

# STA REVIEW

Monthly Magazine of Sarawak Timber Association



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STA Council Meeting No. 1/2025

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STA Annual General Meeting 2025

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Sarawak Forestry and Timber Industry  
Strongly Opposes to the Proposed CITES Listing for  
*Shorea* spp. by the EU and Apitong (Keruing) by the US



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## STA REVIEW

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## STA Council Meeting No. 1/2025

On 4 March 2025, the STA Council convened its first meeting of the year virtually. The meeting was presided over by Dato Henry Lau Lee Kong, STA Chairman, and attended by 24 Council members

The Council began by expressing its heartfelt condolences on the passing of Mr Wong Ting Chung, STA Honorary Secretary, a valued member of the Association. The Council formally recorded its appreciation for his invaluable contributions and dedicated service.

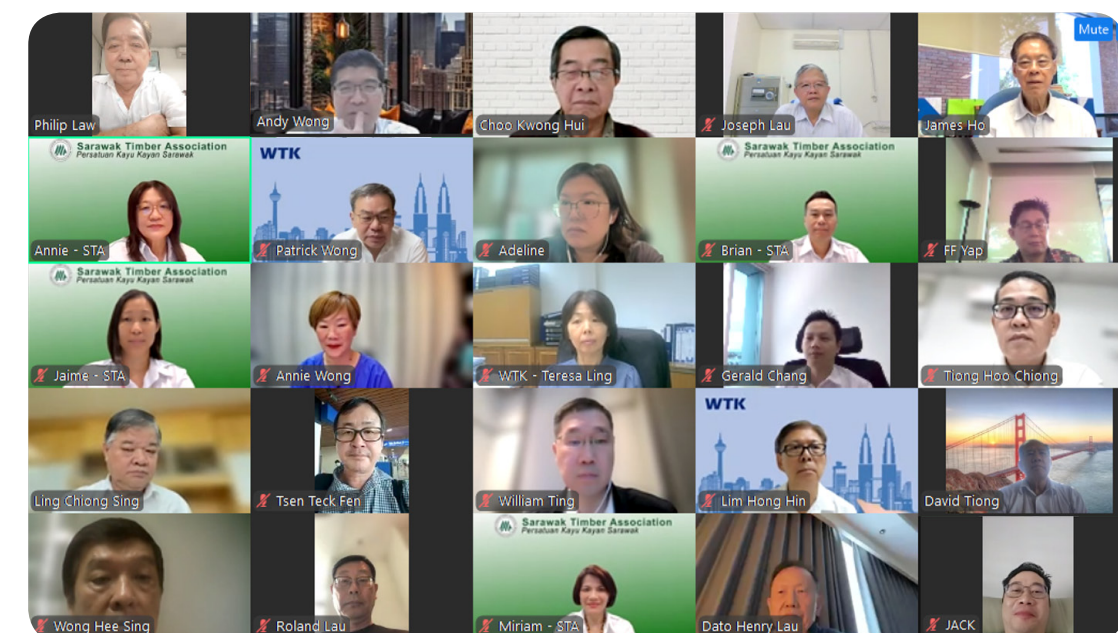
In line with the mandatory requirement to appoint a new Honorary Secretary, Dato' Sri Patrick Wong graciously stepped down from his role as Vice Chairman to take on the responsibilities of Honorary Secretary for the remainder of the term. Following this transition, Mr David Tiong was appointed as the new Vice Chairman. Additionally, the Council member post under the Hill Logging category, previously held by the late Mr Wong Ting Chung, will remain vacant until the next Council election in 2026.

During the previous Council meeting, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) was scheduled for 27 March 2025. However, after careful consideration, the Council decided to postpone the AGM by one day to 28 March 2025 to better accommodate logistical arrangements.

The Council reviewed reports from the various Category Committees and Working Committees. Key topics discussed include the Foreign Workers Transformation Approach, the conduct of the Timber Legality Assurance System Strengthening Study Project, and development of Electronic Removal Pass which will undergo a one-month trial run. The Council noted that the Seminar on STA-funded research and development projects has been scheduled on 8 April 2025.

In addition, the Council discussed administrative matters of the Association as well as its three subsidiary companies, namely STA Training Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd and STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd.

*Mesuarat Majlis STA Bil. 1/2025 telah diadakan secara dalam talian pada 4 Mac 2025, dipengerusikan oleh Dato Henry Lau Lee Kong dan dihadiri oleh 24 ahli-ahli Majlis. Majlis merakamkan ucapan takziah di atas pemergian mendiang Encik Wong Ting Chung serta menghargai sumbangan beliau. Dato' Sri Patrick Wong melepaskan jawatan sebagai Naib Pengerusi untuk mengambil alih tanggungjawab sebagai Setiausaha Kehormat, manakala Encik David Tiong telah dilantik sebagai Naib Pengerusi yang baharu. Majlis telah menangguhkan Mesuarat Agung Tahunan daripada 27 Mac ke 28 Mac 2025 dan meneliti laporan-laporan daripada Kategori dan Jawatankuasa Kerja.*



Meeting in progress

本会于2025年3月4日以线上方式召开本年度首次理事会会议，由拿督刘利康主持，共有24位理事出席。理事会对黄祯俊先生的逝世表示最深切的哀悼，并对他所作出的贡献致以诚挚谢意。拿督斯里黄厚匀卸下副主席职务，改任本会名誉秘书。此外，张昌恩先生则获委任为新任副主席。理事会也决定将原定于2025年3月27日召开的年度大会顺延至3月28日，并审阅各小组及工作委员会所提交的报告。



## STA Annual General Meeting 2025



Dato Henry Lau (centre) chairing the AGM with the support of STA Office Bearers, (from left) Honorary Treasurer Mr Philip Choo, Honorary Secretary Dato' Sri Patrick Wong, and Vice Chairmen, Mr James Ho and Mr David Tiong

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) successfully held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2025 on 28 March 2025 at Wisma STA. The AGM was chaired by Dato Henry Lau, Chairman, with the support of all the Office Bearers in attendance. The event was honoured by the presence of two esteemed Advisors, whose expertise plays a crucial role in the development of Sarawak's forestry and timber industry.

The AGM commenced with Dato Henry Lau presenting a report on the workings of STA. An excerpt of the report is provided on pages 6 to 9. Amongst other things, he expressed strong concern over the financial burden imposed by the Sarawak Government's Foreign Workers Transformation Approach (FWTA), which adds RM1,854 per worker. When combined with the recent increase in the minimum wage to RM1,700 and the upcoming mandatory EPF contributions for foreign workers, businesses are facing significant financial strain. While STA supports the streamlining efforts, the Association called for justification of the high fees.

Dato Henry Lau also highlighted the European Commission's consultation process to list seven (7) genera, namely the *Anthoshorea*, *Doona*, *Pentacme*, *Neohopea*, *Richetia*, *Rubroshorea*, and *Shorea* under Appendix II of the Convention

on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). He warned that this move could severely impact Malaysia's timber trade and called for greater consideration of the economic consequences. STA will continue to work with relevant authorities to address these issues to ensure the sustainability and growth of Sarawak's timber industry.

Additionally, Dato Henry Lau called for the Right Honourable Premier, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg to provide visionary initiatives on green and renewable energy to protect and propel the principle of productive forest resources for future generations. He expressed confidence about the future of the timber industry under the leadership of the Right Honourable Premier. STA is optimistic that continued collaboration and supportive policies will ensure a resilient and sustainable future for both Sarawak's forests and the communities that depend on them.

Mr Semilan anak Ripot, Deputy Director of Forests, attended on behalf of STA Advisor Datu Haji Hamden bin Haji Mohamad, Director of Forests. In his address, Tuan Semilan highlighted the critical importance of collaboration among all stakeholders including STA. He underscored ongoing efforts to advance sustainable forest

management and stressed the need for collective action to meet global sustainability standards.

Mr Semilan also outlined key initiatives where STA has been actively involved, including the development of Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) guidelines, capacity-building programmes, and the joint organisation of international conferences that promote global knowledge-sharing. He emphasised that the collaboration between the Forest Department Sarawak and STA is instrumental in driving innovation, improving forestry practices, and positioning Sarawak as a responsible and sustainable timber producer.

Following Mr Semilan's address, another STA Advisor, Haji Zainal Abidin bin Abdullah, General Manager of the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, in his speech, recognised the challenges facing the timber industry. These included securing sufficient raw materials for processing and navigating shifting market dynamics. Haji Zainal stressed the importance of reducing dependency on natural forests in line with Sarawak's Green Policy. He also outlined strategic initiatives to address these challenges, such as promoting alternative raw material sources like rubberwood and bamboo, as well as establishing mills within Licensed Planted Forests (LPF) to enhance operational efficiency and reduce transportation costs. These steps are aimed at boosting the sustainability of the industry and meeting the increasing demand for responsibly sourced timber.

The meeting also featured discussions on Sarawak's continued commitment to sustainable forest management, with a focus on forest certification, forest carbon initiatives, and technological advancements. Both Advisors' insights and collaborative efforts were central to reinforcing the shared vision for Sarawak's timber industry and ensuring its long-term sustainability.



Mr Semilan anak Ripot (left) and Haji Zainal Abidin bin Abdullah (right) speaking at STA AGM



Attendees of the STA Annual General Meeting 2025

Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan STA telah bersidang pada 28 Mac 2025 di Wisma STA, Kuching, dan dihadiri oleh wakil-wakil syarikat ahli di seluruh Sarawak. Pengerusi Dato Henry Lau menyemak cabaran 2024 dan membangkitkan kebimbangan mengenai penyenaraian *Anthoshorea*, *Richetia*, *Rubroshorea* dan *Shorea* Genera di bawah Lampiran II Konvensyen Perdagangan Antarabangsa bagi Spesies Fauna dan Flora Liar Terancam. Timbalan Pengarah Hutan dan Pengurus Besar Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak turut mengambil peluang untuk berkongsi kemas kini dasar dan pembangunan industri.

本会年度会员常年大会于2025年3月28日在古晋STA大厦召开，并获得来自砂拉越各地会员公司代表的踊跃出席。会议由主席拿督；刘利康主持，回顾2024年的挑战，并对濒危野生动植物种国际贸易公约附录二中列入*Anthoshorea*、*Richetia*、*Rubroshorea*和*Shorea*属植物提出关注。砂森林局副局长及砂拉越木材工业发展机构总经理也借此机会分享政策更新及工业见解。



## Chairman's Speech Annual General Meeting 2025

Good morning and a very warm welcome to the STA Annual General Meeting.

Before we begin, let us take a moment to honour the late Mr Wong Ting Chung, who sadly passed away on 19 January 2025. Mr Wong served as the Honorary Secretary of STA from 2020, demonstrating unwavering dedication and conscientious leadership throughout his tenure.

We also extend our gratitude to Dato' Sri Patrick Wong, who has graciously stepped down as Vice Chairman to assume the responsibilities of Honorary Secretary for the remainder of the term, and welcome Mr David Tiong as the new Vice Chairman.

### Foreign Workers Transformation Approach & Other Labour Matters

Over the past year, the global timber trade faced several challenges, with the economic environment putting pressure on Malaysia's competitiveness. Geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, coupled with trade disputes between major economies, disrupted supply chains and raised costs. On top of that, new global regulations on deforestation and carbon emissions have led to higher operational costs for our industry.

On 15 January 2025, the Sarawak Government introduced the Foreign Workers Transformation Approach (FWTA) system. While designed to enhance efficiency, the FWTA system imposes a substantial financial burden on businesses. With a fee of RM1,854 per worker, companies will incur an additional RM2 million in labour costs for every 1,000 foreign workers. Based on 100,000 foreign workers in Sarawak, this would amount to more than RM100 million fees. While we support the streamlining efforts, we urge the Sarawak Government to justify the high fees and clarify who will benefit from these charges.

In addition, when coupled with the minimum wage increase to RM1,700 now in effect and the upcoming mandatory Employees Provident Fund contributions for foreign workers, these costs are placing significant strain on businesses. This could severely undermine our competitiveness, particularly in the export market, where cost efficiency is paramount.

