



March 2018

For Private Circulation Only

Issue 237

## Series of Roadshows on Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS) Standard

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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Photo: (top) Participants of the STLVS Standard Workshop in Sibu; (bottom) Acting Director of Forests, Encik Hamden Haji Mohammad joined the panel in Bintulu during question and answer (Q&A) session.

A series of *Roadshows on Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS) Standard* was jointly organised by the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources (MUDeNR), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd (SFCSB), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (HTSB) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) in four (4) venues across Sarawak.

The Roadshow, conducted to brief the forestry and timber industry on the State Government's policy on STLVS, STLVS Standard and its

implementation were held at (i) Imperial Hotel, Miri on 12 March, (ii) Promenade Hotel, Bintulu on 14 March 2018, (iii) Kingwood Hotel, Sibu on 19 March, and (iv) Dewan Seminar STIDC on 27 March 2018, and were attended by approximately 500 participants from the industry and forestry agencies.

The Deputy Director of Forests, Tuan Jack Anak Liam introduced to the participants the STLVS Standard and informed them that the STLVS Standard allows licensee or company to engage an independent third party auditor to verify the company's compliance to STLVS requirements. He added that

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verification will be able to provide legality assurance to buyers on the timber and timber products exported from Sarawak. He further informed that by 2020, only STLVS-verified timber and timber products will be allowed for export.

During the Roadshow, two (2) presentations were made by Ms Eveleen Augustine Lai, Forest Officer of FDS and Mr Afizulmizam Bin Afandi, Manager (Industrial Development) of STIDC, covering all the six (6) Principles in the Standard.

The State Government's policy requires both Forest Management Certification (FMC) and STLVS third party

auditing to be carried out. However, the forestry agencies recognise that some criterion in the STLVS Standard overlaps with that of the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (Natural Forest) [MC&I (Natural Forest)], and that undertaking both audits will burden the licensee or company in terms of cost and time.

Therefore, FDS tasked by the MUDeNR, is to discuss with Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) on mutual recognition of some of the components in STLVS and FMC to avoid duplication in auditing.

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## 1st Sarawak Ramsar Seminar 2018



Photo: Acting Director of Forests, Encik Hamden Haji Mohammad delivering his welcoming speech at the Seminar

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) in conjunction with the World Wetlands Day 2018 organised the 1st Sarawak Ramsar Seminar 2018 with the theme "Wetlands for Sustainable Urban Future" on 2 March 2018 at the Hilton, Kuching. Approximately, ninety (90) participants from government agencies, private sectors and civil societies attended the Seminar.

This Seminar, brought together experts and conservation practitioners to, among many others, share experiences and lessons learnt in managing wetlands and other Ramsar sites within Malaysia as well as address issues and challenges towards the effective and efficient management of the Sarawak Ramsar site. Eight (8) papers were presented in the Seminar, as follows:

World Wetlands Day is celebrated on every 2 February, to raise global awareness on the importance of wetlands for the people and the planet. Ramsar is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

**Paper 1: Managing Ramsar Site in Johor - Pulau Kukup and Tanjung Piai Johor** by Hajah Maziah Fadilah Binti Wan Mohamed, Perbadanan Taman Negara Johor

The speaker highlighted the core business for both national parks, i.e. conservation, research and eco tourism.

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### Did you know that.....

*Thismia neptunis* or dubbed as "Fairy Lantern" due to its resemblance to a flamboyant lantern which was last seen in the forests of Sarawak a century and a half ago, is lost no more! The plant was first discovered in 1866 by Odoardo Beccari, an Italian botanist who went on an expedition in the jungles of Borneo and Sumatra. It was rediscovered at the same place last year by a Czech team of researchers. It's as yet not known how far the plant ranges in the area but there are 76 species of "fairy lanterns" currently known to belong to the plant's genus and of those, 30 have been discovered since 2011.

Source: A "Fairy Lantern" is Rediscovered in Sarawak after 150 Years, available at <http://cleanmalaysia.com/2018/03/13/fairy-lantern-rediscovered-sarawak-150-years/>



## Did you also know that....

The world's last surviving male northern white rhino has died after months of poor health. Sudan, who was 45 lived at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya and was put under 24-hour arm guard in 2015 to protect him from poachers. The white rhinoceros consists of two sub-species: the southern white rhino and the much rarer and critically endangered northern white rhino. The subspecies population was largely wiped out during the poaching crisis of the 1970s and 1980s, fuelled by demand for rhino horn for use in traditional Chinese medicine and for dagger handles in Yemen.

