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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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## Trainer Development Programme: Trainer Refresher Course

Sarawak Timber Association (STA), through its subsidiary company, STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) organised another Trainer Development Programme: Trainer Refresher Course from 7 to 11 April 2014 at Tanahmas Hotel, Sibul.

The objectives of this Course were to:

- enhance and strengthen the skills of trainers from STA member companies in delivering training;
- update trainers from STA member companies, on the use of training material and forms; and
- boost self-confidence among trainers of STA member companies

The Course was facilitated by Mr Denis Aman and Mr Sang Sanjan, Trainers cum Assessors from STAT.

Twelve (12) in-house trainers from various member companies including KTS, Rimbunan Hijau, Shin Yang, Ta Ann and WTK Groups of Companies attended this five 5-days course. Upon completion of the course, these trainers are expected to become more skillful and knowledgeable in delivering training to the operators in their respective companies.

The participants hoped STAT will organise more courses like this for trainers from members companies of STA again in the near future.

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## Review of MC&I(Forest Plantations) Sarawak Regional Consultation

The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) organised the Sarawak Regional Consultation on the review of the Malaysian Criteria & Indicators for Forest Management Certification (Forest Plantations) [MC&I(Forest Plantations)] on 8 April 2014 at Harbour View Hotel, Kuching. About 40 participants from government agencies, private sectors, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), independent consultants and academia attended the event.

The Regional Consultations were also held in Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Lumpur on 10 April 2014 and 15 April 2014 respectively. The aims of the regional consultation were to inform the

stakeholders on the progress of the Review of MC&I(Forest Plantations) and to consult the stakeholders on the Enquiry Draft 2 from the Review of MC&I(Forest Plantations).

Mr Yong Teng Koon, Chief Executive Officer of MTCC mentioned in his welcoming address that the MC&I(Forest Plantations) was adopted as the certification standard to assess the management practices of plantation forests under Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) in 2009. The review of the MC&I(Forest Plantations) was approved in September 2012

(Continue on page 4)

## Capacity Building Workshop on Forest Watch Initiative in Sarawak

Transparency International – Malaysia (TI-M) organised a Capacity Building Workshop on Forest Watch Initiative in Sarawak on 1 April 2014 at Four Points by Sheraton, Kuching. The Workshop aimed to provide a platform for relevant stakeholders to share their efforts in forest and forest related activities to foster and strengthen stakeholders' networking to enhance public participation in sustainable governance of forests in Sarawak. It was attended by approximately seventy (70) representatives from various stakeholders such as Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), local Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), indigenous communities and individuals.

Dato' Akhbar Satar, President of TI-M in his welcoming address, said that the project on Forest Governance Integrity (FGI) which started in 2009 serves as a preliminary step to contribute, improve and strengthen transparency, integrity and accountability of forest governance systems and related target groups in the governance of the national and traditional forest sectors in Asia Pacific. This has further evolved to promote more participation from the indigenous communities in the project activities to improve forest governance.

During the Workshop, Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad, Director of Forests Sarawak launched the Forest Watch Mobile Application, which can be used by the general public to report any suspicious and possible illegal activity. This application is directly linked to the website of TI-M. This website and mobile tool which are developed under Forest Watch Initiatives provide a medium for the general public and forest communities to participate in forest monitoring and to improve forest governance. Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad said that FDS will ensure this natural resource is managed in a sustainable manner with support and co-operation from relevant Government agencies. He also emphasised the importance of cooperation between inter-enforcement agencies in monitoring and preventing any exploitation

of forest and its treasures.

The following seven (7) papers were presented in the Workshop:-

Paper 1: "Forest Cover Monitoring in Sarawak" by Dr Affendi bin Suhaili, FDS

Paper 2: "Enforcement Efforts in Sarawak Forestry" by Mr Zulhairi Bin Zaidel, MACC Sarawak

Paper 3: "Forest Watch Initiative – A Tool for Public Participation to Enhance Forest Governance" by Mr Victor Soosai, TI-M

Paper 4: "Indigenous Peoples' Role in Traditional Forest Conservation and Governance in Sarawak" by Mr Mark Bujang, Borneo Resources Institute (BRIMAS)

Paper 5: "Indigenous peoples' Role in Traditional Forest Conservation and Governance in Sarawak" by Mr Nicholas Muijah, Sarawak Dayak Iban Association (SADIA)

Paper 6: "Bidayuh Traditional Forest Conversation and Our Roles on Forest Governance" by Datu Ik Pahon anak Joyik, Jagoi Area Development Committee

Paper 7: "Livelihood and Conservation" by Mr Wong Meng Chuo, Institute for Development of Alternative Living (IDEAL)



### Did you know that.....

In order to lower deforestation, the export of logs will be prohibited by the government of Myanmar. Based on the recent available official information, the forest cover of the country stood at 47.6% in 2005, a decline from 57.9% of the total land area in 1990. The ban came into effect on 1 April 2014.

