



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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Dialogue with Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment, Sarawak



Photo: Group photo

A Dialogue between the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment (MRPE) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) Certification Committee was held on 13 September 2013 at Wisma Sumber Alam in Kuching. The Dialogue was chaired by Datu Sudarsono Osman, Permanent Secretary of MRPE, and attended by thirty (30) representatives from Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (HTSB), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and STA Certification Committee members. The objective of the Dialogue was to discuss issues pertaining to forest certification in Sarawak.

Ms Annie Ting, Senior Manager of STA made a presentation on the challenges faced by the timber industry with regards to forest certification, as well as some proposals for forest certification in Sarawak to move forward. Some of the

constraints faced are the tenure for Forest Timber Licences, land issues as well as the lack of procedures, guidelines and skilled personnel in forestry. In the meeting, Mr Wong Ing Yung from Zedtee Sdn Bhd shared his experiences on the process of certification for the recently certified Anap Muput Forest Management Unit (FMU) under Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) schemes.

Puan Dayang Nena Abang Bruce, Senior Assistant General Manager of STIDC in her presentation shared information on forest certification and encouraged STA members to go for certification.

The Meeting recognised that certification is a voluntary process and acknowledged that several issues need to be resolved to allow the industry to move forward on forest certification.

Workshop on Tropical Peatland and Oil Palm 2013

The Workshop on Tropical Peatland and Oil Palm 2013 with the theme "Good Plantation Practices for Oil Palm on Tropical Peatland" was held on 7 September 2013 at Kingwood Hotel in Sibul. This one-day Workshop was organised by the Malaysian Peat Society (MPS) in collaboration with Tropical Peat Research Laboratory (TPRL) under the Chief Minister's Department and Ta Ann Holdings Berhad (Ta Ann). Over 500 participants from the Government agencies, plantation companies, local and international universities, plantation related agencies or association and other industry players attended the Workshop.

Dr Lulie Melling, the Organising Chairperson of the Workshop, said that this event signified an important milestone on the commitment of the MPS to advance the knowledge and understanding of the wise utilisation of tropical peatland. She highlighted that the main focus of the Workshop was to establish better understanding of tropical peatland and efficient implementation of soil management for maximum crop production, maintenance or enhancement of soil quality, effective production costs and sustainable usage of peat resources in oil palm plantations.

Mr Frederick Haili Teck, President of the MPS said in his speech that this Workshop was a key event for MPS for the year 2013. He briefed the participants of the Workshop on the roles and functions of MPS in the oil palm industry. MPS is a member of the International Peat Society (IPS) which is based in Finland. Through this affiliation, MPS is able to cover a wider scope to advance the knowledge and understanding on the wise use of tropical peatland for the benefits of its members. In 2010, MPS won the bid to host the 15th IPS International Peat Congress to be held in Sarawak in 2016.

The Workshop was officially declared open by the Honorable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Alfred Jabu Numpang, the Deputy Chief Minister, Minister of Modernisation of Agriculture and Minister of Rural Development Sarawak. Tan Sri Dr said that a well-

managed oil palm plantation on peatland will give many benefits to the State's economy and environment with the potential to generate high fresh fruit bunch (FFB) yields, good income to those involved and revenue to the State as well as employment and business opportunities in the industry. The Ceremony ended with a tour of the booths displaying information on peatland cultivation practices as well as the equipment and materials used in oil palm plantations.

A total of seven (7) papers were presented during the Workshop as follows:

- (i) Tropical Peat: What is so sexy about it?
- by Dr Lulie Melling, Tropical Peat Research Laboratory
- (ii) Land Preparation: How to handle the "Big Hole"
- by Mr Chua Kian Hong, Sarawak Oil Palm Bhd
- (iii) Water Management: Why is it important to keep the hole moist?
- by Dr Lulie Melling, Tropical Peat Research Laboratory
- (iv) Fertilizer Properties and Management: How to maximise your investment
- by Dr Liew Yew Ann, Applied Agricultural Resources Sdn Bhd
- (v) Challenges in IPM of Oil Palm Grown On Peat: Why is "Speedy Gonzales" needed ?
- by Dr Ho Cheng Tuck, Agriculture Consultant
- (vi) Harvesting Operations and Management: How to ensure a "Good Quickie" ?
- by Mr Ramesh Veloo, Tradewinds Plantation Sdn Bhd
- (vii) Selection of Good Planting Materials: How to choose?
- by Dr Wong Choo Kien, Applied Agricultural Resources Sdn Bhd



Did you know that.....

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) has launched an improved version of its online licensing system in an effort to improve the efficiency in issuance of export and import licenses. It was reported that exports for the first half of 2013 dropped by 2.7% compared to the same period last year. The drop in export value for this year was attributed to the economic slowdown in importing countries, particularly in the Middle East where political uncertainties lowered the demand for timber. Major buyers for Sarawak timbers remain as Japan, South Korea, India, China, Thailand and the Philippines.

