

STA REVIEW

Monthly Magazine of Sarawak Timber Association

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No.1/2025 and Joint Meeting with Jawala

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Online Briefing & Training on
Foreign Workers Transformation Approach System

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Cover photo by John Lai Teck Kee

STA REVIEW

is a monthly magazine published by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) for its members.



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STA Forest Plantation Committee Meeting No.1/2025 and Joint Meeting with Jawala

The STA Forest Plantation Committee convened its first meeting of the year on 8 April 2025 at Wisma STA, Kuching. All Committee members were present to discuss key industry matters in the meeting that was chaired by Mr Joseph Lau Ching Hoo, the Committee's Chairman.

The primary focus of the meeting was to review the reports of various research and development (R&D) projects funded by STA, including the evaluation of completed tasks and key milestones, and the approval of the disbursements for the R&D projects. Committee members also assessed the progress of the field trials associated with these R&D projects to ensure they are on track.

In addition, discussions included the latest developments in the industrial tree plantation sector, with updates on policy related to mills in planted forests, a collaborative training initiative for industrial plantations, and other relevant industry matters.

Following that, the Committee held a joint meeting with Mr Abdul Rahman Khan, Chief Executive Officer of Jawala Plantation Industries Sdn Bhd. This biannual meeting, a follow-up from the first joint session on 29 October 2024 at Jawala's office in Sabah, focused on the costing and management of industrial tree plantations. During this meeting, Mr Rahman provided insights into the development of industrial tree plantations within his company, detailing the cost components associated with managing large-



STA Forest Plantation Committee members in full attendance at their first meeting of the year, together with STA Secretariat support staff

scale operations and the strategies implemented to ensure sustainable growth and operational efficiency. In turn, the Committee presented updates on tree planting trials in members' areas and shared the policy on mill establishment in industrial forest plantation areas in Sarawak.

The exchange of information and experiences during the session provided valuable learning opportunities for all attendees, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing within the industry.

Jawatankuasa Ladang Hutan STA telah mengadakan mesyuarat pertama bagi tahun ini pada 8 April 2025 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Mesyuarat tersebut dipengerusikan oleh Encik Joseph Lau Ching Hoo dan dihadiri oleh semua ahli Jawatankuasa. Fokus utama mesyuarat adalah untuk menyemak dan menilai projek-projek penyelidikan dan pembangunan yang dibiayai oleh STA dan membincangkan perkembangan terkini dalam sector pokok perindustrian. Satu sesi bersama Jawala Plantation diadakan selepas itu, memfokuskan kepada kos dan pengurusan ladang, serta mengukuhkan kerjasama melalui perkongsian pandangan tentang dasar dan kelestarian.

本会人工林委员会于2025年4月8日在古晋STA大厦召开本年度首次会议。会议由刘晋福先生主持，所有委员会成员出席。会议重点审查和评估本会资助的研究与发展项目，并讨论工业人工林种植领域的最新进展。委员会随后与Jawala种植园工业有限公司举行联合会议，重点讨论种植成本与管理，并通过在政策与可持续发展方面的经验分享，加强双方的合作。



Meeting in progress

STA Hosts Webinar on STA-Funded R&D Projects: Insights, Challenges, & Opportunities Ahead

STA Forest Plantation Committee successfully hosted a Webinar on STA-Funded Research & Development (R&D) Projects with the theme “*Insights, Challenges, & Opportunities Ahead*” on 8 April 2025. The event drew approximately 50 participants, joining both in person and online, including representatives from the Ministry of Plantation and Commodities, government agencies, universities, and STA member companies.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr Joseph Lau Ching Hoo, Chairman of STA Forest Plantation Committee highlighted that the webinar aimed to serve as a platform to share key insights from R&D projects funded by STA. These projects have significantly advanced the understanding of important tree species planted in Sarawak, such as *Neolamarckia cadamba*, *Falcataria moluccana*, and *Eucalyptus*. Mr Lau emphasised STA’s longstanding commitment to R&D, which dates back to 2004. He noted that STA has, to date, invested approximately RM10 million in fifteen (15) R&D projects focusing on species such as *Neolamarckia cadamba*, *Falcataria moluccana*, *Acacia*, *Eucalyptus*, and other indigenous tree species. These projects cover a wide range of research areas including genome studies, tree improvement, pest and disease management, silvicultural practices, tissue culture, and wood properties.

Mr Lau highlighted that these initiatives have not only expanded scientific knowledge but also supported the training of postgraduate students and the publication of journal articles and books, thereby contributing significantly to capacity building. He stressed that



Dr. Arno Brune, Senior Forest Geneticist from GPP (right) and Prof. Dr. Ho Wei Seng, Senior Lecturer, from UNIMAS (left) were among the speakers at the webinar

research needs sustained investment, support and vision to drive innovation and address challenges, especially for the sustainability of Sarawak’s industrial forest plantations.

The webinar featured three (3) key presentations, each showcasing major achievements, identifying challenges, and exploring emerging opportunities from the research initiatives:

Paper 1: *Falcataria moluccana* Research Projects
Dr. Arno Brune, Senior Forest Geneticist, GP Pusaka Sdn Bhd (GPP)
Fund received from STA: RM3.8 million

This collaborative project between STA, GPP, the Sarawak Forestry Corporation and Forest Department Sarawak ran from 2017 to 2024 to develop genetically improved *Falcataria moluccana* varieties with better yield, form, wood quality and resistance to pests and diseases. Key outcomes include the establishment of Seed Production Areas (SPAs), Clonal Seed Orchard, Progeny Trial, and Seedling Seed Orchard, supporting high-quality seed production. To date, five (5) trial plots have been established at different locations using seeds from the SPA, and performance data is regularly collected to monitor their progress.

Paper 2: *Neolamarckia cadamba* Research Projects
Prof. Dr. Ho Wei Seng, Senior Lecturer, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)
Fund received from STA: RM1 million

Since 2013, this collaborative project between STA and UNIMAS has focused on genetic improvement and propagation techniques for *Neolamarckia cadamba*, commonly known as Kelampayan. Key achievements include a functional genomic database, development of tissue culture protocols using conventional methods and temporary immersion bioreactor, as well as the creation of polyploid clones currently undergoing field trials.

Paper 3: Enhancing Earlier Tree Growth through Biofertiliser Application
Ts. Dr. Daniel Tan Lee Tung, Senior Lecturer, Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus
Fund received from STA: RM582,000

Conducted from 2015 to 2020, this project focused on isolating beneficial soil microorganisms to develop biofertiliser aimed at improving early growth in *Neolamarckia cadamba* and *Eucalyptus pellita*. While potential rhizosphere microorganisms were formulated and field-tested, limited trial data made it difficult to draw firm conclusions.

The webinar concluded with closing remarks from Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA. She expressed hope that these research initiatives would continue to bring tangible benefits to Sarawak’s industrial forest plantation sector. She acknowledged ongoing challenges in tree improvement, pest management, and timber utilisation, and emphasised the need for continued R&D and collaboration to drive innovation and long-term sustainability.

STA telah menganjurkan satu webinar pada 8 April 2025 untuk mempamerkan projek-projek penyelidikan dan pembangunan utama yang dibiayai oleh STA berkaitan spesies pokok komersial di Sarawak. Dengan penyertaan kira-kira 50 peserta, acara tersebut menampilkan pencapaian penting dalam penambahbaikan genetik, pembiakan, dan penggunaan baja bio. Para penceramah menekankan pelaburan STA sebanyak RM10 juta sejak tahun 2004 serta kepentingan R&D yang berterusan bagi menyokong inovasi dan kelestarian ladang hutan.



Webinar in progress

本会于2025年4月8日举办一场线上研讨会，发表本会资助的砂拉越商业树种主要研发项目。此研讨会共有约50名参与者，重点介绍在基因改良、繁殖技术及生物肥料应用方面的最新突破。本会自2004年以来，已在研发方面投入约马币1000万令吉，强调持续研发对推动创新及确保人工林的可持续发展至关重要。

Online Briefing & Training on Foreign Workers Transformation Approach System

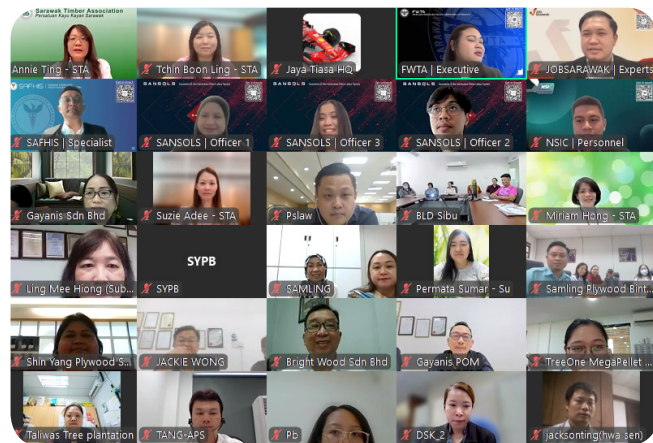
On 10 April 2025, STA coordinated an online briefing and training session on the Foreign Workers Transformation Approach (FWTA) system for its members. Conducted by the Sarawakian and Non-Sarawakian Online Labour System (SANSOLS) team, the session provided 70 participants with a comprehensive understanding of the FWTA system, covering its core components, digital functionalities, and impact on foreign workforce management in Sarawak, while also introducing the FWTA ecosystem, designed to streamline the entire foreign worker management process.

The JobSarawak portal, introduced with the tagline “Sarawakian First”, offers features such as traceable job status checks, streamlined job applications, and real-time updates. Beginning 15 April 2025, all job postings will be automatically listed for 14 days, with hiring reports valid for six (6) months. Successful applicants can collect their hiring kits from SANSOLS.

A significant focus of the session was the Sarawak Foreigners Health Information System (SAFHIS) platform, a digitised system that connects clinics, hospitals, and immigration authorities for health screening. Only authorised medical officers can conduct these screenings and employers are required to use SAFHIS to register workers and schedule appointments. All health data is automatically synchronised across systems, enabling real-time tracking of workers’ medical fitness.

Another important feature introduced was the Non-Sarawakian Identity Card (NSIC), a digital identity card for foreign workers that contains personal information, passport validity, and biometric identifiers. Valid for one year, the NSIC enhances enforcement and verification efforts while complying with international data security standards.

The session also walked participants through the fully digital FWTA user journey. All application data is uploaded directly into the system, following a standardised processing timeline. Notably, processing period for non-resident workers has been significantly reduced from 190 days to just 61



Snapshot of participants during the online briefing

days, greatly improving efficiency for employers. Overviews and live demonstrations of these various interconnected platforms that support the system’s implementation were also featured.

During an interactive session, industry participants expressed concerns regarding the current inability to transfer data from the Monitoring System on the Employment of Non-Sarawakians (MSEN) to FWTA system. The SANSOLS team clarified that during the transition period, the licence renewal processes that were initially submitted through MSEN must continue to be conducted via MSEN, as SANSOLS is currently only used for new applications. Nevertheless, the SANSOLS team is looking into migrating the data from MSEN to the FWTA system to streamline the overall process in the future.