On a related matter, the government is currently looking into the idea of setting a minimum salary for entry-level graduates. STA does not agree with applying a fixed salary for all graduates. Graduates are not all the same; they have different educational backgrounds, skill levels, and needs depending on the industry. Wages vary across industries, and the demand for specific skills can differ too. A one-size-fits-all salary might not suit the different needs of the job market and could lead to mismatches between what graduates are qualified for and what employers need. Therefore, instead of government intervention, graduate salaries should be determined by market forces, allowing demand and supply, industry needs, and job functions to naturally regulate wages.

STA will continue to engage with Sarawak agencies and industry stakeholders to find balanced solutions that align with the Government's goals while ensuring the sustainability and growth of our businesses. We hope the Government will endorse STA's role in advocating for the betterment of the timber industry in Sarawak.

### Concerns Regarding *Anthoshorea*, *Richetia*, *Rubroshorea* and *Shorea* Genera Listing in CITES

I would also like to bring attention to a critical concern that has recently emerged. The European Commission has initiated a consultation process to list the *Anthoshorea*, *Richetia*, *Rubroshorea* and *Shorea* genera under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This move is particularly worrying, as these genera, which includes key species like Meranti and Selangan Batu, makes up a significant portion of Malaysia's forest cover and are vital to our timber trade.

It is important to note that Sarawak has made significant strides in forest conservation through initiatives such as increasing the establishment of Totally Protected Areas (TPAs), strict certification policies, and enrichment planting programme, all of which demonstrate our commitment to sustainable forest management (SFM) practices. These efforts are aimed at both conserving biodiversity and ensuring that our timber resources are harvested responsibly. The European Union's arbitrary proposal to list *Anthoshorea*, *Richetia*,

*Rubroshorea* and *Shorea* genera based solely on a declines in production or perceived threats surely is an irrational reasoning as well as a foolish excuse.

Should these genera be listed under CITES, it could have severe consequences for Malaysia's economy, potentially restricting access to both domestic and international markets. Such a move would threaten the very survival of the industry and put the livelihoods of many workers at risk, including workers in the consumer countries, not to mention that this will invariably put the listed trees as of no value and therefore risk of being replaced.

### STA's efforts

Despite the challenges, STA remains committed to advocating for a sustainable, thriving timber industry. From 6 to 7 March 2024, STA organised the International Conference on the Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests, jointly organised with Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and WWF-Malaysia with the support from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). The event brought together industry experts, leaders, and stakeholders from around the world, providing a valuable platform in fostering a rich exchange of diverse perspectives, ideas, research, and best practices that led to innovative solutions and enhanced knowledge on critical issues.

From the conference, one key takeaway was the need for forests to provide economic value to remain protected. If forests cannot offer long-term economic returns, they risk being converted for more immediate financial gain. This principle underscores the importance of ensuring SFM practices that meet both environmental and economic needs.

### Sustainable Forest Management

Building on the outcomes of the conference, we have worked closely with the FDS and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) to strengthen capacity-building initiatives in SFM. This includes organising training workshops, such as the Biodiversity Observation for Ecosystem Health (BOLEH) Workshop and Training, Training on Forest Management Plans and Reduced Impact Logging, and Honorary Wildlife Ranger Training. These programmes help equip industry stakeholders with the tools and knowledge necessary to improve forest practices.

### STA Training Sdn Bhd

STA also continues to actively support the Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) under the Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008 for the forestry sector in Sarawak, with STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) being appointed as the official training provider starting 1 July 2024.

In 2024, STAT has successfully conducted two Environmental Quality Monitoring and three ECA training sessions to meet the growing demands of the industry.

These ongoing efforts are vital in ensuring that our members are equipped with the necessary knowledge to maintain compliance and drive sustainability within the industry.

### Forest workmen certificates

An important area of focus has been improving the skills of forest workmen. All forest workmen are required under the Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015 to complete the required training and obtain Forest Workmen Certificates so as to ensure that only properly trained workmen are able to carry out their roles and responsibilities in SFM.

The Director of Forests has made these certificates mandatory for the renewal of licences and approval for the Permit to Enter Coupe for all licence holders and contractors.

We encourage all members to expedite their workmen's training and ensure they obtain the necessary certificates. Since the skills sets offered by STAT are registered with the HRD Corp, we recommend that members take full advantage of STAT's training provider status and seek reimbursement of expenses incurred through the HRD levy.

Looking ahead, we expect STAT to expand its training programmes significantly in the coming years, offering additional opportunities for skill development to meet evolving industry standards and regulatory requirements.

*Continued on Page 8*



### Need for stability of forest management policies

While capacity-building efforts are crucial, the timber industry's future also hinges on the stability of the policies governing forest management. Long-term tenure security and financial incentives are necessary to foster investment in the timber industry and to prevent the conversion of forests to alternative uses.

STA is concerned by the decline in the number of certified FMUs in Sarawak. Five FMUs were not recertified due to several reasons, including the non-renewal of forest timber licences although promised by the Sarawak Government of 60 years timber licence, increased costs as well as issues involving local communities. Our members are entitled to understand the justification for the non-renewal and to know who the government has granted licences for the same area to.

The lack of long-term tenure security is a major issue that has left many licence holders questioning the sustainability of their investments. When FMUs invest substantial resources into certification, an intricate and costly process, they expect assurance that their efforts will not be undermined by arbitrary policy decisions or shifts in governance.

The non-renewal of timber licences for certified FMUs, despite having met the rigorous standards of certification, reflects a misalignment between the goals of SFM and the practical challenges faced by FMUs. These disruptions create an atmosphere of uncertainty, which undermines the trust of industry players in government assurances of long-term tenure.

This situation highlights the urgent need for clear and consistent policies that will restore the industry's confidence. The government must prioritise creating a stable, predictable environment that rewards companies for their commitment to sustainability.

Ensuring long-term tenure security, providing financial incentives, and addressing issues with local communities will be essential in securing the industry's future and maintaining Sarawak's leadership in responsible forest management.

### Development of carbon credit markets

STA recognises the multi-faceted value of forests, which go beyond timber production to include crucial ecosystem services such as biodiversity conservation, water regulation, and carbon sequestration. Understanding that forests are integral to both the environment and the economy, STA is involved in advocating for policies that reflect these diverse roles.

We are actively engaged in the national discourse on carbon, promoting policies that recognise tropical forests not only as sources of timber but also as carbon sinks. To address carbon-specific issues, STA has formed a dedicated Carbon Committee to guide and support these efforts.

We support the development of carbon credit markets, offering licensees the opportunity to earn compensation for the carbon sequestered in well-managed forests. This additional revenue stream reinforces the long-term sustainability of forest resources by aligning economic incentives with environmental goals.

### Expanding downstream activities

The timber industry in Sarawak is facing a significant challenge in continuing let alone expanding downstream activities, such as the manufacturing of value-added products like engineered wood and biomass fuel. Despite the Government's efforts to promote these initiatives, the industry remains reluctant to invest in value-added production, primarily due to challenging market conditions, the ongoing shortage of timber resources, rising production costs and lack of proactive supporting policies from the Government.

Although the Government has introduced several blueprints, such as the Engineered Wood Products Blueprint and Bamboo Blueprint, there remains a lack of clear and affirmative committed road map to encourage the industry to invest in the required machinery, human and financial resources.

A particular focus also needs to be placed on ensuring a sustainable supply of timber, which is essential to guaranteeing that mills and downstream operations have a reliable source of raw materials. Again, without security and adequate licence tenure, it is very difficult to attract investments, particularly local investors.

We are in dire need of the Honourable Premier's visionary initiatives on green and renewable energy to protect and propel the principle of the productive forest resources for the present and future undertakings.

### Addressing disparity

While Peninsular Malaysia offers financial incentives such as subsidies on machinery and freight charges through the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC), Sarawak currently lacks similar mechanisms. To address this disparity, we urge policymakers to consider introducing equivalent incentives in Sarawak to stimulate growth, encourage innovation, and help the downstream sector capitalise on the potential of value-added products.

We further propose that the Sarawak Government reinvest the sales tax collected from timber product exports back into the industry. Such reinvestment could fund initiatives including financial support for automation, digitalisation of business processes, and incentives for adopting sustainable practices, mirroring the approach taken by MTC in Peninsular Malaysia.

### Mills in industrial tree plantations

On a positive note, FDS has confirmed that the policy allowing establishment of mills in industrial tree plantations has been approved by the Premier of Sarawak, subject to specific conditions. These include conducting royalty assessments based on standing tree volume and maintaining active tree planting.

After years of advocacy, this development is welcomed, as it will reduce costs, improve operational efficiency, and align with sustainable practices by minimising the environmental footprint associated with transporting raw materials over long distances.

These mills also provide local employment opportunities, contribute to rural economic development, and ensure a steady supply chain for the production of timber and value-added products. Furthermore, their proximity to plantations facilitates better resource utilisation and strengthens the industry's competitiveness.

### Research and Development

To further support industrial tree plantations, STA funded four research and development (R&D) projects: three focused on Kelampayan under Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, and one on Batai under GP Pusaka Sdn Bhd. A webinar is being organised on 8 April 2025 to disseminate the findings from these R&D projects funded by STA.

The R&D on Kelampayan successfully developed an optimised protocol for propagating the species using the Temporary Immersion Bioreactor (TIB). This method has demonstrated a high survival rate for seedlings during acclimatisation and proven effective for scaling up shoot multiplication.

The planting materials developed are currently undergoing trial planting in Kanowit, Tubau, Similajau, and Sejingkat, where field performance being evaluated.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, while challenges remain, with the visionary leadership of the Right Honourable Premier, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, we are optimistic and confident about the future of SFM in Sarawak. By continuing to collaborate, invest in training, and advocate for supportive policies, we will ensure a resilient and sustainable future for both our forests and the communities that depend on them.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to STA Advisors, Datu Haji Hamden bin Haji Mohammad, Director of Forests, and Tuan Haji Zainal Abidin bin Haji Abdullah, General Manager of the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, as well as the officers from various ministries and agencies within the Sarawak Government for their unwavering support of STA.

My thanks also go to all the members and Council Members for their steadfast commitment to the Association, and to all members at the Secretariat for their dedication and hard work.

Thank you.



## Visit of UiTM Shah Alam

The Institute for Infrastructure Engineering and Sustainable Management (IIESM) of Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Shah Alam, led by its Deputy Director, Associate Professor Ir. Ts. Dr. Rohana Hassan, together with Dr. Norshariza Mohamad Bhkari, and UiTM Sarawak representatives – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Clotilda Petrus and Ms Lannie anak Francis – visited Wisma STA on 10 March 2025. This visit marked UiTM's first visit to the STA following the STA Downstream Committees' study visit to UiTM in December of the previous year.

The delegation was warmly welcomed by Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA, who provided insights into the current state of the forestry and timber trade in Sarawak. She emphasised the growing need for capacity building in timber value-added activities.

During the meeting, both parties engaged in productive discussions and identified potential collaboration opportunities. This included organising a Timber Industry Seminar in Kuching, with a focus on leveraging technology to enhance the production and utilisation of engineered wood and timber products. This engagement was seen as both fruitful and promising, and both sides agreed that further development could be formalised through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in the near future.



Associate Professor Ir. Ts. Dr. Rohana Hassan (3<sup>rd</sup> from right), Ms Annie Ting (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) posed for a photo together with UiTM representatives

Delegasi daripada UiTM Shah Alam dan UiTM Sarawak telah melawat Wisma STA pada 10 Mac 2025. Lawatan tersebut dihoskan oleh Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif STA, Cik Annie Ting, dengan perbincangan tertumpu kepada perdagangan kayu Sarawak, pembangunan kapasiti dan potensi kerjasama termasuk Seminar Industri Kayu.

