

# STA REVIEW

Monthly Magazine of Sarawak Timber Association

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Girls & Boys Brigade Educational Visit to STA Exhibition Centre



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## On the Cover



Cover photo by Lam Hui Chen.

## STA REVIEW

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# Lab on Way Forward for License for Planted Forests

Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) organised a “Lab on Way Forward for License for Planted Forests (LPF)” from 11 to 12 April 2023 at Grand Margherita Hotel, Kuching.

The 2-day Lab was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Ministry of International Trade, Industry and Investment, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Department of Labour Sarawak, Immigration Department of Malaysia, Natural Resources and Environment Board Sarawak, financial institution, LPF holders and STA Secretariat.

In his opening remark, Datu Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, General Manager of STIDC mentioned that the main objective of the Lab was to develop a long term strategic plan for the planted forests in Sarawak that aligns with STIDC’s mission of promoting sustainable planted forests to support a thriving timber industry in the long run. In order to drive this initiative, it is important to relook at policy direction as well as regulatory and management framework of the forest plantation industry.

He hoped that various supporting enablers such as effective policies, technology advancement, skilled manpower, robust infrastructure and appropriate incentives will support the development of sustainable and reliable forest plantation industry in creating high value-added planted timber products towards achieving the RM8 billions targeted export value by year 2030.

He also suggested that the future of the industry be driven by the private sector and operates within the self-regulatory framework. Besides that, he also informed that the STIDC (Amendment)



(1) Group photo; (2) Mr Joseph Lau, STA Forest Plantation Committee Chairman delivering closing remark; (3) Datu Haji Hashim, General Manager of STIDC (standing) leading the discussion in one of the groups.

Bill, 2022 is expected to be implemented with effect from 1 June 2023. The Bill provides better provisions for the managements of the Sarawak timber industry through the issuance of timber industry licenses and enhances the enforcement powers under the STIDC Ordinance. He then put forward a proposal of allowing processing or mobile mill in the planted forests as a means to address some of the challenges faced by the LPF holders.

Datu Haji Hashim later moderated the group discussion sessions which focused on five (5) themes namely infrastructure & facilities, manpower, procedures & laws, environment and financial facilities. Participants deliberated on key issues and challenges affecting the development of the forest plantation in Sarawak and suggested strategies to overcome them.

砂拉越木材工业发展机构(STIDC)于2023年4月11日至12日在古晋玛格丽特大酒店举办“人工林许可证(LPFP)前进方向研讨会”，旨在为砂拉越的人工林制定长期策略计划，以符合STIDC促进可持续人工林以支持木材行业长期繁荣的使命。参与者讨论影响砂拉越人工林发展的关键问题和挑战，并提出克服这些问题的策略。

In wrapping up the Lab, Mr Joseph Lau Ching Hoo, STA Forest Plantation Committee Chairman expressed his wish for the forest plantation industry and Sarawak Government to work towards reducing costs and increasing the yield from the planted forests in order for this industry to remain in business and competitive.

He hoped that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development, FDS and STIDC together with STA members can combine efforts to develop a holistic approach in addressing all the issues and challenges faced in both upstream and downstream of the forest plantation industry.

*Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) menganjurkan “Lab On Way Forward for License for Planted Forests (LPF)” dari 11 hingga 12 April 2023 di Hotel Grand Margherita, Kuching dengan tujuan membentuk pelan strategik jangka panjang pembangunan ladang hutan di Sarawak yang sejajar dengan misi STIDC untuk mempromosikan ladang hutan mampan bagi menyokong perkembangan industri perikanan jangka panjang. Para peserta membincangkan cabaran utama yang dihadapi dalam membangunkan ladang hutan dan berkongsi langkah penyelesaian bagi cabaran yang dikenalpasti.*

## Discussion on Forest Plantation Research & Development Working Group

Haji Happysupina Bin Sait, Deputy Director (Forest Conservation and Development), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) chaired a meeting between FDS and STA on 4 April 2023 at Bangunan Baitul Makmur II, Petra Jaya to discuss the research and development (R&D) collaboration for forest plantation industry. STA was represented by its Chief Executive Officer, Ms Annie Ting and two (2) officers.

