



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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SEMINAR ON APPLICATION OF ILO CORE CONVENTIONS IN FORESTRY AND TIMBER INDUSTRY

The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC), the Timber Employees Union Peninsular Malaysia (TEUPM) and the Building and Wood Workers International (BWI) jointly organised a Seminar on Application of International Labour Organisation (ILO) Core Conventions in Forestry and Timber Industry. The objective of this Seminar was to educate and raise awareness on the application of the ILO core or fundamental conventions in relation to the forestry and timber industry in Malaysia. Approximately 120 participants from the Government agencies, workers' unions, timber industry and notified Certification Body (CB) with MTCC attended the Seminar.

There are eight ILO core conventions, namely C29 (Forced Labour), C98 (Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining), C 1 0 0 (E q u a l remuneration), C87 (Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize), C105 (Abolition of Forced Labour), C 1 1 1 (D i s c r i m i n a t i o n (Employment and Occupation), C138 (Minimum Age Convention), C182 (Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour). Out of these eight (8) Core Conventions, six (6) had been included in the MC&I(2002), namely C29, C87, C98, C100, C105, C111 and out of these six (6) Core Conventions, Malaysia has ratified C29, C98 and C100 and has not ratified C87, 105 and 111.

Six papers were presented during the Seminar namely:

- *Core Conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and PEFC* by Mr. William Street of PEFC Council
- *Application of the ILO Core Conventions in the Forest and Timber Industry in Malaysia* by Mr. Enchana Atto, Labour Department of Sabah
- *Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) – Trade Union Perspective* by Mr. Mohd Khalid Atan, Timber Employees' Union Peninsular Malaysia
- *Application of the ILO Core Conventions in the Forestry and Timber*

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POSTPONEMENT DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSPORTATION PASS

Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd had in a letter dated 3 September 2009 advised our Association that the date of implementation of issuance of transportation pass (supposed to be with effect from 1 September 2009) has been postponed to a later date.

Did you know that...

The Brazil government has unveiled a national action plan on climate change on December 1, with as a key goal to reduce Amazon deforestation by 72% by 2017. Deforestation would be reduced to 574,200 hectares per year at the end of the period, from an ongoing rate of 1,196,800 hectares per year. The plan estimates that avoided deforestation over the 8 year period would result in avoided emissions of some 4.8 billion tons of CO₂, a figure higher than the annual emissions of the European Union.

Source:
Forest News Watch
September 2009

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Industry in Malaysia – The Industry's Perspective in Relation to MC&I(2002) by Tuan Haji Shamsuddin Bardan, Malaysian Employers' Federation (presenting on behalf of Malaysian Timber Association)

- Application of ILO Core Conventions under MTCS by Mr. Yong Teng Koon, MTCC

- *Auditing Compliance with ILO Core Conventions under MTCS* by Mr. Salahudin Yaacob, SGS (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd

During the Questions and Answer Session, concerns were raised on the Conventions that are not ratified by Malaysia and therefore should be removed from the list of verifiers in the MC&I (2002) in compliance to the domestic laws. The Session deliberated on the practicability of the coexistence of domestic laws and those incompatible ILO Core Conventions and proposed for the spirit of ILO Core Convention to be adopted in the event of any conflict arises. However, Mr. William Street, the

President-Elect of PEFC informed that the ILO Core Conventions had always been and will continue to be the requisite criteria for PEFC and since the national certification scheme (MC&I(2002) has been endorsed by PEFC, ILO Core Conventions would be superimposed as criteria in the national certification scheme.

Note: Presentation papers are available for reference at the STA Resource Centre.

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SEMINAR ON WOODEN FURNITURE INDUSTRY 2009

The Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), with the support of eight government agencies and trade associations namely, the Forest Department Peninsular Malaysia, the Sabah Forest Department, the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, the Malaysian Timber Industry Board, the Malaysia Furniture Entrepreneurs Association, the Malaysia Furniture Industry Council, the Sabah Timber Industry Association and STA, organised the Seminar on Wooden Furniture Industry 2009 held from 4 to 6 August 2009 at the FRIM Auditorium, Kepong, Selangor Darul

Ehsan. With the theme "Competitiveness and Sustainability", it attracted 145 participants from the government agencies, trade associations and private sectors.

