

STA Review

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April 2008

STA 67th Council Meeting

Ahli Majlis yang baru telah bermesyuarat pada 30 April 2008 di Wisma STA, Kuching dipengerusi oleh Pengerusi Persatuan Baru Datuk Wong Kie Yik. Dalam mesyuarat ini, ahli majlis telah merakamkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan kepada bekas Pengerusi Datuk Leo Chai dan ahli-ahli majlis atas sumbangan mereka terhadap Persatuan.

Setiausaha Kehormat telah membentangkan laporan beliau yang menegaskan isu berhubung tinjauan terhadap 14 jawatankuasa kerja yang sediaada dan peranan mereka serta semakan semula Buku Panduan Polisi dan Tatacara Sumber Manusia untuk kakitangan Urusetia dan dua daripada anak syarikatnya.

Majlis telah mempertimbangkan isu-isu seperti pengurusan hutan secara mampan, EU-FLEGT-VPA serta urusan pentadbiran dan kewangan Urusetia dan anak-anak syarikatnya.

Mesyuarat telah meluluskan dua keahlian bersekutu.

■ The newly elected Council Members met for the first time on 30 April 2008 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The Chairman, Datuk Wong Kie Yik presided over the meeting attended by 22 Council Members.

The meeting put on record a Vote of Thanks to the Immediate Past Chairman Datuk Leo Chai and all Members of the last Council for the services rendered to the Association.

The Honorary Secretary, Dato Henry Lau presented his report highlighting matters including the review of the existing 14 working committees and their roles and the revised Human Resource Policies and Procedures Manual for the staff of the Secretariat and two of its wholly-owned companies.

The Council deliberated at length

on matters pertaining to sustainable forest management, European Union - Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade - Voluntary Partnership Agreement (EU-FLEGT-VPA) as well as administrative and financial matters of the Association and its wholly-owned companies.

The Association through its Panel Products Committee will fund and undertake a project on durability of Meranti plywood to address concern raised by its Members of the Panel Products Category pertaining to the European Union (EU)'s intention to downgrade Malaysia's Meranti plywood to lowest of the durability classes i.e. Class 5. This project will to be jointly executed with the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) to

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Picture: STA Council Members for the years 2008 and 2009

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develop a strategy to address proposed downgrading of Meranti plywood. The collaborating agencies are Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM).

The Association also agreed to undertake and fund the following projects:

- Reassessment of the conservation status of three genera of Dipterocarpaceae (Dipterocarpus, Dryobalanops and Shorea) that have been included in the IUCN Red List in Sarawak by STA/SFC/FDS/FRIM; and
- Viability Assessment of

Indigenous Tree Species and Propagation Techniques for Planted Forest Development by SFC (Fund will be disbursed through STA Training Sdn Bhd).

The Council resolved for the Association to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the FDS on the maintenance of the proposed "STA Timber Industry Museum" which will be built at the Bukit Lima Forest Park, SibU.

Two Associate Members were approved in the meeting, Polima Compressed Wood Bintulu Sdn Bhd (Furniture and Other Woodworkings Category) and Soonlinmas Sdn Bhd (Timber Products Marketing). ❁

Briefing and Field Demonstration on Logfisher Harvesting Technology

■ A briefing on logfisher harvesting technology and planning arranged by the Sarawak Forestry Corporation was held in SibU, Sarawak on 22 April 2008. About 60 participants from Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Forest Department Sarawak and STA Members attended this briefing. Mr. Gan Boon Keong, Technical Consultant for Logfisher International Sdn Bhd, briefed the participants on this new technology which was followed by some video presentations. Mr. Alan Ong, Managing Director for Logfisher International Sdn Bhd, was also present to answer some of the questions raised by participants.

In his briefing, Mr. Gan explained that the logfisher is a new ground based, reduced impact logging (RIL) technology and system specially developed and designed for selective harvesting in sustainable managed forest. The logfisher system employs a method of timber log extraction by

combining the process of winching and lifting, performed by a single machine. Logfisher has powerful winches and long cable, up to 300 meters in length, to extract logs from the forest. This helps to minimize the movement of the machine resulting in less wear and tear especially to the undercarriage, which translates into the overall lower maintenance costs and savings on fuel consumption.

Unlike conventional logging operation, the logfisher can pull logs at any part of the feeder road without the need to construct skid trails. This helps to minimise soil disturbance and damage to the undergrowth.

