

STA REVIEW

Monthly Magazine of Sarawak Timber Association



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Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah Bin Haji Yusof,
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STA Log Marketing Category
Meeting No. 1/2023

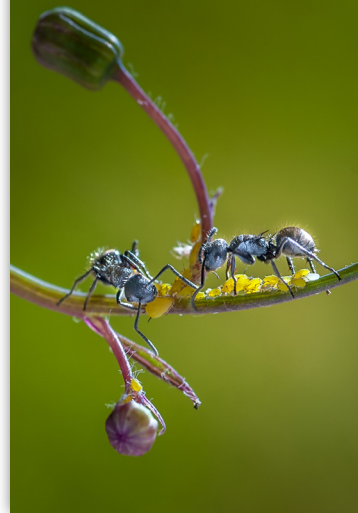
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On the Cover



Cover photo by Liew Yong Fei "Black Ants Hunting the Larvas".

STA REVIEW

is a monthly magazine published by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) for its members. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information printed in this magazine is accurate and correct, neither STA nor its Council Members, Officers or Employees shall assume any responsibility or be made liable for any inaccuracies and errors printed; nor is such publication, unless otherwise stated, necessarily the views of STA, its Council Members, Officers or Employees. The contents of the STA Review may be reprinted with prior written permission from STA.



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Engagement with Deputy Minister of Finance II

STA had an engagement session with Mr Steven Sim, Deputy Minister of Finance II at his office in Putrajaya on 16 February 2023. The 4-member delegation from STA was headed by Mr Joseph Lau, Chairman of STA Forest Plantation Committee.

During the engagement session, STA informed the Deputy Minister on the impact of the current imposition of ten (10) years limitation on the carry forward of unabsorbed business losses on Sarawak's forest plantation industry, as well as the reasons why the industry requires a longer time limit to utilise the business losses. STA also put forward the following two (2) requests for the

Deputy Minister's consideration:

1. No limitation on the carry forward of unabsorbed business losses incurred prior to year of assessment (YA) 2019; and
2. To retain the proposed tax measure whereby business losses incurred from YA2019 and subsequent YAs will be allowed to be carried forward for a period of twenty (20) years, which was part of the 2023 Budget announcement presented on 7 October 2022.



The delegation from STA, led by Mr Joseph Lau, Chairman of STA Forest Plantation Committee (2nd from left) in a photo call with Mr Steven Sim, Deputy Minister of Finance II (centre)

The Deputy Minister mentioned that his ministry is supportive of the proposed extension to twenty (20) years for the carry forward of unabsorbed business losses for industries/sectors with long gestation period. However, the final decision lies with the Prime Minister cum Minister of Finance, Dato' Seri Anwar Bin Ibrahim.

STA 于 2023 年 2 月 16 日 礼节性拜访 财政部第二副部长沈志强先生，同时 向副部长讲解目前结转未吸收业务亏损的10年限制对砂拉越人工林业的影响，并提呈2项要求供副部长考虑。

STA mengadakan sesi libat urus dengan Encik Steven Sim, Timbalan Menteri Kewangan II di pejabatnya pada 16 Februari 2023. STA memaklumkan kepada Timbalan Menteri mengenai kesan pengenaan had 10 tahun ke atas kerugian perniagaan yang tidak dapat diserap ke atas industri perladangan hutan di Sarawak dan mengemukakan 2 cadangan untuk pertimbangan beliau.



Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA (2nd from left) and Ms Miriam Hong, Assistant Manager of STA (centre) joined Mr Lee Yuien Siang, Director of PwC Advisory Services Kuching (1st from left) and his team for a group photo before the meeting.

Sepasukan pegawai daripada PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), perunding utama yang dilantik oleh Lembaga Pelabuhan Miri telah bertemu dengan STA pada 14 Februari 2023 di Wisma STA untuk mengetahui situasi semasa industri perikanan dan meneroka bagaimana Pelabuhan Miri boleh memberikan perkhidmatan yang lebih baik kepada industri perikanan di wilayah utara Sarawak.

Stakeholder Engagement for Port Services Requirement Study for Miri Port

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), principal consultant appointed by Miri Port Authority met with STA on 14 February 2023 at Wisma STA. The team from PwC was led by Mr Lee Yuien Siang, Director of PwC Advisory Services Kuching who explained that PwC aimed to find out the current situation of the timber industry and how Miri Port can better serve the timber industry in the northern region of Sarawak.

Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA provided an overview of the timber industry in Sarawak and shared the challenges and issues faced by the timber industry players in using Miri Port as well as their expectations and suggestions for improving Miri Port.

2023年2月14日，由美里港务局委任的首席顾问普华永道(PwC)团队与本会在STA大厦会面，了解木材业的现状以及美里港如何更好地服务砂拉越北部地区的木材业。

STA COURTESY CALLS

In February, STA has paid two courtesy calls to Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia and Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), at their respective offices.

The visit gave an opportunity for STA to highlight the challenges faced by the industry and share on their current work, as well as future collaborations.

- **YAB Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia**

A delegation from STA comprising Mr Wong Ting Chung, Honorary Secretary; Mr Philip Choo, Honorary Treasurer; Mr James Ho, Council Member; Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer; and Ms Tchin Boon Ling, Member Services Officer paid a courtesy call to Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah Bin Haji Yusof, Deputy Prime Minister cum Minister of Plantation and Commodities at his office in Kuala Lumpur on 22 February 2023.

The delegation introduced STA and highlighted some of the challenges faced by the industry, particularly in the implementation of sustainable forest management

(SFM) as well as the carry forward of unabsorbed business losses.

The delegation requested that the Deputy Prime Minister render his support to STA's requests on the carry forward of the unabsorbed business losses, advice on how best to respond to unverified and unfounded allegations by the non-governmental organisations that discredit Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) and the forest management certification status awarded to forest management units in Sarawak, as well as carry out more promotion to increase public knowledge on SFM and acceptance of the MTCS.

