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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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Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management)



Photo: Students using a refractometer to determine the salinity of the water sampling collected at nearby stream

The Environmental Management for Certification subject of the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management) Course was held from 9 to 13 December 2013 at Wisma STA and Kubah National Park, Kuching. It was attended by twenty (20) participants of the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science and seven (7) participants of Continuing Education (taking single subject only). The subject was conducted by Mr Antony Shadbolt from Lincoln University, Christchurch New Zealand and assisted by a few experts from Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS).

The main purpose of this subject is to provide an overview of the concepts and tools for monitoring as well as managing environmental values in the context of Malaysian Criteria and Indicators (MC&I) for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) for the natural forests.

The topics which were covered in this subject included the Introduction to Biodiversity Values; High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) concept; A Wildlife Masterplan for Sarawak; General Environmental Monitoring Protocols; and Specific Monitoring Techniques for Water Quality, Birds, Mammals, Herpetofauna, Macro-invertebrates and Fish.

The next subject, Planning and Implementing Forest Certification will be delivered in February 2014 in Wisma STA, 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 kindly requested to contact Dr Peter Kho or Ms Suzie Adee at 082-332222.

Working Visit to Forest Management Unit (FMU) in Sabah

Forest Department Sarawak organised a working visit to Segaliud Lokan Forest Reserve (FMU 19B) and Deramakot Forest Reserve (FMU 19A), Sandakan, Sabah from 1 to 6 December 2013. The Group comprised twenty (20) officers from Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd and Sarawak Timber Association was led by Tuan Haji Mohammed Kassim Wasli, the Assistant Director for the Revenue and Economy Division, FDS.

Segaliud Lokan Forest Reserve (FMU 19B), which is managed by KTS Plantation Sdn Bhd (KTSPSB) covers an area of about 57,000 hectares. KTSPSB is the first private company in Sabah to be awarded the Forest Management Certification under the Malaysian Certification Scheme (MTCS) in 2009 which is endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC). Mr David Chieng, Senior Manager briefed the group on the operations and the activities in this FMU.

Deramakot Forest Reserve (FMU 19A) is owned and managed by Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) and has a tenure of 99 years. FMU 19A covers an area of about 55,000 hectares of Mixed Dipterocarp Forest. Production area is 51,642 hectares, protection area is 3,423 hectares while 18 hectares are reserved for the community living in the area. Each year, they receive a grant from the State Government to manage the FMU. The year 2009 is a historical year for FMU 19A as all the capital expenditures since 1993 were fully recouped with an estimated profit of RM508,537.

Mr Johny Kissing, District Forestry Officer and Mr Peter Lagan, Assistant District Forestry Officer, Deramakot briefed the Group on Deramakot's experience in forest management. FMU 19A is the first and longest tropical rainforest entity in the world to be certified under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). It was audited by Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS) - Forestry Malaysia and was certified in 1997 as complying with the requirements of the FSC Standards for Sustainable Forest Management. It is subjected for audit every year and a major re-assessment will be done once every 5 years. However, the certification expired on 20 April 2013 and they are in the process of seeking re-certification.

There are no indigenous people living inside FMU 19A but there are six (6) villages with 20 to 50 households each, located on the southern fringes of the FMU along the Kinabatangan River. Approximately 200 hectares of the degraded forest area were restored with the planting of mixed Dipterocarp species, fruit trees and fast growing tree species. The restoration project was funded by Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) and Sabah Development Corridor (SDC) of which both funds were completely utilised in 2011.

The most sought after species from this FMU are Kapur (*Dryobalanops* sp.), Keruing (*Dipterocarpus* sp.), Selangan Batu and Dark Red Meranti (*Shorea* sp.) with buyers from Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia, China and those within Malaysia.

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Appointment of the New Director of Forests of Sarawak

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) has received a notification from Forestry Department Sarawak dated 14 November 2013 informing that effective 2 October 2013, Tuan Haji Spuan @ Sapuan bin Ahmad has replaced Datu Haji Ali Yusop as the Director of Forests of Sarawak.



Did you know that.....

