**STA Review** 

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August 2007

# STA 61<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting

Majlis STA telah mengadakan mesyuarat ke-61nya pada 14 Ogos 2007 di Wisma STA, Kuching dipengerusikan oleh Datuk Leo Chai.

Majlis telah membincang beberapa isu iaitu pindaan Memorandum dan Artikel Persatuan, Kod Kelakuan, pensijilan kayu, penukaran nama Jawatankuasa Tenaga Kerja STA (Mahkamah Industri) kepada Jawatankuasa Tenaga Kerja STA (Hubungan Industri), latihan pekerja -hutan dan isu-isu lain yang dibangkitkan oleh ahli-ahli.

Mesyuarat juga berbincang hal-hal kewangan dan pentadbiran Persatuan dan anak-anak syarikatnya.

Dalam mesyuarat juga, 16 keahlian telah dibatalkan kerana gagal membayar yuran tahunan bagi 2007. Dua permohonan keahlian baru, Timber Joy Sdn Bhd and LCW Wood Processing Sdn Bhd diluluskan. Majlis juga meluluskan permohonan dua syarikat untuk penukaran keahlian dari Ahli Persekutuan dan Biasa kepada Keahlian Senior. ■ The STA Council had its 61<sup>st</sup> Meeting on 14 August 2007 in Wisma STA. This Meeting was presided by Datuk Leo Chai, the Chairman.

The Council in this Meeting had deliberated on several issues of interests to the Members as well as advancing the Association's roles in the forestry and timber industry in Sarawak.

With regards to timber certification, the Association is taking a practical approach to help Members who had their areas certified under the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) Malaysian Criteria & Indicators for Forest Management Certification 2001/2002 or any recognised timber certification scheme. In the last Council Meeting, the Council had approved Terms and Guidelines for the Financial Contribution to Members having achieved certification. The quantum of financial contribution provided by the Association shall be based on the size of the certified Forest Management Unit (FMU). The first financial contribution for such achievement was approved to the first applicant, Samling Plywood (Baramas) Sdn Bhd, the holder of Sela'an Linau FMU.

The Council had also deliberated and resolved to accept the proposal for the engagement of a consultancy to assist Member Companies undergoing the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (2001)/(2002) [MC&I (2001)/(2002)] where an allocated sum was approved for this activity. At the Meeting, it was also proposed that

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Picture: Meeting in progress

#### (Continued from Page 1)

an application by the Association be made to the Sarawak Government for incentives for FMU and members who had achieved forest management certification.

As for skills training, the Council had resolved to appoint a STA Special Training Committee to work on a proposal pertaining to the implementation of forest workers training to satisfy the requirements of Section 54B of the Forest Ordinance. This proposal was also deliberated by the Council.

The Council took note of members' request for the Association to review the logging road charges. A meeting between the logging road owners and users will be arranged soon.

The Legal Advisor of the Association was invited to highlight to the Meeting the proposed amendments to the remainder amendments to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Association, which were tabled in the Annual General Meeting held on 31 March 2005, subject to Unanimous Double Assenting Vote.

A proposed Code of Conduct for the Association was recommended by the Panel Products Committee for deliberation at the Meeting. The Council, under the guidance of the Legal Advisor of the Association, had gone through the proposed Code of Conduct. Subsequently, it was resolved to set up a committee comprising all the nine Category Chairmen and the Legal Advisor of the Association to study the practicality, enforceability and content of the proposed Code of Conduct for the Association and to come out with recommendations for the consideration of the Council.

The Meeting also took note of the work done by the STA Working Group on the Sarawak Labour Ordinance pertaining to the Association's application to the Minister of Human Resources for exemption from seven provisions of the Labour Ordinance (Sarawak Cap 76) of Sarawak (Amendment) Act 2005 for the timber industry. The said seven provisions are described under Section 11, 104, 105, 105A, 105B, 105C and 105D.

Other issues deliberated in the Meeting included the change of name of the STA Labour (Industrial Court) Committee to STA Labour (Industrial Relations) Committee; a proposal for the Association to undertake a pilot study on Carbon Forestry Project and legality issues.

The Meeting also looked into the administrative and financial matters of the Association and its four wholly-owned companies.

