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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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Workshop on Drone Application in Managing Licences for Planted Forests



Photo: Aerial photo of the group, taken using drone.

A Workshop on Drone Application in Managing Licences for Planted Forests (LPF) was jointly organised by Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) from 2 to 4 October 2019 in Bintulu.

The Workshop was attended by about seventy (70) participants from the public and private sectors including FDS, LPF Holders, Poladrone Solutions Sdn Bhd (Poladrone), Hurricane Geo Inspection Survey Sdn Bhd (HGIS) and STA Secretariat. The objective of this Workshop was to provide demonstration and practical experience of using an aerial drone in inspecting and monitoring the development of LPF.

The Workshop was officiated by Tuan Haji Azahari Bin Omar, Assistant Director cum Head of LPF Division, FDS. In his Opening Remarks, he expressed his gratitude to the participants for their attendance and support.

He then highlighted the potential of aerial drone in managing forest activities including forest mapping as well as monitoring of forest fire, encroachment, pest and disease, etc.

The field demonstration session was conducted on the first day of the Workshop at LPF 0043 Sarawak Planted Forest Sdn Bhd. During the session, a new drone known as the "Phantom 4 Multispectral" was introduced and demonstrated to the participants.

The theory session was held on the second day at GoldenBay Hotel, Bintulu. The representatives from Poladrone and HGIS delivered presentations on several topics such as introduction and application of aerial drone; workflow of aerial mapping operation, i.e. hardware preparation, mission planning, data acquisition, data processing and analysis; drone regulations and the regulating authorities, etc.

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On the last day, participants of the Workshop shared their knowledge and experiences on forest management using drones as well as discussed the status and way forward of drone application in managing and monitoring the natural and planted forests.

Further to this, the participants identified the gaps and expressed their concerns in using remote sensing technology when performing their duties, and hoped that FDS can look into the feasibility of this application for the benefit of all stakeholders.

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Discussion on Forestry and Timber Industry Master Plan for Sarawak

With the ever increasing global wood demand, both the Sarawak Government and forestry industry see the necessity in seeking a common ground to move forward more sustainably and competitively.

This led to the initiation of a study known as the “Forestry and Timber Industry Master Plan for Sarawak” (Master Plan) in 2018.

Margules Groome Consulting (MG), an international consulting firm specialising in forestry management based in Australia, was engaged by the Sarawak Government through Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) to conduct this study.

Back on 7 August 2018, all stakeholders including Sarawak Timber Association (STA) members participated in a workshop held in Kuching findings on the current status of Sarawak’s forestry sector were shared.

Views and suggestions from various stakeholders were further analysed by MG and captured in the draft for the Master Plan, listing sixty-two (62) recommendations on structural and technical reforms to the existing forestry and timber sector.

Based on this draft, STA organised a series of Discussions to brief its members on the recommendations contained in the draft Master Plan and to obtain their feedback with regards to reforms on (i) government structure and functions; (ii) natural forests; (iii) planted forests; (iv) certification; (v) manufacturing; (vi) furniture and other wood products; (vii) research and development; (viii) human capital; and (ix) government support.



Photos: STA members from Miri (top) and Sibu (bottom) participating in the Discussion

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Did you know that.....

More than three (3) times more people are at risk from rising sea levels than previously believed. Land that is currently home to 300 million people, as opposed to previous estimate of 80 million people, will flood at least once a year by 2050 unless carbon emissions are cut significantly and coastal defences strengthened. This finding shows the potential of climate change to reshape cities, economies, coastlines and entire global regions.

Source: *Rising Sea Levels Pose Threat to Home of 300 million People*. Available at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/29/rising-sea-levels-pose-threat-to-homes-of-300m-people-study>

Did you also know that...

The relationship between forests and water has an important role to play in at least nine of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Forested watersheds provide 75 percent of freshwater for human consumption and 90 percent of the world's cities rely on them for their water supply. However, only 25 percent of forests around the world are managed with conservation in mind. A guide by FAO titled "Advancing the Forest and Water Nexus – A Capacity Development Facilitation Guide" aims to increase understanding between the connection.



