



STA dan Rakan2

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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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Editorial Board

Chief Editor:
Dr Peter C.S. Kho

Editor/Secretary:
Jaime Chan

Members:
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Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management / Planted Forest Management)

STA is working with State agencies, principally the Forest Department and Sarawak Forestry Corporation to offer training and to certify appropriately trained persons to be "Sustainable Forestry Personnel" to oversee all the forest operations in accordance with the laws and guidelines set for sustainable forest and plantation management.

The training programme for such a person is incorporated into a Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management / Planted Forest Management) course to be run in association with Lincoln University of New Zealand. The Postgraduate Diploma is designed for on-the-job training, based on block release. The Postgraduate Diploma consists of twelve (12) subjects offered over three (3) years. Each subject will be taught in Kuching for nine (9) days. Students must pass all twelve (12) subjects to be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma by Lincoln University.

All teaching costs involved in the Postgraduate Diploma will be borne by STA Training Sdn Bhd. However, the STA Board has decided to require a RM5,000 "Commitment Fee" for each student in the fourth cohort of the degree. The fee will be refundable upon a student completing the course. In addition, the company will also need to pay for the travel cost to Kuching, room and board in Kuching for the student.

Interested applicant should have a degree from a recognised university (in any field). Applicant who do not have a degree but with significant experience in the forestry or timber industry is also eligible to apply. A good command of both spoken and written English is required.

The postgraduate application and expression of interest forms are available at www.sta.org.my. Complete application and expression of interest forms should be attached with curriculum vitae, certified true copies of academic transcripts, birth certificate or passport and to be submitted to the following address:

STA Training Sdn Bhd
Level 11, Wisma STA
26, Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim
93450 Kuching
Sarawak

Please contact Dr Peter Kho/
Ms Suzie Adee for more information
about the course at 082-332222 .

Presentation of Financial Contributions for Education, Research and Other Assistance, STA and Daiken Scholarships as well as the Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for Daiken Scholarship Fund



Photo: Group photo

The presentation of Financial Contributions for Education, Research and Other Assistance, Sarawak Timber Association (STA) and Daiken Scholarships as well as the Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Daiken Scholarship Fund between Daiken Corporation and STA were held on 1 July 2014 at Wisma STA, Kuching.

The event was attended by Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, Chairman of STA, Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr James Jemut Masing, Deputy Chairman of the Sarawak Heart Foundation and who is also the Minister of Land Development, Datu Haji Ali Yusop, Chief Executive Officer of Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Haji Wan Shardini Haji Wan Salleh, Deputy Director of Forests Sarawak and other senior officers from government agencies, professors as well as lecturers from various universities.

The MoU between Daiken Corporation and STA was signed entrusting STA to continue with the administration of the Daiken Scholarship Fund for another five (5) years until 2017. Daiken Corporation was represented by Daiken Miri Sdn Bhd and Daiken Sarawak

Sdn Bhd, each company contributing RM40,000.00 per year to the Daiken Scholarship Fund, bringing the total contribution to RM400,000.00 for the period covered by this MoU.

STA and its subsidiary company, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM) has allocated an amount of RM1.39 million as financial contribution for activities including conservation efforts of the Government and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), care for the environment, providing services to communities, especially those residing in the interior and in the vicinity of forest management units and facilitating the pursuit of education of the youths through the award of scholarships.

The financial contributions made were for the following areas:

(A) Education

- (i) STA through its subsidiary company, STAM

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Did you know that.....

The International Timber Organisation (ITTO) has welcomed the membership of Vietnam into the grouping. The country, the second biggest timber exporter in Asia, is now the 69th member of ITTO, which comes under the auspices of the United Nations. The country's timber exports reached USD 5.50 billion (EUR 4.04 billion).

Source: MTIB News Extracts (Vol.27/07/14)

Did you also know that....

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts that gross domestic product (GDP) of emerging economies in Asia will expand by average of 5% over next five years. However, the GDP growth rate in Asia's emerging countries will be slower than average of 7% in years leading to the financial crisis in 2008. IMF attributed the trend to rising interest rates and tightening monetary policies by developed nations such as the US and UK. IMF said that Asia's emerging economies could suffer adverse effects if developed nations tighten their monetary policies due to concerns of financial instability in the region.



Source: 30 July 2014, Business Times (Singapore)

Third Meeting of the Standard Review Committee

The third (3rd) meeting of the Standard Review Committee (SRC) for the review of the Malaysian Criteria and Indicator (MC&I) Forest Plantations was held from 7 to 9 July 2014 at the Promenade Hotel in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. The Committee went through the Minutes of the second (2nd) SRC meeting and considered the comments received from the three (3) Regional Stakeholder Consultations held in Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular

Malaysia on Enquiry Draft 2.

