



STA dan Rakan2

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Japan Lumber Inspection and Research Association's Visit to Sarawak

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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Photo: (top) Opening meeting at Wisma Sumber Alam and (right) group photo at Wisma STA



The Japan Lumber Inspection and Research Association (JLIRA) was commissioned by the Japanese Forestry Agency (JFA) to conduct a market study in three Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) member countries i.e. Chile, Vietnam and Malaysia. Three (3) representatives from JLIRA namely Mr Ryo Sasaki, General Manager, Mr Susumu Miyatake, Senior Research Officer and Mr Hajime Naganawa, Senior Technical Advisor visited Sarawak from 18 to 21 July 2016. The objectives of the visit are to understand Sarawak's legality verification scheme and its contents in detail, to collect legal documents and data as well as information on forestry and market focus on timber products verified by the Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS).

on 18 July 2016 at Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. The Meeting was chaired by Datu Sudarsono Osman, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment Sarawak (MRPE) and attended by approximately thirty (30) persons representing MRPE, Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA).

In the Meeting, officers from FDS and STIDC briefed the participants of the meeting on forestry

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An Opening Meeting was held

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in Sarawak, detailed contents of STLVS and status of the timber industry in Sarawak.

The representatives from JLIRA then paid a visit to all the four (4) main implementing agencies namely FDS, SFC, STIDC and Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd to understand further their roles and functions as implementers of STLVS.

The representatives from JLIRA also visited STA at Wisma STA, Kuching on 19 July 2016 where they were given a briefing by Ms Annie Ting, Senior Manager on the roles and functions of STA including management training and skills training provided for members and STA's participation and involvement in the forestry, timber and trade-related issues at the

State, National and International levels. Thereafter, they were brought to visit the timber companies in Kuching, Sibu and Miri where they were briefed on the company's compliance to STLVS and the company's processes and procedures in relation to harvesting, transportation, manufacturing, trade and etc in meeting the legality verification requirements.

A Closing Meeting, which was chaired by Datuk Fong Joo Chung was held at Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching on 21 July 2016. In the Meeting, Mr Ryo Sasaki on behalf of JLIRA thanked the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment and STIDC for arranging this trip where they collated valuable information and data. They will be visiting Sarawak again in September/October 2016 to better understand how STLVS works on the ground.

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Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management/Sustainable Tropical Plantation Management) – Communities and the Forest Industry

The subject "*Communities and the Forest Industry*" of the Fourth Cohort of the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (*Sustainable Tropical Forest Management/Sustainable Tropical Plantation Management*) Course (Course) was conducted from 16 to 22 July 2016 in Wisma STA, Kuching.

The Course was attended by sixteen (16) postgraduate students and three (3) participants taking the subject on a Continuing Education basis i.e. taking a single subject only. This subject aimed to introduce students to the local community's use of forest resources to avoid or minimise conflicts. This subject was taught by Professor Hugh Bigsby of Lincoln University from Christchurch, New Zealand and assisted by local lecturers namely Dr Katharine Georgina Pearce, Dr Samantha Liew Chiew Ing and Mr Jayl Langub.

The objectives of the subject include:

- (1) Describing the range of products taken from the forest and local use of forest areas;

- (2) Explaining the governance systems in different ethnic groups;
- (3) Describing the resource management practices of different ethnic groups;
- (4) Analysing how forest industry activities can be managed to avoid or minimise impacts on local communities; and
- (5) Understanding the process of conflict resolution when dealing with local communities.

The topics covered during the week for this subject include Non-timber Forest Products (NTFP), Sociology of Local Communities, Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Conflict Resolution.

Apart from classroom style lectures, the students also visited Kampung Sentah and Kampung Simuti.

The next subject, "*Plantation Forest Protection and Sustainability*" will be held from 20 to 26 August 2016 in Wisma STA, Kuching.



Did you know that.....

Germany has become the second country to successfully achieve PEFC re-endorsement of its national forest certification system for a third time. The Malaysian Criteria and Indicators (MC&I) for Forest Plantations standard has also received PEFC re-endorsement. This endorsement not only confirms that they continue to meet PEFC's globally recognized Sustainability Benchmarks, but also ensures that certified forest owners and companies in these countries continue to benefit from the global acceptance of PEFC.

Source: <http://www.pefc.org/news-a-media/general-sfm-news/2143-german-system-and-malaysian-forest-plantation-standard-achieve-pefc-re-endorsement>

Did you also know that...

From the perspective of the tropical wood sector, Brexit will have significant implications. The UK is now by far the largest importer of tropical timber in the EU. If all timber-based products are included (primary raw materials, secondary processed products and tertiary products like furniture), in 2015 the UK accounted for around 25% of the total value imported into the EU from tropical countries. A large part of the recent growth in UK imports of timber products from these countries has been in the form of furniture from Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia – a trade now likely to slow in the short to medium term.



