

# STA Review

Volume 162 PPK 174/4/2007 Monthly Magazine of the **Sarawak Timber Association**

February 2007

## STA 60<sup>TH</sup> Council Meeting

Majlis STA telah mengadakan mesyuarat ke-60nya pada 28 Februari 2007 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Majlis telah menetapkan 30 Mac 2007 sebagai tarikh bagi Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan (AGM) STA .

Majlis juga meluluskan draf Penyata Kewangan Persatuan serta -Laporan Pengarah-Pengarah dan Penyata Kewangan anak-anak syarikatnya untuk dibentangkan dalam AGM.

Mesyuarat juga berbincang hal-hal kewangan dan pentadbiran Persatuan dan anak-anak syarikatnya.

Dalam mesyuarat juga, empat permohonan keahlian baru diluluskan.

■ The STA Council had its 60<sup>th</sup> meeting on 28 February 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The meeting attended by 14 Council Members was presided by Datuk Leo Chai, the Chairman.

The Council Members resolved to call the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association on Friday, 30 March 2007 at Wisma STA.

In the meeting, the Council approved and recommended the draft audited financial statements of the Association and its four wholly-owned

Companies namely, STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Training Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd and STA Ventures Sdn Bhd be tabled in the coming AGM.

The meeting also deliberated on the financial and administrative matters of the Association and its four wholly-owned companies.

Four new applications for memberships were approved by the Council and are placed as Associate Members. ❁



Picture: The 60<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting in progress

## STA Panel Products Committee Meeting

■ The STA Panel Products Committee met for the 13<sup>th</sup> time on 12 February 2007 under the chairmanship of Mr. Stephen Lau. The meeting received updates on various issues ranging from importation of logs to the documentation of the efforts and initiatives taken by the STA Secretariat in relation to sustainable forest management and legality verification of timber. In addition, the meeting also exchanged market information.

The meeting was informed that the Council at its 59<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 18 December 2006, had resolved to endorse the setup of a committee to

look into the sustainable supply of wood residues to meet the demands of various member companies utilizing these resources within Sarawak, as recommended by the Panel Products Committee. This Committee is referred to as the STA Wood Residues Committee. Two Council Members, Mr. Lau Swee Nguong and Mr. Roland Lau, were appointed to represent the Council in this Committee. Mr. Keiichi Hino informed the Panel Products Committee that a preliminary meeting had been held on 29 November 2006 in Miri among interested members. Another meeting is planned sometime in March 2007. ❁



Picture: Meeting in progress

## Presentation of Financial Contributions to Independent Chinese Secondary Schools

■ STA, through its wholly-owned company, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd, made a contribution of RM300,000.00 to 14 private Chinese Secondary Schools in Sarawak and the Sarawak United Association of

Private Chinese Secondary Schools Management Board on 3 February 2007. This is the third year STA had provided financial contributions to these schools and the Board.

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Jawatankuasa Hasil-hasil Panel STA mengadakan Mesyuarat ke-13nya pada 12 Februari 2007. Isu-isu yang dibincangkan termasuk pengimportan kayu balak, usaha dan inisiatif yang telah diambil oleh Urusetia STA dalam perkara pengurusan hutan secara mampan dan pengesahan sah bahan mentah. Ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa juga bertukar maklumat pasaran hasil-hasil panel. Mesyuarat diberitahu bahawa Majlis STA telah meluluskan cadangan Jawatankuasa untuk menubuhkan jawatankuasa baru iaitu Jawatankuasa Sisa Kayu.

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STA, melalui anak syarikatnya, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd telah membuat sumbangan sebanyak RM300,000.00 kepada 14 buah sekolah menengah swasta Cina di Sarawak dan juga Lembaga Pengurusan Persatuan Bersatu Sekolah-Sekolah Menengah Swasta Cina Sarawak pada 3 Februari 2007. Ini merupakan tahun ketiga STA membuat sumbangan sedemikian.