来自莎阿南以及砂拉越玛拉工艺大学的代表们于2025年3月10日礼节性拜访本会。在本会首席执行官陈燕贞小姐的主持下，讨论重点关注于砂拉越的木材贸易，能力建设以及潜在的合作，包括木材业研讨会。

## Insights from Sarawak's Industry Update 2.0 Programme

The Sarawak Government, through the Immigration and Labour Management Unit (ILMU), organised the "Industry Update 2.0 Programme" on 5 and 6 March 2025 at the Pullman Miri Waterfront Hotel. The two-day event, which also featured booths and counters by key agencies such as the Sarawak Labour Department (JTKS), Sarawak Immigration Department (JIMS), Sarawak State Health Department (JKNS), Social Security Organisation (PERKESO) and the Foreign Workers Transformation Approach (FWTA) Team, updated stakeholders on critical developments, particularly the recent amendments to the Sarawak Labour Ordinance (SLO) 2025 and the introduction of the FWTA System.

The event was officiated by Datuk Gerawat Gala, Deputy Minister in the Premier's Department, who emphasised the significance of the SLO amendments in ensuring compliance with International Labour Organization (ILO) standards. Datuk Gerawat also highlighted that the Sarawak government aims for all employers to fully adopt the FWTA system, which has reduced the processing time for non-resident workers from 190 days to 61 days.

Industrial Relations Officer (IRO) at JTKS, Mr Phang Pin, provided a detailed breakdown of the amendments to the SLO, which will now apply to all employees, regardless of their wages or types of work. Key changes include a reduction in the maximum weekly working hours from 48 hours to 45 hours, eligibility for overtime

claims on rest days and public holidays extended to workers earning up to RM4,000 (previously RM2,001), an increase in maternity leave from 60 days to 98 days, and the inclusion of Hari Malaysia and Sarawak Independence Day as mandatory public holidays. The amendments also introduce a 7-day paternity leave, set the minimum employment age for child workers at 13 years, outline specific works prohibited for children and young persons, and impose stricter penalties up to RM50,000 for non-compliance. Additionally, the newly amended SLO incorporates provisions for flexible working arrangements, housing and amenities standards, as well as regulations on sexual harassment, discrimination, and forced labour.

Elaborating on non-resident worker regulations, Mr Ewiim @ Ewiin anak Michael Sinar, IRO at JTKS, discussed draft Labour Regulations that include licensing through the Sarawakian and Non-Sarawakian Online Labour System (SANSOLS). Employers must adhere to set validity periods, complete mandatory renewal 60 days before expiration, and rectify errors within 30 days.

The highlight on worker benefits continued with Mr Paul Terry B. John Felix Narang, Head of the Benefits Unit at PERKESO Miri Office. He explained that PERKESO is now the official term for Malaysia's Social Security Organisation, replacing SOCSO. Additionally, he highlighted key protections, including an employer-funded occupational accident scheme for workers aged 60 and above and equal accident protection for both foreign and local employees.

Ms Nur Hazirah binti Anyut, Executive Officer at the PERKESO Miri Office, introduced MyFutureJobs, a digital employment service that utilises artificial intelligence-powered job matching and real-time data analytics to bridge skill gaps. A shift in foreign worker recruitment and management was also discussed by Mr Muhammadie Izwan bin Mohamad Ibrahim, Deputy Assistant

Director of JIMS, who detailed the transition of the Temporary Work Visit Pass from a manual to a digital system.

Health and safety considerations were also underscored by Dr Ivan Vun Jan Shui, Public Health Medicine Specialist at JKNS. He emphasised the importance of

comprehensive health screenings in preventing the spread of contagious diseases. Key points included the implementation of the Sarawak Foreign Workers Health Information System (SAFHIS) in 2025, ensuring all foreign workers undergo pre-arrival health screenings; evaluation of specific medical conditions based on job requirements; and ongoing efforts to digitally integrate health assessments with the FWTA system.

The FWTA Team then took the stage to demonstrate the system's capabilities in foreign worker management. User registration, digital tracking, hiring reports, e-Visa applications, medical screenings and government integration were among the key features highlighted. Employers were encouraged to register for one-on-one briefings via the SANSOLS portal at <https://sansols.sarawak.gov.my/info/reg-briefing>.

Wrapping up the event, Mr Richard Lon, Director of ILMU, underlined the importance of human resource professionals in understanding FWTA's five (5) core modules: JobSarawak, SANSOLS, SAFHIS, Identity Card for Foreigners and the Enforcement Tracking System. He also discussed a proposal to reduce job advertisement posting periods from 30 to 14 days, establishing new one-stop centers in remote areas and committing to resolving industry feedback within 60 days. In his closing remarks, he expressed gratitude to STA, plantation associations and industry partners for their continued contributions.

To ensure STA members who missed the event stay informed, the STA Secretariat is organising an online FWTA demonstration session with SOCOE Sdn Bhd, tentatively scheduled for 10 April 2025. This virtual session will encourage more participation by providing in-depth guidance on the FWTA system, addressing key concerns related to foreign worker recruitment and management as well as featuring insights from key stakeholders like JTKS and JIMS.

*Kemas Kini Industri Sarawak 2.0 yang diadakan pada 5 dan 6 Mac 2025 oleh Unit Pengurusan Imigresen dan Buruh (ILMU) telah memperkenalkan Sistem Pendekatan Transformasi Pekerja Asing (FWTA) serta pindaan kepada Ordinan Buruh Sarawak. Kemas kini utama mengenai FWTA merangkumi penyelarasan pengurusan pekerja asing, saringan kesihatan dan pendigitalan proses pengambilan pekerja yang memberi manfaat kepada majikan dan pekerja.*

2025年3月5日至6日，移民与劳工管理单位(ILMU)举办砂拉越工业更新2.0会议，介绍外籍劳工转型方案(FWTA)系统以及砂拉越劳工法令的修订。FWTA的主要更新内容包括精简外籍劳工管理、健康筛查和数字化招聘流程，使雇主和劳工均能从中受益。



Mr Richard Lon, Director of Immigration and Labour Management Unit (front row, 5<sup>th</sup> from left) posed for a group photo with participants of the event



## Survey on the Proposed Minimum Salary for Entry-level Graduates

The STA Manpower Working Group held an online discussion on 21 March 2025, facilitated by Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA.

A key topic discussed was the survey conducted by the Ministry of Human Resources (KESUMA) on perceptions of a minimum salary for entry-level graduates. The group expressed concerns that the survey findings could lead to mandatory salary laws for employers, rather than serving as general guidelines.

On 27 March 2025, STA formally conveyed to KESUMA its disagreement with the proposal to set a minimum salary for entry-level graduates. The main concern was that STA members operate across diverse industries, such as palm oil, construction, and shipping, each with its own salary structures and employment practices. This makes a standardised salary policy difficult to apply fairly and effectively.

Moreover, graduate qualifications vary significantly between universities, both in quality and relevance to specific industries. This further complicates the establishment of a uniform salary benchmark that accurately reflects the skills and readiness of entry-level graduates. Starting salaries are also influenced by factors such as education, experience, industry, company size, location, and cost of living. A rigid policy could disrupt the job market, limit opportunities, and impose unnecessary burdens on businesses.

*Kementerian Sumber Manusia telah menjalankan satu tinjauan mengenai persepsi terhadap gaji minimum bagi graduan peringkat permulaan. Pada 27 Mac 2025, STA telah menyatakan ketidaksetujuannya terhadap cadangan tersebut dengan menekankan kepelbagaian struktur gaji dan amalan pengambilan pekerja merentas industri, serta perbezaan kelayakan graduan antara universiti dari segi kualiti dan kaitannya dengan industri tertentu.*

马来西亚人力资源部进行一项关于刚入职大学毕业生最低薪资观念的调查。2025年3月27日，本会对该提案提出异议，强调各工业的薪资结构和雇佣惯例存在多样性，以及不同大学毕业生在学历质量及其与特定工业的关联亦有所差异。

## Helmeted Hornbill Project in Greater Usun Apau – Stakeholders' Meeting

The Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) Kuching held a stakeholders' meeting on 14 March 2025 via video conference to review the Year 3 progress for the project, “*Securing a safe haven for the Helmeted Hornbills in the Greater Usun Apau*”. The session, moderated by Ms Rose Au, Chairperson of MNS Kuching Branch, was attended by representatives from Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Miri Regional Office), Samling Group of Companies, Kedaya Telang Usan, Telang Usan District Office and STA Secretariat.

Ms Patricia Awing, Project Officer at MNS Kuching, shared that while the project initially focused on Usun Apau National Park (UANP), its scope has since expanded beyond the park's boundaries to

strengthen conservation efforts for this critically endangered species. This broader approach aims to enhance habitat protection and ensure a more comprehensive conservation strategy.

She also highlighted key findings from Phase 1 activities conducted between October 2021 and September 2024. Surveys, expeditions and community interviews, combined with line transects and camera trapping, led to the identification of over 100 bird species, including six (6) hornbill species – most notably the Helmeted and Rhinoceros Hornbills.

She further explained that Helmeted Hornbills face significant threats due to habitat loss, as lowland areas below 1,000m in UANP are limited. Additionally, the helmeted hornbills are targeted by outside poachers, while their parts are used by local communities for cultural purposes, incorporating them into traditional beliefs and practices.

Phase 2 of the project will focus on further research and conservation initiatives. Planned activities include training programmes,

ecological surveys and community interviews to deepen the understanding of hornbill population dynamics and habitat requirements.

During the discussion that followed, Mr Mark Sagan, Project Officer at MNS Kuching shared insights from Phase 1 community interviews, which revealed the cultural significance of hornbill feathers, particularly tail feathers. Recognising this deep-rooted tradition, MNS aims to promote the use of artificial alternatives, ensuring that cultural practices are preserved while supporting the conservation of the Helmeted Hornbills.

*Persatuan Pencinta Alam Malaysia cawangan Kuching telah menyemak kemajuan Tahun Ketiga projek pemuliharaan Enggang Gading, dengan memperluaskan usaha melebihi kawasan Taman Negara Usun Apau. Penemuan dalam Fasa 1 mendedahkan kehilangan habitat dan ancaman pemburuan haram, manakala Fasa 2 yang akan datang akan menumpukan pada latihan dan kesedaran masyarakat sambil mempromosikan alternatif kepada bulu pelepah burung enggang yang mempunyai nilai budaya.*

马来西亚自然协会(MNS)古晋分会回顾其盔犀鸟保育项目第三年的进展情况，并将保育范围从乌逊安包国家公园扩展至其他地区。项目第一阶段的研究发现盔犀鸟面临栖息地丧失和非法猎捕的威胁，而即将展开的第二阶段将专注于培训与社区意识提升，并推动使用人工替代品以取代在文化上具有象征意义的犀鸟羽毛。

## Second meeting of the Malaysian Timber Certification Council Project Appendix 3 Malaysia Working Group

The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) convened the second meeting of the Malaysian Timber Certification Council Project Appendix 3 Malaysia Working Group on 24 March 2025 at its office in Kuala Lumpur to follow up on the information gathered from a recent MTCC survey on plantation forests and gather additional insights to strengthen Malaysia's position in the development of Appendix 3.

Chaired by Dr Farrah Shameen, Chief Executive Officer of MTCC, the meeting

brought together working group members, forest plantation licensees and contractors. Discussions focused on plantation forests data established between 2010 and 2020. Additionally, the group discussed Trees Outside Forests, specifically in the context of agricultural plantations, and proposed safeguards to ensure responsible and sustainable practices moving forward.

