

STA Review

Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association
VOLUME 245 PPK 174/05/2013 (032756)



FEB
2014



3

THE 23RD
Illegal Logging Update
and Stakeholder
Consultation Meeting



4

**FOLLOW-UP
MEETING**
with Natural Resources
and Environment Board



6

**SARAWAK
TIMBER
ASSOCIATION**
Chinese New Year
Open Office

CONTENTS

PAGE

<i>The 23rd Illegal Logging Update and Stakeholder Consultation Meeting</i>	3
<i>Follow-up Meeting with Natural Resources and Environment Board</i>	4
<i>ASDU IRCM MoU Stakeholder Meeting 1/2014</i>	5
<i>Sarawak Timber Association Chinese New Year Open Office</i>	6
<i>World Wetlands Day 2014</i>	8
<i>Morning Tea Talk on Various Soft Loan Programmes and Incentives for Small and Medium Enterprises</i>	9
<i>Briefings for the Nomination for Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management / Sustainable Tropical Plantation Management) Course</i>	10
<i>Minimum Wages Nationwide Integrated Clinic</i>	11
<i>Second Standard Review Committee Meeting</i>	24

REGULAR FEATURES

<i>Statistics</i>	12
<i>Rainfall data</i>	24

COVER IMAGE:



Tissue culture or micropropagation is one of the vegetative propagation methods to produce seedlings for the planted forest industry

STA REVIEW

is a monthly magazine published by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) for its members. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information printed in this magazine is accurate and correct, neither STA nor its Council Members, Officers or Employees shall assume any responsibility or be made liable for any inaccuracies and errors printed; nor is such publication, unless otherwise, stated, necessarily the views of STA, its Council Members, Officers or Employees. The contents of the STA Review may be reprinted with prior written permission from STA.

STA Review is mailed free of charge to all STA Members. Paid subscription is also available to non-members. An annual subscription fee of RM200.00 is charged to organisations within Malaysia, and US\$300.00 to foreign organisations in other Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand, and US\$500.00 to foreign organisations in American and European countries respectively. The subscription fee is inclusive of courier charges. STA reserves the right to change the subscription fees from time to time to reflect currency fluctuations. Paid subscription is non-refundable.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chief Editor

Dr Peter CS Kho

Editor

Law Hui Chau

Members

Annie Ting

April Ting

Erin Tan

Jaime Chan

Miriam Hong

Mohamad Faraddy

Salfa Kamazura

Wong How Chu

Published by

Sarawak Timber Association

11 Floor, Wisma STA,

26, Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim,

93450 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

Tel: ++ (60 82) 332 222

Fax: ++ (60 82) 487 888, 487 999

Email: sta@sta.org.my

Website: www.sta.org.my

Printed by

Wisma Printing Sdn Bhd

Lot 1949, Section 66, KTLD, Lorong Tekad 1,

Jalan Tekad, Pending Industrial Estate,

93450 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

Tel : ++ (60 82) 338 131 (4 Lines)

Fax : ++ (60 82) 333 002

Email : wismaprinting@yahoo.com

THE 23RD ILLEGAL LOGGING UPDATE AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION MEETING



Photo: Meeting in progress

The 23rd Illegal Logging Update and Stakeholder Consultation meeting was held at Chatham House in London from 6 to 7 February 2014. Approximately 200 participants from a broad range of stakeholders, such as from government organisations, trade associations (including Sarawak Timber Association), certification bodies, research associations, academia and civil societies, attended the meeting.

This 2-day event covered a series of sessions including a Review of Forest Law, Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), Governance impacts of Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs), Deforestation and FLEGT, Updates on the progress of FLEGT VPAs between European Union (EU) and timber producing countries in South East Asia, Enforcement of the EU Timber Regulation (case studies), and Challenges and Opportunities in complying with the EU Timber Regulation.

The EU's policy to fight illegal logging and associated trade was adopted in 2003 with the FLEGT Action Plan. The FLEGT Action Plan covers both supply and demand side measures, i.e. trade, governance and development cooperation, to address illegal logging. The FLEGT Action Plan led to the following two key legislations:

- FLEGT Regulation adopted in 2005, allowing for the control of the entry of timber to the EU from timber producing countries by entering into bilateral FLEGT VPAs with the EU;
- EU Timber Regulation came into force on 3 March 2013 as an overarching measure to prohibit placing of illegal timber and timber products on the internal market.

