

STA Review

Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association
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Location: Putai, Kapit

Photo Credit: Ronald Tiong Chiong Kai

STA REVIEW

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Briefing Session to Newly Appointed Forest Officers on STAT's Training Activities in Compliance with the Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015

A 2-day Briefing Session on STAT's training activities in compliance with the *Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015* (The Rules, 2015) was delivered by STAT Trainers/Assessors to appointed forest officers, at the request of Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) from 9 to 10 February 2022 at Wisma STA, Kuching.

The session kicked off with a welcoming remark by Ms Annie Ting, Manager of STAT. She shared that the training programme provided by STAT is based on the Sarawak Modular Training Framework for the timber and forest industries which was developed in 2004 in collaboration with the Forest Industries Training and Education Council (FITEC), New Zealand.

The outbreak of COVID-19 in Sarawak and the imposition of several restrictions on movement in 2020 and 2021 to curb the spread of infection have disrupted many planned activities including physical training and assessment by our Trainers and Assessors. She hoped that the Briefing Session will serve as a platform to share knowledge, information and experiences for continuous cooperation and collaboration between FDS and STAT.

A total of eight (8) topics were presented during the Briefing Session which covers the Generic Units of both Natural Forest and Planted Forest such as the General Induction on Forest Operations, Demonstrating Knowledge of Environmental Requirements in Forest Operations as well as the five (5) prescribed forestry activities, i.e.

- (i) Certificate in Tree Felling – Chainsaw (Natural Forest),
- (ii) Certificate in Log Extraction – Tractor (Natural Forest),
- (iii) Certificate in Log Loading – Front End Loader (Natural Forest),
- (iv) Certificate in Clear Fell Site Preparation – Chainsaw (Forest Plantation), and
- (v) Certificate in Mechanical Site Preparation – Excavator (Forest Plantation).

Besides that, Ms Suzie Adee, STAT Training Officer (Administration), provided an introduction to STAT while Mr Afriezul Bin Abdul Rahman, Senior Executive Forester of FDS, delivered the introduction to The Rules, 2015. He mentioned that these newly appointed forest officers are responsible to verify that assessment had been conducted as well as the identity of trained workmen who had undergone these assessments. He also emphasised that by 2023, full enforcement will be in place to ensure that all licensees comply with The Rules, 2015.



Mr Sumbang Rani, STAT Trainer and Assessor demonstrating the safe operation of chainsaw



Group photo taken after the briefing session

应砂州森林局 (FDS) 的要求，STA 培训有限公司 (STAT) 培训师/评估员于 2022 年 2 月 9 至 10 日假古晋 STA 大厦向受委任的森林官员提供了为期 2 天关于 STAT 符合 2015 年森林 (受训工人) 规则的培训活动的简报会。这些新上任的森林官员负责核实评估已经进行和已经接受评估的参训员工的身份。

Sesi Taklimat 2-hari berkaitan aktiviti latihan STAT yang mematuhi *Peraturan Hutan (Pekerja Terlatih), 2015* telah disampaikan oleh Jurulatih/Penilai STAT kepada pegawai hutan yang dilantik, atas permintaan Jabatan Hutan Sarawak dari 9 hingga 10 Februari 2022 di Wisma STA. Pegawai hutan yang baru dilantik ini adalah bertanggungjawab untuk mengesahkan bahawa penilaian telah dijalankan dan identity pekerja terlatih yang telah menjalani penilaian tersebut adalah sah.

21st Meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Corporation (APEC) Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT)

The 21st Meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Corporation (APEC) Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) was held from 14 to 15 February 2022.

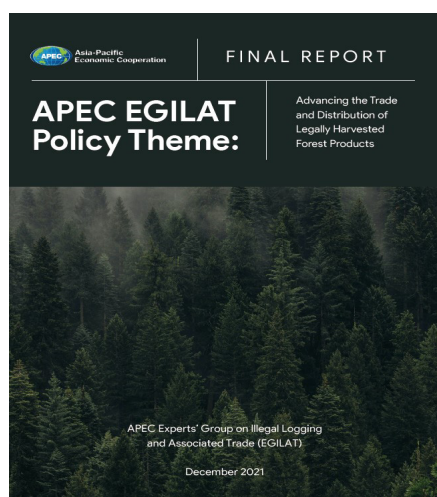
The meeting, hosted by Thailand via video conferencing, was attended by sixteen (16) APEC economies such as Japan, Indonesia, Australia, United States of America, Malaysia and chaired by Ms Jennifer Conje, the new chairman for APEC EGILAT.

The 2022 APEC theme, *Open.Connect.Balance* are to make APEC open to all opportunities, connect in all dimensions and balanced in all aspects. It is driven by concept of bio-circular green economy which includes priorities such as facilitating trade and investment; reconnecting the region; and promoting inclusive and sustainable growth.

