



# 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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## MoU Signing and Postgraduate Diploma Certificate Presentation Ceremonies



*Photo: Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik exchanging the MoU with Associate Professor Dr Hugh Bigsby*

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the Sarawak Timber Association (STA) and Lincoln University was held on 15 February 2012 at Wisma STA in Kuching. The event was witnessed by Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hassan, the Minister of Resource Planning and Environment II cum Public Utilities cum Industrial Development and was attended by STA Council members, officials from the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and graduates.

In this MoU, both parties agreed:

1. To continue to use their best endeavour to promote, foster and enhance the good relationship between both parties for the purpose of promoting, enhancing and advancing the Collaborative Education Project;
2. To continue to use their best endeavour to promote, enhance and advance the Collaborative Education Project with the aim of taking the

success to another level.

In his welcoming speech, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, Chairman of STA, said the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forestry Management) (PGDip) course was developed as part of the efforts in upgrading the knowledge and skills among logging managers in implementing the sustainable forest management plans.

Associate Professor Dr Hugh Bigsby, Head of Department of Accounting, Economics and Finance on behalf of Lincoln University Christchurch, in his speech said for the forest industry, the practice of tropical forestry is in a period of immense change and the industry is the focus of a great deal of outside attention. To a large extent, this is reflected in the importance of forest certification in assuring buyers that the timber they use meets their expectations of forest management. Hence, the PGDip course is uniquely positioned to bring the necessary skills to make

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## National Inception Workshop on REDD+: Building Capacity for Decision Makers and the Way Forward

A two-day inception workshop on the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, plus conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) was organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) with the support of the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department Malaysia (EPU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Malaysia from 13 to 14 February 2012 at the Sunway Putra Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

The workshop was attended by more than two hundred participants from relevant government ministries/ departments/agencies, research institutions, academia, trade associations and non-governmental organisations.

The objectives of the workshop were to disseminate information relating to national activities on REDD+ Readiness in Malaysia; to learn from regional REDD+ Initiatives; to understand REDD+ Safeguard standards and procedures; and to include national stock taking on the on-going actions that can be incorporated into the REDD+ Strategy.

Datuk Dr Abdul Rahim, the Deputy Secretary General (Environmental Management) of NRE in his welcoming address mentioned that Malaysia is amongst the developing countries currently in the readiness phase where policies and governance are being reviewed as well as action plans, baselines and pilot projects are being established. He further informed participants of the workshop that the NRE is developing the REDD+ Strategy and it would be a transparent process where all relevant

stakeholders would be engaged and consulted. He hoped that the REDD+ implementation in Malaysia would enhance the on-going best practices in forest management and conservation efforts.

A total of eighteen (18) papers were presented at the workshop highlighting regional experiences in developing REDD+ actions in Indonesia and Cambodia; lessons learned through United Nations REDD (UN REDD) Programme in Asia Pacific; insights on developing a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system; REDD+ safeguards from the perspective of Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC); and Malaysia's status included in REDD+ framework strategy and assess and benefit sharing of biological resources.

NRE, the executing agency for Malaysia together with the UNDP Malaysia have undertaken the project on REDD+ Readiness in October 2011 and it is expected to be completed in October 2013. The key result area of the project is towards improved quality of life through sustainable environmental management.

The project targets to achieve the following three (3) outputs; to be endorsed by the National REDD+ Committee

- (i) National Institutional Framework for REDD+ ;
- (ii) National Policy and Legal Framework for Generation of Revenues from Forest Carbon and Ecosystem Services ;
- (iii) Sustainable Funding Mechanism for REDD+ Implementation.

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this transition.

In the PGDip Certificate Presentation ceremony that followed the MoU signing ceremony, eight (8) graduates from the second cohort of students received their certificates. Six (6) of these graduates had been capped in Lincoln University in Christchurch, New Zealand on 5 June 2011. Two (2) students were awarded the Top

Student Awards; Mr Tiong Hung Chiong from Tropical Sawmill was the top student overall for the Class of 2011 and Mr Kong Muk Shui from Grand Perfect Sdn Bhd was the top student without a First Degree for the class of 2011.

The third cohort of students who had enlisted in this Postgraduate Diploma will commence their studies in April 2012.



### Did you know that.....

In 2012, the forest coverage area in Laos will be increased by 65%, and in 2020, the coverage will be raised by 70%. The government will continue to implement its degenerated forests on 5.85mn hectares. Of this, 3.5mn will be protected areas, 600,000 hectares will be producing forest while 1.1mn hectares will be conservation and other forests.

Source: MTIB News Extracts 05/02/12

## Did you also know that....

China's plywood production increased by 31.66% year-on-year to reach 118mn cubic metres (cu m) in 2011. Shandong province accounted for 27.72% of the country's total plywood production. The province's plywood production rose by 31.12% to 32.84mn cu m in 2011. For December 2011, China's plywood production was up by 31.66% to 12.82mn cu m.

