

STA Review

Volume 170 PPK 174/4/2008 Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association

October 2007

STA Panel Products Discussion Session

Jawatankuasa Hasil-Hasil Panel STA mengadakan sesi perbincangan pada 2 Oktober 2007 di Wisma STA, Kuching dipengerusikan oleh Encik Stephen Lau, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa.

Dalam perbincangan ini, ahli-ahli bertukar maklumat pasaran dan berbincang tentang keadaan bekalan kayu balak di Sarawak. Dua perkara yang dipertimbangkan adalah keadaan pasaran papan lapis dan semangat kerjasama.

Sejurus dengan perbincangan ini, satu sesi bersama pihak media diadakan di mana Encik Stephen Lau mengumumkan bahawa Ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa ini akan, secara sukarela mengurangkan pengeluaran papan lapis sebanyak 20-25% pada bulan Oktober 2007.

■ The Members of the STA Panel Products Committee met on 2 October 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching to discuss current situation in the panel products trade. The discussion was led by Mr. Stephen Lau, the Committee Chairman.

In the discussion, Members exchanged information on the Japanese market and deliberated on the current log situation in Sarawak. Under the market information discussion, two matters were deliberated, i.e. the plywood market situation in Japan and the spirit of

cooperation among the Panel Products Members.

It was noted that the selling prices and volume of the plywood export into the Japan market from both Malaysia and Indonesia had decreased substantially compared to the same period in 2006. One of the reasons for the decrease in demand is the slowing down of the Japanese Housing Starts, caused by the new Building Standards Law. Since July 2007, the Housing Construction Authority requires a longer time to process applications, from two weeks

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Picture: Members exchanging market reports

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previously to three months, prior to the issuance of approval for a housing project.

A Press Conference was later held after the group discussion where Mr. Stephen Lau announced

the voluntary reduction in the plywood production by the Members of the Panel Products. For the month of October 2007, Members agreed to reduce production by 20-25%. ❁



Picture: Meeting with Members of the Press

STA Code of Conduct Committee Meeting

■ At the 61st STA Council Meeting held on 14 August 2007, the Council resolved to set up the STA Code of Conduct Committee to study the possibility and practicality for the Association to have its own Code of Conduct. This is in response to the Japanese buyers' request for better documentation pertaining to the

legality of our timber sources that are being exported to the Japan market.

Thus, the STA Code of Conduct Committee had its first meeting on 1 October 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching, chaired by Mr. Stephen Lau. The Committee deliberated on the content of the proposed Code of Conduct. ❁



Picture: Meeting in progress

Dalam mesyuarat ke-61 Majlis STA yang diadakan pada 14 Ogos 2007, cadangan telah dibuat untuk menubuhkan satu jawatankuasa untuk meneliti keperluan untuk Kod Kelakuan untuk Persatuan. Mesyuarat pertama jawatankuasa ini telah diadakan pada 1 Oktober 2007 di mana kandungan cadangan Kod Kelakuan dipertimbangkan.

Meeting on Logging Road Usage Charge

Majlis STA di Mesyuarat ke-61nya pada 14 Ogos 2007 memohon Urusetia STA mengaturkan satu mesyuarat antara pemilik-pemilik dan pengguna-pengguna jalan raya di konsesi balak untuk mengkaji semula bayaran tol dan penyenggaraan jalan. Satu mesyuarat telah diadakan pada 2 Oktober 2007 di Wisma STA, Kuching yang dihadiri oleh wakil dari 17 syarikat ahli. Mesyuarat ini telah bersetuju supaya mengekalkan kadar bayaran kerana keadaan pasaran kini yang kurang memuaskan. Kadar bayaran ini akan dikaji semula dalam masa enam bulan selepas mesyuarat.

■ The STA Council at its 61st Meeting on 14 August 2007 requested the STA Secretariat to call a meeting between the owners and the users of logging roads to review and decide on the road toll and maintenance fee. The current rates were agreed in February 2000. With the rising costs incurred for the maintenance and construction of logging roads caused by the increase of price of fuel and wages, there was a need to review on the road toll and maintenance fee.

The meeting, called on 2 October 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching, was

attended by representatives from 17 Member Companies. The meeting was chaired by Datuk Leo Chai, Chairman of STA.

