



This monthly news bulletin is produced by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) to disseminate information to our counterparts on training, research and other relevant areas.

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The news bulletin is circulated to designated readers free of charge.

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SEMINAR ON DIPTEROCARPS IN THE IUCN RED LIST

The Forest Department Sarawak, Sarawak Forestry Corporation and STA jointly organised a Seminar on Dipterocarps in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at Wisma STA, Kuching on 10 September 2009. The objective of this Seminar was to share with stakeholders the preliminary findings from the project "Re-assessment of the Conservation Status of Three Genera of Dipterocarpaceae (*Dipterocarpus*, *Dryobalanops* and *Shorea*) in Sarawak. There were approximately 50 participants from relevant departments and the

timber industry attended the Seminar. Six papers were presented and they are as follows:

- Habitat loss over the years in Sarawak by Dr Paul Chai (International Tropical Timber Organisation / Forest Department Sarawak)
- IUCN listed species and the implication for timber trade in Malaysia by Dr Saw Leng Guan (Forest Research Institute Malaysia)
- Malaysia Plant Red List : Peninsular Malaysia's experience by Dr Lillian Chua (Forest Research Institute Malaysia)
- Conservation assessment of

Dipterocarps in Sabah: Plan of action by Dr Joan Pereira (Sabah Forest Department)

- Assessment of conservation status of Dipterocarps in Sarawak by Julia Sang (Sarawak Forestry Corporation)
- Dipterocarps in a Forest Management Unit in Sarawak by Vilma Bodos (Sarawak Forestry Corporation)

Note: Papers presented can be obtained from STA Secretariat or Sarawak Forestry Corporation

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EXPO FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad (PSMB) is organising a Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Expo, details as below:-

Date: 10 November 2009
Time: 9.00 am - 5.30 pm
Venue: Grand Ballroom Hilton Kuching
Admission: Free

The objective of this event is to provide a platform for SME employers to identify and source training programmes relevant to employers' needs.

Copies of the programme and registration form are available at STA Secretariat. For more information, please contact:-

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**Did you know
that...**

According to *Bernama*, the Malaysian government says it is confident the country will be able to achieve a RM10 billion export target for its furniture exports by the end of 2009. The country has already registered RM3.57 billion in furniture exports for the first half of 2009 compared to RM4.11 for the same period last year. To further promote its furniture products, Malaysian traders will participate in the upcoming Malaysian Furniture and Furnishings Fair. Its organizing chairman Gan Tai Hwa expects total sales turnover is projected to increase to RM50 million this year compared with RM40 million registered in last year's fair.

Source:
ITTO TTM Report
1-15 September 2009

ASSESSOR WORKSHOP: IN-FIELD PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

The In-field Practical Assessment, a follow-up to the Assessor Workshop in March 2007, was successfully conducted at the Sarawak Rainforest and SFM Discovery Centre, Tatau from 3 to 9 September 2009. The Assessment was conducted by Mr John Macredie, an Assessor Development Consultant from New Zealand, assisted by Mr Ken Fergusson, Contract Trainer/ Assessor and Mr Peter Peros anak Kunok, STAT Training Officer.

The objective of this Workshop was to assess the competency of the participants in conducting workplace assessment in

a real working environment. The 13 participants were active trainers and assessors from four Member Companies of STA, Forest Department Sarawak and STAT who attended the Assessor Workshop in March 2007.

The Workshop included two days of briefing at the Sarawak Rainforest and SFM Discovery Centre, Tatau and five days of one-to-one practical assessment at the Anap-Muput Forest Management Unit. During the practical assessment, each participant had to assess an operator who had been trained by the trainers of Zedtee Sdn Bhd. Discussion sessions

were held at the end of each in-field practical assessment where participants reported the outcomes of their findings and decisions made on the operators they had assessed.

All participants but two were found to be competent in Unit 4098 – Use Standard to Assess Candidates Performance and were awarded the Certificate of Competency.