Bersamaan dengan acara ini, satu biasiswa telah dianugerahkan kepada Abdul Gafar bin Mahdi yang sedang mengikuti Ijazah Muda Sains dan Pengurusan Sumber Tumbuhan di Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.

In his speech during the presentation ceremony, Datuk Leo Chai, the Chairman of STA said that the contributions are intended for the training of teachers as well as assisting these schools to reduce their annual budget deficit. Supporting the private Chinese secondary schools is also a means of preserving the language and the cultural heritage which could otherwise be lost in our multi-cultural society.

The President of the Sarawak United Association of Private Secondary School Management Board, Mr. Ling Beng Hui said that the contributions from STA will lighten the financial burden of the schools which amount to more than RM5 million. He added that the Board

hopes that others will come forward to lend a hand in their plight.

During the same function, a scholarship presentation was made. STA recognises the importance of good education and thus provides scholarships to students to enable them to pursue higher education in the local universities. This year, a scholarship worth RM8,000.00 per annum was awarded to Abdul Gafar bin Mahdi who is pursuing a Degree in Science and Management of Plant Resources at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). STA had already awarded scholarships to several students at UNIMAS and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) who are pursuing forestry and timber-related courses. ❁



Left: Mr. Ling Beng Hui, the President of the Sarawak United Association of Private Secondary School Management Board, receiving a cheque of behalf of the Association from Datuk Leo Chai, Chairman of STA. Looking on is Mr. Lau Swee Nguong, Vice Chairman of STA



Above: Group photo with representatives of the various schools and members of the Board

Right: Mr. Lau Swee Nguong presenting the STA scholarship to Abdul Gafar bin Mahdi of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak



## STA Open Office

■ An annual event of the Association, the STA Chinese New Year Open Office 2007 was held on 27 February at Wisma STA, Kuching. This gathering is a gesture of appreciation to the business associates who had worked closely

with the Association throughout 2006. For the first time in history, there was a lion dance performance.

Around 300 guests from the various government agencies and the private sector attended this gathering.

*Right: Datuk Leo Chai receiving a flowered cabbage from the lions as a sign of good fortune for the new year*



*Left: Lion dance performance*



*Above and Right: Some of the guests at the STA Chinese New Year Open Office*



Acara tahunan Persatuan iaitu Pejabat Terbuka Tahun Baru Cina 2007 berlangsung pada 27 Februari di Wisma STA, Kuching sebagai tanda penghargaan kepada rakan-rakan sekerja yang bekerja rapat dengan Persatuan sepanjang tahun 2006.

Majlis ini dihadiri oleh lebih kurang 300 tetamu dari agensi-agensi kerajaan dan pihak swasta.

Buat kali pertama, tarian singa diadakan sempena majlis ini.

## Malaysia External Trade (January - December 2006)

Pada Disember 2006, Malaysia mencatatkan lebih perdagangan sebanyak RM11.8 bilion berbanding dengan RM9.4 bilion bagi bulan yang sama tahun 2005. Lebih Disember adalah lebih tinggi sebanyak 25.6% (RM2.4 bilion) disebabkan peningkatan eksport sebanyak RM3.0 bilion (6.1%) berbanding dengan jumlah import RM627.2 juta (1.6%). Eksport sejumlah bernilai RM52.5 bilion manakala import bernilai RM40.7 bilion. Bagi tahun 2005, jumlah eksport bernilai RM49.5 bilion dan import bernilai RM40.0 bilion.

Malaysia mencatatkan lebih perdagangan sebanyak RM108.5 bilion sepanjang tahun 2006. Jumlah eksport meningkat 10.3% atau RM589.0 bilion manakala import meningkat 10.7% atau RM480.5 bilion berbanding dengan RM533.8 bilion (eksport) dan RM434.0 bilion (import) pada tahun 2005.