The Deputy Prime Minister assured that the requests pertaining to the carry forward of unabsorbed business losses would be conveyed to the Prime Minister cum Finance Minister prior to the tabling of Budget 2023 on 24 February 2022.

He also expressed keen interest to have further discussion with the Association on development of furniture industry in Sarawak, community farming in forest management units and the Association's involvement in forest plantation research and development particularly on Kelampayan.



由STA名誉秘书、名誉财政、理事会成员、首席执行官和会员服务人员组成的代表团于2023年2月22日在吉隆坡副首相办公室礼节性拜访副首相兼种植与原产业部长拿督斯里哈芝法迪拉。代表团介绍STA并强调该行业面临的一些挑战，特别是在实施可持续森林管理(SFM)以及结转未吸收业务亏损方面，并希望副首相能够支持STA提呈的要求。

Delegasi daripada STA yang terdiri daripada Setiausaha Kehormat, Bendahari Kehormat, Ahli Majlis, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif dan Pegawai Khidmat Ahli telah membuat kunjungan hormat ke atas Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah Bin Haji Yusof, Timbalan Perdana Menteri merangkap Menteri Perladangan dan Komoditi di pejabatnya di Kuala Lumpur pada 22 Februari 2023. Delegasi memperkenalkan STA dan mengetengahkan cabaran yang dihadapi industri, terutamanya pelaksanaan pengurusan hutan mampan serta kerugian perniagaan yang tidak dapat diserap dan berharap Timbalan Perdana Menteri dapat menyokong permintaan yang dibuat oleh STA.



(1) Left to right: Delegates from STA in a photo call with Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah Bin Haji Yusof, Deputy Prime Minister cum Minister of Plantation and Commodities (2nd from right) engaging with the delegation from STA.



- **Datu Haji Hashim Haji Bojet,**
General Manager of Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC)

STA delegation, jointly led by Mr Stephen Hii, STA Timber Products Marketing (TPM) Committee Chairman and Mr Yek Siew Liong, STA Furniture & Other Woodworking (F&WW) Committee Chairman together with Mr Vincent Chieng, STA TPM Vice Chairman, Dr Aaron Hsiung, STA Sawmilling Vice Chairman, Mr Toh Kok Kwang, STA TPM Honorary Treasurer, Ms Evelyn Chung, STA F&WW Honorary Secretary, Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer STA and 2 staff of STA Secretariat paid a courtesy call to Datu Haji Hashim Haji Bojet, General Manager of Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) on 8 February 2023.

The courtesy call served as a platform to learn more about STIDC's plans and directions, particularly in assisting the timber industry to realise the Government's target of achieving RM6.0 billion in value added products export by 2030.

The delegation also took the opportunity to highlight challenges faced by the industry with regard to raw material, manpower, application of automation and target market. Both parties agreed that regular engagements and discussions are needed to foster better working relationship.

STA代表团在STA木材产品行销委员会主席許勳文先生以及STA 傢俬与其它木工委员会主席葉紹良先生共同带领下于2023年2月8日礼貌性拜访砂拉越木材工业发展机构(STIDC)总经理拿督哈兹哈欣。

通过此访问，本会代表团进一步了解到 STIDC 的计划和方向，特别是协助木材业实现砂政府在 2030 年达成 马币60 亿令吉附加值产品出口的目标。

Delegasi STA yang diketuai oleh Encik Stephen Hii, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pemasaran Produk Kayu (TPM) dan Encik Yek Siew Liong, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Perabot & Lain-lain Pertukangan (F&WW) mengadakan kunjungan hormat ke atas Datu Haji Hashim Haji Bojet, Pengurus Besar Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) pada 8 Februari 2023.

Melalui lawatan itu, delegasi mengetahui dengan lebih lanjut tentang rancangan dan hala tuju STIDC, khususnya dalam membantu industri perikanan merealisasikan sasaran Kerajaan untuk mencapai RM6.0 bilion dalam eksport produk nilai tambah menjelang 2030.



(3) From left to right: Mr Vincent Chieng, Vice Chairman of STA TPM Committee; Dr Aaron Hsiung, Vice Chairman of STA Sawmilling Committee; Mr Stephen Hii, Chairman of STA TPM Committee; Mr Yek Siew Liong, Chairman of STA F&WW Committee; Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA; Mr Toh Kok Kwang, Honorary Treasurer of STA TPM Committee and Ms Evelyn Chung, Honorary Secretary of STA F&WW Committee;
(4) Engagement session in progress.

STA Log Marketing Category Meeting No.1/2023

The STA Log Marketing Category Meeting No. 1/2023 convened virtually on 8 February 2023 via video conferencing. A new committee for working years 2022 & 2023 was elected, as listed below:

Chairman	: Mr James Ho Yam Kuan
Vice Chairperson	: Dato' Tiong Ing
Secretary	: Mr Desmond Kang Dai Yiing
Treasurer	: Ms Adeline Lau Kor See (Alternate: Mr Ting Jack Hui)

Committee Members

- Tan Sri Datuk Sir Tiong Hiew King
(Alternate representative: Mr Ling Kuok Phiew)
- Dato Sri Wong Kie Yik, KBE
(Alternate representative: Mr Ling Ting Sing)
- Datuk Yaw Chee Chik
(Alternate representative: Mr Vincent Chieng Ai Ung)
- Temenggong Dato Vincent Lau Lee Ming
- Mr Gerald Chang Lik Yang
- Mr Collin Goh Tee Khiang
- Ms Audrey Wong Haw Ing
- Mr Wong Ting Chung
- Mr George Wong Tuong Nang

STA原木行销小组于2023年2月8日召开线上会议。会议选出2022年和2023年的新委员会成员，同时也分享和商讨原木统计、印度买家要求与砂拉越原木出口商直接交易以及从2023年8月5日起生效的日本要求进口植物和植物产品的植物检疫证书等事项。



Meeting in progress.

