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STA REVIEW

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COVER IMAGE: Protected Tree Species in Sarawak Family : Avicenniaceae Species : Avicennia alba BI. Common Name : Api-api hitam Natural Habitat : Abundantly found in mangrove forests and along salt water riverbanks throughout Sarawak

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STA PANEL PRODUCTS COMMITTEE MEETING

The 20th Meeting of the STA Panel Products Committee was held on 3 February 2010 at Wisma STA.

Among the issues discussed during the Meeting were FRIM Project on Durability of Malaysian Timber. Currently 99 species, which are utilised for plywood production, had been identified for testing in accordance to BS EN350 standard. This project is a combined research study conducted by STA and Malaysian Plywood Manufacturers Association (MPMA), with the assistance from Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and Timber Research and Technical Training Centre (TRTTC) of Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC). MPMA has allocated the budget to finance this project.

The Meeting also discussed market information, in particular the Japan market. Sarawak's plywood export to Japan has declined by 30% or 2 million m³ from previous year. In general, the market has weakened globally.

Thus, members are advised to:

- (1) Maintain the current production levels to ensure no excessive stocking in the market,
- (2) Trade in yen (¥), to avoid any confusions in the volatile exchange rate's market,
- (3) Maintain price level above production costs to ensure sustainability of the industry, and
- (4) Continue dealing with their regular buyers in order to avoid price fluctuation induced by the spot buyers.



Above : Meeting in progress

Jawatankuasa Produk Panel telah bermesyuarat bagi kali ke-20 pada 3 Febuari 2010. Antara isu-isu yang dibincangkan termasuklah berkenaan Projek FRIM tentang Ketahanan Kayu Malaysia. Projek ini adalah projek penyelidikan bersama yang dijalankan oleh STA dan Persatuan Pekilang-pekilang Produk Panel Malaysia (MPMA), dengan bantuan Institut Penyelidikan Perhutanan Malaysia (FRIM) dan Pusat Penyelidikan dan Latihan Teknikal Kayu (TRTTC), Sarawak Foresty Corporation (SFC). MPMA telah menyediakan peruntukan untuk membiayai projek ini.Mesyuarat juga membincangkan tentang maklumat pasaran, terutamanya pasaran Jepun. Ahli-ahli dinasihatkan agar mengekalkan tahap pengeluaran semasa untuk memastikan tiada stok berkelebihan dalam pasaran.

STA合板/人造板小组于2010年2月3日假古晋,STA大厦召开 第二十届 会议。小组会员讨论的事项包括马来西亚森林研究机构(FRIM)的马来西亚木材耐久性计划。 这项计划由本会联同马来西亚合板制造商工会(MPMA),FRIM及砂拉越林业机构旗下木材研究及技術训练中心(TRTTC)开启研究。MPMA将资助这项研究。

会议也商讨市场资讯并详谈日本市场。此外, 会议希望会员们能保持现有的生产量。

KPDNKK Annual Consultation Session 2010 in Sarawak

Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism Malaysia (KPDNKK) will be organising the Annual Consultation with private sector in April 2010 in Sarawak. YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, the Minister will chair the Session. The purpose of the Consultation is to get input and feedback from private sector on domestic trade issues, including cooperatives and franchise, intellectual property rights and consumerism.

Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri, Koperasi dan Kepenggunaan (KPDNKK) akan menganjurkan sesi Konsultasi Tahunan dengan sektor swasta pada April 2010 di Sarawak. YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, Menteri berkenaan akan mempengerusikan sesi tersebut yang bertujuan untuk mendapatkan maklumat dan maklumbalas dari sektor swasta berkenaan isu perdagangan domestik, termasuklah koperasi dan franchise, hak intelektual dan konsumerisme.

国内贸易,合作社与消费部(KPDNKK)将于2010年4月份在砂拉越与私营界召开常年谘询会。

谘询会旨于与私营界收集有关国内贸易议题,当中涵盖合作社和经销权,知识产权和消费事项。

SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER IN SARAWAK

The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) organised a Roundtable Discussion (RTD) on Sustainable Access to Clean Water in Sarawak on 28 January 2010 at the Pullman Hotel, Kuching.

