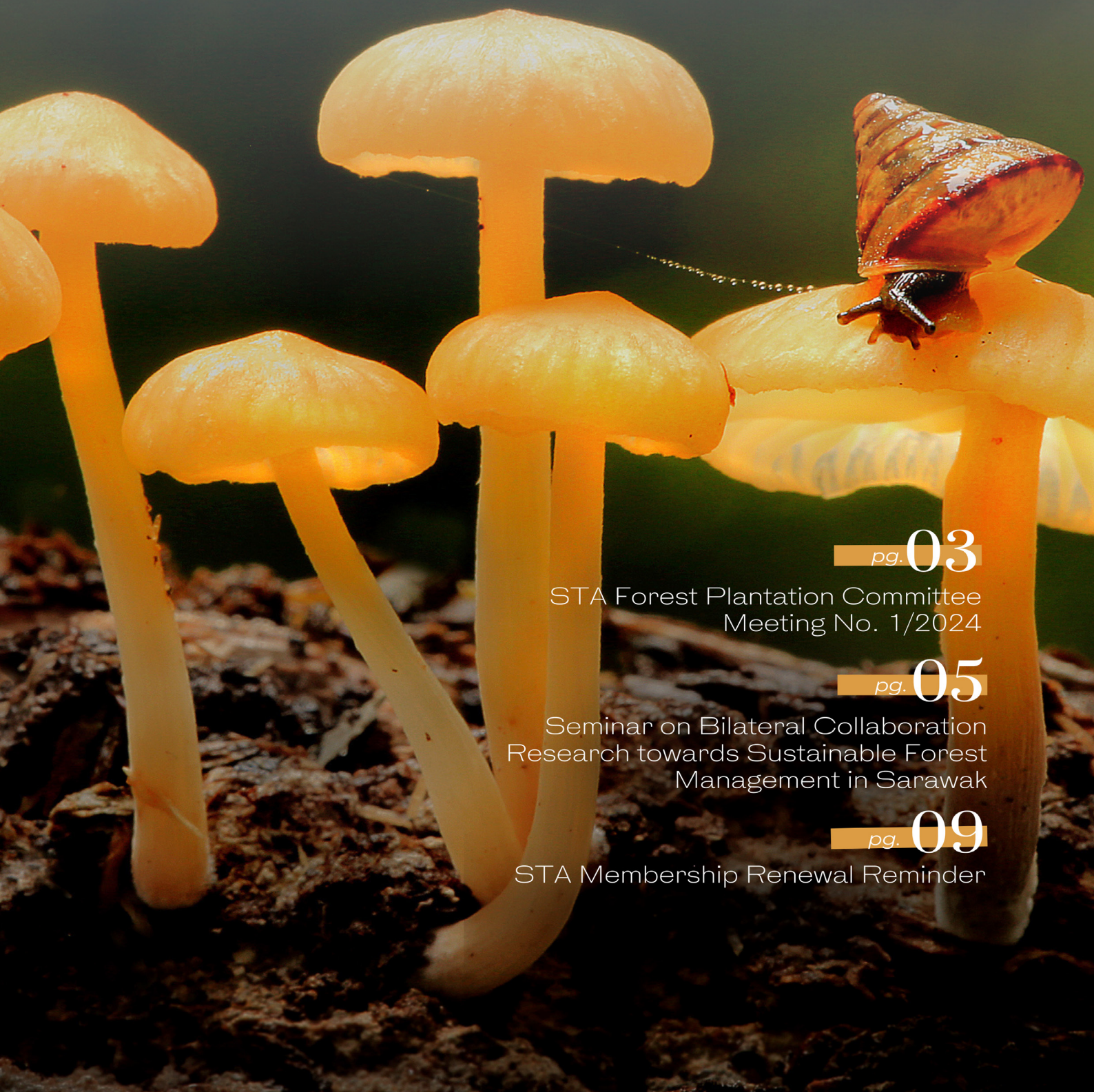


# STA REVIEW

Monthly Magazine of Sarawak Timber Association



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STA Forest Plantation Committee  
Meeting No. 1/2024

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Seminar on Bilateral Collaboration  
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STA Membership Renewal Reminder



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## On the Cover

Cover photo by Wong Muh Lung



## STA REVIEW

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# STA Forest Plantation Committee Meeting No.1/2024



Mr Joseph Lau, Chairman of STA Forest Plantation Committee (seated, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left) chaired the meeting, attended by its committee members and STA Secretariat.

The first meeting of the STA Forest Plantation Committee for the year 2024 took place on 19 January 2024 at Wisma STA, Kuching. Chaired by its Chairman, Mr Joseph Lau Ching Hoo, the Committee studied the Memoranda of Agreements pertaining to the recently approved research and development (R&D) initiatives. These initiatives comprised the (i) Maintenance of Kelampayan Clones Project and (ii) Phase IV of the *Falcataria moluccana* Research Project.