Participants also noted that currently the FWTA system is not directly integrated with the Immigration Department, which necessitates separate engagement with the Immigration Department for matters involving absconded workers. This separate approach adds to the administrative burden on employers, who must manage compliance with immigration requirements outside the FWTA system framework.

Concerns were also raised regarding the imposition of the 8% service tax on the FWTA fee of RM1,854 per foreign worker. They argued that the service tax should not be applied, as the

FWTA fees are paid directly to the Sarawak Government and do not involve any third-party service providers.

This unexpected imposition of service tax has further increased the financial burden on businesses. Given the significant costs increase, STA has formally requested a follow-up session with the Immigration and Labour Management Unit to discuss the possibility of waiving the service tax on FWTA fees. STA is seeking to discuss ways to alleviate the financial burden on employers while ensuring compliance with the relevant regulations.

STA telah menganjurkan sesi taklimat dan latihan dalam talian mengenai sistem Pendekatan Transformasi Pekerja Asing (FWTA) pada 10 April 2025 untuk ahli-ahlinya. Sesi itu membekalkan peserta dengan pemahaman yang menyeluruh tentang sistem FWTA, termasuk komponen teras, fungsi digital dan impaknya terhadap pengurusan tenaga kerja asing di Sarawak. Peserta turut menyuarakan kebimbangan mengenai pemindahan data MSEN dan caj SST sebanyak 8% ke atas yuran semasa sebanyak RM1,854 bagi setiap pekerja asing. STA telah memohon perbincangan lanjut dengan pihak berkuasa untuk menangani isu-isu ini.

本会于2025年4月10日为会员举办一场关于外籍员工转型方法(FWTA)系统的线上简介及培训课程。此课程让参与者全面了解 FWTA 系统, 包括其核心部分、数字化功能, 以及对砂拉越外籍员工管理的影响。与会者也对非砂拉越居民雇佣监管系统(MSEN)数据传输以及在每名外籍员工现行马币1,854令吉费用基础上额外征收8%的销售与服务税费用表示担忧。本会已要求与当局进一步对话, 以解决这些问题。

Pre-meeting on Proposed Task Force to Provide Accurate Information on Forest Related Matters

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) convened a pre-meeting on 28 April 2025 to discuss a proposal to establish a task force aimed at providing accurate information on forest-related matters. The meeting, chaired by Mr. Semilan anak Ripot, Deputy Director of Forests (Forest Management), was attended by officers from both FDS and STA.

The proposal to establish a task force stemmed from growing concerns over the spread of inaccurate and misleading information about Sarawak’s forestry sector, particularly on international platforms. When information is inaccurate, it can mislead public perception and steer policy decisions in ways that do not reflect the realities on the ground.

In parallel, international developments—such as the European Union’s proposal to list several timber genera, including Meranti and Selangan Batu, under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)—highlight the importance of proactively communicating Sarawak’s legal and sustainable forest management practices. Ensuring that stakeholders at all levels are well-informed is important to safeguarding Sarawak’s reputation and facilitating balanced, evidence-based decision-making.

The proposed task force will serve as a collaborative platform to consolidate expertise, align messaging, and enhance transparency in communicating the State’s forest management policies and achievements. By working together, FDS, STA, and other stakeholders can ensure that Sarawak’s forestry narrative is represented accurately and confidently on both national and international stages.

Pada 28 April 2025, Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) telah mengadakan satu mesyuarat pra-perbincangan untuk membincangkan cadangan penubuhan satu pasukan petugas yang bertujuan untuk menyediakan maklumat yang tepat berkaitan hal-hal perhutanan. Dipacu oleh penelitian global dan kemungkinan disenaraikan di bawah CITES, pasukan petugas ini akan menyelaraskan penyampaian maklumat, meningkatkan ketelusan, serta mempromosikan komunikasi yang tepat dan berasaskan bukti mengenai amalan pengurusan hutan lestari Negeri.

砂森林局(FDS)于2025年4月28日召开会议, 讨论成立工作组的提案, 该工作组旨在提供与森林相关的准确信息。在全球审查和潜在列入濒危野生动植物种国际贸易公约(CITES)名录的推动下, 该工作组将协调信息传递, 提高透明度, 并促进准确、基于证据地传播砂州的可持续森林管理实践。

STA Carbon Committee Prepares Input for Upcoming Sub-TWG Meetings on Methodologies under the FCO Programme

The Malaysia Forest Fund (MFF), established under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, is mandated to develop and implement solutions for forest conservation. One of its key initiatives is the Forest Carbon Offset (FCO) Programme, which aims to incentivise forest conservation and climate action through market-based mechanisms.

The development of the FCO Programme is being guided by a Technical Working Group (TWG), comprising representatives from relevant agencies, experts and industry stakeholders. STA is one of the TWG members and has been contributing to the formulation of the Programme through its participation.

As part of the ongoing work, consultants have been engaged to draft four (4) methodologies under the FCO programme, which are in the process of being reviewed and refined with inputs from the TWG members. Of these, the STA Carbon Committee has identified two (2) methodologies as being particularly relevant to its members' interests and has

committed to actively contributing to their development. These are (i) Integrated Forest Management (IFM) and (ii) Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD).

To facilitate this, the Committee met virtually on 28 April 2025 to review the preparatory draft materials circulated ahead of the Sub-Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings on IFM and REDD, scheduled to take place on 30 April and 2 May 2025 respectively.

During the meeting, the Committee members expressed concern about the potential for net harm if carbon licences are issued over areas that may later be reclassified as Shifting Agriculture. Such reclassification could require the exclusion of these areas from the project boundary and result in reduction of forest canopy cover. They also expressed reservation on the inclusion of insurance as a means to address non-permanence risk as well as the practicality of certain certification requirements, particularly

in Sarawak, where legal constraints prevent the issuance of both a Forest Timber Licence and a Carbon Licence on the same land. The committee further recommended that group projects under the same methodology but in different FTL areas be permitted and refining language related to land tenure to better reflect legal land titles and ownership structures.

These concerns and recommendations will be presented by Mr Ling Tiing Tchin, STA's representative at the upcoming Sub-TWG meetings.

Jawatankuasa Karbon STA menyemak bahan-bahan yang disediakan oleh Malaysia Forest Fund untuk mesyuarat Kumpulan Kerja Sub-Teknikal yang akan datang mengenai metodologi yang sedang dibangunkan di bawah Program Offset Karbon Hutan dalam mesyuarat maya pada 28 April 2025. Kebimbangan yang dibangkitkan oleh Jawatankuasa berkenaan dengan pengelasan semula tanah, insurans untuk risiko tidak kekal dan kepraktisan pensijilan.

本次会议委员会于2025年4月28日的线上会议中，审查由马来西亚森林基金为即将召开的子技术工作组会议所准备的材料，其内容涉及森林碳抵消计划下正在开发的方法。委员们对于土地重新分类，非永久性风险的保险以及认证的可行性表示关切。

and Commodities through the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) to carry out the TLAS Strengthening Study Project. Members of the meeting provided feedback and proposed revisions to the report, with additional comments to be provided to FDS after the meeting for consolidation and final submission to MTIB.

Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Perhutanan dan Industri Kayu Antara Agensi yang ketiga tahun 2025 telah diadakan pada 9 April 2025 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Mesyuarat memperhalusi kertas maklum balas berhubung cadangan penyenaian beberapa spesis kayu di bawah Lampiran II Konvensyen Perdagangan Antarabangsa Spesis Flora dan Fauna Terancam. Selain itu, Jawatankuasa turut mengkaji Laporan Awal Sistem Jaminan Kesahan Kayu, yang disediakan oleh 27 Advisory, sebuah perunding yang dilantik oleh Kementerian Perladangan dan Komoditi (KPK).

2025年第三次林业和木材工业跨机构委员会会议于4月9日假古晋STA大厦召开。会议重点讨论并完善关于拟将若干木材属列入濒危野生动植物种国际贸易公约附录二的回应文件。此外，委员会还审议由马来西亚种植及原产业部(KPK)委任的咨询公司27 Advisory编写的木材合法性保证系统初步报告。

Third Inter Agency Committee Meeting on Forestry and Timber Industry

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) called the third Inter Agency Committee on Forestry and Timber Industry meeting of the year on 9 April 2025 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The meeting brought together representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development (MUDeNR), FDS, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, and STA.

Chaired by Mdm Tessy Nimos, Head of the Forest and Wildlife Division at MUDeNR, the meeting focused on refining a response paper to the European Commission (EC)'s proposal to list several timber genera – *Anthoshorea*, *Doona*, *Pentacme*, *Neohopea*, *Richetia*, *Rubroshorea* and *Shorea* – under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). MUDeNR was tasked with coordinating



Meeting in progress

the submission of the response paper to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES), Malaysia's national CITES authority. From there, NRES will compile and consolidate inputs from all three (3) Malaysian regions before forwarding the unified national response to the EC.

The Committee also reviewed the Preliminary Report on the Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS), prepared by 27 Advisory, a consultant firm appointed by the Ministry of Plantation

ECA Compliance in the Forestry Sector

Since the mandatory implementation of the Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008 which requires Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) to be carried out for forestry projects approved by the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) took effect on 1 July 2024, the NREB and STA have maintained close communication to support understanding and implementation of this requirement across the forestry sector. Under the Rules, each approved project is required to conduct one (1) Internal ECA and one (1) External ECA per year. For the first cycle, an internal ECA must be submitted covering the period from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Through a number of engagements and discussions with the Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak, Datu Jack anak Liam and his officers, STA was updated on the current status of ECA compliance among its members. In response, STA convened an online discussion with its members on 3 April 2025 to share these updates from the NREB and to better understand members' experiences on the ground. During this discussion, members highlighted several challenges in fulfilling the EIA requirement, particularly related to procedural gaps and operational limitations, which hindered their ability to conduct and complete the ECAs within the designated period.

Following this discussion, STA requested for an engagement session, chaired by the Controller, be organised between the NREB and STA members to clarify outstanding issues and strengthen collaborative efforts in supporting effective and timely compliance. STA also proposed that a series of road shows be conducted throughout Sarawak to ensure wider participation and deeper understanding on the compliance requirements.

Berikutan pelaksanaan wajib Audit Pematuhan Alam Sekitar pada 1 Julai 2024, STA telah bekerjasama dengan NREB dan ahli-ahli STA untuk menangani isu-isu ketidakpatuhan. Perbincangan dalam talian di antara STA dan ahli-ahlinya pada 3 April 2025 telah mengenal pasti cabaran dari segi prosedur dan operasi, yang kemudiannya telah dikumpul dan dikemukakan secara bertulis oleh STA kepada Controller Kualiti Alam Sekitar Sarawak, dengan permintaan untuk mengadakan sesi libat urus bagi mengukuhkan kerjasama dan pematuhan.

自2024年7月1日强制实施环境合规审计(ECA)后，本会与天然资源与环境局(NREB)及本会会员开展交流，以解决不合规问题。本会于2025年4月3日与本会会员通过线上讨论会，识别出一些程序性和操作性挑战，随后将这些问题汇总并以书面形式提交给NREB局长，并要求召开交流会议，以加强合作并提升合规性。

Visit to Research Institutes in Tsukuba, Japan

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) organised a study visit to Japan from 21 to 26 April 2025 to coincide with the Technical Committee meeting under the Memorandum of Agreement focused on establishing a permanent sample plot network in Sarawak and enhancing research collaboration with Japanese institutions. The delegation, led by the Director of Forests, Datu Haji Hamden Mohammad, included senior officers from FDS, Sarawak Timber Industry Corporation and representatives from STA members and Secretariat.

