

# STA Review

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Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association

March 2013



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Meeting No 1/2013



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Annual General Meeting



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### COVER IMAGE:



*Nepenthes tentaculata*  
Habitat: Mossy montane forests

Photo courtesy of Anna Photo Studio

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### Published by

Sarawak Timber Association

11 Floor, Wisma STA,

26, Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim,

93450 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

Tel: ++ (60 82) 332 222

Fax: ++ (60 82) 487 888, 487 999

Email: sta@sta.org.my

Website: www.sta.org.my

### Printed by

Wisma Printing Sdn Bhd

Lot 1949, Section 66, KTL D, Lorong Tekad 1,

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93450 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

Tel : ++ (60 82) 338 131 (4 Lines)

Fax : ++ (60 82) 333 002

Email : wismaprinting@yahoo.com



# STA COUNCIL MEETING NO 1/2013



*Photo: Meeting in progress*

The STA Council Meeting No 1/2013 was held on 1 March 2013 at Wisma STA in Kuching. The Chairman, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, presided over the meeting which was attended by Dato Henry Lau, the Honorary Secretary, Mr Philip Choo, the Honorary Treasurer and twenty-one (21) members of the Council.

The Meeting received updates on recent developments in legislative requirements by importing countries which could affect the export of logs and timber products from Sarawak such as the European Union Timber Regulation and the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012. Members

were advised to understand the requirements of these legislations and to prepare themselves to meet these requirements if they are exporting timber and timber products to these countries.

The Meeting also took note of the proposals by the STA Hill Logging Committee on logging roads tolls and compensation for logging roads affected or submerged by hydro projects, and requested the Chairman of the Hill Logging Committee to discuss these proposals with members in the Hill Logging Category.

The Meeting was informed of the slow progress made by some member companies in achieving reasonable target of trained workmen. The meeting also approved the proposal from the Board of Directors of STA Training Sdn Bhd to give an incentive for every operator accessed to be competent, to member companies in the following skills sets, on a first-come-first-serve basis:

- (i) Certificate in Tree Felling (Natural Forests)
- (ii) Certificate in Log Extraction (Tractor)
- (iii) Certificate in Log Loading (Front-Tyred Front-end Loader)
- (iv) Certificate in Clear-fell Site Preparation
- (v) Certificate in Mechanical Site Preparation (Excavator)

Mesyyarat Majlis Bil 1/2013 STA telah diadakan pada 1 Mac 2013 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Pengerusi, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, mempengerusikan mesyyarat yang turut dihadiri oleh Dato Henry Lau, Setiausaha Kehormat, Encik Philip Choo, Bendahari Kehormat dan 21 ahli Majlis yang lain.

Mesyyarat dimaklumkan dengan perkembangan berkenaan keperluan peraturan oleh negara-negara pengimport yang akan mempengaruhi eksport balak dan produk kayu dari Sarawak seperti Peraturan Kayu Kesatuan Eropah dan Akta Larangan Pembalakan Haram Australia 2012.

Ahli Majlis turut mengambil maklum terhadap cadangan Ahli Jawatankuasa Pembalakan Hutan Bukit STA mengenai tol jalan balak dan pampasan bagi jalan balak yang terjejas atau tenggelam akibat projek hidro.

Mesyyarat telah dimaklumkan mengenai perkembangan yang perlahan dalam mencapai sasaran pekerja terlatih. Mesyyarat juga telah meluluskan cadangan Lembaga Pengarah STA Training Sdn Bhd untuk memberikan insentif kepada setiap pengendali yang telah dinilai kompeten, syarikat ahli dalam kemahiran set seperti yang disenaraikan dalam artikel ini berasaskan konsep "first-come-first-serve basis".

本会主席邦曼查拿督黄启暉于2013年3月1日假STA大厦主持今年首次理事会会议。共有23位理事会会员出席这会议，当中包括本会荣誉秘书拿督劉利康以及荣誉财政朱光輝先生。

会议汇报有关影响砂州原木和木产品出口的国际法例，譬如欧盟木材法规及2012澳洲非法伐法禁令最新进展资讯。会议也接纳丘陵采伐小组委员所提议的伐木道路收费和因水坝计划所促成的伐木道路淹没或影响的赔偿提议方案。

基于目前培训员工计划进度缓慢，并未达到理想的目标。因此，本会批准STA Training 有限公司董事局所提议的奖掖计划。会员公司员工如成功通过本文稿中所列出的技能评估，该会员公司将可各别获得奖掖。这项奖掖计划是以先到先得的方式进行。

STA held its Annual General Meeting on 28 March 2013 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The AGM was attended by representatives from 167 member companies.

During the AGM, the Chairman, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, delivered his message for the Annual Report on the workings of the Association for the year 2012.

The Meeting also dealt with matters related to the Association's wholly-owned companies, namely STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Training Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd and STA Ventures Sdn Bhd.

The following is the Chairman's Message:

### Annual Report on the Workings of STA for Year 2012



Photo: Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, Chairman of STA

*I welcome and thank all of you especially those members from outstations and invited guests for attending our AGM. Though this is not an election year, it is nevertheless important that all the different groups and categories send their representatives to the AGM so that they can participate in decision making on matters that will eventually bring mutual benefits to all members.*

*It is with great pleasure that I present STA's Annual Report for 2012. This is the first time that the STA Annual Report is printed to document the annual work and achievements of STA. I wish to bring to the following significant events in year 2012, including some latest developments on important issues, to the attention of STA's members.*

STA is pleased that the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment, through its four (4) forestry agencies, had published the booklet on Legality Verification of Logs in Sarawak. This booklet came in timely and served to inform and enlighten interested parties as to how Sarawak conducts the legality verification of logs in Sarawak. STA took the proactive role by organising a road show in the four regions i.e. Kuching, Sibu, Bintulu and Miri to highlight to its members the importance of the existing chain-of-custody of logs / legality verification on logs in Sarawak and to give an update on the legislative requirements of the international markets such as the Lacey Act, the Australian Illegal Prohibition Act 2012 when its due diligence regulations will come into force in November 2014, and the European Union Timber Regulation which came into force on 3 March 2013.

During the year, STA continued to monitor the progress of and participated in the consultations of several international legislations such as the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act and the Malaysia – European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA). STA is supportive of the objectives of these international legislations to combat illegal logging. However, STA feels that the different sets of definitions and requirements of these international legislations ought to be standardised. STA is also of the view the international communities should recognise the legality of logs and timber products produced in accordance with the requirements of existing laws and regulations in the producing countries.

Significant progress has been made in the standard operating procedures of the harvesting of planted forests in Sarawak. Throughout the year, STA has worked closely with the State forestry agencies to ensure that a pragmatic set of standard operating procedures is formulated for the forest plantation industry. One of the achievements during the year was the determination of weight-volume conversion factors of 1 tonne = 1 m<sup>3</sup> for *Acacia mangium* and 1 tonne = 2 m<sup>3</sup> for *Paraserianthes falcata* to determine the volume for the purpose of assessing royalty and cess. This is an important achievement as log scaling of plantation logs is not economically feasible for the forest plantation industry.

In order to help its members in the forest plantation industry, STA had continued to follow up on its six (6) proposals for tax incentives submitted in year 2011 with a presentation to the Ministry of Plantation Industry and Commodities on 5 July 2012. STA hopes that the Government will consider its proposals favourably as these tax incentives are important to hasten the development of the forest plantation industry.

Besides forestry matters, STA also looked into various issues such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the national minimum wage. STA had continued its working relationship with the Tax Review Panel and the Royal Malaysian Customs Department with a meeting on 11 July 2012 to discuss several outstanding matters on GST for the forest and timber industry in Sarawak. With the assistance of the Royal Malaysian Customs Department, parallel sessions of GST Awareness and Training in Miri, Bintulu, Sibu and Kuching were successfully organised by STA in October 2012 to keep its members abreast with the proposed GST model for Malaysia, in particular its application for the forest and timber industry.

