

STA Review

Volume 221

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Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association

February 2012



Cethosia hypsea hypsea

(The Malayan Lacewing)

This species can be found in sun-lit paths along the forest edges.

Photo courtesy of Anna Photo Studio



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NATIONAL

Inception workshop on REDD+: Building Capacity for Decision Makers and the way forward



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MOU

Signing and Postgraduate Diploma Certificate Presentation Ceremonies



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STAM

1st Board of Honorary Advisers Meeting

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TIMBER SPECIES:



Trade Name: Jelutong
Botanical Name: *Dyera* spp.
Family: Apocynaceae
Classification: Light Hardwood

Suitable for carving, battery separators, ladies shoe soles, pencil and tooth pick manufacture

Photo courtesy of Forest Department Sarawak

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NATIONAL INCEPTION WORKSHOP ON REDD+: BUILDING CAPACITY FOR DECISION MAKERS AND THE WAY FORWARD

A two-day inception workshop on the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, plus conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) was organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) with the support of the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department Malaysia (EPU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Malaysia from 13 to 14 February 2012 at the Sunway Putra Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

The workshop was attended by more than two hundred (200) participants from relevant government ministries/departments/agencies, research institutions, academia, trade associations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The objectives of the workshop were to disseminate information relating to national activities on REDD+ Readiness in Malaysia; to learn from regional REDD+ Initiatives; to understand REDD+ Safeguard standards and procedures; and to include national stock taking on the on-going actions that can be incorporated into the REDD+ Strategy.

Datuk Dr Abdul Rahim, the Deputy Secretary General (Environmental Management) of NRE in his welcoming address mentioned that Malaysia is amongst the developing countries currently in the readiness phase where policies and governance are being reviewed as well as action plans, baselines and pilot projects are being established. He further informed participants of the workshop that the NRE is developing the REDD+ Strategy and it would be a transparent process where all relevant stakeholders would be engaged and consulted. He hoped that the REDD+ implementation in Malaysia would enhance the on-going best practices in forest management and conservation efforts.

A total of eighteen (18) papers were presented at the workshop highlighting regional experiences in developing REDD+ actions in Indonesia and Cambodia; lessons learned through United Nations REDD (UN REDD) Programme in Asia Pacific; insights on developing a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system; REDD+ safeguards from the perspective of Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC); and Malaysia's status included in REDD+ framework strategy and assess and benefit sharing of biological resources.

NRE, the executing agency for Malaysia, together with the UNDP Malaysia have undertaken the project on REDD+ Readiness in October 2011 and it is expected to be completed in October 2013. The key result area of the project is towards improved quality of life through sustainable environmental management.

The project targets to achieve the following three (3) outputs; to be endorsed by the National REDD+ Committee

- National Institutional Framework for REDD+ .
- National Policy and Legal Framework for Generation of Revenues from Forest Carbon and Ecosystem Services.
- Sustainable Funding Mechanism for REDD+ Implementation.

Satu bengkel dua hari permulaan yang Pelepasan Mengurangkan dari Pembasmian hutan dan Degradasi Hutan ditambah pemuliharaan, pengurusan hutan yang mampan dan peningkatan stok karbon hutan (REDD+) telah dianjurkan oleh Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar (NRE) dengan sokongan daripada Unit Perancang Ekonomi Malaysia Jabatan Perdana Menteri (EPU) dan Program Pembangunan Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (UNDP) Malaysia dari 13 hingga 14 Februari 2012 di Hotel Sunway Putra, Kuala Lumpur.

天然资源与环境部(NRE)在首相署经济策划局(EPU)和马来西亚联合国发展计划(UNDP)协助下于2012年2月13日至14日假吉隆坡双威太子酒店举办为期两天的减少毁林和森林退化所生产的排放量，加上保护，持续性森林管理及提高森林碳储量(REDD+)首届工作坊。

这工作坊旨在告知有关马来西亚REDD+准备活动资讯；向区域REDD+倡议学习；明白REDD+保障标准和程序；以及包括将现有的国家库存盘点融入REDD+策略。

NRE（环境管理）副秘书长，拿督阿都拉欣博士（译音）在致欢迎词提到在发展中国家当中，马来西亚目前处在准备阶段。他希望实施REDD+将提高现有最佳实践的森林管理和保育工作。

工作坊共呈现18张论文。作为马来西亚执行机构代表，NRE联同马来西亚UNDP已在2011年10月开始进行REDD+准备计划。这项计划估计会在2013年10月完成。该计划关键成果领域旨于通过持续性环境管理改善生活素质。



Photo: Workshop in progress

MOU SIGNING AND POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA

On 15 February 2012, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the Sarawak Timber Association (STA) and Lincoln University, was held at Wisma STA in Kuching. The event was witnessed by Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hassan, the Minister of Resource Planning and Environment II cum Public Utilities cum Industrial Development and was attended by STA Council members, STA Secretariat Staff, officials from the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and graduates.



