

STA Review

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STA Forest Plantation Category Meeting No 1/2021 p.3

STA Panel Products Category Meeting No 1/2021 p.4

Sarawak Timber Industry Manpower & Safety
Stakeholder Engagement Session p.6

Briefing on Forest Licensee Portal p.8

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2021

CONTENTS

PAGE

STA REVIEW

<i>STA Forest Plantation Category Meeting No 1/2021</i>	3
<i>STA Forest Plantation Committee Meeting No 1/2021</i>	3
<i>STA Panel Products Category Meeting No 1/2021</i>	4
<i>Aggressive Industrial Forest Research & Development Programme</i>	5
<i>Forest Plantation Development Technical Committee Meeting No 1/2021</i>	5
<i>Sarawak Timber Industry Manpower & Safety Stakeholder Engagement Session 2021</i>	6
<i>MATRADE Sarawak: Webinar on PRIME Initiative</i>	7
<i>Briefing on Forest Licensee Portal</i>	8
<i>ASEAN-BAC Malaysia Virtual Dialogue</i>	9
<i>19th Meeting of APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging & Associated Trade</i>	10
<i>HRDF Introduces Employment Practice Liability Insurance & e-LATIH</i>	23
<i>Rescheduling of AGM 2021</i>	23
<i>Meeting on COVID-19 Monitoring Plan</i>	24

REGULAR FEATURES

<i>Statistics</i>	12
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STA Forest Plantation Category Meeting No 1/2021

The STA Forest Plantation Category Meeting No 1/2021 was convened on 4 February 2021 via video conferencing. The Meeting was updated on the progress of research and development projects funded by STA and forest plantation development in Sarawak.

The Meeting elected the new committee members for a 2-year term (2020 & 2021) as listed below:

Chairman : Mr Peter Ling Kwong Hung
Vice Chairman : Mr Joseph Lau Ching Hoo (Alternate: Mr Collin Goh Tee Khiang)
Honorary Secretary : Datuk Amar Abdul Hamed Bin Haji Sepawi (Alternate: Mr Ling Tiing Tchin)
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Mr Ling Chii Huo (Alternate: Mr Ting Jack Hui)
Mr Tiang Chiin Yew (Alternate: Mr Yii Puan Ching)

STA 人工造林小组于2021年2月4日召开线上会议，并推选新的委员会成员，任期两年（2020年和2021年）。会议接纳由本会资助的多项研究与发展项目报告以及砂森林人工造林发展的最新动态。

Mesyuarat Kategori Perladangan Hutan STA Bil 1/2021 telah diadakan pada 4 Februari 2021 melalui persidangan video. Mesyuarat melantik ahli-ahli jawatankuasa baru untuk penggal 2 tahun (2020 & 2021). Mesyuarat telah menerima kemaskini mengenai perkembangan kajian dan pembangunan projek yang ditaja oleh STA dan pembangunan ladang hutan di Sarawak.

STA Forest Plantation Committee Meeting No 1/2021

The Chairman of STA Forest Plantation Committee, Mr Peter Ling Kwong Hung, chaired the first Committee Meeting this year on 25 February 2021 via video conferencing.

The Meeting received reports on matters affecting the forest plantation industry such as standing tree volumes for royalty assessment of planted timbers, forest licensee portal introduced by Forest Department Sarawak, enforcement of *The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015*, mandatory COVID-19 screening for all foreign workers, amendment to the *Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446)*, etc.

The Meeting also evaluated three (3) progress reports received for the STA-funded research and development projects, namely (i) Quality Kalampayan Research Project (Phase 1); (ii) Scale-up Production of Kelampayan Research Project; and (iii) *Falcataria moluccana* Research Project (Phase 2).

砂拉越木材公会人工林小组委员会主席林光训先生于2021年2月25日主持该委员会本年度第一次线上会议。会议接纳相关影响人工林企业的项目报告，并评估3份由本会资助的研究与发展项目的进度报告。

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Perladangan Hutan STA, Encik Peter Ling Kwong Hung, telah mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa pertama tahun ini pada 25 Februari 2021 melalui persidangan video.

Mesyuarat menerima laporan mengenai perkara-perkara yang mempengaruhi industri perladangan hutan dan juga menilai 3 laporan perkembangan terkini bagi projek-projek penyelidikan dan pembangunan yang dibiayai oleh STA.

STA Panel Products Category Meeting No 1/2021

The STA Panel Products Category members met on 18 February 2021 via video conferencing. The Meeting elected the new committee members for a 2-year term (2020 & 2021) as listed below:

Chairman : Dato' Sri Patrick Wong Haw Yeong
Vice Chairman : Mr James Ling Lu Kiong
Honorary Secretary : Mr Paul Wong Siu Nang (Alternate: Mr Desmond Kang Dai Yiing)
Honorary Treasurer : Mr Stephen Lau Lee Kiong (Alternate: Mr Kenny Law Hui Kong)

Committee Members:

Dato Wong Kuo Hea (Alternate: Mr Charlie Tan Ming Nguong)
Mr Hitoshi Miyamoto (Alternate: Mr Wong Suk Chiew)
Mr John Lau Hui Siew
Mr Ling Chiong Sing (Alternate: Mr Alvin Yii Heng Kee)
Mr Vincent Chieng Ai Ung (Alternate: Mr Eric Kang Kun Wee)



