

STA Review

Volume 229

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Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association

October 2012

Bassarona dunya monara

(The Pearl's Necklace)

This species can be found in lowland rainforests.

Photo courtesy of Anna Photo Studio



5
INTERNATIONAL
Conference on Market Requirements for
Timber and Timber Products



6
GOODS AND
Services Tax Awareness and
Training



7
MTC
Global Woodmart 2012

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TIMBER SPECIES:

Trade Name: Selangan Batu
Botanical Name: *Shorea* spp.
Family: Dipterocarpaceae
Classification: Heavy Hardwood

Suitable for heavy construction, marine and wharf construction, piling, boat building, fence, power transmission posts, beams and cross arms.

Photo courtesy of Forest Department Sarawak

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STA HILL LOGGING CATEGORY MEETING AND COMMITTEE MEETING

Members of the STA Hill Logging Category met on 1 October 2012 at Wisma STA in Kuching to elect Committee Members for the year 2012 - 2013. The following are the newly elected Committee Members:

Chairman	: Dato' Sri Law Kiu Kiong
Vice Chairman	: Tan Sri Datuk Ling Chiong Ho (Alternate: Mr Ling Chiong Sing)
Secretary	: Dato' Wong Kuo Hea (Alternate: Mr Kamil Bin Spi-ie)
Treasurer	: Mr Law Hui Kong, Kenny
Committee Members	: Dato Lau Lee Kong, Henry Mr Chuo Kuong Ping Mr Lau Ching Hoo, Joseph Mr Lau Puong Ying Mr Ling Chii Huo Mr Wong Ing Yung Mr Yong Nyan Siong Ms Tang Hie Lee, Teresa (Alternate: Ms Adeline Lau)

A Committee meeting was convened immediately after the Category meeting and was chaired by Dato' Sri Law Kiu Kiong, the Committee Chairman. Amongst the issues discussed in this meeting were matters related to legal timber and other timber trade issues such as Malaysia – EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT VPA), the US Lacey Act and Updates on the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2012; logging roads tolls; minimum wages and matters related to log harvesting.



Photo: Meeting in progress

Ahli-ahli Kategori Pembalakan Hutan Bukit STA telah bermesyuarat pada 1 Oktober 2012 di Wisma STA di Kuching untuk memilih Ahli Jawatankuasa bagi tahun 2012 - 2013. Senarai Ahli Jawatankuasa baru adalah seperti dalam artikel tersebut. Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa telah diadakan sejurus selepas mesyuarat Kategori dan telah dipengerusikan oleh Dato' Sri Law Kiu Kiong selaku Pengerusi Jawatankuasa. Antara isu yang dibincangkan dalam mesyuarat ini adalah perkara berkaitan kesahan kayu dan isu perdagangan kayu.

STA丘陵小组会员于2012年10月1日假古晋STA大厦召开小组会议并推选2012-2013年度委员。委员名单，请参考英文版本。随后，小组主席拿督斯里劉久健主持召开委员会会议于商讨有关合法木材，木材贸易，伐木道路使用，最低薪资和原木采伐课题。

28TH STA PANEL PRODUCTS COMMITTEE MEETING

The 28th Sarawak Timber Association (STA) Panel Products Committee Meeting was held on 10 October 2012 at Wisma STA in Kuching and presided by the Chairman, Mr Stephen Lau Lee Kiong.

The Meeting discussed and shared information on the current log supply situation and issues related to European Union (EU) - Malaysia Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA). The meeting noted that Malaysia still in discussion with EU on the VPA and took note that the countries which have concluded their signing of VPA with EU may not be able to produce FLEGT Licence timber when EU Timber Regulation comes into force on 3 March 2013.

The Chairman later briefed the meeting on the outcomes of the Tri-Nations (JLIA/JPMA/APKINDO/STA) Joint Meeting which was held recently in Tokyo, Japan.

The STA Panel Products Category plans to organise a follow-up event with the Chennai Timber & Plywood Merchants Association (CTPMA) and the Korean Timber-Plywood Confederation (KTPC) in the presence of Datuk Amar Awang Tengah, the Second

Minister of Resource Planning and Environment. STA had earlier signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CTPMA and KTPC separately during the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) Timber Selling Mission to India and Korea respectively, witnessed by the Minister.

Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Produk Panel kali ke-28 Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) telah diadakan pada 10 Oktober 2012 di Wisma STA, Kuching dan dipengerusikan oleh Pengerusi, Encik Stephen Lau Lee Kiong. Mesyuarat membincangkan dan berkongsi maklumat mengenai situasi bekalan balak semasa dan isu-isu yang berkaitan dengan Kesatuan Eropah (EU) - Penguatkuasaan Undang-undang, Pentadbiran dan Perdagangan Hutan (FLEGT) Perjanjian Usahasama Sukarela (VPA) Malaysia.

STA合板/人造板小组委员会在其主席劉利强先生主持下于2012年10月10日假古晋STA大厦召开第28届委员会会议。会议商讨和分享目前的原木生产供应情况资讯和欧盟-马来西亚森林法规执法，监管与贸易 (FLEGT) 自愿合作伙伴协议 (VPA) 课题。

STA FURNITURE & OTHER WOODWORKING CATEGORY AND COMMITTEE MEETING

The STA Furniture & Other Woodworking category members met on 31 October 2012 to elect Committee Members for the new term 2012 – 2013 under the chairmanship of Mr Yek Siew Liong.

The following were the elected Committee Members for the Furniture & Other Woodworking Committee:

Chairman	: Mr Yek Siew Liong
Vice Chairman	: Mr Lai King Min
Secretary	: Mr Desmond Cheng Hwa Tang
Treasurer	: Ms Evelyn Chung Nyet Joo
Committee Members	: Mr Joseph Ting Kwang Kwong Mr Ong Seng Guan

After the election, a Committee meeting was convened and chaired by Mr Yek Siew Liong, the Committee Chairman. In the Meeting, members exchanged market information and deliberated on the current raw material supply issues in the State as well as international developments in legal timber issues such as the US Lacey Act, the EU Timber Regulation and the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill.

The Meeting also deliberated in detail the training requirements for Furniture and Other Woodworking category members. The Committee proposed a study trip to Vietnam, one of the leading wooden furniture exporters in the world to learn how timber from forest plantation are used.

Ahli-ahli Kategori Perabot & Pertukangan Kayu Lain STA telah bermesyuarat pada 31 Oktober 2012 untuk memilih Ahli Jawatankuasa baru bagi sesi 2012-2013 di bawah pengerusi Encik Yek Siew Liong.

Ahli Jawatankuasa yang baru dipilih adalah seperti dalam artikel berikut.

Selepas pemilihan, mesyuarat Jawatankuasa telah diadakan dan dipengerusikan oleh Encik Yek Siew Liong selaku Pengerusi Jawatankuasa. Dalam Mesyuarat, ahli-ahli bertukar maklumat pasaran dan membincangkan isu semasa bekalan bahan mentah di Sarawak serta isu kesahan balak seperti Undang-undang Akta Lacey AS, Peraturan Perkayuan EU dan Rang Undang-Undang Larangan Pembalakan Haram Australia.

