

STA Review

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September 2009

STA's Commitments to Research & Development

Pada 10 September 2009, Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) dan STA bertukar Memorandum Tambahan untuk memudahkan pelaksanaan projek penyelidikan bertajuk "Penilaian semula status pemuliharaan tiga genera Dipterocarpaceae (*Dipterocarpus*, *Dryobalanops* dan *Shorea*) di Sarawak".

Projek yang diuruskan oleh FDS dan dikendalikan oleh Sarawak Forestry Corporation akan menilai semula status pemuliharaan tiga genera Dipterocarpaceae di Sarawak berdasarkan Kategori dan Kriteria senarai merah "International Union for Conservation of Nature". Satu cek telah disampaikan kepada FDS untuk projek ini.

Selain itu, terdapat dua lagi cek yang disampaikan semasa majlis tersebut bagi menjayakan projek bertajuk "Tinjauan Bersama Badak Sumatera di Taman Negara Pulong Tau" dan "Cadangan Perkhidmatan Sokongan Penyelidikan dan Pembinaan Kapasiti untuk

On 10 September 2009, the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and STA exchanged a Supplementary Memorandum to facilitate the research project entitled "Re-assessment of the Conservation Status of Three Genera of Dipterocarpaceae (*Dipterocarpus*, *Dryobalanops* and *Shorea*) in Sarawak".

This project managed by FDS, is executed through the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC). SFC will

re-evaluate the conservation status of three genera of Dipterocarpaceae (*Dipterocarpus*, *Dryobalanops* and *Shorea*) in Sarawak based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List Categories and Criteria with the objective of clarifying the conservation status of species of these three genera in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, thus enabling the importers of tropical timber from Sarawak to make informed decision, based on scientific data. A mock cheque for the

(Continue on Page 2)



Left: Datu Len Talif Salleh, Director of Forests Sarawak (middle) receiving the Supplementary Memorandum.

Looking on (from left to right) are Datuk Wong Kie Yik, , Dato Wong Kuo Hea, Tuan Haji Wan Shardini Wan Salleh and Dr. Lee Hua Seng

Right: Datu Len Talif Salleh, Director of Forests receiving the mock cheque on behalf of Forest Department Sarawak from Datuk Wong Kie Yik, the Chairman of STA



(Continued from Page 1)

second phase of project was presented to Datu Len Talif Salleh, the Director of Forests Sarawak.

Another mock cheque was presented to Tuan Haji Wan Shardini Wan Salleh, the Deputy Director, representing the Forest Department Sarawak for the project entitled "Joint Survey of Sumatran Rhinoceros in the Pulong Tau National Park". This project aims to initiate the conservation and management of the highland ecosystems and the sustainable development of local communities living at the periphery of the park. In this project, a survey will be carried on the Sumatran Rhinoceros in the park and the areas around Batu Lawi using the camera trapping method for a period of 12 months.

A mock cheque was also presented to Dato Wong Kuo Hea representing Borneo Tree Seeds and Seedlings Supplies Sdn. Bhd. for the project entitled "Research Support Services and Capacity Building Proposal on Forest Plantations". This 3-phase project spanning a five-year period is the collaborative effort of the Borneo Tree Seeds and Seedlings Sdn. Bhd, Forest Department Sarawak, CSIRO (Forestry and Forest Products Division) of Australia. This

project looks into the research support services and capacity building that will enable Sarawak to support large scale sustainable planted forests with optimal economic and environmental outcomes. This is done through scientific research, propagation of fast-growing species to broaden the species base and improvement of the productivity of the planted forest through continuous tree improvement programmes to reduce risks of pest attack, plant diseases and forest fires.

The presentation of the mock cheques is a testimony of STA's commitment to Research and Development (R&D) activities relevant to the timber, forestry and tree plantation industry for the benefits of its members who are trading in a competitive world. STA supports R&D activities by approved private individuals and bodies whose majority shareholders are Sarawak residents through the R&D Financial Contributions Scheme under STA Training Sdn. Bhd. (STAT). This scheme was set up to promote scientific and industrial research and for the development of other relevant activities, which contribute to the timber trade and industry in Sarawak.



