

# STA dan Rakan2



July 2009

For Private Circulation Only

Issue 133

This monthly news bulletin is produced by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) to disseminate information to our counterparts on training, research and other relevant areas.

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information printed in this news bulletin is accurate and correct, neither STA nor its Officers, Members or Employees shall assume any responsibilities or be made liable for any inaccuracies and errors printed; nor is such publication unless otherwise stated necessarily the views of STA, its Officers, Members or Employees.

The news bulletin is circulated to designated readers free of charge.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Editorial Board

Chief Editor:  
*Dr Lee Hua Seng*

Editor/Secretary:  
*Jaimie Chan*

Members:  
*Dr Peter C.S. Kho*  
*Jenny Chen*

## STIDC INDUSTRY UPDATE 2009

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) held the above event for the timber industry on 20 July 2009 at Dewan Seminar, Wisma Sumber Alam. The Briefing was to inform the industry players on the latest developments which have direct or indirect impacts on the timber fraternity, provide more insights and updates for the timber operators and the challenges facing the timber industry. This Briefing also aimed to broaden knowledge and perspectives, to enhance work processes and operations amid economic challenges that are affecting the timber industry. More than 100 participants from the entire spectrum of the industry attended the Briefing.

STIDC General Manager, Datu Len Talif Salleh in his opening speech said that the export value dropped by 29 per cent from RM3.9 billion in the first half of 2008 to RM2.8 billion this year. Such situation is very worrying and thus the State Government had taken some initiatives to help the sector through the tough time. He attributed the decline to lower demand from Sarawak's major traditional and main markets such as Japan,

China, India, the Middle East, the US and Europe.

Concerned about the plight of the industry, the state government was taking both short-term and long-term measures to improve the cash flow in the industry. He said the royalty rate had been reduced from RM65 to RM50 per cubic metre effective until December 31 this year as a move to help the industry. The implementation of and compliance to log exportation quota was also relaxed from January to June this year alongside the extension of royalty payment from two weeks to three months to meet the current market situation. It was hoped that the Federal Government's economic stimulus packages would boost or have spillover effects to strengthen the timber industry.

On long-term measures, he said the government would further develop and strengthen the markets for timber and timber products through trade missions, visits and exhibitions in consuming countries. He also warned that the industry, if not properly managed, could

cause a set back to its development. He hoped the situation will not impede the progress of the industry but instead help the industry to forge ahead and remain competitive.

Four papers were presented during the half-day briefing. STIDC Acting Senior Manager of Industrial Planning Unit, Mr Nicholas Andrew Lisseem enlightened the participants on the 'Impact of the Global Economic Downturn on the Timber Industry in Sarawak'. Chaffin & Associates Certification Services manager, Mr John Chaffin presented a paper on the 'Revision to California Air Resources Board on Formaldehyde Emission Requirements for Wood Composite Products'. Meanwhile, the Environment Science Technology and Health Officer of the US Embassy in Malaysia, Mr Phil Loosli talked about the 'US Lacey Act' while European Commission representative to Malaysia Mr Vincent van den Berk talked on the 'EU Legislation on Trade and Legal Timber'. A question and answer session followed.

## WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENT OF A FRAMEWORK FOR EFFECTIVE MECHANISMS IN INTEGRATING LOCAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN FORESTRY ACTIVITIES

**Did you know that...**

According to the intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC), global ocean temperature has risen by 0.18° F from 1961 to 2003.

Sea levels are already rising, and are predicted to rise by at least 1–2 feet by 2100—with the potential for a nearly 40-foot rise in sea level if the Greenland and West Antarctica ice sheets were to melt completely.

*Source:*  
American Clean Energy & Security Act of 2009 Report- July



*Picture:(Left) Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh delivering his opening speech - Photo courtesy of Sarawak Forestry Corporation*

*Picture:(Left) Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh hit a gong to open the Workshop. Looking on (from right) are Tuan Haji Ali Yusop, Dr Lee Hua Seng, Dr Penguang Manggil and Dato' Freezailah—Photo courtesy of Sarawak Forestry Corporation*



A collective approach needs to be formulated in building a sustainable source of income for the rural poor in Sarawak, mainly communities dependent on the forest. Government agencies, logging companies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have to pool their resources and better coordinate their poverty eradication programmes to sustain the livelihood of the rural communities through good and bad times.

The Workshop on 22 July 2009 entitled “Development of a Framework for Effective Mechanisms in Integrating Local Community Involvement in Forestry

Activities” reviewed projects implemented under the community development headings. This Workshop, jointly organised by the Forest Department Sarawak and Sarawak Forestry Corporation was attended by over 100 participants from the government sector, forestry fraternity, timber industry, NGOs, social experts and ethnic associations.

The Workshop, which was mooted out during the 15<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Forestry Conference held last year, is an expression of the critical importance of integrating community involvement in forestry activities highlighted during the Conference.

workshop, Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Planning and Resource Management cum Director of Forests, and Managing Director / CEO of Sarawak Forestry stressed on the need for coordination and partnership among government agencies, NGOs, other stakeholders and the local communities to create effective and sustainable community development programmes throughout the region.