Participants in the RTD included representatives from various government agencies such as the Ministry of Land Development Sarawak, Ministry of Planning and Resource Management, Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB), State Planning Unit (SPU), Land Custody and Development Authority (PELITA), Sarawak Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation (SALCRA). Authoritv Sarawak Timber Industry and Development Corporation (STIDC), and logging and plantation companies.

The objectives of the RTD were as follows:

- 1. To address the access to water as a human rights agenda;
- 2. To obtain an overview of access to water in Sarawak factors and challenges; and
- To make recommendations to improve fresh water supply in Sarawak

In his introductory speech, Dr. Mohammad Hirman Ritom Abdullah, Commissioner, SUHAKAM Malaysia expressed concerns for rural areas in Sarawak, which are still dependent on traditional sources of water supply, namely the river, water catchments and gravity feed systems. This is of concern to SUHAKAM as they believe that every human being has the same rights of access to clean water.

He added that exploitation of natural resources through logging activities and oil palm plantations have also impacted on local communities in these areas. Although SUHAKAM is not condemning these types of activities, he believes that there is a need for a proper system to be put in place to maintain the continuity of water supply. Hence, SUHAKAM is providing a platform/avenue for the public to address this issue. The papers presented during the RTD were as follows:

- 1. "Access to Water: A Human Rights Perspective" by Mr. Asfaazam Kasbani of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Malaysia
- 2. "Access to Water: Issues and Challenges in Sarawak" by Mr. Danien Rangu of Water Supply Branch, Public Works Department (PWD), Sarawak
- 3. "Environmental Protection Water Resources" by Mr. Peter Sawal of Natural Reosurces and Environmental Board (NREB)
- 4. "Access to Water: Role of the Federal Agency" by Mr. Mohd. Fadli of the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development
- 5. "Access to Water: Civil Society Perspective" by Ms. Madline Lengan of Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM)

Suruhanjaya Hak Asasi Manusia Malaysia (SUHAKAM) telah mengadakan Perbincangan Meja Bulat mengenai Akses Berkekalan Air Bersih di Sarawak pada 28 Januari 2010 di Hotel Pullman, Kuching.

Tujuan Perbincangan tersebut adalah seperti berikut:

- Untuk menangani isu akses kepada air sebagai satu agenda hak asasi manusia;
- 2. Untuk mendapat gambaran keseluruhan ke atas akses kepada air dari segi faktor dan cabaran; dan
- 3. Untuk membuat cadangancadangan untuk memperbaiki bekalan air bersih di Sarawak.

SUHAKAM percaya perlulah adanya satu sistem yang berkesan untuk memastikan bekalan berkekalan air. Justeru itu satu platform atau forum telah disediakan bagi rakyat membincang isu ini. There was an open discussion among the community leaders after the presentations. The community leaders present were:

- Penghulu Haji Bujang Sum Haji Darahim from Kawasan Pantai Damai, Kuching;
- Penghulu Apek Bala from Baram;
- Penghulu Musa Bakri from Kampung Seberang, Mukah; and
- Penghulu Sumpeng Anak Jinggai from Song, Kapit.

They shared their experiences on the issues of water resources/supply in their respective areas and how logging and plantation activities affect the water quality.



Above : Roundtable Discussion in progress

马来西亚人权委员会(SUHAKAM) 于2010年1月28日假古晋,普尔曼 酒店举办砂州持续性享有清水圆 桌座谈会。圆桌座谈会旨于:

(1) 反映享有清水为人权议程
(2) 了解享有清水的概观 - 因素
和挑战

(3) 提出建议以改善砂州清水供应

SUHAKAM深信必须拥有正确的系统以确保清水的来源。参与者彼此共同分享商讨水源供应课题。

TAX INCENTIVES FOR FOREST PLANTATION PROJECTS

The Malavsian Timber Industrv Board (MTIB) organised a briefing on 24 February 2010 in Kuala Lumpur to inform operators in the forest plantation industry of new tax incentives introduced by the Ministry of Finance in November 2009 to accelerate the development of forest plantations in the country. This is pursuant to the Income Tax (Deduction for Investment in an Approved Forest Plantation Project) Rules 2009 [P.U.(A) 475/2009] under the Income Tax Act 1967 made on 23 November 2009 and were deemed to have come into operation on 21 May 2003.

