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STA dan Rakan2

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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Chief Editor:
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Members:
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Salfa Kamazura

Briefing on the Revised EIA Guidelines for Forest Harvesting 2012



Photo: Group photo of participants in Miri

Sarawak Timber Association (STA), in collaboration with the Natural Resources and Environmental Board (NREB) organised a briefing each on "The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines for Forest Harvesting 2012" in Sibu and Miri on 25 and 29 April 2013 respectively. The Briefing was attended by STA members, officers from NREB, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC).

The objectives of the Briefing were to provide a common understanding on the EIA requirements and the implementation process as well as to gather inputs from participants to enhance the revised EIA Guidelines.

In his opening remarks, Mr Peter Sawal, Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak urged STA members to work closely with NREB on the revised EIA Guidelines. He informed the participants in the Briefing that the data provided by project proponents in EMR for the

whole of Sarawak will be recorded in NREB's Geo Environment System for the ease of monitoring the trend in water quality. Mr Sawal also spoke on the possibility of the timber industry being self regulatory with training provided by NREB to the environmental officers from members' companies.

There were three (3) presentations during the Briefing, namely:

1. "Introduction to EIA"
- by Mr Justine Jok Jau Emang, Senior Assistant Controller, NREB
2. "Revised EIA Guidelines for Forest Harvesting 2012"
- by Ms Shirley Lee, Ecosol Consultancy Sdn Bhd
3. "Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and Environmental Monitoring Report (EMR)"
- by Mr Paul Bond, Assistant Controller, NREB (in Miri) and Mr Mitchel Bay Samuel, NREB (in Sibu)

57th International Wood Panel Association Annual Convention

The International Wood Panel Association (IWPA) 57th Annual Convention with the theme "Truly a World of Wood" was held in Vancouver, Canada from 17 to 19 April 2013. More than 230 participants from twenty (20) countries attended this year's convention.

Mr Warren Spitz, the IWPA's 2012/2013 President, kicked off the Convention with a quick look at last year's activities and provided insights into some new projects and activities that IWPA will focus on in the year ahead. Ms Cindy Squires, the new IWPA Executive Director, replacing the former Executive Vice President Mr Brent McClendon, was officially introduced to IWPA members at the Convention.

The keynote speaker, the Honorary David Emerson shared with participants on his business insight on the North American trade from a global perspective.

The 3-day programme highlighted useful updates on economic trends, regulations in relation to the timber trade as well as on timber use and trends in architectural designs of residential and commercial projects. Participants were briefed by the IWPA Due Care Taskforce on their work on the Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association's American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard draft on Guidance in Performing Due Diligence in Procuring and Sourcing Wood.

Mr Jeffrey Grimson, a lawyer from Mowry & Grimson PLLC updated participants on the International Trade Commission (ITC) investigation against hardwood plywood originating from China as well as a similar case with regard to timber flooring products. IWPA members voiced concerns on the effects of the anti-dumping (AD) duty and countervailing duty (CVD) imposed by the US Department of Commerce on hardwood plywood imported from China as these duties will increase the costs of plywood.

The preliminary CVD rates were announced on 28 February 2013 with 0% imposed on mandatory respondents, 22.63% for all other respondents, and

27.16% for non-respondents. Participants noted that the announcement of preliminary AD rates has been postponed to 29 April 2013. In order to bring the CVD rates process in line with the AD investigation, both final rates will be announced in September 2013.

On 18 April 2013, there was a session featuring four (4) presentations from international speakers on the importance of legality and verification in international timber supply chains, listed below:-

- "Indonesia's Readiness to Supply World Market with Legal Timber from Sustainable Managed Forests"
- jointly presented by Dr Dwi Sudharto from the Ministry of Forestry Indonesia, Mr Achmad Edi Nugroho from the Multi-Stakeholder Forestry Programme, and Mr Budi Hermawan from the Indonesian Wood Panel Association;
- "Timber Supply from Ghana"
- by Mr Mohammad Nurudeen Iddrisu from the Ghana Forestry Commission;
- "Sarawak's Timber Legality Verification System and Timber Trade Statistics"
- by Ms Annie Ting from the Sarawak Timber Association; and
- "What is European Industry doing to respond to the EUTR"
- by Ms Rachel Butler from the European Timber Trade Federation.

Each speaker focused on its individual's perspective with regard to the legality in the supply chain in their respective country.

The IWPA's 58th Annual Convention will be held from 5 to 7 March 2014 in St Petersburg, Florida.



Did you know that.....

More than 60 per cent of the land area in Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is made up of landscaping plants and natural forests to allow for the natural absorption of carbon. The carbon absorption process would make UMS to be known as a 'Low Carbon City', as each road is surrounded with shady trees.

Source: 19 April 2013, Borneo Post

Did you also know that....

China's demand for disposable chopsticks has increased by nearly 30 billion in the past few years, and the need has become a burden on the country's forests. China produces 80 billion disposable chopsticks per year. It was estimated that 20 million 20-year-old trees would be required to cover China's annual chopstick production

Source: Huffingtonpost – March



7th Australian Illegal Logging Stakeholder Working Group Meeting

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Australia organised the 7th Illegal Logging Stakeholder Working Group Meeting through teleconference on 24 April 2013. Participants to this teleconference included the Malaysian Working Group and other stakeholders. The Malaysian Working Group met at the office of the Malaysia Timber Council (MTC), was led by Datuk Yeo Heng Hau, Chief Executive Officer of MTC. The Group comprised representatives from the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC), the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB), the Malaysian Wood Industries Association (MWIA), and the Sarawak Timber Association (STA).