Photo: Exchanging of MoU

In this MoU, both parties agreed:

1. To continue to use their best endeavour to promote, foster and enhance the good relationship between both parties for the purpose of promoting, enhancing and advancing the Collaborative Education Project; and
2. To continue to use their best endeavour to promote, enhance and advance the Collaborative Education Project with the aim of taking the success to another level.

In his welcoming speech, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, Chairman of STA, said the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forestry Management) (PGDip) course was developed as part of the efforts in upgrading the knowledge and skills among logging managers in implementing the sustainable forest management plans.

Associate Professor Dr Hugh Bigsby, Head of Department of Accounting, Economics and Finance on behalf of Lincoln University Christchurch, in his speech said for the forest industry, the practice of tropical forestry is in a period of immense change and the industry is the focus of a great deal of outside attention. To a large extent, this is reflected in the importance of forest certification in assuring buyers that the timber they use meets their expectations of forest management. Hence, the PGDip course is uniquely positioned to bring the necessary skills to make this transition.

In the PGDip Certificate Presentation ceremony that followed after the MoU signing ceremony, eight (8) graduates from the second cohort of students received their certificates. Six (6) of these graduates had been capped in Lincoln University in Christchurch, New Zealand on 5 June 2011. Two (2) students were awarded the Top Student Awards; Mr Tiong Hung Chiong from Tropical Sawmill was the top student overall for the Class of 2011 and Mr Kong Muk Shui from Grand Perfect Sdn Bhd was the top student without a First Degree for the class of 2011.

The third cohort of students who had enlisted in this Postgraduate Diploma will commence their studies in April 2012.

本会与纽西兰林肯大学于2012年2月15日假STA大厦签署一项备忘录（MoU）并颁发研究生文凭证书。策划与资源管理第二部长暨公用事务暨工业发展部长，拿督斯里阿旺登雅（译音）出席见证这事项。

大会主席，邦曼查拿督黄启曙在致欢迎词说，研究生应用科学文凭(持续性热带森林管理) 作为培训木材采伐公司经理在实施持续性森林管理计划方面的知识和技能。

林肯大学会计学，经济学和金融学系主任，休·毕史彼副教授（译音）代表林肯大学在致词说，森林业特别是在热带森林认证管理方面正经历巨大变革的时期。这反映在确保买家使用的木材符合森林管理。因此，此研究生文凭是适当的优势技能转变方式。

第二届8名毕业生在证书颁发仪式中领取毕业证书。第三届学生将在2012年4月起开始他们的学习。

MA CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONIES



Photo: Group photo



Photo: Graduating students

Pada 15 Februari 2012, satu majlis menandatangani perjanjian Memorandum Persefahaman (MoU) antara Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) dan Lincoln University, serta majlis Penyampaian Sijil Diploma Pascasiswazah telah diadakan di Wisma STA di Kuching. Majlis tersebut disaksikan oleh Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hassan, Menteri Perancangan Sumber dan Alam Sekitar II merangkap Menteri Kemudahan Awam merangkap Menteri Pembangunan Industri.

Dalam ucapan aluannya, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, Pengerusi STA, berkata kursus Diploma Pasca Siswazah Sains Gunaan (Pengurusan Hutan Tropika Mampan) (PGDip) telah dibangunkan sebagai sebahagian daripada usaha dalam meningkatkan pengetahuan dan kemahiran di kalangan pengurus pembalakan dalam melaksanakan rancangan pengurusan hutan yang mampan.

