

STA REVIEW

Monthly Magazine of Sarawak Timber Association



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23rd Tri-Nation Joint Meeting

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On the Cover



Datuk Larry Sng, Chairman of MTIB (6th from left) posed for photo with Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (5th from left) and STA Secretariat.

Meeting with Chairman of MTIB

On 6 September 2023, Ms. Annie Ting, CEO of STA and STA Secretariat welcomed Datuk Larry Sng, Chairman of the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) to its office in Wisma STA, Kuching. Ms. Ting provided him with a comprehensive office tour and briefed him on STA's multifaceted roles and activities, highlighting their support for sustainable forest management, forestry training and research collaborations in R&D for forest plantation.

During the visit, Ms Ting also presented an overview of Sarawak's legality framework, shared statistics on Sarawak's logs and timber products. She also shared the challenges faced by the timber industry and expressed her hope to strengthen the relationship and communication with forestry agencies across Malaysia, including MTIB.



本会首席执行官陈燕贞小姐及秘书处欢迎马来西亚木材工业局主席拿督孙伟瑄于2023年9月6日拜访本会。拜访期间，拿督参观本会及从陈燕贞小姐讲解中了解到本会的角色，包括支持可持续森林管理和研究合作，以及加强与马来西亚林业机构合作的愿望。

Pada 6 September 2023, Cik Annie Ting, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif STA dan Sekretariat STA mengalu-alukan kunjungan Datuk Larry Sng, Pengerusi Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia ke pejabatnya di Wisma STA, Kuching. Cik Ting membawa Datuk Larry melawat sekitar pejabat dan berkongsi peranan STA, termasuk aktiviti sokongannya dalam pengurusan hutan mampan dan kerjasama penyelidikan serta menyatakan hasrat untuk meningkatkan kerjasama dengan agensi-agensy perhutanan di Malaysia.

Courtesy Call by Bursa Carbon Exchange



Group photo taken with Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA (4th from left) and Mr Hiro Chai (3rd from right).

Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA warmly welcomed Mr Hiro Chai, Head of Business Development & Sales at Bursa Carbon Exchange (BCX), along with Ms Pek Ee Siew, Vice President of Marketing & Product Development and Mr Muhamad Aizuddin Ridzuan, Manager of Market Operations, to Wisma STA on 4 September 2023.

During the courtesy call, BCX took the opportunity to share that the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change had been mandated with implementing a voluntary carbon market (VCM) exchange by the end of 2022. The VCM is a significant initiative aimed at addressing the urgent climate change agenda. Consequently, the government will be able to implement a domestic Emission Trading System (ETS) and carbon tax. BCX provided a comprehensive overview of the VCM's key features, emphasising technology-based and nature-based carbon crediting project activities, as well as the mechanisms for pricing carbon.

It was noted that the successful scaling of the VCM would require a robust local ecosystem, which in turn necessitates commitment and collaboration from various stakeholders.

本会首席执行官陈燕贞小姐于2023年9月4日接待了来自碳信用交易所(BCX)的希罗蔡先生(译音)及其团队的礼节性拜访。BCX 知会本会相关即将实施的自愿碳市场(VCM)交易，以作为应对气候变化和引入国内排放交易体系和碳税的一项关键举措。

Pada 4 September 2023, Cik Annie Ting, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif STA telah menerima kunjungan hormat daripada Encik Hiro Chai dan deligasinya dari Bursa Carbon Exchange (BCX). BCX memaklumkan kepada STA tentang pelaksanaan pertukaran pasaran karbon sukarela (VCM) sebagai inisiatif utama dalam menangani perubahan iklim dan membolehkan pengenalan Sistem Perdagangan Pelepasan domestik dan cukai karbon.

Dialogue Session with Deputy Minister of Finance II

The Economic Planning Unit Sarawak and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) organised a Dialogue Session with Deputy Minister of Finance II, Mr Steven Sim Chee Keong at the Imperial Hotel, Kuching on 15 September 2023. The Dialogue was part of the nationwide Budget 2024 tour that took place from 21 August 2023 to 22 September 2023, to gather feedback and recommendations from various stakeholders in the preparation of Budget 2024 which is scheduled for presentation on 13 October 2023.

In his speech, Mr Sim underscored the Government's determination to restructure the economy, with the overarching goal of bolstering



Mr Steven Sim, Deputy Minister of Finance delivering his speech at the Dialogue Session

businesses throughout Malaysia, enabling them to compete effectively on both the global and Asian fronts, particularly in high value sectors such as green economy, digital economy and high technology economy.

He lauded Sarawak for leading the way in the green energy and green

economy sector. The initiation of green projects such as green hydrogen hub project and carbon capture, utilisation and storage projects marked Sarawak's first steps into the 21st century economy.

Throughout the Dialogue, representatives from industry players, associations, non-governmental



Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA (left) handing over a letter to Mr Steven Sim, Deputy Minister of Finance II (right).

organisations, local communities and state assemblymen put forward numerous proposals which included increased allocation to improve infrastructure in Sarawak, reviewing taxes, levies and duties for certain sectors, as well as incentives and grants to spur investments in Sarawak.

Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA requested for the inclusion of the extension of the time limit from the current 10 years to 20 years for the carry forward of unabsorbed business losses. This proposal had been initially tabled during the reading of Budget 2023 on 7 October 2022, but was inadvertently omitted when the Budget was re-tabled on 24 February 2023.

Mr Sim acknowledged that certain sectors may require a longer period, up to 20 years, to utilise their business losses effectively. However, the MOF would only grant this extension on a case-by-case basis, ensuring that it is provided to companies that genuinely in need of it. Mr Sim assured the participants that the MOF would give serious consideration to the inputs and proposals gathered during this Dialogue.

砂拉越经济规划单位和财政部举办与财政部第二副部长沈志强先生的对话会，为2023年10月13日的预算列报收集反馈意见。会议期间，沈先生强调政府重组经济以支持企业的承诺，尤其是绿色、数字和高科技领域的业务。各利益相关者提出相关基础设施改善、税务审查以及将业务亏损结转期限延长至20年等措施。对此，沈先生指出财政部将根据具体情况考虑。

Unit Perancang Ekonomi Sarawak dan Kementerian Kewangan telah menganjurkan sesi dialog bersama Timbalan Menteri Kewangan II, Encik Steven Sim Chee Kiong untuk mengumpul maklum balas pembentangan bajet pada 13 Oktober 2023. Pada sesi tersebut, Encik Sim menekankan komitmen kerajaan untuk menyusun semula ekonomi bagi menyokong perniagaan, terutamanya dalam sektor hijau, digital dan berteknologi tinggi. Pelbagai pihak berkepentingan mencadangkan langkah-langkah seperti penambahbaikan infrastruktur, semakan cukai, dan melanjutkan had masa untuk meneruskan kerugian perniagaan kepada 20 tahun, di mana Encik Sim menyatakan akan dipertimbangkan berdasarkan kes demi kes oleh MOF.

