



July 2011

For Private Circulation Only

Issue 157

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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Calling For Nominations: STAT Train-The-Trainer Course

The legislation Section 54B Forests (Amendment) Ordinance 2001, which requires all Logging Companies (as Employers) to hire only properly trained workmen to carry out any forestry activities (including harvesting operation) was passed by Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) on 31 October 2001. Since then, the Sarawak Timber Association (STA) has been working with the State Government through Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), to design and implement an integrated training system for the State.

STA through STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), its wholly-owned company has received a letter from the Acting Director of Forests, Forest Department Sarawak informing that the amended Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules has been sent to the Ministry of Planning and Resources Management for approval at the next Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri (MMKN).

Owing to the huge number of workers yet to be trained and anticipating last minute requests from member companies of STA, STAT

is focusing on building up trainer capabilities within the member companies of the Association. In this connection, member companies are requested to nominate at least two (2) suitable candidates who had successfully completed the skills training in either one or more of (i) Tree Felling (Natural Forests) (ii) Log Extraction (tractor), (iii) Log Loading (Rubber-tyred Front-end Loader), (iv) Clear-fell Site Preparation and (v) Mechanical Site Preparation (Excavator) skills sets for the Train-the-Trainer Course. These trainers will eventually be the Company's trainers upon successful completion of the training. This Course is scheduled to be conducted in Bintulu from 5 to 9 September 2011.

However, the suitability of nominated candidates will be subjected to the assessment by STAT Assessors and STAT reserves the right to reject any candidates who are unsuitable for the course. For further queries on this programme, please contact Ms Melinda Chai or Mr Edmund Anja at 082-332222.

Wishing all our readers

**Selamat Hari Raya
Aidilfitri**

**From Chairman, Council Members,
Members & Management of STA**



6th Multi-stakeholder Briefing on Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT VPA)



Picture: Panel of speakers

The 6th Multi-stakeholder Briefing on Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT VPA) between Malaysia and European Union was organised by the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) on 8 July 2011 in Kuala Lumpur.

Encik Wan Mazlan Wan Mahmood, Division Secretary Strategic Planning and International Division of MPIC in his introductory remarks stated that FLEGT VPA negotiation started since 2006 with an aim to ensure that Malaysia is in the position to deliver legal timber into the EU market.

Three (3) presentations were delivered during the Briefing:-

(1) **Updates on Malaysia-EU FLEGT VPA Negotiations** by *Dato Dr Freezailah Che Yeom, Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC)*

Dato Dr Freezailah mentioned that substantial progress have been made in the negotiation to conclude the VPA. As a responsible member of the international communities, Malaysia has shown flexibility in the negotiations. He added that FLEGT VPA is a major breakthrough to establish a legal baseline which can be strengthened with time, experience and market response.

(2) **The EU Timber Regulations and FLEGT VPAs** by *Mr Vincent van der Berk, Europe Forest Institute (EFI)*

Mr Vincent Berk briefed the participants on the current scenario of EU timber market and quoted that only 10% of the timber used in the EU are imported and it is estimated that 20% of the imported timber are from illegal sources. He claimed that tropical timber has a dubious reputation for legality. According to him, currently, 5 African countries and Indonesia have developed the system; 4 countries including Malaysia are in the negotiation process and another few countries including China are being introduced to FLEGT VPA.

(3) **Update on the Malaysia Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS)** by *Ms Loke Sim Hua, Protem Secretariat Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB)*

Ms Loke reported that the TLAS system was developed through close consultations and briefings with the relevant government agencies i.e. respective State Forestry Department, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, Malaysian Timber Industry Board, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, timber industry, social Non Governmental Organisations and etc. She further reported that currently TLAS comprises 3 parts; (Annex A & B) – Part 1 Peninsular, Part 2 Sarawak, and Part 3 Sabah. TLAS is a system which would be improved continuously based on feedback, system improvement, new knowledge etc.

During the Briefing, the Social NGOs raised concerns of not being involved in the consultation, the omission of clauses on land code in TLAS and the sharing of the Legal Text. The timber industry also raised their concerns on the improvement of TLAS and FLEGT VPA.

Did you know that.....



The World Bank-run Forest Carbon Partnership Facility has offered a USD 3.60 million (EUR 2.54 million) fund to the Indonesian Forestry Ministry to help the Indonesian government in achieving its 2020 target of 26% carbon emission reduction. Besides that, in order to minimise the damage of logging to the forests, those who are willing to develop industrial plantation forests will be offered incentives.

