

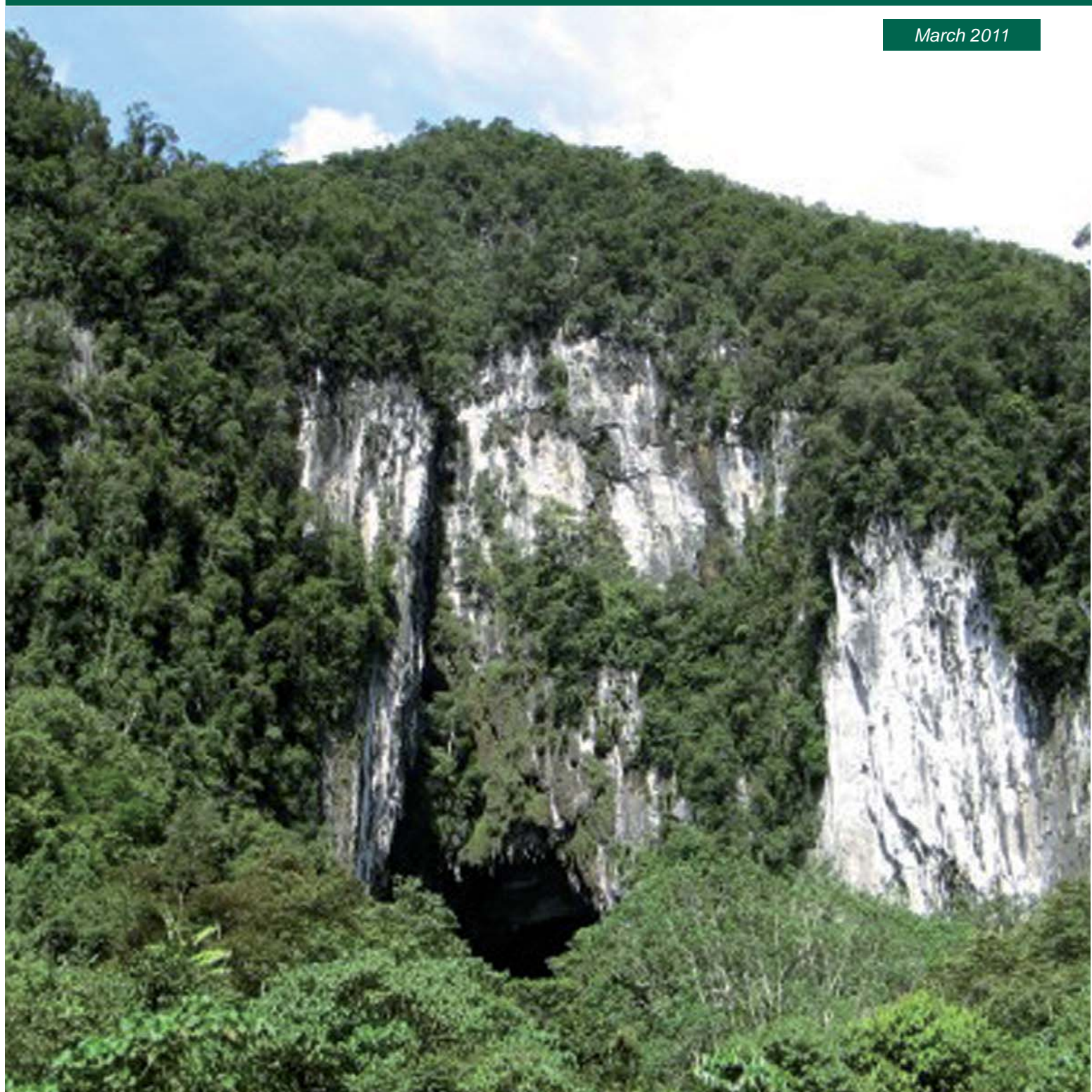
STA Review

Volume 210

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Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association

March 2011



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Annual General Meeting
(AGM) and Extraordinary
General Meeting (EGM)



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DIALOGUE
on Tax Incentives for Forest
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with the Acting Consul General of
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COVER IMAGE:

Gunung Mulu National Park
Land Area : 52,865 (ha)
Date Gazetted : 31 October 1974
Location : Miri Division (100km east of Miri Town)

Mulu is the largest national park in Sarawak. Mulu is dominated by three mountains; Gunung Mulu, Gunung Api and Gunung Benarat. Mulu's greatest attractions lie deep below the surface of these mountains i.e.

one of the largest underground limestone cave systems in the world (including Deer and Lang's Cave, Clearwater Cave and Wind Cave) and the pinnacles i.e. razor-sharp limestone spikes on Gunung Api. Mulu is immensely rich in plants, animals as well as fungi.

Photo courtesy of Sarawak Forestry Corporation

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STA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) AND EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM)



Photo: Meeting in progress



Photo: Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, Chairman of STA, presenting his report during the AGM

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 31 March 2011 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The AGM was attended by representatives from 162 member companies.

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



Photo: STA Members, observers and invited guests at the Meeting

Immediately after the AGM, an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) was convened to consider and approve the proposed amendments to the Articles of the Association of STA and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd and STA Training Sdn Bhd.