The meeting was also informed that the volume of logs produced has reduced quite significantly over the years and correspondingly, the volume of logs exported also dropped and plummeted further following Sarawak Government's abrupt decision to ban export of planted logs with immediate effect on 13 July 2020.

In addition to that, the request from Indian buyers for direct dealing with exporters of logs from Sarawak was also discussed at length and the enforcement of the Plant Protection Act Japan by the Japan Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries which requires a Phytosanitary Certificate for imported plants and plants products with effect from 5 August 2023 was also shared.

Mesyuarat Kategori Pemasaran Kayu Balak STA Bil. 1/2023 telah diadakan secara maya pada 8 Februari 2023 melalui persidangan video. Ahli jawatankuasa baharu untuk tahun 2022 & 2023 telah dipilih. Mesyuarat membincangkan perkara-perkara berkaitan statistik balak, permintaan pembeli India dan keperluan Sijil Fitosanitasi bagi tumbuhan dan produk tumbuhan yang dieksport ke Jepun berkuatkuasa 5 Ogos 2023.

STA Timber Products Marketing Committee Meeting No.1/2023

The STA Timber Products Marketing (TPM) Committee Meeting No 1/2023 was held virtually on 6 February 2023. Chaired by its Committee Chairman, Mr Stephen Hii the meeting discussed preparation works for courtesy call to General Manager of Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC).

The Committee agreed to invite Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of two (2) other downstream committees, namely Sawmilling and Moulding Committees apart from STA Furniture & Other Woodworking to join the



Meeting in progress

courtesy call.

The Committee also hoped that the courtesy call could foster closer working relationship between STIDC and STA for the betterment of the industry.

STA木材产品行销小组本年度首次会议于2023年2月6日在线上召开。由小组委员会主席许勳文先生主持的会议讨论了礼节性拜访砂拉越木材工业发展机构(STIDC)总经理的准备工作。

Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Pemasaran Produk Kayu (TPM) STA Bil. 1/2023 telah diadakan secara maya pada 6 Februari 2023. Mesyuarat telah dipengerusikan oleh Pengerusi Jawatankuasanya, Encik Stephen Hii dan membincangkan tentang persediaan kunjungan hormat ke atas Pengurus Besar Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak.

Meeting of STA Subsidiary Companies

The Boards of Directors (BOD) and Board of Honorary Advisers of STA Mutual Sdn Bhd, STA Training Sdn Bhd and STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd convened their respective meetings on 27 February 2023.

The BOD of all the subsidiary companies approved the audited financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2022 and the amendments to the Memorandum and Articles of Association (M&A) of the respective subsidiary companies. The amendments to the M&A were made to incorporate STA Council's decision on routine expenditure, to update to Companies Act 2016 and to be consistent with STA Constitution as well as to correct any typographical or grammatical errors.



STA Training Sdn Bhd Board of Directors Meeting.

STA Training Sdn Bhd Board of Directors Meeting No. 1/2023

The Board of Directors for STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) deliberated and approved various items pertaining to financial and administrative matters. The meeting was also updated that from the periods of 1 November 2022 to 27 February 2023, 41 workmen in the five (5) prescribed forestry activities (PFA) and 48 workmen in the non-PFA have been assessed and found competent.

It was also shared that Sarawak Information Systems Sdn Bhd (SAINS) together with both Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and STAT are working on the technical aspects of system integration, application programming interface and data synchronisation between the systems. Once completed, nominations for training will be done via the FDS systems.

On top of that, the meeting was also informed that STAT has started charging course fee of RM500 per day per skills set for STA members and RM1,000 per day per skill set for non-members along with traveling expenses of the trainer(s). The course fees and traveling expenses are claimable under the HRD Corp Claimable Course Scheme for registered employers who contributed to the fund.

STA Mutual Sdn Bhd's Board of Honorary Advisers and Board of Directors Meetings No. 1/2023

Both the Board of Honorary Adviser and Board of Directors of STA Mutual Sdn Bhd approved several requests for financial contribution to charitable organisations.

STA Enterprise Sdn Bhd Board of Directors Meeting No. 1/2023

The STAE BOD Meeting No 1/2023 covered and endorsed various items which included the tenancy of Wisma STA, maintenance of the building, as well as financial and administrative matters.

本会子公司，STA Mutual有限公司、STA Training有限公司以及STA Enterprises有限公司董事和STA Mutual有限公司荣誉顾问分别于2023年2月27日召开会议，接纳和批准多份与财务和行政事项有关的各种项目。

Lembaga Pengarah anak syarikat STA, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM), STA Training Sdn Bhd dan STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd serta Lembaga Penasihat Kehormat STAM mengadakan mesyuarat masing-masing pada 27 Februari 2023 untuk menerima kemas kini dan meluluskan pelbagai perkara berkaitan dengan hal ehwal kewangan dan pentadbiran.

Meeting No.1/2023 of Task Force to Study the Implications of the Proposed Technical Regulation of Formaldehyde Emission Level from Panel-based Products in Timber Industry

A task force to study the implications on the proposed technical regulation of formaldehyde emission level from panel-based products in timber industry was set up in January 2023 by the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) to study possible impact and way forward for implementing the regulation.

Dr Mohd Nor Zamri Mat Amin, Senior Director, Industry Development Division of MTIB chaired the committee's first meeting on 10 February 2023, which was attended by committee members who are officers from MTIB, representatives from timber industry, namely Malaysian Furniture Council, Malaysian Plywood Manufacturer's Association, Malaysian MDF Manufacturer's Association, Sabah Timber Industries Association and STA as well as academicians from University Putra Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi MARA.

