

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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MTCC & PEFC STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) and the Council of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC) co-hosted a Stakeholder Dialogue at the Corus Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on 16 – 18 June 2010 which focused on the development of forest certification initiatives in the Asia Pacific region and the revision of the PEFC requirements for forest certification systems. It was attended by about 110 participants from the Asia Pacific region.

The Dialogue was part of the PEFC's Standards Revision process. Over the past two years, PEFC which is the world's largest forest certification scheme has been revising its forest management standards, requirements for developing national certification standards, and requirements for group certification, a tool that is of specific importance for family and community forest owners.

The Dialogue started with a presentation by Mr Ben Gunneberg, Secretary-General of PEFC International. He talked about the challenges in forest certification such as

expansion of certification, distribution of certification which is mostly concentrated in Western Europe and North America and market access, noting that the PEFC standards revision needs to ensure that the meta standard requirements are flexible enough to accommodate national processes. This will result in national certification requirements that are feasible, realistic and cost-effective, resulting national certification standards and systems that are robust enough to provide confidence to deliver key market and stakeholder expectations.

Four other speakers presented their country's experience in establishing their national forest certification schemes. They were:

- Mr Hamarinder Singh, Senior Manager, Malaysian Timber Certification Council – *Implementation of the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme*
- Mr Wei Wang, Deputy General Director, The State Forestry Administration of China – *Development of the Chinese Forest Certification Scheme*
- Mr Agus Setyarso, Chairman of Lembaga Ekolabel Indonesia – *Lembaga Ekolabel*

Indonesia

- Dr Hans Drielsma, Board Member, Australian Forestry Standard - *Australian Forestry Standard*

Dr Hans Drielsma who is also the Chair of Revision Working Group of PEFC Council Board and Mr Ben Gunneberg guided participants through the following 4 documents:

- *PEFC ST 1001:20xx: Standard Setting – requirements.*
- *PEFC ST 1002:20xx Group Forest Certification – requirements.*
- *PEFC ST 1003:20xx Sustainable Forest Management Standards – Temperate, boreal and plantation forests*
- *PEFC ST 1003:20xx Sustainable Forest Management Standards - Tropical natural forests.*

These documents had been published for public consultation since the middle of April, with the exception of PEFC ST 1003:20xx Sustainable Forest Management Standards – Tropical Natural Forests which was published in June.

Dialogue
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Did you know that...

Wood product prices in Malaysia remained mostly unchanged during the last fortnight as European timber importers were not actively buying while waiting to see how the continuing European debt crises are affecting business. The continuing European debt crisis and high unemployment in the US have resulted in cautious purchasing from the importers.

Source:
ITTO MIS Report
1 - 15 Jun 10

(Continued from page 1)

participants were subsequently divided into 4 roundtables discussion groups to brainstorm the documents stated above. The outcome of the discussion was presented to all participants in plenary.

The next stage of the revision is for the Working Group (WG) to consider all comments from public consultation and to deliver to the PEFC Board of Directors (BoD) a final draft in September

2010. The PEFC BoD will then consider the final draft and recommend it to PEFC General Assembly for formal voting or return it to the WG. The PEFC General Assembly will formally vote on the final draft documents.

Opportunities still exist for participants and the general public to participate in the review process and provide comments online. Information on how to do this may be obtained from the website of PEFC <http://www.pefc.org>.

The Dialogue ended with a field visit to Compartment 18 of Bukit Lagong Forest Reserve, Kanching Recreational Forest and Compartment 7 of the Kanching Forest Reserve to look at the condition of the residual stand after a second rotation harvesting, some cut stumps, the condition of the feeder road and skid trails as well as the planting of trees to rehabilitate temporary log landing and skid trails.

TRAINING COURSE ON ISPM NO. 15 - HEAT TREATMENT FOR AUDITORS

Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd (SFCSB), the Plant Protection and Quarantine Branch of Department of Agriculture (PPQ, DoA), Sarawak and the Sarawak Timber Association (STA) jointly organised a 3-day heat treatment course for twenty four Officers from the Plant Protection and Quarantine Branch, Department of Agriculture, Sarawak. The course was held at the Centre for

Modern Management (CMM), Semenggoh near Kuching from 22 - 24 June 2010.

