



STA Certification Committee Meeting

Jawatankuasa Pensijilan STA telah bermesyuarat pada 9 Januari 2009 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Jawatankuasa dikemaskinikan tentang perkara-perkara yang berkaitan dengan pensijilan kayu, syarat-syarat dan garis panduan untuk sumbangan kewangan oleh STA kepada Ahli STA yang mencapai pensijilan, Hutan Bernilai Pemuliharaan Tinggi, cadangan penyelidikan sumber garam asli, Penilaian Kesan Alam Sekitar dan Malaysia-EU FLEGT VPA.

■ The STA Certification Committee met on 9 January 2009 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The meeting was presided by Dato Henry Lau, the Committee Chairman.

The Committee was updated on matters pertaining to Timber Certification, Terms and Guidelines for Financial Contribution by STA to its Members who have achieved Certification, High Conservation Value Forest, research proposal for

natural salt licks and Environmental Impact Assessment.

The Meeting deliberated on the Malaysia-EU FLEGT VPA matters, i.e. the comments made by Members during STA's briefing sessions held in Miri, Bintulu, Kuching and Sibu in December 2008 as well as the comments on the Joint Independent Technical Evaluation Report with regards to the Malaysian Timber Legality Assurance System. ❁



Meeting in progress

CORRECTION

Reference is being made to the December 2008 issue of STA Review on "STA Update of FLEGT-VPA". Line 3 of Paragraph 1 on the front page should read **Forest Law Enforcement** and not **Forest Union Enforcement**.

Meeting with Sarawak Labour Department

■ In considering the current global economic crisis and the likelihood of retrenchment, the Government represented by the Ministry of Human Resources (MoHR) has put in place several measures to mitigate the effects of possible retrenchment, in order to be in a better position to monitor the situation. The MoHR has decided to set up a committee at the State level to hold dialogues and meetings when necessary amongst the representatives of the Department of Labour (the Department), State Government, employers' associations and employees' associations under the guidance of the Director of Labour Sarawak.

The first of such meeting was held on 22 December 2008 where STA was invited to represent the timber industry in Sarawak. Other stakeholders' representatives included the Sarawak Chambers of Commerce, the Sarawak Hotel Associations, the Sarawak Manufacturers' Association, the Malaysian Trade Union Congress, the Sarawak Electrical Association, and the Industrial Relations Department. The State Planning Unit, Chief Minister's Department was also represented at the meeting.

The Director of Labour Sarawak reminded that it is a requirement under Labour (Termination And Lay-Off Benefits) (Sarawak) Rules 2008 ("the Rules") for the employers to report (through JTKSWK19) to the nearest Department before any of the following actions are to be taken:-

- i) retrenchment;
- ii) voluntary separation scheme;
- iii) temporary lay-off; and

iv) salary reduction.

Failure to adhere to this requirement is an offence under Section 60 of the Labour Ordinance (Swk Cap 76) and the maximum penalty for the offence is RM10,000.00 per offence.

A set of guidelines entitled "Garis Panduan Pengurusan Pemberhentian Pekerja" has been issued by the Department to assist employers and employees in dealing with retrenchment. All parties are reminded to adhere to the provisions in the Code of Conduct for Industrial Harmony in carrying out any unavoidable retrenchment exercise.

The following are some other issues raised and highlighted by the Department in the meeting:-

- (1) the Department acknowledges that there may be retrenchment during this challenging time but urges employers to approach the nearest Department to discuss any actions or measures to be undertaken by them which affect human resources of the employers even though these actions and measures are outside the mandatory reporting requirement mentioned above;
- (2) employers were informed that the Department is committed to playing the role of job matchmaker to ensure that the retrenched workers can quickly be matched with jobs available in other industries. As such, employers are urged to submit list of workers to be retrenched to the Department as soon as the retrenchment exercise is apparent;
- (3) employers were informed that the