This system incorporates the application of RIL planning procedures and processes in road alignment and construction, marking and mapping of trees to be felled and protected trees, directional felling, marking and mapping of protected areas and buffers in the preparation of a comprehensive harvesting plan.

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Taklimat mengenai Teknologi dan Perancangan Penuaian 'logfisher', yang dirancang oleh Sarawak Forestry Corporation dan Jabatan Hutan Sarawak telah diadakan di SibU, Sarawak pada 22 April 2008. Taklimat dihadiri oleh 60 peserta dari Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Jabatan Hutan Sarawak dan STA. Encik Gan Boon Keong, Perunding Teknikal menerangkan tentang teknologi baru ini dan Pengarah Urusan Encik Alan Ong juga turut hadir untuk menjawab sebarang persoalan daripada para peserta.

Dalam taklimatnya, Encik Gan menjelaskan bahawa 'logfisher' adalah satu teknologi untuk mengurangkan impak semasa pembalakan dan

sistem khas ini dibangunkan dan direka untuk penuaian terpilih dalam perhutanan pengurusan hutan secara mampan. Sistem ini menggunakan kaedah mengeluarkan kayu balak dengan menggabungkan proses menarik dan mengangkat dijalankan oleh sebuah mesin sahaja.

Satu demonstrasi yang diselenggarakan oleh Encik Peter K H Ling telah diadakan di Kem Melatai, Putai pada 24 April 2008.

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According to Mr. Gan, the productivity of this system is at least 3 times more compared to conventional logging. There are currently five models of Logfisher in the market, i.e. Log 200, 250, 330, 450 and 460 series. About 20 units of logfishers are currently in use in Sarawak.

For companies undergoing Timber Certification, the system is said to be able to satisfy and meet Principle 5 (Benefit from the Forest)

under Criteria 5.1 and 5.2 and Principle 6 (Environmental Impact) under Criteria 6.2, 6.3 and 6.5.

A field demonstration was arranged by Mr. Peter K H Ling of the WTK Group of Companies in Melatai Camp, Putai on 24 April 2008. The field demonstration saw the trainers from Logfisher International Sdn Bhd pulled 6 logs from the forest. Briefing sessions were carried out before and after the demonstration. ❁



Above: Mr. Gan giving an explanation on the mechanism of the logfisher
(Photo courtesy of Mr. Peter K H Ling)



Above: The logfisher in action

Left: The log that had been extracted using the logfisher



Below: Participants who went on the field demonstration
(Photo courtesy of Mr. Peter K H Ling)



Left: Mr. Gan giving a briefing after the demonstration
(Photo courtesy of Mr. Peter K H Ling)

STA Wood Residue Committee Meeting

■ The STA Wood Residue Committee met on 1 April 2008 at Wisma STA, Kuching. This fourth meeting was presided by Mr. Keiichi Hino, the Chairman of the Committee.

Amongst some of the issues discussed were the proposal to co-opt new Members to the Committee and the overall wood residue situation in Sarawak where there is

still shortage of raw materials.

At the meeting, Mr. Keiichi Hino announced that he is tendering his resignation as Chairman of the Committee as he was being transferred to U.S.A in April 2008. Mr. Hino recommended that Dr. Yasuo Yoshida be appointed as the new Chairman. This was endorsed by all the Committee Members. ❁

Jawatankuasa Sisa Kayu STA telah bermesyuarat pada 1 April 2008 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Beberapa isu yang dibincangkan termasuk usul untuk melantik ahli baru ke dalam jawatankuasa, keadaan sisa kayu di Sarawak di mana bekalan masih berkurangan. Encik Keiichi Hino telah meletak jawatannya selaku Pengerusi kerana berpindah ke tempat kerja dan akan diambil alih oleh Dr. Yasuo Yoshida.

STA Panel Products Category Discussion

■ Members of the STA Panel Products Category met on 15 April 2008 at Wisma STA, Kuching to elect Committee Members for the years 2008 and 2009. The following are the Committee Members and their alternates for the years 2008 and 2009.