Sustainability (Environmental, Social & Governance) Accelerator Training

Chemsain HRD Sdn Bhd and the Jeffrey Sachs Centre on Sustainable Development at Sunway University partnered to conduct the Sustainability (Environmental, Social & Governance) Accelerator Training from 4 to 6 September 2023 at Chemsain Building, Kuching.

Two (2) staff from STA attended the training to gain insights into sustainability within a business context and identify sustainability risks and opportunities. This participation reflects STA's growing interest in ESG principles and its commitment to building the necessary capacity to benefit from these principles and share the knowledge gained with its members.

The training programme was launched by Dr Haji Hazland Bin Abang Haji



Hipni, Deputy Minister for Energy and Environmental Sustainability Sarawak. He underscored Sarawak's potential in carbon storage in the ministerial discussion on Sarawak's Sustainability Agenda. He highlighted that Sarawak has 1,665 depleted oil wells that are capable of storing up to 9 billion tonnes of carbon. Additionally, approximately 62% of

Sarawak's landmass or 7.65 million hectares is covered by forests, which is estimated to have the capacity to store between 750 million to 1 billion tonnes of carbon.

He added that Sarawak has become the first in the region to introduce legislation to regulate carbon trading, including issuance of licences and permits. Carbon trading licences can be issued to land owners in three (3) categories of land; alienated land, native customary land and state land. Presently, Sarawak can only participate in voluntary carbon markets, as the country does not have the mechanism for emissions trading system for compliance carbon market.

Following that, there was a panel discussion titled "Surveying the Sustainability Landscape". Moderated



Dr Haji Hazland Bin Abang Haji Hipni, Deputy Minister for Energy and Environmental Sustainability Sarawak (2nd from left) launched the training program, witnessed by Dr John Chan, Director of Chemsain Group of Companies (left) and Prof. Dato' Dr Elizabeth Lee, CEO of Sunway Education Group (4th from left)

by Prof Choon Heng Leong from Jeffrey Sachs Centre, panellists Mr Lau Zheng Zhou from Hong Leong Bank, Mr Selwyn Lim from OCBC Bank, Ms Moreen Joseph from UOB Bank and Prof Lim Weng Marc from Sunway University discussed the role of banks in supporting large corporations and SMEs to transition towards more sustainable businesses and the opportunities working within governmental regulatory frameworks.

One key take away from the panel discussion is that achieving sustainability is not solely about mitigating ESG risks but it also involves unlocking promising economic prospects.

Companies that adeptly navigate the ESG landscape can position themselves as the winners of tomorrow.

为了加速可持续发展，Chemsain HRD有限公司和双威大学的杰弗里萨克斯可持续发展中心合作，于2023年9月4日至6日在位于古晋Chemsain大厦举办可持续性（环境、社会和治理）促进者培训。参与者接受指导以识别他们商业中的可持续性风险和机遇，并制定与其商业目标相一致的可持续性策略。

Dalam usaha merangsang pembangunan mampan, Chemsain HRD Sdn Bhd dan Jeffrey Sachs Centre on Sustainable Development, Sunway Universiti bekerjasama untuk mengadakan Kursus Pemangkin Kelestarian (Alam Sekitar, Sosial & Tadbir Urus) dari 4 hingga 6 September 2023 di Bangunan Chemsain, Kuching. Melalui kursus tersebut, peserta dibimbing dalam mengenal pasti risiko dan peluang keselamatan dalam perniagaan mereka serta pembangunan strategi keselamatan sejajar dengan matlamat perniagaan mereka.

Briefing on the Japan Clean Wood Act

Dr Hiromitsu Samejima, a Senior Researcher at the Biodiversity and Forests Area of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) conducted a hybrid briefing on the Japan Clean Wood Act (Amendment May 2023) at Wisma STA, Kuching on 4 September 2023 to provide stakeholders in Sarawak with the latest updates on the Act following recent amendments made by the Japanese Government.

Mr Wong Ting Chung, Honorary Secretary of STA welcomed Dr Hiromitsu and the briefing was attended by senior officers from Sarawak forestry agencies namely Forest Department Sarawak, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation and Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd as well as STA members.



Seated third from left are Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA; Mr Semilan Anak Ripot, Deputy Director of Forests (Forest Management), FDS; Dr Hiromitsu Samejima, Senior Researcher from IGES; Mr Wong Ting Chung, Honorary Secretary of STA; Mr Nicholas Andrew Lisse, Assistant General Manager (Licensing, Industrial Planning and Investment Division), STIDC; Haji Abu Hassan Bin Yusuf, Assistant General Manager (Operations), HTSB

The *Japan Clean Wood Act* was introduced in 2016 to promote the use and distribution of legally-harvested timber and timber products in accordance with laws and regulations of Japan or the jurisdiction where the timber was harvested. The Act was subsequently revised in May 2023 to strengthen the legality compliance and penalties and will come into force in 2025.

Dr Hiromitsu informed participants that, under the revised Act, Type 1 businesses, which are the first entities supplying timber and timber products in the Japanese market, are obligated to collect specific information. This information includes details such as tree species, the origin of the timber, harvesting volume, provider's name and address,



and documents demonstrating compliance with relevant laws and regulations in the timber's place of origin.

These Type 1 businesses are mandated, under the revised Act, to carry out checks and risk assessments based on the information collected. Subsequently, they are required to submit the results of these assessments both to the Government and their respective buyers. In cases where the assessment cannot definitively

establish the legal status of the timber and timber products, these businesses are still allowed to import them. However, they must manage these products separately from confirmed legally-sourced timber and timber products, and they must also distribute them in the market accompanied by documentation stating that their legality has not been confirmed.

Furthermore, Dr Hiromitsu mentioned that the Forestry Agency and the Japan Federation of Wood

Industry Associations are currently in the process of developing due diligence guidelines. These guidelines are expected to facilitate the importation and procurement of domestic logs in Japan.