After ten (10) years of implementation, the FLEGT Action Plan is due for review. The review is expected to take place in the last quarter of 2014 with the four objectives, i.e. to assess achievements, challenges and limitations of the FLEGT process; to identify changes in the global context and how they affect the relevance of the Action Plan; to draw lessons and to guide future EU efforts on FLEGT.

The Meeting noted that there is no FLEGT-licensed timber available in the EU market yet even though six tropical timber producing countries have concluded the VPA with the EU.

It was highlighted at the meeting that the main cause of deforestation in many tropical timber producing countries is the conversion of forests for commodity agricultural production, i.e. oil palm and not illegal logging. At least half of all tropical timber being traded comes from agricultural conversion. The revised FLEGT Action Plan is expected to address new concerns, such as conversion timber and to reduce agriculture-led deforestation. EU commits to halve the deforestation by the year 2020 and end it by the year 2030.

Other presentations included case studies on how illegal timber and timber products can still enter the US and EU markets with the implementation of the Lacey Act and the EU Timber Regulation, challenges of legality verification for small-scale and community producers to comply with the EU Timber Regulation, and two international certification schemes, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), to comply with EU Timber Certification.

'Chatham House' is both the name of the building and the name by which the Royal Institute of International Affairs is widely known. Chatham House is an independent international affairs think-tank and membership organization. It is precluded by its Charter from expressing any institutional view or policy on any aspect of international affairs. The subject of illegal logging has been at the core of Chatham House's effort.

Chatham House holds the Illegal Logging Update and Stakeholder Consultation meeting twice in a year to promote the exchanging and debating of views, presenting of case studies and sharing of information with regard to the latest regulatory and governance developments, initiatives and research in forest management and the illegal timber trade.

Mesyuarat Pengemaskinian Pembalakan Haram dan Rundingan Pihak Berkepentingan Ke-23 telah diadakan di Chatham House, London dari 6 hingga 7 Februari 2014.

Mesyuarat mengambil maklum bahawa masih tiada kayu berlesen FLEGT di pasaran EU walaupun enam negara pengeluar kayu tropika telah memuktamadkan VPA dengan EU.

Mesyuarat menekankan bahawa punca utama penebangan hutan tropika adalah disebabkan oleh pembukaan hutan bagi tujuan pengeluaran komoditi pertanian dan bukannya disebabkan oleh pembalakan haram. Pelan Tindakan FLEGT yang disemak semula dijangka untuk menangani kebimbangan baru, seperti kayu dari pembukaan hutan dan mengurangkan penebangan hutan yang diterajui oleh pertanian.

第23届非法采伐更新和利益相关者磋商会议于2014年2月6日至7日假伦敦查塔姆大楼召开。

会议获悉虽然6个热带木材生产国已与欧盟签署自愿合作伙伴协议 (VPA)，欧盟市场至今尚未有森林法规执法，监管与贸易(FLEGT)许可证木材。

会议指出，许多热带木材生产国森林砍伐的主要原因不是由于非法伐木，而是森林转为生产原产农业。修订FLEGT行动计划有望将解决森林转换的木材及降低农业造成毁林问题。

FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD



Photo: Meeting in progress

A follow-up meeting on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was held between Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) at Wisma Pelita, Kuching on 19 February 2014. The purpose of Meeting was to discuss further on the technical matters pertaining to environment. The Meeting was chaired by Mr Peter Sawal, the Controller of Environmental Quality with sixteen (16) members in attendance.

In this meeting, STA acknowledged the needs to address the environmental issues associated with forest harvesting and also importance of environmental protection in the forests. The meeting also discussed on ways to improve environment compliance by the industry in Sarawak. It was agreed that a Working Committee between the two agencies be formed to look into the technical aspects of environment compliance.

Satu mesyuarat susulan mengenai Penilaian Kesan Alam Sekitar (EIA) telah diadakan di antara Lembaga Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar (NREB) dan Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) pada 19 Februari 2014 di Wisma Pelita, Kuching. Tujuan mesyuarat adalah untuk membincangkan dengan lebih lanjut mengenai perkara teknikal yang berkaitan dengan alam sekitar.