In the meeting, it was decided that the rates remained unchanged due to the present unfavourable market situation. The meeting resolved that the logging road usage charges: (1) road toll at RM0.20 per mile per Hoppus ton and (2) maintenance fee at RM0.20 per mile per Hoppus ton will remain status quo. However, these charges will be reviewed again in six months' time. ❁



Left: Meeting in progress



Picture: Group photograph after the Meeting

MID Meetings on Electricity Tariff

■ Representatives from the business chambers and associations in Sarawak who attended the Business Dialogue Session held on 18 June 2007 had raised great concerns about the hike in electricity tariff (by 25%), which came into force on 1 April 2007. That Dialogue was chaired by the Deputy Chief Minister, Ministry of Industrial Development (MID) & Minister of Modernisation of Agriculture.

Subsequent to that, MID was requested to provide a platform for the representatives from the Sarawak Manufacturers' Association (SMA), the Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sarawak (ACCCIS), the Sarawak Timber Association (STA), the Sarawak Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI), the Sarawak Furniture Industry Association (SFIA), the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) and Persatuan Industri Demak Laut (PIDE) to deliberate further with Syarikat SESCO Berhad (SESCO) and the Ministry of Public Utilities the hike in electricity tariff as well as other

related issues, and to come out with appropriate recommendations.

Dr. Ngenang Ak Janggu, the Permanent Secretary of MID called and chaired two meetings, which were held on 6 September 2007 and 12 October 2007 respectively on this matter.

Both SESCO and the representatives from the trade were given the opportunity to clarify any misunderstandings and to express their views freely.

Mr. Danice Endawie Ita, the Chief Operating Officer of SESCO, reiterated that the electricity revision only applies to the industrial tariff and not the commercial and domestic tariff.

With this explanation, the trade representatives have embarked on a study to compare the electricity tariff for the three regions of Malaysia. Results from these findings and recommendations will then be made to the Government through MID for consideration. ❁

Wakil dari dewan perniagaan dan persatuan di Sarawak yang hadir di Sesi Dialog Perniagaan pada 18 Jun 2007 menyuarakan kekhawatiran mereka tentang kenaikan tariff elektrik (sebanyak 25%) yang dikuatkuasakan sejak 1 April 2007.

Dua mesyuarat telah diadakan dan dipengerusikan oleh Dr. Ngenang Ak Janggu, Setiausaha Tetap MID pada 6 September 2007 dan 12 Oktober 2007 untuk membincang perkara secara lebih mendalam.

Customs Appeal Tribunal

■ The Royal Malaysian Customs organised a briefing session on the Customs Appeal Tribunal or Tribunal Rayuan Kastam (TKR) for clients of the Department on 31 October 2007. The session was conducted by Encik Mohd. Zaki bin Abdul Wahab, the Deputy Chairman of the Customs Appeal Tribunal.

The Customs Appeal Tribunal is an independent body established on 1 June 2007 to hear appeals against the decisions of the Director-General of Customs in accordance to the

Customs Act 1967, Excise Act 1976, Sales Tax Act 1972 and the Service Tax 1975.

The TKR aims to;

- Provide an appeal system which is impartial, fair, transparent and expeditious for dissatisfied persons to appeal against the decisions of the Director-General of Customs; and
- Enhance the efficiency of the tax administration appeal system to make it more business friendly.

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Kastam Diraja Malaysia menganjurkan sesi taklimat tentang Tribunal Rayuan Kastam untuk pelanggan-pelanggannya pada 31 Oktober 2007. Sesi ini dikendalikan oleh Encik Mohd. Zaki bin Abdul Wahab, Timbalan Pengerusi Tribunal Rayuan Kastam.

Tribunal Rayuan Kastam (TRK) merupakan satu badan bebas yang ditubuhkan pada 1 Jun 2007

untuk mendengar rayuan terhadap keputusan Ketua Pengarah Kastam di sisi Akta Kastam 1967, Akta Eksais 1976, Akta Cukai Jualan 1972 dan Akta Cukai Perkhidmatan 1975.

Untuk pertanyaan lanjut atau mendaftar rayuan, sila hubungi TKR di alamat dan nombor telefon yang diteterakan.

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Thus, appeal can be made by any person who is dissatisfied with the decisions of the Director General of Customs under the Customs Act 1967, Excise Act 1976, Sales Tax Act 1072 and the Service Tax 1975 except for matters related to the compound and subsection 128(3) of the Customs Act 1967. Appeals against the decisions of the Director General of Customs must be filed within 30 days from the notification of the decision.