As a result of the deliberations, the SRC has prepared the Enquiry Draft 3 of the Standard, which shall be subjected to final sixty (60) days of public consultation. The public consultation is scheduled sometime in July 2014 while the final SRC meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held from 17 to 19 October 2014

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(Continued from page 2)

has been providing STA scholarships since 2005 to local students pursuing degree courses related to forestry and timber trade industry in Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). Effective year 2014, STAM is also giving full fees scholarships to deserving Degree students pursuing their Bachelor in Engineering at Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus (SUTS) and Curtin University of Technology Sarawak (Curtin). Since 2008, thirteen (13) STA Scholarship recipients had graduated from UNIMAS, UPM and SUTS. Currently, there are six (6) students on STA Scholarships pursuing their studies in UNIMAS and UPM.

(ii) The Sarawak United Association of Private Chinese Secondary School Management Board ("Management Board") received an amount of RM200,000.00 while the fourteen (14) Private Chinese Secondary Schools under the Management Board received an amount of RM400,000.00

(iii) The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) received an amount of RM200,000.00. STIDC shall administer the education fund which is to be given towards the development of education in rural schools in Sarawak.

(iv) Yayasan LaSallian Kuching (YLK) received an amount of RM15,000.00 to support their tuition programmes situated in the areas around Kuching, Serian and Bau.

(B) Research

(i) A 3-year research project entitled "Single

Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) Discovery through Transcriptome Sequencing and Association Mapping of Kelampayan" by the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)

(ii) A 3-year research project entitled "Basic and Working Properties of Juvenile *Acacia Mangium*" Timber for Product Development in Sarawak by Forest Department Sarawak.

(C) Others

(i) The Commission of Kuching City North received an amount of RM50,000.00 for landscaping an area under its jurisdiction as part of its programme to enhance and transform Kuching City as the cleanest, most beautiful, safest and most talked about city in Asia by year 2017.

(ii) The Sarawak Heart Foundation (SHF) represented by Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr James Jemut Masing received an amount of RM50,000.00 to support the setting up of a minimally invasive heart surgery instrument at Sarawak General Hospital Heart Centre, which is expected to cost approximately RM1.5 million, as well as to support various activities carried out by SHF.

In addition, STAM also provide support to Daiken Corporation through the management of Daiken Scholarships. Since year 2010, nine (9) Daiken Scholarship recipients had graduated from the UNIMAS, SUTS and Curtin University of Technology, Sarawak. Currently, there are six (6) students on Daiken Scholarships pursuing their studies at UNIMAS, SUTS and Curtin.



Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak Sarawak Timber Association

11 Floor, Wisma STA, 26, Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.
Telephone: ++(60 82) 332 222 Facsimile: ++(60 82) 487 888, 487 999
E-mail: sta@sta.org.my Website: www.sta.org.my

Technical Working Committee on Forest Plantation Development 2/2014

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) held a meeting on the Forest Plantation Development 2/2014 with the Technical Working Committee on 16 July 2014 at the Boardroom of MTIB in Kuala Lumpur. Sixteen (16) members from the relevant Government agencies attended the Meeting, chaired by Dr Jalaluddin Harun, the Director-General of MTIB.

The Chairman, in his welcoming speech told Committee Members that the programme for providing soft loans to forest plantation developers has been progressing smoothly since its inception seven (7) years ago. Borrowers will be charged at the rate of 3%, with reasonable period to payback and this partnership with the private sector has gone very well, resulting in the amount of RM1.4 billion, allocated to the programme almost fully committed. Out of the area of 120,000 ha approved for the loan, an area of 90,000 ha has been planted. In spite of this, he requested the respective Forest Departments to ensure the land approved by the Department for forest plantation development can be planted.

Members opined that in view of occurrence of ceratocystis in *Acacia mangium* plantations, there

is a need to find suitable alternative species for forest plantations. As *Acacia* wood has already been accepted by a few countries, the Chairman remarked that he would not like to see *Acacia* wood being replaced by other species. The Meeting agreed for each region to carry out a survey on the extent of the disease, to be tabled in the next Committee meeting for discussion. The Committee concurred that *Eucalyptus*, being a potential alternative species for forest plantation, agreed to the proposal for a paper to collate information on the plantings of *Eucalyptus* in the three regions, namely Peninsula Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak, covering the species trialled, location, age and status for discussion.

The Meeting deliberated on the paper on the criteria and conditions for bamboo to qualify for soft loan under the Forest Plantation Development programme. In view of the different physical characteristics of the five (5) species of bamboo considered, the Committee agreed that the financial analysis needs to be done at the species level.