

# STA Review

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for COVID-19



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for Sarawak



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Safeguarding Wisma STA  
from COVID-19

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## COVER IMAGE

*Wind Cave, Kuching, Sarawak;  
Photo credit Mr Liew Ted Ghee*

# STA REVIEW

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

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# Donation of Test Kits for COVID-19

A total of 10,000 pieces of test kits for COVID-19 were donated to the State Disaster Management Committee (SDMC) by Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and STA on 29 May 2020 at a presentation ceremony held at the old Sarawak State Legislative Assembly Building (old DUN), Kuching.

At the presentation ceremony, Datuk Haji Mohd Naroden Bin Haji Majais, Assistant Minister of International Trade and Industry, Industry Terminal and Entrepreneur Development, who is also a member of the STIDC Board of Management, handed the donation over to the Deputy Chief Minister, Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Anak Embas, who is also the Chairman of SDMC.

砂木材工业发展机构 (STIDC) 和本会于2020年5月29日在古晋砂州旧立法议会大楼举行的移交仪式上向砂灾难管理委员会 (SDMC) 捐赠了共1万个新冠肺炎检测试剂盒。

在仪式上, 砂国际贸易、工业、工业管道及企业家发展部助理部长兼 STIDC 管理董事会一员拿督哈芝莫哈末纳鲁丁将捐赠品移交给砂州副首长兼 SDMC 主席拿督阿玛道格拉斯。



From left: Professor Dato Sri Dr Sim Kui Hian, Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Anak Embas, Datuk Haji Mohd Naroden Bin Haji Majais, Tuan Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, Ms Annie Ting and Mdm Dayang Nena Binti Abang Bruce

Also present were Professor Dato Sri Dr Sim Kui Hian, Minister for Local Government and Housing Sarawak; Dr Chin Zin Hing, Director of Sarawak State Health Department; Tuan Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, General Manager of STIDC; Mdm Dayang Nena Binti Abang Bruce, Deputy General Manager of STIDC; and Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA.

Both STIDC and STA hoped that the donation of test kits together with the personal protective equipments (PPEs) contributed in April 2020 will help to support the current healthcare needs in Sarawak, protect our frontliners and flatten the curve of COVID-19.



Laboratories of Sarawak General Hospital (SGH), Kuching, receiving the test kits (Image courtesy of SGH)

Sejumlah 10,000 kit ujian COVID-19 telah didermakan kepada Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Negeri (SDMC) oleh Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) dan STA pada 29 Mei 2020 pada majlis penyerahan yang diadakan di Bangunan Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak lama (DUN lama), Kuching.

Semasa majlis penyerahan, Datuk Haji Mohd Naroden Bin Haji Majais, Menteri Muda Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri, Terminal Perindustrian dan Pembangunan Usahawan yang juga merupakan ahli Lembaga Pengurusan STIDC, menyerahkan sumbangan kepada Timbalan Ketua Menteri, Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Anak Embas, merangkap Pengerusi SDMC.

# Meeting on Malaysia Country Specific Guideline for Sarawak

A meeting was called by Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, Director of Forests Sarawak, on 22 May 2020 at his office in Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. The objective of meeting was to update and revise the Malaysia Country Specific Guideline (MCSG) for Sarawak. The MCSG is intended to assist importers in Australia to understand the regulatory framework in Malaysia when importing regulated timber products and for them to carry out due diligence obligations under the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012*.

The meeting was attended by officers from Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd and STA. The meeting incorporated changes to the document taking into consideration the restructuring of FDS and SFC which took effect on 2 January 2020 as well as the electronic endorsement of the Export License on the back of the Customs Export Declaration Form (K2) by STIDC with the STIDC approving officer's QR Code and electronic STIDC stamp as key identification features.



Meeting in progress

森林局局长拿督翰登于2020年5月22日在其古晋天然资源大厦办公处召开会议。该会议目的是要更进及修改砂拉越的马来西亚国家特定指南（MCSG）。

Satu mesyuarat telah diadakan oleh Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, Pengarah Hutan Sarawak, pada 22 Mei 2020 di pejabatnya di Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. Mesyuarat bertujuan untuk mengemas kini dan menyemak semula Garis Panduan Spesifik Negara Malaysia (MCSG) untuk Sarawak.

