



STA dan Rakan2

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MTA Timber Workshop 2016

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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Photo (top left): Dato' Low Kian Chuan giving his welcoming speech, (top right) Ms Annie Ting, Senior Manager STA making her presentation during the plenary session and moderators answering questions from the floor during the Q&A session.

The Malaysian Timber Association (MTA) organised the first of its kind, a one-day Timber Workshop on 13 December 2016 at the Hilton Hotel, Kuching. A total of 101 participants from MTA member companies as well as State and Federal Government/timber agencies attended the Workshop.

The MTA Timber Workshop 2016 with the theme "One Nation, One Timber Industry" served as a platform for players from the timber industry and policy makers from relevant forestry and timber agencies across Malaysia, i.e. Peninsular, Sabah and Sarawak to share knowledge and discuss challenges as well as ways to integrate

and work together as one industry.

Dato' Low Kian Chuan, MTA President in his introductory remarks informed participants of the Workshop that MTA as the only association comprising nine (9) members, covering the timber industries of the three (3) regions, namely Peninsular, Sabah and Sarawak, has a key and vital role to play in the integration of the industry in Malaysia and forging a united approach to address issues in market promotion, downstream development, supply of raw material, labour shortage, training, environment

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Sarawak Heart of Borneo Seminar 2016

The Sarawak Heart of Borneo (HoB) Seminar 2016 with the theme "Conserving Biodiversity through Sustaining Communities Livelihood" was successfully organised by Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) with the full support from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) and Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment (MRPE) Sarawak at Pullman Hotel, Kuching from 7 to 8 December 2016. The objective of the Seminar was to provide a platform and opportunities for relevant stakeholders, local communities and HoB partners to share and exchange ideas on biodiversity conservation and livelihood of communities.

The tone for the Seminar was set by the keynote address entitled "Having the Cake and Eating It Too: Benefiting from Conservation of Biodiversity in Sarawak" delivered by Professor Emeritus Dato Dr Haji Mohamed bin Abdul Majid from University of Malaya. He highlighted the importance of keeping the forests intact, given the various ecosystem services that the forests provide.

Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh, Assistant Minister of Workforce Development and Training and Assistant Minister for Environment Sarawak in his officiating speech informed participants of the Seminar that Sarawak's HoB covers an area of 2.1million hectares (ha), spanning across areas with a population of 12,481 people from nine (9) ethnic groups. At present, there is a marked increase of almost 70% in Totally Protected Areas (TPAs) gazetted in Sarawak HoB, from 311,715 ha when HoB was first implemented in 2007 to 526,652 ha.

The Seminar was divided into three (3) sessions. The first session of the Seminar provided participants with findings made from efforts carried out by various stakeholders in the global conservation efforts which are aimed to conserve biodiversity in the area. Forest inventory conducted in the area has revealed over 400 species of plants and animals, some of which are endemic

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Sarawak Heart of Borneo – Seminar on Scientific Expedition to Upper Baleh

Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), in collaboration with Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB) and World Wide Fund (WWF)-Malaysia, organised *Sarawak Heart of Borneo - Seminar on Scientific Expedition to Upper Baleh, Kapit* on 9 December 2016 at Pullman Hotel, Kuching. With the theme "*Conserving the Gems of Upper Baleh, Kapit*", the Seminar was aimed to disseminate findings made by researchers during the expedition to Upper Baleh, which is located within the Sarawak's Heart of Borneo (HoB).

Professor Dr Gabriel Tonga Noweg, Director of Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation (IBEC), UNIMAS in his welcoming remarks, gave an overview of the Scientific Expedition of Upper Baleh participated by a group of thirty nine (39) researchers and students from FDS, UNIMAS, SEB and WWF-Malaysia from 21 to 27 November 2015.

He explained that the Expedition was set forth to achieve several goals namely; to gather baseline biodiversity data to document the diversity of the flora and fauna of Upper Baleh catchment area, support the gazettelement of the proposed Baleh National Park as well as facilitate the development and implementation of good conservation and catchment management plan at Upper Baleh. Professor Dr Gabriel also expressed his appreciation to the Elite Honour Camp under WTK Group of Companies whose staff had provided transport and logistics during the course of the Expedition.

The three (3) sessions of the Seminar saw a total of seventeen (17) presentations covering a wide range of topics including biodiversity, geophysical and human environment of the Upper Baleh. After each session, participants of the Seminar were given the opportunities to raise questions.



Did you know that.....

Solar energy is now officially the cheapest form of electricity in 58 low-income countries. According to fresh data from Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF), solar power is able to do better than coal and natural gas on ever larger scales in emerging markets, including heavyweights like China, India and Brazil. The average cost of solar energy has dropped to US\$1.65 million (MR4.47 million) per megawatt this year. The increasing dominance of solar energy is thanks to innovative and cheaper solar technologies, including cheaper costs for photovoltaic equipment, growing investments, and improving clean energy policies, including government subsidies.