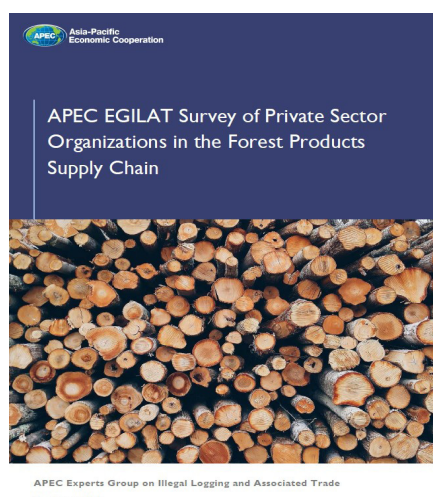
Mr Febby Andryananto from the EGILAT secretariat provided a report on the APEC deliverables which included the AOTEAROA Plan of Action and Project session results in 2021 where the approving rate for the projects submitted were high at 84%.

He also shared on the three (3) publications that were produced, namely:

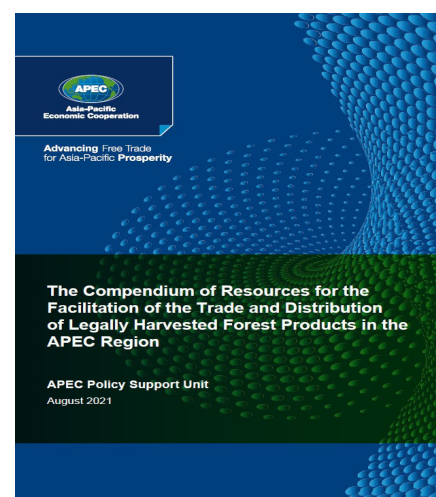
- (i) APEC EGILAT Policy Theme: Advancing the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products,
- (ii) APEC EGILAT Survey of Private Sector Organisations in the Forest products Supply Chain, and
- (iii) The Compendium of Resources for the Facilitation of the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products in the APEC Region



Available for download at:
<https://www.apec.org/publications/2021/12/apec-egilat-policy-theme-advancing-the-trade-and-distribution-of-legally-harvested-forest-products>



Available for download at:
<https://www.apec.org/publications/2021/12/apec-egilat-survey-of-private-sector-organizations-in-the-forest-products-supply-chain>



Available for download at:
<https://www.apec.org/publications/2021/08/the-compendium-of-resources-for-the-facilitation-of-the-trade-and-distribution>

The EGILAT discussed its policy theme 2, “*Advancing the trade and distribution of legally harvested forest products: Navigating to legal timber.*”

It included different approaches to promote legal timber legality amongst APEC economies and future opportunities to enhance timber legality measures by exploring available and emerging data, tools and technologies to help navigate to legal timber globally.

APEC economies also provided updates on each of their existing efforts and domestic work carried out to combat illegal logging as well as promote trade of legal forest products.

Some of the updates received from APEC economies are:

- Japan highlighted their contribution through the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) on the promotion of sustainable forest management and development of trade in wood products since 1986. Japan’s latest project is on the promotion of sustainable domestic wood consumption with Vietnam. The *Act for Wood Use Promotion in Public Building* was revised in 2021 to include private sector.
- Malaysia updated on their forest monitoring and enforcement that are carried out in Peninsular Malaysia. This effort includes aerial surveillance, integrated

operations as well as collection of sample of evidence through forensics.

- The United States of America shared on implementation of *Lacey Act* through three (3) parallel efforts, which are (i) leveraging trade agreements, (ii) capacity buildings and outreach, as well as (iii) enforcement.

- Australia informed that the public consultation on the review of *Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012* is now closed. Australia added that their next step is undertaking further studies before legislative reforms.

- Indonesia updated on their innovation on wood identification to support combatting illegal logging and promoting trade of legal timber in Indonesia.

During the cross organisation information exchange session, ITTO provided insights on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on tropical timber trade in Africa, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Latin America, China, North America and Europe.

Some of the impacts mentioned include depressed log export prices, shipping challenges (high costs and lack of availability of ships/containers), production (lack of workforce affecting the supply chain), increase in costs (labour, material, energy and shipping), etc.

Other organisations providing updates include World Resources Institute on their works such as world forest identification where more than 2,000 tree samples have been collected; Global Forest Watch on the early warning deforestation alerts for countries such as Central Africa, Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, etc.; and Risk Tool on general information about the forest sector and key timber species for 28 countries.

Thailand updated the EGILAT on its preparation to host the 5th Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry (MMRF) in August 2022 in Hua Hin City. The EGILAT was also informed on the XV World Forestry Congress which will be held from 2 to 6 May 2022 in Seoul, Korea. This Congress is hosted by Korea Forest Service in collaboration with United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation.