During the visit, the delegation gained valuable insights into forest research, monitoring technologies and sustainable management practice from visiting the following institutions:

1. National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)

Established in 1974, the NIES is Japan's leading institution for environmental research. The delegation was received by Professor Dr. Yayoi Takeuchi, Principal Investigator at NIES, followed by a closed-door meeting between FDS and NIES to strengthen bilateral collaboration. Discussions focused on advanced environmental monitoring, particularly forest volume modelling using unmanned aerial vehicle technology and data from permanent sample plots. The visit also included a guided tour of the NIES facilities, where delegation received detailed briefings on several key initiatives. These included the Greenhouse Gases Observing Satellite (GOSAT) series for greenhouse gas monitoring, the use of carbon flux measurement chambers, and the Time Capsule Project—an initiative aimed at preserving genetic material from endangered species for future research.

2. Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI)

The FFPRI is Japan's largest and most comprehensive research institution dedicated to the study of forests, forestry, the timber industry, and tree breeding. The institute conducts interdisciplinary research across a wide range of fields, including forest ecology, forest engineering, wood science, and the sustainable use of timber resources. FFPRI is at the forefront of research in areas such as plant ecology, molecular genetics, forest soils, wildlife biology, forest restoration, biodiversity, and climate change.

The delegation was welcomed by Dr. Tohru Nakashizuka, Director General of FFPRI, and was briefed by senior researchers on various topics, including wood engineering, wood improvement, and processing technologies aimed at enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of forest product utilisation. The visit also included a tour of the institute's facilities, which featured demonstrations of advanced wood-processing technologies and structural research initiatives.



Group photo of Sarawak delegation headed by Datu Haji Hamden (seated, 3rd right) and researchers from NIES

3. Sumitomo Forestry Tsukuba Research Institute

The study visit concluded at Sumitomo Forestry's research facility, where the delegation received briefings on the company's downstream research initiatives. These initiatives are centred on enhancing the strength and durability of wooden materials and improving the performance of wood-based boards, with a focus on innovation and sustainability in wood product development. During the session, Datu Haji Hamden delivered a presentation on Sarawak's forestry sector, highlighting key topics such as land use policy, forest governance, forest management certification, the Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System, research and development, reforestation and greening initiatives, timber utilisation, and prospects for future collaboration.

Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) telah mengetuai lawatan sambil belajar ke Jepun dari 21 hingga 26 April 2025 bagi mengukuhkan kerjasama penyelidikan serta meneroka amalan pemantauan hutan dan pengurusan lestari. Delegasi tersebut, yang terdiri daripada pegawai kanan FDS, Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak serta wakil-wakil daripada ahli dan Sekretariat STA, telah melawat beberapa institusi penyelidikan terkemuka yang mengkhusus dalam sains alam sekitar, perhutanan dan inovasi berasaskan kayu.

砂森林局(FDS)于2025年4月21日至26日率团前往日本进行考察访问,旨在加强科研合作,并探讨森林监测与可持续管理的相关实践。该代表团由FDS高级官员、砂拉越木材工业发展机构代表,以及本会会员和秘书处代表组成。访问期间,代表团参观多家在环境科学、林业及木材创新领域具有领先地位的研究机构。

ITTO TAG Preparatory Discussion

The Trade Advisory Group (TAG) was established in 2000 during the Twenty-Eighth Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC). TAG provides input into the Council's policy development and other activities relevant to the global timber trade.

In preparation for the upcoming International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) Annual Market Discussion, scheduled for October 2025 in Panama, the TAG convened a virtual meeting on 30 April 2025. The session brought together representatives from timber trade associations, traders, manufacturers, importers, and exporters from Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America, including Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA.

Co-chaired by Ms Ashley Amidon and Mr Ivan Tomaselli, the meeting focused on identifying and refining potential themes for the Annual Market Discussion, which will be held in conjunction with the Sixty-First Session of the ITTC.

Participants engaged in a wide-ranging dialogue, addressing pressing issues facing the sector. Key topics included the European Union Deforestation-free Regulation, proposed listings of timber species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, market access

challenge, implications of the US tariffs on global trade; public perception of tropical timber; the environmental and social impacts of the sector; and strategies to promote sustainable investment in tropical forests.

Kumpulan Penasihat Perdagangan (TAG) telah mengadakan mesyuarat maya pada 30 April 2025 untuk mempersiapkan Perbincangan Pasaran Tahunan Pertubuhan Kayu Tropika Antarabangsa (ITTO) yang akan datang pada Oktober 2025 di Panama. Peserta yang mewakili pihak berkepentingan perdagangan kayu global mengadakan perbincangan meluas mengenai isu-isu utama yang mempengaruhi sektor ini, termasuk Peraturan Bebas Penyahutan Kesatuan Eropah (EUDR), cadangan penyenaian spesies kayu CITES, cabaran akses pasaran, kesan tarif AS ke atas perdagangan antarabangsa, persepsi orang ramai terhadap kayu tropika, implikasi alam sekitar dan sosial serta strategi untuk menarik pelaburan lestari hutan tropika.

贸易咨询小组 (TAG) 于 2025 年 4 月 30 日召开线上会议,为即将于 2025 年 10 月假巴拿马举行的国际热带木材组织 (ITTO) 年度市场讨论会做准备。代表全球木材贸易利益相关方的与会者就影响该工业的关键问题进行广泛的讨论,包括欧盟无毁林法规(EUDR)、濒危野生动植物种国际贸易公约(CITES)下的木材树种列名建议、市场准入挑战、美国关税对国际贸易的影响、公众对热带木材的看法、环境和社会影响,以及吸引可持续投资进入热带森林的策略等。

Malaysian Timber Association Executive Committee Meeting No 2/2025 and Field Trip to Jawala Plantation

The Malaysian Timber Association (MTA) Executive Committee Meeting No 2/2025, chaired by President Mr George Yap, was successfully held on 14 April 2025 at the Teratai Room, Promenade Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. The meeting saw full attendance from all Executive Committee (EC) members, including Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA who currently holds the position of Honorary Treasurer.



Meeting in progress

During the meeting, several key issues were discussed, and important resolutions were made. A new task force, led by Mr Rahman Khan of the Sabah Timber Industries Association, was established to review and provide recommendations on industrial forest plantations from a commercial perspective. Additionally, the Executive Committee approved the formation of a sub-committee to work closely with relevant forestry agencies in creating a unified framework for the Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) across Malaysia's three (3) regions.

The MTA also agreed to represent the Malaysian timber industry in discussions with the European Union on the proposed listing of (7) genera, namely the *Anthoshorea*, *Doona*, *Pentacme*, *Neohopea*, *Richetia*, *Rubroshorea*, and *Shorea* under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. While the proposal is still under consideration, it could have far-reaching implications for both current and future timber trade, if it materialises.

Additionally, the EC was updated on the successful live launch of the MTA website, www.malaysiantimber.org, on 12 April 2025. The website aims to enhance accessibility, engagement, and visibility for the association.

The following day, the EC members visited Jawala Plantation Industries Sdn Bhd in Keningau. During the visit, Mr Rahman Khan, Chief Executive Officer of Jawala, provided an insightful briefing on the company's current tree planting status, ongoing research and development initiatives, conservation efforts and community-based planting projects.

The group also toured the plantation site, where tree species such as *Albizia* and Laran are planted. Mr Rahman shared that Jawala has

scheduled the harvesting of its Laran trees, which have reached seven years of maturity, marking a significant milestone for Jawala.

Mesuarat Jawatankuasa Eksekutif Persatuan Perakayuan Malaysia (MTA) Bil. 2/2025 telah berlangsung dengan jayanya pada 14 April 2025 di Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Hasil utama mesyuarat termasuklah penubuhan pasukan petugas bagi ladang hutan perindustrian dan satu jawatankuasa kecil untuk membangunkan rangka kerja bersama bagi Sistem Jaminan Kesahan Kayu (TLAS) untuk semua wilayah di Malaysia. MTA juga merancang satu misi ke Eropah untuk menangani cadangan penyenaraian tujuh genera di bawah Lampiran II Konvensyen Perdagangan Antarabangsa Spesies Terancam Flora dan Fauna Liar, yang akan memberi kesan ketara kepada perdagangan kayu.

马来西亚木业联合会(MTA)执行委员会于2025年4月14日在沙巴亚庇成功召开本年度第二次会议。会议的主要成果包括成立工业人工林特别工作小组,以及设立一个小组委员会,负责为马来西亚所有地区制定统一的木材合法性保证系统(TLAS)框架。MTA亦计划派遣代表团前往欧洲,探讨将七个列入濒危野生动植物种国际贸易公约附录二的拟议事宜,该提案预计将对木材贸易带来重大影响。

Site visit at Jawala Plantation Industries Sdn Bhd, Keningau



Collaborative Meeting to Develop the Guidance Document for Environmental Compliance Audit in Sarawak's Forestry Sector



Among those present at the meeting are Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (seated, 2nd from right), Mr Ting Chek Hieng from FDS (seated, right) and Mr Jong from NREB (seated, left)

In 2017, STA and the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) jointly implemented a pilot project for the Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) with voluntary participation from STA members operating in both natural and planted forests. Throughout the pilot phase, several challenges were identified; particularly the presence of mitigating measures listed under the specific terms and conditions of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report Approvals that were either not applicable or repetitive. These issues made the auditing process cumbersome and, at times, inconsistent.

To address these concerns, a working group comprising STA member representatives and NREB officers was formed. In April and May 2024, the group reviewed mitigating measures compiled from a few set of approved EIA Report Approvals. Based on this review, they developed a framework consisting of specific indicators and corresponding verifiers for each mitigating measure recommended by EIA consultants. This framework aimed to standardise the audit process and enable objective assessment of compliance during ECA implementations.

With the mandatory implementation of ECA for the forestry sector commencing on 1 July 2024, finalising this reference document became increasingly urgent to support a consistent and effective implementation across the industry. At the same time, it was crucial to ensure alignment with the requirements of the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) to avoid any potential conflict between regulatory expectations.

In light of this, a meeting was held on 30 April 2025 at Wisma STA, Kuching, involving all key stakeholders. This proactive engagement brought together officers from the NREB, led by Mr Jong Chean Fuei, Head of the Natural Resources and Environmental Management Section; the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), led by Mr Ting Chek Hieng, Engineer in the

Planning and Management Division; and the STA Secretariat, led by its Chief Executive Officer, Ms Annie Ting.

During the meeting, the draft document containing the refined mitigating measures, indicators, and verifiers was thoroughly reviewed, with valuable technical insights and policy considerations incorporated to enhance clarity, practicality, alignment with regulatory requirements and relevance to site-specific conditions.

Once finalised, the improved document will serve as a key reference for ECA auditors, STA members, and relevant authorities. It will ensure a more consistent, transparent and effective compliance audit process, reinforcing the shared commitment of all stakeholders to responsible forest management and environmental stewardship in Sarawak.