STA is supportive of the Government's good intention that more Malaysians will join the workforce when the Minimum Wage Order 2012 comes into force on 1 January 2013. However, STA felt strongly that in reality the implementation of minimum wage will not alleviate the shortage of labour in the forest and timber industry in Sarawak due to the nature of work. The labour shortage is further aggravated by the small population and a higher proportion of the population with high levels of education. STA had taken great effort to raise its concerns on the effects of the minimum wage if the Government implements the minimum wage hastily without careful study and consideration. Some of the issues highlighted by STA were the unfair treatment between local and foreign employees if the policy fails to take into consideration the benefits-in-kind such as accommodation, meals and transportation as well as allowances that the foreign employees are given and the significant increase in labour costs due to the ripple effect on employees' earning in the region of RM800 in Sarawak. The industry is unable to increase its product prices to commensurate with the increased in labour costs as timber industry is an export-oriented industry where prices are dictated by buyers in the international market. This may result in conflicts between employees and employers as well as the winding up of businesses that are unable to cope with the escalating labour costs.

The industry relies on the foreign labour who are willing to work in the forest and timber industry in Sarawak as Malaysians are not keen to take up these jobs. STA hopes that the State Government will consider the industry's request to allow the industry to employ labour from other countries besides Indonesia and streamline the procedures of recruiting foreign labour amongst the relevant agencies. In addition, the implementation of the health insurance scheme for foreign employees on 1 February 2013 and the Government's intention to implement the unemployment insurance will only add on to the rising costs for employers in the industry, who already had to deal with the effects of implementing the Minimum Wage Order 2012.

STA is pleased that one of its proposals to the Government, which is to maintain the current remuneration system of piece-rate employees as long as they are guaranteed a monthly income equivalent to the minimum wage, has been accepted. STA believes that this decision by the Government will ensure productivity and the employees' performance in the forest and timber industry will not be jeopardised. The Government has also recently announced that the small and medium enterprises may defer payment of the minimum wage to their foreign employees until 31 December 2013, provided there are no deductions on levy, accommodation and other allowances from their remuneration. STA hopes that the Government does not only take into consideration of the well-being of the employees, but also look into the interests of the businesses, before designing labour policies. This will help to ensure sustainability of the industry and the continuous growth of our economy as a lot of industries are currently required to deal with many challenges. STA also appeals to the Government to facilitate the smooth implementation of its decisions on the labour policies, particularly the minimum wage, as well as work with other embassies to ensure that the operations of the industry are not disrupted.

STA, through STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), had introduced four (4) new certificates for workmen of the forest plantation industry. These certificates are Certificate in Tree Felling (Plantation), Certificate in Log Extraction (Bulldozer), Certificate in Breaking-out Cable Hauler and Certificate in Machine Operation Cable Hauler. A total of 441 workmen were assessed to be competent, bringing the total of trained workmen as at 31 December 2012 to 1,798. In addition, total in-house trainers and in-house assessors as at 31 December 2012 are 109 and 9 respectively.

STAT also offers the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management). Twenty (20) students are enrolled in the third cohort of the Postgraduate Diploma, which commenced in April 2012. Running concurrently with the Postgraduate Diploma are the STA Sustainable Forest Manager programme and the Continuing Education programme for individuals who are unable to commit fully to the two-year Postgraduate Diploma. These programmes had attracted one (1) student and eight (8) students respectively.

In 2012, STA, through STA Mutual Sdn Bhd had awarded scholarships to two (2) students, one (1) student each from the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). Currently, there are six (6) students pursuing tertiary education under STA scholarships. In addition, STAM also assisted Daiken Corporation to administer the Daiken Scholarship Fund. With the establishment of the Board of Honorary Advisers under STAM, STAM is expected to contribute more towards the welfare and education of deserving Sarawakians in the coming year.

The occupancy rate of Wisma STA remains at 95%. STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd (STAE) had renovated the existing Lecture Hall at Level 4 (South) into two (2) levels of office space. These newly renovated office spaces are available for rent in 2013. STAE also improved the security system in Wisma STA through the installation of the security alarms and the upgrade of closed-circuit television (CCTV) system at several critical locations.

STA foresees more challenges in the coming year as the international communities pay more attention on the trade of legally logged timber. On the home front, the State Government may introduce new policies in 2013 following the recommendations made in the Sarawak Timber Industry Labs in 2012. Employers in the industry may also face rising

(continue to page 6)



# STA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (CON'T)



Photo: Annual General Meeting in progress

(continue from page 5)

*costs of employment if the government went ahead with the plan of introducing unemployment insurance and health insurance scheme for foreign employees. STA shall continue to work closely with the relevant government ministries and agencies for the benefit of its members and the forest and timber industry.*

*In conclusion, I have to thank Vice-Chairman Y. Bhg. Tan Sri Datuk Sir Tiong Hiew King; Vice-Chairman Y. Bhg. Tan Sri Datuk Ling Chiong Ho, Honorary Secretary Y. Bhg. Dato Henry Lau Lee Kong, Honorary Treasurer Mr Philip Choo, all the Council and Committee members for their continued support and cooperation. I have similarly to thank the following for their continuous support to STA:*

- 1. The Chief Minister of Sarawak Y.A.B. Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud for his exemplary vision;*
- 2. The Second Minister of Resource Planning and Environment, Y.B. Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Haji Ali Hassan;*
- 3. STA Advisor, Y.Bhg. Datu Haji Ali Yusop, Director of Forests;*
- 4. STA Advisor, Y.Bhg. Datu Sarudu bin Haji Hoklai, General Manager, STIDC;*
- 5. The officers and staff from the State Secretary's office, State Financial Secretary's office, State Attorney General's office, Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment, Ministry of Industrial Development, Forest Department Sarawak, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, Natural Resources and Environmental Board, the Department of Labour Sarawak and the Immigration Department; and*
- 6. Members of the media.*

*I have also to thank all staff of the STA Secretariat and its subsidiary companies for their support without which it would be impossible to manage the Association.*

*Once again thank you for your support and attendance.*

STA telah mengadakan Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan pada 28 Mac 2013 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Mesyuarat Agung ini telah dihadiri oleh wakil-wakil dari 167 Ahli Syarikat.

Semasa AGM, Pengerusi, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, menyampaikan ucapan dan Laporan Tahunan Persatuan bagi tahun 2012.

Ucapan pengerusi adalah seperti pada artikel ini.

本会常年会员大会于2013年3月28日假古晋，STA大厦召开。共有167间会员公司代表出席今年的大会。

本会主席，邦曼查拿督黄启畴在大会中汇报本会2012年活动事务。

主席致词，请参阅原文。

# AUSTRALIAN'S ILLEGAL LOGGING PROHIBITION ACT 2012 – THE FOURTH WORKSHOP ON THE REGULATIONS PACKAGE

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) organised the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) and final workshop on Regulations Package on 27 March 2013 in Canberra, Australia. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain stakeholder's input to the development of the regulations required to support the Australian's Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 (AILPA 2012).

About fifty (50) participants attended the workshop. The Malaysian group comprised five representatives, one each from the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Malaysian Timber Industry Board, Malaysian Timber Council, Malaysian Wood Industries Association and Sarawak Timber Association.

The workshop discussion was facilitated by Ms Julia Donohue, User First Design Group. The participants deliberated on the discussion paper – Regulations Package which has outlined the policy advice and proposed drafting instructions that DAFF proposed to provide to the Minister on the regulations required to support the administration of the AILPA 2012. In addition to the regulations, DAFF will be developing a number of administrative policy documents to support the administrative of the AILPA 2012, namely administrative practice statements, to provide guidance to staff on compliance and enforcement activities. It was noted that the country/state's specific guidance material will also be developed to assist importers and processors to comply with due diligence requirements.