日本清洁木材法案2023年5月修订版的简报会于2023年9月4日在古晋举行，向砂拉越利益相关者通报所做出的修改。全球环境策略研究所高级研究员蛟岛弘光博士解释已修订法案的要求，包括加强对供应木材去日本市场的第1类型企业的资料收集和风险评估义务。

Taklimat kepada pihak berkepentingan di Sarawak mengenai perubahan terhadap Akta Kayu Bersih Jepun pindaan Mei 2023 telah diadakan di Kuching pada 4 September 2023. Dr Hiromitsu Samejima, Penyelidik Kanan di Institut Strategi Alam Sekitar Global menjelaskan keperluan Akta, termasuk pengumpulan maklumat yang dipertingkatkan dan kewajipan penilaian risiko untuk perniagaan Jenis 1 yang membekalkan kayu ke pasaran Jepun.

Rubberwood (*Hevea Wood*) Lab

Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) organised a Rubberwood (*Hevea Wood*) Lab at Medan Hotel, Betong to, amongst others, develop policy and legislation related to the harvesting and processing of rubberwood; gather rubber planting data in Sarawak under the Ministry of Food Industry, Commodities and Regional Development of Sarawak (M-FICORD) and its affiliated agencies; and establish mechanism and strategic plan for the production and utilisation of rubberwood for timber industry in Sarawak.

Representatives from M-FICORD, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), STIDC, Department of Agriculture (DOA) Sarawak, Malaysian Rubber Board (LGM) Sarawak, Rubber Industry Smallholders Development Authority (RISDA), Sarawak Furniture Industry Association (SFIA), Shin Yang Forestry Sdn Bhd and STA Secretariat participated in the 2-day Lab on 18 and 19 September 2023.

Prior to commencing the Lab session, participants embarked on a field trip to two (2) Rubber Mini Estates (RMEs) in Betong. During this visit, they engaged in on-site discussions concerning the establishment and management of RMEs on local communities' land, including the challenges posed by the leaf fall disease on rubber trees. Additionally, the group explored the potential of harvesting rubberwood from these RMEs for Sarawak timber industry, particularly for furniture production. This intervention represents a valuable initiative, benefiting local communities by not only enhancing their well-being but also boosting their income through the sale of rubberwood.

The Lab commenced with an opening address by Haji Hamzah Bin Haji Morshidi, Assistant General Manager of the Sustainable Resource Management Division at STIDC. During his speech, he provided insights into the current state of the timber industry



Group photo during visit to Rubber Mini Estates (photo courtesy of STIDC)

in Sarawak and underscored the importance of fostering creativity and innovation to revitalise the sector. He emphasised the need to harness the available limited resources effectively and align the timber industry with the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 agenda, which aims to achieve a timber export target of RM8 million by 2030.

He proceeded to delve into the potential and challenges associated with rubberwood within the timber industry, encompassed a wide array of aspects including policies, regulatory and management frameworks, rubber plantation development and maintenance, pest and disease control, rubberwood extraction and utilisation, manpower considerations, infrastructure requirements, incentives



Group photo with all the participants (photo courtesy of STIDC)

and market dynamics. Notably, there is lack of large-scale rubber plantations in Sarawak, and the existing RMEs established by local communities are scattered throughout various regions within Sarawak.

Following that, participants received an introduction to the roles and functions of key organisations involving in the rubber industry, including M-FICORD, FDS, DOA, LGM, and RISDA. Subsequently, they were divided into three groups, each focusing on a specific area: (i) Raw material and volume potential; (ii) Policy and law; and (iii) Rubberwood-based furniture industry. These groups engaged in discussions to identify and address the issues and challenges associated with each aspect, devising strategic solutions. The findings from each

group's deliberations were then presented at the conclusion of the Lab.

The Lab session yielded several notable recommendations, including (i) Conducting thorough verification of rubberwood stock and estimating volume across all RMEs; (ii) Enhancing and fortifying the procedures for rubberwood extraction and removal; (iii) Establishing processing and treatment hub in proximity to rubber plantations; (iv) Offering incentives to encourage

rubber plantation development and certification; and (v) Implementing control measures for the purchase and sale of rubberwood.

砂拉越木材工业发展机构(STIDC)于2023年9月18日至19日在砂拉越木中举办橡胶木工作坊，获得各利益相关者的参与，为橡胶木采伐制定政策和策略。参与者参观小型橡胶园，讨论其管理以及橡胶木伐取的潜力，以造福当地原住民。该工作坊提出多项建议，包括核实橡胶木库存、在种植园附近建立加工厂以及激励橡胶种植园的发展。

STIDC telah menganjurkan Makmal Kayu Getah di Betong, Sarawak pada 18 dan 19 September 2023 dengan tujuan membangunkan dasar dan strategi penuaian kayu getah dengan penglibatan pihak berkepentingan. Para peserta turut melawat ladang mini getah untuk membincangkan pengurusan ladang dan potensi penuaian kayu getah yang boleh memberi manfaat kepada masyarakat setempat. Sesi makmal tersebut menghasilkan beberapa cadangan seperti pengesahan stok kayu getah, penubuhan hab pemprosesan berhampiran ladang dan pemberian insentif kepada pembangunan ladang getah.

ITTO Projects in Ulu Baram Forest Area

In March 2023, Ms Sheam Satkuru, ITTO Executive Director, and Datu Haji Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, Director of Forests, signed agreements to initiate two projects i.e (i) Management of Upper Baram Forest Area (UBFA) for Conservation and Sustainable Development with the Involvement of Local Communities, Upper Baram, Sarawak, Malaysia; and (ii) Community Empowerment in Forest Management and Forest Landscape Restoration in Upper Baram, Sarawak, Malaysia.

These projects were designed with a clear vision to strengthen the management of UBFA for environmental conservation and sustainable resource management, ultimately fostering the socio-economic development of the rural communities in Upper Baram.

The first Project Steering Committee Meeting for these ITTO Projects was held on 24 September 2023, at the Pullman Hotel in Miri. The meeting was co-chaired by Datu Haji Hamden and Dato' Zailani Bin Haji Hashim, Deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry of Plantation and Commodities. The meeting drew participation from Ms Sheam Satkuru, representatives from Japan, Bruno Manser Fund, and the City of Basel Switzerland. It was also attended by representatives from relevant government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Samling Group of Companies, STA and nearly 30 community representatives from the UBFA.

In his welcoming speech, Datu Haji Hamden extended his sincere gratitude for ITTO's unwavering

support over the years, highlighting a remarkable record of 16 projects and 4 pre-projects, with a total investment exceeding USD 16 million.

He outlined the Sarawak Government's land use policy, which allocates 1 million hectares for conservation, another 6 million hectares of Permanent Forest Estates for sustainable forest management, and additional land for plantation, settlement, and miscellaneous development.

He underscored the complexity of the project and stressed the importance of harmonising it with prevailing government policies and regulations. In particular, the project must remain aligned with the existing land use within the project area, a status that predates the project's inception. He mentioned that the desired outcome of the project is a win-win situation for stakeholders, well within the framework of established policies and regulations.