马来西亚木材工业局(MTIB)于 2023 年 1 月成立一个工作小组以研究拟议的木材行业合板产品甲醛排放水平技术法规及实施该法规可能带来的影响和前进方向。该小组于 2023 年 2 月 10 日召开首次会议,并在会议上向成员简要介绍小组的职权范围,以及对家具和胶合板制造商为收集该研究的数据和反馈而填写的调查表格进行长时间的讨论。

Satu badan bertindak untuk mengkaji implikasi cadangan peraturan teknikal tahap pelepasan formaldehid daripada produk berasaskan panel dalam industri perindustrian kayu telah ditubuhkan pada Januari 2023 oleh Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia (MTIB) untuk mengkaji kemungkinan kesan dan langkah pelaksanaan peraturan tersebut. Jawatankuasa ini telah mengadakan mesyuarat pertama pada 10 Februari 2023 di mana ahli-ahli telah diberi taklimat mengenai terma rujukan pasukan petugas dan turut membincangkan dengan terperinci borang kaji selidik yang perlu dilengkapkan oleh pengeluar perabot dan papan lapis bagi tujuan pengumpulan data dan input untuk kajian tersebut.

Consultation Program on the Proposed Regulations of the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (Issuance of Permits for Timber Export and Import)

Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) consulted stakeholders to obtain feedback on its proposed regulations pertaining to the issuance of permits for timber export and import on 23 February 2023 at Glenmarie Hotel & Golf Resort, Shah Alam, Selangor.

Among some of the proposed changes to the proposed regulations, which were formulated in accordance with the MTIB (Incorporation) Act 1973 (Act 105), were the introduction of fees and enhancement to the existing services.

Based on the Regulatory Impact Analysis conducted by the Malaysia Productivity Corporation, the proposed regulations will allow MTIB to control and regulate the wood export and import activities as well as carry out prompt and

effective enforcement work.

During the session, participants raised their concerns that the imposition of charges on issuance of export and import permits as well as legality certificate on top of processing fees will increase the financial burden of the industry at the current market situation.

马来西亚木材工业局(MTIB)于2023年2月23日在雪兰莪莎阿南格伦玛丽酒店及高尔夫度假村咨询了利益相关者,以获取有关其木材进出口许可证签发的拟议法规的反馈。

虽然拟议的法规将允许MTIB控制和监察木材进出口活动,并展开及时有效的执法工作,但参与者担忧在加工费基础上对签发进出口许可证和合法性证书征收费用将会加重行业的经济负担。

Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia (MTIB) membuat perundingan dengan pihak berkepentingan untuk mendapatkan maklum balas mengenai cadangan peraturan berkaitan pengeluaran permit untuk eksport dan import kayu pada 23 Februari 2023 di Glenmarie Hotel & Golf Resort, Shah Alam, Selangor.

Peraturan yang dicadangkan membolehkan MTIB mengawal aktiviti eksport dan import kayu serta menjalankan kerja penguatkuasaan segera dan berkesan. Peserta menyatakan keprihatinan terhadap pengenaan caj pengeluaran permit eksport dan import serta siji pengesahan selain yuran pemprosesan yang akan meningkatkan beban kewangan industri.

Sarawak Design Week 2023

Sarawak Design Centre (SARADEC) in collaboration with Institute of Bandung, Indonesia supported by Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and endorsed by the Ministry Of International Trade, Industry and Investment Sarawak and Ministry of Tourism, Creative and Performing Arts Sarawak organised Sarawak Design Week 2023 from 13 to 16 February 2023 at Borneo Convention Centre Kuching.

The inaugural event with theme “Design for Tomorrow” aimed to showcase and exhibit creative designs by *SayD’signersSarawak* as well as to create awareness and inculcate interest on the importance of design among the furniture industry players and society in Sarawak. Approximately 200 booths were set up to display



The group from STA visited Samling’s booth.

furniture and wooden products of STA members, furnitures designed by graduates of *SayD’signersSarawak*, as well as arts and craft from Indonesia and Sarawak.

Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan, Deputy Premier of Sarawak and Chairman of STIDC in his welcoming remarks applauded SARADEC’s effort in gathering design community from Sarawak and igniting aspiration of design for the betterment of Sarawak. He mentioned that it is timely for creatively designed products from Sarawak to be marketed to penetrate in the international market.

The opening ceremony was officiated by Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Opening, Premier of Sarawak. In his keynote address, he underscored the Government’s commitment to transform the timber industry to achieve the RM6 billion export earnings from value-added timber products. Furniture has been identified as one of the key sectors. The Government has embarked on several initiatives to advance the furniture sector such as developing human capital through *SayD’signersSarawak* and establishing furniture park equipped with digital facilities.

He also witnessed the exchange of four (4) Memoranda of



Exchange of MoU between Ms Dayang Nena Abang Bruce from SARADEC (left) and Mr Wong Ting Chung from STA (front row, 2nd from right).

Understanding (MoU) between SARADEC and Korean Furniture Association; STA; Miri Community College; and University of Technology Sarawak (UTS). The MoU with STA is a commitment to collaborate towards achieving a target of RM6 billion in value-added products by 2030, in line with the aspiration set by the Sarawak Government under the Timber Industry Transformation Plan. Other activities such as presentations, discussions and interviews with *SayD’signersSarawak* trainees, artisans, designers, craft people and furniture industry players were also carried out throughout the 4-day event.