Profesor Madya Dr Hugh Bigsby, Ketua Jabatan Perakaunan, Ekonomi dan Kewangan bagi pihak Universiti Lincoln Christchurch, dalam ucapannya berkata bagi industri hutan, amalan perhutanan tropika adalah dalam tempoh peralihan yang amat ketara dan ini telah ditunjukkan melalui kepentingan pensijilan hutan untuk meyakinkan para pembeli bahawa kayu balak yang digunakan adalah memenuhi keperluan pengurusan hutan. Oleh itu, kursus PGDip adalah sesuatu yang unik untuk memberikan tenaga mahir untuk melaksanakan peralihan ini.

Semasa majlis Penyampaian Sijil PGDip, lapan (8) graduan daripada kumpulan kedua pelajar telah menerima sijil mereka.

Kumpulan ketiga pelajar yang telah mendaftar dalam Diploma Pascasiswazah ini akan memulakan pengajian mereka pada April 2012.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENTS	VENUE	ORGANISER
3 to 5 April 2012	Dubai WoodShow 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Center, Dubai, United Arab Emirates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Strategic Marketing and Exhibitions
22 to 24 May 2012	International Union for Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Conference Forests for People	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Austrian Alps in a Tyrolean Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none">University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) Vienna, Department of Landscape, Spatial and Infrastructure Sciences
4 to 6 October 2012	MTC Global WoodMart 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Malaysian Timber Council (MTC)

STAM 1ST BOARD OF HONORARY ADVISERS MEETING

Pursuant to Article 93A of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM), the Board of Honorary Advisers has been established to guide the Company on matters with regard to the awarding of scholarships and advising on corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects and donations to charitable organisations in accordance to its objects as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of STAM. The Board of Honorary Advisers will also play a role in deliberating on any issues or matters that have been referred to by the Council of the Sarawak Timber Association (STA) and to advise the Council on the decisions to be made or the policy to be followed by STAM from time to time.

The members of the Board of Honorary Advisers met for the first time on 14 February 2012 at Wisma STA, Kuching to deliberate on STA Scholarship applications and STA financial contributions as well as to discuss on suitable corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects.

The Board of Honorary Advisers is constituted and made up of the current five (5) principal office bearers of the STA, two (2) Advisors and six (6) Permanent council members from each of the six Group of Companies. The members of the Board of Honorary Advisers are:-

1. Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, STA Chairman
2. Tan Sri Datuk Sir Tiong Hiew King, STA Vice Chairman
3. Tan Sri Datuk Ling Chiong Ho, STA Vice Chairman
4. Dato Henry Lau Lee Kong, STA Honorary Secretary
5. Philip Choo Kwong Hui, STA Honorary Treasurer
6. Tuan Haji Ali Yusop, Director of Forests / Tuan Haji Sapuan Haji Ahmad (alternate) – Forest Department Sarawak
7. Datu Haji Sarudu Hj Hoklai, General Manager/ Tagat Jimbat (alternate) – Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation
8. Vincent Lau Lee Ming / Adeline Lau Kor See (alternate) – KTS
9. Tan Sri Datuk Sir Tiong Hiew King / Lee Suk Wee (alternate) – Rimbunan Hijau
10. Yaw Chee Chik / Yong Nyan Siong (alternate) – Samling
11. Tan Sri Datuk Ling Chiong Ho / Ling Chiong Sing (alternate) – Shin Yang
12. Datuk Abdul Hamed Sepawi / Dato Wong Kuo Hea (alternate) – Ta Ann
13. Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik / Patrick Wong Haw Yeong (alternate) – WTK



Photo: Meeting in progress



Photo: STAM Board of Honorary Advisers

Menurut Artikel 93A Memorandum dan Artikel Persatuan STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM), Lembaga Penasihat Kehormat telah ditubuhkan untuk membimbing dan membantu Syarikat mengenai perkara-perkara seperti pemberian biasiswa dan mempertimbangkan serta memberikan nasihat tentang projek-projek tanggungjawab sosial korporat (CSR) dan derma kepada pertubuhan kebajikan mengikut matlamatnya seperti yang dinyatakan dalam Memorandum dan Artikel Persatuan bagi STAM.

Ahli-ahli Lembaga Penasihat Kehormat bertemu buat kali pertama pada 14 Februari 2012 di Wisma STA, Kuching.

