



March 2013

For Private Circulation Only

Issue 177

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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Workshop on High Conservation Value Forests and Certification

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 in his welcoming speech 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 with the participants of the workshop the different definitions found in the Malaysia Criteria and Indicator (MC&I) standard, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) as well as 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 Units (FMU).

The 11th Stakeholder Consultation on FLEGT VPA

The 11th 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 stage 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 participants on the establishment of MYTLAS Advisory Group or TAG to consider all aspects in the implementation of MYTLAS and measures to improve it. The memberships of TAG include the NGOs, industry, forestry and timber experts besides representatives from the key implementing agencies.

The participants of the Consultation were welcomed by Mr Wan Mazlan Wan Mahmood, the 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.

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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 (4th) and final workshop on Regulations Package on 27 March 2013 in Canberra, Australia. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain stakeholders' 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

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Did you know that.....

Exports of timber and timber products for the period of January to September 2012 were RM14.97 billion. It is a slight increase of 0.5% as compared to corresponding period of the previous year. Japan, USA and India remained as the major importers for timber and timber products from Malaysia contributing RM3.10 billion, RM1.85 billion and RM1.06 million worth of imports respectively. The main product imported was sawn timber which accounted for RM386 million and the major partner for Malaysia's timber import were China (23%), Thailand (14%) and USA (12%).

Source: Malaysian Timber Statistics Vol.9/2012

Did you also know that....

Less than 100 Sumatran rhinos survive in the world today, according to a bleak new population estimate by experts. The last survey in 2008 estimated that around 250 Sumatran rhinos survived, but that estimate now appears optimistic and has been slashed by 60 percent. However conservationists are responding with a major new agreement between the Indonesian and Malaysian governments at a recent summit by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Species Survival Commission (IUCN SSC).

Source: <http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0408-hance-sumatran-rhino-100.html>



Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management)

Log Grades and Wood Processing, the seventh subject was delivered from 4 to 8 March 2013. In this subject, students were taught about log grading rules, log measurement and wood processing. The important aim of this subject is to ensure students have a working knowledge of the techniques used to measure log volume and evaluate log grade.

The objectives of this subject are as follows:

- (1) Understand basic concepts of wood science
- (2) Understand the key factors for identifying tree species from wood samples or logs
- (3) Measure the volume of a log and its grade for particular purposes
- (4) Understand the purpose and use of log grading and log tracking systems in Sarawak
- (5) Understand the effect of log characteristics and end product specifications on conversion efficiency

Topics included in this subject cover basic wood structure and anatomy, log identification, log volume measurement and calculation, log grading rules in Sarawak and wood processing.

Natural Forest Silviculture, the eighth subject was delivered from 8 to 12 April 2013 highlights the forest ecology, forest dynamics and biological principles to the management of the forests.

This subject reviews the important biological principles that underlie silviculture in the tropics. Few of the topics covered in this subject include forest stand dynamics concept, measuring tree form and growth, forest inventory in mixed tropical forests, introduction to silviculture, silvicultural systems, monocyclic and polycyclic silvicultural systems, growth modelling and a

simple growth model for mixed tropical forests.

The subject aims to introduce students to forest ecology and dynamics as well how to apply biological principles to the management of forests.

The next subject "Wood Quality" will be delivered in May 2013 at Level 12 Wisma STA, Kuching. In line with this, members of STA who wish to further their knowledge in this subject can 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 to contact Dr Peter Kho or Ms Suzie Adee at 082-332222.



Photo (left):
Students doing
their field work



Photo (right):
Students at a
sawmill measuring
logs

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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.



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New Council Members of MWPA for Year 2013/2015

The Malaysian Wood Preserving Association (MWPA) has held its 15th Annual General Meeting on 25 March 2013. The following were elected to serve as the New Council Members of MWPA for Year 2013/2015:-

President: Mr Gary L K Choong, Dayatera Engineering S/B

Deputy President: Ms Young Kam Han, Arch Wood Protection (M) S/B

Vice Presidents: Mr Leong Pale Tong, Celcure Chemicals (M) S/B
En Mohd Hanafi Idris, Nufarm Technologies (M) S/B
Mr Ng Wun Pin, Multinail Malaysia S/B

Immediate Past President: Dr Clarence C L Tan

Honorary Secretary: Mr Ho Chan Hong, Celcure Chemicals (M) S/B

Honorary Treasurer: Dr Clarence C L Tan

Council Members: Mr Chan Kian Sin, Celcure Chemicals (M) S/B
Mr Hong Lay Thong, Bioversity International
Mr Lim Sze How, Arch Wood Protection (M) S/B
Mr Steven Wong Ho Lan, Lionsquare (M) S/B

Auditors: Mr George Mah Chan Yong, Celcure Chemicals (M) S/B
Mr Leong Tack Nang, Leong Tack Nang Enterprises S/B

STA Annual General Meeting

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.