An appeal can be filed in the Tribunal's office by filling up four copies of Form A (Notice of Appeal) with a registration fee of RM100.00. Forms are available from the Tribunal's office. A copy of Form A will be returned to the appellant upon registration.

The Tribunal will then fix the date, place and time for hearing. The parties will be informed about date of hearing not less than 14 days before the hearing. Before proceeding to hear the appeal, the Tribunal will assist parties in negotiating an agreed settlement. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the Tribunal will

deliver its decision to the parties. The appellant or respondent can then apply for written reasons of decision within 28 days of date of decision. The written reasons will be furnished within 30 days of such application. The decision of the Tribunal can also be appealed to the High Court.

There is a pre-condition before the appeal is heard where the appellant must pay all duties and taxes determined by the Director General of Customs.

For further enquiries or to register an appeal, please contact:

Tribunal Rayuan Kastam
Perbendaharaan Malaysia
Kompleks Kementerian Kewangan
Tingkat 8, Blok Tengah
No. 5, Persiaran Perdana
Presint 2
Pusat Pentadbiran Kerajaan
Persekutuan
62592 Putrajaya

Tel: 03-8882 4432/ 4218

Fax: 03-8882 4374

Email:

tribunalkastam@treasury.gov.my

Website: www.treasury.gov.my

Semua keahlian STA akan tamat pada 31 Disember 2007. Pemberitahuan pembaruan telah dihantar kepada semua ahli pada 31 Oktober 2007. Semua bayaran yuran perlu dibuat selewat-lewatnya 1 Januari 2008.

STA Membership Renewal

Members are reminded that all STA Membership will expire on **31 December 2007**. Notices for renewal of STA Memberships had been sent out to all Members on 31 October 2007.

All payments for renewal of membership are due on **1 January 2008**. However, in accordance to Article 4(d) of STA Memorandum and Articles of Association [*page 22 of Tenth Printing, September 2003*], members are given a grace period of up to **31 January 2008** to effect the 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".

Train-the-Trainers Course

■ STA Training Sdn. Bhd. (STAT) conducted the 6th Train-the-Trainer Course from 18 to 21 October 2007 at Tanahmas Hotel, SibU. The course was attended by a total of 19 trainers from the six major member companies of STA. These participants were selected based on their performance in training.

This course was intended to enhance the trainers' knowledge, skills and abilities in delivering training for adult learners at their

work place. It also aimed to help the STA Member Companies move forward in producing a well-trained work force, which will benefit both employers and employees.

Upon completion of this course, these trainers are required to train a minimum of five operators in the relevant skill set. The operators, trained by these trainers, will be assessed by STAT assessors in early year 2008. ❁

STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) telah mengadakan Kursus Melatih Pelatih ke-6 dari 18 hingga 21 Oktober 2007 di SibU. Kursus ini bertujuan untuk mempertingkatkan pengetahuan pelatih, kemahiran dan kebolehan dalam memberi latihan kepada pelajar dewasa di tempat kerja masing-masing. Ia juga bertujuan untuk menolong ahli STA dalam melatih tenaga kerja mahir yang akan memanfaatkan majikan dan pekerja.



Left: STA Trainer giving lecture to the candidates



Right: Candidates having a discussion



Left: Group photo of the candidates attending the course

Student Visits to STA

Pada bulan Oktober 2007, pelajar-pelajar dari Universiti Putra Malaysia, Kampus Bintulu dan Kolej Twintech, Cawangan Sarawak telah membuat lawatan kepada STA.

Sekumpulan 48 orang pelajar bersama pensyarah-pensyarah mereka dari Fakulti Pertanian dan Sains Permakanan, Universiti Putra Malaysia telah melawat STA pada 19 Oktober 2007 dan pada 22 Oktober 2007, seramai 200 orang pelajar bersama pensyarah-pensyarah mereka dari Kolej Twintech, Cawangan Sarawak juga melawat STA.

Mereka telah diberi maklumat tentang industri kayu kayan serta peranan dan tanggungjawab STA.

Mereka juga dibawa melawat Pusat Pameran STA.

■ For the month of October 2007, STA hosted visits by students from the Universiti Putra Malaysia, Bintulu Campus and Twintech College, Sarawak Branch.

