



STA dan Rakan2

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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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Roadshows on Prevention of Corruption, Corporate Integrity Pledge and Other Forestry-Related Matters



Photo: (Top) Participants listening to the presentations; (centre) Mr Jutim Nyagam delivering his presentation; and (bottom) Group photo of the participants at the Roadshow in Sibiu



Sarawak Timber Association (STA) and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) jointly organised a series of roadshows from 21 to 28 April 2015 in Miri, Bintulu, Sibiu and Kuching for all members of STA, including their contractors and sub-contractors on issues pertaining to anti-corruption, Corporate Integrity Pledge (CIP) and other forestry-related matters. A total of 263 participants attended the Roadshows in the four (4) regions. Each roadshow has two sessions.

In the first session, presentation was done by Mr Jutim Nyagam, Senior Assistant Director of MACC. He spoke on offences and penalties under Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission Act 2009

and Whistleblower Protection Act 2010. He explained the definition of corruption, the characteristics of corruption, the four core offences i.e soliciting and accepting bribe, offering and giving bribe, false claims and abuse of position/office. He informed the participants that under the Whistleblower Protection Act 2010, the identity of the whistleblower shall not be disclosed and protection will be provided.

The second presentation of the first session on CIP was presented by three officers in the four regions. They were Mr P. Ganason a/l S. Periathamby, Chief Senior Assistant

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The Environmental Compliance Audit Training Course

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) in collaboration with the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) organised an Environmental Compliance Audit Training Course exclusively for STA members. The first session of the Training Course was held from 27 to 30 April 2015 at Wisma STA, Kuching and was attended by seventeen (17) participants.

Dr Peter Kho, General Manager of STA in his opening remarks mentioned that the Association is working hard in promoting and increasing the level of professionalism in harvesting operations of member companies. He further pointed out that this Course will enhance the environmental compliance among the members and thus, lead towards environmental self-regulation.

Mr Kenny Poon, Senior Environmental Controller Officer (Environmental Audit) of NREB briefed the participants of the Course on the Natural Resources and Environmental (Audit) Rules, 2008 which was implemented and enforced by NREB on 1 January 2013. He informed the participants of the Course that one of the objectives of the Rules is to enhance the environmental compliance of project development through check and balance on the compliance level to the approval conditions issued to the developer. The Rules also assess the environmental risks caused by development activities and promote environmental stewardship.

The Course was conducted by Dr Chong Hock Guan, Consultant of CPD Borneo Sdn Bhd. The participants of the Course were taught on key principles of auditing, systemic audit process, audit scope, systematic approach during on-site audit and preparing audit report. Among the methods used during the on-site audit are interviewing knowledgeable persons and verify the facts through verification interviews, document review and site inspection before achieving the audit conclusions. The auditing was conducted in accordance with the approved general and specific terms and conditions stated in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report.

The participants of the Course were also given an opportunity to carry out a site-audit at Polima Forest Plantation Sdn Bhd in Sampadi, Lundu. They were divided into groups and each group was led by an audit team leader to carry out the audit based on general and specific terms and conditions stated in the EIA report. The five (5) key steps involved during a site-audit were opening meeting, familiarisation tour (optional), interview with knowledgeable persons, verifications and closing meeting.

Upon completion of the Course, the participants may register with NREB to be Internal Environmental Auditors and may further pursue to become Independent Environmental Auditors after a professional interview. The second session of the training is scheduled to be held from 11 to 15 May 2015 at Wisma STA, Kuching.

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State Task Force on Illegal Logging Meeting

The Second Minister of Resource Planning and Environment, Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan chaired the State Task Force on Illegal Logging Meeting on 1 April 2015 at Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. The objective of the Task Force is to ensure a more coordinated and effective enforcement to curb illegal logging activities in the State. This Task Force acts as a platform for relevant agencies to (i) strengthen cooperation and collaboration in combating illegal logging

by providing a platform for the exchange of information, views and analyses on measure relating to combating illegal logging; (ii) identify capacity building needs to instill integrity, motivation and positive attitudes among enforcement officers, licensees and their contractors, (iii) recommend improvements to the existing procedures to enhance transparency and integrity and (iv) collaborate with the industry and civil society to raise awareness

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Did you know that.....

According to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Indonesia, the deadline for mandatory wood certification is on 31 December 2015. The Ministry will help small and medium-sized enterprises to secure the wood legality verification system. The cost of the certification will be paid by the government. Out of the 1,986 small industries in Bali, only around 60 have secured the wood legality certification.