STA 傢俬与其它木工小组于2012年10月31日召开小组会议并推选2012-2013年度委员。委员名单，请参考英文版本。

随后，小组主席葉紹良先生主持召开委员会会议交换市场资讯。会议也商讨目前州内的原料供应和国际合法木材发展课题譬如美国莱西法案，欧盟木材法规及澳洲非法采伐禁令。

STA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members are reminded that all STA Memberships will expire on **31 December 2012**. Notices for renewal of STA Memberships had been sent out to all Members on 1 November 2012.

All payments are due by **1 January 2013**. However, in accordance to Article 4(d) of STA Memorandum and Articles of Association [*page 25 of Twelfth Printing, August 2011*], members are given a grace period of 30 days that is, by 31 January 2013 to effect payment.

STA Membership will only be renewed once all the required supporting document(s) and the correct subscription payment are received. Payment should be, by a crossed cheque, made payable to "Sarawak Timber Association".

Ahli Persatuan dimaklumkan bahawa semua Keahlian STA akan tamat pada **31 Disember 2012**. Notis pembaharuan Keahlian STA telah diedar kepada semua ahli pada 1 November 2012.

Tarikh akhir pembaharuan keahlian adalah pada **1 Januari 2013**. Namun demikian, ahli diberi tempoh lanjutan selama 30 hari sehingga 31 Januari 2013 untuk memperbaharui keahlian.

STA会员资格将于2012年12月31日届满。STA已于2012年11月1日寄出更新会员资格通知书。

所有的付款将于2013年1月1日截止。然而，会员将给予30天的宽限期，即至2013年1月31日前付款。

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MARKET REQUIREMENTS FOR TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS

In conjunction with the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) Global Woodmart 2012, MTC, the EFI's EU FLEGT Asia Regional Funding and the European Timber Trade Federation (ETTF) jointly organised the International Conference on Market Requirements for Timber and Timber Products on 3 October 2012 at the KLCC Plenary Theatre Auditorium, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), Kuala Lumpur. The Conference, attended by more than two hundred and sixty (260) international and local participants representing Timber Trade Federations, the Private Sectors, Governments and NGOs from over nineteen (19) countries, provided the latest updates on specific market requirements in the United States of America (USA), the European Union (EU) and Australia for legal timber trade.

Mr Cheah Kam Huan, the Chief Executive Officer of MTC, welcomed all participants to this Conference. He added that the timing of Conference was appropriate to address the issue of illegal logging, which accounted for 5 to 10% of the value of forest products traded internationally. According to Mr Cheah, illegal loggers are able to undercut prices of their timber products offered by legal operators, hence undermined efforts by legal operators to practice sustainable forest management. Illegal logging also caused environmental degradation.

Mr Vincent van den Berk, the Programme Coordinator, EFI's EU FLEGT Asia Regional Funding Programme, told participants in his opening remarks that following the legally binding instruments introduced or to be introduced by (i) United States' Lacey Act in 2008 (ii) the European Union's Timber Regulation (EUTR) on 3 March 2013 and (iii) the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill, other countries are pursuing similar directions / plans of action. He added that ultimately it was down to buyers and suppliers to put systems in place to comply with the new legislations. According to Mr Vincent van den Berk, timber from supplier countries which conclude an Agreement and is backed by a VPA licence is regarded as risk-free under the EUTR, so does not need to go through further due diligence.

Mr Christian Shriver moderated the session that followed. The Keynote Address, delivered by Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr Latiff from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, covered the background on forestry in Malaysia, its economic contribution to the country, highlighting that forestry is under the jurisdiction of the State and the associated issues of implementing some forest policies and the role of NGOs.

There were four presentations on market overview from the EU, Australia and the USA, in which information and their respective perspectives on the impacts of the changing market requirements have on their industry. Copies of the presentation can be downloaded from MTC's website at:

http://www.mtc.com.my/issues/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1029:international-conference-on-market-requirements-for-timber-and-timber-products&catid=1:latest-news

Representatives from China, Bolivia, Brazil, Guyana and Surinam then delivered their Industry Statements. The Conference culminated in a Panel Discussion where the main issue raised was whether importers are aware of the EUTR, as only few enquiries have been received from EU customers to date.

Majlis Kayu Kayan Malaysia (MTC), Dana EFI EU FLEGT Rantau Asia dan Persekutuan Perdagangan Kayu Eropah (ETTF) bersempena dengan Global WoodMart 2012 MTC telah bersama-sama menganjurkan Persidangan Antarabangsa Keperluan Pasaran Kayu dan Produk Kayu pada 3 Oktober 2012 di Auditorium Teater Plenari KLCC, Pusat Konvensyen Kuala Lumpur (KLCC), Kuala Lumpur.

Persidangan ini, menyediakan maklumat terkini mengenai keperluan pasaran khususnya di Amerika Syarikat (AS), Kesatuan Eropah (EU) dan Australia bagi perdagangan kayu yang sah.

Encik Cheah Kam Huan, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif MTC, memaklumkan bahawa masa Persidangan adalah tepat bagi menangani isu pembalakan haram, yang menyumbang kepada 5 hingga 10% daripada nilai produk hutan yang didagangkan di peringkat antarabangsa.

Encik Vincent van den Berk, Penyelaras Program, Program Dana EFI EU FLEGT Rantau Asia, memberitahu para peserta bahawa pada akhirnya ia akan bergantung kepada pembeli dan pembekal untuk mempraktikkan sistem ini bagi mematuhi undang-undang baru.

配合由马来西亚木材理事会(MTC)主办的2012年MTC国际木业展, 欧洲森林研究所(EFI) 欧盟森林法规执法, 监管与贸易(EU FLEGT) 亚洲区供资和欧洲木材贸易联合会(ETTF) 共同举办的“国际木材与木制品市场规则研讨会”于2012年10月3日假吉隆坡会展中心举行。研讨会主要提供美国、欧盟及澳洲合法木材贸易市场的特定需求最新资讯。

MTC首席执行官, 谢金汉先生称这研讨会恰好让参与者了解非法采伐课题。非法采伐大约占了国际森林产品贸易价值5至10%。

EFI's EU FLEGT亚洲区供资, 计划协调员文森特.登伯克先生(译音)告知参与者买家与供应商是落实和遵守新法则主要关键者。

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX AWARENESS AND TRAINING

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) organised parallel sessions of Goods and Services Tax (GST) Awareness and Training for its members in New World Suites, Bintulu and Imperial Palace Hotel, Miri from 15 to 16 October 2012 and Wisma STA, Kuching and RH Hotel, Sibu from 18 to 19 October 2012. Approximately 400 participants from the Association's member companies, members of the public and members of the media attended these sessions in the four (4) regions.

The GST Awareness and Training sessions culminated from the meeting between STA and the Tax Review Panel on 11 July 2012, where both parties had agreed to organise this event after the GST Guide on Forestry Industry was made available. The purpose was to provide awareness and training to the participants on the proposed GST model for Malaysia in particular the application of GST to the forestry and timber industry, as well as to gather feedback from the Association's members on the proposed GST model.

