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STA dan Rakan2

Discussion cum Training Session on the Requirements of the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2

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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Photo: (left) Mr Yong Teng Koon, CEO of MTCC briefing the participants

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) in collaboration with the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) organised a Discussion cum Training Session on the Requirements of the Malaysian Criteria & Indicators (MC&I) Forest Plantation.v2 on 7 January 2016 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The Session was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment (MRPE), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), SARAWAK FORESTRY Corporation Sdn Bhd (SFC), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and member companies of STA.

certification under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS).

Mr Yong Teng Koon, Chief Executive Officer of MTCC briefed the participants of the Session on the roles of MTCC, the development and operation of the MTCS, the process flow for forest management certification as well as the recognition of MTCS by other countries. Mr Yong, with the assistance from Ms Siti Syaliza Mustapha, Manager (Forest Management), MTCC, presented the principles and requirements of the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2.

The purpose of this Session is to ensure that the members involved in the forest plantation activities and those who wish to obtain certification for their Planted Forests are aware and fully understand of the standard and requirements of the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2. The Session also served as a platform where the government agencies and industry come together to discuss the issue and problem faced in applying for the forest plantation

Currently, MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 is undergoing endorsement process by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) International. However, due to the delay in the endorsement process, the PEFC has granted six (6) months extension until 30 June 2016 so that the existing Forest Plantation Management Unit (FPMU) certificate

(Continue on page 4)

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Sarawak Bioeconomy Day



Photo: Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Alfred Jabu Anak Numpang during the launching ceremony

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and the Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation (BiotechCorp) co-organised a one-day Bioeconomy Day on 8 January 2016 at the Pullman Hotel, Kuching. This as an effort to kick-start the growth of bioeconomy in Sarawak after the same programme was held in Sabah and Peninsular Malaysia last year. The objectives of this programme were to further boost bioeconomy development in Sarawak and continue to provide awareness on Bioeconomy Transformation Programme (BTP) and Bioeconomy Community Development Programme (BCDP) as well as its opportunities for the private sectors in the bio-based industries. Approximately 150 participants from various relevant agencies attended this event.

The Chief Minister of Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Haji Adenan Satem represented by Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Alfred Jabu Anak Numpang launched the Sarawak Bioeconomy Day and mentioned that Sarawak has an abundance supply of natural resources that could create a huge potential for the State's bioeconomy growth driven by strong collaborative partnerships as well as excellent facilities and infrastructure in Sarawak's bio-based clusters. He encouraged both the public and private sectors to continue exploring the areas rich in bio-resources, which has a huge potential for growth in the State.

Currently, Sarawak has eight (8) BioNexus-status companies focusing on aquaculture and marine biotechnology, crop biotechnology, livestock biotechnology, bioremediation, specialty chemicals and biomedical.

The following three (3) papers were presented during the Bioeconomy Day:-

1. "Bioeconomy in Malaysia. (a) Bioeconomy Transformation Programme, & (b) Bioeconomy Community Development Programme" by Dato' Dr Mohd Nazlee Kamal, Chief Executive Officer of Malaysian BiotechCorp
2. "Current State of Malaysian Economy in Sarawak and Opportunities to Improve Economic Contribution of Each Key Areas" by Tan Sri Datuk Amar Wilson Baya Dandot, Chief Executive Officer, Regional Corridor Development Authority
3. "BioNexus Status and R&D Incentives" by Wan Hasnul Nadzrin Wan Sulong, Vice President, BioNexus Evaluation Department of BiotechCorp

This Event was also attended by the Minister from MOSTI, Datuk Seri Panglima Wilfred Madius Tangau and his Deputy, Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah; Assistant Minister of Industrial Estate Development, Datuk Peter Nansian; MOSTI Secretary-General, Dato' Sri Dr Noorul Ainur Mohd Nor and its Deputy Secretary-General, Dr Zulkifli Mohamed Hashim.



Did you know that.....

The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) has received an award from PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement for Forest Certification) for the third highest increase in the number of Chain of Custody (CoC) certified companies in 2015. MTCC registered 59 new CoC certificate holders representing a 21% increase compared to 2014. In a statement MTCC has indicated it would work to ensure more domestic wood product end-users such construction and building companies, furniture makers as well as manufactures of composite boards and paper have in place systems to secure raw materials from sustainably managed forests.