Scientists announced they have discovered a new species of tapir in Brazil and Colombia. The new mammal, hidden from science but known to local indigenous tribes, is actually one of the biggest animals on the continent, although it's still the smallest living tapir. *Tapirus kabomani*, or the Kobomani tapir, is the fifth tapir found in the world and the first to be discovered since 1865. It is also the first mammal in the order Perissodactyla (which includes tapirs, rhinos, and horses) found in over a hundred years.

Source: 16 December 2013,
<http://news.mongabay.com>

Did you also know that....

The governments of South Korea and Indonesia have agreed to combat illegal logging. South Korea has agreed to support Indonesia's effort by not buying illegal timber products. Under the cooperation, only Indonesian timber products with timber legality verification system (SVLK) certification will be purchased by South Korea.

Source: *Bisnis indonesia*, 10 Dec 2013



Briefing Session on the Use of Revised PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard PEFC ST 2002: 2013 – Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements

The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) organised a Briefing Session on the Use of Revised Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) International Chain of Custody Standard PEFC ST 2002: 2013 – Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements on 18 December 2013 at RH Hotel, Sib. Approximately twenty five (25) participants from the timber industry attended this Briefing. Similar briefing sessions were also conducted in Kuala Lumpur on 21 November 2013, Ipoh on 25 November, Kuantan on 27 November and Kota Kinabalu on 19 December.

The Briefing aimed to provide Chain of Custody (CoC) certificate holders, a better understanding on the PEFC ST 2002:2013 and to update on the amendments or additions made to the current PEFC ST 2002:2010 document.

Mr Harnarinder Singh, Senior Manager of MTCC and Mr Akmal Saarani, Executive (Product) of MTCC briefed the participants of the Briefing on the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) and PEFC recent developments, major changes to the revised PEFC CoC Standard, PEFC Due Diligence System (DDS), PEFC controlled sources and PEFC label generator.

To date, there are ten (10) Forest Management Units (FMUs) holding a valid PEFC Certificate for Forest Management under MTCS in Malaysia. They cover a total area size of 4.65 million ha. As at November 2013, there are 262 timber companies issued with PEFC CoC Certificate. In light of the implementation of the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR), the PEFC CoC Standard was revised to offer a EUTR compliance mechanism for certificate holders. Some of the changes in the revised PEFC CoC Standard are as follows:

Items	PEFC ST 2002:2010	PEFC ST 2002:2013
PEFC DDS	Appendix 2	• Moved to Chapter 5
Self declaration in PEFC DDS	Appendix 2	• Self declaration cancelled • Replaced with "gathering of information" in Chapter 5
Risk Assessment in PEFC DDS	Low risk and high risk	• Replaced with negligible risk and significant risk • Added new indicators for risk assessment
PEFC claims	PEFC certified	• PEFC certified • Added PEFC controlled sources for products with certified material and non certified material which has gone through PEFC DDS • PEFC claim on products without logo
Conflict timber	-	• New definition

All certified entities will need to implement and follow the requirements of PEFC 2002:2013 after 24 February 2014. After 24 February 2015, PEFC Council will not recognise any certificate issued against PEFC 2002:2010.



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Trainer Development Programme: Trainer Refresher Course



Photo: The participants having discussion

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) through its subsidiary company, STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) organised a Trainer Development Programme: Trainer Refresher Course from 9 to 13 December 2013 at the Imperial Hotel, Miri. The objectives of this Course were:

- to enhance and strengthen the trainers' skills of STA member companies in delivering training;
- to update the trainers of STA member companies on the use of training material and forms; and
- to boost the self-confidence among trainers of

STA member companies.

The Course was facilitated by Mr Denis Aman and Mr Ngumbang Bayang, Trainers cum Assessors from STAT.

Ten (10) in-house trainers from WTK, KTS, Ta Ann, Shin Yang and Samling Groups of Companies attended this five (5) days course. Upon completion of the course, these trainers are expected to become more skillful and knowledgeable in delivering training to their operators in the respective companies.

During the course, participants were given a chance to give presentations based on the updated and improved versions of training material provided by STAT. They also received comments and suggestions from other participants and STAT's trainers cum assessors, which will help improve their skills and further enhance their confidence in delivering the training.

At the end of the course, the participants acknowledged that this course has helped them to improve their knowledge and skills in delivering training. They also hope that STAT will continue to organise such course in the near future.