

STA REVIEW

Monthly Magazine of Sarawak Timber Association

pg. **04**

STA Annual General Meeting 2023

pg. **08**

Visit by ITTO Executive Director

pg. **17**

State Sales Tax on the Sale of Selected Timber Products Outside Sarawak



TABLE OF CONTENT

STA Council Meeting No.1/2023	03
STA Annual General Meeting 2023	04
Chairman Speech for AGM 2023	06
Visit by ITTO Executive Director	08
STA Forest Plantation Committee Meeting No.2/2023	08
Engagement Session with Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation	08
Tanjung Manis Day 2023 Dinner in conjunction with STIDC 50 th Anniversary	08
Discussion on Proposed Amendment to Labour Ordinance	10
Presentation Session by FIDEC-MTIB on Survey Study of Acacia mangium in Sarawak	10
Nature Fun Ride, Run & Walk in conjunction with International Day of Forests 2023	11
International Conference on Timber Certification: Exploring Future Frontiers	12
Seminar on EUDR & FSC	14
Workshop on the Development of Blueprint for Engineered Wood Product Industry in Sarawak	14
Engagement with Chemsain HRD Sdn Bhd	15
Focus Group Discussion on National Biomass Action Plan Development Study	16
State Sales Tax on the Sale of Selected Timber Products Outside Sarawak	17
Webinar on Fostering Confidence in the Voluntary Carbon Market in 2023	18
Meetings of the SAMUDAH Technical Working Groups	18
Regular Features	
Statistics	20
Operator Training Programme	32

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Cover photo by Aylwin Lim "Bibasis jaina".

STA REVIEW

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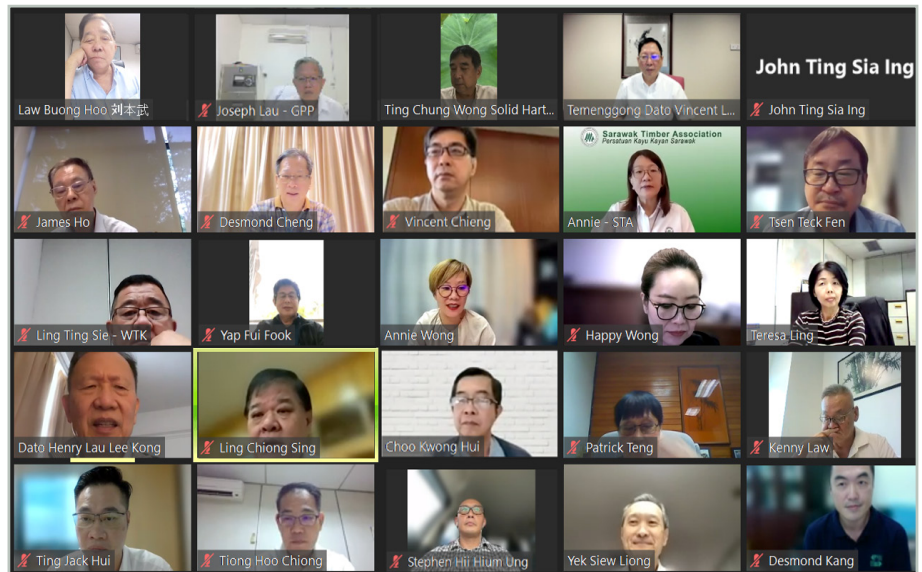
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STA Council Meeting No.1/2023

The STA Council Meeting No. 1/2023 was conducted online on 7 March 2023. Dato Henry Lau Lee Kong, the Chairman of the Association presided over the meeting which was attended by Mr Wong Ting Chung, the Honorary Secretary, Mr Philip Choo, the Honorary Treasurer and twenty eight members of the Council.

The Council received reports from the various Category Committees and Working Committees. The Council requested the STA Furniture & Other Woodworking Committee to look into achieving the Sarawak Government's export target of RM6 billion in value added timber products such as furniture and engineered wood products by year 2030 and the blueprint formulated by Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation to encourage small and medium enterprise participation in furniture. The STA Furniture & Other Woodworking Committee was also requested to make a presentation or submission to the Sarawak Government on the challenges faced by members in meeting their target which include availability of raw materials, skilled manpower and markets for Sarawak furniture, as well as proposals to encourage furniture industry development.



Meeting in progress.

Financial contributions totalling RM250,000.00 were also approved for the following two (2) Members for achieving forest management certification under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme in their respective Forest Management Units:



Forest Management Certification under the MTCS in their respective Forest Management Units

Piramid Intan Sdn Bhd

Certified FMU : Mengiong-Gaat FMU
Date Certified : 30 November 2022
Size : 36,091 ha

Shin Yang Sdn Bhd

Certified FMU : Nibong FMU
Date Certified : 30 November 2022
Size : 54,143 ha

The Council also addressed 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.

STA理事会本年度首次会议于2023年3月7日在线上举行，由主席拿督刘利康主持。理事会接纳各委员会和工作委员会的报告，批准为获得森林管理认证而向会员提供的奖掖，并探讨政府为发展家具业而采取的举措。

Mesyuarat Majlis STA Bil. 1/2023 telah diadakan secara maya pada 7 Mac 2023 dan dipengerusikan oleh Pengerusinya, Dato Henry Lau Lee Kong. Majlis menerima laporan daripada pelbagai Jawatankuasa Kategori dan Jawatankuasa Kerja, meluluskan sumbangan kewangan kepada ahli-ahli yang telah memperolehi persijilan pengurusan hutan dan meneliti inisiatif Kerajaan untuk membangunkan industri perabot di Sarawak.



STA

Annual General Meeting 2023

The STA Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 30 March 2023 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The AGM was attended by representatives from 127 member companies. Also present at the AGM were STA advisors from Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), namely Mr Jack anak Liam, Deputy Director of Forests, FDS and Datu Haji Hashim bin Haji Bojet, General Manager of STIDC as well as auditors and legal advisors of STA. Both advisors shared their views on matters related to forest management and current issues of timber industry in Sarawak with members.

STA Chairman Dato Henry Lau Lee Kong delivered his speech on the workings of the Association in 2022 which included, among many, progress made by members towards achieving forest management certification and highlighted some of the issues faced by the members. One of the pressing issues is the sudden imposition of the State sales tax (SST) ranging from 1% to 2.5% on the export of selected timber products, effective 1 April 2023 which caught the timber industry off-guard, leaving too little time for the industry to prepare for it.