Source: Wood168, 03 Feb 2012



## Sarawak Furniture Industry Development Seminar 2012

The Sarawak Furniture Industry Development Seminar 2012: Transformation of Raw Materials, Innovation, Quality and Design of Furniture towards the Global Market was held from 14 to 16 February 2012 at Riverside Majestic Hotel in Kuching. The three-day seminar was jointly organised by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS).

The Seminar was attended by over 165 participants from the furniture industry and various stakeholders which included researches and forestry-related agencies. The Seminar served as a networking and information sharing platform to prepare the furniture industry in meeting both the domestic and global market requirements.

The welcoming speech was delivered by the Chairman of Malaysia Forestry Research and Development Board (MFRDB), Puan Hajah Nancy Haji Shukri, followed by opening remarks from the General Manager STIDC, Datu Haji Sarudu Haji Hoklai and the Deputy Vice Chancellor of UNIMAS, Professor Dr Peter Songan. The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas then delivered his official speech and officiated the seminar.

The Seminar then proceeded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FRIM, STIDC and UNIMAS to mark the collaboration in the areas of furniture design and development, training, technical services and the setting up of a furniture testing laboratory in Sarawak. The MoU was signed by the Director-General of FRIM, Dato' Dr Abd Latif Mohmod on behalf of MFRDB, Datu Haji Sarudu Haji Hoklai and Professor Dr Peter Songan, witnessed by Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas.

The Seminar was divided into five (5) sessions with the respective papers presented as follows:

### Session 1: Trade Barriers in Furniture Export Markets

The session was chaired by Dr Tan Yu Eng from FRIM with three papers presented:

- i. Trend of Export & Import of Malaysian Wood-based Industries by *Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB)*
- ii. New Raw Material for Wood Products by *Dato Dr Hajjah Marzalina Mansor, FRIM*
- iii. Green Furniture Manufacturing by *Dr Gan Kee Seng, FRIM*

### Session 2: Raw Material Supply

The session was chaired by Encik Awang Mentali from STIDC with two papers presented:

- i. Challenges faced by Furniture Industry in Sarawak by *Mr Nicholas Andrew Lisseem, STIDC*
- ii. Making Innovation your Furniture Business Advantage by *Dr Tan Yu Eng, FRIM*

### Session 3: Challenges Faced by Furniture Manufacturers

The session was chaired by Prof Madya Dr Haji Khairul Aidil Azlin Abd Rahman from UNIMAS with three papers presented:

- i. Experience of a Furniture Manufacturer in Sarawak by *Mr Lai King Min, Sarawak Furniture Industry Association (SFIA)*
- ii. Challenges as a Furniture Entrepreneurs in the Export Market by *Tuan Haji Ahmad Kamal Chik, Puncak Bumi Utama Sdn Bhd*
- iii. Requirements for Furniture Testing in Compliance with International Standards by *Tuan Haji Mohd Arshad Saru, FRIM*

### Session 4: Design and Testing Requirements

The session was chaired by Dr Hamdan Husain from

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FRIM with three papers presented:

- i. Importance of Design and Ergonomics in Furniture by *Prof Madya Dr Haji Khairul Aidil Azlin, UNIMAS and Encik Abudl Hamid Saleh, FRIM*
- ii. Innovations in Furniture Industry by *Puan Sarimah Mohamad Sabudin, Furniture Industry Technology Center (FITEC)*
- iii. Supply of Logs for the Development of Furniture Industry in Sarawak by *Encik Abdul Wahab Haji Bujang, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS)*

#### Session 5: Financial and Economic Incentives

The session was chaired by Encik Mahmudin Saleh from FRIM with three papers presented:

- i. Financial Support for Timber Industry by *Puan Seri Nani Rahayu Md Yusup, SME Bank*
- ii. Incentives for Furniture Entrepreneurs by *Encik Zakaria Kamis, Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA)*
- iii. Contributions of Timber Industry to the State Economy by *Mr Lester Matthew, State Planning Unit*

On 15 February 2012, a Dialogue was held

and chaired by Dr Tan Yu Eng from FRIM. The panel members were Dr Gan Kee Seng from FRIM, Puan Dayang Nena Abang Bruce from STIDC, Prof Madya Dr Haji Khairul Aidil Azlin from UNIMAS, Encik Abdul Wahab Haji Bujang from FDS and Mr Lai King Min from SFIA. The Dialogue served as a platform to gain a better understanding on the needs of the furniture industry and to further strengthen the collaboration between the players in the furniture industry. Among the issues raised during the Dialogue were the current furniture industry status, target and market setting, resources/materials supply, technical inputs and manpower.

The panel members agreed that the information gathered from the two-day seminar is important to the furniture industry to ensure all parties work together efficiently to develop the industry.

On 16 February 2012, the participants of the seminar visited the Faculty of Applied and Creative (FACA), UNIMAS and Yun Ming Wood Industries Sdn Bhd. Participants were briefed on the history and roles of UNIMAS and FACA, the functions of the Institute of Design and Innovation (INDI) under FACA. Participants later toured Yun Ming Wood Industries Sdn Bhd, a producer of wooden outdoor furniture, garden furniture and indoor furniture.