



# STA dan Rakan2

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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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## Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) Between Universiti Malaysia Sarawak and Sarawak Timber Association



Photo: Exchanging of signed MoA

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the research project entitled "Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) Discovery through Transcriptome Sequencing and Association Mapping of Kelampayan" between Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) was signed on 21 February 2013 at Wisma STA in Kuching. The MoA, signed between Professor Datuk Dr Khairuddin Abdul Hamid, the Vice Chancellor of UNIMAS and STA Chairman, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, was witnessed by representatives from UNIMAS, senior officers from Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Natural Resources and Environment Board Sarawak (NREB), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd as well as business associates from Messrs Battenberg & Talma Advocates, Tengis Corporate Sdn Bhd and STA Secretariat.

This three-year research project shall be undertaken by the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology of UNIMAS and will be funded by STA with a grant amounting to RM400,000.00. The main objective of the project is to identify and produce better quality Kelampayan tree planting materials for the forest plantation industry in Sarawak. UNIMAS will be collaborating with two other institutions on this research project, namely Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and Beijing Genomics Institute (BGI), Shenzhen, China.

Pemanca Datuk Wong in his welcoming speech highlighted that the Association has been putting in efforts to address issues of concern such as the lack of Research & Development (R&D) on suitable species for the forest plantation industry. He also said that the Association has allocated RM1 million this year for R&D in forest

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## STA Sustainable Forest Management (Continuing Education) Programme

As part of the Postgraduate Diploma programme offered jointly by Lincoln University of New Zealand and STA applications are now invited from staff of members of STA to attend the following subjects for 2013, on a continuing education (single subject) basis:

Subject Code	Subject Name	Date
FORS 626	Log Grades and Wood Processing	4-8 March
FORS 631	Natural Forest Silviculture	8-12 April
FORS 625	Wood Quality	13-17 May
FORS 627	Reduced Impact Logging	17-21 June
FORS 622	Logging Economics	17-21 July
FORS 630	Plantation Silviculture	19-23 August
FORS 623	Economics of Forest Management	18-22 September
FORS 624	Resource and Industrial Planning	21-25 October
FORS 620	Communities and the Forest Industry	25-29 November

Those interested to attend any of the above subjects or wishing to seek further clarification on this matter are kindly requested to contact either Dr Peter Kho or Ms Suzie Adee at 082-332222.

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## Malaysia's REDD+ Readiness Project: Private Sector Engagement and National Stakeholder Consultation

REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks) is a mechanism created under the United Nations Framework Convention in Climate Change (UNFCCC) to provide incentive for developing countries to protect, better manage and wisely use their forest resources, thus contributing to the global fight against climate change. At the 15th Conference of the Parties (CoP15), Malaysia has committed to reduce its carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions to 40% by 2020 as compared to the emission level in 2005.

Malaysia is currently in the National REDD+ Readiness phase where modalities for national REDD+ implementation are being developed. The National REDD+ Readiness project is a joint project implemented

by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

It aims at developing a national framework that includes:

- i) the policy, legal and institutional components for REDD+ implementation in Malaysia;
- ii) exploring and providing recommendations on sustainable financing mechanism for REDD+ implementation, and
- iii) improving capacity and stakeholder participant in REDD+

These outputs will be essential in the formulation

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### **Did you know that.....**

The Minister of International Trade and Industry indicates that Malaysia is expecting about RM1bil. in investment from China this year. China has been Malaysia's biggest trade partner since 2011, surpassing Singapore. For the first 11 months of 2012, the total trade between Malaysia and China was RM165.32bil, 9% higher than the same period in 2011.

Source: ITTO MIS 1 - 15 Feb 13

**Did you also know that...**

The Malaysia national statistics on the timber sector were released for the period January to November 2012 showing a very healthy export value of RM 18.5 billion (approx. US\$ 6.0 billion). The leading timber sub-sector, in terms of export, was wooden furniture which reached RM 5.99 billion (approx. US\$ 1.93 billion). Plywood exports were the second highest at RM 4.7 billion (approx. US\$ 1.52 billion).



