



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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REDUCED ROYALTY RATE FOR LOGS AND EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PAYMENT OF ROYALTY BILLS

STA received letter from the Chief Executive Officer of Sarawak Forestry Corporation on 30 December 2008 attaching a letter from the Acting Director of Forests on the above subject. The letter is reproduced below:

Please be informed that the State Government has approved the following:

1. Reduce the royalty rate for logs under Royalty Class 1(i)A of the First Schedule of the Forests Ordinance [(Section 52(2)] and extend the time for payment of royalty bills by giving a grace period of 3 months for the year 2009 only.
2. Single (flat) rate of RM50.00 per m³ in round or RM100 per m³ converted for the year 2009.
3. Single (flat) rate of RM55.00 per m³ in round or RM110 per m³ converted for the year 2010.
4. Single (flat) rate of RM65.00 per m³ in round or RM130 per m³ converted for the year 2011 onwards.

The above-mentioned subject will take effect from 1 January 2009. Please ensure that all necessary actions are taken for smooth implementation.

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IWPA UPCOMING EVENT

World of Wood is organized by the International Wood Products Association (IWPA) and brings together importers, producers, wholesalers and service providers, among others, to conduct business and to discuss the latest issues concerning trade in imported hardwood and softwood products from both tropical and non-tropical producing regions. Details of the event is as follows:

Date: 25—27 March 2009
Venue: Indian wells, California

For more information, please visit www.iwpawood.org

MIFF 2009

The 15th Edition of the Malaysian International Furniture Fair (MIFF) 2009 will be held from 3 to 7 March 2009 at the Putra World Trade Centre and MATRADE Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Further information can be obtained from www.miff.com.my

LACEY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2008 ON TRADE IN TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS

Did you know that...

The National Plan for Climate Change in Brazil plans to reduce deforestation in the Amazon region by more than 70% by 2017. According to Brazil's Minister for the Environment, Carlos Minc, the area of deforested land will fall from 19,000 km² to 5,000 km² if the goals are met. The National Plan has set a goal of a 40% reduction between 2006 and 2009, and subsequent falls of 30% every four years. However, the fulfilling of the goals depends on many factors such as national and international resources.

Deforestation is responsible for 75% of polluting gas emissions in Brazil. The Plan also includes measures for energy efficiency and an increase in energy produced by co-generation, especially from sugar cane biogases.

Source:
MTIB News Extracts
(Vol.50/12/08)

The Lacey Act is a tool to combat trafficking in "illegal" wildlife, fish or plants and products thereof, thus avoiding deforestation. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, effective 22 May 2008, amended the Lacey Act by expanding its protection to a broader range of plants and plant products. This amendment extends the coverage of the Act to include plants outside the United States. It requires all timber harvested and the trade of timber and timber products to comply with the laws of the producing country; this Act also covers inter-state trade within the US.

Plants in this context are defined as *"any wild member of the plant kingdom, including roots, seeds, parts or product thereof, and including "trees from either natural or planted forest stands"*.

The Lacey Act makes it unlawful to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce any plant, with some limited exceptions, taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of the laws of the United States or most foreign laws. The Lacey Act also now makes it unlawful to make or submit any false record, account or label for, or any false identification of, any plant covered by the Act.

As of 15 December 2008, it will be unlawful to import any covered plant or plant product without a minor declaration but will require full declaration once the electronic declaration is available in April 2009.

The following are examples that constitute illegal logging under the amended Lacey Act:

- Theft of timber, including from Parks and Protected Areas
- Harvesting without permission
- Failure to comply with harvesting regulations
- Failure to pay royalties, taxes or fees

Declaration must be made at the time of importation, and this declaration must contain the following information:

- Scientific Name of Plant (including genus & species)
- Value of Importation
- Quantity of the plant
- Name of the Country in which the Plant was harvested

For paper and paperboard products with recycled content, it is required to state the average percentage of recycled content without regard species or country of harvest.

However, declaration does not apply to packaging material, unless the packaging

material itself is the item being imported.

If species varies and is unknown, declaration is required for name of each species that may have been used to produce the product. If the species is commonly harvested in more than one country, and the country is unknown, a declaration is required for name of each country from which the plant may have been harvested.

Violations and Penalties for breaching the Lacey Act – (i) for felonies, punishable 5 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 (\$500,000 for Corporations) (ii) for misdemeanors, punishable 1 year in prison and a fine of \$100,000 (\$200,000 for Corporations). For both cases, there will be forfeiture of goods.

More information can be obtained from www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN APPLIED SCIENCE (SUSTAINABLE TROPICAL FORESTRY MANAGEMENT) COURSE

The second Course for this programme started in September 2008. Although the Course has started, nomination of personnel can still be made by interested member companies to attend the course. The nominated person should have the following qualification:

- A degree from a

recognised university (in any field). Experience and/or other qualification may also be recognised for entry for those who do not have a degree.

- A good command of the English language.

Possession of a personal computer

(notebook) is a requirement for course.

For further information, please contact Associate Professor Hugh Bigsby of Lincoln University at bigsbyh@lincoln.ac.nz or Dr Peter Kho of STA Training Sdn Bhd at peter@sta.org.my or 082-332222 .

Did you also know that...

A survey by Eurostat has shown that of the 426.3mn m³ of round timber produced across the 27 EU Member States in 2006, 195.2mn m³ were used for saw timber and veneering. Some 128.2mn m³ were used for pulpwood, whilst 88.9mn m³ were used for fuel. The largest producers of round timber were Sweden, 65mn m³, Germany and France, both at 62mn m³, Finland, 51mn m³, and Poland at 32mn m³. These five producers contributed two thirds of the total volume produced in 2006. The biggest producer of saw timber and veneering was Germany at 38mn m³, whilst the biggest producer of pulpwood was Sweden at 27mn m³, and the biggest producer of fuel wood was France with 33mn m³.

Source:
MTIB News Extracts
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Picture: (Left) Students in classroom and (Right) Field trips to the forests to have a better understanding on their coursework



WISHING ALL OUR CHINESE READERS
A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR 2009



FROM CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL MEMBERS, MEMBERS &
MANAGEMENT OF STA

Printed Matter



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STA dan Rakan2

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STA UPDATE ON FLEGT VPA



Picture: (Top) Briefings to members in Sibul and (Right) Bintulu

STA organised a series of briefings to update members on the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade - Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT - VPA) in Kuching, Sibul, Bintulu and Miri. The briefings were conducted by the Dr Lee

Hua Seng, Chief Executive Officer and Ms Annie Ting, Senior Manager of the Secretariat. They briefed members on the background on FLEGT - VPA, Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS), Joint Technical Evaluation of Malaysia TLAS, Market

Access and Benefits and presented the concerns and views if Malaysia signed the VPA.

Comments and inputs from members had been collated and will be presented to the authority.