Chairman:

Mr. Stephen Lau
Alternate: Mr. Kenny Law

Secretary:

Y. Bhg. Dato Wong Kuo Hea
Alternate: Mr. Robert Yong

Treasurer:

Mr. Ling Chiong Sing
Alternate: Mr. Wong Kai Song

Committee Members:

Mr. Patrick Wong
Alternate: Ms. Chan Ai Hua

Mr. Yaw Chee Chik
Alternate: Mr. Eric Kang

Y. Bhg. Dato Sri Tiong Chiong Hoo
Alternate: Ms. Lily Soon

Y. Bhg. Dato' Tiong Ing
Alternate: Mr. Paul Wong

Mr. Goro Higaki
Alternate: Mr. Anthony Chin

Mr. John Lau
Alternate: Mr. Peter Lau

Mr. Paul Moa
Alternate: Mr. Isaac Moh

Mr. Su Wen Chang
Alternate: Mr. Lai Sin Chiat

Mr. Hitoshi Miyamoto
Alternate: Mr. Wong Suk Chiew

Mr. Hii King Chiong
Alternate: Mr. Hii Yu Sing

Mr. Sui Uh Hing

After the election, the members had a discussion chaired by Mr. Stephen Lau, the Committee Chairman.

Amongst some issues discussed at this meeting were the current log situation in Sarawak, log prices and Standard EN636 on natural durability of plywood. During the market information exchange, the Committee recommended guideline prices for concrete panel, structural plywood

Ahli-ahli STA dari Kategori Produk Panel telah mengadakan perjumpaan pada 15 April 2008 di Wisma STA, Kuching untuk memilih Ahli Jawatankuasa bagi tahun 2008 dan 2009. Ahli-ahli telah mengadakan perbincangan yang dipengerusikan oleh Encik Stephen Lau, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa.

Antara isu-isu yang dibincangkan termasuk keadaan bekalan kayu balak di Sarawak, harga balak dan Piawaian EN636 bagi papan lapis untuk menyukat ketahanan semulajadi.

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and floor base panel for the Japan market. It was decided that trading with the Japan market will be done in the Yen currency.

A lunch was hosted by the Committee with the General Manager of the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh as the Guest of Honour to discuss issues related to the panel product industry of the State.

Datu Haji Len is also the Director of Forests, the Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer of the Sarawak Forestry Corporation and the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Resource Management. ❁



Picture: Committee Members exchanging information

Meeting on Logging Road Usage Charge

Mesyuarat untuk membincangkan tentang caj penggunaan jalan pembalakan telah diadakan pada 14 April 2008.

Mesyuarat telah menetapkan bahawa caj tersebut bagi tol jalan tidak berubah iaitu sebanyak RM0.20 sebatu per ton hoppus. Bagaimanapun, bayaran penyelenggaraan akan dikaji semula.

■ A meeting to discuss the logging road usage charge was called on 14 April 2008. This meeting held at Wisma STA, Kuching, was attended by 14 representatives from Member Companies. The meeting chaired by Datuk Wong Kie Yik, Chairman of STA, was a follow-up to a previous meeting held on 2 October 2007.

At the meeting, it was decided that the logging road usage charges for road toll remained unchanged at RM0.20 per mile per Hoppus ton. However, the maintenance fee will need to be reviewed. The quantum of increase will be based on the survey to be carried out by the Secretariat on costs of logging road maintenance. ❁



Picture: Meeting in progress

STA Tea Talk: Plant Tissue Culture

■ STA organised a STA Tea Talk entitled "Plant Tissue Culture" on 12 April 2008 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The invited speaker was Dr. Sim Soon Liang, an Associate Professor in Micropropagation and Plant Breeding of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. She was assisted by three other presenters, Ms. Linna Chieng, Ms. Norsyarina Welman and Ms. Kho Pey Yee.

The Talk drew a crowd of 90 participants where door gifts in the form of samples of plant tissue

culture, were given to the first 70 participants. The talk gave an overview on the development of plant tissue culture on a commercial scale as well as an individual hobby. It also covered how the knowledge of plant tissue culture is being used for the establishment of planted forests. Currently, four timber species are being selected for this process namely, Kelampayan (*Neolamarckia cadamba*), Sawih (*Duabanga moluccana*), Meranti Sarang Punai (*Shorea parvifolia*) and Kapur Bukit (*Dryobalanops beccarii*).



Picture: Dr. Sim Soon Liang speaking to the participants on tissue culture

Plant tissue culture refers to growing of plant parts outside the plant body. It includes a range of techniques used for many purposes. Its application varies from horticulture enthusiast multiplying a few personal favourites to a multi-million dollar industry producing clones of ornamentals, plantation crops and secondary products such as pharmaceuticals. It is also a tool to facilitate plant breeding in which new plant types with desired characteristics can be developed.

The methods of plant tissue culture are not complicated. Basically, it involves culturing a small piece of plant part on culture medium

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Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules 2008

STA received a letter ref: DF.93.20(II)-32 dated 7 April 2008 from the Forest Department Sarawak, informing that the State Government has approved The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules 2008. The Rules come into force on 1 January 2008.

