



STA dan Rakan2

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13th Series of Campaign on Occupational Safety and Health for the Timber Industry in Sarawak

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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Photos: (left) One of the Campaign's participant presenting findings from his group discussion; (right) Group photo

The thirteenth (13th) Series of Campaign on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) for the Timber Industry in Sarawak was conducted recently at Kem Piramid Intan in Kapit from 24 to 25 April 2019.

The Series of Campaign, jointly organised by Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) since 2015, gathered thirty three (33) participants, which included the camp manager, tree fellers, log loaders, surveyors and store keepers.

In his Opening Speech, Mr Ahmad Nazari Bin Sabki, Acting Manager (Manpower Section) of STIDC stated that the Campaign is a testimony of the commitments from DOSH, STIDC and STA to ensure that the timber industry in Sarawak remains

competitive, without compromising the safety of operators at their workplaces. During the Campaign, five (5) presentations were given by Mr Voon See Liong, Factories and Machineries Inspector; and Mr Hong Boon Jing, Factories and Machineries Assistant Inspector, both from DOSH.

They shared with the participants (i) ways to identify various hazards at different workplaces, (ii) proper ways to report any kind of accidents involving near miss accidents, injuries, death, poisoning and diseases during their working period, (iii) safe management of chemical substances at workplaces as well as (iv) the importance of establishing a Safety and Health Committee at workplaces.

Participants were divided into groups and guided on identification of hazards as well as assessment and control of risk in their respective workplaces.

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Public Consultation on Proposed List of Prohibited Tree Species in the Nordic Swan Ecolabel

The proposed 2018 list of prohibited tree species in the Nordic Swan Ecolabel criteria has raised great concerns among relevant ministries, forestry agencies and timber associations in Malaysia.

The concern arises from the impact that the prohibited tree species will have on Malaysia, one of the major tropical countries exporting timber products to the Nordic nations. If the tree list is adopted, almost all of the tropical tree species will not be permitted to be used in Nordic Swan Ecolabelled products.

The Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) had called a meeting on 3 April 2019 to discuss the matter. The meeting was presided over by its Secretary General, Dato' Dr Tan Yew Chong.

Established by the Nordic Council of Ministers in 1989, the Nordic Swan Ecolabel is a voluntary official ecolabel in the Nordic countries, namely Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The criteria for the Ecolabel are developed based on a life cycle assessment and an overall goal to reduce environmental impact. These criteria are revised on an ongoing basis.

Since 1998, forestry requirements were included in the criteria documents and has undergone few revisions over the years.

In 2018, the list of prohibited tree species was revised based on;

- CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Appendices (I, II and III);
- IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List (classified as CR [critically endangered], EN [endangered], VU [vulnerable], NT [near threatened]);
- *Regnskogsfondet* (Rainforest Foundation Norway) tropical tree list; and
- Siberian larch which is grown outside Europe.

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All parties present in the meeting strongly objected to such proposal, that is to include tropical tree species, i.e. from the *Regnskogsfondet* tropical tree list, beyond CITES Appendices (I, II and III) as well as IUCN Red List.

They deliberated at length on the next course of actions and agreed that all parties should respond to this proposal by submitting comments to the Nordic Ecolabelling before the deadline on 26 April 2019.

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) registered its firm disagreement to the Nordic Ecolabelling on 22 April 2019. STA strongly felt that the inclusion of tropical tree species will defeat the efforts of promoting sustainable forest management and trade of legal timber by tropical producing countries.

In addition, STA pointed out that the criteria have failed to take into consideration people's livelihood, and the continuous development of the affected countries such as Malaysia. It is in essence a form of non-tariff trade barrier influencing the economy of developing countries in Asia, Africa, etc, under the pretext of environmental protection.

In its feedback, STA added that most of these developing countries are resource based countries whose natural resources are made up of the proposed list of tree species. Hence, to restrict the trading of tropical timber and other tree species at the international market means depriving these people their livelihoods, and it is equivalent to hindering the progress of developing countries.

For these reasons, STA considers this proposal to be highly unfair to the developing countries and therefore strongly opposes to the proposed listing of tree species by the Nordic Ecolabelling.



Did you know that.....

India has become the latest country to achieve the PEFC endorsement of its national forest certification system. The system was developed by a multi-stakeholder group led by the Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF) in 2018. India's newly endorsed national system will allow Indian forest managers to further strengthen their sustainable forest management practices, in line with global standards and multilateral requirements.

Source: *India Achieves PEFC Endorsement*. Available at <http://www.pulpapernews.com/20190403/10511/india-achieves-pefc-endorsement>

Did you also know that...

Of all risks to health around the world, air pollution is the fifth leading cause of death, killing more people each year than road accidents. Dan Greenbaum, president of the Health Effects Institute said that in much of the world, just breathing in an average city is the health equivalent to being a heavy smoker and long-term exposure to indoor and outdoor pollution contributed to nearly 5 million deaths globally in 2017, with fatalities resulting from stroke, heart attack and lung cancer.



