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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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Leveraging In-House Resources to Fuel Transition towards Self-Regulation in the Forestry and Timber Industry



Photo: Group photo

The shared interest between the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) to ensure smooth and full implementation of the Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008 (Rules) within the forestry and timber industry involves efforts to improve guidelines on the Rules as well as to build capacity through the conduct of Pilot Projects for Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) and trainings.

All these efforts on self regulatory basis were set out to impart greater accountability on the part of the companies to comply with terms and approval conditions issued by NREB, as required under the Rules.

NREB and STA have once again affirmed their commitment by successfully conducting the second "Training on Environmental Quality Monitoring" for the personnel from member companies of STA from 26 to 27 July 2018 at Promenade Hotel, Bintulu.

The Training, held in support of the ECA, was conducted by a team of trainers with vast experience in the field of water sampling from UNIMAS. The team, led by Dr Tay Meng Guan, was engaged by STA to train its members on the knowledge and correct techniques in water sampling and water quality analysis. The Training was also tailored to include a presentation on regulations and policy in environmental management, delivered by Mr Justine Jok Jau, the Deputy Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak.

Twenty one (21) personnel from STA member companies attended the 2-day Training and obtained knowledge on protocols on water sampling and handling of equipment for *in-situ* and *ex-situ* analysis as well as hands on and guided experience on water sampling.

Mr Justine Jok in his closing remark, recognised the dedication showed by all parties involved in the Training; the

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participants who committed their times and efforts in the Training, the team of trainers who shared their expertise in the field of water quality sampling and analysis as well as STA who funded the the Training.

He further shared that NREB is pleased with the progress made by the forestry and timber industry players in the State, in particular the eight (8) companies participating in the Pilot Projects for ECA who have shown steady

progress towards self-regulation and will be ready to fully implement the ECA by end of this year.

With the inception of this structured Training course, STA and NREB looks forward to providing more Training in the future not only to build capacity but also to enhance environmental stewardship and inculcate self regulation in environmental management and protection in the State within the forestry and timber industry.

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Presentation Ceremony of Cash Awards, Financial Contributions to Educational & other Non-profit Organisations, and STA & Daiken Scholarships

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) through its subsidiary company, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM), organised three (3) Presentation Ceremonies of Cash Awards in Kuching, Miri, and Sibul. Apart from giving out the Cash Awards, STAM also presented financial contributions to educational and other non-profit organisations, as well as the STA and Daiken Scholarships.

The first Presentation Ceremony (PC) was held on the 26 July 2018, at Imperial Hotel, Kuching and attended by approximately 400 persons which includes invited guests namely Mr Jack Liam, Deputy Director of Forests cum Member of the Board of Honorary Advisers of STAM, Mr Philip Choo Kwong Hui, Company Secretary of STAM cum Honorary Treasurer of STA, Mr Simon Wong and Ms Bernadine Anak Jacob Acha from Daiken Corporation, officers from government agencies, Deans, Professors and lecturers from various universities, members of media as well students and their parents/guardians.

Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, Chairman of STA in his welcoming address, emphasised the continuous dedication of the Association in carrying out activities to improve the welfare of the community, especially in encouraging and supporting education in the State.

The Guest of Honour, Dato Sri Michael Manyin Jawong, the Minister of Education, Science and Technological Research Sarawak, expressed his gratitude to STA

for the contributions made in recognising outstanding students from Sarawak, and added that he Ministry would be introducing a pilot project in few schools in the State starting this year to monitor the performance of students. This initiative will involve cooperation from both parents and teachers, in line with the direction of the State towards the fourth industrial revolution or Industry 4.0.

212 students who excelled in their 2017 SPM and STPM public examinations were present to receive their Cash Awards at the PC, of a total of 1,465 selected students from Sarawak. These students are chosen for obtaining at least 8As for SPM and 2As for STPM, receiving an amount of RM 550.00 and RM 650.00 respectively.

To date, the STA Cash Awards has benefitted a total of 3,044 students, amounting to approximately RM 1.8 million.

STA Scholarships, awarded to students pursuing degree courses related to forestry and timber trade industry from were also presented to Ms Wennaanak Willie who are currently pursuing Bachelor in Science and Management of Plant Resources in UNIMAS as well as to Mr Jasman Chai Yi Hao and Mr Steven Lee Wee Soon, both pursuing Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical Engineering) at Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus (SUTS).

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Did you know that....

The size of *Eucalyptus pellita* seed plays an important role in influencing rooting emergence, normal germination as well as the root and hypocotyls length. A study found that medium and large seeds have higher rooting emergence and germination compared to smaller seeds due to the bigger seeds' ability to take nutrient from the cotyledon, thus also having a positive effect on seed germination and early plant growth which is evident by longer root and hypocotyls observed in these seeds.

Source: Yun Chong, F., Hj. Mohamad, A., Pang, K.N.K., Johnlee, E.B., Mustapeng, A.S.A., Kamrin, S., 2018, 'Seed Size and Germination Characteristic of *Eucalyptus pellita*'

Did you also know that....