Project leaders, Ms Evelyn Jugi and Ms Wilhelmina Cluny, briefed participants on the projects' background, existing land use, objectives and outputs, work plan, and budget for the



Group photo during meet-and-greet session with local communities residing within UBFA.

2023年3月，两个关键项目在马来西亚砂拉越峇南上游启动，重点在于环境保护和可持续发展，得到了当地原著民的积极参与。于2023年9月24日召开的首次项目指导委员会会议中强调了项目与政府政策保持一致的重要性，项目负责人也向利益相关者提供项目的目标和预算的概述。此外，在与将近60名原住民的交流会上强调了社区参与以及他们所扮演的角色对项目取得成功至关重要。

work programme. The UBFA, as they revealed, covers 283,500 hectares in north-eastern Sarawak, encompassing primary forests, farm areas, settlements, timber concessions, and agricultural lands. The region is inhabited by four (4) ethnic groups - Penan, Kenyah, Kelabit, and Saban.

The project leaders reiterated that the land use status within the project area would remain unchanged throughout the project's implementation. Furthermore, all project activities would be undertaken in close collaboration with the pertinent stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, local communities, and timber companies.

A meet-and-greet session with local communities residing within UBFA was held in Long Semiyang, Ulu Baram on 26 September 2023. Attended by nearly 60 local communities, it provided them with a platform to gain insights into the project's objectives and express any concerns or issues they might have regarding its implementation. This inaugural meeting and the subsequent community engagement session marked the commencement of an exciting and transformative journey towards the sustainable development of UBFA.

Stakeholder Engagement Meeting on the Proposed Forests Rules

Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) convened a stakeholder engagement meeting on the proposed action to repeal the Forests Rules at its headquarters, Bangunan Baitul Makmur II in Kuching on 29 September 2023. The meeting was chaired by Mr Semilan Ripot, Deputy Director of Forests, and attended by representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development, FDS, Land and Survey Department, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd and STA.

In his opening remarks, Mr Semilan highlighted the longstanding initiative dating back to 2016, focused on repealing the existing Forest Rules. He underscored the

STIDC's Role in AP (Approval in Principle) Quota

The STA Secretariat, led by its Chief Executive Officer, Ms Annie Ting held a meeting with officers from Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), led by its Assistant General Manager, Mr Nicholas Lisse on 12 September 2023 at Wisma STA Kuching to discuss STIDC's role within the Localisation Committee. The Localisation Committee, which consists of representatives from various government agencies, considers applications for the recruitment of non-resident employees and expatriates.

During the meeting, STIDC provided a briefing of the procedural aspects involved in processing foreign worker applications for the timber industry and forestry sector in Sarawak. STIDC's contribution is pivotal in facilitating the development of the timber industry in Sarawak. They review and provide

urgency of crafting new Forests Rules to aligned with the revised Forests Ordinance, 2015 and the recently introduced Forest Policy 2019. The harmonisation of these three (3) documents was deemed essential and he expressed optimism that the engagement session would serve as a platform for stakeholders to provide input, enriching the development of the proposed Forests Rules.

During the meeting, Mr Mohamad Fuad Bin Ahmad, Legal Officer of FDS, conducted a comprehensive briefing on the three elements within the proposed Forests Rules: procedural rules, substantive rules, and the schedule of fees. He emphasised the critical role that feedback and input gathered during this engagement session would play in the refinement of the Forest Rules.

feedback on Approval in Principle (AP) applications submitted to the Department of Labour Sarawak for the hiring of non-resident employees and to the Malaysia Immigration Department for the employment of expatriates. STIDC highlighted that the determination of the required AP quota is based on specific criteria and data submitted to the Localisation Committee for consideration and approval.

STA expressed its concern regarding the recently approved reduction in the AP quota. This reduction has caused member companies to hesitate in accepting overseas orders from their buyers due to the uncertainties surrounding the availability of both manpower and raw materials. Once their buyers turn to manufacturers from other countries, the process of regaining the lost market share becomes exceedingly challenging,

Sekretariat STA bertemu dengan Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) untuk membincangkan perannya dalam Jawatankuasa Lokalisasi yang menilai permohonan untuk pekerja bukan pemastautin dan ekspatriat dalam industri perikanan. Peranan penting STIDC dalam menyemak dan memberikan maklum balas mengenai permohonan Kelulusan dalam Prinsip (AP) telah dibincangkan, bersama-sama dengan kebimbangan mengenai pengurangan kuota AP baru-baru ini yang menjejaskan kemampuan syarikat ahli-ahli STA untuk menerima tempahan dari luar negara.



砂拉越森林局副局长瑟米澜礼铂先生于2023年9月29日主持与利益相关者会议，讨论废除森林规则以及针对修订后的政策制定新法规。会议旨在协调这些法规，并收集利益相关者的意见以细化拟议的森林规则，着重于程序规则、实质性规则和费用表。

Satu mesyuarat penglibatan pemegang taruh yang diketuai oleh Encik Semilan Ripot, Timbalan Pengarah Hutan di Jabatan Hutan Sarawak telah diadakan pada 29 September 2023 untuk membincangkan pembangunan Peraturan Hutan baharu. Mesyuarat bertujuan mengharmonikan Peraturan dan mengumpul input daripada pelbagai pihak berkepentingan bagi memperhalusi peraturan prosedur, peraturan substantif dan jadual bayaran yang dicadangkan dalam Peraturan Hutan baharu.



further exacerbating the decline in export of timber products from Sarawak. Both parties agreed to collaborate with other Localisation Committee members to find an amicable solution to address the issues related to the AP quota.

本会秘书处与砂拉越木材工业发展机构 (STIDC) 会面，讨论后者在本地化委员会中的角色，该委员会负责评估木材业聘请非居民雇员和外籍人士的申请。会议讨论STIDC在原则批准 (AP) 申请扮演审查和提供反馈方面的关键作用，以及对最近 AP 配额减少影响会员公司接受海外订单能力的担忧。

Discussion Post Pilot Project on Environmental Compliance Audit for Forestry Sector

The pilot projects on Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) for the forestry sector, jointly initiated by the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) and STA, with voluntary participation from STA member companies, were launched in 2017 and 2018. The projects had recently concluded, later than originally anticipated, primarily due to unforeseen disruptions caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Representatives from the participating companies engaged in a discussion organised by STA on 7 September 2023 with the objective to gather insights into the implementation of the Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008, which were tested



through the conduct of internal and external ECAs.