STA Mutual 有限公司(STAM)根据该公司章程第93A条文下成立名誉顾问局。该局遵照公司章程的宗旨，主要指导和协助STAM在颁发奖学金事宜，考虑和咨询企业社会责任(CSR)计划以及慈善捐款。

该局于2012年2月14日假古晋STA大厦召开首届会议。

STA FOREST PLANTATION COMMITTEE MEETING AND DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF WEIGHT-VOLUME CONVERSION STUDY

The members of STA Forest Plantation Committee and the representatives of Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) met on 27 February 2012 at the New World Suites in Bintulu to discuss the results of Weight-Volume Conversion Constant study for the purpose of assessing royalty and cess for timber harvested from planted forests.

Mr Semilan Ripot of SFC presented on the results from the studies done on the weight-volume conversion for *Acacia mangium* conducted by Dr Alik Duju of SFC, Daiken Sarawak Sdn Bhd and Forest Department Sabah. He subsequently proposed the conversion factor of 1 metric ton (MT) to 1.13 m³ to be used in Sarawak.

Two reports received from SFC entitled *Monitoring of the Density and Moisture Content for Acacia mangium and "Superbulk"* and the revised Project Proposal on *Green Density & Moisture Content of Acacia mangium and "Superbulk"* were presented at the meeting.

Other matters discussed during the meeting included the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for harvesting of Forest Plantation where SFC presented their proposed SOPs for Pre-Harvesting under Licence for Planted Forests (Planted Coupes), which will be field-tested before being implemented.

On the issue of Removal Pass, the meeting agreed that the Blanket Removal Pass for specific amount of logs to be transported in a fixed number of trips will be issued in advance, in which the period of validity of the passes will be determined by SFC and is subject to be extended on a request basis.

The STA Forest Plantation Committee then convened a meeting in the afternoon on the same day and discussed matters related to the issues encountered in tree planting; tax incentives for Forest Plantation Development; field visits; the Research Co-operative Proposal; Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs); request for R&D funding for Kelampayan Germplasm Project at Sibiyu Research Station; matters regarding the movement of workers between companies; biometrics registration of foreign workers conducted by the Immigration Department; and the study on *Acacia mangium* by SFC.

Ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa Perladangan Hutan Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) dan wakil-wakil dari Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) telah bertemu pada 27 Februari 2012 di New World Suites di Bintulu untuk membincangkan hasil kajian Malar Penukaran Berat-Isi padu bagi tujuan penaksiran royalti dan ses untuk kayu kayan yang dituai dari hutan ladang.

Encik Semilan Ripot dari SFC menyampaikan hasil kajian yang dibuat pada Penukaran Berat-Isi padu bagi *Acacia mangium* yang dijalankan oleh Dr Alik Duju dari SFC, Daiken Sarawak Sdn Bhd dan Jabatan Hutan Sabah. Dia kemudiannya mencadangkan supaya faktor penukaran 1 metric ton (MT) kepada 1.13 m³ digunakan di Sarawak. Dua laporan yang diterima dari SFC yang bertajuk "*Pemantauan Ketumpatan dan Kandungan Kelembapan bagi Acacia mangium dan "Superbulk"*" dan juga kajian semula *Projek Cadangan Ketumpatan Hijau & Kandungan Kelembapan bagi Acacia mangium dan "Superbulk"* juga dibentangkan pada mesyuarat tersebut.

Jawatankuasa Perladangan Hutan STA kemudiannya mengadakan suatu perjumpaan di petang pada hari yang sama.

STA manusia造林小组委员于2012年2月27日假民都鲁新世界酒店会晤砂拉越林业机构(SFC)和砂州森林局(FDS)代表商讨关于体积重量转换常数研究结果以评核采伐于植林的木材税率和版税。

SFC代表, 森米兰先生(译音)汇报有关SFC阿立博士(译音)连同砂拉越大建有限公司及沙巴森林局所进行的金合欢树体积重量转换研究结果。他接着提议砂州的转换因数由每吨(MT)转换为1.13立方公尺。

SFC也呈现两份报告, 即监测金合欢树和 "*Superbulk*" 的密度和含水量及金合欢树和 "*Superbulk*" 的绿密度和含水量修改计划书。

STA人工造林小组委员会也在当天下午召开会议。



The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) held its Annual Open Office on 1 February 2012 at Wisma STA, Kuching. This event is held in appreciation of the support and assistance of STA business associates and friends had rendered to staff/ members of the Association throughout the year.

About 200 invited guests from government agencies and departments and as well as business associates attended the function. The event started with a lion dance performance followed by a symbolic tossing of 'Yee Sang' by STA Council members and invited guests to mark the start of the luncheon.