*Mesyuarat kedua Kumpulan Kerja Majlis Pensijilan Kayu Malaysia bagi Projek Lampiran 3 yang diadakan pada 24 Mac 2025, memberi tumpuan kepada pengukuhan kedudukan Malaysia dalam membangunkan Lampiran 3. Perbincangan termasuk penukaran hutan kepada hutan ladang, data mengenai perladangan yang ditubuhkan di antara 2010 dan 2020 serta cadangan memperkasakan amalan lestari.*



Dr Farrah Shameen chairing the 2<sup>nd</sup> MTCC Project Appendix 3 Malaysia Working Group Meeting

马来西亚木材认证理事会项目附录3马来西亚工作小组(JKM3PA)于2025年3月24日召开本年度第二次会议，重点关注于加强马来西亚在制定附录3的立场。议程包括天然林转换为人工林，2010至2020年期间建立的人工林数据以及可持续实践的拟议保障措施。



## Sarawak Forestry and Timber Industry Strongly Opposes to the Proposed CITES Listing for *Shorea* spp. by the EU and Apitong (Keruing) by the US



Mdm Tessy anak Nimos, Head of Forest and Wildlife Division at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development (seated, 4<sup>th</sup> from left), Mr Semilan anak Ripot, Deputy Director of Forests (Forests Management) at the Forest Department Sarawak (seated, centre), Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (seated 6<sup>th</sup> from left) and Mr Nicholas Assistant General Manager (Licensing, Industrial Planning and Investment Division) of Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (seated, 7<sup>th</sup> from left) leading their teams at one of the meetings held to coordinate Sarawak's response to the proposed CITES listings

In November last year, the European Commission (EC) initiated a consultation process to propose the listing of the *Anthoshorea*, *Doona*, *Pentacme*, *Neohopea*, *Richetia*, *Rubroshorea* and *Shorea* genera under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). In addition to that, a letter dated 27 January 2025 from the Hardwood Federation urged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to include Apitong (Keruing) in CITES under Appendix I.

Under CITES, Appendix I comprises species at the greatest risk of extinction, where international trade is severely restricted, if not prohibited. Appendix II lists species that are not necessarily threatened with extinction now but may become so unless trade is strictly regulated.

If these unjust proposals are adopted, the implications for Malaysia's timber industry could be severe, posing a direct threat to the industry's viability and putting at risk the livelihoods of thousands who depend on it, both domestically and in consumer market abroad. In addressing this critical issue, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES), as Malaysia's national focal point for

CITES Management Authorities (MA), has taken the lead in formulating a national response to the EC's consultation paper, through the coordinated input from all three (3) regions in Malaysia.

In Sarawak, an Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) comprising the Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development, Forest Department Sarawak, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, and STA worked diligently through four (4) strategic meetings on 11, 18, 25 and 27 March 2025 at Wisma STA, Kuching to develop a strong, evidence-based response. These meetings involved active participation from the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), which represents Sarawak in Malaysia's CITES MA, thereby ensuring that Sarawak's interests are clearly and accurately communicated at the national level.

The STA Certification Committee also convened on 21 March 2025 to deliberate on the proposed listings and to coordinate the collection of essential data and technical inputs required to support the IAC's position.

This collaborative and well-coordinated effort culminated in the submission of Sarawak's final

response paper to NRES through SFC on 28 March 2025.

It is important to highlight that Sarawak has made significant progress in forest conservation through initiatives such as expanding Totally Protected Areas, enforcing strict certification policies, implementing enrichment planting and executing various conservation programmes. These efforts underscore Sarawak's commitment to Sustainable Forest Management, aiming to conserve biodiversity while ensuring responsible timber harvesting.

The European Union cannot arbitrarily propose to list the *Shorea* genus under CITES based solely on a decline in production or perceived threats without full and fair consideration of the conservation measures already in place. The reduction in *Shorea* production volume in recent years is not indicative of unsustainable practices, but rather the result of deliberate and strategic decisions. Specifically, this decline stems from two (2) key factors: (i) ongoing land development in Sarawak involving the conversion of natural forests for various developmental purposes to support planned socio-economic growth, and (ii) a proactive policy shift aimed at easing pressure on natural forests by transitioning timber production from natural forests to sustainably managed forest plantations.

In addition, STA collaborated with the Malaysian Timber Association (MTA) and its members, exchanging critical updates and engaging in discussions about the proposed listing. These efforts were further reinforced through direct engagement with key ministries, relevant government agencies, and influential international organisations, including the European Timber Trade Federation and the Indonesian Wood Panel

Association. These strategic dialogues have been crucial in building a united front and strongly advocating against the proposal to safeguard the future of the timber industry.

At the same time, STA has been with MTA to coordinate and International Wood Products Association to counter the proposal to list Apitong (Keruing) in CITES under Appendix I. This move is seen not as a conservation effort, but as an unfair trade strategy aimed at shielding the U.S. market from competition, particularly with red oak.

STA remains fully committed to working in close collaboration with all relevant authorities to address these challenges and will continue to advocate for responsible forest governance, ensuring that Sarawak's forestry and timber sector remains resilient, sustainable and viable for generations to come.

*Sebagai tindak balas kepada cadangan penyenaraian Konvensyen mengenai Perdagangan Antarabangsa dalam Spesies Terancam Fauna dan Flora Liar (CITES) oleh Suruhanjaya Eropah dan A.S., yang boleh menjejaskan industri perikanan Malaysia, STA menolak sekera-kerasnya langkah itu dan mengambil tindakan segera yang diselenggarakan. Sepanjang Mac 2025, STA terlibat dengan kementerian, agensi dan badan antarabangsa untuk mendapatkan sokongan padu. STA bekerja rapat dengan Jawatankuasa di Antara Agensi Sarawak, membangunkan dan mengemukakan maklum balas berasaskan bukti yang komprehensif kepada Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Kelestarian Alam, selaku agensi kebangsaan Malaysia untuk Pihak Berkuasa Pengurusan (MA) CITES.*

欧盟委员会以及美国提出的濒危野生动植物种国际贸易公约 (CITES) 物种列名建议，可能对马来西亚木材工业造成严重冲击，本会对此表示坚决反对并迅速采取协调一致的行动。在 2025 年 3 月期间，本会与各部委、机构和国际组织进行交流，以争取有力支持。本会作为砂拉越跨机构委员会的成员之一，亦与其他成员密切合作，共同拟备一份内容详实、依据充分的回应报告，并提交予马来西亚天然资源及环境永续部 (NRES)，该部为 CITES 马来西亚管理机构 (MA) 的国家联络单位。



Ms Annie Ting (centre) speaking during the Inter-Agency Committee meeting, alongside Mdm Tessy anak Nimos (left), Mr Semilan anak Ripot (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and Mr Nicholas anak Lisse (2<sup>nd</sup> from right)



## Meeting with Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Malaysia on CITES

A meeting with Mr Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad, the Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES) Malaysia, was held on 24 March 2025 to discuss the potential listing of *Shorea* and *Keruing* under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The meeting which took place at Wisma JUPEM, Kuala Lumpur, was attended by key representatives from the Malaysian Timber Industry Board, the Malaysian Timber Council, the Malaysian Timber Certification Council, and members of the Malaysian Timber Association.

The discussion focused on critical strategies for advancing the matter, highlighting the urgency of the issue and the necessity for immediate action. It was emphasised that proactive engagement with other countries is necessary to ensure a collaborative and effective approach moving forward.

*Pertemuan dengan Encik Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad, Menteri Sumber Asli dan Kelestarian Alam Malaysia telah diadakan pada 24 Mac 2025 untuk membincangkan potensi penyenaraian Shorea dan Keruing di bawah Konvensyen Perdagangan Antarabangsa Spesies Fauna dan Flora Liar Terancam. Mesyuarat menekankan kepentingan isu tersebut dan keperluan untuk tindakan segera dan kerjasama antarabangsa.*

与马来西亚天然资源及环境永续部部长聂纳兹米先生的会议于2025年3月24日召开，讨论将娑罗属(*Shorea*)和克隆木(*Keruing*)列入濒危野生动植物种国际贸易公约(CITES)的可能性。会议强调该议题的紧迫性，并着重提出立即采取行动以及国际合作的必要性。

## Meeting on Timber Legality Assurance System Strengthening Study Project

To enhance the existing Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) framework and ensure its alignment with international trade requirements, the Ministry of Plantations and Commodities, through the Malaysian Timber Industry Board, has commissioned a study titled “*Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) Strengthening Study Project*”. The project, which runs from 1 February to 31 August 2025, is part of the initiative under the Timber Industry International Trade Law Compliance Mitigation Sub-Committee.

To support the study and provide relevant insights, STA and Forest Department Sarawak coordinated an online meeting with 27 Advisory Sdn Bhd, the appointed consultant for the study, on 11 March 2025. The session was also attended by representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development, Sarawak

Timber Industry Development Corporation, and Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd.

During the meeting, the consultant outlined the study’s key objectives, which include assessing the various TLAS systems implemented across Malaysia, analysing current implementation and improvement strategies, identifying areas for further enhancement, and formulating a comprehensive action plan for the post-study phase.

During the meeting, the Sarawak group gave a detailed clarification on the Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS), particularly its processes, auditing framework, and related procedures, providing the consultant a better understanding of its implementation on the ground.

*Kajian Pengukuhan Sistem Jaminan Kesahan Kayu (TLAS), yang diketuai oleh 27 Advisory untuk Kementerian Perlindungan dan Komoditi, bertujuan untuk menyelaraskan TLAS dengan piawaian perdagangan antarabangsa. Pada 11 Mac 2025, STA dan Jabatan Hutan Sarawak menganjurkan mesyuarat dalam talian yang dihadiri oleh wakil-wakil daripada agensi perhutanan utama di Sarawak serta perunding, yang membentangkan objektif kajian, menggariskan dan mendapatkan penjelasan mengenai STLVS Sarawak.*

由马来西亚种植与原产业部委托27 Advisory顾问公司主导的木材合法性保证系统(TLAS)强化研究，旨在使TLAS与国际贸易标准相一致。2025年3月11日，本会与砂州森林局主办线上会议，出席者包括砂拉越主要林业机构的代表和27 Advisory的顾问。顾问在会上介绍该研究的目标与概要，并寻求对砂拉越木材合法性验证系统(STLVS)的进一步解说。



Meeting in progress

## NSC 22/TC 1/WG 3 Meeting No. 1/2025

In the meeting of the Working Group 3 of Technical Committee 1, formed under the National Standards Committee on Timber, Timber Products, and Timber Structures (NSC 22/TC 1/WG 3) at the office of The Department of Standards Malaysia (DSM) at Cyberjaya on 3 February 2025, it was resolved for the WG 3 to review the outdated Malaysian Standard MS1714:2003 – *Specification for Visual Strength Grading of Tropical Hardwood Timber*.

With that, a standard development workshop was organised by DSM at Hotel Le Meridien Putrajaya from 12 to 13 March 2025. Members of the WG consists of representatives from Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB), Department of Standards Malaysia (being Secretariat), Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Jabatan Kerja Raya Malaysia, Malaysian Timber Council, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, Pertubuhan

Akitek Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi MARA, The Timber Exporters’ Association of Malaysia, Malaysian Wood Industries Association, Sarawak Timber Association, and individual experts.

MS1714 applies to tropical hardwood timber graded both in Malaysia and abroad for seasoned timber either rough sawn or dressed, preservative treated or untreated. Hardwood timber imported from abroad shall be regraded in accordance with this Malaysian Standard (MS) before it is allowed to be used for structural application.

WG discussed on the major modifications in the standard, mainly the update of foreword, normative references, terms and definitions, clauses and tables as well as the bibliography; including incorporation of introduction in the standard; revised the scope and redrawn figures in the standard.

During the revision process, the timber industry requested MTIB to review the planted species to be incorporated into the standard. In response, MTIB

stated that research funding has been requested in the 13<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan for FRIM to conduct relevant research projects. Furthermore, the timber industry emphasised that all laboratories involved in such research should be accredited by an internationally recognised body.

*Dalam mesyuaratnya pada 3 Februari 2025, NSC 22/TC 1/WG 3 telah memutuskan untuk menyemak semula MS1714:2003 berkaitan penggredan kekuatan visual kayu keras tropika. Satu bengkel telah diadakan pada bulan Mac di mana ahli-ahli Kumpulan Kerja telah meneliti kemas kini utama dan membincangkan tentang kemasukan spesies yang ditanam, dengan Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia mencari dana penyelidikan dan pihak industri menekankan keperluan makmal yang diakreditasi.*

于2025年2月3日的会议中，国家木材、木制品和木结构标准委员会第一技术委员会的第三工作小组(NSC 22/TC 1/WG 3)决议修订MS1714:2003热带硬木木材的目测强度分级标准，并随后于3月举办工作坊。工作小组成员审查主要更新内容并讨论纳入人工种植树种。同时马来西亚木材工业局(MTIB)表示已申请研究经费开展纳入人工种植树种的研究项目。此外，木材工业也强调所有参与此类研究的实验室必须拥有国际认可机构的认证。



## Project on Promoting Sustainable Wood Use for the Domestic Market in Malaysia

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) has funded “Promoting Sustainable Wood Use for the Domestic Market in Malaysia” project, with the goal to enhance, diversify and promote sustainable wood use in Malaysia’s domestic market. The project, commonly referred to as SWU Project, is an 18-month initiative that commenced on 1 October 2024 and is scheduled to run until 31 March 2026. As the Executing Agency appointed by the Ministry of Plantation and Commodities, the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) organised a stakeholder consultation and sharing session on 14 March 2025 at its office in Kuala Lumpur, to garner inputs and discuss issues related to consumption of wood and wood products in order to further enhance SWU project.

