

JLIA/JPMA/APKINDO/MPMA/STA Meeting

Mesyuarat bersama Persatuan Penghasil-penghasil Kayu Lapis Jepun, Persatuan Pengimport Balak Jepun, Asosiasi Panel Kayu Indonesia, Persatuan Pekilang-pekilang Produk Panel Malaysia dan STA telah diadakan pada 16 April 2009 di Tokyo, Jepun. Mesyuarat berkongsi laporan pasaran dan membincangkan keadaan permintaan dan pasaran kayu lapis di negara masing-masing.

■ The Joint Meeting among the Japan Plywood Manufacturers' Association (JPMA), the Japan Lumber Importers' Association (JLIA), Asosiasi Panel Kayu Indonesia (APKINDO), the Malaysia Panel-Products Manufacturers' Association (MPMA) and STA was held on 16 April 2009 in Tokyo, Japan. The meeting, organised by JLIA, was well attended by 45 representatives from the five Associations.

With the current depressed timber trade, Members were encouraged to have frank discussions among each other to improve the situation. The Meeting exchanged market report of the three countries. All parties were

concerned about the decline in housing starts in Japan and the United States of America which contributed to the slide in the demand for plywood despite the depressed market price of the product. An estimate was offered on the housing starts in Japan for the year 2009 and the consequent demand for plywood. Plywood production need to be adjusted by all parties based on the estimated demand. All parties agreed to exercise patience and build up consumer confidence for the remainder of the year. The parties agreed to meet again in five or six month at a venue to be decided later.

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Left: The delegation from Malaysia comprising MPMA and STA members

Right: The delegation from JPMA



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Right: The delegation from JLIA



Left: The delegation from APKINDO

Visit by Representatives from the Economic Section, US Embassy

■ 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 and representatives from Member Companies. 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. Members had the opportunity to voice 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. ❁

Pada 14 April 2009, Cik Alice Chu dan Mr. Phil Loosli wakil dari Seksyen Ekonomi di Duta Amerika Syarikat di Malaysia melawat STA. Mereka disambut oleh Pengerusi, Setiausaha Kehormat dan wakil-wakil dari Syarikat Ahli Persatuan. Lawatan ini bertujuan untuk membincangkan hal-hal berkaitan dengan pelaksanaan Akta Lacey pada 1 April 2009.



Meeting in progress

Postgraduate Diploma Graduation Ceremony & Study Tour

Kumpulan pertama pelajar kursus Diploma Lepas Ijazah dalam Sains Gunaan (Pengurusan Hutan Tropikal Mampan) telah menghadiri majlis graduasi pada 23 April 2009 di Dewan Bandaraya Christchurch, New Zealand.

Seramai 17 daripada 22 orang pelajar menyertai majlis ini bersama-sama siswazah lain dari Universiti Lincoln, New Zealand.

Satu program telah diatur untuk kumpulan siswazah ini untuk melawat sekitar kampus universiti. Selain itu, para siswazah juga melawat kilang, ladang Douglas Fir dan Radiata Pine dan tapak semaian. Kumpulan ini juga berkesempatan melihat tiga jenis operasi pembalakan di New Zealand.

■ The first cohort of the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management) 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.

A special programme was arranged for the graduates to tour the campus of the University. Besides sight-seeing, the programme also

included visits to a mill, plantations of Douglas Fir and Radiata Pine and a tree plantation nursery. The Group was also taken to see three types of harvesting operations in New Zealand.

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. ❁

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Above: The graduates in front of the Art Centre, Christchurch
Below: The Graduation Ceremony at the Town Hall



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Left: Datuk Wong Kie Yik, Chairman of STA presenting a memento to Professor Roger Field, the Vice Chancellor of Lincoln University, New Zealand

Below: Parade of graduates from the Art Centre to the Town Hall for the Graduation Ceremony



Left: Dr. Patrick Aldwell, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce presenting a memento to Datuk Wong Kie Yik, the Chairman of STA



Above: Visit to a mill

Below: Visit to a plantation to observe harvesting operation



Exemption from Further Fulfillment of Log Reservation Quota

■ Further to STA Circular ref: STA/07/02-79 dated 13 January 2009, the Secretariat circulated another circular, ref: STA/07/02-89 dated 3 April 2009 informing that the Forest Department Sarawak has given the approval for further

exemption of the fulfillment of the monthly log reservation quota for the remaining 2008/2009 Coupe Year, from April to June 2009 for all Forest Timber Licences which have been allocated the Monthly Production Limit. ❁

Jabatan Hutan Sarawak sudah memberi kelulusan untuk pengecualian untuk memenuhi kuota tempahan bulanan kayu balak untuk Coupe Tahun 2008/2009, dari April hingga Jun 2009 kepada semua pemilik Lesen Hutan yang diperuntukkan Had Keluaran Bulanan.

