



# 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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## The Eleventh Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) Meeting



Photo: EGILAT Meeting in progress

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM 1) and Related Meetings were held from 18 February to 3 March 2017 in Nha Trang city, Viet Nam. The Malaysian delegation comprised five (5) representatives and was led by Ms Elaine Juliana Malek, the Principle Assistant Secretary from Ministry of Plantation Industry and Commodities (MPIC).

The Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT), a body within APEC, organised a Public Private Dialogue with Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) on Promoting Legal Trade in Harvested Wood Products and Strengthening Supply Chain Connectivity towards Sustainable Growth (Dialogue) from 18 to 19 February 2017 and held its Eleventh (11th) Meeting from 20 to 21 February 2017.

The Public Private Dialogue gathered about 80 participants, including representatives from 17 APEC member economies and NGOs such as The Nature Conservancy (TNC), World Wildlife Funds (WWF), The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC), etc.

The Dialogue was divided into 5 sessions and discussed key issues on:-

- (i) Enhancing the use of innovative science and technology: Experience sharing and best practice,
- (ii) Public private partnership to improve capabilities and enhancing the engagement of SMEs,
- (iii) Model and support mechanism to increase corporation among economies to promote legal trade in harvested wood products and strengthening supply chain connectivity,

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- (iv) Panel on enhancing SMEs to implement timber legality and supply chain connectivity framework and  
(v) Discussions on initiatives and solutions.

Participants shared experiences and made recommendations to enhance the corporation between APEC member economies and SMEs. Among the recommendations made were economies to sign a commitment of not buying and using timber from illegal sources, fulfilling all legal requirements through proper legal export documents and improving chain-of-custody control system.

The outcomes and recommendations of this Dialogue were updated at the 11th APEC EGILAT Meeting.

In the 11th APEC Meeting which was held from 20 to 21 February 2017 at Sheraton Nha Trang & Spa, Nha Trang, Viet Nam. A total of 17 economies attended the Meeting which was chaired by Dr Ruth Turia from Papua New Guinea.

The Meeting discussed and agreed on the EGILAT Work Plan for 2017 and received updates from member economies on their work relating to preventing and combating illegal logging as well as associated trade. Among others, Viet Nam made a presentation on the progress of their Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) and Viet Nam Timber Legality Assurance System (VNTLAS); Indonesia shared their experience and practice on its Forest Product Administration Information System; Japan made a presentation on an overview of its Act on Promotion of Use and Distribution of Legally Harvested Wood and Wood Products; and Malaysia updated the Meeting on the implementation of import regulation by Peninsular, where they are currently undergoing the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) notification process with the World Trade Organisation and the process is expected to be completed by the mid of 2017.

The next EGILAT Meeting will be held in August 2017 in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam.

## Furniture Making Courses

The Wood Industry Skills Development Centre (WISDEC) under Malaysian Timber Industry Board is offering the following furniture making courses in Sabah in 2017:-

Date	Course	Course Code No	Fee (per participant)
25-28 March (4 days)	Furniture Making (Children Furniture)	WC411	RM530.00
8-11 April (4 days)	Furniture Making (Pallet Furniture - Recycling and Auto Construction)	WC412	RM530.00
22-25 July (4 days)	Furniture Making (Display Cabinet)	WC406	RM530.00
19-23 August (5 days)	AUTODESK 3d Studio MAX in Furniture Design	WD409	RM625.00
9-10 October (2 days)	Acacia Wood Processing (Advanced)	WS309	RM265.00

All the courses fees are inclusive of GST 6% and are HRDF claimable. For registration and more information, please contact Encik Mohd Hilmi Shamsuri / Encik Mohd Faizal Abdul Rodzak (coordinators at WISDEC Sabah) at:-

Tel: 088-498 822

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

According to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), since the early 1970s, nearly 58% of all vertebrates, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, have been wiped out as a direct result of human intervention. The process is accelerating and can only be reversed if we intensify our actions and investments which support wildlife conservation in the long run.

