

STA Review

Volume 239

PPK 174/05/2013 (032756)

Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association

August 2013



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MEETING

with Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities



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MEETING

with Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment



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FIRST STANDARDS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Meeting for the MC&I (Forest Plantations)

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COVER IMAGE:



Nepenthes veitchii

Habitat: Mossy montane and Kerangas forests

Photo courtesy of Anna Photo Studio

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STA Review is mailed free of charge to all STA Members. Paid subscription is also available to non-members. An annual subscription fee of RM200.00 is charged to organisations within Malaysia, and US\$300.00 to foreign organisations in other Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand, and US\$500.00 to foreign organisations in American and European countries respectively. The subscription fee is inclusive of courier charges. STA reserves the right to change the subscription fees from time to time to reflect currency fluctuations. Paid subscription is non-refundable.

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Printed by

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The following is the press release made by the Sarawak Timber Association on the meeting with Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities.

MEETING WITH DATO SRI DOUGLAS UGGAH EMBAS, THE MINISTER OF PLANTATION INDUSTRIES AND COMMODITIES



Photo: Group photo



Photo: Meeting in progress

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) hosted a meeting with Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities on 1 August 2013 at Wisma STA Kuching. The 8-member delegation including Datin Paduka Nurmala Abdul Rahim, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) and Dr Jalaluddin Harun, Director-General of Malaysian Timber Industry Board, was received by Dato Henry Lau, STA Honorary Secretary.

STA took this opportunity to introduce STA and highlighted the contributions of the forestry and timber industry in Sarawak to the Minister who was appointed after the recent General Election.

The Minister acknowledged in his opening address, the challenges faced by the forestry and timber industry in Malaysia.

STA informed the Minister and his delegation that although Sarawak has in place its own legality system, its members find it costly to meet the different sets of requirements demanded by the international legislations or initiatives as there is no common definition for and interpretation of legality. STA raised its reservation on the intention of Malaysia to sign with the European Union, a Voluntary Partnership Agreement on the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade since the benefits are not equitable to the additional commitments placed on the producing country.

STA recognised the important role played by MPIC to ensure the continuous growth and well being of the forestry and timber trade. The Minister agreed for MPIC to engage with the relevant forestry authorities and industries to compile and document the legality systems used in the three regions.

The Minister has given his assurances to consider STA's appeal to recommend to the Ministry of Finance the proposed incentives submitted by STA, to accelerate the development of forest plantation projects in Sarawak. STA further sought the support from the Minister to ensure that the changes in our Government's implementation policies related to supply of manpower and minimum wage, are not disruptive to the operations of and administratively cumbersome for STA members.

Chairman
Sarawak Timber Association
2 August 2013

Berikut adalah kenyataan akhbar Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak semasa pertemuan dengan Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas, Menteri Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi.

本会在会晤种植与原产业部长拿督斯里道格拉斯（译音）后发布以下新闻稿。

MEETING WITH PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF RESOURCE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT



Photo: Group photo

Sarawak Timber Association (STA), led by Dato Henry Lau, STA Honorary Secretary had a meeting with Datu Sudarsono Osman, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment (MRPE) on 2 August 2013 at Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. The meeting focused mainly on current issues and challenges faced by the forestry and timber industries in Sarawak among the many issues; the progress of forest plantation development, forest certification, timber legality and the availability of foreign workers for the industries.

Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) diketuai oleh Dato Henry Lau, Setiausaha Kehormat STA telah mengadakan mesyuarat dengan Datu Sudarsono Osman, Setiausaha Tetap, Kementerian Perancangan Sumber dan Alam Sekitar (MRPE) pada 2 Ogos 2013 di Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching.

Mesyuarat memfokuskan kepada isu-isu semasa yang berkaitan dengan perhutanan dan menekankan cabaran yang dihadapi oleh industri perhutanan dan pembalakan di Sarawak seperti perladangan hutan, pensijilan hutan, pekerja asing serta lain-lain.