Speakers and participants at the meeting

第21届亚太经济合作组织(APEC)非法采伐和相关贸易专家组(EGILAT)会议于2022年2月14至15日由泰国通过线上视频主办。2022年APEC的主题是开放, 连接, 平衡。它是由生物循环绿色经济概念驱动, 其中包括促进贸易和投资等优先事项, 重新连接该地区并促进包容性和可持续增长。APEC经济体提供了其打击非法采伐和促进合法林产品贸易的现有努力和国内工作的最新情况。在跨组织信息交流会上, 国际热带木材组织(ITTO)就新冠肺炎疫情对热带木材贸易的影响提供了见解。

Mesyuarat Kumpulan Pakar Kerjasama Ekonomi Asia Pasifik Ke-21 (APEC) mengenai Pembalakan Haram dan Perdagangan Bersekutu (EGILAT) telah dianjurkan oleh Thailand melalui sidang video dari 14 hingga 15 Februari 2022.

Tema APEC 2022, *Open.Connect.Balance* dipacu oleh konsep ekonomi hijau bio-circular yang merangkumi keutamaan seperti memudahkan perdagangan dan pelaburan; menghubungkan semula rantau; dan menggalakkan pertumbuhan inklusif dan mampan.

Ekonomi-ekonomi APEC turut menyediakan maklumat terkini tentang usaha sedia ada dan kerja domestik mereka dalam memerangi pembalakan haram dan mempromosikan perdagangan hasil hutan yang sah. Semasa sesi pertukaran maklumat rentas organisasi, ITTO memberikan pandangan tentang kesan pandemik COVID-19 ke atas perdagangan kayu tropika.

Webinar on Future-Proofing Sarawak Forestry through Sustainability

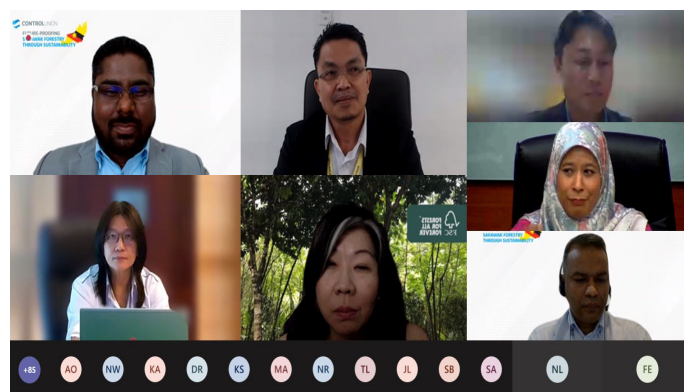
Control Union Malaysia in collaboration with the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Malaysia, Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC), WWF-Malaysia and Malaysia HR Forum hosted a webinar entitled “*Future-Proofing Sarawak Forestry through Sustainability*” on 15 February 2022. The webinar, attended by more than 120 participants, was officiated by Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak cum Second Minister of Natural Resources and Urban Development.

A total of seven (7) speakers spoke during the plenary session. They are Mr Abang Ahmad Abang Morni, Deputy Director of FDS; Mr Supun Nigamuni, General Manager of Control Union Malaysia; Ms Charmaine Chee, Country Manager of FSC Malaysia; Ms Siti Syaliza Mustapha, Chief Executive Officer of MTCC; Mr Arulkumar Singaraveloo, Co-Founder of Malaysia HR Forum; Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA, and Dr Jason Hon, Head of Conservation of WWF Malaysia Sarawak.

Mr Abang Ahmad presented about Sarawak’s forestry policy direction towards sustainability and benchmarking with global norms. His presentation included history of forestry in Sarawak, journey to forest management certification (FMC) as well as issues and challenges faced during implementation of FMC. Mr Supun Nigamuni shared the changing face of consumerism and Control Union’s value proposition to the forestry industry. Meanwhile, Ms Charmaine Chee spoke on future-proofing the forestry industry with environmental, social and governance (ESG) enablers and relevancy of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in Sarawak. She informed that FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) of Malaysia was published on 25 January 2022 and shall come into effect on 1 May 2022.

Ms Siti Syaliza took the opportunity to explain how the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) contributed to sustainability in Sarawak forestry and what is to be expected in the future. She further elaborated on the main functions of MTCC, components of MTCS, i.e. FMC and Chain of Custody certification and the progress and status of FMC under MTCS in Sarawak.

马来西亚控制联盟与砂拉越森林局 (FDS)、马来西亚森林管理委员会 (FSC)、马来西亚木材认证委员会 (MTCC)、马来西亚世界自然基金会和马来西亚人力资源论坛联合于 2022 年 2 月 15 日举办题为“通过可持续性发展面向未来的砂拉越林业”的网络研讨会。超过 120 名参与者出席该研讨会，并由砂拉越副首席部长兼天然资源和城市发展部第二部长拿督阿玛阿旺登雅主持。



Speakers of the webinar

In the “*Eliminating Social Compliance Risks in Malaysia Forestry Industries*” presentation, Mr Arulkumar said that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has developed a list of eleven (11) indicators to show what elements suggest a worker is in a situation of forced labour. They are (i) abuse of vulnerability, (ii) deception, (iii) restriction of movement, (iv) isolation, (v) physical and sexual violence, (vi) intimidation and threats, (vii) retention of identity document, (viii) withholding of wages, (ix) debt bondage, (x) abusive working and living conditions, as well as (xi) excessive overtime.

