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STA dan Rakan2

Briefing on Forests Ordinance 2015

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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The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) in collaboration with the Sarawak State Attorney-General's Chambers (SAG) organised a series of Roadshow on Forests Ordinance 2015 from 18 to 21 August 2015 in three (3) zones statewide, i.e. Southern Zone at the Hilton Hotel in Kuching, Central Zone at RH Hotel in Sibu and Northern Zone at Imperial Hotel in Miri respectively.

These half-day Roadshows were attended by representatives from various relevant stakeholders such as the Federal and State Government enforcement agencies and members of Sarawak Timber Association (STA). The Roadshows aimed to introduce the newly implemented Forests Ordinance 2015 (Cap. 71) and provide information as well as a better understanding for all stakeholders in the State who are directly or indirectly involved in the implementation and enforcement of the new ordinance.

The Roadshow in each zone was officiated by a representative from FDS on behalf of the Director of Forests, Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad. The respective representative welcomed all participants to the respective Roadshow and gave a brief introduction on the background of Forests Ordinance 2015 (Cap. 71). The representative also informed the participants of the Roadshows that the Forests Ordinance 2015 (Cap. 71) was adapted from the Forests Ordinance Chapter 126 (1958 Edition) with several improvements to ensure that it remained consistent with current development and requirements. The changes introduced in the new Ordinance are in line with Sarawak State Government's efforts to

eradicate illegal logging and to ensure a more effective environmental conservation as well as to streamline forest management throughout the State.

The speaker, Yang Arif Talat Mahmood Bin Abdul Rashid, Deputy State Attorney General briefed the participants of the Roadshow in the Southern and Central Zones on the new clauses of the Ordinance, the specific measures to deal with illegal logging and other rampant forest offences as well as power of investigation, search, seizure and release of seized machineries and equipment. He also clarified that the enforcement date for the Forests Ordinance 2015 (Cap. 71) was on 1 June 2015.

Mr Mohd Adzrul Bin Adzlan, Legal Officer from SAG briefed the participants of the Roadshows on the offences and penalties introduced under the amended Ordinance. He informed the participants that the penalties imposed are increased and enhanced to include heftier fines and longer jail terms, power to arrest, power to search, power to stop and search conveyances and etc.

The briefing in Northern Zone was conducted by Mr Mohd Adzrul Bin Adzlan and Mr Nur Azhar Bin Bujang, legal officers from SAG.

Technical Working Committee Meeting on Forest Plantation Development No 1/2015

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) called a Technical Working Committee Meeting on Forest Plantation Development No 1/2015 on 4 August 2015 at MTIB office, Kuala Lumpur. The Meeting was chaired by Dr Jalaluddin Harun, Director-General of MTIB.

There were two (2) papers presented in the Meeting. The first paper was on the potential of planting *Eucalyptus* species in Malaysia which was delivered by Mr Wong Siong Kuan, Senior Assistant Director of Forest Department Sarawak cum Chairman of the Technical Working Sub-Committee on *Eucalyptus* species. This paper aimed to recommend *Eucalyptus* as one of the species to qualify for the soft loan financing and was written by the Technical Working Sub-Committee on *Eucalyptus* species, members of which were from Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Yayasan Sabah Group and Sarawak Timber Association (STA).

The development and performance of *Eucalyptus* plantations across the three (3) regions in Malaysia, i.e. Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak as well as the rationale for selecting *Eucalyptus* as one of the planting species, including the financial analysis were presented in the Meeting. The *Ceratocystis* infection on *Acacia*

is of great concern to the Committee as it is one of the driving forces of *Eucalyptus* plantations development especially in Sabah and Sarawak. The Meeting also had an extensive discussion on selecting which *Eucalyptus* species to be included in the recommended list. Members opined that it is hard to determine at this moment as the research is still in the development stage for the desired germplasm. After much deliberation, the Meeting arrived at a compromise where both *Eucalyptus pellita* and *Eucalyptus* hybrids will be included in the recommended list of species for submission to the Steering Committee for further discussion on whether these species qualify for soft loan financing.

The second paper was delivered by Dr Mohd Farid Bin Ahmad from the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). His presentation was on the outcome from the field visit to the *A. mangium* plantations in Sabah Softwoods Berhad (SSB). SSB is facing a serious problem with the *Ceratocystis* infection on *A. mangium*. This paper also covered the symptoms of the disease, SSB current initiative and management strategies, the results of the research and collaboration as well as proposals on prevention and management of *Ceratocystis*.

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Launching of SARAWAK FORESTRY's RIMBA SARAWAK Project

Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Haji Adenan bin Haji Satem, the Chief Minister of Sarawak officially launched the Project on Research for Intensified Management of Bio-Rich Areas of Sarawak (RIMBA SARAWAK) on 20 August 2015 in Kuching, Sarawak.

In his opening speech, the Chief Minister said that Sarawak has a wealth of rich biodiversity resources which should benefit all. He welcomed foreign scientists to carry out research in the State.

The RIMBA SARAWAK Project, initiated by

SARAWAK FORESTRY, would provide a platform for international collaborative research towards practical conservation procedures and management of biodiversity. This project will be carried out at four (4) study sites namely; Nanga Segerak and Nanga Bloh in the Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary, Nanga Delok in the Batang Ai National Park and the Ulu Sebuyau National Park.

The project is designed based on self-financing collaboration with a number of eminent international

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Did you know that.....

