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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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Workshop on Market Requirements for Timber and Timber Product Legality Affecting Sarawak

A workshop on Market Requirements for Timber and Timber Product Legality Affecting Sarawak: Forging the Path Forward was jointly organised by Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Nature, Ecology and People Consult (NEPCon) and World Wide Fund for Nature-Malaysia (WWF-Malaysia) from 23 to 24 July 2015 at Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching. The Workshop focused on giving an understanding on the market trend, market requirements and timber legality. The Workshop also provided information on what a company needs to do in order to obtain forest management certification.

NEPCon is an international, non-profit organisation who works on delivering credible certification services to ensure responsible use of natural resources and sustainable livelihood worldwide. Their establishment amongst others is to guide interested organisation to get Forest Certification and Chain of Custody. They also provide capacity building to the industry players on how to meet international regulation such as the European Timber Regulation (EUTR).

The Workshop was officiated by the Director of Forests, Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad and attended by representatives from the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment (MRPE), Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC), Malaysia Timber Council (MTC), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Forest Department Peninsular Malaysia, Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (HTSB), SARAWAK FORESTRY, the Sarawak

Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Yayasan Sarawak and members of Sarawak Timber Association (STA).

In the opening speech, Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad mentioned that the two-day Workshop would provide an invaluable opportunity for key players in the forestry sector to find out more about legality and certification of timber and timber products as well as market trends and values. He also mentioned that Sarawak, being one of the leading timber exporters to Japan will have to meet stringent due diligence requirements imposed by the Japanese Government. He envisaged that only legal and certified timber will be allowed to enter the country then. He also said that the Tokyo 2020 Olympics would provide immense opportunities for businesses from Sarawak as a lot of construction projects would be expected in Japan. He reminded the timber companies to buck up their operations and not to miss out on the business opportunity.

The speakers and facilitators at the Workshop were Mr Peter Feilberg, Executive Director NEPCon, Mr Christian Shriver, NEPCon Southeast Asia Regional Manager as well as Mr Oliver Cupit and Ms Alexandra Banks, legality experts of NEPCon.

On the first day, participants of the Workshop were introduced to the international timber regulations, namely the European Union Timber

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The Malaysian Timber Certification Council Stakeholder Dialogue



Photo: The panelists representing the various stakeholder interests

The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) organised a Stakeholder Dialogue and Appreciation Dinner on 28 July 2015 at the Renaissance Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. Themed 'Experiences Gained and the Way Forward for the MTCS', the Dialogue provided a forum for stakeholders to share their feedbacks and experiences pertaining to the improvement and implementation of the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS). The Dialogue was attended by more than 100 stakeholders representing the environmental and social interest groups; timber companies including certificate holders and timber associations; government agencies; as well as research and academic institutions.

Mr Ben Gunneberg, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Secretary General of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) mentioned that well-managed forests are vital and forest certification has proven to be an important tool in addressing issues related to deforestation, illegal logging and ensuring good forest governance. He also shared with participants that MTCC has been instrumental in inspiring forest certification development in China, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.

Mr Yong Teng Koon, CEO of MTCC shared the milestones which MTCC has achieved over the years and the current status of forest certification in Malaysia. He

mentioned that he is proud that the tropical timber products certified under MTCS are being exported to forty five (45) countries, with an accumulative volume of more than one million cubic metres. He also shared with the participants of the Dialogue the issues and challenges in operating MTCS at the national and international level.

The Dialogue was divided into two (2) sessions. The first session of the Dialogue was moderated by Dr Henry Chan of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Malaysia. The panelists representing the various stakeholder interests, the social, environmental and economic groups, the Forest Management Unit (FMU) managers and a certification body shared their experiences and made recommendations on MTCS.

The second session of the Dialogue was moderated by Dato' Shaharuddin Mohamad Ismail. Ms Siti Syaliza of MTCC made a presentation of the review of MC&I(Natural Forest). She shared with the participants of the Dialogue the background of the MC&I(Natural Forest), rules on standard setting process for development of timber certification standards (SSP 3/2014) and the proposed process and timelines for the review of MC&I(Natural Forest) which is expected to start by the last quarter of the this year. Following that, Mr Chew Lye Teng, the former CEO of MTCC made a presentation on the proposal for merging the natural forest and forest plantation standards.

MTCC also hosted an appreciation dinner after the Dialogue. The dinner was graced by Datuk Himmat Singh, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Malaysia.



Did you know that.....

FSC has recently certified close to 350,000 hectares of forests in Northern India. The 13 forest divisions now certified are owned by the State Forest Department of Uttar Pradesh, a state bordering Nepal. With this certification, Uttar Pradesh state hopes to increase the domestic supply of certified wood in India and also to support the forestry industry including small and medium companies in their efforts to promote certification. The total FSC-certified area of forests in India is now 811,815 hectares in nine different states, and 252 FSC chain of custody (CoC) certificates are currently registered.

Source: <https://ic.fsc.org/newsroom>

Did you also know that....