Source: <http://cleanmalaysia.com/2016/12/23/solar-power-now-cheapest-form-energy-58-developing-nations/>

Did you also know that....

Indonesia has issued 845 licenses of Foreign Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) for timber exports worth US\$24.96 million from November 15-23, 2016. Coordinating Economic Minister Darmin Nasution said in the FLEGT launch in Jakarta on 24 November 2016, said that the licenses were dedicated for exports of timber products to 24 EU countries. Included in the products are panel, furniture, woodworking, handicraft, chips, paper, and tools. The implementation of the Wood Legality Verification System (SVLK) was an effort to eradicate illegal logging in Indonesia.

Source: MTIB News Extracts (Vol.49/11/16)



Carnival on Non-Timber Forest Products of Heart of Borneo Sarawak 2016

The Forest Department Sarawak had organised a Carnival on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) of Heart of Borneo (HoB) from 30 November to 4 December 2016 at the Kuching Waterfront. Eighty (80) local communities from Sarawak's HoB areas participated in the 5-day Carnival.

The Carnival with the theme "Enhancing Community Livelihood through NTFP" was aimed to bring together local communities within Sarawak's HoB areas to showcase and sell their NTFP such as handicrafts, food and health products as well as promoting these products to tourists.

During the launching ceremony which was held on 1 December 2016, Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad, the Director of Forests in his opening speech said that the Carnival, organised by the Department was in line with the 5th pillar of the Sarawak's HoB initiative, which is to conduct community based or rural poverty eradication programme. He hoped that through this Carnival, local

entrepreneurs from rural areas statewide will have the opportunity to market their products and improve community livelihood by raising their income through promoting and selling NTFP.

The Carnival was officiated by Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, the Second Minister of Resource Planning and Environment. In his officiating speech, he mentioned that the State Government is aware of the importance of NTFP to the local communities especially those living close to the forests and therefore has gazetted communal forests and Totally Protected Areas (TPAs) to sustain the source of NTFP. He also urged other Government agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to work together in the development, promotion and the marketing of NTFP.

There were a total of forty (40) booths set up by local communities during the Carnival to display and sell their NTFP.

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to the area.

SBC, concerned with the loss of knowledge as a result of changing lifestyles and priorities, assisted the local communities in preserving their traditional knowledge through proper recording and documenting techniques. NGOs such as WCS and WWF-Malaysia have also provided the local communities with the tools and skills to improve the quality of their work, consequently their source of income.

The second session of the Seminar highlighted the various initiatives taken by the local communities, with the support of various agencies in the pursuit of enhancing their livelihood. The various community development projects which are participatory in nature are intended to provide infrastructures such as solar power set and gravel road as well as alternative livelihood

activities such as poultry raising and vegetable farming. Among some of the community development projects are Tagang fisheries conservation system and Gaharu Tea™.

The third session discussed on Bio-Tourism and Community Livelihood. The forests in HoB are still intact and serve as good habitat for wildlife such as orang utan and birds. However, the lack of licensed tour guides, facilities such as homestay and marketing efforts have deterred the communities from developing ecotourism. Therefore, the support from other stakeholders are vital in ensuring that ecotourism in the area could be sustained for the benefit of the people and environment, at large.



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and sustainability and Research & Development. As such, this Workshop shall come out with ways to further strengthen MTA as the lead organisation to represent the whole timber industry in Malaysia.

This was followed by a plenary session whereby Mr George Tan, Advisor of Malaysian Timber Industry Forum Association, Mr Ricky Lim, Honorary Treasurer of Timber Association of Sabah and Ms Annie Ting, Senior Manager of Sarawak Timber Association (STA) delivered presentations on the current status and challenges as well as opportunities and way forward for the timber industry for each of the region; Peninsular, Sabah and Sarawak respectively.

After the plenary session, participants of the Workshop were divided into the following four (4) groups during the breakout session:

Session 1: Policy

– Moderated by Dato' Supperamaniam Manickam, Distinguished Fellow, Institute for Strategic and International Studies Malaysia

Session 2: Raw Materials

– Moderated by Mr Stephen Chaw, Secretary General, Sabah Timber Industries Association

Session 3: Marketing & Trade

– Moderated by Dr Peter Kho, General Manager, Sarawak Timber Association

Session 4: Industry Development (Downstream Industry)

– Moderated by Mr Tham Sing Khaw, Advisor/ Coordinator, Timber Task Forces, Timber Industry Forum

Before the conclusion of the Workshop, all four (4) moderators from the breakout sessions took the opportunity to present the outcomes of the breakout sessions after an extensive discussion/deliberation among the participants. These outcomes shall be further studied to develop a concrete proposal to be submitted to the relevant government agencies on how to resolve the issues and to move forward as a united timber industry.

Being the only MTA member in Sarawak, STA hosted a networking dinner for all the participants of the Workshop in the same evening.