Meeting in progress

STA合板/人造板小组会员于2021年2月18日召开了线上视频会议。会议选举了任期两年(2020年和2021年)的新委员会成员。会议讨论影响会员们运作的相关问题。由于该业者受到高特许权使用费率的严重影响,会议建议一旦新冠肺炎疫情的情况有所改善,可安排合板委员会与砂州首长见面以传达严峻的形势,并讨论为该业提供帮助的策略。

The Meeting discussed pertinent issues which are affecting their operations such as restriction on the importation of ordinary plywood for thickness of 6mm and above into Sarawak which took effect on 18 April 2019; amendment to the Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446); imposition of anti-dumping duty on Sarawak plywood by the South Korean Government; implementation of the Environmental Quality (Clean Air) Regulations 2014 which requires the Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS) to be installed, etc.

As the industry is heavily impacted by high royalty rate, the Meeting also proposed that the Panel Products Committee to meet up with the Chief Minister of Sarawak to convey the grave situation and discuss strategies that could assist the industry, once the COVID-19 pandemic condition improves.

The Meeting also discussed and agreed to continue participation in the next Tri-Nation Joint Meeting (Indonesia-Japan-Malaysia) which is held every year and hosted by the 3 nations on rotation.

Ahli-ahli Kategori Produk Panel STA bermesyuarat pada 18 Februari 2021 melalui persidangan video. Mesyuarat melantik ahli-ahli jawatankuasa baru untuk penggal 2 tahun (2020 & 2021). Mesyuarat membincangkan pelbagai isu berkaitan yang menjejaskan operasi mereka.

Disebabkan industri terjejas teruk oleh kadar royalti yang tinggi, Mesyuarat mencadangkan Jawatankuasa Produk Panel untuk bertemu dengan Ketua Menteri Sarawak bagi menyampaikan situasi tersebut serta membincangkan langkah-langkah yang boleh diambil untuk membantu industri, setelah keadaan wabak COVID-19 bertambah baik.

Aggressive Industrial Forest Research & Development Programme

In conjunction with the Seminar on Industrial Forest Plantation 2020 held on 4-5 November 2020 at Pullman Hotel, Miri, the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) had signed a total of thirteen (13) Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) on Aggressive Industrial Forest Research and Development (R&D) Programme with 13 License for Planted Forests (LPF) holders. This 10-year R&D programme from 2021 to 2030 aims to address overall issues, especially the lack of R&D support in Sarawak, to ensure the success of the planted forest sector.

R&D Framework 2021-2030: Aggressive Industrial Forest R&D Programme	
01	Taxa-Seed Source & Progeny Trials
02	Genetic Improvement for <i>Acacia crassicarpa</i>
03	Genetic Improvement for <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp
04	Potential Indigenous spp as an Alternative spp for ITP

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) and a Project Technical Committee (PTC) comprising representatives from Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources, FDS, LPF holders and STA have been established to monitor and manage the R&D programme. The 1st PTC Meeting, chaired by Director of Forests, Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, was held on 22 February 2021 via online platform to (i) brief and discuss the

project's framework and planning; (ii) endorse the Terms of Reference for the PSC and PTC; and (iii) nominate representatives in the PSC and PTC.

Under the R&D programme, FDS will provide expertise, advices and training to the LPF holders; and LPF holders are required to play their roles in accordance with the terms and conditions of the MOU signed with FDS.

砂州政府推广积极工业森林研究与发展(R&D)项目，并建立一个由城市发展和天然资源部，砂拉越森林局(FDS)，人工林许可证(LPF)持有人和STA的代表组成的项目指导委员会(PSC)和项目技术委员会(PTC)，以监督和管理该R&D项目。PTC本年度首次会议于2021年2月22日在线上召开，并由FDS局长拿督哈姆登主持。

Satu Jawatankuasa Pemandu Projek (PSC) dan Jawatankuasa Teknikal Projek (PTC) yang terdiri daripada wakil-wakil Kementerian Pembangunan Bandar dan Sumber Asli, Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS), pemegang Lesen untuk Ladang Hutan (LPF) dan STA telah ditubuhkan untuk memantau dan menguruskan Program Pembangunan dan Penyelidikan (R&D) Hutan Perindustrian Agresif. Mesyuarat PTC yang pertama telah dipengerusikan oleh Pengarah Hutan, Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad pada 22 Februari 2021 melalui persidangan video.

Forest Plantation Development Technical Committee Meeting No 1/2021

The Forest Plantation Development Technical Committee Meeting No 1/2021 was held on 10 February 2021 via video conferencing. The Meeting was chaired by Mr Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, Director General of Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB).

The Meeting also invited Ms Siti Syaliza, Senior Manager (Forest Management) of Malaysian Timber Certification Council to brief on certification in forest plantation.

人工造林发展技术委员会于2021年2月10日通过线上视频召开了2021年首次会议。该会议由马来西亚木材工业局(MTIB)总监凯鲁丁先生主持。

The Meeting received proposal from the Forest Research Institute Malaysia for Meranti Temak Nipis (*Shorea roxburghii* G. Don) to be included as one of the species under the Forest Plantation Development Programme (FPDP). The Meeting resolved to conduct a site visit before deciding to recommend the proposal to the Steering Committee for consideration.

Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Teknikal Pembangunan Ladang Hutan Bil. 1/2021 telah diadakan pada 10 Februari 2021 melalui persidangan video. Mesyuarat dipengerusikan oleh Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, Ketua Pengarah Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia (MTIB).

The Meeting also agreed to shorten the soft loan period to fifteen (15) years instead of twenty (20) years for all forest species except rubber. The soft loan facility is provided by MTIB, through Forest Plantation Development Sdn Bhd, to the companies that are eligible to participate in the FPDP.

Sarawak Timber Industry Manpower & Safety Stakeholder Engagement Session 2021

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) organised a “Sarawak Timber Industry Manpower & Safety Stakeholder Engagement Session 2021” on 2 February 2021 through video conferencing. Representatives from the Office of the Chief Minister of Sarawak, Department of Immigration Sarawak, Department of Labour Sarawak, Department of Occupational, Safety and Health (DOSH) Sarawak, Social Security Organisation Sarawak, STIDC, STA as well as STA members attended the online session.

Tuan Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, General Manager of STIDC, in his welcoming remarks, stated that the objective of the session was to share information on the recruitment processes and requirements of foreign workers and expatriates, understand the procedures of occupational, safety and health at the workplace and the way forward for the timber industry in Sarawak. He also encouraged the industry players to go into automation to reduce dependency on foreign workers.

Several presenters were invited to share on the following topics:

- **Monitoring System of Employment of Non-Sarawakian (MSEN) - Management of Application for Letter of Approval in Principle (AP) and Licence to Employ Under Section 119 of Labour Ordinance Sarawak**

by Tuan Haji Rahman Bin Haji Masa'at, Senior Assistant Director, Department of Labour Sarawak

Tuan Haji Rahman presented the online system MSEN for employers to submit their applications for AP and Licence to Employ Non-Resident Employee. He explained the process of how an employer could apply and obtain a licence from the Department, documents to be submitted and responsibilities of the employer.

- **Procedure for the Recruitment of Foreign Worker in Sarawak**

by Mr Chew Teck Long, Deputy Assistant Director, Department of Immigration Sarawak

Mr Chew spoke on the latest procedures of foreign workers' recruitment in Sarawak, levy and penalty fee charges as well as current policies on foreign workers' recruitment. He also provided a brief background and the roles of the Department.

- **Procedure for the Recruitment of Expatriates and Professional Visit Pass**

by Mr Sapiee Bin Mohd Nawei, Deputy Assistant Director, Department of Immigration Sarawak

Mr Sapiee provided the guidelines of applying for Employment Pass for Expatriates and Professional

Visit Pass of Sarawak including eligibility criteria, payment rates, penalty charges and work rights.

- **Supporting Process on the Employment for Foreign Workers and Expatriates for the Logging Sector and Timber Industry**

by Mr Abdul Wafi Bin Abdul Rani, Resource Planning Division (Industrial Training and Manpower Section) Manager, STIDC

According to Mr Abdul Wafi, the role of his Section is to monitor the development and manpower needs of the timber industry in Sarawak. He also touched on the importance of providing relevant supporting documents to the Department of Labour Sarawak and Department of Immigration Sarawak when applying or renewing work permits for foreign workers and expatriates.

- **Enforcement Directions in the Timber Sector 2021**

by Ms Adeline Anak Inau, Factory and Machinery Inspector, DOSH Sarawak

Ms Adeline shared briefly the background of DOSH Sarawak, and presented the statistics on OSH compliance in the timber industry and enforcement directives by the Government. She also shared the way forward and target set by DOSH on the OSH training module for the timber industry.

- **Manpower Building in the Timber Industry in Sarawak**

by Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA

Ms Ting stressed on the need for hiring policy of foreign workers to be conducive and highlighted several persisting issues faced by the industry. These issues included (i) effectiveness of MSEN; (ii) submission of documents in both hard and soft copies; (iii) requirements for recruiting foreign workers or reassigning them to a new workplace; (iv) Federal Government's decision to legalise undocumented foreign workers; (v) permit extension for foreign workers; and (vi) mandatory COVID-19 screening for foreign workers.

She also expressed the industry's grave concern that there are inconsistencies between the Federal and Sarawak Government when implementing policies or directives. The communication and implementation gaps have left the industry clouded in uncertainties, and thus deterring all stakeholders from moving forward. She strongly urged both Governments to work in synchronisation, as well as to review and improve existing policies which are holding the industry back from being cost efficient and competitive in the global market.

The presenters then joined a panel discussion to address issues highlighted and questions posed throughout the session. The panel discussion was moderated by Mr Jack Meredu Ak Ko, Special Administrative Officer of the Chief Minister's Office. According to Mr Jack, it is the Sarawak Government's ongoing initiative to review policies, guidelines and processes based on critical needs and requirements. Stakeholder engagement such as this is important to know what is critical for the operation and survival of the industry. He also said that any matters considered should always take into account aspects of security, economic and social issues.