Dalam mesyuarat ini, STA mengakui keperluan untuk menangani isu-isu alam sekitar yang berkaitan dengan penebangan hutan dan kepentingan perlindungan alam sekitar/hutan. Mesyuarat turut membincangkan mengenai kaedah untuk meningkatkan pematuhan alam sekitar oleh industri perhutanan di Sarawak. Adalah dipersetujui bahawa satu Jawatankuasa Kerja antara kedua-dua agensi dibentuk untuk meneliti aspek teknikal pematuhan alam sekitar.

本会与天然资源与环境局 (NREB) 于2014年2月19日假砂土地统一及复兴局大厦召开环保审查会议，进一步讨论有关环境技术事项。

STA在此会议中同意需要解决有关森林采伐环境议题和森林环境保护的重要性。会议也讨论如何改善砂州林业环境和规性。会议一致同意成立一个工作委员会以负责研究环境合规方面的技术事项。

ASDU IRCM MoU Stakeholder Meeting 1/2014



Photo: Meeting in progress

The first meeting for 2014 of Anap Sustainable Development Unit (ASDU) Innovative Rainforest Conservation Management (IRCM) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Steering Committee was organised by Forest Department of Sarawak (FDS) on 5 February 2014 at Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. This meeting was chaired by Director of Forest, Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad and assisted by Deputy Director of Forest, Tuan Haji Wan Shardini Wan Salleh. Anap Muput FMU (AMFMU) was

certified under the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators [MC&I] (Natural Forest) on 25 July 2013. The AMFMU shall be assessed in an annual surveillance to maintain the validity of the certificate to be in line with requirements under the Malaysia Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification MC&I (Natural Forest).

The meeting was attended by representatives from Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA).

The Meeting discussed the progress of several matters arising from the previous surveillance audit to meet the forest certification requirements. On the community Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) project, the Forest Department is in the process of applying to the Ministry of Modernisation and Agriculture (MOMA) for the extension of an additional thirty three (33) hectares for 33 participants to plant the rubber trees. The Meeting also resolved for WWF to continue the data analysis on Endangered Rare and Threatened (ERT) species in the AMFMU. During the meeting, a new community development project and the restructuring of the Trustees of Anap Muput Community were also proposed.

Mesyuarat pertama Unit Pembangunan Lestari Anap (ASDU) Pemuliharaan dan Pengurusan Hutan Inovatif (IRCM) Jawatankuasa Pemandu Memorandum Persefahaman (MoU) pada tahun 2014 telah dianjurkan oleh Jabatan Perhutanan Sarawak (FDS) pada 5 Februari 2014 di Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. Anap Muput FMU (AMFMU) akan dinilai semasa pengawasan tahunan untuk mengekalkan kesahihan sijil selaras dengan Kriteria dan Penunjuk bagi Pensijilan Pengurusan Hutan Malaysia MC & I (Hutan Asli).

Mesyuarat memutuskan untuk WWF terus memantau penyeliaan dan analisis data tentang spesies Terancam, Jarang dan Hampir Pupus (ERT) di AMFMU.

砂拉越森林局(FDS)于2014年2月5日假古晋自然资源大厦召开阿纳可持续发展单位(ASDU)热带雨林保护与管理创新(IRCM)备忘录(MoU)督导委员会今年首次会议。阿纳森林管理单位(AMFMU)将进行年度评估以确保其认证符合马来西亚管理认证标准和指标MC&I(自然林)的要求。

会议决议由世界自然基金会(WWF)继续监测AMFMU濒危珍稀濒危物种(ERT)的监控和数据分析。

SARAWAK TIMBER ASSOCIATION C



CHINESE NEW YEAR OPEN OFFICE



In ushering the year of the Horse, Sarawak Timber Association (STA) held its Chinese New Year Open Office on 11 February 2014 at Wisma STA in Kuching. The event is held annually in appreciation of the support and assistance rendered to staff of the Association as well as to foster better working relationships and friendship with business associates and friends of STA and its wholly-owned subsidiary companies (STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd and STA Training Sdn Bhd). Approximately 210 invited guests from government agencies and departments, Trade Associations, business associates as well as tenants of Wisma STA attended the event.



