

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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MC&I (FOREST PLANTATIONS)



Picture: Group photo of the NSC members and alternate members who attended the 11th NSC Meeting

The Eleventh National Steering Committee (NSC) Meeting held on 25 November 2008 adopted the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (Forest Plantations) or in short the MC&I(Forest Plantations) as a standard for certification of forest plantations in Malaysia.

The adoption of the MC&I(Forest Plantation) marks another milestone in the work of the NSC which in 2004 had adopted the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification or in short the MC&I(2002) as the standard for certification of natural forests in Malaysia.

The need to develop a standard for certification of forest plantations was mooted by the NSC at its Fourth Meeting held in 2002, taking cognisance of the importance of forest plantations as source of raw materials for the wood-based industry in Malaysia. And it was mandated by the Ninth Meeting of the NSC held on 16 February 2006 to develop the draft

standard of MC&I(Forest Plantations). To facilitate the work, a consultant was appointed to prepare Working Document of the draft standard up to the verifier level in March – April 2006. The Working Document was subjected to review by an expert group meeting in May 2006 prior to submission for the consideration of the Technical Working Group (TWG). Following this, the TWG formulated the first draft of the MC&I (Forest Plantations). This first draft was subsequently subjected to deliberation by relevant stakeholder groups at three regional consultations i.e Sarawak (18-19 September 2006), Sabah (11 – 12 October 2006) and Peninsular Malaysia (15 – 16 November 2006).

The development of the MC&I(Forest Plantations) has been subjected to rigorous scrutiny in the form of deliberations through five TWG meetings, three regional consultations, one public consultations as well as three field tests, over the period from February 2006 to November 2008.

Did you know that...

In the UK, the demand for chipboard is not expected to improve in the autumn and there will be longer periods of downtime around Christmas.

Output of chipboard in the UK is 20-30% lower than normal for this time of the year.

There is virtually no forward buying of chipboard. Melamine-faced chipboard market has been quite stable but the demand from kitchen and bedroom product manufacturers has been slower. Raw board and T&G flooring prices have been worse as the construction activity has declined. Recently, the demand for some specialised chipboard forms has started to weaken.

Source:
Timber Trades Journal,
08 Nov 2008

STA TEA TALK



Picture: (left) Speakers, Prof Dr Lau Seng and Mr Sim Hang Thiew; (below) Question and Answer Session



STA organised a STA Tea Talk on 22 November 2008 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The invited speakers were Mr Sim Hang Thiew, a consultant chemist at Chemsain Environmental Consultants Sdn Bhd who is also the former Director of Chemistry Department Malaysia and Prof Dr Lau Seng, a professor of Environmental Chemistry and the Director of Centre for water research at the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation in Unimas. The talk attracted 50 people.

The topics for this session were Biofuels and Melamine. Prof Dr Lau Seng touched on Biofuel: Its development and sustainability. The melamine issue received a lot of interest among the attendees because melamine is the issue

behind the recent controversies over tainted milk products and contaminated eggs in China. The melamine contamination in the milk powder has caused the death of four infants, more than 50,000 to fall sick and more than 12,000 hospitalised.

'There are businessmen who add melamine to food products to make extra profits' said Mr Sim. He however said there was nothing in the country's existing food act that says melamine could not be added to food products, and melamine had become a big issue after the milk powder scandal in China this year. He added that the laboratories have failed to detect melamine as the standard test for protein only measures nitrogen and the Food Act of

Malaysia requires only the testing on food additive, colouring, preservatives, antimicrobial agents and incidental constituents such as metal, pesticides and drugs.

Mr Sim said the more common method now used to test melamine was the Melamine ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) test Kit while most food laboratories cannot afford GCMS confirmation and HPLC-UV quantity test methods because of the expensive equipment needed to conduct these tests.

Melamine is non-toxic in low doses. It becomes toxic only when it is combined with cyanuric acid-forming

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NEW ADDRESS FOR SFC

With effect from 26 December 2008, Sarawak Forestry Corporation and its Kuching Regional Office will relocated to the following new premise:-

Sarawak Forestry Corporation
Lot 218 KCLD
Jalan Tapang
Kota Sentosa
93250 Kuching

For more information, please call contact SFC at:

Tel: 082-610088

Fax: 082-610099

e-mail: info@sarawakforestry.com

website: www.sarawakforestry.com

The addresses for Regional Offices in Sibu, Bintulu and Miri remain unchanged.

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STIDC TRAINING SCHEME

Applicants are invited to apply for the Training Scheme (Skim Bantuan Latihan) for the following courses in Pusat Latihan Perkayuan PUSAKA, Tanjung manis, Mukah (PLPPTM):

- (i) Furniture Making Course
- (ii) Wood Carving Art Course

Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- Malaysian citizen
- Aged 17 years old and above.
- Completed Form 3 or 1 year experience in related skills
- Physically fit

For more information, please contact STIDC at tel no: 082:443477 ext. 376, 375, 374 or 379.

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insoluble melamine cyanurate crystals which block and damage the renal cells, causing kidney malfunction. Melamine contains 66 percent nitrogen and it is this characteristic that had led to its illegal addi-

tion to food and feed for the purpose of increasing apparent protein content of food and feed products.

Melamine is used in the making of plastics, fertilizer, glue and cleaning products among others, and is banned in

all food products. Direct effects to human beings include irritation to nose, skin or eye, and consuming it can lead to defect of organ production, formation of kidney stones, and in severe cases kidney failure, particularly among babies.

Did you also know that...

The Foreign Ministry of Japan disclosed that the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement signed by the country and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will be effective on 1 December 2008.

The ten members of ASEAN will be informed by Japan on the country's completion of its domestic ratification formalities on the deal on 23 October 2008.

The comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA), the first such agreement signed by Japan with a regional bloc, will take effect first with countries that have completed the ratifications by end-October 2008.

Two ASEAN members that have already completed their ratifications are Laos and Singapore.

Source:
Japan Today
22 Oct 2008

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Wishing all our readers a Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year 2009



From Chairman, Council Members and Staff of STA and
STA Group of Companies