

STA Review

Volume 223

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Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association

April 2012

Prioneris philonome

(The Redspot Sawtooth)

This is essentially a forest species,
and is found at all elevations.

Photo courtesy of Anna Photo Studio



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MEF SATELLITE

Meeting on Unemployment
Insurance (UI) system in
Malaysia

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TIMBER SPECIES:



Trade Name: Kembang Semangkok
Botanical Name: *Scaphium spp.*
Family: Sterculiaceae
Classification: Light Hardwood

Suitable for interior finishing, cabinet and furniture making, staircase, match boxes and splints

Photo courtesy of Forest Department Sarawak

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MEF SATELLITE MEETING ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) SYSTEM IN MALAYSIA

The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) organised a satellite meeting for the Project 'Supporting and Facilitating the Design of an Unemployment Insurance (UI) System in Malaysia' which was hosted by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) in Wisma STA, Kuching on 4 April 2012. This event was attended by approximately seventy (70) participants from various organisations in the State and member companies of STA.



Photo: Meeting in progress

Two (2) presentations were made by the Executive Director of MEF, Tuan Haji Shamsuddin Bardan, namely, 1) Project "Supporting and Facilitating the Design of an Unemployment Insurance System" and 2) MEF Unemployment Insurance Satellite Meeting.

Tuan Haji Shamsuddin briefed the participants on the background of the Satellite Meeting and the Unemployment Insurance (UI) System. He informed those present that the past economic crises revealed certain limitations of the existing social protection system and retrenchment benefits to provide basic income protection to workers who lost their jobs. Hence, as part of the Government policy measures for intensifying human capital development, the New Economic Model (NEM) intends to contribute to increased flexibility in hiring and firing workers.

To mitigate the social and financial impact on retrenched workers, the NEM recommends "enhancing the workers safety net through the introduction of unemployment insurance" by integrating upgraded employment services as well as up-skilling and retraining programmes.

Tuan Haji Shamsuddin informed all participants that the Government has requested technical assistance from the International Labour Organization (ILO) to support and facilitate the design of a UI system. On 23 Dec 2011, the Government and the ILO signed an agreement to launch the implementation of the Project 'Supporting and Facilitating the Design of an Unemployment Insurance (UI) System in Malaysia'. Under Phase One of the Project, it aims to obtain national consensus on the introduction of UI in Malaysia. Among other initiatives, the project supports specific satellite meetings for employers' representatives to come up with a position paper that will be shared at a tripartite workshop. In Phase Two, a feasibility study to define the parameters of the UI scheme will be conducted to analyse the UI impact on the production cost and enterprises' competitiveness.

Findings of the feasibility study will be presented and discussed in a tripartite forum before the report is finalised and submitted to the Government. In conjunction with Phase One, the MEF Satellite meetings will serve as a platform to enable employers to discuss issues related to compensation for loss of employment and to come up with the MEF position paper.

Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan Malaysia (MEF) telah menganjurkan satu mesyuarat satelit untuk membincangkan projek 'Menyokong dan Memudahkan Perangkaan Sistem Insurans Pengangguran (UI) di Malaysia' yang dianjurkan oleh Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) di Wisma STA, Kuching pada 4 April 2012. Pengarah Eksekutif MEF, Tuan Haji Shamsuddin Bardan, menerangkan kepada ahli mesyuarat tentang latar belakang mesyuarat satelit dan Sistem Insurans Pengangguran (UI).

Tuan Haji Shamsuddin memaklumkan bahawa kerajaan telah memohon bantuan teknikal daripada Pertubuhan Buruh Antarabangsa (ILO) untuk menyokong dan memudahkan perangkaan Sistem Insurans Pengangguran (UI). Pada 23 Disember 2011, kerajaan dan ILO telah menandatangani perjanjian untuk melancarkan pelaksanaan projek 'Menyokong dan Memudahkan Perangkaan Sistem Insurans Pengangguran (UI) di Malaysia'. Bersempena dengan fasa satu, mesyuarat satelit MEF akan bertindak sebagai landasan untuk membolehkan majikan-majikan membincangkan isu-isu berkaitan dengan pampasan untuk pengangguran dan mengemukakan cadangan kertas kerja MEF.

马来西亚雇主联盟(MEF)于2012年4月4日假STA大厦举办“支持和促进马来西亚失业保险(UI)系统设计”计划卫星会议。

MEF执行董事, 哈兹山苏丁(译音) 汇知出席者关于卫星会议和UI系统背景。他也提到政府已向国际劳工组织(ILO)要求技术援助支持和促进UI系统设计。政府与ILO于2011年12月23日签署协议推动实施“支持和促进马来西亚失业保险(UI)系统设计”计划。在第一期会议中, MEF卫星会议提供平台让雇主商讨失业补偿相关课题和预备MEF立场报告书。

PRESS STATEMENT

Implementation of Minimum Wage in Malaysia

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) is fully supportive of the Government's effort in formulating the New Economic Model (NEM) which aims to transform the Malaysian economy to become one with high income and quality growth.

However, STA is of the view that the minimum wage that is to be announced soon may be counterproductive if it is implemented without a holistic reform to the labour policies and the country's economy. Before a holistic economy reform is in place, the minimum wage must be fixed by the Government at reasonable rates that commensurate with the growth in the productivity of its workforce so that employers are able to pay and at the same time keep the business going. Datuk Dr S Subramaniam, the Minister of Human Resources had announced that the proposed minimum wage rate will be in the range of RM800 – RM1,000 per month.

The forestry and timber industry in Sarawak is highly dependent on its labour workforce, as many tasks could not be automated. Based on a recent survey carried out by STA, there are approximately 32,000 general employees currently employed in labour-intensive tasks. At a minimum wage of RM800 per month, the labour costs for the general employees would be increased by RM150 – RM250 million per year to the industry, without taking into consideration the ripple effects of the minimum wage on other employees in the industry. Past experience tells us that our industry could never procure sufficient local employees for its manufacturing sector, and in most cases about 90% of the employees in the timber manufacturing factories are foreign employees. Given that, the increase in wage rates is not likely to benefit the local labour force in terms of more employment opportunities in the forestry and timber industry for local employees.