The following is the Chairman's Report for year ending 31 March 2011:-

Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) telah mengadakan Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan (AGM) pada 31 Mac 2011 di Wisma STA, Kuching.

Sejurus selepas AGM, satu Mesyuarat Agung Luarbiasa (EGM) telah diadakan untuk mempertimbangkan dan meluluskan cadangan perubahan pada Artikel Persatuan STA dan Memorandum dan Artikel Persatuan STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd dan STA Training Sdn Bhd.

STA常年会员大会于2011年3月31日假古晋，STA大厦召开。本会随后立即召开特别会员大会于审议和核准修正本会，STA Enterprises 有限公司, STA Training 有限公司和STA Mutual 有限公司各别备忘录和章程建议。

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010
BY PEMANCA DATUK WONG KIE YIK
CHAIRMAN
SARAWAK TIMBER ASSOCIATION

1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your support and attendance at our AGM especially those members from outstation. Like the previous year, 2010 had been another challenging year for the Association. During the year, forest and timber industry continued to face many challenges.

2. MEETINGS HELD IN YEAR 2010

The table below gives a summary of meetings held in year 2010.

Nature of Meeting	Number of times
STA Council	3
Management Committee	1
Labour & IR Committee	1
Manpower Working Group Committee	3
Panel Products Committee	4
Furniture & Other Woodworking Committee	1
Moulding Committee	1
Hill Logging Committee	1
Forest Plantation Committee	2
Working Committee on Tax Incentives for Forest Plantation Development	1
STA Working Group on Plank Walkway in Bukit Lima Forest Park	3
Election Committee	2
Certification Committee	4

3. ACTIVITIES OF WHOLLY-OWNED COMPANIES

3.1 STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd (STAE)

Established in 1996, this is the property holding company of STA. Wisma STA remained at 95% occupied. Conversion of the lecture theatre into offices at levels 4 and 5 is currently in progress.

3.2 STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT)

STAT, a wholly-owned company of STA, was incorporated on 26 March 2002 with the primary objective of setting up a training structure and implementing a programme to produce 'skilled forest workers' in accordance with Section 54B of the Forests Ordinance (Sarawak Cap 126).

3.2.1 Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules

The legislation, Section 54B Forests (Amendment) Ordinance 2001 which will most likely to come into force on 1 July 2011, requires all Logging Companies (as Employers) to hire only properly trained workmen to carry out any forestry activities (including harvesting operations).

3.2.2 STA's Training programme

In year 2004, STAT worked with the Forest Industries Training and Education Council (FITEC), New Zealand to develop the Sarawak Modular Training Framework for the timber and forest industries.

The 7 certificates offered by STAT are:-

1. Certificate in Tree Felling (CTF)
2. Certificate in Log Extraction (Tractor) (CLE)
3. Certificate in Log Loading (CLL)
4. Certificate in Clear-fell Site Preparation (CCSP)
5. Certificate in Mechanical Site Preparation (Excavator) (CMSP)
6. Certificate in Tree and Log Identification (CTLI)
7. Certificate in Log and Timber Identification (CLTI)

The number of trained trainers and operators as at 31 December 2010 is summarized in the table below:

(1) Trained Trainers								
Skill Set	CTF	CLE	CLL	CCSP	CMSP	CTLI	CLTI	Total
Total	32	56	29	6	11	0	0	134
(2) Trained Operators								
Total	166	269	110	15	29	44	36	669

3.2.3 Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forestry Management)

The second cohort of Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management) course kicked off on 1 March 2010 with a total of 15 students enrolled (including 2 repeat students). The course covered theory and practical where classes were held in Kuching, Kampong Sentah, Siburan, Kampung Simuti, Annah Rais, Kubah National Park and Deramakot Forest Reserve, Sandakan Sabah.

3.3 STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM)

The primary objective of STAM is to provide social and financial assistance to communities residing in the vicinity of forest concessions and as well as financial contributions to educational institutions. In addition, STAM also provides scholarships to needy students pursuing courses related to forestry and the timber industry. All requests for donations are being channelled to this company for consideration. However, it is not possible to consider all requests for donation and other assistance.

During the year 2010, STAM had awarded scholarships to (i) one student pursuing the BSc Degree in Science and Management of Plant Resource at the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology ("FRST"), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), and (ii) two students pursuing the Bachelor of Forestry Science Degree and Bachelor of Wood Science Technology Degree at the Faculty of Forestry ("FOF"), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). The Company also awarded the STA Prize for the Best Graduating Student 2010 and Best Final Year Project Paper 2010 to one student each of the FRST, UNIMAS and FOF, UPM.

STAM also made a financial contribution of RM350,000 to 14 private Chinese Secondary Schools in Sarawak and the Sarawak United Association of Private Chinese Secondary School Management Board.

4. REPORT ON GLOBAL ISSUES

4.1 Certification

4.1.1 Revision of MC&I(2002)

Two Standards Review Committee (SRC) meetings were held in Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu Sabah. The SRC discussed and deliberated in depth on the proposals for amendments / deletions / additions to the existing Principles, Criteria, Indicators and verifiers of the Revision of MC&I(2002). However the proposals from STA members were not adopted by the SRC.

