



STA dan Rakan2

December 2014

For Private Circulation Only

Issue 198

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 Basic and Working Properties of Planted *Acacia mangium*



Photo (left): A SFC officer explaining to participants on some of the usage of *A.mangium*

Photo (right): Declaring the Seminar open by Dr Alik Djuju;
Photo (below): Participants in the Seminar



Sarawak Timber Association (STA) in collaboration with Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) organised a seminar on Basic and Working Properties of Planted *Acacia mangium* on 11 December 2014 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The Seminar was attended by approximately eighty (80) participants from various government departments and agencies, institutions of higher learning as well as STA members.

The main objective of this Seminar was to disseminate the findings of the research project entitled "Basic and Working Properties of Juvenile *Acacia mangium* Timber

for Product Development in Sarawak", which was funded by STA. The agreement for the research project worth RM190,000, was signed between STA and Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) on 15 June 2011 for a period of three (3) years. FDS then designated SFC's Timber Technology Centre (TTC), Applied Forest Science & Industry Development (AFSID) as its sole and exclusive executing agency to carry out the research activities. This project focused on improved utilisation and value-adding of planted juvenile *Acacia mangium* timber of Sarawak

(Continue on page 2)

Export Requirement for Shipment of Timber Products from Sarawak to Australia

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) received a Circular from Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) dated 19 November 2014 on 3 December 2014 informing us that with effect from 30 November 2014, every shipment of timber products from Sarawak to Australia must have an Export License issued by STIDC. The issuance of Export License, an official document to proof legality of timber products exported from Sarawak, is to fulfill the requirement under the Australia Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013.

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through the systematic evaluation of basic working properties based on International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) testing methods.

The study conducted focused on three (3) age groups i.e. seven (7), ten (10) and thirteen (13) year old *A. mangium* and samples were collected from Sarawak Planted Forest Sdn Bhd in Samarakan, Bintulu. The evaluation on the basic and working properties of *A. mangium* included wood anatomy and quality studies, physical and mechanical properties, sawing and machining properties; accelerated laboratory decay test, treatability, veneer properties, drying characteristics, finger joint as well as laminates and chemical properties.

The opening speech of Datu Haji Ali Yusop, Chief Executive Officer of SFC was read by Dr Alik Duju, manager of SFC. Dr Alik Duju said that the Sarawak State Government is active in promoting and developing planted forests to complement the supply of raw materials from natural forests. As of June 2014, a total of 325,314 hectares have been planted with a variety of fast-growing species, including *A. mangium*, Batai, *Eucalyptus*, kelampayan and others.

He also mentioned that the planted forest project places much emphasis on the planting of *A. mangium* to ensure a sustainable supply of raw materials for wood-based industries. He added that the *Acacia* species can thrive well in our local environment and has a strong, globally-accepted market due to its wide range of applications i.e. plywood, sawn timber, furniture making, pulp and paper. Therefore, Research and Development on *Acacia* species is crucial to support the down-stream

industries while adding value and diversifying the finished products.

This project was successfully completed in September 2014 and upon completion of the project, a book entitled "Basic and Working Properties of Planted *Acacia mangium* in Sarawak" will be published, together with a manual on the species.

The Seminar was divided into two (2) sessions in which a total of nine (9) working papers and a summary of project paper were presented by researchers from SFC.

Session 1

Paper 1: *Density Profile* by Mr Yang Min Chin

Paper 2: *Drying Properties and Drying Schedule* by Mr Tan Jui Liah

Paper 3: *Incising Pre-treatment to Improve Kiln Drying* by Mr John Sammy

Paper 4: *Basic Veneer Properties* by Mr Pek Yaw Kee

Paper 5: *Assessment of Tannins and Sugars of Acacia mangium Bark* by Ms Siti Hanim Sahari

Session 2

Paper 6: *Machining Properties* by Mr Teng Xin Yao

Paper 7: *Finger Jointing and Lamination Properties* by Mr Ting King Boh

Paper 8: *Bonding Properties of Plywood* by Mr Pek Yaw Kee

Paper 9: *Formaldehyde Emission* by Ms Siti Hanim Sahari

Paper 10: *Summary of Research Project* by Dr Alik Duju



Did you know that.....

A memorandum of understanding has been signed by the Cambodian government and the Korea Forest Service (KFS), a government agency of South Korea, to deal with degradation and deforestation in the Southeast Asian nation. Certified emission reduction credits will be obtained by KFS, to be facilitated by Cambodia's experience and expertise of the agency from Indonesian projects. The United Nations-led Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) programs will be jointly undertaken by both countries, based on the agreement.