In the course of the meeting, updates on seed procurement for aggressive industrial forest R&D programme, status of R&D collaboration with national and international research institutes, progress of mechanised tree planting project were shared. The meeting also discussed the proposal to conduct study visit to *Eucalyptus* plantation and the establishment of working group for R&D collaboration amongst State forestry agencies and industry.

在砂森林局和本会之间于2023年4月4日的会议中分享和讨论的一些事项包括积极工业林研发(R&D)计划种子采购的最新进展、与国家和国际研究机构的研发合作情况以及机械化植树项目的进展。

Kemas kini berkaitan perolehan benih untuk program penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D) ladang hutan, status kerjasama R&D dengan institut penyelidikan nasional dan antarabangsa serta kemajuan projek penanaman pokok berjentera adalah antara perkara-perkara yang dikongsi dan dibincangkan dalam mesyuarat di antara FDS dan STA pada 4 April 2023.

## Briefings on ITTO-supported Project Management of Upper Baram Forest Area for Conservation and Sustainable Development

Two (2) briefing sessions were held on 19 April 2023, one with local communities residing in the Upper Baram Forest Area (UBFA) at Mega Hotel, Miri and the other with timber licensees belonging to Samling group of companies at Wisma Samling, Miri.

UBFA covers 283,500 hectares in north eastern Sarawak, encompassing primary forests, farm areas, settlements, timber

concessions, and agricultural lands. These sessions followed the signing of agreements between the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) and Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) on 20 March 2023 which aimed to improve the management of the UBFA through the conduct of two (2) projects.

According to Mdm Evelyn Jugi, the chief local counterpart, the

## PEFC Webinar to Introduce the New EU Deforestation-Free Regulation

The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) organised a webinar on 20 April 2023 to introduce the objectives and impact of the European Union (EU) Deforestation-Free Regulation (EUDR) as well as present PEFC's related works that is aligned with the EUDR.

The new Deputy Secretary General and Chief Operating Officer of PEFC International, Ms Siti Syaliza Mustapha highlighted in her opening remarks that PEFC is the largest forest certification system in the world today and will continue to be the system of choice for smallholders.

She also underscored the important roles that forest plays in mitigating climate change and the need to employ multiple tools to achieve positive effects of forest use, including promoting sustainable forest management and supply chain through national forest certification systems endorsed by PEFC.

Moderated by Ms Hannah Prins, Communications Manager of PEFC International, the webinar featured the following three (3) speakers:

***Ms Maja Drča, EU Representative at PEFC International***

She informed that the EUDR will repeal and replace the EU Timber Regulation. Upon enforcement, expected in May/June 2023, the targeted commodities and derived products may only be placed on, or exported from the EU market if they are deforestation-free, legal and supported by due diligence statement.

***Deforestation-free means the commodities must produced on land that is not subjected to deforestation and forest degradation after 31 December 2020, and is produced in accordance with relevant legislation of the country of production.***

The due diligent statement will be cemented into the EU database, also known as registration information system.

first project entitled “*Management of Upper Baram Forest Area for Conservation and Sustainable Development with involvement of local communities*” costs USD 1,358,783 and is set to run for two (2) years. Its main objectives are to promote biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development for the benefit of local communities, as well as to facilitate rural transformation through sustainable development and good governance practices.

The second project “*Community Empowerment in forest management and forest landscape restoration*” which complements the first project and aims to contribute to the sustainable management of Upper

Baram forests for resilient local communities and ecosystems as well as empower local communities in forest management and landscape restoration has a budget of USD479,500 with project duration of one (1) year.

Mdm Evelyn stressed that implementation of UBFA projects will be based on ITTO approved Project Document and comply with existing policies, guidelines and relevant laws and regulation applicable to Sarawak. She reiterated that the land use status remains unchanged throughout the project implementation period and all activities conducted would involve relevant stakeholders such as Government agencies, NGOs, local communities and timber

companies. These projects and the steps taken to realise them were well received by representatives from the communities and timber licensees present at both briefings.