■ In December 2006, Malaysia recorded a trade surplus of RM11.8 billion compared to RM9.4 billion for the same month last year. December's surplus was higher by 25.6% (+RM2.4 billion) due to larger export growth of RM3.0 billion (+6.1%) against imports valued at RM627.2 million (+1.6%). Total exports were valued at RM52.5 billion whilst imports amounted to RM40.7 billion. Last year, exports were RM49.5 billion while imports were RM40.0 billion.

In terms of composition of exports, electrical and electronic products which constituted 47.6% or RM25.0 billion of total exports retained its positions as the largest export contributor. Imports of intermediate and capital goods which contributed 83.0% of total imports, rose 0.1% to RM33.8 billion.

### **Balance of Trade**

For the whole year of 2006, Malaysia posted a trade surplus of RM108.5 billion. Total exports registered a growth of 10.3% to RM589.0 billion while imports expanded by 10.7% to RM480.5 billion compared with RM533.8 billion (exports) and RM434.0 billion (imports) in 2005.

### **Exports**

Electrical and electronic products remained Malaysia's leading exports earner, netting receipts of RM281.0 billion or 47.7% of the total export revenue. Export earnings from this category of products went up by 6.2% or RM16.3 billion. Its major component, the integrated circuits, accounted for 25.4% of total exports of electrical and electronic products, rose by 1.5% to RM71.3 billion from the RM70.2 billion recorded in 2005.

Palm oil and palm oil-based products, with a total combined value of RM32.2 billion or 5.5% of total exports, were the second largest export revenue earner. Palm oil, the major commodity in this group of products which constituted 68.8% or RM22.1 billion showed an increase of 14.3% or RM2.8 billion from RM19.4 billion in the previous year.

Crude petroleum, the third largest export commodity represents 5.4% or RM32.0 billion of total exports, increased by RM2.6 billion or 8.8% from RM29.4 billion in 2005. The increase was the result of higher average export unit value (+17.6% or RM284.3 per tonne) while export volume dropped by 7.5% or 1.4 million tonnes.

Timber and timber-based products, the fourth largest export earner which contributed 4.0% of total exports, grew by 9.3% or RM2.0 billion to RM23.4 billion. Liquefied natural gas (LNG), the fifth largest export earner which made up 4.0% or RM23.3 billion of total exports, rose by 12.0% or RM2.5 billion. The increase was due to a higher average export unit value (+14.2% or +RM134.1 per tonne).

Petroleum products the sixth largest export commodity, amounting to 3.2% of total exports, surged by 25.8% to RM19.0 billion. This was attributed to firmer average export unit value by 18.3% or RM294.6 per tonne as well as higher export volume (+6.3% or +595 thousand tonnes).

### **Imports**

The composition of imports by end-use for the three major categories of imports was as follows:

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- a. *intermediate goods*  
RM335.2 billion (69.8% of total imports); the main component being parts and accessories of capital goods (excluding transport equipment) amounted to RM172.0 billion or 51.3% of intermediate goods,
- b. *capital goods*  
RM65.3 billion (13.6% of total imports), and
- c. *consumption goods*  
RM27.9 billion (5.8% of total imports).

Comparatively, the above items recorded an increase in value over the same period in 2005 as shown below:

- a. *intermediate goods*  
+RM26.9 billion (+8.7%),
- b. *capital goods*  
+RM4.6 billion (+7.6%), and
- c. *consumption goods*  
+RM3.3 billion (+13.4%).