Ladang Hutan" masing-masing kepada FDS dan Borneo Tree Seeds and Seedlings Supplies Sdn Bhd.



Left: Tuan Haji Wan Shardini Wan Salleh, Deputy Director of Forests receiving a mock cheque of behalf of Forest Department Sarawak from Datuk Wong Kie Yik, the Chairman of STA



Right: Dato Wong Kuo Hea, representing Borneo Tree Seeds and Seedlings Supplies Sdn Bhd receiving a mock cheque from Datuk Wong Kie Yik

Seminar on Dipterocarps in the IUCN Red List

Seminar Dipterocarp dalam senarai merah "International Union for Conservation of Nature" telah diadakan pada 10 September 2009 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Seminar yang dianjurkan bersama-sama Jabatan Hutan Sarawak, Sarawak Forestry Corporation dan STA bertujuan untuk berkongsi penemuan awal daripada projek "Penilaian semula status pemuliharaan tiga genera Dipterocarpaceae (*Dipterocarpus*, *Dryobalanops* dan *Shorea*) di Sarawak".

■ The Seminar on Dipterocarps in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List was held on 10 September 2009 at Wisma STA, Kuching. Jointly organised by the Forest Department Sarawak, Sarawak Forestry Corporation and STA, 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". Six papers from the three regions of Malaysia namely Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak were presented at this seminar. The papers presented are as follows:

- Habitat loss over the years in Sarawak by Dr. Paul Chai (International Tropical Timber Organisation/ Forest Department)
- 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 experiences 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)

Approximately 50 participants from the timber industries and relevant departments attended the seminar. 🌿

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

Right: Invited guests and participants at the Seminar



Left: Datu Len Talif Salleh, Director of Forest Department Sarawak officiating the Seminar

Dialogue with Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd

■ On 16 September 2009, five representatives of the STA Hill Logging Committee had a dialogue session with Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (Harwood). The session was chaired by Tan Sri Datuk Amar Hj Bujang Mohd Nor, the Chairman of Harwood. The purpose of this dialogue was to discuss with and seek clarification from Harwood on procedures pertaining to the issuance of transportation passes for logs

transported by land vehicles by Harwood.

At the dialogue, STA brought up various issues and problems that the industry might face when the process is being implemented. After discussing at length, Harwood has agreed to defer the implementation of the issuance of transportation passes for logs transported by land vehicles till further notice and until the industry has been fully consulted. ❁



One for the album

Assessor Workshop: In-field Practical Assessment Report

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

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 had 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

(Continue on Page 5)

Pada 16 September 2009, lima wakil dari Kategori Pembalakan Bukit STA telah mengadakan sesi dialog dengan Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (Harwood). Dialog ini bertujuan untuk berbincang dengan dan mendapatkan penjelasan dari pihak Harwood prosedur berkaitan dengan tentang pengeluaran pas pengangkutan kayu balak menggunakan angkutan darat oleh Harwood. Harwood bersetuju menanggukkan pelaksanaan ini sehingga dimaklumkan dan selepas berunding dengan industri.

Penilaian Praktikal Di-Tapak merupakan susulan kepada Bengkel Penilai yang telah diadakan pada Mac 2007 yang lepas. Penilaian ini diadakan dengan jayanya di "Sarawak Rainforest and SFM Discovery Centre", Tatau, dari 3 hingga 9 September 2008 dikendalikan oleh Encik John Macredie, Perunding Pembangunan Penilai dari New Zealand dengan sokongan dari pelatih-pelatih STAT.

Objektif bengkel ini adalah untuk menilai kecekapan peserta dalam mengendalikan penilaian di tempat kerja dalam keadaan pekerjaan yang sebenar. Bengkel ini meliputi dua hari taklimat dan lima hari penilaian secara praktikal di Unit Pengurusan Hutan Anap-Muput.

(Continued from Page 4)

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 Candidate's*

Performance and were awarded the Certificate of Competency.