砂拉越木材工业发展机构 (STIDC) 于2021年2月2日通过视频举办“2021年砂拉越木材工业人力和安全利益相关者交流会”。STIDC 总经理哈兹哈欣先生致欢迎辞中称该会议的目的是分享有关外国劳工和外籍人士的招聘过程和要求的资讯，了解职场的职业安全和健康程序以及砂拉越木材工业的发展方向。

Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) menganjurkan “Sesi Penglibatan Pemegang Taruh mengenai Keselamatan dan Tenaga Kerja Industri Perakayuan Sarawak 2021” pada 2 Februari 2021 melalui persidangan video. Tuan Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, Pengurus Besar STIDC, dalam ucapan alu-aluannya, menyatakan bahawa objektif sesi ini adalah untuk berkongsi maklumat mengenai proses pengambilan dan keperluan pekerja asing dan ekspatriat, memahami prosedur keselamatan dan kesihatan pekerjaan di tempat kerja dan langkah ke hadapan untuk industri perakayuan di Sarawak.

MATRADE Sarawak: Webinar on PRIME Initiative

On 23 February 2021, the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, in collaboration with MYNIC Berhad, organised a webinar on an initiative called Program Realisasi Impian Ekonomi Digital (PRIME). The webinar was attended by both the public and private sectors including STA.

PRIME was launched virtually on 27 November 2020 by the Minister of Communications and Multimedia, Dato' Seri Saifuddin Abdullah. PRIME is aimed to drive digital adoption among the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector and increase the competitiveness of SMEs in the country.

Under this initiative, a new '.biz.my' domain category is introduced to help SMEs to begin their digital transformation journey. With the '.biz.my' integrated to a domain name, businesses are able to have a unique identity and strong branding of being from Malaysia. Apart from this, businesses can gain competitive advantage

as higher search engine optimisation value will enable visitors with a local domain to be prioritised and ensuring improved online visibility. In addition, the credibility and security of a website will be greatly increased. Meanwhile, MYNIC Berhad is also offering a service known as 'GO2 Brand' which provides alternatives to businesses without websites to communicate with potential customers through Facebook, Google Map, Instagram, Telegram, WhatsApp, etc.

Providing Malaysian organisations and individuals with a unique brand identity on the Internet, MYNIC Berhad is the official '.my' domain registry recognised by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). ICANN is an international, non-profit organisation responsible for coordinating, at the overall level, the global Internet's systems of unique identifiers, and to ensure the stable and secure operation of these systems. For more information on PRIME, visit <http://mynic.my/prime>

马来西亚对外贸易发展机构与 MYNIC Berhad 合作于2021年2月23日举办名为实现数字经济梦想 (PRIME) 计划的线上研讨会。研讨会获得本会及公共和私营界参加。

PRIME于2020年11月27日由通信和多媒体部长拿督斯里赛夫丁在线上主持推展礼。PRIME旨在推动中小型企业 (SME) 采用数码技术，并提高国内中小型企业的竞争力。

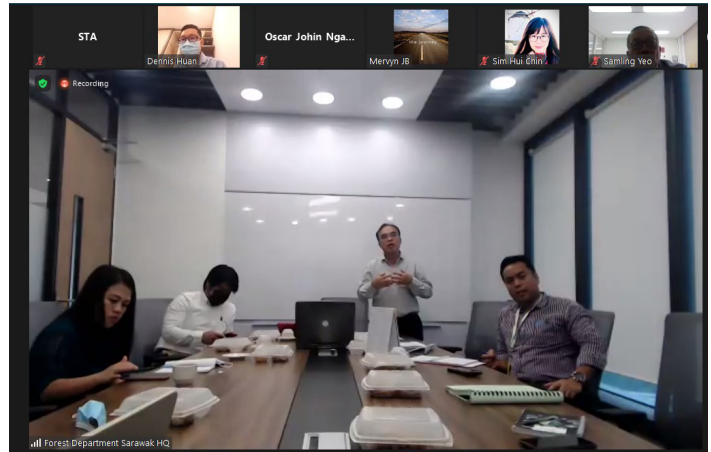
Pada 23 Februari 2021, Perbadanan Pembangunan Perdagangan Luar Malaysia telah bekerjasama dengan MYNIC Berhad untuk menganjurkan webinar mengenai inisiatif Program Realisasi Impian Ekonomi Digital (PRIME). Webinar dihadiri oleh kedua-dua sektor awam dan swasta termasuk STA.

PRIME telah dilancarkan secara maya pada 27 November 2020 oleh Menteri Komunikasi dan Multimedia, Dato' Seri Saifuddin Abdullah. PRIME bertujuan untuk memacu adaptasi digital dalam kalangan sektor perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) serta meningkatkan daya saing PKS di dalam negara.

Briefing on Forest Licensee Portal

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) organised a Briefing on the Forest Licensee Portal via video conferencing on 22 February 2021. The Briefing was attended by STA and a few timber licensees from the Northern region of Sarawak who submit daily production return and royalty assessment applications to Long Lama and Central Base Camp (CTB) Forest One Stop Checking Centres (FOSCCs).

The main purpose of this Briefing was to introduce and share Sarawak Government's initiative to facilitate online transaction and interaction between timber licensees and FDS via the Portal. The Portal, developed by Sarawak Information Systems Sdn Bhd (SAINS) would allow timber licensees to submit their applications online to FDS.