Source: 25 March 2014, Bangkok Post

## Did you also know that....

In the Philippines, geo-tagging technology has been used by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to monitor the advancement of the government's reforestation project known as the National Greening Program (NGP). The government has planted 683,069 hectares of the overall NGP sites between 2011 and 2013. Under NGP, the government aims to plant 1.5 million hectares of land until 2016.

Source: 12 April 2014, Manila Bulletin



## Consultation Visit by WWF-Japan and WWF-Malaysia



Photo: (Top) The group having discussion and (Right) Group photo



Mr Mutai Hashimoto and Mr Shunsuke Kobayashi from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) - Japan and Dr Henry Chan and Dr Jason Hon of WWF - Malaysia visited Sarawak Timber Association (STA) on 29 April 2014. The purpose of the visit was to seek guidance and clarification from STA on the feedbacks and enquiries from the Japanese buyers as well as end users on timber legality matters.

Mr Hashimoto shared with STA that the Japanese buyers frequently consulted WWF - Japan on the issues of timber legality and sustainability. Among issues discussed were certification, land use policy and social conflicts. Both WWF and STA agreed on the same goal of sustainably developing the forestry and the timber industries.

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## Closing Ceremony of Kubah Week

In conjunction with the Visit Malaysia Year 2014, the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Tourism Ministry, the Sarawak Tourism Board and Kuching Resident's Office jointly organised the Kubah Week from 19 to 27 April 2014 to promote Kubah National Park and to highlight Sarawak's conservation activities.

In the closing ceremony of Kubah Week, which was held at Kubah National Park on 27 April 2014, Datu Haji Ali bin Yusop, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SFC mentioned that Kubah National Park covers an area size of 2,230 hectares and was gazetted in 1989 for its rich diversity of palm species. There are more than eighty (80) species of palms recorded to date.

Kubah National Park is a paradise for frogs and toads, making this Park a perfect location for the 6th Annual Borneo Frog Race (held on 26 April 2014 in conjunction with the globally celebrated 'Save the Frogs Day'), which was organised by UNIMAS. Kubah National Park also houses the Matang Wildlife Centre, a centre for protection and rehabilitation of endangered species such as gibbons, leopard cats, civets, hornbills and orang utans.

Among other activities held during the Kubah Week were the Vallombrossa Walk, Kubah Guided Walks and photography contest.





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## Briefing to the Landscape Architecture Students

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) hosted an educational visit by twenty one (21) students from the School of Landscape Architecture (SoLA), Faculty of Environment Society and Design (ESD) studying Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree and three (3) lecturers from Lincoln University, New Zealand to Wisma STA, Kuching on 25 April 2014.

The objectives of the visit were to expose the students to the broad-scale landscape management, particularly in Sarawak and to familiarise with the forestry and timber industry in Sarawak as well as the role of STA.

The Group headed by Mr Neil Challenger, Senior Lecturer and Mr Antony Shadbolt, Lecturer were given (4) presentations and a brief tour of STA Exhibition Centre.

The presentations are as follows:

Paper 1: *"Importance of Timber Resources to Sarawak's Economy"* by Ms Annie Ting, Senior Manager, STA

Paper 2: *"Pre & Post Harvesting Control for Sustainable Forest Management"* by Mr Ting Chek Hieng, Manager, Sustainable Forestry & Compliance Unit, Sarawak Forestry Corporation

Paper 3: *"The Need for and Progress on the Masterplan for Wildlife in Sarawak"* by Encik Rambli Ahmad, Ecologist, Protected Areas & Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Sarawak Forestry Corporation

Paper 4: *"Landscape Planning Aspects of HCVP Identification and Management – Heart of Borneo Concept"* by Encik Rambli Ahmad, Ecologist, Protected Areas & Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Sarawak Forestry Corporation

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*Continued from page 1*

and the review process commenced in January 2013. It is an international norm for every standards to be reviewed every five (5) years to incorporate changes in international or national laws.

STA and its members raised several issues and seek clarifications on the guidelines and documents listed as verifiers of its Principles. STA members also addressed their concerns on the Principle 8 of the Enquiry Draft 2. All comments and feedbacks will be deliberated at the 3rd Standard Review Committee (SRC) meeting which is schedule to be held in June 2014.