World Forestry Day

Kementerian Perancangan dan Pengurusan Sumber Asli, Jabatan Hutan Sarawak, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak dan Harwood Sdn Bhd meraikan Hari Perhutanan Sedunia dengan majlis pelancaran di Sarawak pada 15 April 2009 di Pusat Penyelidikan Hutan, Kuching. Bertemakan "Sayangi Hutan Kita", sambutan yang diraikan oleh serata dunia pada 21 Mac setiap tahun, menegaskan kepentingan hutan dan faedahnya kepada masyarakat.

Lebih kurang 300 peserta dari pelbagai agensi menghadiri majlis ini. Dalam majlis tersebut penanaman pokok telah dilakukan oleh Menteri dan para jempunan kenamaan.

■ The Ministry of Planning Resource Management, the Forest Department Sarawak, Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd commemorate World Forestry Day with an official launch on 15 April 2009 at the Forest Research Centre, 6th Mile, Kuching. With the theme "Love Our Forests", the day highlights the importance of forests and its benefits for the society. World Forestry Day officially falls on 21 March every year.

Members of STA joined colleagues in these agencies in the commemoration. Datuk Amar Hj. Awang Tengah Ali Hassan, Minister of Planning and Resource Management II and Minister of Public Utilities, who officially launched the commemoration, emphasised that Sarawak has since 90 years ago embarked on systematic and sustainable forest management. He

stated "the Government has formulated the Forest Policy in 1954. This visionary policy gives weight to environmental, economical and social aspects of forestry". He added that often enough, this fact is not highlighted and in reality this has paved the way to sustainable forest management and accelerated economic growth in the State.

He further added, "The State Government has set a target of 6 million hectare of forest as Permanent Forest Estate and 1 million hectare as Totally Protected Areas for the purpose of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and nature reserves. These are clear testimony of the State's commitment at sustainable forest management". The increase in trans-border cooperation via the establishment of Trans-boundary Conservation Areas with Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam which involves Pulong Tau National Park, Kayan Mentarang National Park,

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Datuk Amar Hj. Awang Tengah Ali Hassan (Centre), Minister of Planning and Resource Management II and Minister of Public Utilities (middle) officiating World Forestry Day
From Right to Left: Tuan Haji Adana bin Haji Jed, Principal Assistant Secretary (Administration and Forest) Ministry of Planning and Resource Management, Datuk Wong Kie Yik, Chairman of STA, Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Resource Management, Director of Forests Sarawak, Managing Director of SFC and Tuan Haji Wan Shardini Wan Salleh, Organising Chairman

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Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary and Bentuang Kerihun National Park was also highlighted.

On the international front, the Government has endorsed 170 Multilateral Environment Agreements, 33 of which are forestry-related such as Convention on Biological Diversity, Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety, Kyoto Protocol, Convention on Wetland of International Species especially Waterfowl Habitat, Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and ASEAN Agreement on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

In relation to certification, two Forest Management Units (FMUs) had been certified while others are in the various stages of the process. While the certification of FMUs were on a voluntary basis, the Minister said that the Government will continue to render assistance and give encouragement to concession owners to achieve certification.

In strengthening forest-related workforce, the Minister said that steps

had been taken to strengthen capacity and cooperation of forest-related agencies. He thanked the various enforcement agencies which had handled and mitigated illegal loggings and other related activities. With the use of technologically advanced enforcement tools such as Monitoring, Enforcement and Protection System (MEPS) and Log Tracking System (LOTS), it is hoped that the forest resources will be better protected.

Under the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE), the wood-based industry has been identified as one of 10 main industries to be developed by 2030 under SCORE where it has been projected 110,000 new jobs would be available once implemented. The State has issued 42 Licences for Planted Forest totaling 2.5 million hectare which will be one of the driving force for the development of SCORE.

