



STA dan Rakan2



March 2009

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Issue 129

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 news bulletin is circulated to designated readers free of charge.

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STA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Sarawak Timber Association was held at Wisma STA, Kuching on 31 March 2009. The meeting was attended by representatives from 149 Member Companies.

The Chairman, Datuk Wong Kie Yik, presented his report on the activities of the Association for the year 2008. This was

followed by a detailed report on the Association's audited accounts for the year 2008 by the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Philip Choo Kwong Hui.

The meeting also dealt with matters related to the Association's four wholly owned companies, STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Training Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd and STA Ventures Sdn Bhd.

Following this was the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Association where the proposed amendments to the Memorandum and Articles of the Association were considered and Part B was approved. The EGM resolved for the Council to make the decision on the final date of closing the Postal Ballot for Part A and thereafter counting of all the votes.



Picture: (Top) Office bearers and Category Chairman



Picture: (Top) Members attending the AGM and EGM and (left) one of the Members collecting his ballot paper

PRESENTATION OF LETTERS OF ACHIEVEMENT AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Did you know that...

The Saudi Customs Authority announced recently that effective 1st February 2009, all cargo arriving to the ports in the Saudi Arabia must have the 'mark of origin' (Made in _____) engraved or affixed using a non removable sticker on each item and the boxes or cartons. Removable and paper stickers are not allowed.

The directive indicated that any shipment that fails to fulfill the new ruling will be returned to its origin port at the shipper or consignee's cost. Affixing the mark of origin at the entry ports is prohibited. Malaysian exporters to Saudi Arabia need to take note of the new rulings and take the necessary steps to avoid complications and added costs.

Source:
MATRADE Online
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Picture: Group photo of STA Council Members and trainers

The ceremony for the presentation of Letters of Achievement and Financial Contributions to successful candidates of *STAT Trainer Development and Operator Training Programmes* was successfully held at Tanahmas Hotel, Sibul on 5 March 2009. A total of 42 persons attended this ceremony. Those present included *Datuk Wong Kie Yik, Chairman of STA, Council Members comprising Mr. Lau Swee Nguong, Ms. Annie Wong and Mr. Peter Ling Kwong Hung; Dr. Peter Kho, Manager of STA Training Sdn. Bhd.* STA Training Sdn Bhd's (STAT) trainers, trainers from Member's companies and members of the media.

In his address, *Datuk Wong Kie Yik* emphasised that the training programmes carried out by STAT are in response to Section 54B of the Forests Ordinance which requires all logging

companies to employ only "trained forest workers". He further took the opportunity to advise trainers who had successfully completed the programme not to ask for increment immediately but prove their capabilities to their employers but prove their capabilities to remain loyal to their companies.

These candidates, who had successfully completed the *Trainer Development Programme in Log Loading Skills Set or Tree Felling Skills Set*, will return to their respective company to start training their own workers. It is hoped that these candidates will transfer their skills to improve the efficiency and safety at the work place as well as other efforts to achieve sustainable forest management in the State.

In the ceremony, each trainer received a Letter of Achievement as

well as Financial Contribution. As token of recognition to the successful trainers and to instill the pride of being trained workers, STA presented to each trainer two wedges, and a safety helmet with attached earmuff. Each company also received Financial Contribution for every candidate successfully trained.

A parallel programme, the "*Operator Training Programme*" is also being implemented to provide assistance to trainers from STA member companies to train their forest workers or operators. In this programme, the company and the company's trainers as well as the operators also received Financial Contribution for every operator successfully trained.

REVIEW OF THE MALAYSIAN CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION [MC&I(2002)] – FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT

The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) is subjecting the MC&I(2002) which is the existing forest management certification standard used under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS), for a 60-day public comment period from 1 April to 31 May 2009 as part of the first review process to further refine and improve the MC&I(2002), based on the feedback and experience gained through its application in the field. The review process will see the draft revised standard subjected to a second 30-day public comment period scheduled in November 2009 and a

third 60-day public comment period in May-June 2010. It is anticipated that the full review process of the MC&I(2002) will take a total of 16 months (from April 2009 to July 2010).

In this connection, MTCC as the Secretariat facilitating the review process is inviting interested parties to provide comments on the MC&I(2002), which could include, among others, proposals for any amendments/ deletions/ additions to the existing Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Verifiers contained in the MC&I(2002). Proposals can be submitted to MTCC via e-mail at info@mtcc.com.my or facsimile at

603-92006008 or posted to the following address by 31 May 2009:

Chief Executive Officer,
Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC),
19F, Level 19, Menara PGRM,
No 8, Jalan Pudu Ulu,
Cheras, 56100
Kuala Lumpur.

For further information on the standard review process, please contact Mr Yong Teng Koon at yongtk@mtcc.com.my or call 03-92005008.

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REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (RWG) MEETING

The Forest Stewardship Council National Initiative (FSC NI) is an organisation that was established within the context of Malaysian law by a group of stakeholders working on forestry issues in Malaysia. Broadly, it aims to promote FSC certification and responsible forestry in the country. It also look towards providing a mechanism to support and monitor the

development and implementation of forest certification and responsible forestry in Malaysia. The FSC NI has the highest decision making body called the National Working Committee (NWC) and is represented by members from the economic, environment and social chambers from the three regions of Malaysia.

On 5 March 2009, the FSC NI held a

meeting to elect new members for its environment, social and economic chambers from the Sarawak Region. This Regional Working Group (RWG) meeting was attended by 30 participants from the private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and relevant government agencies.

Did you also know that...

The collapse in global demand brought on by the biggest economic downturn in decades will drive exports down by roughly 9% in volume terms in 2009, he biggest such contraction since the Second World War. The contraction in developed countries will be particularly severe with exports falling 10% this year. In developing countries, which are far more dependant on trade for growth, exports will shrink by some 2%-3% in 2009.

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EXEMPTION FROM FURTHER FULFILLMENT OF LOG RESERVATION QUOTA

The Forest Department Sarawak has given approval for further exemption of the fulfillment of the monthly log reservation quota for the remaining 2008/2009 Coupe Year, from April to June 2009 for all Forest Timber Licences which have been allocated the Monthly Production Limit.

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MICCOS 2009

The Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities will be organising the third series of the Malaysia International Commodity Conference and Showcase (MICCOS) 2009. It will be held from 13 to 16 August 2009 at the Malaysia Agro-Exposition Park. With the theme "Opportunities in Commodities: Dynamic, Sustainable and Homegrown," MICCOS 2009 will showcase a wide range of the latest products as well as technological developments and innovations in the Malaysian commodity sector that includes palm oil, timber, rubber, cocoa, pepper, tobacco, kenaf and sago.

In conjunction with MICCOS 2009, several international conferences will be organised covering technological developments and business opportunities.

For further information, please visit the website www.miccocos.com.my