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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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POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN APPLIED SCIENCE (SUSTAINABLE TROPICAL FOREST MANAGEMENT) - PRESENTATION CEREMONY



Picture: (Above) Class of 2008 with distinguished guests and (right) YBhg. Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh presenting a plaque to Mr Ling Kwong Hung, top student overall for the Class of 2008



Congratulations resounded across the sea from New Zealand to Sarawak on 18 June 2009 as 22 Postgraduates celebrated their success. They are the first batch of students who have recently graduated with Lincoln University's Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science, majoring in Sustainable Tropical Forest Management. The University's Dean of Faculty of Commerce Dr Patrick Aldwell and Programme Director for

Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science Associate Professor Dr Hugh Bigsby personally delivered the handshakes during the certification presentation held at Wisma STA. Officiating at the occasion was Yang Berbahagia Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Resource Management cum Director of Forests Sarawak, Managing Director / CEO of Sarawak Forestry Corporation. The

ceremony was attended by STA Council Members, officials from Sarawak Forest Department, Sarawak Forestry Corporation and STIDC and the graduates family members.

Seventeen of the twenty graduates attended the ceremony in New Zealand in April and the 5 graduates who were absent in New Zealand finally received their

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**Did you know
that...**

Prices of Malaysian timber products remained weak as plywood mills reduced production by 35% to 40%, while furniture manufacturers and sawmills were cutting production by up to 50%. The demand for Malaysian timber products is highly dependent on housing starts of major importing countries such as Japan and the US. Housing starts in Japan fell for the sixth month in a row. Some timber trade manufacturers continue to be of the opinion that it may take up to 3 to 4 years for the Malaysian timber industry to recover to the level estimated before global economic downturn.

Source:
ITTO Tropical Timber Market Report
1-15 June 2009

NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON HCVF TOOLKIT

All forests contain environmental and social values such as wildlife habitat, watershed protection and cultural significance. Areas within forests where these values are considered to be of outstanding significance or critical importance based on an agreed set of criteria, the forest can be defined as High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) areas. Identifying these values, knowing the importance and locating the forest areas is the essential first step in developing appropriate management.

The HCVF concept was initially developed by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for use in forest management certification. Within FSC certification, forest managers are required to identify any HCVF attributes that occur within their individual forest

management units and manage them in order to maintain or enhance the attributed identified.

As Malaysia is yet to have her own Toolkit to identify the HCVF attributes, WWF-Malaysia has taken up the responsibility and began to work on drafting the toolkit in mid-2007, after which it was subjected to an internal review process and refined further into a second draft by early 2008. External input was obtained from the scientific community through an Expert Review Meeting which took place in May 2008. The third draft was completed in September 2008. In order to improve the drafted Toolkit, regional consultations were organised and attended by participants from the various stakeholders comprising industry, government and

Non-Government Organisations.

On 29 June 2009, WWF-Malaysia organised a consultation on the Fifth Draft of the Toolkit attended by 65 participants. This meeting is the final, national-level stakeholder consultation for the national toolkit.

Each High Conservation Value (HCV) was deliberated thoroughly by the participants. The comments and issues brought up during this session will serve as the final input and feedback which will be incorporated into the Fifth Draft of the toolkit, which will then be finalised as a finished document after the consultation. This document will be continuously be reviewed and improved in the future as and when is necessary.

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parchments on 18 June 2009. For all the students, the celebration marked the end of the two years of intensive academic and practical study.

The Postgraduate Diploma is designed for forestry and other graduates working on the field and logging camps at supervisory and management level. The course provided an opportunity to upgrade their skills on issues

and challenges they face in their efforts to sustainably manage the forest resource.

The subjects covered range from forest ecology to sociology, timber certification to marketing and from environmental impacts to the legal framework.

Two students were awarded the Top Student Awards. Mr Ling Hung is the top student overall for the Class of 2008 and Mr Ling Ting

Sing is the top student without a First Degree for the Class of 2008. Both are currently working with WTK Group of Companies.

