



JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

21 MARCH 2024

Forests and Innovation New Solutions for a Better World

On this International Day of Forests, 21 March, 2024, the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (HTSB) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) come together to commemorate the pivotal significance of forests. Together, we reaffirm our shared commitment to propel the forestry and timber industry in Sarawak forward, ensuring its sustainability while able to continue to foster economic growth and provide employment opportunities.

As key stakeholders in the forestry sector, FDS, STIDC, HTSB and STA have forged a close collaboration, overcoming obstacles at both national and international fronts, resulting in significant milestones for the well-being of Sarawak timber industry. United in our dedication, we aim to facilitate sustainable development for the long-term health of our forests and the well-being of present and future generations.

Recognizing the importance of addressing pressing challenges, FDS, STIDC, HTSB and STA are collectively committed to actively engaging in initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable forest management practices, collaborating closely with diverse stakeholders, to explore innovative approaches, to leverage on advanced technologies and to enhance strategies that bolster sustainable forest management, fortifying the industry's adaptability in response to emerging challenges.

Furthermore, FDS, STIDC, HTSB and STA are committed to ensuring policy coherence and promoting Sarawak's legality system embedded in Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System, and to continuously promoting responsible harvesting standards as well as sustainability across all facets of the timber industry, from upstream operations to downstream activities.

As we celebrate International Day of Forests, FDS, STIDC, HTSB and STA pledge to renew our collective commitment to safeguard our forests with the same spirit of collaboration and by working together, we envision a future where the Sarawak's forest and timber sector will thrive sustainably, contributing to both environmental conservation and socio-economic development for present and future generations.

End.

**Datu Haji Hamden bin Haji Mohammad,
Director of Forests, Forest Department Sarawak**

**Haji Zainal Abidin bin Haji Abdullah,
General Manager of Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation**

**Haji Abu Hassan bin Haji Yusuf,
General Manager of Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd**

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