## Improving Communication with Members through Email

STA remains committed in working together with the relevant ministries and agencies to ensure that our members are kept well-informed during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the implementation of the Movement Control Order (MCO) and subsequently the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) being enforced, STA believes that timely dissemination of information to all of our members has become even more critical in this time of crisis and uncertainty.

In response to the current communication need, STA has improved its official communication channel for the members to include notification via electronic mail (email). This will allow the members to timely receive important information anytime and anywhere without the constraint of location. Additionally, members will continue to receive all correspondences as well as latest development on membership news and governmental policies and directives via the existing facsimile method.

As this situation evolves, STA will continue to do its utmost best to adjust approaches, where necessary, to provide the required support and updates to all its members. Members can update their email addresses by contacting Ms Miriam Hong, Assistant Manager, at 082-332 222 or email [sta@sta.org.my](mailto:sta@sta.org.my).

随着行动管制令（MCO）以及随后的有条件行动管制令（CMCO）的执行，本会相信在当前危机和不确定性的时刻，及时向本会会员传达信息变得更加重要。为了应对当前的通讯需求，本会改进了其官方通讯管道，使会员可以通过电子邮件接收通知。

Dengan pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (MCO) dan seterusnya penguatkuasaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (CMCO), STA percaya penyebaran maklumat terkini kepada ahli-ahlinya menjadi lebih kritikal ketika krisis dan ketidakpastian ini. Sebagai tindak balas kepada keperluan komunikasi semasa, STA telah meningkatkan saluran komunikasi rasminya untuk ahli-ahlinya merangkumi notifikasi melalui surat elektronik (e-mel).

# CMCO: Restarting the Country's Economy

On 1 May 2020, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, announced the implementation of Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) in the country. The CMCO, which came into effect on 4 May 2020, aims to ease the MCO imposed since 18 March 2020 and to restart Malaysia's economy in a controlled manner.

The implementation of CMCO has essentially allowed all economic activities, excluding those listed under the "*List of Prohibited Activities*", to reopen and operate subject to stringent enforcement and adherence of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) as specified by the National Security Council (NSC). Any form of mass gathering remains prohibited under the CMCO.

The Sarawak Government has also complied to the implementation of CMCO on 12 May 2020, and STA is glad to note that the Sarawak Government is putting in efforts to ensure that the activities no longer prohibited under the CMCO are engaged in a manner appropriate to the conditions in the State and benefitting the people of Sarawak. These efforts included refining the SOPs to cater for various economic activities specific to the State as well as having sufficient resources to manage the operational aspects of the SOPs.

Apart from this, the Sarawak Government has set up the Sarawak Economic Action Council (SEAC) to address impacts of the COVID-19 and study key sectors which will drive the economy of Sarawak for its post COVID-19

exit strategy up until year 2030. A total of ten (10) key sectors have been identified for the study comprising (1) Commercial Agriculture; (2) Data Centre & Innovations; (3) Education & Human Capital Developments; (4) Forestry; (5) Infrastructure; (6) Manufacturing & Entrepreneurship; (7) Mining; (8) Renewable Energy; (9) Services; and (10) Tourism. From these 10 key sectors, four (4) clusters were created with each cluster managed by a Working Committee and supported by several Working Teams.

On 27 May 2020, the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources (MUDeNR), who is leading the Forestry Working Team (FWT) for the Resources and Industrial Development Cluster, organised its first virtual meeting attended by FWT members from relevant departments, agencies, academicians and STA. During the online meeting, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Malaysia, the appointed consultant for the study, revealed key aspirations for the forestry and timber industry to be discussed and analysed by the FWT members in the areas of sustainable forest management, biodiversity as well as sustainable growth of the timber industry.

STA will continue to maintain close collaboration with ministries, agencies, and public and private organisations during this tough juncture as well as provide inputs and recommendations in contributing to the formulation of appropriate initiatives for the industry to recover from the adverse effects of COVID-19.

