

# STA Review

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July 2009

## 71<sup>st</sup> STA Council Meeting

Majlis STA mengadakan mesyuarat ke-71nya pada 31 Julai 2009. Setiausaha Kehormat, dalam laporan beliau, memberitahu Ahli-Ahli yang hadir tentang hal-hal pengurusan dan operasi STA yang dilaksanakan termasuk fungsi dan tanggungjawab pelbagai Jawatankuasa Kerja. Hal-hal lain yang dibincang termasuk cadangan pindaan Memorandum dan Artikel Persatuan di bawah Bahagian A Tambahan A (Pindaan), rayuan kepada pihak berkuasa tentang permohonan Persatuan untuk rebat 50% ke atas kadar royalti bagi kayu berdiameter antara 30cm dan 40cm dan pengurangan yuran endorsemen yang dikenakan oleh pihak Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd ke atas penghantaran balak. Projek Usahasama antara STA dengan Jabatan Hutan Sarawak untuk dua projek, "Survei Bersama Badak Sumatra di Taman Negara Pulong Tau" dan "Penilaian semula status pemuliharaan tiga genera Dipterocarpaceae (*Dipterocarpus*, *Dryobalanops* dan *Shorea*)" juga dibincang.

■ The Council held its 71<sup>st</sup> meeting on 31 July 2009. Datuk Wong Kie Yik, the Chairman, presided over the meeting with 25 Council Members.

The Honorary Secretary, in his report, highlighted operational and management matters of the Association, including the functions and responsibilities of the various Working Committees.

With regards to the proposed amendments to the Association's Memorandum and Articles of Association contained under Part A of Annexure A (the Amendments) tabled at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association (the EGM) held on 31 March 2009, the

Council at this meeting executed the Resolution of the EGM in respect of receiving the Postal Ballots regarding the Unanimous Assenting Vote of members for the Amendments in the presence of the Association's Advocates, Messrs Battenberg & Talma Advocates. The Association's Advocates took charge of the counting of the ballots.

The Amendments include further expansion on the objects of the Association as follows:

- To accommodate the provision of scholarship and financial contribution for the advancement of education and training;
- To cater for the promotion of

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Meeting in progress

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sustainable forest management, the investment of the Association's fund and the improvement of the welfare of communities living in the vicinity of forests and timber operation; and

- To promote research useful to the timber trade through companies owned by the Association.



Datuk Wong Kie Yik, chairing the meeting

After the announcement made by the Association's Advocates, the Meeting declared and resolved the requisite of the Unanimous Assenting Vote of all Council members and of the General Meeting required under the Unanimous Double Assenting Vote Procedure for the passing of the Amendments had been obtained successfully. The Meeting further resolved that the Amendments shall be submitted to the Registrar of Societies for approval and shall upon approval come into force.

The Meeting resolved to continue to appeal to the relevant authorities

to consider the Association's applications for a rebate of 50% on the royalty rate for logs with diameter between 30 cm to 40 cm and a reduction in endorsement fees charged by Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd for the delivery of milling logs.

The Council also resolved to support and work closely with the Forest Department Sarawak in carrying out projects namely "Joint Survey of Sumatran Rhinoceros in Pulong Tau National Park" and "Re-assessment of the Conservation Status of Three Genera of Dipterocarpaceae (*Dipterocarpus*, *Dryobalanops* and *Shorea*)". ❁

## **Issuance of Transportation Passes for Logs Transported by Land Vehicles**

The Director of Forests has authorised Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd to issue Transportation passes to all land vehicles transporting all logs in the state of Sarawak and to charge transport administration fee for the tallying of logs. It will be implemented on **1 September 2009** and an administration fee of RM0.50/m<sup>3</sup> on logs will be charged to the owner of the land vehicle. A briefing on this will be held on 24 August 2009 at Wisma STA, Kuching.

Pengarah Hutan telah memberi kuasa kepada Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd untuk mengeluarkan pas pengangkutan kepada semua kenderaan darat yang mengangkut kayu balak dan caj yuran pentadbiran pengangkutan (RM0.50/m<sup>3</sup>) untuk tujuan pengiraan kayu balak di seluruh negeri Sarawak.

Jawatankuasa Pensijilan STA bermesyuarat pada 20 Julai di Wisma STA, Kuching. Isu utama yang dibincangkan adalah Garis Panduan Penyelesaian Konflik untuk Pengurusan Hutan Mampan.