The event started with a lion dance performance, followed by a symbolic tossing of 'Yee Sang' by STA Chairman, Council Members and invited guests. During the luncheon, invited guests were treated to a performance of Chinese Orchestral music.



Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) telah mengadakan Pejabat Terbuka Tahun Baru Cina pada 11 Februari 2014 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Acara tahunan ini diadakan adalah untuk menghargai sokongan dan bantuan yang diberikan kepada persatuan serta untuk memupuk persahabatan dan hubungan kerja yang lebih erat dengan rakan perniagaan dan rakan-rakan STA.

Acara bermula dengan persembahan tarian singa dan diikuti dengan simbolik menggaul 'Yee Sang' oleh Pengerusi STA, Ahli-ahli Majlis dan tetamu jemputan. Semasa majlis makan tengah hari para tetamu jemputan telah dipersembahkan dengan persembahan Muzik orkestra Cina.



本会于2014年2月11日在古晋STA大厦举办年度新春午餐聚会以酬谢过去一年里与本会有着密切工作联系的伙伴及朋友们。

在餐宴开始前，众来宾们观赏一段舞狮表演，随后本会理事会和特邀嘉宾们进行“捞生”仪式。此次餐宴也预备华乐演奏供来宾们欣赏。

WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2014



Photo: Pantai Damai Assemblyman, Dr Abdul Rahman Junaidi with Director of Forests, Hji Sapuan Ahmad officiating the state-level World Wetlands Day 2014 with the theme – Wetlands & Agriculture: Partner for Growth

The State-level World Wetlands Day 2014 was held at Kuching Wetlands National Park (KWNP), a Ramsar Site on 22 February 2014. It was attended by representatives from various government agencies such as Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Biodiversity Center (SBC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, Natural Resource and Environment Board (NREB), and Petronas as well as teachers, trainee teachers and students from a few schools in Kuching.

The launching ceremony was officiated by Dr Abdul Rahman Junaidi, the Assemblymen for Pantai Damai. Located about 15 kilometres from Kuching City, KWNP covers an area of 6,610 hectares and was gazetted as a National Park in 2002. It was later designated as a Ramsar Site in November 2005, the first in Sarawak as a wetland of international importance. Ramsar convention is a global environmental treaty which deals with a particular ecosystem. It provides the frameworks for international cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and their resources.



Photo: Director of Forests planting a mangrove tree

Also present was Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad, Director of Forests. He stressed that conservation of mangrove is vital as it protects the shorelines from erosion. The KWNP also benefited students and researchers for its unique and rich biodiversity. As a heritage site, it can also be developed for tourism in years to come.

At the end of the ceremony, attendees took part in planting mangrove trees along Sungai Lemidin.

Sambutan Hari Tanah Lembap Sedunia 2014 peringkat Negeri telah diadakan di Taman Negara Tanah Lembap Kuching (KWNP), Tapak Ramsar pada 22 Februari 2014.

Majlis pelancaran telah dirasmikan oleh Dr Abdul Rahman Junaidi, Ahli Dewan Undangan bagi Pantai Damai. Terletak kira-kira 15 kilometer dari Bandaraya Kuching, KWNP meliputi kawasan seluas 6,610 hektar dan telah diwartakan sebagai Taman Negara pada tahun 2002.

达迈区议员阿都拉曼博士（译音）于2月22日假古晋沼泽地国家公园(KWNP) 拉姆萨尔湿地 为2014年砂州世界沼泽地日主持推展礼。距离古晋市15公里，占地面积6,610公顷的KWNP于2002年宪报为国家公园。

MORNING TEA TALK ON VARIOUS SOFT LOAN PROGRAMMES AND INCENTIVES FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES



Photo: Talk in progress

The Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Berhad (MIDF) with the support from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), SME Corp and Export-Import Bank of Malaysia Berhad (EXIM Bank) organised a Morning Tea Talk on Various Soft Loan Programmes and Incentives for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in 2014 on 20 February 2014 at the Grand Margherita Hotel, Kuching. This Talk was attended by approximately eighty (80) representatives from various government agencies, trade associations and private sectors.