两场简报会于2023年4月19日举行，分别与居住在峇南上游森林区(UBFA)的当地社群,及三林集团公司属下的木材许可证持有人分享更多有关将在UBFA进行保护和可持续发展项目的信息。

2 sesi taklimat telah diadakan pada 19 April 2023, satu dengan komuniti tempatan yang menetap di Kawasan Hutan Upper Baram (UBFA) dan satu lagi dengan pemegang-pemegang lesen balak kumpulan Syarikat Samling. Taklimat bertujuan untuk berkongsi maklumat lanjut mengenai projek pemuliharaan dan pembangunan kelestarian yang akan dijalankan di UBFA.



She also shared that the EUDR will establish a benchmarking system to assess deforestation risk of the country of production or parts thereof.

She then highlighted the elements of due diligence procedures which includes the precise geographical information on the source of commodities.

Although certification system can be the supporting tool in due diligence procedures, it is not a green-lane to prove compliance with EUDR.

She is optimistic that successful

implementation of EUDR is possible as long as everyone on board understands the requirements and is supported by implementation tools. PEFC is following the European Commission’s initiative on deforestation-free which will be integrated into the PEFC standards.

**Mr Thorsten Arndt, Head of Communication at PEFC International**

He shared that based on findings from gap assessment study of PEFC against EUDR, the PEFC is well aligned with the Regulation and there are three (3) potential for improvement, namely human

rights, geographical location of forest areas and deforestation-free policy. Working group has been established by PEFC to look into closing the gap and companies will be able to demonstrate compliance with EUDR through PEFC certification.

**Mr Richard Laity, PEFC Southeast Asia Manager**

He communicated the challenges that smallholders from Southeast Asian countries will face in complying with the EUDR, particularly those without land right document who risk being removed from the EU supply chain. A right balance is needed to support smallholders and their livelihoods with market access.

森林认证认可计划(PEFC)于2023年4月20日举办线上研讨会，简介欧盟(EU)无毁林法规(EUDR)的目标和影响以及分享PEFC与EUDR一致的相关工作。受邀讲员告知参与者关于欧盟委员会无毁林的倡议将被纳入PEFC标准，之后企业可以通过PEFC认证证明遵守EUDR。研讨会也分享EUDR将使用基准系统评估国家森林砍伐风险和EUDR将对东南亚国家的小业者所产生的影响。

Program untuk Pengendorsan Pensijilan Hutan (PEFC) telah menganjurkan webinar pada 20 April 2023 untuk memperkenalkan objektif dan impak Peraturan Bebas Penyahutan (EUDR) Kesatuan Eropah (EU) serta membentangkan kerja-kerja PEFC yang berkaitan dengan EUDR. Penceramah jemputan berkongsi bahawa inisiatif Suruhanjaya Eropah mengenai bebas penyahutan akan disepadukan ke dalam piawai PEFC dan syarikat boleh menunjukkan pematuhan terhadap EUDR melalui pensijilan PEFC. Sistem penanda aras yang akan digunakan oleh EUDR untuk menilai risiko penyahutan negara turut dikongsi, bersama-sama dengan impak EUDR terhadap pekebun kecil dari negara Asia Tenggara.

# Stakeholders Meeting for the Helmeted Hornbill Project in Usun Apau National Park

In 2021, the Malaysian Nature Society Kuching Branch (MNSKB) embarked on a 3-year “Securing a safe haven for the Helmeted Hornbills in the Usun Apau National Park” project to, among many, secure consensus and support from key stakeholders on hornbill conservation roadmap for Usun Apau National Park (UANP).

The project was also aimed to improve knowledge on ecology as well as population status of the critically endangered Helmeted Hornbill and other hornbill species in UANP.