A recent study published in the Journal of Zoology examines how five of Sumatra's cat species manage to coexist and the implications for their conservation on an island with high rates of forest loss and habitat degradation. The authors also note that the remaining forests of Sumatra, including the degraded ones, still have a high conservation value for wild cats and other wildlife.

Source: <http://news.mongabay.com/2015/07/how-do-sumatras-wild-cats-coexist/>



STAT Working Team on the Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules 2015

The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules 2015 (Rules) came into force on 1 July 2015. All licensees are given a grace period of six (6) months to have their workmen trained in all the prescribed activities as listed in the First Schedule of the Rules 2015 (Schedule). The prescribed activities are:

- a) Certificate in Tree Felling (TF)
- b) Certificate in Log Extraction (LE)
- c) Certificate in Log Loading (LL)
- d) Certificate in Clear-fell Site Preparation (CF)
- e) Certificate in Mechanical Site Preparation (MS)
- f) Others

In view of this, STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), a subsidiary company of Sarawak Timber Association (STA) formed a Working Team on the Rules comprising a representative each from the major groups of STA Member Companies. The Team met on 15 July 2015 in Wisma STA, Kuching, was briefed on the Rules, Forests Ordinance 2015 (Ordinance) and the total number of forestry workmen trained. Members also discussed matters pertaining to training in forestry activities.

The word "Other" in the Schedule means any other courses that will be approved by the Director of Forests in the future other than those currently listed in the First Schedule of the Rules.

Currently, STAT is offering training in twelve (12) forestry activities as well as two (2) Certificates on the (i) Delivery On-Job Training to Adults and (ii) Use Standard to Access Candidates Performance. The Certificates for the 12 forestry activities are:

- i. Certificate in Tree Felling (TF)
- ii. Certificate in Log Extraction (LE)
- iii. Certificate in Log Loading (LL)
- iv. Certificate in Clear-fell Site Preparation (CF)
- v. Certificate in Mechanical Site Preparation (MS)
- vi. Certificate in Tree Felling – Chainsaw (Forest Plantation) (TFP)

- vii. Certificate in Log Extraction – Bulldozer (Forest Plantation)(LEB)
- viii. Certificate in Log Extraction – Cable Hauler (Forest Plantation) (MO)
- ix. Certificate in Breaking Out – Cable Hauler (Forest Plantation) (BO)
- x. Certificate in Log Loading – Excavator (Forest Plantation) (EO)
- xi. Certificate in Tree and Log Identification (TL)
- xii. Certificate in Log and Timber Identification (LT)

As at 30 June 2015, STAT had trained 1,995 workmen from STA Member Companies in the 5 prescribed activities / certificates listed in the Schedule, 447 trained workmen in other forestry activities/ certificates, 180 qualified in-house trainers and 45 qualified in-house assessors. Currently, STAT has eight (8) qualified trainers/assessors in multiple training and assessing skills sets. STA Member Companies with insufficient in-house trainers are encouraged to contact STAT to organise a Train-the-Trainer Course, whereas STA Member Companies with in-house trainers are urged to intensify the training of the forestry workmen in their respective camps. In addition, a financial incentive of RM1,000 per workman trained will be provided to STA Member Company for every workman trained and assessed competent in the 5 prescribed activities listed in the First Schedule.

STAT has re-submitted its application to be an approved institution to conduct training courses under Section 51(1) of the Ordinance and Part II, Clause 3 of the Rules.

Members of the Team were asked to update their management on the urgency to train their workmen in the 5 prescribed activities as listed in the First Schedule, in order to meet the requirements of Section 51 of the Ordinance, when it is enforced on 4 January 2016.



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DF Circular No 9/2015 – Forests Ordinance, 2015 (Cap. 71) – Date of Commencement

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) has received a DF Circular No 9/2015 from the Forest Department Sarawak ref DF.681.76 (VII) – 15 dated 29 July 2015 addressed to all Regional Forest Officers and copied to STA on the above subject.

The following is an excerpt of the above-mentioned Circular:-

“I am directed to inform that in exercise of the powers conferred by section 1 of the Forests Ordinance, 2015 (Cap.71), the Minister for Resource Planning and Environment has appointed the 1st day of June 2015, as the date on which the Ordinance shall come into force.

Therefore, the DF Circular No 8/2015 is considered as null and void.”

(continued from page 1)

regulation (EUTR) in Europe, the Lacey Act in the United States of America and the Australian Illegal Prohibition Act 2012 in Australia. Participants of the Workshop were also updated on the global trends and shifting timber market requirements for legality and certification; considerations to be taken before choosing any certification schemes and how to get started in obtaining forest certification.

On the second day, participants of the Workshop were introduced to the different schemes such as Verification of Legal Origin (VLO), Verification of Legal Compliance (VLC), Global Forest Service (GFS) Legal Verification Services (LVS) and Wood Tracking System, Beureau Veritas, NEPCon LegalSource, FSC Control Wood, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Forest management and Chain of Custody (CoC) as well as PEFC Sustainable Forest Management and CoC which include the Malaysian Timber certification Scheme (MTCS).

Participants of the Workshop also took part in group discussions during this two-day Workshop.