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STA dan Rakan2

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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Reduced Impact Logging Training



Photo: Participants of the Training posing for photo with trainers from SFC

On 19 to 21 June 2019, a training on Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) was organised by the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) for fifteen (15) trainers and officers from Sarawak Timber Association (STA) and its subsidiary company, STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT).

The Training was conducted by Mr Ting Chek Hieng, the Manager of Management & Compliance (Sustainable Forestry & Compliance Division), and his RIL crew. The objective of this Training was to enhance knowledge on RIL requirements and regulations for ground-based harvesting system, and to highlight the difference between RIL method and conventional logging method.

The Training conducted was based on the *RIL Guidelines for Ground-based Harvesting System Part 1 and Part 2*.

Part 1 of the RIL Guidelines consists of (i) pre-harvest planning of logging roads, block layout, landings and skid trails; (ii) pre-felling inventory of trees for harvesting; (iii) identification, marking and recording of trees for protection; and (iv) preparation of Reduced Impact Logging plan (RILP) whereas Part 2 covers (i) construction of logging road, skid trail and roadside landing; (ii) tree felling operation; (iii) log skidding operation; and (v) post-harvesting activities such as establishment of bunds, removal of bridges and culvert and enrichment planting.

Apart from classroom sessions, field sessions were also conducted at Landeh Reserve. Through these field sessions, the participants received hands-on experiences such as (i) ways to demarcate different types of boundaries including license, coupe, block, buffer zone and protected areas;

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(ii) enumeration of trees including harvestable trees, protected trees, fruit trees, mother trees, potential crop trees (PCT) and undersized trees; (iii) skid trail establishment; and (iv) proper techniques to use clinometer, Global Positioning System (GPS) and compass.



Photo: Participants given hands-on experience on skid trail alignment (left) and how to measure diameter breast height of trees (right).

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Launching of Sarawak Forest Landscape Restoration Programme

On 15 June 2019, Sarawak officially launched its own FLR programme at the Sabal Agroforestry Centre, Simunjan. In his Welcoming Speech, Tuan Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, the Director of Forests, pointed out that this initiative had been implemented long ago, but the concept to carry out the programme is now even more comprehensive following the discussion held at the Sarawak Forest Restoration Forum in March 2017.

He added that, after the forum, the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) took proactive measures such as redeveloping tree nursery sites at Sabal Agroforestry Centre, Simunjan; Sarawak Tree Improvement Centre, Sibui; and Forest Research Centre in Niah, Miri. With this progress, FDS currently has approximately 300,000 saplings of various indigenous species.

FDS has been engaging local communities, especially in supplying tree saplings and seedlings needed for the nurseries besides having locals work in these nurseries. Under the FLR programme, priority is given to plant

indigenous species including belian, engkabang, kapor, keruing, meranti, selangan batu and other local species. Furthermore, the Department is organising outreach programmes to promote the importance of environmental conservation and land greening.

Delivering his Opening Speech, the Chief Minister of Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, highlighted on the Sarawak Government's land usage policy in which six (6) millions hectares of land have been set aside as permanent forest estates while another one (1) million hectares as totally protected areas.

He added that funds would be allocated for the research and development of the forestry sector as well as to obtain corporate expertise, so that Sarawak's forestry resources are developed and used in a sustainable way. The Chief Minister also revealed that the Sarawak Government is currently restructuring the forestry agencies in Sarawak, which is anticipated to conclude

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Did you know that.....

In a report prepared by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Asia-Pacific region will not achieve any of the SDGs at the current pace with more than 80 percent of the SDG Targets require accelerating the current pace of change. The report also highlighted that out of 232 indicators; 96 indicators have no data for any countries, while data for another 53 indicators were quoted as insufficient to estimate regional historical trends.

Source: Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2019. Available at https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/publications/ESCAP_Asia_and_the_Pacific_SDG_Progress_Report_2019.pdf

Did you also know that...

The Myanmar government has lifted the ban on exportation of raw teak and timber from state and privately-owned plantations to allow those who have invested in plantations to secure some early cash flow. However, the ban on raw teak and timber from natural forests will remain in place and the government leaders will also adopt proper verification procedures to ensure that no logs from the natural forests are exported.



