

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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SEMINAR ON DIPTEROCARPS IN THE IUCN RED LIST 2010



Pictures: (top) Mr Philip Choo and Mr Peter Ling presenting a souvenir to Senior Assistant Director, Tuan Haji Sapuan Haji Ahmad and (right) Participants in the Seminar



The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) jointly organised a seminar on Dipterocarps in the IUCN Red List 2010 on 23 September 2010 at Wisma STA, Kuching. It was the output of a three-year project entitled, 'Re-assessment of the Conservation Status of Three Genera of Dipterocarpaceae (*Dipterocarpus*, *Dryobalanops* and *Shorea*)'. The Project which commenced in June 2008 aimed to clarify the conservation status of commercial

value in these three genera in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. This Project is managed by Forest Department Sarawak and executed through the Sarawak Forestry Corporation.

The Seminar was attended by more than 70 participants, comprising STA Members and representatives from various government agencies and universities. The main objective of the Seminar was to share with stakeholders the latest findings on this Project which is expected to end next year.

In his welcoming address, STA Chairman Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik pointed out that the tree species from the three genera of Dipterocarps were abundantly found throughout the State. The timber industry had been producing a large volume of logs, timber and timber products from these genera. The listing of *Dipterocarpus*, *Dryobalanops* and *Shorea* in IUCN will affect the State's timber industry and this will translate to a decrease in volume of these species harvested from the natural forests.

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Did you know that...

Sarawak has continued to increase imports of raw materials for its processing industry. Raw material, including logs, sawn wood and veneer, are being imported from Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the US, with 63,000m³ (worth M\$63m) imported during the first half. Around 118,000m³ were imported during 2009 and some 72,000m³ in 2008. The vast majority – up to 95% was imported from Australia, with veneer making up the lion's share of imports.

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Hence, there would be a decrease in royalty collected for the State and subsequently hamper the development of the State.

'The results from the study will hopefully give us the details of the current status of the habitats and localities of the species from the three genera in Sarawak. It is also hoped that this Seminar would not only create awareness of the need to protect the really threatened species in Sarawak amongst members of STA but also help the industry to manage the resource and consolidate the trade of timber in other non-threatened species', he added in his speech read by Mr Philip Choo the Honorary Treasurer of STA.

Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Resource Management cum

Director of Forests and Managing Director / CEO of Sarawak Forestry in his speech read by the Senior Assistant Director, Haji Sapuan Haji Ahmad mentioned that 36 species had been downgraded to lower risk categories, for example, Keruing sol and Kapur peringgi from critically endangered to near threatened and Meranti tembaga from endangered to least concerned. He added that 113 species of 166 species from the three genera found in Sarawak were listed in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species with the remaining species not evaluated due to insufficient data. From the 113 species, 107 species are considered threatened (Critically Endangered, Endangered and Venerable) while one species is extinct.

According to Datu Len, the species assessment by IUCN is done based on a global scale and does not take

into consideration species in the Totally Protected Area (TPAs) in Sarawak. Therefore, it is necessary to re-look at the conservation status of Dipterocarps in Sarawak particularly Meranti, Keruing and Kapur in a more objective manner so that trade of these timber would not be affected.

The three papers presented during the Seminar were as follows:

- **Malaysia Plant Red list – Peninsular Malaysia Dipterocarps**
by Dr Lillian Chua of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)
- **Re-assessment of Conservation Status of Dipterocarps in Sarawak – Progress of Project to Date**
by Esther Sila of SFC
- **Dipterocarps in TPAs of Sarawak**
by Vilma Bodos of SFC

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1ST MEETING OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE ON TAX INCENTIVES FOR FOREST PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT

The STA Forest Plantation Committee had decided to form a Working Committee to look into issues and concerns on the tax incentives for forest plantation development. In conjunction with this, the Working Committee had its first meeting on 17 September 2010 at

Wisma STA, Kuching. During the meeting, Mr Philip Choo was appointed the Chairperson.