The essence of the Rules is that a qualifying company should be allowed a deduction of an amount equivalent to the value of investment in a forest plantation project on the date the investment is made in the related company.

The 'related company' means a company:

- a. incorporated under the Companies Act 1965 [Act 125] and is resident in Malaysia;
- b. which expends the investment in undertaking a forest plantation project; and
- c. exempted under the Income Tax (Exemption) No. 11 Order 2009.

And a "qualifying company" is a company incorporated under the Companies Act 1965 and is resident in Malaysia which directly owns:

- a. prior to 11 September 2004, one hundred percent of the paidup capital in respect of ordinary shares of the related company; or
- b. on or after 11 September 2004, at seventy percent of the paidup capital in respect of ordinary shares of the related company.

The Rules shall apply to the first forest plantation project undertaken by a related company for the species as specified in the Schedule. Seventy-six (76) timber species or species groups have been specified in the Schedule.

Where an investment made by a

qualifying company for the sole purpose of financing a forest plantation project is deducted, the deduction shall cease to apply to the qualifying company in the basis period for a year of assessment upon which the related company has its first statutory income.

In addition, under Income Tax (Exemption) No. 11 Order 2009, the company undertaking the forest plantation project is granted income tax exemption of 100% on its statutory income for a period of 10 years commencing from the first year the company derives profit. An existing company that undertakes expansion of a forest plantation project is granted income tax exemption of 100% on its statutory income for a period of 5 years commencing from the first year the company derives profit.

Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities clarify that existing companies undertaking forest plantation would be eligible for the forest plantation incentives if they are:

- existing companies with forest plantations which have not been harvested with expansion of 20% of the forest plantation; or
- existing forest plantation companies intending to undertake a new approved forest plantation project; or
- companies taking over existing forest plantations provided harvesting has not commenced and intending to undertake a new approved forest plantation project

The application for the forest plantation project tax incentives shall be made to the Minister of Finance through the Minister charged with the responsibility for that project (Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities) on or after 21 May 2003 but not later than 31 December 2011.

Copies of the Income Tax (Deduction for Investment in an Approved Forest Plantation Project) Rules 2009 [P.U.(A) 475/2009] are available from the STA Secretariat upon request.

Lembaga Peridustrian Kayu Malaysia (MTIB) telah mengadakan taklimat pada Februari 2010 untuk 24 pengusahamemaklumkan pengusaha industri perladangan hutan tentang insentif-insentif cukai baru yang diperkenalkan oleh Kerajaan.

Butir-butir mengenai insentif ini terkandung dalam Kaedah-Kaedah Cukai Pendapatan (Potongan Bagi Pelaburan Dalam Projek Perladangan Hutan Yang Diluluskan) 2009.

Permohonan untuk mendapat insentif cukai tersebut bolehlah dikemukakan kepada Menteri Kewangan melalui Menteri Peridustrian Perladangan dan Komoditi sebelum 31 Disember 2011.

Salinan Kaedah-Kaedah Cukai Pendapatan (Potongan Bagi Pelaburan Dalam Projek Perladangan Hutan Yang Diluluskan) 2009 [P.U.(A) 475/2009] boleh diperolehi dari Sekretariat STA atas permintaan.

马来西亚木材工业局(MTIB)于 2010年2月24日假吉隆玻举办讲解 会,告知森林种植经营者有关财政 部为促进国内的森林种植发展已 于2009年11月份推介新的税收奖 励。

这项措施允许符合资格的公司及其 联营公司关扣除相等于投资予森林 种植计划时的数额。相关发展森 林种植计划的公司将准予连续10 年,从第一年公司获得利润开始计 算,享受100%的免征所得税。

有意申请森林种植发展计划税收奖 励的公司必须在2011年12月31日 之前向种植与原产业部呈上申请表 格。

请向本会秘书处索取有关2009所 得税规则(扣除于投资在所批准的 森林种植计划)[P.U.(A)475/2009] 表格。



YEAR OF TIGER : STA NEV

STA held its Annual New Year Open Office on 23 February 2010 at Wisma STA, Kuching. This event is held annually in appreciation to associates who had worked closely with the Association throughout the year.