Dr Farrah Shameen Mohamad Ashray, Chief Executive Officer of MTCC expressed hoped that the timber industry players could identify the unique aspects of this study. The stakeholders are represented by Mr Leonard Chew of The Timber Exporters’ Association of Malaysia (TEAM) and Mr Lim Yi Syuen of Malaysian Wood Industries Association (MWIA), both from Peninsular Malaysia together with Mr Rahman Khan and Ms Brenda Wong of Sabah Timber Industries Association (STIA) and Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA. Dr Farrah emphasised the importance of an open and frank discussions, beyond just desktop review, for the benefit of the project.

SWU Project coordinator, UPM Consultancy & Services (UPMCS) updated the industry and MTCC on the implementation of the SWU Project, particularly the achievement of the specified objectives. Prof Dr Mohd Shahwahid Haji Othman outlined the main focus areas of the project and their outcomes, which include a study on the wood demand and supply in Malaysia, a study

of existing policies and initiatives for the promotion of sustainable wood use, an analysis of the effectiveness of each policies and initiatives and a proposal for best practice policies that could be introduced in wood-producing countries.

The timber industry players provided inputs on how to further promote sustainable wood use within Malaysia’s domestic market. Key suggestions included the Government to set an example by using value added wood products such as Laminated Veneer Lumber and Cross-Laminated Timber which are renewable and sustainable. Ms Annie also highlighted the success of Singapore and Japan in promoting green building practices by offering incentives for using timber, particularly local timber and wood from the industrial tree plantation.

There was also a call to revisit the community planting policy to understand the reasons behind slow tree planting rates, the preference for oil palm and how to improve tree planting practices with a focus on sustainability, considering factors such as soil, terrain and species suitability. The industry suggested providing incentives for mill manufacturers to adopt Carbon Capture, Utilization,

and Storage (CCUS) technology to capture and reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from their operations, as well as promoting awareness and education about the benefits of using timber over less sustainable materials like steel and concrete.

The industry has expressed its willingness to explore the domestic market, provided there is a strong demand for wood products. Additionally, industry stakeholders have called on the Government to offer incentives and implement friendly policies that support the sustainable use of timber. Furthermore, there is a push for conducting study on CCUS in the timber sector, aligning with Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles and the circular economy to ensure long-term sustainability and growth.

*Projek yang dibiayai oleh ITTO mengenai “Menggalakkan Penggunaan Kayu Lestari untuk Pasaran Domestik di Malaysia”, bermula dari Oktober 2024 hingga Mac 2026, bertujuan untuk mempromosikan penggunaan kayu lestari di pasaran domestik Malaysia. Pada 14 Mac 2025, Majlis Pensijilan Kayu Kayan Malaysia menganjurkan satu sesi perundingan bersama dengan pihak berkepentingan untuk membincangkan objektif projek, termasuk permintaan kayu, keberkesanan dasar, teknologi Penangkapan, Penggunaan dan Penyimpanan Karbon (CCUS) dan amalan kelestarian. Pihak berkepentingan industri menggesa agar kerajaan menyediakan insentif, melaksanakan dasar kelestarian dan memperkenalkan inisiatif bangunan hijau.*

由国际热带木材组织(ITTO)资助的“推动马来西亚国内市场可持续木材使用”项目,于2024年10月至2026年3月期间实施,旨在推广马来西亚国内市场的可持续木材使用。马来西亚木材认证理事会(MTCC)于2025年3月14日举办利益相关者咨询会议,以讨论达成项目目标的课题,包括木材需求、政策有效性、碳捕获、利用和封存(CCUS)技术以及可持续实践。工业利益相关者敦促政府提供激励措施、落实友好政策及倡导绿色建筑倡议。



A glimpse of the Stakeholder Consultation and sharing session

## Engagement with Chainparency

On 11 March 2025, the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) hosted an online engagement session in collaboration with Chainparency, a platform that uses blockchain technology to enhance transparency and traceability in timber supply chains. The session was attended by members and secretariat from both the STA and the Sabah Timber Industry Association (STIA).

The event kicked off with a welcoming address from Datu Haji Hamden bin Haji Mohammad, the Director of Forests at FDS. He emphasised the significant role technology plays in expanding product sales in the market, expressing his hope that the technology shared during the session would be beneficial to Sarawak’s forestry sector.

Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of STA, also expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the session and introduced members of STA and STIA to Mr Henry Ines, the CEO and founder of Chainparency, who was the main speaker of the session.

In his presentation, Mr Ines explained how Chainparency offers real-time traceability to transform forestry supply chains, using its blockchain-powered platform to ensure global regulatory compliance and enhance accountability. The platform streamlines operations, reduces risks, and supports businesses in achieving greater transparency, efficiency and sustainability.

The discussion during the session focused on several key topics such as data accuracy and security, applications in Environmental, Social, and Governance reporting, fee structures, data storage solutions.

*Pada 11 Mac 2025, Jabatan Hutan Sarawak telah menganjurkan sesi dalam talian dengan Chainparency, mempamerkan teknologi rantaian blok untuk meningkatkan ketelusan rantaian bekalan kayu. Encik Henry Ines, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif dan pengasas Chainparency telah membentangkan faedah kebolehsasaran masa nyata teknologi tersebut. Perbincangan utama termasuk ketepatan data, kegunaan dalam pelaporan Alam Sekitar, Sosial dan Tadbir Urus (ESG), dan kecekapan operasi untuk sector perhutanan Sarawak.*

2025年3月11日,砂森林局与Chainparency联合举办线上会议,展示如何通过区块链技术提升木材供应链的透明度。Chainparency的首席执行官兼创始人亨利伊内斯先生介绍该技术在实时可追溯性方面的优势。会议重点探讨数据准确性、其在环境、社会和治理(ESG)报告中的应用,以及砂拉越林业运营效率等议题。



## MEF East Malaysia (Sarawak) Regional Meeting No. 3/2025

The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) East Malaysia (Sarawak) Region convened its third meeting of the year on 18 March 2025, presided by Ms Dayang Jamillah binti Tun Abang Muhd Salahuddin, Consultant-Industrial Relations of MEF Sarawak.

In his welcoming remark, Mr Sheikh Farouk Sheikh Mohamed Al-Bajrai, Chief Executive of MEF provided updates on MEF's activities. These included a visit to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Malaysia to discuss advancements in employment relations, an Employees Provident Fund session on Budget 2024 initiatives and a workshop focused on challenges in Environmental, Social, and Governance practices. He also highlighted the technical meeting at ILO Geneva on promoting decent work in the food and beverage industry and emphasised the outcomes of the National Tripartite Workshop, which aimed to strengthen collaboration between the government, employers, and workers in promoting responsible business practices.

The meeting also featured a brief demonstration on the Foreign Workers Transformation Approach (FWTA) system by the FWTA Team. This fully digitalised system, designed to streamline the management of foreign workers in Sarawak, is integrated with the JobSarawak portal. It enables real-time updates and traceability in the recruitment process, including features such as the hiring report. Currently supporting both local and foreign worker registration, the system will soon be expanded to include expatriates.

The FWTA system is also aligned with Sarawak's government processes, including job postings, application processing, and labour license issuance. Employers are required to adhere to salary guidelines and post job vacancies through JobSarawak, subject to approval from Social

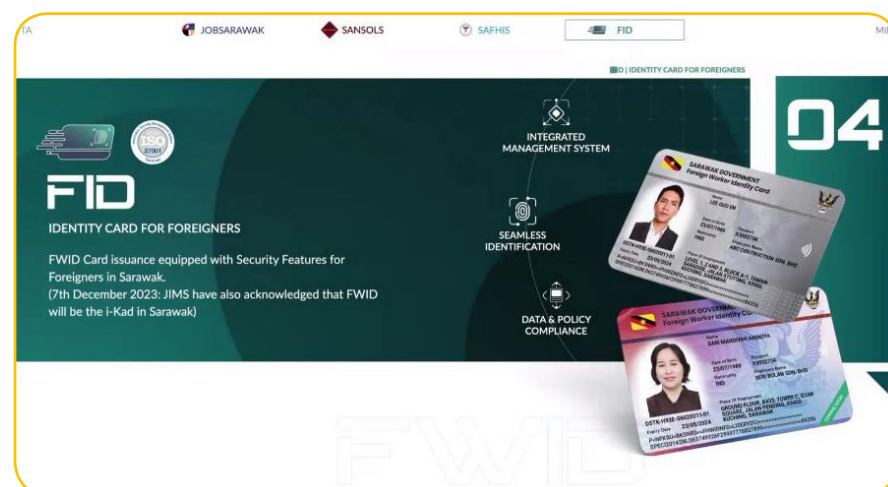
Security Organization (SOCSO). The system includes the e-Visa with Reference (e-VDR) feature and tracks workers' health status via the Sarawak Foreigners Health Information System (SAFHIS), ensuring real-time updates on medical screenings and fitness certifications.

In addition, the meeting introduced the Identity Card for Foreigner (FID) which includes biometric data and complies with ISO 2007 standards. The FID enhances identity verification and ensures that worker information remains up-to-date. For additional support, employers can request on-site services from the Sarawakian and Non-Sarawakian Online Labour System (SANSOLS) team for further support.

Employers interested in arranging one-to-one SANSOLS briefing sessions may register at: <https://sansols.sarawak.gov.my/info/reg-briefing>

*Mesyuarat Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan Malaysia (MEF) Wilayah Malaysia Timur (Sarawak) pada 18 Mac 2025 yang dipengerusikan oleh Cik Dayang Jamillah telah mengetengahkan perkembangan terkini mengenai inisiatif MEF, seperti penglibatan dan usaha Pertubuhan Buruh Antarabangsa Malaysia dalam menyokong amalan Alam Sekitar, Sosial dan Tadbir Urus. Satu demonstrasi sistem FWTA yang telah didigitalkan menonjolkan peranannya dalam memperkemas pengurusan pekerja asing dan integrasi dengan proses kerajaan.*

马来西亚雇主联合会(MEF)东马(砂拉越)区域会议于2025年3月18日召开, 由达央贾米拉小姐主持。会上介绍MEF的最新举措, 例如与马来西亚国际劳工组织的合作, 以及在支持环境、社会和治理实践(ESG)方面所做的努力。会中还展示数字化外籍劳工转型方法(FWTA)系统, 突显其在简化外籍劳工管理以及和政府流程整合方面发挥的作用。



Identity Card for Foreigner (FID)

## Grants Seminar:

## Unlock Grants & Incentives to Grow Your Business

The Ministry of International Trade, Industry and Investment Sarawak (MINTRED), in collaboration with Invest Sarawak, hosted the "Grants Seminar: Unlock Grants & Incentives to Grow Your Business" from 17 to 18 March 2025, at Harbour View Hotel, Kuching. The seminar provided valuable insights into investment incentives, export grants, trade compliance, and strategies for international market expansion.

In his opening remarks, Mr Jona anak Kerani from the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) highlighted MIDA's role in promoting investments and industrial growth in Malaysia. MIDA facilitates investments in manufacturing and selected services through business-friendly policies, including 100% foreign equity ownership, expatriate employment, and flexible income repatriation. Incentives such as tax exemptions, allowances, custom duty exemptions and funding for high-impact projects aim to attract both foreign and domestic investors, particularly in renewable energy, Industry 4.0 and high-value manufacturing.