Additionally, the meeting also discussed the Memorandum of Understanding that governs the collaborative field trial of Kelampayan mutant clones between STA and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.

Another key agenda item addressed during the meeting was the proposed amendment to the Guidelines for STA R&D Funding. Discussions also centred on the activities planned for year 2024.

*Encik Joseph Lau Ching Hoo mempengerusikan mesyuarat sulung Jawatankuasa Ladang Hutan STA bagi tahun 2024 pada 19 Januari 2024 di Wisma STA Kuching. Jawatankuasa membincangkan Memorandum Perjanjian untuk inisiatif penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D) yang diluluskan, cadangan pindaan ke atas Garis Panduan Pembiayaan R&D STA dan aktiviti yang dirancang untuk tahun 2024.*

由刘晋福先生主持的2024年本会人工造林委员会首届会议于2024年1月19日假古晋STA大厦举行。该委员会审议已批准的研发(R&D)项目的协议备忘录、本会研发资金指南的拟议修正案以及2024年计划的活动。

## Meeting on Task Force on Floating Debris at Batang Baleh

The meeting of the Task Force on Floating Debris at Batang Baleh was held on 16 January 2024, at Wisma Sumber Alam. Chaired by Datu Sr. Zaidi bin Hj Mahdi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development, the meeting received updates on the matter of floating debris from the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak River Board, Natural Resources and Environmental Board (NREB) and Sarawak Energy Berhad.

The attendees were informed that no licence for salvage logging was issued. Four log and debris booms will

be installed along the Batang Baleh by the end of this year. The meeting also discussed the removal and disposal of existing debris, with forest timber licensees in the area contributing to the cost, and all logs being disposed of via burning in accordance with the NREB burning permit.

Furthermore, the meeting was informed about early detection strategies to identify high-risk areas based on topography and land use, using geospatial modeling, high-frequency aerial surveillance, and satellite-based monitoring.

*Jabatan Hutan Sarawak, Lembaga Sungai-Sungai Sarawak, Lembaga Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar Sarawak dan Sarawak Energy Berhad berkongsi maklumat terkini mengenai sisa kayu terapung pada Mesyuarat Badan Bertindak Mengenai Sisa Kayu Terapung yang bermesyuarat pada 16 Januari 2024. Mesyuarat turut mengambil maklum strategi pengesanan awal untuk mengenal pasti kawasan berisiko tinggi.*

砂拉越森林局、砂拉越河流局、天然资源与环境局以及砂拉越能源公司在2024年1月16日召开的漂浮木屑工作小组会议上分享了相关漂浮木屑事件的最新进展。会议也讨论了现有木屑的清除和处置法并记录早期检测的策略以识别高风险区域。



## Working Visit from Malaysian Timber Certification Council



Seated, from left to right:  
Dr Farrah Shameen, CEO of MTCC; Ms  
Annie Ting, CEO of STA; and Mr Wong  
Ting Chung, STA Honorary Secretary

Dr Farrah Shameen, the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) and her team visited STA on 30 January 2024. The visit which took place in Wisma STA was met with warm reception from Mr Wong Ting Chung, the STA Honorary Secretary cum STA Certification Committee Chairman, along with Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA, and members of the STA Certification Committee.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr Wong congratulated Dr Farrah on her appointment as the CEO of MTCC and emphasised the importance of enhanced collaboration between STA and MTCC to address the challenges faced in forest management certification. He urged all members to actively participate in the dialogue and share insights and challenges faced during the forest management certification process.

Ms Ting provided an overview of STA's roles and functions. She also shared valuable insights into STA's

significant contributions to the management of forests and the timber industry in Sarawak. Additionally, she shed light on the challenges faced by STA members in managing forest management units, setting the stage for a collaborative discussion on potential solutions.

Dr Farrah in her presentation provided a comprehensive update on the status of the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme. She advocated for the certification of non-timber forest products, inviting stakeholders to participate in pilot project aimed at this initiative. She also encouraged downstream industry players in Sarawak to leverage tax deductions available to chain-of-custody (COC) companies. Furthermore, she urged active participation in upcoming public consultations on the revision of Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) standards which will align with the European Union Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR), scheduled for February and March 2024.

## Public webinar on European Union Deforestation-free Regulation - One Year to Implementation

On 18 January 2024, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) hosted a public webinar on *"European Union Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR) - One Year to Implementation"*. The event served as a platform for FSC stakeholders to gain comprehensive insights into FSC's proactive efforts regarding EUDR. Six (6) speakers provided their perspectives on EUDR developments and FSC's strategic endeavours to align its certification system, empowering certificate holders seeking robust compliance tools.