4.1.2 Fact-Finding Team to Develop Viable Options to Address Penan Issues

The Joint SFC/STA Team completed its fact finding trips in the Forest Timber License (FTL) and License for Planted Forest (LPF) in the Upper Belaga, the Apo-Tutoh and the Upper Baram areas.

The purpose of these fact finding trips were to gather information that would enable the Government and the Association to have a better understanding of issues faced by the Penan Community living in Forest Timber Licence and Licence for Planted Forests areas and to develop viable options to address these issues.

Details of the field trips were as follows:

- 10 – 18 March 2010 to Apo-Tutoh,
- 24 April – 1 May 2010 to Upper Belaga, and
- 14 – 20 May 2010 to Upper Baram.

The final report should be ready by April 2011.

4.1.3 Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Teaching Kit and Forestry Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures for Forest Management Certification

Dr Katharine Pearce of Make Good Services has undertaken the job to develop the Sustainable Forest Management

(SFM) Teaching Kit and the job of compiling the relevant documents needed for certification. She is expected to finish the job by mid 2011.

4.1.4 Stakeholder Consultation on revised PEFC Documentation

The Stakeholder Dialogue which focused on the development of forest certification initiatives in the Asia Pacific region and the revision of the PEFC requirements for forest certification systems was held in Kuala Lumpur from 16 to 18 June 2010. The Dialogue concentrated on the Enquiry Draft documents i.e (1) Standards Setting, (2) Group Forest Certification, (3) Sustainable Forest Management – Boreal, Temperate Forests and Plantations and (4) Sustainable Forest Management – Natural Tropical Forests.

4.1.5 FSC National Initiative (FSC NI)

The 6th National Working Committee (NWC) and Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur on 14 October 2010. The purposes of this joint Meeting were to endorse the setting up of the National Standards Development Group (SDG), to sort the issues related to the Regional Working Group in the 3 regions and to discuss any matters related to FSC NI.

An informal dialogue was held with the representatives from FSC International (FSC IC) in Kuala Lumpur on 10 December 2010. The session provided the opportunity for the representatives from the NWC, BoDs and SDG to discuss with Ms Gemma Boetekees, the Network Director and Margareta Renstrom, a member of the Board of Directors to strengthen the support for FSC initiative in Malaysia.

4.1.6 Conflict Resolution Guideline

Sarawak Forestry Corporation and Forest Department Sarawak, with the assistance of social experts and stakeholders in Sarawak, had developed the Conflict Resolution Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management. The draft Guidelines had in principle, been adopted by the participants during the 3rd workshop that was held on 21 July 2009 in Kuching. A wider stakeholders' consultation including the involvement of non-governmental organisations was recommended during the 3rd workshop. Consequently, the 4th Workshop on Conflict Resolution Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management was organised on 12 - 13 November 2010 at Mega Hotel, Miri.

A field test of the Guidelines was carried out in Long Lellang from 9 to 11 December 2010. The participants comprised representatives from the Kelabits of Long Lellang A and Long Lellang B, and the Penans of Long Main, Long Kepang, Ba Keramok and Long Sabai. They were given an overview of the Guidelines and discussions were made on their concerns raised during the workshop.

A follow-up programme of the workshop will be held in Long Lellang again in Quarter 1, 2011.

4.2 Timber Standards

4.2.1 Carbon footprint emission issue

Three of STA plywood members were invited by the Japan Lumber Importers' Association (JLIA) to participate in a study launched by the Japan Forestry Agency on the carbon footprint initiative in Japan. The main aim of the study is to establish quantitative environmental analysis of wood usage as well as to visualise carbon footprint of wood and wood products. However the State Government decided that a pilot project on carbon footprinting of plywood manufactured in Sarawak be carried out and funded by the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), with assistance from the Environment and Bioprocess Technology Centre, SIRIM Berhad. The final result is expected to be completed by April 2011.

4.2.2 EN636 (Plywood Specifications)

The Forest Research Institute Malaysia with funding from the levy fund through the Malaysian Timber Industry Board will conduct a study on the natural durability of Malaysian timbers, according to European Standards. Two researchers from FRIM were trained to conduct this research. Although STA is not entitled to full participation in this research, Sarawak is encouraged to provide samples for testing.

4.2.3 International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 15

4.2.3.1 Fumigation of Logs

STA was informed by the Department of Agriculture (DOA), National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of Malaysia that the treatment requirements of logs, sawn timber and timber products for export will be enforced effective from 1 September 2010. All timber exported to Semenanjung Malaysia are required to be treated by means of fumigation with methyl bromide. STA was also notified on the compulsory requirement of fumigation of logs at the country of origin.

Consequently, these requirements will affect the movement of logs from Sarawak.

A meeting was then held on 27 August 2010 to discuss the fumigation of logs, sawn timber and timber products as to prepare the industry for such implementation. In the meeting, a technical committee to draft the standard guidelines for regulating, monitoring and the registration of KD facilities and trained KD operators has been formed, lead by DOA, Sarawak. STA is working closely with DOA, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) on this issue.