On 18 April 2023, Ms Batrisyia Teepol and Mr Reeve Mark Maya Sagan of MNSKB updated its stakeholders from Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Miri Division Resident Office, Syarikat Samling Timber Sdn Bhd, non-governmental organisation and STA on the project’s progress. These updates included activities such as stakeholder consultations and discussions, Helmeted Hornbill surveys within UANP as well as building capacity and awareness



Helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax Vigil*) (bottom right) and other types of hornbill.

among local communities on the role of hornbill guardians/protectors.

It was also shared that future works will continue with more engagements with stakeholders and local communities, hornbill surveys, capacity building and training.

An expedition to document biodiversity of UANP will also be organised to provide ideas for sustainable livelihood options for the local communities.

马来西亚自然协会古晋分会于2023年4月18日向其利益相关者更新有关在乌山阿包国家公园(UANP)盔犀鸟项目的最新进展,其中包括利益相关者咨询和讨论、UANP盔犀鸟调查以及在当地社区中建立犀鸟监护人/保护者角色的能力和意识等活动。

Pada 18 April 2023, Persatuan Pencinta Alam Malaysia Cawangan Kuching mengemas kini pemegang taruh mengenai kemajuan Projek Enggang Tebang Mentua di Taman Negara Usun Apau (UANP) yang merangkumi aktiviti-aktiviti seperti perundingan dan perbincangan dengan pihak berkepentingan, tinjauan Enggang Tebang Mentua di UANP serta pembangunan kapasiti dan kesedaran dalam kalangan masyarakat tempatan mengenai peranan sebagai penjaga/pelindung burung enggang.

# Research Study on Drivers of Forest Certification in Malaysia

On 5 April 2023, Mr Murugan Manikam, a Ph.D candidate from Universiti Putra Malaysia, visited Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA at her office in Wisma STA to share more about his research study that aimed to identify drivers of forest certification in Malaysia.

As STA is identified as one of the experts for his study, an interview session was carried out with Ms Ting. Some of the questions posed included factors that contributed to the emergence of forest certification in Malaysia, key actors and their roles, internal and external drivers of forest certification in Malaysia and the effectiveness of forest certification in addressing sustainability concerns within the country.

In a show of support for his study that will serve the interests of the timber industry, Ms Ting assured him that STA will lend its assistance by coordinating interviews with its members.



Ms Annie Ting (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and Mr Murugan (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) posed for a photo call.

马来西亚博特拉大学在读博士生姆鲁甘玛尼卡先生于2023年4月5日在本会位于STA大厦的办公室礼节性拜访本会首席执行官陈燕贞小姐,分享更多关于他旨在确认马来西亚森林认证驱动因素的研究。陈小姐承诺本会将帮助协调他与本会会员的访谈,以示支持这项符合木材业利益的研究。

Pada 5 April 2023, Encik Murugan Manikam, calon Ph.D dari Universiti Putra Malaysia bertemu dengan Cik Annie Ting, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif STA di pejabatnya di Wisma STA bagi berkongsi dengan lebih lanjut tentang penyelidikannya mengenai pemacu pensijilan hutan di Malaysia. Cik Ting menyokong penyelidikan tersebut yang memenuhi kepentingan industri perkayuan dan turut membantu mengatur sesi temu bual di antara Encik Murugan dengan ahli-ahli STA.



(1) Group photo;  
(2) Mr Law Hui Chau (5<sup>th</sup> from left) received a token of appreciation from Ms Avril Soon (6<sup>th</sup> from right).

# Girls & Boys Brigade Educational Visit to STA Exhibition Centre

On 26 April 2023, a group of forty-five (45) students from the primary school, tertiary education and institutions of the Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade of Kuching visited STA Exhibition Centre as part of their school holidays' curriculum activities.

The group, led by Ms Avril Soon and Mr Griffin Gelenga explored the Centre and benefitted from exhibits on display showcasing various products made from timber such as wooden furnitures, veneer, plywood, dowels and instruments used by local communities. They also learned about tree harvesting system, plywood and sawntimber manufacturing processes, as well as obtained more information on forestry, the timber industry and biodiversity through the Centre's interactive kiosk.

