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STA dan Rakan2

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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The news bulletin is circulated to designated readers free of charge.

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Graduation Ceremony for the Second Cohort of the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management)

A group of 6 students from the second cohort of the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management) attended the Lincoln University graduation ceremony on 6 May 2011 in Christchurch, New Zealand. They joined more than 200 students who received their degrees, diplomas and certificates in two separate ceremonies which were held at the new and recently dedicated Lincoln Events Centre, following earthquake damage to the Christchurch Town Hall where celebrations have been held since 1994. A further 138 awards were made in absentia.

The students had the opportunity to meet up with teaching,

support and management staff from Lincoln University over a graduation lunch and dinner hosted by the University, as well as a dinner sponsored by the Chairman of STA, Pemanca Wong Kie Yik. Prior to the convocation ceremony, the students and their families were taken on a specially-organized trip to parts of the South Island, where they had the chance to experience the New Zealand way of life.

Applications are still being taken for the third cohort of the Postgraduate Diploma. Please contact Suzie Adee (suzie@sta.org.my), Dr Peter Kho (peter@sta.org.my) or Associate Professor Hugh Bigsby (hugh.bigsby@lincoln.ac.nz) for more information.



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Photo: The graduates with their PG Diploma certificates with the Programme Director from Lincoln University, Associate Professor Hugh Bigsby and Dr. Peter CS Kho from STA.

Director of Forests

We have been informed by Forest Department Sarawak on 7 June 2011 that Tuan Haji Ali bin Yusop has been appointed the Acting Director of Forests, replacing YBhg Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh who retired, on 28 March 2011.

Advanced Mediation Course for Natural Resource Conflict Management Practitioners



Photo: Participants with their certificates

RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests organised the Advanced Mediation Course for Natural Resource Conflict Management Practitioners from 24 to 27 May 2011 at Sanur Paradisa Plaza, Bali, Indonesia.

The Course brought together RECOFTC alumni from different training programmes that were conducted, including the Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT) programme, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as well as key personnel from RECOFTC. Participants were from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Course was led by Mr. Merrick Hoben, Director of The Consensus Building Institute, a U.S. based, non-profit that works with multilateral development institutions, corporate, NGO and community stakeholders

to resolve natural resource-based conflicts.

The 4-day Course provided an opportunity for participants to:

- Explore mediation as an option for government, industry, communities and NGOs in the forest conflict context to resolve disputes more effectively
- Explore the use of conflict assessment to determine whether and how to proceed with mediation; as well as consider specific conditions and process design considerations under which mediation is likely to lead to satisfactory resolution of complaints/concerns
- Learn about strategies, tools and resources for assisting stakeholders in the negotiation process
- Explore and discuss common challenges faced by mediators working in the forest conflict context; and best practices to address them
- Engage with peers and resource persons to assess whether and how mediation could help resolve participants' current/potential cases
- Evaluate participant skills base and strengthen core competencies

The Course concluded on the fourth day with a resolving forest conflicts clinic where fellow course participants shared their individual specific forest conflict / land use dilemma that they were involved in and under the leadership of Mr. Hoben, the participants work out recommendations for the way forward for each individual case.

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Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules

STA Training Sdn Bhd had received a letter from the Acting Director of Forests, Forest Department Sarawak, ref: DF.93.10(II) – 72 on 12 April 2011, informing us that the amended Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules has been sent to the Ministry of Planning and Resources Management for approval in the next Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri (MMKN).

Upon endorsement and approval by MMKN, these rules will be gazetted and shall take effect from 1st July 2011.



Did you know that.....

Liberia and the EU have signed a Voluntary Partnership Agreement to ensure the legal origin of wood products sent from Liberia to the EU. From early 2014, shipments will have to carry a licence to certify the origin. Liberia contains 50% of the rainforest in West Africa. The European Commission said that the deal will promote sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

Source: Press Release, 10 May 2011, European Commission

Did you also know that....

Tropical forests across Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia stored 247 gigatons of carbon — more than 30 years' worth of current emissions from fossil fuels use — in the early 2000s, according to the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Data from 4,079 plot sites around the world and satellite-based measurements were used to estimate that forests store 193 billion tons of carbon in their vegetation and 54 billion tons in their roots structure.