The gazette notification is now being prepared and will be made available from the STA Secretariat after it has been published.

Note: The above announcement has been made through the STA Grapevine on 10 April 2008.

STA telah mengadakan STA Tea Talk bertajuk Tisu Kultur Tumbuhan pada 12 April 2008 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Penceramah undangan adalah Dr. Sim Soon Liang, Professor Madya Penyebaran Micro dan Pembiakan Tumbuhan Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. Beliau dibantu oleh tiga orang penyampai, Cik Linna Chieng, Cik Norsyarina Welman dan Cik Kho Pey Yee.

Ceramah ini memberikan gambaran keseluruhan tentang pembangunan kultur tisu tumbuhan secara komersil dan sebagai hobi. Ia juga meliputi pengetahuan kultur tisu tumbuh yang digunakan untuk penubuhan ladang hutan. Empat spesies yang dipilih untuk proses ini adalah Kelampayan, Sawih, Meranti Sarang Punai dan Kapur Bukit.

Jabatan Hutan Sarawak mengumumkan bahawa Kerajaan Negeri telah meluluskan Peraturan Hutan (Pekerja Terlatih) 2008 yang akan berkuatkuasa 1 Januari 2008.

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in a container. It is critical that the small plant part which is referred to as the 'explant' must be disinfected. The container and the culture medium must be sterilised and the whole procedure must be handled under aseptic condition. In an environment free of microorganisms and in the presence of balanced nutrients, the cells of the 'explant' can multiply and develop into small plants with appropriate modification of the culture medium.



Picture: Sample of plant tissue culture

Among the various applications of plant tissue culture, micropropagation which is mass production of high quality and genetically uniform planting material on a year round basis under disease-free conditions is most successful. Micropropagation has created new opportunities in global trading benefiting growers, farmers and nursery owners and

improving rural employment. Currently, micropropagation is used in the production of planting stocks for banana, date palm, pineapple, plantain, potato, sugarcane, sweet potato, tapioca, yams, ornamentals, fruit and forest trees.

Commercial plant tissue culture laboratories in Malaysia are mainly involved in micropropagation of oil palm, banana, pineapple and ornamentals such as orchids, pitcher plants, aroids and aquatic plants. Several research laboratories in Malaysia are engaged in the development of micropropagation protocols for dabai, gaharu, papaya, pepper, sago, species in the ginger family and timber species. ❁



Picture: Participants at the Talk

Note: Presentations from the Talk is available for viewing at MARIA at the STA Exhibition Centre.

Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (PUSAKA) mengumumkan Peraturan Gred Kayu Kayan, 2008 yang telah diluluskan akan dikuatkuasakan pada 1 Januari 2008 dan akan dilaksanakan mulai 1 Jun 2008.

Timber Grading Regulations, 2008

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), in their letter ref: STIDC.12.PI(KM).02.2(16) dated 25 March 2008 to STA, announced that in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 24 of STIDC Ordinance, 1973 (Ord. No. 3 of 1973), the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri, has approved The Timber Grading Regulations, 2008.

The Regulations come into force on 1 January 2008 and will be implemented effective 1 June 2008. The Regulations can be obtained from STIDC's website link at www.sarawaktimber.org.my

Should there be any enquiries, please contact STIDC.

Note: The above announcement has been made through the STA Grapevine on 12 April 2008.

Briefing to Timber Industry on EU FLEGT-VPA

■ The Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC), with assistance from Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), organised an industry briefing on Malaysian-European Union Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) on 4 April 2008 in Kuching, Sarawak. This briefing attended by approximately 100 participants comprising players from the timber industry, relevant government agencies and NGOs, provided information on the overall progress of the EU FLEGT-VPA negotiations, the Timber Legality Assurance System and findings of the market study.

The session started with introductory remarks by Puan Nurmala Abdul Rahim, the Deputy Secretary General (I), MPIC. Following this were presentations by;

- Mr. Wan Mazlan Wan Mahmood of MPIC who gave an overall progress of the Malaysia-EU FLEGT-VPA negotiations. Thus far, four stakeholder consultations had been held around Malaysia with participation by the government agencies, social and environmental NGOs, industry and academics, discussing the definition of legality, consultations and the timber legality assurance system. He also highlighted on some issues of concern such as the compliance of the industry to the timber legality assurance system, cost of having an independent monitoring system and the benefits of FLEGT-VPA licensed timber derived from the market.
- Dato' Dr. Freezailah Che Yeom of Malaysian Timber Certification Council who gave some

perspective on the Malaysia-EU negotiations to conclude a VPA. He commented on the perspective and outcome of the four stakeholder consultations that had been held. Whether there will be a VPA or otherwise, the important issue is the preservation of the country's forest heritage. He, however, added that the VPA is a concrete, strategic and achievable target to reach a long-term goal of sustainable forest management which will unite Malaysia with EU and its member states.