As our industry is highly dependent on the export markets, this sudden increase in the cost of doing business would certainly lead to increase in the prices of our timber products and thus render our products being less competitive compared to similar products from our competitors such as Indonesia and Vietnam. Similarly, price increase in the domestic market will trigger an inflationary effect which would eventually reduce the actual purchasing power of the employees and thus negate the purpose of the minimum wage.

STA strongly believes that a holistic reform to the country's economy inclusive of export-import policies should first be put in place to ensure that the employers' ability to pay minimum wage is sustainable in the long run. Hence, there is a need to fix the minimum wage at a reasonable rate. In addition, to ensure that employers in the timber industry could sustain their businesses, employers ought to be given ample time to adjust accordingly to the minimum wage implementation. It is the view of STA that the implementation of the minimum wage from a viable lower rate to be progressively increased to the officially fixed minimum wage rate over a period of three (3) years would be more appropriate for the country as a whole.

Chairman of Sarawak Timber Association
25 April 2012

Kenyataan media ini berkaitan dengan pelaksanaan Skim Gaji Minima (SGM) di Malaysia. Sila rujuk pada artikel untuk maklumat penuh.

这是关于马来西亚最低工资的新闻稿。详细内容，请参阅全文。

BRIEFING ON MINIMUM WAGE IMPLEMENTATION

STA Secretariat organised three briefings on Minimum Wage (MW) Implementation, with the first being held in RH Hotel, Sibul on 13 April 2012, the second in Parkcity Everly Hotel, Miri on 16 April 2012 and the third in Wisma STA, Kuching on 20 April 2012.

The aim of these briefings was to update members on the MW issues, to prepare members for the implementation of MW; possible implications to the timber industry and as well as to collect feedback from members.

Participants were informed that the Government shall be making an announcement on the minimum wage on 30 April 2012.

Participants were urged to respond to the surveys conducted by the Association as the data collected are crucial in supporting any applications/submissions made by the Association to the Government.

Sekretariat STA telah menganjurkan tiga taklimat berkaitan Pelaksanaan Gaji Minimum (GM) dengan taklimat pertama telah diadakan di Hotel RH, Sibul pada 13 April 2012, kedua di Hotel Parkcity Everly, Miri pada 16 April 2012 dan yang ketiga di Wisma STA, Kuching pada 20 April 2012.

Taklimat ini bertujuan untuk mengemaskini dan mempersiapkan ahli-ahli STA tentang hasrat kerajaan melaksanakan GM dan implikasi yang mungkin timbul ke atas industri kayu serta mengumpul maklum balas dari ahli-ahli.

Peserta dimaklumkan bahawa kerajaan akan mengumumkan gaji minimum pada 30 April 2012.

本会秘书处分别于2012年4月13日假诗巫，RH酒店;2012年4月16日假美里城市花园易威利酒店及2012年4月20日假古晋STA大厦处举办一系列最低薪金制简报会。

这简报会主要目的是让会员对政府即将落实的最低薪制有所预备和其对木材业所可能造成的影响。同时，也提供最新资讯和搜集会员对最低薪制的意见。

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENTS	VENUE	ORGANISER
11 to 14 September 2012	Furniture Manufacturing & Supply China 2012" (FMC China 2012)	• Shanghai World Expo Exhibition & Convention Center (SWEECC)	• TIMBERWeb®
19 to 21 September 2012	4 th Regional Conference on Natural Resources in the Tropics (Ntrop4)	• UNIMAS campus, Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia	• Universiti Malaysia Sarawak
26 to 28 September 2012	International Conference on "Future of Panel Industry – Challenges & Key Issues"	• IPIRTI, Bangalore, India	• Indian Plywood Industries Research & Training Institute (IPIRTI)
4 to 6 October 2012	MTC Global WoodMart 2012	• Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur	• Malaysian Timber Council (MTC)

BRIEFING AND DIALOGUE ON PRIVATE SECTORS' MINIMUM WAGE IMPLEMENTATION

The Ministry of Human Resources (MoHR) organised a briefing and dialogue on Private Sectors' Minimum Wage (MW) Implementation in Wisma PERKESO Kuala Lumpur on 19 April 2012. The event was attended by approximately two hundred (200) participants representing the various sectors including, the Malaysian Agriculture Producers Association, the Small Medium Industries (SMI) Association, the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM), the Sime Darby group of companies, Toyota, the Malaysian Panel Products Association, and the Malaysian Plastic Manufacturers Association, etc.

Dr Rusmawati binti Said, a member of the Technical Committee of National Wages Consultative Council (NWCC) gave a presentation on the MW structure recommended by the NWCC to the Government. A question and answer session followed which was facilitated by a panel comprising the Minister, Dr S Subramaniam, the Deputy Minister, Senator Dato Maznah Mazlan, the Secretary-General of MoHR, Dato Seri Zainal and the Deputy Chairman of NWCC, Datuk Dr Syed Mohamad.

Some of the concerns raised by participants were as follows:

1. Majority of the workers (approximately 90%) are not affected because out of the 12.3 million total workforce of the country, there are only 1.2 million foreign workers. Hence, participants proposed the levy collected by the Government for recruiting foreign workers be channelled for good cause such as for the benefit of the lower income group. There were also participants requesting the levy be borne by foreign workers.
2. Participants highlighted the peculiarity in the forestry industry whereby working conditions are affected by the weather and the working areas are located in remote areas in the jungle. Some factories are closed down after operating for three (3) months because their licenses are not renewed. In view of this, participants proposed the MW to be implemented over a period of three (3) years from a viable lower rate in the first year which will be progressively increased to the fixed MW rate in the third year. This proposal was supported by majority of the participants.
3. MW policy should put emphasis on the employer's ability to pay the MW to avoid any retrenchment. Piece-rated employees who are currently remunerated base on Productivity Linked Wage System (PLWS) should be maintained.
4. To allow various types of allowances such as medical, transportation, accommodation, etc to be included in the MW.
5. Some other concerns were also raised, for example in the car industry, the increase of MW by 25-30% after the implementation does not correspond with the productivity in the industry. The industry will have to pass on these additional costs to the car manufacturer which will eventually result in price increase.