Central to the discussions was the acknowledgment that while robust certification schemes like FSC cannot exempt companies from their due diligence obligations,

they play an important role in facilitating systematic and cost-effective risk assessment and mitigation. FSC's commitment to this cause was underscored by the unveiling of planned technological solutions tailored for EUDR compliance, notably the FSC Blockchain. This innovative tool can enhance traceability and geo-location capabilities for FSC-certified products, enabling compliance with EUDR traceability requirements and bolstering supply chain transparency.

FSC also shared their main deliverables for the year which include the initiation of a public consultation on module and systemic changes and the publication of the FSC regulatory module.



Mr Melvin Ku, Director of Forest Management in MTCC, provided a gap assessment between the EUDR and the forest management standard. He also highlighted components requiring amendments in the PEFC COC standard. This information served as a crucial foundation for further discussions on aligning standards and ensuring sustainable practices in the timber industry.

*Dr Farrah Shameen, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Majlis Pensijilan Kayu Malaysia (MTCC), mengadakan lawatan ke STA bersama-sama dengan pegawainya. Kumpulan tersebut dan ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa Pensijilan STA serta Sekretariat STA membincangkan perkara-perkara berkaitan dengan pensijilan pengurusan hutan, sumbangan STA kepada pengurusan hutan dan industri perikanan di Sarawak serta pensijilan hasil hutan bukan kayu.*

马来西亚木材认证理事会 (MTCC) 首席执行官法拉莎敏博士携其团队访问本会。该团体与本会秘书处及本会认证委员会成员讨论相关森林管理认证、本会对砂拉越林业和木材工业管理的贡献以及非木材林产品认证等事宜。

*Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) menganjurkan webinar mengenai pelaksanaan Peraturan Bebas Penyahutan Kesatuan Eropah (EUDR) yang menekankan peranan FSC dalam menjajarkan sistem pensijilannya dengan EUDR. Perkara utama termasuk komitmen FSC, penyelesaian teknologi seperti FSC Blockchain untuk kebolehdan dan aktiviti-aktiviti yang dirancang untuk 2024.*

森林管理委员会(FSC)主办了关于实施欧盟无毁林法规(EUDR)的线上研讨会，强调FSC在使其认证系统与EUDR保持一致方面的作用。重点包括FSC的承诺、已规划的技术解决方案例如用于可追溯性的FSC区块链以及2024年所计划的活动。

## Seminar on Bilateral Collaboration Research towards Sustainable Forest Management in Sarawak

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), with support from the Biodiversity Division of the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) Japan, organised a Seminar on Bilateral Collaboration Research towards Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Sarawak on 30 January 2024 at Waterfront Hotel, Kuching.

The one-day Seminar, attended by representatives from government agencies, universities and the timber industry, including STA provided a platform for experts to share valuable insights and findings of the permanent sample plot (PSP) project and the application of advanced technology in assessing forest research data and upscaling forest resources management.

Haji Happysupina bin Sait, Deputy Director of Forests (Forest Conservation and Development), in his welcoming remarks shared that FDS had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NIES to, among many, develop effective methodologies for the evaluation and implementation of essential forest ecosystem functions and services to promote SFM and conservation in Sarawak. He highlighted the Sarawak's commitment towards SFM by requiring all long-term forest timber licensees to obtain forest management certification. As of December 2023, a total of 24 licensees are certified, covering an area of 2 million hectares.

Madam Bibian Diway from FDS presented a paper on the assessment and monitoring of timber stocking, growth, and forest recovery through the PSP Network in logged-over forests in Sarawak. She highlighted varying degrees of recovery experienced by logged-over forests and raised concerns about the sustainability of a 25-year harvesting cycle for timber production.

Another researcher from FDS, Ms Ling Chea Yiing, delved into the impact of logging on species diversity and composition where it was found that species diversity in the logged over forest is higher due to the introduction of pioneer species.

However, they lacked good-quality timber species compared to old growth forest, particularly Dipterocarp species. She also emphasised various factors which could affect the diversity and composition of tree species such as the logging intensity, historical logging activities, plot locations, and environmental factors. She advocated for increased plot sampling across different ages to comprehensively understand the impact of logging on timber quality over time.

Dr Yayoi Takeuchi from NIES shared insights from collaborative research with FDS on forest volume modeling using unmanned aerial vehicle-derived metrics and data from PSPs. The findings from this research are expected to provide valuable insights into the current state of forests in Sarawak, improve volume estimation accuracy, and support sustainable forest management and conservation initiatives.