Source: Government Lifts Ban on Plantation Teak Exports. Available at <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/govt-lifts-ban-plantation-teak-exports.html>

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Photo: (left) A bed of Engkabang seedlings at the nursery; (right) Chief Minister addressing the crowd in his opening speech.

end of year 2020, a new department to manage national parks and wildlife will be established. He also declared the Belian tree (*Eusideroxylon zwageri*) as Sarawak's heritage tree that could be propagated but not for export. FDS is still being restructured which hopefully would be concluded by end of year 2020.

The Chief Minister later officiated the launching ceremony and witnessed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between the FDS and various parties, namely Shell Berhad, Sarawak Energy Berhad and Japan-Malaysia Association, to preserve and conserve the environment in Sarawak.

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FRIM Technology Talk

Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) co-organised the *FRIM Technology Talk - Sarawak Zone* with the theme "Sustainable Forestry: Innovation and Solutions" on 26 June 2019 at UCSI Hotel, Kuching.

his Opening Remarks, that the Sarawak Government is committed to ensure sustainability of its forest resource. The Sarawak Government is also looking into new sources of revenue from the forests such as payment for ecosystem services, carbon trading, ecotourism, non-timber forest products, etc. He called for stakeholders to collaborate in forestry-related researches.

In a text read by Dr Khali Aziz Hamzah, Deputy Director General (Operation) of FRIM, Dato' Dr Abd Latif Mohmod, Director General of FRIM, informed the participants that the Talk served as a platform for FRIM to (i) highlight the findings and outputs of their research and development (R&D) projects, (ii) promote FRIM's technical services and (iii) share forestry information with targeted stakeholders. He encouraged technology transfer and hoped that joint research collaborations can be established and for the benefit of forestry-related stakeholders in Sarawak

Madam Norhayati Nordin, Director of Innovation and Commercialisation Division, FRIM and team shared on FRIM's expertise, existing products, technology and technical services which cover a wide range of scope such as biodiversity, forestry & environment, forest biotechnology, etc.

The event was officiated by Datu Dr Haji Wan Lizozman Bin Wan Omar, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources, who said, in

Mr Ricky Jonathan Alek, Assistant Director (Forest Management and Planning Division), FDS, and his team presented about sustainable forest management, and its implementation strategy in Sarawak including forest management certification and preparation of forest management plan.

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Study Tour

to Sabah Forestry Department

on Sabah Timber Legality Assurance System (Sabah TLAS)

A group of fifteen (15) personnel from forestry agencies, i.e. Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (HTSB), including Sarawak Timber Association (STA) conducted a Study Tour to Sandakan, Sabah from 24 to 25 June 2019.

The objectives of the Study Tour were to understand the implementation of Sabah Timber Legality Assurance System (Sabah TLAS) third party auditing by Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) and lessons learned since its first implementation in 2009.

The Sarawak delegation, led by Tuan Jack Liam, Deputy Director of Forests had a meeting with officers from SFD in the morning of 24 June 2019. The delegates were welcomed by Mr Frederick Kugan, Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Sector Planning), SFD.

The meeting, led by Mr Indra Puiwandita Sunjoto, Senior Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests (Forests Management Enterprise), discussed matters related to

the Sabah TLAS and Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS), particularly on the implementation of third party auditing. The group also discussed about Sabah's experiences on carbon trading. In the afternoon, the delegates visited Inovwood Sdn Bhd which has obtained compliance with the Sabah TLAS Principle 5-6. The delegates were briefed on the background of the company and visited its log pond and veneer processing areas as well as product storage area.

The following day, the delegates made a trip to KTS Plantation Sdn Bhd (KTSP), which is certified under the Sabah TLAS Principle 1-4, MC&I (Natural Forest) by Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) and Environmental Management System (EMS) ISO14001. Mr Collin Goh Tee Khiang, Sabah Area Operation Manager (Forests), KTS, welcomed the delegates and brought them to visit the harvesting block, workshop and storage area.

During the trip, KTSP shared various experiences in dealing with TLAS audit and the challenges faced by KTSP in complying with TLAS requirements.

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