DAFF will table the final regulations package, setting out the list of regulated timber products and due diligence requirements to the Australian Government by the end of May 2013.



*Photo: Workshop in progress*

澳洲农业、渔业和林业部（DAFF）于2013年3月27日假澳洲，堪培拉举办第四及最后澳洲非法采伐禁令（AILPA 2012）规则格式研讨会。研讨会的目的是向利益相关者索取关于研制支撑AILPA 2012相关法规的意见和建议。

马来西亚代表则由本会，种植与原产业部，马来西亚木材工业局，马来西亚木材理事会和马来西亚木材工业协会各组织代表所组成。

DAFF将在2013年5月底前提交最终监管木材厂品和尽职调查需求法规格式予澳洲政府。

Jabatan Pertanian, Perikanan dan Perhutanan (DAFF) telah menganjurkan bengkel ke-empat (4) dan terakhir Pakej Peraturan pada 27 Mac 2013 di Canberra, Australia. Tujuan bengkel ini adalah untuk mendapatkan input daripada pihak berkepentingan berikutan pembangunan peraturan-peraturan yang diperlukan untuk menyokong Akta Larangan Pembalakan Haram Australia 2012 (AILPA 2012).

Kumpulan Malaysia terdiri daripada lima wakil, masing-masing daripada Kementerian Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi, Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia, Majlis Kayu Malaysia, Persatuan Industri Kayu Malaysia dan Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak.

DAFF akan membentangkan pakej peraturan akhir menetapkan senarai produk kayu yang dikawal selia dan segala usaha yang wajar kepada Kerajaan Australia pada akhir Mei 2013.

# THE STA FURNITURE AND OTHER WOODWORK

As a measure to promote the growth of the furniture and other woodworking industry in Sarawak, the Furniture and Other Woodworking Committee Members of Sarawak Timber Association (STA) led by its Chairman, Mr Yek Siew Liong had arranged a study tour to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam from 10 to 14 March 2013.

The main objective of this study tour is to visit the processing mills and planted forests in Vietnam to gain first-hand experience and knowledge related to the development of the furniture industry in Vietnam in particular the production, usage and marketing of timber products made from planted timbers.

The group had the opportunity to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> Vietnam International Furniture and Home Accessories Fair (VIFA 2013) in Ho Chi Minh City on 11 March 2013 followed by a visit to the Forest Science Institute of South Vietnam's planted forest research stations and the furniture processing mills on 12 and 13 March 2013 respectively.

## **i. The 6<sup>th</sup> Vietnam International Furniture and Home Accessories Fair (VIFA 2013), Ho Chi Minh City**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Vietnam International Furniture and Home Accessories Fair (VIFA 2013) was organised by the Handicraft and Wood Industry Association of Ho Chi Minh City (HAWA) from 11 to 14 March 2013 at the Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center (SECC).

Mr Nguyen Chien Thang, the Chairman of HAWA delivered the welcoming remarks during the opening ceremony. He stated that the wooden furniture industry in Vietnam had achieved US\$4.67 billion in exports in 2012, achieving 6.1% higher than the targeted figure with a year-to-year increase of 17.9%. Meanwhile, Mr Le Van Khoa, the Deputy Director of the Ho Chi Minh City Department of Industry and Trade said that the direction and support from relevant government agencies had contributed to the success of Vietnam's wooden furniture industry despite global economic difficulties. Vietnam is now the 6<sup>th</sup> largest wooden exporters in the world, with second ranking in Asia and first in South East Asia.

The four-day fair showcased a wide selection of indoor and outdoor furniture as well as a vast range of home accessories. This year's event attracted around 130 exhibitors with more than 600 exhibition booths from China, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam and etc.

## **ii. The Forest Science Institute of South Vietnam and the Planted Forest Research Stations, Binh Duong Province**

The visit was aimed at attaining better knowledge on the research and development in *Acacia* plantation which is carried out by the Forest Science Institute of South Vietnam (FSISV). The Director of FSISV, Dr Pham The Dung welcomed the study group and gave a briefing on the institute's research and development activities which are related to the planted forests in Vietnam.

The visit concluded with a tour to the institute's planted forest research stations in Binh Duong province, which is located about 100km from Ho Chi Minh City.

## **iii. The Furniture Processing Mills, Binh Duong Province**

The study group also visited RK Resources Co Ltd, a local company specialising in the manufacturing and export of wooden household furniture. RK Resources Co Ltd in Binh Duong province is one of the largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) furniture manufacturers in Vietnam with a total workforce of 3000 workers. The study group was warmly received by the Chief Executive Officer, Mdm Lin Chen Jui Fen, the General Manager, Mr Lu Chin Chia, the Director, Mr Joseph Lin and the Finance Director, Mr Yeoh Joe Son.

During the information exchanging session, it is learnt that raw material is generally cheaper in Vietnam compared to Malaysia. The Government of Vietnam has also introduced various schemes such as setting up industrial zones and introducing favorable tax deduction incentives to encourage the development of the local furniture industry.

In summary, Vietnam has become one of the major furniture exporters in the world due to the availability of raw material, cheaper labour costs, Vietnam's foreign investment policies and its geographical location.



# WORKING COMMITTEE STUDY TOUR TO VIETNAM



Photo: VIFA 2013 Opening Ceremony



Photo: Visit to the Planted Forest Station of the Forest Science Institute of South Vietnam



Photo: Visit to Furniture Mill of RK Resources



Photo: Visit to RK Resources

Sebagai langkah untuk menggalakkan pertumbuhan industri perabot dan pertukangan kayu lain di Sarawak. Ahli Jawatankuasa Perabot dan Lain-lain Pertukangan Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) yang diketuai oleh Pengerusi, Encik Yek Siew Liong telah mengadakan lawatan sambil belajar ke Bandar Raya Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam pada 10 hingga 14 Mac 2013. Objektif utama lawatan adalah untuk melawat kilang pemprosesan dan hutan ladang di Vietnam untuk memperolehi pengalaman dan pengetahuan tentang pembangunan industri perabot di Vietnam khususnya pengeluaran, penggunaan, dan pemasaran produk kayu yang diperbuat daripada kayu ladang.

Ahli kumpulan berpeluang menghadiri Pameran Antarabangsa Perabot dan Aksesori Rumah (VIFA 2013) Vietnam ke-6 di Bandar Raya Ho Chi Minh pada 11 Mac 2013 diikuti dengan lawatan ke Institut Sains Hutan Selatan Vietnam, stesen penyelidikan hutan ladang, dan kilang pemprosesan perabot masing-masing pada 12 dan 13 Mac 2013.

**i. Pameran Antarabangsa Perabot dan Aksesori Rumah Vietnam (VIFA 2013) Ke-6, Bandar Raya Ho Chi Minh**

Pameran Antarabangsa Perabot dan Aksesori Rumah (VIFA 2013) Vietnam ke-6 telah dianjurkan oleh Persatuan Kraftangan dan Industri Kayu Bandar Raya Ho Chi Minh (HAWA) dari 11 hingga 14 Mac 2013 di Pusat Pameran dan Konvensyen Saigon (SECC). Pameran empat hari tersebut menyaksikan pelbagai pilihan perabot dalaman dan luaran serta pelbagai aksesori rumah. Acara tahunan ini telah menarik kira-kira 130 peserta dengan lebih daripada 600 tapak pameran.