Source: MTIB News Extracts (Vol.29/07/16)

Discussions cum Field Visits to Members’ Forest Plantations Programme

The STA Forest Plantation Committee is organising a series of *Discussions cum Field Visits to Members’ Forest Plantations Programme* which involves the representatives from the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment (MRPE), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Licence for Planted Forests (LPF) holders and the Sarawak Timber Association (STA) Secretariat.

to accelerate the planting progress to achieve the tree planting target.

The first series of the programme was held from 26 to 28 July 2016 in Miri. The group visited two (2) LPFs, i.e. LPF0021 Paong Plantation (Samling Group) and LPF0017 Kejin Plantation (Shin Yang Group), which was lead by Mr Brian Stuart Sawyer, General Manager (Reforestation) of Samling Reforestation (Bintulu) Sdn Bhd and Mr Akira Kitaoka, Engineer of Shin Yang Forestry Sdn Bhd, respectively.

The main objective of the Programme is to ensure that all relevant persons involved in forest plantation are aware of the status of development of forest plantations, its success, constraints, challenges as well as weaknesses. The Committee hopes that through the series of discussions and field visits which cover the process from plantation establishment to planted log utilisation, the representatives from Ministry and Government related agencies will be aware of the actual situation on the ground in order to assist and facilitate the planted forest development in Sarawak as well as

Through the discussion, the issue on land claimed by natives is of most concern. Other issues highlighted amongst others, are sources of quality planting materials, labour, plantation certification, pests and diseases as well as tree harvesting in plantation areas. The next series of the programme will be held in Bintulu.

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Task Force on Forest Management Certification

The Task Force on Forest Management Certification (FMC) formed under the STA Hill Logging Committee convened its first meeting on 15 July 2016 at Wisma STA, Kuching. Members of the Task Force comprised nominated representatives from major groups of timber companies in Sarawak.

members on the progress of FMC in their licenced areas. Members also shared amongst themselves the challenges faced such as the lack of Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) data, inadequate technical experts to carry out ground works and etc.

The purpose of this Task force was to discuss on the progress of FMC implementation in the respective companies as well as the way forward. In the Meeting, representatives from the respective companies updated

The members stressed that it is difficult to determine the time frame to have their forest timber licenced areas certified due to the complexity embedded in meeting the Principles and Criteria of the Certification Schemes during the certification process.

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skilling programmes, PSMB will collaborate with the Industry Associations.

He highlighted that under the Programmes for Future Workers, PSMB registered employers who are able to offer high-value jobs to unemployed graduates may submit the proposal to PSMB to request for financial assistance either directly or through the relevant employer associations. For SMEs up-skilling and re-

For more information, members can contact Mr Murali on 03-20964710 or email to murali@hrdf.com.my. Members can also obtain the presentation slides from STA’s website at www.sta.org.my.



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Briefing Session on the Implementation of Strategic Initiatives

The Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) held a briefing session on the implementation of strategic initiatives by Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad (PSMB) utilising the 30% consolidated Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) on 28 July 2016 at the Hilton Hotel, Kuching. Approximately fifty (50) participants attended the briefing.

The objective of the Briefing was to provide all registered employers an in-depth understanding of the five (5) strategic initiatives which was implemented by PSMB starting on 19 May 2016.

Mr Murali Muniandy, Executive, Research and Development Unit, Training Resources Development Division of PSMB informed the participants of the Briefing on the main purpose of the 30% consolidated fund (effective 1 April 2016) which is to support the national agenda of 35% skilled Malaysian workforce by the year 2020 and to enhance the knowledge and skills of current and future employees of PSMB registered employers, hence improving the productivity level of these companies. This initiative will also encourage employers to train their employees especially through certification course that are recognised by professional bodies or industry based courses which would then lead to the increase in the percentage of skilled Malaysians.

He also said that 46 million ringgit was allocated for the 5 strategic initiatives i.e. (1) Training of Retrench Workers under the 1Malaysia Outplacement Centre (1MOC), (2) Train and Replace – Replacement of Foreign Workers, (3) Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Up-skilling and Re-Skilling programmes, (4) Programmes for Future Workers, and (5) Certification/ Value Added programmes identified by the Sectorial Training Committees/special fund for Industrial Association programmes.

According to him, the HRDF Pool Fund was implemented because of three (3) reasons namely (1) the levy used by employers is mostly for non-technical training; (2) the accumulated HRD levy balance of approximately RM1 billion has been increasing each year; and (3) the professional certification programmes only accounted for 1% for the first 10 months of 2015 which is alarming as the Government of Malaysia aims to achieve 35% skilled workers amongst the total workforce and to create over 1.5 million new jobs by 2020. In view of the above, PSMB had to intervene and identify different approach so that HRDF could be utilised more effectively and efficiently in line with the Government national agenda.

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