This group of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are also recognised as school uniform bodies by the Ministry of Education Malaysia.

来自古晋小学、高等教育和学院的45名女童军和男童军学生于2023年4月26日参观本会的展览中心,以作为学校假期的课程活动之一。

*Pada 26 April 2023, sekumpulan empat puluh lima (45) pelajar dari sekolah rendah, pendidikan tinggi dan institusi Brigid Perempuan dan Brigid Lelaki Kuching telah melawat Pusat Pameran STA. Lawatan tersebut merupakan sebahagian daripada aktiviti kurikulum cuti sekolah mereka.*



# Preparing for Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Greenhouse Gas Regulation: What SMEs and Major Government Contractors Need to Know

The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) is the principal set of rules regarding government procurement in the United States of America. In November 2022, the FAR Council Members proposed a new rule, the FAR Greenhouse Gas Regulation, to require federal contractors to disclose their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, climate-related financial risks and set science-based targets to reduce their emissions.

On 13 April, 2023, a webinar to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as well as major government contractors

in the United States prepare for the Regulation was conducted by Mr Neil Mendenhall, Managing Director of Environment, Social and Governance Strategy and Sales, SCS Consulting Services.

In the climate disclosure conversation which was attended mostly by potential government contractor who are familiar with FAR, Mr Mendenhall addressed how the Carbon Disclosure Project disclosure system works and can be leveraged by SMEs to meet all of their reporting needs. More information on the method and accounting rules for disclosure can be found on

GHG Protocol website at <https://ghgprotocol.org/>

He added that GHGs are not limited to carbon dioxide but include a broader range of gases that are more powerful but less admitted such as methane and nitrous oxide and a company's GHG emissions are classified into three (3) scopes. Scope 1 and 2 are emissions that are owned or controlled by a company such as fuels and purchased electricity, whereas Scope 3 emissions are a consequence of the company's activities that occurred from sources not owned or controlled by the company such as emission from purchase of goods and services, business travel and employee commuting.

The proposed timeline for GHG accounting by major contractors is one year after the proposed rule is finalised and federal contractors that do not fulfill the FAR GHG

## MTC Briefing on National Budget 2023 Outlook

The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) organised a 2023 post-budget online briefing to the timber industry on 6 April 2023. Mr Yeah Kim Leng, Deputy President of the Malaysian Economic Association conducted the briefing and provided insights into the underlying outlook of the 2023 budget.

Ms Noraihan Abdul Rahman, Chief Executive Officer of MTC highlighted the vital role played by timber in the agri-commodity sector in her welcoming remarks. She also underscored some of the flagship programmes introduced by MTC to strengthen and increase the industry's resilience as it propel forward, such as the Factory Transformation Programme, Community Farming, and Timber Design Incubator Programme.

Mr Yeah highlighted that global economic shocks arising from the Russia – Ukraine war and persistently high inflation have led to uncertainties on the global economic outlook. Based on the J.P.Morgan Global Manufacturing PMI™ produced by JP Morgan and S&P Global, the global manufacturing output remained contractionary over the last 7 months, albeit registering slight improvement in February and March 2023.

The International Monetary Fund has projected global growth estimated at 3.4% in 2022 to dip to 2.9% in 2023 before rebounding to 3.1% in 2024, well below the historical annual average of 3.8%. It was also reported that the decline in growth in 2023 from 2022 is driven by the slowdown in advanced economies.

In emerging and developing Asia, the reopening of China's economy, on the other hand, paves the way for rapid rebound in activity. Global inflation which has peaked at 8.8% in 2022 is set to fall to 6.6% in 2023 and 4.3% in 2024, above the pre-pandemic level of 3.5%.