**Direction of Trade**

Malaysia's major trading partners were the United States of America, the Republic of Singapore, the European Union, Japan, and the People's Republic of China. These countries contributed to 62.6% of Malaysia's total trade in 2006. ❁

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia

## Upcoming Events ....

1. **Workshop on Collaborative Approach to Research for Forest Management Certification: The role for all forestry-related agencies and institutions**  
Date: 12 - 13 April 2007  
Venue: Wisma STA, Kuching, Sarawak  
*(For further information, please contact the STA Secretariat)*
2. **National Tripartite Seminar on Promoting Decent Work in the Forestry Sector in Malaysia**  
Date: 16 - 18 April 2007  
Venue: Crowne Plaza Riverside Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak  
*(Participation at the Seminar will be by invitation only)*
3. **42nd Session of the International Tropical Timber Council & the Associated Sessions of the Committees, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea**  
Date: 7 - 12 May 2007  
*(For further information, please ITTO's website at [www.itto.or.jp](http://www.itto.or.jp) )*
4. **Ligna+ World Fair for the Forestry and Wood Industries, Hannover, Germany**  
Date: 14 - 18 May 2007  
*(For further information, please visit their website at [www.ligna.de](http://www.ligna.de))*
5. **International Conference on Wood-based Bioenergy, Hannover, Germany In conjunction with Ligna+ 2007**  
Date: 17 - 19 May 2007  
*(For further information, please ITTO's website at [www.itto.or.jp](http://www.itto.or.jp) )*

Peristiwa-peristiwa akan datang.

## MIDA's New Application Forms

STA menerima sepucuk surat bertarikh 29 Januari 2007 dari Lembaga Kemajuan Perindustrian Malaysia (MIDA) mengenai borang-borang permohonan baru.

MIDA dalam usaha mereka memperbaiki perkhidmatan dan sistem perhubungan mereka telah menyemak borang permohonan Lesen Pengeluaran, Insentif Cukai, Jawatan Pekerja Asing dan Duti Mesin dan Sumber Asli. Borang-borang baru berkuatkuasa pada 2 Februari 2007.

Senarai borang-borang baru MIDA boleh didapati dari laman web STA di [www.sta.org.my](http://www.sta.org.my)

■ STA received a letter dated 29 January 2007 from the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) regarding their new application forms.

MIDA, as part of their effort to improve their delivery system, has revised forms pertaining to applications for Manufacturing Licenses, Tax Incentives, Expatriate Posts and Duty Exemption on Machinery and Raw Materials. These forms came into force on 2 February 2007, for companies to submit their applications to MIDA.

MIDA will allow a two-month grace period for the transition of these forms. Applications made using the old forms will still be accepted until 31 March 2007, provided that the applicant subsequently produces the additional information required in the new forms.

information which would enable MIDA to expedite the evaluation of the application, such as different categories of employment. The additional information would assist MIDA in their development work. This information would also be useful to other Government agencies in assisting them to plan for the country's manpower requirements and development.

These new forms can be downloaded from MIDA's website at [www.mida.gov.my](http://www.mida.gov.my) under the section 'Forms and Guidelines'. They are also available at the Business Information Centre (BIC) at MIDA's Headquarters and all MIDA regional offices. For the list of MIDA's revised application forms, please refer to STA's website [www.sta.org.my](http://www.sta.org.my).

*Note: The above announcement was sent out via the STA Grapevine on 7 February 2007.*

The new forms provide

## New Members

■ STA extends a warm welcome to the following new Associate Members. 🌟

Company Name	Official Category	Representative
Protection Gloves Sdn Bhd (166613-D)	Log Marketing	Wong Haw Yeong, Patrick
Shin Yang Holding Sdn Bhd (184468-H)	Log Marketing	Ling Lu Kuang
Sunrise Megaway Sdn Bhd (648519-H)	Log Marketing	Wong Haw Yeong, Patrick
Spektra Sains Sdn Bhd (468019-H)	Log Marketing	Wong Haw Yeong, Patrick

STA mengalu-alukan penyertaan empat Ahli Persekutuan baru seperti di jadual.