**ii. Institut Sains Hutan Selatan Vietnam dan Stesen Penyelidikan Hutan Ladang, Wilayah Binh Duong**

Lawatan bertujuan untuk meningkatkan pengetahuan tentang penyelidikan dan pembangunan di ladang *Acacia* yang dijalankan oleh Institut Sains Hutan Vietnam Selatan (FSISV). Lawatan ini diakhiri dengan lawatan ke stesen penyelidikan hutan ladang di Wilayah Binh Duong.

**iii. Kilang Pemprosesan Perabot, Wilayah Binh Duong**

Ahli kumpulan turut melawat RK Resources Sdn Bhd, sebuah syarikat tempatan yang khusus dalam pembuatan dan eksport perabot kayu rumah.

Semasa sesi pertukaran maklumat, adalah difahamkan bahawa bahan mentah di Vietnam umumnya lebih murah berbanding di Malaysia. Kerajaan Vietnam juga telah memperkenalkan pelbagai skim seperti penubuhan zon perindustrian dan memperkenalkan insentif potongan cukai yang menarik bagi menggalakkan pembangunan industri perabot tempatan.

(傢俬与其它木工小组越南，胡志明市考察华语翻译)

砂州原材料供应短缺已阻碍家具和其它木工业的增长。有鉴于此，傢俬与其它木工小组委员在其主席，葉紹良先生的带领下于2013年3月10日至14日前往越南，胡志明市考察当地家具和其它木工业。此行主要目的是考察越南家具厂和人工林，从而了解及交流关于越南家具业发展经验和知识。特别是在生产，使用和销售人工林木产品的课题上。

该小组于2013年3月11日参加在胡志明市举行的第6届越南国际家具及家居用品展览会（VIFA 2013）。此外，小组委员也于2013年3月12日及13日考察南越森林科学研究所的人工林种植研究站和家具厂。

#### i. 胡志明市，第6届越南国际家具及家居饰品展览会（VIFA 2013）

胡志明市手工业和木材工业协会（HAWA）于2013年3月11日至14日在西贡会展中心（SECC）举办第6届越南国际家具及家居饰品展览会（VIFA 2013）。

为期四天的展览会展出了多种室内和室外家具以及种类繁多的家居饰品。今年的展览会吸引约130家参展商，共有超过600摊展览位。

#### ii. 平阳省，南越森林科学研究所及其人工林种植研究站

这旨在了解由南越森林科学研究所（FSISV）所研究和开发的金合欢树种植。商务拜访FSISV后，小组委员前往位于平阳省的FSISV人工林种植研究站考察。

#### iii. 平阳省，家具厂

小组委员也与一家当地制造及出口木制家具厂，RK资源有限公司进行交流。

委员从中据悉越南原材料一般与马来西亚相比来得便宜。越南政府还推展各种计划，如设立工业区，实行有利的税收减免优惠政策以鼓励当地家具行业的发展。

## STA HILL LOGGING CATEGORY MEETING



*Photo: Meeting in progress*

Members of the STA Hill Logging Category convened its first Category meeting for the year on 28 March 2013 in Wisma STA, Kuching. The meeting was called to further deliberate on the issue of logging road toll and maintenance fee charges and to seek the views of all members in the Category before proposing it to the Council to adopt it as a STA Guideline.

After a lengthy discussion, the Meeting reached a consensus on the toll and maintenance fee to be charged which will serve as a guideline and basis for the affected parties to negotiate. This will be tabled in next STA Council Meeting for further deliberation and consideration for adoption.

The Secretariat also updated Category members on the current 11<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder Consultation on FLEGT VPA, Stakeholders Consultation Session on the legislation and regulations of Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012, the formation of a Malaysian Working Group Meeting and Drafting Workshop by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

Ahli-ahli Kategori Pembalakan Hutan Bukit STA telah mengadakan mesyuarat Kategori buat kali pertama bagi tahun ini pada 28 Mac 2013 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Mesyuarat bertujuan untuk membincangkan isu bayaran tol dan penyelenggaraan jalan pembalakan dengan lebih lanjut.

Selepas perbincangan yang panjang, Mesyuarat mencapai kata sepakat mengenai bayaran tol dan penyelenggaraan yang akan dikenakan dan ini akan bertindak sebagai garis panduan dan asas rundingan bagi pihak yang terlibat.

STA丘陵采伐小组会员于2013年3月28日假古晋，STA大厦召开今年第一次的会议。此会议皆于进一步讨论关于伐木道路费和维护费课题。

会议在收取路费和维护费课题上达成共识，这将作为各受影响当局进行谈判的指导准则和基础。

# DIALOGUE ON RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION TAGGING SYSTEM FOR LOGS



*Photo: Meeting in progress*

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) organised a dialogue on “Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Tagging System for Logs” on 27 March 2013 at Wisma STA in Kuching. RFID is a wireless, non-contact use of radio-frequency electromagnetic fields to transfer data, for the purposes of automatically identifying and tracking tags attached to the log.

The Dialogue was chaired by Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad, the Deputy Director of Forests and was attended by nineteen (19) officers from Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Information Systems Sdn Bhd (SAINS) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA). The objective of this dialogue was to seek inputs and comments on RFID log tagging system with the aim to improve work processes and monitoring.

Ms Sheila L Henry, the Project Manager from SAINS briefed the participants on the proposed RFID log tagging system. This serves to enhance the current system i.e. the Log Production Identity (LPI) Tag.

Participants at the Dialogue raised concerns on the usage of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) in tagging logs such as cost effectiveness, tools used, implementation on the ground and security aspects. At the end of dialogue session, members agreed to organise a study trip to a RFID operational site in Malaysia to gain a better understanding of the way the system is implemented.

Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) telah menganjurkan sesi dialog mengenai “Sistem Penandaan Balak menggunakan Frekuensi Radio (RFID)” pada 27 Mac 2013 di Wisma STA, Kuching.

Dialog ini telah dipengerusikan oleh Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad, Penolong Pengarah Hutan Sarawak. Dialog diadakan bertujuan untuk mendapatkan input dan komen mengenai sistem RFID yang dicadangkan yang bertujuan untuk meningkatkan kecekapan kerja dan proses pemantauan.

Pada akhir sesi dialog, ahli-ahli bersetuju untuk mengadakan lawatan sambil belajar ke tapak operasi RFID di Malaysia untuk mengumpul maklumat mengenai cara pelaksanaan sistem RFID.

砂州森林局(FDS)于2013年3月27日假STA大厦举办射频识别(RFID)原木新标签制度对话会。砂州森林局副局长，萨夫安阿莫先生（译音）主持此对话会。对话会旨在收集参与者对原木标签制度的意见和建议，从而改善运作流程和监控。

此外，委员也同意前往RFID操作设施场进行考察，以便从中更好地理解运作系统方式。



# WORKSHOP ON HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS AND CERTIFICATION



Photo: Workshop in progress

A Workshop on High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs) and Certification was organised by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Malaysia on 12 March 2013 at Wisma STA in Kuching. Approximately fifty five (55) participants from the Ministry of Resource Planning & Environment (MRPE), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and STA member companies attended the Workshop.

Dr Peter Kho, the General Manager of STA welcomed the participants to the Workshop. He pointed out that information sharing through this workshop shall open the network for continuous discussion on HCVFs assessment between the timber industry, Government Agencies and other parties in Sarawak. He hoped that this workshop will create better understanding on the HCV concept, the meaning of the values and the way they are applied, through the local case study in Kuba'an Puak Forest Management Unit (FMU).

Ms Cynthia Chin, WWF Malaysia spoke on HCVFs in commercial forest operations and planted forests in Sarawak. She shared the different definitions found in the Malaysia Criteria and Indicator (MC&I) standard, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). She also shared on the HCVF process development in Malaysia which was started in mid 2007 with the drafting of the HCVF Toolkit. The Toolkit went through three (3) field tests and was adopted in 2009.