Among some of the matters discussed were the type and frequency of ECA to be carried out per year, audit fee structure as well as development of internal resources to facilitate companies with full self-regulation. The inputs provided during the discussion aimed to enhance cost-effectiveness and facilitate a feasible transition from conventional regulatory requirement to full self-regulation, all in the pursuit of sustaining practical and sustainable environmental regulation compliance.

All these comprehensive and constructive feedbacks were subsequently shared with the NREB with the hope to improve the implementation of ECA for forestry sector in Sarawak and refine the Guidelines for NRE (Audit) Rules, 2008. STA is hopeful that the NREB will take these inputs into consideration and fine-tune the implementation of the Rules, thereby encouraging wider industry participation in self-regulated compliance.

STA firmly believes that ECA can be effective if competent internal auditors are given the autonomy

Engagement Session on Proposed Amendments to the Trade Union Act (1959)

The Department of Trade Union Affairs Malaysia has taken proactive steps to amend the Trade Union Act 1959 (Act 262). An engagement session was held for industry stakeholders, including STA, Malaysian Employers Federation, Chinese Chambers, Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers and Malaysian Trades Union Congress on 11 September 2023 at UTC Sarawak, Kuching. The purpose of this session was to explain and discuss the proposed amendments to the Act.

Mr Nik Mohd Salihin Nik Mustafa, Principal Assistant Director of the Strategic Negotiations Division at the Ministry of Investment, Trade, and Industry, delivered a presentation on the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

Agreement. One of the requirements of the CPTPP Agreement is that the labour practices must align with the standards set by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Mr Nik Mustafa emphasised that, given Malaysia's open economy and relatively small domestic market, Free Trade Agreements can significantly benefit Malaysian companies. These agreements bolster competitive advantages, instil investor confidence, and contribute to Malaysia's long-term economic sustainability. Notably, the CPTPP Agreement extends beyond economic considerations, encompassing human aspects as well and Malaysia has taken a significant step by becoming the ninth country to enforce this agreement. Consequently, any proposed amendments to the Trade Union Act 1959 should align with international ILO standards and promote labour rights, including the prevention of forced labour.

Ms Nazatulshima Che Hassan, Director of the Department of Trade Union Affairs, Perak, presented on



Ms Nazatulshima Che Hassan, Director of the Department of Trade Union Affairs, Perak presenting proposed amendments to Act 262.

the proposed amendments to the Act 262. She outlined the objectives behind these proposed amendments, which are to grant workers the freedom to establish and join their preferred trade unions, enhance the existing provisions within the Act, and ensure compliance with the labour chapter of the CPTPP. The proposed changes will affect 36 sections of the Act, reflecting the evolving trends and movements within the trade union landscape in Malaysia. These changes aim to empower workers by

to play an active role in self-regulation and fully oversee their compliance. Therefore, it is crucial for NREB to delegate and transfer full responsibility for monitoring compliance to the companies themselves.

由砂天然资源和环境局(NREB)和本会联合发起并在本协会会员公司参与的两项林业环境合规审计(ECA)试点项目完成后,本会与参与的会员公司代表进行讨论以收集有关2008年天然资源和环境(审计)规则实施情况的见解。反馈着重于改善环境审计规则的实施和促进自我监管合规性,以确保可持续性和实用性,同时最大限度地减少公司的财务负担,随后这些反馈被延伸至NREB,以协助改进和完善其规则。

Dengan selesainya 2 projek perintis Audit Pematuhan Alam Sekitar bagi sektor perhutanan yang dimulakan bersama oleh Lembaga Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar Sarawak dan STA dengan penyertaan daripada syarikat-syarikat ahli STA, sebuah perbincangan telah diadakan di antara STA dan wakil-wakil daripada syarikat terlibat untuk mengumpul maklum balas pelaksanaan Peraturan (Audit) Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, 2008. Maklum balas tertumpu kepada penambahbaikan pelaksanaan peraturan audit alam sekitar dan penerapan pematuhan sendiri untuk memastikan kemampunan dan kepraktisan sambil mengurangkan beban kewangan ke atas syarikat. Maklum balas tersebut diperluaskan kepada pihak NREB selaras dengan usaha mereka menambah baik dan memperhalusi Peraturan.

allowing them the freedom to choose their union, fostering healthy competition among unions, and promoting the development of mature and progressive trade unions throughout the nation.

There will be additional engagement sessions in the near future to further discuss and refine the proposed amendments to Act 262. These sessions demonstrate a commitment to fostering a transparent and inclusive process in shaping the future of trade union legislation in Malaysia.

马来西亚职工会事务局与工业利益相关者举行会议以讨论1959年工会法的拟议修正案。拟议修正案的目标包括给予工人选择工会的自由、加强现有规定以及确保遵守跨太平洋伙伴全面进步协定(CPTPP)的劳工章节,旨在培育有竞争力和成熟的马来西亚工会。会议也强调通过CPTPP协议,劳工实践与国际标准保持一致的重要性。

Jabatan Hal Ehwal Kesatuan Sekerja Malaysia mengadakan sesi penglibatan dengan pihak berkepentingan industry untuk membincangkan cadangan pindaan kepada Akta Kesatuan Sekerja 1959. Objektif pindaan yang dicadangkan, termasuklah memberi pekerja kebebasan untuk memilih kesatuan sekerja, mempertingkatkan peruntukan sedia ada, dan memastikan pematuhan dengan bab buruh Perjanjian Komprehensif dan Progresif bagi Perkongsian Trans-Pasifik (CPTPP) yang bertujuan untuk memupuk kesatuan sekerja yang berdaya saing dan matang di Malaysia. Kepentingan menyelaraskan amalan buruh dengan piawaian antarabangsa melalui CPTPP turut diketengahkan.



World Heart Day 2023

The World Heart Day 2023 celebration, held at the Sarawak State Library on 24 September 2023, drew over 2,000 participants, making it the largest event ever hosted by the Sarawak Heart Foundation (SHF).

Celebrated annually in September, the World Heart Day is a global event that brings together individuals, families, communities, organisations, and governments to prioritise heart health. The theme for this year's campaign was 'Use Heart Know Heart,' emphasising the importance of understanding one's own heart health.

According to the organising chairperson and a member of the SHF Board of Trustees, Datin Patinggi Datuk Amar Hajah Jamilah Binti Haji Anu, SHF's ongoing project aims to raise RM2.6 million for the purchase of a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine for Sibu Hospital. So far, they have successfully

raised RM1.74 million through contributions from both corporate and individual donors including STA. However, they still need RM860,000 to reach their goal. The urgency of this project stems from the deteriorating condition of the existing MRI machine at Sibu Hospital, which serves a wide area encompassing Mukah and Sarikei Divisions.