本会一行代表在荣誉秘书拿督劉利康的带领下，于2013年8月2日前往自然资源大厦会晤资源管理与环境部常务秘书拿督苏达索诺（译音）。此会议旨于商讨当前林业议题，特别是砂州林业及木材业所面对的难题譬如植林，森林认证，外劳及其它事项。

STANDARDISATION OF TERM USED IN TREE PLANTING PLAN

The Sarawak Timber Association Secretariat had received a letter from Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) on the standardisation of term used in Tree Planting Plan (TPP) with regard to Licence for Planted Forests (LPF) on 28 August 2013.

The letter stated that with effect from 28 August 2013, all LPF holders shall use the term "Coupe" instead of "Compartment" in the Tree Planting Plan (TPP) as well as in their planting progress reports.

All LPF holders that are still using the term "Compartment" are kindly advised to change or amend their relevant maps especially the TPP and resubmit them to the Department.

Sekretariat Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak telah menerima surat daripada Jabatan Perhutanan Sarawak (FDS) mengenai penyeragaman istilah yang digunakan dalam Rancangan Penanaman Pokok (TPP) bagi Lesen Ladang Hutan (LPF) pada 28 Ogos 2013.

Surat itu menyatakan bahawa berkuat kuasa dari 28 Ogos 2013, semua pemegang LPF akan menggunakan istilah "Coupe" dan bukannya "Compartment" dalam Rancangan Penanaman Pokok (TPP) serta laporan kemajuan penanaman.

砂拉越森林局（FDS）于2013年8月28日致函通知本会秘书处关于森林种植执照（LPF）植树计划（TPP）标准化术语。

函中指出，从2013年8月28日起，所有LPF持有人须在TPP以及种植进度报告使用“Coupe”，而不是“Compartment”。

DIALOGUE AND MEETING ON PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EXPORT OF LOGS AND TIMBER PRODUCTS

The Plant Protection and Quarantine Branch (PPQ) of the Department of Agriculture (DoA) Sarawak organised two dialogue sessions to discuss the issue of phytosanitary requirements by timber companies exporting logs and timber products to China. The two Dialogues were held in Sibu and Bintulu on 14 and 15 August 2013 respectively.

Mr Michael Ranges, the Deputy Director of PPQ briefed all participants at both venues on the background of phytosanitary requirements between trading countries. He also informed the participants that he had received a letter of complaint on non compliance to phytosanitary requirement for logs and timber products exported to one of our main trading partner. The dialogues were held to obtain feedback from the participants on this matter.

Further to the two dialogues called by DoA, Sarawak Timber Association (STA) Secretariat also organised a meeting with its members on 22 August 2013 to gather feedback on the phytosanitary requirements for the export of logs and timber products



Photo: Dialogue in progress



Photo: Meeting with STA Members

Perlindungan Tanaman dan Kuarantin (PPQ) daripada Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak (DOA) telah menganjurkan dua sesi dialog untuk membincangkan isu pematuhan keperluan fitosanitasi oleh syarikat-syarikat pengeksport kayu balak dan produk kayu ke China. Kedua-dua dialog ini telah diadakan di Sibu dan Bintulu masing-masing pada 14 dan 15 Ogos 2013.

Rentetan daripada dialog tersebut, Sekretariat Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) telah mengadakan pertemuan dengan ahli-ahlinya pada 22 Ogos 2013 untuk mendapatkan maklum balas mengenai keperluan fitosanitasi dari China dan negara-negara lain seperti India.

砂拉越农业部 (DOA) 植物检疫单位 (POD) 于2013年8月14日和15日分别在诗巫和民都鲁为出口原木及木材产品至中国的出口商举办中国植物检疫需求对话会。

此外，本会秘书处也于2013年8月22日召开会议以收集会员对中国，印度和其他国家的植物检疫要求反馈。

FIRST STANDARDS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE MC&I (FOREST PLANTATIONS)



Photo: Group photo of members, alternate members and observers for the SRC Meeting (Photo courtesy of MTCC)

The Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (Forest Plantations) [MC&I (Forest Plantations)] which is the standard for assessing the management practices of forest plantations under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS), was due for the first review in 2013. In line with the requirements specified in the MTCS document SSP2/2012: Rules on Standard Setting Process for Development of Timber Certification Standards, the main body which will be responsible for the review of the MC&I (Forest Plantations) is the Standards Review Committee (SRC).