Source: MTIB News Extracts 26/07/11

Did you also know that....

The average yearly deforestation rate for Brunei was lower than 0.5% between 2005 and 2010. This made the nation among Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (Asean) lowest. Myanmar's deforestation rate was around 1% while Cambodia recorded the highest in the region with over 1%. However, some nations bucked the trend. Vietnam and the Philippines recorded positive change at between 0.5% and 1% yearly.

Source: Brunei Times, 23 Jun 2011



International Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprise: Experiences and Opportunities for Asia in a Changing Context

The International Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprise: Experiences and Opportunities for Asia in a Changing Context was held at the Santosa Villas and Resort, Lombok, Indonesia. The conference was organised by the Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), with the support of twenty (20) other organisations.

Attended by about 250 representatives from international and regional organisations, private sector, non-governmental organisations, civil society, researchers and donors, the conference discussed ways of resolving disputes over forest tenure in Asia.

The opening ceremony was presided by Vice President of Indonesia, Boediono and attended by Zulkifli Hassan, Minister of Forestry; Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Chair of the President's Delivery Unit for Development Monitoring and Oversight; TGH M Zainul Majdi, Governor of West Nusa Tenggara Province and Emmanuel Ze Meka, Executive Director of ITTO.

This 3rd International Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprise act as the follow-up to past conference being held in Acre, Brazil in July 2007, and Yaounde, Cameroon in May 2009. This conference aimed to improve the understanding of forest tenure policies, legal framework, and other initiatives in Asian region particularly to climate change (including REDD program) through the sharing of experiences by Asian countries with the goal to improve sustainable forest management and livelihood of forest dependent communities. It also aimed to reinforce the mechanisms of stakeholders' participation and the sharing of equitable benefits (including gender equity) from the sustainable use and conservation of tropical forest resources. A better understanding of the status of reforms can also be reached through the sharing of lessons and experiences (by Indonesia) which helps to identify goals and generate

new recommendations for the next steps in reforms.

The five-day conference consisted of plenary sessions, parallel sessions and field visits. During the Conference, participants identified key issues, challenges and lessons as well as made recommendations for governments, donors and international organisations, communities, and civil-society organisations.

They also noted that 2011 is the International Year of Forests and acknowledged the Ministerial Declaration at the 9th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in which Ministers are committed to improving the livelihoods of people and communities by creating the conditions needed for them to sustainably manage forests, including through strengthening cooperation in the areas of finance, trade, technology transfer, capacity-building and governance, as well as by promoting secure land tenure, participatory decision-making and benefit-sharing.



Picture: (above) Panel of speakers and (below) participants of the Conference



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Workshop on Technology that Promotes Transparent Timber Trade in Asia Region

The Combating Illegal Logging and Promoting Legal Trade in Legally Harvested Forest Products: Workshop on Technology that Promotes Transparent Timber Trade in Asia Region was held on 27 – 29 July 2011 in Kuala Lumpur. The Workshop was hosted by Forest Department Peninsular Malaysia, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and organised by TRAFFIC, in partnership with Forest Research Institute Malaysia and the Nature Conservancy, RAFT with the funding support from the US Forest Service and USAID.

The objective of the workshop was to support the forestry and timber industry in the Asia and Pacific region to meet legal compliance as required under the Lacey Act for exports to the USA through sharing technologies for traceability systems for timber supply chain from the forest. The event aimed to help participants assess and compare the utility and costs of various systems and technologies available for identifying the source of wood products and verifying that they have been legally harvested and traded. In particular, the workshop will try to explore how these systems have been or could be adapted to perform in different contexts.

and scientific organizations, NGOs and the private sector shared their experiences in developing or using technologies for compliance with national legal frameworks, wood identification, timber tracking, law enforcement or other applications. New technologies and software are being marketed to meet these demands, such as verification of wood origin through genetic testing, isotope testing, RFID, and barcoding.

The three-day event composed of panel discussions, break-out sessions, and a field trip to the Forestry Biotechnology Division, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) where the researchers demonstrated the wood DNA extraction and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) reaction in the lab. The participants also visited the Malaysian Timber Industry Board Central Territory and the warehouse in Port Klang.

The Workshop was attended by forest product suppliers and traders, private sectors, Government officers, donors, NGOs and researchers.

Presenters from governments, research