The celebrations included various activities such as a Walk-A-Mile event, lucky draw as well as free healthcare screenings. These activities aimed to promote awareness of heart health and encourage people to take proactive steps to maintain a healthy heart.

2023年世界心脏日庆祝活动于2023年9月24日在砂拉越州图书馆举行,重点是通过步行一英里运动、娱乐和医疗保健检查等活动促进心脏健康。此次庆祝活动强调了心脏健康的重要性,以及砂拉越心脏基金会筹集马币260万令吉的目标。目前为止,该基金会通过包括本会在内的企业和个人捐助已成功筹集了马币174万令吉。

Sambutan Hari Jantung Sedunia 2023 telah diadakan di Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak pada 24 September 2023, memberi tumpuan dalam mempromosikan kesihatan jantung melalui aktiviti seperti acara Walk-A-Mile, hiburan dan pemeriksaan kesihatan. Sambutan itu menekankan kepentingan kesihatan jantung, dan matlamat Yayasan Jantung Sarawak untuk mengumpul dana RM2.6 juta. Setakat ini, mereka berjaya mengumpul RM1.74 juta melalui sumbangan daripada penderma korporat dan individu termasuk STA.



Group photo of the recipients

Presentation of Financial Assistance to Schools and Universiti Teknologi MARA

On 29 September 2023, the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) organised a presentation ceremony to provide financial assistance to eleven (11) schools and Universiti Teknologi MARA at the STIDC Seminar Hall.

The collaboration between STA, through its subsidiary company, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM) and STIDC started in year 2012. The objective was to foster a conducive teaching and learning environment in the schools so that the students can have access to quality education. This was achieved through financial contribution from STAM that is administered by STIDC.

During the ceremony, a total of RM55,000.00 was presented to Universiti Teknologi MARA and eleven (11) schools identified by STIDC together with the Department of Education. These schools were chosen for their financial needs to bolster their efforts in providing quality education.

The eleven (11) schools receiving financial support are:

- Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Ulu Pelagus, Kapit
- SK Kampung Buda, Betong
- SK Camporan Daro, Mukah
- Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Belawai, Tanjung Manis
- SK Meranek, Samarahan
- SK Sg. Aur, Kuching
- SK Puruh Karu, Pedawan
- SK Bulan Jeragam Simunjam
- SK Batu Bungan, Mulu
- SK Santubong, Kuching
- SMK Santubong, Kuching

The presentation ceremony also saw the symbolic launching of a coffee table book entitled 'The Application of Timber in Our Culture' by Tuan Haji Zainal Abidin Bin Haji Abdullah, General Manager of STIDC. The book aims to promote the usage of timber and shall also be distributed to the schools in Sarawak.

砂拉越木材工业发展机构(STIDC)联合 STA Mutual有限公司于2023年9月29日举行的仪式上颁发总额为马币55,000令吉的资助金给玛拉工艺大学和11所学校, 以支持砂拉越的优质教育。活动中还推出了一本题为《木材在我们文化中的应用》的咖啡桌书籍, 旨在促进木材的使用和分发给各地区学校。

Pada 29 September 2023, Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) telah mengadakan majlis penyampaian bantuan kewangan sebanyak RM55,000 kepada Universiti Teknologi MARA dan sebelas buah sekolah dengan kerjasama STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM) bagi menyokong pendidikan berkualiti di Sarawak. Buku meja kopi bertajuk "Penerapan Kayu dalam Budaya Kita" turut dilancarkan pada majlis itu bagi mempromosikan penggunaan dan pengedaran kayu ke sekolah-sekolah di rantau ini.

23rd Tri-Nation Joint Meeting

The 23rd Tri-Nation Joint Meeting of Japan Lumber Importers' Association (JLIA), Japan Plywood Manufacturers' Association (JPMA), Asosiasi Panel Kayu Indonesia (APKINDO), The Malaysian Panel-Products Manufacturers' Association (MPMA), Sabah Timber Industries Association (STIA) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) convened on 19 September 2023 at the Satoo Garden Room, Shangri-La Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia.

The significant gathering brought together nineteen (19) participants from JLIA led by its Chairman, Mr Hiroshi Sekino, thirty one (31) participants from APKINDO under the leadership of its Chairman Dr Ir Bambang Soepijanto, six (6) participants from STA led by the Honorary Secretary of STA Panel Products Committee, Mr Vincent Chieng and Mr Tu Kui Foh Committee Member of STIA. The purpose of the Joint Meeting was to deliberate on the supply and current market



conditions in Indonesia, Japan and Malaysia.

Head of delegations from Malaysia and Japan expressed their heartfelt gratitude to APKINDO for its efforts in hosting this Joint Meeting, which had been put on hold for 3 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All heads of delegations acknowledged the adverse impact of the world economic crisis had affected the production, import and export of plywood.

During the Joint Meeting, country market reports by STA, APKINDO, JLIA, and a market report detailing various types of plywood products in Japan were presented. The discussions covered a range

of critical topics, including the trends in log supply for Malaysia, the increase of products costs and global economic challenges, consumer spending power, the revised Japan Clean Wood Act, projections for Japanese domestic log production, and domestic wood material utilisation in Indonesia, among others.

During the closing remarks, all parties emphasised the significance of constant communication and information exchange in maintaining strong relationships and agreed to collaborate to facilitate plywood trade for years to come. Additionally, it was decided that JLIA would host next year's meeting in Tokyo, Japan.

Mesyuarat Bersama Tiga-Negara Ke-23 menghimpunkan wakil-wakil daripada persatuan kayu dan papan lapis di Jepun, Indonesia dan Malaysia untuk membincangkan pasaran papan lapis, di tengah-tengah cabaran seperti pandemik COVID-19 dan krisis ekonomi. Para peserta menekankan kepentingan komunikasi dan kerjasama, dengan JLIA bersedia menjadi tuan rumah mesyuarat tahun depan di Tokyo, Jepun.

第23届三国联席会议汇聚了来自日本、印尼和马来西亚木材和胶合板协会的代表, 讨论在新冠肺炎疫情和经济危机等挑战下的胶合板市场。会议强调沟通与合作的重要性, 并决议明年由日本木材输入协会于日本东京主办三国联席会议。

IFMAC & WOODMAC Indonesia 2023

The Malaysian delegation participated in the IFMAC & WOODMAC 2023 in conjunction with their meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia. IFMAC & WOODMAC, short for International Furniture Manufacturing Components and Woodworking Machinery, is a renowned exhibition within the furniture manufacturing and woodworking industry. This prestigious event took place at the Jakarta International Expo in Kemayoran, Jakarta, Indonesia, spanning from 20 to 23 September 2023.

