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STA dan Rakan2

Sarawak Delegation to Promote Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System in Japan

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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Group photo after meeting of Sarawak delegation, Japan Forestry Agency and Japan Lumber Importers' Association

Meeting between Sarawak Delegation, Japan Forestry Agency and Japan Lumber Importers' Association

A meeting chaired by Dato Sudarsono Osman, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment Sarawak (MRPE) was held on 17 October 2016 at Imperial Hotel, Tokyo. Among those present in the Meeting were representatives from Japan Forestry Agency (JFA) led by Mr Toshihiro Uchida, Senior Analyst – Wood Utilization Division; Mr Yuichi Sato, Executive Director of Japan Lumber Inspection & Research Association (JLIRA); members of Japan Lumber Importers' Association (JLIA) led by Mr Haruhiko Momose, Vice Chairman; and members of Sarawak Timber Association (STA) led by Dato Henry Lau Lee Kong, Honorary Secretary.

The main objective of this Meeting was to receive updates from

the officials of JFA and JLIA on the Japanese Law to promote the distribution and use of legally logged wood as well as the market situation in Japan since the last meeting in April 2016.

Ms Akane Nagahisa, Deputy Director – Wood Products Trade Office briefed participants of the Meeting on behalf of JFA. In late April 2016, the Japan National Parliament considered the new legislation which was then passed by Parliament and formulated on 20 May 2016. The Act is on the Promotion of the Use and Distribution of Legally Harvested Timber and Timber Products (in short known as Clean Wood Act). This Act will be implemented on 20 May 2017.

JFA explained that the Government is currently collecting information from major trading partners' countries on their relevant

(Continue on page 2)

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(Continue from page 1)

timber legality regulation and verification systems, which are to be taken into consideration when the Ministries are preparing the ministerial ordinance. JFA further explained that under the new Act, only companies selling products to very end consumers, for example home DIYs and departmental stores who bought products from wholesalers are excluded from the Act, which means they do not need to register with the Government.

Mr Kiyotake Okada, Executive Director of JLIA then briefed participants of the Meeting on the legality assurance practiced in Japan. The prime objective is to promote the use only legally harvested logs in Japan.



Briefing in Tokyo

Seminar on Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System in Japan

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) representing the State Government of Sarawak and STA jointly organised two (2) seminars, with the assistance from the JLIA in Japan at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo on 18 October 2016 and the Swissotel Nankai in Osaka on 19 October 2016. The 42-member of the Sarawak delegation led by Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Second Minister of Resource Planning and Environment & Minister of Industrial and Entrepreneur, Trade and Investment Sarawak was on a mission to disseminate information on the Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS) to all stakeholders, ranging from importers to end-users of timber and timber products in Japan.

The Second Minister of Resource Planning cum Environment & Minister of Industrial and Entrepreneur, Trade and Investment Sarawak in his welcoming

address at both venues reassured the participants of the Seminars that timber and timber products that are exported from Sarawak has gone through comprehensive timber legality verification system and are therefore legal.

The following four (4) topics were presented during the Seminars:-

Topic 1: "The Overview of the Sarawak Forestry and the Timber Industry" by Datu Sudarsono Osman, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment, Sarawak, Malaysia

Topic 2: "The Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS)" by Mr Hamden Mohammad, Deputy Director II, Forest Department Sarawak

Topic 3: "Sarawak Initiatives to Prevent Illegal Logging" by Mr Jack Liam, Deputy Director I, Forest Department Sarawak

Topic 4: "Intensified Conservation Undertakings in Sarawak" by Haji Zolkipli Aton, Deputy General Manager Deputy General Manager of Sustainable Forestry & Compliance Division, SARAWAK FORESTRY Corporation

Meeting with Five JLIA Members

Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Second Minister of Resource Planning and Environment & Minister of Industrial and Entrepreneur, Trade and Investment Sarawak met with five (5) JLIA members which were led by its Vice Chairman Mr Haruhiko Momose on 19 October 2016 immediately after the Seminar on STLVS.

The purpose of the Meeting was for the Minister to assure members of JLIA that timber and timber products from Sarawak are legal and sustainable and that the Sarawak Government is making its best effort to ensure no illegal timber is entering the supply chain under the STLVS. The Minister denied allegations made by a few Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) saying that the State forests were destroyed due to illegal logging

(Continue on page 3)

Did you know that.....