Semasa projek perintis untuk Audit Pematuhan Alam Sekitar (ECA), beberapa isu telah dikenal pasti mengenai pengauditan langkah-langkah pengurangan dalam kelulusan Laporan Penilaian Kesan Alam Sekitar (EIA), yang membawa kepada ketidakconsistenan dalam proses audit. Untuk menangani perkara ini, kumpulan kerja khusus telah dibentuk untuk menyemak dan memperhalusi langkah-langkah, membangunkan penunjuk dan pengesah yang jelas. Pada 30 April 2025, dokumen tersebut telah diperhalusi dengan input teknikal daripada pihak berkepentingan utama daripada Lembaga Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, Jabatan Hutan Sarawak. Setelah dimuktamadkan, dokumen yang dipertingkatkan akan menjadi rujukan utama untuk juruaudit ECA, ahli-ahli STA dan pihak berkuasa yang berkaitan.

在林业环境合规审计(ECA)试点项目中,发现环境影响评估(EIA)报告审批中的缓解措施存在一些问题,导致审计过程中出现不一致的情况。为解决该问题,专门工作小组已成立以审查并细化该措施,制定明确的指标和验证机制。于2025年4月30日,该文件在天然资源与环境局以及砂森林局主要利益相关方的技术意见下得到进一步完善。一旦完成,修订后的文件将成为 ECA 审计师、本会会员以及相关部门的重要参考依据。

STIDC Industry Update 2025

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) organised the *STIDC Industry Update 2025* on 15 April 2025, at Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. The event, attended by STA members and Secretariat staff, focused on regulatory requirements and incentives for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) within Sarawak's timber industry, aiming to provide clarity on licensing procedures and to outline strategic directions for the sector's sustainable growth.

Mr Nicholas Andrew Lissem, Assistant General Manager of Licensing, Industrial Planning, and Investment Division of STIDC, noted a steady decline in log production from natural forests over the past decade, due to regulatory changes and a shift toward sustainable forest management. He emphasised the need to prioritise value over volume to meet the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 goal of RM8 billion in annual export earnings, by focussing on high value added products such as furniture, engineered wood, biomass and bamboo-based products. He also highlighted the development of two furniture parks in Tanjung Manis and Demak Laut to support the growth of the furniture manufacturing sector.

Mr Afizulmizam bin Afandi, STIDC Licensing Manager, introduced TRACE, the Timber Industry Regulatory and Compliance System, launched in October 2024 to streamline licence applications. All timber businesses are now required to apply for the Timber Industry Licence through this digital system, submitting necessary documentation such as business registration, valid licences, and mill layout plans. Approved applicants pay licence fees online and must display the licence at their business premises as required by law.

Mr Jona anak Kerani, Director of the Malaysian Investment Development Authority highlighted the growth of Malaysia's wood-based industry driven by value-added products and outlined key investment incentives, including Pioneer Status, Investment Tax Allowance, and automation-focused tax relief under New Industrial Master Plan 2030. Madam Cassie



Haji Zainal Abidin bin Abdullah, General Manager of STIDC delivering his closing remarks

Tong, Principal Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of International Trade, Industry and Investment emphasised Sarawak's industrial park development, competitive land premium rates, and support programmes for SMEs, while Ms Anita Bangan Winston from Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Berhad showcased financing options such as the M-WISE Programme for women-led businesses, alongside advisory services to boost enterprise resilience and innovation.

In his closing remark, Haji Zainal Abidin bin Abdullah, General Manager of STIDC, highlighted the Sarawak Timber Industry (Licensing) Regulations as a key step in strengthening industry governance. The regulations aim to enhance STIDC's regulatory role, streamline licensing, introduce temporary permits, and improve enforcement. He also noted the approval of a policy allowing mills in License for Planted Forest (LPF) areas to boost forest development, operational efficiency,

and industry competitiveness amid global challenges. However, STA understands that the implementation of this policy is currently on hold, as the establishment of a royalty assessment system based on the standing tree volume method is being finalized to help create a more efficient and effective royalty collection process.

Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) telah menganjurkan Kemas Kini Industri STIDC 2025 pada 15 April 2025 di Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. Sesi tersebut memberi tumpuan kepada hala tuju strategik untuk mencapai sasaran eksport tahunan sebanyak RM8 bilion bagi kayu dan produk kayu di bawah Strategi Pembangunan Pasca COVID-19 2030. Ianya juga membincangkan keperluan pelesenan, prosedur permohonan, dan insentif yang disediakan untuk perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) dalam industri perkayuan Sarawak.

砂拉越木材工业发展机构(STIDC)于2025年4月15日假古晋天然资源大厦举办2025年STIDC工业最新动态简报会。会议重点探讨在2030年后新冠肺炎疫情发展策略下, 实现木材及木制品年出口额80亿令吉目标的策略方向。会议还讨论砂拉越木材工业的执照要求、申请程序以及中小企业可获得的激励措施。

ITTO and Kasetsart University Host Webinar on Quality Planting Materials for Premium Teak Production

On 22 April 2025, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), in collaboration with Kasetsart University, held the second webinar in its ongoing series under the ITTO–Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture project titled *Promoting Quality Timber Production in Smallholder and Community-Based Teak and Other Valuable Species Plantations in the Tropics*. The latest session, focused on *Quality Planting Materials for Premium Teak Production*, attracted 48 participants from around the world.

Ms Jennifer Conje, Director of the Forest Management Division at ITTO, opened the session by emphasising the critical role of smallholder teak plantations in global timber supply chains. She also stressed the value of creating a collaborative platform that promotes dialogue, innovation, and the sharing of knowledge and encouraged participants to actively take part in the discussions, ask questions, and form connections.

The session was moderated by Professor Yongyut Trisurat of Kasetsart University, Thailand, and featured two (2) distinguished researchers presenting cutting-edge insights and field applications.

Dr. Yasodha Ramasamy, Scientist G at the ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (India), shared the advancements in teak genomic research. Her presentation explored breakthroughs in genome sequencing,

genetic diversity and their practical implications for tree breeding programmes aimed at improving productivity. She has published a book titled “The Teak Genome” in 2021, the first comprehensive compilation of knowledge on teak biology, ecology, clonal forestry, clonal registration, seed biology, and seed orchards.

Dr. Suwan Tangmitcharoen, Director of the Forest Research and Development Office at Thailand's Royal Forest Department, presented on the conservation of teak genetic resources in native countries, as well as teak tree improvement and the application of molecular biotechnology in teak breeding. His presentation included performance data on genetically improved teak varieties and their contribution to the regional timber market. Dr. Suwan emphasised the importance of long term collaboration and integrated teak breeding program, couple with the use of biotechnology, to develop superior germplasm.

Pada 22 April 2025, Pertubuhan Kayu Tropika Antarabangsa (ITTO) dan Universiti Kasetsart telah mengadakan webinar kedua mengenai kayu jati bertajuk Bahan Penanaman Berkualiti untuk Pengeluaran Jati Premium. Webinar memaparkan pembentangan daripada 2 penyelidik yang berkongsi kemajuan dalam penyelidikan genomik jati bagi menghasilkan bahan tanaman jati yang unggul.

2025年4月22日, 国际热带木材组织(ITTO)与泰国农业大学举办第二场有关柚木的线上研讨会, 主题为“优质种植材料用于高端柚木生产”。研讨会邀请两位研究人员作专题报告, 分享柚木基因组研究在生产优质柚木种植材料方面的进展。



Haji Zainal (seated, 7th from right) joined participants for a photo during the Industry Update

Bank Negara Malaysia's Economic Briefing

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) conducted an Economic Briefing on 21 April 2025 at the Chemsain Auditorium, Kuching, in conjunction with the release of its Annual Report 2024, Economic and Monetary Review 2024, and Financial Stability Review for the Second Half of 2024. The briefing was delivered by Dr. Norhana binti Endut, Assistant Governor of BNM, who provided an insightful overview of Malaysia's current economic performance, emerging global risks, and key policy directions moving forward.

It was shared that inflation remained relatively low at 1.8% and Malaysia's economy grew by 5.1% in 2024, driven by resilient private consumption, robust investment activity, and positive export performance. The labour force participation rate reached an all-time high of 70.5%, while unemployment rate declined to 3.2% in 2024, reflecting continued recovery and strengthening of the labour market.

However, the outlook for 2025 is clouded by rising uncertainty following the United States' announcement of broad-based Liberation Day tariffs on 2 April 2025. If implemented, these tariffs, among the most extensive in over a century, could dampen global trade, tighten financing conditions, and trigger a global demand shock. For Malaysia, these could translate into weaker exports, slower domestic growth, and adverse spillovers to labour income and corporate earnings.

To cushion these impacts, the Malaysian government has initiated several proactive measures. This includes the establishment of a National Geoeconomic Command Centre to coordinate national responses, the initiation of engagement with the United States on tariff negotiations, and efforts to strengthen ties with other economic blocs and trading partners to diversify markets. These initiatives complement the implementation of national development plans and structural reforms aimed at enhancing long-term competitiveness and economic resilience.

In light of the evolving global landscape, Malaysia's gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection for 2025,

initially forecasted at 4.5% to 5.5%, is currently under review. Despite the external headwinds, BNM emphasised that the Malaysian economy remains fundamentally resilient, supported by strong domestic demand, a diversified export base, sound policy reforms, and a stable financial system.

Looking ahead, the Malaysian economy is expected to maintain a positive growth trajectory, driven primarily by sustained domestic demand alongside moderate expansion in exports. While the overall outlook remains encouraging, it is still subject to downside risks stemming from external uncertainties. Financing conditions are expected to remain supportive of economic activity. In this dynamic environment, it is imperative for Malaysia to advance deeper structural economic reforms to enhance resilience, boost productivity, and secure long-term, inclusive growth.

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) telah mengadakan Taklimat Ekonomi pada 21 April 2025 di Kuching. Ekonomi Malaysia mencatatkan prestasi kukuh pada 2024, dengan KDNK berkembang sebanyak 5.1%, inflasi terkawal pada 1.8%, dan peningkatan ketara dalam keadaan pasaran buruh. Walau bagaimanapun, prospek bagi 2025 diselubungi ketidakpastian berikutan cadangan tarif oleh Amerika Syarikat yang berpotensi mengganggu perdagangan global dan menjejaskan ekonomi Malaysia yang berorientasikan eksport. Sebagai tindak balas, kerajaan telah mengambil langkah proaktif, termasuklah penubuhan Pusat Kawalan Geoekonomi Nasional dan penglibatan dengan rakan dagangan utama untuk mempelbagaikan pasaran. Walaupun ramalan KDNK 2025 kini dalam semakan, BNM kekal yakin dengan daya tahan ekonomi, disokong oleh permintaan domestik yang kukuh, asas eksport yang pelbagai dan system kewangan yang stabil.