There were two (2) papers and a case study presented at the workshop. They were:

1. HCVF Planning and Management – by Dr Reza Azmi (WildAsia)
  - The HCV concept, with some focus on planted forests and oil palm
2. HCVF Planning and Management (Natural Forest) – by Tor Mooi See (Proforest)
  - HCVs in natural forest setting and the context for Malaysia
3. HCVFs – The Case study of Kubaan-Puak FMU – by Mr Malcom Demies and Mr Rambli Ahmad, Sarawak

## Forestry Corporation Assessors

- Showcasing of an HCV assessment in Sarawak, from conceptualisation to report and international peer review

During the Question and Answer session, participants shared their views on the necessity and the practicality to have HCVFs and issues faced when implementing HCVF in their Forest Management Unit (FMU).



Photo: Group photo

Bengkel mengenai Hutan Bernilai Konservasi Tinggi (HCVF) dan Pensijilan telah dianjurkan oleh Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) dengan kerjasama Tabung Alam Malaysia pada 12 Mac 2013 di Wisma STA, Kuching.

Dr Peter Kho, Pengurus Besar STA mengalu-alukan kehadiran peserta bengkel dan menyatakan bahawa perkongsian maklumat semasa bengkel ini akan dapat mewujudkan rangkaian perbincangan berterusan tentang penilaian HCVF di antara industri kayu, agensi kerajaan dan lain-lain pihak di Sarawak. Beliau berharap bengkel ini akan meningkatkan pemahaman peserta mengenai konsep HCV, maksud nilainya dan cara ianya digunakan ke atas kajian kes tempatan di Unit Pengurusan Hutan (FMU) Kuba'an Puak.

Terdapat dua kertas kerja dan satu kertas kajian dibentangkan semasa bengkel.

本会连同马来西亚世界自然基金会(WWF)于2013年3月12日在古晋STA大厦举办高保护价值森林(HCVF)和认证工作坊。

本会总经理, 许晋生博士欢迎出席者的参与。他强调这工作坊所分享的资讯将开启管道, 让砂州木材业, 政府机构和相关人士/机构继续讨论有关HCVFs评估, 并且从中受惠。许博士也希望参与者通过这次的工作坊, 更深入了解HCV的概念, 价值和Kuba' an Puak森林管理单位(FMU) HCV个案研究。

工作坊总共呈现2份专题和1项个案研究报导。

# PRESENTATION OF STA PRIZES



Photo: Mr Mugunthan A/L Perumal (Left) and Ms Hoo Soo Ying (Right)

Since 2005, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM), a wholly-owned subsidiary company of Sarawak Timber Association (STA) has been awarding two STA Prizes to the final year students pursuing degree courses in both the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) as a reward for excellent performance in their academic achievement. The two categories of awards are for the Best Graduating Student and Best Final Year Project Paper. The selection of students for these awards is based on recommendations by the Faculty.

The STA Prize for the Best Graduating Student 2012 was awarded to Ms Hoo Soo Ying who graduated with a Bachelor of Plant Resource Science and Management degree from the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, UNIMAS. She received a cheque of RM1,000.00, an acrylic plaque and a certificate.

The STA Prize for the Best Final Year Project Paper 2012 was awarded to Mr Mugunthan A/L Perumal who graduated with a Bachelor of Plant Resource Science and Technology degree, from the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, UNIMAS. He received a cheque of RM500.00, an acrylic plaque and a certificate. His project paper is entitled *"Growth Performance and Survival Rate of Planted Shore macrophylla at Various Ages Stands in Sampadi Forest Reserve"*.

The Presentation Ceremony of STA Prizes was held at the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, UNIMAS in Kota Samarahan on 6 March 2013. The prizes were presented to the students by Dr Peter Kho, the General Manager of STA and was witnessed by the Deputy Dean for Research and Postgraduate, Professor Madya Dr Hairul Azman@Amir Hamzah Roslan, Mr Kazuyoshi Katsumata and Mr Anthony Chin from Daiken Sarawak Sdn Bhd as well as Mr Simon Wong and Mr Raymond Ngui from Daiken Miri Sdn Bhd.

Sejak tahun 2005, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM), sebuah syarikat subsidiari milik penuh Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) telah menganugerahkan dua Hadiah STA kepada pelajar tahun akhir yang mengikuti kursus peringkat ijazah di Fakulti Perhutanan, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) dan Fakulti Sains dan Teknologi Sumber, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) sebagai ganjaran atas pencapaian akademik yang cemerlang. Dua kategori anugerah adalah Pelajar Graduan Terbaik dan Projek Tahun Akhir Terbaik.

Hadiah STA bagi Pelajar Bergraduat Terbaik 2012 dianugerahkan kepada Cik Hoo Soo Ying graduan Ijazah Sarjana Muda Sains dan Pengurusan Sumber Tumbuhan dari Fakulti Sains dan Teknologi Sumber, UNIMAS.

Hadiah STA untuk Projek Tahun Akhir Terbaik 2012 dianugerahkan kepada Encik Mugunthan A/L Perumal graduan Ijazah Sarjana Muda Sains dan Pengurusan Sumber Tumbuhan dari Fakulti Sains dan Teknologi Sumber, UNIMAS.

Majlis Penyampaian Hadiah STA telah diadakan di Fakulti Sains dan Teknologi Sumber, UNIMAS di Kota Samarahan pada 6 Mac 2013. Penyampaian hadiah telah diberikan oleh Dr Peter Kho, Pengurus Besar STA dan disaksikan oleh Timbalan Dekan Penyelidikan dan Siswazah, Profesor Madya Dr Hairul Azman @ Amir Hamzah Roslan, Encik Kazuyoshi Katsumata dan Encik Anthony Chin dari Daiken Sarawak Sdn Bhd serta Encik Simon Wong dan Encik Raymond Ngui dari Daiken Miri Sdn Bhd .

本会全资拥有公司STAMutual有限公司自2005年以来，拨发两项STA奖状予马来西亚太子大学(UPM)林业系和马来西亚砂拉越大学(UNIMAS)资源科学与技术系给学业优异的学生以作奖励。这两项奖状分别是最佳毕业奖与最佳期末论文奖。

2012年STA最佳毕业生奖由UNIMAS资源科学与技术系，攻读植物资源科学与技术学士学位的何淑莹同学获得。

2012年STA最佳期末论文奖则由UNIMAS资源科学与技术系，攻读植物资源科学与技术学士的穆古丹A/L沛鲁马同学(译音)获得。

STA 奖颁发典礼于2013年3月6日假三马林汉省，UNIMAS资源科学与技术系举行。本会总经理，许晋生博士颁发STA奖予得奖学生。颁发典礼在研究与研究生副院长，海鲁阿曼教授，来自砂拉越大建有限公司的胜又万昌先生和安东尼陈先生以及来自美里大建有限公司的王宪钦先生和雷门魏先生的见证下进行。



# LAUNCHING OF WORLD FORESTRY DAY, 2013

World Forestry Day 2013 was simultaneously launched together with Belawai Day 2013, and Tanjung Manis Day 2013 by the Chief Minister of Sarawak, YAB Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud at Tapak Pesta Kaul Belawai, Kampung Belawai, Tanjung Manis as part of the official event "Leaders Meet the People" on Sunday, 17 March 2013. He was accompanied by Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hassan, Datu Hj Len Talif bin Salleh, Datuk Hj Norah Tun Abdul Rahman, Encik Abdullah bin Hj Saidol, Datu Hj Ali Yusop and Datu Sarudu Hoklai.

Members of Sarawak Timber Association (STA) who attended the launching included Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, Dato Tiong Ing, representatives from four (4) member companies of STA and staff from STA Secretariat. Other participants included representatives from the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment (MRPE), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Sarawak Planted Forest (SPF) and Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (HTSB). Approximately two thousand people attended this event. A tree planting ceremony to commemorate the Day was carried out immediately after the launching, where the Chairman, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik planted a tree on behalf of STA.