Pada 1 Mei 2020, Perdana Menteri Malaysia, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin telah mengumumkan pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (CMCO) di dalam negara. CMCO yang berkuatkuasa pada 4 Mei 2020 bertujuan untuk melonggarkan MCO yang telah dikenakan sejak 18 Mac 2020 dan membuka semula ekonomi Malaysia secara terkawal.

Pelaksanaan CMCO pada dasarnya telah membenarkan semua aktiviti ekonomi kecuali yang disenaraikan di bawah "Senarai Aktiviti yang Dilarang", untuk dibuka semula dan operasi tertakluk kepada penguatkuasaan yang ketat serta pematuhan kepada prosedur operasi standard (SOPs) yang ditetapkan oleh Majlis Keselamatan Negara (NSC). Apa-apa bentuk perhimpunan besar-besaran kekal terlarang dibawah CMCO.

Kerajaan Sarawak turut mematuhi pelaksanaan CMCO pada 12 May 2020 dan STA berasa bangga dengan Kerajaan Sarawak yang berusaha untuk memastikan aktiviti-aktiviti tidak terlarang di bawah CMCO dapat beroperasi, bersesuaian dengan situasi Negeri dan memanfaatkan rakyat Sarawak. Usaha-usaha tersebut termasuk memperhalusi SOPs untuk memenuhi keperluan pelbagai aktiviti ekonomi di Sarawak serta mempunyai sumber yang mencukupi dalam pengurusan aspek operasi SOPs.

马来西亚首相丹斯里慕尤丁于2020年5月1日宣布全国实施有条件管制令 (CMCO)。CMCO 于2020年5月4日生效，旨在放宽自2020年3月18日所实施的MCO，以管制行动重启马来西亚的经济。CMCO 的实施实质上允许所有经济活动，不包括列在“禁止的活动清单”，在严格执行和遵守国家安全委员会 (NSC) 规定的标准操作程序 (SOPs) 的情况下得以重新开放和操作。CMCO 禁止任何形式的群众集会。

砂政府也遵守2020年5月12日实施 CMCO 的规定。STA 非常欣慰砂政府正努力确保不再受 CMCO 禁止的活动以适合砂州条件并惠及砂拉越人民的方式进行。这些努力包括完善 SOPs，以适应砂州特定的各种经济活动以及有足够的资源来管理 SOPs 的运营。

# ITTO Survey: Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Tropical Timber Producers

The International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) on 8 May 2020 has made available on its website the results of a survey carried out by ITTO in April 2020 to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the timber sector in nine (9) tropical countries. These countries, which have a combined contribution of more than 50% to the global exports of primary tropical timber products, include Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Peru, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Various questions were posed in the survey relating to mills operation, production volume, workforce management, logistics and governmental support. According to ITTO, the survey findings indicated that the measures taken to stop the COVID-19 spread are having substantial impacts on the tropical timber sector in the 9 tropical countries such as rise in workforce retrenchment and falling market demand. The recovery of tropical timber demand post-pandemic is also a common concern among the tropical timber producers.

As for Sarawak, the survey revealed that mills are allowed to operate with minimal workforce and stringent conditions under the Movement Control Order (MCO) starting from 18 March 2020. The survey also found that the enforcement of MCO has caused interruption on ground operation and delays in document approvals. Companies are also experiencing delays in logistics due to MCO in Malaysia

and lockdowns in other consumer countries. Both Federal and State Governments have announced assistances such as wage subsidy programme, discounts on utility bills, annual assessment fee and land rent, moratorium on loan repayments and loan restructuring facilities, etc.

STA participated in the survey based on the feedback and comments from its members. More information about the survey results can be found on the ITTO website [www.itto.int/news/2020/05/08/survey\\_shines\\_light\\_on\\_covid\\_19\\_impacts\\_on\\_tropical\\_timber\\_sector/](http://www.itto.int/news/2020/05/08/survey_shines_light_on_covid_19_impacts_on_tropical_timber_sector/).