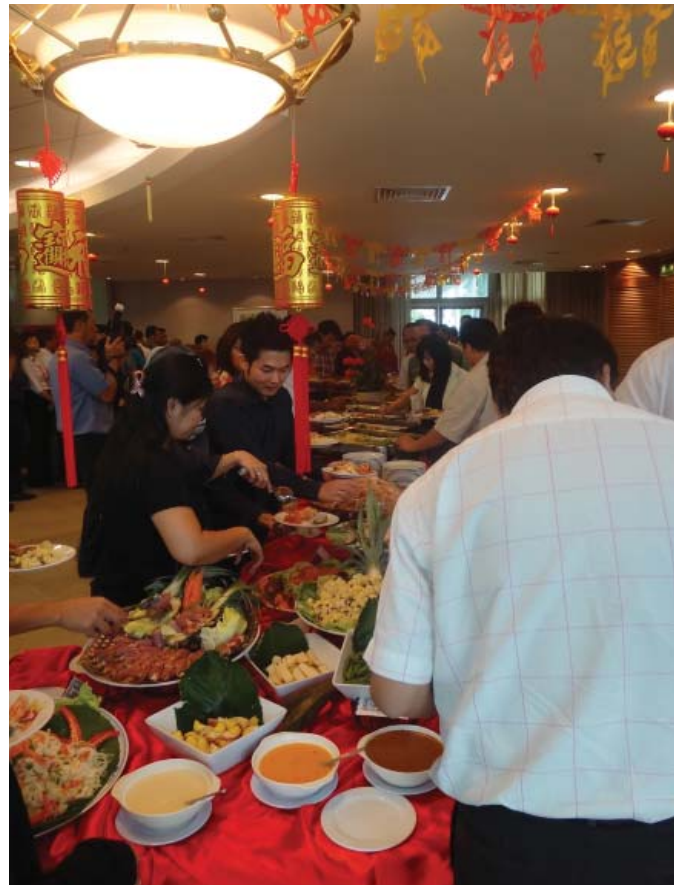
Persatuan Kayu Kayan telah mengadakan Majlis Pejabat Terbuka Tahunan pada 1 Februari 2012 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Majlis ini telah diadakan secara tahunan bagi memberikan penghargaan kepada rakan-rakan sekerja yang bekerja rapat dengan Persatuan sepanjang tahun.

Seramai 200 tetamu jemputan dari agensi dan jabatan kerajaan serta rakan kerja rapat hadir pada majlis tersebut. Majlis dimulakan dengan persembahan tarian singa diikuti dengan julangan simbolik 'Yee Sang' oleh ahli Majlis STA dan tetamu jemputan sebagai tanda bermulanya majlis tersebut.

STA于2012年2月1日在STA大厦举办年度新春午餐聚会酬谢过去一年里一直与本会有着密切工作联系各界人士。

共有200位来自各相关政府及私人界的商务伙伴出席这项聚餐。在餐宴开始前，本会理事会和特邀嘉宾进行捞生仪式并且与嘉宾们一同观赏舞狮表演。





THE SARAWAK FURNITURE INDUSTRY



Photo: Seminar in progress

The Sarawak Furniture Industry Development Seminar 2012: Transformation of Raw Materials, Innovation, Quality and Design of Furniture towards the Global Market was held from 14 to 16 February 2012 at Riverside Majestic Hotel in Kuching. The three-day seminar was jointly organised by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS).

The Seminar was attended by over 165 participants from the furniture industry and various stakeholders which included researches and forestry-related agencies. The Seminar served as a networking and information sharing platform to prepare the furniture industry in meeting both the domestic and global market requirements.

The welcoming speech was delivered by the Chairman of Malaysia Forestry Research and Development Board (MFRDB), Puan Hajah Nancy Haji Shukri, followed by opening remarks from the General Manager STIDC, Datu Haji Sarudu Haji Hoklai and the Deputy Vice Chancellor of UNIMAS, Professor Dr Peter Songan. The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas then delivered his official speech and officiated the seminar.

The Seminar then proceeded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FRIM, STIDC and UNIMAS to mark the collaboration in the areas of furniture design and development, training, technical services and the setting up of a furniture testing laboratory in Sarawak. The MoU was signed by the Director-General of FRIM, Dato' Dr Abd Latif Mohmod on behalf of MFRDB, Datu Haji Sarudu Haji Hoklai and Professor Dr Peter Songan, witnessed by Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas.