5. TIMBER LEGALITY ISSUES

5.1 STA – JLIA Meeting

A meeting was convened between Japan Lumber Importers' Association (JLIA) and STA in Kuching on 30 July 2010 to discuss the legality and sustainability requirements of the timber and timber products into Japan. Mr Yasuhiro Ohashi, the Executive Director of JLIA mentioned that Forestry Agency of Japan and the Council for Tackling Illegal Logging Issue recognize the verification method of Malaysian timber and further confirmed that timber and timber products imported from Sarawak have complied with the guideline, and are therefore recognized as timber and timber products from legal sources.

5.2 International Symposium on Legality Verified Wood 2010

The 2-day International Symposium on Legality Verified Wood 2010 cum poster presentation with a theme "Activities in Japan to tackling Illegal Logging Issues" was jointly organized by the Japan Federation of Wood Industry Associations (JFWIA) and the Japan Lumber Inspection & Research Association (JLIRA) from 10 – 11 December 2010 in Tokyo, Japan. It was sponsored by the Forestry Agency of Japan and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan.

A strong contingent from Sarawak, led by Datu Len Talif Salleh, the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Resource Management Sarawak, the Director of Forests Sarawak and the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Sarawak Forestry Corporation, participated in this Symposium. A presentations on "Legality Verification of Logs in Sarawak" was made at this Symposium.

5.3 Malaysia – European Union FLEGT VPA

The Government is still studying the Legal Text of the FLEGT VPA. The EU Timber Regulation was adopted in October 2010 and is expected to come into force in 2013.

5.4 The Lacey Act

The Lacey Act makes it unlawful to participate in interstate or foreign commerce of any plant that was traded in violation of the US law or most foreign laws. It is also against the law to submit false declaration of any plant and as of 15 December 2008, unlawful to import any plant or its product without a declaration. This declaration form must be made in time of import and contain information of scientific name of plant (including genus and species), value of import, quantity of plant and name of country in which the plant was harvested. The declaration is still being reviewed by the authority, the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) USA. The usage of metric units eg kilograms, meter etc are required on Lacey Act Declarations with effect from 1 May 2010.

6. LOCAL ISSUES

6.1 Roadshows on Inter-Agency Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

The Roadshows on Inter-Agency Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were held in Sibu, Bintulu, Miri and Kuching on 25 – 30 August 2010. The main objective is to inform members of STA the various functions and role of agencies involved in the Inter-agency SOPs particularly in the functional area of control of log movement.

6.2 Revision of Timber Royalty rates

After further appeal from the Association, the Forest Department Sarawak advised the Association that the rates of royalty for produce taken under the revision of Forest Schedule of the Forests Ordinance [Section 52(2)] be maintained at a flat rate of royalty of RM50.00 per cubic meter in round or RM100 per cubic meter converted until 31 December 2010. However, these rates will be increased to RM65.00 per cubic meter in round or RM130 per cubic meter converted with effect from 1 January 2011.

6.3 Sarawak Labour Ordinance (SLO)

During the year, the Association through the STA Labour & Industrial Relations Committee continued to follow up with the Minister of Human Resource on STA's application to exempt the seven (7) provisions under the Labour Ordinance

(Swk Cap 76) for forest undertaking in Sarawak.

6.4 Minimum Wage

On 16 December 2010, representatives from the Association participated in the workshop organised by the Ministry of Human Resources (MoHR) further to our Prime Minister's announcement in his speech for Budget 2011 for a National Wage Consultative Council (NWCC) to be set up to monitor and report on wage trends and to formulate policies and strategies that will help to create a high-quality workplace. Thus far, no clear minimum wage policy had been designed by the MoHR. However, MoHR assured stakeholders that more consultation sessions would be held to facilitate the design of a minimum wage policy that is suitable for the country. The Association will continue to follow up on the development of the Government's policy in minimum wage.

6.5 Foreign Labour in the Timber Industry

On 31 March 2010, the Association through the STA Manpower Committee met and agreed to work with the Acting Consul General of The Republic of Indonesia to conduct a joint study on the remuneration Packages of Indonesian General Workers together with the Recruitment Cost of Employers in the three (3) regions, namely West Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak ("study") with the aim of providing a valid reference to assist STA member companies to provide a decent remuneration package to Indonesian general workers. The result of the study will also be used as a future reference for review of Indonesian workers remuneration.

Curtin Consultancy Services (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd ("Curtin") had been appointed to conduct the study and a Research Agreement dated 24 August 2010 was signed between the Association and Curtin to detail the scope of the study. The duration of the study was six (6) months; it commenced on 1 July 2010 and was duly completed on 31 December 2010. During the course of the study, the Association's counterparts; the Malaysian Panel Products Manufacturers' Association (MPMA) and the Sabah Timber Industries Association (STIA) rendered their kind assistance to facilitate the data collection by the Curtin's team of consultant, which was conducted through the survey questionnaires prepared by Curtin's team of consultant. Curtin has completed analysing all data collected from the three (3) regions and the Association anticipates the study report to be ready by the first quarter of 2011.