More than 200 invited guests from government agencies and departments, and business associates attended the function.

The event started with a lion dance performance followed by a welcoming address by the Chief Executive Officer of STA, Dr Lee Hua Seng.

A symbolic tossing of 'Yee Sang' was performed by STA Council Members and invited guests to mark the start of the luncheon. STA telah mengadakan Pejabat Terbuka Tahun Baru pada 4 Februari 2009 di Wisma STA, Kuching sebagai tanda penghargaan kepada rakan-rakan sekerja yang bekerja rapat dengan Persatuan sepanjang tahun lepas.

Majlis dihadiri oleh lebih kurang 200 tetamu dari agensi-agensi kerajaan dan swasta. Majlis dimulakan dengan persembahan tarian singa dan diserikan dengan upacara 'Yee Sang' oleh Ahli STA dan tetamu jemputan.



Above : Welcoming address by the Chief Executive Officer of STA followed by tossing of 'Yee Sang'



Above and Left : A symbolic tossing of 'Yee Sang' performed by STA and invited guests



NOTICE

STA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Date: Wednesday, 31st March 2010 Venue: Level 4, Wisma STA Time: 10.30am * Registration starts at 9.00am

Mesyuarat Tahunan STA akan diadakan pada hari Rabu, 31 Mac 2010 di Wisma STA, Kuching.

常年会员大会将在2010年3月31日, 星期三假古 晋, STA大厦召开。

VYEAR OPEN OFFICE 2010



STA Review . February 2010

Implementation Of The New Anchorage Area

Since January 2010, a series of meetings were called to address the concerns raised by the Members of STA in Sibu on the implementation of the gazetted anchorage area for log carrying ocean vessels at Kuala Rajang, Tanjung Manis by the Sarawak Rivers Board (SRB).

This move to restrict the midstream loading of logs in the gazetted anchorage area in the Kuala Rejang area was made by SRB in anticipation that the port facilities at Tanjung Manis will be upgraded to a fully intergrated port, which includes an Oil and Gas Terminal.

One such meeting was organised by the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) on 29 January 2010 with its newly-appointed General Manager, Datu Haji Sarudu Haji Hoklai. The Controller of the SRB, Encik Muhamad Yakup bin Kari and his team, Haji Zahidin Haji Dor, the Senior Assistant Director of Marine Department Sarawak and his team, and representatives from Member Companies of STA led by Temenggong Vincent Lau, STA Council Member were present at the meeting.

After some deliberation and with full understanding and cooperation accorded by all relevant parties concerned, in particular the Controller of SRB, a temporary solution was formulated for loading floater logs to enable the affected Members Companies of STA to continue their loading for the next 6 months without adversely affecting their operations. SRB is currently working with the appointed consultant to study and recommend the best option to address this issue, with inputs from representatives of Member Companies of STA.

SRB is undertaking two Key Focus Activities (KFA) this year i.e. (1) to develop a framework to strengthen maritime capability within the State Waterways in particular in Tanjung Manis in anticipation of the increased activities in the area; and (2) to develop a framework that reduces the incidence of overloading within the Sarawak Inland Waterways.

SRB has invited the staff of STA Secretariat to participate in an informal discussion in Kuching with regard to the first KFA on 12 February 2010.





Above : From Left Encik Muhamad Yakup Kari, Ms Annie Ting, Puan Dayang Nena Abang Bruce, Dr Lee Hua Seng, Datu Haji Sarudu Haji Hoklai, Haji Zahidin Haji Dor, Dr Peter Kho, Haji Hashim Haji Bojet

Sejak Januari 2010, satu siri mesyuarat telah diadakan untuk menangani kebimbangan yang telah disuarakan oleh sekumpulan Ahli-ahli STA dari Sibu atas perlaksanaan kawasan pelabuhan terwarta bagi kapal-kapal yang mengangkut balak di Kuala Rajang, Tanjung Manis oleh Lembaga Sungai-Sungai Sarawak.

