



# STA dan Rakan2

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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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## Nomination for Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management/Sustainable Tropical Plantation Management) Course



*Photo: (top) activities outside classroom and (right) students in lecture hall*



With the amendments made to Section 54B of the Forests Ordinance, the Sarawak State Government will phase in trained workforce for the entire forest industry soon. As part of this drive towards a properly trained workforce for better management of our forests, it is recommended that each logging contractor have "Sustainable Forestry Personnel" to oversee all forest operations in accordance with the laws and guidelines set for sustainable forest management.

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) is working with State agencies, principally the Forest Department and Sarawak Forestry Corporation to offer training and certify appropriately trained persons to be a "Sustainable Forestry Manager". Apart from forest management, these trained Managers will be able to assist member companies to work towards forest certification.

The training programme for such a Manager is incorporated into a Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management/Sustainable Planted Forest Management) course to be run in association with Lincoln University of New Zealand.

STA Training Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of STA, sent out a circular on this matter for the nomination of new students for the fourth cohort of this Course on 20 February 2014. Associate Professor Hugh Bigsby of Lincoln University conducted briefings from 10 to 13 March 2014 in Kuching, Miri, Bintulu and Sibul.

Member companies of STA who are interested to submit the names of their respective nominees may contact Ms Suzie Adee or Dr Peter Kho at 082-332222

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## The 23rd Illegal Logging Update and Stakeholder Consultation Meeting



Photo: (top) One of the presenters and (right) one of the question and answer session

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Illegal Logging Update and Stakeholder Consultation meeting was held at Chatham House in London from 6 to 7 February 2014. Approximately 200 participants from a broad range of stakeholders, such as from government organisations, trade associations (including Sarawak Timber Association), certification bodies, research associations, academia and civil societies, attended the meeting.

This 2-day event covered a series of sessions including a Review of Forest Law, Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), Governance impacts of Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs), Deforestation and FLEGT, Updates on the progress of FLEGT VPAs between European Union (EU) and timber producing countries in South East Asia, Enforcement of the EU Timber Regulation (case studies), and Challenges and Opportunities in complying with the EU Timber Regulation.

The EU's policy to fight illegal logging and associated trade was adopted in 2003 with the FLEGT Action Plan. The FLEGT Action Plan covers both supply

and demand side measures, i.e. trade, governance and development cooperation, to address illegal logging. The FLEGT Action Plan led to the following two key legislations:

- FLEGT Regulation adopted in 2005, allowing for the control of the entry of timber to the EU from timber producing countries by entering into bilateral FLEGT VPAs with the EU;
- EU Timber Regulation came into force on 3 March 2013 as an overarching measure to prohibit placing of illegal timber and timber products on the internal market.

After ten (10) years of implementation, the FLEGT Action Plan is due for review. The review is expected to take place in the last quarter of 2014 with the four objectives, i.e. to assess achievements, challenges and limitations of the FLEGT process; to identify changes in the global context and how they affect the relevance of the Action Plan; to draw lessons and to guide future EU efforts on FLEGT.

*(Continue on page 3)*



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

Bengkulu Province has proposed an area of 472,664 hectares of forest land in the province to be included in the territory of the Forest Management Unit (FMU) and be used in the carbon trading scheme. Even though the Ministry of Forest has given its approval to Bengkulu on the proposal, so far only 78,274 hectares of the total have been assigned as a pilot project. Of the 472,664 hectares, 147,729 hectares are for production while the remaining 324,935 hectares are protected forest.

Source: MTIB News Extracts 07/02/2014



## Did you also know that....

China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have agreed to sign the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) by 2015. Moreover, this cooperation will establish a seamless market for 16 nations. The partnership will enable the creation of a dispute-settlement system as well as liberalising investment, trade and services.

In addition, RCEP will expand competitiveness, encourage closer economic collaboration and safeguard intellectual property rights among the participating countries. This will be the biggest free trade agreement in the world.

Source: The Nation, 8 February 2014



## World Wetlands Day 2014

The State-level World Wetlands Day 2014 was held at Kuching Wetlands National Park (KWNP), a Ramsar Site on 22 February 2014. It was attended by representatives from various government agencies such as Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Biodiversity Center (SBC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, Natural Resource and Environment Board (NREB), and Petronas as well as teachers, teachers trainee and students from a few schools in Kuching.

The launching ceremony was officiated by Dr Abdul Rahman Junaidi, the Assemblymen for Pantai Damai. Located about 15 kilometres from Kuching City, KWNP covers an area of 6,610 hectares and was gazetted as a National Park in 2002. It was later designated as a Ramsar Site in November 2005, the first in Sarawak

as a wetland of international importance. Ramsar convention is a global environmental treaty which deals with a particular ecosystem. It provides the frameworks for international cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and their resources.

Also present was Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad, Director of Forests. He stressed that conservation of mangrove is vital as it protects the shorelines from erosion. The KWNP also benefited students and researchers for its unique and rich biodiversity. As a heritage site, it can also be developed for tourism in years to come.

At the end of the ceremony, attendees took part in planting mangrove trees along Sungai Lemidin.

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(Continued from page 2)

The Meeting noted that there is no FLEGT-licensed timber available in the EU market yet even though six tropical timber producing countries have concluded the VPA with the EU.

It was highlighted at the meeting that the main cause of deforestation in many tropical timber producing countries is the conversion of forests for commodity agricultural production, i.e. oil palm and not illegal logging. At least half of all tropical timber being traded comes from agricultural conversion. The revised FLEGT Action Plan is expected to address new concerns, such as conversion timber and to reduce agriculture-led deforestation. EU commits to halve the deforestation by the year 2020 and end it by the year 2030.

Other presentations included case studies on how illegal timber and timber products can still enter the US and EU markets with the implementation of the Lacey Act and the EU Timber Regulation, challenges of legality verification for small-scale and community producers to comply with the EU Timber Regulation,

and two international certification schemes, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), to comply with EU Timber Certification.

'Chatham House' is both the name of the building and the name by which the Royal Institute of International Affairs is widely known. Chatham House is an independent international affairs think-tank and membership organization. It is precluded by its Charter from expressing any institutional view or policy on any aspect of international affairs. The subject of illegal logging has been at the core of Chatham House's effort.

Chatham House holds the Illegal Logging Update and Stakeholder Consultation meeting twice in a year to promote the exchanging and debating of views, presenting of case studies and sharing of information with regard to the latest regulatory and governance developments, initiatives and research in forest management and the illegal timber trade.



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## **Second Standard Review Committee Meeting**



*Photo: Group photo of the members, alternate members, observers and Secretariat of SRC*

The Second Meeting of the Standard Review Committee (SRC) for the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (Forest Plantations) [MC&I (Forest Plantations)] was held on 12 – 13 February 2014 at Urban 360 Hotel, Kuching. It 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 meeting was chaired by Mr. Yong Teng Koon from the SRC Secretariat who was unanimously elected by the SRC.

The First Meeting of the SRC held from 26 – 28 August 2013 produced the Enquiry Draft 1 for the review of the MC&I (Forest Plantations). The Enquiry Draft 1 was subsequently subjected to the Second Public Comment which was conducted from 1 – 31 December 2013. This Second SRC meeting deliberated on the comments received from the second Public Comment exercise.

In this Meeting, the Enquiry Draft 2 was produced and regional consultations are scheduled to be held in Sarawak (8 April 2014), Sabah (10 April 2014) and Peninsular Malaysia (15 April 2014) for stakeholders to comment on the Enquiry Draft 2.