Kementerian Sumber Manusia (KSM) telah menganjurkan taklimat dan dialog mengenai Pelaksanaan Gaji Minimum Sektor Swasta di Wisma PERKESO Kuala Lumpur pada 19 April 2012. Sila rujuk pada artikel untuk maklumat penuh.

人力资源部于2012年4月19日假吉隆坡PERKESO大厦举办有关私人界最低薪金制简报会暨对话会。详细内容，请参阅全文。

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MINIMUM WAGE CEREMONY FOR PRIVATE SECTORS

The Ministry of Human Resources (MoHR) organised a ceremony on the announcement of Minimum Wage (MW) for Private Sectors in Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur on 30 April 2012. This event was attended by more than one thousand (1,000) representatives from various ministries, associations, unions, etc.

Datuk S Subramaniam, the Minister of Human Resources briefed the attendees on the background on the Government's decision to formulate a national MW policy for the benefit of the workers of the country. This was followed by the symbolic ceremony of handing over of the MW recommendation to the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Tun Razak by the Chairman of the National Wages Consultative Council (NWCC), Tan Sri Steve Shim accompanied by the employer association's representative, Dato' Azman Shah and employee association's representative, Encik Mohd Khalid.

Dato' Sri informed those present that the NWCC which has representative from the Government, employer and employee groups, had reached consensus on the recommendation in the spirit of the tripartite despite heated arguments at times during the process of formulating the MW.

He then announced that the minimum wages for private sector employees based on the recommendation by NWCC with some minor adjustment by the Government are set at RM900 per month or RM4.33 per hour for workers in Peninsular Malaysia and RM800 per month or RM3.85 per hour for workers in Sabah and Sarawak. He informed those present that the MW would cover all economic sectors except those in domestic service sector such as maids. He clarified that the differences in the minimum wages between Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak are due to the variation in wage structure and cost of living. He said the Government hopes to streamline the minimum wages for the three (3) regions within the next two (2) to three (3) years.

He informed the attendees that the MW would take effect in six (6) months from the date the Minimum Wage Order is gazetted. However, for small time employers or micro enterprises, an additional six (6) months would be given to enable them to make preparations so as not to affect their businesses. Hence, for small businesses and micro enterprises, the MW shall take effect in twelve (12) months from the date the Minimum Wage Order is gazetted. This twelve (12) months transition period will not be applicable to employed workers in professional firms such as dental and medical clinics, legal, architecture and consultant firms.

He added that the Government is affording a flexible implementation mechanism so that employers who are unable to implement the MW could appeal to the NWCC for an extension. The Government has prepared a mechanism to allow some allowances or fixed cash allowances be allowed to be absorbed in the calculation of MW.

Kementerian turut menganjurkan sebuah majlis sempena pengumuman Gaji Minimum (GM) untuk Sektor Swasta di Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur pada 30 April 2012.

Datuk S. Subramaniam, Menteri Sumber Manusia memberi taklimat latar belakang mengenai keputusan kerajaan menggubal satu dasar GM nasional adalah untuk manfaat negara dan diikuti dengan majlis simbolik menyerahkan syor GM kepada Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Tun Razak oleh Pengerusi Majlis Perundingan Gaji Negara (MPGN), Tan Sri Steve Shim.

Perdana Menteri mengumumkan bahawa gaji minimum untuk pekerja sektor swasta yang berdasarkan syor (MPGN) dengan beberapa pelarasan kecil oleh kerajaan adalah ditetapkan pada RM900 sebulan atau RM4.33 sejam untuk Semenanjung Malaysia dan RM800 sebulan atau RM3.85 sejam untuk Sabah dan Sarawak. Beliau memaklumkan bahawa GM akan meliputi semua sektor ekonomi kecuali sektor perkhidmatan domestik seperti pembantu rumah.

Beliau turut memaklumkan bahawa pelaksanaan GM akan berkuatkuasa dalam tempoh enam (6) bulan dari tarikh Perintah Gaji Minimum diwartakan. Walau bagaimanapun, bagi majikan kecil atau perusahaan mikro, enam (6) bulan tambahan akan diberikan.

人力资源部于2012年4月30日假布城举办私人界最低薪金制(MW)宣布晚宴。

人力资源部长，拿督苏巴马廉（译音）在晚宴上简介政府基于国家利益而决策制定国家MW经历。国家薪资咨询委员会（NWCC）主席，丹斯里沈立强随后在移交仪式上提呈MW建议书予首相拿督斯里纳吉。

首相宣布西马最低薪金为每月900零吉或每小时4零吉33仙而东马沙巴及砂拉越则每月800零吉或每小时3零吉85仙。MW是根据NWCC的建议及在政府稍微调整下而达成。MW涵盖所有经济领域除了国内服务业例如家佣。

首相也称这项法令在宪报颁布的6个月后生效，不过，微型企业则获得12个月的调适期。

PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF AND SCHO

A presentation ceremony of Financial Contributions and Scholarships was held on 23 April 2012 at Wisma STA, Kuching.

Financial Contributions

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA), through its wholly-owned company, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM) made a financial contribution of RM350,000 to fourteen (14) private Chinese Secondary Schools in Sarawak and the Sarawak United Association of Private Chinese Secondary Schools Management Board (Management Board). This financial assistance is to assist the schools to overcome their financial deficits, provide better facilities for students, improve their upkeep and help the Management Board to organise more teacher training courses. This year, the Association is providing an additional amount of RM150,000 to the Management Board for scholarships to be given to deserving students from these schools.

Scholarships

STA through STAM has also been providing scholarships to students who have achieved excellent results in their studies. These scholarships are awarded to local students who are currently pursuing degrees related to forestry, timber trade and industry. There are two scholarships; the STA and the Daiken Corporation (through its subsidiaries, Daiken Sarawak Sdn Bhd and Daiken Miri Sdn Bhd) Scholarships which are awarded to students from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Curtin University Sarawak and Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus each year.