- Madam Loke Sim Wah of Malaysia Timber Industry Board on the timber legality assurance system. She talked about the principles and criteria of legal timber for Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak, the control procedures of the system and the sources of timber.
- Mr. Rupert Oliver of Forest Industries Intelligence Limited who presented a report of the market impact of a FLEGT partnership between Malaysia and the EU. His presentation covered Malaysia's market position, the advantages of FLEGT-VPA, the lack of market incentives, international moves to block trade in illegal wood, price and cost implications and measures to boost market incentives.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Sarawak Timber Association, Dr. Lee Hua Seng, made a representation on behalf of the Association stating Sarawak timber industry concerns on the EU FLEGT-VPA and some proposals raised by the timber industry. ❁

Note: Papers and presentations from the briefing are available from the STA Secretariat at nominal cost.

Kementerian Perusahaan
Perladangan dan Komoditi,
dengan bantuan
Perbadanan Kemajuan
Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak,
mengadakan taklimat
industri *Malaysian-European
Union Forest Law
Enforcement Governance
and Trade (FLEGT)
Voluntary Partnership
Agreement (VPA)* pada 4
April 2008 di Kuching,
Sarawak.

STIDC Industry Update 2008

Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (PUSAKA) telah mengadakan "Industry Update 2008" pada 17 April 2008 di Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. Sesi-sesi taklimat berikutnya telah diadakan di Bintulu, Sibuan dan Miri pada 22, 23 dan 30 April 2008. Taklimat di Kuching telah dibahagikan kepada lima sesi iaitu Prosedur Memohon Pendaftaran Kilang di bawah Peraturan Perusahaan Industri Sarawak (Pendaftaran) 2008, Peraturan Gred Kayu Kayan 2008, Perlaksanaan Sistem Maklumat Gred, Permohonan Tenaga Kerja untuk Industri Kayu: Tinjauan PUSAKA dan Kuota Tempahan Kayu untuk Kelulusan Permohonan Permit untuk Mengeksport Kayu balak.

Syarikat perkayuan Malaysia yang memegang sijil Rantaian Jagaan MTCC boleh memohon kepada Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri untuk potongan cukai ke atas perbelanjaan untuk memperoleh pensijilan rantaian jagaan MTCC dibawah Skim Pensijilan Kayu Malaysia untuk tahun 2007.

■ The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) organised the STIDC Industry Update 2008 on 17 April 2008 at Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. The briefing in Kuching was attended by approximately 150 participants. Subsequent briefing sessions were held in Bintulu, Sibuan and Miri on 22, 23 and 30 April 2008 respectively.

The briefing in Kuching was divided into five sessions namely;

- Procedures in Applying Mill Registration under the Sarawak Timber Industry (Registration) Regulations 2008 by Puan Suraya Haji Mohd. Ali, Senior Manager Registration and Licensing. STIDC has been given the mandate by the State Government to issue timber mill licence except for sawmill licence with effect 1 July 2008. The issuance of timber mill licence is termed as "mill registration". Based on Section 5A of the Sarawak Timber Industry

Development Corporation Ordinance, 1973, any person or company involved in timber and timber industry based activity must be registered with STIDC. The renewal of registration must be done three (3) months before the expiry date. The registration fees will depend on the capacity of the mill and the products produced.

- The Timber Grading Regulations 2008 by Encik Awang Mentali Pengiran Haji Mohd. Sulaiman, Manager Industrial Planning. The Timber Grading Regulations, 2008 will be replacing the Timber Grading Regulations, 1975 (Swk. L.N 18/1975) which include all previous Amendments made. The new Regulation will come into effect on 1 June 2008. This amendment is made with reference to the amended Malaysian Grading Rules where the Technical and Administration Procedure is being separated.
- Implementation of Grading

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Certified Malaysian Timber Companies Can Now Apply For Tax Deduction On Expenses Incurred In Obtaining CoC Certification

Malaysian timber companies holding the MTCC Certificate for Chain-of-Custody can now apply from the Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia (Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri - LHDN) for tax deduction on expenses incurred when obtaining chain-of-custody (CoC) certification from MTCC under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS), with effect from the assessment year 2007.