The objective of the Talk was to update participants on the various government financial assistance programmes as well as incentives for SMEs as announced by the Government in Budget 2014. Mr Johnson Rudd, Head of Sales and Credit Processing of MIDF in his opening remarks, gave an overview on the objectives of the Talk as well as the funds and soft loans allocated by the Government, which are managed by MIDF.

The Talk included four (4) presentations as follow:

1. **“Government’s Financial Assistance Programmes managed by MIDF”** - by Mr Mohd Suffian Bin Bolhassan, Head of Development Finance Division of MIDF Sarawak branch

The speaker briefed participants of the Talk on the Government’s financial assistance programmes, which are managed by MIDF such as Soft Loan Scheme for Small and Medium enterprise (SLSME), Soft Loan Scheme for Services Sector Capacity Development (SLSCD), Soft Loan Scheme for Services Sector (SLSSS), Soft Loan Scheme of Automation and Modernisation (SLSAM) and Soft Loan Scheme for Bumiputera Automotive Entrepreneurs (SLBAE).

2. **“The Business Accelerator Programme (BAP) and Enrichment & Enhancement Programme (E2) for SMEs”** - by Ms Florence Mawar, Assistant Director of SME Corp Sarawak State Office

The speaker showed participants of the Talk the SME Competitive Rating for Enhancement (SCORE) system, which was created by SME Corp to rate and enhance competitiveness of SMEs based on their performances and capabilities.

3. **“The Diverse Services Provided by Agencies of MITI”** - by Mr Abdul Aziz Bin Mohamad Sharkawi, Regional Director of Sarawak, MITI

The speaker briefed participants of the Talk on the services provided by agencies of MIDF such as the Halal Industry Development Corporation (HDC), SME Bank, Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), Malaysia

External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) and SME Corp.

4. **“Services Provided by EXIM Bank”** - by Mr Hairul Nizam Bin Mohammed, Vice President and Head of Credit Insurance Department

The speaker briefed participants of the Talk on EXIM Bank’s credit facilities namely, the Islamic Banking Facilities, Credit Takaful Facilities, Conventional Banking Facilities and Credit Insurance Facilities.

Permodalan Kemajuan Perindustrian Malaysia Berhad (MIDF) dengan sokongan daripada Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri (MITI), SME Corp dan Bank Export-Import Malaysia Berhad (EXIM Bank) telah menganjurkan Morning Tea Talk tentang “Pelbagai Pinjaman Mudah dan Insentif bagi Perusahaan Kecil dan Sederhana (SMEs) pada tahun 2014” pada 20 Februari 2014 di Hotel Grand Margherita, Kuching.

Objektif Tea Talk ini adalah untuk mengemaskini peserta mengenai pelbagai program bantuan kewangan kerajaan dan juga insentif untuk SMEs seperti yang diumumkan oleh Kerajaan dalam Bajet 2014. Empat (4) perbentangan telah disampaikan semasa Tea Talk seperti yang disenaraikan dalam artikel ini.

马来西亚兴业金融有限公司(MIDF)在国际贸易及工业部(MITI), 中小企业机构和马来西亚进出口银行(EXIM Bank)的支持下于2014年2月20日假古晋玛格丽特酒店召开有关各种中小企业(SMEs)优惠贷款计划与奖掖座谈会。

此座谈会皆于向参与者更新政府在2014年财政预算案公布的各项SMEs金融援助计划和奖掖。

BRIEFINGS FOR THE NOMINATION FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN APPLIED SCIENCE (SUSTAINABLE TROPICAL FOREST MANAGEMENT/ SUSTAINABLE TROPICAL PLANTATION MANAGEMENT) COURSE



Photo: Briefing in progress

With the amendments made to Section 54B of the Forests Ordinance, the Sarawak State Government will phase in trained workforce for the entire forest industry soon. As part of this drive towards a properly trained workforce for better management of our forests, it is recommended that each logging contractor have "Sustainable Forestry Personnel" to oversee all forest operations in accordance with the laws and guidelines set for sustainable forest management.

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) is working with State agencies, principally the Forest Department and Sarawak Forestry Corporation to offer training and certify appropriately trained persons to be a "Sustainable Forestry Manager". Apart from forest management, these trained Managers will be able to assist member companies to work towards forest certification. The training programme for such a Manager is incorporated into a Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management/Sustainable Tropical Plantation Management) course to be run in association with Lincoln University of New Zealand.