The two (2) recipients for STA Scholarship are:

1. Mr Ogary Kinshen Anak Migas who was awarded the STA Scholarship for the year 2009. He is currently pursuing his third year in BSc Degree in Science and Management of Plant Resources at the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, UNIMAS.
2. Mr Mohamad Nazari Bin Mohamad Zaidi who is the new STA Scholarship recipient for the year 2010. He is pursuing his third year in Diploma of Electronic Engineering at the School of Engineering, Computing and Science of Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus, Kuching

The four (4) recipients for Daiken Scholarship are:

1. Mr Leong Ting Hao has been awarded the Daiken Scholarship recipient for the year 2012. He is currently pursuing his first year in BSc Degree in Science and Management of Plant Resources at the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, UNIMAS.
2. Ms Curazon Landon Anak Munan has been awarded the Daiken Scholarship 2010. She is pursuing her third year in Bachelor of Engineering at Faculty of Engineering, UNIMAS.



Photo: [From left] Mr Anthony Chin, Senior Manager, Daiken Sarawak Sdn Bhd, Mr Philip Choo, STA Honorary Treasurer, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, STA Chairman, Temenggong Vincent Lau, President, Sarawak United Association of Private Chinese Secondary Schools Management Board



Photo: Group photo



Photo: Scholarships recipients

OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS SCHOLARSHIPS

3. Ms Cheah Bin Pin has been awarded the Daiken Scholarship 2010. She is currently pursuing her third year in Bachelor of Science and Management of Plant Resources at the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, UNIMAS.
4. Ms Jessica Sim Pei Khin who is currently on her fourth year in Bachelor of Engineering (Civil Engineering) of Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus, Kuching was awarded the Daiken Scholarship for the year 2009.

Through providing these scholarships, Daiken Corporation hopes to contribute towards the development of skilled and knowledgeable human resource to help towards sustaining the timber industry in Sarawak.

Majlis penyampaian sumbangan kewangan dan biasiswa telah diadakan pada 23 April 2012 di Wisma STA, Kuching.

Sumbangan Kewangan

Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) melalui anak syarikatnya, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM) telah menyampaikan sumbangan kewangan berjumlah RM350,000 kepada empat belas (14) buah Sekolah Menengah Persendirian Cina di Sarawak dan Persatuan Bersatu Sarawak daripada Lembaga Pengurusan Sekolah-sekolah Menengah Persendirian Cina di Sarawak (Lembaga Pengurusan). Sumbangan ini bertujuan membantu pihak sekolah mengatasi masalah defisit kewangan, menyediakan kemudahan yang lebih baik kepada pelajar bagi meningkatkan pencapaian mereka dan membolehkan Lembaga Pengurusan menganjurkan lebih banyak kursus latihan guru. Pada tahun ini, Persatuan telah memperuntukan sumbangan tambahan berjumlah RM150,000 kepada Lembaga Pengurusan sebagai pemberian biasiswa kepada pelajar yang berkelayakan di sekolah terbabit.

Biasiswa

STA melalui STAM turut menyediakan biasiswa kepada pelajar-pelajar yang mencapai keputusan cemerlang dalam pelajaran. Biasiswa ini adalah untuk pelajar-pelajar tempatan yang melanjutkan pengajian di peringkat ijazah dalam bidang berkaitan perhutanan dan industri perdagangan kayu kayan. Dua jenis biasiswa yang ditawarkan iaitu dari STA dan Perbadanan Daiken.

Terdapat 2 penerima untuk biasiswa STA dan 4 penerima untuk biasiswa Daiken.

本会于2012年4月23日假STA大厦举办捐赠暨奖学金颁发仪式。

拨款捐赠

本会通过其全资拥有公司, STA Mutual 有限公司拨款捐赠马币35万令吉予砂州14间私立华文独中学府及砂拉越华文独立中学董事会联合总会 (管理委员会)。这旨于协助学校克服财政赤字和改善学校设施从而为学生提供更好的学习环境并协助管理委员会举办更多的教师培训课程。本会今年拨款捐赠额外马币15万令吉予管理委员会作为学生奖学金。

奖学金

本会通过STA Mutual 有限公司提供奖学金予攻读有关森林和木材贸易工业相关课程成绩优异的砂拉越籍大专生。本会颁发2份STA奖学金;大建集团 (透过其附属公司, 砂拉越大建有限公司和美里大建有限公司) 则颁发4份奖学金予成绩优异的大专生。

On 26 April 2012, the Ministry of Plantation Industries & Commodities (MPIC) organised the 7th Multi-stakeholders Consultation on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) at the Corus Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The Consultation was part of the continuous process to update all stakeholders on the latest developments with regard to the negotiation between Malaysia and European Union (EU) on the FLEGT VPA and subsequently to get feedback from the stakeholders. About one hundred (100) participants from government ministries, agencies and departments; non-governmental organisations (NGOs); industries, and academia attended the Consultation.

Mr Low Yew Eng, the Under Secretary, Kenaf, Tobacco and Wood Products Division, MPIC highlighted in his opening remarks that the FLEGT VPA is to ensure that only legal timber enters the European market, which is also in line with the Malaysia's commitment to trade only in legal timber. He commented that, for Malaysia, the VPA required intensive discussion involving cross Federal and State authorities as land and forest issues are under the purview of the respective State Government. He reiterated that the European Union Timber Regulation will be enforced by the EU in March 2013 hence it is necessary for Malaysia to conclude the VPA with EU soon. Following the Cabinet's decision in December 2011, the negotiation with the EU on FLEGT VPA had been pursued intensively with the view to conclude the negotiation by the end of this year. He then introduced the Moderator, Dato' Dr Abdul Latiff Mohamad, who is currently the Emeritus Professor at the Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia, and the three presenters namely; Mr Wan Mazlan Wan Mahmood, the Under Secretary, Strategic Planning and International Division, MPIC; Mr S Rajan Sumikannoo, the Director of Licensing and Enforcement Division of MTIB; and Dato' Dr Baharuddin Ghazali, Consultant for the linkages study.