6.6 Goods & Services Tax

On 3 August 2010, the Tax Review Panel (TRP), led by Y. Bhg. Dato' Kamariah binti Hussain, met with members of STA GST Working Group at Wisma STA to discuss outstanding issues on the treatment of Goods and Services Tax (GST) for forestry and timber industry in Sarawak.

Following the meeting on 3 August 2010, the TRP accepted the STA's invitation to conduct a study tour to the Upper Baram region on 7 to 11 October 2010. The purpose of this study tour was for the TRP to gain an understanding of the logging industry and to visit the areas of the social and community projects carried out by STA's member companies. The delegation from the TRP was led by Dato' Zaleha binti Hamzah, the Advisor to the Royal Malaysian Customs Department.

The Government had also announced the postponement of the implementation of GST to enable the Government to ensure laws and regulations relating to GST are in place and that the interest and welfare of all segments of the society are accounted for.

6.7 Tax Incentives to Planted Forest Development

The Government had gazetted two tax incentives in 2009, namely Income Tax (Deduction for Investment in an Approved Forest Plantation Project) Rules 2009 and Income Tax (Exemption) (No. 10) Order 2009, which are deemed to have come into operation on 21 May 2003. However, technical interpretation of the two tax incentives by the Inland Revenue Board has rendered many companies undertaking forest plantation projects in Sarawak unable to qualify for the tax incentives as they are intended for.

The Forest Plantation Committee has decided to set up with a working committee to look into issues and the concerns of the tax incentives for forest plantation development as the two tax incentives shall expire on 31 December 2011. The working committee is headed by Mr Philip Choo Kwong Hui, the Honorary Treasurer of STA.

A Dialogue Session among STA, Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and Inland Revenue Board took place on 14 October 2010 at Wisma STA to discuss issues relating to the two tax incentives. Following the Dialogue, MTIB had agreed to organise a meeting with the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities and the Ministry of Finance to clarify issues brought up during the Dialogue.

6.8 National Timber Industry Policy (NATIP)

The Government has formulated a policy, the National Timber Industry Policy (NATIP) to ensure that the industry will continue to contribute to the national economy. The Policy was launched in February 2009. A few briefings and dialogues were organised aims to explain to all stakeholders the strategic thrusts and policy directions in addressing the challenges faced by the Malaysian timber industry to achieve the targets of NATIP. It is hoped that the timber industry can achieve an export value of RM53 billion by the year 2020 comprising 60% of value added products and 40% primary products.

6.9 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Conference was held on 9 - 10 November 2010. The Conference was aimed to create awareness of the adoption of UNDRIP by the General Assembly of UN on 13 September 2007. UNDRIP is one of the important instruments that can be used to advance the rights of Indigenous people. Many speakers in the Conference called for the UNDRIP to be included in national policies and laws for implementation given that Malaysia had voted for the full adoption of UNDRIP at the UN level.

6.10 STA Furniture and Other Woodworking Category and STA Moulding Category Joint Committee Meeting

The Joint Meeting was held on 3 December 2010 to discuss the current development of the furniture and other woodworking industry as well as the moulding industry in the State and to come out with directions on common issues or problems of these two categories.

7. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

7.1 Dipterocarps in the IUCN Red List

The Association provided funds to the Sarawak Forestry Corporation to study the listing of commercial species of 3 genera of dipterocarps namely, Shorea (Meranti), Dryobalanops (Kapur) and Dipterocarpus (Keruing) in the IUCN Red List of Threatened species. The research is still on-going.

A Seminar on Dipterocarps in the IUCN Red List was organised at Wisma STA on 23 September 2010 to discuss the outcome of the research work conducted to date.

7.2 Plank walkway project in Bukit Lima Forest Park

There were 3 site inspections on the repair of plank walkway in Bukit Lima Forest Park totaling 3.2km in length before an event to mark the completion of the project work on 26 September 2010. The event was attended by 300 people including the senior officers from Forest Department Sarawak, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, STA Council Members, staff members of STA Members companies in Sibu, joggers and local residents

7.3 Tree Planting in Sibu and Miri

The Association had sponsored RM50,000 each to Sibu Municipal Council and Miri City Council in conjunction with the tree planting campaign in 2010.

8. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

8.1 ITTO Meetings

The forty-sixth session of the ITTC (46th ITTC) and the Associated Sessions of its four Committees namely Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management (CRF), Committee on Economic Information and Market Intelligence (CEM), Committee on Forest Industry (CFI) and Committee on Finance and Administration (CFA) were held from 13 to 18 December 2010 at the Pacifico Yokohama convention center in Yokohama, Japan. The Malaysian delegation was lead by Datin Paduka Nurmala Abd. Rahim, the Deputy Secretary General I to the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities Malaysia (KPPK). Issues that we need to keep an eye on are:

1. The policies and activities to be deliberated by the CEM and CFI at the next session as listed below:
 - Market Access;
 - Forest and Timber Certification, with emphasis on securing remunerative prices for tropical timber products;
 - Selected data and analysis from ITTO Annual Review and assessment of the World Timber situation; and
 - Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) analysis studies.