IFMAC & WOODMAC played a pivotal role by serving as a central hub where the technological requirements of the timber production sector were spotlighted, making a significant impact on the local furniture market's growth. The exhibition featured an extensive array of products and services,

Delegasi Malaysia menghadiri pameran IFMAC & WOODMAC 2023 di Jakarta, acara terkenal untuk pembuatan perabot dan industri pertukangan kayu. Pameran mempamerkan pelbagai produk dan perkhidmatan, dan semasa majlis perasmian, Memorandum Persefahaman penting telah ditandatangani di antara persatuan Indonesia dan Cina untuk meningkatkan kerjasama dalam industri perakayuan.



Opening ceremony

including woodworking machinery, raw materials, wood, timber, veneers, films, decorative materials, accessories, components, furniture fittings, locks, adhesives, paints, coatings, abrasives, as well as cutting-edge computer technology and production software.

In addition to APKINDO's presence, several other event partners, including French Timber, Quebec Wood Export Bureau, Taiwan External Trade Development Council, Italian Trade Agency, American Hardwood Export Council, among others, established booths to disseminate valuable information. The official opening ceremony was held on 20 September 2023 which also witnessed the signing

and exchange of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between the Indonesia Furniture Industry and Crafts Association, Indonesian Sawmill and Woodworking Association and China National Forestry Machinery Association. These MoUs solidified collaboration and information-sharing initiatives in the timber industry between Jakarta and China, emphasising the global reach and impact of this event.

马来西亚代表参加在雅加达举行的2023年国际家具制造组件(IFMAC)和木工机械(WOODMAC)展览会。该展览会是家具制造和木工业的著名盛会, 展示了广泛的产品和服务, 并在开幕仪式上见证印尼和中国公会签署重要的谅解备忘录, 以加强木材工业的合作。

Majlis Amanat Perdana Integriti 2023

The *Majlis Amanat Perdana Integriti 2023* organised by the Sarawak Integrity and Ombudsman Unit of the Sarawak Premier Department at Borneo Convention Centre Kuching on 14 September 2023.

The ceremony commenced with a sharing by Datuk Wan Suraya Binti Wan Mohd Radzi, the Auditor General, which was delivered by Madam Hajah Patimah Ramuji, Deputy Auditor General (Performance). In her sharing, Datuk Wan Suraya share that while internal auditors proactively identify potential risks and recommend improvements to enhance an organisation's overall governance framework, audits conducted by external auditors assures stakeholders of the accuracy and reliability of financial information.

Haji Mohamad Abu Bakar Bin Marzuki, Sarawak State Secretary in his welcoming speech informed that those in the public service upholds high integrity to ensure that any initiative introduced by the government is implemented transparently and has a positive impact on the welfare and quality of life of the people of Sarawak.

Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, Premier of Sarawak highlighted, in his speech, the proposed ombudsman system for Sarawak, which Bill is expected to be tabled in November. This system will establish direct accountability to the Sarawak Legislative Assembly rather than the Premier. This strategic move aims to prevent the abuse of power in tackling political rivals, ultimately making Sarawak a more attractive destination for investors who can expect reduced risks associated with political interference.

在2023年9月14日举行的2023年诚信会议上，强调了内部和外部审计师在加强组织治理方面的关键作用以及政府举措中透明化和责任制的重要性。砂总理透露，直接向州立法机关报告的砂拉越申诉专员制将在今年11月的砂拉越州立法议会会议上提出。

Pada *Majlis Amanat Perdana Integriti 2023* yang diadakan pada 14 September 2023, peranan penting juruaudit dalaman dan luaran dalam meningkatkan tadbir urus organisasi dan kepentingan ketelusan dan akauntabiliti dalam inisiatif kerajaan telah diketengahkan. Premier Sarawak turut berkongsi mengenai sistem ombudsman di Sarawak yang melapor terus kepada Badan perundangan Negeri akan dibentangkan di Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) pada November ini.

The Cooler Earth Sustainability Summit: Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow

CIMB Group Holdings Bhd united global citizens, experts and key stakeholders at its annual flagship event, The Cooler Earth Sustainability Summit from 11 to 21 September 2023 to drive change and propel sustainable solutions. This year's hybrid summit with theme "*Sustainability in Action: Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow*" highlighted the multitude of opportunities that await individuals, businesses and societies on the journey towards a greener economy.

In his welcoming address at the in-person event on 11 September 2023, Dato Abdul Rahman Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CIMB Group announced that CIMB Group Holdings Bhd will raise its sustainable finance target to RM100 billion by 2024, more than triple its initial commitment announced in 2021.

Webinar on EUDR

The European Union Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR) prohibits the placement or export of products in or from the EU market unless they adhere to its stringent legality and sustainability requirements. To ensure compliance, companies must conduct due diligence to ensure that the products they source are legal and are not linked to land that has been deforested or degraded after 31 December 2020. The EUDR primarily addresses the expansion of agricultural land that is linked to the production of soy, beef, palm oil, wood, cocoa, coffee, rubber, and their related products, including leather, chocolate, tyres and



Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Minister of Investment, Trade & Industry delivering his ministerial address.

Recognising the importance of sustainable manufacturing and finance, the Malaysian government is also looking at ways to catalyse new and smart public-private partnerships between government-linked investment companies (GLICs) and global investors, especially in the areas of technologies. This was highlighted by Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Minister of Investment, Trade & Industry in his ministerial address.

Professor Jared Diamond, Professor of Geography and of Environmental Health Sciences from University of California delivered a keynote address highlighting the risk of global collapse as a result of inaction.

furniture. It entered into force on 29 June 2023 and will enter into application on 30 December 2024 for non-SMEs and on 30 June 2025 for micro and small enterprises.

A webinar on EUDR was organised by the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) on 14 September 2023 to update participants on the latest development related to EUDR.

In her welcoming speech, Ms Noraihan Abdul Rahman, Chief Executive Officer of MTC, shared the proactive steps taken by MTC to help companies comply with the regulation. These initiatives included two (2) missions to engage with European stakeholders on EUDR and an application to join the EU Multi-Stakeholder Platform, a forum established by the EU to facilitate

Mr. Sukanto Aich, CEO of Signify, the global leader in lighting that achieved carbon neutrality across all its operations worldwide since September 2020, encouraged companies to place sustainability at the core of their purpose and strategy and leverage on technology and innovation. Mr Seah Kian Hoe, CEO of Heng Hiap Industries, a leading plastic recycling company in Malaysia and the first company in the world to receive Ocean Bound Plastic certification, added that sustainability standards and requirements should permeate all aspects of the business to gain support from employees and stakeholders.

