



# STA dan Rakan2



February 2010

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Issue 140

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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## SUHAKAM ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION



Picture: Participants in the roundtable discussion

The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) organised a Roundtable Discussion (RTD) on Sustainable Access to Clean Water in Sarawak on 28 January 2010 at the Pullman Hotel, Kuching.

Participants in the RTD included representatives from various government agencies such as the Ministry of Land Development Sarawak, Ministry of Planning and Resource Management, Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB), State Planning Unit (SPU), Land Custody and Development Authority (PELITA), Sarawak Land Consolidation and

Rehabilitation Authority (SALCRA), Sarawak Timber Industry and Development Corporation (STIDC), and logging and plantation companies.

The objectives of the RTD were as follows:

1. To address the access to water as a human rights agenda;
2. To obtain an overview of access to water in Sarawak - factors and challenges; and
3. To make recommendations to improve fresh water supply in Sarawak

In his opening speech, YBhg Dr. Mohammad Hirman Ritom Abdullah, Commissioner,

SUHAKAM Malaysia spoke on the concerns for rural areas in Sarawak, which are still dependant on traditional sources of water supply, namely the river, water catchments and gravity feed systems. This concerns SUHAKAM as they believe that every human being has the same rights to access clean water.

He also added that exploitation of natural resources through logging activities and oil palm plantations have also impacted on local communities in these areas. Although SUHAKAM is not condemning these types of activities, he believes that there is a need for a proper system to be put in place to maintain the continuity of this supply. Hence, SUHAKAM is providing a platform/avenue for the public to address this issue.

The papers presented during the RTD were as follows:

- *Access to Water: A Human Rights Perspective* by Mr. Asfaazam Kasbani of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

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## MTIB'S TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR 2010

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) is offering the following training programmes in 2010. The programmes will be conducted at two venues, namely the Wood Industry Skills Development Centre (WISDEC) located in Kompleks Perabot Olak lempit, Banting, Selangor and WISDEC Sabah in Kota Kinabalu. For further information, please visit MTIB's website at [www.mtib.com.my](http://www.mtib.com.my) or contact:

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### Did you know that...

According to a data from the Indonesian Association of Wood Panel Companies, plywood production in Indonesia during 2009 stood at 2,095,470 cubic m (cu m). Around 26 to 36 units of factories contributed to the plywood production in 2009. The plywood production in 2009 was actually a decline from 2,849,280 cu m produced in 2008, which involved between 27 to 47 factories.

Source:  
Bisnis Indonesia  
12 Feb 2010

### WISDEC Banting

No	Course	Duration	Date	Fee (RM)
1	Application of CAD in Furniture Design (Basic)	4 days	12 – 15 April	700
2	Furniture Making (Garden Furniture)	4 days	20—23 April	700
3	Timber Drying	15 days	3 – 21 May	1500
4	The Malaysian Grading Rules for Sawn Harwood Timber 2009 Edition	3 days	4 – 6 May	525
5	Application of CAD in Furniture Design (Advance)	4 days	10 – 13 May	700
6	CNC Router Technology	4 days	14 – 17 June	700
7	Safety and Health in the Wood Based Industry	3 days	22 – 24 June	525
8	Interior Design (Furniture)	5 days	5 – 9 July	875
9	Financial Management (Budgeting for Better Planning and Management)	2 days	12—13 July	350
10	Interior Decorator	5 days	19 – 23 July	875
11	Furniture Making (Sofa)	4 days	5 – 8 Oct	700
12	Forest Plantation	3 days	26 – 28 Oct	525
13	Material Planning and Inventory Control	2 days	9 – 10 Nov	350

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### WISDEC Sabah

No	Course	Duration	Date	Fee (RM)
1	Saw Doctoring	3 days	5 – 7 April	525
2	The Malaysian Grading Rules for Sawn Harwood Timber 2009 Edition	3 days	23—25 April	525
3	Application of CAD in Furniture Design (Basic)	4 days	4 – 7 May	700
4	Wood Finishing Technology	4 days	11 – 14 May	700
5	Safety and Health in the Wood Based Industry for Supervisors	4 days	14 – 17 June	700
6	Wood Identification	3 days	15 – 16 June	525
7	The Malaysian Grading Rules for Sawn Harwood Timber 2009 Edition	3 days	22 – 24 June	525
8	Technology and Operation of Wood Working Machine – CNC Router	4 days	6 – 9 July	700
9	Interior Design (Furniture)	4 days	12 – 15 July	700
10	Factory Operation Management	4 days	3 – 6 August	700
11	Product Costing and Budgeting	3 days	25 – 27 Oct	525
12	Furniture Making (Sofa)	5 days	23 – 26 Nov	875

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#### Malaysia

- *Access to Water: Issues and Challenges in Sarawak* by Mr. Danien Rangu of Water Supply Branch, Public Works Department (PWD), Sarawak
- *Environmental Protection Water Resources* by Mr. Peter Sawal of Natural Resources and Environmental Board (NREB)
- *Access to Water:*

*Role of the Federal Agency* by Mr. Mohd. Fadli of the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development

- *Access to Water: Civil Society Perspective* by Ms. Madline Lengan of Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM)

There was also an open discussion among the community leaders after the presentations. The community leaders who were present were Penghulu Haji Bujang Sum Haji Darahim from Kawasan Pantai Damai,

Kuching, Penghulu Apek Bala from Baram, Penghulu Musa Bakri from Kampung Seberang, Mukah and Penghulu Sumpeng Anak Jinggai from Song, Kapit.

They shared their experiences on the issues of water resources/supply in their respective areas and how logging and plantation activities affect the water quality.

An open discussion session among the speakers and participants followed, after the presentations.

### Did you also know that...

International Paper and Mead Westvaco are considering replacing native pine trees with genetically modified (GM) eucalyptus trees which produces more wood in less acreage, using a technique developed by ArborGen, a biotech company. ArborGen uses a fertility control technology to restrict the spread of pollen and seeds to prevent the GM trees from being invasive. However, a recent article published in Scientific American warns that the fertility method has not been tested in multi-year trials and more research needs to be undertaken. The concept of GM trees is new as far as the US is concerned although it is known elsewhere in the world, including Brazil.

Source:  
iTWire  
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## Printed Matter



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## STA CHINESE NEW YEAR OPEN OFFICE 2010



*Picture: (Top) STA Council Members and invited guests tossing 'yee sang' and (Right) Guests enjoying lunch*



STA had its Chinese New Year Open Office on 4 February 2009 at Wisma STA, Kuching. This annual event of the Association is a gesture of appreciation to associates who had worked closely with the Association throughout the year.

Around 200 guests from the various government agencies and the private sector attended this gathering. Guests were entertained to a lion dance and performance followed by a welcoming address by the Chief Executive Officer of STA, Dr Lee Hua Seng.

A symbolic tossing of 'Yee Sang' was performed by STA Council Members and some invited guests to mark the start of the luncheon.