The Seminar was divided into five (5) sessions with the respective papers presented as follows:

Session 1: Trade Barriers in Furniture Export Markets

The session was chaired by Dr Tan Yu Eng from FRIM with three papers presented:

1. *Trend of Export & Import of Malaysian Wood-based Industries* by the Director of Trade Development, Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB)
2. *New Raw Material for Wood Products* by Dato Dr Hajjah Marzalina Mansor, FRIM
3. *Green Furniture Manufacturing* by Dr Gan Kee Seng, FRIM

Session 2: Raw Material Supply

The session was chaired by Encik Awang Mentali from STIDC with two papers presented:

1. *Challenges faced by Furniture Industry in Sarawak* by Mr Nicholas Andrew Lisse, STIDC
2. *Making Innovation your Furniture Business Advantage* by Dr Tan Yu Eng, FRIM

Session 3: Challenges Faced by Furniture Manufacturers

The session was chaired by Prof Madya Dr Haji Khairul Aidil Azlin Abd Rahman from UNIMAS with three papers presented:

1. *Experience of a Furniture Manufacturer in Sarawak* by Mr Lai King Min, Sarawak Furniture Industry Association (SFIA)
2. *Challenges as a Furniture Entrepreneurs in the Export Market* by Tuan Haji Ahmad Kamal Chik, Puncak Bumi Utama Sdn Bhd
3. *Requirements for Furniture Testing in Compliance with International Standards* by Tuan Haji Mohd Arshad Saru, FRIM

Session 4: Design and Testing Requirements

The session was chaired by Dr Hamdan Husain from FRIM with three papers presented:

1. *Importance of Design and Ergonomics in Furniture* by Prof Madya Dr Haji Khairul Aidil Azlin, UNIMAS and Encik Abudl Hamid Saleh, FRIM
2. *Innovations in Furniture Industry* by Puan Sarimah Mohamad Sabudin, Furniture Industry Technology Center (FITEC)
3. *Supply of Logs for the Development of Furniture Industry in Sarawak* by Encik Abdul Wahab Haji Bujang, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS)

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR 2012

Session 5: Financial and Economic Incentives

The session was chaired by Encik Mahmudin Saleh from FRIM with three papers presented:

1. *Financial Support for Timber Industry* by Puan Seri Nani Rahayu Md Yusup, SME Bank
2. *Incentives for Furniture Entrepreneurs* by Encik Zakaria Kamis, Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA)
3. *Contributions of Timber Industry to the State Economy* by Mr Lester Matthew, State Planning Unit

On 15 February 2012 a dialogue was held and chaired by Dr Tan Yu Eng from FRIM. The panel members were Dr Gan Kee Seng from FRIM, Puan Dayang Nena Abang Bruce from STIDC, Prof Madya Dr Haji Khairul Aidil Azlin from UNIMAS, Encik Abdul Wahab Haji Bujang from FDS and Mr Lai King Min from SFIA. The Dialogue served as a platform to gain a better understanding on the needs of the furniture industry and to further strengthen the collaboration between the players in the furniture industry. Among the issues raised during the Dialogue were the current furniture industry status, target and market setting, resources/materials supply, technical inputs and manpower.



Photo: Visit to Faculty of Applied and Creative (FACA), UNIMAS

The panel members agreed that the information gathered from the two-day seminar is important to the furniture industry to ensure all parties work together efficiently to develop the industry.

On 16 February 2012, the participants of the seminar visited the Faculty of Applied and Creative (FACA), UNIMAS and Yun Ming Wood Industries Sdn Bhd. Participants were briefed on the history and roles of UNIMAS and FACA, the functions of the Institute of Design and Innovation (INDI) under FACA. Participants later toured the factory of Yun Ming Wood Industries Sdn Bhd, a producer of wooden outdoor furniture, garden furniture and indoor furniture.

Seminar Pembangunan Industri Perabot Sarawak 2012: Transformasi Bahan-bahan Mentah, Inovasi, Kualiti dan Rekabentuk Perabot menuju ke Pasaran Global telah diadakan pada 14 hingga 16 Februari 2012 di Hotel Riverside Majestic di Kuching. Seminar tiga hari tersebut dianjurkan bersama oleh Institut Penyelidikan Perhutanan Malaysia (FRIM), Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (PUSAKA) dan Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). Seminar tersebut memberikan peluang untuk menjalinkan rangkaian komunikasi dan perkongsian maklumat bagi menyediakan perabot industry dalam memenuhi keperluan-keperluan pasaran global.