砂设计中心 (SARADEC) 与印尼万隆理工学院合作于 2023 年 2 月 13 日至 16 日举办 2023 年首届砂拉越设计周，旨在提高砂拉越家具业者和社会对设计重要性的认识 and 兴趣。为期 4 天的活动共设置约 200 个展台，展示 STA 会员的家具和木制品、砂 SayD’ signers 毕业生设计的家具，以及来自印尼和砂拉越的工艺品。

Sarawak Design Centre (SARADEC) dengan kerjasama Institut Bandung, Indonesia telah menganjurkan Minggu Reka Bentuk Sarawak 2023 buat julung kalinya pada 13 - 16 Februari 2023 dengan objektif untuk mewujudkan kesedaran dan menyemai minat terhadap kepentingan reka bentuk dalam kalangan pemain industri perabot dan masyarakat di Sarawak. Kira-kira 200 gerai telah disediakan sepanjang acara 4 hari tersebut untuk mempamerkan perabot dan produk kayu ahli-ahli STA, perabot yang direka oleh graduan SayD’signersSarawak, seni dan kraf dari Indonesia dan Sarawak.

Sarawak's Stakeholder Engagement and Awareness Building Workshop on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Malaysia Sustainable Natural Rubber Project

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Malaysia Sustainable Natural Rubber Project is a project that aimed to, among many others, elevate Malaysia as a sustainable natural rubber producer, improve livelihoods of local communities and further enhance the restoration efforts of degraded areas. Under this project, smallholder rubber producers are expected to benefit from technical supports on FSC certification, training, capacity building and guidance as well as market entry for their products.

The FSC Malaysia in partnership with the Control Union (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, CMO Group, Malaysian Rubber Council (MRC) and World Wide Fund for Nature - Malaysia (WWF-Malaysia) conducted an online engagement and awareness building workshop for stakeholders in Sarawak on 10 February 2023 with the objective to consult with relevant parties and smallholders to form groups for group certification. Attended by 28 participants, similar workshops had also been conducted in Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah as a platform for the partners to engage with relevant parties including major rubber buyers and government agencies.

Mr Supun Nigamuni, Managing Director of Control Union (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, an accredited Certification Body, in his welcoming remarks shared that the livelihoods of smallholder rubber producers are greatly affected by the growing disparity in wealth distribution and fluctuating rubber prices. Therefore, it is important to create value along the natural rubber supply chains through certification, so that the wealth can be equally shared.

The FSC Malaysia Country Director, Ms Charmaine Chee presented on the FSC certification, global developments, *European Union Deforestation-free Regulation* (EUDR) and success stories from FSC network. She informed that the inclusion of natural rubber latex into the scope of non-timber forest products in the revised National Forest Stewardship Standard provides an opportunity for upstream natural rubber producers in Malaysia to meet global demand-supply gap of FSC certified natural rubber. In 2021, Malaysia ranked 7th globally for natural rubber production,

producing a total of 514,000 tonnes of natural rubber. In relation to the inclusion of natural rubber as one of the agricultural commodities linked to deforestation, the FSC will study most relevant parts of its FSC normative framework, requirement for necessary alignment as well as solutions that can support certificate holders to meet the requirements of EUDR.

Participants also learned about the services provided by CMO Group, a forestry training and consulting firm aimed at empowering millions of small growers and companies to trade their responsibly-produced forest products in the mainstream global market. These services, according to its Chief Executive Officer, Mr Michal Brink, include technical training and consultation, performance improvement software solutions, technology solutions, product marketplace, and audit and compliance.

Mr Allen Lian, Responsible Forestry Manager from WWF- Malaysia also took the opportunity to highlight WWF-Malaysia's involvement in natural rubber which are focused on reversing the loss of nature, supporting sustainable production of natural rubber and advocating for FSC certified and deforestation-free natural rubber and rubberwood supply chains.

User Requirement Study for Trained Workmen Module



The Forest Department (FDS) and Sarawak Information Systems Sdn Bhd (SAINS) jointly organised the third lab on user requirements study for trained workmen on 23 February 2023 at Chemsain, Kuching.

Attended by 16 officers from FDS, SAINS, STA and STA Training Sdn Bhd, the 1-day lab discussed technical aspects of both FDS and STA systems at length, namely the frequency of data exchange between the systems.

He further emphasised key findings from WWF-Malaysia supply chain study and way forward from WWF rubber projects in Southeast Asia which includes leveraging on established market instrument to connect natural rubber to the international markets as well as provide financial incentive to smallholders.

During the roundtable discussion, participants shared their views on the natural rubber plantation by smallholders in Sarawak, the regulatory requirements, financial incentives, technical support and plantation management as well as key challenges. It was understood that currently there are 166,000 ha of natural rubber plantations in Sarawak, most of which are owned by smallholders.

马来西亚森林管理委员会可持续天然橡胶项目的合作伙伴于2023年2月10日为砂拉越利益相关者举办线上交流和意识建设工作坊，旨在征求相关者和小农民的意见以组成团体进行团体认证，并与主要橡胶买家和政府机构接洽。目前，砂拉越有166,000公顷的天然橡胶种植园，其中大部分为小农民所有，在该项目下，这些生产商可期望从FSC认证、培训、能力建设 and 指导以及产品的市场准入等方面的技术支持中受益。

Bengkel penglibatan dan pembinaan kesedaran untuk pihak berkepentingan di Sarawak telah diadakan secara maya oleh rakan kongsi Projek Getah Asli Mampan Majlis Pengawasan Hutan Malaysia pada 10 Februari 2023. Bengkel bertujuan untuk berunding dengan pihak berkaitan dan pekebun kecil bagi membentuk kumpulan bagi pensijilan berkumpulan dan melibatkan diri dengan pembeli getah utama dan agensi kerajaan. Pada masa ini terdapat 166,000 hektar ladang getah asli di Sarawak dan kebanyakannya dimiliki oleh pekebun kecil. Di bawah projek ini, pengeluaran getah boleh mendapat manfaat melalui sokongan teknikal mengenai pensijilan FSC, latihan, pembinaan kapasiti dan bimbingan serta pemasaran produk.