国际热带木材组织 (ITTO) 于2020年5月8日在其网页公布由 ITTO 在2020年4月进行的一项新冠肺炎 (COVID-19)对9个热带国家木材业的影响的调查结果。

调查中提出了与工厂运营, 产量, 劳资管理, 物流和政府支持相关的各种问题。根据 ITTO 的调查结果显示防止 COVID-19 传播的措施对9个热带国家的热带木材业产生了重大影响, 例如裁员增加和市场需求下降。大流行病后热带木材需求的复苏也是热带木材生产者普遍关注的问题。

砂拉越木材公会根据其会员的反馈和意见参与了这项调查。

Pertubuhan Kayu Tropika Antarabangsa (ITTO) pada 8 Mei 2020 telah memaparkan di laman sesawangnya tentang hasil kaji selidik yang dijalankan oleh ITTO pada April 2020 untuk menilai impak COVID-19 ke atas sektor perikanan di 9 buah negara tropikal.

Kaji selidik mengemukakan pelbagai soalan berkaitan dengan operasi kilang, jumlah pengeluaran, pengurusan tenaga kerja, logistik dan sokongan kerajaan. Menurut ITTO, hasil kaji selidik menunjukkan langkah-langkah yang diambil untuk menyekat penularan COVID-19 telah memberi impak besar ke atas sektor perikanan tropikal di 9 negara tropikal tersebut seperti peningkatan pemberhentian tenaga kerja dan kemerosotan permintaan pasaran. Pemulihan permintaan kayu tropikal selepas pandemik turut menjadi kerisauan lazim dalam kalangan Negara pengeluar kayu tropikal.

STA juga telah mengambil bahagian dalam kaji selidik berdasarkan maklum balas dan komen yang diperolehi daripada ahli-ahlinya.

## Upcoming Event: COVID-19 Forestry Webinar Week

Organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, the COVID-19 Forestry Webinar Week will run from 22 to 25 June 2020, 12pm to 3pm Central European Time (CET) or 6pm to 9pm Malaysia Time (MYT) each day. During the week, a series of virtual sessions will be held with the aim to assess impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on people and forests as well as identify and discuss ways to help countries recover from the pandemic.

More information on the event can be found on the FAO website [www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofo/covid-19-forestry-webinar-week](http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofo/covid-19-forestry-webinar-week).

# Safeguarding Wisma STA from COVID-19

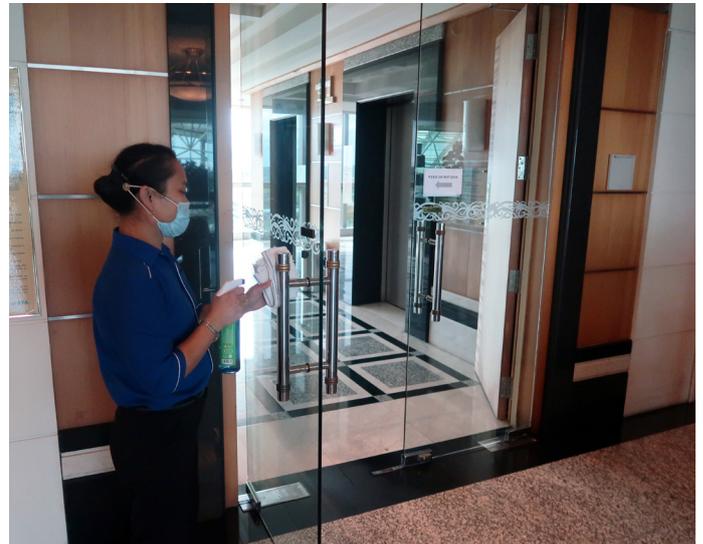
The health and safety of the tenants and visitors of Wisma STA remain a top priority for STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd (STAE), a subsidiary company of STA, which is managing the building. In an effort to mitigate the exposure risks of COVID-19 within the building, STAE has prepared and implemented numerous precautionary measures in accordance to the advice of the relevant authorities and health organisations which include:

