



STA dan Rakan2

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2nd Environmental Compliance Audit Training Course

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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Sarawak Timber Association (STA), together with Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB), Sarawak coordinated and organised the 2nd Environmental Compliance Audit Training Course solely for members of STA.

Part 1 of the Training Course was held from 26 to 30 September 2016 in Wisma STA, Kuching. Twenty two (22) participants from fourteen (14) companies registered and attended this Training Course aiming to be trained as Internal Auditors.

Upon attaining Internal Auditor status, these participants will help their companies to carry out environmental auditing and to comply with the requirements of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as well as to implement the Environmental Management Plan.

Mr Peter Sawal, the Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak in his opening speech thanked STA for organising the Training Course. He disclosed that NREB will start implementing the *Natural Resources and Environmental (Audit) Rules, 2008* in 2017 for all Forest Timber Licences (FTLs) and Licence for Planted Forests (LPFs) in Sarawak. The audit exercise will be conducted by external auditor(s) appointed by NREB to evaluate the company's compliance status against the mitigating measures stipulated in the approved EIA Report for individual FTL / LPF.



Photo: Group Photo

The Training Course was conducted by Dr Chong Hock Guan, Consultant of CPD Borneo Sdn Bhd. During the Training Course, he shared with participants of the Course on the key principles of auditing, systemic audit process, audit scope, systematic approach during on-site audit and how to prepare an audit report. Dr Chong also explained the methods used during the on-site audit against the approved general and specific terms and conditions stated in EIA report. Amongst the methods were interviewing knowledgeable persons and verifying facts obtained through verification interviews, document review and site inspection before achieving the audit conclusions.

Mr Kenny Poon, Senior Environmental Controller Officer (Environmental Audit) of NREB briefed the participants of the Course on the *Natural Resources and Environmental (Audit) Rules, 2008* which was implemented and enforced by NREB on 1 January 2013. He informed participants of the

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Course that the objectives of the Rules were to enhance environmental compliance of project development through check and balance on the compliance level to the approval conditions issued to the developer as well as to assess the environmental risks caused by development activities and promote environmental stewardship.

Mr Tsai Koh Fen, the Compliance & Enforcement Officer of NREB presented on the *Natural Resources and Environment Ordinance (NREO), 1993* and the *Natural Resources and Environment (Prescribed Activities) Order, 1994*. In his presentation, he shared with the

participants of the Course, the legal and institutional framework on environment in Sarawak.

A site audit was carried out on 28 September 2016 at Polima Forest Bintulu Sdn Bhd in Sampadi, Lundu to provide participants of the Course with first hand audit experience. They were divided into groups and led by an audit team leader to carry out the audit based on general and specific terms and conditions stated in the EIA report.

Part 2 of the Training Course is scheduled on 24 - 28 October 2016 at Wisma STA, Kuching.

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ASEAN Bamboo Symposium 2016

Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), in collaboration with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM), Malaysia Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and Furniture Industry Technology Centre (FITEC) jointly organised the ASEAN Bamboo Symposium 2016 (ABS2016) from 27 to 29 September 2016 at Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), Kuala Lumpur.

With the theme “Sustainability and Advancement in Bamboo Utilisation”, ABS2016 was aimed to promote bamboo awareness as a sustainable resource, commercialisation of bamboo products, and community involvement in bamboo industries as well as to enhance multilateral collaborations among ASEAN countries for research and educational purposes. This Symposium served as a platform in disseminating the information of the world best practices in bamboo related industry, as well as to discuss the issues and challenges in establishing bamboo plantation, production, marketing and community. It is hoped that the outcomes of ABS2016 will provide leverage to Malaysia and the ASEAN countries in developing the bamboo based industry while conserving the environment.

ABS2016 attracted 177 local and international participants drawn from Ministries, Government

Agencies, research and academic institutes as well as bamboo related companies.



Photo: Group photo during ABS2016

Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong, Minister of Plantations Industries and Commodities (MPIC), represented by Datuk Datu Nasron Datu Mansur, Deputy Minister of MPIC, officiated the ABS2016. A book entitled ‘Bamboo: Traditional to Innovative Products’ published by FRIM was also launched during the opening ceremony.

In the opening remarks, Professor Dr Haji Khudzir Haji Ismail, Co-Chairman of ABS2016 cum Dean of Faculty of Applied Sciences, Universiti Teknologi MARA, highlighted the importance of bamboo and reiterated the objectives of ABS2016. He welcomed the participants of

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Did you know that.....

According to Bambang Hendroyono from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia, the ministry plans to reopen the wood log export to increase non-tax state revenue for 2017. The move will also help to add value as the wood will be processed domestically. Presently, due to the low prices of wood logs, many forest concession holders are not cutting down trees.

Source: MTIB News Extracts (Vol.30/07/16)

Did you also know that....