The Indian Government has proposed to develop 200 'city forests' in the next five years from 2015, starting with one city forest ranging from 20 to 100 hectares, in cities with municipal corporations on a pilot basis. The Environment and Forests Ministry said that it will provide one time financial support for the project's development under the scheme Nagar Van-Udyan Yojana (which translates to Municipal forest-park plan). The scheme is part of the Centre's effort to protect and increase green cover in urban areas.

Source: The Economic Times, 05 Aug 2015

Did you also know that....

PEFC-certified wood is at the heart of the new Gold-rated Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) building in Berlin, Germany. From wooden doors and furniture fittings, to roofing and wooden windows, wood originating from sustainably managed, PEFC-certified forests can be found throughout the new building. In March 2015, the new BMBF building was awarded the Gold Standard by BNB (Sustainable Building Rating System; a Sustainable Building Guide for Federal Building). To achieve such a high rating, at least 80% of all the wood-based products used in the construction had to originate from a sustainably managed forest and come with a recognized certificate – such as a PEFC.

Source: <http://www.pefc.org>, 8 August 2015



Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Safeguards Workshop

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), as the focal point in the implementation of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) initiative in Malaysia organised a Workshop on REDD+ Safeguards Information System for Sabah and Sarawak on 21 August 2015 at Merdeka Palace Hotel, Kuching. The main objective of this Workshop was to discuss the contents of REDD+ Safeguards Information System. Safeguards are procedures and approaches that will ensure REDD+ mechanism be implemented in a transparent manner with respect to the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and taking into account, the importance of protecting biodiversity.

There are seven (7) safeguards under United Nations Frameworks Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is also known as Cancun safeguards. The safeguards are as follows:

1. Consistency with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;
2. Transparent and effective national forest governance structures taking into account national legislations and sovereignty;
3. Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities
4. Full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities;
5. Conservation of natural forests and biological diversity

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and regional scientific institutions, enabling world-class research expertise to be brought to Sarawak without incurring high cost. The findings of RIMBA SARAWAK researches would help the State in formulating a blueprint for wildlife management and could be the State's conservation research contribution to the international arena.

The Chief Minister also witnessed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between

and enhancement of other social and environmental benefits;

6. Actions to address the risks of reversals; and
7. Actions to reduce the displacement of emissions.

Currently, REDD+ strategy is being developed in Malaysia. It needs to fulfill Malaysia's aspiration to maintain at least 50% of its land mass forested until 2030. Malaysia has also submitted her forest reference level for results based payments to UNFCCC. The proposed forest reference level for year 2006 – 2010 is -179.66 million tonnes of carbon dioxide and 2011 – 2015 is -185.23 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Forest monitoring for short and long term are currently on-going. The biennial geospatial monitoring for forest loss and degradation for Peninsular Malaysia was done since 2008 and expanded to Sabah in 2011 and Sarawak in 2015. It is expected that the national forest inventory will be concluded in 2022.

In Malaysia, REDD+ safeguards are based on existing forest certification system, adapted from the forest certification Principles, Criteria and Indicators. The Malaysia REDD+ Safeguards Information System will be online and the content development includes policies, development plan and laws, methodology, MC&I reporting, REDD+ activities maps, etc. The analysis and summary of information will be done by the NRE.

SARAWAK FORESTRY and 4 renowned international scientific institutions namely; the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum of the National University of Singapore, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh of the United Kingdom as well as the Smithsonian Institution and Wildlife Conservation Society, both of the United States of America during the launching ceremony.



Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak Sarawak Timber Association

11 Floor, Wisma STA, 26, Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.
Telephone: ++(60 82) 332 222 Facsimile: ++(60 82) 487 888, 487 999
E-mail: sta@sta.org.my Website: www.sta.org.my

Eighth Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (APEC EGILAT) Meeting

The Eighth APEC EGILAT meeting was held on 22 – 23 August 2015 at Marco Polo Hotel, Cebu City, Philippines. The Malaysian delegation comprised six representatives, which was led by Ms Kanagadevi Pachiappan, the Principal Assistant Secretary I of Timber, Tobacco and Kenaf Industries Development Division under the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC).

Mr. Demetrio L. Ignacio Jr., the Undersecretary of Department of Environment of Natural Resources (DENR), in his opening remarks highlighted APEC Economies has more than 50% of the world's forests with 60% of the global production of forest products and accounted for 80% of global trade in forest products. He commented that this Meeting would once again strengthen closer relation among APEC Economies in the areas of information sharing, policy dialogues, enhanced capacity, cooperation and collaboration in areas of mutual concerns, towards combating illegal logging and associated trade and promoting trade in legally-harvested timber products.

The Meeting discussed on ways to advance the activities outlined in the EGILAT 2015 Work Plan as well as to further strengthen the EGILAT Multi-Year Strategy

Plan for 2013 – 2017. At the Meeting, a task force was formed to develop the EGILAT 2016 Work Plan.

The Meeting exchanged information on the individual efforts to combat illegal logging and to promote trade in legal timber globally. The Meeting has achieved a milestone since its inception in 2012 by reaching a consensus on the two key guidance documents i.e (i) "Common Understanding" document, describing APEC's agreed position on what constitutes illegal logging and (ii) Timber legality guidance template, helping APEC Economies to detail the regulatory frameworks they have in place.

The Meeting deliberated on the matters to be discussed in the joint meeting with the Sub-Committee on Customs and Procedures on 24 August 2015 as well as with the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group on 25 August 2015, and both were held at the same venue as the EGILAT's Meeting. The Meeting agreed to continue exploring possible opportunities with these two bodies to look for synergies and areas of collaboration to ensure the trading of legal timber.

The next two EGILAT Meetings will be held in Peru in 2016.