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**NREB and STA Launches 6th Environmental Compliance Audit Training,
Pioneering Sustainable Environmental Practices**

The Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) and Sarawak Timber Association announced the commencement of the 6th Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) training, marking a significant milestone in Sarawak's journey towards self-regulation and sustainable environmental practices.

In welcoming the attendees, Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA emphasised the significant progress made since the first ECA training organised by NREB and STA in 2015. Over the years, five (5) successful training sessions have resulted in 111 qualified auditors. She highlighted an ongoing effort between NREB and STA, which is to review the specific Terms and Conditions (T&Cs) issued with approved Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports for projects in the forestry sector. This Working Group, consisting of representatives from NREB and STA, has expanded on the EIA mitigation measures recommended by EIA consultants and detailed specific indicators of proposed actions and corresponding verifiers for ensuring compliance.

Mr Jack anak Liam, the Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak, commended STA's unwavering dedication to rallying industry support for this crucial government initiative and in preparing its members for self-regulated compliance.

In his opening remarks, he highlighted the collaborative efforts with NREB that have been vital in transitioning from Environmental Monitoring Reports (EMR) to ECA, which is set to be fully implemented for the forestry sector by 1 July 2024, with other sectors following in 2025. The implementation of ECA will involve two (2) audits annually for the first two years, where internal audit is carried out in the first 6 months, followed by external audit. This approach aims to support sustainable forestry practices that balance economic growth with environmental stewardship to better enhance the reputation and trust of companies that consistently comply with environmental regulations. He added that the NREB will continue enforcement activities to ensure full compliance and environmental protection.

Therefore, as a continuation of this effort, a 6th ECA training, which also attracted 30 participants from the timber industry, is the inaugural session whereby it is eligible for claims under Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp). This sets a new standard for future training programmes offered by STA's training arm, STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), which aims to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to conduct effective audits, directly contributing to the conservation of the environment.

STAT is planning additional ECA training sessions to broaden participation and build capacity within the industry. In collaboration with NREB, these efforts aim to promote a greener, more sustainable Sarawak, and this training initiative is a testament to their proactive approach and collaborative efforts in achieving this goal. Furthermore, STAT is exploring organising other supporting courses, with strong emphasis on managing the forests sustainably.

The event also featured a video presentation, showcasing the journey towards self-regulation in environmental compliance. The video highlighted the various training programmes conducted to help build capacity and the collaborative efforts of NREB and STA in promoting environmental sustainability.

Also present at the launching are representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Environmental Sustainability, Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development, Forest Department Sarawak, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, Land Custody and Development Authority, Yayasan Sarawak and ECA Trainers, namely Mr Peter Sawal and Mr Justine Jok Jau Emang.



Tuan Jack anak Liam, Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak (seated, centre), Mr Wong Ting Chung, STA Honorary Secretary (seated, 5th from right) and Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA (seated, 5th from left) posed for group photo with all present at the event.



Tuan Jack anak Liam, Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak (centre), Mr Wong Ting Chung, STA Honorary Secretary (2nd from right) and Ms Annie Ting (left) captured in a photo alongside ECA Trainers, Mr Peter Sawal (right) and Mr Justine Jok Jau (2nd from left).

End.

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

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