Source: ITTO TTM Report: 20:2, 16 – 31 January 2016

Did you also know that....

Kevin Trenberth of America's National Centre for Atmospheric Research says El Niño could account for "most of the difference" in warmth between 2014 and 2015. And as the water-holding capacity of air increases by about 7% per 1°C of warming, many of El Niño's impacts will be more brutal as a consequence. But the world is getting hotter, even without El Niño's handiwork. A new study published in Nature Climate Change suggests that the oceans have absorbed as much heat in the past 18 years as in the previous 130 years. And carbon-dioxide concentration in the atmosphere has hit 400 parts per million, a level not seen for 4m years, helping to roast the planet.



Source: *The Economist*, 21 January 2016

Briefing on the Current Status of Occupational Ticket Licence and Letter of Authority



Photo: Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad, Director of Forests giving his briefing

Forest Department Sarawak organised a briefing on the current status of Occupational Ticket (OT) Licence and Letter of Authority (LA) on 27 January 2016 at Dewan Seminar, Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. The Briefing was attended by officers from the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment (MRPE), relevant government agencies such as the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Sarawak

Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd (SFCSB), OT and LA holders as well as Sarawak Timber Association (STA).

Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad, the Director of Forests informed the participants of the Briefing that the objective of the briefing were to inform all OT and LA licencees and contractors on the latest directive issued by the State Government and at the same time to gather all information and feedback from the affected parties. He shared with the participants of the Briefing that in mid 2015, half of the OT has been cancelled and that all renewal of OT licence will be based on merit. He also said that as of 12 January 2016, there are 102 OT licences and LA. Tuan Haji Sapuan enlightened the participants of the Briefing on the criteria for renewing OT licence and LA. He also reminded the participants that all logs produced from OT licences and LA issued for the clearing of agriculture plantation areas and clearing in Licence for Planted Forests (LPF) areas are for local processing only and shall not be exported. He further reminded the holder of the licences to return the licence to the Director within 30 days upon expiration as stipulated under Section 43 (1) of the Forest Ordinance 2015 (Cap 71).

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Quarterly Meeting with Licensees for Planted Forests No 1/2016

A quarterly meeting with Licensees for Planted Forest was called by Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) on 4 January 2016 at Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. The Meeting was attended by the representatives from Licence for Planted Forests (LPF) holders and staff members of STA Secretariat.

In his opening remarks, the Director of Forests, Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad, stressed that the logs harvested from planted forests are meant for the Licensees' own processing mills, and not for the pulp and paper mills. He added that the logs production from natural forests will likely be reduced in the future and the logs reservation quota will also be revised to follow the suite. He informed the Meeting that the area planted in

year 2015 based on the information submitted by the LPF holders is approximately 19,669.5 ha, which is 89% of the planting Key Performance Indicator (KPI) set by the State Government. He warned the LPF holders to submit their quarterly report on time, and for those Licensees who do not fulfil the terms and conditions of licence, warning letters will be issued and the License may be cancelled.

The Meeting also discussed on the other related issues, such as enrichment planting, parameter survey of Native Customary Right (NCR) land, revision of tree planting plan (TPP), tree harvesting plan (THP), research and development (R&D) for planted forests, and forest plantation certification under the Malaysian Criteria & Indicators (MC&I) Forest Plantation.v2.



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(continued from page 1)

holders can continue to hold the PEFC-endorsed certificates. The endorsement extension also covers the new FPMU who had been assessed against the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2.

The Session also discussed at length on the cut-off date for conversion of the natural forest to forest plantation under the Criterion 6.10 in the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2. According to the PEFC meta standards, the cut-off date for conversion is 31 December 2010 and the Licence for Planted Forests (LPF) area converted after this date for first rotation of planting is not eligible for certification. However, LPF areas that have entered into second rotation of planting

are acceptable for certification. This means that under this criterion, LPF holders will have restriction in obtaining the certification and marketing their planted logs from the first rotation of planting to countries that require certified timber product.

MTCC also informed the participants that the PEFC meta standard will undergo revision from 2016 to 2017 and members are welcomed to submit their feedback on the requirement to PEFC International during this review which has yet to commence.



Photo: Group photo with participants