A second intake of Postgraduate students has now commenced study in the same course.

REGISTRATION OF PRINTER AND INKJET PRINTED LOG PRODUCTION IDENTITY (LPI) NUMBER

The Association had received a letter ref DF.93.13.2-9 dated 15 June 2009 from the Director of Forests Sarawak addressed to Messrs Yi Ling Enterprises Sdn Bhd, Symbol Timber Tags Sdn Bhd and Number System Sdn Bhd respectively on the above subject, a copy of which was extended to the Association.

The letter is reproduced below:

"The Forest Department has decided that the LPI Alpha-numeric Number in the LPI Coupe & Block Tag must be inkjet printed effective 1 November 2009.

Improvement and

upgrading in the quality of printing, and the registration of inkjet printers will enable the Department to control, monitor and verify logs produced and LPI number allocated, with greater ease and expediency. Duplication in the printing the LPI number can also be minimized or curtailed.

Tag supplier must have a proper account of all printed LPI Coupe & Block Tags. In this connection, timber licensees are only allowed to order and print LPI range number that has been approved by Sarawak Forest Corporation (SFC) and the original approval letter of LPI, must be attached.

To ensure the

success in implementing LPI and to enable the Department to trace LPI Tags to source, all the Inkjet printers operated by you have to be registered with the FDS on or before 1 July 2009 using the format prepared by FDS.

Through the joint effort, commitment and cooperation from timber operators and tag suppliers, this exercise will enhance our Log Tracking System (LOTS) application through FORESTNET. It will also ensure that the noble objective of using Plastic (PVC) Tag to improve log marking is achieved."

Did you also know that...

A valid export permit from the country of origin, and re-export certificate from any country of re-export, must be obtained prior to importing ramin into the U.S. US imports from Malaysia for furniture and bedding amounted to US\$764.42 million, a decrease of 7.86% from US\$829.68 million in 2007. Malaysian exporters of wooden furniture need to be aware of the export permit requirement for ramin to the US and possible fine imposed for not abiding with the requirement.

TRAINING INCENTIVE FOR SMALL ENTERPRISES

The Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad (PSMB) has recently circulated the Employers Circular No. 8/2009. The purpose of this circular is to inform employers and training providers that PSMB will provide training incentive for small employers registered under the Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF).

As the fund is limited and in order to distribute the training incentive widely, the incentive will be allocated as follows:

- Availability of the incentive will be based on "first come, first served" basis for training claims submitted;
- The incentive will be allocated by State based on the percentage of small employers located in each State; and
- Each small employer will be given incentive up to a maximum number of 2

claims per month and will be limited to a total of 6 claims.

The training incentive will take effect for approved training programmes that commence from May 2009. The incentive will end when the allocation is fully utilised.

For more information on the Employers Circular No. 8/2009, please contact:

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STA dan Rakan2

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STAT NEW TRAINERS



Picture: Mr Karl Bowman (left) and Mr Sumbang anak Rani (right) having a discussion

Mr. Karl Bowman, a Forest Industries Training (FITEC) – registered trainer and assessor of New Zealand, has joined STAT as a trainer in tree felling/cable harvesting trainer with effect from 15 June 2009 on a two-year contract. Prior to joining STAT, Mr. Bowman had been working in the forest industries in New Zealand for more than 17 years, predominantly in the area of tree felling, skidding, log making and cable harvesting. He will be assisting STAT to strengthen the in-house tree-felling trainer capacity, as well as to help to determine a suitable harvesting system for forest plantations in Sarawak and to develop relevant training for harvesting crew.

Mr. Sumbang anak Rani has joined STAT on 1 July 2009, as a trainer in tree felling skills set. He will be working/training under the guidance of Mr. Karl Bowman in the area of felling trees in forest plantations. Prior to joining STAT, Mr. Sumbang had worked in the industry, both as a tree-felling as well as a skidding operator. Mr. Sumbang had also successfully completed the *STAT Trainer Development Programme* in both skills sets in April 2007.