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Dengan keadaan krisis ekonomi sedunia dan kemungkinan pemberhentian pekerja, kerajaan diwakili oleh Kementerian Sumber Manusia telah mengambil beberapa langkah untuk mengurangkan kesan kemungkinan berlakunya pemberhentian pekerja supaya kerajaan akan berada pada kedudukan yang lebih baik untuk memantau keadaan demikian. Kementerian telah menubuhkan satu jawatankuasa peringkat Negeri untuk mengadakan dialog dan mesyuarat apabila diperlukan antara wakil-wakil dari Jabatan Tenaga Kerja, Kerajaan Negeri, persatuan majikan dan persatuan pekerja di bawah bimbingan Pengarah Jabatan Tenaga Kerja.

Mesyuarat pertama telah diadakan pada 22 Disember 2008 di mana STA dijemput untuk mewakili industri perkayuan di Sarawak.

Satu set garis panduan bertajuk Garis Panduan Pengurusan Pemberhentian Pekerja telah dikeluarkan oleh Jabatan untuk membantu majikan dan pekerja untuk menghadapi masalah pemberhentian pekerja. Semua pihak diingatkan supaya mematuhi Kod Pengendalian untuk Keharmonian Industri apabila menjalankan latihan pemberhentian pekerja yang tidak dapat dielakkan.

Dokumen ini boleh dimuat turun dari laman web STA, www.sta.org.my

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MoHR has in place a retraining fund to re-designate workers into industries with vacancies;

- (4) employers were reminded to adhere to the minimum amount of termination or lay-off benefits payment provided in Rule 6 of the Rules in the event of any retrenchment. Failure to comply with these Rules is an offence and the maximum penalty for an offence is RM10,000.00 per offence according to Section 130M of the Labour Ordinance (Swk Cap 76); and

(Note: if 10 employees are retrenched and the employer fails to pay lay-off benefits to all the 10 employees then the employer will be charged for 10 offences which upon conviction will subject the employer to a maximum fine of RM100,000.00)

- (5) employers were reminded that payment of the termination or lay-off benefits to retrenched workers will not stop them from making representations under Section 20 of the Industrial Relations Act 1967 to the Industrial Relations Department if they consider their dismissal were without just cause or excuse.

Members are informed that the following documents are available at STA's website, www.sta.org.my, for

downloading:-

- a) Labour (Termination and Lay-Off Benefits)(Sarawak) Rules 2008;
- b) JTKSWK19 - Borang Pemberhentian Pekerja;
- c) Garis Panduan Pengurusan Pemberhentian Pekerja (Note: English version will be uploaded to STA Website once we received it from the Department); and
- d) Code of Conduct for Industrial Harmony.

The Department has requested Members of STA to inform the Department in advance in the event of any unavoidable retrenchment exercise is to be carried out by members to enable the Department to monitor the retrenchment exercise and arrange for retraining and jobs matching for the retrenched workers to re-deploy workers to industries with vacancies.

In this connection, STA Secretariat has sent out a survey form on 27 December 2008 to collect data and information from Members relating to any unavoidable retrenchment exercise. The information collected will enable the Secretariat to liaise with the Department on the matter. ❁

IWPA 53rd Annual Convention

Konvensyen Tahunan ke-53 Persatuan Produk Kayu Antarabangsa (IWPA) akan diadakan dari 25 hingga 27 Mac 2009 di Indian Wells, California, Amerika Syarikat. Sejajar dengan ini, IWPA juga menganjurkan Dunia Kayu 2009. Maklumat lanjut boleh diperolehi dari www.iwpawood.org.

■ The International Wood Products Association's (IWPA) 53rd Annual Convention, a "Can't Miss Event" for 2009 will be held from 25 to 27 March 2009 in Indian Wells, California, U.S.A. . The event brings together nearly 250 delegates from 25 countries to learn, network, and conduct business in hardwoods and softwoods.