PUSAKA telah mengadakan salah satu daripadanya pada 29 Januari 2010 yang dipengerusikan oleh Pengurus Besar barunya iaitu Datu Haji Sarudu Haji Hoklai. Mesyuarat turut dihadiri oleh wakil dari STA, Jabatan Laut Sarawak, dan Lembaga Sungai-Sungai Sarawak.

Mesyuarat telah mencapai satu persepakatan sementara dalam perbincangan tersebut iaitu untuk membenarkan ahli-ahli STA yang terjejas untuk terus memunggah kayu balak terapung untuk tempoh masa 6 bulan tanpa menjejaskan operasi mereka.

自2010年1月份,本会召开一系列的会议以解决诗巫区 域会员所关注的事项,即砂拉越河流局 (SRB)在丹绒玛 尼,瓜拉拉让江实施载送木桐航船的停泊处。

其中一项会议由砂拉越木材工业发展机构总经理,拿 督哈志沙路杜哈志合来(译音)召开会议,并邀请本 会,砂拉越河流局及砂拉越海务局代表出席。

该会议在详细商讨和合作的理念下决定一项临时措施,即所有受影响的本会会员可在现有的停泊处负载 木桐。

Left : Meeting in progress

INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON TIMBER

INDUSTRY

The Industry Sarawak Timber Development Corporation (STIDC) has taken the initiative to form an Inter-Agency Committee on Timber Industry. This Committee, comprising representatives from STIDC, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) will meet a minimum of four times a year, to iron out teething and problematic issues affecting the agencies and the timber industry in one forum. Its over-riding objective is to synergise efforts in facilitating trade and marketing of timber. Other agencies will be coopted into the Committee as the needs arise.

The first meeting of the newly formed Inter-Agency Committee on Timber Industry was held on 19 January 2010 and chaired by Datu Haji Sarudu bin Haji Hoklai, the General Manager of STIDC.

During the meeting, Members deliberated on its name, the terms and reference and the composition of the Committee.

Several issues were raised at this meeting.

(a) Lacey Act

Under the USA Lacey Act, exporters of the timber products are required to declare to species level all timber species that could have been utilised in their manufacture and that the timbers are harvested and exported legally.

By this requirement, our exporters of panel products have to declare the species of every layer of the plywood (otherwise they have to provide all the possible species for a particular genus) as well as the legal status of the timber being exported.

FDS, STIDC and STA will study the matter in detail and come out with a proposal that would not disadvantage



the timber industry in Sarawak when exporting to the US.

(b) Carbon Footprint

The meeting was informed that Japan has started its Carbon Footprint of Product (CFP) since 2008. With high social awareness of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in Japan, various domestic activities have been conducted, including a pilot project for the establishment of CFP programme and study of its impact on a variety of stakeholders.

A few member companies of STA had received invitations from the Japan Lumber Importers Association (JLIA), on behalf of NPO Sainoki of Japan, to provide pre-survey and foreground data for the manufacture of plywood in relation to eco-labeling of plywood.

STIDC, SFC and STA will jointly study the matter. An exploratory trip by representatives from STIDC, SFC and STA was made to SIRIM Berhad and FRIM on the 24 February 2010 to understand the issue of carbon footprinting at the national level, its implications, benefits and liabilities.

(c) Legality in Japan

Members of the Committee were informed that during the 45th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council in Japan in November 2009, the Honorary Secretary and the CEO of STA had the opportunity to meet representatives from the Japan Forestry Agency to seek their views on a legality verification system. It was informed that new Japanese Government had not made any official statement and thus it is assumed that there is no change in their green purchasing law passed in 2006. STA was informed that as long as there is transparency in our legality verification system, then there will be no issue.

Concerns were raised on the pressure exerted by the NGOs in Japan (particularly Friends of the Earth



Japan and the Global Environmental Forum) on the Japanese Government as they have come up with many risk assessment reports on timber operations in tropical countries including Malaysia and Indonesia.

Mr. Toshiyuki Akagi, the Director of the Wood Trade Division of the Forestry Agency Japan will be making a visit to Sarawak on 23 March 2010. STIDC and STA will coordinate the visit, which will include a briefing on the Chain of Custody in Sarawak, and a visit to a wood-processing mill in Kuching.