马来西亚国家银行(BNM)于2025年4月21日在古晋举办一场经济简报会。马来西亚经济在2024年表现稳健，国内生产总值(GDP)增长5.1%，通胀率控制在1.8%，劳动市场状况也显著改善。然而，2025年的经济前景因美国拟推出解放日关税而充满不确定性，该措施可能扰乱全球贸易，并影响马来西亚的出口导向型经济。对此，政府已采取积极措施，包括成立国家地缘经济指挥中心，并与主要贸易伙伴接洽以实现市场多元化。虽然2025年的GDP增长预测目前仍在审查中，但BNM仍然对国家经济的韧性充满信心，这得益于强劲的国内需求、多元化的出口基础和稳定的金融体系。



Q&A session in progress

Webinar on Revised Japanese Clean Wood Act

Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) hosted a webinar on 10 April 2025, providing crucial insights into the legal framework of Japan's revised Clean Wood Act. The law was first introduced in 2016 to promote sustainable forestry practices and trade in legally harvested wood.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr Mazlan Harun, Director of the China & Northeast Asia and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) & Oceania Sections at MATRADE, framed the regulatory changes as a strategic opportunity rather than a compliance burden. He highlighted that Japan's stricter traceability, legality and sustainability requirements present an opportunity for Malaysian exporters to strengthen their market position by meeting these elevated standards.

Mr Naoki Hayasaka, Deputy Director of the Wood Use Promotion Division at Japan Forestry Agency detailed key amendments to the revised Act, which took effect on 1 April 2025. The amendments introduced more rigorous documentation requirements, including identification of tree species harvested and its harvest locations, possession of valid forest timber licences as well as confirmation of the legality of the wood harvested throughout their supply chains. While certification remains voluntary, he stressed its growing

importance, noting that Japanese buyers increasingly favour certified sustainable wood products, making it commercially essential for maintaining market access.

The webinar also featured valuable market insights from other industry experts. Mr Zuaziezie Zulkeflie, Trade Commissioner MATRADE Tokyo presented current trade data and identified emerging opportunities in Japan's timber market. Mr Takahata Keiichi, Director of the Forest Policy Planning Department at Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries provided an overview of Japan's forest resources, including that planted forests now account for 64% of the country's 5.6 million m³ forest stock. The session concluded with Mr Hiroshi Hashizume, Marketing Officer of MATRADE Osaka showcasing Japan's innovative wood technologies, particularly advanced fire-resistant and earthquake-proof engineered wood solutions.

Perbadanan Pembangunan Perdagangan Luar Malaysia (MATRADE) menganjurkan webinar mengenai Akta Kayu Bersih Jepun yang disemak semula pada 10 April 2025. Akta yang dikemas kini itu, yang berkuatkuasa pada 1 April 2025, memperkenalkan keperluan dokumentasi yang lebih ketat, termasuk pengenalpastian sepsis pokok yang ditebang dan lokasi tebingan, pemilikan lesen kayu hutan yang sah serta pengesahan kesahihan kayu yang ditebang sepanjang rantai bekalnya.

马来西亚对外贸易发展局(MATRADE)于2025年4月10日举办一场关于日本清洁木材法案修订版的线上研讨会。修订后的法案于2025年4月1日生效，引入更严格的文件要求，包括识别采伐的树种及其采伐地点、持有有效的森林木材许可证，以及确认整个供应链中所采伐木材的合法性。

SST Handholding Programme

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) Sarawak organised a Sales & Service Tax (SST) Handholding Programme on 23 April 2025 at Wisma Kastam, Kuching. The primary objective was to provide guidance and support on SST related matters.

Five (5) RMCD officers, Mdm Firna Erkafitrie binti Yusuf, Mr Izzul Hazim bin Ibrahim, Mdm Bibiana Teresa anak Gabriel Diloi, Mdm Angeline Jara Balganin Brooke, and Mr Abdurrahman Auf bin Mohd Razi, conducted the briefing covering several key topics related to SST.

The session began with a general overview of the SST, including the Service Tax Act 2018 and SST registration requirements. This round focused particularly on taxable services under Group G - Professional/Skilled Services, with emphasis on the recent increase in the service tax rate from 6% to 8%. Participants were

guided on how to apply the new tax rate based on the timing of service provision, and how to manage cases involving advance or delayed payments.

The programme also included a step-by-step guide to using the MySST system, covering registration, updating business information and account management. Common SST errors and the associated penalties were discussed, underscoring the importance of compliance.

Additionally, participants were briefed on RMCD's procedures and steps to avoid penalties. The session provided valuable insights from RMCD'S audit perspective, helping participants understand what auditors typically look for during audit inspections.

Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia (JKDM) Sarawak menganjurkan Program Panduan Cukai Jualan & Perkhidmatan (SST) pada 23 April 2025, untuk memberi panduan mengenai SST, Akta Cukai Perkhidmatan 2018, dan keperluan pendaftaran. Topik utama termasuk perkhidmatan bercukai, kadar cukai perkhidmatan baharu 8%, navigasi sistem MySST, kesilapan biasa, penalti dan prosedur audit.

马来西亚皇家关税局(RMCD)砂拉越分局于2025年4月23日举办销售和服务税(SST)辅助计划，提供有关SST、2018年服务税法令以及相关注册要求的指导。主要议题包括应税服务、调涨至8%的服务税税率、MySST系统导览、常见错误、处罚以及审计程序等。

Precision in Timber: Log Scaling Training for Accurate Measurement



Haji Ahmad Ashrin bin Mohammad Bohari, Regional Forest Officer Sibu (seated, 4th from left) and trainers, Mr Joshua anak Deri, (seated, 4th from right), Ms Hasanaliza binti Bujang (seated, 3rd from right) and Mr Sumbang anak Rani (seated, 3rd from left) posed for group photo with participants and others present at the launching of log scaling course

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), a training arm of Sarawak Timber Association (STA), are pleased to announce the successful completion of the Log Scaling Course, held from 22 to 24 April 2025 at Tanahmas Hotel, Sibu. This collaborative initiative aimed to enhance industry knowledge and skills in log measurement and scaling, thereby reinforcing sustainable forestry practices and accurate timber valuation.

The three (3) day intensive training program were conducted by experienced trainers from FDS and STAT and attended by 34 participants, comprising log scalers, log pond supervisors, and timber industry stakeholders. The course provided critical aspects of log scaling, covering measurement techniques, log tagging, identifying species, recording log details into log specification forms, and submitting applications to FDS for royalty assessment, as well as other log movement activities along the Sarawak Timber Chain of Custody in accordance with the Forests Ordinance, 2015 and associated requirements.

Datu Haji Hamden bin Haji Mohammad, the Director of Forests Sarawak, in his welcoming speech delivered by Haji Ahmad Ashrin bin Mohammad Bohari, Regional Forest Officer Sibu stated, *"The successful completion of this course reflects the commitment of all parties involved to enhance the skills, knowledge, and competencies of individuals in the forestry sector through targeted training. Accuracy in log scaling is essential to preventing under-declaration and safeguarding government revenue by eliminating potential leakage in log royalty collection."* He urged all participants to fully utilise this opportunity to acquire and



Mr Joshua anak Deri, the trainer delivered the classroom training

enhance their knowledge and skills in log scaling.

During the training, the trainers imparted participants with necessary knowledge and skills on log scaling in both classroom settings and valuable on-site hands-on practice at Collection and Distribution Centre (CDC) LPF0025, Mile 68, Sibu-Selangau Road. Participants were taught accurate measurement of log dimensions, including volume calculation for various log dimensions such as hollow, bent, and defects logs.

The FDS and STAT extend their appreciation to the trainers, and participants for their contributions to making this course a success. Moving forward, efforts will continue to expand training opportunities and strengthen partnerships in the forestry sector to promote knowledge and skills on responsible resource utilisation.

DATU HAMDEN BIN HAJI MOHAMMAD,
DIRECTOR OF FORESTS,
FOREST DEPARTMENT SARAWAK

ANNIE TING
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SARAWAK TIMBER ASSOCIATION
24 April 2025



Participants showing their Certificates upon completing the log scaling course

MEF East Malaysia (Sarawak) Regional Meeting No. 4/2025

The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) East Malaysia (Sarawak) Region held its fourth meeting of the year on 22 April 2025, facilitated by Ms Dayang Jamillah binti Tun Abang Muhd Salahuddin, Consultant of Industrial Relations at MEF Sarawak.

Ms Dayang addressed the status of the Labour Ordinance of Sarawak (Amendment) Act 2025, clarifying that while the amendment was gazetted on 14 April 2025, its enforcement date remains pending announcement by the Minister of Human Resources. She assured members would receive prompt notification once confirmed.

The highlight of the meeting was an expert presentation by Mr Muhammad Hafiz bin Awang Satiah, Consultant-Industrial Relations of MEF Perak on *"Unregistered Agreements and Legal Consequences"*, in which he detailed the legal framework for collective agreements under the Industrial Relations Act and explained the process from union recognition to agreement registration. He emphasised how properly executed collective agreements serve as vital tools for establishing clear employment terms and maintaining industrial harmony.

The session provided employers with practical guidance on navigating labour relations, particularly focusing on the binding nature of registered agreements and their role in preventing disputes.

Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan Malaysia (MEF) Wilayah Malaysia Timur (Sarawak) mengadakan mesyuarat keempat tahun ini pada 22 April 2025. Dimaklumkan bahawa walaupun Akta Ordinan Buruh (Pindaan) 2025 telah diwartakan pada 14 April 2025, Menteri Sumber Manusia masih belum mengumumkan tarikh pelaksanaannya. Mesyuarat juga menampilkan pembentangan mengenai perjanjian kolektif di bawah Akta Perhubungan Perusahaan yang berfungsi sebagai alat penting untuk mewujudkan syarat pekerjaan yang jelas dan mengekalkan keharmonian industri.

马来西亚雇主联合会(MEF)东马(砂拉越)区域于2025年4月22日召开本年度第四次会议。会中指出, 尽管2025年劳工法(修正案)已于2025年4月14日颁布, 但人力资源部长尚未宣布其生效日期。该会议也介绍关于劳资关系法案下的集体协议, 以此作为建立明确的雇佣条款以及维护工业和谐的关键工具。

PRODUCTION OF LOGS FROM NATURAL FORESTS BY REGION FROM SARAWAK-
HILL AND SWAMP SPECIES
PENGELUARAN BALAK DARI HUTAN SEMULA JADI MENGIKUT BAHAGIAN DARI SARAWAK - SPESIS HUTAN BUKIT DAN
HUTAN PAYA
砂拉越各区域天然林原木生产量 - 丘陵与沼泽地树种

Region	Jan '25	Jan '24	Feb '25	Feb '24	Mar '25	Mar '24	Jan - Mar '25	Jan - Mar '24
	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)
Kuching (Hill)	---	---	200	414	289	---	489	414
(Swamp)	---	---	753	---	---	---	753	---
Sibu (Hill)	14,615	15,698	18,743	25,338	20,047	15,419	53,405	56,455
(Swamp)	1,062	1,402	2,023	3,218	1,442	1,608	4,527	6,228
Bintulu (Hill)	40,724	65,220	40,464	43,667	41,197	64,738	122,385	173,625
(Swamp)	2,282	3,153	169	---	1,274	2,688	3,725	5,841
Miri (Hill)	7,812	4,429	7,090	11,159	6,408	7,440	21,310	23,028
(Swamp)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Kapit (Hill)	25,740	47,148	40,995	47,884	42,303	45,939	109,038	140,971
(Swamp)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Limbang (Hill)	4,386	6,955	1,224	9,957	5,231	10,992	10,841	27,904
(Swamp)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Sarikei (Hill)	72	5,135	221	3,932	842	4,140	1,135	13,207
(Swamp)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Sri Aman (Hill)	182	---	---	---	793	---	975	---
(Swamp)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Subtotal (Hill)	93,531	144,585	108,937	142,351	117,110	148,668	319,578	435,604
(Swamp)	3,344	4,555	2,945	3,218	2,716	4,296	9,005	12,069
TOTAL	96,875	149,140	111,882	145,569	119,826	152,964	328,583	447,673