## MTIB's Training Programme for 2006

■ The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) is offering the following training programmes for 2007. 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.gov.my](http://www.mtib.gov.my) or contact:

Ketua Pusat  
Pusat Pembangunan Kemahiran  
Industri Kayu  
Lot 167, Jalan 3

Kompleks Perabot Olak Lempit  
42700 Banting, Selangor  
Tel: 03-3149 2924  
Fax: 03-3149 2122  
Email: [wisdec@mtib.gov.my](mailto:wisdec@mtib.gov.my)

Or

Ketua MTIB Wilayah Sabah  
WISDEC Sabah  
Lot 4, Fasa 1, Jalan Timur 6  
Taman Perindustrian Kota Kinabalu  
Peti Surat 177  
Pos Mini Indah Permai,  
88450 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
Tel: 088 - 498822  
Fax: 088 - 498811  
Email: [mtibsabah@mtib.gov.my](mailto:mtibsabah@mtib.gov.my)

Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia (MTIB) , akan mengadakan program latihan seperti di jadual pada 2007. Program-program ini akan dijalankan di dua tempat iaitu Pusat Pembangunan Latihan Industri Kayu (WISDEC) di Kompleks Perabot Olak Lempit, Banting, Selangor dan WISDEC Sabah di Kota Kinabalu. Untuk maklumat lanjut, sila layari laman web MTIB di [www.mtib.gov.my](http://www.mtib.gov.my) atau hubungi pejabat MTIB Banting dan Kota Kinabalu di alamat masing-masing.

### WISDEC Banting

No.	Course Title	Duration	Date	Fee (RM)
1.	Timber Drying	16 days	2-21 April	1,500
2.	Technology and Operation of Wood Working Machine - Moulder	4 days	24-27 April	700
3.	Furniture Making (Kitchen Cabinet)	4 days	8-11 May	700
4.	Furniture Production Management	3 days	22-24 May	525
5.	Basic Wood Technology	3 days	5-8 June	525
6.	Basic Furniture Making	4 days	3-6 July	700
7.	Operation and Maintenance of Wood Working Machine	4 days	14-17 August	700
8.	Wood Finishing - Spraying Techniques for Increased Efficiency and High Quality Wood Product	4 days	4-7 September	700

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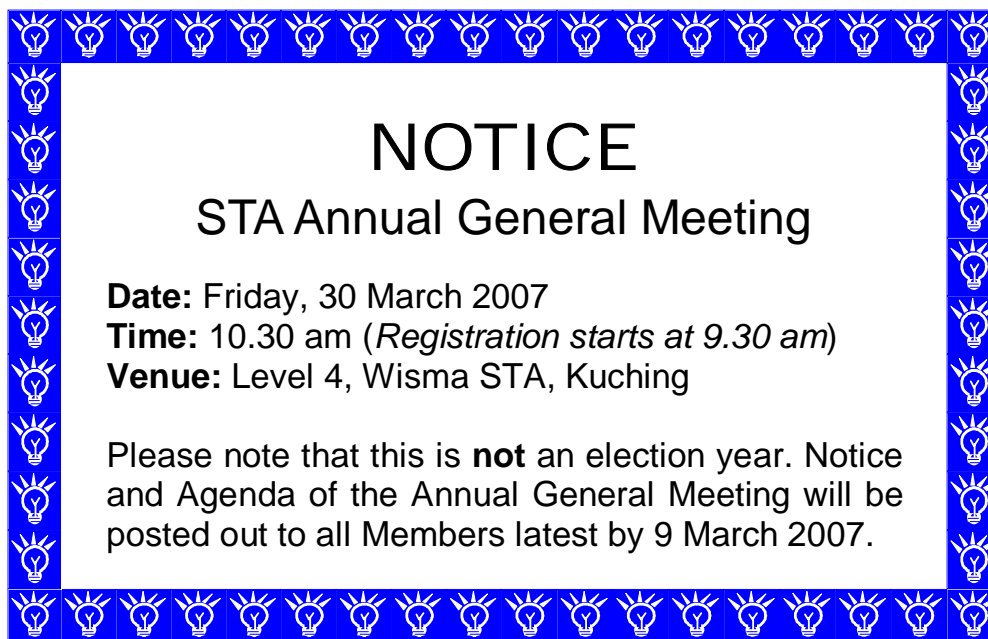