The Minister of Finance, in exercising the powers conferred by paragraph 154(1)(b) of the Income Tax Act 1967 [Act 53], has cited the rules as the Income Tax (Deduction for Cost of Obtaining Chain of Custody Certification from Malaysian Timber Certification Council) Rules 2008. These Rules were gazetted on 14 February 2008.

For further information, please contact MTCC.

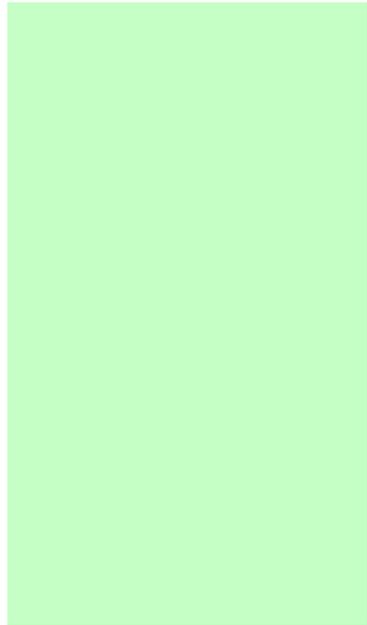
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Information System (GIS) by Mr. Nicholas Andrew Lisse, Acting Senior Manager Industrial Planning. GIS is a system that enables sawntimber exporter to make request for check-grading, full grading and exemption online. To use this system, users must first be registered with STIDC where they will be assigned an initial password. The system will be implemented on 3 June 2008. The user guide will be made available in STIDC's website at www.sarawaktimber.org.my.

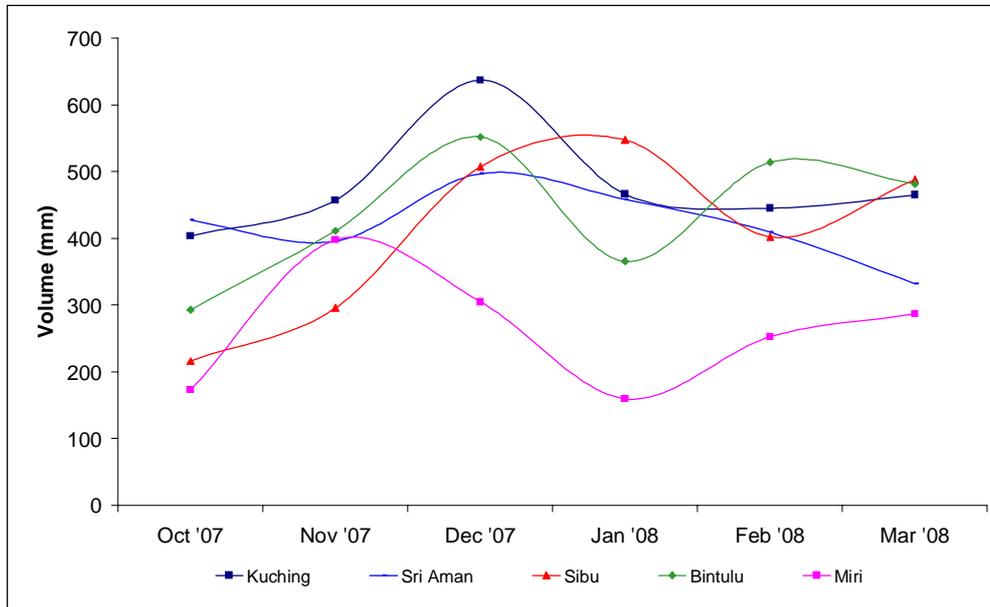
- Manpower Application in Timber Industry: STIDC Perspective by Encik Johari Zainuddin, Manager Industrial Training where he briefed

participants about STIDC's responsibility to develop disciplined, skilled and capable human resources in Sarawak through the setting up of training premises and various training programmes to meet the needs. He further elaborated on application of foreign manpower.

- Log Reservation Quota for Approval of Application Permit (AP) to Export Logs by Encik Hamzah Haji Morshidi, Manager Natural Forest Resources. He spoke on the background of the Log Quota Policy that was introduced on 1 July 1988, the policy procedures and requirements by STIDC as well as STIDC's role. ☼



Rainfall : October '07 - March '08 Kadar Hujan Bulanan



Source : Malaysian Meteorological Services.

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