

STA Review

Volume 172 PPK 174/4/2008 Monthly Magazine of the **Sarawak Timber Association**

December 2007

Sarawak Timber Selling Mission to India

Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak telah mengajurkan Misi Dagangan Kayu ke India dari 2 hingga 9 Disember 2007 di tiga kawasan, iaitu Chennai, Bangalore dan Mumbai.

Objektif misi ini adalah untuk memperluaskan syer pasaran kayu Sarawak serta mengeratkan hubungan perdagangan dengan pembeli yang sedia ada dan baru. Misi ini juga mensasarkan untuk merebut peluang dagangan untuk rempah dan sektor ICT untuk pembangunan dan kemajuan taman teknologi Sarawak.

Seminar Perkayuan Sarawak yang telah diadakan di tiga buah tempat tersebut ini adalah untuk memberi pemahaman yang lebih luas tentang Industri Perhutanan dan Perkayuan di Sarawak kepada para peserta India. Pertemuan dagangan juga diadakan bersama ahli-ahli dari Persatuan Pedagang-pedagang Kayu dan Papan Lapis Chennai, Persatuan Kayu Bangalore dan Persatuan Pengimport Kayu India Berhad, masing-masing di Chennai, Bangalore dan Mumbai.

■ The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) organised a Timber Selling Mission to India from 2 to 9 December 2007 targeting Chennai, Bangalore and Mumbai. The 52-member delegation comprising three Assistant Ministers, Government Officials and representatives from private sector, was led by YB Dato Sri Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hassan, the Second Minister of Planning and Resource Management and the Minister of Public Utilities Sarawak. STA was represented by its Vice Chairman, Mr. Lau Swee Nguong.

The Mission's objectives were to expand Sarawak timber market share as well as to strengthen and establish closer bilateral trade relationship with existing and potential buyers in India. Besides promoting our timber in India, the Mission also aimed to have a better understanding of business opportunities in spices trade and the ICT sector for the development and advancement of Sarawak's technology park.

A Sarawak Timber Seminar was held at these three places for Indian participants to have a better understanding of forestry and the

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Above: Mr. Wan Zaidi Wan Abdullah, Consul General of Malaysia in Mumbai delivering his remarks

Seated (L - R): Mr. R. T. Somaiya, the President of Timber Importers Association India Ltd, YB Dato Sri Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hassan, Leader of Sarawak Delegation, and Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh

Below: Members of Chennai Timber & Plywood Merchants Association viewing timber products from Sarawak on display



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timber industry in Sarawak. Topics covered in the presentation included Resources of Sarawak, Sarawak Government Policy & Laws with regard to Forestry & the Timber Industry, Forest Plantation (*Acacias*), Status of Wood-Based Trade, Sarawak Timber Trade, Sarawak - India Timber Trade, and Commercial Timber & Timber Species Suitable for Door & Window Frames.

In Chennai, the delegation had business meetings with members of the Chennai Timber & Plywood Merchants Association headed by its Vice-President, Mr. Raja Sekar; in Bangalore with members from Bangalore Timber Association headed by its President, Mr. Ramaniklal Vagadiya; while in Mumbai with members from Timber Importers Association India Ltd headed by its President, Mr. R. T. Somaiya.

India has been the major importer of our logs since 2003, overtaking Japan. In the year 2006, India imported 1.4 million m³ of logs worth RM682 million from Sarawak; mainly of two species, Meranti and Selangan batu. Compared with the total export volume of logs from Sarawak into the Indian market recorded in 2002, the volume in 2006, had increased significantly by 40%.

Tropical timber in India is mainly used for builder's joinery and woodworking, construction as well as

for furniture and furniture components. The imported tropical timbers consist mainly of two species, Teak and Selangan batu (which has the same characteristics as their local species, Sal), from Malaysia, Indonesia and Myanmar.

India buyers in all these three places reiterated that they are only interested in buying hard and durable timbers. During the individual business meetings, the delegation members had the opportunity to discuss in detail with the Indian buyers on trade matters and to promote and create awareness on the potential availability of other timber species and timber products (e.g. sawn timber, plywood, mouldings, etc) from Sarawak.

With the massive population of 1.1 billion in India, there are huge potential opportunities for Sarawak timber exporters to expand their timber market share, not only in supplying logs but also timber products, in particular sawn timber and plywood.