The speakers for these sessions are Tuan Ishak bin Daud, Senior Assistant Director, Tuan Faizulnuddin bin Hashim, Senior Assistant Director, Tuan Khairul Nizam bin Othman, Superintendent and Puan Maria binti Madel, Superintendent, all from the Royal Malaysian Customs Department in Putrajaya, which is the agency in charge with the implementation of GST when it comes into force.

The speakers explained the proposed GST model for Malaysia in detail, covering topics such as definition of business and supply; the scope of GST; time, place and value of supply; registration; accounting for GST; issues during transitional period; and other related matters.

Participants also took the opportunity to raise questions to clear their doubts and issues for the speakers to look into. Some of the issues highlighted by the participants relate to the blocked input taxes on passenger cars, entertainment expenses and club subscription fees; control over subsidiary companies for group registration and export of logs through marketing agents.



Photo: Training session in Bintulu



Photo: Training session in Miri



Photo: Training session in Sibu



Photo: Training session in Kuching

本会于2012年10月15日至16日分别在民都鲁新世界酒店和美里皇宫酒店及18日至19日在古晋STA大厦和诗巫长青酒店同时进行消费税（GST）醒觉培训工作坊。

本会与税务检讨委员会在2012年7月11日开会时，双方达成共识，特别为本会会员策划联办林业GST指南醒觉培训工作坊。这旨予提供参与者有关即将执行的马来西亚GST制度，林业应用程序以及收集会员相对GST制度的意见。

布城皇家关税局，GST执行单位官员为这次的醒觉培训工作坊讲解。

根据所提议的制度，政府将向林业原木和木材产品供应商征收所设定的GST 税率。然而，为了维持马来西亚产品的竞争力，原木和木材产品出口被列入GST 零税率。在这种情况下，商家可向政府索赔所缴付的GST。

Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) telah menganjurkan Sesi Kesedaran dan Latihan Cukai Barangan dan Perkhidmatan (GST) secara serentak untuk ahli-ahlinya di New World Suites, Bintulu dan Hotel Imperial Palace, Miri dari 15 hingga 16 Oktober 2012 dan Wisma STA, Kuching dan Hotel RH, Sibu dari 18 hingga 19 Oktober 2012.

Penganjuran Sesi Kesedaran dan Latihan GST secara bersama setelah Garis Panduan GST untuk Industri Perhutanan siap disediakan telah dipersetujui semasa Mesyuarat di antara STA dan Panel Kajian Semula Cukai pada 11 Julai 2012. Tujuannya adalah untuk memberi kesedaran dan latihan kepada peserta mengenai model GST yang dicadangkan bagi Malaysia khususnya aplikasi GST kepada industri perhutanan dan perkayuan, serta mengumpul maklum balas daripada ahli-ahli Persatuan mengenai model GST yang dicadangkan.

Penceramah adalah dari Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia, Putrajaya, yang merupakan agensi bertanggungjawab dalam pelaksanaan GST apabila berkuatkuasa kelak.

Dalam model GST yang dicadangkan, bekalan balak dan produk kayu dari industri perhutanan hendaklah tertakluk pada kadar standard GST yang akan ditentukan oleh Kerajaan. Namun demikian, untuk mengekalkan daya saing produk Malaysia, eksport balak dan produk kayu akan tertakluk kepada kadar sifar GST. Dalam kedua-dua kes, GST yang dikenakan dalam perniagaan boleh dituntut daripada Kerajaan.

The MTC Global WoodMart 2012 (MGW 2012) was organised by the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) from 4 to 6 October 2012 at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), Kuala Lumpur. MGW 2012 has the objective of being the one-stop selling, buying and networking trade fair / platform for all suppliers and buyers of wood and wood products under one roof.

The event was officiated by Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC). This year's event attracted 118 exhibitors from Brazil, Chile, China, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, Vietnam, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the United States of America (USA), and the United Kingdom (UK). The ratio of Malaysian to foreign exhibitors was 50:50. Furthermore, MGW 2012 buyers' programme attracted more than 1,800 visitors from 61 countries.

MGW 2012 also saw the first ever Sarawak Pavilion with an exhibition area of 54 square metres, coordinated by the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA). STA Member companies who participated at MGW 2012 were Carl Ronnow (M) Sdn Bhd, Daiken Miri Sdn Bhd, Kaliman Timber Corporation Sdn Bhd, Subur Tiasa Holdings Bhd, Shin Yang Plywood Sdn Bhd and Ta Ann Plywood Sdn Bhd.

There was also a seminar organised by the Indonesian delegation entitled "Readiness of Indonesian Forest Product Exporters in Meeting EU Timber Regulation March 2013" on 4 October 2012. The seminar gave an overview of the Indonesian timber product export licensing scheme, Sistem Verifikasi Legalitas Kayu under the EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA).

Global WoodMart 2012 MTC (MGW 2012) telah dianjurkan oleh Majlis Kayu Kayan Malaysia (MTC) dari 4 hingga 6 Oktober 2012 di Pusat Konvensyen Kuala Lumpur (KLCC), Kuala Lumpur. Objektif MGW 2012 adalah sebagai pusat jualan sehenti, membeli dan rangkaian pameran perdagangan/landasan untuk semua pembekal dan pembeli kayu dan produk kayu di bawah satu bumbung.

Acara ini telah dirasmikan oleh Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Menteri Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi (KPPK). Acara tahun ini telah menarik 118 penyertaan dan nisbah peserta Malaysia dan asing adalah 50:50. MGW 2012 juga menyaksikan buat pertama kalinya Sarawak Pavilion yang diselenggarakan oleh Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (PUSAKA) dan Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA).

马来西亚木材理事会 (MTC) 于2012年10月4日至6日在吉隆坡会议中心举办2012年MTC国际木业展 (MWG 2012)。MWG 2012是木材和木材产品供应商和买家的一站式买卖和贸易联系展。MWG 2012由种植与原产业部部长, 丹斯里柏纳东博 (译音) 主持开幕。MWG 2012今年共有118参展商参与。马来西亚和国外参展商的比例为50:50。本会与砂拉越木材工业发展机构 (STIDC) 共同协调首次亮相的砂拉越馆。



VISIT TO THE FOREST PLANTATION INDUSTRY OF SABAH



Photo: Meeting in progress



Photo: Small plantation logs processing mill

A delegation of fifteen (15) members comprising representatives from Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, the Forest Plantation category of Sarawak Timber Association (STA) and the STA Secretariat visited the Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) and a few forest plantation sites from 8 to 13 October 2012. The visit, hosted by SFD, was aimed at understanding the role of the Department in the forest plantation industry, as well as the operating procedures and equipment used for the harvesting and movement of plantation logs, including cess assessment procedures.