Encik Wan Mazlan presented the current status of the Malaysia-EU FLEGT VPA negotiation. He started his presentation with the background of the negotiation which commenced in 2006 with many meetings held and the negotiation is still on-going. He then highlighted some of the outstanding issues on FLEGT VPA which include the draft Legal Text of FLEGT VPA -transitional measures and product scope; Annexes to the VPA - Third Party Monitor and Independent Market Monitor; and Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) for Peninsular Malaysia. He concluded his presentation with the following notes: FLEGT VPA is important for Malaysia in terms of green credentials and market share; Malaysia-EU FTA Scoping Paper has a Chapter on Trade and Sustainability; VPA assures legal and not sustainable timber; VPA is unprecedented and much needs to be learnt; TLAS is a "living document"; and Strategic and catalytic role of VPA to achieve Sustainability Forest Management (SFM). He also called for civil society, NGOs and timber industry to give their support to this effort.

Mr S Rajan Samikanoo's presentation covered the exports

of timber to EU; VPA process; Components of TLAS; Coordination for the Implementation of TLAS for Peninsular Malaysia; and Update on the latest development on TLAS for Peninsular Malaysia including the procedures for movement of timber from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia.

Dato's Dr Baharuddin was the consultant to undertake the study on "the Mechanisms to strengthen Coordination for Implementation of TLAS". This study was undertaken to determine ways of strengthening the linkages between the licensing authorities and the implementing agencies in Peninsular Malaysia. He presented a brief introduction to the findings of the study with eleven recommendations:

1. Formalising linkages among the various implementing agencies within Peninsular Malaysia;
2. Establishing TLAS Implementing Agency Coordination Committee;
3. Managing 'red Alert' situations and guidelines on addressing non-compliance;
4. Capacity building: Raising productivity through modern technologies and outsourcing specialised personnel;
5. Refinement of TLAS;
6. Setting up a VPA FLEGT Unit in MTIB;
7. Developing greater awareness;
8. Stakeholder support and TLAS consultation forum;
9. Internal auditing and periodical reports;
10. Resolving the issue of processing mills not licensed with the Forestry Department; and
11. Transitional measures

During the open discussion, participants were informed that currently Sabah is not part of the VPA but will continue to enhance its TLAS. He stressed that if Malaysia is to conclude the signing of VPA with EU, the VPA should consider alternative option for certified products from any States which are not a party to the FLEGT VPA process to enter the EU market.

种植与原产业部(MPIC)于2012年4月26日假歌丽酒店举办第7届森林法规执法, 监管与贸易(FLEGT)自愿合作伙伴协议(VPA) 多方利益相关者磋商会。此磋商会主要持续告知利益相关者有关我国与欧盟FLEGT VPA谈判的最新发展和搜集他们的意见。

MPIC代表罗尤恩先生(译音)强调FLEGT VPA旨在确保只有合法木材输入欧洲市场, 这与我国坚决进行合法木材贸易的决心是一致的。他重申欧盟木材法规将于2013年3月实施, 因此, 我国必须尽快完成与欧盟的VPA谈判。

MPIC策略规划及国际部, MTIB执照及执行部代表和与联系研究顾问分别在磋商会上分享3项专题简报。

在公开讨论时, 参与者被告知沙巴目前无纳入于VPA, 不过, 将继续改进其TLAS。他强调如果我国要与欧盟完成签署VPA, 双方应该考虑替代方案以便我国其它州署认证产品非在FLEGT VPA内, 仍可销售木材于欧洲市场。

CONSULTATION ON FLEGT VPA

Pada 26 April 2012, Kementerian Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi Malaysia (KPPK) telah menganjurkan Perundingan Pelbagai Pihak Berkepentingan yang ke-7 tentang Penguatkuasaan Undang-undang, Pentadbiran dan Perdagangan Hutan (FLEGT) dan Perjanjian Usahasama Sukarela (VPA) di Hotel Corus, Kuala Lumpur. Rundingan ini adalah sebahagian daripada proses berterusan untuk mengemaskini semua pihak berkepentingan tentang FLEGT VPA dan seterusnya mendapatkan maklum balas daripada semua pihak.

Encik Low Yew Eng dari KPPK menekankan bahawa FLEGT VPA adalah untuk memastikan hanya kayu yang sah sahaja memasuki pasaran Eropah dan turut selari dengan komitmen Malaysia yang hanya berdagang kayu yang sah sahaja. Beliau mengulangi bahawa Peraturan Perkayuan Kesatuan Eropah akan dikuatkuasakan oleh EU pada Mac 2013. Oleh itu, adalah perlu bagi Malaysia memuktamadkan VPA dengan EU tidak lama lagi.

Terdapat tiga perbentangan yang disampaikan semasa perundingan. Mereka adalah dari Bahagian Perancangan Strategik dan Antarabangsa, KPPK; Bahagian Pelesenan dan Penguatkuasaan, MTIB dan perunding untuk kajian perhubungan.

Semasa sesi pembukaan, para peserta dimaklumkan bahawa pada masa ini Sabah bukanlah sebahagian daripada VPA tetapi akan terus meningkatkan TLAS. Beliau menegaskan bahawa jika Malaysia muktamad menandatangani VPA dengan EU, VPA haruslah pertimbangkan alternatif lain untuk produk yang diperakui dari mana-mana negeri yang tidak terlibat dengan proses FLEGT VPA untuk memasuki pasaran EU.

SEMINAR ON THE IMPORTANCE OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC SURVEY

The Sarawak branch of the Department of Statistics Malaysia organised a seminar on 'The Importance of Statistical Information to the National Economic Survey' on 23 April 2012 at Grand Continental Hotel, Kuching. This seminar was attended by more than one hundred (100) participants from the Government and private sectors.

This seminar was aimed at explaining to the participants the importance of the information collected from the survey. The participants also had the opportunity to seek clarification on the purpose, scope of coverage, type of information to be submitted to the Department of Statistics Malaysia and the type of information which will be published at the end of survey.