Ms Annie Ting spoke on the journey of Sarawak’s forestry industry towards sustainability and briefly introduced STA, Sarawak’s forestry industry, efforts towards sustainable development and challenges, constraints and lessons learnt in sustainable forest management. Some of the challenges and constraints shared were uncertainties to land status and tenure within the forest management units, lack of common understanding and technical knowledge to comply with the revised standard, negative perceptions and bias towards tropical timber and different levels of playing field for certified and non-certified products. She called for all stakeholders to work together for betterment of managing our forests towards the sustainable development goals. Dr Jason Hon spoke on WWF’s work in Sarawak on sustainable forest management and concluded that forests in Sarawak can reverse the decline of biodiversity and nature loss if Sarawak adopts the right and sustainable pathways.

Control Union Malaysia dengan kerjasama Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS), Majlis Pengurusan Hutan (FSC) Malaysia, Majlis Pensijilan Kayu Malaysia (MTCC), WWF-Malaysia dan Forum HR Malaysia menganjurkan webinar bertajuk “*Pembuktian Masa Depan Perhutanan Sarawak melalui Kemampuan*” pada 15 Februari 2022.

Webinar tersebut dihadiri lebih daripada 120 peserta dan dirasmikan oleh Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Timbalan Ketua Menteri Sarawak merangkap Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua.

Meetings of STA Subsidiary Companies

The subsidiary companies of STA, namely STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM), STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) and STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd (STAE), held their respective meetings via video conferencing on 22 February 2022. The meetings were presided over by Datuk Sir Wong Kie Yik and are summarised as follows:

i. STAM

The Board of Honorary Advisers (BHA) in its Meeting No 1/2022 discussed and recommended various decisions to the Board of Directors (BOD) of STAM for approval.

These included awarding the STA Best Graduating Student to Ms Nurul Aqila Binti Abdul Razak and the STA Best Final Year Project Award to Mr Mohd Ameer Zikri Bin Mohd Fadil for the year 2021, both from the Faculty of Forestry and Environment, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang Campus; as well as providing financial assistance to non-profit organisations to support their activities. Subsequently, the STAM BOD in its Meeting No 1/2022 approved the decisions made by the BHA and also endorsed financial matters of the Company.

本公司子，STA Mutual有限公司、STA Training有限公司以及STA Enterprises有限公司分别在2022年2月22日通过线上平台召开董事会议。会议由拿督黄启晔爵士主持，内容如本文英语版所示。

ii. STAT

The STAT BOD in its Meeting No 1/2022 deliberated and approved several items spanning across financial to administrative matters of the Company. The BOD were updated that a total of sixty-three (63) workmen, comprising thirty-nine (39) workmen in the 5 (five) prescribed forestry activities (PFA) and twenty-four (24) workmen in the non-PFA had been assessed and found competent from the period of 4 December 2021 to 23 January 2022. The BOD also discussed the charging of fees for conducting skills training and assessment to STA member companies starting June 2022 tentatively.

iii. STAE

The STAE BOD Meeting No 1/2022 covered and endorsed various items which included the tenancy of Wisma STA, maintenance of the building, as well as financial and administrative matters.

Anak syarikat STA, iaitu STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM), STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) dan STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd (STAE), mengadakan mesyuarat masing-masing melalui persidangan video pada 22 Februari 2022. Mesyuarat telah dipengerusikan oleh Datuk Sir Wong Kie Yik dan butiran adalah seperti di dalam artikel ini.

Activation of the National Open Burning Action Plan (PTPTK)

STA received a letter ref.: (2)JHS/600-3/5/100/Jld.2 from Forest Department Sarawak on 11 February 2022 informing the activation of the National Open Burning Action Plan (PTPTK) by the Ministry of Environment and Water (MEWA) in view of the hot and dry weather that the country is experiencing currently. PTPTK was developed in 2019 as a guideline to relevant departments and agencies in implementing actions to prevent, eliminate and control all types of open burning incidents.

The directive from MEWA has been circulated to the STA members on 14 February 2022 through STA e-circular ref. STA/06/06-5. Members are advised to increase monitoring and take precautionary measures to prevent open burning that can cause localised haze which affect air quality and public health.

Members may contact (i) Puan Mazrini binti Mohamad, Chief Assistant Secretary, Environment Management Division, MEWA (mazrini@kasa.gov.my) or (ii) Encik Wan Aminordin bin Wan Kamaruddin, Chief Senior Assistant Director, Air Division, Department of Environment (wan@doe.gov.my) to obtain more information. The PTPTK can be downloaded from website at <https://tinyurl.com/ptptk>.