## STA Certification Committee Meeting

■ The STA Certification Committee met on 20 July 2009 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The meeting was chaired by Dato Henry Lau Lee Kong, the Committee Chairman. The main issue discussed in this meeting was the Conflict Resolution Guidelines for Sustainable Forest

Management. This is in preparation for the final workshop on the guidelines which will be held the following day. Other issues brought up for discussion were the ILO Core Conventions, the revision of PEFC Chain of Custody Standard. ❁



*Dato Henry Lau, Chairman of the Committee presiding over the meeting*



*Committee Members in deep discussion*

Pada 31 Julai 2009, Ahli-Ahli Jawatankuasa Produk Panel telah mengadakan perbincangan di Wisma STA, Kuching. Ahli jawatankuasa telah bertukar maklumat mengenai pasaran dan membincangkan pelbagai isu-isu lain dalam mesyuarat tersebut.

## STA Panel Products Committee Discussion

■ On 31 July 2009, the STA Panel Products Committee members had a discussion meeting at Wisma STA, Kuching. Led by Mr. Stephen Lau, the Committee Chairman, the meeting exchanged market

information and discussed various issues, including the current log situation in the State as well as a suggestion to have exchange of data with counterparts in Japan. ❁



## Postgraduate Diploma at Melatai Camp

■ The third week-long module for the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science for the third subject, Tropical Forest Planning and Harvesting - Reduced Impact Logging was held at Melatai Forest Management Unit in Kapit from 26 to 31 July 2009. The course attended by 11 students, was conducted by Associate Professor Dr. Hugh Bigsby and Mr. Ken Fergusson, a trainer attached to STA Training Sdn Bhd.

The course consisted of classroom and field sessions. The classroom sessions were held at the Base Camp while the field trips were

held at various logging blocks of the forest management unit.

In this module, students gained an understanding on the relationship between logging and forest dynamics; problems that can be created with improper logging systems and solutions that have emerged; the requirements for carrying out a post-harvest assessment and the use of data from a post-harvest assessment to evaluate how well harvesting had been carried out as well as forecast future forest structure and silvicultural requirements. 🌱

Kelas bagi modul ketiga subjek ketiga Diploma Lepas Ijazah dalam Sains Gunaan, Perancangan dan Penuaian Hutan Tropika - "*Reduced Impact Logging*", telah diadakan di Unit Pengurusan Hutan Melatai, Kapit dari 26 hingga 31 Julai 2009. Kursus yang dihadiri oleh 11 pelajar ini dikendalikan oleh Profesor Madya Dr. Hugh Bigsby dan Encik Ken Fergusson, pelatih STA Training Sdn Bhd.

Kursus ini merangkumi sesi dalam dan luar kelas. Sesi dalam kelas diadakan di tapak kem manakala sesi luar kelas pula diadakan di beberapa blok pembalakan unit pengurusan hutan.



Left: Classroom session on chainsaw maintenance with Mr. Ken Fergusson

Below: Practical session in progress



Below: The students with lecturers and management staff of the camp



## STA Tea Talk: Undiscovered Paradise in Our Own Backyard

STA telah menganjurkan "Tea Talk" pada 25 Julai 2008 di Wisma STA, Kuching bertajuk "Undiscovered Paradise in Our Own Backyard". Penceramah jemputan adalah Encik Bryan Sia Nicholas seorang pengusaha dan Encik David Daniel seorang peguam dari *Borneo Outdoor Explorers* (BOX). BOX terdiri daripada sekumpulan individu yang menikmati alam sekitar, pengembaraan dan aktiviti luar. Kumpulan ini juga sentiasa mencari lokasi baru yang terdapat di Sarawak. Ceramah ini memberikan gambaran mengenai keindahan dan lokasi-lokasi semulajadi yang menarik di sekitar Kuching yang tidak diketahui oleh orang awam termasuk masyarakat tempatan. Beberapa lokasi ditunjukkan dalam persembahan antaranya air terjun Jangkar dan Sebako dan Kampung Semban.

■ STA organised a Tea Talk on 25 July 2009 at Wisma STA, Kuching on the topic "Undiscovered Paradise in Our Own Backyard" which attracted a crowd of 86 participants. The speakers were Mr. Bryan Sia Nicholas, an entrepreneur and Mr. David Daniel, a lawyer, both from Borneo Outdoor Explorers (BOX). BOX comprises a group of individuals who are nature-loving, adventure fueled and outdoor-obsessed explorers and are constantly hunting for new and untouched locations in Sarawak.