STA Training Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of STA, sent out a circular on this matter for the nomination of new students for the fourth (4th) cohort of this Course on 20 February 2014. Associate Professor Hugh Bigsby of Lincoln University conducted briefings from 10 to 13 March 2014 in Kuching, Miri, Bintulu and Sibul.

Member companies of STA who are interested to submit the names of their respective nominees may contact Ms Suzie Adee or Dr Peter Kho at 082-332222.

Dengan pindaan ke atas Seksyen 54B Ordinan Hutan, Kerajaan Negeri Sarawak akan melaksanakan secara berperingkat untuk tenaga kerja terlatih bagi keseluruhan industri hutan tidak lama lagi.

Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) bekerjasama dengan agensi-agensi Kerajaan terutamanya Jabatan Perhutanan Sarawak dan Sarawak Forestry Corporation menawarkan latihan serta mengiktiraf individu terlatih untuk menjadi "Pengurus Hutan Mampan". Program latihan tersebut dilaksanakan melalui Kursus Diploma Pasca Siswazah dalam Sains Gunaan (Pengurusan Mampan Hutan Tropika/Pengurusan Mampan Ladang Tropika) yang akan dilaksanakan oleh STA dengan kerjasama Lincoln University of New Zealand.

STA Training Sdn Bhd, anak syarikat STA, telah mengeluarkan satu pekeliling mengenai perkara ini untuk mendapatkan pencalonan pelajar baru bagi kohort keempat (ke-4) Kursus ini pada 20 Februari 2014. Profesor Madya Hugh Bigsby dari Universiti Lincoln memberi taklimat dari 10 -13 Mac 2014 di Kuching, Miri, Bintulu dan Sibul.

随着森林法令第54B条文的修订，本州政府将逐步为林业注入训练有素的员工队伍。

本会正与本州机构，主要是砂州森林局和砂拉越林业机构有限公司提供持续林业管理经理培训和认证课程。

此项培训课程被纳入由本会与纽西兰林肯大学联合协办的科学应用研究生文凭（热带森林持续管理/热带种植持续管理）。

本会附属公司，STA Training有限公司已于2014年2月20日发出为第4届招收新生通告。林肯大学比休。毕史彼副教授（译名）已于2014年3月10至13日在古晋，美里，民都鲁和诗巫进行简报会。

MINIMUM WAGES NATIONWIDE INTEGRATED CLINIC

The Ministry of Human Resources (MoHR) in collaboration with the Performance Management and Delivery Unit (PEMANDU) held the Minimum Wages Nationwide Integrated Clinic at Auditorium Islamic Information Centre, Kuching on 24 February 2014. Approximately 200 participants attended this Clinic.

The objective of the Clinic was to inform participants on the latest development such as training, incentives and other benefits made available to employers of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) following the implementation of Minimum Wages (MW) policy.

Datuk Seri Richard Riot Jaem, the Minister of Human Resources, in his welcoming address said that the minimum wages policy must be complemented with workforce up-skilling to ensure a win-win situation for employers and employees. He said while it was compulsory for employers, particularly SMEs, to adhere to the policy, the productivity of their employees must also be enhanced. He added that up-skilling of the workforce in the private sector is important considering about 13.8 million of the 15 million workers in the country are working in this sector.

The Minimum Wages Order 2012 was gazetted on 16 July 2012 and was fully implemented on 1 January 2014. Under the policy, the MW for workers in Sabah and Sarawak is RM800 and RM900 for Peninsular Malaysia.

A review will be conducted every two (2) years by the National Minimum Wages Consultative Council. Datuk Seri said a review on the policy is being carried out and the impact of the policy will be made known this coming June. They will fine tune what is best to be done by employers and employees after getting feedbacks from both parties.

Datuk Seri also said that this year, his ministry would be embarking on programmes to seek for workers who are

skilled but did not have academic qualifications in order to produce more skilled workers. Gazelle Group, the group that consists of four (4) top institutes offering skills-based training in the United Kingdom, will be collaborating with Bena-Universiti Malaya to assess our local assessors. He added that the local workforce would be issued with an internationally-recognised certificate by the Gazelle Group in collaboration with his ministry, once they have fulfilled all criteria required for the skills.