*Seminar anjuran Jabatan Hutan Sarawak dan Institut Kajian Alam Sekitar Negara Jepun pada 30 Januari 2024 mengetengahkan penyelidikan dua hala untuk pengurusan hutan lestari, meliputi topik seperti projek plot sampel kekal dan komitmen terhadap pensijilan pengurusan hutan untuk pemegang lesen balak jangka panjang di Sarawak.*

由砂森林局和日本国立环境研究所于2024年1月30日举办的研讨会中强调了可持续森林管理的双向研究，涵盖永久样地项目以及砂拉越长期木材许可证持有者对森林管理认证的承诺等议题。



# Business Finland's Head of Global Initiatives Visit to Sarawak



Mr Kari Hiltunen, Head of Export Boosters and Global Initiatives (front, 8<sup>th</sup> from left), Datu Haji Hamden Bin Haji Mohamad (front, 8<sup>th</sup> from right) and Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (front, 6<sup>th</sup> from right) posed for group photos after the meeting.

Mr Kari Hiltunen, Head of Export Boosters and Global Initiatives, and Mr Mohamed Farid, Senior Advisor of Business Finland, visited Sarawak from 16 to 17 January 2024. The purpose of the visit was to promote Malaysia-Finland cooperation in the smart forestry industry, discuss and gain an understanding of the forestry value chain and its development initiatives and opportunities, and explore potential cooperation and co-development possibilities with forestry players in Sarawak.

In conjunction with their visit, Datu Haji Hamden Haji Mohammad, the Director of Forests, Forest Department Sarawak chaired a meeting at Bangunan Baitul Makmur II, Kuching, on 17 January 2024 involving relevant government agencies and timber industry players.

During the meeting, Mr Mohamed Farid extended an invitation to forestry players to visit Finland for FinnMETKO 2024 in August – an event on heavy machinery industry in forestry, logging, bioenergy, and logistics. The meeting agreed for a webinar and a roundtable discussion with STA prior to the visit to delve deeper into the needs, challenges, and potential collaborations for the forestry sector in Sarawak.

*Pada 17 Januari 2024, Jabatan Hutan Sarawak telah mengadakan pertemuan dengan Business Finland di pejabatnya. Dalam mesyuarat tersebut, Business Finland bersetuju untuk menganjurkan webinar dan perbincangan meja bulat dengan STA untuk membincangkan keperluan, cabaran dan kerjasama yang berpotensi untuk sektor perhutanan di Sarawak.*

在芬兰国家商务促进局访问砂拉越期间，砂拉越森林局于2024年1月17日在其办公室与芬兰国家商务促进局召开会议。会议期间，芬兰国家商务促进局同意与本企业联合举办线上简报会和圆桌会议，以讨论砂拉越林业的需求、挑战和潜在的合作机会。

## Country Briefing on Fair Recruitment and Forced Labour

The Malaysian Employers Federation, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) Global Business Network on Forced Labour, conducted a virtual country briefing on Fair Recruitment and Forced Labour on 18 January 2024 to update on current legal and policy developments on forced labour and fair recruitment in Malaysia.

Ms Laura Green, Senior Programme and Operations Officer at ILO, shared that the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) defines forced labor as “all work or service that is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered themselves voluntarily”. The key deficiency in Malaysia concerning migrant

workers revolved on the enforcement and execution of regulatory measures. Ms Green also encouraged employers to share their feedback on the Due Diligence Toolkit on Fair Recruitment, through link: <https://360.articulate.com/review/content/dad5d231-06e5-4cbb-b0b9-f80fc1231f9c/review>.

Issues raised, such as scarcity of workers due to the absence of conducive policies and reduction in Approved Permit quotas will be presented and discussed at a round table session between MEF and relevant Government agencies scheduled for 21 February 2024. Consensus was achieved to establish task force and a one-stop centre for employers to address these issues.



# MTA's Engagement with MNS and WWF-Malaysia



STA, in collaboration with Forest Department Sarawak and WWF-Malaysia, with support from International Tropical Timber Organisation is organising an International Conference in March, 2024. Participation to the Conference is by invitation only.

*STA, dengan kerjasama Jabatan Hutan Sarawak dan WWF-Malaysia, dengan sokongan daripada Pertubuhan Kayu Tropika Antarabangsa menganjurkan Persidangan Antarabangsa pada Mac, 2024. Penyertaan ke Persidangan itu adalah melalui jemputan sahaja.*

本会与砂拉越森林局和世界自然基金会马来西亚分会合作，在国际热带木材组织的支持下，将于2024年3月举办国际研讨会。该研讨会仅限受邀人士参加。

*Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan Malaysia, dengan kerjasama Rangkaian Perniagaan Global Pertubuhan Buruh Antarabangsa mengenai Buruh Paksa, mengadakan taklimat maya peringkat negara mengenai Pengambilan Adil dan Buruh Paksa pada 18 Januari 2024. Taklimat membincangkan perkara seperti kelaziman buruh paksa, cadangan-cadangan Pertubuhan Buruh Antarabangsa untuk perlindungan buruh migran dan cabaran-cabaran pengambilan buruh oleh majikan-majikan Malaysia.*