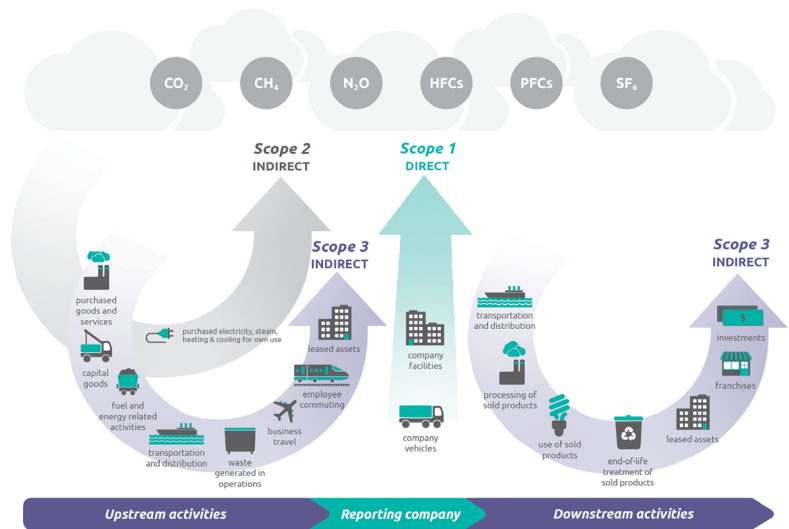
Although Malaysia has rebounded back strongly from the pandemic with a growth of 8.7% in 2022, its economic growth is projected to moderate to approximately 4.5% in 2023 amid signs of weakness in global growth momentum. Inflation rate is also anticipated to range between 2.8% to 3.8% in 2023.

The National Budget 2023 was formulated based on the MADANI policy framework consisting of six (6) principles and three (3) pillars/thrusts to address key challenges identified by the Government. The six (6) principles are Sustainable, Prosperity, Innovation, Trust, Respect and Care & Compassion, while the three (3) pillars/thrusts



requirements are considered non responsible and potentially ineligible for some government contracts. It was also shared that a typical GHG inventory may take several months depending on availability of data.

Mr Mendenhall reminded that while the Regulation currently only impact significant and major federal contractors, other contractors were also reminded to be prepared in the case that the government decides to lower the threshold for the Regulation, thus requiring companies with smaller contracts to be bound by the reporting requirements.



Scope 1, 2 and 3 of the GHG Inventory Guidance

SCS咨询服务近期内举办一场线上研讨会，以帮助美国的中小型企业 and 主要政府承包商为即将实施的温室气体(GHG)法规做好准备。该法规要求公司申报其温室气体的排放量和与气候相关的财务风险，并设定以科学为基础的目标以减少温室气体的排放。其他承包商被提醒做好准备，以防政府决定在未来降低该法规的门槛，从而让合同规模较小的公司也受到申报要求的约束。

SCS Consulting Services baru-baru ini menganjurkan webinar untuk mempersiapkan perusahaan kecil dan sederhana serta kontraktor utama kerajaan di Amerika Syarikat bagi memenuhi peraturan gas rumah hijau (GHG) yang akan datang, di mana syarikat dikehendaki untuk mendedahkan pelepasan GHG mereka, risiko kewangan berkaitan iklim dan menetapkan sasaran berasaskan sains bagi mengurangkan pelepasan tersebut.

Kontraktor lain turut diingatkan untuk bersiap sedia dengan pelaporan GHG sekiranya kerajaan memutuskan untuk menurunkan ambang Peraturan pada masa hadapan.

are driving economic growth that is inclusive and sustainable, reforming institution as well as governance to restore confidence, in addition to upholding social justice to combat inequality.

Mr Yeah explained that there are no specific incentives or measures for the timber industry in the National Budget 2023. In spite of this, the Government's decision to reduce tax for the middle-tier household's income and provide cash assistance for the poor will help boost private consumption which will directly and indirectly support domestic timber demand. Timber companies can also apply for various broad-based programmes and incentives offered by the Government to spur private investment growth. These include financing and guarantee facilities

such as government guarantees by Syarikat Jaminan Pembiayaan Perniagaan; tax cuts for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises; and expansion of tax incentive for automation in manufacturing and services sectors.