Mr Ben Mitchell, the Director of International Forest Policy briefed participants of the teleconference that the proposed draft on the Illegal Logging Prohibition

Amendment Regulation 2013, and the steps to be taken after the Regulation is tabled, including an extensive outreach and education program. He said the draft Regulation does not represent the Australian Government's final position and will be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for consideration in early May 2013 and to the Federal Executive Council for final approval on 22 May 2013.

During the teleconference, members of the Working Group raised concerns and sought clarifications from DAFF on the draft Regulation, legality framework as well as the outreach and education programme. The Malaysian Working Group members also welcomed the idea of a Country Specific Guidelines (CSG) between the Malaysian and the Australian Governments. MPIC will be the Malaysian focal point for this bilateral discussion.

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Briefing on the Findings and Recommendations of the National Inquiry on Land Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Malaysia

A briefing on the findings and recommendations of the National Inquiry (NI) on Land Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Malaysia was organised by the Human Rights Commission (SUHAKAM) at the Hilton in Kuching on 10 April 2013. The Briefing was conducted to update the representatives from the private sectors who had attended and submitted their views and causes on the land issues inquired by SUHAKAM during the NI held in March 2012. Approximately, thirty (30) representatives from the timber and oil palm industries attended this briefing.

The Briefing was chaired by the Vice-Chairman of SUHAKAM, Datuk Dr Khaw Lake Tee. The other SUHAKAM commissioners who attended the briefing were Datuk Delta anak Samen, Mr James Nayagam, Ms Jannie Lasimbang and Mr Muhammad Sha'ani B Abdullah.

According to the Principal Assistant Secretary for

the NI, Ms Jesrina Grewal, SUHAKAM had recorded 198 complaints from the natives alleging NCR land violation during the public consultations conducted in Sarawak from 17 to 30 September 2011. From these 198 complaints, 36 were selected by SUHAKAM for a Public Hearing in March 2012. In the Public Hearing, SUHAKAM received evidences from a total of 111 witnesses who represented the various Government Agencies, private sectors and indigenous peoples.

The following are the seven (7) categories of issues, in Bahasa Malaysia as extracted from the presentation of SUHAKAM's findings:

- i. Pentadbiran;
- ii. Peladangan;
- iii. Skim Pembangunan Tanah Komuniti;
- iv. Pembalakan dan Penanaman hutan;
- v. Kemasukan tanah anak negeri dalam;

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Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak Sarawak Timber Association

11 Floor, Wisma STA, Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.
Telephone: ++(60 82) 332 222 Facsimile: ++(60 82) 487 888, 487 999
E-mail: sta@sta.org.my Website: www.sta.org.my

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- vi. Projek Pembangunan Komersial; and
- vii. Pampasan daripada pengambilan tanah.

Other constraints and results of the findings include;

- i. Kekangan-kekangan yang menghalang hak anak negeri Sarawak ke atas tanah;
 - a) Kekangan Undang-Undang
 - b) Kekangan Dasar
 - c) Kekangan Pentadbiran
- ii. Kesan-kesan pengiktirafan dan ketiadaan pengiktirafan hak tanah orang asal
 - a) Kesan Sosio-Budaya dan Psikologi
 - b) Kesan Ekonomi
 - c) Kesan Politik

Datuk Delta Samen, the State Commissioner, presented the following 18 recommendations made by the SUHAKAM:

- 1. Jaminan Pegangan Tanah
- 2. Penjelasan Konsep Pegangan Adat
- 3. Pengembalian hak tanah adat yang tidak diiktiraf
- 4. Mekanisma Keadilan (Redress Mechanisms)
- 5. Menangani Dasar + Perancangan Dahulu
- 6. Kejisemula Pampasan
- 7. Menerimapakai HRBA (Human Right Base

- Approach) bagi Pembangunan dan Undang-Undang FPIC (Free, Prior and Informed Consent)
- 8. Memastikan Pembangunan Tanah Tidak memberi kesan buruk kepada orang asal
- 9. Menggalakkan Model Pembangunan yg berjaya
- 10. Dasar yang berbentuk "Mesra-penduduk, pembangunan mapan"
- 11. Penyelesaian Tanah Orang Asal
- 12. Pengiktirafan Tanah Orang Asli di Kawasan Lindung
- 13. Menggalakkan penglibatan secara aktif dalam pengurusan hutan
- 14. Kajian semula secara komprehensif JAKOA
- 15. Meningkatkan keupayaan Jabatan Jabatan Tanah
- 16. Mengkajisemula Maklumbalas isu-isu tanah
- 17. Pelaksanaan segera langkah-langkah pembaikan -1 (Coordination of Government Agencies and their mechanism)
- 18. Pelaksanaan segera langkah-langkah pembaikan -2 (Establishment of special Unit the natives)

SUHAKAM informed the participants that a report comprising the findings and recommendations will be submitted to the Malaysian Parliament and will be distributed after the General Election in May 2013.