Delegation members also visited small scale sawmills in Chennai and Bangalore. In Mumbai, the delegation visited Indian timber merchants located at the Mustafa Bazaar. These mill visits had enlightened the delegation on how the wood processing industry works in India, particularly in these three places. ❁



Picture: Group photo of delegation members & members of the Bangalore Timber Association at the Chancery Pavilion Hotel in Bangalore

Jawatankuasa Hasil-Hasil Panel STA mengadakan sesi perbincangan pada 17 Disember 2007 di Sibu dipengerusikan oleh Encik Stephen Lau, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa.

Dalam perbincangan ini, ahli-ahli bertukar maklumat pasaran. Mereka juga berbincang tentang keadaan kayu balak di Sarawak dan garis panduan untuk harga panel konkrit, panel struktur dan panel lantai. Pengerusi telah memberi satu laporan tentang misi dagangan ke India.

Seksyen 54B Ordinan Hutan Sarawak (Pindaan 2001) yang memerlukan semua majikan mengupah pekerja terlatih untuk menjalankan aktiviti hutan telah diluluskan oleh DUN pada sidangannya pada 31 Oktober 2001. Sejak itu, STA dengan kerjasama kerajaan negeri melalui Jabatan Hutan Sarawak telah mereka dan menguatkuasakan sistem latihan dalam Negeri. STA telah diberitahu secara lisan oleh Jabatan Hutan Sarawak kemungkinan Undang-undang tersebut dikuatkuasakan pada tahun 2008.

Sehubungan perkara ini, ahli-ahli syarikat STA diseru supaya mencalonkan peserta berwarganegara Malaysia yang berpengalaman untuk

STA Panel Products Committee Discussion

■ The STA Panel Products Committee had a discussion on 17 December 2008 in Sibu, chaired by Mr. Stephen Lau, the Committee Chairman.

The group exchanged market information. Amongst the issues discussed were the current log situation in Sarawak and the guidelines for prices of concrete panels, structural panels and floor base panels. The Committee proposed to have a meeting with the Glue Manufacturers' Association

regarding the recent increase in glue prices.

The Chairman also presented a report on the timber selling mission to India from 2 to 9 December 2007. The Indian market, with a population of 1.1 billion, is seen as a huge potential for export of plywood from Sarawak. The production of plywood in India was reported to be 300,000 m³, import is almost negligible due to the accumulated import duty and sales tax of close to 45%. ❁

CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE TRAINER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME Log Loading Skills Set

■ The legislation, Section 54B of the Forests Ordinance (Sarawak Cap 126), that requires all Logging Companies (as Employer) to hire properly trained workmen to carry out forestry activities (including harvesting operations) was passed by the State Legislative Assembly at its sitting on 31 October 2001. Since then, STA Training Sdn. Bhd. (a wholly-owned company of STA) has been working with the State Government through the Forest Department Sarawak, to design, implement and integrate the training system for the State. The Association was given to understand that the above legislation may be enforced on some forestry activities in 2008.

STA members are invited to nominate potential candidates who

are Malaysians, preferably with relevant hands-on skills for the above programme. Candidates must have at least a completed primary education and physically fit. All candidates will be assessed at their respective camps, for suitability to be trained as trainers. These candidates, once trained, will be the in-house trainers of the company to train operators in this skills set.

Basically, this skills set will cover the health and safety, first aid, environmental issues, maintenance of machine, operator's responsibilities as well as job planning. Trainees will also be taken out to the log yard or log pond for practical sessions. At the log pond or log yard, trainees will be introduced to the features of loading and unloading logs. The hazardous

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elements at the work place will be highlighted.

The STA Council recognises the high direct and indirect cost of training. To help offset some of the cost incurred for training, the Association, through its wholly-owned Company, STA Training Sdn. Bhd. (STAT) will be providing a financial contribution. This financial

contribution will only be disbursed upon successful completion of the training.

For further information, please contact Mr. Dennis Te Tuhi or Ms. Melinda Chai of STA Training Sdn. Bhd. at 082-332222. Please send your nominations to us no later than 30 January 2008. ❁



Picture: Log Loading

STA Membership Renewal

Members are reminded that all STA Membership expires on **31 December 2007**. Notices for renewal of STA Memberships had been sent out to all Members on 31 October 2007.