2023年2月23日，砂森林局(FDS)、砂拉越资讯系统有限公司(SAINS)、本会以及STA培训有限公司的职员参加由FDS和SAINS联办的第三次有关受训员工用户需求研究研讨会。

Pada 23 Februari 2023, para pegawai daripada Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS), Sistem Informasi Sarawak Sdn Bhd (SAINS), STA dan STA Training Sdn Bhd telah menghadiri lab ketiga kajian keperluan pengguna untuk pekerja terlatih, anjuran bersama FDS dan SAINS.

Networking Session for Discussion on Sarawak Workforce Information System (SWIS)

The Ministry of Education, Innovation and Talent Development (MEITD), previously known as Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Research (MESTR) was mandated to continue implementing Sarawak Workforce Information System (SWIS). SWIS is a web-based system initiated in 2017 to capture current and projected workforce supply for the purpose of setting up of a comprehensive labour market data.



(Left to right) Ms Peggy Chew, STA's Legal Advisor, Dr Florianna Lendai, Project Leader from UNIMAS Holdings Sdn Bhd and Mdm Anielia Anak Siam, Deputy Permanent Secretary of MEITD in a side discussion.

Mdm Anielia Anak Siam, Deputy Permanent Secretary of MEITD in her welcoming address at the networking session with associations on 9 February 2023 at Grand Margherita Hotel Kuching highlighted the importance of reliable, accurate and updated data in identifying issues in the labour market. She introduced UNIMAS Holdings Sdn Bhd, the consultant appointed to study SWIS and make recommendations to help it achieve its objective. She also urged the associations to encourage their members to register with SWIS and submit data on current workforce, available vacancies and future workforce needs.

Ms Ting Poh Poh, Assistant Secretary from the Workforce Development Division, MEITD underscored the function and features of SWIS which has approximately 500 users comprising institutions and companies from various industries. She also shared that data captured in SWIS will also help MEITD make better decision on fund allocation for the purpose of providing courses for jobs demanded by the industries.

教育、创新和人才发展部(MEITD)于2023年2月9日与社团组织举办一场交流会，讨论砂拉越劳动力资讯系统。这是一个可以收集当前和预计的劳动力供应，以建立一个全面的劳动力市场数据的网络系统。

Kementerian Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat (MEITD) menganjurkan sesi rangkaian dengan persatuan-persatuan pada 9 Februari 2023 untuk membincangkan Sistem Maklumat Tenaga Kerja Sarawak, iaitu satu sistem berasaskan web yang memaparkan maklumat bekalan tenaga kerja semasa dan unjuran bagi tujuan penubuhan data pasaran buruh.

Presentation on Findings of “Impact of MTCS on Forest Management, Industry and Trade” Research Study

The Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI) of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, in-cooperation with Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) conducted a research study on the “Impact of Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme on Forest Management, Industry and Trade” to identify the effectiveness and impact of implementing forest certification process in Malaysia among forest management units, government agencies and timber industry.

The study was completed in December 2022 and a sharing session on the study’s finding was conducted by LESTARI on 27 February 2023 at Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) Office in Bangunan Baitul Makmur

II, Kuching. The session was chaired by Mr Jack Anak Liam, Deputy Director of Forests and attended by representatives from FDS, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA).

In the sharing session, the Associate Professor Dr Ahmad Fariz Hj Mohamed, Project Leader and Dato’ Shaharuddin Mohamad Ismail, Senior Research Fellow, UKM presented their findings, highlighted the improvement and initiatives taken by FDS, STIDC, SFC, STA, forest management units and



Sharing Session by LESTARI-UKM.

mills towards forest management certification including key issues and challenges faced.

The study’s findings will also be shared at the international conference on timber certification “Exploring Future Frontiers”, to be organised by MTCC from 15 to 16 March 2023.

马来西亚国民大学环境与发展研究所 (LESTARI) 与马来西亚木材认证委员会 (MTCC) 合作, 并于 2022 年 12 月完成 “马来西亚木材认证计划对森林管理、工业和贸易的影响” 研究。随后, LESTARI 于 2023 年 2 月 27 日假砂森林局办公室举办相关研究结果的分享会。

Berikutan dengan selesainya kajian “Impak Skim Pensijilan Kayu Malaysia terhadap Pengurusan Hutan, Industri dan Perdagangan” yang dijalankan oleh Institut untuk Alam Sekitar dan Pembangunan (LESTARI) Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, dengan kerjasama Majlis Pensijilan Kayu Malaysia (MTCC) pada Disember 2022, satu sesi perkongsian hasil kajian telah dijalankan oleh LESTARI pada 27 Februari 2023 di Pejabat FDS.

Roundtable Discussion on Sustainable Finance: Building Climate Resilience amid the Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy

Bank Negara Malaysia organised a roundtable discussion on “Sustainable Finance: Building Climate Resilience amid the Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy” at its Kuching office on 28 February 2023. The discussion, attended by approximately 50 representatives from business associations and

government agencies, gave participants the opportunity to hear directly from Mdm Madelena Mohamed, the Director of Sustainability Unit at Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) and Mdm Salmah Bee Mohd Mydin, Executive Director of Market Development at Securities Commission (SC) Malaysia on the important role of finance in advancing climate journey.

Mr Mohd Irman Mohd Din, Head of BNM Kuching Office, in his welcoming remark stated that the event is organised to encourage knowledge sharing and information gathering among all stakeholders at an opportune time when the commitment to sustainability sits high on the State’s agenda.

Mdm Madelena highlighted in her presentation that as more countries and economies respond towards climate change by introducing legislative measures, the importance for business community to pay attention to climate change and transition their operations towards greener practices become even more pronounced. An example of this is the European Union (EU) Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism which will introduce a carbon price on certain products imported into the EU and likely to affect a bulk of our nation’s small and medium enterprises.