Source: <http://cleanmalaysia.com/2017/03/03/world-wildlife-day-serves-warning-state-wildlife-worldwide/>

### Did you also know that....

Social media is a threat to wildlife. Many people are unaware that digital data attached to images will reveal their location and benefit the poachers who resort to these online tools to track wild animals down, especially endangered species. So while we celebrate the wonders of wildlife by taking pictures of them and uploading these pictures to social media, we may unwittingly further endanger them by exposing them and their locations to poachers.

Source: <http://cleanmalaysia.com/2017/02/23/social-media-threat-wildlife/>



## Workshop to Finalize Methodologies for Field and Remote Sensing Data Collection for Forest Resource Inventory Project in the Heart of Borneo, Sarawak



The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) conducted a "Workshop to Finalise Methodologies for Field and Remote Sensing Data Collection for Forest Resource Inventory Project in the Heart of Borneo (HoB)" from 20 to 22 February 2017 at the Waterfront Hotel in Kuching.

Approximately 50 participants from State Forestry Agencies, universities, timber industry players and STA Secretariat attended the Workshop which was officiated by Mr Hamden Mohammad, the Deputy Director of Forests II. In his opening speech, he informed the participants of the Workshop that FDS had received an allocation of RM 3 million under the 11th Malaysia Plan and had appointed FRIM as the consultant, to conduct the forest resource inventory in the HoB Sarawak covering an area of 2.1 million hectares.

He also informed participants of the Workshop that the last forest resource inventory in Sarawak was conducted in early 1970s. After nearly 50 years, the Department has decided to conduct another forest resource inventory to assist them in formulating long term policies and decision making on our forests.

He further explained that the ultimate goal of this project is to conduct forest inventory in the HoB area in Sarawak along with building capacity/expertise among FDS staff and establish Forest Inventory procedures for Sarawak. The Department is positive that imageries captured with remote sensing technology such as LiDAR, RADAR and hyperspectral, coupled with field data will be able to address some of the challenges faced such as huge cost, time consuming and difficult topography.

- 4 papers were presented in the Workshop as follows:-
- (a) Briefing on Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) of Sarawak by Mr Ahmad Ashrin bin Mohamad Bohari, FDS,
  - (b) Approach and Concept of Forest Resource Inventory using Remote Sensing by Mr Hamdan Omar, FRIM,
  - (c) Sampling Unit and Sample Plot Design by Dr Abd Rahman Kassim, FRIM,
  - (d) Progress of Forest Resource Inventory Project by Dr Ismail Parlan, FRIM

FRIM is expected to complete the forest resource inventory through remote sensing in the HoB Sarawak by 2019.



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## **Steering Committee Meeting on the Research of *Ceratocystis* Disease on *Acacia mangium* No 1/2017**

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) called for a Steering Committee Meeting on the Research of *Ceratocystis* Disease on *Acacia mangium* No 1/2017 on 27 February 2017 at Menara PGRM, Kuala Lumpur.

The Meeting was chaired by Dato' Dr Jalaluddin Harun, Director-General of MTIB. In his opening remarks, he welcomed and thanked all members present at the meeting. He hoped that this research project can commence as soon as possible and produce deliverable results to mitigate the *Ceratocystis* disease affecting the *Acacia* plantations in Malaysia, especially for the *A. mangium* plantations which are planted under the soft loan programme by Forest Plantation Development Sdn Bhd (FPDSB). He emphasised the two aspects that the Steering Committee needs to look into, which are the financial progress and physical progress of this project. This is to ensure the fund is disbursed according to the procedure established and the milestones of the project are achieved.

Dr Mohd Farid Bin Ahmad, researcher cum project leader from Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)

gave a presentation on the research proposal entitled "Strategy and Management of Wilting Disease Caused by *Ceratocystis* Fungus which Threatens *A. mangium* Stands in Malaysia". This project will be carried out in Peninsular, Sabah and Sarawak with the funding from MTIB. He briefed the members of the Meeting on the project background, methodologies, expected outputs, agencies involved as well as the fund allocation and disbursement scheme for this project.

The members of the Meeting had a lengthy deliberation on the research proposal presented by FRIM, among others are, the involvement of other agencies in the research project as well as the criteria used in selecting the sample plots and conducting the survey.

The Meeting then went through and accepted the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between MTIB and FRIM on this project.