Source: MTIB News Extracts (Vol.51/12/14)

Did you also know that....

In Indonesia, the procedures for the mandatory local timber legality verification system (SVLK) will be simplified beginning in 2015. The government has agreed to have the procedures simplified after a multistakeholder internal talk was held. The simplified procedures would mean that small- and medium-sized enterprise (SME) owners would have to place supply-conformity self-declarations on overseas shipments.

Source: Jakarta Post, 29 November 2014



Briefing on Cadambatree Project

A Briefing on the progress of the Cadambatree Project was organised by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) in conjunction with the STA Forest Plantation Committee meeting on 3 December 2014 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The Briefing was attended by STA Members, lecturer and postgraduate students from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), researcher from Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and STA Secretariat. The speaker for Briefing was Dr Ho Wei Seng, Senior Lecturer and Researcher from Forest Genomics and Informatics Laboratory (fGiL) of UNIMAS.

The main objective of this Briefing was to disseminate the findings of the 1st year study of a three-year research project entitled "Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) Discovery through Transcriptome Sequencing and Association Mapping of Kelampayan".

This project is undertaken by UNIMAS with the funding from STA. The project aimed to identify and produce high quality Kelampayan tree planting materials that are of faster growth rate, high-yield and better wood quality for the forest plantation industry.

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Briefing on Corporate Integrity Pledge

The Forest Department Sarawak and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) organised the briefing on Corporate Integrity Pledge (CIP) for government agencies and private sector in the State's forestry sector on 18 December 2014 at Kingwood Hotel, Sibu. A total of 100 participants attended this Briefing.

MACC Sarawak Director Mr Badrul Shah Norman, in his speech read out by MACC Sarawak Assistant Director Mr Abdul Rahman Yaacob mentioned that the CIP is one of the elements to curb corruption in the corporate sector. It is the role of the corporate sector to work with and to assist MACC in addressing the issue of corruption as a measure of internal control by organisations. It is also consistent with the requirements of the government to provide a focus for address corruption as a whole, whether in the public or private sector. He also said that corruption undermines good governance, distorts public policy, leads to leakages in the allocation of resources and brings about misery to the community. It can only be controlled through corporation from all in the integrity system, especially the government and private sectors.

The acting Director of Forests, Mr Wan Shardini Wan Salleh in his speech mentioned that the State's Forest Department is geared to combat illegal loggers via land and air surveillance. The Department's

enforcement officers will be equipped with firearms and had undergone training by the police. He also informed the participants that they will receive an additional fund of RM1.5 million from the government next year for the task (combating illegal loggers), to add to the RM1 million they have already received.

During the Briefing, an officer from MACC gave two (2) presentations. In the first presentation, the speaker spoke about the background of MACC and CIP. He also mentioned that the five core principles of CIP were to promote transparency, integrity and good governance; to include anti-corruption elements to strengthen internal procedures; to abide by the anti-corruption laws; to eradicate all forms of corruptions; and to support anti-corruption initiatives by MACC as well as the government. He also shared on the list of CIP signatories and impacts of CIP in organisations.

The second paper talked about the ten integrity initiatives i.e. code of ethics, conflict of interest, whistle blowing policy, policy of referral, specific corruption risk area, corporate social responsibility, leadership, anti-corruption reporting, policy compliance and ethics training, education as well as communication.



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Sarawak Timber Association's Stance on Illegal Logging

The Corporate Integrity Pledge (CIP) signing ceremony by the Government agencies and the private sector from the timber industries to curb illegal logging and corruption in Sarawak as well as to promote good image of the State's timber industry was held on 17 November 2014 in Dewan Santapan of the State Legislative Assembly Complex, Kuching. The event was witnessed by the Chief Minister of Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Haji Adenan Satem.

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) takes the Government's initiatives to curb illegal logging and corruption in Sarawak very seriously and strongly supports the Chief Minister's efforts to ensure proper management of our forests and forest resources. STA also condemns illegal logging activities and any form of corruptions and urged members to use ONLY legal timber for manufacturing and trade to maintain the confidence of buyers when they purchase timber and timber products from Sarawak.

As STA wants to ensure the continuity in the trading of our timber and timber products globally, STA has written a letter to all member companies on 31 December 2014 to remind them to abide by the State's forestry Laws and Regulations, to be mindful of their operations on the ground and to report any illegal logging activities found within their licence areas to the relevant authorities immediately. STA will take action against those members who are involved in illegal logging activities.