The delegation paid a courtesy call to the Deputy Director of Forests (DoF) Sabah, Mr Fidelis Edwin Bajau in Sandakan, who provided an overview on the history and development of forest plantation in Sabah. As of June 2012 an area of 238,000 ha out of a targeted area of 400,000 ha had been planted. The species planted in Sabah are rubber, *Acacia mangium*, *Eucalyptus grandis*, *Paraserianthes falcataria*, Laran, and *Dipterocarp* spp. Sabah's log production from forest plantation surpassed a million m³ in 2011. The delegates then visited the Hutan Lipur Khazanah and the Gum-Gum Plantation Research Station of Forest Research Centre of SFD. There are 50 research plots covering spacing and tree improvement trials of twelve (12) indigenous and twenty two (22) exotic species in this Research Station.

Visits to forest plantation sites were made over the next few days. The delegation visited Sabah Softwood Berhad (SSB) at Brumas in Tawau where the delegates were shown the mobile chipping machine and a cable yarding system for harvesting plantation logs. They also visited the thinning trial plot of *Eucalyptus pellita* as well as its chip and small logs processing mill.

On the next day, members of the delegation visited Sabah Forest Industries Sdn Bhd (SFI) and its forest plantation at Sipitang where they were shown the harvesting process of tree plantation and were briefed by the enforcement officer of SFD on the process of royalty assessment.

On the last day of the visit, the delegation paid a visit to Forest Management Unit (FMU) No.11 located at Sook in Keningau which is operated by Bornion Timber Sdn Bhd (BT). They visited the Nursery Labau where the process of budding rubber trees was demonstrated. They were then brought to a few plots of the rubber plantation of different ages as well as to a rubber tapping area. The visit culminated with a discussion on the process of royalty assessment for plantation logs in Sabah.

Satu delegasi lima belas (15) ahli yang terdiri daripada wakil-wakil dari Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (PUSAKA), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, kategori Perladangan Hutan Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) dan Sekretariat STA telah melawat Jabatan Perhutanan Sabah (SFD) dan beberapa buah ladang hutan dari 8 hingga 13 Oktober 2012. Lawatan ini dianjurkan oleh SFD, bertujuan untuk memahami peranan Jabatan dalam industri perladangan hutan, serta prosedur operasi dan peralatan yang digunakan untuk menuai dan mengangkut balak ladang hutan, termasuk prosedur penilaian ses.

STA人工造林小组, 砂拉越森林局 (FDS), 砂拉越林业机构(SFC), 砂拉越木材工业发展机构 (STIDC) 及 Harwood 有限公司 一团15位代表于2012年10月8日至13日前往沙巴视察森林种植园。这旨在了解人工林税额评估程序, 采伐与运行原木所使用的设备和操作程序。同时, 该团也礼貌拜访沙巴森林局, 从中了解该局在人工造林业的职责。

SABAH'S FLEGT KICK START WORKSHOP AND CONSULTATION



Photo: Workshop in progress

The Sabah's FLEGT Kick Start Workshop and Consultation was organised by Sabah Forestry Department on 8 October 2012 at the Le Meridien Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Approximately seventy (70) participants from the Sabah timber industry and related Government agencies attended this Workshop.

In the opening remarks by Datuk Sam Mannan, the Director of Sabah Forestry Department informed the participants that Sabah's cabinet decision must be respected and that the terms and conditions set by Sabah must be met in order for Sabah to be part of the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade, Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT VPA). He also informed the participants that Sabah will continue with developing its own Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) even if they are not joining Peninsular Malaysia in signing the VPA.

Four papers were presented during the Workshop. They were:

1. **'2003 – 2013: The EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, Almost fully operational'** by Mr Vincent van den Berk, Programme Coordinator, FLEGT Asia
2. **'Updates on FLEGT VPA and TLAS Negotiation Process'** by Madam Loke Sim Wah, PROTEM Secretariat FLEGT
3. **'Development of Sabah TLAS'** by Mr Andurus Abi, Sabah Forestry Department and Dr Kevin Grace, GFS Sdn Bhd
4. **'WWF FLEGT Project in Sabah'** by Madam Ivy Wong, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Malaysia

Mr Frederick Kugan of Sabah Forestry Department facilitated the discussion on the next steps for FLEGT in Sabah. Some of the matters that were discussed were the revision of Sabah's TLAS; Principle 1: Right to harvest; Principle 2: Forest operations; Principle 3: Statutory charges and Principle 4: Other users' rights; and to expand the scope of TLAS to include two (2) new principles i.e.

Principle 5: Mill Operations and Principle 6: Trade and Customs. The participants also discussed on auditing of the Sustainable Forest Management License Agreement (SFMLA) and coordination of funding and pilot projects.

Bengkel Permulaan dan Perundingan FLEGT Sabah telah dianjurkan oleh Jabatan Perhutanan Sabah pada 8 Oktober 2012 di Hotel Le Meridien, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Dalam ucapan pembukaan oleh Datuk Sam Mannan, Pengarah Jabatan Perhutanan Sabah, beliau memaklumkan kepada peserta bahawa keputusan kabinet Sabah mestilah dihormati dan terma dan syarat yang ditetapkan oleh Sabah haruslah dipenuhi dalam usaha Sabah untuk menjadi sebahagian daripada Penguatkuasaan Undang-undang, Pentadbiran dan Perdagangan Hutan, dan Perjanjian Usahasama Sukarela (FLEGT VPA). Beliau turut memaklumkan kepada peserta bahawa Sabah akan terus dengan Sistem Jaminan Kesahan Kayu Kayan (TLAS) mereka sendiri walaupun tidak menyertai Semenanjung Malaysia dalam menandatangani VPA.

Empat kertas kerja telah dibentangkan semasa Bengkel.

沙巴森林局于2012年10月8日假亚庇艾美酒店举办沙巴森林法规执法，监管与贸易(FLEGT)序幕工作坊及咨询会。

沙巴森林局局长，拿督森马南（译音）在致欢迎辞时表示，在签署森林法规执法，监管与贸易自愿合作伙伴协议(FLEGT VPA)前，沙巴必须确保州内阁的决定被尊重与所列出的条款及细则被确认。拿督告知参与者即使他们不参与马来西亚半岛签署FLEGT VPA，沙巴将会继续使用该州的木材合法保证系统（TLAS）。

工作坊总共呈现4份论文。

DISCUSSION ON EUROPEAN UNION TIMBER (EUTR) AND ITS RELATED MATTE

A discussion on the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR) and its related matter with the industry was organised by the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) on 16 October 2012 at Menara PGRM, Kuala Lumpur.

The Discussion was moderated by Datuk Yeo Heng Hau, a Senior Director of the Public & Corporate Affairs Division of MTC. He shared with participants of the Discussion that Malaysia has embarked on a Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) negotiation with the European Union (EU) since September 2006. This includes the establishment of the Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) to ensure that only legal timber will be exported to the EU. He also mentioned that the VPA negotiation is currently in its final stage. However, upon signing the VPA, there will be an interim period before FLEGT license can be officially issued and timber exports from Malaysia then might still be subjected to the due diligence system.