More than 300 people of various agencies attended the launching of World Forestry Day, marked with planting of trees by the Minister and VIPs. 🌳



Left: Invited guests at the launching



Right: Tree planting by the Minister to mark World Forestry Day

FUTSAL VIP Competition

Sempena dengan perayaan Hari Perhutanan Sedunia, satu pertandingan Futsal VIP telah diadakan antara empat agensi (Jabatan Hutan Sarawak, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak dan Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd) dan STA pada 15 April 2009 di Kuching. Perlawanan ini bertujuan untuk mempereratkan hubungan silaturahmi antara empat agensi dengan STA. Pasukan STA merangkumi wakil dari Syarikat Ahli. Pertandingan ini dimenangi oleh pihak agensi.

■ In conjunction with World Forestry Day commemorate 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 closer working relationship between the four agencies and STA. STA Team was comprised representatives from member companies. The Game was won by the agencies. 🌸



Above: Players from STA and the four agencies with the Chairman, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer of STA



Right: Dato Henry Lau, the Honorary Secretary of STA trying to score for the team

Left: Tuan Haji Ali Yusop, the Deputy Director of Forests, presenting the trophy to the winner of the game. Looking on are Datuk Wong Kie Yik, the Chairman of STA and Mr. Philip Choo, the Honorary Treasurer of STA



Endorsement of Malaysian Scheme Gives Buyers Confidence about Tropical Wood

■ The Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) has become the first tropical timber certification scheme in the Asia Pacific region, and the second in the world after the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme, to be endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC).

"The endorsement of MTCS is a significant achievement for the sustainable forest management community as whole. While the certification movement has its origins in efforts to protect tropical forests, over 90% of the world's certification today takes place in the temperate forests of Europe and North America", explained Ben Gunneberg, PEFC Secretary General. "Yet tropical forests in the Southern hemisphere offer the most benefits to tackling some of society's biggest challenges, including climate change, combating deforestation and forest degradation, and maintaining the world's precious biodiversity."

Dato' Dr. Freezailah Che Yeom, Chairman of the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC), which operates the MTCS, said, "MTCC is indeed pleased and proud to have obtained the PEFC endorsement, which shows that the various aspects of the MTCS, such as the institutional arrangement and certification standards used, have met the stringent requirements of the PEFC. It gives further assurance that forests certified under the MTCS are implementing the best management practices and contributing to the challenging efforts to achieve sustainable forest management, particularly for the tropical

rainforests".

Dr. Freezailah added that the endorsement enables the MTCS to achieve mutual recognition with 26 other PEFC-endorsed certification schemes. This means that the MTCS-certified timber product manufacturers and exporters will soon be able to combine PEFC-certified material from Malaysia with other PEFC-certified material under the PEFC logo.

"The endorsement is further testimony that the MTCS has made tremendous progress and improvements since it began operation in October 2001. I would like to attribute this success to the hard work of the MTCC management and staff, as well as all the Malaysian stakeholder groups for their contributions and inputs which have been very helpful in improving the scheme to meet the requirements of the PEFC", added Dr. Freezailah.

The decision to endorse the 2002 Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification was announced on 5 May 2009 following the outcome of the General Assembly postal vote among the PEFC members on the recommendation of the Board of Directors, based on an assessment of the MTCS by an independent assessor appointed by the PEFC Council.

The endorsement is valid for a five year period, with periodic review to ensure the continued compliance of the MTCS. The full report of the conformity assessment of the MTCS can be obtained from the PEFC website at www.pefc.org. ❁

Source: *The Malaysian Timber Certification Council, Press Release 6 May 2009*

Skim Pensijilan Kayu Malaysia (MTCS) menjadi skim pensijilan pertama kayu tropika di Asia Pasifik, dan yang kedua di dunia selepas Skim Pensijilan Hutan Gabon, yang disambut dan disahkan oleh skim *Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification* (PEFC).

Pengesahan ini sah bagi tempoh lima tahun, dengan tinjauan dari semasa ke semasa untuk memastikan pematuhan MTCS. Laporan penuh penilaian pematuhan MTCS boleh didapati dari laman web PEFC, www.pefc.org.

