



February 2011

For Private Circulation Only

Issue 152

STA dan Rakan2

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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Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) Industry Update

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) held its annual industry update briefing on 21 February 2011 at Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. It was attended by about 50 participants from the timber industry and relevant agencies and the Sarawak Timber Association Secretariat. The same briefing sessions were also held in Sibu and Miri on 22 and 24 February 2011 respectively.

In his welcoming speech, Mr Tagat Jimbat, the Assistant General Manager, Domestic Trade, STIDC, stressed the aim of the briefing session were to inform participants of the current changes so that implementation can be carried out effectively and to get comments and feedback on these issues from participants from the industries. He informed the participants that importers and exporters will be

required to use the online permit application effective 1 April 2011. He added that a one-month grace period was given to ensure smooth implementation of the online permit application system.

The following three papers were presented during the session:

- *ePermit System Attachment Module* by Mr Hishamuddin Abdul Aziz, DagangNet Technologies Sdn Bhd
- *Export Procedures of Restricted Species* by Mr Azahari Omar, Forest Department Sarawak
- *Procedures of Export Permit For Importation Of Log And Timber Products* by Mr Rani Yaman, Plant Protection and Quarantine Division, the Department of Agriculture

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Bridging Local And Global Interests: Integration Of Domestic Timber Markets In FLEGT/VPAs and REDD+

A two-day Seminar entitled "Bridging local and global interests: Integration of domestic timber markets in FLEGT/VPAs and REDD+" was jointly organised by the Tropenbos International (TBI), Wageningen University (WUR), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Chatham House, European Forest Institute (EFI),

European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN), and International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), with financial support from the European Union, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation and the International

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Fund for Agricultural Development, from 17 to 18 January 2011 at the Borschette Centre in Brussels, Belgium.

The objectives of the Seminar were:

1. To share lessons learned and improve understanding on how to address domestic timber production meaningfully within Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs)
2. To discuss the possible impacts of VPAs on local livelihoods
3. To discuss how these experiences relate to the evolving REDD+ process
4. To identify and assess the key issues, conditions and perspectives for synergy between the European Union (EU) Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) and REDD+ to enhance sustainable timber production and local livelihoods

At the setting of the stage session, Mr René Boot of ETFRN/Tropenbos International mentioned that the joint organisers agreed that the domestic timber trade is an important component of forest policies which has not been recognised in international discussions on sustainable forest management, legality and improving the rights of forest-dependent people. He pointed out that the poorly regulated and informal domestic timber markets are a problem as they are associated with social injustices and exploitation, environmental degradation, poor governance, waste resources and loss of potential revenues.

The main focus of the Seminar was on Africa, in particular the three countries of Ghana, Republic of Congo and Cameroon which the EU had separately signed VPA under FLEGT, with the aim to facilitate trade in legal timber and improve forest governance in these three African countries.

There were seven presentations on the first day of the Seminar highlighting the importance of the

domestic timber markets, the European Commission's perspective on VPA's implication for domestic markets and livelihoods, and the strategies for positive change by using VPA as an incentive and its relation to REDD+, formalizing and professionalising small entrepreneurs and promoting participation and finding consensus through informed dialogue based on two-country case studies (Guyana and Ghana).

Mr. Jussi Lounasvuori of the European Forest Institute (EFI) commented that the VPA concept has no standard solution/blueprint for integration of timber suppliers onto domestic markets and hence country-specific solutions to draw on legal framework and consumption and trade patterns will be required.

It was highlighted that coordination between the various policy initiatives (such as FLEGT and REDD+) is required to complement and reinforce each other. The following are three main areas for synergies between FLEGT and REDD+:

- Establishing effective national processes;
- Addressing the challenges of governance; and
- Building robust and effective monitoring, reporting and verification systems.

During the Seminar, the ETFRN News 52 on "Chainsaw milling: supplier to local markets" was presented after the launching in the first day of the Seminar. The 28-article publication, with contributions from about 20 countries in South America, the Caribbean, Asia and Africa, provide an overview of the nature, extent and implications of chainsaw milling as a supplier to local and regional timber markets in various countries.

From this Seminar, the joint organisers hoped to see how domestic timber trade could effectively be addressed within VPAs under FLEGT and REDD+. They believed these two initiatives can address some of the basic causes of deforestation and forest degradation and both attempt to protect

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Did you know that.....

CPET clarified that the Malaysian scheme and remind buyers and suppliers that as a PEFC-endorsed scheme, MTCS is accepted as ensuring legality and sustainability in compliance with the UK government's timber procurement policy. However, only PEFC certified timber should be accepted. CPET should be consulted for non-PEFC certified MTCS timber as it may still only ensure legality.

Source: 21 January 2011 - <http://www.cpet.org.uk/>

Did you also know that....

China's national forest certification scheme expects to certify 2.67 million ha of forests in 2011. An agreement between the Beijing Zhonglin Tianhe Forest Certification Centre and the Yichun Forest Authority commits to certifying all of Yichun's 15 forest management units. Last year 700,00ha of forests were certified under the China Forest Certification Scheme. CFCC has already indicated that it intends to apply for PEFC membership in 2011.



Source: TTJ news update 31 January 2011

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global public goods by setting the stage for transparent forest management in a regulated environment.

This Seminar attracted more than 100 participants

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Forest Sustainability (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd

Forest Sustainability (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd (FSM) formerly known as Forest Stewardship (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd was formed on 5 January 2007

The objectives of the FSM are:

- to provide a mechanism to monitor the development and implementation of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) - related forest certification and responsible forestry in Malaysia by making FSC more accessible and locally appropriate;
- to encourage and support local participation;
- to develop Malaysian Forest Stewardship Standards;
- to guide the certification bodies to carry out their work;
- to facilitate early identification of problems that may occur concerning evaluations or certification operations; and
- to contribute to the certification body's dispute resolution mechanism.

FSM is currently under-going restructuring in

comprising policy makers from the European Commission and the various producers (mainly from African countries) and consumer countries, NGOs, professionals and researchers involved in FLEGT and REDD+.

order to comply with FSC International (FSC IC).

The main mission of FSM is to develop and provide governance for FSC forest certification scheme in Malaysia. When established, it will be an alternative certification scheme to forest managers in Malaysia for sustainable forest management.

FSM and HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad had embarked a partnership project on 13 October 2010 to develop FSC-accredited National Standards for Natural Forest Certification which is applicable to Malaysia. Since then a number of important events had been held including a dialogue session with the representatives from FSC IC on 10 December 2010 and the Board of Directors' Meeting of FSM on 10 January 2011.

The work of FSM is supported by its National Working Group (NWG) and 3 Regional Consultative Fora (RCF).

STA Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on:

Date: 31 March 2011
 Time: 10.30am
 Venue: Level 4, Wisma STA
 26 Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim
 93450 Kuching

Registration shall start at 9.00am. The STA Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) will be held immediately after the AGM. For further information, please contact the STA Secretariat.



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ITTO Project



Pictures: (Top) Participants having discussion and (Right) Meeting in progress



The Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), in partnership with Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) is proposing a follow-up study for the ITTO project PD306/04(1), which will be on the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) based on initiatives for carbon footprint reduction for timber products from Malaysia.

The Malaysian Wood Industries Association (MWIA) and STA have been invited to join SFC and FRIM at Sunway Hotel, Penang from 16 – 18 February 2011, in drafting the full proposal for submission to ITTO.