马来西亚雇主联合会 (MEF) 与国际劳工组织强迫劳动全球商业网络合作，于2024年1月18日举行相关公平招聘和强迫劳动的线上简报会。会议讨论强迫劳动的普遍性、国际劳工组织对移民工人的保护建议和马来西亚雇主的招聘挑战。



*Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (seated, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left) with Mr George Yap (seated, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and the rest of the participants*

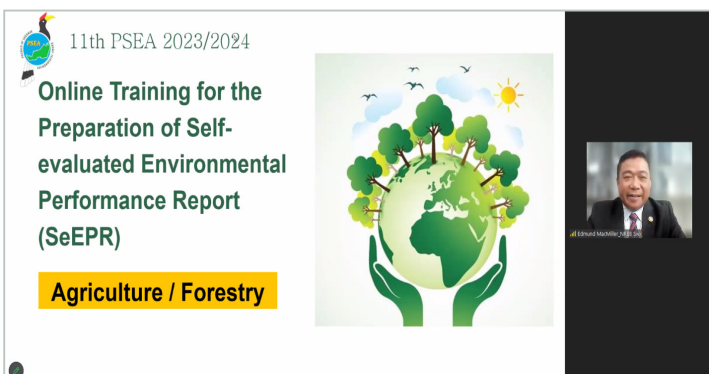
Malaysian Timber Association (MTA), spearheaded by its President Mr George Yap, engaged in a session with the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) and World Wide Fund (WWF) Malaysia on 5 January 2024 at Menara PGRM, Kuala Lumpur. This session allowed the three (3) stakeholders to consult and explore common environmental and social interests, laying the groundwork for potential future collaborations.

Mr Donovan Louis, the Conservation Head of MNS and Dr Henry Chan, the Senior Director of Conversation of WWF along with their colleagues attended the session. After lengthy deliberation and exchange of perspectives, the stakeholders reached a consensus to collaborate and support each other in advancing Malaysia's forestry and timber industry. As part of this commitment, MTA has agreed to integrate the relevant targets outlined in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework into its Timber Industry Road Map 2023. By aligning with international biodiversity targets, the industry aims to proactively address environmental challenges and contribute to global conservation efforts. Additionally, MTA has pledged support for promoting MNS's Rangkaian Urban Green Spaces initiative. In relation to the European Union Deforestation-free Regulation, both MNS and WWF have acknowledged MTA's roles and have taken note that MTA will lead the coalition initiative alongside other tropical timber-producing nations.

*Persatuan Kayu-Kayan Malaysia meneroka kepentingan alam sekitar dan sosial dalam sesi libat urus bersama Persatuan Pencinta Alam Malaysia dan WWF-Malaysia pada 5 Januari 2024. Selepas perbincangan dan pertukaran perspektif mendalam, ketiga-tiga pihak bersetuju untuk bekerjasama dan menyokong satu sama lain dalam memajukan industri perhutanan dan perkayuan Malaysia. Ini termasuk inisiatif berkenaan Peta Rangkaian Industri Perkayuan 2023 dan Peraturan Produk Bebas-Penyahutan Kesatuan Eropah.*

马来西亚木材公会(MTA)在主席叶宏展先生的带领下于2024年1月5日与马来西亚自然协会(MNS)以及世界自然基金会马来西亚分会探索环境和社会利益合作事宜。经过广泛商议和交流，三方利益相关者达成共识，相互合作和支持，共同推动马来西亚林业和木材业的发展。当中包括有关2023年木材业蓝图和欧盟无毁林法规(EUDR)的倡议。





## Online Briefing and Training for the 11<sup>th</sup> Premier of Sarawak Environmental Award

During this session, participants received detailed insights into the criteria and reporting format for the self-evaluated environmental performance report (SeEPR). Additionally, strategies for addressing challenges particularly concerning the European Union Deforestation-free Regulation and low carbon initiatives were also highlighted as key components for inclusion in the SeEPR. Mr Edmund emphasised that the necessary information is often readily available within the existing frameworks and reports of companies; they simply need to align their reporting accordingly for the SeEPR.

Other than the agriculture & forestry sector, the 11<sup>th</sup> PSEA spans a wide range of other sectors such as plantation, manufacturing, waste management, construction, quarry and mining. Recipients of the 11<sup>th</sup> PSEA will not only receive cash prizes, trophies and certificates, but will also gain the privilege of utilising the award's logo for promotional purposes, serving as a testament to their exemplary commitment to environmental protection.

The submission deadline for SeEPR is set for April 2024, followed by assessments conducted until August 2024. The culmination of this journey will be marked by the grand award presentation ceremony, which is tentatively scheduled for November 2024. STA members are encouraged to participate in this prestigious award.

The Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) organised a series of sector-specific online briefing and training to equip companies with the necessary knowledge and tools to participate effectively in the upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> Premier of Sarawak Environmental Award (PSEA). The 11<sup>th</sup> PSEA underscores the importance of integrating sustainable environmental practices into everyday activities and operations with theme, *"Incorporating Environmental Sustainability into Practices"*.

Jointly organised by the NREB and Sarawak Business Federation, in collaboration with various ministries, agencies and institutions, the award aims to acknowledge and celebrate the environmental efforts and commitments demonstrated by industries, local authorities, agencies and individuals across Sarawak.

The briefing for *"Agriculture & Forestry"* sector was conducted by Mr Edmund Macmillar, Senior Environmental Control Officer from the Monitoring & Reporting Section of NREB on 9 January 2024.

## 5<sup>th</sup> User Requirements Study Lab for Trained Workmen

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and Sarawak Information System Sdn Bhd (SAINS) conducted the fifth lab on the user requirements study for trained workmen on 25 January 2024, at the SAINS Training Centre at Eco Mall, Kuching to review the trained workmen system developed based on inputs provided in the previous labs.

The lab was attended by officers from FDS, SAINS, STA and STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT). During the review session, SAINS presented the process flows for training and assessment nominations of forest workmen as well as data integration between STAT database and the Forest Licensee Portal. Additional inputs were received from participants for the enhancement of the system.



Lab in progress

The system is expected to be completed by the end of 2024. Once completed, the nomination of forest workmen for training and assessment will be through the licensee's forest licensee portal.



天然资源及环境局(NREB)举办系列针对特定行业的线上简报会和培训,为企业提供需要的知识和工具,以有效的参与即将举行的第11届砂拉越总理环境奖(PSEA)。埃德蒙·麦克米勒先生于2024年1月9日主讲“农业和林业”部,强调自我评估环境绩效报告的标准和报告格式。自我评估环境绩效报告的提交截止日期是2024年4月。

Lembaga Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar Sarawak (NREB) menganjurkan satu siri taklimat dan latihan khusus-sektor dalam talian untuk melengkapkan syarikat-syarikat dengan pengetahuan yang diperlukan untuk mengambil bahagian dalam Anugerah Alam Sekitar Premier Sarawak (PSEA) ke-11 yang akan datang.

Taklimat untuk sektor “Pertanian & Perhutanan” telah disampaikan oleh Encik Edmund Macmiller pada 9 Januari 2024 di mana kriteria dan format pelaporan untuk laporan penilaian prestasi alam sekitar sendiri telah diketengahkan. Tarikh akhir penyerahan untuk SeEPR ialah April 2024.

Dalam makmal kelima keperluan pengguna untuk pekerja terlatih yang dikendalikan oleh Jabatan Hutan Sarawak dan Sistem Maklumat Sarawak pada 25 Januari 2024, input mengenai aliran proses penamaan latihan dan penilaian, penyepaduan data, dan pemeraksanaan sistem telah dikumpul dan dibincangkan. Sistem pekerja terlatih dijangka siap pada penghujung 2024.

由砂森林局和砂资讯系统有限公司(SAINS)于2024年1月25日举办的第五次受训员工用户需求工作坊中,收集并讨论培训和评估提名流程、数据整合和系统增强的资讯。据了解,受训员工系统预计将于2024年底完成。

## Webinar on Capturing Carbon : Understanding Decarbonisation Technologies

Capital Markets Malaysia, in collaboration with the Environmental Resources Management (ERM), hosted a webinar session titled “Capturing Carbon: Understanding the Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) Landscape” on 18 January 2024.

Experts from ERM namely Mr Seng Kee Wong, Country Managing Partner (Malaysia & Brunei); Ms Jye Yng Voon, Senior Partner (Malaysia & Southeast Asia); Mr Assad Mohanna, Partner in the CCS & Sustainable Energies (North America); and Mr Hiroshi Tomita, Partner in the Corporate Sustainability & Climate Change (Japan) provided participants with a clear, technical insight and guidance in understanding decarbonisation technologies.

Participants were informed that the only ways to offset carbon emissions are through nature-based solutions like avoiding deforestation and sustainable agriculture, or through carbon capture via CCS and CCUS technologies.

Focusing on Malaysia’s potential in the CCUS landscape, the country’s geological advantages, depleted oil wells suitable for CO<sub>2</sub> injection and the government’s commitment to catalysing green growth areas like CCUS, as outlined in the National Energy Transition Roadmap and the New Industrial Master Plan, were highlighted as key drivers

for positioning Malaysia as a leader in sustainable development and carbon mitigation efforts on the global stage. Equally important to drive the success of decarbonisation initiatives like CCUS is the financing community’s active involvement in providing necessary funding and investment support.