(1) & (2) Arrival of Council Members; (3) Mr Jack Anak Liam, Deputy Director of Forests (2nd from left) pose for photo with STA members; (4) STA Office Bearers on stage, joined by Category Committee Chairmen; (5) STA Chairman, Dato Henry Lau (middle) delivering his opening speech; (6) & (7) Meeting in progress; (8) Left to right: Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA; Mr Wong Ting Chung, STA Honorary Secretary; Datu Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, General Manager of STIDC; Dato Henry Lau, Chairman of STA; Mr Philip Choo, STA Honorary Treasurer; Mr Jack Anak Liam, Deputy Director of Forests and Haji Zainal Abidin, General Manager of Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd

The meeting appointed auditors and public officers for the ensuing years and dealt with matters relating to the subsidiary companies of the Association, namely STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Training Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd and STA Ventures Sdn Bhd as well as voted to pass the proposed amendments to Clause 10(3) of STA Constitution.

STA会员常年大会(AGM)于2023年3月30日在古晋STA大厦举行, 获得来自127间会员公司的代表出席。STA顾问, 即砂拉越森林局(FDS)副局长杰克理安和砂拉越木材工业发展机构(STIDC)总经理拿督哈芝哈斯姆也出席了会议, 并在会议上与会员分享他们对森林管理相关事宜的看法和砂拉越木材行业当前的问题。

Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan STA yang diadakan di Wisma STA, Kuching pada 30 Mac 2023 telah dihadiri oleh wakil-wakil daripada 127 syarikat ahli, serta ahli-ahli Penasihat STA iaitu Encik Jack anak Liam, Timbalan Pengarah Hutan, Jabatan Hutan Sarawak dan Datu Haji Hashim bin Haji Bojet, Pengurus Besar STIDC. Kedua-dua Ahli Penasihat berkongsi pandangan mereka berkaitan pengurusan hutan dan pemerkasaan industri perkayuan di Sarawak.

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH

AGM 2023

After restructuring in 1988, and under the encouragement of the then Chief Minister Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, STA has since then successfully played meaningful roles in providing platform for the members and the Sarawak Government for the benefit of the timber industry. Today, STA has become an institution playing various important roles in working with all stakeholders in preserving the ecological, social, and economic values of the forests for benefits of all stakeholders and most importantly, sustaining the timber business in Sarawak.

Unfortunately, timber industry in Sarawak has been suffering profoundly under various circumstances including varying policies and COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, our members, in the face of the impending needs to achieve certification, were confronted with audacious processes and constraints due to COVID-19 pandemic, the temporary ban of new or replacement of foreign workers, royalties, reduced production volume and operational

costs increases especially in the last three (3) years, resulted in massive layoffs and multi-million worth of equipment and machines laying idle.

The timber industry is still suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important for the Government and the industry to collaborate closely in order to overcome the challenges that the industry is facing. It is paramount that only policies that facilitate the growth, recovery and resilience of the industry be introduced so that the costs of doing business can be reduced and our timber and timber products to remain competitive in the global market.

Despite of all the difficulties and challenges, we have eighteen (18) forest management units and seven (7) forest plantation management units achieved forest management certification (FMC) under Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) programme covering a total of 1.57million hectares of forest area.

We are grateful to the Sarawak Government and Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg in particular for honouring its pledge in granting long term tenure of timber licences to our members who have obtained FMC. It will certainly motivate more licensees to pursue FMC, especially if the Sarawak Government could grant a longer tenure of 60 years instead of 30 years granted presently

which will facilitate long term planning and optimal management of the forests. STA is confident that our members, with history of unyielding tenacity in difficult times, are able to maintain FMC and continue to provide wide range of benefits to the environment, human kind and overall economy.

To increase capacity to meet regulatory obligations and facilitate effective implementation of Sarawak's policies, the series of training on Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) held in July and August this year helped impart knowledge and understanding on version 2021 of the RIL Guidelines, which was revised in accordance with the internationally recognised best practice standards for timber harvesting in tropical forests. A series of training on the features of Forest Licensee Portal, developed by the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) to encourage more companies to shift to paperless submission and endorsement by FDS was also carried out in October and November.

The second Pilot Project on Environmental Compliance Audit, which was jointly initiated with the *Natural Resources and Environment Board* and launched in 2018 resumed this year after being paused due to COVID-19 outbreak. The members' voluntary participation in the project to facilitate their migration towards self-regulated compliance among companies, as required under *Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules 2018* is commendable. In fact,



members of STA are not new to such endeavour as their active involvement in ensuring sustainability of harvest, legality compliances and certifications over the years, in tandem with increased enforcement and sustainability commitment, have been made known to all, both locally and globally.

Over the years, STA also engaged and will continue to engage with new partners, particularly in its effort to encourage and support the transition to a low carbon and more resilient future. One such example is the training on greenhouse gas (GHG) quantification and reporting by Control Union (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd in April 2022 to raise awareness and help members identify specific company actions or activities aimed at improving GHG management.

The amendments to the *Forests Ordinance, 2015* (Cap.71) to include forest carbon activity in 2022 has sparked keen interests in some STA members to embark on forest carbon trading. However, the industry needs more information on how this is to be implemented in Sarawak and STA hopes that the relevant ministry and FDS could shed some light through engagements with the industry.

STA also raised our concern on the European Union Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR) through MTA in August 2022. The position paper from the Malaysian timber industry criticise, among many others, the absence of dialogue between the EU and producer countries, definitions used and the lack of respect on other countries' sovereignty. The industry is dismayed that certified timber and timber products cannot enter the EU directly under the Regulation.

We are also grateful that Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah Bin Haji Yusof, Deputy Prime Minister cum Minister of Plantation and Commodities and his ministry has shown great concern that the EUDR will create another trade barrier on selected commodities including timber on the pretext that these commodities causes deforestation and forest degradation. Our country is joining forces with other countries in countering this negative campaign and demanding fairer treatments, which we hope will deter other countries from following suit.

To support and encourage downstream industry, STA resonated with the Sarawak Government's effort in

promoting furniture industry and contributed RM1 million to the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation for the purpose of carrying out skills training and capacity manpower building programme including the *SayD'signersSarawak* to help the development of the furniture industry in Sarawak.

Downstream timber industry needs not only capital funding, investor determination, availability of competitive raw materials, stable and able supplies of skilled and unskilled workers not only from one country but also close collaboration of market players in competing against other players. Perhaps among the most needed would be the encouraging and physical supportive policies from both the Sarawak and the Federal Government.

The sudden imposition of the State sales tax (SST) ranging from 1% to 2.5% on the export of selected timber products, i.e. sawntimber, veneer, woodchips, fibreboard, particleboard and plywood effective 1 April 2023 has caught the timber industry off-guard, leaving too little time for the industry to prepare for it. Our members only received notification to register for SST on 21 March 2023, even though the decision to impose SST was made in October 2021. This new tax on selected timber products could have far-reaching consequences for the downstream timber industry, including increased production costs, decreased competitiveness and market share, reduced investment, downsizing of the downstream timber industry, and eventually loss of revenue for the Sarawak Government. The survival of the downstream timber industry is at stake here, what more to say achieving the Sarawak Government's export target of RM6 billion in value added timber products by 2030. We hope that the Sarawak Government could allow a breather for our members by granting a grace period of 12 months to implement SST and not charge the current prescribed tax rate, but instead allow a phase approach to slowly increase the tax rates over a span of 2 years.