A group of 54 students accompanied by their lecturers from the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science, Universiti Putra Malaysia visited STA on 19 October 2007 as part of their familiarisation tour to Kuching to learn about forestry and

timber industry of the State.

On 22 October 2007, 196 students and lecturers from Twintech College, Sarawak Branch visited STA. The students were divided into three groups.

The students were briefed on the outlook of the timber industry of the State as well as the roles and responsibilities of STA. They were also taken on a tour around the STA Exhibition Centre. ⚙



Left: Students from Universiti Putra Malaysia, Bintulu Campus



Right: The first group of students from Twintech College at the STA Exhibition Centre



Left: The second group of students from Twintech College



Right: The third group of students from Twintech College

Sarawak Stakeholder Consultative Session for NCSA on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation

■ In line with the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Capacity Development Initiative, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) has initiated the 'National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management' (NCSA) project on 15 January 2007, with support from UNDP Malaysia and GEF. The primary objective is to identify priorities and needs for capacity building and enhancement to address global environmental management requirements through the fulfilment of Malaysia's international obligations and commitments in the three thematic areas of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation and the linkages between them.

As part of the NCSA process to take stock and review the past and on-going of stakeholder activities in capacity development especially at the State and local level, the Sarawak Planning Unit, in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and UNDP-GEF NCSA Project organised the Sarawak Stakeholder Consultative Session for NCSA on

Biodiversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation on 23 and 24 October 2007 in Kuching. Other key partners include the Malaysia Second National Communication to UNFCCC Project, Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI) and British Petroleum (BP) Malaysia.

The consultative session was officiated by the Sarawak State Secretary, YB Datuk Amar Wilson Baya Dandot and was attended by approximately 60 participants from the government departments, the academia, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

In his welcoming speech, YB Datuk Amar Wilson Baya Dandot said in the last 20 years, Sarawak had been aggressive in carrying out studies, protecting and conserving its biodiversity plus addressing environmental issues with the assistance of international organizations such as World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and United Nations. Such efforts had helped enhance the State's knowledge on biodiversity and environmental conservation while assisting the Government in planning the State's

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Sejajar dengan Inisiatif Pembangunan Keupayaan *Global Environment Facility* (GEF), Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar (NRE) menubuhkan projek '*National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management*' (NCSA) pada 15 Januari 2007 dengan kerjasama UNDP Malaysia dan GEF. Objektif utama adalah untuk mengenalpasti keutamaan dan keperluan bagi membina keupayaan untuk menumpukan perhatian kepada keperluan pengurusan alam sekitar sedunia. Usaha ini dapat dibuat melalui memenuhi kewajipan dan komitmen antarabangsa Malaysia dalam tiga bidang iaitu kepelbagaian biologi, perubahan iklim dan kemerosotan tanah.

Sebagai sebahagian proses NCSA dalam mengumpul maklumat aktiviti-aktiviti 'stakeholder' di peringkat negeri dan tempatan, Unit Perancangan Sarawak dengan kerjasama NRE dan Projek UNDP-GEF NCSA telah mengadakan satu Sesi Perundingan 'Stakeholder' Sarawak untuk NCSA berkenaan Isu-isu Kepelbagaian Biologi, Perubahan Iklim dan Kemerosotan Tanah pada 23 dan 24 Oktober di Kuching.



Left: YB Datuk Amar Wilson Baya Dandot, the State Secretary delivering his speech

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development.

The consultative session aimed:

- To create awareness of stakeholders on the current capacity issues relevant to biodiversity, climate change and land degradation;
- To gather and review information of past and on-going capacity development activities at the state and local level;
- To share experience and lessons learned among the stakeholders; and
- To establish a two-way communication platform for NCSA process and other related activities.

The two-day consultative session was divided into two sessions with the following papers presented;

Session 1: Biodiversity & Land Degradation

- Malaysia and United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity by *En. Khairus Masnan, Principal Assistant Secretary, Conservation and Environmental Management Division, NRE*
- Biodiversity Common Vision by *Mr. Christian Schriver, Chief Advisor of NRE/EPU Biodiversity Component*
- Wildlife Management in Sarawak by *Mr. Desmond Dick Cotter, Sarawak Forestry Corporation*
- Conservation & Documentation of Traditional Knowledge of Biological Resources by *Ms. Margarita Naming, Sarawak Biodiversity Centre*
- Conservation of Inland Fisheries & Implementation of *Tagang* System by *Hj. Musa Hj. Brahim, Department of Agriculture, Sarawak*