Regional Working Group Formation Meeting for Sarawak Region (FSC)

Inisiatif Kebangsaan Forest Stewardship Council (FSC NI) merupakan organisasi yang ditubuhkan dalam konteks perundangan Malaysia oleh sekumpulan pemegang taruh yang mengendalikan isu-isu perhutanan Malaysia. Ia bertujuan untuk mempromosikan pensijilan FSC dan tanggungjawab perhutanan negara. Ia juga memberi mekanisme untuk menyokong dan mengawasi perkembangan dan pelaksanaan pensijilan hutan yang bertanggungjawab di Malaysia. Badan tertinggi dalam membuat keputusan FSC NI adalah Jawatankuasa Kerja Kebangsaan yang diwakili oleh ahli dari dewan ekonomi, alam sekitar dan sosial dari tiga wilayah di Malaysia.

Pada 5 Mac 2009, FSC NI mengadakan mesyuarat untuk memilih ahli baru untuk dewan alam sekitar, sosial dan ekonomi untuk wilayah Sarawak.

■ The Forest Stewardship Council National Initiative (FSC NI) is an organisation that was established within the context of Malaysian law by a group of stakeholders working on forestry issues in Malaysia. Broadly, it aims to promote FSC certification and responsible forestry in the country. It also looks toward providing a mechanism to support and monitor the development and implementation of forest certification and responsible forestry in Malaysia. The FSC NI has the highest decision making body called the National Working Committee (NWC) and is represented by members from the economic, environment and social chambers from the three regions of Malaysia.

On 5 March 2009, the FSC NI held a meeting to elect new members for its environment, social and economic chambers from the Sarawak Region. This Regional meeting was attended by 30 participants from the private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and relevant government agencies.

As the aim of this meeting was to elect new members from the various chambers, participants were given a

briefing on the history of FSC in Malaysia and its current status by Ms. Ivy Wong of WWF Malaysia which is the Secretariat for the NWC. She briefed them on the history of the FSC NI which led to the formation of the Forest Stewardship (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd.

FSC is one of the many green certification systems for the forestry. It subscribes to three chambers, namely social, economic and environment. As Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak are legally different and of different entity, there is a need to bring a group of people representing the three different chambers to address the interest of each chamber. The nine representatives from the three regions in Malaysia will then meet to discuss the relevant issues such as the development of the certification standards for Malaysia.

At the meeting, participants sought clarifications on various issues related to certification and FSC. A representative from each chamber was elected to represent Sarawak at the national level. ❁

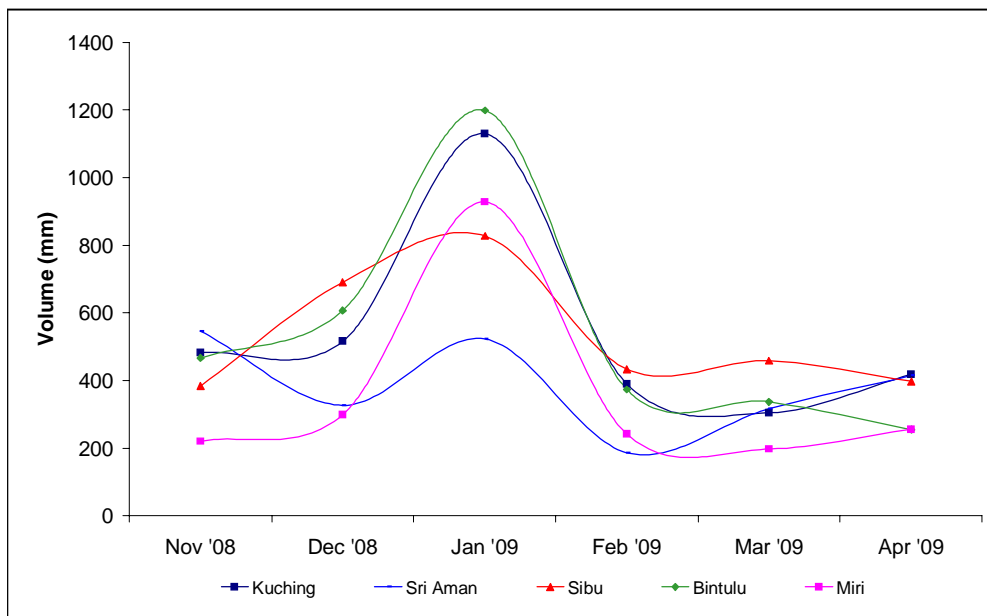


Discussing and explaining the roles and functions of the Regional Working Group among the participants



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

Rainfall : November '08 - April '09 Kadar Hujan Bulanan



Source : Malaysian Meteorological Services.

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