Various activities were also organised in conjunction with the Day; Futsal Tournament, organised by FDS on 16 March 2013 in Sibu, Blowpipe Tournament, organised by SFC on 23 March 2013 in Kuching.

In the Futsal Tournament, the team for STA, represented by staff members from the WTK group of companies, won the Director of Forests Futsal Cup for the Men's Category while STIDC won the Women's Category. In the Blowpipe Tournament, SFC won first place followed by FDS and STA with the second and third places respectively. Earlier on, STA was entrusted to organise the Golf Tournament on 9 March 2013 at Eastwood Valley Golf and Country Club in Miri. The tournament, held annually since 2011, was aimed to promote World Forestry Day and foster friendly relations among the forestry and government agencies with the timber industry.

A total of 43 golfers from the forestry and forestry-related agencies, government agencies and timber industry participated in the 18-hole tournament. Amongst the golfers were Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Mohamad Morshidi bin Abdul Ghani, the Sarawak State Secretary, Datu Haji Ali Yusop, Director of FDS, Datu Haji Sarudu Haji Hoklai, General Manager of STIDC and Dato' Sri Law Kiu Kiong as well as Tan Sri Datuk Jimmy Lau Hieng Wui, STA Council Members.

Mr Paul Chamberlin of the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) won the individual nett gross category with a score of 69. Second place went to Mr Jamit Imbak of FDS with a score of 70 On Count Back (OCB), while third place went to Mr Zainal Abidin Abdullah of SFC with a score of 70. The individual gross category

was won by Mr Dahrawi Muhamad of STIDC with a score of 88, followed by Mr Wilfred Barat of FDS with a score of 89 OCB and Mr Wong Ing Yung of STA with a score of 89.

FDS team emerged as the champion, taking away the Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik challenge trophy after winning the team gross event with a total score of 273, followed by the HTSB and STIDC combined team with a total score of 279 and third place went to NREB with a total score of 285.

All prizes for the games were awarded during the dinner function on 24 March 2013 at Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching.

Hari Perhutanan Sedunia 2013 telah dilancarkan secara serentak bersama-sama dengan Hari Belawai 2013, dan Hari Tanjung Manis 2013 oleh Ketua Menteri Sarawak, YAB Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud di Tapak Pesta Kaul Belawai, Kampung Belawai, Tanjung Manis sebagai sebahagian daripada acara rasmi "Majlis Pemimpin Bersama Rakyat" pada Ahad 17 Mac 2013.

Ahli-ahli Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) yang menghadiri majlis pelancaran tersebut adalah Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, Dato Tiong Ing, wakil-wakil daripada empat (4) ahli syarikat STA dan Sekretariat STA. Satu majlis menanam pokok untuk memperingati Hari Perhutanan Sedunia telah dijalankan selepas majlis pelancaran, di mana Pengerusi, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik menanam pokok bagi pihak STA.

Pelbagai aktiviti turut dijalankan termasuklah Kejohanan Futsal anjuran FDS pada 16 Mac 2013 di Sibu dan Kejohanan Menyempit yang dianjurkan oleh SFC pada 23 Mac 2013 di Kuching. Terdahulu, STA telah dipertanggungjawabkan untuk menganjurkan Kejohanan Golf pada 9 Mac 2013 di Eastwood Valley Golf and Country Club, Miri. Hadiah pemenang bagi setiap permainan disampaikan semasa Majlis Makan Malam pada 24 Mac 2013 di Hotel Riverside Majestic, Kuching.

本州首席部长，丕显斯里泰益玛目于3月17日假丹绒马尼，甘榜巴拉威“领袖与民”集会上为砂州世界森林日暨2013年丹绒马尼及巴拉威日主持推展礼。

出席此推展礼的有本会主席邦曼查拿督黄启暉，理事会委员拿督张瑩，4家会员公司及秘书处代表。本会主席邦曼查拿督黄启暉代表STA参与植树仪式。

各相关当局也在世界森林日期间举办各项活动，如砂州森林局(FDS)于2013年3月16日假诗巫举办室内足球赛，砂拉越林业机构(SFC)于2013年3月23日假古晋举办吹管比赛。此前，本会也被委托于2013年3月9日在美里东林高球场俱乐部举办高尔夫锦标赛。各相关当局于2013年3月24日在古晋河滨酒店举办的砂州世界森林日晚宴上颁发所有比赛与锦标赛的奖项。



# BELAWAI DAY AND TANJUNG MANIS DAY



Photo: Launching of World Forestry Day, Tanjung Manis Day and Belawai Day



Photo: Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik planted a tree on behalf of STA during the tree planting ceremony



Photo: Golf Tournament in Miri

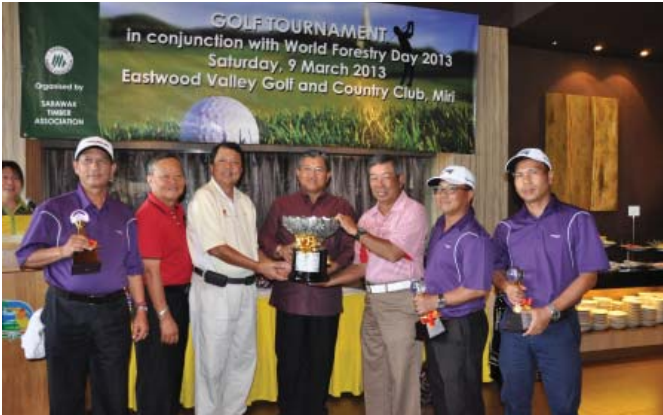


Photo: Forest Department Sarawak team champion for the Golf Tournament



Photo: Futsal Tournament in Sibü



Photo: STA Futsal team was represented by the staff members from WTK group of companies



Photo: Blowpipe Tournament in Kuching



Photo: STA Blowpipe team



# BRIEFING ON THE ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY AND COMPLIANCE; AND SECURITY AND ASSET PROTECTION DIVISION

A briefing on the roles and functions of Sustainable Forest and Compliance (SF&C) and Security and Asset Protection Division (SAPD), previously known as Security and Asset Protection Unit (SAPU), was held on 8 March 2013 at Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Kuching. Similar briefings were also held in other regions, i.e. Sibuan, Bintulu and Miri. Approximately twenty five (25) participants, including representatives from the licensees, personnel from log pond operations and managers from timber companies attended the Briefing.

The objectives of the briefing were:

1. to inform participants on Sarawak's Forest Policy and the principles of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM); and
2. to gain a better understanding on the roles and functions of SF&C and SAPD.

Tuan Haji Zolkipli Mohamad Aton, the Deputy General Manager of SF&C briefed the participants on the functions of Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), which includes the establishment of National Parks, issuance of licenses for logging activities, enforcement of regulations under the Forest Ordinance, 1954 and auditing of log ponds. He also shared with participants on the Forest Policy of Sarawak and highlighted the need to reserve some forested areas for conservation, protection of environment and water catchments as well as the management of productive forests of the Permanent Forest Estate (PFE). He urged all timber companies to practice selective harvesting in accordance with the best practice of forest management.

Tuan Haji Zolkipli also informed the participants that the key task of SF&C is to act as a delegate for SAPD. SF&C also manages the State's forest resources according to SFM requirements, monitors timber harvesting operations through harvesting plans, forest inventories and surveys.

Encik Mohamad Jirin Anis, Operation Manager of SAPD, gave an update on the roles and functions of SAPD. SAPD monitors harvesting areas by checking Log Production Identity (LPI) tags and Daily Production Return (DPR) at landings and transit points as well as reissues Transit Removal (TRP) at destinations/export points and block closing. SAPD also ensures all National Parks and Nature Reserves are protected and the Wild Life Protection Ordinance, 1998 is enforced.