Since July 2016, Sarawak has gazetted a total area of 903,769 hectares (more than 2.2 million acres) comprising 43 national parks, 14 natural reserves, and six wildlife sanctuaries, and is in the process of creating another 31 new TPAs with a combined area of 451,819 hectares (more than 1.1 million acres).

Source: <https://news.mongabay.com/2016/08/sarawak-announces-department-of-national-parks-and-wildlife-to-open-next-year/>



Rule on Implementing Formaldehyde Emission Standards

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalised a rule to reduce exposure to formaldehyde vapours from certain wood products, either produced domestically or imported into the United States.

EPA worked with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to help ensure the final national rule is consistent with California's requirements for composite wood products. The Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products Act 2010 established emission standards for formaldehyde from composite wood products and directed EPA to finalise a rule on implementing and enforcing a number of provisions covering composite wood products.

One year after the rule is published i.e. August 2017, composite wood products that are sold, supplied, offered for sale, manufactured, or imported into the United States will need to be labeled as CARB 2 and Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Title VI compliant. These products include hardwood plywood, medium-density fiberboard, and particleboard, as well as household and other finished goods containing these products.

By including provisions for laminated products, product testing requirements, labeling, recordkeeping, and import certification, the final rule ensures that hardwood plywood, medium-density fiberboard, and particleboard products sold, supplied, offered for sale, imported to, or manufactured in the United States are in compliance with the emission standards.

The final rule also establishes a third-party certification program for laboratory testing and oversight of formaldehyde emissions from manufactured and/or imported composite wood products. This means in August 2018, a new import certification will have to accompany every shipment of imported products into the United States. In addition, all Third Party Certifiers will have to sign up with the new EPA programme and meet new as well as additional requirements.

International Wood Products Association (IWPA) is working closely with EPA to gather guidance documents and briefings are expected to be organised in collaboration with Sarawak Timber Association (STA) for exporters in Sarawak in due course.

Source: *International Wood Products Association (IWPA) Special E-News on 27 July 2016*

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the Symposium from various countries and fields as well as expressed his gratitude to those who sponsored this event.

ABS2016 was divided into four (4) sessions with eighteen (18) papers presented as follows:

- Session 1: Bamboo Plantation and Management
- Session 2: Technology, Product Development and Design
- Session 3: Marketing and Commercialisation
- Session 4: Bamboo and Community

A forum chaired by Dr Gan Kee Seng, Director of Forest Products Division, FRIM, took place after the

four (4) sessions of presentation. The forum discussed the way forward for the bamboo industries as well as the resolutions from the ABS2016.

Since ABS2016 was organised in conjunction with World Bamboo Day, which is normally celebrated globally on 18 September every year, a series of activities including exhibition, poster presentations and post-symposium tour were also organised by the Organising Committee. The participants of the Symposium visited Bamboo Playhouse in Kuala Lumpur Botanical Garden as well as TADOM Hill Resort in Banting, Selangor where most of the construction materials were of bamboo. The process of producing bamboo charcoal was also demonstrated during the visit to TADOM Hill Resort.



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19th Tri-Nations Joint Meeting of JLIA/JPMA/APKINDO/STIA/STA

The 19th Tri-Nations Joint Meeting between Japan Lumber Importers' Association (JLIA), Japan Plywood Manufacturers' Association (JPMA), Assosiasi Panel Kayu Indonesia (APKINDO), Sabah Timber Industries Association (STIA) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) was held for the first time in Kuching on 19 September 2016 at Wisma STA.



Photo: Group photo during ABS2016

A total of forty three (43) participants from JLIA, JPMA, APKINDO, STIA and STA attended the Meeting. Four (4) head of delegations namely Mr Akihisa Fukuda, Chairman of JLIA; Mr Atsuhiko Inoue, Chairman of JPMA; Mr Gunawan Salim, Board Member of APKINDO; and Mr James Ling of STA in their opening remarks, valued this meeting as it served as a platform not only to sustain but

also promote the trade of plywood through the sharing of information openly on current economy, forestry and timber trade policy, market requirement as well as supply and demand of plywood.

Three (3) country reports as well as reports from JPMA and plywood items were presented during the Meeting. The Meeting acknowledged that the global economic downturn, fluctuation in foreign currency and increasing costs of production are affecting the sale of plywood and growth of plywood industry globally. As wood is undeniable the only renewable material, all exporters agreed to stabilise the supply of plywood to Japan. Delegates to the Tri-Nations meeting were informed that effective 1 October 2016, the Japanese domestic plywood manufacturers will increase their selling price of domestic plywood. Delegates were informed that the trading houses in Japan are not stocking up plywood products, but instead will buy only after they have received orders from the domestic end-users.

An invitation was extended to JLIA and its Japanese buyers to attend a seminar on Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS) Standard in Tokyo and Osaka on 18 October and 19 October 2016 respectively. The next Tri-Nations Joint Meeting shall be held in Jakarta, Indonesia in September 2017.