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



Left: Mr. John Macredie (middle) discussing with two of the participants



Right: Group photo of the participants together with the facilitator of the Workshop

Mulai 28 Septmber 2009, Konsulat Republik Indonesia telah berpindah ke alamat berikut.

New Address of Consulate General of Republic Indonesia Kuching

With effect from 28 September 2009, the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuching will be located at to the following new premise:-

Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia
No 21 Lot 16557
Block 11 Jalan Stutong MTLD
93350 Kuching
Sarawak
Tel: 082-460734 / 461734
Fax: 082-456734
e-mail: kjri_kuching@hotmail.com

Assessor Workshop: Use Standard to Assess Candidate's Performance

■ 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 twenty candidates from 11 Member Companies of STA and STA Training Sdn Bhd attended the Workshop, which was facilitated by Mr. John Macredie, an Assessor Development Consultant from New Zealand with assistance from Mr. Kenneth William 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 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 as 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 STAT within a six-month period.

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

STA Training Sdn Bhd telah mengadakan Bengkel Penilai - Unit 4098 - Penggunaan Piawaian untuk Menilai Prestasi Calon di Wisma STA, Kuching dari 12 hingga 16 September 2009. Bengkel yang dikendalikan oleh Encik John Macredie, Perunding Pembangunan Penilai dari New Zealand ini dihadiri oleh 20 calon dari 11 buah syarikat ahli STA.

Aktiviti-aktiviti yang dijalankan semasa bengkel termasuk sesi taklimat, perbincangan secara berkumpulan, sesi praktikal dan soal jawap yang merangkumi aktiviti-aktiviti berkenaan pra-penilaian, semasa dan selepas proses penilaian dijalankan untuk memastikan calon-calon didedah kepada pelbagai situasi yang akan dihadapi oleh penilai semasa menjalankan penilaian.



Left: Briefing in session



Left: Group presentation



Below: Group discussion

Penemuan terkini yang dilaporkan dalam "Laporan Jawatankuasa Bertindak Peringkat Kebangsaan Bagi Menyiasat Dakwaan Penderaan Seksual Terhadap Wanita Kaum Penan di Sarawak" mengenai dakwaan penderaan seksual terhadap wanita dan gadis kaum Penan amat membimbangkan Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA). Berikut merupakan pendirian STA terhadap Laporan tersebut. Kenyataan Akhbar ini telah diedarkan kepada pelbagai badan media pada 15 September 2009.

STA's Views: Report by the National Action Committee set up by Women, Family and Community Development Ministry

The recent findings released by "Laporan Jawatankuasa Bertindak Peringkat Kebangsaan Bagi Menyiasat 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.

Note: The above Press Statement had been circulated to various media bodies on 15 September 2009.

Briefing on Goods and Services Tax

■ In 2005, the Malaysian Government announced that sales tax and service tax would be replaced with a broad-based consumption tax known as the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which was to be implemented on 1 January 2007. Subsequently in 2006, the Government had announced that the implementation of GST would be deferred to a date yet to be decided.

On 7 September 2009, the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) organised a Briefing on the Impact of GST Implementation on Forestry Industry in Malaysia at Menara PGRM, Kuala Lumpur. The Briefing is an initiative by MTIB to provide information and understanding on GST to the timber industry.

Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, Director-General of MTIB in his opening address, emphasised that the implementation of GST is inevitable, as most of our neighbouring countries such as Indonesia and Thailand had already implemented GST, with Laos being the latest ASEAN country will be implementing GST this year.

Two representatives for the Ministry of Finance, Encik Mohammad Sabri bin Saad, Senior Assistant Director of Customs, GST Special Task Force Unit and Mr. Subromaniam a/l Tholasy, Deputy Director of Customs, GST Consultation Branch ("the Presenters"), were present to deliver the Briefing.

During the course of presentation, the following were the highlighted points:

- The legislation for GST has been

Goods and Services Tax (GST) is also known as Value Added Tax in other countries, is a tax on final consumption of goods and services. GST is hope to replace the current sales system, a single stage tax, in Malaysia.