The Director of the State Statistics Department, Mr Lee Ting Siing welcomed the participants to the seminar and gave a presentation on 'The Importance of Statistical Information to the National Economic Survey'. In his presentation, Mr Lee mentioned that via the e-Survey, the Department will be able to generate economic data quickly and accurately. Therefore, he encouraged the participants to use the e-survey to meet the demands from both the Government and private sectors in completing the survey in a short period of time.

Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia Cawangan Sarawak telah menganjurkan satu seminar berkaitan 'Kepentingan Maklumat Perangkaan Terhadap Kajian Ekonomi Nasional' pada 23 April 2012 di Hotel Grand Continental, Kuching.

Seminar ini bertujuan untuk menerangkan kepada para peserta tentang kepentingan maklumat yang diperolehi melalui kaji selidik.

Pengarah dari Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia Negeri Sarawak, Encik Lee Ting Siing memaklumkan bahawa melalui e-Survey, jabatan ini dapat menjana data ekonomi dengan cepat dan tepat.

砂州统计局于2012年4月23日假古晋大洲酒店举办“工商普查对国家数据统计的重要性”研讨会。

此研讨会旨在向参与者解释从调查中所收集讯息的重要性。

砂州统计局局长李廷新指出通过电子调查该局将能够快速的生产准确的经济数据。

BRIEFING ON AUSTRALIA'S DRAFT ILLEGAL LOGGING PROHIBITION BILL 2011



Photo: Briefing in progress

The Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) coordinated a discussion on the draft Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011 which was held at the office of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) Kuala Lumpur on 16 April 2012. The aim of this discussion was to present the latest updates on the draft Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011 and to seek comments from Malaysian timber-related Industries.

Approximately eighteen (18) participants from the timber-related Associations and Government Departments attended the discussion. Mr Ben Mitchell, the Director of International Forest Policy, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia started the discussion by giving the background information on the Bill.

This proposed Bill will apply to Australian importers, prohibiting the importation and sale of the timber products containing illegally logged timber and processors of illegally sourced logs and sawn timber into Australia. Two years

after this proposed Bill is passed by the Australian Parliament, importers of regulated timber products and processors of domestic raw logs will be required to fulfill due diligence requirements. The processes required for importers, including the declaration for regulated timber products, will be developed in consultation with the industry and other stakeholders.

Questions raised during the discussion included the listing of the range of Harmonized System (HS) Code of products that will be covered in the list of regulated timber products, the definition of illegal logging, documentation requirements by exporters, the relevance of the Bill to smallholders, the status of plantation wood such as rubber wood, part wooden timber products, mixed species' products, as well as pulp and paper products. Mr Mitchell reassured the participants that the Australian Government will continue to consult all stakeholders throughout the implementation of this proposed Bill.

Kementerian Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi Malaysia (KPPK) telah mengkoordinasi satu perbincangan berkaitan *Draf Undang Larangan Pembalakan Haram Australian 2011* yang bertempat di pejabat Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri (MITI), Kuala Lumpur pada 16 April 2012. Tujuan perbincangan ini adalah untuk menyampaikan perkembangan terkini tentang *Draf Undang Larangan Pembalakan Haram Australian 2011* dan mendapatkan komen daripada industri perikanan yang berkaitan di Malaysia.

En Ben Mitchell, Pengarah Polisi Hutan Antarabangsa, Jabatan Pertanian, Perikanan dan Perhutanan, Australia memulakan perbincangan dan menerangkan draf undang tersebut. Draf undang yang dicadangkan ini akan berkuatkuasa ke atas pengimport di Australia, larangan pengimportan dan penjualan produk kayu yang terlibat dalam pembalakan haram dan pemprosesan balak dan papan lapis dari sumber haram ke Australia.

种植与原产业部(MPIC)于2012年4月16日假吉隆坡国际贸易及工业部(MITI)办公室协办2011澳洲非法采伐禁令草案讨论会。讨论会的目的为呈现2011澳洲非法采伐禁令草案最新资讯并寻求马来西亚木材相关行业的意见。

澳洲农业, 渔业和林业部, 国际森林政策处处长, 米切尔先生(译音)告知禁令提议草案将对进口非法木材进口商的行为进行制裁。这将打击澳洲非法来源原木和锯材的进口和销售。

ANTI-DUMPING BRIEFING BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) in collaboration with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) organised a briefing on Awareness on Anti-dumping and Trade Defense / Remedy instruments for the Malaysian Timber and Furniture Industry on 9 April 2012 at Menara PGRM, Kuala Lumpur.

The main objectives of this briefing are:-

1. to safeguard and defend the interest of domestic industry from unfair trade practice through anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures in accordance with related World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreements and national legislation; and
2. to facilitate the domestic industry's understanding of Malaysia's anti-dumping and countervailing legislation.

Dr Jalaluddin Harun, the Director General of MTIB in his opening remarks informed the participants that the MTIB had gone through a few dumping allegations by importing countries and these had affected the industry as Malaysia is an export oriented country in timber trade. In 2011, Malaysia timber export revenue reached RM20.5 billion, which is about 3% of country's GDP. Thus, it is important to understand the tools and measures available, i.e. Anti-dumping and Trade Defense / Remedy instruments to safeguard the Malaysian Timber and Furniture Industry.

Dumping is international price discrimination where a country is being alleged to have an export price which is lower than the selling price in the domestic market. Anti-dumping or countervailing measures may be imposed to address such unfair trade practice. Anti-dumping can only be used if dumping action causes (or threatens to cause) material injury to domestic industry. Anti-dumping duties or price undertaking will be imposed as a result from the dumping action.