Source: ITTO MIS 1 - 15 Feb 13

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of the National REDD+ Strategy, which will aim at enhancing conservation of national forests and reduce forest degradation.

On 19 February 2013, a Workshop on Malaysia's REDD+ Readiness Project: Private Sector Engagement was conducted at Sunway Putra Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. It was attended by about 100 participants. Four papers were presented during the Workshop. They were:

1. An Introduction to MYCarbon – A National Corporate GHG Accounting Programme for Malaysia  
- by *Dr Gary Theseira, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment*
2. National REDD+ Strategy  
- by *Dr Elizabeth Philip, Forest Research Institute Malaysia*
3. Summary of REDD+ Readiness project and outputs  
- by *Ms Ginny Ng, Project Manager*
4. Sustaining Financing Mechanism for National REDD+ Implementation in Malaysia  
- by *Ms Carola Menzel, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management*

Participants in this Workshop were divided into groups to discuss on the objectives and tasks of financing mechanisms; governance and ownership; incentives;

and capitalization. The initial stocktaking report on sustainable financing for REDD+ implementation was also presented where various possible sources and means of financing were discussed.

The Workshop on Malaysia's REDD+ Readiness Project: National Stakeholder Consultation was held at Sunway Putra Hotel Kuala Lumpur on 20 – 21 February 2013. This workshop, attended by more than 120 participants, introduced the three components of the REDD+ Readiness project:

Component 1: Initial stocktaking and recommendation report on institutional framework for REDD+ implementation;

Component 2: Initial stocktaking report on legal and policy framework, including socio-economic safeguards (SES) and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) for REDD+ implementation; and

Component 3: Initial stocktaking report on sustainable financing for REDD+ implementation.

The participants were also divided into groups to discuss the three components in details. The Workshop ended with a plenary session where all the participants were grouped together to listen to the presentation of the discussions from each groups.

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**WISDEC Courses**

The Wood Industry Skills Development Centre (WISDEC) Sabah is organising the following courses in 2013 in WISDEC Sabah:

No	Course	Date	Fee (RM)
1	Interior Design (Living Room Furniture)	13 - 16 April	500.00
2	Furniture Design and Prototype Development	27 - 29 April	375.00
3	Introduction to the Creativity and Innovation	11 - 12 May	250.00
4	Basic Technique of Manufacture Sofa – Upholstery (*)	18 - 21 May	500.00
5	Furniture Manufacturing (Decorative Cabinet) (*)	8 - 11 June	500.00
6	Wood Drying (CoC)	10 - 28 June	1,500.00

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**Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak  
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No	Course	Date	Fee (RM)
7	Technology of Machinery and Application CNC	24 - 26 Aug	375.00
8	Creative Finishing (Furniture) (*)	7 - 10 Sept	500.00
9	Application of CAD in Furniture Design (Advance)	20 - 22 Sept	250.00
10	Effective Marketing Techniques and Strategies	28 - 29 Sept	250.00
11	Cost Management in Timber Industry	19 - 20 Oct	250.00
12	Production Planning Control in Timber Industry	26 - 27 Oct	250.00

The courses marked (\*) are following the National Occupation Skills Standard set by Skills Development Department (JPL). For more information, please contact:-

Encik Hamdi Hj Mawardi or Puan Nurul Hasana Jaafar  
Course Coordinator  
Tel: 088-498822  
Fax: 088-498833/11  
e-mail: hamdi@mtib.gov.my or hasana@mtib.gov.my

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plantation in Sarawak.

Professor Datuk Dr Khairuddin in his speech emphasised that this research project is very important to the development of the timber-based industry in Sarawak. It is hoped that with the use of genomics approach, in particular the association mapping

approach, the production of elite Kelampayan clone could be accelerated hence reducing both breeding and production costs. He noted that UNIMAS is honoured to carry out this research that is relevant to the needs of the industry.