She also made reference to “finance for sustainability”, one of the pillars in the BNM’s Financial Sector Blueprint 2022-2026 which

targets to have at least half of new financing issued in 2026 to be for green and transitioning activities. In order to facilitate the financial institution's assessment of climate-related risks and encourage financial flows towards promoting transition to a low-carbon economy, the BNM has introduced a standardised classification system, called the Climate Change and Principle-based Taxonomy (CCPT) which classifies economic activities in terms of their contribution towards climate and environmental objectives.

Mdm Salmah shared that businesses will need a lot of

Seramai 50 orang wakil daripada persatuan perniagaan dan agensi kerajaan menghadiri perbincangan meja bulat mengenai "Kewangan Lestari: Membina Daya Tahan Iklim seiring Peralihan kepada Ekonomi Rendah-Karbon", anjuran Bank Negara Malaysia di pejabatnya di Kuching pada 28 Februari 2023. Peserta-peserta mendapat manfaat daripada perkongsian oleh penceramah daripada Bank Negara Malaysia dan Suruhanjaya Sekuriti Malaysia mengenai peranan penting pembiayaan kewangan dalam memajukan agenda iklim.

funding to align their operations to meet the high standards of global market as well as the demand for green products across their value chain. She added that while it is important to introduce a facilitative ecosystem for businesses to transition, financial regulators and end users need to maintain open lines of communication to identify and tailor-make incentives that supports the transition. She also shared about Malaysia's pioneer voluntary carbon market which was launched by Bursa Malaysia in December 2022. With the introduction of the Bursa Carbon Exchange, companies will be able to trade voluntary carbon credits from climate-friendly projects and

solutions to offset their emission footprint and meet climate goals. The first trade via auction is expected to commence in March 2023.

In the discussion between participants and speakers, participants sought for more guidance from the financial institutions on how to transition and it was highlighted that companies can demonstrate their knowledge and use of environmental, social and governance practices by obtaining certification specific to their respective industry.

大约 50 位来自商业公会和政府机构的代表参加由马来西亚中央银行于 2023 年 2 月 28 日在其古晋办事处举办题为“可持续金融：在向低碳经济转型中建立气候适应力”的圆桌讨论会，并受益于来自马来西亚中央银行和马来西亚证券委员会的讲员就金融在推动气候变化进程中的重要角色的分享。

Workshop on Key Changes to the Employment Act 1955: Reflection towards Labour Ordinances Sabah & Sarawak

The *Employment Act (EA) 1955* is a fundamental law which provides minimum terms and conditions of employment for employees in the private sector. In 2022, EA 1955 was amended and took effect on 1 January 2023 in the Peninsular Malaysia and Labuan.

For Sabah and Sarawak, amendments to the corresponding legislations, the *Labour Ordinance (Sabah Cap 67)* and *Labour Ordinance (Sarawak Cap 76)* are also in the pipeline.

The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) organised a workshop from 24 to 25 February 2023 at Borneo Convention Centre Kuching to enlighten employers on the key differences between EA 1955 and Labour Ordinances in Sabah and Sarawak. Through the 2-day workshop, participants were also able to comprehend the correct interpretation of the new provisions in the EA 1955 as well as the proposed amendments to the Labour Ordinances in Sabah and Sarawak.

The Workshop was delivered by Dato' Haji Jalaldin Hussain, Senior Consultant Industrial Relations, MEF Petaling Jaya; Dr Dzulzalani Eden, Senior Consultant Industrial Relations, MEF Sarawak; and Mr Phang Pin, Senior Assistant Director, Enforcement Division, Labour Department Sarawak.

The major key changes for EA (Amendment) 2022 were the

deletion of provisions contrary to International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions pertaining to child labour and women working at night, as well as the addition of provisions in relation to maternity and paternity leave, hours of work, overtime and flexible working arrangement (FWA). These amendments were in line with the signing and ratification of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) requiring signatories to adopt international labour standards in accordance with ILO Conventions.

Dato' Haji Jalaldin Hussain proposed that employers develop a proper structural system or standard of procedures when handling employment issues.

马来西亚雇主联合会 (MEF) 通过在古晋婆罗洲会议中心举办为期 2 天的研讨会，让雇主了解 1955 年雇佣法令与沙巴和砂拉越劳工条例之间的主要区别。研讨会也告知参与者将对沙巴和砂拉越的劳工条例进行的拟议修正案。

Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan Malaysia (MEF) memberi pencerahan kepada majikan tentang perbezaan utama di antara Akta Pekerjaan 1955 dan Ordinan Buruh Sabah dan Sarawak melalui bengkel 2 hari di Pusat Konvensyen Borneo Kuching. Semasa bengkel tersebut, peserta turut dimaklumkan tentang cadangan pindaan ke atas Ordinan Buruh Sabah dan Sarawak.

Benchmarking Programme on Global Supply Chain & Sustainability

The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) Sarawak organised a Benchmarking Programme on Global Supply Chain and Sustainability on 28 February 2023 at Imperial Hotel Kuching for members and potential members of MATRADE Sarawak. Participants were able to better understand major global trends on sustainability; identified critical elements of sustainability for global competitiveness; and received tips on adopting and implementing for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to be sustainability-compliant companies. Encik Abu Bakar Yusof, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Exporters Development) MATRADE in his welcoming remarks urged Sarawak companies to venture into the Mid-Tier Companies Development Programme (MTCDP) which was established in 2014 aims to help local mid-tier companies (MTCs) to accelerate their export growth and to strengthen their core business functions. MTCs in Malaysia are defined as companies with annual revenues between RM50 million to RM500 million in the manufacturing sector and between RM20 million to RM500 million in other sectors. He assured that MATRADE will assist and guide MSMEs in Sarawak to become MTCs, to penetrate international market or join the MTCs supply chain.

Encik Abu Bakar acknowledged that MSMEs are the backbone of MTCs, quoted 275 MTCs with export value worth RM18 billion required 7,000 MSMEs as their supply chain.

