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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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## Boosting the Export of Indonesian Verified Legal Timber Products to Europe – USA – Japan and China

The Indonesian Exporters Association (GPEI) in collaboration with PT Mutu Hijau Indonesia hosted the Second Market Dialogue on 20 March 2012 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The main aim of the Dialogue was to boost the exports of Indonesian verified legal timber products internationally, in particular to Europe, USA, Japan and China. The Dialogue managed to bring together about 230 participants from Indonesia and overseas including six (6) representatives from Sarawak.

The Dialogue was addressed by His Excellency the Minister of Trade Dr Gita Wirjawan and His Excellency the Minister of Industry Mohamad S Hidayat. Both Ministers in their speeches emphasised Indonesia's commitment to address illegal logging and the related trade. Through the Government's commitment and effort, the Indonesian Timber Legality Assurance System (SVLK) was launched in the year 2010. SVLK is an integral part of the Government's policy in achieving sustainable forest management through optimum utilisation of forest products as well as equitable sharing of benefits for the people. The system aims to strengthen forest law enforcement and to promote legal timber trade.

Implementation of the SVLK requires support from all stakeholders, including the Independent Assessment and Verification Bodies that are accredited by the National

Accreditation Committee. The Ministers jointly presented the Timber Legal Verification Certificate to the five (5) companies.

Overseas speakers from Australia, China, the European Union (EU), Japan and the United States of America (USA) highlighted the respective Government's policies to ensure only legal timbers are imported into their countries.

His Excellency Julian Wilson, the EU Ambassador to Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam and ASEAN informed the participants that the EU Timber Regulation, which will come into force on March 2013, does not discriminate against any countries as it will apply the same requirements to timbers imported into the EU market and the timbers harvested in the EU. He commented that the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between EU and Indonesia will "go live" once SVLK is fully and credibly applied. He further commented that so far only 10% of the companies in Indonesia had been audited under SVLK.

A speaker from the European Timber Trade Federation also highlighted that only less than 10% of the EU timber consumption is imported from outside of the EU.

## Meetings on Progress of Forest Plantation Development in Sarawak



Photo: (Top) Meeting held in Sibu and (Bottom) Meeting in Bintulu

The Meetings on Progress of Forest Plantation Development in Sarawak called by Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) were held on 22 and 29 March 2012 at Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Wisma Sanyan in Sibu and Regional Forest Office in Bintulu respectively. Representatives of FDS, SFC, Licence for Planted Forests (LPF) holders and the Sarawak Timber Association (STA) Secretariat attended the meetings to discuss the progress of planting and issues concerning LPF holders.

Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad, the Deputy Director of Forests who chaired both the meetings, in his welcoming address mentioned that the meetings served as a platform to discuss issues encountered in tree planting with the aim of facilitating and addressing these issues. Mr Hii Tow Peck, Senior Assistant Director of Planted Forests Division (PFD), FDS briefed on the status of Forest Plantation

Development in Sarawak where he highlighted that the main objective of establishing forest plantation in the State is to supplement timber production. He informed the participants that the planted areas for Industrial Tree Plantation (ITP) as at December 2011 is only 290,513 hectares. In view of the slow planting progress, FDS has set a target for the industry to plant 79,000 ha annually commencing year 2012 in order to achieve the 1.3 million hectares forest plantation targeted to be established by year 2020.

The planting progress, target as well as issues pertaining to LPF were reported by each licensee during the meetings. Among the issues and challenges encountered in planting reported by LPF holders are land issues i.e. NCR claim; labour issues i.e. shortage of workers, shortage of machineries; lack of financial support and assistance; land rent issues i.e. redundant charges for land rent; R&D related issues i.e. tree improvement programme, establishment of Seed Production Area; and pest and disease control.

Dr Affendi bin Suhaili, Executive Forester from FDS in the meeting in Bintulu presented a briefing on Hyperspectral Imaging. The aerial surveillance technology named Airborne Hyperspectral Imaging System (AHIS) was initially adopted by FDS in 2009 to monitor the sustainable management of Sarawak forest resources but later extended to the mapping of oil palm and forest plantations after being further enhanced with the incorporation of Compact Airborne Tactical System (CATS). The advanced technology is now used for auditing and mapping purposes including the mapping of the distribution of disease infected trees.

A few suggestions had been proposed by representatives from both the government and industry during the two meetings. A Technical Committee on Planted Forest shall be formed to tackle most of the issues raised.

