

# STA dan Rakan2



May 2010

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Issue 143

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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## UPDATE ON EXPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR LOGS AND TIMBER PRODUCTS

About 80 representatives from Member Companies of STA, STA Secretariat, Fumigation Companies and staff from Plant Protection and Quarantine branch, Department of Agriculture, Sarawak participated a dialogue on export requirements for logs and timber products in Sibu on 14 May 2010. The Session was chaired by Mr. Michael Ranges Nyangob, the Assistant Director of Plant Protection and Quarantine, Department of Agriculture, Sarawak. Mr. Ranges informed participants that the objective of the dialogue was to find a win-win solution on the issue of export requirements for logs and timber products, in particular that exported from Sarawak. The Department of Agriculture in Malaysia is made up of three regions; Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak, each responsible for matters relating to Plant Protection and Quarantine at the regional level.

He told participants that, for the convenience of Member Companies of STA, all phytosanitary certificates will now be issued in the town or city based on the

location of the registered office of either the Company or branch of the Company.

Member Companies of STA should inform their importers of Sarawak logs, that fumigators registered with the Department of Agriculture, Sarawak are not in a position at the moment to fumigate logs in current site conditions to a level which meets the requirements of the Malaysian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (MAFAS). An appeal will be made to their National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) to reconsider these export requirements. Fumigators also wanted the issue of litigation and liability resolved should fumigation fail to meet the standard outlined in MAFAS.

In the meantime until a solution is found, Plant Protection and Quarantine Branch will continue to issue phytosanitary certificates without specifying that fumigation has been done but companies exporting logs are urged to check and verify with their importers that consignments with these certificates are acceptable at the receiving ports.

The dialogue also agreed that a meeting be convened between fumigators and Member Companies of STA to decide and agree on where, when and how fumigation can be done in the flow of logs for export as these have effect on the costs and the logistics of flow of logs in case fumigation is required.

The dialogue also called for a delegation, comprising representatives from Member Companies of STA, STA Secretariat, STIDC, SFC and Fumigation Companies, to be led by Mr. Michael Ranges Nyangob to meet with officers from the NPPO, Kuala Lumpur to further discussed and resolve these issues for the benefit of all parties.

## Did you know that...

Timber industry processors in Sabah and Sarawak have been urged to increase downstream activities. The country's commodities minister wants to see an expansion from sawn timber and plywood to furniture and other products to help national timber industry performance targets, which include a 60:40 ratio for downstream/upstream products by 2020.

Source:  
TTJ News  
19 April 2010

# 9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON A PAN ASEAN TIMBER CERTIFICATION INITIATIVE

The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on a Pan ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative was hosted by Cambodia and represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries from 6 – 8 May 2010 at Sunway Hotel in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

ASEAN Member States which attended the Meeting were Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand.

Dato' Freezailah B. C. Yeom, the Executive Chairman of the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC), delivered opening remarks on behalf of Malaysia, Lead Country for the Working Group on a Pan ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative. Mr Chheng Kim Sun, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Head of the Forestry Administration, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Cambodia, delivered the welcome remarks and declared open the Meeting.

Both Dato' Freezailah and Mr Chheng Kim Sun highlighted the significant achievements made by the Working Group at the last meeting from 8 – 9 April 2009 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei in reaching an agreement on two key documents i.e the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for

Legality of Timber and the ASEAN Guidelines on Phased Approach to Forest Certification.

Considering the importance of their forests, the ASEAN Member States have committed to pursue Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) by making joint efforts to establish a framework for ASEAN forest management standards and individual Member States will establish own national forest management standards.

The Meeting was not able to finalise the draft ASEAN Chain of Custody (CoC) Guidelines for Legal Timber and Sustainable Timber but agreed that Member States be given time to give comments and inputs to Malaysia, the lead country, represented by MTCC. MTCC will then circulate the consolidated draft document to all Member States for finalisation and adoption by 8 July 2010 prior to the submission to the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting to be held in the end of July 2010 in Philippines. However, the Meeting agreed these Guidelines should be treated only as a reference by Member States in developing their respective national standards for CoC for Legal Timber and Sustainable Timber.

The Meeting took note of the country reports and updates on the

development of Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Legality of Timber, SFM or forest management certification as well as the implementation of timber certification.

The Meeting noted that among the Member States, Malaysia and Indonesia, were quite advance in timber certification as they have established their own forest certification schemes, i.e. MC&I and LEI. The Malaysian scheme was endorsed by PEFC in 2009.