He concluded the briefing by mentioning that there are opportunities to deepen the timber industry strategies under the New Industrial Master Plan 2030 and the coming budgets, which is likely to focus on initiatives related to environmental, social and governance, circular economy, as well as sustainable consumption and production.

马来西亚木材理事会(MTC)于2023年4月6日为木材业者举办2023年财政预算后线上简报会，以深入了解2023年国家财政预算的基本前景。据了解，俄乌战争引发的全球经济震荡和通胀居高不下，导致全球经济前景存在不确定性。另外，2023年增长较2022年下降的原因是由于发达经济体放缓所致。在亚洲新兴和发展中国家，中国经济的重新开放为经济活动的快速反弹铺平了道路。



Majlis Kayu-Kayan Malaysia (MTC) telah menganjurkan taklimat dalam talian kepada industri perकayuan pada 6 April 2023 untuk memberikan pandangan tentang tinjauan asas Belanjawan Negara 2023. Melalui taklimat tersebut, peserta difahamkan bahawa kejutan ekonomi global ekoran daripada perang di antara Rusia dan Ukraine, ditambah dengan kadar inflasi yang tinggi telah mengakibatkan ketidaktentuan pada prospek ekonomi global.

Dilaporkan juga bahawa penurunan pertumbuhan pada 2023 berbanding 2022 adalah didorong oleh kelembapan ekonomi di negara-negara maju. Sementara itu, di Asia yang sedang membangun, pembukaan semula ekonomi China membuka jalan pemulihan pesat aktiviti ekonomi.

# MTC Webinar: Discovering Market Potentials for Malaysian Timber Products in Europe

The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) organised a webinar on 18 April 2023 to provide an update on the latest outlook of timber market in the European Union (EU).

Mr Ingvar Kristensen, Purchaser at Royal Dekker who is also a Board Member of the Hardwood Council in the Dutch Timber Trade Association shared with participants that Malaysia and the Netherlands have a long timber trading history.

With the decline in raw materials, Royal Dekker is switching to importing more processed and optimised timber products such as laminated finger jointed timber products, mouldings and high quality timber products.

On the EU Deforestation-Free Regulation (EUDR), Mr Kristensen opined that it will certainly impact both importers and exporters and requested MTC to support its members on the EUDR's requirements such as geolocation of harvest.

**DISCOVERING MARKET POTENTIALS FOR MALAYSIAN TIMBER PRODUCTS IN EUROPE**

Tuesday  
18 April 2023  
3.00 pm  
(Malaysian time)

Registration Link  
<https://mtc.com.my/EUTimberMarketUpdate>

Welcoming Remarks by:  
Pn Noraihan Abdul Rahman  
Chief Executive Officer, Malaysian Timber Council

Ingvar Kristensen  
Purchaser at Dekker Hout, The Netherlands & Board Member of Centrum Hout, the Dutch Forestry Association

Nils Olaf Petersen  
Head of Department Foreign Trade, DG Holz (German Wood Federation)

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He is confident that Malaysia will remain as one of Netherland's timber trading partners due to its good reputation in leading sustainable forest management.

This is partly due to Malaysia's affiliation with the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) through its national forest certification scheme, the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) which provides an effective framework to support the EUDR requirement.

Mr Nils Olaf Petersen, Head of Department Foreign Trade, GD Holz (German Wood Federation) highlighted the potential market opportunities in Germany, some of which are substitution of Siberian larch softwood and birch plywood

by Malaysian's timber and timber products, and increased demand on building materials such as flooring, scantlings, panels and high value garden furniture.

He also drew attention to the possible hurdles, including the competition of timber products such as window frames and house door with alternative materials such as plastic, composite and metal.

马来西亚木材理事会(MTC)于2023年4月18日举办线上研讨会,以提供有关欧盟(EU)木材市场前景最新发展的资讯。据了解,马来西亚原材料的下降导致荷兰买家进口更多经过加工和优化的木材产品,而对建筑材料的需求增加为马来西亚木材产品在德国市场提供商机。

**Discovering Market Potentials for Malaysian Timber Products in Europe**

18 April 2023 | 3.00 pm  
Tuesday  
(Malaysian Time)

Nils Olaf Petersen  
Head, Department of Foreign Trade,  
The German Timber Trade Federation  
(DG Holz)

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One of the invited speakers, Mr Nils Olaf Petersen presenting on market opportunities in Germany.