The First Meeting of the SRC for the review of the MC&I(Forest Plantations) was held from 26 to 28 August 2013 at Dorsett Regency Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The meeting was attended by members, alternate members and observers from the economic, social (indigenous peoples/workers) and environment interest groups, and the relevant government agencies from Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia. The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) facilitated the review process and served as the Secretariat for the SRC.

The meeting went through the comments and proposals received from the first Public Comment exercise on all the ten principles, criterion, indicators and verifiers contained in the MC&I(Forest Plantations). The SRC Secretariat shall prepare the Enquiry Draft 1 of the revised Standard, which will be posted on the MTCC website and will be also be circulated to all stakeholders for the second public comment.

Stakeholders who wish to submit further comments and proposals on the MC&I(Forest Plantations) can do so during the second and third Public Comment periods, as well as through their elected representatives in the SRC. The whole review process is anticipated to take 18 months, i.e. from January 2013 to June 2014.

Kriteria dan Petunjuk bagi Pensijilan Pengurusan Hutan Malaysia (Ladang Hutan) [MC&I (Ladang Hutan)] telah melalui proses penilaian pertama pada tahun 2013 dan badan bertanggungjawab keatasnya adalah Jawatankuasa Kajian Piawaian (SRC).

Mesyuarat Pertama SRC telah diadakan dari 26 hingga 28 Ogos 2013 di Hotel Dorsett Regency, Kuala Lumpur dan proses penilaian diuruskan oleh Majlis Pensijilan Kayu Malaysia (MTCC) yang bertindak selaku Sekretariat bagi SRC.

Sekretariat SRC akan menyediakan Draf Perbincangan 1 bagi Piawaian yang dinilai semula dan akan mengedar serta memaparkannya di laman web MTCC bagi Ulasan Awam kedua.

Bagi pihak berkepentingan yang ingin mengemukakan ulasan lanjut dan cadangan mengenai MC&I (Ladang Hutan) boleh berbuat demikian dalam tempoh Ulasan Awam kedua dan ketiga, serta melalui wakil-wakil mereka di dalam SRC. Proses keseluruhan untuk penilaian semula dijangka mengambil masa selama 18 bulan, iaitu dari Januari 2013 hingga Jun 2014.

马来西亚森林管理认证标准草案（人工林）[MC&I(人工林)] 第一次审查于今年截至。标准审查委员会（SRC）负责审查MC&I（人工林）。

SRC第一届会议于2013年8月26日至28日假吉隆坡多塞特丽晶酒店举办。马来西亚木材认证理事会（MTCC）支援该审查过程，并也担当SRC秘书处。

SRC秘书处将准备修订标准的第一个查询草案，并发布与张贴在MTCC网站供第二轮的公众检阅。

利益相关者可于第二轮和第三轮公众检阅期间以及通过SRC代表提交有关MC&I（人工林）的意见和提案。审查全程约需18个月，即从2013年1月至2014年6月。

ASDU IRCM MoU STEERING COMMITTEE AND TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

The 4th Anap Sustainable Development Unit (ASDU) Innovative Rainforest Conservation and Management (IRCM) MoU Steering Committee as well as the 2nd Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings were called by the Forest Department of Sarawak (FDS) on 14 August 2013 at Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. The meetings were chaired by the Deputy Director of Forests, Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad.

The Anap Muput Forest Management Unit (AMFMU) was awarded the certificate for compliance with Malaysia Criteria and Indicator for Forest Management Certification [MC&I (Natural Forest)] on 25 July 2013. Under the new Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS), the certificate for MC&I (Natural Forest) is valid for three (3) years and the FMU will be subjected to an annual surveillance to maintain the validity of the certificate.

