



# STA dan Rakan2

August 2013

For Private Circulation Only

Issue 182

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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## Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management)

The Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) subject of the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management) (PGDip) Course was held from 19 to 23 August 2013 at Melatai Forest Management Unit (FMU) in Kapit Division, Sibul. It was attended by nineteen (19) students of the PGDip, one (1) student of STA Sustainable Forest Manager (STASFM) Course and one (1) participant of Continuing Education (taking single subject only). The subject was conducted by Dr Mark Bloomberg from Lincoln University, Christchurch, New Zealand and Mr Gan Boon Keong from Logfisher International Sdn Bhd with logistic support from staff of Melatai FMU.

The subject was delivered in two (2) parts; four (4) days classroom style lecture and one (1) day field trip. The main purpose of this subject is to introduce RIL in the context of sustainable forestry in Sarawak, which included planning of RIL operations in terms of pre-harvest assessment and

post-harvest assessment. The lecture was held at the Base Camp and the field trip was conducted at selected sample plots within the FMU where the students and participant did a pre-harvest assessment using 50x50m (0.25ha) sample and a post-harvest assessment inventory using the Silvicultural Management Inventory (SMI) system. Students had a better understanding of the classification of trees was able to conduct silvicultural mapping to provide an overall view of the continuity of the forest canopy and can identify the closure of the area using canopy closure classes as well as to work out the projection to determine the future of harvestable trees on a 25-year and/or 40-years cycle.

The next subject, Resource and Industrial Planning will be delivered in September 2013 in both Bintulu and Sibul. Thereafter, the subject "Economics of Forest

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### Editorial Board

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Photo: One for the album at Melatai FMU

## First Standards Review Committee Meeting for the MC&I (Forest Plantations)



*Photo (left): Group photo of the members and alternate members of SRC together with SRC Secretariat*

The Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (Forest Plantations) [MC&I (Forest Plantations)] which is the standard for assessing the management practices of forest plantations under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS), is due for first review in 2013. In line with the requirements specified in the MTCS document SSP2/2012: Rules on Standard Setting Process for Development of Timber Certification Standards, the main body which will be responsible for the review of the MC&I (Forest Plantations) is the Standards Review Committee (SRC).

The First Meeting of the SRC for the review of the MC&I (Forest Plantations) was held from 26 to 28 August 2013 at Dorsett Regency Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The meeting was attended by members, alternate members and observers from the economic, social (indigenous peoples/workers) and environment

interest groups, and the relevant government agencies from Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia. The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) facilitated the review process and served as the Secretariat for the SRC. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Yong Teng Koon from the SRC Secretariat who was unanimously elected by the SRC.

The meeting deliberated on the comments and proposals received from the first Public Comment Exercise on all the ten principles, criterion, indicators and verifiers contained in the MC&I (Forest Plantations). The SRC Secretariat shall prepare the Enquiry Draft 1 of the revised standard, which will be subjected to a Second (30-day) Public Comment period which is expected to be held in November 2013.

The whole review process is anticipated to take 18 months, i.e. from January 2013 to June 2014.

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## Standardisation of Term Used in Tree Planting Plan

The Sarawak Timber Association Secretariat had received a letter from Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) on the standardisation of term used in Tree Planting Plan (TPP) with regard to Licence for Planted Forests (LPF) on 28 August 2013.

The letter stated that with effect from 28 August 2013, all LPF holders shall use the term "Coupe" instead of "Compartment" in the Tree Planting Plan (TPP) as well as in their planting progress reports. All LPF holders that are still using the term "Compartment" are kindly advised to change or amend their relevant maps especially the TPP and resubmit them to the Department.



### ***Did you know that.....***

Vietnam will move into the second greenhouse gas reduction phase of the National UN-REDD Programme to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD). This followed a deal where the Government of Norway will be providing USD 30 million (EUR 22.71 million) for the program's second phase. Meanwhile, for 2014 and 2016, Vietnam will be getting USD 1.5 million from the Japanese Fund for Poverty Reduction. This will come via the Asian Development Bank.