He believes that if every sector contributes, the target to achieve 50% of skilled workforce by the year 2020 will be realised.

The five (5) papers presented in the Clinic are as follow:

1. **"Making Minimum Wages Work"** - by the Ministry of Human Resources (MOHR) & Industries
2. **"Financing for SMEs"** - by the Ministry of Finance (MOF), the Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Berhad (MIDF), SME Bank and Credit Guarantee Corporation (CGC)
3. **"Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Workers Skills Development"** - by MOHR
4. **"Labour Productivity"** - by the Malaysian Productivity Corporation (MPC)
5. **"2014 Budget Incentives"** - by SME Corporation

In summary of the above presentations, the Government has provided the following incentives for the employers:

1. Tax deduction on wage differential
2. Fund for automation and working capital
3. Fund for specialised skills training courses

For more information on the papers presented, members may visit www.minimumwages.mohr.gov.my.

Kementerian Sumber Manusia (MoHR) dengan kerjasama Unit Pengurusan Prestasi dan Pelaksanaan (PEMANDU) telah mengadakan Klinik Sokongan Bersepadu Pelaksanaan Perintah Gaji Minimum Seluruh Negara di Auditorium Pusat Maklumat Islam, Kuching pada 24 Februari 2014. Objektif Klinik ini adalah untuk memaklumkan kepada peserta mengenai perkembangan terbaru seperti latihan, insentif dan faedah lain yang disediakan kepada majikan Perusahaan Kecil dan Sederhana (SMEs) susulan pelaksanaan dasar Gaji Minimum (MW).

Datuk Seri Richard Riot Jaem, Menteri Sumber Manusia, dalam ucapan alu-aluannya berkata bahawa dasar gaji minimum mestilah dilengkapi dengan peningkatan kemahiran tenaga kerja bagi memastikan situasi menang-menang untuk majikan dan pekerja. Tambahnya, peningkatan kemahiran tenaga kerja di sektor swasta adalah penting memandangkan kira-kira 13.8 juta daripada 15 juta pekerja di negara ini bekerja dalam sektor swasta. Datuk Seri juga memaklumkan bahawa pada tahun ini, kementerian akan memulakan program mencari pekerja mahir tetapi tidak mempunyai kelayakan akademik untuk menambahkan lebih ramai pekerja mahir. Lima (5) kertas kerja yang dibentangkan semasa Klinik adalah seperti yang disenaraikan dalam artikel ini.

人力资源部(MoHR)连同绩效管理及传递单位(PEMANDU)于2014年2月24日假古晋伊斯兰信息中心礼堂举办最低薪金制全国巡回综合诊断会。该诊断会旨予向参与者讲解有关最低薪金制实施后，政府为中小型企业雇主所推行的最新培训，奖掖和其他福利课题。

人力资源部长拿督斯里里查烈（译音）在致欢迎词时称最低薪金制必须辅以员工技能提高，以确保雇主和雇员双赢局面。他指出私人界员工技能提高很重要因为国内1千5百万名员工中，有1千3百80万名员工为私人界所属。

拿督斯里也称该部门今年起将着手于汇集熟练但无文凭的员工计划以培训更多技术员工。该诊断会总共提出如英文版文中所列出的5张课题报导。

SECOND STANDARD REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING



Photo: Meeting in progress

The second meeting of the Standard Review Committee (SRC) for the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (Forest Plantations) [MC&I (Forest Plantations)] was held from 12 to 13 February 2014 at Urban 360 Hotel, Kuching. It was attended by members, alternate members and observers from the economic, social (indigenous peoples/workers) and environment interest groups, as well as the relevant government agencies from Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia. The meeting was chaired by Mr Yong Teng Koon from the SRC Secretariat who was unanimously elected by the SRC.

The first meeting of the SRC which was held from 26 to 28 August 2013 produced the Enquiry Draft 1 for the review of the MC&I(Forest Plantations). The Enquiry Draft 1 was

subsequently subjected to the Second Public Comment period which was conducted from 1 to 31 December 2013. This Second SRC meeting deliberated on the comments received from the second Public Comment exercise. In this Meeting, the Enquiry Draft 2 was produced and regional consultations were scheduled to be held in Kuching, Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Lumpur in April 2014 for stakeholders to comment on the Enquiry Draft 2.