GST is a multi-stage tax, where tax will be paid in stages by intermediaries throughout the production and distribution process. Ultimately, it will not be a cost to the business as it is passed on to the consumers. Therefore, the tax itself is not a cost to the intermediaries and does not appear as an expense item in the business' financial statements.

GST is a more efficient and transparent tax collection system that will ensure revenue is accrued steadily to the Government throughout the whole supply chain.

completed and will to be tabled in Parliament;

- Funds will be allocated by the Treasury for the purpose of GST refund;
- It is unlikely the implementation of GST to be in the year 2010 as the Government had promised that such implementation will only take place 12-18 months after the Government has made an announcement;
- According to a simulation done by the Australian consultants, there will only be minimal increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), i.e. 0.5%, should GST be implemented at 5%. Interestingly, the price of furnishings, household equipment and maintenance is expected to decline by 0.8%; and
- Malaysia, Myanmar and Brunei are the only ASEAN countries that have yet to implement GST. ❁

Pada 2005, Kerajaan Malaysia telah mengumumkan bahawa cukai jualan dan perkhidmatan akan digantikan dengan cukai penggunaan meluas dikenali sebagai Cukai Barangan dan Perkhidmatan (GST) yang sepatutnya dikuatkuasakan pada 1 Januari 2007. Bagaimanapun, pada tahun 2006 Kerajaan telah mengumumkan penangguhan penguatkuasaan GST hingga satu tarikh yang akan ditetapkan kelak.

Pada 7 September 2009, Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia (MTIB) telah mengadakan satu Taklimat mengenai Impak Penguatkuasaan GST terhadap Industri Kayu Kayan di Malaysia di Menara PGRM, Kuala Lumpur. Taklimat ini merupakan inisiatif MTIB untuk memberi maklumat tentang GST kepada industri kayu kayan.

Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) Seminar on ISO 26000 on Social Responsibility

Dewan Dagangan dan Industri Antarabangsa Malaysia telah mengadakan Seminar ISO26000 tentang Tanggungjawab Sosial (SR) pada 9 September 2009 di Kuala Lumpur.

Pelaksanaan ISO26000 dimulakan pada 2005 bertujuan untuk mengeluarkan dokumen panduan untuk SR. Ia dilaksanakan sebagai satu reaksi terhadap keperluan organisasi yang semakin bertambah untuk mempertimbangkan implikasi ketara mengenai cara mereka beroperasi dalam keadaan ekonomi global yang semakin meningkat.

Pameran Perabot Antarabangsa Malaysia (MIFF) 2010 akan diadakan dari 2 hingga 6 Mac di Kuala Lumpur. Ia akan diadakan di tiga tapak; Pusat Konvensyen Jualan Lumpur, Pusat Dagangan Dunia Putra dan Pusat Pameran dan Konvensyen MATRADE. Pameran ini akan menarik perhatian pembeli perabot

■ The Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) organised a Seminar on ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation) 26000 on Social Responsibility (SR) on 9 September 2009 in Kuala Lumpur which was attended by approximately 25 participants.

The two speakers were Ms. Jenny Shabudin, Managing Director of Travcheq Travels Sdn Bhd and Dr. Michael Chiam from Malaysian Employers Federation, representing the Industry Group from the Developing Countries and Global Plenary meetings and dialogues on the development of ISO Guideline Standards. Both the speakers touched briefly on the core subjects and gave an introduction to ISO 26000 SR.

Work on ISO 26000 first started in 2005, with the aim of producing guidelines for SR. It is part of the increasing global support for corporate social responsibility for all kind of organisations, and not only for businesses. This ISO 26000 SR serves as for guidance only and will

not require third part certification. ISO identifies six different categories of stakeholders to help develop the guideline. The six categories are industry, government, labour, consumers, NGOs and others (service, support, research and others).

This international standard provides guidance on the underlying principles, the core subjects and issues pertaining to SR and ways to integrate socially responsible behaviour into existing organisation strategies, systems and processes. The core subjects in ISO 26000 SR are human rights, labour practices, the environment, fair operating practices, consumer issues, community involvement and development and Governance.