Sarawak's policy to only recruit workers from Indonesia has compounded the issue of shortage of general workers, a situation that if left unaddressed could jeopardise Sarawak's reputation in the sustainability and continuity of production for export. These, along with other pressing issues faced by the

industry were highlighted to Datuk Gerawat Gala, Deputy Minister in Premier of Sarawak Department (Labour, Immigration and Project Monitoring) in a dialogue session in April 2022. It is hoped that the Government would accelerate the recruitment of much-need workers by expediting entry process of foreign workers, not only from Indonesia, but also from other source countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar.

STA is gratified that the Ministry of Finance (MOF) had given due consideration and on 7 October 2022, proposed to extend the time limit from 10 years to 20 years for the carry forward of unabsorbed business losses for industries/sectors with long gestation periods including the forest plantation industry during the tabling of the Federal Budget 2023. However, STA is disappointed that this same proposal was not included in the revised Federal Budget tabled on 24 February 2023, despite protracted efforts by STA in appealing to the relevant ministers and their ministries.

In this new year of 2023, STA will continue its important institutional role in research & development and as well as working closer with NGOs of both domestic and international arenas to bring awareness and achieving towards sustainable forest management free from corruption, favoritism and greed amongst all stakeholders.

To do so, STA calls upon all stakeholders to collaborate affirmatively and amicably to charter an enviable forest industries model in Sarawak for others to assimilate.

I like to conclude with a special mention of Dato' Sri Wong Kie Yik and his Council members who has relentlessly nurture STA to this current status.

I have to similarly thank STA Advisors, Yang Berbahagia Datu Hamden Bin Mohamad, Director of Forests and Yang Berbahagia Datu Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, General Manager, STIDC, as well as officers from the various ministries and agencies in the Sarawak Government for their continuous support to STA. I would also like to thank Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer and her officers at the Secretariat for their hard work and unequivocal support to the Association.

Once again thank you for your support and attendance.

Visit by ITTO Executive Director



(1) Seen in the group photo is Mr Wong Ting Chung, STA Honorary Secretary (2nd from left), Ms Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director of ITTO (3rd from left) and Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (3rd from right); (2) Photo call before the discussion.

Ms Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organisation visited STA on 21 March 2023. She was received by Mr Wong Ting Chung, STA Honorary Secretary, STA members and Secretariat. The visit provided an opportunity for both parties to explore potential future collaboration, particularly in the area of sustainable forest management (SFM) after Ms Sheam shared some of the initiatives and works carried out by ITTO over the years, in support of SFM.

国际热带木材组织执行董事Sheam Satkuru小姐于2023年3月21日拜访本会，讨论未来的潜在合作，特别是在可持续森林管理方面。

Cik Sheam Satkuru, Pengarah Eksekutif Pertubuhan Kayu Tropika Antarabangsa mengadakan lawatan ke STA pada 21 Mac 2023 untuk membincangkan potensi kerjasama masa depan, khususnya dalam bidang pengurusan hutan lestari.

STA Forest Plantation Committee Meeting No.2/2023

Mr Joseph Lau Ching Hoo, Chairman of the STA Forest Plantation Committee chaired the second Committee meeting this year on 3 March 2023. The virtual meeting evaluated the progress reports and requests submitted by *Universiti Malaysia Sarawak* for the Kelampayan Research Projects, as well as discussed the establishment of research trial plots using planting materials derived from STA-funded research and development projects.

Engagement Session with Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation

STA Forest Plantation Committee, led by its Chairman, Mr Joseph Lau Ching Hoo had an engagement session with Datu Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, General Manager of Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) on 21 March 2023 at Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. Prior to the engagement session, the Committee had their meeting No.3/2023 at Wisma STA, Kuching to discuss and prepare for the discussion with STIDC.

Datu Haji Hashim said STIDC's long term plan is in line with Sarawak's Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 which included the target for the timber industry to generate RM8 billion in revenue by year 2030. To achieve the target, STIDC has identified several

Tanjung Manis Day 2023 Dinner in conjunction with STIDC 50th Anniversary

Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) organised a dinner ceremony to commemorate Tanjung Manis Day 2023 in conjunction with its 50th anniversary on 11 March 2023 at STIDC Furniture Industry Complex Hall, Bandar Baru Tanjung Manis with Datuk Len Talif Salleh, Deputy Minister of Urban Planning, Land Administration and Environment cum Member of STIDC Board of Management as guest of honour.

The development of Tanjung Manis Economic Growth Area (T-MEGA) for large-scale industries while also bringing about rural socio-economic transformation was highlighted by both Datuk Len Talif Salleh and Datu Haji Hashim Haji Bojet, General Manager of STIDC in their respective speeches, in the presence of Haji Ir. Yusuf

Updates on matters such as the Forest Stewardship Council's policies on conversion and association as well as its remedy framework, along with the carry forward of the unabsorbed business losses subject were also shared and discussed.

STA人工造林委员会于2023年3月3日举行会议，其中包括评估进度报告以及马来西亚砂拉越大学为黄梁木研究项目提交的请求，并讨论使用本会资助的研发项目的种植材料建立研究试验区。

Jawatankuasa Perladangan Hutan STA bermesyuarat pada 3 Mac 2023 untuk menilai laporan kemajuan dan permohonan yang diusulkan oleh Universiti Malaysia Sarawak bagi Projek Penyelidikan Kelampayan serta membincangkan penubuhan plot percubaan penyelidikan menggunakan bahan penanaman daripada projek penyelidikan dan pembangunan tajaan STA.



Meeting in progress.

measures that could encourage export of Sarawak's timber such as developing infrastructure in furniture parks, strengthen management of sustainable raw materials from licensed planted forests as well as develop mechanism to utilise rubber wood in downstream processing. He added that enabling policies are one of the important factors for sustainable development of the industry, alongside sufficient manpower and logistics improvement. He also shared that STIDC is keen to explore the biomass industry and promote community farming concept in the plantation industry.

Datu Hashim also disclosed that the Sarawak Government has principally agreed for the

establishment of mills in the planted forests pending the submission of a comprehensive proposal.

在砂拉越木材工业发展机构(STIDC)和本会森林种植小组委员的交流会上，STIDC总经理拿督哈芝哈信分享其鼓励砂拉越木材出口的长期计划，以符合砂拉越2030年后疫情发展策略设定的目标。

Dalam sesi pertemuan antara Jawatankuasa Ladang Hutan STA dan Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC), Pengurus Besar STIDC Datu Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet berkongsi rancangan jangka panjangnya bagi menggalakkan pengeksporan kayu dari Sarawak, selaras dengan sasaran yang ditetapkan dalam Strategi Pembangunan Pasca COVID-19 Sarawak 2030.