Ucapan alu-aluan seminar tersebut disampaikan oleh Pengerusi Lembaga Penyelidikan dan Pembangunan Hutan Malaysia (MFRDB), Puan Hajah Nancy Haji Shukri. Seminar kemudiannya diteruskan dengan tandatangan Memorandum Persefahaman (MoU) antara FRIM, STIDC dan UNIMAS yang menandakan kerjasama dalam bidang rekabentuk dan pembangunan perabot, latihan, perkhidmatan teknikal serta penubuhan makmal ujian perabot di Sarawak. Seminar tersebut terbahagi kepada lima (5) sesi dimana kertas-kertas kerja telah dibentangkan.

Pada 15 Februari 2012, satu Dialog telah diadakan dan dipengerusikan oleh Dr Tan Yu Eng dari FRIM. Dialog tersebut memberikan peluang untuk mendapatkan pemahaman yang lebih baik tentang keperluan industri perabot serta untuk memperkukuhkan lagi kerjasama antara pengusaha-pengusaha dalam industri perabot. Pada 16 Februari 2012, peserta-peserta seminar tersebut melawati Fakulti Seni Gunaan dan Kreatif (FACA), UNIMAS dan Yun Ming Wood Industries Sdn Bhd.

2012年砂拉越傢俬业发展研讨会：傢俬业迈向全球市场的原料转型，创新，质量和设计于2012年2月14日至16日假古晋河滨酒店举行。马来西亚森林研究机构（FRIM），天然资源及环境部（NRE），砂拉越木材工业发展机构（STIDC）和马来西亚砂拉越大学（UNIMAS）联合举办这为期三天的研讨会。此研讨会为傢俬业提供交流和讯息分享平台从而预备该业在面对国内和全球市场的需求。

马来西亚林业研究与发展局（MFRDB）主席，南希.哈吉.舒克里女士（译音）于研讨会上致欢迎词。FRIM，STIDC和UNIMAS也在研讨会签署一项在家具设计，开发，培训和技术服务及设置在砂拉越的家具检测实验室等领域合作的备忘录（MOU）。研讨会共分为5段主要主题来呈现各题的论文。

研讨会在2012年2月15日举行对话会。这由FRIM的陈有荣博士主持。对话会让参与者更好地理解傢俬业需求的平台和进一步加强傢俬业之间的合作。研讨会参与者于2012年2月16日参观UNIMAS应用与创新系学院和永明木材工业有限公司。

PRIVATE SECTOR RETIREMENT AGE BILL

On 14 February 2012, the Human Resource Minister Datuk Seri Dr S Subramaniam made an announcement that the Private Sector Retirement Age Bill is at final stage of drafting. He said that the objective of the new law was to safeguard workers' desire to continue working. Currently, there is no mandatory retirement age set for the private sector, unlike the public sector. He hoped that the bill can be tabled at parliament session starting 12 March 2012.