The Association, through its whole-owned company STA Mutual Sdn Bhd, had approved a financial contribution to Samling Plywood (Baramas) Sdn Bhd for a Community Development Project involving the construction of water dams / micro-hydro in the Penan settlement areas in the certified Sela'an-Linau FMU.

The Council had endorsed the cancellation of sixteen Members who failed to renew their membership for the year 2007. Two new applications by Timber Joy Sdn Bhd and LCW Wood Processing Sdn Bhd for membership were approved by the Council and were placed as Associate Members.

The Council also approved two applications for conversion from Associate and Ordinary Membership to Senior Membership.

#### STA Panel Products Committee Meeting

Jawatankuasa Hasil-hasil Panel STA telah bermesyuarat pada 13 Ogos 2007 di Wisma STA, Kuching yang dipengerusikan oleh Encik Stephen Lau. Ahli-ahli jawatankuasa bertukar maklumat pasaran hasil-hasil panel dan berbincang keadaan kayu balak di Sarawak. ■ The STA Panel Products Committee met on 13 August 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching.

The Meetina was chaired by Mr. Stephen Lau, the Committee Chairman. Members of the committee exchanged market information, in particular, the Japan market as well as discussed the various issues faced by the panel products industry of the State.



Picture: Meeting in progress, chaired by Mr. Stephen Lau

# Second Meeting of the Forest Management Certification Steering Committee

Mesyuarat Kedua Jawatankuasa Pemandu Pensijilan Pengurusan Hutan telah diadakan pada 15 Ogos 2007 di Wisma STA, Kuching yang dipengerusi oleh Encik Liew Tchin Fah dari Sarawak

Forestry Corporation.

Mesyuarat diberitahu perkembangan terbaru penyediaan pensijilan oleh enam Unit Pengurusan Hutan serta laporan tentang penyediaan panduan oleh unit-unit PABC and AFSID SFC dan STA.

Mesyuarat mencadang supaya taklimat tentang syarat-syarat Kriteria dan Indikator Malaysia (MC&I) 2002 diadakan pada 20 September 2007 di Wisma STA anjuran MTCC. ■ The Forest Management Certification Steering Committee met for the second time on 15 August 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching. Mr. Liew Tchin Fah of Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) chaired the Meeting.

The Meeting was updated on the progress of preparation for certification by the six Forest Management Units (FMU) followed

by the reports on the progress o f guidelines preparation by the Protected Area & Biodiversity Conservation (PABC) and the Applied Forest Science & Industry Development (AFSID) units of SFC and STA. They were also informed on the outcome assessment

of the Anap Muput FMU that was carried out from 23 to 27 July 2007.

At the Meeting, it was resolved to invite the assessors of the Malaysian Timber Certification Council to guide the FMU representatives through the requirements of the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators (MC&I) 2002. It was proposed that this briefing session be held at Wisma STA on 20 September 2007. •



Picture: Meeting in progress

#### Train-the-Trainer Course

■ Skill training is a key component to efforts made by the State to achieve sustainable forest management. As a follow up to the recommendations by the Consultant on training, the Forest Industries Training and Education Council (FIT) of New Zealand, STA Training Sdn Bhd started the Trainer Development Programme (Trainee Trainer Programme), to ensure all the forest workers in the prioritised skills sets are trained by the target date.

As part of the Trainer Development Programme, STA Training Sdn Bhd successfully conducted the *Train-the-Trainer Course* - "*Deliver On-job Training to Adults*" in Regency Plaza, Bintulu from 16 to 19 August 2007. A total of 19 candidates from various Member Companies of STA attended the 4day course. Out of the 19 candidates, 12 were from the treefelling skills set whereas the remaining 7 were from the Log Extraction (tractor) skills set. Upon completing this course, all candidates were given two months to train at least two operators after which, assessors from STA Training Sdn Bhd would carry out an assessment to determine if they are competent as a trainer or not.

This course covered ways to transfer skills to adult learners effectively, incorporating both the element of fun and interactivity in onjob training. This was done through devising new but appropriate activities to deliver training in a more fun, exciting and motivating environment thus enhancing the transfer of knowledge and skills to adult learners, who usually have very short attention span. All the candidates in the course had the opportunity to try out this approach. All candidates were assessed on their presentation skills and theory at the end of the Course.



STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) telah mengadakan Kursus Melatih Pelatih -"Penvampaian Latihan Sambil Bekerja kepada Orang Dewasa" di Bintulu dari 16 hingga 19 Ogost 2007 yang merupakan sebahagian Program Pembangunan Pelatih. Kursus ini dihadiri oleh 19 peserta, 12 dari Kemahiran Menebang Pokok dan 7 dari Kemahiran Pencabutan Kayu Balak. Selepas menamatkan kursus ini, peserta diberi jangkamasa dua bulan untuk melatih sekurang-kurangya dua operator di mana mereka akan dinilai oleh penilai dari STAT untuk mengenalpasti sama ada mereka sesuai menjadi pelatih.







Above left & right: Candidates discussing and presenting the results from their discussion

Left: Candidates attending the Trainthe-Trainer Course

# Signing Ceremony of ePermit License Agreement between STIDC and Dagang Net Technologies Sdn Bhd

Majlis Penandatanganan Perjanjian Lesen ePermit antara Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak dan Dagang Net Technologies Sdn Bhd telah diadakan pada 15 Ogos 2007 di Bandar Baru Tanjung Manis.

Sistem ePermit merupakan sistem permohonan permit melalui internet yang membolehkan pengeksport, pengimport dan agen yang dibenarkan untuk memohon permit 'online' dari pihak pengeluar permit. Kelulusan permohonan juga akan dibuat 'online'.

Dengan penguatkuasaan sistem ini, proses permohonan dan kelulusan akan mengambil masa 30 minit berbanding dengan amalan manual yang mengambil masa 2-7 hari. Pemohon juga boleh membuat permohonan dari mana-mana tempat yang mempunyai kemudahan internet. ■ The signing ceremony for ePermit License Agreement between the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Dagang Net Technologies Sdn Bhd was held on 15 August 2007 at the Community Hall, Bandar Baru Tanjung Manis.

YAB Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, the Chief Minister of Sarawak who is also the Chairman of STIDC's Board of Management, witnessed the signing of this Agreement. The Chief Minister stated that the State Government, through a private company, has invested RM200 million to complement the Federal Government's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development programme. He said the introduction of ePermit system for the export and import of timber and timber products, was appropriate and timely as the system will do away with the old bureaucratic system. Through this system, it is believed that the transaction process will be faster and simple.

The signatories of the Agreement

were STIDC's General Manager, YBhg Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh and the Chairman of Dagang Net Technologies Sdn Bhd, YBhg Datuk Dr. Syed Muhammad Syed Abdul Kadir.

The ePermit System is a webbased permit application system which enables exporters, importers and their authorized agents to apply for permit online from the permit issuing authorities. Approval of the application will also be made online.

The implementation of this ePermit system will shorten time for application and approval processes to only 30 minutes compared to the manual practise of 2-7 days. In addition, applicants may apply anywhere via internet.

STIDC is the pioneering agency in Sarawak implementing ePermit system for import and export of timber and timber products. This system has been on trial run since November 2006 and will process approximately 30,000 permit applications annually.



Picture: Demonstration of the ePermit system

(Photo courtesy of STIDC)

### Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) Consultation under WTO with the Industry

The Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) Consultation under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) with the Industry was organised by the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (KPPK) on 7 August 2007 in Kuala Lumpur. This consultation session was for the Ministry to inform all industries related to rubber, timber and oleochemical regarding the status of negotiation for NAMA under WTO. The Chairman for NAMA had issued draft modalities text, which will form the basis for negotiations in the upcoming September meeting. KPPK also sought the various industries' views with regard to this draft text.

The consultation was attended by approximately 50 representatives from various government agencies and trade associations, e.g., the Malaysian Palm Oil Board, the Malaysian Timber Council, the Malaysian Timber Industry Board, the Malaysian Panel-Products Manufacturers' Association, the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation etc. The Director of the Economic and Rubber Marketing Unit, Rubber Board of Malaysia gave his welcoming remarks. This proceeded with a briefing by Encik Wan Mazlan, the Secretary from the International Relations Division, KPPK, on NAMA.

