

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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WORLD FORESTRY DAY



Picture: Tree Planting by the Minister

The Ministry of Planning and Resource Management, the Forest Department, Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd commemorated the World Forestry Day on 15 April 2009 at the Forest Research Centre, 6th Mile, Kuching. With the theme "Love Our Forests", Members of STA joined colleagues in these agencies in the commemoration. Internationally, the day is celebrated throughout the world on 21 March every year. The event was officiated by Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hassan, Minister of Planning and Resource Management II and Minister of Public Utilities.

In his opening speech, the Minister emphasised that Sarawak has since 90 years ago embarked on systematic and sustainable forest management. He said that the non-governmental organisations in the West should check their facts before accusing Sarawak of not practising sustainable forest management (SFM). "If they check their facts, they will know that we have been practicing SFM since 1919 during the time of Rajah Brooke. And in 1954, we came out with a statement of forest policy of SFM long before the formation of Malaysia," he said, referring to repeated calls lately by NGOs in the West to boycott timber and timber products from Malaysia, especially Sarawak. He said the issue on SFM

therefore, should not have arisen at all.

He said these NGOs were making false claim without knowing the truth and they had the objective of derailing the local timber industry. The Minister pointed out that the Government and the private sector were making concerted efforts for sustainable forest management. He added that the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) was called in to assess and study forest management, and it was proven that the state was managing its forests well.

He pointed out that the State has earmarked about six million hectares for Permanent Forest Estate and another one million hectare as a Totally Protected Areas for the purpose of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and nature reserves. "Such effort is a clear testimony that the Government is very serious in managing the forests and the question that the government is not looking after the forests does not arise at all," he explained. He stressed that the government was aware of commitment to protect for forests for the

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VISIT BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ECONOMIC SECTION, US EMBASSY IN MALAYSIA

Did you know that...

FAO's State of the World's Forests 2009 finds that recent global economic turmoil has reduced demand for wood, shrinking investments in forest industries and forest management. It expresses concern that the economic downturn could lead governments to 'water down' ambitious green targets or defer key policy decisions related to climate change mitigation and adaptation as they focus on bringing in funds. It also warns that contraction of formal economic sectors may open opportunities for informal sector expansion, and could lead to more illegal logging. The report advises that stronger forest management and greater investments in science and technology are needed to handle the challenges posed by both the financial crisis and climate change.

Source:
Community Forestry
E-News,
March 2009 Issue

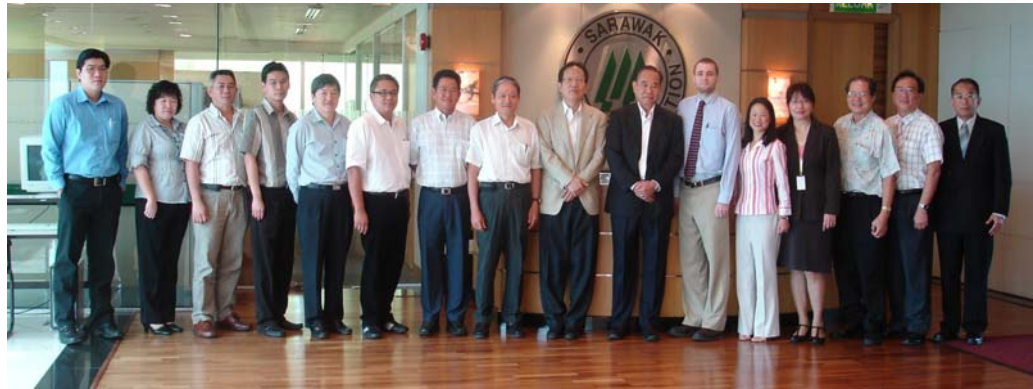


Photo: Representatives from US Embassy together with Members of STA

On 14 April 2009, two representatives, Ms. Alice Chu and Mr. Phil Loosli, from the Economic Section of the United States of America (US) Embassy in Malaysia paid a visit to STA. They were met by the Chairman, the Honorary Secretary of the Association, representatives from Member Companies and the Secretariat. The aim of the visit was to discuss matters related to the implementation of the amended Lacey Act which came into force on 1 April 2009.