Source: Northern White Rhino, Last Male Sudan Dies in Kenya, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-43468066>



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Photos: Promotional posters and photos of Kuching Wetlands National Park (KWNP), the State's Ramsar Site on display.

**Paper 2: Sabah Forestry Department - Steps in Managing Lower Kinabatangan-Segama Ramsar Site** by Haji Hussin Tukiman, Sabah Forestry Department

The speaker shared the development of a 10 year Management Plan (2011-2020) to manage the Ramsar Site.

Kuching Wetlands National Park (KWNP) Ramsar site which can be developed into a preferred tourism activity.

**Paper 6: Agro Pelancongan Berkonsepkan Akuakultur** by Ms Martinah Haji Teridi, Persatuan Nelayan Kawasan Satang Biru, Telaga Air

**Paper 3: Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) - In Managing Ramsar Site** by Mr Suliman Haji Jamahari, FDS

Mr Suliman shared success stories in managing Kuching Wetlands National Park (KWNP) which includes diverse species of fauna, tourism and community project as well as planting of 87,916 mangrove trees

The speaker shared with the participants of the Seminar some of their current and proposed projects which have been implemented such as homestay and processing of fishery products.

**Paper 7: Preliminary Fireflies Study at Sarawak Ramsar Site** by Mr Paulus Meleng, Forest Department Sarawak

**Paper 4: Flora and Fauna of Kuching Wetlands National Park** by Professor Dr Gabriel Tonga Noweg and Professor Dr Andrew Alek Tuen, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

Both presenters presented on the distribution of flora and fauna that can be found in the State's Ramsar Site, KWNP and informed that the flood mitigation channel is a major threat to the mangrove ecosystem.

The speaker shared that the study aimed to come out with an inventory of fireflies because the existence of fireflies is an indication of a healthy forest as well as to identify potential areas for tourism.

**Paper 8: Japan-Malaysia Association Proposed Mangrove Rehabilitation Program** by Mr Arai Takuji, Japan-Malaysia Association

**Paper 5: Tourism Potential Activities at Sarawak Ramsar Site** by Dr Bolhan Budeng, Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Youth and Sports Sarawak

The speaker spoke about the facilities offered by

The speaker spoke on the efforts taken in contributing to the mangrove rehabilitation program such as planting of *depterocarpaceae* tree species, maintenance, raising seedlings and environmental education program.

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## **Bachelor of Technology (Hons) in Wood Products Processing offered by University College of Technology Sarawak**

The University College of Technology Sarawak (UCTS), the first university in Malaysia to achieve Green Building Index (GBI) has received approval from the Malaysia Qualifications Agency (MQA) and the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) to offer Bachelor of Technology (Hons.) in Wood Products Processing, placed under School of Engineering and Technology.

This programme has been designed by UCTS in collaboration with Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) to stimulate the downstream timber industry in this state. Graduates from this program will become the backbones in catalyzing the development of timber industry in Sarawak and their knowledge in adding value to existing products and developing new products will profit the state.

The Bachelor of Technology (Hons.) in Wood Products Processing is offered for 2018/2019 study session for May and September intake. The program will run for four years (8 semesters) with 128 credit units and will be conducted full-time at UCTS campus in English.

The bidding and teaching method is conventional which includes lecture, tutorials, practices, laboratory work and industrial training. Site visits to the forest area, logging area and factory will also be carried out in every semester. This program is planning to collaborate with few universities such as Kasetsart University (Thailand), Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Gadjamada University (Indonesia) and University of the Philippines (Philippines).

This program is unique and different as it focuses more on programming technology course. Courses such as "CAD/CAM Modelling for Wood Technology, Engineered Wood Products, Green Technology, Utilization of Wood Waste and Agriculture Residue and Timber Construction and Design" are specially designed to provide skills required in the downstream timber industry.

At least 10 full Scholarships are offered under the Yayasan Sarawak to successful applicants that register in this program. For more information and enquiry about this program, please contact the Head of Department, Prof Dr. Razak Wahab at [dr Razakwahab@ucts.edu.my](mailto:dr Razakwahab@ucts.edu.my) or [enquiry@ucts.edu.my](mailto:enquiry@ucts.edu.my)