Three eminent speakers from MITI were invited to update and highlight the following topics:-

1. 'Introduction to Trade Remedies' by Encik Rashidi Said, Senior Principal Assistance Director, Trade Practices Section, MITI
2. 'Anti-dumping Cases Against Malaysia' by Puan Siti Zahara Abu Bakar, Assistant Director, Trade Practices Section, MITI
3. 'Anti-dumping Cases by Malaysia' by Encik Mohd Reza Azman, Senior Assistant Director, Trade Practices Section, MITI

The speakers briefed the participants how to handle anti-dumping issues at home and abroad; the consultation process/flow/procedures with local producers/exporters on anti-dumping action by foreign Government authorities; types of Review (e.g. News exporter/producer Review, Mid-Term Review and Sunset Review); as well as the past and current anti-dumping cases against and by Malaysia.

Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia (MTIB) dengan kerjasama Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri (MITI) telah menganjurkan taklimat berkaitan kesedaran tentang Anti-Lambakan dan Perlindungan Perdagangan / Langkah Pencegahan untuk Industri Kayu dan Perabot Malaysia pada 9 April 2012 di Menara PGRM, Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Jalaluddin Harun, Ketua Pengarah MTIB dalam ucapan aluannya memaklumkan kepada peserta bahawa pihak MTIB telah meneliti beberapa dakwaan lambakan daripada negara-negara pengimport dan ini telah memberi kesan dan impak ke atas Malaysia yang merupakan negara pengeksport kayu.

Lambakan adalah diskriminasi harga antarabangsa di mana sesebuah negara didakwa mempunyai harga eksport yang lebih rendah berbanding harga jualan di pasaran tempatan.

Ketiga-tiga penceramah dari MITI dijemput untuk mengemaskini dan memaklumkan kepada peserta bagaimana untuk menangani isu anti-lambakan di dalam dan luar negara.

马来西亚木材工业局(MTIB)与国际贸易及工业部 (MITI) 于2012年4月9日假吉隆坡PGRM大厦联办马来西亚木材与家具业反倾销及贸易保护/补救措施意识简报会。

MTIB局长扎拉鲁丁博士 (译音) 在致词时告知参与者MTIB经历数次进口国倾销指控。作为木材贸易出口国, 这也为我国带来负面影响。

倾销是一项国际价格歧视, 即国家被指控其出口价格相对国内销售价格较低。

3位MITI官员特邀为参与者讲解如何处理国内, 国外反倾销事项及提供相关最新资讯。

MTC GLOBAL WOODMART 2012



Photo: Meeting in progress



Photo: Group photo

The Chief Executive Officer of Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) Mr Cheah Kam Huan, led a delegation comprising Mr Tham Sing Khow, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of MTC, Ms Jennyfer Lee, the Executive of MTC Trade Promotional & Marketing Division and Mr Kenneth Fong, the Manager of Fairs Connection Sdn Bhd (Event company to MTC Global WoodMart 2012) to Sarawak from 23 to 26 April 2012 to promote the MTC Global WoodMart 2012 (MGW 2012) to members of Sarawak Timber Association (STA) in Kuching, Sibu and Miri regions.

The MTC delegation had a meeting with STA on 23 April 2012 at Wisma STA, Kuching. STA Chairman, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik welcomed the MTC delegation. Mr Cheah Kam Huan briefed STA on the MGW 2012 and their promotional programme to Sarawak.

MGW 2012 will be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) from 4 to 6 October 2012 providing a premier one-stop selling, buying and networking platform for the local and international timber suppliers and buyers. MGW 2012 will be featuring a wide selection of tropical and temperate hardwood and softwood products such as logs, sawntimber, plywood and panel products, wooden flooring, wooden decking, doors and windows, mouldings as well as furniture components.

Members who are interested to participate in MGW 2012, please visit <http://www.globalwoodmart.my> or contact MTC at:

Malaysian Timber Council
Head Office
18th Floor, Menara PGRM
No. 8 Jalan Pudu Ulu, Cheras
56100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: +603- 9281 1999
Fax: +603- 9282 8999

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Majlis Kayu Malaysia (MTC) Encik Cheah Kam Huan, mengetuai delegasi terdiri daripada Encik Tham Sing Khow, Timbalan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif MTC, Cik Jennyfer Lee, Eksekutif Promosi Perdagangan & Bahagian Pemasaran MTC dan Encik Kenneth Fong, Pengurus Fairs Connection Sdn Bhd (Syarikat acara untuk MTC Global WoodMart 2012) ke Sarawak dari 23 hingga 26 April 2012 dengan tujuan utama untuk menggalakkan 2012 MTC Global WoodMart (MGW 2012) kepada ahli-ahli Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) bagi daerah Kuching, Sibu dan Miri.

MGW 2012 akan diadakan di Pusat Konvensyen Kuala Lumpur (KLCC) dari 4 hingga 6 Oktober 2012 menyediakan jualan sehenti yang unggul, membeli dan platform rangkaian untuk pembeli dan pembekal kayu tempatan dan antarabangsa.

马来西亚木材理事会首席执行官, 谢金汉先生率领一行3人所组成的代表团于2012年4月23日至26日前往古晋, 美里和诗巫宣传2012年MTC Global WoodMart(MGW 2012)予本会会员。

MGW2012年将于2012年10月4日至6日在吉隆坡会展中心 (KLCC) 为本地和国际的木材供应商和买家提供一流的一站式销售, 购买和交流平台。

THE MALAYSIANWOOD.NET PORTAL WORKSHOP

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) organised the malaysianwood.net portal workshop on 5 April 2012 at Menara PGRM, Kuala Lumpur. The objectives of this workshop were to

1. promote the malaysianwood.net portal,
2. encourage the industry to register with MTIB for this business portal and
3. provide an opportunity for relevant agencies to gain hands-on experience on the portal

This workshop was attended by approximately twenty five (25) representatives from relevant trade associations and private sectors.

Ms Noorazimah Sarkom of MTIB, informed participants that the workshop would provide participants with a full understanding of the portal including the function and information provided by the portal. Ms Noorazimah Sarkom also gave a step-by-step demonstration on ways to use the portal which will enable the participants to list their catalogues, images of their products and company's website as well as to advertise their products on the e-Marketplace.

During the workshop, the participants also had the opportunity to raise their concerns and gave suggestions on ways to improve the portal and the e-Marketplace. One of the suggestions was to create a public forum on the internet for users to discuss any technical issues faced when using the portal.