Source: MTIB News Extracts (Vol.13/03/15)

Did you also know that....

The European Parliament has voted for a forest strategy that entails a better coordination of sustainable forestry but no common forest policy. According to the resolution, each country should have the right to make decisions. Apart from sustainability, coordination should comprise forest fires, climate changes and invasive species.

Source: MTIB News Extracts (Vol.18/05/15)



Briefing on the Natural Resources and Environment (Fees) Rules, 2008

The Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) conducted a Briefing on the Natural Resources and Environment (Fees) Rules, 2008 on 16 April 2015 at Wisma Pelita, Kuching. The Briefing was attended by consultants and representatives from various industries. Mr Paul Bond Ferdinand Chamberlin, the Assistant

Senior Assistant Controller informed all participants at the Briefing that starting from 1 May 2015, NREB will be implementing the Natural Resources and Environment (Fees) Rules, 2008. The following are the fees to be paid to NREB upon submission of any reports or filing of any applications:-

No	Items	Fee (RM)
1	Prescription for mitigation measures	100 per project
2	Terms of reference for Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	200 per project
3	Terms of reference for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	500 per project
4	Submission of EMP	1,000 per project
5	Submission of EIA	2,000 per project
6	Resubmission of EMP	2,000 per project
7	Resubmission of EIA	4,000 per project
8	Issue of Permits for: (a) Controlled burning for non-prescribed activities (b) Controlled burning for prescribed activities	50 per permit 300 per permit

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and engaging them to combat illegal logging.

Four presentations were made in the Meeting i.e. (1) Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System, (2) Integrated Enforcement Against Illegal Logging, (3) Responsibility and Accountability of the Timber Licensee and Officers Who Monitor the Movement of the Timber and (4) Improve the Effectiveness of Enforcement to Combat Illegal Logging.

Following the above meeting, a sub-committee was formed to look into the technical issues of illegal logging in relation to the handling of seized logs, harvesting machineries and trucks. A meeting to discuss these issues was called by Datuk Fong Joo Chung, Chairman of this sub-committee on 7 April 2015 at Dewan Undangan Negeri, Kuching. The meeting was attended

by representatives from the Forestry & Enforcement Agencies and Sarawak Timber Association.

The terms of reference of this Committee are to identify and recommend to the State Government, a more effective and expeditious approach to handle the logs, harvesting machineries and trucks seized in illegal logging operations. The Meeting discussed at length, proposed procedures in handling seized logs, harvesting machineries and trucks, registration of logging vehicles and other forestry issues for more effective enforcement.



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Commissioner (for the Miri and Sibul Roadshows), Ms Zakiah binti Hassan, Assistant Commissioner (for the Bintulu Roadshow) and Mr Mohamad Hasraff Hashim, Senior Superintendent (for the Kuching Roadshow).

The CIP is defined as voluntary action that a company in Malaysia can undertake to make a unilateral declaration against corrupt practices. The speaker also informed the participants that follow-up actions need to be undertaken by the CIP signatories within six (6) months after signing. The ten (10) initiatives are code of ethics, conflict of interest policy, whistle blowing policy, policy of referral, specific corruption risk area, corporate social responsibility, leadership, anti-corruption reporting, policy compliance and ethics training, education and communication.

In the second session, Ms Annie Ting, Senior Manager of STA briefed members on the timber legality system in Sarawak, changes in State forestry policies, timber legislations imposed by major consumer countries, Heart of Borneo and Totally Protected Areas. She emphasised that the Association condemns any forms of corruptions and illegal logging activities. She reminded members of the STA circular dated 31 December 2014 to abide by the State's forestry laws

and regulations, to be aware of ground operations and to report any illegal logging activities within their licensed areas to the relevant authorities immediately.

Dr Peter Kho, General Manager of STA briefed members on issues relating to the damaged public road along the Bakun-Bintulu road, gazettment of the Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules to implementation Section 54B of the Forest Ordinance and further encouraged members to send their workers for training. He also informed members that the revised standard for forest plantation certification was adopted i.e. MC&I Forest Plantation v.2 and the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) will be conducting roadshows throughout Malaysia to introduce the revised standard and its requirements. He alerted the participants of the Briefing that the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) will be implementing the Natural Resources and Environment (Fees) Rules, 2008 starting from 1 May 2015 and the fees that are to be paid to NREB upon submission of any reports or filing of any applications as well as matters related to the employment of workers.