



June 2014

For Private Circulation Only

Issue 192

STA dan Rakan2

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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Launching Ceremony of the 6th Sarawak Chief Minister's Environmental Award 2014

The launching ceremony of the 6th Sarawak Chief Minister's Environmental Award (CMEA) 2014 was held on 26 June 2014 at Imperial Hotel, Kuching. This biennially Award was jointly organised by the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) and the Sarawak Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) together with other relevant agencies in conjunction with the NREB 20th anniversary celebration. Approximately 100 participants from various organisations attended the launching ceremony. The CMEA 2014 serves as incentives to encourage good stewardship in environmental protection and management in Sarawak.

Mr Peter Sawal, the Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak in his welcoming speech, mentioned that the State Government is committed towards environmental protection and conservation of natural resources in Sarawak through the establishment of NREB two decades ago to regulate all development activities and manage its natural resources sustainably. He also informed that the CMEA 2014 is one of the activities conducted in conjunction of NREB 20th anniversary celebration besides other programmes such as beach cleaning, health run, youth green x-change, health screening and blood donation. He encouraged all organisations in Sarawak to participate in this Award.

The CMEA 2014 was launched by Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Second Minister for Resource

Planning and Environment cum Minister for Public Utilities and Minister for Industrial Development Sarawak. In his speech, he mentioned that a holistic and integrated approach is required to ensure sustainable development for the State and benefit of both the present and future generations. The State embarked towards socio-economic progress through land development such as plantation, mining, quarry and infrastructure which had put more stress on the existing environment. Therefore, more collective and sustainable practices are needed from all stakeholders to ensure our environment are protected and resources are sustainable. He also shared that Sarawak had implemented various outstanding environmental management and green initiatives such as the modern Integrated Waste Management System in Mambong and centralised Livestock Farming Area at Balai Ringin.

A briefing on the CMEA 2014 was conducted by Mr Justine Jok Jau Emang, the Deputy Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak. The CMEA 2014 is divided into four categories i.e. large enterprise, medium industries, small industries and local authorities. The closing date for submission of entry is on 29 August 2014 and more information can be obtained at NREB website at www.nreb.gov.my.

13th Meeting of the Working Group on a Pan ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative

The 13th Meeting of the Working Group on a Pan ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative (WG-PATCI) was held from 3 to 4 June 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The Meeting was attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand as well as the ASEAN Secretariat and the representative from the European Forest Institute (EFI) European Union Forest Law Enforcement and Governance and Trade (EU-FLEGT) Facility.

His Excellency U Win Tun, the Union Minister of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, delivered the opening remarks on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. He highlighted the importance of forest certification as the market-driven tool used by global society to promote Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). He also highlighted that the growing demand for certified timber products has resulted in stricter requirements for SFM and timber legality certification in timber trade. He acknowledged the achievements of the WG-PATCI such as the development of the *ASEAN Guidelines on Phased Approach to Forest Certification*, the *ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Legality of Timber*, and the *ASEAN Guidelines for Chain of Custody of Legal Timber and Sustainable Timber*. He also informed representatives at the meeting that Myanmar is committed to manage its forest resources in sustainably and has notified the EU its interest in the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA).

Mr Yong Teng Koon, the Chief Executive Officer of Malaysian Timber Certification Council, on behalf of Malaysia as the lead country for this initiative, highlighted that implementing SFM in tropical forests is most demanding and challenging due to the lack of financial resources, institutional capacity and skilled and trained human resources. This is confirmed by the fact that twenty (20) years after the Earth Summit where timber certification was mooted as a market-driven initiative to encourage and promote SFM, only about 10% of the world's commercial forests have been certified, of which less than 5% are tropical forests. The slow progress in implementing SFM

has resulted in many developed countries beginning to implement timber legality measures such as the European Union Timber Regulation, the US Lacey Act and the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012. He also raised concern that the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint target for trade in legal and sustainable timber within the AEC by the year 2015 may not be achievable due to the short time available and noted the importance to inform the higher authorities on this matter.

The Meeting was chaired by Mr Shwe Kyaw, the Chairman of Myanmar Forest Certification Committee of Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and assisted by Ms Fe C Oliveros, Senior Forest Management Specialist of Philippines Forest Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Ms Aniq Fadhillah, the ASEAN Secretariat informed the delegates on the outcomes of the 16th ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry Meeting (ASOF), the 34th Special Senior Official Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry, the 35th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Meeting and other related meetings on issues relevant to the WG-PATCI.

The Meeting took note on the progress of the stock taking study on Existing Initiatives for Ensuring Legal and Sustainable Timber in ASEAN undertaken by a consultant appointed by the ASEAN-German Programme on Climate Change which aims to provide an analytical view on the stage of the preparedness of the AMS with regards to legal and sustainable timber in ASEAN by 2015. Each ASEAN Member States (AMS) also updated the Meeting on their country progress reports on the Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for legality of timber, for legality of timber (or) forest management certification, implementation of timber certification and legality assurance systems as well as ASEAN Chain-of-Custody Guidelines. The AMS from Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Thailand shared their experiences

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Did you know that....

The government of Japan has planned to encourage the use of local wood in developing various facilities that will be used during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. The intention to use local wood for the facilities' development will be included in a basic proposal of the Olympic Games that will be sent to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) by February 2015. The organising committee for the Games, the central government and the Tokyo metropolitan government will create review committee that will study the use of wood for developing the facilities.