Source of data : Forest Department Sarawak
(Please note that the figures for April 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)

PRODUCTION OF LOGS FROM NATURAL FORESTS BY HILL SPECIES FROM
SARAWAK
PENGELUARAN BALAK DARI HUTAN SEMULA JADI MENGIKUT SPESIS HUTAN BUKIT DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越丘陵地树种之天然林原木生产量

Hill Species	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Jan - Mar '25
	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)
Bindang	760	659	204	994	68	1,266
Meranti	71,779	50,066	40,315	45,233	50,404	135,952
Kapur	5,877	4,718	2,617	3,785	3,246	9,648
Keruing	4,178	2,748	1,824	2,326	2,572	6,722
Sepetir	274	122	107	141	165	413
Selangan Batu	2,905	2,039	1,652	973	1,551	4,176
Nyatoh	1,971	1,154	664	1,036	1,050	2,750
Other species	83,434	62,400	46,148	54,449	58,054	158,651
TOTAL:	171,178	123,906	93,531	108,937	117,110	319,578

PRODUCTION OF LOGS FROM NATURAL FORESTS BY SWAMP SPECIES
FROM SARAWAK
PENGELUARAN BALAK DARI HUTAN SEMULA JADI MENGIKUT SPESIS HUTAN PAYA DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越沼泽地树种之天然林原木生产量

Swamp Species	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Jan - Mar '25
	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)
Jongkong	---	---	---	6	---	6
Kapur	41	86	27	169	20	216
Keruing	25	53	17	24	5	46
Meranti	694	262	217	385	109	711
Other species	4,540	1,774	3,083	2,361	2,582	8,026
TOTAL:	5,300	2,175	3,344	2,945	2,716	9,005

Source of data : Forest Department Sarawak
(Please note that the figures for April 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)

PRODUCTION OF LOGS FROM INDUSTRIAL FOREST PLANTATION BY REGION FROM SARAWAK

PENGELUARAN BALAK DARI PERLADANGAN HUTAN INDUSTRI MENGIKUT BAHAGIAN DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越各区域工业人工林原木种类生产量

Region		Jan '25	Jan '24	Feb '25	Feb '24	Mar '25	Mar '24	Jan - Mar '25	Jan - Mar '24
		Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)
Sibu	(ACMG)	1,024	7,008	2,540	5,147	3,258	3,442	6,822	15,597
	(ALBZ)	1,847	---	1,606	712	---	1,427	3,453	2,139
	(EUCA)	---	---	---	---	2,054	---	2,054	---
	(KLPN)	79	621	---	858	---	1,303	79	2,782
Bintulu	(ACMG)	29,930	52,302	4,426	51,290	13,314	58,504	47,670	162,096
	(ALBZ)	780	2,520	1,172	2,195	1,986	5,118	3,938	9,833
	(EUCA)	3,193	1,807	3,299	2,860	3,170	1,511	9,662	6,178
	(GMELINA)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	(KLPN)	---	---	---	---	---	91	---	91
Miri	(ACMG)	5,780	12,865	4,433	13,452	7,477	15,050	17,690	41,367
	(ALBZ)	4,371	2,130	2,211	1,295	3,376	1,958	9,958	5,383
	(EUCA)	3,596	4,594	3,585	6,580	6,495	8,662	13,676	19,836
	(GMELINA)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	(KLPN)	---	---	---	---	120	---	120	---
Limbang	(ACMG)	---	1,002	---	2,143	---	1,241	---	4,386
Subtotal	(ACMG)	36,734	73,177	11,399	72,032	24,049	78,237	72,182	223,446
	(ALBZ)	6,998	4,650	4,989	4,202	5,362	8,503	17,349	17,355
	(EUCA)	6,789	6,401	6,884	9,440	11,719	10,173	25,392	26,014
	(GMELINA)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	(KLPN)	79	621	---	858	120	1,394	199	2,873
TOTAL:		50,600	84,849	23,272	86,532	41,250	98,307	115,122	269,688

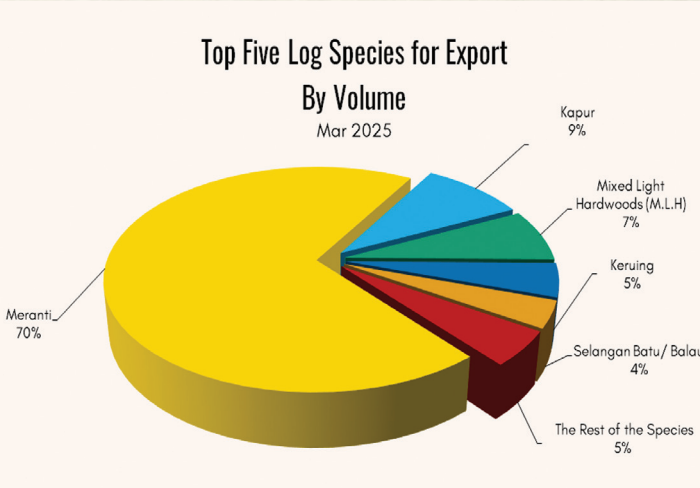
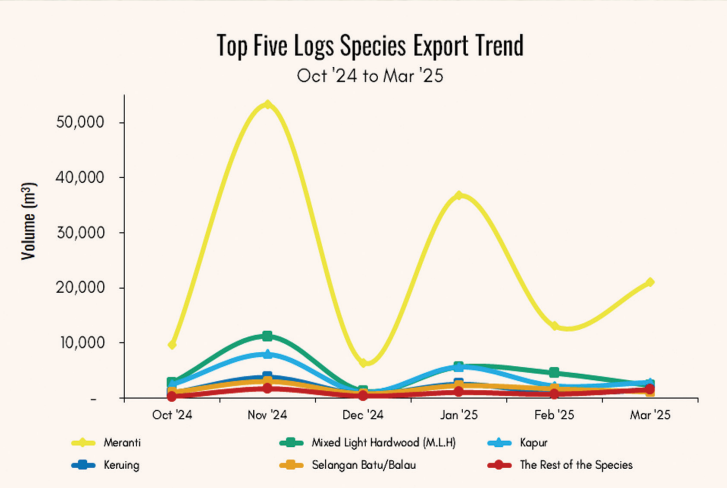
Source of data : Forest Department Sarawak
(Please note that the figures for April 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)

*ACMG - Acacia mangium ALBZ - Albizia EUCA - Eucalyptus GMELINA - Gmelina arborea KLPN - Kelampayan MHGN - Mahogany

EXPORT OF LOGS BY SPECIES FROM SARAWAK
EKSPORT BALAK MENGIKUT SPESIS DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越原木树种出口量

Species	Jan '25		Feb '25		Mar '25		Jan - Mar '25		Jan - Mar '24	
	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)
Arau	258	321,403	52	52,558	112	142,444	422	516,405	826	940,187
Bindang/Damar Minyak/Agathis	---	---	---	---	1,073	995,476	1,073	995,476	---	---
Kapur	5,628	6,256,136	2,156	2,319,110	2,799	3,130,974	10,583	11,706,220	12,243	13,925,588
Keruing	2,538	2,033,175	976	769,349	1,454	1,177,251	4,968	3,979,775	22,702	17,571,641
Meranti	36,760	26,618,617	13,090	9,260,401	21,024	15,561,608	70,874	51,440,626	70,552	51,257,651
Mersawa	208	180,392	161	143,236	101	90,620	470	414,248	2,888	2,003,246
Mixed Light Hardwoods (M.L.H)	5,646	3,203,382	4,504	2,514,473	2,245	1,485,552	12,395	7,203,407	10,265	6,252,707
Nyatoh	99	54,665	77	46,494	90	54,789	266	155,948	62	38,958
Resak	274	229,189	238	199,654	101	88,350	613	517,193	878	762,406
Selangau Batu/Balau	2,286	3,658,512	1,696	2,701,024	1,170	1,973,787	5,152	8,333,323	6,176	9,730,671
Other Species	197	125,333	193	120,430	25	22,132	415	267,895	75	44,086
TOTAL:	53,894	42,680,804	23,143	18,126,729	30,194	24,722,983	107,231	85,530,516	126,667	102,527,141

Source of data: Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation
(Please note that the figures for April 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)

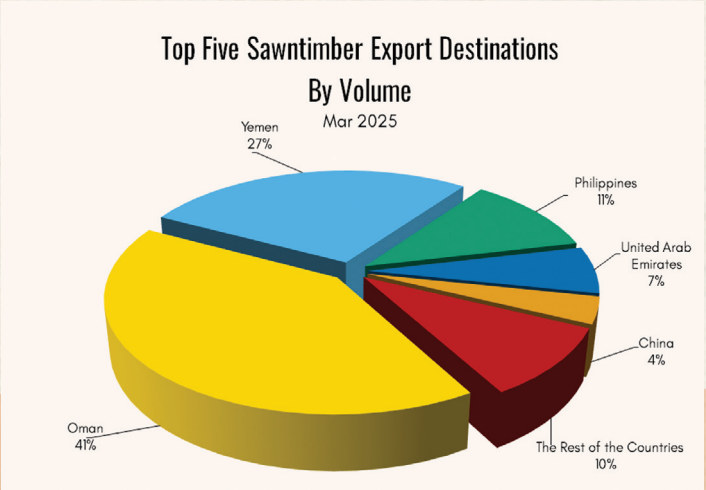
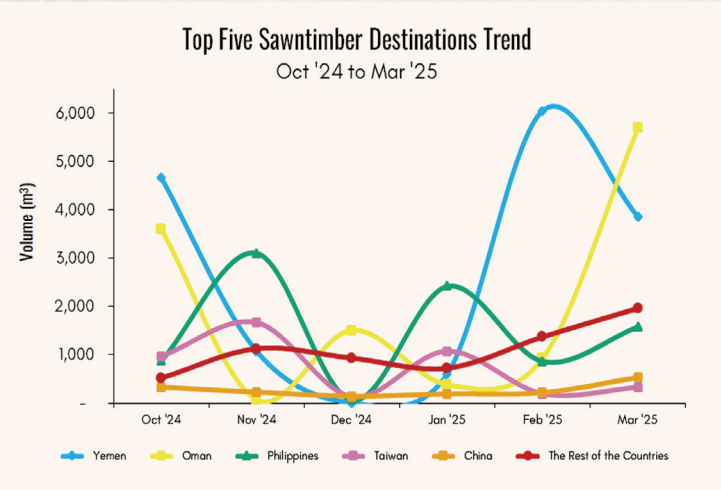


SARAWAK timber trade statistics

EXPORT OF SAWNTIMBER BY DESTINATIONS FROM SARAWAK
EKSPORT KAYU BERGERGAJI MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越至各目的地之锯木出口量

Table with 11 columns: Country of Destination, Jan '25 (Vol, Val), Feb '25 (Vol, Val), Mar '25 (Vol, Val), Jan-Mar '25 (Vol, Val), Jan-Mar '24 (Vol, Val). Rows include China, Japan, Korea, Oman, Philippines, Seychelles, Taiwan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Other Countries, and a TOTAL row.