2. ITTO-CITES cooperation in relation to the listing of tree species on CITES appendices; the liaising with IUCN on its Red List
3. Producer Group's proposal to develop Guidelines on Legality and Sustainability for Timber Products for Public Procurement

8.2 Joint Meetings JLIA/JPMA/APKINDO/MPMA/STA

These meetings among members of the Japan Lumber Importers' Association, Japan Plywood Manufacturers' Association, APKINDO, Malaysian Panel-Products Manufacturers' Association and STA are convened regularly to exchange information and discuss issues affecting the plywood trade among the three countries. They only met once last year on 24 September 2010 in Kuala Lumpur.

8.3 Anti-Dumping Investigation by Korea Trade Commission (KTC) on Malaysian Plywood

The initiation of anti-dumping investigation by Korea Trade Commission (KTC) based on a petition filed by the Korea Wood Panel Association began in March 2010. There were 8 companies in Sarawak named as mandatory respondents whereby a 87.6% dumping margin was alleged by the petitioner.

STIDC and STA organised a briefing with the objective to inform and explain to the plywood manufacturers and exporters on the issues on Anti-Dumping Investigations. The briefing was presented by officials from MITI Kuala Lumpur.

STA had been working closely with STIDC on this issue. STA had series of meetings/discussion with members, STIDC, officials from MITI, Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and also a Korean Counsel engaged by STIDC.

However, KTC had announced the final determination on 15 December 2010 whereby the anti-dumping margin imposed on Sarawak Plywood Exporters range from 5.12% to 9.75%. The Ministry of Strategy and Finance Korea has confirmed that the anti-dumping duty will be imposed from 1 February 2011 for a period of 3 years.

9. TRADE AND INVESTMENT MISSION

9.1 Trade Mission Trip to Middle East

Two STA members and two staff members from STIDC together with a staff member from STA Secretariat participated in the Dubai International Wood & Wood Products Show (Dubai WoodShow) from 13 to 15 April 2010. The response from the visitors at the show was overwhelming.

9.2 Trade and Investment Mission to Korea

Two staff member from STA Secretariat participated in the Trade and Investment Mission to Korea organised by the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) and Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE). The main purpose of this Mission was to met up with Korean Counsels, Lee International and KPMG, engaged by the mandatory respondents and STIDC to discuss further on the alleged anti-dumping by Korea Trade Commission on Malaysia Plywood. They also met up with the Korean Trade Commission (KTC) and some Korean plywood importers.

There were briefing by the Foreign Institutional Investors Association of Korea and seminar on business opportunities in Malaysia where the Honourable Minister of International Trade and Industry Malaysia Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed delivered his keynote address. Individual business meetings between representatives from the relevant companies and related agencies were arranged after the roundtable meeting with captains of the Industry in Busan.

10. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like 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 and all the Committee Chairmen and Council Members for their continue support and cooperation. I have similarly to thank the Forest Department Sarawak, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, STIDC, NREB, and Department of Environment for their support.

I have also to thank all staff of the STA Secretariat and its wholly-owned companies for their tolerance and teamwork without which it would be impossible to manage the Association.

Once again thank you for your attendance.

WORLD FORESTRY DAY 2011



Photo: Launching of World Forestry Commemoration 2011 by the Minister



Photo: Tree Planting Ceremony



Photo: Visit to the Association for the Concerned Citizens and Parents of Handicapped Children (PERPIKAT) Bintulu

The state's World Forestry Day 2011 was commemorated on 22 March, with an official launch at Similajau National Park, Bintulu and the theme "Forest for Community". The World Forestry Day, which is celebrated internationally on 21 March annually, was jointly organised by the Ministry of Planning and Resource Management (MPRM), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, Sarawak Planted Forest Sdn Bhd (SPF) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA).

The commemoration was officially launched by the Second Minister of State Planning and Resource Management Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hassan. Also present at the ceremony were the Assistant Minister for Planning and Resource Management, Encik Naroden Majais; the Assistant Minister of Tourism, Datuk Talib Zulpilip; the Assistant Minister of Public Health and Utilities, Dr Stephen Rundi; the Resident of Bintulu, Encik Ismail Mohd Hanis; and the General Manager of STIDC, Datu Sarudu Hoklai. The event was attended by more than 200 people from various forestry agencies.

Activities to celebrate the state level World Forestry Day include:

- Inter-Agencies Games – Bowling, Futsal, Badminton, and Golf Tournament
- Tree Planting
- Launching of the "One Stop Centre" at Similajau National Park
- Exhibition on Forestry
- Wood Carving and Fire Fighting Demonstration
- Blood Donation Campaign

The Inter-Agencies Games were organised to foster good working relationship between the forestry related agencies. The bowling competition was organised by STIDC on 13 March 2011 at Crystal Bowl, Kuching while the golf tournament was organised by Forest Department Sarawak, and sponsored by STA on the 19 March 2011 at Bintulu Golf Club. The badminton competition was organised by Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd and the Futsal Tournament was organised by Regional Forest Office (Bintulu) on 19 and 20 March 2011 respectively in Bintulu.

A visit was also made to the Special Children Centre after the commemoration where the representative from STA, Mr Yek Siew Liong presented cheque each to the representative from The Association for the Concerned Citizens and Parents of Handicapped Children (PERPIKAT) Bintulu and Pusat Pemulihan Dalam Komuniti (PDK) Gemilang at a simple cheque presentation ceremony.