*Source: Vietnamnet, 01 August 2013*

**Did you also know that....**

Beginning from 1 January 2014, the Government of Indonesia will require imported wood and wood products to have a certificate of legality. This measure is similar to the requirement imposed on wood and wood products exported from Indonesia. The Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) will be sign as the legality documents for Indonesian wood and wood products in September 2013.

Source: *Bisnis Indonesia*, 16 August 2013



## **Meeting with Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities**

The following is the press release made by the Sarawak Timber Association on the meeting with Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities.

### **PRESS RELEASE (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)**

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) hosted a meeting with Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities on 1 August 2013 at Wisma STA Kuching. The 8-member delegation including Datin Paduka Nurmala Abdul Rahim, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) and Dr Jalaluddin Harun, Director-General of Malaysian Timber Industry Board, was received by Dato Henry Lau, STA Honorary Secretary.

STA took this opportunity to introduce STA and highlighted the contributions of the forestry and timber industry in Sarawak to the Minister who was appointed after the recent General Election.

The Minister acknowledged in his opening address, the challenges faced by the forestry and timber industry in Malaysia.

STA informed the Minister and his delegation that although Sarawak has in place its own legality system, its members find it costly to meet the different sets of requirements demanded by the international legislations or initiatives as there is no common definition for and interpretation of legality. STA raised its reservation on the intention of Malaysia to sign with the European Union, a Voluntary Partnership Agreement on the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade since the benefits are not equitable to the additional commitments placed on the producing country.

STA recognised the important role played by MPIC to ensure the continuous growth and well being of the forestry and timber trade. The Minister agreed for MPIC to engage with the relevant forestry authorities and industries to compile and document the legality systems used in the three regions.

The Minister has given his assurances to consider STA's appeal to recommend to the Ministry of Finance the proposed incentives submitted by STA, to accelerate the development of forest plantation projects in Sarawak. STA further sought the support from the Minister to ensure that the changes in our Government's implementation policies related to supply of manpower and minimum wage, are not disruptive to the operations of and administratively cumbersome for STA members.

Chairman of Sarawak Timber Association  
2 August 2013





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## **3rd High Level Market Dialogue**

The Indonesian Exporters Association (GPEI), in collaboration with PT Mutu Hijau Indonesia, hosted the 3rd High Level Market Dialogue – 2013 (3rd HLMD) with the theme "The New Era of Indonesian Legal Timber Products to meet Global Markets, AUSTRALIA – CHINA – EUROPE – JAPAN – USA" on 21 August 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Approximately two hundred and twenty (220) participants attended the Dialogue.

The 3rd HLMD updated the participants on market developments for legal timber and provided better understanding of the SVLK (Timber Legality Assurance System)/V-Legal, Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012, the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR), the Lacey Act and green building. It also looked at the implementation issues and the implications on timber industry as well as at the economic aspects of the new era of trade in legal timber.

The Forestry Minister of Indonesia, His Excellency Zulkifi Hasan declared open the 3rd HLMD. In his keynote speech, he emphasised the readiness of the Indonesian producers/exporters to enter the new era of trading on legal timber products in the global market. Mr Amha Buang, Assistant Director (Trade & Industry),

International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in his speech, highlighted the numerous challenges and threats the tropical timber has to confront with in the past decades as it struggles to maintain its stake in the international timber markets.

Seventeen (17) presentations were made in the four sessions at the 3rd HLMD highlighting the emerging opportunities for legal timber in the international market and the links between trade, growth, poverty and sustainability.

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*(Continued from page 1)*

Management" will be delivered from 21 to 25 October 2013 at Level 12, Wisma STA in Kuching.

In line with this, members of STA who wish to further their knowledge in this subject may attend it on a Continuing Education basis (i.e. single subject only). No fees will be charged for attending this subject but participants shall be responsible for travel to the venue of the course, accommodation and other travel-related expenses. Those interested to attend this subject are to contact Dr Peter Kho or Ms Suzie Adee at 082-332222.