All payments for renewal of membership are due on **1 January 2008**. However, in accordance to Article 4(d) of STA Memorandum and Articles of Association [page 22 of Tenth Printing, September 2003], members are given a grace period of up to **31 January 2008** to effect the payment.

STA Membership will only be renewed once all the required supporting document(s) and the correct subscription payment are received. Payment should be by crossed cheque made payable to "Sarawak Timber Association".

menjalani kursus latihan 'Log Loading'. Calon-calun yang telah menyempurnakan latihan, akan menjadi pelatih Syarikat untuk melatih pekerja lain akan set latihan ini.

Pencalonan hendaklah dibuat selewat-lewatnya pada 30 Januari 2008.

Sila hubungi Encik Dennis Te Tuhi atau Cik Melinda Chai di Urusetia STA melalui telefon: 082-332 222 untuk maklumat lanjut.

Semua keahlian STA tamat pada 31 Disember 2007.

Notis pemberitahuan pembaruan telah dihantar kepada semua ahli pada 31 Oktober 2007. Semua bayaran yuran perlu dibuat selewat-lewatnya pada 1 Januari 2008. Walau bagaimanapun, ahli-ahli diberi tempoh sehingga 31 Januari 2008 untuk membuat bayaran.

Conference on Forestry and Forest Products Research

Persidangan Perhutanan dan Penyelidikan Hasil Hutan 2007 (CFFPR 2007) telah diadakan di Legend Hotel, Kuala Lumpur dari 27-29 November 2007.

Persidangan bertema "Memperseimbangkan Keperluan Ekonomi dan Ekologi" dihadiri oleh kira-kira 430 para saintis, penyelidik dan peserta-peserta dari agensi kerajaan dan industri berkaitan dengan hutan.

CFFPR 2007 memperbincangkan pelbagai topik berkaitan dengan penyelidikan dan pembangunan bidang perhutanan dan hasil hutan, termasuk biodiversiti dan alam sekitar, perhutanan dan ladang hutan, sumber hutan dan hasilnya, bioteknologi dan hasil asli dan ekonomi-teknologi.

■ The biennial Conference on Forestry and Forest Products Research (CFFPR 2007) was aimed at disseminating research and development (R & D) results related to forestry and forest products. This Conference, jointly organised by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), the Malaysian Wood Preserving Association (MWPA), the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions, and the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality, was held from 27 to 29 November 2007 at the Legend Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. With the theme 'Balancing Economic and Ecological Needs', the Conference was attended by some 430 renowned scientists, researchers, and participants from government agencies and forestry-related industries from both local and abroad.

The two-day Conference cum exhibition was officially declared open by Y. B. Dato' Seri Azmi Khalid, the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia. The Minister congratulated the organisers on CFFPR 2007 which he felt was timely as the Malaysian Government is giving more emphasis on research and development (R&D) as one of the key drivers of our economic growth in the years ahead. He also pointed out the important role of R&D on forestry and forest products in the sustainable utilisation and conservation of

our natural resource.

CFFPR 2007 addressed various topics of interests pertinent to forestry and forest products research and development. These include biodiversity and the environment; forestry and plantation forests; forest resource and products; biotechnology and natural products; and techno-economics. Dato' Dr. Abdul Razak Mohd. Ali, the Director-General of FRIM, in his welcoming address mentioned that technical papers and posters presented in CFFPR 2007 aimed to give participants an insight as to how forestry sector can remain significant in charting the course of our economic growth in the near future.

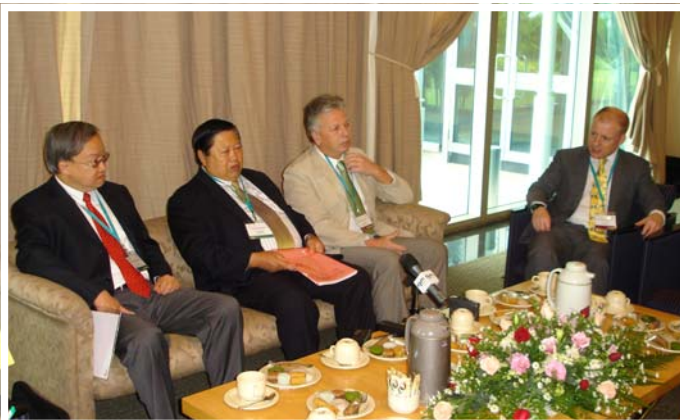
Keynote addresses were delivered by Professor Dato' Dr. Azizan Abu Samah and Professor Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak on "Possible Impacts of Global Warming in the Tropics" and "Herbal Industries - The Way Forward". Fifty papers were presented in three sessions which were held concurrently; followed by two techno-economics sessions where eight presentations on related topics were highlighted. ❁