Ms Sheam Satkuru-Granzella, a Director from MTC London briefed on the EUTR and the impact on the timber industry. The EUTR will come into force on 3 March 2013. All imports into the EU and timber products within the EU are subjected to requirements of the EUTR. The EU Regulation No 995/2010 was adopted in 2010 to support the EU FLEGT VPA process which is applicable to non-VPA supplying countries and inter-EU.

The due diligence under the EUTR includes the three main elements i.e. (i) access to information, (ii) risk assessment and (iii) risk mitigation (of risk identified).

Risk assessment is conducted to minimise the risk of sourcing illegally harvested timber and wood products. The operators (importers) in the EU are obliged to conduct risk assessment on suppliers. These operators will rely on suppliers to supply the required information in proving the legality/sustainability of source. The European timber trade federations, national member state timber trade federations and monitoring organisations are all coming up with risk assessment procedures to assist their members in fulfilling the requirements of the EUTR. They are also on harmonising these procedures among themselves.

Risk mitigation is steps taken by the operators and their suppliers to ensure to their best ability that the timber and/or timber products have been legally harvested in accordance with applicable national legislation in the country of harvest. Operators and suppliers need to work together to ensure that timber from unknown sources have not entered the supply chain by using documentation to prove the source. These records must be kept for five (5) years.

Ms Sheam Satkuru-Granzella also mentioned that certification or other 3rd party verification scheme that include verification of compliance with national

legislation in country of harvest may be accepted in the risk assessment procedure. These schemes include Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Verified legal Compliance (VLC) and Forest Trust's Timber Trade Action Plan (TTAP).

Mr Rajan Samikanoo, Director of Enforcement and Licensing of Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) spoke on the status of the FLEGT VPA and the measures which have been taken to prepare for the impending implementation of the EUTR. He mentioned that the timber legality assurance system (TLAS) is at the final stage of discussion with the EU. He also informed that a work plan for the implementation for TLAS and issuance of FLEGT Licence has been prepared. The Guidelines for application of FLEGT Licence has been completed, however not ready for circulation. MTIB shall be having four (4) dialogues on the Guidelines with the industry in Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Kuala Terengganu and Johor Bahru. The trial run for the TLAS shall be done by December 2012. He further informed the participants that the interim measure for the EUTR pending signing of VPA is the proposal for MTIB to issue MYTLAS Licence, which is based on the TLAS for exports to EU.

马来西亚木材理事会(MTC)于2012年10月16日在吉隆坡民政大厦举办欧盟木材规则(EUTR)及其相关课题讨论会。

讨论会由MTC公共及企业事务高级总监, 拿督杨庆鏞主持。拿督告知参与者自2006年9月, 马来西亚已经与欧洲联盟(EU)展开森林法规执法, 监管与贸易自愿合作伙伴协议(FLEGT VPA)谈判。然而, 在签署VPA过后的过渡期内, 即未获得FLEGT正式许可证前, 马来西亚出口的木材仍需通过适当的调查系统。

MTC伦敦总监, 聖莎谷鲁卡泽拉女士(译音)讲解EUTR和其对木材业的影响。EUTR将于2013年3月3日生效。所有欧盟范围内和进口的木材产品需符合EUTR的要求。

马来西亚木材工业局(MTIB)执法和执照总监, 拉詹先生(译音)告知参与者FLEGT VPA进展和对即将实施EUTR所采取的准备措施。木材合法保证系统(TLAS)将于2012年12月开始试运。

VISIT BY THE CHINA TIMBER AND WOOD PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION ASSOCIATION

Satu perbincangan mengenai Peraturan Kayu Kesatuan Eropah (EUTR) dan perkara yang berkaitan dengan industri telah dianjurkan oleh Majlis Kayu Kayan Malaysia (MTC) pada 16 Oktober 2012 di Menara PGRM, Kuala Lumpur.

Perbincangan itu dipengerusikan oleh Datuk Yeo Heng Hau, Pengarah Kanan Bahagian Hal Ehwal Awam & Korporat MTC. Beliau berkongsi pandangan dengan peserta bahawa Malaysia telah memulakan rundingan Penguatkuasaan Undang-undang, Pentadbiran dan Perdagangan Hutan (FLEGT) Perjanjian Usahasama Sukarela (VPA) dengan Kesatuan Eropah (EU) sejak September 2006.

Namun demikian, setelah VPA ditandatangani, terdapat tempoh sementara sebelum lesen FLEGT boleh dikeluarkan secara rasmi dan eksport kayu dari Malaysia mungkin masih tertakluk kepada sistem kewajaran.

Cik Sheam Satkuru-Granzella, Pengarah dari MTC London memberi taklimat mengenai EUTR dan kesan terhadap industri kayu. EUTR akan berkuatkuasa pada 3 Mac 2013. Kesemua import ke EU dan produk kayu dalam EU adalah tertakluk kepada keperluan EUTR.

Encik Rajan Samikanoo, Pengarah Penguatkuasaan dan Pelesenan Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia (MTIB) memaklumkan tentang status FLEGT VPA dan langkah serta persediaan yang telah diambil ke arah pelaksanaan EUTR.

Percubaan pelaksanaan TLAS akan dilakukan pada Disember 2012.



Photo: Group photo



Photo: Mill visit

A delegation of nine (9) members led by the President Mr Liu Nengwen and Vice President cum Secretary General Mr Tao Yiming from the China Timber and Wood Product Distribution Association (CTWPDA) paid a visit to Sarawak Timber Association (STA) in Kuching on 5 October 2012.

STA Chairman, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik welcomed the delegation and looked forward to a closer working relationship between CTWPDA and STA in the future. The delegation was briefed on the roles and functions of STA, contributions of the timber industry and the legality verification of logs in Sarawak.

The President of CTWPDA, Mr Liu presented the overview of the Chinese domestic market in relation to the demand and supply of timber and timber products, development trends and the development of the Chinese Legality Verification Scheme.

An open discussion and business matching discussion was held after the briefing between eight (8) STA Members and the Chinese delegation. The delegation was also given a tour of the STA Exhibition Centre. On the following day, the delegation took the opportunity to visit a STA Member's plywood mill in Kuching.

Satu delegasi terdiri daripada sembilan (9) ahli yang diketuai oleh Presiden Encik Liu Nengwen dan Naib Presiden merangkap Ketua Setiausaha Encik Tao Yiming dari Persatuan Pengedar Kayu dan Produk Kayu China (CTWPDA) telah mengadakan lawatan ke Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) Kuching pada 5 Oktober 2012.

Pengerusi STA, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik mengalu-alukan delegasi dan taklimat mengenai peranan dan fungsi STA, sumbangan industri perindustrian serta pengesahan kesahihan balak di Sarawak telah disampaikan oleh Urusetia STA.

Presiden CTWPDA, Encik Liu membentangkan gambaran pasaran domestik China, aliran pembangunan dan pembangunan Skim Pengesahan Kesahihan China.