## Future Event: Malaysian Wood Expo 2023

STA will take part in the upcoming Malaysian Wood Expo (MWE) 2023, jointly organised by Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) and Panels & Furniture Group and scheduled to take place from 18 to 20 June 2023 at Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre.



As one of the endorsers of the international wood and woodworking machinery expo, STA was allocated with a booth, which will be useful to establish their presence and showcase wood products from its members.

Eligible exhibitors at the expo who are members of Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) can benefit from Market Development Grant, an incentive offered by MATRADE to assist exporters in their efforts to promote Malaysian made products or services globally.

本会将参加即将于2023年6月18日至20日由马来西亚木材理事会(MTC)联同亚洲合板与家具在马来西亚国际贸易会展中心举行的2023年马来西亚木材博览会(MWE)。作为国际木材和木工机械博览会的认可人之一,本会获得分配一个展位,这将有助于显示本会的支持并展示本会会员的最新木制品。

STA akan mengambil bahagian dalam Ekspo Kayu Malaysia (MWE) 2023 yang akan datang, anjuran bersama Majlis Perakayuan Malaysia (MTC) dan Kumpulan Panel & Perabot dan dijadualkan berlangsung dari 18 hingga 20 Jun 2023 di Pusat Perdagangan dan Pameran Antarabangsa Malaysia.

Sebagai salah satu penyokong untuk ekspo mesin kayu dan kerja kayu antarabangsa tersebut, STA telah diperuntukkan dengan sebuah gerai, yang berguna untuk mewujudkan kehadiran mereka dan mempamerkan produk kayu terkini daripada ahlinya.

## Meeting of MEF East Malaysia Region Members No. 4/2023

The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) East Malaysia (Sarawak) Regional Meeting No. 4/2023 was held in hybrid format on 6 April 2023. The meeting was presided over by Dr Dzuzalani bin Eden, Senior Consultant of MEF Sarawak.

Mr Shahminan bin Ahmad, Executive of Income Tax Department, who was invited to brief MEF members on tax exemption for employees, made a presentation covering the 21 specific categories of individual reliefs for Year of Assessment 2022 when filing tax returns in 2023.

The official list can be obtained from the LHDN website at <https://www.hasil.gov.my/en/individual>.

Associate Professor Dr Kartinah binti Ayupp of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) was also invited to brief MEF members on the critical role that

Sarawak Workforce Information Systems (SWIS) plays in supporting Sarawak Talent Development.

SWIS is a web-based online system designed to capture the current as well as the projected workforce supply and demand in Sarawak.

She said in order for Sarawak to achieve developed status by 2030, it must focus on quality workforce to support the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) blueprint.

She added that it is important to ensure the future workforce is equipped with skills aligned with the economic needs within the specific time frame and highlighted the urgent need for an integrated labour market information system to help businesses search their potential workforce for the right skills, talents and knowledge.

*Dalam mesyuaratnya yang diadakan pada 6 April 2023, Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan Malaysia telah menjemput penceramah daripada Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri dan Universiti Malaysia Sarawak untuk berkongsi mengenai pengecualian cukai bagi pekerja dan Sistem Maklumat Tenaga Kerja Sarawak.*

马来西亚雇主联合会在其2023年4月6日召开的会议中邀请来自内陆税政局和砂拉越马来西亚大学的讲员分享有关员工税务豁免和砂拉越劳动力资讯系统。



# April

## OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAMME

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 Extraction - Tractor (Natural Forest), Mechanical Site Preparation - Excavator (Forest Plantation) & Log and Timber Identification**

Date : 11 - 19 April 2023

Location : Berkakap Camp, Kapit

STAT Trainer : Mr Ngumbang Bayang &  
Mr Sumbang Rani

Company : Reliwood 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*.