The ASDU IRCM MoU Steering Committee meeting deliberated on all the proposed projects and adopted recommendations made by the assessors. This meeting was attended by representatives from Forest Department of Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Timber Association (STA) and Anap Muput FMU.

The ASDU IRCM MoU Steering Committee meeting also updated all members of the committee on the progress of several on-going matters, including the Plantation Development Plan, Forest Landscape Restoration project, ASDU Honorary Wildlife Rangers, ASDU Liaison Committee membership and forest certification.



Photo: ASDU Steering Committee Meeting in progress

The TWG Meeting was held immediately after the Steering Committee Meeting and was attended by representatives from FDS, SFC, STA, Ministry of Modernisation of Agriculture Sarawak (MOMA), Lands & Surveys Department Sarawak (L&S), State Planning Unit (SPU), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd.

The TWG Meeting was held specifically to discuss the Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) Project initiated by FDS for selected communities to plant rubber trees. The purpose of this project is mainly to restore the landscape of selected degraded forest areas.

Thirty three (33) participants from five (5) longhouses who volunteered to participate in this programme received their

farming permits from the Director of Forest, Datu Haji Ali Yusof during the launching ceremony of the FLR project on 16 May 2013 in Bukit Kana, Bintulu.

The FLR project is getting support from relevant agencies such as Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd to contribute rubber seedlings, while Zedtee Sdn Bhd and STA are donating RM30,000 and RM10,000 respectively for the project.



Photo: TWG ASDU Meeting in progress

Mesyuarat ke-4 Unit Pembangunan Lestari Anap (ASDU) Pemuliharaan dan Pengurusan Hutan Inovatif (IRCM) Jawatankuasa Pemandu MoU serta Mesyuarat Kumpulan Kerja Teknikal ke-2 (TWG) telah dianjurkan oleh Jabatan Perhutanan Sarawak (FDS) pada 14 Ogos 2013 di Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. Mesyuarat dipengerusikan oleh Timbalan Pengarah Hutan, Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad.

Mesyuarat ASDU IRCM Jawatankuasa Pemandu MoU diadakan untuk membincangkan kesemua projek yang dicadangkan dan untuk penambahbaikan berdasarkan cadangan pasukan penilai serta mengemaskini kemajuan beberapa projek yang masih berterusan.

Mesyuarat TWG diadakan khusus untuk membincangkan Projek Pemulihan Landskap Hutan (FLR) yang dimulakan oleh FDS bagi masyarakat terpilih untuk menanam pokok getah. Projek ini secara tidak langsung dapat memulihkan landskap hutan yang terdegradasi.

砂州森林局(FDS)于2013年8月14日假古晋自然资源大厦召开两项会议, 分别是第4届阿纳可持续发展单位(ASDU)热带雨林保护与管理创新(IRCM)备忘录MoU督导委员会会议以及第2届技术工作组(TWG)会议。这两项会议由FDS副局长哈兹萨普安阿莫先生(译音)主持。

ASDU IRCM 备忘录督导委员会会议皆于商议所有拟建项目, 采用评估员所推荐的改善方式以及汇报几项正在进行项目的最新进展。

TWG会议则旨在商讨FDS所倡导的森林景观复原(FLR)计划, 则让选定的社区种植橡胶树, 从而复原部分森林退化地区。

3RD HIGH LEVEL MARKET DIALOGUE



Photo: Sarawak Delegates with Mr Amha Buang (2nd from Right)

The Indonesian Exporters Association (GPEI), in collaboration with PT Mutu Hijau Indonesia, hosted the 3rd High Level Market Dialogue – 2013 (3rd HLMD) with the theme “*The New Era of Indonesian Legal Timber Products to meet Global Markets, AUSTRALIA – CHINA – EUROPE – JAPAN – USA*” on 21 August 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Approximately two hundred and twenty (220) participants attended the Dialogue.

The 3rd HLMD updated the participants on market developments for legal timber and better understanding of the SVLK (Timber Legality Assurance System)/V-Legal, Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012, the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR), the Lacey Act and green building. It also looked at the implementation issues and the implications on timber industry as well as at the economic aspects of the new era of trade in legal timber.