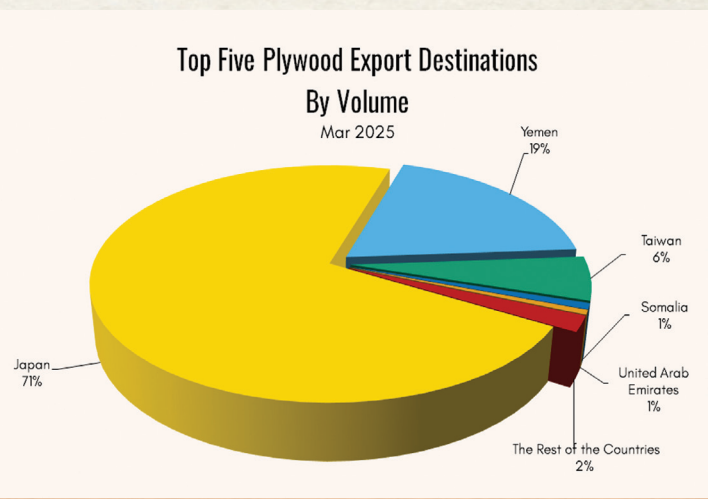
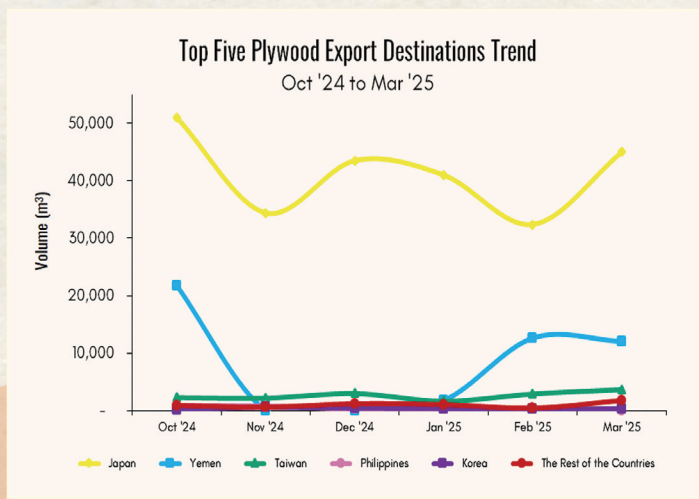
Source of data : Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation
(Please note that the figures for April 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)



EXPORT OF PLYWOOD BY DESTINATIONS FROM SARAWAK
EKSPORT PAPAN LAPIS MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越至各目的地之胶合板出口量

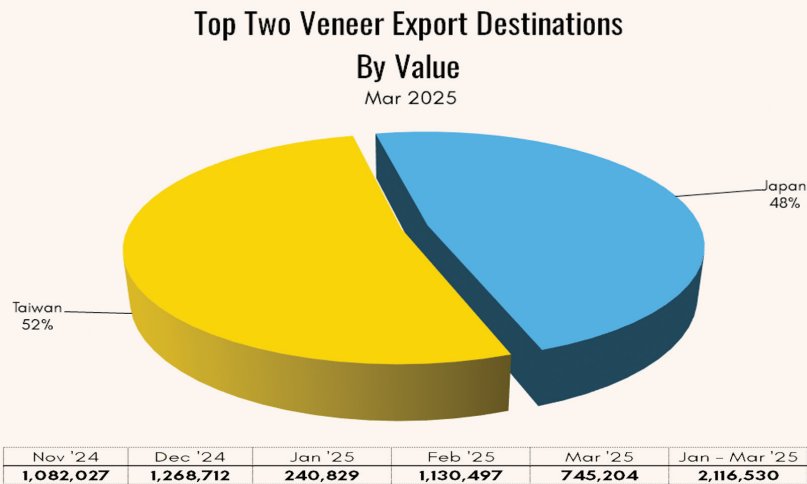
Table with 11 columns: Country of Destination, Jan '25 (Vol, Val), Feb '25 (Vol, Val), Mar '25 (Vol, Val), Jan-Mar '25 (Vol, Val), Jan-Mar '24 (Vol, Val). Rows include Australia, Brunei, China, Japan, Korea, Oman, Somalia, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Other Countries, and a TOTAL row.

Source of data : Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation
(Please note that the figures for April 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)

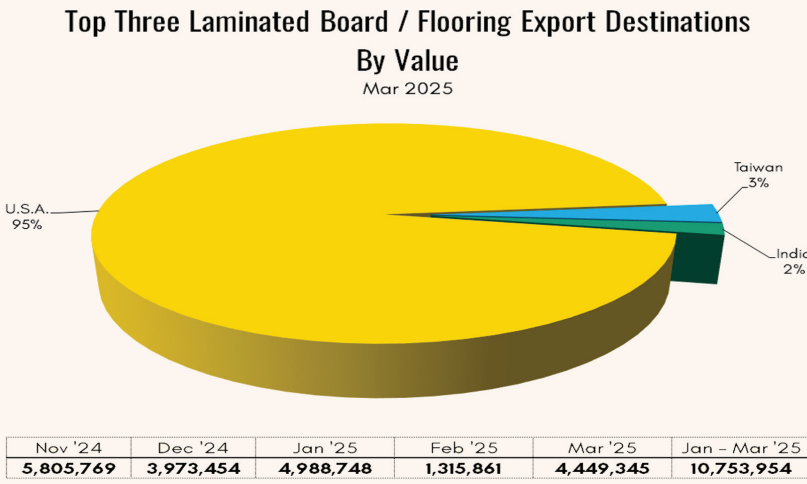




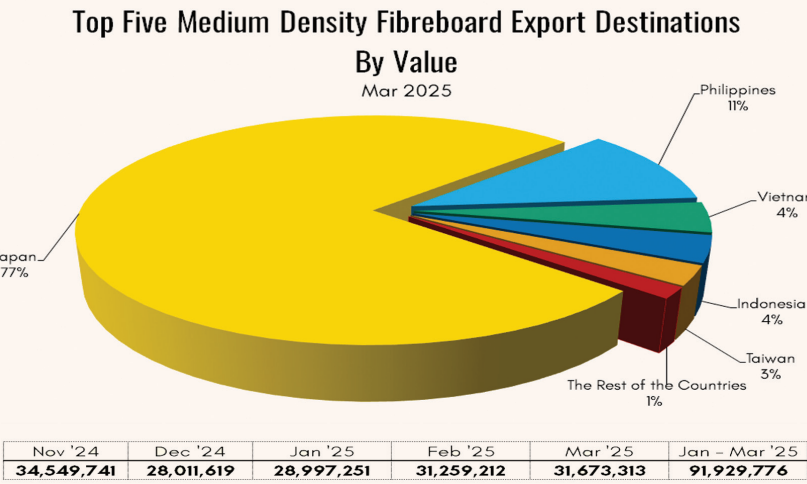
EXPORT VALUE OF VENEER BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK
NILAI EKSPORT VENIR MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越至各目的地之单板出口值



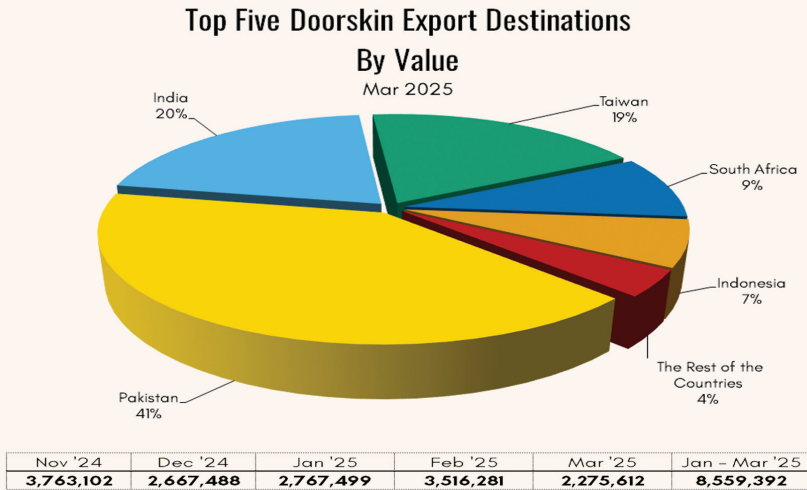
EXPORT VALUE OF LAMINATED BOARD / FLOORING BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK
NILAI EKSPORT PAPAN LAMINA / LANTAI MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越至各目的地之层压板/地板出口值



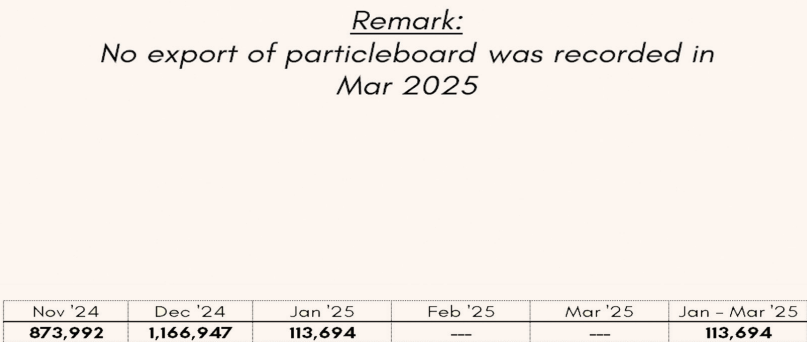
EXPORT VALUE OF MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK
NILAI EKSPORT PAPAN GENTIAN BERKETUMPATAN SEDERHANA MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越至各目的地之中密度纤维板出口值



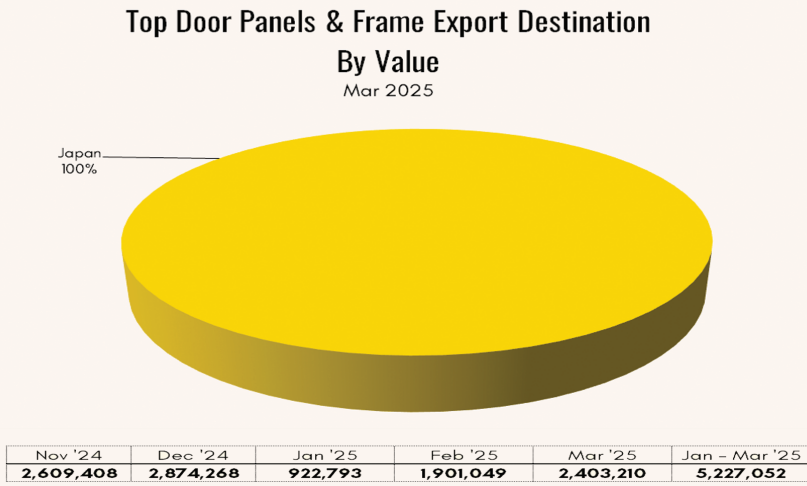
EXPORT VALUE OF DOORSKIN BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK
NILAI EKSPORT DAUN PINTU MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越至各目的地之门皮出口值