Encik Wan Mazlan began the briefing by explaining the complex negotiation process that takes place in WTO. From there, he moved on to the products covered by NAMA, of which timber and rubber products are included. The overall approach adopted by Malaysia for this negotiation are:

- To obtain substantial reduction of tariffs for non-agriculture products,
- Ensure the formula for tariff reduction should reflect the principle of less than full reciprocity, and
- Ensure the flexibilities to developing countries are not to be made conditional to the formal.

The calculation for tariff reduction is based on a Swiss formula which has a harmonizing effect, where the higher the tariff, the greater the cut. This formula is applied on a line by line basis, meaning each product as listed in the Harmonised System in the Custom tariff book will be calculated individually. In addition, the formula only deals with bound rate; the maximum rate declared in the Custom's book. Part of the negotiation revolves around the determination of the coefficient rate for the formula. The lower the coefficient is, the lower the reduction in tariffs.

The draft modalities text provided flexibilities for developing countries. Falling into this category, Malaysia has chosen to keep as an exception, tariff lines unbound or not applying formula cuts for up to 5% of NAMA lines. The reasons behind this strategy are:

- 5% (468 lines) is more than enough to cover Malaysia's sensitive lines,
- Unbound lines are usually sensitive lines, and
- Real sensitive lines: 403 lines

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Rundingan Kemasukan Pasaran Bukan Pertanian (NAMA) di bawah WTO degan industri telah diadakan oleh Kementerian PPK pada 7 Ogos 2007 di Kuala Lumpur. Sesi rundingan ini membolehkan Kementerian Perusahaan Perladangan & Komoditi (KPPK) memberitahu semua industri berasaskan getah, kayu kayan dan kimia oleo status rundingan untuk NAMA di bawah WTO. Pengerusi NAMA telah mengeluarkan draf teks modaliti yang akan menjadi asas rundingan dalam mesyuarat yang akan diadakan pada September. KPPK juga menjemput pandangan pihak industri mengenai draf teks ini. Rundingan ini dihadiri oleh

lebih kurang 50 wakil dari pelbagai agensi kerajaan dan persatuan perdagangan. Pengarah Unit Ekonomi dan Pemasaran Getah, Perbadanan Getah Malaysia memberi ucapan aluan. Ini diikuti oleh taklimat oleh Encik Wan Mazlan, Setiausaha dari Bahagian Perhubungan Antarabangsa, KPPK, tentang kerumitan proses perundingan NAMA di bawah WTO. (Continued from Page 6)

including 30 lines of used tyres and plywood. This gives Malaysia additional 65 lines to play with.

Another point to consider in this negotiation is the sectoral approach. This is akin to a free trade agreement within the WTO. In addition to negotiating for tariff reduction line by line, individual countries may opt to adopt the sectoral approach, meaning countries can choose to come together and negotiate matters for a whole sector, e.g., automotive, bicycle, forest products etc.

During the consultative portion of the meeting, the representatives stated the need for the Malaysian team to persuade the developed countries to adopt a higher coefficient rate. As things currently stand, these countries are taking a smaller tariff reduction for their products. Developing countries are currently on the losing end as their tariff reduction rates are higher.

Even though the sectoral approach may be voluntary, the representatives are worried about a stage when it becomes mandatory. This approach becomes mandatory when it acquires critical mass, which as yet, is undefined. To enter into negotiations for a sectoral approach is unnecessary as the focus should be on tariff reduction on a line by line basis. Furthermore, the draft modalities text does not touch on approach. sectoral The representative from MTIB advised the Malaysian team to focus on tariff reductions at the current stage.

### Consultative Panel Meeting between Royal Malaysian Customs and the Private Sector

Kastam Diraja Malaysia dand sektor swasta mengadakan mesyuarat rundingan panel pada 16 Ogos 2007 di Ibu Pejabat Kastam Diraja Malaysia di Kuching.

Mesyuarat yang diadakan dua kali setahun adalah untuk memberi peluang kepada pelbagai pihak untuk menyuarakan isu-isu yang merisaukan dan pada masa yang sama, mengeratkan hubungan kerja.

