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STA dan Rakan2

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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Presentation Ceremony of Financial Contributions and Scholarships

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. This financial assistance is to assist the schools to overcome their financial deficits, provide better facilities for the students, improve their upkeep and help the Management Board to organize 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.

Scholarship

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. Two scholarships i.e the STA and the Daiken Corporation (through its subsidiaries, Daiken Sarawak Sdn Bhd and Daiken Miri Sdn Bhd) scholarships

are awarded each year to students from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus and Curtin University Sarawak.

The two (2) recipients for STA Scholarship are Mr Ogary Kinshen Anak Migas, third year in BSc Degree in Science and Management of Plant Resources at the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, UNIMAS and Mr Mohamad Nazari Bin Mohamad Zaidi who is pursuing his third year in Diploma of Electronic Engineering at Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus.

The four (4) recipients for Daiken Scholarship are Mr Leong Ting Hao, first year student in BSc in Science and Management of Plant Resources at the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, UNIMAS, Ms Curazon Landon Anak Munan who is pursuing her third year Bachelor of Engineering at Faculty of Engineering, UNIMAS, Ms Cheah Bin Pin, third year student in Bachelor of Science and Management of Plant Resources at the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, UNIMAS and Ms Jessica Sim Pei Khin who is currently in her fourth year Bachelor of Engineering (Civil Engineering) of Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus.

Briefing on Australia's Draft Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011

The Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) coordinated a discussion on the draft Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011 on 16 April 2012 at the office of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) Kuala Lumpur. 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 gave the background information on the Bill.

The 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 the proposed Bill is passed by the Australian

Parliament, importers of regulated timber products and processors of domestic raw logs are 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 which 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.

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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 the briefing were:-

(i) 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

(ii) 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 MTIB had gone through 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

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Did you know that.....

According to Navigator agency, in 2011 timber exports came to USD 3.39 billion in value terms. Sawn timber accounted for 52.6% of all wood and paper-based product exports. Experts state that Russia will increase timber exports by at least 5-8% per year, with rough timber shipments declining.

Source: MTIB News Extracts (Vol.16/04/12)

Did you also know that....

For the first time, the Ministry of Forestry is harvesting Nusantara superior teak wood from 5-year old trees which are cloned from superior teak trees. In the past to get similar quality teak wood, the trees have to be between 30 to 40-year-old. The output from harvest will be sold to Djubah Nusantara. The wood will then be processed into Finger Joint Laminating Flooring by FS Asia Raya for export to Japan.

Source: *Bisnis Indonesia*, 13 Apr 2012



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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.

* * * * *

Regional Seminar on Improved Tools and Methods for Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into Forest Planning

Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), United Nations Development Programme-Global Environment Facility (UNDP-GEF) and International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) hosted the Regional Seminar on Improved Tools and Methods for Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into Forest Planning on 27 and 28 March 2012 in Kuala Lumpur. The CBioD Project is a five-year project that aims at producing an improved tool set that will assist forest managers to include biodiversity concerns while planning forestry activities.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas, launched the Perak Tool, the first of its kind in the world. The Perak Tool, a new biodiversity tool, aimed at assisting forest managers and decision-makers to ensure improved planning, sustainable harvesting and effective

biodiversity impact assessment. It was named after Perak because it was developed after six (6) years of research carried out in the Temenggor Forest Reserve by both local and United States researchers under the RM7 million CBioD project.

The launching of the Perak Tool was witnessed by Perak Menteri Besar (MB) Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, UNDP Resident Representative for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, Mr Kamal Malhotra. Also present were the ITTO Assistant Director of Economic Information and Market Intelligence, Mr Amha Buang, the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia Director General (DG) Dato' Dr Abdul Rahman Abdul Rahim and the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) DG, Dato'

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Dr Abd Latif Mohmod.

There were three keynote addresses, namely "Biodiversity conservation in production forests" by Prof Emeritus Dato' Dr Abdul Latiff Mohamad (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia/UKM), "The Economic Sense of Forest and Biodiversity Conservation" by Prof Dr Jamal Othman (UKM) and "Linking Biodiversity and REDD+ into SFM" by Dr Ma Hwan-Ok (Projects Manager, ITTO).

The main components of the tool presented were "Ecological Assessment Tool Kit – Rapid Biodiversity Assessment" by Dr Christine Fletcher; "Ecological Assessment Tool Kit – Tree Selection Tool" by Dr Samsudin Musa; "Economic Valuation Tool Kit (Benchmark Model)" by Dr Ismariah Ahmad; and "Landscape Planning Tool Kit" by Dr Abd Rahman Kassim and Dr Lam Tzheng-Yih.

The two-day seminar was attended by 150 participants from various Asean countries including Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines also aimed to obtain feedback / comments from the participants on how the Perak Tool may be used in their respective states and countries.

2012 IUFRO All Division 5 Conference

The IUFRO All-Division 5 Conference will be held in Estoril, Lisbon on 8 - 13 July 2012.

This conference is designed to bring together researchers in forest products and related fields from around the world. Discussion will embrace progress and needs in research to meet rapidly increasing demands for all kinds of forest products, while maintaining the forest as a source of such products and a resource for social, economic and environmental benefits.

The major topics to be discussed are wood quality, physiomechanical Properties of Wood, Wood Processing, Wood Protection, Composites and Reconstituted Products, Pulp & paper, Wood Culture, Properties and Utilization of Plantation Woods, Energy and Chemicals from Forest Biomass, Non-wood Forest Products, Forest Products Education and the Role of Wood in a Sustainable Society.

For more information, please visit www.iufro2012.org