During the visit, Mr. Phil Loosli gave a

presentation on Lacey Act. The Lacey Act required US importers that import plants and plant products to submit a declaration from containing the scientific name of the plant, the value of the importation, the quantity of the plant and the name of the country from where the plant was harvested. Although the requirement of import declarations is imposed on importers, Malaysian exporters of wood products such as furniture, frames and timber mouldings need to be aware of the requirement. They may be asked by importers to

provide the relevant information prior to the shipment of their products to the US.

Members had the opportunity to voice out their concerns on how the Act will influence their business activities with their trading partners in the US. After much discussion, it was proposed that another meeting be organised in Sarawak between the timber industry and the representatives from the US Department of Justice to have a better understanding of the legal issues of the Lacey Act.

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coming generation and for balanced development.

The Minister thanked the Association, which he said had contributed towards sustainable forest management. According to him, the Association

has also vigorously engaged in research, training and safety of timber camp workers.

More than 300 people from various agencies attended the launching of the World Forestry Day. Among those present were Director of Forests, Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh, STA Chairman

Datuk Wong Kie Yik and Honorary Secretary Dato Henry Lau. The Minister, Director of Forests and other VIPS took part in tree planting to commemorate World Forestry Day and later were taken on a guided tour of the Exhibition Gallery.

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA GRADUATION CEREMONY & STUDY TOUR

After 2 years of hard work, the first cohort of the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management) Course students had their graduation ceremony on 24 April 2009 at the Christchurch Town Hall, New Zealand. 17 of the 22 graduates from Sarawak joined other graduates from Lincoln University New Zealand in this ceremony. The course was jointly developed by STA and

Lincoln University of New Zealand with assistance from Sarawak Forestry Corporation and Forest Department Sarawak.

A 2 - week programme was specially arranged for the graduates to tour the South Island. Besides sight-seeing, the Group were brought to tour the campus of the University, visits to mill, plantations of Douglas Fir and Radiata Pine and a tree plantation nursery. The Group was also taken to

observed three types of harvesting operations in New Zealand i.e Waratah, hauling and cable system.

Joining the group for the graduation ceremony and study tour was Datuk Wong Kie Yik, the Chairman of STA, who also hosted a dinner for the graduates, their guests and staff members who are involved in the Postgraduate Diploma Programme from the University.

Did you also know that...

Deputy Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Mr. A. Kohilan speculated that demand for Malaysian timber products from Central Asia, India and Eastern Europe could help Malaysia achieve at least RM20 billion in exports in 2009. He also said the federal government has launched an afforestation programme, which is managed by the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB). A target of 25,000 ha has been earmarked for afforestation yearly over a period of 15 years, which would result in a total of 375,000 ha afforested. Fourteen companies are said to be participating in this programme, with an area of nearly 60,000 ha afforested to date.

Source:
ITTO TTM Report 14:7
1-15 April 200



Photo (top): The graduates together Chairman, Associate Prof. Hugh Bigsby, Mr Barney Chan and Dr Peter Kho in front of the Art Centre, Christchurch.



Photo: (top) Visit to Cable system site and (left) visit to a mill



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FUTSAL VIP COMPETITION

In conjunction with World Forestry Day, a VIP Futsal Competition was organised, held between the four agencies (i.e. Forest Department Sarawak, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation and Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd) and STA on 15 April 2009 in Kuching. The game was to foster working relationship between the four agencies and STA. STA was represented by representatives from member companies of STA. The Game was won by the agencies with a score of 9 - 0.



Photo: (top) The game in progress and (right) Tuan Haji Ali Yusop, the Deputy Director of Forests, presenting the trophy to the winner of the game.