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



South Korea has planned to plant trees in Indonesia in exchange for 100million tons of carbon emission credits under the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) in Developing Countries programme. South Korea will plant trees on 200,000ha in Indonesia to secure the credits.

Source: MTIB News Extracts (Vol.10/03/12)

**Did you also know that...**

The statistics released by the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (USDA FAS) shows a 5% decrease in overall forest products imports compared to last year. Forest products imports were valued at \$10.77 billion for year ending 2011 compared to \$11.4 billion for year ending 2010. Hardwood lumber imports increased by 8%, softwood lumber decreased only by 2%, hardwood flooring increased by 43% while assembled flooring panels decreased only by 1%, softwood flooring decreased by 49%, hardwood plywood down by 4%, softwood plywood up by 15%.

*Source: February 2012, United States Department of Agriculture*



**STA Annual General Meeting**



Photo: AGM in progress

STA held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 30 March 2012 at Wisma STA, Kuching. It was attended by representatives from 192 Member Companies.

During the AGM, the Chairman, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, presented the Annual Report on the workings of the Association for the year 2011, followed by the election for the new Council Members and Office Bearers at the end of the Meeting.

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 newly-elected STA Officer Bearers and Category Chairmen for years 2012 and 2012 are as follows:

<b>Office Bearers</b>	
<b>Chairman</b>	Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik
<b>Vice Chairmen</b>	Tan Sri Datuk Sir Tiong Hiew King
	Tan Sri Datuk Ling Chiong Ho
<b>Honorary Secretary</b>	Dato Lau Lee Kong, Henry
<b>Honorary Treasurer</b>	Mr Choo Kwong Hui, Philip
<b>Category Chairmen</b>	
<b>Forest Plantation</b>	Mr Ling Kwong Hung, Peter
<b>Furniture &amp; Other Woodworking</b>	Mr Yek Siew Liong
<b>Hill Logging</b>	Dato' Sri Kiu Kiong
<b>Log Marketing</b>	Tan Sri Datuk Lau Hieng Wui, Jimmy
<b>Moulding</b>	Penghulu Law Buong Hoo, Philip
<b>Panel Products</b>	Mr Lau Lee Kiong, Stephen
<b>Sawmilling</b>	Ms Wong Haw Bing, Annie
<b>Swamp Logging</b>	Mr Choo Kwong Hui, Philip
<b>Timber Products Marketing</b>	Mr Teng Kheng Huh, Patrick



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## **World Forestry Day 2012**

The State's World Forestry Day 2012 was commemorated on 21 March, with an official launch held at the Sarawak Tree Improvement Centre (STIC) at Mile 13, Oya Road, Sibul. This year's theme is "Forests for People's Welfare". The World Forestry Day, which is celebrated internationally on 21 March annually, was jointly organised by the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment (MPRE), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (HTSB), Sarawak Planted Forest (SPF) Sdn Bhd and Sarawak Timber Association (STA).

World Forestry Day 2012 was officially launched by the Second Minister of Resource Planning and Environment Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hassan. The assistant Minister of Resource Planning Datuk Naroden Majais, the Director of Forests, Tuan Haji Ali Yusop and the Chairman of STA Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik were among those present at the function. The event was attended by more than 250 people from various forestry agencies.

Various activities were carried out as part of the State-level celebrations such as Inter-Agencies games,

tree planting, exhibition, blood donation campaign, financial contributions, charity visit and "NATURE 'n U" programme.

The Inter-Agencies Games were organised to foster good working relationship between the forestry related agencies. The bowling competition, organised by STIDC was held on 10 March 2012 at Crystal Bowl, Kuching while the badminton competition, organised by HTSB and the futsal tournament, organised by FDS on 10 and 18 March 2012 respectively in Sibul. This year, STA was entrusted to organise the golf tournament on 20 March 2012 at the Sibul Golf Club, Sibul. Forty-nine (49) golfers from various forestry agencies, the MPRE, the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) and STA member companies participated in the event.

STA has also gave financial contributions of RM3,000 each to Rumah Seri Kenangan Sibul, PERYATIM and the Sibul Single Mother Association. A visit was made to the Rumah Seri Kenangan on 20 March 2012 where the Director of Forests, Tuan Haji Ali Yusop and Chairman of STA, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik distributed hampers to seventy-nine (79) senior citizens.