The Meeting received an update from the ASEAN Secretariat on the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Scorecard. The Meeting was informed that besides signing the ASEAN Charter at 13<sup>th</sup> Summit on 20 Nov 2007 in Singapore, ASEAN Leaders had also approved the AEC Blueprint as a roadmap for transforming ASEAN into a single market and production base, fully integrated into the global community by the year 2015.

The Meeting was informed that the capacity building for the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative can generally be made through three sources as follows:

- Specific EU-FLEGT

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related projects or project components of broader economic cooperation with the EU;

- Bilateral support offered by EU Member States; and
- Support for certain activities by the EU-FLEGT Asia Regional Programme with a geographical focus on lower Mekong region.

The Meeting noted that under EU-FLEGT

Asia Regional Programme a workshop/training proposal on the development of national timber legality standards for the Mekong region will be held in September/October 2010.

Representatives from Malaysia and Indonesia shared their experiences on the country preparation for negotiation with the EU on FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement and on the impact of

Lacey Act amendment and the regulatory procedures issued by the US since December 2008, in particular on timber trade.

On 8 May 2010, participants at the Meeting were taken on a visit to a plywood mill and a furniture showroom.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of a Pan ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative will be held in 2011 in Indonesia.

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## PLANTED FORESTS TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) and the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) jointly organised Planted Forests Technical Workshop in conjunction with Planted Forests Week on 25 May 2010 at Wisma STA, Kuching.

The Workshop served as a platform to share the findings and outcomes from the research and development in the planted forest's sector in Sarawak. It also allows Licence for Planted Forests holders to share their progress, problems and current issues in their respective areas.

The Workshop was attended by more than 100 participants, comprising STA Members and representatives from various government agencies and universities.

The papers

presented were results of works carried out by researchers from SFC, Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) and the industry on three major species, namely *Acacia mangium*, *Shorea macrophylla* and *Neolamarckia cadamba*. The following are the papers presented in the Workshop:

- Paper 1: Planted forest sites and tree species by *Mr John Sabang, SFC*
- Paper 2: Kelampayan seed handling and seedlings production by *Ms Sabrina Aslan Joe, SFC*
- Paper 3: Vegetative propagation in planted forest establishment by *Ms Linna Chieng, SFC*
- Paper 4: Kelampayan tree improvement programme by *Mr Phui Seng Loi, SFC*

- Paper 5: An Overview of Engkabang Jantong in Sarawak by *Mr Ernest Chai, Tropical Evergreen Enterprise*
- Paper 6: Planting and maintenance of Kelampayan in the field by *Ms Evelyn Jugi, SFC*
- Paper 7: Wood properties and utilisation opportunities of selected plantation grown species in Malaysia by *Dr Tan Yu Eng, FRIM*
- Paper 8: Common insect pests in planted forests by *Mr Marfaisal Marzuki, SFC*
- Paper 9: Common diseases in forest nurseries and plantations by *Ms Norhayati Ahmed Sajali, SFC*
- Paper 10: Wood Properties and  
(Continue on page 4)

### Did you also know that...

The European Parliament's (EP) Environment Committee has demanded stricter rules regarding the fight against illegal logging within the European Union (EU). The Environment Committee believes that the regulations agreed to by EU agriculture ministers in December 2009 are not sufficient. Thus, the committee demands an explicit ban to imports of wood from illegal sources and clearly regulated penalties in case of violations. In addition, the future regulation should apply to all players in the timber industry and not only to timber importers and no exceptions should be made to recycling products.

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## Printed Matter



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Utilization of Some  
Plantation Species  
Compared to Light Red  
Meranti by *Dr Alik Djuu,*  
*SFC*

- Paper 11: Drying of  
*Acacia mangium* by *Dr*  
*Gan K.S., FRIM*

*Note: Presentation papers are  
available for reference at STA  
Resource Centre.*

## METRIC UNITS REQUIRED ON LACEY ACT DECLARATION

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) informed STA that metric units (kilograms, meters, square meters, etc) are now required on Lacey Act Declarations. The Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will no longer accept counts of items (pieces, boxes, etc) as valid units of measure, which was supposed to take effect from 1 May 2010. Due to the response from the industry, APHIS agreed to defer the implementation of this requirement until 1 July 2010 to allow industry to make needed changes to declaration procedures.

Importers of products made from plants and plant materials such as wooden frames, plywood, veneered panels, kitchenware (furniture will be included after September 2010) are required to declare the plant contents in the products using Form PPQ-505.