Picture: Y. B. Dato' Seri Azmi Khalid declaring open the Conference

2007 in Review

JANUARY ...



Left & below: STA hosted a Timber Trade Forum on 17 January 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching for a group of timber traders from the UK and the Netherlands to meet with its timber industry leaders from Sarawak. The forum was jointly organised by the Malaysian Timber Council, the Dutch Timber Trade Association, the UK Timber Trade Federation and the Sarawak Timber Association

FEBRUARY ...



Left: Mr. Lau Swee Nguong, Vice-Chairman of STA, presenting STA Scholarship to Abdul Gafar bin Mahdi who is pursuing a Degree in Science and Management of Plant Resources at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

Above: STA, through its wholly-owned company, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd, made financial contributions to 14 Chinese Secondary Schools in Sarawak and the Sarawak United Association of Private Chinese Secondary Schools Management Board on 3 February 2007



The STA Open House held on 27 February 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching

Above left & left: Guests at STA Open House

Above right: Lion dance performance

Right: Datuk Leo Chai receiving a "flowered" cabbage to signify good fortune for the new year



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MARCH ...



Left : Assessor Workshop held at Bukit Kana Field Station, Tatau, Bintulu from 5 - 9 March 2007, facilitated by Mr. John Macredie from the Forest Industries Training, New Zealand and assisted by Mr. Dennis Te Tuhi, STAT's Log Loading Trainer

Below: Trainers during field training



Left: Meeting with YB Dato Sri Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hassan, Second Minister of Planning & Resource Management & Minister of Public Utilities Sarawak, to discuss Sarawak Labour Ordinance on 9 March 2007

Right & below: The STA Annual General Meeting was held on 30 March 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The meeting was attended by 33 representatives from 103 member companies



Right: The STA Panel Products Committee was very active throughout 2007 and met on 12 February, 23 March, 20 July, 13 August, 2 October, 9 November and 17 December 2007. The Committee also held a Press Conference on 2 October to announce the voluntary reduction in the plywood production by the Members of the Panel Products group



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APRIL ...



Above left & right: STA organised a two-day Workshop on Collaborative Approach to Research for Forest Management Certification at Wisma STA from 12 - 13 April 2007 aimed at identifying and addressing gaps in technical know-how, survey methodologies and research investigations that are required to support efforts by Member Companies of STA undergoing or intending to undergo Certification under the Malaysian Timber Certification Council's Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (2002)



Above left & right: The presentation of Letters of Achievement for the STAT Trainer Development Programme held on 10 April 2007 in Miri. This is the first batch of trainers who are trained by STA trainers, who fulfilled all the requirements of a trainer under the Sarawak Modular Training Framework.

MAY ...

Above: The STA Certification Committee met this year on 9 May 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The meeting was chaired Mr. Yong Nyan Siong, the Committee Chairman. The meeting was briefed on various matters, including the draft Malaysian Criteria & Indicators for the Forest Management Certification (Forest Plantations) or MC&I (Forest Plantations)



Left: STA organised a Tea Talk on 12 May 2007. The invited speaker, Mr. John Sabang attached to the Forest Research Centre of the Sarawak Forestry Corporation talked about "Soils: What and Where to Plant?". The talk attracted an audience of 79

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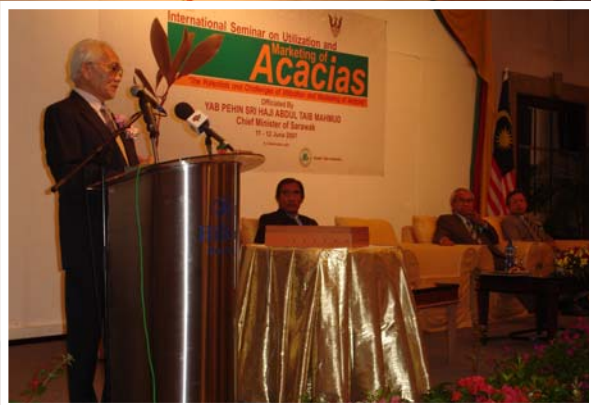
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JUNE ...