Datu Haji Hashim bin Haji Bojet, General Manager of STIDC (front row, 2nd from right), Mr Joseph Lau, STA Forest Plantation Committee Chairman (front row, 2nd from left) and Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (front row, right) joined other officers for a group photo.



(6th from left) Ms Annie Ting, Haji Ir. Yusuf Abdul Wahab, Datuk Len Talif Salleh and Datu Haji Hashim posed for photos with representatives from schools in Tanjung Manis selected to receive financial contribution from STIDC.

Abdul Wahab, Member of Parliament P206 Tanjung Manis and Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA. Datu Haji Hashim mentioned that the Government has invested RM3.4 billion in T-MEGA and RM1.4 billion in industries

in T-MEGA, with about RM1.1 billion in new potential investment to be realised by 2030.

At the dinner, representatives of nine (9) schools, from a total of twelve (12) selected schools located in Tanjung Manis received financial contribution from STIDC with funds provided by STA Mutual Sdn Bhd.

砂拉越木材工业发展机构(STIDC)于2023年3月11日假丹绒玛尼新镇举办晚宴以纪念2023年丹绒马尼日及其成立50周年。在晚宴上，丹绒马尼所选定的学校代表从STIDC获得由STA Mutual有限公司所提供的资金捐助。

Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) menganjurkan majlis makan malam untuk meraikan Hari Tanjung Manis 2023 bersempena dengan ulang tahun STIDC ke-50 pada 11 Mac 2023 di Bandar Baru Tanjung Manis. Dalam majlis makan malam itu, wakil-wakil daripada sekolah terpilih berpusat di Tanjung Manis menerima sumbangan kewangan daripada STIDC dengan dana yang disediakan oleh STA Mutual Sdn Bhd.

Discussion on Proposed Amendment to Labour Ordinance

A meeting on the proposed inclusion of employees' minimum standards of housing, accommodations and amenities requirements into the Labour Ordinance (Sarawak Cap. 76) was held between the Department of Labour Sarawak (JTK), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and STA on 23 March 2023 at Wisma STA Kuching.

Mr Phang Pin, JTK's Senior Assistant Director informed that JTK is in the process of incorporating relevant provisions from the *Workers' Minimum*

Standards of Housing and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446) and the *Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities (Amendment) Act 2019 (Act A1604)* which are implemented in Peninsular Malaysia and Federal Territory of Labuan into the *Labour Ordinance (Sarawak Cap. 76)*. Once incorporated and enforced, employers and centralised accommodation providers must obtain Certificate for Accommodation from JTK and



comply with the minimum requirements for the provision of water and electricity supply, mattress, bed, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom.

Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA thanked Mr Phang for continuously engaging with the Association and shared the compliance assessment conducted

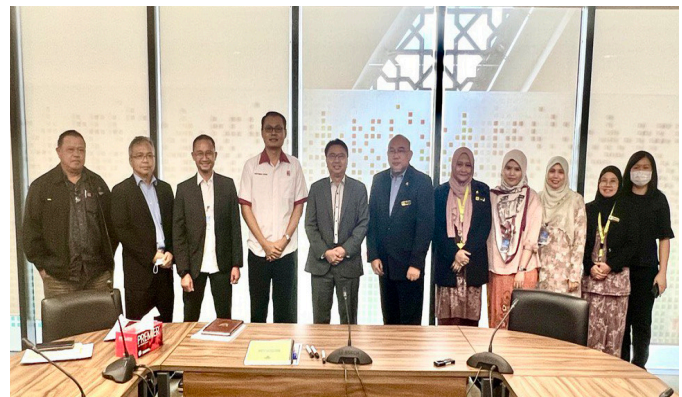
Presentation Session by Fibre and Biocomposite Development Centre (FIDEC-MTIB) on Survey Study of *Acacia mangium* in Sarawak

Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) gathered its officers, representatives from Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation and STA on 23 March 2023 at Wisma Baitul Makmur II, Petra Jaya for a presentation from Fibre and Biocomposite Development Centre (FIDEC) of Malaysian Timber Industry Board on the findings of the survey conducted on *Acacia mangium* plantations and industry in Sarawak.

Datu Hamden Bin Hj Mohammad, the Director of Forests, in his opening remarks, highlighted that the survey aimed to figure out the availability of *Acacia mangium* plantations and bark supply at acceptable quantity for development of tannin extraction plant. He said that the FDS encourages research collaboration on non-timber forest products like

tannin and thanked participating companies and STA for providing full support and assistance to the survey.

Ts. ChM. Dr. Yeoh Beng Hoong, Deputy Director of FIDEC shared findings obtained from the survey made at *Acacia mangium* plantations and mills in Sabah and Sarawak which helped the team of researchers in making recommendations on the bark collection and supply, logistic of material and location suitable for tannin extraction plant. He added that the report from the survey will serve as baseline information for reference of the potential investors in tannin industry. However, further



study is needed to discover the economic viability of this industry in Sarawak.

砂拉越森林局(FDS)于2023年3月23日在博特拉再也Baitul Makmur II大厦举办会议,分享由马来西亚木材工业局纤维和生物复合材料发展中心(FIDEC)对砂拉越马占相思人工林和工业进行调查研究的结果。来自FDS和砂拉越木材工业发展机构的官员以及本会的代表出席该会议。

Jabatan Hutan Sarawak telah menjemput pegawai-pegawainya, wakil-wakil daripada Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak dan STA ke sesi pembentangan kajian tinjauan mengenai ladang dan industri Acacia mangium di Sarawak oleh Pusat Pembangunan Biokomposit dan Gentian (FIDEC), Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia pada 23 Mac 2023 di Wisma Baitul Makmur II, Petra Jaya.



(1) Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (5th from left), Mr Phang Pin, Senior Assistant Director, JTK (5th from right) and Mr Jack Anak Liam, Deputy Director of Forests (4th from right) joined other officers for a photo call after the Meeting; (2) Mr Jack Anak Liam, Deputy Director of Forests (4th from left) sought further clarification from Mr Phang during the Meeting.

on permanent and temporary accommodations in Sarawak’s logging operations based on requirements stipulated in Act 446 and Act A1604 respectively.

To address the challenges faced particularly in obtaining approval from local authorities prior to the issuance of Certificate for Accommodation and provision of minimum

requirements for temporary accommodation, the meeting has agreed to STA’s proposal to engage with the Local Councils while the Labour Ordinance (Sarawak Cap. 76) is undergoing amendments. STA also invited JTK for a ground visit to look at accommodations provided in forestry sector.