Mr. Bryan and Mr. David being avid nature lovers, share a common interest in outdoor activities such as hiking, camping and discovering hidden attractions (i.e. waterfalls and villages) in rural areas. They have an appreciation for the nature and believe in the preservation of local cultures. Thus, this talk provided an outlook to the beautiful and



View of the highest waterfall in Southern Sarawak, Jangkar Waterfall (Photo courtesy of BOX)



One of the ladies at Kampung Semban who wear brass rings around their ankles and wrists (Photo courtesy of BOX)

interesting natural locations in and around Kuching that are rarely known even to locals.

A few areas highlighted in the Talk were the Jangkar and Sebako waterfalls. Jangkar Waterfall located between Semantan and Lundu, is believed to be the highest waterfall found in the southern region of Sarawak. In the northern region of Sarawak, the tallest waterfall is said to be the Usun Apau Waterfall, located in Miri. This jewel is said to be unknown to the residents there.

Another place highlighted in the Talk was Kampung Semban where the ladies living in this village wear brass rings around their ankles and wrists, a unique and illusive cultural practice. There are eight women in that village who still maintain the tradition of wearing brass rings.

In general, Sarawak is blessed with lush natural beauty. It is hoped that through this talk, locals are encouraged to visit the local and unknown attractions found in Sarawak through the various outdoor

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activities which will lead to a healthy lifestyle. Already these amazing sites had been visited by tourists from France, Finland, Belgium, Russia

and United States. ❁

*Note: All presentation slides from the Talk are available for viewing at the STA Exhibition Centre.*

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## **Workshop on Conflict Resolution Guidelines for SFM**

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■ The Forest Department Sarawak and the Sarawak Forestry Corporation jointly organised a Workshop on Conflict Resolution Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) 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 the Guidelines in an area of natural forest and a Licensed Planted Forest (LPF) area and to endorse the Technical Working Group with additional members from the State Attorney General's Chamber, Lands & Survey Department, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Sarawak Forest Department, Sarawak Planted Forest Sdn Bhd, and relevant NGOs. ❁

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## **Workshop on Development of a Framework for Effective Mechanisms in Integrating Local Community Involvement in Forestry Activities**

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■ 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.

Officiating at the workshop, Datu  
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Jabatan Hutan Sarawak dan Sarawak Forestry Corporation bersama-sama menganjurkan Bengkel Garis Panduan Penyelesaian Konflik untuk Pengurusan Hutan Mampan pada 21 Julai 2009 di Kuching. Para peserta membicarakan hal-hal mengenai garis panduan tersebut secara terperinci.

Bengkel bertajuk "Pembangunan satu Rangka Kerja untuk Mekanisme Berkesan dalam Menyepadukan Penglibatan Komuniti Tempatan dalam Aktiviti Perhutanan" anjuran bersama oleh Jabatan Hutan Sarawak dan Sarawak Forestry Corporation telah diadakan pada 22 Julai 2009 di Kuching. Bengkel ini mengkaji semula projek-projek dilaksanakan di bawah tajuk pembangunan masyarakat. Cadangan untuk mengadakan bengkel ini adalah susulan daripada

perkara yang dibangkitkan semasa Persidangan Perhutanan Malaysia ke-15 yang diadakan pada 2008 iaitu mengenai kepentingan kritikal untuk menyepadukan penglibatan komuniti dalam aktiviti perhutanan.

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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 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 Yeom also delivered a keynote address on national and international issues related to community and forestry. ❁



Left: Officiating of the Workshop by Datu Hj. Len Talif Salleh



Below: Workshop participants

(All photos courtesy of Sarawak Forestry Corporation)

## **STIDC Industry Update 2009**

■ The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) organised an Industry Update 2009 on 20 July 2009 at its Headquarters in Kuching. Attended by more than 100 representatives from the timber industry, this forum provided an avenue to inform and update the industry on the various issues affecting or relevant to the timber industry. For this, STIDC has invited various speakers to speak on the various issues. Four papers were presented. They are:

- *The Impact of Global Economic Downturn on the Timber Industry in Sarawak* by Mr. Nicholas Andrew Lisse, Acting Senior Manager, Industrial Planning, STIDC.
- *Revision to California Air*

*Resources Board on Formaldehyde Emission Requirements for Wood Composites Products* by Mr. John Chaffin and Mr. Erwin Schutfort.