Mr Semilan Ripot of FDS enlightened the participants on the Forest Licensee Portal

Mr Abang Ahmad Abang Morni, Deputy Director of Forest II, in his welcoming remarks, shared that the Portal is one of the Department's efforts to process and approve applications which are currently submitted to FOSCC online, as well as to facilitate the issuance of Removal Pass Transit.

Mr Mervyn Jim Brooke of SAINS briefed the participants on the Portal's layout. According to him, before timber licensees can gain access and benefits from the Portal, they need to register as an Administrator by submitting prerequisite documents, along with a Sarawak ID account to FDS Headquarters for further processing. As of date, the Portal consists of six (6) features, namely (i) Worker Registration; (ii) Management Personnel; (iii) User Administration; (iv) Bill Listing; (v) Daily Production Return; and (vi) Royalty Assessment.

Mr Semilan Ripot, Head of Revenue and Data Management Division of FDS, mentioned that a trial run of the Portal will be conducted at respective forest timber licences under Long Lama and CTB FOSCCs in early March 2021, prior to the full deployment of the system statewide in May 2021. This is vital so that users, both from FDS and timber licensees are able to familiarise and better understand the operations of the Portal.

砂拉越森林局 (FDS) 于2021年2月22日举办森林许可证网站线上简报会。该简报会获得本会和砂拉越北部地区向隆拉马和 Central Base Camp (CTB) 森林一站式检查中心 (FOSCCs) 提交每日生产报告和特许权使用费评估申请的一些木材许可证持有人的参与。

简报会的目的是介绍砂州政府通过网站进行在线交易以及促进木材许可证持有人与 FDS 的交流的倡议。该网站是由砂拉越资讯系统有限公司 (SAINS) 开发，允许木材许可证持有人在线上向 FDS 提交申请。

Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) telah mengadakan Taklimat mengenai Portal Pemegang Lesen Hutan melalui persidangan video pada 22 Februari 2021. Taklimat dihadiri oleh STA dan beberapa pemegang lesen hutan daripada kawasan utara Sarawak yang menghantar Daily Production Return dan permohonan taksiran royalti kepada Long Lama dan Central Base Camp (CTB) Forest One Stop Checking Centres (FOSCCs).

Matlamat utama Taklimat ini adalah untuk memperkenalkan dan berkongsi mengenai inisiatif Kerajaan Sarawak untuk memudahkan transaksi atas talian serta interaksi di antara pemegang lesen hutan dan FDS melalui Portal tersebut. Portal yang dibangunkan oleh Sarawak Information Systems Sdn Bhd (SAINS) akan membolehkan pemegang lesen hutan menghantar permohonan mereka secara atas talian kepada FDS.

ASEAN-BAC Malaysia Virtual Dialogue

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) was formed following the decision of the ASEAN Leaders in 2001 with the mandate to provide private sector feedback and guidance to boost ASEAN's efforts towards economic integration. Activities of ASEAN-BAC are mainly focused on reviewing and identifying issues to facilitate and promote economic cooperation and integration. ASEAN-BAC Malaysia is a vital participant in the regional ASEAN-BAC with regular presence in meetings and consultations with other leaders.

On 22 February 2021, ASEAN-BAC Malaysia organised a virtual dialogue consisting of three (3) sessions to consolidate feedback from the private sector for its Pathway for Malaysia 2021 Report. The virtual dialogue was hosted by ASEAN-BAC Deputy Executive Director and ASEAN-BAC Malaysia Supervisor, Ms Jukhee Hong, and chaired by ASEAN-BAC Malaysia Chairman and Council Member, Tan Sri Dato' Dr Munir Majid. The first session was attended by trade associations and chambers of commerce including STA, the second with professional bodies, and the third with foreign associations and business councils in Malaysia.

The Pathway for Malaysia 2021 Report is produced in line with "A Pathway to Recovery and Hope for ASEAN (Pathway 225) Report", submitted to the ASEAN Leaders Summit held on 26 June 2020. The Pathway 225 Report consists of proposals addressing immediate and long-term measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic suggested by over thirty (30) business councils, industry associations and collaborators from ASEAN member

states, dialogue partner countries and regions, including China, Japan, India, Australia, New Zealand, the European Union, the United States, Canada and Russia.

Topics discussed during the virtual dialogue included ways the Government can help Malaysian businesses to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, gaining opportunities present in the ASEAN market in a post COVID-19 world, and how to fully benefit from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) market.

At the dialogue, ASEAN-BAC Malaysia Council Member Tan Sri Yong Poh Kon was in agreement with the requests from the trade and manufacturing associations to expedite ratification of trade agreements such as RCEP and Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) in order to take early advantage of new trade and investment opportunities, especially in a post-pandemic environment. Meanwhile, Tan Sri Dato' Dr Munir Majid also encouraged the private sector to look up the Pathway Report 225 Report on the website, cariasean.org, and identify initiatives that they might want to take part in. He also urged the Government to advocate these initiatives in the ASEAN's post-pandemic economic recovery process.

The Pathway for Malaysia 2021 Report comprising recommendations compiled from trade associations, chambers of commerce, professional bodies as well as foreign associations and business councils in Malaysia will be presented at the upcoming ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting 2021.

