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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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The 14th Meeting of the Working Group on a Pan ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative

The Fourteenth Meeting of the Working Group on a Pan ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative (14th WG-PATCI) was hosted by the Philippines from 3 to 4 June 2015 in Manila. It was attended by delegates from Cambodia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand, as well as representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat. The representatives from the European Union Forest Law Enforcement and Governance and Trade (EU-FLEGT) Facility, Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade – The Nature Conservancy (RAFT-TNC) and the consultant supported by the GIZ- ASEAN German Programme on Climate Change (GIZ GAP-CC) were also present at the Meeting.

In the opening session, Mr Richardo L Calderon, the Director of the Forest Management Bureau, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), commented that since the inception of this Working Group in 2002, it has evolved and made great progress through the formulation and adoption of a number of key documents, which include the ASEAN Guidelines on Phased Approach to Forest Certification, the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Legality of Timber, and the ASEAN Chain of Custody (CoC) Guidelines for Legal Timber and Sustainable Timber.

He highlighted the growing challenge in the marketing of tropical timber products as major importing countries are imposing additional requirements for legal and sustainable timber products. He also highlighted that there are still gaps among ASEAN Member States in addressing timber

certification issues considering the differences in economic development and priorities at the national level. He emphasised the need to strengthen cooperation through learning from each other.

It was then followed by the opening remarks by Mr Mad Zaidi Mohd Karli, Senior Under Secretary of the Timber Tobacco and Kenaf Industries Development Division, Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Malaysia in the capacity as the Lead Country for this initiative.

He recalled the primary aim of the ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is to formulate and implement regional cooperation activities to enhance the international competitiveness of ASEAN's forestry products that meet international requirements and is consistent with their sustainable management, conservation and protection. This is in line with the ASEAN Vision 2020, which underscores the ASEAN's commitment for a common understanding to promote the forestry sector as a model in forest management, conservation and sustainable development. In line with the streamlining processes of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) structure, he envisaged that the role of the WG-PATCI may change in the near future responding to the development of a new vision and strategic plan on ASEAN's cooperation in Food,

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STIDC Registration Circular No 1/2015 – Upliftment on Prohibition for Importation of Ordinary Plywood

Sarawak Timber Association has received a Registration Circular No 1/2015 from the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) Ref STIDC.22.PL.02.4.JLD.3 (32) dated 30 June 2015 addressed to all companies involved in timber and timber - related products registered with STIDC and copied to STA.

The following is an excerpt of the abovementioned circular:-

“Please be informed that the prohibition for importation of ordinary plywood for thickness of 6mm and below shall be uplifted with effect from 1 July 2015 subject to the following conditions:-

1. Not to be exported in its original form
2. It has to be processed as value added products

In this connection, the Conditions and Restrictions of Registration with STIDC shall be amended to include the above said amendment.”

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(Continued on page 1)

Agriculture, and Forestry (2016-2025).

The Meeting was chaired by Mr Sapol Boonsermsuk, Director, International Forestry Cooperation Office, Royal Forest Department, Thailand.

The Meeting took note of the updates on the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009 – 2015) which highlighted the implementation of the AEC Blueprint with the following priorities:

- i. Fast-track the implementation of the high-impact prioritised AEC deliverables through concrete programmes and activities;
- ii. Communicate with the AEC, particularly ASEAN SMEs, citizens and other key stakeholders;
- iii. Finalise the AEC's post-2015 agenda, a critical component of which is to deal expeditiously with any unfinished agenda from AEC 2015; and
- iv. Intensify the efforts in realising the AEC by 2015 and implement the initiatives to achieve the ASEAN Single Market and Production Base.

Member States presented their country progress reports on the implementation of timber certification and legality assurance systems and ASEAN Chain of Custody (CoC) Guidelines. The Meeting received a progress report on a Stock Taking Study on the existing initiatives

for ensuring legal and sustainable timber in ASEAN. The Meeting noted that the study is still on-going as more data and information are needed to complete the study.

Member States also exchanged information and experiences on their country preparation for negotiation with the European Union (EU) on a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) under the Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT).

The Meeting noted the presentation by RAFT-TNC on Responsible Forestry and Trade In ASEAN: Opportunities for Continued Collaboration, where it highlighted the potential areas for collaboration, which includes technical and advisory support to create awareness on the harmonisation of standards related to forestry and wood/paper products trade; sharing models and best practices in responsible forestry and trade from across ASEAN; capacity building support and outreach to major markets to strengthen incentives for responsible forestry and trade in the ASEAN region.

The Meeting also took note of the presentation by the EU-FLEGT Facility on the potential collaboration and support to ASEAN cooperation in forestry as well as the interest to continue supporting the dialogue on promoting timber legality in ASEAN.

The 15th Meeting of the WG-PATCI will be held in 2016 in Thailand.



Did you know that.....

