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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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Roadshow on the Implementation of the Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008



Photo: Mr Peter Sawal, Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak giving his opening remarks

A Roadshow on the Implementation of the Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) (Audit) Rules, 2008 was organised by the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) on 15 July 2013 at the auditorium of the State Library in Kuching. The objectives of the Roadshow were to inform the participants on the NRE (Audit) Rules, 2008 and to create awareness on the implementation and guidelines of the NRE (Audit) Rules, 2008. Approximately one hundred (100) participants from various government agencies, Environmental Consultancy, private sectors and related stakeholders attended the Roadshow.

The Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak, Mr Peter Sawal in his opening remarks informed the participants that NREB is the lead agency in Sarawak to protect

and manage the environmental quality and natural resources for the benefits of the present and future generations through the promotion of the principles of sustainable development. The NRE (Audit) Rules, 2008 is part from the Natural Resources and Environment Ordinance (NREO) to enhance the environmental compliance of project development, to assess the environmental risks caused by development activities and to improve the quality of environment in Sarawak.

Ms Elizabeth Nyomek, Senior Environment Control Officer from NREB gave a presentation on the background of the NRE (Audit) Rules, 2008, audit process, registration process, appointment of environmental auditor, penalty and implementation of the Rules. The NRE (Audit) Rules, 2008 was gazetted on 31 December 2008 and came into effect on 1 January 2013. A guideline for the implementation has been produced to provide explanations on the requirements and implementation of NRE (Audit) Rules, 2008.

There are three (3) environmental audit requirements, i.e. Environmental Compliance Audit (prescribed activities and reasonable grounds to suspect non-compliance with the approval conditions, directives or order), Environmental Risk Audit and Environmental Management System Audit. These audits will be

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Working Committee Meeting on Standard Operating Procedures for Harvesting Forest Plantation and Royalty Assessment



Photo: Meeting in progress

The Working Committee on Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for harvesting forest plantation and royalty assessment had its 3rd meeting on 30 July 2013 at Wisma STA in Kuching. The meeting was chaired by Mr Peter Ling Kwong Hung, Chairman of the STA Forest Plantation Category Committee and attended by representatives from Members of STA Forest Plantation Category Committee, Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and Forest Department Sarawak (FDS).

Members at this meeting were briefed on the following SOPs by the officers from SFC:

- a) Annual Harvesting Plan (AHP) & Permit to Harvest Coupe (PHC) for Planted Forests (Planted Coupe) of LPF,
- b) Processing of Annual Harvesting Plan (AHP) & Permit to Harvest Coupe (PHC) for Planted Forests (Planted Coupe) of LPF,
- c) Royalty Assessment by weight for timber from Planted Forests, and
- d) Royalty Assessment of timber from Planted Forests by Scaling Method.

The Meeting was also briefed on the policy and procedures including appendices and forms designed by SFC for use by forest plantation owners for the harvesting of forest plantation. Members of STA raised some issues of concern to SFC and subsequently proposed some amendments to the proposed policy and procedures.

Tuan Haji Zolkipli Aton, the Deputy General Manager of Sustainable Forestry & Compliance Division, SFC highlighted that all issues raised and deliberated in this meeting will be studied by SFC. He informed the committee that the proposed policy and procedures will be implemented on a pilot scale basis soon. Any procedures that are not applicable or practical shall thereafter be considered for amendment by SFC.

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Information Session on the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 and Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013 (No1)

The Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 (act) and the Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013 (Regulation) were designed to support the trade of legal timber and timber products into Australia as well as to combat illegal logging. The Act was legislated in Australia in

November 2012 and the Regulation was registered as a Legislative Instrument on 31 May 2013 to give effect to the Act, and is now publicly available.

To assist exporters in Malaysia to better

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Did you know that.....

Sarawak's timber sector contributes RM7.5 billion to State's coffers in 2012. The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) regards this as a positive trend, as it is an increase of five per cent from the 2011 contribution of RM7.1 billion. Plywood was still the sector's main export and revenue earner.

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/bu/newsbusiness.php?id=962515> 11 July 2013

Did you also know that....

In Indonesia, the government has planned to abolish Timber Legality Verification System (SVLK) fee. Also, the government will talk with timber producers to inspect the cost of SVLK. There is a potential that timber products without SVLK certificate will not be able to be sold on the market because international buyers are concerned about environmental protection.

Source: *Bisnis Indonesia*, 08 Jul 2013



Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management)

As part of the Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management) programme jointly offered by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) and Lincoln University of New Zealand, the next subject "Resource and Industrial Planning" will be delivered from 23 to 27 September 2013 in Bintulu and Sibul.

The topics included in this subject are as follows:

- (1) Resource planning project strategy;
- (2) Sarawak industrial planning;
- (3) Employment impacts of resource development; and
- (4) Wood product development and substitution.

STA members who wish to nominate their staff to further their knowledge in this subject are welcome to 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 Adey at 082-332222.

Thereafter, the subject "Economics of Forest Management" will be delivered from 21 to 25 October 2013 at Level 12, Wisma STA in Kuching.

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understand these new laws, Mr Ben Mitchell, the Director of International Forest Policy, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australian Department together with his officer, Ms Alexandra Banks organised information sessions in Kuala Lumpur on 4 July 2013 and in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah on 5 July 2013.

The STA Secretariat together with representatives from State agencies were invited to attend these sessions. The Act defined illegally logged timber as 'timber harvested in contravention of laws in force in the place (whether or not in Australia) where the timber was harvested' and the Regulation prescribes due diligence for the regulated community, that is, Australian importers; regulated timber products; and Australian processors of domestic raw logs. Under the Regulation, the regulated community have to undertake a due diligence process to minimise the risk of sourcing illegal logged timber.

Due Diligence requirements for importers include the following steps:

- 1) Information gathering
- 2) Assessing and identifying risk against a

timber legality framework (optional) or a country specific guideline (optional)

- 3) Risk Assessment (if required)
- 4) Risk Mitigation (if required)

To facilitate the due diligence process to be undertaken by the regulated community, the Australian Government is in the process of preparing a guideline known as "Country Specific Guideline" (CSG) for use by importers of regulated timber products in Australia to carry out their due diligence obligations.

The Session also clarified that not all fields provided in the sample CSG are compulsory, the draft CSG is merely a guideline for countries to work on and in the case of Malaysia, Mr Ben Mitchell confirmed that due to the different laws, regulations and practices in the three (3) regions, Malaysia could include information and requirements for all the three (3) regions in CSG.



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carried out by an environmental auditor appointed by the Controller and the auditing fee, including the employment cost of the auditor will be borne by the project developers.

The auditor will submit the environmental audit report together with the Corrective and Preventive Action Report (CAR) to the NREB. The project developers will then need to plan and carry out the recommendations given in the environmental audit report and disclose evidence of the work completed. Failing to implement the recommendations within the stipulated timeframe will be subjected to a maximum penalty of RM50,000 and imprisonment of five (5) years. Full implementation of the NRE (Audit) Rules, 2008 is expected by end of 2013.

WISHING ALL OUR READERS



*HAPPY
NATIONAL DAY,
MALAYSIA*



**FROM CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL MEMBERS,
MEMBERS AND MANAGEMENT OF STA**