



January 2015

For Private Circulation Only

Issue 199

STA dan Rakan2

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 news bulletin is circulated to designated readers free of charge.

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7th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade

The 7th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) was held from 26 to 27 January 2015 in the Clark Freeport Zone, the Philippines with attendance of sixteen (16) APEC member economies (Countries) namely Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Chinese Taipei, the United States of America and Vietnam. The Meeting was chaired by Mr Xia Jun, the Chair of EGILAT.

The opening remark was delivered by Mr Demetrio L Ignacio Jr, Undersecretary for Field Operations, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Philippines. He reiterated the importance for member economies to enhance cooperation to address concerns of illegal logging and its associated trade, and to promote the trade of legal timber and timber products as well as to increase forest cover in the APEC region by 20 million hectares by 2020 as outlined by APEC Leaders in 2007.

The Meeting discussed the proposed Work Plan 2015 for EGILAT and subsequently explored possibility and specific topics to be addressed in joint meeting(s) between EGILAT and Sub-Committee on Custom Procedures (SCCP) as well as Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group (ACTWG) to increase law

enforcement cooperation, capacity building and information sharing related to combating illegal logging and associated trade. These collaborations will be presented by the Philippines during the Senior Officials Meeting Committee on ECOTECH & Committee of the Whole (SCE-CoW) Meeting on 4 February 2015.

The Meeting discussed at length the draft APEC Policy Guidelines on Identifying the Scope of Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (APEC Policy Guidelines) and the work on the draft Template of EGILAT Timber Legality Guidance. Economies acknowledged that there is no common understanding and definition on what constitute illegal logging. They also felt that the APEC Policy Guidelines should use simple language and general terms. The Meeting resolved for the APEC Secretariat to re-circulate the two draft documents for further comments and to be discussed in EGILAT 8 to reach consensus on the two documents.

Korea shared the new concept note on APEC Database for SMEs Targeting "Legal Wood Only" Market outlined road map, structure and potential users of the database. The APEC Database aims to establish database that will allow economies to outline the requirements of their procurement policies and exchange data and information on legal timber and timber products.

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DF Circular 1/2015

Sarawak Timber Association has received a DF Circular No 1/2015 from the Forest Department Sarawak ref DF 681 76 (VII) – 01 dated 16 January 2015 on the Royalty Assessment. Append on the right is the DF Circular for your information.



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DF CIRCULAR NO. 1/2015

ROYALTY ASSESSMENT

With immediate effect, all logs from OT, BT and LA licensed areas shall be royalty assessed at landing sites inside the licensed areas.

Please inform all the Regional Managers, the field officers, Timber Licensees and logging operators accordingly.

"BERSATU BERUSAHA BERBAKTI"

"AN HONOUR TO SERVE"

(HAJI SAPIAN BIN AHMAD)
Director of Forests
SARAWAK

Ref : DF.681.76 (VII) – 01
Date : 16th January 2015

To : Chief Executive Officer, Sarawak Forestry Corporation

c.c : Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Resource Planning and Management
Regional Forest Officer Kuching/Sibu/Bintulu/Miri
General Manager, Sarawak Timber Association (STA)
General Manager, Sarawak Timber Industrial Development Corporation
General Manager, Harwood Timber Sdn. Bhd.

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Briefing on Royalty Assessment

A Briefing on Royalty Assessment was conducted by the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) pursuant to the Director of Forests (DF) Circular No 1/2015 on 28 January 2015 at SFC Office, Kuching. The Briefing was conducted by Mr Semilan Ripot, Regional Manager of SFC and was attended by representatives from the Occupational Ticket (OT), Belian Licence (BT) and Letter of Authority (LA) licensees in Kuching.

Mr Semilan informed the participants at the Briefing that all logs from OT, BT and LA licensed areas shall be royalty assessed at landing sites inside the licensed areas. He added that the royalty assessment will

be based on planned schedules and not on application.

The participants at the Briefing voiced their concerns on the practicality of the new arrangement and the definition of landing blocks. Since the approved landing point is located in the blocks, they also queried on the validity of the Transportation Pass as weather conditions will affect the movement of the logs. Furthermore, the re-issuance of the Transit Removal Pass (TRP) is a time consuming process for the licensee holders.