The Forestry Minister of Indonesia, His Excellence Zulkifi Hasan declared open the 3rd HLMD and delivered the keynote speech emphasising the readiness of the Indonesian producers/exporters to enter the new era of trading on legal timber products in the global market. Mr Amha Buang, Assistant Director (Trade & Industry), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in his speech, highlighted the numerous challenges and threats the tropical timber has grappled with in the past decades as it struggles to maintain its stake in the international timber markets.

Seventeen (17) presentations were made in the four sessions at the 3rd HLMD highlighting the emerging opportunities for legal timber in the international market and the links between trade, growth, poverty and sustainability.

Persatuan pengeksport Indonesia (GPEI), kerjasama dengan PT Mutu Hijau Indonesia, telah menganjurkan Dialog Pasaran Peringkat Tinggi - 2013 yang ke-3 (HLMD ke-3) dengan tema “*The New Era of Indonesian Legal Timber Products to meet Global Markets, AUSTRALIA – CHINA – EUROPE – JAPAN – USA*” pada 21 Ogos 2013 di Jakarta, Indonesia.

HLMD ke-3 mengemaskini peserta mengenai perkembangan pasaran bagi kayu yang sah dan meningkatkan pemahaman terhadap SVLK (Sistem Pengesahan Kesahihan Kayu, Akta Larangan Pembalakan Haram Australia 2012, Peraturan Kayu Kesatuan Eropah (EUTR), Akta Lacey dan bangunan hijau.

印尼出口商公会(GPEI)连同印尼PT Mutu Hijau于2013年8月21日假印尼，雅加达举办第三届高层市场对话会(3rd HLMD)，主题为印尼合法木材产品符合全球市场新时代-澳洲，中国，欧洲，日本及美国。

3rd HLMD旨于告知参与者关于合法木材市场进展和更深入了解有关印尼木材合法监督和核查系统 (SVLK)，2012年澳洲非法采伐禁令，欧盟木材法规(EUTR)，莱西法案和绿色建筑。

SEMINAR ON GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

The Seminar on Goods and Services Tax (GST) was jointly organised by the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD), the State Planning Unit and the National Security Council under the Prime Minister's Department from 20 to 21 August 2013 at the Pullman Hotel in Kuching. The two-day Seminar was attended by approximately 330 participants from the government departments and agencies as well as the public and private sectors.

Tuan Haji Ahmad bin Jii, the State Deputy Director of Customs in his opening remarks, informed all participants that the objective of the Seminar was to enhance awareness, educate and prepare the public and businesses for GST implementation. The Government had announced its intention to implement GST in the Budget 2005. The GST Bill was tabled to the Parliament for its first reading on 16 December 2009. However, the implementation of GST has been deferred as the public and businesses were not ready to accept GST yet.

Two speakers from the GST Special Task Force in Putrajaya, Mr Wan Leng Whatt and Mr Mohamad Sabri bin Saad provided an overview on GST and the proposed GST model for Malaysia. GST is a tax reform programme by the Government to replace the current sales and services tax. One hundred and sixty (160) countries have already implemented GST, which is also known as value-added tax (VAT). Amongst the ASEAN countries, only Brunei, Malaysia and Myanmar have not implemented GST.

The proposed GST model for Malaysia shall be a more transparent, effective and efficient tax system, by removing the cascading and pyramiding effects of sales and services tax. The Government has also taken the lower income group into consideration and basic necessities such as agricultural products, basic food and poultry shall not be subjected to GST.

According to the speakers of the Seminar, GST is expected to be implemented within the next two years at a rate ranging 4% to 6%. When implemented, businesses with an annual turnover exceeding RM500,000 must be registered and charge GST. Businesses shall only have a period of 12 to 18 months to prepare for GST once announcement is made by the Prime Minister. Hence, businesses are advised to start preparing for GST by studying their business activities and how GST may impact their businesses.