中国木材与木制品流通协会(CTWPDA)一行9位代表在其会长刘能文先生和副会长兼秘书长陶以明先生的带领下于2012年10月5日礼貌拜访本会主席邦曼查拿督黄启曦。

本会秘书处为CTWPDA解说有关本会的角色和职能，木材业的贡献和本州原木合法验证事项。

CTWPDA会长，刘能文先生为本会讲解中国国内市场发展趋势及中国合法验证计划进展。

BRIEFING ON CUSTOM DUTIES ORDER 2012 AND ASEAN HARMONISED TARIFF NOMENCLATURE 2012



Photo: Briefing in progress

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department organised the Briefing on Custom Duties Order 2012 and ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature 2012 on 10 October 2012 at Wisma Kastam, Petra Jaya in Kuching. The objective of this Briefing was to provide updates on Custom Duties Order 2012 (CDO 2012) and ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature 2012 (AHTN 2012). The Briefing was attended by officers of Customs Department and representatives from various Government agencies, trade associations and private sectors.

The speaker, Tuan Mohamad Salleh Ismail from Classification, Tariff and Drafting Branch, Technical Services Division, Royal Malaysian Customs Department informed the participants that CDO 2012 and AHTN 2012 had been published on 30 August 2012 and will take effect on 31 October 2012. CDO 2012 and AHTN 2012 will replace the Custom Duties Order 2007 and ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature 2007.

Tuan Mohamad Salleh Ismail also said that AHTN 2012 is a common tariff classification system for ASEAN. This is based on the latest version of the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO). The AHTN is an initiative by ASEAN member countries to provide a transparent and uniform goods classification system to facilitate trade in ASEAN. From the tariff classification codes, traders will also be able to determine whether the goods are eligible for preferential tariffs under the different free trade agreements (FTAs).

The Harmonised System 2012 (HS 2012) comprises 96 Chapters, 1224 tariff lines (4 digit headings) and 5205 tariff lines (6 digit subheadings), while Chapter 77 is for future use and Chapter 98 is for National use. There are 221 set of amendments in HS 2012 where Environmental and Social Issues of global concern are the major features. The HS will be used as the standard for classifying and coding of goods with specific importance to food security and the early warning data system of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The amendments also include additional subheadings for the identification of chemicals and pesticides under the Rotterdam Convention as well as ozone depleting substances under the Montreal Protocol.

Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia telah menganjurkan Taklimat Perintah Duti Kastam 2012 dan Tatanama Tarif Berharmonis ASEAN 2012 pada 10 Oktober 2012 di Wisma Kastam, Petra Jaya di Kuching. Objektif taklimat ini adalah untuk memberikan maklumat terkini mengenai Perintah Duti Kastam 2012 (CDO 2012) dan Tatanama Tarif Berharmonis ASEAN 2012 (AHTN 2012).

Tuan Mohamad Salleh Ismail dari Cawangan Penjenisan, Tarif dan Gubalan, Bahagian Perkhidmatan Teknik, Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia memberitahu peserta bahawa CDO 2012 dan AHTN 2012 telah diterbitkan pada 30 Ogos 2012 dan akan berkuatkuasa pada 31 Oktober 2012.

AHTN adalah satu inisiatif oleh negara-negara anggota ASEAN untuk menyediakan sistem klasifikasi barangan secara telus dan seragam bagi memudahkan perdagangan di ASEAN.

皇家关税局于2012年10月10日假古晋关税局大厦举办2012关税令及2012东盟调和税则目录简报会。简报会主要是提供2012关税令(CDO 2012)及2012东盟调和税则目录(AHTN 2012)最新资讯。

皇家关税局技术服务部, 类别, 关税和草拟组官员, 莫哈末沙勒先生(译音)告知参与者CDO 2012与AHTN 2012已在2012年8月30日公布, 并将于2012年10月31日生效。

AHTN是东盟成员国的倡议, 这为促进东盟贸易透明和统一的商品分类系统。

SME MASTERPLAN (2012 - 2020) – THE WAY FORWARD FOR SME DEVELOPMENT

The SME Corporation Malaysia (SME Corp) organised a briefing on 30 October 2012 at the Grand Margherita Hotel, Kuching to share the findings and recommendations of the SME Masterplan 2012 -2020. This Briefing was part of the nationwide road show organised by SME Corp to disseminate information on the Masterplan.

Ms Karunajothi Kandasamy, Senior Director of Economic and Policy Planning, SME Corp informed participants that the SME Masterplan will be the “game changer” to accelerate the growth of SMEs to achieve high income nation status by 2020. Successful implementation of the Masterplan will result in raising the contributions of SMEs to the economy by 2020. Furthermore, the Masterplan will adopt a new approach to SME development which is outcome-based. A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system will be put in place to ensure the effectiveness of this programme.

Ms Kandasamy mentioned that the Masterplan has highlighted six (6) major factors that influence the performance of SMEs. These 6 performance levers are innovation and technology adoption; human capital development; access to financing; market access; legal and regulatory environment; and infrastructure. Hence, the Masterplan has proposed thirty two (32) initiatives, including 6 High Impact Programmes (HIPs) and four (4) thematic measures to address the issues that are faced by SMEs. Recognising the unique business environment in East Malaysia, the Masterplan has proposed specific measures for SMEs in East Malaysia. The HIPs consist of the integration of business registration and licensing to enhance ease of doing business; technology commercialisation platform to encourage innovation; SME investment programme to provide early stage financing; going export programme to expedite internationalisation of SMEs; catalyst programme to promote more homegrown champions; and inclusive innovation to empower the bottom 40% of the income group.

Tuan Haji Zaharuddin Alias, General Manager of Bank Muamalat Malaysia Berhad briefed the participants on the Shariah-Compliant SME Financing Scheme (SSFS). He also informed the participants that main objective of SSFS is to provide financing assistance to eligible Malaysian SMEs whereby the Malaysian Government has agreed to pay 2% (percentage point) of the profit rate charged on the financing provided by Participating Financial Institutions.

Other presenters included Mr Mohd Iskandariah from the Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia (IRB) who briefed participants on the application and registration procedures as well as the cost of registration upon registering a new business, and Ms Noor Aziah Romlan, the Sarawak Director from the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) who recommended and introduced programmes that will help to promote Malaysia's export in the global markets.

SME Corporation Malaysia (SME Corp) telah menganjurkan taklimat pada 30 Oktober 2012 di Hotel Grand Margherita, Kuching untuk berkongsi penemuan dan cadangan Pelan Induk PKS 2012 -2020.

Cik Karunajothi Kandasamy, Pengarah Kanan Perancang Ekonomi dan Dasar, SME Corp memberitahu peserta bahawa Pelan Induk PKS akan menjadi “game changer” untuk mempercepatkan pertumbuhan PKS untuk mencapai status negara berpendapatan tinggi menjelang 2020. Pelan Induk PKS telah menekankan enam (6) faktor utama yang mempengaruhi prestasi PKS.