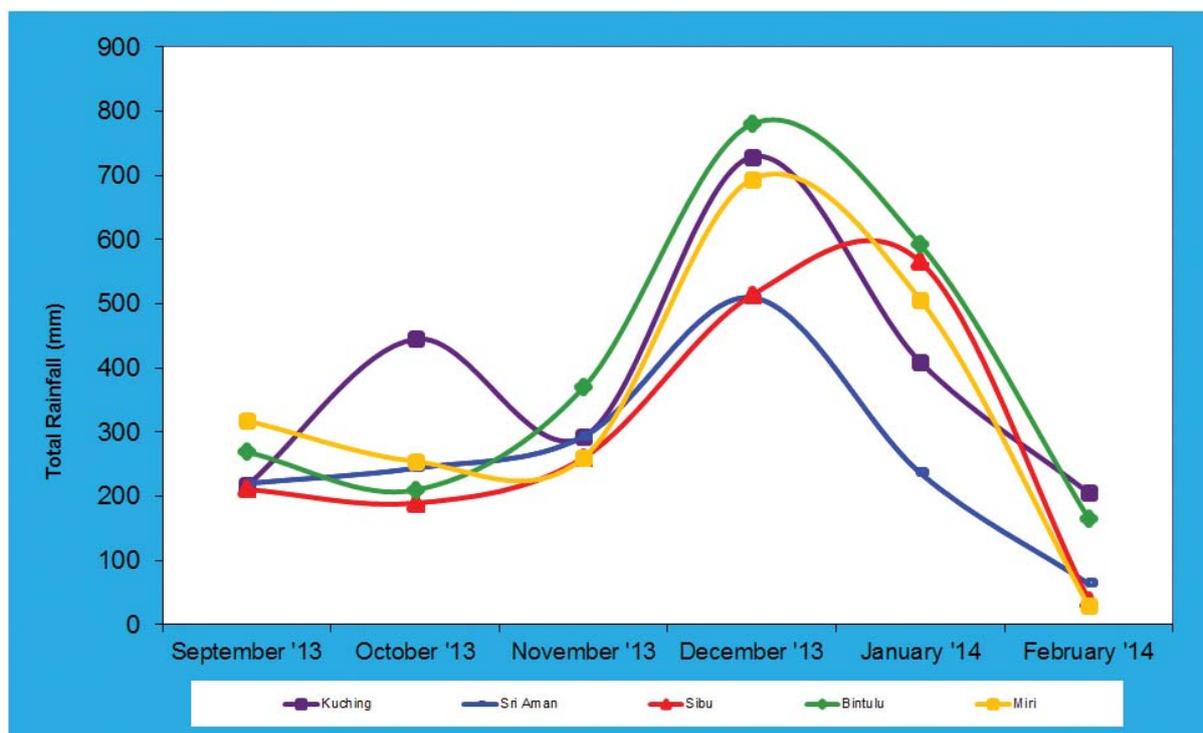
Mesyuarat kedua Jawatankuasa Kajian Piawaian (SRC) untuk Kriteria dan Petunjuk bagi Pensijilan Pengurusan Hutan Malaysia (Ladang Hutan) [MC&I (Ladang Hutan)] telah diadakan dari 12 hingga 13 Feb 2014 di Hotel Urban 360, Kuching.

Dalam Mesyuarat ini, Draf Perbincangan 2 telah dihasilkan dan rundingan bagi setiap Wilayah dijadualkan berlangsung di Kuching, Kota Kinabalu dan Kuala Lumpur pada bulan April 2014 untuk pelbagai pihak berkepentingan mengulas Draf Enquiry 2.

马来西亚管理认证标准草案 (人工林) [MC&I (人工林)] 标准审查委员会(SRC)于2014年2月20日假古晋城市360酒店召开第二次会议。

第二个查询草案在此次会议中出炉, 并暂定于2014年4月份分别在古晋, 亚庇和吉隆坡召开区域磋商会以让相关利益者发表评论。

RAINFALL : SEPTEMBER '13 - FEBRUARY '14 DATA HUJAN BULANAN 雨量数据



Source : Malaysian Meteorological Services