The seminar aimed to disseminate the latest market development, investment opportunities, national timber industry policy, government financial assistance scheme, and research and development (R&D) findings on the wooden furniture industry to stakeholders who would like to see the sector to continue to flourish and contribute to sustainable development of the industry and the nation.

The Seminar was

officiated by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), Y. Bhg. Dato' Zoal Azha Yusof on behalf of the Minister, Y.B. Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas. In his speech, he said that the export value for furniture industry grew from RM58.8 million in 1988 to RM6.5 billion in 2008. Although the industry facing severe challenges such as raw material supply, competition from low-cost producing countries and substitutes, he believed that with the cooperation and efforts of the wood and furniture industry players, the industry could be able to come out with more efficient

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technology and offer new products to the market.

The Director-General of FRIM, Y.Bhg. Dato' Dr Abd. Latif Mohmod, in his welcoming address, gave the current scenario of the wooden furniture industry as well R&D works carried out by FRIM. He mentioned FRIM has been entrusted with the task of conducting R&D on forestry and forest products to ensure that the R&D work fulfills the

needs of the industry. All the R&D works conducted are guided by the FRIM Strategic Plan and supported by the action plan that was prepared in line with the other economic plans and policies related to the forestry sector.

A total of 15 papers were presented covering topics related to the supply and demand of resources; economic productivity; branding, marketing and trade competitiveness; and sustainability and policy.

In conjunction with the Seminar, industrial visit was organised for interested participants to two selected mills, Seng Yip Furniture Sdn Bhd in Semenyih and Samling Housing Products Sdn Bhd in Port Klang.

Note: Presentation papers are available for reference at the STA Resource Centre.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MALAYSIAN STANDARDS DRAFTS AND ON A PROPOSED LIST OF MALAYSIAN STANDARD

STA Secretariat received notification from SIRIM Berhad that they are seeking public comments on a list of Malaysian Standards Drafts and on a proposed list of Malaysian Standards that are to be revoked without replacement. Some of the draft standards in the list that might be relevant are:

ISC B: Chemical and Materials

1. 09B032R0— Paper and Board—Determination of bursting strength after immersion in water
2. 09B035R1—Paper and Board— Determination of opacity (paper backing) - diffuse reflectance method (first revision)

ISC W: Occupational Health and Safety

1. 09W001R0—Safety of Machinery—Evaluation of machinery—Evaluation of the emission of airborne hazardous substances—Part 1: Selection of test methods
2. 09W003R0—Safety of Machinery—Evaluation of emission of airborne hazardous substances—Part 2: Tracer gas method for the measurement of the emission rate of a given pollutant.

These drafts can be obtained from http://www.sirim.my/std_dev/h4_01.htm. However, these drafts are not for circulation nor are they references as they are still in the preparation stage.

For more information, kindly contact:

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Email: std_develop@sirim.my

Did you also know that...

Exports continued to expand in July 2009, increasing RM3.8 billion or 8.4% from June 2009. Imports increased by 14.2% to RM41.1 billion from the month before. Total trade increased month-on-month by RM8.9 billion or 11% from June 2009. Malaysia also recorded a trade surplus of RM7.8 billion making July 2009 the 141 consecutive month of trade surplus since November 1997.

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LACEY ACT DECLARATION UPDATE

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published a Federal Register notice with updates to the implementation schedule for Lacey Act declarations. Among the comments received and the revised Phase-In Schedule Enforcement are as follows:

1. APHIS will delay enforcement of the declaration requirement for products containing composite and recycled or reused material (e.g. MDF, particleboard and scrap wood) until at least 1 September 2010.
2. APHIS is still evaluating the blanket declaration suggestion, in lieu of shipment-by-shipment declarations, for routine and/or repeat shipments.
3. APHIS has removed some items from Phase III which is scheduled to begin on 1 October 2009, which include wood pulp and wood charcoal.
4. In circumstances where the list of possible species in a product includes all species in a genus, it is acceptable to use 'spp.' following the genus name on the import declaration form. However, when reference to all possible species in a genus is not accurate, importers are expected to provide either the single genus and species, or a specific list on the import declaration form of all possible species used to produce the plant product.
5. APHIS is seeking comments on other HTS chapters/subchapters that could be included after 1 September 2010 and the applicability of the declaration to other products not already included in the revised phase-in schedule or previously listed. Other products include Chapters 44 (wood & articles of wood) and 94 (furniture).

The declaration form will continue to be revised. For further information, please visit the APHIS website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>