Source: *Polluted Air to Shorten Lives by 20 Months, Researchers Say*. Available at <http://www.thisisplace.org/i/?id=dbcc2ca7-0b4d-47f2-bba9-c8ba8af23490>

Meeting on Revised Catch-Up Plan Prior to a New Planted Forest Policy cum 2nd Licences for Planted Forests (LPFs) Quarterly Meeting



Photos: (left) Mr Peter Ling, Chairman of STA Forest Plantation (left) joined Tuan Haji Azahari (right) in guiding discussions in the meeting; (right) Meeting in progress.

A Meeting on Revised Catch-Up Plan Prior to a New Planted Forest Policy cum 2nd Licences for Planted Forests (LPF) Quarterly Meeting was called by Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) on 9 April 2019 at Wisma STA in Kuching. The Meeting was chaired by Tuan Haji Azahari Bin Omar, Assistant Director of LPF Division, FDS, and attended by LPF holders, representatives from FDS and STA Secretariat.

In his Welcoming Remarks, Mr Peter Ling Kwong Hung, Chairman of STA Forest Plantation Committee expressed his appreciation to Tuan Haji Azahari and his team for their willingness to meet and discuss with LPF holders on the submission of revised Tree Planting Plan (TPP) and other planted forest issues.

In his Opening Remarks, Tuan Haji Azahari agreed to extend the submission of revised TPP date to two (2) months from the date of Meeting and informed the Meeting that the Sarawak Government has initiated a study to develop standing tree volume tables for four (4) major tree species planted in Sarawak, i.e. *Acacia*, *Falcataria moluccana*, *Neolamarckia cadamba* and *Eucalyptus*, which may be used for royalty assessment in the near future. The Sarawak Government also intend to organise a Forest Plantation Management Certification (FPMC)

Workshop to discuss with stakeholders on matters related to FPMC implementation in Sarawak. Since FPMC is a market-driven approach, the LPF holders hoped that FPMC will be implemented on a voluntary basis.

Ms Annie Ting, Senior Manager of STA reiterated that the desired planting target may not be achievable if issues faced by the LPF holders including land claims, shortage of manpower, uncoordinated and unsustainable research and development (R&D) programme, etc remain unresolved. She also drew the Meeting's attention to the international legislations and action plans on forest conversion which worked against Sarawak's planted forest policy. Due to encouragement from the Sarawak Government as well as the encumbrances faced by the planted forest industry, the LPF holders are considering to convert some of the LPF areas to Forest Timber Licence (FTL). Furthermore, she hoped for the Sarawak Government to look into the implications of the Finance Act 2018 to the planted forest industry.

Mr Dawend Anak Jiwan, Executive Forester of FDS presented the strategy and action plan for Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in Sarawak and urged all LPF holders to actively participate in the FLR programme.

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Seminar on Eco-Labeling Scheme and Carbon Footprint Scheme

SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd (SIRIM QAS), Malaysia's leading body in providing certification, inspection and testing services, organised a *Seminar on Eco-Labeling Scheme and Carbon Footprint Scheme* on 11 April 2019 at Pullman Hotel in Kuching.

Mr Kamarul Arieffin Bin Rosli, Lead Auditor, Product Certification and Inspection Department of SIRIM QAS informed participants that under the SIRIM Eco-Labeling Scheme, product from a company will be independently tested and verified against specific eco-label criteria and applicable product standard or specification which is developed by SIRIM QAS in accordance to international guidelines.

Once the product is successfully tested and verified, only then the company is allowed to use SIRIM Eco-Labeling mark on its product packaging and promotional materials. The company must also fully comply with the requirements of the product certification.

Benefits of certifying a product under this Scheme include enhanced product marketability, improved company's brand image, providing third party independent verification on the product's environmental claims and

also supporting the implementation of Government Green Procurement (GGP) in Malaysia.

Madam Aernida Abdul Kadir, Senior Auditor, Management System Certification Department of SIRIM QAS shared in her presentation that objectives of the Scheme are to identify main sources of emission and create innovations in reducing energy and raw materials consumption. She highlighted that SIRIM's Carbon Footprint Scheme is also known as Product Carbon Footprint Certification.

She further explained the two (2) different types of carbon footprints i.e. organisational carbon footprint (ISO 14064) and product carbon footprint (ISO 14067). She described how SIRIM QAS can assist in verifying the accuracy of carbon footprint of a product, and subsequently enabling the producer to identify the level of emission resulting from each of the processes during the entire lifecycle of the product. With this Scheme, a company is able to enhance its overall goal of environmental integrity.

Other information shared during the Seminar included how SIRIM QAS uses background data to develop product criteria and category rules, as well as the application process for both Schemes.

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