本公司于2022年2月11日收到来自砂拉越森林局的信函编号(2)JHS/600-3/5/100/Jld.2，通知鉴于我国目前正进入炎热和干燥的天气，环境和水源部(MEWA)已启动全国露天焚烧行动计划(PTPTK)。PTPTK是于2019年制定，旨在指导有关部门和机构实施预防、消灭和控制各类露天焚烧事件的行动方案。PTPTK可以从网站<https://tinyurl.com/ptptk>下载。

STA menerima surat ruj.: (2)JHS/600-3/5/100/Jld.2 daripada Jabatan Hutan Sarawak pada 11 Februari 2022 memaklumkan pengaktifan Pelan Tindakan Pembakaran Terbuka Kebangsaan (PTPTK) oleh Kementerian Alam Sekitar dan Air (MEWA) memandangkan cuaca panas dan kering yang dialami oleh negara kini. Pelan Tindakan tersebut telah dibangunkan pada 2019 dan bertujuan sebagai garis panduan untuk jabatan dan agensi berkaitan dalam melaksanakan tindakan mencegah, menghapus dan mengawal semua jenis kejadian pembakaran terbuka. PTPTK boleh dimuat turun dari laman web di <https://tinyurl.com/ptptk>.

Forest Plantation Development Technical Committee Meeting No.1/2022

Tuan Haji Mahpar Atan, Director of Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) chaired the first Forest Plantation Development Technical Committee Meeting this year on 17 February 2022. The hybrid meeting was attended by Committee members from Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC), agencies and non-governmental organisation from Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak.

The Committee was briefed on the financing opportunities available under the *Program Pembangunan Ladang Hutan (PPLH)* for the development of forest plantation by Forest Plantation Development Sdn Bhd (FPDSB). Eligibility to this financing is determined by a number of criteria such as species being planted, source of seedling, type of land on which the species are planted and company's financial record. Financing rate and loan period differs for different species being planted, and all the financing applications and supporting documents should be submitted directly to FPDSB.

The Committee also received two (2) proposal presentations from Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) to include Sesenduk (*Endospermum diadenum*) and Petai Belalang (*Leucaena leucocephala*) respectively in the PPLH. Following a lengthy discussion, it was decided that more information needs to be furnished to the Committee before it can be further considered as eligible species in the PPLH.

人工造林开发技术委员会成员包括马来西亚种植及原产业部(MPIC), 马来西亚半岛、沙巴和砂拉越的机构和非政府组织出席于2022年2月17日所召开的今年首次会议。该混合型会议由马来西亚木材工业局(MTIB)总监马巴阿丹主持。

委员会听取有关人工造林开发计划(PPLH)下的融资机会以及接收2项提案, 把二腺黄桐和银合欢种类纳入PPLH。

Tuan Haji Mahpar Atan, Pengarah Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia (MTIB) mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Teknikal Pembangunan Ladang Hutan pertama tahun ini pada 17 Februari 2022. Mesyuarat hybrid itu telah dihadiri oleh ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa daripada Kementerian Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi (MPIC), agensi-agensi dan organisasi bukan kerajaan dari Semenanjung Malaysia, Sabah dan Sarawak.

Jawatankuasa diberi taklimat mengenai peluang pembiayaan yang terdapat di bawah *Program Pembangunan Ladang Hutan (PPLH)* untuk pembangunan ladang hutan. Jawatankuasa turut menerima 2 pembentangan kertas cadangan untuk memasukkan Sesenduk (*Endospermum diadenum*) dan Petai Belalang (*Leucaena leucocephala*) ke dalam PPLH.

MEF Meeting for Members of the East Malaysian Region

The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) conducted a virtual meeting on 9 February 2022 which was attended by seventeen (17) members of the MEF East Malaysian Region. Chaired by Mr V. Nanthakumar, Consultant of MEF, the meeting aimed at sharing information on key retrenchment principles in the Court of Appeal's decision in *Ng Chang Seng v Technip Geo-production (M) Sdn Bhd (2021) 1 CLJ 365*.

Dato' Jalaldin Bin Hussain, Senior Consultant of Industrial Relations of MEF, gave a presentation on the decision of Court of Appeal in the case of *Ng Chang Seng v Technip Geo-production (M) Sdn Bhd (2021) 1 CLJ 365* in regards to key retrenchment principles. He shared that an employee who had worked for thirteen (13) years and retrenched as part of the company's global restructuring exercise on account of redundancy had claimed that the company had failed to follow the Last-In First-Out (LIFO) principle in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Industrial Harmony 1975, when foreign workers and contract workers were retained at the expense of a longer serving employee.

The retrenchment exercise was not done bona fide but rather an opportunity for the company to retrench an employee whom they perceived had performed poorly.

The Court of Appeal was of the opinion that the dismissal is unfair and without just cause as the company had failed to prove that the employee was redundant and could not be reassigned to other work as well as provide justifications for not following the LIFO principle and retrenching foreign workers first before local employees.

Dato' Jalaldin advised MEF members to ensure there is actual redundancy, correct selection and fair procedure before retrenching an employee.