马来西亚东盟商务咨询理事会于2021年2月22日举办了一项由三个会议组成的线上对话会，以结合私营企业对其《马来西亚发展报告2021》的反馈。该线上对话会由东盟商务咨询理事会副执行董事兼马来西亚东盟商务咨询理事会监督方若琪小姐主持，并由马来西亚东盟商业咨询理事会主席兼理事会会员丹斯里拿督慕尼尔博士带领。贸易协会和商会包括本会参加了第一个会议、专业机构参与第二个会议，而在马来西亚的外国协会和商业理事会则参加第三个会议。

线上对话会所讨论的课题包括政府如何帮助马来西亚企业从新冠肺炎疫情中恢复，在新冠肺炎疫情后的世界中获得东盟市场上的机会以及如何从区域全面经济伙伴关系协定 (RCEP) 市场中充分受益。

Pada 22 Februari 2021, ASEAN-BAC Malaysia telah mengadakan dialog virtual yang terdiri daripada 3 sesi untuk mengumpul maklum balas daripada sektor swasta bagi Laporan Pathway for Malaysia 2021. Dialog maya dikendalikan oleh Timbalan Pengarah Eksekutif ASEAN-BAC dan Penyelia ASEAN-BAC Malaysia, Cik Jukhee Hong serta dipengerusikan oleh Pengerusi dan Ahli Majlis ASEAN-BAC Malaysia, Tan Sri Dato' Dr Munir Majid. Sesi pertama dihadiri oleh persatuan perdagangan dan dewan perniagaan termasuk STA, sesi kedua bersama badan professional, serta sesi ketiga bersama persatuan dan majlis perniagaan asing di Malaysia.

Tajuk yang dibincangkan semasa dialog termasuk cara-cara Kerajaan boleh membantu perniagaan di Malaysia untuk memulih dari wabak COVID-19, mencapai peluang yang wujud di pasaran ASEAN pasca COVID-19, serta bagaimana mendapat manfaat sepenuhnya daripada Perjanjian Perkongsian Ekonomi Komprehensif Serantau (RCEP).

The 19th Meeting of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (APEC EGILAT-19) was held via online platform on 19 and 20 February 2021. The meeting, chaired by Ms Emma Hatcher, EGILAT Chair for 2020-2021, saw a total of seventeen (17) economies participating in the event.

In the introduction of APEC New Zealand 2021 *“Theme and Priorities”*, Ms Anna Tyler mentioned that New Zealand has officially launched its 2021 APEC theme *“Join, Work, Grow. Together”*, and shared the key priorities for APEC 2021 which are (i) Economic and Trade Policies that Strengthen Recovery; (ii) Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery; and (iii) Pursuing Innovation and a Digitally-Enabled Recovery. New Zealand will facilitate the agreement on the implementation plan for Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Mr Febby Andryananto of APEC Secretariat provided updates on the Achievements of APEC 2020 where APEC leaders issued the Kuala Lumpur Declaration and launched the new APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 at the 27th APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting on 20 November 2020. With the Putrajaya Vision, APEC leaders envision an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all of the people and future generations. He also informed that on 16 November 2020, APEC Ministers issued the Joint Ministerial Statement of 31st APEC Ministerial Meeting 2020. He shared that the Ministerial Statement has a reference on ‘illegal logging and associated trade’ as follows:

“We remain focused on the need to promote responsible resources management, including ocean conservation and the sustainable use of marine and forest resources. We note the work on combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, illegal logging and associated trade, as well as addressing marine debris.”

During the exchange of information relating to combatting illegal logging and promoting trade in legal forest products, countries such as New Zealand, Australia, the United States (US), China and Japan shared updates on their existing efforts and domestic work. Australia informed that the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012* is due to sunset on 1 April 2023. The review of the regulation will commence in mid-2021 with public consultation to seek inputs from all key stakeholders including the APEC economies. They also shared the timber testing pilot program in 2020 in which they undertook technological trials of DNA analysis to determine timber species and chemical isotope analysis to determine origin of timber species.

Japan shared that, in 2020, the total value of Japan’s wood import dropped by 19% from previous year due to decline in domestic demand and global supply shortage caused by COVID-19 pandemic. The volume of imports also declined for each product category, i.e. 24% for roundwood, 13% for sawntimber and 13% for plywood. They revealed that, in 2020, the European Union became the largest wood exporting country to Japan in value, exceeding China for the first time. Japan also shared the current status of Clean Wood Act where the number of registered wood-related business entities reached 528 as of January 2021. The Japanese Government has established a website, <http://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/j/royou/goho/index.html>, called the Clean Wood Navi to provide information on the current situation of law enforcement in wood producing countries.

China covered their domestic law enforcement and executive management on the Forest Law of the People’s Republic of China which came into force on 1 July 2020. They shared on Article 65 of the Forest Law which mentioned that any timber operating or processing enterprise shall keep a record book for entry and exit of raw materials and products of woods. No organisation or individual may purchase, process or transport timbers that he/she clearly knows is illegally felled.

In 2014, EGILAT members agreed to develop the Timber Legality Guidance templates (TLGT), to promote the trade in legally harvested forest products within the APEC region. As of February 2021, a total of ten (10) economies provided their TLGT to the APEC Secretariat. The 10 economies are Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, China, Australia, Chile, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei and the US. These TLGT can be downloaded from <https://www.apec.org/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation/Working-Groups/Illegal-Logging-and-Associated-Trade>

There was also a sharing session by Ms Syaliza Mustapha of Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) on how COVID-19 has impacted certification / audit / compliance activities and the solutions implemented to overcome these disruptions; and Ms Cindy Squire, Executive Director of International Wood Products Association, on the impact of COVID-19 from the industry’s perspective.