The Workshop highlighted the need to standardise certain parts of the Unit Standards and Assessment Document especially those covering Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

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ASSESSOR WORKSHOP: USE STANDARD TO ASSESS CANDIDATE'S PERFORMANCE



Picture: Participants in group discussion assisted by STAT staff

STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) had successfully organised a Workshop for Assessors – Unit 4098- Use Standard to Assess Candidate's Performance at Wisma STA, Kuching from 12 to 16 September 2009. A total of 20 candidates from 11 Member Companies of STA and STAT attended the Workshop, which was facilitated by Mr John Macredie, an Assessor Development Consultant from New Zealand with assistance from Mr Ken Fergusson, Mr Ginda Uli and Mr Denis Aman of STAT.

A series of briefings, group discussions, practical sessions and question and answer sessions, covering activities on pre-assessment

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preparation, the assessment process and post assessment were deployed through out the Workshop to ensure the candidates were exposed to all possible scenarios assessors will encounter when carrying out their assessments.

Participants were introduced to the assessment process and procedures, in particular, the best practice of

assessment, how to keep to the Standard provided in the Assessment Document, how to ask simple questions to gauge the candidates' understanding of the subject and on the activity the candidate is assessed on, how to collect evidence for the decision making during Assessment and how to make decisions for an assessment.

At the end of this Workshop, all candidates

were asked to do trial assessments of operators trained by their trainers from their companies prior to the final in-field practical assessment by assessors from STA within a six-month period.

All participants in this Workshop were awarded with Certificates of Attendance.

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PRESS STATEMENT BY STA

The recent findings released by “Laporan Jawatankuasa Bertindak Peringkat Kebangsaan Bagi Menyasat Dakwaan Penderaan Seksual Terhadap Wanita Kaum Penan Di Sarawak”(the Report) concerning the alleged sexual abuse of Penan women and girls are of grave concerns to the Sarawak Timber Association (STA). STA views sexual abuse in any form not only to Penan women and girls but also to other communities as human rights violation. It is certainly one of the most deplorable sexual offences that cannot be tolerated.

Sexual offence is an individual act and a ubiquitous social problem that is prevalent in every level of society and in every part of the world. However, in this instance, STA views that the timber industry has been unfairly and unjustly blamed for the alleged offences. STA is of the view that the majority of the logging companies and the timber operators in the State are law abiding citizens and show utmost respect to the culture and way of life of the Penan and other communities. Malaysia has laws to deal with sexual offences.

In the event any person is found to contravene any laws, the police is the appropriate authority to take the necessary actions. STA firmly believes that neither the Penan nor any other communities should be sexually exploited by any group. STA calls upon the police to promptly and thoroughly conduct the investigation into the allegation of rape and sexual abuses of Penan women and girls in Baram. However, STA urges all interested parties neither to pass judgment nor to read conclusion against anyone including any of the timber companies before due diligence and process of the laws.

STA urges Penan communities to join the mainstream of the society which affords them with a balanced development and better access to the various amenities including education system. STA believes that logging companies will continue to complement the government's effort in raising the living standard of the Penan communities to improve their livelihood and bring them into the mainstream of the society.

Did you also know that...

The European Union pledged as much as 15 billion euros (\$22 billion) a year to help developing countries fight climate change, seeking a breakthrough in global talks to curb pollution from fossil fuels such as oil and coal.

The EU offer would cover part of the 50 billion euros a year in public aid that poor nations may need by 2020 to tackle global warming. The developing world faces total annual costs of 100 billion euros by 2020 to cope with climate change and limit emissions blamed for it, according to the EU, which said the rest of the funding could come from domestic sources and international emission markets.

Source:
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DIALOGUE WITH HARWOOD TIMBER SDN BHD



Picture: Group photo with representatives from Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd and STA Hill Logging members

A Dialogue between Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (Harwood) and five representatives of the STA Hill Logging Committee was held on 16 September 2009 at Harwood's office. The Dialogue was chaired by Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Bujang Nor, the Chairman of Harwood. The purpose of this Dialogue was to discuss and seek clarification from Harwood on the issuance of transportation passes for logs transported by land vehicles.

The representatives from STA brought up various issues and problems that the industry might face when the process is implemented. At the end of the Dialogue, Harwood has agreed to conduct road shows on the procedures before the implementation of the issuance of transportation passes for logs by land vehicles. This will allow Harwood to clarify procedures and have consultation with the timber industry.