These Officers, upon completing the Course, will be responsible for auditing heat treatment (HT) facilities in Sarawak. The topics covered in this Course include *An Introduction to ISPM No.15, Application Procedure for Registration*

of HT Facility, Roles of Auditors, Types of Audits, Procedure and Documentation, An Introduction to Heat treatment, Types of Heat Treatment Facility, Types of Recording System and Stamping of Wood Packaging Material.

The course concluded with a visit to two different heat treatment facilities in Kuching.



Picture: Participants in the training course

PRESS STATEMENT

STA had on 12 July 2010 released a press statement on Alleged Sexual Abuse of Penan Women and Girls. The press statement is as follows:

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) views with great concern of the recent independent fact-finding mission report released by "Penan Support Group, FORUM-ASIA and Asian Indigenous Women's Network (AIWN)" (AIWN Report) of the alleged sexual abuse of Penan women and girls. STA had previously stated its stance on the matter through a press release on 16 September 2009 when a report was first released by the National Task Force relating to the alleged sexual abuse to Penan women and girls. The Association hereby reiterates that any form of sexual abuse cannot be tolerated and the STA is committed to assisting any sexually abused victims to the best of its ability. In this regard, the STA is willing to provide such resources as may be necessary to enable a transparent and vigorous investigation into the allegations of sexual abuse of any Penan women and girls or indeed of any other ethnic communities.

STA notes that the AIWN Report raises several issues which are seen as obstacles to the investigation of claims of sexual abuse. Two of the issues relate to language difficulties and costs of transportation. In this regard, the STA stand ready to provide the resources necessary to retain interpreters and provide transportation, accommodation and subsistence to bring any victim to lodge police reports to facilitate investigations.

In addition, the STA will also provide such funds as may be necessary for medical services and counselling of any victims of sexual abuse.

One of the main objectives of the STA is to promote, ascertain and protect the continuous well-being of the timber trade and industry in the State of Sarawak. It is an essential part of such objective that a safe atmosphere should be maintained for all communities associated with the timber industry. To this end, the STA will provide all necessary practical and financial support to ensure that a full and transparent investigation of claims of sexual abuse are pursued.

Therefore, STA calls upon the police to promptly and thoroughly investigate the alleged rape and sexual abuses of Penan women and girls as a matter of priority to ensure justice prevails.

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MTC GLOBAL WOODMART 2010

The inaugural MTC Global WoodMart 2010 is an initiative of the Malaysian Timber Council for international suppliers and buyers to meet and conduct business. The details are at follows:

Date: 19—20 October 2010
Venue: Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

Visit www.globalwoodmart.my for more information.

Did you also know that...

From late 2012, selling illegally-harvested timber products and timber will be banned all over the European Union (EU) on account of an informal agreement struck by EU lawmakers. The ban includes raw timber and timber products like floorboards, furniture and casks; but printed materials like books are excused from the ban, for at least five years. Environmental campaigners stated that the ban will stop illegal timber imports in Europe and destruction of forests.

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BRIEFING ON LACEY ACT

A briefing on 'Lacey Act – Compliance and Beyond' was held in Sibu on 7 June 2010 by the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) for the purpose of updating the timber industry on the Lacey Act pursuant to the attendance by STIDC officials at a workshop on Lacey Act organised by the International Wood Product Association in Florida USA.

After introductory remarks by Puan Dayang Nena Abang Bruce, Senior Assistant General Manager Trade Development STIDC, the briefing proceeded with the two presentations, the

first by Mr Nicholas Andrew Lissem (Manager, Industrial Planning) on the Lacey Act itself and the second by Encik Abu Kassim Jibri (Senior Assistant, Industrial Planning) on how to complete the various forms.

The Lacey Act makes it unlawful to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce any plant, with some limited exceptions, take or traded in violation of laws of United States and foreign laws. There is only one option if a company wishes to trade with the United States of America

and that is to comply with the Lacey Act requirements, meaning:

- Declarations must be accurate (there is adequate mechanism implemented in Sarawak to assist the industry to comply with the Lacey Act)
- Be always on alert for tipsters
- Continuous monitoring and updating on the Lacey Act development

STIDC stated that US market is still an important market although it makes up only about 2% of Sarawak's total export value.