Source: Forests Are A Natural Solution to Clean Water for All, Says FAO. Available at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/news/96283/en/>

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These Discussions were organised in Sibu, Miri and Kuching on 7 October 2019, 8 October 2019 and 9 October 2019 respectively. Mr Nicholas Andrew Lissem, Assistant General Manager (Industrial Planning & Licensing Division) of STIDC, took participants at all three (3) venues through the content of the Master Plan and responded to comments and questions raised.

Concerns on quality of data used by MG in their analysis and formulation of recommendations were raised and feasibility of these recommendations were also discussed at length.

Participants highlighted that the recommendations must be grounded on solid data of available resources, taking into consideration market demand and cost competitiveness in relation to market constraints and opportunities.

Ms Annie Ting, Senior Manager of STA, thanked STIDC for their support and willingness to receive feedback from the stakeholders, and hoped that this will contribute positively towards the formulation of the Master Plan.

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Presentation of STA Prizes 2019

STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM), a subsidiary company of Sarawak Timber Association (STA), has been awarding the STA Prizes, namely (i) Best Graduating Student; and (ii) Best Final Year Project Paper, to deserving students pursuing specific programmes under the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology (FRST), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), as well as the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), since year 2005.

whereas the student with the Best Final Year Project Paper receives RM500.00. Each student is also given a plaque and a certificate.

In conjunction with the 23rd UNIMAS Convocation Ceremony on 29 October 2019 at Dewan Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, UNIMAS, a simple Presentation Ceremony of STA Prizes for two (2) students from FRST, UNIMAS, was held after the event.

The Best Graduating Student receives RM1,000.00,

The Best Graduating Student was awarded to Ms Nur Hanisah Binti Basuan, while the Best Final Year Project Paper was awarded to Ms Wan Nur Fatimah Binti Mior Azizuddin for her Paper entitled "Productivity of *Gmelina arborea* Roxb. Stand in Sarawak Planted Forest Sdn Bhd, Bintulu, Sarawak".



Photo: Professor Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim Bin Suaidi, Vice Chancellor of UNIMAS (5th from right) presenting STA Prize of Best Final Year Project Paper to Ms Wan Nur Fatimah Binti Mior Azizuddin

Both STA Prizes were presented by Professor Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim Bin Suaidi, Vice Chancellor of UNIMAS, and witnessed by Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, Director of Forests cum Honorary Adviser of STAM; Mr Brian Yeo, Group Finance and Administration Manager of STA; and Professor Madya Dr Ramlah Binti Zainudin, Dean of FRST.

During the occasion, Ms Wenna Anak Willie, recipient of the STA Scholarship, also graduated with a Bachelor of Science with Honours (Plant Resource Science and Management).

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Harvesting Workshop

The Harvesting Workshop, jointly organised by Borneo Forestry Cooperative (BFC), Sabah Softwoods Berhad and Sabah Forestry Department (SFD), focusing on forest plantation was held from 30 to 31 October 2019 at the Marco Polo Hotel in Tawau, Sabah. The Workshop was attended by about ninety (90) participants from SFD, BFC, Sabah Softwoods Berhad and private sectors from Sabah and Sarawak.

Tuan Haji Fadzil Yahya, Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests, SFD, in his Welcoming Remarks mentioned that there is a need to intensify forest plantation development and improve plantation establishment practices as well as harvesting practices because Sabah is shifting its main source of timber from natural forest to forest plantation.

Issues and challenges such as tractor trampling around the forest causing soil compaction and loss of top soil, site preparation without proper planning and log extraction that uses unsystematic method were highlighted as causing severe soil damage, and leads to serious detrimental impact on forest plantation productivity.

Therefore, in recognising the need to address these critical issues, a workshop on harvesting best practices for both site preparation and logging plantation is organised with

the hope to improve field practices in forest plantation management and silviculture.

A field trip to Brumas Camp of Sabah Softwoods Berhad was held on second day of Workshop where participants got to witness cable yarding operations, planting of *Eucalyptus pellita* sp. in different soil compaction area and proceed to the workshop where the cable yarder is fabricated.



Photo: Participants briefed about cable yarding system during the field trip to Brumas Camp

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