砂拉越劳工局(JTK)、砂拉越森林局(FDS)和本会于2023年3月23日在古晋STA大厦举行会议, 讨论将雇员房屋、住宿和设施要求的基本标准纳入砂拉越劳工条例(第76章)的建议。会议提出在签发住宿准证之前获取地方当局批准和提供临时住宿基本要求时所面临的挑战。

Satu mesyuarat berkaitan cadangan memasukkan standard minimum perumahan, penginapan dan keperluan kemudahan pekerja ke dalam Ordinan Buruh (Sarawak Bab 76) telah diadakan di antara Jabatan Tenaga Kerja Sarawak, Jabatan Hutan Sarawak dan STA pada 23 Mac 2023 di Wisma STA Kuching. Dalam mesyuarat tersebut, cabaran dalam mendapatkan kelulusan daripada pihak berkuasa tempatan sebelum pengeluaran Sijil Penginapan dan peruntukan keperluan minimum untuk penginapan sementara telah dibangkitkan.

Nature Fun Ride, Run & Walk

in conjunction with International Day of Forests 2023

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) organised a “Nature Fun Ride, Run & Walk” and a tree planting event in-conjunction with the opening ceremony of the International Day of Forests 2023 celebration on 21 March 2023 at the Sabal Forest Reserve, Simunjan. With the theme “Healthy Forests for Healthy People”, the event aimed to raise awareness on the importance of forests for the good of current and future generations.

Attended by representatives from the State forestry agencies, private sectors, and local communities, the celebration started with a fun ride of cycling, running and walking led by Datu Hamden bin Haji Mohammad, the Director of Forests, FDS. Datu Hamden in his welcoming remarks at the opening ceremony highlighted that 62% of Sarawak’s total land mass is forested and contributes to 44% of Malaysia’s total forest cover. He added that under the Greening Malaysia Campaign 2021-2025, Sarawak has targeted to plant 35 million trees and as at February 2023, 21 million trees have been planted. He also shared that the Auditor General’s Report 2021 Series 2 issued on 6 January 2023 had concluded that forests in Sarawak has been managed in a sustainable way to provide socio-economic benefits and maintain environmental sustainability.



Datu Hamden planting a seedling in conjunction with the International Day of Forests 2023’s celebration.

In the tree planting programme, a total of 2,000 seedlings of indigenous tree species such as kapur, meranti and belian were planted by participants of the event.

配合2023年国际森林日庆祝活动的开幕仪式, 砂森林局(FDS)于2023年3月21日在实文然萨巴尔森林保护区举办“骑行、跑步和步行自然乐趣”以及种树活动, 以提高人们对森林对现代和后代的重要性的意识。

Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) telah menganjurkan “Nature Fun Ride, Run & Walk” dan aktiviti penanaman pokok bersempena dengan majlis perasmian sambutan Hari Hutan Antarabangsa 2023 pada 21 Mac 2023 di Hutan Simpan Sabal, Simunjan untuk meningkatkan kesedaran tentang kepentingan hutan untuk generasi semasa dan akan datang.

International Conference on Timber Certification: *Exploring Future Frontiers*



The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC), in-collaboration with Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI) of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia organised the *International Conference on Timber Certification: Exploring Future Frontiers* from 15 to 16 March 2023 at Sunway Putra Hotel Kuala Lumpur. The hybrid Conference which was also co-organised with the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) and Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) were attended by approximately 350 representatives from various government agencies, private sectors, research and academic institutions as well as non-governmental organisations.

With theme “*Exploring Future Frontiers*”, the Conference aimed to facilitate sharing of experiences gained through the implementation of Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) in Malaysia as well as experiences of other countries in the implementation of forest certification. The 2-day Conference also provided participants with the opportunity to explore ideas to mainstream forest certification and create confidence as well as visibility of sustainable timber products both in the domestic and international markets.

Professor Dr. Ahmad Ismail, a member of MTCC’s Board of Trustees, in his welcoming remarks highlighted that the MTCS which was endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) in 2009 has proven to be robust and reliable in complying with global standards and regulations. He added that the MTCS continues to obtain international acclamation and acceptance as a PEFC-endorsed programme. In order to gauge

the far-reaching impacts of MTCS in Malaysia, a study was initiated by MTCC, MTIB and LESTARI in 2019. Outcomes of the study were shared in the Conference to obtain additional inputs and feedback from various stakeholders.

Dato’ Sri Haji Fadillah Haji Yusof, the Deputy Prime Minister cum the Minister of Plantation and Commodities in his opening remarks reiterated that



Dato’ Sri Haji Fadillah Haji Yusof, the Deputy Prime Minister cum the Minister of Plantation and Commodities

Malaysia is serious in ensuring its forest areas are managed sustainably in line with its commitment to maintain at least 50% of its land area under forest cover, pledged during the Earth Summit in 1992. He also shared that as there is an increasing demand for Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investments worldwide, driven by the global pressure to adapt to a changing climate and the search for

more environmentally-friendly natural resources, forest and timber certification plays a key role in balancing economic development and ecological integrity.

He mentioned that despite the difficulties faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, the timber sector



- (1) Opening remarks by Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah Haji Yusof, the Deputy Prime Minister cum the Minister of Plantation and Commodities;
- (2) Speakers sharing their views during one of the panel sessions.

showed strong rebound in 2022 and contributed RM25.21 billion in export value. Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah commended the successful implementation of MTCS which is in line with the Government's vision and policy for sustainability embedded in the Malaysia Policy on Forestry 2020, the National AgriCommodity Policy 2030 and the National Policy on Biological Diversity 2016-2025.

As at 31 December 2022, a total of 5.81 million hectares of forests in Malaysia, equivalent to 31% of the permanent reserved forests in Malaysia has been certified under the MTCS, consisting 37 forest management units of natural and plantation forests. In addition to that, a total of 362 companies are issued with PEFC Chain of Custody certificates.

Exported to 72 countries, the MTCS certified timber products shows progressive growth with an increase in export volume from 732 m3 in 2002 to 2.97 million m3 in 2022. The certified product category has also expanded from primary processed sawn timber and veneer to a broader range of products such as plywood, mouldings, parquet, doors, wooden

furniture as well as non-traditional forest products such as mosquito coil.

A total of 18 papers were presented by local and international speakers focusing on three (3) themes, namely:-

- Mainstreaming Timber Certification for Sustainable Forest Management, Industry and Trade: Policy Implementation;
- Timber Certification: Case Studies from Around the World; and
- Synergies in Sustainable Forest

Ms Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) delivered a keynote address on sustainable forests and wood products: pathway to 2030. Another keynote speaker, Mr Michael Berger, Chief Executive Officer of PEFC International spoke on the innovations in timber certification for a sustainable future. He shared that PEFC is currently reviewing the cut-off date for forest plantation certification.