Royal Malaysian The Customs and the Private Sector had a Consultative Panel Meeting on 16 August 2007 at the Royal Malaysian Customs Headquarters in Kuching. The meeting was chaired by Datuk Md. Hassim bin Pardi, the Director of Customs, Sarawak. The private sector was represented the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Forwarding Agents Association Sarawak, the Sarawak Electronic Company Association, the Association of Malay Importers and Traders of Vehicles Malaysia (PEKEMA) Sarawak Branch, the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers and the Sarawak Timber Association.

The Consultative Panel Meeting between the Royal Malaysian Customs and the Private Sector will be held twice a year, one at the beginning of the year and the other at the end of the year. The purpose of having such a meeting is to provide a platform for the various parties to voice out issues of concern and at the same time, to enhance the working relationship between the Royal Malaysian Customs and the private sector.

In this meeting, some of the issued highlighted were verification on procedures for application for loading on sufferance wharf, issuance of pass by the Forwarding Agents Association Sarawak for agents who are handling matters at the port and an upcoming seminar on forwarding to be organised by the Royal Malaysian Customs in October this year.

### Certificate Course in Forest Plantation Practices for Field Supervisors

The Sarawak Government, through the Forest Department Sarawak, had issued Licenses for Planted Forests (LPF) covering an area of approximately 2.5 million hectares. With such vast area designated for tree plantation, there is a need for a massive number of workers who are competent in all technical skills associated with tree plantation i.e. prepare the site for planting, raise seedlings, transplant the seedlings to the field, maintain the plantation, manage pests, diseases and fire risks and later, harvesting. The first Certificate Course in Forest Plantation Practices for Field Supervisors was conducted from 5 August to 4 October 2002. The objective of this Course is to train and upgrade the skills of Field Supervisors who are involved in supervising field works related to tree plantation establishment. This nineweek Course, which has eight different modules, was jointly organised by the Forest Department Sarawak, the Incorporated Society of Planters and STA. 30 participants had successfully completed this Course, which was designed in such a way that is appropriate for both plantation and forestry staff.

Riam Institute of Technology begin to offer Forest Management courses beginning 2006. The courses are designed to prepare a group of professionals to manage the State's natural and reforestation areas in Sarawak.

In June 2006, the Forest Department Sarawak, the Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Riam Institute of Technology and STA jointly offered the second *Certificate Course in Forest Plantation Practices for Field Supervisors.* This Course, adopting the block-release system of delivery comprising lectures, practicals and examination, was completed in ten months.

During the Graduation Ceremony of the Institute on 7 July 2007, the 19 students who participated in the Course were presented with Certificates. The results of the Course are as follows:

# Certificate Course in Forest Plantation Practices

- 1. Aldrian Anthony
- 2. Dennis Ak Baji
- 3. Elizabeth Ak Ngitar
- 4. Imang Laing
- 5. Jeli Ak Jadam

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Picture: Students who had completed the Course

Kerajaan Sarawak melalui Jabatan Hutan Negeri, telah mengeluarkan Lesen untuk Perladangan Hutan yang meliputi kawasan sebesar 2.5 juta hektar. Dengan kawasan yang luas ini, tenaga kerja yang berkemahiran amat diperlukan. Kursus pertama Sijil dalam Amalan Perladangan Hutan untuk Penyelia Ladang telah diadakan dari 5 Ogos hingga 4 Oktober 2002 dengan tujuan melatih dan melengkapkan penyeliapenyelia ladang dengan amalan dan pengurusan hutan ladang terkini.

Pada Jun 2006, Jabatan Hutan Sarawak, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Institut Teknologi Riam dan STA bersama-sama menawarkan kursus ini. Pada 7 Julai 2007, 19 orang pelajar telah diberi Sijil dalam satu Majlis Penyampaian Ijazah. (Continued from Page 18)

- 6. Lau Ung Dong
- 7. Lee Tien Sing
- 8. Leong King Joo
- 9. Patrick Ayong Ak Michael Junus
- 10.Tang Dung Teck
- 11. Tang Kwong Ying
- 12.Teddy Ak Ganya
- 13.Thai Yuk Tin
- 14.Wong Kee Heng
- 15. Yik Teng Siong
- 16. Yong Vui Shing

#### **Certificate of Attendance**

1. Brewin Ak Ngumbang

- 2. Dennis Ak Lemin
- 3. Mohd Fazli Bin Razali

The Best Student Prize was awarded to Ms. Elizabeth Ak Ngitar from Daiken Sarawak Sdn Bhd.