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

Viet Nam's forestry sector has aimed to achieve a total production value of VND 25 trillion (EUR 982.70 million/USD 1.17 billion) in 2015 to reach 7.2% as compared to 7% in 2014. Besides that, the country's forestry coverage is estimated to increase to 42% in 2015 as compared to 41.5% in 2014, while the export value of forestry products in 2015 is estimated to hike to USD 6.70 billion (EUR 5.64 billion) from USD 6.3 billion in 2014. Viet Nam's forest industry in 2014 has fulfilled 105% of the country's yearly plan of forest growth with almost 220,000 hectares of concentrated forest.

Source: MTIB News Extracts 02/01/2015

Did you also know that....

In Malaysia, the Goods and Service Tax (GST) will come into force on 1 April this year and businesses are concerned on how this will impact consumer sentiment, especially when it comes to the property market. Most analysts say property prices are sure to dip immediately after the new tax is introduced but should rebound once the initial shock subsides. Timber traders are watching development closely and trying to anticipate how the GST will impact the industry

Source: ITTO TTM Report: 19.1, 1 – 15 January 2015



DF Circular 2/2015



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DF CIRCULAR NO. 2/2015

STERN ACTION TO BE TAKEN AGAINST SAWMILLERS BUYING OR PROCESSING ILLEGAL LOGS OR TIMBERS

You are warned not to buy or process illegal logs or timbers. Stern action will be taken to those found breaching this instruction including termination of their licences.

Please inform your mill managers, log-pond operators and workers accordingly.

"BERSATU BERUSAHA BERBAKTI"

"AN HONOUR TO SERVE"

(HAJJI SAPIUAN BIN AHMAD)
Director of Forests
SARAWAK

Ref : DF.681.76 (VII) – 02
Date : 20th January 2015

To : All Sawmillers as listed below

c.c : Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment
Regional Forest Officer Kuching/Sibu/Bintulu/Miri
Chief Executive Officer, Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn. Bhd.
General Manager, Sarawak Timber Association (STA)
General Manager, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation
General Manager, Harwood Timber Sdn. Bhd.

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Workshop on Systematic Conservation Planning for Sarawak

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and WWF-Malaysia jointly organised a workshop on Systematic Conservation Planning (SCP) for Sarawak from 20 to 22 January 2015 at the Faculty of Computer Science & Information Technology, UNIMAS, Kuching.

The three-day Workshop aimed to provide support for the State Government's conservation and sustainable development agenda by demonstrating the benefits of applying systematic conservation planning to produce information that can guide decision making for conservation, natural resources management and development planning; as well as transferring knowledge and skills on the application to the State Government and implementing agencies.

Approximately fifty (50) people comprising officers and representatives from government agencies,

universities as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who are involved in conservation, environment and natural resources planning and management participated in the Workshop. The Workshop focused on capacity building for assessment of terrestrial and freshwater priority conservation areas in the State. A pre-workshop session was also held at the same venue on 19 January 2015.

The Workshop was officiated by the Assistant Minister of Environment, Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh on 20 January 2015 at Four Points Hotel, Kuching. In the opening speech, Datu Len mentioned that Sarawak is a haven for world biodiversity and everyone has responsibilities and commitments to protect and upkeep this haven. He also mentioned that this workshop will help Sarawak in achieving the goal to produce

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a comprehensive map showing the areas that needed urgent conservation attention. This is a map that integrates all considerations for development needs, ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation needs which is accepted by the stakeholders, integrated into development planning and used as a guide in environmental management and sustainable development of land in Sarawak.

The Workshop also comprised talks by Professor Dr Wang Yin Chai of UNIMAS, Dr Mario Barraso, senior conservation specialist of WWF-Brazil, Dr Yoganand Kandasamy of Sabah Terrestrial Conservation Program for WWF-Malaysia and Dr Jedediah Brodie, Assistant Professor of Conservation Ecology from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Also present were Professor Dr Lau Seng, Director of the Centre of Water Research, Institute of Biodiversity and Environment Conservation, UNIMAS; Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad, Director of Forests, FDS; and Dr Sundari Ramakrishma, Conservation Director, WWF-Malaysia.

Four (4) papers were presented during the Workshop. During the 3-day Workshop, participants were introduced to the application of Spatial Tools in Geography Information System (GIS) for Systematic Conservation Planning, introduction to steps and process of SCP and the use of MARXAN software in facilitating SCP.

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During the Meeting several APEC member economics i.e. the Philippines, Indonesia and Non-APEC members i.e. International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), NEPCon, and Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) shared information relating to combating illegal logging and promoting trade in legal timber products.

The 8th APEC EGILAT meeting is scheduled on August 2015 at Cebu, the Philippines.