The members present at the meeting unanimously reappointed Mr Albert Lau of Weida (M) Berhad as the Chairman of Sarawak MEF Regional Meeting for year 2022. The meeting also took note that future activities shall be handled by the MEF Headquarters until a replacement for Mr George Young Jr, Consultant for MEF Kuching is found.

马来西亚雇主联合会(MEF) 于2022年2月9日举办一场由17名东马区域会员出席的线上会议。会议由MEF 顾问南塔库玛先生主持, 旨在分享有关上诉法院在Ng Chang Seng v Technip Geo-production (M) Sdn Bhd (2021) 1 CLJ 365.一案中关于主要裁员原则的信息。

Persekutuan Majikan Malaysia (MEF) telah mengadakan mesyuarat maya pada 9 Februari 2022, dihadiri oleh 17 ahli MEF Wilayah Malaysia Timur. Dipengerusikan oleh Encik V. Nanthakumar, Perunding MEF, mesyuarat bertujuan untuk berkongsi maklumat mengenai prinsip utama pemberhentian pekerja dalam keputusan Mahkamah Rayuan kes *Ng Chang Seng lwn Technip Geo-production (M) Sdn Bhd (2021) 1 CLJ 365*.

Meeting on STLVS and Wood Supply Chains with Resource Stewardship Consultants Sdn Bhd (RESCU) and Institute of Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, (MAFF) Japan has commissioned a project entitled “*Clean Wood Navi Information Collection Project*” under the Act on Promotion of Use and Distribution of Legally-Harvested Wood and Wood Products.

As required under the Act, the Japanese Government had appointed Resource Stewardship Consultants Sdn Bhd (RESCU) and Institute of Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) to gather latest information from timber supplier countries including Sarawak on the production and distribution of timber and timber products, as well as laws and regulations governing forestry and trade.

A meeting was held on 18 February 2022 between the appointed consultants and representatives from the Sarawak stakeholders comprising Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd and STA.

The meeting was chaired by Tuan Jack Liam, Deputy Director of Forests who briefed on the “*Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS), Forest Management Certification and Wood Supply Chains in Sarawak*”, highlighting institutional framework of forestry sector, forestry policies, sustainable forest management and its initiatives, impact of COVID-19 pandemic and way forward for forestry sector in Sarawak. The implementation of STLVS in Sarawak which includes framework, standard and audit compliance of STLVS as well as latest policies, laws and guidelines formulated by Sarawak Government

to govern its forests management in Sarawak was presented by Mr Semilan Ripot, Senior Assistant Director of FDS. Some of the latest policies, laws and guidelines highlighted included the Sarawak Forest Policy 2019; the requirement for all long term forest timber licence to be certified by 2022; and adoption of Continuous Monitoring System – satellite image & aerial surveillance to enhance forest enforcement operation. Mr Semilan also informed the appointed consultants that the STLVS third party audit is voluntary in nature.

Mr Afizulmizam Bin Afandi from STIDC highlighted the key functions of STIDC as well as statistics on the import and export of logs and timber products, number of mills and workers employed in downstream activity in his presentation, “*Status of Timber Industry in Sarawak 2016-2020*”. At the end of the meeting, a field visit to forest timber licence area and timber processing mills was extended to RESCU and IGES to help them better understand the implementation of STLVS in Sarawak.

日本农林水产省 (MAFF) 根据《合法采伐木材和木制品的使用和分销促进法》进行名为“收集合法木材导航信息”的项目。从包括砂拉越在内的木材供应国收集有关木材和木材产品的生产和分销的最新信息, 以及管理林业和贸易的法律与法规。

配合该项目的会议于2022年2月18日举行, 重点介绍林业部门的体制框架、林业政策、可持续森林管理及其举措、新冠肺炎疫情的影响以及砂拉越林业的前进方向。

Kementerian Pertanian, Perhutanan dan Perikanan (MAFF) Jepun telah melaksanakan projek bertajuk “*Projek Pengumpulan Maklumat Navi Kayu Bersih*” di bawah Akta Promosi Penggunaan dan Penedaran Kayu dan Produk Kayu yang Dituai Secara Sah untuk mengumpulkan maklumat terkini daripada negara-negara pembekal kayu termasuk Sarawak tentang pengeluaran dan pendedaran kayu dan produk kayu, serta undang-undang dan peraturan pentadbiran perhutanan dan perdagangan.

Mesyuarat telah diadakan pada 18 Februari 2022 mengenai “*Sistem Pengesahan Kesahan Kayu Sarawak (STLVS), Pensijilan Pengurusan Hutan dan Rantaian Bekalan Kayu di Sarawak*”, yang mengetengahkan rangka kerja institusi perhutanan, dasar perhutanan, pengurusan hutan secara mampan dan inisiatifnya, kesan wabak COVID-19 dan halatuju sector perhutanan di Sarawak.