In conjunction with this Convention, IWPA has organised the

World of Wood 2009, which brings together importers, producers, wholesalers and service providers, among others, to conduct business and to discuss the latest issues concerning trade in imported hardwood and softwoods from around the world.

For further information, please visit IWPA's website at www.iwpawood.org ❁

Lacey Act

■ The Lacey Act is a tool to combat trafficking in "illegal" wildlife, fish or plants and products thereof, thus avoiding deforestation. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, effective 22 May 2008, amended the Lacey Act by expanding its protection to a broader range of plants and plant products. This amendment extends the coverage of the Act to include plants outside the United States. It requires all timber harvested and the trade of timber and timber products to comply with the laws of the producing country; this Act also covers inter-state trade within the US.

Plants in this context are defined as "any wild member of the plant kingdom, including roots, seeds, parts or product thereof, and including trees from either natural or planted forest stands".

The Lacey Act makes it unlawful to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce any plant, with some limited exceptions, taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of the laws of the United States or most foreign laws. The Lacey Act also now makes it unlawful to make or submit any false record, account or label for, or any false identification of, any plant covered by the Act.

As of 15 December 2008, it will be unlawful to import any covered plant or plant product without a minor declaration but will require full declaration once the electronic declaration is available in April 2009.

The following are examples that constitute illegal logging under the

amended Lacey Act:

- Theft of timber, including from Parks and Protected Areas
- Harvesting without permission
- Failure to comply with harvesting regulations
- Failure to pay royalties, taxes or fees

Declaration must be made at the time of importation, and this declaration must contain the following information:

- Scientific Name of Plant (including genus & species)
- Value of Importation
- Quantity of the plant
- Name of the Country in which the Plant was harvested

For paper and paperboard products with recycled content, it is required to state the average percentage of recycled content without regard to species or country of harvest.

However, declaration does not apply to packaging material, unless the packaging material itself is the item being imported.

If species varies and is unknown, declaration is required for name of each species that may have been used to produce the product. If the species is commonly harvested in more than one country, and the country is unknown, a declaration is required for the name of each country of which the plant may have been harvested.

Violations and Penalties for breaching the Lacey Act - (i) for

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Akta Lacey merupakan alat untuk menangani perniagaan haram hidupan liar, ikan atau tumbuhan dan produk yang berkaitan untuk mengelak berlakunya pembasmian hutan. Mulai 22 Mei 2008, Akta Makanan, Pemuliharaan dan Tenaga 2008 membuat pindaan ke atas Akta Lacey dengan memperluaskan perlindungan terhadap pelbagai jenis tumbuhan dan produk tumbuhan. Pindaan Akta ini merangkumi tumbuhan di luar Amerika Syarikat. Ia memerlukan semua peniaga balak dan produk kayu mematuhi undang-undang negara pengeluar; Akta ini juga meliputi dagangan antara negeri di dalam Amerika Syarikat. Maklumat lanjut boleh didapati dari www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act

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felonies, punishable 5 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 (\$500,000 for Corporations) (ii) for misdemeanors, punishable 1 year in prison and a fine of \$100,000 (\$200,000 for Corporations). For

both cases, there will be forfeiture of goods.

More information can be obtained from www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act ☛

Mesyuarat Tahunan STA dan Mesyuarat Luarbiasa STA akan diadakan pada hari Selasa, 31 Mac 2009 di Wisma STA, Kuching.

Kursus Pemuatan ISPM #15 bagi Pembekal Rawatan Haba mengenai Bahan Pembungkusan Kayu akan diadakan dari 24 hingga 26 Mac 2009. Untuk maklumat lanjut, sila hubungi Sarawak Forestry Corporation di Talian: 082-610088.