马来西亚中小型企业机构(SME Corp)于2012年10月30日假古晋玛格丽特酒店举办简报会分享2012年至2020年中小企业大蓝图的结论和建议。

SME Corp 经济和政策规划高级总监, 卡达沙米女士 (译音) 表示大蓝图将是 “改变游戏规则者”, 从而促进中小企业成长以实现于2020年达高收入国家的目标。

卡达沙米女士告知参与者大蓝图6大高效益计划将影响中小企业成长。

MEF NATIONAL CONFERENCE “SUSTAINABILITY OF ENTERPRISES IN A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT”

The two-day Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) National Conference was held from 16 to 17 October 2012 at the Grand Dorsett Subang, Subang Jaya, Selangor. Approximately one hundred and eighty (180) participants attended the Conference. The welcoming address was delivered by Mr A Ramadass, the Vice President of MEF and Datuk Dr Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria, Secretary-General, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) delivered the keynote address as well as launched the latest MEF publication entitled “MEF Practical Guide to Human Resources Management”.

There were seven (7) papers presented and a panel discussion in the Conference as follows:-

Paper 1: “Salient Features of Employment Act Amendments and Its Impact on Employers” - by Mr A Ramadass, Managing Proprietor of Ramadass & Associates and Vice President of MEF

The speaker highlighted the salient features in recent amendments made to the Employment Act which had taken effect on 1 April 2012. The amendments are as follows:

- Section 19(2) – payment for work on rest days, public holidays and overtime can be paid at the end of the following month;
- Section 22(1) – amendments provide for advances to purchase computers, medical bills, pay for education expenses and to cover expenses pending SOSCO payment, medical expenses, educational expenses for employee & his immediate family members;
- Section 25A (1) – to allow payment of wages to other institutions e.g. Bank Rakyat (not under BAFIA) as approved by Bank Negara
- Section 25A (2) – payment of wages of domestic servant including maids must be made through banks
- Section 2 – requires contractor for labour to register with the Labour Department to enable Labour Department to monitor contract for labour
- Section 2 – definition of confinement has been amended to be in line with definition of confinement of the World Health Organization

Among others, the speaker also highlighted amendments made to Section 37 – Length of eligible period and entitlement to maternity allowance, Sections 57A & 58B – employment of foreign domestic servant, Section 60D – public holiday, Section 60K – employment of foreign employees, Section 60B – additional powers of DG, Section 2 – definition of sexual harassment and new part XV A on sexual harassment. Following the amendment of First Schedule to the Employment Act (EA) to increase the coverage of the EA scope to include employees whose wages not less than RM2,000 per month, more employees are now covered by the EA.

Paper 2: “Designing Compensation Packages in a Challenging Environment” – by Mr Na Boon Chong, Managing Director, Aon Hewitt, Singapore

The speaker shared his experience on how to design compensation packages in a challenging environment and the packages shared were anchored at i) key drivers of change in compensation landscape, ii) developing an approach to integrate interests of multiple stakeholders and iii) evolving a new framework for compensation management.

Paper 3: “Minimum Wages – Negotiating a Fair Wages Settlement” – Mr J Palaniappan, Deputy Director, Corporate Human Resources/Legal, Panasonic Appliances Air-Conditioning Malaysia Sdn Bhd

The speaker gave a brief overview of Minimum Wage Order 2012 made pursuant to the powers given to the Minister of Human Resources under National Wages Consultative Council Act 2011. He covered the commencement date, minimum wage rates, negotiation between employer, employee or trade union on restructuring of wages before commencement date and conversion of cash payments to be a part of minimum wages. Challenges such as conversion strategy to be adopted, emphasis on the skill based salary structure and merit of productivity linked wage system were also highlighted.

Paper 4: “Briefing on Private Retirement Scheme (PRS)” – Mr Goh Ching Yin, Executive Director, Strategy & Development and Market Overnight, Securities Commission Malaysia

The speaker spoke on the development of private pension industry which can be done by increasing the options for management of retirement savings through private sector’s participation. He informed the participants that the Ministry of Finance was tasked to spearhead the review of the overall pension and social security framework in Malaysia and within the social and pension framework, while the Security Commission was entrusted to develop the private retirement scheme industry as an integral feature of the pension scheme landscape in Malaysia. He also explained on the key components, overview and benefits of the private pension industry accompanied by various investment options and regulatory safeguards.

Paper 5: “Minimum Retirement Age Act 2012” – Tuan Hj Shamduddin Bardan, Executor Director, MEF

The speaker highlighted the salient points of the Minimum Retirement Age Act such as the minimum retirement age shall be upon attaining 60 years, the Minister has discretion to increase the minimum retirement age and there was no upper age limit. The definition of “employee” was highlighted by the speaker to refer to any person who has entered into, and works under, a contract of service

CONFERENCE 2012: "IN A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT"

with an employer irrespective of his wages but does not include public sector employees, Federal Government, State Government, statutory body or any local authorities, probationers, apprentices, non-citizen employees, domestic servants, part-timers, and students on temporary employment. The speaker also highlighted the excluded category of employees such as fixed term contract employee not exceeding 24 months, employee who was employed before the date the Act was enforced, retired employees at 55 years or above and those subsequently re-employed after retirement.

Among others, the speaker highlighted sections related to premature and optional retirement, Director General's power to inquire into complaints, investigation and enforcement, etc.

Paper 6: "Raising the Retirement Age – The Singapore Experience" – by Mr Ong Yen Her, Senior Director and Advisor, Labour Relations & Workplaces Division, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore

The speaker shared Singapore's rationale for raising the retirement age norm from 55 to 67 and the different phases of increment, the efforts put in by the employers toward realisation of the enactment of the Retirement Age Act in 1993 and the raise of minimum statutory Retirement Age from 60 to 62. The speaker also shared the latest phase of Government's proposal to raise the Retirement Age further from 62 to 65 in 2012 through a compromised and a balanced approach, i.e. re-employment and not direct increase as in previous exercises and this has led to the implementation of Re-Employment Law with effect from January 2012.

Paper 7: "Unemployment Insurance" – Mr Ong Kim Seng, General Manager, Division (Risk & Research), Social Security Organisation of Malaysia (SOSCO)

The speaker briefed on the background to the emergence of unemployment insurance and comparative analysis in fourteen (14) countries, contribution rates, eligibility criterias and benefits. He also highlighted the arguments put forward by various stakeholders such as MEF, Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) including World Bank's view on the unemployment insurance scheme together with a comparison between severance pay and unemployment insurance.

Panel Discussion: Increasing Cost of Doing Business – Implication on Sustainability of Businesses in Malaysia. Members of the panel were:

- Tan Sri Dato' Dr Mohd Noor bin Ismail, President, Malayan Agricultural Producers Association (MAPA)
- Mr The Kee Sin, National President, Small and Medium Industry (SMI) Association of Malaysia
- Tuan Hj Shamsuddin Bardan, Executive Director, MEF

The panel shared views on the current scenario on increasing cost of doing business from the plantation industry, SMI and overall employer's perspective. The speakers also highlighted the various types of costs peculiar to their industries. Among others, the speakers shared the way forward to ensure sustainability is to increase productivity, review of labour laws to allow more flexibility in managing human resources such as more flexible working hours, days, etc. and to be innovative through more efforts in research and development, branding, automation and human capital development such as skill certification. There were also calls to review corporate tax because with the increase in operation costs due to increase in labour costs, raw materials, utilities, fuels, transportation, etc. the current 25% corporate tax is very challenging for Malaysia.