Datu Len said “This Workshop is a melting pot for the exchange of ideas and we hope to set in motion collective efforts from various government

Officiating at the

*(Continue of page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

and non-government agencies, the various stakeholders and the community towards finding ways and means to enhance livelihood and economic activities for forest-dependent communities”.

“It is about pooling resources and forming win-win partnership. Instead of an intermittent programme by one agency; why not consider a collective approach to build a sustainable source of income for our rural poor. We need to consolidate our initiatives

and come up with sustainable and viable programmes that enable communities to stand on their own, citing examples to involve local communities in national park programmes and to educate them on best practices that will ensure sustaining resources in the long run”. Additionally, he said a joint effort by all related agencies could make a difference in the crusade to develop forest-dependent communities.

Datu Len said there were many success stories of how communities overcome

the chokehold of poverty, but stressing that much still needs to be done for the forest-dependent people of Sarawak.

At the workshop, Malaysian Timber Certification Council Chairman, Dato’ Dr Freezailah Che Yom also delivered a keynote address on national and international issues related to community and forestry.

\* \* \* \* \*

## SEMINAR ON BIOMASS FOR BIOFUEL AND VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS 2009

The abundant lignocellulosic resources available in Malaysia from the wood-based and agricultural sectors are potential raw materials for the production of biofuels and other value-added products. Biofuels have an important role in the global energy mix and is now becoming a key component in the drive towards energy diversification.

With the 17 million tonnes of the oil palm empty fruit bunches, 4.5 million tonnes of the oil palm trunks and 1.35 million tonnes of rice straw annually generated in the country, Malaysia could play a major role in the production of biofuels and other value-added products such as biocomposites, pulp and paper, biofertilizers and green chemicals. Technology development of these processes will be the catalyst towards a more efficient and profitable production of these products.

The biofield production from biomass would definitely reduce the over reliance on fossil fuels and simultaneously protect the environment. Production of biocomposites introduces new

engineered products to the market using renewable resources available hence easing the dependence on the forest and reduces global warming. However, amongst the challenges faced by researchers and industries in Malaysia towards the total acceptance of these products made from local resources is the need to adapt established technologies to suit local conditions and materials.

There is an urgent need towards development of innovative technologies for biofuels and biocomposite products for future market demand in line with the directions of the National Timber Industry Policy (NATIP) and the Third Industrial Master Plan (IMP3).

Thus, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and Universiti Malaysia Pahang will be organising a seminar on Biomass for Biofuel and Value-Added Products 2009 with the theme 'Towards Efficient Utilisation of Biomass'.

(Continue on page 4)

### ***Did you also know that...***

SIRIM Bhd, a wholly government-owned company involved in industrial research and development is gearing up production of its 'green furniture' line as an alternative to tropical timber furniture. Several prototypes of the products had been developed under its advanced polymer and composite programme, which utilizes a minimum of 60% of rice husk and rice straw bio-composite. *Bernama* noted the target markets for SIRIM's Green Furniture will be North America, Europe and the Far East and Production would be commercialised by 2010.

Source:  
ITTO Tropical Timber  
Market Report  
16-31 July 2009

## Printed Matter



Sarawak Timber Association  
11 Floor, Wisma STA  
26, Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim  
93450 Kuching  
Sarawak, Malaysia

Tel : 082 - 332 222  
Fax : 082 - 487 888, 487 999  
E-mail: [sta@sta.org.my](mailto:sta@sta.org.my)  
Web site: [www.sta.org.my](http://www.sta.org.my)

*(Continued from page 3)*

Details are as follows:

**Date:** 27 - 28 October 2009  
**Venue:** The Saujana Kuala Lumpur  
**Registration Fee:** RM 800 p/person  
Students: RM 400  
p/person

For further information, please  
contact:

The Secretariat  
Seminar on Biomass for Biofuel and  
Value-added Products 2009  
Forest Research Institute Malaysia  
52109 Kepong, Selangor  
Malaysia.  
(Attn: Dr. Wan Asma Ibrahim /  
Pn. Rafidah Jalil)

Tel: +603-6279 7311/7367/7280  
Fax: +603-6280 4620

Email : [sbbvap09@frim.gov.my](mailto:sbbvap09@frim.gov.my)  
Website: <http://www.frim.gov.my>

## WORKSHOP ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION GUIDELINES

The Sarawak Forest Department and Sarawak Forestry Corporation jointly organised a Workshop on Conflict Resolution Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management on 21 July 2009 at Hilton Hotel, Kuching. The Workshop was attended by about 60 participants from the Government agencies and relevant stakeholders.

The participants discussed at length the Guidelines and resolved to accept in principle the Guidelines, field-test them in a natural forest and a planted forest area and endorse the Technical Working Group with increased membership from the State Attorney General's Chamber, Lands & Survey Department, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Sarawak Forest Department, Sarawak Planted Forest Sdn Bhd, the timber industry and NGOs.