Three (3) economies, namely Australia, the US and New Zealand, provided updates on the EGILAT policy theme *“Advancing the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products”* as below:

on Illegal Logging & Associated Trade

- Australia covered the progress of the EGILAT policy theme including intersessional work undertaken and next steps. The topic focuses on identification of issues faced by private sector entities in trading in legal wood products and potential actions to support the trade in legally harvested forest products. The 3rd workshop will be held from 28 to 29 April 2021 via online platform. The objectives of this workshop is to engage business practitioners who are dealing with timber legality realities on a daily basis and to work with stakeholders to develop future work programme;
- The US provided updates on the EGILAT Project “*Advancing the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products in the APEC Region*”, approach to its second stakeholder dialogue and progress of the industry survey; and
- New Zealand and APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) delivered an update on the “*Compendium of Resources for the Facilitation of the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products in the APEC Region*”. The compendium of resources is to identify the existing resources, tools and materials to facilitate the trade in legal forest products. This documentation will also provide framework to review and compile existing resources that best able to guide and assist timber operators in conducting trade in legally harvested products. The PSU has drafted the compendium and distributed for members’ comment on 8 January 2021.

There were also presentations from International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), Forest Trends and World Resources Institute. ITTO Director of Operations, Ms Sheam Satkuru, presented ITTO’s activities carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic, contributions from the Organisation’s various projects, programmes and activities, and the outcomes of the 56th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council. Among other things, the impact of COVID-19 on the forest and timber industry sectors was of interest to member economies.

The APEC 2022 host economy, Thailand, briefed the EGILAT members on the plan to host the 5th Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry (MMRF) on 5 August 2022. The MMRF is a high-level policy dialogue that encourages greater cooperation in addressing regional challenges and opportunities, including forest cover increase, illegal logging and climate change mitigation.

第19届亚太经济合作组织非法采伐与相关贸易专家小组会议 (APEC EGILAT-19) 于2021年2月19日至20日举行。共有17个经济国出席此线上会议，并由2020-2021年 EGILAT 主席艾玛·哈彻小姐主持。

安娜·泰勒小姐介绍 2021 APEC 纽西兰主题和优先事项时称纽西兰已正式启动2021年 APEC 主题 “加入，工作，成长·一起”，和分享 APEC 2021 主要优先事项，即 (i) 加强复苏的经济和贸易政策；(ii) 提高包容性和恢复的可持续性；以及 (iii) 追求创新和数字化恢复。纽西兰将协助《2040年布城愿景》实施计划达成协议。纽西兰、澳洲、美国，中国和日本在资讯交流时段分享他们目前在打击非法伐木并促进合法林产品贸易所做的努力和国内工作。

Mesyuarat ke-19 Kumpulan Pakar mengenai Pembalakan Haram dan Perdagangan Bersekutu Kerjasama Ekonomi Asia Pasifik (APEC EGILAT-19) telah diadakan secara atas talian pada 19 dan 20 Februari 2021. Mesyuarat dipengerusikan oleh Cik Emma Hatcher, Pengerusi EGILAT 2020-2021 dan menyaksikan seramai 17 ekonomi menyertai acara ini.

Dalam pengenalan “*Tema dan Keutamaan*” APEC New Zealand 2021, Cik Anna Tyler menyatakan bahawa New Zealand secara rasmi melancarkan tema APEC 2021 “*Gabung, Kerja, Kembang. Bersama*”, dan berkongsi keutamaan APEC 2021 iaitu (i) Dasar Ekonomi dan Perdagangan yang Memperkukuhkan Pemulihan; (ii) Meningkatkan Inklusi dan Kelestarian untuk Pemulihan; dan (iii) Mengetengahkan Pemulihan berasaskan Inovasi dan Digital. New Zealand akan mempermudah perjanjian mengenai rancangan pelaksanaan untuk Wawasan 2040 Putrajaya. Semasa sesi pertukaran maklumat berkaitan dengan memerangi pembalakan haram dan mempromosikan perdagangan produk hutan yang sah, negara-negara seperti New Zealand, Australia, Amerika Syarikat, China dan Jepun masing-masing berkongsi mengenai usaha dan kerja domestik terkini mereka.

HRDF Introduces Employment Practice Liability Insurance & e-LATiH

The Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) organised a virtual meeting on 9 February 2021 with its registered employers to introduce and share information about the Employment Practice Liability Insurance (EPLI) and e-LATiH.

EPLI is an insurance programme provided by designated policy insurers aiming to assist and protect HRDF registered employers by providing costs coverage for potential wrongful dismissal compensation claims by employee(s). HRDF is the facilitator of this insurance programme. Ms Tuty Binti Bujang, Regional Manager of HRDF, shared that HRDF is offering registered employers a one-time HRD levy deduction to pay for the EPLI premium of RM1,500 per policy with coverage period from January 2021 until December 2021. The benefits of EPLI include (i) 12 months claim period; (ii) RM200,000 per employer (up to RM100,000 per claim); (iii) RM20,000 legal costs coverage; (iv) RM20,000 settlement through mediation cost coverage; (v) settlement coverage including back pay, future pay and punitive damage subject to a Court Award being issued following wrongful dismissal; and (vi) run-off cover up to 6 years.