- *US Lacey Act* by Mr. Phil Loosli, Environment, Science, Technology & Health Officer of US Embassy, Malaysia.
- *EU Legislation on Trade and Legal Timber* by Mr. Vincent van den Berk, European Union Commission Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Advisor.

Papers presented can be downloaded by STIDC's website on [www.sarawaktimber.org.my](http://www.sarawaktimber.org.my) under *Media & Interactive: Info Online* 🌐

Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak menganjurkan forum "Industry Update 2009" pada 20 Julai 2009 di Ibu Pejabatnya di Kuching. Forum ini merupakan salah satu kaedah untuk memaklumkan dan mengemaskinikan industri tentang pelbagai isu yang mempengaruhi industri kayu.

## **Furniture Seminar: Understanding the Russian Furniture Market and Its Business Culture**

■ The Malaysian Furniture Promotion Council (MFPC) organised a furniture seminar entitled "Understanding the Russian Furniture Market and Its Business Culture" on 23 July 2009 at the Seri Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The seminar aimed to provide information on the business environment in the Russian Federation as well as its furniture industry. About 80 representatives from various government agencies, trade associations, NGOs and the private sector attended this seminar.

Mr. Vladimir Makeev, the Vice Director of the Association of Furniture and Woodworking

Enterprise of Russia and Committee Member of the World Furniture Confederation, was invited to address the participants at this furniture seminar. Mr. Au Leck Chai, the Chief Executive Officer of MFPC in his welcoming speech emphasised that the Malaysian furniture export to Russian market has been growing since 2005. Furniture exports to Russia increased by 178.2% from RM27.11 million in 2005 to RM75.43 million in 2008. Mr. Au strongly encouraged the Malaysian furniture companies to identify new market and opportunities in Russian market.

In order to protect the Russian domestic manufacturers, the

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Majlis Promosi Perabot Malaysia (MPFC) menganjurkan seminar perabot bertajuk "Memahami Pasaran Perabot Rusia dan Budaya Perdagangan" pada 23 Julai 2009 di Kuala Lumpur. Seminar ini bertujuan untuk memberi maklumat tentang keadaan dagangan di Rusia dan industri perabotnya.

Encik Vladimir Makeev, Timbalan Pengarah Persatuan Perabot dan Kerja kayu Rusia dan Ahli Jawatankuasa Gabungan Perabot Sedunia telah



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dijemput untuk memberi ucapan dalam seminar ini. Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif MPFC, Encik Au Leck Chai dalam ucapan alu-aluan beliau menegaskan bahawa eksport perabot Malaysia ke Rusia sedang membangun sejak tahun 2005. Eksport perabot ke Rusia telah meningkat sebanyak 178.2% iaitu dari sebanyak RM27.11 juta bagi tahun 2005 kepada RM75.43 juta bagi tahun 2008. Encik Au juga menggalakkan syarikat perabot Malaysia untuk mengenalpasti pasaran baru dan peluang di pasaran Rusia.

Russian government, in 2004, imposed new import custom duties for imported furniture. Import duties imposed will be based on the value and weight of the furniture, i.e. for furniture valued more than €1.8 per kilo, import duty is 20% of the custom value while for furniture valued less than €1.8 per kilo, the import duty is between 0.75-0.76% of custom value.

In 2008, the Russian furniture market with approximately 6,000 enterprises has created more than 100,000 job opportunities. Production volume was valued at \$4 billion with retail prices reaching an estimated \$10 billion. For 2008, the Russian furniture export reached \$0.36 billion while furniture imported

was \$2.4 billion.

At the seminar, the problems faced by Malaysian exporters to Russia were outlined. Among some of them were the long delivery period, expensive packaging, logistic problems, tariff legislation, custom clearance, absences of retailers operating in Russia, publicity and competition from European Union countries, China and Taiwan. Even with such problems, there is still the upside for this market. Malaysian furniture industry players are well-known for its obligation and excellent communication skills. Malaysian furniture products generally have a higher quality than similar furniture products from other South East Asia countries. ❁

## Seminar on "IR and HR Issues & MEF Services"

Persekutuan Majikan-majikan Malaysia (MEF) telah mengadakan seminar setengah hari tentang Hubungan Industri dan Isu-isu Sumber Manusia & MEF dan Perkhidmatannya pada 28 Julai 2009 di Kuching.

Seminar dipersembahkan oleh Tuan Haji Shamsuddin bin Bardan, Pengarah Eksekutif MEF dibantu oleh Puan Haslena Ismail, Pengurus Senior - Keahlian & Hubungan Awam.