The Summit also gathered leaders from GLICs, namely Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB), Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Khazanah Nasional Berhad to learn from their experience and gauge their personal perspectives on sustainability. Their advice to businesses was clear: Rather than postponing action and merely reacting to external pressures, companies should adopt a proactive stance towards

dialogue and cooperation among various stakeholders involved in the implementation and monitoring of the regulation.

Mr Maurits Bruggink from Ridens Public Affairs elaborated on the key provisions for EUDR compliance, which encompass due diligence, geolocation, shipment, and information systems. Ms Maja Drca from the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) International provided insights into how PEFC's standards align with the key elements of EUDR. While forest certification does not directly guarantee compliance with EUDR, PEFC serves as a valuable tool for risk mitigation and assurance, particularly in meeting deforestation-free and legality requirements.

achieving net-zero emissions and sustainability.

联昌(CIMB)集团控股有限公司于2023年9月11日至21日在其年度旗舰活动，即“凉爽地球可持续性峰会”中集结全球人民、专家和主要利益相关者，以推动改革并推荐可持续解决方案。9月11日的现场活动向参与者发表有关地球暖化的惊人事实、新兴的全球趋势，以及在其运营中实现碳中和的公司领导者的见解。据了解，马来西亚政府正在寻找方法来催化技术领域中新型并明智的政府和社会资本合作伙伴关系，以鼓励可持续生产和金融。

Warga global, pakar dan pemegang taruh utama berkumpul dari 11 hingga 21 September 2023 di acara utama tahunan CIMB Group Holdings Bhd, iaitu Sidang Kemuncak Kelestarian Bumi yang Lebih Sejuk, yang bertujuan untuk memacu perubahan dan mendorong penyelesaian mampan. Pada sidang yang berlangsung pada 11 September, para peserta dibentangkan dengan fakta dan trend berkenaan pemanasan global. Peserta juga mendapat manfaat daripada perkongsian pemimpin syarikat yang telah mencapai neutraliti karbon. Difahamkan bahawa kerajaan Malaysia sedang meneroka kaedah perkongsian awam-swasta baharu dan pintar dalam bidang teknologi untuk menggalakkan pembuatan dan kewangan yang mampan.

马来西亚木材理事会于2023年9月14日举办线上研讨会，向利益相关者汇报欧盟无毁林法规(EUDR)的最新进展，强调合规的必要性，并分享他们与欧洲利益相关者合作实施法规的努力。该研讨会也呈现专家对EUDR合规关键条款的见解、欧盟委员会发布信息丰富的问答文件以及森林认证认可计划(PEFC)标准与EUDR要求的一致性，强调木材业为该法规做好准备的重要性。

Majlis Kayu-Kayan Malaysia menganjurkan webinar pada 14 September 2023 untuk mengemas kini pemegang taruh tentang perkembangan Peraturan Bebas Penyahutan Kesatuan Eropah (EUDR), menekankan keperluan pematuhan dan berkongsi penglibatan mereka dengan pihak berkepentingan Eropah mengenai pelaksanaan peraturan. Webinar menampilkan pandangan daripada pakar tentang peruntukan utama pematuhan EUDR, pengeluaran dokumen soal jawab bermaklumat oleh Suruhanjaya Eropah dan penajajaran piawaian PEFC dengan keperluan EUDR, yang menggariskan kepentingan penyediaan untuk Peraturan ini dalam kalangan industri perikanan.

Meeting of MEF East Malaysia Region Members No.9/2023

The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) East Malaysia (Sarawak) Region convened its Meeting No. 9/2023 on 25 September 2023. The online meeting was presided over by Ms Dayang Jamillah Binti Tun Abang Muhd Salahuddin, Consultant-Industrial Relations of MEF Sarawak.

Mr Edison Ricket, Head of the Information Services Division at Sarawak State Library (Pustaka), delivered an insightful overview of Pustaka's services meanwhile Ms Khairul Hasnida Hassan, an Officer of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), provided a comprehensive explanation of the provisions under Section 17A of the MACC Act 2009, which became effective on 1 June 2020. The primary aim of this section is to foster a culture of integrity within businesses and promote good governance practices within organisations.

Notably, under Section 17A of the MACC Act 2009, commercial organisations can be held liable and subject to penalties if their employees or associates engage in corrupt practices. In the event of conviction, the penalty under Section 17A(2) is substantial, comprising either a fine amounting to not less than 10 times the value of bribe or RM1 million, whichever is higher, imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. However, it is essential to note that the commercial organisations have the opportunity to avoid conviction by demonstrating that they have implemented "Adequate Procedures" to prevent corruption in their operations.

马来西亚雇主联合会砂拉越分会于2023年9月25日召开的会议中所讨论的事项包括砂拉越州图书馆为会员提供的服务，包括图书馆资源和法定存款服务。凯茹哈丝妮达小姐也在会议中讲解2009年马来西亚反贪污委员会(MACC)法令第17A条，强调反腐败政策对企业遵守法律及避免严厉处分的重要性。

Mesyuarat MEF Sarawak pada 25 September 2023 meliputi topik seperti perkhidmatan Pustaka untuk ahli-ahli yang merangkumi sumber perpustakaan dan perkhidmatan deposit guaman serta pembentangan Seksyen 17A Akta SPRM 2009 oleh Puan Khairul Hasnida Hassan yang menekankan kepentingan dasar anti rasuah untuk perniagaan bagi mematuhi undang-undang dan mengelakkan penalti yang besar.

OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER 2023

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 (Forest Plantation) & Clear-Fell Site Preparation (Forest Plantation)

STAT Trainer / Assessor : Mr Sumbang Rani & Mr Ngumbang Bayang
Date : 5 - 8 September 2023 & 10 - 13 September 2023
Location : Merirai Balui Forest Plantation, Putai
Company : Jaya Tiasa Forest Plantation Sdn Bhd

> Tree Felling-Chainsaw (Natural Forest), Log Extraction-Tractor (Natural Forest) & Log Loading-Front End Loader (Natural Forest)

STAT Trainer / Assessor : Mr Ginda Uli & Mr Ngumbang Bayang
Date : 15 - 18 August 2023
Location : Kejin Camp, Baram
Company : Shin Yang Sdn Bhd

> Log Extraction-Tractor (Natural Forest)

STAT Trainer / Assessor : Mr Sang Sanjan
Date : 13 - 14 September 2023
Location : Masama Camp, Tatau
Company : Shin Yang Sdn Bhd

> Tree and Log Identification

STAT Trainer / Assessor : Mr Sumbang Rani
Date : 19 - 22 September 2023
Location : Kapit FMU
Company : Pasin Sdn Bhd & 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

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