Photo: Panel discussion in progress

Persidangan Kebangsaan Persekutuan Majikan-majikan Malaysia (MEF) selama dua hari telah diadakan dari 16 hingga 17 Oktober 2012 di Grand Dorsett Subang, Subang Jaya, Selangor. Ucapan alu-aluan telah disampaikan oleh Encik A Ramadass, Naib Presiden MEF dan Datuk Dr Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria, Setiausaha Agung, Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri (MITI) menyampaikan ucap tama serta melancarkan penerbitan terbaru MEF bertajuk "MEF Practical Guide to Human Resources Management".

Terdapat tujuh (7) kertas kerja dibentangkan dan satu perbincangan panel semasa Persidangan ini adalah seperti dalam artikel berikut.

马来西亚雇主联盟 (MEF) 大会于2012年10月16日至17日在雪兰莪州, 梳邦再也帝豪酒店召开。MEF副主席, 拉玛丹先生 (译音) 致欢迎辞。国际贸易及工业部 (MITI) 秘书长, 拿督瑞贝卡法蒂玛博士致主题辞以及推展MEF最新出版 "MEF人力资源管理实用指南" 一书。

大会总共呈现7份论文和召开一项小组讨论。

SARAWAK TIMBER INDUSTRY LAB (STIL) FIFTH SERIES

The fifth series of Sarawak Timber Industry Lab (STIL) is a continuation from the previous four labs which was held from July to August 2012. These labs were organised by the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and facilitated by Training Hub Sdn Bhd. The fifth lab was held from 22 to 25 October 2012 at Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching following the recommendation from the Panel Members in the fourth lab, which was held from 1 to 2 August 2012, it was attended by approximately fifty five (55) participants from various agencies. The objective was to finalise the lab findings and formulate policies for the timber industry which is expected to be implemented by 2013.

Participants were divided into groups to review the current status of the Sarawak Timber Industry (STI) against other competitors to determine the causes of the gaps and recommended appropriate solutions to address these gaps. The participants also deliberated on the causes that delayed the achievement of the targeted 1 million ha of planted forest by 2020 and made recommendations to both the State and Federal Government on how to solve these issues. Participants also summarised the specific actions to support the policy statements as well as the determination of growth rate and projection of the industry. The policy statements covered Natural Forest, Plantation Forest, Marketing, Manpower, Downstream Industry Development and Research and Development.

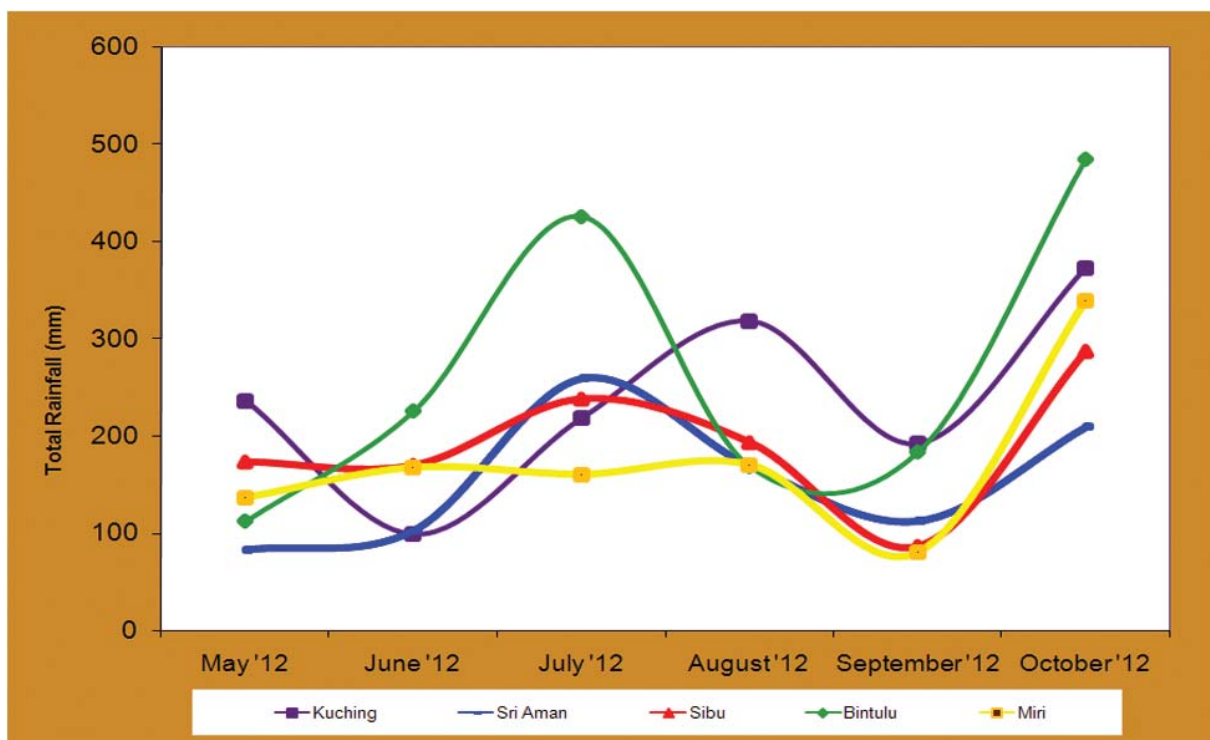
The participants were informed that a presentation on lab findings to the Panel Members will be held on 26 November 2012 at STIDC, Wisma Sumber Alam in Kuching.

Siri kelima Makmal Industri Perindustrian Sarawak (STIL) merupakan kesinambungan daripada empat makmal sebelumnya yang telah diadakan dari Julai hingga Ogos 2012. Makmal ini telah dianjurkan oleh Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (PUSAKA) dengan sokongan daripada Training Hub Sdn Bhd. Makmal kelima telah diadakan dari 22 hingga 25 Oktober 2012 di Hotel Riverside Majestic, Kuching.

Makmal Kelima diadakan bersempena dengan saranan Ahli Panel semasa makmal keempat untuk memuktamadkan penemuan makmal dan menggubal dasar bagi industri kayu yang dijangka akan dilaksanakan menjelang 2013.

第5系列砂拉越木材工业工作营(STIL) 是延续前四届于2012年7月至8月所举办的的工作营。砂拉越木材工业发展机构 (STIDC) 在Training Hub有限公司的协助下于2012年10月22日至25日假古晋河滨皇冠酒店举办这一系列的工作营。指导顾问对第4系列工作营结果所提的建议将用于制定预计在2013年执行的木材行业政策。

RAINFALL : MAY '12 - OCTOBER '12 DATA HUJAN BULANAN 雨量数据



Source : Malaysian Meteorological Services