- Private Sector's Role in National Capacity Building for Biodiversity & Climate Change by *Ms. Noraini Hashim, BP Malaysia*
- Overview of UNCCD and Land Degradation in Malaysia by *En. Mustafa Kamal Baharuddin, Pengarah Bahagian Pengurusan dan Pemuliharaan Sumber Tanah, Jabatan Pertanian Malaysia*

Session 2: Land Degradation & Climate Change

- Malaysia and UNFCCC & Kyoto Protocol by *En. Shahril Faizal, Principal Assistant Secretary, Conservation and Environmental Management Division, NRE*
- First & Second National Communications to UNFCCC by *Ms. Lavanya Rama Iyer, National Project Coordinator, NC2*
- Sustainable Urban Development: Environmental Management System by *Mr. Peter Sawal, Natural Resource and Environment Board*
- Solid Waste Management in Sarawak by *Mr. Gerhard Aulbert, Trieneken (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd*
- Sustainable Land Development in Sarawak by *Hj Chaiti Bolhassan, Ministry of Land Development*
- Mitigation for Land Development by *Mr. Paul Chamberlin & Mr. Ten Wuan Ping, Natural Resources and Environment Board*

Participants were divided into three groups with each group given a case study to discuss how the points raised from the case study can be applied to Sarawak. The findings from the stakeholder consultative session were recorded in the NCSA Stocktaking Report and recommendations will be incorporated into the assessment phase of NCSA. ❁



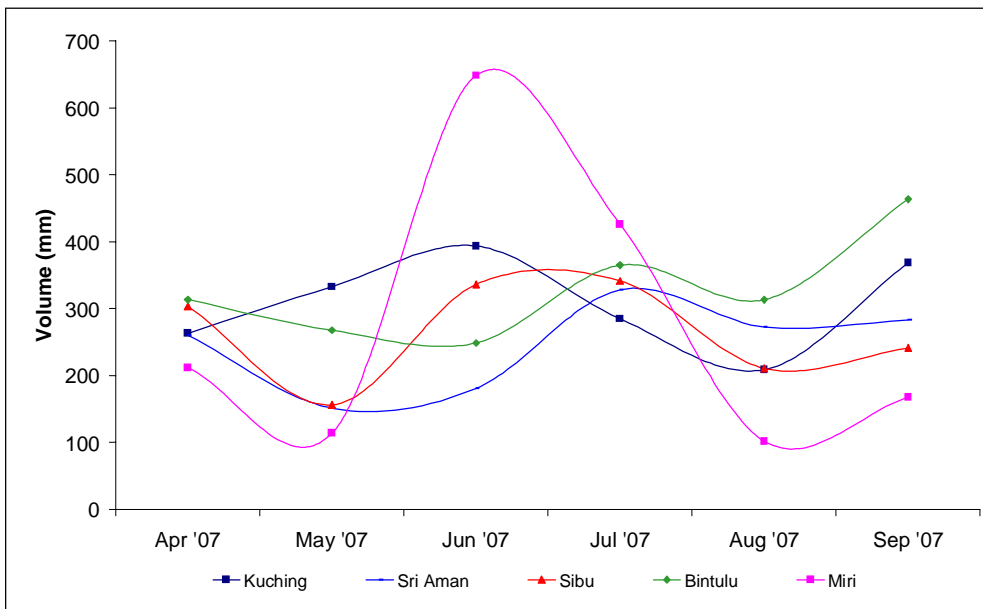
CHECK LIST OF THE TREES OF SARAWAK

The Checklist contains a total of 3,453 species, which is more than doubled the number in Anderson's Checklist. It is an essential reference material for foresters and researchers for tree identification. This Checklist is available for sale at RM29.00 per copy.

You can contact Mr. Rantai Jawa at 019-8345839 or Dr. Paul Chai at 082-445713 to place an order for this Checklist.

Buku bertajuk "*Checklist of the Trees of Sarawak*" sediaada untuk dijual pada RM29.00 senaskah. Sila hubungi Encik Rantai Jawa atau Dr. Paul Chai untuk membuat tempahan.

Rainfall : April - September '07 Kadar Hujan Bulanan



Source : Malaysian Meteorological Services.

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Published by : Sarawak Timber Association ■ **Diterbitkan oleh:** Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak
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