He introduced the Domestic Investment Accelerator Fund (DIAF) – Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Adoption, which supports Malaysian-owned short and medium enterprises and mid-tier companies in adopting ESG practices. The matching grant, offered at either 50:50 or 70:30 provides up to RM500,000 per company per carbon emission tracking, green certification, ESG-compliant business practices, and sustainable supply chain technologies. This aligns with Malaysia's Net Zero Carbon roadmap and enhances business competitiveness.

**MIDA**  
**DIAF-ESG: WHAT IS IT?**

The Domestic Investment Accelerator Fund (DIAF) is a matching grant for ESG adoption that was introduced to support Malaysian owned Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Mid-Tier Companies (MTCs) in the manufacturing and selected services sectors for the transition into ESG practices.

The matching grant (50:50) / (70:30) based on the criteria or merit of the project with a maximum reimbursable amount of RM500,000 per company subject to availability of the grant.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To facilitate and assist SMEs and MTCs to transition into ESG practices;
- To ensure Malaysian SMEs and MTCs remain relevant and competitive in the global supply chain and to have the opportunity to be part of the ecosystem for sustainable investment projects; and
- To enhance the SMEs' and MTCs' prospects for ESG-mandated funds from financial institutions, venture capital and private equity firms.

**WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA?**

Malaysian owned companies incorporated under the Companies Act, 2016 engaged in Manufacturing or selected Services

Category as SME or MTC:	
<b>SME</b>	<b>Services</b>
Sales turnover not exceeding RM50 million or Full-time employees not exceeding 200 persons	Sales turnover not exceeding RM20 million or Full-time employees not exceeding 75 persons
<b>MTC</b>	
Sales turnover from RM50 million to RM500 million	Sales turnover from RM20 million to RM500 million

Effective equity ownership of the company must be at least 51% Malaysians

In operation for at least 3 years in the current business line

Possess a valid Manufacturing License or Letter of Exemption and/or Business License

Undertake an ESG self-assessment at <https://sustainability.mida.gov.my> with the following conditions:

- answer at least 50% of the questions under each key Impact Area i.e. Governance, Workers, Community, Environment, and Customers; and
- complete the Disclosure questionnaire.

Domestic Investment Accelerator Fund (DIAF) - ESG highlighted by Mr Jona anak Kerani

Mr Suwady Abd Shukor from the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) discussed financial support for global market expansion through the Market Development Grant (MDG) and the Services Export Fund (SEF). These grants assist Malaysian-owned SMEs and professional service providers in covering costs for international trade fairs, investment missions, and certifications. SEF, a reimbursable grant, supports Malaysian Service Providers except those in Tourism, Real Estate, Banking, and Insurance.

He also introduced the Export Readiness Assessment Tool, an online self-assessment system for evaluating export potential, as well as MATRADE's 12 Steps of Exporting. He concluded with Trade & Export Compliance, highlighting tariff classification, Incoterms which is short for "International Commercial Terms", export licensing, and the growing importance of ESG in global trade, focusing on sustainable sourcing, carbon emissions, labour rights, and ethical leadership.

*Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa, Industri dan Pelaburan Sarawak bersama Invest Sarawak telah menganjurkan satu seminar pada 17-18 Mac 2025 di Kuching yang merangkumi insentif pelaburan, geran eksport dan pematuhan perdagangan. Pembiayaan untuk penerapan ESG dan projek berimpak tinggi, geran eksport serta kelestarian dalam perdagangan global merupakan antara topik yang diketengahkan. Kaedah penilaian dan sokongan kewangan untuk pengembangan pasaran turut diperkenalkan dalam seminar 2 hari tersebut.*

砂拉越国际贸易、工业和投资部(MINTRED)与砂拉越投资局于2025年3月17日至18日在古晋联合举办一场研讨会, 内容涵盖投资激励措施、出口补贴及贸易合规等议题。研讨会重点讨论环境、社会和治理(ESG)采纳及高影响力项目的资助、出口补贴, 以及全球贸易的可持续性。为期两天的研讨会还介绍了用于市场拓展的评估工具及相关财政资助。



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

Region	Dec '24 Vol (m³)	Dec '23 Vol (m³)	Jan '25 Vol (m³)	Jan '24 Vol (m³)	Feb '25 Vol (m³)	Feb '24 Vol (m³)	Jan - Feb '25 Vol (m³)	Jan - Feb '24 Vol (m³)
Kuching (Hill)	560	650	---	---	200	414	200	414
(Swamp)	---	---	---	---	753	---	753	---
Sibu (Hill)	22,069	21,561	14,615	15,698	18,743	25,338	33,358	41,036
(Swamp)	1,741	1,707	1,062	1,402	2,023	3,218	3,085	4,620
Bintulu (Hill)	45,686	42,194	40,724	65,220	40,464	43,667	81,188	108,887
(Swamp)	434	2,212	2,282	3,153	169	---	2,451	3,153
Miri (Hill)	4,992	7,588	7,812	4,429	7,090	11,159	14,902	15,588
(Swamp)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Kapit (Hill)	47,117	35,060	25,740	47,148	40,995	47,884	66,735	95,032
(Swamp)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Limbang (Hill)	3,136	6,733	4,386	6,955	1,224	9,957	5,610	16,912
(Swamp)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Sarikei (Hill)	346	5,568	72	5,135	221	3,932	293	9,067
(Swamp)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Sri Aman (Hill)	---	---	182	---	---	---	182	---
(Swamp)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Subtotal (Hill)	123,906	119,354	93,531	144,585	108,937	142,351	202,468	286,936
(Swamp)	2,175	3,919	3,344	4,555	2,945	3,218	6,289	7,773
TOTAL	126,081	123,273	96,875	149,140	111,882	145,569	208,757	294,709

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

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

Hill Species	Oct '24 Vol (m³)	Nov '24 Vol (m³)	Dec '24 Vol (m³)	Jan '25 Vol (m³)	Feb '25 Vol (m³)	Jan - Feb '25 Vol (m³)
Bindang	507	760	659	204	994	1,198
Meranti	62,304	71,779	50,066	40,315	45,233	85,548
Kapur	5,218	5,877	4,718	2,617	3,785	6,402
Keruing	2,635	4,178	2,748	1,824	2,326	4,150
Sepetir	191	274	122	107	141	248
Selangan Batu	1,838	2,905	2,039	1,652	973	2,625
Nyatoh	1,655	1,971	1,154	664	1,036	1,700
Other species	79,850	83,434	62,400	46,148	54,449	100,597
TOTAL:	154,198	171,178	123,906	93,531	108,937	202,468

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

Swamp Species	Oct '24 Vol (m³)	Nov '24 Vol (m³)	Dec '24 Vol (m³)	Jan '25 Vol (m³)	Feb '25 Vol (m³)	Jan - Feb '25 Vol (m³)
Jongkong	---	---	---	---	6	6
Sepetir	---	---	---	---	---	---
Kapur	54	41	86	27	169	196
Keruing	47	25	53	17	24	41
Meranti	1,100	694	262	217	385	602
Other species	4,061	4,540	1,774	3,083	2,361	5,444
TOTAL:	5,262	5,300	2,175	3,344	2,945	6,289

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



PRODUCTION OF LOGS FROM INDUSTRIAL FOREST PLANTATION BY REGION FROM SARAWAK

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

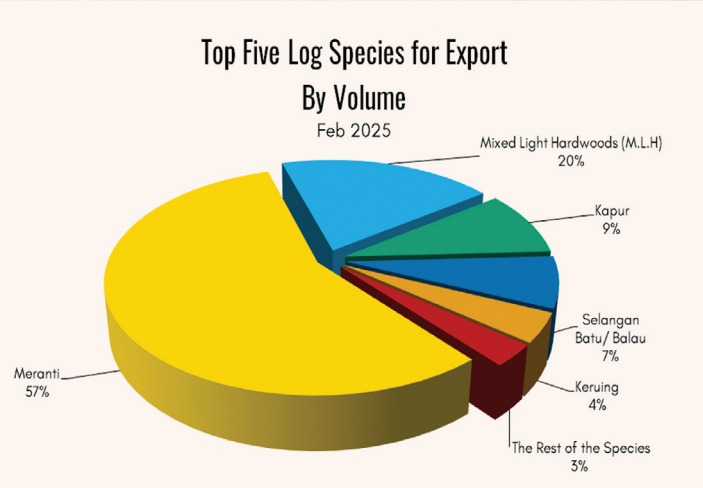
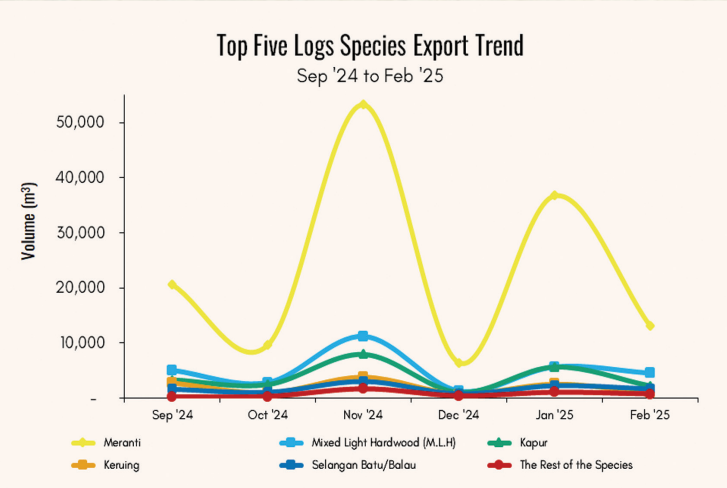
Region		Dec '24	Dec '23	Jan '25	Jan '24	Feb '25	Feb '24	Jan - Feb '25	Jan - Feb '24
		Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)
Sibu	(ACMG)	4,328	9,554	1,024	7,008	2,540	5,147	3,564	12,155
	(ALBZ)	3,466	84	1,847	---	1,606	712	3,453	712
	(KLPN)	101	436	79	621	---	858	79	1,479
Bintulu	(ACMG)	61,456	44,225	29,930	52,302	4,426	51,290	34,356	103,592
	(ALBZ)	4,409	991	780	2,520	1,172	2,195	1,952	4,715
	(EUCA)	213	2,671	3,193	1,807	3,299	2,860	6,492	4,667
	(GMELINA)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	(KLPN)	---	17	---	---	---	---	---	---
	(MHGN)	---	981	---	---	---	---	---	---
Miri	(ACMG)	4,012	4,812	5,780	12,865	4,433	13,452	10,213	26,317
	(ALBZ)	3,081	131	4,371	2,130	2,211	1,295	6,582	3,425
	(EUCA)	4,558	2,449	3,596	4,594	3,585	6,580	7,181	11,174
	(GMELINA)	736	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Limbang	(ACMG)	---	1,769	---	1,002	---	2,143	---	3,145
Subtotal	(ACMG)	69,796	60,360	36,734	73,177	11,399	72,032	48,133	145,209
	(ALBZ)	10,956	1,206	6,998	4,650	4,989	4,202	11,987	8,852
	(EUCA)	4,771	5,120	6,789	6,401	6,884	9,440	13,673	15,841
	(GMELINA)	736	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	(KLPN)	101	453	79	621	---	858	79	1,479
	(MHGN)	---	981	---	---	---	---	---	---
TOTAL:		86,360	68,120	50,600	84,849	23,272	86,532	73,872	171,381

Source of data : Forest Department Sarawak  
(Please note that the figures for March 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)  
  
\*ACMG - Acacia mangium ALBZ - Albizia EUCA - Eucalyptus GMELINA - Gmelina arborea KLPN - Kelampayan MHGN - Mahogany