*Photo: Briefing in progress*

Satu taklimat mengenai peranan dan fungsi Unit Hutan Mampan dan Pematuhan (SF & C) dan Bahagian Keselamatan dan Perlindungan Aset (SAPD) yang sebelum ini dikenali sebagai Unit Keselamatan dan Perlindungan Aset (SAPU), telah diadakan pada 8 Mac 2013 di Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Kuching.

Objektif taklimat adalah seperti berikut:

1. untuk memaklumkan para peserta mengenai Dasar Perhutanan Sarawak dan prinsip-prinsip Pengurusan Hutan Lestari (SFM);
2. untuk mendapatkan pemahaman yang lebih baik mengenai peranan dan fungsi SF & C dan SAPD.

一项有关持续性森林及规则（SF&C）和安全性与资产保护部（SAPD），之前被称为安全资产保护单位（SAPU），的角色和职能简报会于2013年3月8日在砂拉越林业机构有限公司召开。

此简报会的目的是：

1. 告知有关砂拉越森林政策与持续性森林管理的原则；以及
2. 进一步理解SF&C与SAPD的角色和职能。

# THE 11<sup>TH</sup> STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT, GOVERNANCE AND TRADE VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The 11<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder Consultation on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT VPA), organised by the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) was held on 28 March 2013 at Dewan Persidangan, Malaysian Timber Industry Board, Kuala Lumpur. The participants were from government ministries, agencies and departments, Non Governmental Organization (NGO), timber industry and academia.

Datin Paduka Nurmala Abdul Rahim, Secretary General of MPIC in her opening remarks mentioned that after several years of negotiation, Malaysia is in her final stages of negotiation. The discussion on timber legality assurance system (TLAS) for both Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah had just been finalised at the joint expert level and will be taken up at the Technical Working Group (TWG) for endorsement. She also informed on the establishment of MYTLAS Advisory Group or TAG to consider all aspects in the implementation of MYTLAS and measures to improve it. Besides representatives from the key implementing agencies, the memberships of TAG include the NGOs, industry, forestry and timber experts apart from.

The participants of the Consultation were welcomed by Mr Wan Mazlan Wan Mahmood, Under Secretary of the Strategic Planning and International Division, MPIC. He informed the participants on the current status of Malaysia-EU FLEGT VPA and the outstanding issues on the negotiation.

There were four (4) presentations presented during the Consultation. They were:

1. TLAS Peninsular Malaysia  
- by Ms Loke Sim Wah, Coordinator of the Protem Secretariat
2. TLAS Sabah  
- by Mr Roslan Junaidi, Sabah Forest Department
3. European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR)  
- by Ms Aimi Lee, European Forest Institute
4. Due Diligence requirement and Implementation of TLAS  
- by Mr Rajan Samikannoo, Malaysia Timber Industry Board (MTIB)

The Consultation was moderated by Emeritus Prof Dato' Dr Abdul Latiff Mohamad.



*Photo: Consultation in progress*

Perundingan Pelbagai Pihak Berkepentingan ke-11 mengenai Penguatkuasaan Undang-undang, Pentadbiran dan Perdagangan Hutan, dan Perjanjian Usahasama Sukarela (FLEGT VPA), telah diadakan oleh Kementerian Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi (MPIC) pada 28 Mac 2013 di Dewan Persidangan, Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur.

Dalam ucapan pembukaan, Datin Paduka Nurmala Abdul Rahim, Ketua Setiausaha MPIC menyatakan bahawa setelah beberapa tahun rundingan dilaksanakan, Malaysia kini berada di peringkat akhir rundingan. Perbincangan mengenai Sistem Jaminan Kesahihan Kayu (TLAS) untuk Semenanjung Malaysia dan Sabah telah dimuktamadkan secara bersama di peringkat pakar dan akan dibincangkan di Kumpulan Kerja Teknikal (TWG) untuk pengesahan.

Terdapat empat (4) perbentangan semasa Perundingan seperti yang disenaraikan dalam artikel ini.

种植与原产业部(MPIC)于2013年3月28日假吉隆坡马来西亚木材工业局会议厅举办第11届森林法规执法, 监管与贸易自愿合作伙伴协议 (FLEGT VPA) 利益相关者咨询会。

MPIC 秘书长拿汀巴督卡诺马拉 (译音) 在致欢迎词称经过数年的协商, 马来西亚FLEGT VPA现处在最后磋商阶段。

西马半岛和沙巴的木材合法性保证系统(TLAS)已在刚结束的联合专家会议中议定, 并将由技术工作组 (TWG)核准。

咨询会总共呈现4份专题报导。



A Briefing on the Minimum Retirement Age Act (MRAA) 2012 was organised by the Department of Labour Sarawak (DLS) at the Auditorium, Islamic Information Centre, Kuching on 5 March 2013. Approximately two hundred (200) participants attended this Briefing.

The objective of this Briefing is to explain in detail the guidelines on the implementation of the MRAA 2012 (Act 753) for the private sector.

Mr Dzulzalani bin Eden, the Senior Assistant Director of Labour from DLS gave a presentation on the background of MRAA 2012 and informed participants that MRAA was implemented for the private sector because there was no law prescribing the retirement age in the private sector previously. There is the need to increase the minimum retirement age as the average life expectancy of Malaysian has increased to 75 years. This will allow people to continue working to have adequate savings to sustain until the age of 75 years. By setting the minimum retirement age in the private sector, the social safety net would be strengthened and thus, contributing to the Government efforts to achieve a high income economy by 2020.

Mr Dzulzalani highlighted some of the salient points on the guidelines on the implementation of MRAA 2012 (Act 753) as follows:

## **Section 1 (2)**

The commencement of the MRAA 2012 comes into force on 1 July 2013 based on the gazette notification PU (B) 422 dated 26 December 2012.

## **Section 2 (1)**

The MRA does not apply to employees who are listed in the Schedule to section 2 of Act 753 as follows:

- a. a person employed by the Federation Government, the Government of any state, any statutory body or any local authorities;
- b. a person who works on a probationary contract;
- c. an apprentice
- d. a non-citizen employee;
- e. a domestic servant;
- f. a person who is employed in any employment with average hours of work not exceeding 70% of the normal hours of work of a full-time employee;
- g. a student
- h. a person who is employed on a fixed term contract of service of not more than twenty-four months; and
- i. a person who before 1 July 2013 has retired at the age of fifty-five years or more.

## **Section 3**

The contract of service of an employee cannot be terminated on grounds of age.

## **Section 4**

The MRA for an employee shall be upon the employee attaining the age of 60 years.

## **Section 5**

An employer cannot prematurely retire an employee before the employee reaches the age of 60 years.

## **Section 6**

Early Retirement Age before the MRA can be fixed by the employer with the consent of the employee as agreed in the contract of service or collective agreement. An employee may choose to retire when he attains the said optional retirement age.

## **Section 7**

Employers need to amend the retirement age in the contract of service or collective agreement to the MRA of 60 years if the existing retirement age is lower.

## **Section 8**

An employee who has retired prematurely by the employer has the option to complain in writing to the Director-General of the Department of Labour (Peninsular Malaysia) or Director of the Department of Labour (Sabah and Sarawak) within 60 days from the date of retirement.

If an employee chooses to make a complaint to the Director-General under subsection (1), the employee cannot make a representation under Section 20 Industrial Relations Act (IRA) 1967 to the Director-General until this section is resolved.

If an employee has made a representation under Section 20 of the IRA 1967 and file a complaint under subsection (1), the Director-General of the Department of Labour will not carry out the investigation on the complaint made by the employee.