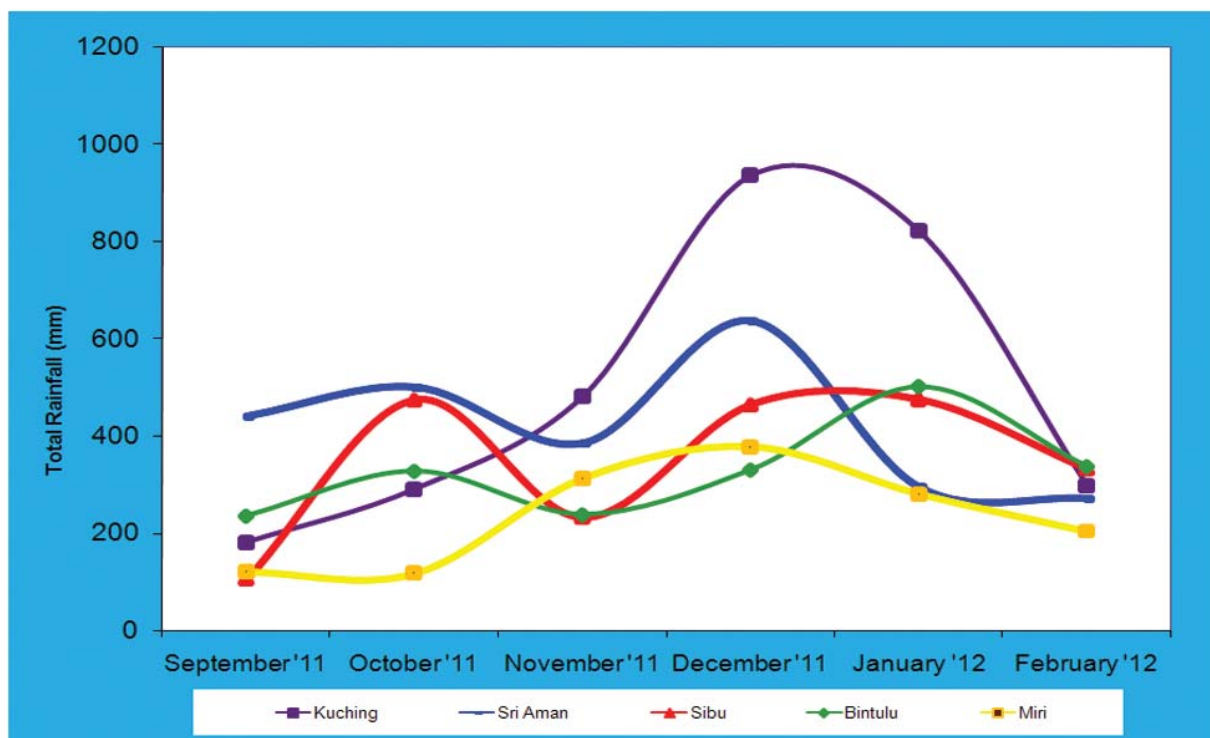
Under this new law, employers are obliged to keep workers until they reach the age of 60 and if they (employers) wish, they can continue to employ them for a further four years. However, the law will not force workers who wish to opt out at 60 years of age. The main reason for the Private Sector Retirement Age Bill is that the average life expectancy of Malaysians has increased to 75 years. Hence, if people stopped working at the age 55 years, based on their studies and using a salary of RM720 as a base, the savings in the Employment Provident Fund (EPF) would not be adequate to sustain the people until the age of 75 years. By increasing the retirement age, it will also reduce the cost for the Government in providing health and welfare assistance to the elderly.

Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) Secretary-General Abdul Halim Mansor welcomed the move as it will benefit over six million private sector employees nationwide. The proposed new law to raise the private sector retirement age from 55 years to 60 will also contain provisions for those who wish to retire earlier.

人力资源部长拿督苏巴马廉(译音)于2012年2月14日宣布私人界退休年龄草拟法案已达最后阶段。部长称该新法案的目的是保障工人继续工作的意愿。目前,私人界有别于公共服务领域,因无强制规定退休年龄。部长也希望这法案可提交于国会。国会将在2012年3月12日起恢复开会。在新法案下,雇主必须继续雇用员工直到他们达60岁。在这之后,雇主也可延长他们的服务多达4年。延长私人界员工退休年龄从55岁至60岁的草拟法案将包含提早退休的条文。

Pada 14 Februari 2012, Menteri Sumber Manusia Datuk Seri Dr S Subramaniam mengumumkan bahawa Rang Undang-undang Umur Persaraan Swasta kini berada dalam peringkat terakhir proses draf. Beliau mengatakan bahawa objektif undang-undang tersebut adalah untuk melindungi keinginan pekerja untuk terus bekerja. Pada masa kini, tidak terdapat sebarang set umur persaraan yang mandatory bagi sektor swasta, tidak seperti dalam sektor awam. Beliau berharap rang undang-undang tersebut dapat dibentangkan pada sesi parlimen bermula 12 Mac 2012. Di bawah undang-undang baru tersebut, majikan adalah diwajibkan untuk terus mengaji mereka sehingga umur 60 tahun dan sekiranya (majikan) mahu, mereka boleh terus mengaji mereka untuk empat tahun yang seterusnya. Undang-undang baru yang dicadangkan untuk melanjutkan umur persaraan sektor swasta dari 55 tahun ke 60 juga akan terdapat syarat-syarat bagi mereka yang berhasrat untuk bersara awal.

RAINFALL : SEPTEMBER '11 - FEBRUARY '12 DATA HUJAN BULANAN



Source : Malaysian Meteorological Services