



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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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Sabah Forestry Department, in partnership with WWF-Malaysia organised the International Conference on Forests and Climate Change – *Decoding and Realizing REDD-plus in the Heart of Borneo (HoB), with Specific Focus on Sabah* on 8 – 9 November 2010 in Magellan Sutera Hotel, Sabah. This Conference was officiated by the Chief Minister of Sabah, represented by the Deputy Chief Minister, Tan Sri Joseph Pairin Kitingan and attended by more than 500 participants from various local and international agencies. During the 2-day conference, 19 papers were presented by prominent experts and scientists from various parts of the world.

The objectives of the Conference were:

- To promote awareness and understanding if the role of Forests and Climate Change, especially on REDD-plus to a wider audience in Sabah, including forest concessionaries, relevant government departments, non-governmental agencies, higher learning institutions, oil

palm plantations and civil societies;

- To explore the needs of implementation of REDD-plus in Sabah including the legal, financial and technical (MRV) implications;
- To bring in experiences from the region, namely from Indonesia, Cambodia, China, UN-REDD and UNFCCC on the status of REDD-plus in other parts of the world;
- To discuss the carbon standards available for the voluntary and compliance market and how influential this would be to the carbon price; and
- To solicit feedback on the development of the Sabah REDD-plus Strategy, taking into consideration national, regional and international initiatives.

The Conference addressed the recent development of Climate Change Convention in which REDD-plus has been identified as the mechanism to compensate developing countries that are willing to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

REDD stands for reducing emission from

deforestation and forest degradation. It is a mechanism to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by compensating countries for avoiding deforestation and degradation, formulated in the Bali Action Plan, COP13, in 2007.

The 'plus' incorporates forest conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest stocks to encourage greater participation in REDD and to reward countries that are already protecting their forests. This was adopted in the Copenhagen Accord, COP15, in 2009.

Datuk Sam Manan, the Director of Sabah Forestry Department, in his opening remarks mentioned that climate initiatives based on tropical forest management was initiated in Sabah in 1992 covering 25,000 hectares in Ulu Segama under the Sabah Foundation. However, after 20 years there were still insufficient funds to support these initiatives. He added Sabah scientists had invested a lot of years in carbon measuring works related to the baseline

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Did you know that...

New research has put a price tag on the worldwide network of environmental assets. The loss of biodiversity through deforestation alone will cost the global economy up to US\$4.5 trillion each year – US\$650 for every person on the planet. Experts warn that the fight to save biodiversity is two decades behind the climate change agenda.

Source:
The Independent
3 October 2010

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surveys, analysis and paralysis. He also mentioned that a developing state such as Sabah cannot afford but to ensure that its natural resources including forest lands, return meaningful revenues and in scale to the people of the state. He disclosed that Sabah needs to invest about RM2 billion in the next 20 years to get its forests right again.

The Conference was divided into four sessions addressing (i) International and National Policy

Development on REDD-plus, (ii) Experiences of Implementation of REDD-plus Programme, (iii) REDD-plus Implementation: The Science and Economics Behind It and (iv) Developing REDD-plus Strategy for Sabah

During the closing of the Conference, Datuk Masidi Manjun, Sabah State Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister mentioned that the State Government has contributed substantially in tackling the climate change issues in Sabah. He assured that the State

Government would ensure the close cooperation among all the relevant agencies would continue to prevail in achieving the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD-plus) that was formulated in COP13. He said the Government would take note of it for appropriate actions adding that he believed in a pragmatic approach that benefits the people of Sabah and at the same time, not disrupt the State's development agenda.

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ISPM NO. 15 - HEAT TREATMENT OF WOOD PACKAGING MATERIALS COURSE FOR OPERATORS



Photo: Group photo of the participants

The Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) in collaboration with the Plant Protection and Quarantine Branch (PPQ) of the Department of Agriculture Sarawak (DoA) and the Sarawak Timber Association (STA) jointly organised a 3-day training course on 9 – 11 November 2010 for fourteen participants from member companies

of the Association. The topics covered included the background to the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15 (ISPM 15), the roles and functions the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO), application procedure to be a registered heat treatment provider, the theory of heat treatment

as well as documentation required of providers.

On the final day, the participants were taken to mills in the Kuching region to see the different types of heat treatment facility used. An assessment/evaluation was carried out, which was followed by a Certificate Presentation ceremony.

WORKSHOP ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION GUIDELINES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT



Photo: Participants having group discussions

The Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and Forest Department Sarawak, with the assistance of social experts and stakeholders in Sarawak, had developed the Conflict Resolution Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). The draft Guidelines had in principle, been adopted by the participants during the 3rd Workshop which was held on 21 July 2009 in Kuching. A wider stakeholders' consultation including the involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) was recommended during the 3rd Workshop.

Subsequently, the 4th Workshop on Conflict Resolution Guidelines for SFM was organised from 12 - 13 November 2010 in Mega Hotel, Miri. Assoc. Prof. Dr Ramy Bulan of the Centre of Malaysian Indigenous Studies (CMIS), University Malaya facilitated the two-day Workshop organized in

collaboration with SFC. The workshop was attended by representatives from STA member companies and other NGOs such as the WWF-Malaysia, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Rurum Kelabit Sarawak, Persatuan Pembangunan Tipun Penan Sarawak (PETIPUN), and Integrated Development for Eco-Friendly and Appropriate Lifestyle (IDEAL).

The participants of the Workshop resolved to:

1. Reaffirm the resolution of the 3rd Workshop held on 21 July 2009
2. Include a section in Introduction of the Guidelines that alternative approaches of conflict resolution should also be considered
3. Recommend that SFC formalises the Guidelines and provides the framework for its implementation

4. Ensure capacity building in partnership with civil society is undertaken to ensure the effectiveness of the Guidelines
5. Consider the outcome of the field test in Selaan-Linau FMU in the next review
6. Consider the summary of this 4th Workshop in the next review
7. Request Sarawak Timber Association and other institutions to provide financial support for activities relating to future workshops and field testing of the guidelines and the review process

Another Workshop on Conflict Resolution Guidelines for SFM will be conducted in Long Lellang for the community representatives from 9 - 12 December 2010.

Did you also know that...

A new carbonised wooden flooring will be released by Suzhou Yongyang Decorative Materials's unit Yanni Floor into the Chinese market shortly. The company has achieved the breakthrough in carbonised wood technology after two years of research.

Through the technology, the colour and texture of wood will be more beautiful and it will also have improved dimensional stability and corrosion resistance.

The pyrolysis of wood under the carbonised method is at a temperature of between 160°C and 230°C.

Source:
China Timber
2 Nov 2010


Printed Matter

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November 2010

STA dan Rakan2

Issue 149

NEW REQUIREMENT FOR REGISTRATION IN CARRYING OUT TIMBER ACTIVITIES FOR WOODCHIP AND PULP

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) has issued a circular informing Sarawak Timber Association (STA) that members who wish to register with STIDC to carry out woodchip and pulp activities must adhere to the following conditions:-

- 1) **Manufacturer**
Provide proof of long term plan for supply of raw material extracted from Licensed Planted Forest owned by the company.
- 2) **Exporter**
Provide proof of supply of raw material from owned group of companies who are registered as manufacturer and owned a Licensed Planted Forests.
- 3) **Importer**
Obtained prior approval from Ministry of Planning and Resource Management (MPRM)

Please visit www.sta.org.my for the revised “**CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS**” to the Certification of Registration. This notice supersedes the earlier document dated 1 October 2009, with immediate effect.