China will push forward its Natural Forest Protection Programme and phase out all commercial logging of natural forests by 2017. A logging ban is already active in some of the country's key areas, especially in three northeastern provinces. The ban will be extended to all state-owned forests next year, and logging on privately owned land will be ceased by the end of 2017. These bans will reduce timber output by 50 million cubic meters per year, the equivalent of 30% of logs.

China has at the moment 198 million hectares of natural forests, of which 127 million hectares have been put under the administration of reservation since the launch of the Natural Forest Protection Programme in 1998.

Source: MTIB News Extracts (Vol.25/06/15)

Did you also know that....

Sri Lanka is the first country in the world to grant full protection to all its mangrove forests. The project is estimated to cost \$3.4 million over the next five years. It will protect all 8,815 hectares of Sri Lanka's mangroves by providing alternative job training and microloans to 15,000 women from impoverished backgrounds who live in 1,500 small communities adjacent to the country's mangrove forests. The project also includes replantation of over 3,800 hectares of mangrove forests that have been cut down. The communities receiving the microloans to help them start their own small businesses will, in exchange, be responsible for protecting the mangroves. A first-of-its-kind mangrove museum will also be constructed as part of this project.

Source: *mongabay.com* 4 June 2015



DF Circular No 7/2015 – Fees for Endorsement, Shipping and Land Transport Admin (Revised) for Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) has received DF Circular No 7/2015 from the Forest Department Sarawak with the Ref DF.681.76 (VII) – 9 dated 26 June 2015 addressed to all Regional Forest Officers and copied to STA.

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

“Please be advised that the revised fees for endorsement, shipping and land transport admin below have been approved by YAB Tan Sri Datuk Amar Ketua Menteri Sarawak / Menteri Perancangan Sumber dan Alam Sekitar on 23 June 2015 and shall come into effect on the 1 July 2015.

No	Type of Fees	RM/m ³
1	RQ Endorsement Fee Type A & B	3.50
2	RQ Endorsement Fee Type C	3.50
3	Export Endorsement Fee	4.00
4	NQ Endorsement Fee Type A & B	1.00
5	NQ Endorsement Fee Type C	1.00
6	Planted Forest Endorsement Fee	0.50
7	Shipping Admin Fee	1.00
8	Land Transport Admin Fee	1.00

RQ: Reservation Quota; NR: Non Quota. The above fees are subject to 6% GST charges”

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Appointment of Authorised Person under Section 64(7)(a) of The Forests Ordinance, 2015 (Cap.71)

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) has received a letter from Forest Department Sarawak with the reference DF.93.10(v)-48 dated 23 June 2015 addressed to Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd together with an attachment and copied to STA.

The following is an excerpt of the above-mentioned attachment dated 18 June 2015 signed by Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad, Director of Forests Sarawak:-

“In exercise of the power conferred by Section 64(7)(a) of the Forests Ordinance, 2015 (Cap. 71) the Director of Forests hereby appoints HARWOOD TIMBER SDN BHD (132584-W) of Section 5, Sublot 4-6, Lot 320, Wisma Persatuan Tennis Bumiputera Sarawak, Jalan Kulas, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak to be the authorised person for the purpose of discharging such functions as are prescribed under section 64(7)(a) of Forests Ordinance, 2015 (Cap. 71) including the issuance of Export Clearance Certificate with effect from 1st day of July 2015.”



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Seminar on Malaysian Standard on Timber Structure

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) organised a Seminar on Malaysian Standard on Timber Structure on 16 June 2015 in Seri Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The objective of the Seminar is to create awareness on a few Malaysian Standards on Timber Structure for use in the construction industry. About ninety (90) participants, mainly architects, engineers, builders, academicians and researchers in fields related to timber construction as well as representatives from Government agencies, trade authorities and manufacturers of structural timber products attended the Seminar.

The participants of the Seminar were welcomed by Tuan Hj Mahpar bin Atan, Director of Industry Development, MTIB, who gave a brief introduction on MTIB's background and role as an independent Standards Development Agency (SDA) for timber and related industries. Mr Mahadir Mohamed, Principal Assistant Director, Strategic Planning Division, Department of Standards Malaysia who declared the Seminar open, congratulated MTIB for taking the initiative to organise this Seminar as a platform to exchange information on Glulam and Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL).

Two (2) papers were delivered during the Seminar:

1. MS 758 : 2001 – Glued Laminated Timber: Performance Requirements and Minimum Production Requirements by *Professor Dr Zakiah Ahmad, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)*.

She covered the minimum requirements for the production of members for a finished product for structural use, of thickness of not more than 40 mm, such as requirement of graded material by certified graders, Machine Stress Graders (MSG) and Non-destructive Tests (NDT), Adhesives, glue line integrity, finishing and quality control.

2. MS 544 : Part 12 : 2006 Code of Practice for Structural Use of Timber – Laminated Veneer Lumber for Structural Application by *Associate Professor Dr H'ng Paik San, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)*

He covered LVL products used in rafters, headers, beams, joist, studs and columns.

The Seminar culminated with a Question and Answer session, giving the participants of the Seminar the opportunity to seek clarification information on Glulam and LVL.