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STA dan Rakan2

Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) Programme for Anap Protected Forests

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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Photo (left): Mr Wong Ing Yung explaining to guests at the launch, some of his works carried out at the Anap-Muput FMU

Photo (right): Group photo with Datu Haji Ali Yusop, Director of Forests and the Managing Director cum Chief Executive Officer of SFC



Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) programme for Anap Protected Forests was officially launched on 16 May 2013 in Bukit Kana, Bintulu. It was jointly organised by the Forest Development Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and Zedtee Sdn Bhd. The Guest of Honour for the launching was Datu Haji Ali Yusop in his capacities as the Director of Forests and the Managing Director cum Chief Executive Officer of SFC.

FLR is a collaborative process involving all relevant stakeholders in deciding collectively the most technically appropriate and acceptable socio-economic option of restoring degraded areas for productive use. FLR is one of the three (3) objectives stated in the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the FDS, SFC and Zedtee Sdn Bhd in 2011 to jointly implement the Innovative Rainforest Conservation and Management (IRCM) Plan in Anap Sustainable Development Unit (ASDU)

as a pilot site. The other two (2) objectives are Forest Management Certification as well as Community Forest Management and Enterprises.

The ASDU management areas include a License for Planted Forest (LPF) and Anap-Muput Forest Management Unit (FMU) for production forest, both of which are managed by Zedtee Sdn Bhd. The ASDU covers community use areas including settlements in its Permanent Forest Estate. Nearly 9,000 hectares of ASDU's landscape are cleared by the communities representing 22 settlements within and surrounding ASDU.

Datu Haji Ali Yusop in his launching remarks praised all the parties involved for introducing various innovations in tropical rainforest management in Anap Muput FMU. He congratulated Mr Wong Ing Yung and the management of Zedtee Sdn Bhd

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The US Environmental Protection Agency

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued two proposed rules to help protect Americans from exposure to formaldehyde by ensuring that composite wood products produced domestically or imported into the United States (US) meet formaldehyde emission standards established by Congress in 2010. The proposed regulations are another indication of EPA's efforts to protect the public from the risks associated with exposure to formaldehyde.

Formaldehyde is a colorless, flammable gas that has a distinct, pungent smell. It is used widely by industry to manufacture a range of building materials and numerous household products. It is in resins that are used to manufacture some composite wood products (e.g. hardwood plywood, particleboard and medium-density fiberboard).

EPA's first proposal sets limits on how much formaldehyde may be released from hardwood plywood, medium-density fiberboard, particleboard and finished

goods containing these products that are sold, supplied, offered for sale, manufactured, or imported into the US. EPA's proposal also includes exemptions from some testing and record-keeping requirements for products made with no-added formaldehyde and ultra low-emitting formaldehyde resins. As required by statute, this proposal includes provisions addressing testing requirements, laminated products, product labeling, chain-of-custody (CoC), record keeping, stockpiling and enforcement.

The second proposal establishes a third-party certification framework designed to ensure that manufacturers of composite wood products meet the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) formaldehyde emission standards by having their composite wood products certified through an accredited third-party certifier. Under this rule, third-party certifiers would audit composite wood panel producers and verify compliance with formaldehyde emissions standards for their products.

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for their great achievement in getting the Anap-Muput FMU to be certified in sustainable forest management under the MC&I (Natural Forest).

He commented that FLR is the most challenging of the three (3) objectives as there are no standard operating procedures or guidelines for reference. He further commented that real innovations are required as well as genuine cooperation amongst the local communities, the forest manager and the forestry agencies are necessary in order for the FLR programme to be successful. He then called on the local communities in Anap Protected Forest to give their full commitment and best effort to ensure the success of this programme.

Ms Evelyn Jugi, the ASDU Liaison Committee Chairperson, in her introductory remarks highlighted the two (2) important enabling factors for the FLR

programme to materialise i.e. the land and user documentation as well as farming permit. The land and user documentation must first be accepted and adopted by the community prior to the issuance of any farming permits by the Director of Forests.

The launching ceremony also witnessed the presentation of thirty-three (33) farming permits, issued by the Director of Forests, for the restoration of the cleared area of about 52 hectares in the Anap Protected Forests, through the planting of high-latex yielding rubber trees contributed by Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd. Other sponsors to this event included Zedtee Sdn Bhd and Sarawak Timber Association with a financial contribution of RM30,000.00 and RM10,000.00 respectively.

The installation of the new Community Conservation and Development Community Exco and Anap Muput Community Exco Manager was held at the launching of FLR programme.



Did you know that.....

The Indonesian Ministry of Forestry may lift its 2001 log export ban to encourage investment in industrial plantations. The article suggests that current market prices for plantation logs are lower than the regional average because they can only be sold on the domestic market, leaving little incentive for investment in or establishment of forest plantations. While the original ban was intended to help curb illegal logging, Indonesia now has a rigorous timber legality verification system (SVLK) in place, according to the article.

Source: ITTO Tropical Timber Market Report, 16th – 30th April 2013

Did you also know that....