马来西亚木材认证委员会(MTCC)与马来西亚国民大学环境与发展研究所 (LESTARI) 合作举办国际木材认证会议:探索未来前沿, 以促进分享通过在马来西亚实施马来西亚木材认证计划(MTCS)获得的经验以及其他国家在实施森林认证方面的经验。会议还分享了一项旨在衡量MTCS在马来西亚的深远影响的研究结果, 以及为木材生产和森林生态系统服务管理永久保留林的举措。

Majlis Pensijilan Kayu Malaysia (MTCC), dengan kerjasama Institut Alam Sekitar dan Pembangunan (LESTARI) Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia telah menganjurkan Persidangan Antarabangsa Pensijilan Kayu: Menerokai Sempadan Masa Depan untuk memudahkan perkongsian pengalaman pelaksanaan Skim Pensijilan Kayu Malaysia (MTCS) di Malaysia serta pelaksanaan pensijilan hutan di negara lain. Hasil kajian pengukuran kesan pelaksanaan MTCS di Malaysia dan inisiatif pengurusan hutan simpan kekal bagi pengeluaran kayu dan perkhidmatan ekosistem hutan turut dikongsikan semasa Persidangan.

Seminar on EUDR & FSC

A half-day seminar on European Union Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Policy to Address Conversion & Remedy Framework was organised by Preferred by Nature (PbN), FSC Malaysia and WWF-Malaysia, supported by STA on 8 March 2023 at Wisma STA Kuching. A total of 40 participants from the Ministry of Natural Resources & Urban Development, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, Malaysian Timber Certification Council, non-governmental organisation and STA members attended the Seminar.

Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA in her welcoming remarks informed that the two (2) topics are relatively new to the timber industry and urged all stakeholders to work together in order to minimise interruptions



to trade. She hoped that challenges and impacts from the implementation of EUDR can be discerned through active participation from all participants of the seminar.

Mr Christian Schriver, Director of Market and Development, Southeast Asia at PbN Malaysia introduced the works carried out by PbN and their certification services for forestry, supply

chain and chain of custody, biomass, agriculture, palm oil as well as verification services for carbon footprint and ecosystem restoration.

Mr David Hadley, Director, Regulatory Impact at PbN presented an overview of EUDR and highlighted that in comparison to the European Union Timber Regulation, EUDR includes wider scope of products, wider legality

Workshop on the Development of Blueprint for Engineered Wood Product Industry in Sarawak

Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) organised a workshop to discuss matters pertaining to the development of a blueprint for the implementation of initiatives and programmes to drive utilisation of engineered wood product (EWP) in Sarawak on 16 March 2023 at Raia Hotel & Convention Centre Kuching.

Professor Dr Zakiah Ahmad, lead consultant from Universiti



One of the focus group in discussion facilitated by Professor Dr Zakiah Ahmad of UiTM Shah Alam.

Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Shah Alam shared that the study will focus on, among many others, source of tropical hardwood and planted timber for the manufacturing of EWP, forms of incentives and encouragement programmes, research and development (R&D), establishment of an integrated testing laboratory for EWP and

promotional programmes for EWP made from planted timber and tropical hardwood from Sarawak.

Through focus group discussion, participants underlined regulatory requirements of the Sarawak Buildings Ordinance, 1994, availability of raw material, R&D capacity and capability as well as availability of expertise and

definition and additional requirements of deforestation and degradation that expanded beyond legality. He further shared the scope and requirements including due diligence requirements imposed on companies exporting to the EU market.

Ms Charmaine Chee, Director at FSC Malaysia also took the opportunity to introduce FSC's new role in the EUDR and briefed on how the new conversion rule and remedy framework create pathways for degraded areas to be responsibly managed.

Preferred by Nature (PbN)、马来西亚森林管理委员会连同马来西亚世界自然基金会在本会的支持下，于2023年3月8日假古晋STA大厦举办有关欧盟无毁林法规 (EUDR) 和FSC 政策以解决转化和补救的框架研讨会。来自 PbN 和 FSC 的讲员概述 EUDR 以及 FSC 的转化政策如何为退化区域的责任管理制造途径。

Seminar Peraturan Bebas Penyahutan Kesatuan Eropah (EUDR) dan Dasar Majlis Pemeliharaan Hutan (FSC) untuk Menangani Penukaran & Rangka Kerja Remedi telah dianjurkan oleh Preferred by Nature (PbN), FSC Malaysia and WWF-Malaysia, disokong oleh STA pada 8 Mac 2023 di Wisma STA Kuching. Penceramah-penceramah daripada PbN dan FSC berkongsi gambaran keseluruhan mengenai EUDR dan bagaimana dasar FSC mengenai penukaran boleh mewujudkan laluan untuk kawasan terdegradasi diuruskan secara bertanggungjawab.

manpower as challenges in developing the blueprint. They also highlighted the importance of introducing encouraging policies, technologies and incentive programmes in order to develop and promote the use of EWP in Sarawak.

Similar workshop will be conducted for relevant government agencies and industry players in Miri, Sibu and Bintulu.

砂拉越木材工业发展机构(STIDC)于2023年3月16日在古晋拉亚会议中心酒店举办研讨会，讨论有关制定实施倡议和计划的蓝图以推动砂拉越工程木制品(EWP)的使用事项。研讨会的参与者强调引入鼓励政策、技术和奖励计划的重要性，以促进在砂拉越使用EWP。

Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) menganjurkan bengkel untuk membincangkan perkara berkaitan pembangunan rangka tindakan pelaksanaan inisiatif dan program untuk memacu penggunaan produk kayu kejuruteraan (EWP) di Sarawak pada 16 Mac 2023 di Hotel Raia & Convention Centre Kuching. Peserta bengkel menggariskan kepentingan memperkenalkan dasar yang menggalakkan, teknologi dan program insentif bagi mempromosi penggunaan EWP di Sarawak.



Photo call after the engagement

Engagement with Chemsain HRD Sdn Bhd

Representatives from STA and Chemsain HRD Sdn Bhd (Chemsain) met on 13 March 2023 at Wisma STA and discussed potential collaboration in forestry training.

Mr Larry Ong, Senior Training and Events Manager from Chemsain introduced their latest training course on Remote Pilot Certificate of Competency which is approved under the Civil Aviation Authority Malaysia and Human Resources Development Corporation. The 5-day training course will provide participants with knowledge on regulatory requirements and operating procedures for safe flying of drones, responsibilities of drone pilot and hands-on training.

Apart from the Remote Pilot Certificate of Competency training course, both organisations also discussed trainings for Occupational Safety and Health Coordinator; and on the Environmental, Social, and Governance compliance.

本会和Chemsain HRD 有限公司(Chemsain)的代表于2023年3月13日在STA大厦会面并讨论林业培训方面的潜在合作。会议也讨论Chemsain目前提供的远程飞行员能力证书培训课程、为职业安全与健康协调员提供的培训以及环境、社会和治理合规性。

Wakil-wakil daripada STA dan Chemsain HRD Sdn Bhd (Chemsain) bertemu pada 13 Mac 2023 di Wisma STA bagi membincangkan potensi kerjasama dalam latihan perhutanan. Antara kursus-kursus latihan yang dibincangkan dan ditawarkan oleh Chemsain adalah Sijil Kompetensi Jurutera Kawalan Jauh; Penyelaras Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan; dan pematuhan Alam Sekitar, Sosial dan Tadbir Urus.