NOTICE

STA Annual General Meeting & STA Extraordinary General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 31 March 2009
Time: 10.30 am STA Annual General Meeting
(Registration starts at 9.30 am)
 11.30 am STA Extraordinary General Meeting
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 in early March 2009 while the Notice and Agenda of the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) has been posted out to all Members on 30 December 2008. The purpose of the STA EGM is to consider and approve the proposed amendments to the Memorandum and Articles of the Association.

ISPM #15 Compliance Course for Heat Treatment Providers

■ STA Training Sdn Bhd, Sarawak Forestry Corporation and Crop Protection and Plant Quarantine Services of the Department of Agriculture Sarawak will jointly organise the ISPM #15 Compliance Course for Heat Treatment Providers on Wood Packaging Materials from 24 to 26 March 2009 at the Timber

Research and Technical Training Centre, Kota Sentosa, Kuching.

This Course is designed for people who are employed by mills providing heat treated wood packaging materials.

For further information on the Course, please contact Mr. Tan Jui Liah of Sarawak Forestry Corporation at Tel: 082-610088. ☛

Social Responsibility of Private Companies to Lighten the Burden of Society

■ STA received a letter referenced JTKSWK/AG/(R)1 (2) from the Department of Labour Sarawak stating that the Cabinet has taken note of the efforts made by private companies to fulfill their social responsibility in lightening the burden of society caused by the price hike in necessities. The following are a few examples of the effort made:-

- a) a plantation company has provided fruit tree seedlings free to their workers and local community. The proceeds from the sale of the fruits will assist in meeting their daily expenses.
- b) a company in Johor has provided 5 buses for free transportation in rural areas to alleviate the daily expenses of the local community caused by

rising petrol price and taxi fares. The Iskandar Regional Development authority has agreed to hire 2 drivers for each of these buses.

In connection with this, the government is urging and encouraging more private companies to carry out their corporate social responsibility and make contribution to lighten the burden of the society in accordance with their ability to do so.

STA member companies who are already making or intending to make such contributions are requested to inform the Labour Department of their efforts so that the information can be channelled to the Ministry of Human Resources. ❁

LIGNA Hannover 2009

■ The World Fair for Forestry and Wood Industries, the LIGNA Hannover 2009 organised by Deutsche Messe will be held from 18 to 22 May 2009 in Hannover, Germany.

LIGNA Hannover is the leading international trade fair for the forestry and timber industry and has become the meeting place of choice for the international timber and woodworking trade. The fair's impressive array of specialized, user-oriented presentations, seminars, symposiums, international contact exchanges

and conferences further underscores its standing as the leading international event for the forestry and wood industries.

LIGNA Hannover 2007 was by far, the most popular trade fair for the forestry and timber industry with 1,832 exhibitors from all over the world displaying their latest products and attracting 107,279 visitors (including 45,800 from outside Germany).

For further information, please visit www.ligna.de ❁

STA menerima surat dari Jabatan Tenaga Kerja Sarawak menyatakan bahawa Kabinet menyedari usaha syarikat swasta dalam menjalani tanggungjawab sosial dalam meringankan beban masyarakat akibat kenaikan harga untuk keperluan harian.

Ahli STA yang sedang atau ingin membuat sumbangan diminta untuk memberitahu Jabatan Tenaga Kerja tentang usaha mereka supaya maklumat ini dapat disalurkan kepada Kementerian Sumber Manusia.

Pameran Sedunia Perhutanan dan Industri Kayu, LIGNA Hannover 2009 akan diadakan dari 18 hingga 22 Mei 2009 di Hannover, Jerman. LIGNA Hannover merupakan pameran dagangan antarabangsa untuk perhutanan dan industri kayu. Untuk maklumat selanjutnya, sila layari www.ligna.de

Timber Industry Training Course for 2009

■ The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) aspires to produce skilled and knowledgeable human resource in the wood-based sector in the aspects of processing-related activities, timber trade and factory management.