EXPORT VALUE OF PARTICLEBOARD BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK
NILAI EKSPORT PAPAN SERPAI MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越至各目的地之塑合板出口值



EXPORT VALUE OF DOOR PANELS & FRAME BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK
NILAI EKSPORT PANEL & BINGKAI PINTU MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越至各目的地之门框出口值



Source of data : Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation
(Please note that the figures for April 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)

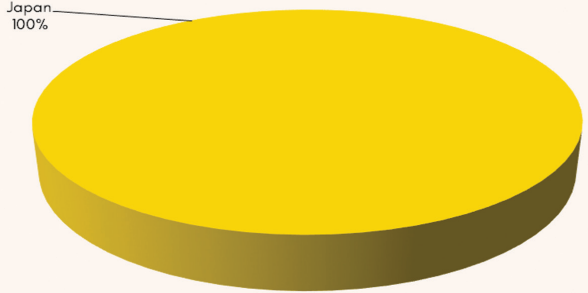
Source of data : Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation
(Please note that the figures for April 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)



EXPORT VALUE OF MOULDINGS BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK

NILAI EKSPORT KAYU KUMAI MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越至各目的地之制模出口值

Top Mouldings Export Destination
By Value
Mar 2025



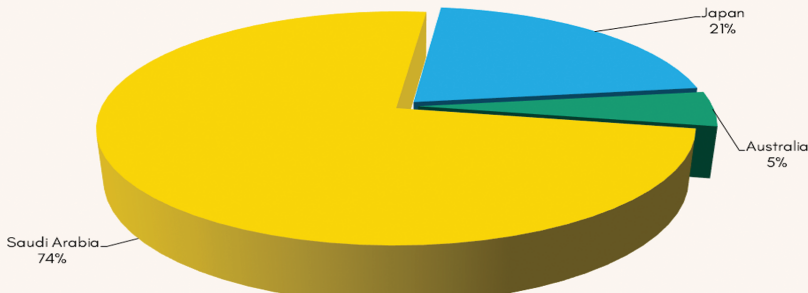
Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Jan - Mar '25
553,302	11,768,877	285,346	349,313	478,384	1,113,043



EXPORT VALUE OF CHARCOAL & BRIQUETTE BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK

NILAI EKSPORT ARANG & BRIKET MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越至各目的地之木炭和煤球出口值

Top Three Charcoal & Briquette Export Destinations
By Value
Mar 2025



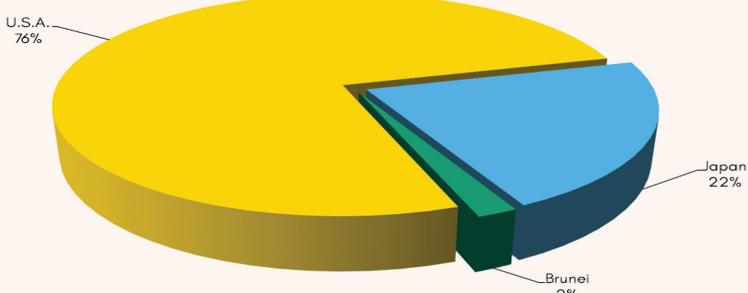
Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Jan - Mar '25
600,414	322,199	524,509	164,657	726,347	1,415,513



EXPORT VALUE OF FURNITURE & FURNITURE PARTS BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK

NILAI EKSPORT PERABOT & BAHAGIANNYA MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越至各目的地之家具及其零件出口值

Top Three Furniture & Furniture Part Export Destinations
By Value
Mar 2025



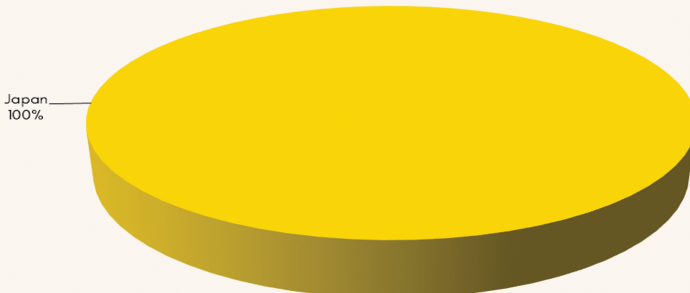
Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Jan - Mar '25
3,432,476	3,665,961	2,453,257	2,500,474	3,039,680	7,993,411



EXPORT VALUE OF WOODCHIPS BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK

NILAI EKSPORT CIP KAYU MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越至各目的地之木屑出口值

Top Woodchips Export Destination
By Value
Mar 2025



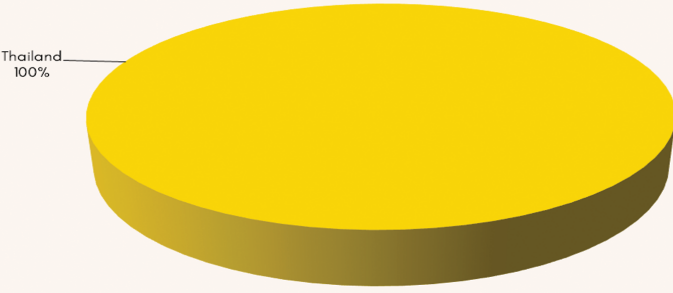
Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Jan - Mar '25
13,996,572	34,301,017	17,362,153	4,866,686	2,487,139	24,715,978



EXPORT VALUE OF WOOD PELLETS BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK

NILAI EKSPORT PELET KAYU MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越至各目的地之木屑颗粒出口值

Top Wood Pellets Export Destination
By Value
Mar 2025



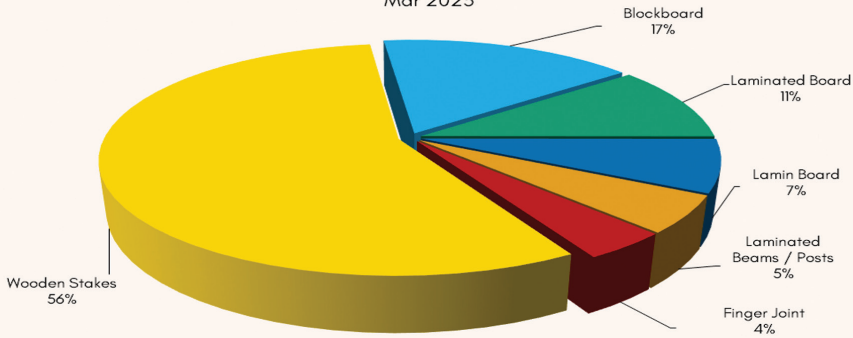
Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Jan - Mar '25
45,475,560	---	20,517,030	---	173,724	20,690,754



EXPORT VALUE OF OTHER TIMBER PRODUCTS FROM SARAWAK

NILAI EKSPORT PRODUK KAYU LAIN DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越其它木制品出口值

Other Timber Products Export
By Value
Mar 2025



Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Jan - Mar '25
1,010,724	1,438,364	1,132,627	1,224,285	1,132,141	3,489,053

Source of data : Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation
(Please note that the figures for April 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)

Source of data : Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation
(Please note that the figures for April 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AUDIT TRAINING

Date : 7-11 April 2025 (Part 1)
Venue : Wisma STA, Kuching
Trainer : Mr Justine Jok Jau Emang



The STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), the training arm of STA and an appointed Training Provider had collaborated with the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) to organise the Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) training course with objectives to provide a thorough understanding and practical application of the ECA process to meet the requirements the *Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008*, and the associated guidelines as well as to promote self-regulation within the industry players. This training will enable qualified personnel to be registered as Environmental Auditor with NREB and to conduct internal audit, migrating from the existing Environmental Monitoring Reports (EMR) submission.

With effect from 1 July 2024, it is mandatory for the forestry sector in Sarawak to implement the Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) while for agriculture (oil palm plantation), quarry, and mining sectors; it will come into effect on 1 January 2027. For more information on the training, kindly contact STAT at 082- 332222 or email to howchu@sta.org.my

Image Captions:

1. Photo-call with auditee representatives after completion of hands-on site audit
2. Participants conducting document review, part of the audit methodology in ECA
3. Participants were divided into groups for hands-on practical audit at one of the oil palm plantation in Lundu, Sarawak
4. Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA (seated, 5th from right), Mr Tsai Koh Fen, Head of Compliance and Enforcement Division, NREB (seated, 4th from right) and trainer, Mr Justine Jok Jau Emang, (seated, 4th from left) posed for group photo with ECA participants



LOG SCALING COURSE FOR LOG SCALERS

In order to ensure the log specifications submitted by STA members or their contractors to Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) for royalty marking are accurate and comply with the *Forests Ordinance 2015* and its associated requirements, the STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), the training arm of the STA, in-collaboration with the FDS had organised a 3-day Log Scaling Course from 22 to 24 April 2025 at Tanahmas Hotel, Sibul. At total of 34 participants from various companies had enrolled into this course.

This course provided the log scalers, log pond supervisors, and other relevant personnel with comprehensive knowledge and practical skills in log scaling which involves key activities such as measuring log diameter and length, tagging the log, identifying species, recording log details in log specification forms, and submitting applications to FDS for royalty assessment. Participants were also provided with valuable on-site hands-on practice at Collection and Distribution Centre (CDC) LPF0025, Mile 68, Sibul-Selangau Road.

For more information on the above training, kindly contact Mr Wong How Chu at 082- 332222 or email to howchu@sta.org.my



Image Captions:

1. Participants were divided into groups to experience the hands-on practical of log scaling.
2. Participants were taught accurate measurement of log dimensions and volume calculation for various log dimensions, such as hollow, bent, and defects logs, via hands-on practical at Collection and Distribution Centre (CDC) LPF0025, Mile 68, Sibul-Selangau Road.
3. Mr Joshua Anak Deri, the trainer delivered the classroom training.
4. Participants showing their Certificates upon completing the log scaling course.

OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAMME APRIL 2025

Skills training in forestry activities have been designed to provide forest workmen with basic knowledge and practical skills required to work safely in the forests. It helps to create awareness on the environment, sustainable forest management as well as occupational safety and health.

STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), a subsidiary company of STA, offers training to workmen in the forestry and timber industry. Presently, there are twelve (12) skills sets offered by STAT.

For this month, STAT conducted ground operator training programme as follows:

> Log Loading - Front End Loader (Natural Forest)

STAT Trainer / Assessor : Mr Sang Sanjan
Date : 15 - 19 April 2025
Location : Pila Camp, Kapit
Company : Ironwall Sdn Bhd



> Log Extraction - Tractor (Natural Forest)

STAT Trainer / Assessor : Mr Ginda Uli
Date : 15 - 19 April 2025
Location : Pila Camp, Kapit
Company : Ironwall Sdn Bhd



> Log and Timber Identification

STAT Trainer / Assessor : Mr Sumbang Rani
Date : 15 - 19 April 2025
Location : Pila Camp, Kapit
Company : Ironwall Sdn Bhd



Under Section 51 of the Forests Ordinance 2015, forest workmen are required to receive training from a training provider and demonstrate their competence through assessment. STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) is the appointed training provider by Forest Department Sarawak to provide skills training for the five (5) prescribed forestry activities (PFAs) as listed in Schedule 1 The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015.

GET IN TOUCH

For more information, contact Mr Wong How Chu at 082 - 332 222 or email at howchu@sta.org.my