PUSAKA telah mengambil inisiatif untuk menubuhkan Jawatankuasa Antara Agensi tentang Industri Kayu Kayan. Jawatankuasa ini terdiri daripada PUSAKA, Jabatan Hutan Sarawak, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd dan STA.

Objektif utama Jawatankuasa adalah untuk membantu dalam usaha memudahkan perdagangan dan pemasaran kayu kayan.

Mesyuarat pertama dipengerusikan oleh Datu Haji Sarudu Haji Hoklai, Pengurus Besar PUSAKA telah diadakan pada 19 Januari 2010.

Isu-isu yang dibincangkan termasuk Akta Lacey, "Carbon Footprint" dan Sistem Verifikasi Pengesahan Kayu di Jepun.

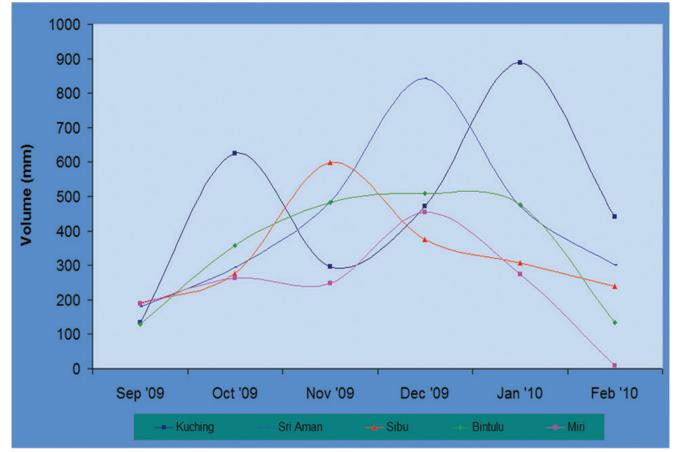
砂拉越木材工业发展机构(STIDC)主动成立木材工业机构小组。小组会员有STIDC,砂拉越森林局(FDS),砂拉越林业机构(SFC),HarwoodTimber Sdn Bhd及本会,旨于互相帮助以促进木材贸易和市场。

首次会议于2010年1月19日召开。 由STIDC总经理,拿督哈志沙路杜 哈志合来(译音)主持。商讨的事 项包括莱西法案,碳印和日本法制。

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENTS	VENUE	ORGANISER
13 - 15 April 2010	Dubai WoodShow 2010 : Dubai International Wood and Wood Products Show	Central and East Hall, Dubai Airport Expo	Strategic Marketing and Exhibitions
30-31 March 2010	Training Programme : Store & Stock Management Programme Officer - Norliza Ahmad Fee - RM500/pax or RM100/pax for SME	Malaysian Productivity Corporation (MPC) , Sarawak	MPC, Sarawak
6 - 7 April 2010	Training Programme : Strategic Creative Thinking Programme Officer - Shahriza Bahari Fee - RM600/pax or RM120/pax for SME	Malaysian Productivity Corporation (MPC) , Sarawak	MPC, Sarawak
6 - 7 April 2010	Training Programme : File and Record Management Programme Officer - Megat Amirul Saifulnizam Fee - RM500/pax or RM100/pax for SME	Bintulu, Sarawak	MPC, Sarawak
13 - 14 April 2010	Training Programme - Quality Environment Practice Programme Officer - Mohd. Khairul Nazir Nawi Fee - RM500/pax or RM100/pax for SME	Malaysian Productivity Corporation (MPC) , Sarawak	MPC, Sarawak
13 - 14 April 2010	Training Programme - Effective Time Management Programme Officer - Norliza Ahmad Fee - RM500/pax or RM100/pax for SME	Sibu, Sarawak	MPC, Sarawak
19 - 20 April 2010	Training Programme - Effective and Innovative Meeting Management Programme Officer - Norliza Ahmad Fee - RM500/pax or RM100/pax for SME	Malaysian Productivity Corporation (MPC) , Sarawak	MPC, Sarawak

Rainfall : September '09 - February '10 Kadar Hujan Bulanan



Source : Malaysian Meteorological Services