



**PRESS STATEMENT  
(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)**

**16 MAY 2024**

**Mandatory Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) for Forestry Sector**

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) is proud to pioneer initiatives aimed at enhancing environmental stewardship within the forestry sector in conjunction with the upcoming implementation of mandatory Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA), effective 1 July 2024, as announced by the Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan.

STA has consistently demonstrated its commitment by actively encouraging forestry sector to uphold environmental regulations, particularly Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008 as administered by Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB).

As part of its ongoing commitment to improving environmental stewardship, STA had conducted a series of comprehensive Environmental Quality Monitoring (EQM) and ECA training sessions since 2015. Its training arm, STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), in collaboration with NREB and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, have organised training session on EQM from 15 to 16 May 2024, at Wisma STA, Kuching. The training session had a turnout of 36 participants, representing various timber players from the industry.

The training sessions successfully provided participants with essential skills in water sampling protocols, equipment handling, and identification of potential contaminants affecting water quality. Another EQM training session is scheduled to be conducted from 26 to 27 June 2024, aimed at equipping more timber players with the necessary knowledge and skills to smoothly transition into the actionable stage of ECA.

Individuals aspiring to become registered Environmental Auditors are required to fulfil the prerequisite of attending the ECA Training course and registering with NREB. This comprehensive ECA training course covers various audit methodologies and techniques essential for assessing environmental compliance. Participants will gain proficiency in understanding audit scope and process, as well as in planning and conducting on-site audits. Additionally, they will learn skills in data analysis and reporting findings. To meet this demand, STAT will offer the ECA training course in June 2024, providing participants with the requisite expertise to conduct comprehensive environmental audits.

Both EQM and ECA training courses are registered with HRD Corp and are claimable under the Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF). Timber industry players interested in participating in EQM or ECA training courses are encouraged to reach out to the STA Secretariat at 082-332222 for further information.

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**Ms Annie Ting**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Sarawak Timber Association**

Photos



*Associate Professor Dr. Tay Meng Guan, Trainer from UNIMAS demonstrating proper water sampling technique.*



*Group photo of participants of the training with Trainer, Associate Professor Dr Tay Meng Guan (seated, 5<sup>th</sup> from left), Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (seated, 5<sup>th</sup> from right) and Mr Halarry Nyambar, Environmental Control Officer in the Environmental Regulation Section (seated, 4<sup>th</sup> from right).*