



**JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

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**Strengthening Environmental Compliance: Successful Conclusion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Environmental Compliance Audit Training by NREB and STA**

The Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA), through its training arm, STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the 6th Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) Training. STAT, appointed by the NREB as a Training Provider to conduct courses aimed at supporting the implementation of the Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008 had successfully conducted the training in 2 tranches, from 10-14 June 2024 and 2 to 4 July 2024. The comprehensive 8-day training was led by experienced local trainer Mr Justine Jok Jau and supported by Mr Peter Sawal, offering participants knowledge and practical experience to ensure they are well-equipped to conduct environmental compliance audits effectively.

The first tranche of the training featured an in-depth presentation on laws and regulations related to Environmental Compliance Audit, delivered by Mdm Rahmah Binti Biak, Deputy Controller. This laid a strong foundation of knowledge for the participants, and was followed by an introduction to the Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008 and its Guidelines by Mr Mathew Anak Losey, Environmental Control Officer in NREB's Compliance and Enforcement Division.

During the training, the trainers imparted crucial auditing knowledge in both classroom settings and valuable on-site experience at the SALCRA Jagoi Estate. Participants were then given 2 weeks to prepare and submit their ECA reports prior to the commencement

of tranche 2 of the training which concluded with an examination to assess the participants' understanding and competence.

A closing ceremony was held on 4 July 2024 to mark the end of the training, graced by Tuan Jack anak Liam, the Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak, NREB. In his address, Tuan Jack highlighted the importance of the Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules 2008, formulated under Section 18(q) of the Natural Resources and Environment Ordinance (Chapter 84 Laws of Sarawak 1958 Edition). He emphasized the need for greater self-accountability among developers and project proponents to adhere to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Terms and Conditions and other regulatory directives through self-assessment and self-regulation.

"The full implementation of the Rules for the forestry sector in Sarawak, effective from 1st July 2024, is anticipated to foster a culture of self-regulation among companies, leading to improved compliance with environmental laws and reducing the enforcement burden on regulatory bodies," said Tuan Jack.

He also highlighted that with the conclusion of this batch of training, NREB has trained a total of 198 internal and external auditors since the program's inception in 2013, underscoring their dedication to building capacity and fostering expertise in environmental compliance.

Tuan Jack then presented the 29 participants with certificates of attendance, acknowledging their hard work and achievement. STA will continue engaging with NREB to achieve continuity in this capacity-building endeavor, ensuring ongoing improvement in environmental compliance and sustainable practices within the industry. Through such collaborative initiatives, NREB and STA are committed to uphold the highest standards of environmental stewardship and foster a culture of sustainability and compliance, ensuring that Sarawak's rich natural heritage is preserved for generations to come.



*Tuan Jack anak Liam, Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak (seated, centre), Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA (seated, 4<sup>th</sup> from left) and trainers, Mr Justine Jok Jau (4<sup>th</sup> from right) and Mr Peter Sawal (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) posed for group photo with participants and others present at the ceremony.*



*Mr Justine Jok Jau conducting the training.*



*Tuan Jack anak Liam presenting certificate of completion to one of the participants of the ECA Training.*

End.

**Tuan Jack anak Liam,  
Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak,  
Natural Resources and Environment Board**

**Annie Ting,  
Chief Executive Officer of Sarawak Timber Association**