Challenges associated with implementing CCUS projects were highlighted, including technology risks, CO<sub>2</sub> leakage, political and carbon price uncertainties and funding availability. In conclusion, understanding the CCS and CCUS landscape is paramount for stakeholders navigating the transition to a sustainable, low-emission future, where these technologies play a pivotal role in achieving global climate goals.

Capital Markets Malaysia dan ERM menganjurkan webinar mengenai “Penangkapan Karbon” pada 18 Januari 2024 di mana pakar-pakar memberikan gambaran keseluruhan penyahkarbonan dan menyerlahkan potensi Malaysia dalam landskap Penangkapan, Penggunaan dan Penyimpanan Karbon. Cabaran berkaitan dengan pelaksanaan projek CCUS dan peranan penting pembiayaan dalam memacu inisiatif penyahkarbonan turut diketengahkan.

马来西亚资本市场和环境资源管理(ERM)于2024年1月18日举办“碳捕集”线上研讨会。专家们在研讨会上对脱碳进行了概述,并强调马来西亚在碳捕集、使用和存储(CCUS)领域的潜能。同时也强调了实施CCUS项目的挑战以及融资在推动脱碳举措中的关键作用。

## STA Membership Renewal Reminder

Members of the Association are reminded that STA Membership Renewal for 2024 has fallen due on 1 January 2024. However, in accordance to Clause 6(4) of STA Constitution, members are given a grace period of 30 days that is, by 31 January 2024 to effect payment.

Ahli-ahli Persatuan adalah diingatkan bahawa Pembaharuan Keahlian STA bagi 2024 telah tertunggak pada 1 Januari 2024. Walau bagaimanapun, selaras dengan Perkara 6(4) perlembagaan STA, ahli-ahli diberi tempoh tangguh selama 30 hari iaitu sehingga 31 Januari 2024 untuk membuat pembayaran.

温馨提醒所有本会会员,2024年STA会员更新已于2024年1月1日截止。然而,根据公会章程第6(4)章,会员将给予30天的宽限期,至2024年1月31日缴付更新费。

## Meeting with Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited

Dr Mallick Anwar Hossain, Managing Director (Additional Secretary) of Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL) led a delegation of five (5) persons including Mr Mohammad Khorshed Alam Khastagir, Deputy High Commissioner of the Bangladesh Embassy Kuala Lumpur during their visit to Wisma STA on 16 January 2024. BOESL, a state-owned international recruitment agency under Ministry of Expatriates Welfare & Overseas Employment in Bangladesh, aimed to engage in discussions concerning the recruitment of Bangladeshi workers into Sarawak.

Both parties sought to address pertinent issues, including recruitment costs, engagement of agents for recruitment, working conditions, wage payments, and other related matters. BOESL also expressed willingness to organise a workshop with STA to provide clarity on the terms and conditions of recruitment for STA members.



Earlier, Datuk Gerawat Gala, Deputy Minister in the Premier's Department (Labour, Immigration and Project Monitoring) had announced that the Sarawak Government had made a decision to permit employers in Sarawak to hire foreign workers from Bangladesh, Nepal, India and the Philippines.

*Delegasi daripada Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL) mengadakan lawatan ke Wisma STA pada 16 Januari 2024 untuk membincangkan pengambilan pekerja Bangladesh di Sarawak. Kedua-dua pihak berbincang mengenai kebimbangan seperti kos pengambilan dan persekitaran pekerjaan. BOESL menawarkan penganjuran bengkel untuk memberi pemahaman yang lebih jelas.*

孟加拉国海外就业和服务有限公司(BOESL)代表团拜访本会，以讨论在砂拉越招聘孟加拉国劳工事宜。双方商讨招聘成本和工作条件等课题，BOESL也愿意举办工作坊以讲解此项课题。

## Focus Group Discussion on Critical Occupation List

Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad (TalentCorp) under the Ministry of Human Resources, conducted virtual Focus Group Discussion with STA members on 16 January 2024 to, among many others, gain insights into the critical occupations that are significant to industry and discuss the performance/operations of the labour market.

Led by Prof Dr Yong Chen Chen from PE Research, the discussion centred on developing the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Critical Occupation List (COL) for 2023/2024, also known as Malaysia Critical Occupations List (MyCOL) to address skill mismatches and occupational shortages in key economic sectors.

Discussions covered diverse topics such as industry trends, skill demands, automation challenges, and the willingness of industries to engage with COL.

STA members highlighted issues including high employee turnover post-training, scarcity of workers due to policy gaps and inefficient processes, the need for revamping education to align with industry needs, training programmes for automation and digitalisation, challenges in automation adoption in specific sectors like forestry due to costs, and the necessity for enhanced dialogue between industries and government bodies.