Left: Representatives from the STA Forest Plantation Category and the STA Certification Committee met on 7 June 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching, to comment on the draft Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification

Right: The STA Wood Residues Committee met twice, on 20 March and 8 June 2007 where issues related to the usage and supply of wood residues were discussed



Left & right: The International Seminar of Utilisation and Marketing of Acacias held from 11-12 June 2007 in Kuching where STA was one of the sponsors. The Seminar was attended by 150 participants, both local and international



JULY ...

Below: STA with the collaboration of Global Forestry Services, organised the Sarawak Carbon Forestry Dialogue on 3 July 2007 in Kuching to discuss avenues available for forest concession holders for carbon trading



Above: Office-bearers of the Malaysian Timber Association with STA holding the position of Honorary Secretary. The Association had its Annual General Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 27 June 2007

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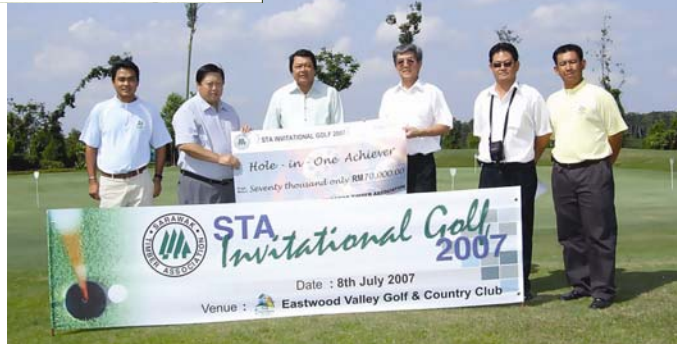
Left: Daiken Corporation and STA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 5 July 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching, to provide assistance in selecting appropriate candidates to receive Daiken Scholarships. Mr. Hiroyuki Ibe of Daiken Corporation and Datuk Leo Chai, Chairman STA exchanging the signed MoU

Right: Presentation of mock cheque to Riam Institute of Technology on 7 July 2007 in Miri. STA through its wholly-owned company, STA Training Sdn Bhd, made a financial contribution of RM200,000.00 to the Institute



STA Invitational Golf 2007 teed off on 8 July 2007 at the Eastwood Valley Golf and Country Club, Miri

Left: Datuk Jimmy Lau Hieng Wui (Managing Director of Jimlogs & JL Motors Sdn Bhd) handing over the key of a Proton Waja Campro P2 which he sponsored for the Hole-in-One Prize to Datuk Leo Chai, Chairman STA



Above left: One for the album! Some STA Members and their invited guests at the Competition

Above right: Datuk Leo Chai, Chairman STA handing a mock cheque for the amount of RM70,000.00 for the Hole-in-One Cash Prize to Dr. Lee Hua Seng, CEO STA and Organising Chairman of the STA Invitational Golf 2007

Left: Some of the prizes up for grabs at the Competition



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Left: Members of STA paying a courtesy call to the Consul General of Indonesia, Yth Bapak Bambang Priongo at his office at Bangunan Binamas on 17 July 2007.



Right: Yth Bapak Bambang Priongo presenting a memento to Datuk Leo Chai

Below & right: A dialogue and briefing session was held on 20 July 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching between YB Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui, Federal Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities and members of the STA Forest Plantation Committee on the development of planted forests in Sarawak



SEPTEMBER ...

Below: The Indonesian Wood Panel Association, the Japan Lumber Importers' Association, the Japan Plywood Manufacturers' Association, the Malaysian Panel Products Manufacturers' Association and STA met in Jakarta, Indonesia on 10 September 2007



Above: The assessors from SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd and officers from the Malaysian Timber Certification Council who were invited to conduct a Refresher Course on the Malaysian Criteria & Indicators (2002) and Forest Management Certification requirement at Wisma STA, Kuching on 20 September 2007

Right: STA, in collaboration with the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) organised a briefing session on the Requirements on Chain-of-Custody certification under the MTCC scheme on 21 September 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The session was conducted by Mr. Hanarinder Singh of MTCC



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Left: The speakers at the Workshop on California New Formaldehyde Regulations. The workshop organised by the California Air Resources Board with the assistance from STA was held on 27 September 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching

OCTOBER ...