Focus Group Discussion on National Biomass Action Plan Development Study

The Ministry of Plantation and Commodities (MPC) is mandated to develop a National Biomass Action Plan as a comprehensive framework to guide the development of a biomass industry that will contribute towards regenerating economic growth, in line with the targets outlined in the Twelfth Malaysia Plan.

A series of focus group discussions has been carried out across Malaysia by the appointed consultant, Uni-Link Smart Venture Sdn Bhd with the objective to discuss emerging issues, views, suggestions and ideas among stakeholders from five (5) key sectors namely plantation, agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry.

On 17 March 2023, stakeholders in Sarawak took part in the discussion held at Grand Margherita Hotel, Kuching where Dato' Leong Kin Mun, Director of Uni-Link Smart Venture Sdn Bhd informed that the National Biomass Action Plan aimed to support the establishment of sustainable circular economy model within each of the key sectors. The systematic use and processing of biomass into high-value added products particularly in the production of wood pellet was widely discussed in the session due to the huge global demand for wood pellets as alternative to replace fossil fuels.

Datu Haji Hashim Haji Bojet, General Manager of Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) shared some of the initiatives carried out by STIDC particularly in research and development (R&D) of value-added products. He added that the potential of biomass industry in Sarawak is enormous and all stakeholders need to step up efforts to encourage more utilisation of waste to generate revenue for Sarawak. Among some of the way forward suggested were policies to facilitate the use of untapped resources in the natural forest, planted forest, bamboos, etc; green incentives for circular economy to promote investment and technology development; and financial assistance, grant or tax incentives to conduct R&D.



(1) Discussion in session; (2) Group photo

While some industry stakeholders fear that the growth of the industry and advancement of technology may be retarded if the industry is regulated, Datu Hashim reminded that regulation is intended to facilitate and drive coordination across the sector and ensure that biomass can be economically used to promote circular economy.

马来西亚种植与原产业部(MPC)委任的顾问, Uni-Link Smart Venture有限公司已在马来西亚进行一系列的焦点小组讨论, 以制定国家生物质能行动计划。

2023年3月17日, 砂拉越的利益相关者参加在古晋玛格丽特酒店举行的研讨会, 讨论将生物质加工成高附加值产品, 特别是在木屑颗粒生产, 以及砂拉越生物质产业的潜力。

Satu siri perbincangan kumpulan fokus telah diadakan di seluruh Malaysia oleh Uni-Link Smart Venture Sdn Bhd, perunding yang dilantik oleh Kementerian Perladangan dan Komoditi (MPC) untuk membangunkan Pelan Tindakan Biojisim Kebangsaan. Pada 17 Mac 2023, pihak berkepentingan di Sarawak telah mengambil bahagian dalam perbincangan yang diadakan di Hotel Grand Margherita, Kuching di mana pemprosesan biojisim menjadi produk bernilai tambah tinggi khususnya dalam pengeluaran pelet kayu dan potensi industri biojisim di Sarawak telah dibincangkan.

State Sales Tax on the Sale of Selected Timber Products Outside Sarawak

On 21 March 2023, STA members were notified by the Sarawak State Treasury Department (STD) on the Sarawak Government's decision to impose State Sales Tax (SST) on the sales of selected timber products outside Sarawak with effect from 1 April 2023.

An engagement session to brief the timber industry based in Kuching on the implementation of the SST was organised by the Sarawak STD on 27 March 2023 at Dewan Seminar, STIDC Wisma Sumber Alam. Similar engagement sessions were also held in Bintulu and Sibu on 29 March 2023 and 31 March 2023 respectively.

During the engagement session on 27 March, Mdm Tessy Nimos, Head of Forest Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development shared that the Sarawak Government has approved the SST in October 2021. Following that, on 9 March 2023, the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri gazetted the State Sales Tax (Taxable Goods and Rate of Tax) (Amendment) Order, 2023.

In the presentation by Mdm Rabiah binti Zaidan of STD, she informed that the SST on selected timber products is imposed pursuant to State Sales Tax (SST) Ordinance 1998 (Cap 25), SST Regulations 1998 and SST (Taxable Goods and Rate of Tax) (Amendment) Order, 2023.

Description	Tax Rate (%)	Customs HSCode
Sawn Timber	2.5	4407
Veneer	2.5	4408
Woodchips	2.5	4401
Fibreboard	1.5	4411
Particle board	1.5	4410
Plywood	1.0	4412

Selected timber products on which SST is imposed on.

She added that in accordance with Section 15(d) of the Ordinance and Regulation 19H of the SST Regulation, the sale value of the taxable goods shall be the price of the taxable goods as stated in the contract or invoice for the sale thereof or as determined in accordance with regulations made under Section 62 of the Ordinance.

Mdm Rabiah also informed that under Section 10(1) of the Ordinance, any person who sells and supplies the selected timber products to any person outside Sarawak is liable to register as a taxable person with the Comptroller. She also demonstrated the procedures involved in SST, covering registration, submission of return, assessment, payment and inspection.

Representatives from the timber industry were only informed on the implementation of SST ten (10) days prior to its implementation even though it was approved in

October 2021. Being caught off guard at the short period given by the Government to comply with SST, they were unable to incorporate SST into the prices as the sales agreement were finalised at least one month before delivery. They also requested for a comprehensive guidelines to be drawn up to accompany the implementation of SST.

Subsequent to the engagement session, STA wrote to the Comptroller of Sarawak STD to appeal for grace period and phased approach on the implementation of SST.

砂拉越财政部于2023年3月27日在天然资源大厦砂拉越木材工业发展机构礼堂举办对话会,向古晋区的木材业者讲解对特定木材产品出口实施征收州销售税(SST)的课题。木材业代表在对话会上表示,该行业在2021年10月SST获得批准后并没有被咨询,因此要求州政府制定指导方针以配合SST的实施。对话会后,本会呈交信函给砂拉越财政部,呼吁给予宽限期和分阶段实施SST。

Satu sesi penglibatan untuk memberi taklimat kepada industri perkayuan di Kuching mengenai pelaksanaan Cukai Jualan Negeri bagi eksport produk kayu terpilih telah dianjurkan oleh Jabatan Perbendaharaan Negeri Sarawak pada 27 Mac 2023 di Dewan Seminar STIDC Kuching.

Dalam sesi tersebut, wakil-wakil daripada industri perkayuan yang tidak diberi maklum selepas SST diluluskan pada Oktober 2021, memohon agar garis panduan dirangka bagi mengiringi pelaksanaan SST. Selepas sesi penglibatan tersebut, STA turut mengemukakan rayuan secara bertulis kepada Jabatan Perbendaharaan Negeri Sarawak agar tempoh tangguh dan pendekatan berperingkat diterima pakai bagi pelaksanaan SST.