Employers registered with HRDF are advised to submit their feedback whether they consent or decline the offer to subscribe to EPLI latest by **15 March 2021**. Ms Tuty further shared that if 75% of registered employers agree to the subscription of EPLI, it shall be mandatory for all registered employers to subscribe to this insurance programme and an automatic deduction from the HRD levy will therefore be made. She added that the renewal of EPLI could be done by using one's own fund to pay to the policy insurer. For more information on EPLI, visit <https://www.hrdf.com.my/epli/>

For any enquiries on EPLI, email to Ms Tuty Binti Bujang at support_sarawak@hrdf.com.my or tuty@hrdf.com.my.

As for e-LATiH, it is an online learning platform that offers all Malaysian unlimited free access to more than 200 skills development and educational courses customised to the needs of the Malaysian industries. Courses offered cover subjects such as digitisation, financial skills, health and safety, leadership, programming, project management, sustainability, etc. To register and access the free online training courses, visit <https://elatih.hrdf.com.my>

For any enquiries on e-LATiH, email to elatih@hrdf.com.my

EPLI是由指定保险公司提供的一项保险计划，旨在通过为员工潜在不当解雇补偿索赔提供费用保障来协助和保护 HRDF 的注册雇主。至于 e-LATiH 则是一个为所有马来西亚人提供无限制免费使用针对马来西亚行业的需求量身定制的200多种技能开发和教育课程的线上学习平台。

EPLI merupakan program insurans yang disediakan oleh pembekal polisi insurans untuk membantu dan melindungi majikan berdaftar HRDF dengan memberikan perlindungan kos untuk tuntutan pampasan pemecatan yang salah oleh pekerja. Bagi e-LATiH, ianya merupakan satu platform pembelajaran dalam talian yang menawarkan akses percuma tanpa had kepada semua rakyat Malaysia. e-LATiH menawarkan sekurang-kurangnya 200 kursus pembangunan kemahiran dan pendidikan yang disesuaikan dengan keperluan industri Malaysia.

Rescheduling of AGM 2021

In view of current COVID-19 situation, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2021 has been rescheduled to **Tuesday, 29 June 2021**. For further information, please contact STA Secretariat at telephone number 082-332 222 or email to sta@sta.org.my.

(Note: The AGM 2021 was originally scheduled to take place on 30 March 2021.)

鉴于目前的新冠肺炎疫情，本会2021年常年会员大会 (AGM) 已改期至2021年6月29日 (星期二)。请联络本会秘书处以获得更多资讯，联络电话082-332222 或电邮至 sta@sta.org.my。

Setelah mempertimbangkan situasi semasa COVID-19, Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan (AGM) 2021 telah dijadualkan semula kepada **Selasa, 29 Jun 2021**.

Untuk maklumat selanjutnya, sila hubungi Sekretariat STA di nombor telefon 082-332 222 atau emel kepada sta@sta.org.my.

Meeting on COVID-19 Monitoring Plan

On 3 February 2021, the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) organised a virtual meeting with the timber industry to share and discuss the COVID-19 Monitoring Plan established by the Sarawak Government through the State Disaster Management Committee (SDMC).

According to STIDC, the COVID-19 Monitoring Plan will ensure strict compliance with the standard operating procedures (SOPs) across industries including the timber industry in order to curb the recent spike in Sarawak's COVID-19 cases. Several governmental bodies and agencies such as Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development, Royal Malaysia Police, Civil Defence Force, Labour Department, Immigration Department, District Councils, etc, are already involved in monitoring the COVID-19 situation in Sarawak and enforcing directives by the Government.

STIDC于2021年2月3日举办线上会议，与木业者分享和讨论由砂拉越政府通过州灾难管理委员会 (SDMC) 制定的新冠肺炎监测计划。砂拉越政府也委派 STIDC 以协助并追踪木材业的状况以及该业为降低其工厂或场所的疫情风险而采取的预防措施。目前，本会与 STIDC 密切合作以协调此事，并通过 STIDC 向砂拉越政府提供相关信息。

STIDC is also tasked by the Sarawak Government to assist and keep track of the timber industry's situation as well as the preventive measures taken by the industry to mitigate the pandemic risk at their factories or premises. Currently, STA is working closely with STIDC to coordinate this matter, as well as providing relevant information to the Sarawak Government through STIDC.

Pada 3 Februari 2021, Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) telah mengadakan pertemuan maya dengan industri perikanan untuk berkongsi dan membincangkan Pelan Pemantauan COVID-19 yang dibentuk oleh Kerajaan Sarawak melalui Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Negeri (SDMC). STIDC telah ditugaskan oleh Kerajaan Sarawak untuk membantu dan memantau situasi industri perikanan serta langkah-langkah pencegahan yang diambil oleh industri untuk mengurangkan risiko wabak di kilang atau premis mereka. Pada masa ini, STA bekerjasama dengan STIDC untuk menyelaraskan perkara ini serta menyalurkan maklumat relevan kepada Kerajaan Sarawak melalui STIDC.