In the Nationally Determined Contribution document, it is hoped that the green house gas emission from the forestry sector can be lowered by 12.42% in 2030 compared to the total emission in 2013. The contribution from the energy sector is the largest at 15.87% follows by industrial (0.09%); agriculture (0.17%); and waste (0.6%). Based on the government's calculation, the emission from the forestry sector in 2030 is estimated at 714 million tons of carbon dioxide representing 25% of the emission from the five sectors. To lower the emissions, various aspects have been looked into such as slow down in deforestation and other forest industries.

Source: MTIB News Extracts (Vol.35/08/16)

Did you also know that....

Malaysia is fully committed to managing its forests sustainably. So says the country's minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar. Speaking at a UN conference on climate change in Marrakesh, Morocco, the minister stressed that Malaysia would protect its forests while it would also fulfill its commitments on tackling climate change.

Source: <http://cleanmalaysia.com/2016/11/19/wan-junaidi-malaysia-committed-saving-forests-2/>



(Continued from page 2)

and harvesting. He felt very strongly that JLIA and STA must work closely together to upkeep the market. He then proposed JLIA and STA to setup a committee for this purpose.

Visit to Flooring Factory

The Second Minister of Resource Planning and Environment, Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan led a delegation of nine (9) members from Sarawak to visit one of the biggest flooring factories in Osaka, Japan who utilises imported plywood from Sarawak on 19 October 2016.

This visit was organised in conjunction with the Sarawak Official Trip to promote Sarawak Timber

Legality Verification System (STLVS) in Japan from 16 to 20 October 2016. The visit allowed the Minister and members of the delegation to have a better understanding on how floor base plywood from Sarawak is used in producing flooring in Japan.



Group photo taken in the log pond of the flooring factory

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2nd Series of Discussion cum Field Visit to Members' Forest Plantations and Mill in Bintulu

The 2nd series of Discussion cum Field Visit to Members' Forest Plantations and Mill together with the Ministry of Resource Planning & Environment (MRPE) and State Forestry Agencies was held from 17 to 20 October 2016 in Bintulu.

The main objective of the programme is to ensure that all relevant persons from the Ministry and State Forestry Agencies who are involved in the forest plantation sector are aware of the current development of forest plantation, its successes, challenges as well as weaknesses. STA hopes that a common understanding can be reached amongst the Government and industry sector on the ways forward for the forest plantation industry in Sarawak.

A total of nine (9) representatives from MRPE, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and STA Secretariat participated in this trip.

The 2nd series of the programme was not only focused on the upstream activities of the tree



Field discussion

plantations but was also extended to the downstream processing and utilisation of plantation logs. In total, the group visited two (2) Licence for Planted Forests (LPFs) in Bintulu, i.e. LPF0043 Sarawak Planted Forest Sdn Bhd and LPF0003 Daiken Sarawak Sdn Bhd. The group also visited *Acacia* processing plant and door skin (fibreboard) plant at Magna-Foremost Sdn Bhd.

The group also had extensive discussions with each member company on the problems that they faced in various aspects of the forest plantation industry and the possible solutions were suggested.



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The Environmental Compliance Audit Training Course

The Part 2 of the Environmental Compliance Audit Training Course was successfully conducted from 24 to 28 October 2016 at Wisma STA, Kuching. Part 1 of the Training Course was held from 26 to 30 September 2016 at the same venue. This Training Course was coordinated and organised by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) together with Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB). It was attended by twenty two (22) participants from fourteen (14) STA member companies.

Part 2 of the Training Course was also conducted by Dr Chong Hock Guan, Consultant of CPD Borneo Sdn Bhd. In the Training, Dr Chong went through the audit report submitted by participants of the Training Course after having completed their environmental audit in Part 1. He emphasised that all audit reports must follow the format stipulated in the Guidelines on Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008, kept confidential as well as good codes of conduct and personnel attributes must be practised. Dr Chong also explained to participants of the Training Course on the Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008 together with various case studies on environmental compliance audit.

In the closing remarks delivered by Ms Annie Ting, Senior Manager of STA, she hoped that this Training Course has benefited all participants of the Training Course and that they will be able to apply the knowledge learnt in their works. This will help to improve the environmental compliance of their respective companies as well as moving towards self-regulation in environmental management.

On the last day, all participants of the Training Course sat for an examination to test their knowledge and understanding on the subject as it is one of the requirements to be fulfilled in order to qualify as an Internal Auditor.



Training in progress