- Obligatory body temperature screening for individuals arriving at Wisma STA.
- Visitor registration for COVID-19 contact tracing purposes.
- Installation of hand sanitiser dispensers in prominent places around the building.
- Placement of floor stickers to demarcate social distancing spaces.
- Thorough cleaning and disinfection of common areas and shared facilities in the building such as lifts, toilets and lobby on a regular basis.
- Displaying of posters and videos at common areas to provide information about COVID-19 as well as advices on social distancing and good workplace and personal hygiene.
- Provision of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be observed in the building as announced by the National Security Council.
- Postponement or cancellation of mass gathering events.

Equally, in order to shoulder the challenges with the tenants of Wisma STA during this COVID-19 crisis, STAE has also provided relevant rental reductions to eligible tenants for a fixed period of time. With the spirit of shared resilience and responsibility, STAE believes that the adverse impacts of COVID-19 will eventually be quelled.



*Compulsory body temperature screening*



*Cleaning and disinfection of facilities*

负责管理 STA 大厦的本会子公司，STA Enterprises 有限公司 (STAE) 以此大厦的租户和访客健康和安​​全为优先考量。为避在大厦内曝露 COVID-19 的风险，STAE 根据有关当局和卫生组织的建议，已经准备并实施多项预防措施。

Keselamatan dan kesihatan para penghuni dan pelawat Wisma STA kekal menjadi keutamaan bagi STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd (STAE), anak syarikat STA, yang menguruskan bangunan. Dalam usaha untuk mengurangkan risiko pendedahan COVID-19 di dalam bangunan, STAE telah menyediakan dan melaksanakan pelbagai langkah pencegahan berdasarkan nasihat pihak berkuasa dan organisasi kesihatan yang berkaitan.

## Levy Payments for Foreign Workers at Immigration Department of Malaysia

The Immigration Department of Malaysia (Department) announced in May 2020 that, effective 1 June 2020, the Department will only be receiving all levy payments for foreign workers via credit/debit card, while cash or bank draft will no longer be accepted. STA applauds the move by the Department on implementing the e-cashless payment system which is in line with the Government's digitalisation aspiration.

Nevertheless, STA members have provided feedback that the levy payments for foreign workers usually may involve a substantial amount of money up to millions of ringgit. With such short notice period, it is extremely difficult to increase the transaction limits of the cards and even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic which sees constraints being placed on all activities including operating hours of businesses.

In consideration of the Government's digitalisation initiative, STA proposed to the Department to provide online banking facility, which incorporates security features such as payment approval by one or more authorisers, as an alternative mode for paying the levies.

马来西亚移民局 (Department) 于2020年5月宣布自2020年6月1日起, Department 将仅通过信用卡/借记卡收取对外籍工人的所有征费, 并不再接受现金或银行汇票。

Jabatan Imigresen Malaysia (Jabatan) mengumumkan pada Mei 2020 bahawa, berkuatkuasa pada 1 Jun 2020, Jabatan hanya akan menerima semua pembayaran levi untuk pekerja asing melalui kad kredit/debit, manakala wang tunai atau draf bank tidak lagi diterima.

*Wishing all Members and Readers*

*Selamat Hari Gawai, Gayu Guru Gerai Nyamai,  
Lantang Senang Nguan Menoa*

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

Pengerusi, Ahli-ahli Majlis, pihak Pengurusan dan kakitangan STA,  
STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd dan STA Training Sdn Bhd  
ingin mengucapkan  
Selamat Hari Gawai, Gayu Guru Gerai Nyamai, Lantang Senang Nguan Menoa  
kepada semua ahli-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  
全体职员在此祝愿所有达雅会员和读者丰收节愉快



*Wishing all Members and Readers*

## *Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri*

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

Pengerusi, Ahli-ahli Majlis, pihak Pengurusan dan kakitangan STA,  
STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd dan STA Training Sdn Bhd  
ingin mengucapkan  
Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri  
kepada semua ahli-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  
全体职员在此祝愿所有穆斯林会员和读者开斋节快乐