Mr Samrat Bose, MTCDP programme director of Deloitte Consulting Malaysia shared with participants barriers that stopping MSMEs to go for export markets as well as the right direction to follow, think and act digital and sustainable by the MSMEs in order to accelerate business' growth. Along the process, MATRADE is offering wide range of assistances including Service Export Fund, eTrade programme, Market Development Grant to eligible MSMEs.

Lastly, panel speakers from Kim Hin Industry Sdn Bhd and East Asia Palm Products Sdn Bhd shared with participants their company's journey into export markets and how sustainability affects their business, especially when venturing into new territories.

马来西亚对外贸易发展局(MATRADE)砂拉越区于2023年2月28日在古晋帝宫酒店为MATRADE砂拉越区的会员和潜在会员举办有关全球供应链和可持续发展的基准活动。该为期1天的活动帮助参与者更好地了解可持续发展的主要全球趋势,并辨认可持续发展对全球竞争力的关键要素,以及为微型、小型和中型企业(MSMEs)提供成为可持续发展合规公司的秘诀。

Malaysian Employers Federation East Malaysia (Sarawak) Regional Meeting No. 2/2023

The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) East Malaysia (Sarawak) Regional Meeting No. 2/2023 was held in hybrid format on 15 February 2023. Presided over by Mdm Norhayati binti Johari of Senari Synergy Sdn Bhd, Chairperson of MEF Sarawak, the meeting invited officers from Immigration and Labour Management Unit (ILMU), Department of the Premier of Sarawak, Labour Department Sarawak and Immigration Department Sarawak to update members on the latest policy and process for employment of foreign worker and non-resident employee.

Mr Asrinezal bin Morshidi, Principal Administrative Officer from ILMU, Department of the Premier of Sarawak, shared that ILMU acts as coordinator for the Localisation Committee on the work process and guidelines for expatriates and non-resident employee. He added that ILMU aspires to collaborate with Federal Ministries and agencies, employers, industry associations and labour groups to formulate effective policies leveraging on skilled foreign labour, strengthen immigration and labour management.

Mdm Sharifah Meriana binti Wan Mohammed, Industrial Relations Officer from the Labour Department Sarawak briefed participants on the latest procedure on the employment of non-resident employee relating to Approval in Principle (AP) and labour licence applications.

Perbadanan Pembangunan Perdagangan Luar Malaysia (MATRADE) Sarawak menganjurkan Program Penanda Aras tentang Rangkaian Bekalan Global dan Kelestarian pada 28 Februari 2023 di Hotel Imperial Kuching untuk ahli dan ahli berpotensi MATRADE Sarawak. Acara sehari itu membantu para peserta untuk lebih memahami trend global utama mengenai kelestarian serta mengenal pasti elemen kritikal kelestarian untuk daya saing global dan menyediakan perusahaan mikro, kecil dan sederhana (PKS) dengan petua untuk menjadi syarikat yang mematuhi kelestarian.



Meeting in progress

She informed that currently all types of applications must be submitted online through the Monitoring System on the Employment of Non-Sarawakians (MSEN) and emphasised the importance of keying in correct data into MSEN as any alteration and rectification to a submitted application will result in the delay of AP approval. She also highlighted latest guideline for the recruitment of expatriates, the types of passes issued by the Immigration Department and advised employers to submit extension application three (3) months before expiration of the existing pass to avoid the application from being rejected.

Ms Jessica Olivia James, Chief Assistant Director, Foreign Workers Department of Immigration Department Sarawak briefed participants on the latest procedure for the recruitment of foreign workers in Sarawak and reminded that employers can submit application for extension of Temporary Employment Visit Pass (ePLKS) and special pass (eSP) online through ePLKS-BORNEO@JIM at <https://imigresen-online.imi.gov.my/plks-borneo/main>.

马来西亚雇主联合会 (MEF) 东马 (砂拉越) 区域年度第二次会议于2023年2月15日召开。MEF邀请砂拉越州总理局的移民和劳工管理部, 砂拉越劳工局和砂拉越移民局的官员向会员解说有关雇用外籍劳工和非居民雇员的最新政策和程序。

Pegawai-pegawai daripada Unit Pengurusan Imigresen dan Buruh, Jabatan Premier Sarawak, Jabatan Tenaga Kerja Sarawak dan Jabatan Imigresen Sarawak telah dijemput ke Mesyuarat Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan Malaysia (MEF) Wilayah Timur Malaysia (Sarawak) Bil. 2/2023 pada 15 Februari 2023 untuk mengemaskini ahli-ahli MEF dengan dasar dan proses terkini pengambilan pekerja asing dan pekerja bukan pemastautin.

Upcoming EVENTS

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STA Annual General Meeting 2023

STA's Annual General Meeting for 2023 will be held on:

Date : 29 March 2023 (Wednesday)
Venue : Wisma STA, Kuching

For further information, please contact:
Ms Miriam Hong/Ms Jessie Kong via phone (082-332 222) or email (sta@sta.org.my).





February 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. These skills set are claimable under the HRD Corp Claimable Course Scheme by registered employers from the Human Resource Development levy contributions.

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



Tree Felling - Chainsaw (Natural Forest), Log Extraction - Tractor (Natural Forest) & Mechanical Site Preparation - Excavator (Forest Plantation)

Date : 6 - 11 February 2023
 Location : Pila Camp, Kapit
 STAT Trainer/ Assessor : Mr Kutok Bayang,
 Mr Ginda Uli & Mr Ngumbang Bayang
 Company : Ironwall Sdn Bhd



Tree and Log Identification & Log and Timber Identification

Date : 13 - 22 February 2023
 Location : Shin Fung Camp, Miri
 STAT Trainer/ Assessor : Mr Sumbang Rani
 Company : Verstar 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*.