A study conducted to understand growth potential and regeneration status of logged-over forests in Sarawak has revealed that the recovery process and growth of tree species in logged-over forest are not only attributed to factors such as the presence of remaining adult trees, saplings and seedlings but are also influenced by environmental factors such as intensity of logging, light intensity in the forest, terrain, altitude, temperature, humidity, rainfall and soils.

Source: Diway, B.M., Bodos, V., Sila, E., Chea Yiing, L., Takeuchi, Y., Bijack, N., 2018, 'The Establishment of Permanent Sample Plot Network in Sarawak'.



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In addition to that, Daiken Scholarships were also handed to Ms Nur Hanisah Binti Basuan who are currently pursuing Bachelor in Science and Management of Plant Resources in UNIMAS and to Ms Chai Shing Yi who are in SUTS to pursue Bachelor of Engineering (Civil Engineering). Educational and non-profit organisations such as STIDC, Yayasan La Sallian Kuching and Pertubuhan Ibu Bapa Kanak-Kanak Keperluan Istimewa Sarawak (PIBAKAT) were also provided with financial contributions to support each of their specific projects.

The second PC was held on 30 July 2018 at Imperial Hotel, Miri in the presence of Dato' Sri Law Kiu Kiong, Council Member of STA, Professor Beena Giridharan, Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor of Curtin University of Technology Sarawak Campus (CURTIN), Mr Michiro Iwashita, Director Cum Operation Manager from Daiken Miri Sdn Bhd and Mr Azman Mahli, Executive Officer from STIDC of Miri Division. Dato' Sri Law Kiu Kiong presented cheques of RM550.00 to the 48 SPM students and RM650.00 to 20 STPM students who were present at the PC. The total number of students selected to receive Cash Awards for Miri Division was 145.

During the PC, a mock cheque for STA Scholarship was also presented by Professor Beena Giridharan to Ms Bong



Photo: Group photo with recipients of Cash Awards from Kuching Division as well as recipients of financial contributions and STA & Daiken Scholarships

Chu Jun who is pursuing the Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical Power Engineering) in CURTIN, whereas the mock cheque for Daiken Scholarship was presented by Mr Michiro Iwashita to Ms Chan Jie Yun who is pursuing the Bachelor of Engineering (Electronic and Communication Engineering) in CURTIN.



Photo: YB Dato Sri Michael Manyin Jawong, Minister of Education, Science and Technological Research Sarawak (4th from left) presenting Cash Award to recipient during the STA Presentation Ceremony of Cash Awards, Financial Contributions to Educational & other Non-profit Organisations, and STA & Daiken Scholarships

The PC of Cash Awards to selected students of SPM and STPM from Sibu Division was held on 3 August 2018 at RH Hotel, Sibu. Approximately 320 persons including invited guests such as Penghulu Philip Law Buong Hoo, Mr John Ting Sia Ing and Ms Annie Wong Haw Bing who are Council Members of STA; Mr Raymond Dinggai anak Uloh, Economic Affairs Assistant from STIDC, Sibu Division as well as members of media, students and their family members.

Dato' Sri Patrick Wong Haw Yeong, Permanent Council Member of STA cum member of Board of Honorary Advisers of STAM delivered the welcoming speech during the PC.

Dato' Sri Patrick Wong then presented the cheques of RM550.00 to 108 SPM students and RM650.00 to 88 STPM students, of the total 392 students selected to receive the Cash Awards. All selected recipients of Cash Awards were also presented with certificates of achievement.

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9th Series of Occupational Safety and Health for Timber Industry Campaign 2018

The 9th series of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) for Timber Industry Campaign 2018 was held from 24 to 25 July 2018 at Mega Hotel, Miri. The two-day campaign was jointly organised by the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA). Twenty three (23) representatives from STA member companies participated in this Campaign, which was targeted for the members from the downstream timber industry.

The objectives of this Campaign were to promote and create awareness amongst management and workers of timber companies on the importance of occupational safety and health in workplace, and to minimise the occurrence of accidents at the workplace.

There were two (2) main speakers, namely Mr Sadiyuk Henry Rigit and Mr Hong Boon Jing, both from DOSH, Sarawak. Mr Sadiyuk highlighted that the safety of workplace is the responsibility of every individual who is involved. He explained that safety precautions should be taken accordingly with proper documentation and

procedures to generate a safe working environment, and that responsibility lies with both the employers and employees.

The two-day Campaign comprised a total of nine (9) sessions. On the first day, the topics covered included an introduction and function of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 (OSHA); the Factory and Machinery Act 1967 (FMA); Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Risk Control (HIRARC); and a group discussion session on the use of HIRARC method followed by a presentation session.

On the second day, the topics covered included the Use and Standard of Exposure of Chemicals Hazardous to Health (USECHH Regulation); the roles of the safety and health committee; Notification of Accident, Dangerous Occurrence, Occupational Poisoning & Occupational Disease Regulation (NADOPOD 2004); and a sharing session on real case scenarios.

The next OSH campaign is expected to be held in Sibul with the intention to instill the culture of OSH at workplace.