Right: The STA Code of Conduct Committee met on 1 October 2007 to deliberate on the content of the proposed Code of Conduct



Left: The STA Panel Product Committee held a Press Conference with media representatives on 2 October 2007, announcing the voluntary reduction in the plywood production by its Members



Above & left: A meeting on logging road usage charge was held on 2 October 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching to review road toll and maintenance fee



NOVEMBER ...



Above: The STA Management Committee met 29 June and 20 November 2007 to deliberate on the financial administrative and other matters of the Association and its three wholly-owned companies, STA Training Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd and STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd



Above & left: A STA Tea Talk on the Kuching Wetlands National Park was held on 3 November 2007 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The Invited speaker was Mr. Sia Puon Chiew from Sarawak Forestry Corporation. The talk attracted a crowd of approximately 60 people

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Left: The STA Council met three times this year, on 28 February and 14 August 2007 in Kuching and on 23 November 2007 in Miri

Below: Visit by the Third Secretary of the Australian High Commission to Malaysia, Ms. Ms. Claire Elias to STA on 10 July 2007



Left: Members of the Singapore and Sarawak Bank Employees' Union visited STA on 19 July 2007

2007 saw the visits of many groups of students to STA and the STA Exhibition Centre ...



from Politeknik Kuching Sarawak



from Chung Hua Middle School No. 4



from Universiti Malaysia Sabah



from Twintech College Sarawak



from PTPL College Kuching



from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak



from Universiti Putra Malaysia, Bintulu Campus

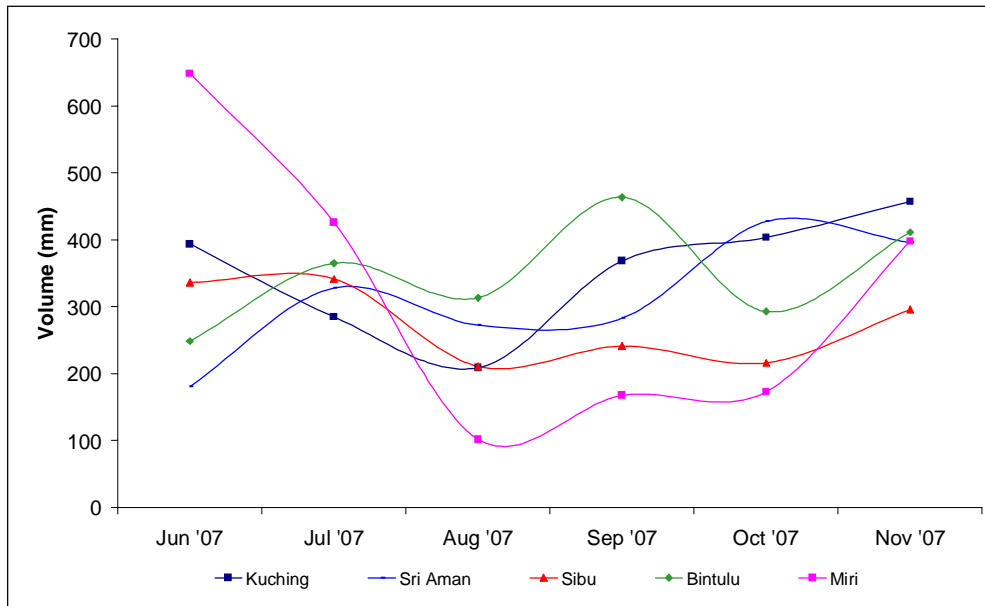
Wishing all our Members and Readers

A HAPPY & PROSPEROUS CHINESE NEW YEAR

From Chairman, Council Members and
Management of STA

Pengerusi, Ahli-ahli Majlis
serta pengurusan STA
mengucapkan Selamat
Tahun Baru Cina kepada
semua ahli STA dan para
pembaca.

Rainfall : June - November '07 Kadar Hujan Bulanan



Source : Malaysian Meteorological Services.

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