Berikutan sambutan Hari Hutan Sedunia 2011 Negeri yang telah diadakan pada 22 Mac, satu majlis pelancaran telah diadakan di Taman Negara Similajau, Bintulu dan bertemakan "Hutan untuk Komuniti". Hari Hutan Sedunia, yang disambut pada 21 Mac setiap tahun di seluruh dunia, telah dianjurkan bersama-sama oleh Kementerian Perancangan dan Pengurusan Sumber (KPPS), Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (PUSAKA), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, Sarawak Planted Forest Sdn Bhd (SPF) dan Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA). Sambutan ini dilancarkan secara rasminya oleh Menteri Kedua Perancangan dan Pengurusan Sumber Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hassan. Pelbagai aktiviti telah dijalankan sepanjang sambutan tersebut dan satu lawatan ke Pusat Kanak-kanak Istimewa juga telah diadakan selepas sambutan tersebut di mana wakil dari STA, Encik Yek Siew Liong menyampaikan sumbangan cek kepada wakil daripada Persatuan Bagi Rakyat Prihatin dan Ibu-bapa Kanak-kanak Cacat (PERPIKAT) Bintulu dan Pusat Pemulihan Dalam Komuniti (PDK) Gemilang pada satu majlis penyampaian cek yang sederhana.

每年的3月21日为世界森林日。本会连同资源管理及策划部(MPRM), 砂州森林局(FDS), 砂拉越林业机构 (SFC), 砂拉越木材工业发展机构 (STIDC), Harwood Timber有限公司和砂拉越种植森林有限公司(SPF)于2011年3月22日假民都鲁, 西米拉遥国家公园庆祝本州2011世界森林日。世界森林日由砂第二策划与资源管理部部长, 拿督阿玛阿旺 (译音) 正式启动这项庆典。今届主题为 "社区森林"。当局也举办各项活动庆祝世界森林日。活动之一为拜访特殊儿童中心。本会代表, 葉紹良先生在一项简单的支票颁赠仪式上代本会捐赠予民都鲁特殊儿童中心 (PERPIKAT Bintulu)和社区复健中心(PDK Gemilang)。

DIALOGUE ON TAX INCENTIVES FOR FOREST PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT



Photo: Group Photo

Following the Dialogue Session on Tax Incentives for Forest Plantation Development with Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and Inland Revenue Board (IRB) in October 2010 a similar dialogue with Senator Dato' Ir Donald Lim, the Deputy Minister of Finance was held at Wisma STA, Kuching on 23 March 2011. The purpose of this dialogue was to further clarify issues on the two (2) available tax incentives for companies investing or undertaking forest plantation projects, namely Income Tax (Deduction for Investment in an Approved Forest Plantation Project) Rules 2009 and Income Tax (Exemption) (No. 10) Order 2009.

The Dialogue commenced with welcoming remarks by Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, the Chairman of the Sarawak Timber Association (STA) and followed by an introduction on the background of tax incentives from Dato Henry Lau, Honorary Secretary of STA. Mr Philip Choo, the Honorary Treasurer of STA cum Chairman of the Working Committee on Tax Incentives for Forest Plantation Development made a presentation on the status of forest plantation industry in Sarawak and presented the proposals by STA. STA Members from the Forest Plantation category were also present to express their views and concerns during the dialogue session chaired by Senator Dato' Ir Donald Lim.

Two pertinent issues that had been brought up which have adversely affected the development of the forest plantation industry in the State were:

1. Heavy initial capital outlay required during the planting period, and
2. Long gestation period with no interim revenue for at least the first fifteen years, depending on the species

of trees planted.

The Dialogue highlighted the concern on the interpretation of "first approved forest plantation", where IRB will only approve the applications made by companies which have not commenced their forest plantation projects, thus rendering many forest plantation companies in Sarawak ineligible for the two (2) tax incentives. Hence, STA Members requested that investments made from 21 May 2003 be eligible for deductions, in line with the tax incentives offered, as most companies had commenced their projects prior to 21 May 2003.

As the two tax incentives shall expire on 31 December 2011, the Deputy Minister of Finance advised STA to promptly go through the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities to request for extension to the validity of the two (2) Tax Incentives Act.

本会于2011年3月23日与联邦财政部，副部长拿督林祥才进行种植林发展税收奖励对话会。此对话会主要是阐明两项提供给投资或开展种植林计划公司的税收奖励，即2009年所得税法令（投资核准的种植林计划）和2009年税收（豁免）（第10条文）法令。

本会主席，邦曼查拿督黄启暉在对话会上致欢迎词。本会荣誉财政兼种植林发展税收奖励委员会主席，朱光辉先生呈现砂州种植林业简报及本会建议提案。

这两项税收奖励将于今年12月31日期满。副财政部长呼吁本会向种植与原产业部申请延长这两项奖励法令。



Photo: Presentation of STA's Proposal on Tax Incentives for Forest Plantation Development