RMCD shall be the agency implementing GST. All information pertaining to GST can be found in the GST portal i.e. <http://www.gst.gov.my>.

Seminar mengenai Cukai Barangan dan Perkhidmatan (GST) telah dianjurkan secara bersama oleh Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia (JKDM), Unit Perancangan Negeri dan Majlis Keselamatan Negara di Jabatan Perdana Menteri dari 20 hingga 21 Ogos 2013 di Pullman Hotel, Kuching.

Tuan Haji Ahmad bin Jii, Timbalan Pengarah Kastam Negeri dalam ucapan perasmian beliau, memaklumkan bahawa objektif Seminar ini adalah untuk meningkatkan kesedaran, mendidik dan menyediakan orang ramai serta perniagaan mengenai pelaksanaan GST.

Dua penceramah dari Pasukan Petugas Khas GST di Putrajaya, Tuan Wan Leng Whatt dan Tuan Mohamad Sabri bin Saad turut hadir untuk memberi gambaran mengenai GST dan model GST yang dicadangkan bagi Malaysia.

Menurut penceramah, GST dijangka akan dilaksanakan dua tahun dari sekarang pada kadar antara 4% hingga 6%. Perniagaan dengan perolehan tahunan sebanyak RM500,000 hendaklah berdaftar dan mengenakan GST. Perniagaan hanya mempunyai tempoh 12 hingga 18 bulan persediaan untuk melaksanakan GST apabila pengumuman dibuat oleh Perdana Menteri.

Semua maklumat yang berkaitan dengan GST boleh didapati di portal GST iaitu <http://www.gst.gov.my>

马来西亚皇家关税局 (RMCD), 砂州策划单位和首相署国家安全委员会于2013年8月20日至 21日假古晋普尔曼酒店, 联合举办物品服务税 (GST) 研讨会。

砂关税局副局长,哈吉阿曼先生 (译音) 在致辞中告知, 此研讨会皆于教育与提升民众与企业关于实施 GST事项意识。

来布城GST专责小组的华特先生 (译音) 和萨普里先生 (译音) 告知多项关于GST和马来西亚GST格式提案的概述。

研讨会主讲告知, GST预计将在这两年内实行, GST率为4%至6%之间。年营业额约50万令吉的企业须登记并缴付GST。首相一旦公布实行GST, 企业们将会有12至18个月的时间准备。

GST相关资料, 请搜寻GST网站 <http://www.gst.gov.my>。

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN APPLIED SCIENCE (SUSTAINABLE TROPICAL FOREST MANAGEMENT)

The Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) subject of the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management) (PGDip) Course was held from 19 to 23 August 2013 at Melatai Forest Management Unit (FMU) in Kapit Division, Sibiu. It was attended by nineteen (19) students of the PGDip course, one (1) student of STA Sustainable Forest Manager (STASFM) Course and one (1) participant on a Continuing Education (taking single subject only) basis. The subject was conducted by Dr Mark Bloomberg from Lincoln University, Christchurch, New Zealand and Mr Gan Boon Keong from Logfisher International Sdn Bhd with assistance from staff from Melatai FMU.



Photo: Group photo at the Base Camp, Melatai FMU

The subject was delivered in two (2) parts; four (4) days classroom-style lectures and one (1) day field trip. The main purpose of this subject was to introduce RIL in the context of sustainable forestry in Sarawak. This included planning of RIL operations in terms of pre-harvest assessment and post-harvest assessment. The lecture was held at the Base Camp, Melatai FMU and the field trip was conducted at selected sample plots within the FMU where the students and participant were required to do a pre-harvest assessment using 50x50m (0.25ha) sample and a post-harvest assessment inventory using the Silvicultural Management Inventory (SMI) system. Students had a better understanding of the classification of trees, were able to conduct silvicultural mapping to provide an overall view of the continuity of the forest canopy and to identify the closure of the area using canopy closure classes as well as to work out yield projections of the forests on a 25-year and 40-year cycle.