Source: <http://news.mongabay.com> 31 May 2011



Tenth Meeting of the Working Group on a PAN ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative

The 10th meeting of the Working Group on a Pan ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 25-26 May 2011. ASEAN Member States who attended the Meeting were representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Myanmar.

Dr. Hadi Daryanto, Secretary General Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia in his opening remarks expressed that the attendance of Delegates to the meeting showed the willingness and commitment of ASEAN Member States to engage and have more active roles to build stronger and closer relationships among ASEAN Member States (AMSs) in supporting sustainable forest management (SFM) in the region. He informed the group that SFM is a concern not only at the national level but also regional and international levels. He highlighted that the most challenging issue in SFM is illegal logging and its associated trade. He highlighted the achievements of the Working Group that had produced some significant outputs towards SFM practices in the region, among others through development of ASEAN criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management of tropical forests, development of Guidelines for Phased-approach to Certification, as well as the formulation of ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Legality Timber and the ASEAN Guidelines for Chain of Custody (CoC) Certification for Legal and Sustainable Timber.

In representing Malaysia as the Lead Country for the Initiative, Mr. Chew Lye Teng, the Chief Executive Officer of the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) recalled the significant achievements of the Working Group including the ASEAN CoC Guideline for Legal and Sustainable Timber at the 9th Meeting of the Working Group. With the adoption of these guidelines the Working Group had produced a number of key guidance documents to assist AMSs to implement systems to verify legality as well as to certify the sustainability of their timber products.

The Meeting received an update from the

ASEAN Secretariat that besides signing the ASEAN Charter at the 13th ASEAN Summit in Singapore, the ASEAN Leaders had also approved the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, as a roadmap for transforming ASEAN into a single market and production base, highly competitive and fully integrated into the global community by the year 2015. This Blueprint will be a strategic document with legal standing that serves as a single reference point for ASEAN economic initiatives. The ASEAN Leaders had also approved the AEC Scorecard as a tool to monitor and to evaluate the achievement of measures/activities toward ASEAN Economic community building by year 2015. The Scorecard was updated based on the Country Reports presented during the Meeting and it shall be reported to ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) for its consideration.

The Meeting also agreed to work on a mechanism that take into account and to give due recognition of the many existing initiatives for ensuring legal and sustainable timber that has already been undertaken within the ASEAN Member States such as timber certification and the EU-FLEGT VPA.

The Meeting took note of the country progress reports and updates on the development of Criteria and indicators (C&I) for Legality of Timber, forest management certification as well as the implementation of timber certification and legality assurance systems.

The Meeting noted the FLEGT VPA between EU and Indonesia was concluded on 15th April 2011 in Brussels and followed by initialising and issuing a joint statement on the 4th May 2011 in Jakarta. Malaysia made a presentation on its experience in negotiating with the EU for concluding the VPA. The meeting was updated on the activities which include the finalisation of Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS), capacity building projects, legal drafting and administrative and funding arrangements.

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Representatives from Malaysia and Indonesia also shared their experiences on the impact of Lacey Act amendment and the regulatory procedures issued by the US since December 2008, particularly on the timber trade and export market.

Mr. Tom Ter Horst, a representative from the EU FLEGT Asia programme presented a proposal on Second Sub-Regional Training Workshop on timber legality assurance for the Mekong region. The training workshop event is proposed to be carried out in October/November 2011 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

The Meeting was informed that the 11th Working Group on a Pan ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative will be held in 2012 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.



Photo: Meeting in progress

7th Asean International Woodworking Machinery, Timber Processing & Furniture Manufacturing Supplies Exhibition and Conference

The Malaysian Woodworking Machinery Association and Trade-Link Management Service Sdn Bhd are organising the 7th Asean International Woodworking Machinery, Timber Processing & Furniture Manufacturing Supplies Exhibition and Conference (Aseanwood-Woodtech 2011). The details are as follows:-

Date: 22 - 25 September 2011

Time: 10.00 am - 6.00 pm

Venue: Putra World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur

Aseanwood-Woodtech 2011 is the fundamental platform for reaching target customers, forging business relationships and promoting new technologies to the worldwide wood-based industry.

Exhibition space are still available for booking. For more information, please log on to www.tradelink.com.my