Townhall Session with Industries & Stakeholders on Issues of Employment of Expatriates and Non-Resident Workers in Sarawak

The Immigration and Labour Management Unit (ILMU) under the Chief Minister's Department has organised a townhall session with the industries and stakeholders on 12 February 2022 at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching.

The townhall session provided a platform for industries to discuss and propose solutions to resolve issues faced in the employment of expatriates and non-resident workers in Sarawak. ILMU is a strategic unit established in October 2021 to handle issues on the employment of expatriates and non-resident workers in Sarawak.

Datuk Gerawat Gala, Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Department (Labour, Immigration and Project Monitoring) in his welcoming remarks assured the participants that inputs gathered will serve as a reference to the Government agencies to improve and enhance the delivery of their services. Datuk Gerawat shared that Sarawak government is planning to review and revamp procedures to meet the needs of the industries, without jeopardising the importance of the livelihood of the Sarawakians.

Datuk Amar Jaul Samion, the State Secretary applauded the inaugural townhall session involving Government and industries on the management of non-resident workers.

The platform will certainly not be the last of the collaborative initiative between the Government and the industries that focus on putting forward constructive and practical solutions for the benefit of Sarawak.

During the discussion, STA took the opportunity to highlight some of the issues and challenges faced by its members. Some of these issues included the long process for obtaining approval in principle which may take up to 6 months; the delay in obtaining approval to renew labour license and calling visa from the relevant

departments; as well as labour shortage and lack of clear policies and guidelines in relation to recruitment, border entry and quarantine centre especially during pandemic time, etc.

STA also put forward recommendations to ILMU to establish a Special Task Force comprising representatives from the industries including STA to work with ILMU to overcome all issues and challenges as well as setting up of a one stop centre to facilitate recruitment.



Datuk Gerawat Gala, Deputy Minister in the Premier of Sarawak's Department (Labour, Immigration and Project Monitoring) delivering his welcoming remarks

首席部长部下属的移民和劳工管理组 (ILMU) 于 2022 年 2 月 12 日在古晋婆罗洲会议中心主办与工业和利益相关者的市民大会。

大会为业者提供平台，讨论并提出解决方案，以解决在砂拉越雇用外籍人士和非居民工人所面临的问题。

在讨论中，本会借此机会强调其会员所面对的一些问题和挑战。本会也向 ILMU 提出建议，成立一个由包括本会在内的工业代表组成的特别工作组，与 ILMU 合作克服所有的问题和挑战，并建立一站式中心以促进招聘事宜。

Unit Imigresen dan Pengurusan Buruh (ILMU) di bawah Jabatan Ketua Menteri telah menganjurkan sesi *townhall* bersama industri dan pihak berkepentingan pada 12 Februari 2022 di Pusat Konvensyen Borneo Kuching. Sesi tersebut memberi peluang kepada industri untuk membincangkan dan mencadangkan penyelesaian bagi isu-isu yang dihadapi dalam pengambilan pekerja ekspatriat dan bukan pemastautin di Sarawak.

Semasa perbincangan, STA mengambil peluang untuk mengetengahkan beberapa isu dan cabaran yang dihadapi oleh ahlinya. STA juga mengemukakan cadangan kepada ILMU bagi menubuhkan Pasukan Petugas Khas yang terdiri daripada wakil industri termasuk STA untuk bekerjasama dengan ILMU dalam mengatasi semua isu dan cabaran serta penubuhan pusat sehenti untuk memudahkan pengambilan pekerja.

HRD Corp Learning X-Change Session 2022

Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) is responsible for driving Malaysia's talent development aspirations through the collection of levy from employers to fund training and development programmes for the Malaysian workforce. It is important for HRD Corp to share and disseminate first-hand information with employers registered with HRD Corp in order to maximise the levy utilisation as well as understand issues and challenges faced by employers so that HRD Corp can provide assistance and proactive customer outreach.

The HRD Corp Learning X-Change Session on 22 February 2022 was the second face-to-face session conducted by HRD Corp Sarawak Regional Office with registered employers after the travel restriction was lifted. HRD Corp reported that the number of registered employers had almost tripled for year ending 2021. HRD Corp also shared its collaboration programme with 173 strategic partners throughout Sarawak in providing training and up-skilling initiatives and urged all employers to utilise the levy as any unutilised levy shall be forfeited after 2 years.

Participants were divided into a few groups to discuss issues and challenges in training, training programmes and events to be organised HRD Corp.

砂拉越人力资源发展机构 (HRD Corp) 负责通过向雇主征收税款来资助马来西亚劳动力的培训和发展计划，从而推动马来西亚的人才发展愿望。HRD Corp 学习分享会于 2022 年 2 月 22 日举行，其中的报告指出截至 2021 年杪已注册雇主数量几乎增加了三倍。

HRD Corp 也分享与砂拉越 173 个策略合作伙伴所提供培训和技能提升的合作计划，并敦促所有雇主使用该征费，因为任何未使用的征费将在 2 年后被没收。



Presentation by representative from one of the breakout groups

Ms Tuty Bujang, Vice President, HRD Corp Sarawak Regional Office assured participants that all feedbacks including issues, challenges and suggestions gathered from the group discussions will be analysed and extended to the Head Office for improvement in order to build and maintain a healthy relationship with registered employers to meet the goals of HRD Corp.