The Chairman of STA, Datuk Leo Chai, also presented a mock cheque of RM200,000 representing financial contribution from STA Training Sdn Bhd to the Institute for its training activities for the year 2007. •

# New Regulation for Formaldehyde Emission in California, USA

STA menerima maklumat tentang peraturan baru tentang pengeluaran formaldehyde di California, USA dari Majlis Kayu Kayan Malaysia. STA has received the following information from the Malaysian Timber Council and it is reproduced in full for information.

"MTC has just received information from our contact in USA on the new regulation recently passed in the State of California. This new regulation mandates a very low level of formaldehyde emission from all Composite Wood Products (CWP) including hardwood plywood, particleboard and MDF.

The new regulation was adopted on April 2007 and will become effective from 1 January 2009. The enforcement time table for hardwood plywood is as follow:-

- 1. Effective from 1 January 2009: allowable formaldehyde emission reduced to 0.08ppm.
- 2. Effective from 1 January 2010: allowable formaldehyde emission further reduced to 0.05ppm.

Please note that this regulation is extended to cover all CWP sold in California, even if sold as a part of a finished product. This means that this regulation may have impact beyond the borders of California."

#### 2007 Sarawak Nepenthes Summit

Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) dan Persatuan Sains Semulajadi Sarawak menganjurkan Sidang Kemuncak Antarabangsa Periuk Kera Sarawak Pertama di Kuching dari 18 hingga 21 Ogos 2007. Bersamaan dengan persidangan ini, satu ■ The Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and the Sarawak Society for Natural Science (SSNS) hosted the First International Sarawak Nepenthes Summit at the Sarawak Tourism Complex, Kuching from 18 to 21 August 2007. In conjunction with this Conference, a Pitcher Plant Exhibition was held at the same venue from 17 to 19 August 2007. There were approximately 100 international and local participants. It was part of an effort to promote the public awareness of *Nepenthes* to aid their sustainable utilisation and at the same time, an avenue for the dissemination of the results of international research. The Chief Minister's speech at the Opening Ceremony was delivered by the Deputy Chief Minister, Datuk Patinggi

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#### (Continued from Page 19)

Tan Sri Dr. George Chan Hong Nam, the Chief Minister said that Sarawak is a 'living' museum for biodiversity as it is one of the 12 mega biodiversity hotspots in the world. He also urged the scientists and researchers from other countries to collaborate with their counterparts from Malaysia to obtain the best results that would bring benefit to all.

The tropical pitcher plants of the genus *Nepenthes*, a carnivorous plant, are famous for their ability to lure, trap and devour insects and small animals. They have an amazing diversity of pitcher designs and have become the fascination of horticultural enthusiasts and biological researchers worldwide.

Because of the vulnerable status and commercial potential of many of these species, they have also been the focus of sustainable utilization as well as an important icon for conservation efforts in tropical Asia.

This conference covered a wide range of topics on *Nepenthes* including taxonomy, ecology, conservation, horticulture, ethnobotany, and recent discoveries which were presented by both local and international researchers. There were also field trips to Bako National Park and the Bau Limestone Caves to view the many species of *Nepenthes* from Sarawak in the wild.

#### Pameran Periuk Kera juga diadakan dari 17 hingga 19 Ogos 2007.

Persidangan yang dihadiri oleh lebih kurang 100 peserta antarabangsa dan tempatan merupakan usaha untuk mempertingkatkan kesedaran orang ramai tentang Periuk Kera dari segi usaha penggunaan secara mampan serta menjadi pentas untuk menyebar hasil penyelidikan Periuk Kera.

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 Sarawak Timber Association
 Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak

 11 Floor, Wisma STA, 26, Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.

 Tel: ++ (60 82) 332 222
 Fax: ++ (60 82) 487 888, 487 999
 Email: sta@sta.org.my
 Website: www.sta.org.my

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