS ISO 9001:2000 for export/import of logs and timber products which is implemented on 3 March 2008.

Did you also know that...

According to the China National Forest Product Industry Association, wood flooring production volume increased by just over 9% to reach 361 million m² in 2007. Engineered flooring saw the sharpest rise, up 25%, with output reaching 75 million m² in 2007. Laminated flooring, having the largest production volume at 220 million m², was up 10% in 2007. Solid wood flooring production declined by 2% to bottom out at 44 million m³, largely due to raw materials shortages. Surprisingly, rising raw material costs and strong competition resulted in the production volume of bamboo flooring dropping by 20% in 2007 to hit 20 million m².

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TRAINING COORDINATORS' BRIEFINGS

STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) organised the Training Coordinators' Briefings in Miri, Bintulu and Sibul on 11, 12 and 13 March 2008 respectively. The briefings were attended by 16 participants in Miri, 18 in Bintulu and 23 in Sibul. The objectives of such briefing were to enable participant:

- To be familiar with the types of training programmes accredited to the Sarawak Modular Training Framework;
- To improve communication, planning, implementation of training and assessment of candidates trained under the STAT training programmes; and
- To be familiarise with the guidelines for documentation and administration of training under the Sarawak Modular Training Framework.

With such briefings, it is hoped that

participants will have a better understanding of STAT's training programmes, the Sarawak Modular Training Framework, training guidelines, documentations, roles of the training coordinators, roles of trainers and assessors to enhanced the efficiency in the implementation of training to meet the requirements of Section 54B of Forests Ordinance.