Photo: Student presentation

The next subject, Resource and Industrial Planning will be delivered in September 2013 in both Bintulu and Sibiu. In line with this, members of STA who wish to further their knowledge in this subject may attend it on a Continuing Education basis (i.e. single subject only). No fees will be charged for attending this subject but participants shall be responsible for travel to the venue of the course, accommodation and other travel-related expenses. Those interested to attend this subject are to contact Dr Peter Kho or Ms Suzie Adee at 082-332222.

Subjek Pengurangan Kesan Pembalakan (RIL) bagi Kursus Diploma Pasca Siswazah (PGDip) Sains Gunaan (Pengurusan Mampan Hutan Tropika) telah diadakan dari 19 hingga 23 Ogos 2013 di Unit Pengurusan Hutan (FMU) Melatai di Bahagian Kapit, Sibiu.

Subjek dikendalikan oleh Dr Mark Bloomberg dari Lincoln University, Christchurch, New Zealand dan Encik Gan Boon Keong dari Logfisher International Sdn Bhd.

Tujuan subjek ini diajar adalah untuk memperkenalkan RIL dalam konteks perhutanan mampan di Sarawak. Hal ini termasuk perancangan operasi RIL dari segi penilaian pra-tuai dan selepas tuai.

Subjek seterusnya ialah Sumber dan Perancangan Industri akan dilaksanakan pada bulan September 2013 masing-masing di Bintulu dan Sibiu.

应用科学研究生文凭(热带森林持续管理), “减少对环境影响的森林采伐 (RIL)” 课程于2013年9月19日至23日在诗巫加帛玛拉代森林管理单位召开。

纽西兰林肯大学马克教授 (译音) 及Logfisher International有限公司, Gan Boon Keong先生连同指导此课程。

课题主要是讲解砂拉越森林持续RIL发展。这包括RIL作业规划, 则采伐前与后评估。

资源和产业规划课程将于2013年9月在民都鲁和诗巫召开。

REVISED EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUND STATUTORY CONTRIBUTION

The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) has announced on 5 August 2013 that in view of the implementation of the Minimum Retirement Age Act 2012 (hereinafter referred to as the 'MRA'), the EPF contributions have been amended accordingly to take effect from August 2013 payroll as follows:

- a) Employees up to the age of 60 years
 - i) The employer's EPF statutory contributions shall be
 - for employees earning RM5,000 per month and below, 13%
 - for employees earning above RM5,000 per month, 12%
 - ii) The employee's EPF statutory contributions will be at 11%
- b) Employees aged 60 years to 75 years
 - i) Employees earning RM5,000 per month and below:
 - the Employer's EPF statutory contributions rate is 6.5%
 - the Employee's EPF statutory contribution rate is 5.5%
 - ii) Employees earning above RM5,000 per month:
 - the Employer's EPF statutory contributions rate is 6%
 - the Employee's EPF statutory contribution rate is 5.5%

EPF Kuala Lumpur has confirmed that the above revised statutory contributions are applicable to all employees irrespective of their age, contract of/for service, part-time, etc.

Members may wish to visit www.kwsp.gov.my to view the latest contributions schedule of EPF contributions for employees and employers.

Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) telah membuat pengumuman pada 5 Ogos 2013 berikutan pelaksanaan Akta Umur Persaraan Minimum 2012. Caruman KWSP telah dipinda dengan sewajarnya berkuat kuasa mulai Ogos 2013 seperti yang disenaraikan dalam artikel ini.

KWSP di Kuala Lumpur telah mengesahkan bahawa semakan caruman berkanun adalah terpakai kepada semua pekerja tanpa mengira umur, kontrak/perkhidmatan, separuh masa, dan sebagainya.