In general, the malaysianwood.net portal is a business portal which is developed and managed by MTIB, and offers a quick and effective avenue to trade Malaysian timber and timber products. This portal has two main components, namely the Information Portal and a trading floor, which is the e-Marketplace.

Information portal

Provides comprehensive and centralised timber trading information such as:-

- News on current market development in both international and domestic markets;
- International and domestic market reports;
- International trade agreements information i.e. Free Trade Agreement (FTA), World Trade Organisation (WTO), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Bilateral / Regional Trade Agreements; and
- Newsletters and other relevant information.

e-Marketplace

A virtual trading floor for Malaysian timber and timber products which allows:-

- Online trading for timber and timber products;
- Listing and advertising of companies and products;
- Link to companies' website; and
- E-payment facilities.



Photo: Briefing in progress

Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia (MTIB) telah menganjurkan bengkel portal malaysianwood.net pada 5 April 2012 di Menara PGRM, Kuala Lumpur. Objektif bengkel ini adalah untuk mempromosikan portal malaysianwood.net, bagi menggalakkan industri untuk mendaftar dengan MTIB untuk portal perniagaan ini dan memberi peluang kepada agensi-agensi berkaitan untuk mendapatkan pengalaman secara langsung di portal ini.

Cik Noorazimah Sarkom daripada MTIB memaklumkan bahawa bengkel ini akan memberikan para peserta pemahaman yang penuh mengenai portal termasuklah fungsi dan maklumat yang disediakan oleh portal ini.

Secara umum, portal malaysianwood.net adalah sebuah portal perniagaan yang menawarkan saluran yang cepat dan berkesan untuk perdagangan kayu dan produk kayu Malaysia. Portal ini mempunyai dua komponen utama, iaitu Portal Maklumat dan perdagangan, iaitu e-Marketplace.

马来西亚木材工业局(MTIB)于2012年4月5日假吉隆坡PGRM大厦举办 malaysianwood.net门户网站工作坊。工作坊旨在推广malaysianwood.net门户网站, 鼓励工业向MTIB 注册使用这项商业门户网站以及提供相关机构代表实践经验机会。

MTIB 代表诺阿兹玛女士(译音)告知这工作坊让参与者充分了解门户网站的功能和其提供的资讯。

大致上, malaysianwood.net门户网站是个商业门户网站, 提供马来西亚木材和木材产品高快速和有效的交易。这门户网站总有2个主要部分, 即资讯门户网站和交易中心或电子市场。

Wishing all Members and Readers

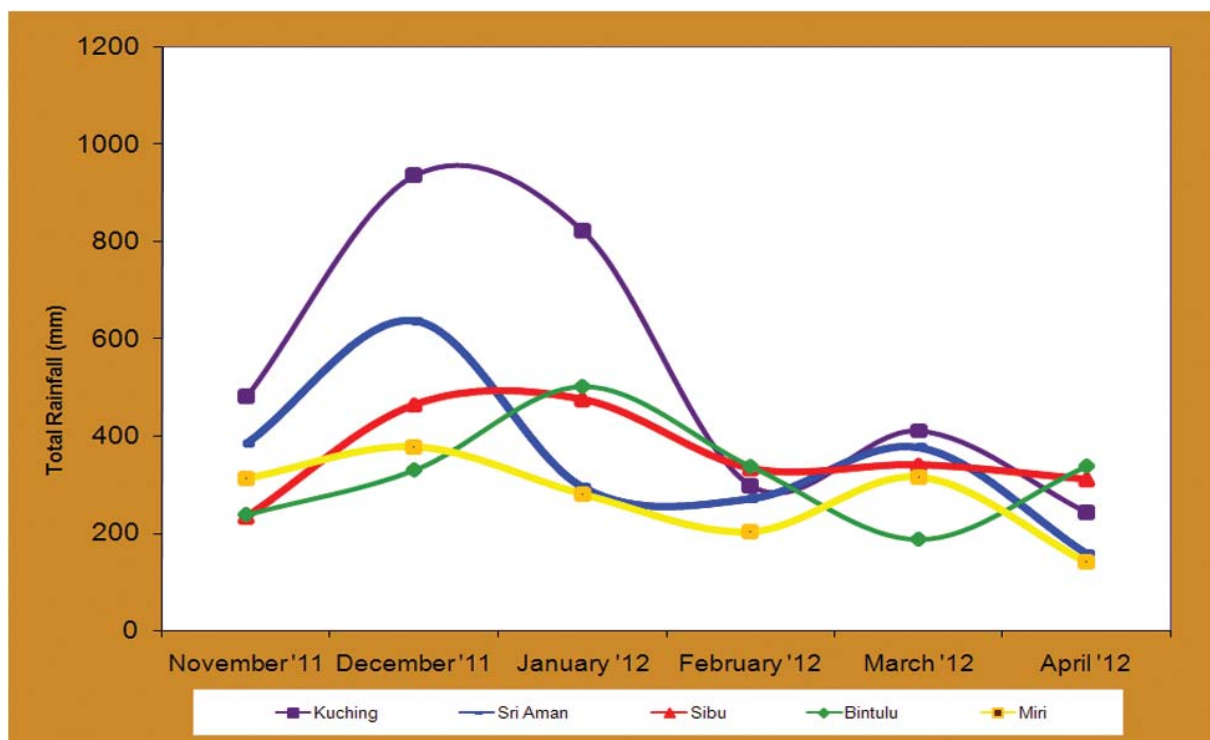
Selamat Gawai Dayak Gayu guru, gerai nyamai

From the Chairman, Council Members and Management of STA

Pengerusi, Ahli-ahli Majlis serta kakitangan STA
ingin mengucapkan Selamat Hari Gawai
kepada semua ahli STA dan para pembaca

STA主席，理事会与职员在此祝愿所有达雅会员和读者丰收节愉快。

RAINFALL : NOVEMBER '11 - APRIL '12 DATA HUJAN BULANAN 雨量数据



Source : Malaysian Meteorological Services