



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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15TH MALAYSIAN FORESTRY CONFERENCE



Picture: (left) YB Tuan Haji Mohd Naroden bin Majais, Assistant Minister of Planning and Resource Management Sarawak declaring open the Conference



Picture: (Right) YB Tuan Haji Mohd Naroden bin Majais, Dato' Seri Azahar bin Muda Datuk Sam Mannan and Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh looking at the posters displayed

Sarawak played host to the 15th Malaysian Forestry Conference from 20 to 24 October 2008. Themed 'Addressing Global Demands and Expectations in Forestry', the triennial Conference was attended by 360 participants from Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. The Conference, carrying six sub themes namely global changes and forestry, sustainable forest management, deforestation

and forest degradation, environmental services, forest plantation and forest product industry and trade, provided a platform for officers from the three regions to exchange views, information and experiences in matters pertaining to administration, management, planning and development of forestry in the country.

YAB Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Chief

Minister of Sarawak in his officiating address, read by YB Tuan Haji Mohd Naroden bin Majais, Assistant Minister of Planning and Resource Management Sarawak, said Sarawak has identified 65 Forest Management Units (FMUs) with total area of 4.435 million hectares. To date, two FMUs had been certified by the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme

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Did you know that...

In 2008, the export market for the Thai wood furniture industry is expected to be pulled down by 10% as compared to 2007 due to sluggish economy conditions in the US, which is the major export market for Thai wood furniture.

While waiting for the market recovery, the wood furniture makers will have to get themselves ready for new US laws which will restrict the use of formalin in wood products. The new laws will be introduced in 2009. Formalin was found to be a chemical which can cause cancer.

Source:
Bangkok Post
23 Sep 2008

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(MTC S), namely Sela'an - Linau and Anap Muput. Other FMUs were in various stages of preparation for certification.

"The effect of globalisation and its impact on forestry posed an increasing demand on forest resources. We need to replenish and use the resources as a source for development. Therefore, there is a need to harvest the forest through the application of environmentally friendly techniques such as Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) using helicopter and comply with the provision of the Forest Management Plan" he said.

He added that sustainable development is all about borrowing resources from the future generation and finding ways to give back the resources to them in good or even better conditions.

Meanwhile, Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Resource Management, Director of Forests and Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer Sarawak Forestry Corporation and General Manager of STIDC in his welcoming speech called on participants to articulate, deliberate and to come up with clear solutions, not only those pertaining to current issues but also future issues such as global warming, water

resources, sustainability, climate change, biodiversity conservation, certification, illegal logging, carbon credits, chain of custody, carbon sequestration and land rights.

He also highlighted that the forestry sector had grown to be so dynamic that it requires the expertise of various professions. Structural changes are taking place within the Forest Department Sarawak and the complementary roles of other agencies such as Sarawak Forestry Corporation and STIDC.

The Conference received a total of 35 working papers and 23 posters.

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**MALAYSIAN FORESTRY CONFERENCE
CLOSING DINNER**



Picture: Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh presenting the prize to the winner of the karaoke competition

The Association hosted the Closing Dinner for the 15th Malaysian Forestry Conference at the Holiday Inn, Kuching. The dinner attended by 350 guests, was graced by the Heads of the Forestry Service of the three regions, Dato' Seri Azahar bin Muda from Peninsular Malaysia, Datuk Sam Mannan from Sabah and Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh from Sarawak and representatives from STA, Dato Henry Lau, the

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REVISED FIRST SCHEDULE OF THE FORESTS ORDINANCE [SECTION 52(2)] ON RATES OF ROYALTY FOR PRODUCE TAKEN UNDER LICENCE

STA had received DF Circular No.5/2008 from Forest Department Sarawak with regards to the revision in the First Schedule of the Forests Ordinance [Section 52(2)] on Rates of Royalty for Produce taken under Licence. DF Circular No. 5/2008 will take effect on 1 January 2009.

The original copy of the Forest Timber License needs to be brought to the respective Regional Forest Office (Kuching/Sibu/Bintulu/Miri) either on 25 or 26 November 2008 for cancellation of the old First Schedule and replacement with the revised First Schedule.

For any enquiries, please contact Mr. Hii Tow Peck or Mr. Jack Liam of Forest Department at Tel: 082-319255. The Circular can be requested from the STA Secretariat or downloaded at www.sta.org.my by clicking on "What's New".

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PLASTIC TAGS FOR LOGS AND POLE SIZE TIMBER

STA had received DF Circular No.6/2008 from Forest Department Sarawak with regards to the plastic tags for logs and pole size timber. The DF Circular No 6/2008 shall replace DF Circular 5/95 and 4/97 whereby the Forest Department Sarawak will implement a revised Coupe and Block tag for logs, which incorporate Alpha-numeric Log Production Identity (LPI) number. This revision is aimed at improving the monitoring, tracking and control of both Log Production and Royalty Assessment. DF Circular No. 6/2008 will take effect on 1 January 2009. The Circular can be requested from the STA Secretariat or downloaded from the STA website (www.sta.org.my) by clicking on "What's New".

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RESTRICTION ORDER ON THE EXPORT OF WOOD RESIDUES

STA had received a Registration Circular No.3/2008 from the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) dated 1 August 2008 which reads:

"Please be informed that any exportation of wood residues requires prior approval from STIDC. This restriction order shall include wood of any species, shapes, sizes, wood slabs, off-cut, log ends, centre core, rejected veneers, plywood trimmings, sawdust, wood particles, wood wool and woodchips."

This restriction is also added into the STIDC's Conditions & Restrictions under Para 4.6 and is enforced with immediate effect."

Did you also know that...

Bilateral trade between India and Malaysia grew 29.41% year-on-year to US\$ 8.53bn (EUR 5.92bn) in 2007. According to Ashok K Kantha, the Indian High Commissioner to Malaysia, on 24 September 2008, the figure is predicted to reach over US\$ 10bn by end-2008. The growth is possible given the improved alliance between the nations.

Source:
Business Times Malaysia
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EXEMPTION FROM MALAYSIAN LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SCHEME - REGISTRATION OF HEAT TREATMENT FACILITY

The Department of Agriculture Sarawak (HQ) informed STA that The Plant Protection and Quarantine Division, Department of Agriculture, Kuala Lumpur had agreed to give exemption to Syarikat Sime-Sirim Technology Sdn Bhd and Wehaya Sdn Bhd. which means that the Department of Agriculture (DoA), Sarawak would recognize the calibration service provided by them for

registering heat treatment facility.

However, DoA Sarawak (HQ) has advised these two companies to register with the Malaysian Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (Skim Akreditasi Makmal Malaysia) as when the said Scheme is fully implemented, DoA Sarawak (HQ) will only recognise calibration done by companies registered with SAMM.

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Honorary Secretary, Mr. Philip Choo, the Honorary Treasurer and Dr. Lee Hua Seng, the Chief Executive Officer.

Besides the scrumptious dinner, the evening was fun-filled with karaoke singing competition and games, performances by participants of the three regions and presentations of prizes to the winners for the golf, bowling, futsal and badminton competitions that were organised during the Conference.