Perbadanan Pembangunan Sumber Manusia (HRD Corp) bertanggungjawab dalam memacu aspirasi pembangunan bakat Malaysia melalui pengutipan levi daripada majikan untuk membiayai program latihan dan pembangunan tenaga kerja di Malaysia. Sesi Pembelajaran X-Change HRD Corp pada 22 Februari 2022 melaporkan bilangan majikan-majikan berdaftar telah meningkat hampir 3 kali ganda bagi penghujung tahun 2021. HRD Corp juga berkongsi program kerjasamanya dengan 173 rakan strategik di seluruh Sarawak dalam menyediakan latihan dan inisiatif peningkatan kemahiran dan menggesa semua majikan menggunakan levi kerana ianya akan dilucuthakkan selepas 2 tahun sekiranya tidak digunakan.

Engagement with MTCC

Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) new Chief Executive Officer, Ms Siti Syaliza paid a courtesy call to STA on 18 February 2022. The courtesy call was made in conjunction with her visit to Kuching for the MTCC Academic Award, presented at the 25th Convocation ceremony of UNIMAS.

STA took the opportunity to discuss about forest management certification activities in Sarawak with her and her colleagues over lunch, hosted by STA.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif baharu Majlis Pensijilan Kayu Malaysia (MTCC), Cik Siti Syaliza telah membuat kunjungan hormat ke STA di mana mereka berbincang mengenai aktiviti pensijilan pengurusan hutan di Sarawak semasa makan tengah hari yang dihoskan oleh STA.



Ms Siti Syaliza, CEO of MTCC (right) presenting the latest MC&I SFM document to Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (left)

马来西亚木材认证委员会(MTCC) 新任首席执行官西蒂女士礼节性拜访了本会，并在本会款待的午餐会上讨论了砂拉越的森林管理认证活动。

FEBRUARY 2022

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) functions to provide skills training for the five (5) prescribed forestry activities (PFAs) as listed in Schedule 1 of *The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015*, and non-PFAs. The skills training offered by STAT are open to the industry. Presently, there are twelve (12) skills sets offered by STAT.

For this month, STAT conducted the operator training programme on the ground consisting of training, revision and assessment as follows:

Skills Set : Tree Felling- Chainsaw (Natural Forest); &Log Extraction- Tractor (Natural Forest)
Date : 17 – 23 February 2022
Location : Berkakap Camp, Kapit
STAT Trainer/Assessor : Mr Ginda Uli
Company : Solid Hartabina Sdn Bhd

Skills Set : Tree Felling- Chainsaw (Natural Forest); Log Extraction- Tractor (Natural Forest) & Mechanical Site Preparation- Excavator (Forest Plantation)
Date : 24 – 27 February 2022
Location : Power Brite Camp, Bintulu
STAT Trainer/Assessor : Mr Sang Sanjan & Mr Ngumbang Bayang
Company : KTS Group

Skills Set : Tree Felling- Chainsaw (Natural Forest); &Log Extraction- Tractor (Natural Forest)
Date : 24 – 28 February 2022
Location : Rose Camp, Putai
STAT Trainer/Assessor : Mr Ginda Uli
Company : Jaya Tiasa Holdings Berhad



Skills set: Log Extraction – Bulldozer (Forest Plantation)
Activity: Hooking log for forest plantation harvesting



Skills set: Log Extraction – Bulldozer (Forest Plantation)
Activity: Winching of log for forest plantation harvesting

STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), a subsidiary company of STA, offers training to workmen in the forestry and timber industry. STAT is the appointed training provider under *The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015*

Courtesy Call by Control Union Malaysia

Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA, received a courtesy call from Mr Supun Nigamuni, General Manager of Control Union Malaysia, and Mr Franklin Emang, Auditor cum Marketing Officer from the Bintulu Branch, on 4 February 2022 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The visit provided both parties with opportunity to share their current work and future collaborations especially on trainings related to forest management.

本会首席执行官陈燕贞小姐于2022年2月4日假古晋STA大厦接见马来西亚控制联盟总经理苏朋先生和来自其民都鲁分行的审计员兼市场行销员富兰克林先生的礼节性拜访。



Mr Supun Nigamuni, General Manager of Control Union Malaysia (2nd from right), and Mr Franklin Emang, Auditor cum Marketing Officer from the Bintulu Branch (1st from right) paid a courtesy call to STA

Cik Annie Ting, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif STA, menerima kunjungan hormat daripada Encik Supun Nigamuni, Pengurus Besar Control Union Malaysia dan Encik Franklin Emang, Juruaudit merangkap Pegawai Pemasaran dari Cawangan Bintulu pada 4 Februari 2022 di Wisma STA, Kuching.