Dr. Chiam shared his experiences on the Plenary sessions which he had attended over the years. He also shared the challenges faced during the creation of the ISO 26000 SR. Currently the ISO 26000 SR draft, in its third stage, is undergoing a commentary process. ❁

MIFF 2010

■ The Malaysian International Furniture Fair (MIFF) 2010 returns for its 16th year to Kuala Lumpur from 2 to 6 March. Taking place over three venues; the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) and MATRADE Exhibition and Convention Center (MECC), the fair

is bound to attract furniture buyers who are looking for three things: quality, style and a reasonable price.

MIFF 2009 drew 19, 075 visitors; with 6809 international visitors from 137 countries. With over 500 exhibitors from Malaysia and Asia, MIFF is Asia's Premier Furniture

(Continue on Page 20)

(Continued from Page 19)
Trade Exhibition.

Over the years, MIFF has identified itself as a one-stop buying centre where East meets West, providing products that cater to the needs of buyers worldwide. With this, plenty of returning and new buyers eagerly make their way to Malaysia on the first week of March to see the latest designs and innovation in the furniture world, which often results in sealed business deals.

For 2010, MIFF is branching out with a new exhibition titled ID Trends in conjunction with MIFF 2010 that will be held at the MATRADE Exhibition and Convention Centre. This is in line with MIFF's aim to reach out to local consumers by

offering them an accessible platform where interior designers and contract manufacturers are located in one spot to offer consumers advice and answers to their lifestyle needs.

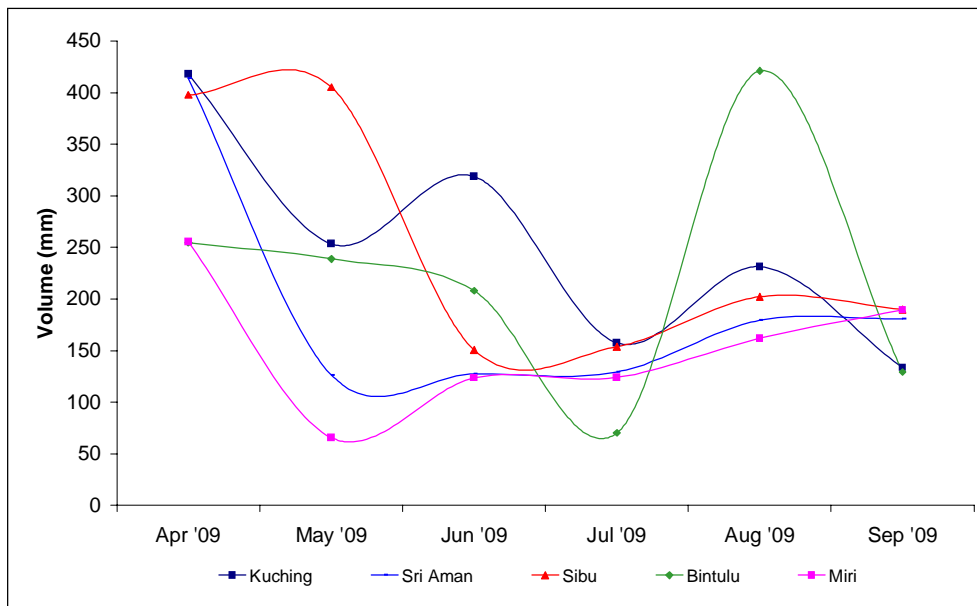
For further details, please visit MIFF's website at www.miff.com.my or contact;

MIFF Sdn Bhd (Co No. 408079-X)
No. 99-1, Villa Shoplex Pudu Impian III, Jalan Pudu Ulu,
Cheras 56100 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia.

Tel: +603 9282 2888
Fax: +603 9286 1551
Email: info@miff.com.my

yang mencari perabot bermutu tinggi, bergaya dan dengan harga yang berpatutan. Untuk maklumat selanjutnya, sila layari laman web MIFF di www.miff.com.my

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