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

Species	Dec '24		Jan '25		Feb '25		Jan - Feb '25		Jan - Feb '24	
	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)
Kapur	977	1,173,478	5,628	6,256,136	2,156	2,319,110	7,784	8,575,246	9,053	10,281,139
Keranjai	---	---	109	66,387	104	63,617	213	130,004	12	6,856
Keruing	708	562,196	2,538	2,033,175	976	769,349	3,514	2,802,524	21,096	16,274,595
Meranti	6,434	5,106,057	36,760	26,618,617	13,090	9,260,401	49,850	35,879,018	48,846	35,033,479
Mersawa	125	108,386	208	180,392	161	143,236	369	323,628	495	441,554
Mixed Light Hardwoods (M.L.H)	1,254	799,686	5,646	3,203,382	4,504	2,514,473	10,150	5,717,855	7,492	4,472,714
Nyato	10	6,212	99	54,665	77	46,494	176	101,159	42	25,967
Resak	88	66,362	274	229,189	238	199,654	512	428,843	764	657,422
Selangau Batu/Balau	834	1,514,195	2,286	3,658,512	1,696	2,701,024	3,982	6,359,536	4,746	7,546,603
Selundur	---	---	86	52,198	85	51,898	171	104,096	39	22,219
Other Species	169	178,160	260	328,151	56	57,473	316	385,624	575	635,748
TOTAL:	10,599	9,514,732	53,894	42,680,804	23,143	18,126,729	77,037	60,807,533	93,160	75,398,296

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

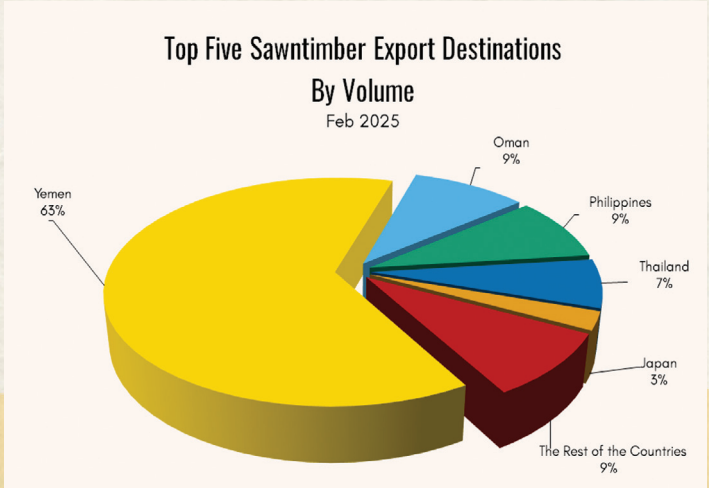
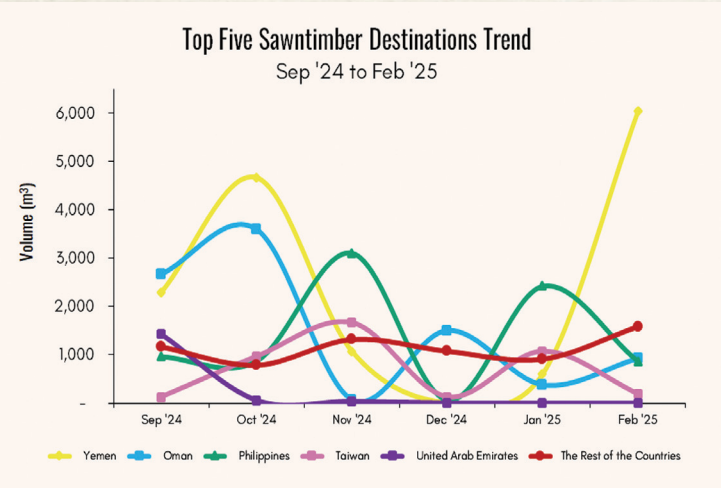




EXPORT OF SAWNTIMBER BY DESTINATIONS FROM SARAWAK  
EKSPORT KAYU BERGERGAJI MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之锯木出口量

Country of Destination	Dec '24		Jan '25		Feb '25		Jan - Feb '25		Jan - Feb '24	
	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)
China 中国	147	490,647	192	645,024	217	725,816	409	1,370,840	474	496,121
India 印度	---	---	36	74,290	103	269,943	139	344,233	13	27,975
Japan 日本	367	884,525	71	199,975	251	651,896	322	851,871	711	2,103,860
Korea 韩国	416	702,050	327	511,539	90	116,922	417	628,461	186	339,808
Oman 阿曼	1,504	1,647,437	375	418,044	923	1,028,081	1,298	1,446,125	4,213	5,235,107
Philippines 菲律宾	68	36,629	2,422	1,949,988	868	280,156	3,290	2,230,144	1,606	1,394,215
Saudi Arabia 沙地阿拉伯	---	---	---	---	221	234,567	221	234,567	40	105,499
Taiwan 台湾	130	116,245	1,077	1,723,374	190	192,100	1,267	1,915,474	2,357	4,374,303
Thailand 泰国	91	130,311	218	278,272	660	569,053	878	847,325	1,253	1,294,770
Yemen 也门	---	---	602	1,541,260	6,051	10,987,859	6,653	12,529,119	---	---
Other Countries 其他国家	59	147,762	71	104,708	48	55,377	119	160,085	1,407	3,455,089
TOTAL:	2,782	4,155,606	5,391	7,446,474	9,622	15,111,770	15,013	22,558,244	12,260	18,826,747

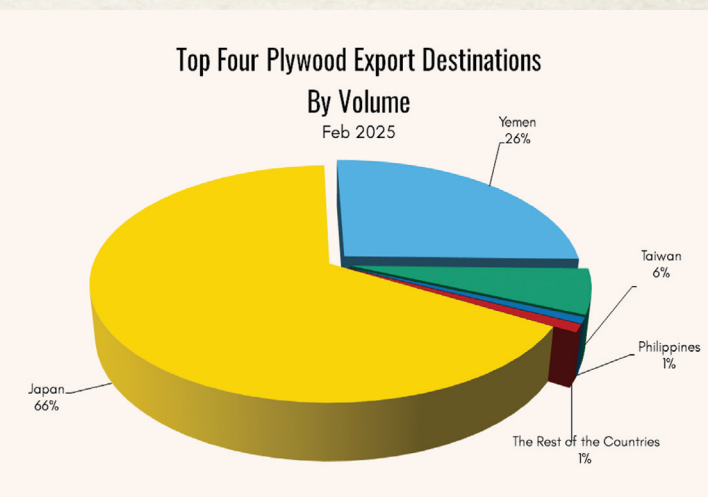
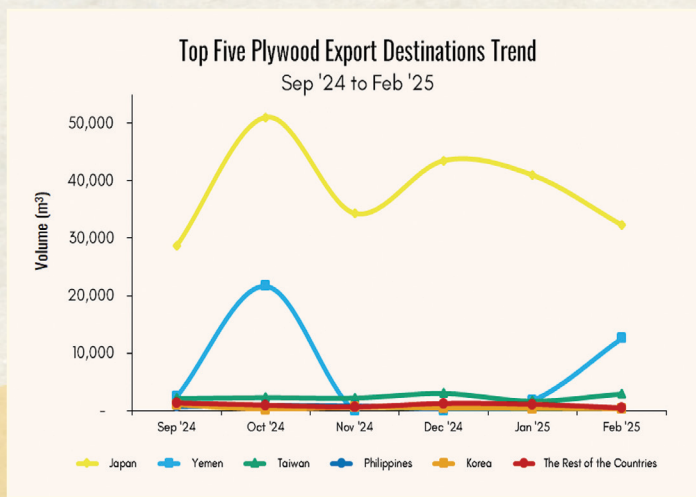
Source of data : Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation  
(Please note that the figures for March 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)



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

Country of Destination	Dec '24		Jan '25		Feb '25		Jan - Feb '25		Jan - Feb '24	
	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)
Australia 澳洲	138	309,943	56	151,568	42	91,174	98	242,742	97	288,615
Brunei 汶莱	188	273,416	191	264,753	200	299,090	391	563,843	449	589,469
China 中国	86	136,009	---	---	125	232,326	125	232,326	---	---
Japan 日本	43,507	93,737,777	40,971	86,300,531	32,329	66,662,136	73,300	152,962,667	71,421	176,057,354
Korea 韩国	404	663,001	371	659,057	287	466,784	658	1,125,841	3,197	5,608,594
Philippines 菲律宾	278	898,423	395	1,199,743	397	1,195,631	792	2,395,374	1,000	3,243,068
Saudi Arabia 沙地阿拉伯	39	78,722	---	---	123	217,119	123	217,119	---	---
Singapore 新加坡	61	84,940	---	---	21	54,544	21	54,544	108	298,324
Taiwan 台湾	3,046	5,031,333	1,704	2,652,133	2,976	4,929,228	4,680	7,581,361	5,060	9,321,468
Yemen 也门	---	---	1,771	2,989,919	12,576	20,816,301	14,347	23,806,220	---	-
Other Countries 其他国家	751	1,503,448	874	2,049,135	---	---	874	2,049,135	2,213	5,217,885
TOTAL:	48,498	102,717,012	46,333	96,266,839	49,076	94,964,333	95,409	191,231,172	83,545	200,624,777

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

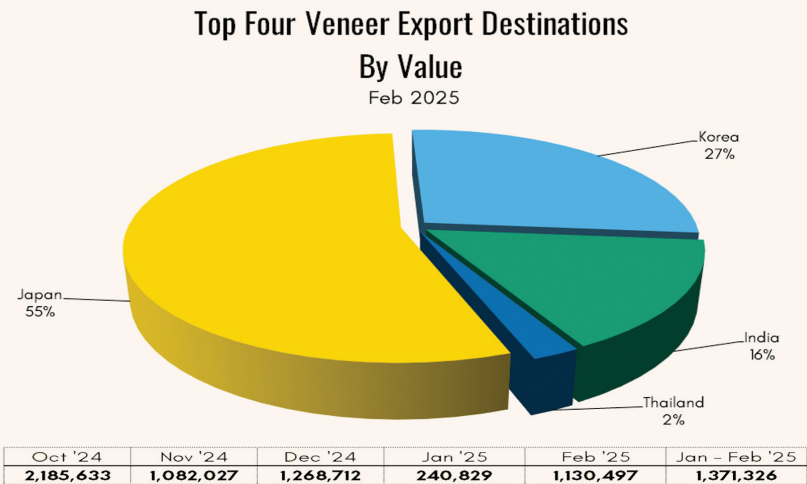






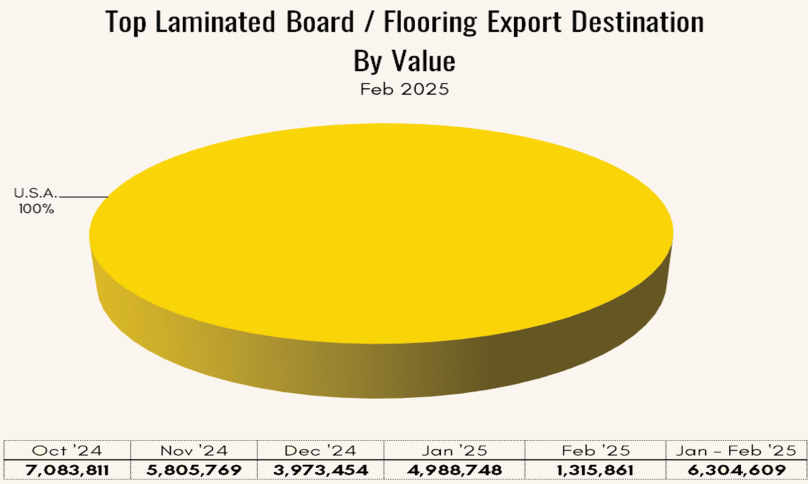
EXPORT VALUE OF VENEER BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK

NILAI EKSPORT VENIR MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之单板出口值



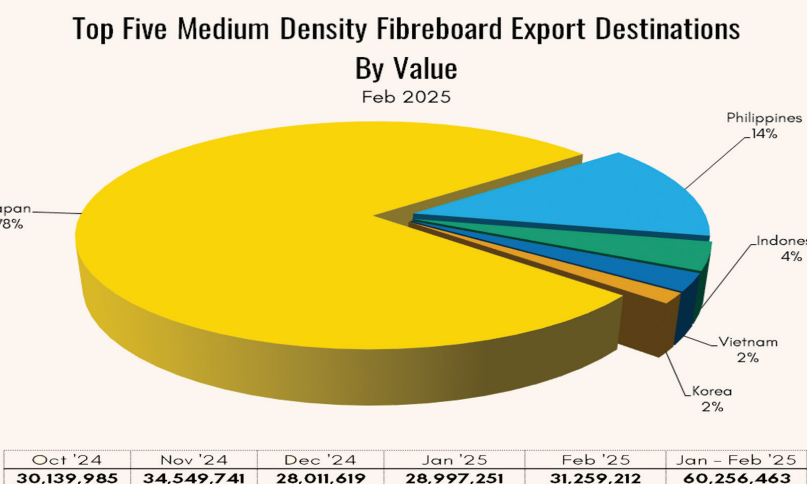
EXPORT VALUE OF LAMINATED BOARD / FLOORING BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK

NILAI EKSPORT PAPAN LAMINA / LANTAI MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之层压板 / 地板出口值



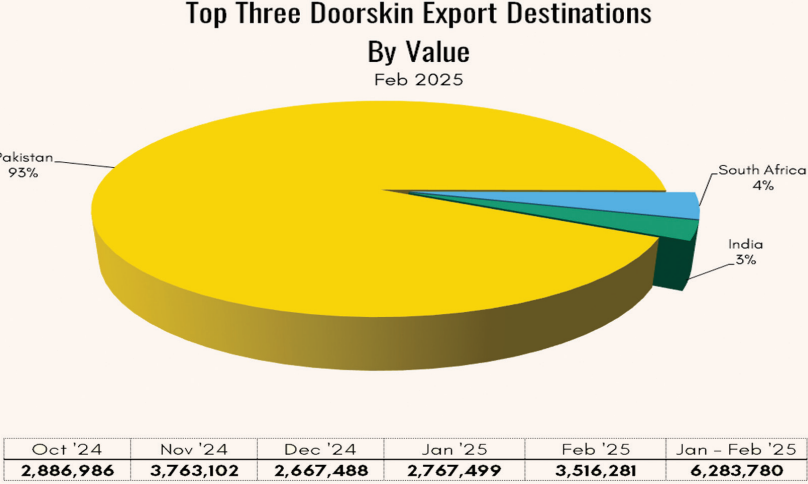
EXPORT VALUE OF MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK

NILAI EKSPORT PAPAN GENTIAN BERKETUMPATAN SEDERHANA MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之中密度纤维板出口值



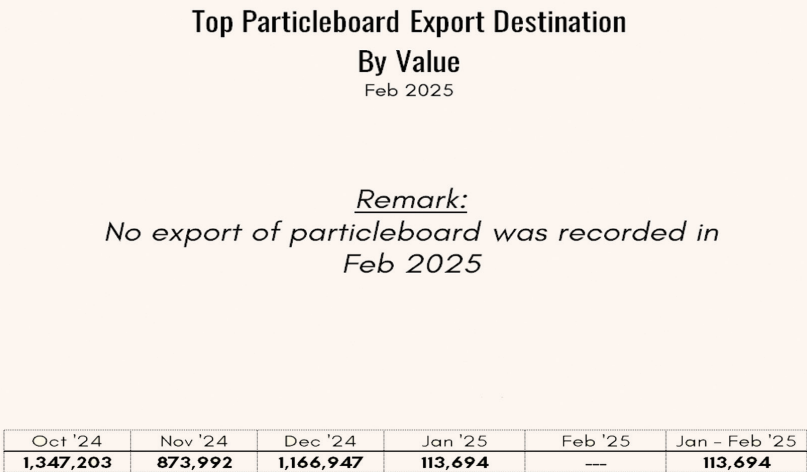
EXPORT VALUE OF DOORSKIN BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK

NILAI EKSPORT DAUN PINTU MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之门皮出口值



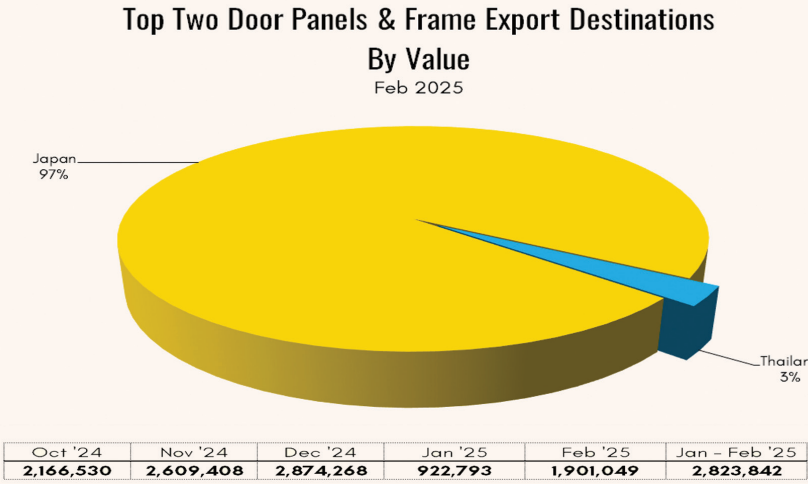
EXPORT VALUE OF PARTICLEBOARD BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK

NILAI EKSPORT PAPAN SERPAI MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之塑合板出口值



EXPORT VALUE OF DOOR PANELS & FRAME BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK

NILAI EKSPORT PANEL & BINGKAI PINTU MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之门框出口值



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

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

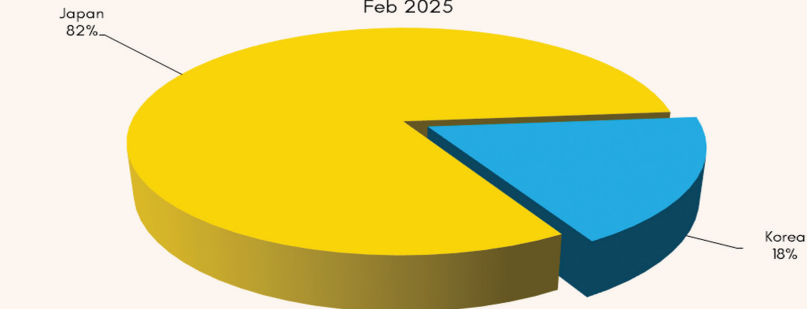




EXPORT VALUE OF  
MOULDINGS BY  
DESTINATION FROM  
SARAWAK

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

Top Two Mouldings Export Destinations  
By Value  
Feb 2025



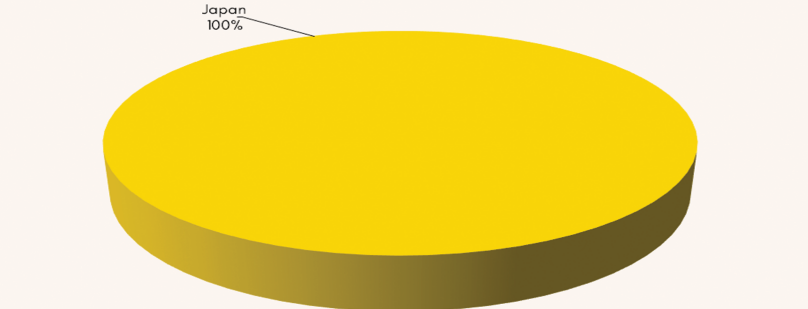
Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Jan - Feb '25
665,730	553,302	11,768,877	285,346	349,313	634,659



EXPORT VALUE OF  
CHARCOAL & BRIQUETTE  
BY DESTINATION FROM  
SARAWAK

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

Top Charcoal & Briquette Export Destination  
By Value  
Feb 2025



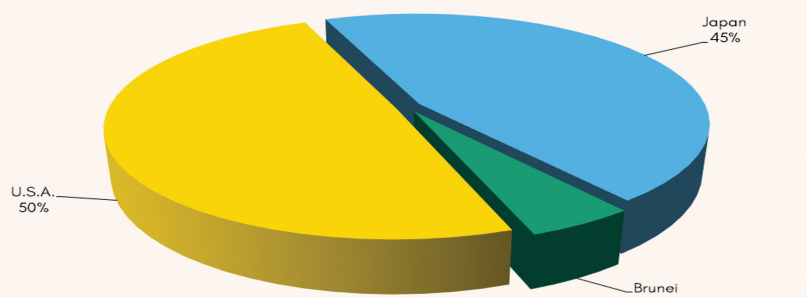
Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Jan - Feb '25
535,135	600,414	322,199	524,509	164,657	689,166



EXPORT VALUE OF  
FURNITURE & FURNITURE  
PARTS BY DESTINATION  
FROM SARAWAK

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

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



Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Jan - Feb '25
5,195,574	3,432,476	3,665,961	2,453,257	2,500,474	4,953,731



EXPORT VALUE OF  
WOODCHIPS BY  
DESTINATION FROM  
SARAWAK

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

Top Woodchips Export Destination  
By Value  
Feb 2025



Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Jan - Feb '25
3,413,223	13,996,572	34,301,017	17,362,153	4,866,686	22,228,839



EXPORT VALUE OF WOOD  
PELLETS BY DESTINATION  
FROM SARAWAK

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

Top Wood Pellets Export Destination  
By Value  
Feb 2025

*Remark:*  
No export of wood pellets was recorded in  
Feb 2025

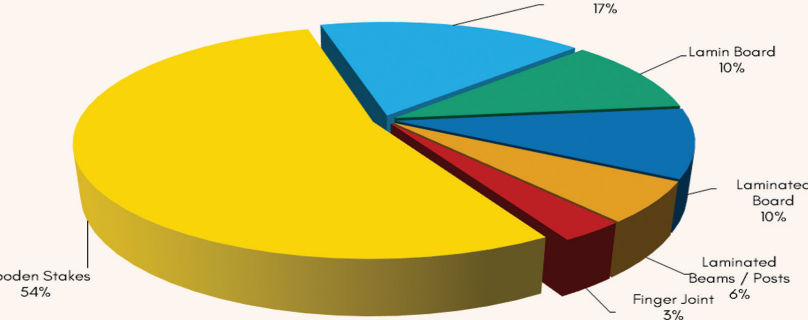
Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Jan - Feb '25
---	45,475,560	---	20,517,030	---	20,517,030



EXPORT VALUE OF OTHER  
TIMBER PRODUCTS FROM  
SARAWAK

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

Other Timber Products Export  
By Value  
Feb 2025



Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Jan - Feb '25
1,454,328	1,010,724	1,438,364	1,132,627	1,224,285	2,356,912

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

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(Please note that the figures for March 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)



## OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAMME MARCH 2025

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

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

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

### > Tree Felling - Chainsaw (Natural Forest)

**STAT Trainer / Assessor** : Mr Kutok Bayang  
**Date** : 18 - 21 March 2025  
**Location** : OT3631 Melipis Camp, Song  
**Company** : Majutara Lumber Sdn Bhd

### > Log Loading - Front End Loader (Natural Forest)

**STAT Trainer / Assessor** : Mr Sang Sanjan  
**Date** : 18 - 21 March 2025  
**Location** : OT3631 Melipis Camp, Song  
**Company** : Majutara Lumber Sdn Bhd

### > Log Extraction - Tractor (Natural Forest)

**STAT Trainer / Assessor** : Mr Ginda Uli  
**Date** : 18 - 21 March 2025  
**Location** : OT3631 Melipis Camp, Song  
**Company** : Majutara Lumber Sdn Bhd

### > Mechanical Site Preparation - Excavator (Forest Plantation)

**STAT Trainer / Assessor** : Mr Ngumbang Bayang  
**Date** : 18 - 21 March 2025  
**Location** : OT3631 Melipis Camp, Song  
**Company** : Majutara Lumber Sdn Bhd

### > Clear-Fell Site Preparation - Chainsaw (Forest Plantation)

**STAT Trainer / Assessor** : Mr Sumbang Rani  
**Date** : 18 - 22 March 2025  
**Location** : Engkeramuh Camp, Kapit FMU  
**Company** : Tanjong Manis Holdings Sdn Bhd



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

## GET IN TOUCH

For more information, contact Mr Wong How Chu at 082 - 332 222 or email at [howchu@sta.org.my](mailto:howchu@sta.org.my)