Towards this end, STIDC will be offering the following courses for the year 2009. The Competency based training will be held at Pusat Latihan Perkayuan PUSAKA, Tanjung Manis (PLPPTM) while for technical short

courses, the venue will be announced in due course. For further information, please contact STIDC at:

Wisma Sumber Alam, Jalan Stadium Petra Jaya, 93050 Kuching, Sarawak
P.O. Box 194, 93702 Kuching, Sarawak
(Attn: Industrial Training Section)

Tel: 082-443477 ext. 379/ 376/ 375
Fax: 082-449184
Email: kgpusakasli@pusaka.gov.my
Website: www.pusaka.gov.my

Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (PUSAKA) akan menjalankan kursus-kursus berikut pada 2009. Kursus Kecekapan akan diadakan di Pusat Latihan Perkayuan PUSAKA, Tanjung Manis (PLPPTM) manakala tempat latihan bagi Kursus Teknikal akan diumumkan kelak. Untuk maklumat lanjut, sila hubungi PUSAKA.

A. COMPETENCY BASED TRAINING

No.	Course Title	Duration	Date*	Fee (RM)*
1.	Introduction to Furniture Making Techniques	11 Weeks	1 April - 19 June	2,600
2.	Furniture Design & Manufacturing	17 Weeks	1 July - 30 October	3,700
3.	Introduction to Wood Carving Techniques	11 Weeks	1 April - 19 June	2,600
4.	Wood Carving Design & Manufacturing	17 Weeks	1 July - 30 October	3,700
5.	Wood Anatomy & Identification	3 Weeks	16 March - 3 April	500
6.	The Sarawak Log Grading Rules	3 Weeks	13 - 30 April & 3 - 21 August	500
7.	The Malaysian Grading Rules	7 Weeks	15 June - 31 July	1,200

B. TECHNICAL SHORT COURSE

No.	Course Title	Duration	Date*	Fee (RM)*
1.	Introduction to Sarawak Log Grading Rules	3 Days	21 - 23 April	300
2.	Introduction to Malaysian Grading Rules	3 Days	21 - 23 July	300
3.	Malaysian Grading Rules Refreshers	2 Days	1 - 2 July & 14 - 15 July	100

* Subject to change

MTIB's Training Programme for 2009

■ The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) is offering the following training programmes for 2009. 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.com.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.com.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

WISDEC Banting

No.	Course Title	Duration	Date	Fee (RM)
1.	Application of CAD in Furniture Design (Basic)	4 days	3 - 7 March	700
2.	Furniture Making (Kitchen Cabinet)	4 days	24 - 27 March	700
3.	Introduction to Malaysian Grading Rules	3 days	7 - 9 April	525
4.	Technology and Operation of Wood Working Machine	4 days	13 - 16 April	700
5.	Safety and Health in the Wood-based Industry	3 days	21 - 23 April	525
6.	Timber Drying	15 days	11 - 29 May	1,500
7.	Furniture Making (Garden Furniture)	4 days	19 - 22 May	700
8.	Machining Technology and Operation of Wood Working Machine	4 days	23 - 26 June	700
9.	Furniture Making (Sofa)	4 days	7 - 10 July	700

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Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia (MTIB) , akan mengadakan program latihan seperti di jadual pada 2009. 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.com.my atau hubungi pejabat MTIB Banting dan Kota Kinabalu di alamat masing-masing.

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No.	Course Title	Duration	Date	Fee (RM)
10.	Forest Plantation	3 days	4 - 6 August	525
11.	Strengthening Lean Manufacturing Through Kaizen Practices	2 days	11 - 12 August	350
12.	Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) for Industries	2 days	6 - 7 October	350
13.	Furniture Production Management	3 days	17 - 19 November	525