Webinar on Fostering Confidence in the Voluntary Carbon Market in 2023

Bursa Carbon Exchange featured Mr Ronan Carr, Chief Research Officer at BeZero Carbon in its “Fostering Confidence in the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) in 2023” webinar on 23 March 2023.

Mr Ronan delved into the current state of VCM and highlighted that ratings can help foster confidence in the market that is taking shape and surrounded by a number of issues that underpin concerns around integrity.

He shared that BeZero Carbon is a global ratings agency for the VCM and the BeZero Carbon Rating (BCR) of voluntary carbon credits representing BeZero Carbon’s current opinion on the likelihood that a given credit achieves a tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) avoided or removed. The rating, which ranges from AAA to D with the former being the highest likelihood of achieving 1 tonne of CO₂e avoidance or removal, follows a robust analytical framework involving detailed assessment of six (6) critical risk factors affecting the quality of credits issued by the project, namely additionality, over-crediting, non-performance, leakage, policy and perverse incentives.

He pointed out that although different markets have different definition of quality and other stakeholders may take a broader view of quality, efficacy should be a key component of quality and in assigning price for the ratings. He added that although the correlation between price and ratings has not been firmly established, there is a promising relationship between the two variables and as the market becomes more efficient and BCR becomes more embedded in the market, prices are expected to increase for high rating projects.

碳交易所于2023年3月23日举办“在 2023年增强对自愿碳交易市场(VCM)的信心”线上研讨会, 为所有利益相关者提供了解VCM和当前状态以及评级等市场工具如何帮助解决需求和供应方面的问题的平台。

Bursa Pertukaran Karbon menganjurkan webinar “Memupuk Keyakinan dalam Pasaran Karbon Sukarela (VCM) 2023” pada 23 Mac 2023 sebagai platform bagi semua pihak berkepentingan untuk mengetahui dengan lebih lanjut tentang VCM dan bagaimana instrumen pasaran seperti penilaian boleh membantu menangani kebimbangan dalam bahagian permintaan dan penawaran.

Meetings of the SAMUDAH Technical Working Groups

In the Sarawak Special Task Force to Facilitate Business (SAMUDAH) meeting on 13 January 2023, the meeting resolved to set up seven (7) Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to discuss issues and proposals raised by the industries through business chambers and associations and if necessary, revert back to SAMUDAH for information or suggestion. The 7 TWGs are:

- 1 Service Delivery of Public & Private Sectors
- 2 Investment & Trade
- 3 Property & Land Matters
- 4 Infrastructure
- 5 Utility & Telecommunication
- 6 Human Capital
- 7 Data



Meeting of the TWG on Investment & Trade

Meeting of the TWG on Investment & Trade

The Ministry of International Trade, Industry and Investment Sarawak (MINTRED) as lead agency for the TWG on Investment and Trade called its first meeting on 20 March 2023, which was chaired by Mr Dzulkornain bin Masron, MINTRED’s Acting Permanent Secretary. Several investment and trade related issues faced by the industries were discussed and it was agreed that another smaller group be formed to amicably resolve the specific issues. Mr Dzulkornain also

introduced *InvestSARAWAK*, a one-stop agency to sustain and rejuvenate Sarawak's economy through the promotion of foreign and domestic investments.



Meeting of the TWG on Service Delivery, Public & Private Sectors.

Meeting of the TWG on Service Delivery, Public and Private Sectors

Mr Superi bin Awang Said, Director of Sarawak Transformation and Innovation Unit of the Office of Premier of Sarawak chaired the TWG on Service Delivery, Public and Private Sectors on 21 March 2023 at Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak. A number of issues were deliberated on and the TWG proposed to revisit and streamline some relevant agencies' current procedures and key performance indicators. Mr Superi assured business chambers and associations that the Government is willing to assist the private sector and urged all parties to work closely to overcome issues, for the benefit of State economy.

砂拉越商业促进特别工作组(SAMUDAH)所成立的七个技术工作组(TWGs)中的两个组分别于2023年3月20日和21日举行会议，讨论业者商会和通过公会所提出的相关课题。

2 daripada 7 Kumpulan Kerja Teknikal (TWGs) yang ditubuhkan di bawah Pasukan Petugas Khas Pemudahcara Perniagaan Peringkat Negeri Sarawak (SAMUDAH) masing-masing bermesyuarat pada 20 dan 21 Mac 2023 untuk membincangkan isu-isu berkaitan yang dibangkitkan oleh industri melalui dewan perniagaan dan persatuan.



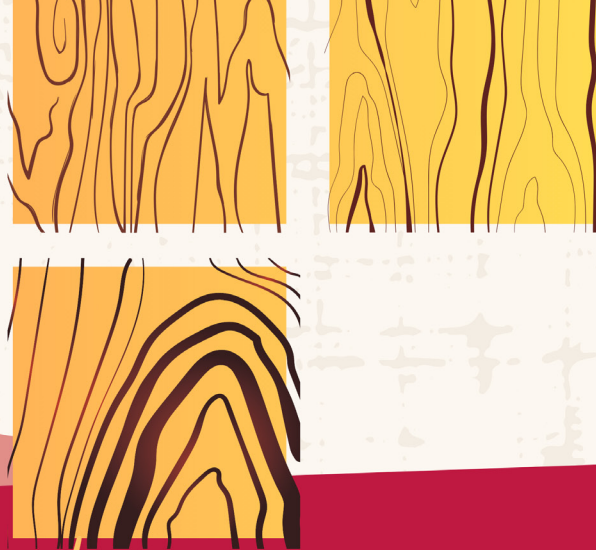
Wishing all Members & Readers

SELAMAT
HARI
Aidilfitri
RAYA
MAAF ZAHIR & BATIN

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

Pengerusi, Ahli-Ahli Majlis,
Pihak Pengurusan dan Kakitangan STA serta
Lembaga Pengarah, Pihak Pengurusan dan
Kakitangan STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd,
STA Mutual Sdn Bhd dan STA Training Sdn Bhd
ingin mengucapkan Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri
kepada semua ahli STA dan para pembaca

本会主席,理事会,管理委员会,秘书处,
STA Enterprises有限公司, STA Mutual 有限公司及
STA Training 有限公司全体职员在此祝愿穆斯林会员
和读者开斋节快乐。



March

OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAMME

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

STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), a subsidiary company of STA, offers training to workmen in the forestry and timber industry. Presently, there are twelve (12) skills sets offered by STAT. These skills set are claimable under the HRD Corp Claimable Course Scheme by registered employers from the Human Resource Development levy contributions.

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



Mechanical Site Preparation - Excavator (Forest Plantation) & Log and Timber Identification

- Date : 28 March - 2 April 2023
- Location : Penuan Lebuwai FMU, Putai
- STAT Trainer : Mr Ngumbang Bayang &
Mr Sumbang Rani
- Company : Mantan 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*.