CITES at 40 marks a major decision point for sharks, trees, snakes, turtles and other wild life species: Guidelines, toolkits, standards and action plans fostering capacity, financing, law enforcement, livelihoods, science, sustainability, traceability and synergies also adopted. The 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP16) held March 2013 in Bangkok, will be remembered as a defining moment in the 40 year history of the Convention.

Source: <http://www.cites.org/> 10 May 2013



Workshop on Development of Curriculum for Technical Vocational Education and Training

A workshop on Development of Curriculum for Technical Vocational Education and Training 2013 (DACUM-TVET 2013), jointly organised by Yayasan Sarawak and the Human Resource Management Unit of the Chief Minister's Department, was held at the Hilton in Kuching from 30 to 31 May 2013. Approximately, sixty (60) representatives from various industries and institutions attended this Workshop.

The Workshop was officially launched by Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Mohamad Morshidi bin Haji Abdul Ghani, the State Secretary of Sarawak. Mr Alexander Stedfeld, Executive Director Malaysia-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivered his keynote address entitled "A Sustainable Public-Private Partnership in the Development of TVET".

DACUM-TVET is a programme which emphasises on the development of mechanisms for future industry-institutions training programmes which are relevant to the development of skilled workforce in the State, coordinates the sponsorship programs for Yayasan Sarawak and provides a platform for apprenticeship between the industry and technical institutions.

This programme involves the mapping, designing and developing of the workforce's needs i.e. job skills, abilities and work efficiency to create occupation profiles where these needs are critically analysed and addressed.

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Seminar on Placement and Protection of Indonesian Workers – "Minimum Wages Problem and Levy 2013"

Representatives from Sarawak Timber Association's Manpower Working Group attended the Seminar on Placement and Protection of Indonesian Workers with the theme "Minimum Wages Problem and Levy 2013" on 23 May 2013 at ParkCity Everly Hotel in Bintulu. One hundred and thirty (130) industry players, mostly from the oil palm industry attended the seminar while the State Secretary's office was represented by Madam Tan Gek Hua.

The welcoming address was delivered by Bapak Djoko Harjanto, Consul-General of Republic Indonesia in Kuching. He informed that the seminar aims to create better understanding between Indonesia and Malaysia towards work policies, expectations, needs and demands of foreign workers, especially those from Indonesia. In his speech, he raised concerns on the increasing number of deaths of Indonesians in the State. He informed the participants that there were 185 accidents reported last year and hoped that employers would enforce strict health and safety policies at the work place.

He also spoke on the confusion arising from the recent implementation of minimum wage policy and the action that the Government has taken in relation to the blanket exemption given to SME on the implementation of minimum wage. He urged employers to provide simple learning centers for Indonesian children at the work place.

There were four (4) papers presented as follows:

- 1) Placement and Protection of Domestic workers and Indonesian Overseas workers by *Bapak Agus Triyanto A S Attache, Indonesian Embassy, Kuala Lumpur;*
- 2) The Implementation of Minimum Wages and Levy by *Mr Tujuh Bacat, Labour Department, Bintulu;*
- 3) Laws and Procedures in Relation to

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Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak Sarawak Timber Association

11 Floor, Wisma STA, Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.
Telephone: ++(60 82) 332 222 Facsimile: ++(60 82) 487 888, 487 999
E-mail: sta@sta.org.my Website: www.sta.org.my

Financial Contribution to Rural Schools in Mukah

Sarawak Timber Association (STA), through its wholly-owned subsidiary company, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM) continued to play its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) role by providing a financial contribution to the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) for a project to identify deserving Sarawakians, in particular those living in the rural areas for financial assistance for them to attend schools.

As a kick-start project, STIDC with its network of offices throughout Sarawak, contacted the Education Department at the Mukah district level, and together they identified 11 secondary and 94 primary schools that are in need of financial assistance. Representatives from these schools received financial assistance from Datu Haji Sarudu bin Haji Hoklai, the General Manager of STIDC in a ceremony held on 26 April 2013, in Three Rivers Government Secondary School, Mukah. Also present at the function were Mr Aseng Kuman, the Principal of Three Rivers Government Secondary School and Dr Peter Kho, General Manager of STA.

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Immigration Rules by *Haji Hamfatullah Syawal Hamdan, Deputy Director of Immigration Department, Kuching;*

4) Issues Related to Foreign Labour Recruitment and Employment by *Mr Andrew Wee, Assistant General Manager of Samling Group of Companies representing Sarawak Timber Association (STA).*

The speakers discussed and exchanged views with participants on various issues such as immigration rules, minimum wages and levy policy as well as procedures on the placement and hiring of foreign workers. Mr Andrew Wee highlighted the predicament that employers had encountered with the implementation of minimum wages and the discrimination between local and foreign workers in term of the benefits and take-home pay that they received after the implementation of minimum wages. He stressed that the Association is in support of the minimum wage policy but it has to be implemented in such manner that employers would remain healthy and competitive.