They also emphasised the importance of government incentives for employee training

and participation in COL to benefit industries. The inputs underscored the complexities of bridging skills gaps and aligning workforce capabilities with industry demands, urging collaborative efforts between stakeholders for effective solutions.

*Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad (TalentCorp) menganjurkan Perbincangan Kumpulan Fokus maya dengan ahli-ahli STA untuk membangunkan Senarai Pekerjaan Kritikal Malaysia, menangani kekurangan kemahiran. Input daripada ahli-ahli menekankan jurang dasar, keperluan untuk pendidikan sejajar dengan industri, latihan dalam automasi, cabaran dalam automasi perhutanan dan insentif kerajaan untuk latihan.*

马来西亚人才机构(TalentCorp)与本会会员召开线上焦点小组讨论，以制定马来西亚关键职业清单，解决技能短缺问题。会员的意见强调了政策差距、行业协调教育的必要性、自动化培训、林业自动化的挑战以及政府对培训的激励措施。



## Talk on R&D Projects for the Timber Industry

Recognising that sustainability of raw material is a critical challenge faced by the timber industry, the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) has tasked higher learning institutions, including Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia and Universiti Technology MARA with conducting research and development (R&D) on wood alternatives such as oil palm trunk and bamboo. MTIB organised a talk on 11 January 2024 at The Everly Hotel Putrajaya to share and discuss the outcomes of these R&D projects and enhance collaboration between the government and the industry.

In his opening speech, MTIB Director General, Ts Dr Mohd Nor Zamri Mat Amin, acknowledged the challenges faced in 2023, where the export value decreased from RM25.2 billion in 2022 to an estimated RM20.0 billion. He emphasised the importance of cooperation between agencies and the timber industry in ensuring the success of newly developed products under R&D. The group of researchers presented papers, discussing the development of wood alternatives such as marine grade equivalent (MGE) plywood from oil palm trunk, laminated bamboo standards, connection strength of bamboo products in construction, and potential applications of bamboo fiber, aiming to address sustainability challenges faced by the timber industry and enhance collaboration between government and industry.

During the question and answer session, concerns were raised about the sustainability of raw materials, particularly bamboo. The commercialisation and profitability of MGE plywood and bamboo were also key industry concerns. MTIB mentioned plans for community farming of bamboo to boost plantation, noting that the current treatment process makes MGE plywood commercially challenging.

*Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia (MTIB) mengadakan ceramah pada 11 Januari 2024 untuk mengetengahkan hasil projek-projek penyelidikan & pembangunan. Topik-topik yang dibentangkan termasuk meningkatkan pengeluaran papan lapis gred marin setara dengan papan lapis diperbuat daripada batang kelapa sawit, sifat buluh untuk pembinaan serta potensi penggunaan gentian buluh. MTIB juga mengambil maklum tentang kebimbangan yang dibangkitkan mengenai kemampunan bahan mentah dan daya maju pemasaran produk.*

马来西亚木材工业局 (MTIB) 近期于 2024 年 1 月 11 日举办讲解会, 分享研发项目的成果。主题包括利用油棕树干扩大海洋级胶合板的生产规模、竹子的建筑特性以及竹纤维的潜在应用。MTIB 关切原材料可持续性和产品商业可行性的担忧。



Wishing all Members and Readers

*A Happy & Prosperous  
Chinese New Year 2024*

From the Chairman, Council Members,  
Management and Staff of STA,  
STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd and  
STA Training Sdn Bhd

Pengerusi, Ahli-Ahli Majlis, Pihak Pengurusan dan  
Kakitangan STA, STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd,  
STA Mutual Sdn Bhd dan STA Training Sdn Bhd  
ingin mengucapkan Selamat Tahun Baru Cina  
kepada semua ahli STA dan para pembaca.

本会主席, 理事会, 管理委员会和STA秘书处,  
STA Enterprises有限公司, STA Mutual有限公司和  
STA Training有限公司全体职员  
在此祝愿所有会员和读者新年快乐、万事如意!





# OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAMME JANUARY 2024

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:

## > Tree and Log Identification

**STAT Trainer / Assessor** : Mr Sumbang Rani

**Date** : 16 – 20 January 2024

**Location** : Muput Camp, Tatau

**Company** : Zedtee Sdn Bhd



## > Tree Felling - Chainsaw (Natural Forest), Log Extraction - Tractor (Natural Forest), Log Loading - Front End Loader (Natural Forest), and Mechanical Site Preparation - Excavator (Forest Plantation)

**STAT Trainer / Assessor** : Mr Ngumbang Bayang & Mr Sang Sanjan

**Date** : 16 – 23 January 2024

**Location** : Engkeramuh Camp, Kapit

**Company** : Hariwood Sdn Bhd



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

## GET IN TOUCH

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