公积金局（EPF）于2013年8月5日宣布随着2012年最低退休年龄法令正式生效，EPF也从2013年8月修改公积金缴付政策，如原文版所列出。

EPF吉隆坡分局已确认所有会员无论年龄，兼职或合同方式必须缴付上述修改公积金。

Wishing all STA Members and Readers

JOYOUS CELEBRATIONS OF 50TH YEAR OF SARAWAK'S INDEPENDENCE WITHIN MALAYSIA

From the Chairman, Council Members, Management and
Staff of STA, STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd,
STA Mutual Sdn Bhd and STA Training Sdn Bhd

Pengerusi, Ahli-Ahli Majlis, pihak Pengurusan dan
Kakitangan STA, STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual
Sdn Bhd dan STA Training Sdn Bhd ingin mengucapkan

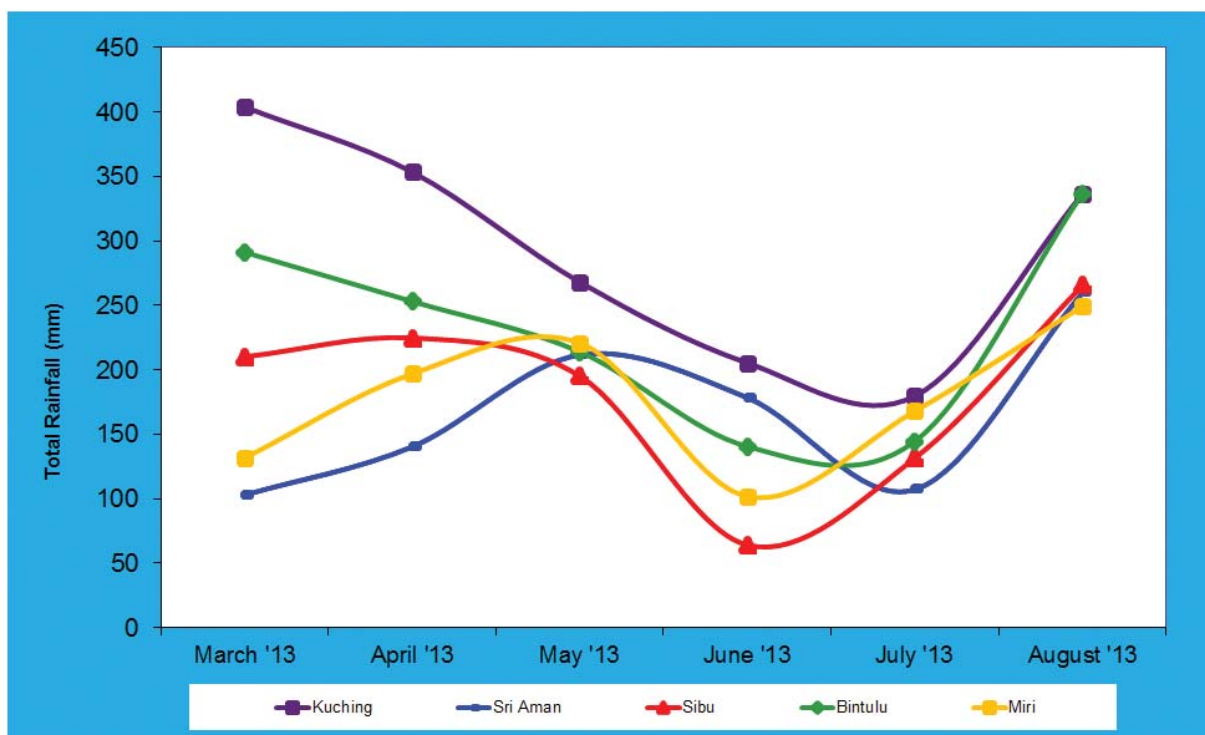
**SELAMAT MENYAMBUT
50 TAHUN SARAWAK MERDEKA
DALAM MALAYSIA**
kepada semua ahli STA dan para pembaca

主席, 理事会, 秘书处, STA Enterprises 有限公
司, STA Mutual 有限公司, STA Training 有限公司管理层
和全体职员祝贺各位会员和读者砂州参组马来西亚独立
50周年快乐。

*"Sarawak Harmoni,
Kemakmuran Dinikmati"*



RAINFALL : MARCH '13 - AUGUST '13 DATA HUJAN BULANAN 雨量数据



Source : Malaysian Meteorological Services