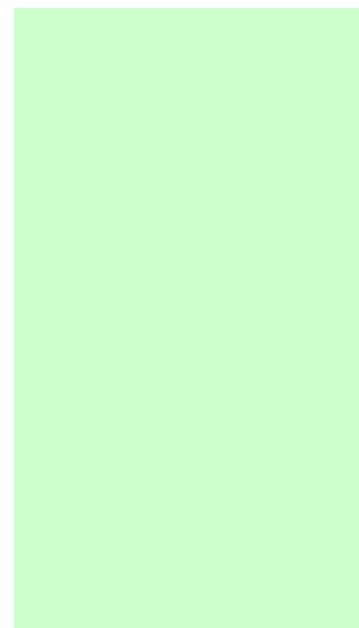
WISDEC Sabah

No.	Course Title	Duration	Date	Fee (RM)
1.	Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) for Industries	2 days	10 - 11 March	350
2.	Introduction to Malaysian Grading Rules	3 days	23 - 25 March	525
3.	Identification of Malaysian Timbers	4 days	6 - 9 April	700
4.	Safety and Health in the Wood-based Industry	3 days	21 - 23 April	525
5.	Application of CAD in Furniture Design (Basic)	4 days	5 - 8 May	700
6.	Safety and Health in the Wood-based Industry for Supervisors	3 days	18 - 20 May	525
7.	Furniture Making (Kitchen Cabinet)	4 days	2 - 5 June	700
8.	Creative Finishing	4 days	15 - 18 June	700
9.	Technology and Operation of Wood Working Machine - CNC Router	4 days	6 - 9 July	700

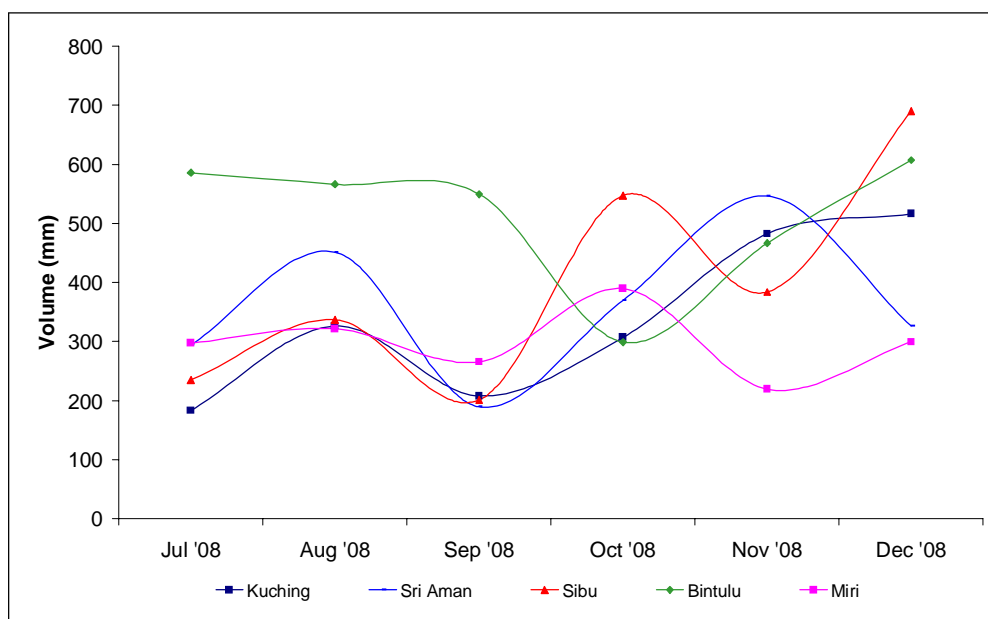
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No.	Course Title	Duration	Date	Fee (RM)
10.	Machining Technology and Operation of Wood Working Machine	4 days	27 - 30 July	700
11.	Wood Technology	3 days	3 - 5 August	525
12.	Strengthening Lean Manufacturing Through Kaizen Practices	2 days	11 - 12 August	350
13.	Forest Plantation	3 days	9 - 11 November	525



Rainfall : July - December '08 Kadar Hujan Bulanan



Source : Malaysian Meteorological Services.

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