The Working Committee discussed issues arising from the Income Tax (Deduction for Investment in an Approved Forest

Plantation Project) Rules 2009 ("the Rule") and Income Tax (Exemption) (No. 10) Order 2009 ("the Order"), both of which was made on 23 November 2009 but deemed to have come into operation on 21 May 2003.

The Rule allows a
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company to deduct the value of its investment in companies carrying out first forest plantation projects for the purpose of determining its adjusted income.

The Order made provisions to exempt a company undertaking approved forest plantation project from payment of income tax commencing from first year of assessment when statutory income is

derived for a period of ten (10) years for new forest plantation project or five (5) years for an expansion forest plantation project.

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BUKIT LIMA FOREST PARK



Picture: (Left) Group photo and (top) participants of the aerobic exercise

The Bukit Lima Forest Park in Sibul, Sarawak is a peat swamp forest with a total area of 218.38 hectares. It has been known as the home for 39 species of birds (including black hornbills, kingfishers and herons); mammals such as Hose's pigmy flying squirrel, giant squirrel, long-tailed macaque and shrew; and 35 species of plants. This Park serves as a 'green lung' for Sibul, providing a recreational site for joggers as well as a living laboratory for researchers conducting studies on the wildlife in Sibul.

In December 2009, the Sarawak Timber Association (STA) had accepted the request to repair the existing plank walkway of the Park totalling 3.2km. The repair work of the plank walkway which began on 1 April 2010 included

leveling the platform, strengthening the overall structure through additional support joists and diagonal bracing on the footings, and replacing damaged planks. The repair work which costs RM366,000 was completed in July 2010.

On 26 September 2010, STA organised an event to commemorate the completion of the work. The event was attended by 300 people who include the Deputy Director of Forest, Regional Manager of Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sibul, Officers from Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sibul, STA Council Members, staff members of STA Members Companies, Joggers and local residents.

In his welcoming

remarks, STA Chairman, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik stated that STA is indeed grateful to be given the opportunity to contribute to this project as the condition of the existing plank walkways required urgent attention. He hopes that all users will continue to keep the Park clean and safe.

A representative of Bukit Lima Forest Park Joggers, Dr Hu Chang Hock expressed appreciation to STA for its contribution and later presented of a framed photo of the Park to the Chairman of STA as token of appreciation. The event ended with an aerobic session and a 'gotong-royong' session to clean up the Park area.

Did you also know that..

The governments of China and Indonesia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to increase cooperation in legal wood trading. The MoU also touched on biomass energy from sustainable forest management.

In the MoU, both governments also agreed to encourage the utilisation of wood and technology for processing of non-wood products.

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REGISTRATION OF KILN DRYERS AND TRAINED KD OPERATORS

STA have been informed by the Plant Protection and Quarantine Division (PPQD), Department of Agriculture (DoA), Kuala Lumpur that with effect from 1 September 2010, all logs, sawn timber and timber products imported into Malaysia must either be fumigated or kiln dried (KD), where applicable.

This ruling also applies to logs, sawn timber and timber products exported from Sarawak to Sabah and Peninsular Malaysia. Exporters are reminded to bring along the import permit issued by the DoA from the region they are from (either Sabah or Peninsular Malaysia) when applying for phytosanitary certificate from the local PPQD in Sarawak. This document will be required by staff from the PPQD when you clear your sawn timber and timber products at the destination port.

As KD is accepted as an alternative treatment for sawn timber for exports to Sabah and Peninsular Malaysia, the Association is working with the relevant Forestry Agencies and the DoA Sarawak to come up with a self-regulating system where companies with trained operators and kiln dryers registered with the DoA can get the phytosanitary certificate issued automatically. However, companies will be deregistered if found to be not complying to the guidelines issued by the DoA. This system may also be acceptable as an alternative to fumigation in some other countries.

As this requirement took effect from 1 September 2010 for Malaysia, the DoA will give priority in the registration exercise to member companies who are exporting sawn timber and timber products to Sabah, Peninsular Malaysia and other countries requiring treatment of the sawn timber.