Source: ITTO TTM Report 17:17 1- 15 September 2013

Did you also know that...

The implementation of the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan Voluntary Partnership Agreements (FLEGT VPA) has taken ten years. 15 supplier countries are at some stage in the VPA process and ten more have requested information. Indonesia and Ghana are expected in 2014 to become the first countries to deliver FLEGT-licensed timber. Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Liberia have completed negotiations and started implementation. Countries engaged in VPA processes are said to be better equipped to deal with the EU Timber Regulation requirements.

Source: TJJ Timber Trades Journal, 07 Sep 2013



Forest Research Institute Malaysia Green House Gas Study

Under the responsibility of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) Committee on Forest Industry, ITTO has funded a study on the development of an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for tropical plywood under Activity 23 of the ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2013-2014. The purpose of the study is to prepare tropical plywood exporters to meet the anticipated market demand on the use of EPD as a tool for selecting construction materials that are environmentally responsible. This study will be a major breakthrough in tropical timber marketing as this is the very first time international work is being done to develop EPD for any tropical timber product.

ITTO has chosen Malaysia and Indonesia to be the pioneers in this study. The two main executor of the study in their respective countries are Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) and Bogor Agriculture University (IPB).

The principal researcher from FRIM, with support from the Sarawak Forestry Corporation and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) met and discussed with representatives of some STA plywood member companies who have indicated their interest to participate in this study, from 24 to 27 September 2013.

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Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management)

The Resource and Industrial Planning subject of the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management) (PGDip) Course was held from 23 until 27 September 2013 at Kemena Plaza Hotel in Bintulu and Tanahmas Hotel in Sibul. It was attended by twenty-one (21) students of the PGDip Course and one (1) student of STA Sustainable Forest Manager (STASFM) Course. The subject was conducted by Associate Professor Dr Hugh Bigsby from Lincoln University, Christchurch, New Zealand and Mr Nicholas Lisse from Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC).

The subject provided an overview of the concepts and tools for planning resources and processing in the forest products' sector in terms of log quality and quantity, availability of processing residuals, resource quality and quantity requirements for different wood processing industries, and the development of wood processing industries.

Apart from classroom-style lectures conducted at both venues, students also visited a number of mills that allowed them to gather data for their project studies.

During the mill visits, respective personnel gave short briefings on the processing and manufacturing of their timber products to the students.

A pre-feasibility study was also carried out based on the information collected from each of the mill visit for an integrated wood processing complex. This comprises five (5) components as follows:

- (1) Suitability of the resource in Sarawak for the proposed products, general characteristics of the resource and advantages/disadvantages for processing the resource;
- (2) Resource flow i.e. internal byproduct production and required external inputs of logs;
- (3) Locational consideration i.e. log and output transport, labour supply and access to inputs such as electricity, water and glue;
- (4) Resource-handling issues which includes a schematic plan showing the location of mills and log yards; and
- (5) Schematic flow of wood through the mill and the production process.



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Briefing on Roles of STIDC in Lawas District

The STA secretariat attended a briefing organised by the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) on the roles of STIDC in the timber industry surrounding the Lawas District on 19 September 2013 at Wisma Sumber Alam in Kuching. The briefing was attended by over twenty (20) representatives from various government departments and agencies such as Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (HTSB), Royal Malaysian Custom Department, Immigration Department of Malaysia, Department of Agriculture (DOA) and Royal Malaysia Police.

STIDC Prevention and Enforcement Division, Assistant General Manager, Encik Mohamad Hinri Bin Abdullah informed the representatives that starting 1 January 2014, the agency will station two (2) staff members at the Merapok's Immigration Control Post to monitor and record the movement of timber and timber products from/to Lawas District to other regions or states. This is to ensure that only registered importers and exporters with STIDC are allowed to move their timber and timber products from/to Lawas District.

In view of that, STIDC will organise a briefing with the related departments, agencies and industry players in Lawas District on 4 October 2013. The briefing will be delivered by STIDC Registration and Licensing Division Assistant General Manager, Puan Suraya Mohd Ali.

PEFC Forest Certification Week 2013

*Advancing Sustainable Trade in Asia
Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
(11-15 November 2013)*

PEFC's Stakeholder Dialogue (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 14/15 November 2013) will bring together up to 250 diverse stakeholders and key actors across forest sector landscape to engage in solutions-oriented discussions. The Dialogue is part of the PEFC Forest Certification Week, which also features the 18th PEFC General Assembly and associated workshops (11-13 November 2013, open to PEFC Council members and invited guests).

The Stakeholder Dialogue is free of charge. Further information & registration: <http://www.pefc.org/pefc-week-2013/home>