Source: MTIB News Extracts (Vol.22/05/14)

Did you also know that....

By 2015, Laos aims to raise its forest cover to 65%, and by 2020, further to 70%. At present, the country's current forest cover stands at just over 50% of Laos's entire area. Although 30,000 hectares of trees are planted every year, Laos is likely to face challenges in meeting its targets. The minister revealed that up to 40% of the seedlings planted each year died due to poor maintenance. The ministry is now looking at two key initiatives to raise its forest cover i.e prevent forest fires from happening, and curb the practice of slash and burn cultivation.

Source: MTIB News Extracts (Vol.22/05/14)



Capacity Building Workshop on the Phase 2 of Life Cycle Inventory Analysis of Green House Gas Emission for Plywood Produced in Sarawak

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) together with Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and SIRIM Berhad with the funding from Sarawak Timber Association (STA), are conducting a study on the Life Cycle Inventory to determine from cradle (timber source) to gate, the Green House Gas (CHG) emission equivalent of plywood produced in Sarawak. This is Phase 2 of the study and is conducted based on the International Standard Organization (ISO) 14040:2006 and ISO 14044:2006.

Phase 1 of the study was conducted on the Gate to Gate Green House Gas Profile of Plywood Produced in Sarawak. It was funded by the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment (MRPE), through STIDC and was completed in December 2012.

As a preparatory step prior to carrying out Phase 2 of the study, two (2) capacity building workshops to explain the study were organised for the representatives from industry on 23 and 24 June 2014 at Tanahmas Hotel, Sibul and New World Suites Hotel, Bintulu.

Dr Chen Sau Soon, Senior Director, Research & Technology Innovation Division SIRIM conducted these workshops. Approximately twenty five (25)

Both Mr Paul Lau, Assistant General Manager (Central Region) and Mr Nicholas Andrew Lisse, Manager Industry Planning from STIDC in their opening remarks highlighted that this study reflects the commitments of the timber industry in Sarawak towards producing environmental friendly products for the global trade.

During her presentation, Dr Chen mentioned that the Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) is a sustainability tool for business to decrease its footprint, create opportunities and make value chains more sustainable. LCA is defined as the compilation and evaluation of inputs, outputs and potential environmental impacts of a product system throughout its life cycle. LCA describes and analyses in a quantitative way, all important environmental aspects of a product system or technology.

She further explained that applying LCA on a product and service will have the following advantages:

(1) Identifying option for environmental improvement in different stages

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on country preparation for negotiation with the EU on a VPA. The Meeting also shared information on the US Lacey Act and its impact on timber exporting countries.

Dr Alexander Hinrichs of the EU FLEGT Facility, EFI informed the Meeting on the completion of "ASEAN Timber Trade, Customs and Timber Legality Scoping Study" and the Meeting agreed to submit the report to ASOF for their information and consideration. He also presented a concept paper on "Improving Timber Legality within ASEAN". However the Meeting opined that the proposals are too broad in scope and is beyond the

mandate of the WG-PATCI. The AMS are at different stages of development with regard to the implementation of timber legality and SFM and time would be needed to ultimately harmonise the various requirements at the ASEAN level. In this regard, the Meeting agreed that more time is needed to study the proposals both by the AMS and subsequently at the ASEAN level. Dr Hinrichs informed the 4th Sub-Regional Training Workshop on Timber Legality Assurance for AMS is scheduled to be held from 22 to 24 October 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

The 14th WG-PATCI will be held in Manila, Philippines.



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Industry Briefing on Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 and Country Specific Guideline for Sarawak

A briefing to the timber industry on the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 (AILPA 2012) and Country Specific Guideline (CSG) for Sarawak was organised by the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) and Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) on 4 June 2014 at the STIDC Theatre, Kuching. The briefing aimed to explain the requirements of due diligence under the AILPA 2012 and to discuss the CSG prepared by Sarawak.

Mr Tom Black, Counsellor (Agriculture) – Bangkok, Department of Agriculture Australia he mentioned that from 30 November 2014 onwards, under the AILPA 2012, businesses must apply due diligence before they import regulated timber products into Australia. He cited examples of the regulated timber products and explained further on the four (4) steps to fulfill the due diligence requirements. He also informed those attending the briefing that the Australian government will continue to engage with the timber importers, processors, state governments and trading partners as well as continue to develop guidelines with partner countries.

Tuan Haji Zainal Abidin, Manager of Revenue Section, Sustainable Forestry & Compliance Division, Sarawak Forestry Corporation gave a presentation on the CSG for Sarawak. He emphasised that the Export Licence issued by STIDC is the final document to show that the timber exported from Sarawak is legal. The briefing ended with a Question and Answer session.

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- (2) Determining the potential environmental impacts
- (3) Comparing the environmental performance
- (4) Identifying the hidden environmental hotspot
- (5) Informing decision makers in the industry
- (6) Marketing i.e. implementation of eco-labeling

The feedbacks gathered during the Workshops were on the ways to improve the input-output data compilation/inventory collection process for harvesting natural forest and forest plantation. Members also expressed their commitments to assist SIRIM on the data collection and hoped that this study will establish the greenhouse gas profile (cradle-to-gate) of plywood manufactured in Sarawak based on life cycle inventory analysis conducted in accordance with the requirements of ISO standards.