## **Section 11**

Fine of not more than RM10,000.00 per offence.

## **Section 17**

The Department of Labour may compound an employer for any offence under MRAA an amount not exceeding 50% of the amount of the maximum fine for the offence.

## **Section 18**

The Minister can exempt a certain group of employer from MRAA.

# RETIREMENT AGE ACT 2012

Employers who require an extension to make the necessary preparation may apply for a deferment to the commencement date of the implementation of MRAA to the Ministry of Human Resources not later than 30 April 2013. Any submissions received after this deadline will not be considered.

All applications must be accompanied by a valid basis and justifications in writing to be submitted to:

Secretary  
Bahagian Dasar  
Ministry of Human Resources  
Level 7 Block D3 Complex D  
Federal Government Administrative Centre  
62530 PUTRAJAYA  
Tel: 03-8886 5355  
Fax: 03-8889 2377

The following documents shall be submitted together with the application for deferment to MoHR for consideration:

- a. The Company's Profile as issued by the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM);
- b. The total number of local employees as at 31 December 2012;
- c. A list of employees with their identification numbers as at 28 February 2013, who will be at the age of 55 years between:
  - 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2013; or
  - 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014; and
- d. Any other information which are deemed necessary to support the application.

The Briefing ended with a Question and Answer session which was facilitated by Mr Dzulzalani bin Eden and Mr Phang Pin, Assistant Director of Labour Sarawak.

For further information on the MRAA 2012, members may contact Mr Dzulzalani bin Eden at 082-242261 (ext 241).



Photo: Briefing in progress

砂拉越劳工局(DLS)于2013年3月5日假古晋伊斯兰资讯中心礼堂举办2012最低法定退休年龄法案(MRAA)讲解会。

这讲解会目的是详细解释有关2012MRAA在私人界的实施指导方针。

DLS高级助理局长，祖扎拉尼先生（译音）讲解有关MRAA的历程和实行，同时，也告知在此之前没有任何法律规定私人界的退休年龄。

请参阅原文关于2012 MRAA（第753条文）实施指导方针的一些重点撮要。

雇主可在2013年4月30日之前向人力资源部申请暂缓实施MRAA。

Satu Taklimat Akta Umur Persaraan Minimum (MRAA) 2012 telah dianjurkan oleh Jabatan Tenaga Kerja Sarawak (DLS) di Auditorium, Pusat Penerangan Islam, Kuching pada 5 Mac 2013.

Objektif taklimat ini adalah untuk menjelaskan secara terperinci garis panduan mengenai pelaksanaan Akta Umur Persaraan Minimum 2012 (Akta 753) untuk sektor swasta.

Encik Dzulzalani bin Eden, Penolong Kanan Pengarah Buruh dari DLS membentangkan latar belakang MRAA 2012 dan memaklumkan kepada peserta bahawa MRAA dilaksanakan bagi sektor swasta kerana tiada undang-undang penetapan umur persaraan bagi sektor swasta sebelum ini.

Artikel ini mengandungi beberapa maklumat penting garis panduan mengenai pelaksanaan MRAA 2012 (Akta 753)

Majikan yang memerlukan pelanjutan tempoh boleh memohon penangguhan pelaksanaan MRAA kepada Kementerian Sumber Manusia sebelum 30 April 2013.

# INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP MEETING

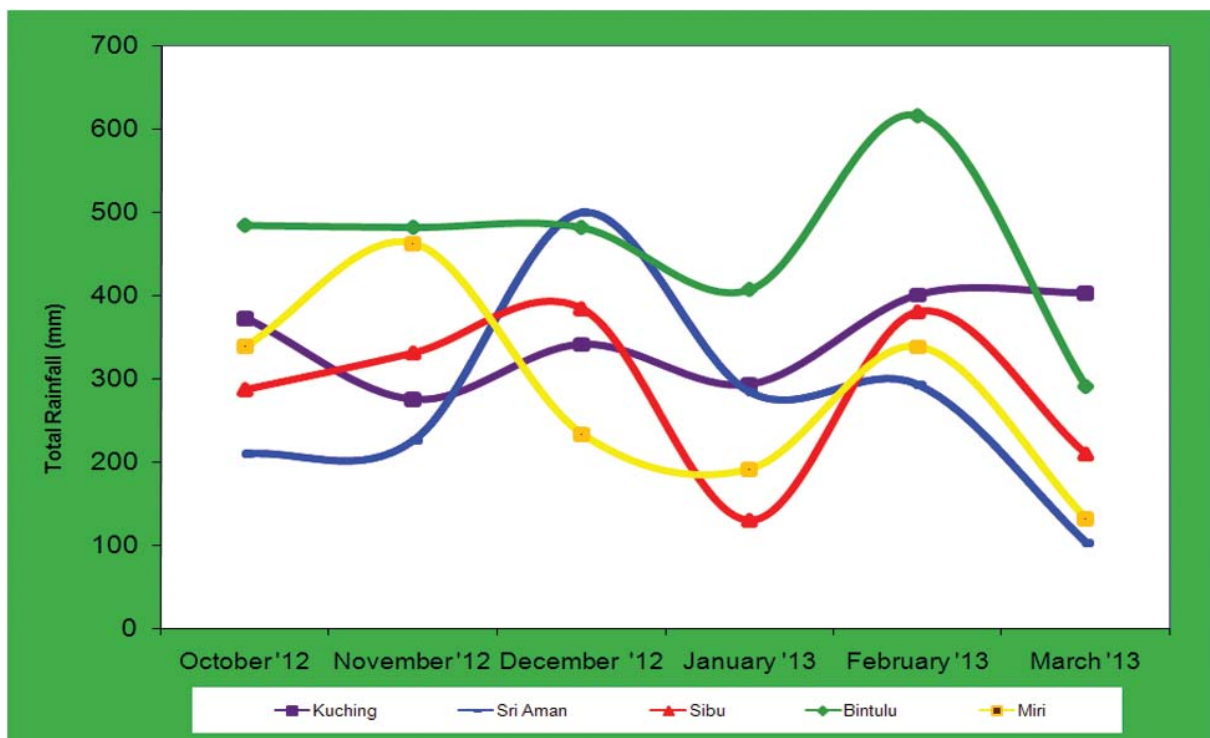
Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) called an Inter-Agency Committee Working Group meeting at the STIDC Miri Divisional office on 8 March 2013. The meeting was chaired by Ms Dayang Nena, the Senior Assistant General Manager of STIDC, with eighteen (18) committee members in attendance. The main agenda for the meeting was to discuss the enhancement to the booklet on the legality system for verifying logs in Sarawak.

The meeting also deliberated on a preliminary proposal presented by Mr Nicholas Lissem of STIDC to ensure the legality of timber products and agreed for STIDC to come out with a detailed proposal for the next meeting. The meeting agreed to form a working group, to be headed by Ms Dayang Nena, to work on this matter.

Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (PUSAKA) telah mengadakan Mesyuarat Kumpulan Kerja Jawatankuasa Antara Agensi di pejabat PUSAKA bahagian Miri pada 8 Mac 2013. Mesyuarat tersebut telah dipengerusikan oleh Puan Dayang Nena, Penolong Kanan Pengurus Besar PUSAKA. Mesyuarat membincangkan kaedah untuk memperkasakan sistem kesahihan bagi pengesanan balak di Sarawak.

砂拉越木材工业发展机构工作组（STIDC）于2013年3月8日假STIDC美里办事处召开机构委员工作组会议。此会议由STIDC高级副总经理，蕾娜女士（译音）主持。此次主要议程是讨论关于跟进砂拉越原木认证合法系统册子事项。

## RAINFALL : OCTOBER '12 - MARCH '13 DATA HUJAN BULANAN 雨量数据



Source : Malaysian Meteorological Services