Seminar ini memberikan maklumat tentang Undang-undang pekerjaan dan beberapa jalan penyelesaian untuk mengendalikan cabaran-cabaran yang dihadapi dalam pengurusan sumber manusia dengan lebih baik.

■ The Malaysian Employers' Federation (MEF) organised a half-day seminar on Industrial Relations and Human Resources Issues & MEF & Its Services on 28 July 2009 in Kuching.

The Seminar was presented by Tuan Haji Shamsuddin bin Bardan, Executive Director of MEF and assisted by Puan Haslena Ismail, Senior Manager - Membership & Public Relations. The Seminar provided amongst other matters, detailed information on employment laws and some feasible solutions to better manage factual challenges that human resource practitioners encounter. There were approximately 35 participants at the Seminar. Participants were mostly human resource practitioners from government agencies, private corporations and trade associations.

Puan Haslena shared with participants the set up of MEF, its

role, services and its membership structure including its mode of enrollment.

Tuan Haji Shamsuddin presented the following three papers at the Seminar:-

1. **Scope of Sarawak Labour Ordinance (SLO)** which touched on the scope of the SLO with emphasis on Schedule [S2(2)] which is on the employee's benefits and the differences between Contract of Service and Contract for Service.
2. **Labour (Termination & Lay-Off Benefits) (Sarawak) (Rules) 2008** on issues pertaining to the amount and conditions of termination/lay-off benefits. There are a few scenarios when employees would not be entitled to termination benefits, for example termination due to attainment of age of retirement,

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dismissal for misconduct, voluntary resignation, etc. There was also a brief explanation on situations that employees are deemed to have been laid off and thereby are entitled for lay-off benefits.

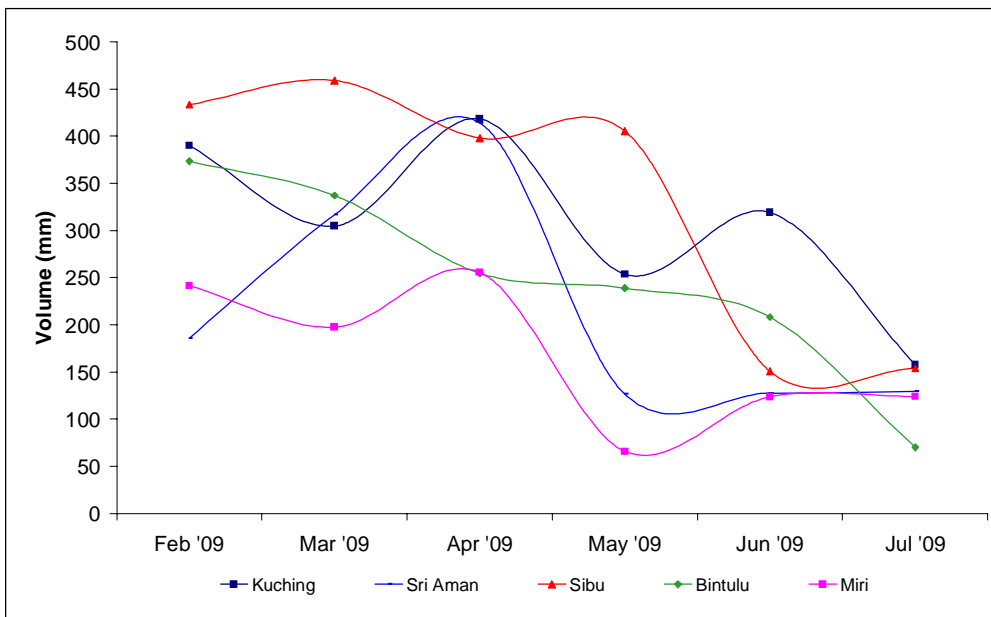
Union Congress (MTUC). However, the position of Sabah and Sarawak pertaining to this Cabinet's decision is unclear. ❁

*Note: Papers presented at the Seminar are available from the STA Secretariat upon request.*

3. **Presentation on Union for Employees in the Electronic Industry** where at the Cabinet Meeting on 27 May 2009, the Government approved the setting up of a Trade Union for employees in the Electronic Industry on a regional basis, namely northern, southern, central and eastern regions and not at a national level as proposed by Malaysian Trade



## Rainfall : February - July '09 Kadar Hujan Bulanan



Source : Malaysian Meteorological Services.

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