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No.	Course Title	Duration	Date	Fee (RM)
9.	Application of CAD in Furniture Design (Advance/ Level 3)	4 days	13-16 November	700
10.	Factory Management in the Wood-based Industry	3 days	27-29 November	600

**WISDEC Sabah**

No.	Course Title	Duration	Date	Fee (RM)
1.	Identification of Malaysian Timber Species	4 days	9-12 April	520
2.	Safety and Health in the Wood-based Industry	3 days	18-20 April	390
3.	Processing Acacia Timber	3 days	25-27 April	390
4.	Technology and Operation of Wood Working Machine - Moulder	4 days	15-18 May	520
5.	Planning and Control in Furniture Industry	4 days	22-25 May	520
6.	Machining Technology and Operation of Wood Working Machine	4 days	5-8 June	520
7.	Introduction to Malaysian Grading Rules	3 days	11-13 June	390
8.	Furniture Production and Marketing	4 days	24-27 July	520
9.	Furniture Polishing	4 days	6-9 August	520
10.	Profile Knife Grinding	4 days	15-17 August	520
11.	Technology and Operation of Wood Machine - CNC Router	4 days	27-30 August	520
12.	Furniture Making (Kitchen Cabinet)	5 days	3-7 September	520



## NOTICE

### STA Annual General Meeting

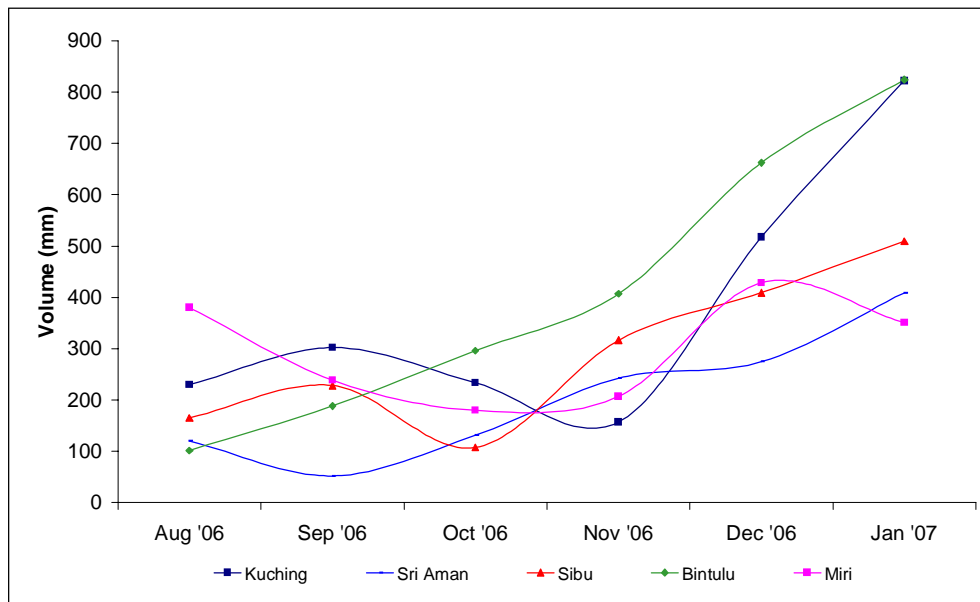
**Date:** Friday, 30 March 2007  
**Time:** 10.30 am (*Registration starts at 9.30 am*)  
**Venue:** Level 4, Wisma STA, Kuching

Please note that this is **not** an election year. Notice and Agenda of the Annual General Meeting will be posted out to all Members latest by 9 March 2007.

Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan STA akan diadakan pada Jumaat, 30 Mac 2007 jam 10.30 pagi di Wisma STA, Kuching. Adalah dimaklumkan bahawa tahun ini bukan tahun pilihan.

## Rainfall : August '06 - January '07

### Kadar Hujan Bulanan



Source : Malaysian Meteorological Services.

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