[From left: Dato Henry Lau Lee Kong, the Honorary Secretary of STA, Mr Yong Bun Fou, the Senior Deputy Under Secretary of Tax Analysis Division, Ministry of Finance, Senator Dato' Ir Donald Lim Siang Chai, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, the Chairman of STA, Mr Philip Choo Kwong Hui, the Honorary Treasurer of STA and Chairman of Working Committee on Tax Incentives for Forest Plantation Development and Mr Peter Ling Kwong Hung, the Forest Plantation Category Committee Chairman]

Sesi Dialog tentang Insentif Cukai untuk Pembangunan Perladangan Hutan dengan Senator Dato' Ir Donald Lim, Timbalan Menteri Kewangan telah diadakan di Wisma STA, Kuching pada 23 Mac 2011. Tujuan dialog ini adalah untuk mendapatkan penjelasan lebih lanjut tentang isu-isu berkaitan dengan dua (2) insentif cukai untuk syarikat-syarikat yang melabur atau menjalankan projek-projek perladangan hutan, iaitu Cukai Pendapatan (Potongan kepada Pelaburan bagi Projek Perladangan Hutan yang diluluskan) Peraturan 2009 dan Cukai Pendapatan (Pengecualian) (No.10) Arahan 2009.

Dialog dimulakan dengan ucapan alu-aluan oleh Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, Pengerusi Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA). Encik Philip Choo, Bendahari Kehormat STA merangkap Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kerja Insentif Cukai untuk Pembangunan Perladangan Hutan telah membuat satu pembentangan tentang status industri perladangan hutan di Sarawak dan cadangan dari STA.

Berikutan dua insentif cukai ini akan tamat tempoh pada 31 Disember 2011, Timbalan Menteri Kewangan menyarankan agar STA dengan segera melanjutkan (2) Akta Insentif Cukai ini melalui Kementerian Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi.

6TH STA LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

The 6th STA Labour and Industrial Relations Committee Meeting was held on 16 March 2011 at Wisma STA, Kuching. Dato Henry Lau, the Committee Chairman presided over the meeting.

The meeting received reports on the Study on Remuneration Packages of Indonesian General Workers in West Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak conducted by Curtin Consultancy Services (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd and minimum wage policy proposed by the Government.

The meeting discussed issues relating to Labour Ordinance (Sarawak Cap. 76) and the employment of foreign workers, which includes Foreign Workers Health Insurance Protection Scheme (FWHIPS) and the proposed Retrenchment / Termination Fund and Unemployment Insurance Scheme.



Photo: Meeting in progress

Mesyuarat ke-6 Jawatankuasa Buruh dan Hubungan Industri STA telah diadakan pada 16 Mac 2011 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Dato Henry Lau, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa mempengerusikan mesyuarat tersebut.

Mesyuarat tersebut menerima laporan Kajian tentang Pakej Upah Buruh Am Indonesia di Semenanjung Malaysia, Sabah dan Sarawak yang dijalankan oleh Curtin Consultancy Services (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd dan dasar upah minimum yang dicadangkan oleh Kerajaan.

拿督劉利康于2011年3月16日假古晉STA大廈主持第6屆STA勞工與勞資關係委員會會議。

會議接收科廷諮詢服務（馬來西亞）私人有限公司所考究的在西馬，沙巴和砂拉越印尼員工薪酬待遇報告以及政府所提議的最低工資政策。

STA CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The STA Certification Committee met for the first time this year on 14 March 2011 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The Committee was briefed by the Sarawak Timber Association (STA) consultant Dr Katherine Pearce, on the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Teaching Kit and Forestry Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures for Forest Management Certification. Dr Pearce is expected to complete the work by the end of April 2011.

The Committee also deliberated the following issues:

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of Logging and Plantation Companies
- Conflict Resolution in Forest Management Unit (FMU)
- Certification, including:-
 - The FSC National Initiative (FSC NI)
 - The Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS)
- Legality issues such as:
 - The International Symposium on Legality Verified Wood 2010 in Japan
 - Symposium on Verification System for Timber Legality: Assuring the Legality of Indonesian Timber Products a High Level Market Dialogue between Indonesia, the US, the US and Japan in Indonesia
 - The 46th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC)
 - Brussel Seminar – Integration of Domestic Timber Council and Associated Sessions of the Committees



Photo: Meeting in progress

Jawatankuasa Pensijilan STA telah mengadakan perjumpaan pertamanya bagi tahun ini pada 14 Mac 2011 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Penasihat Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA), Dr Katherine Pearce menerangkan kepada Jawatankuasa tersebut tentang Kit Pengajaran dan Garis Panduan Perhutanan, dan Prosedur Pengendalian Piawai bagi Pensijilan Pengurusan Hutan.

STA 认证委员会今年首次于3月14日假STA大厦召开会议。本会顾问，凯瑟琳·皮尔斯博士（译音）于该会议为会员讲解关于持续性森林管理（SFM）教学配套及林业指导和森林认证管理标准作业程序。

24TH STA PANEL PRODUCTS COMMITTEE MEETING



Photo: Meeting in progress

The 24th STA Panel Products Committee meeting was held on 15 March 2011 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The Meeting was chaired by Mr Wong Kai Song, the Chairman of the Committee.

The Meeting discussed and shared information on the current log situations in Sarawak, market reports and plywood prices. The Meeting was informed that Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) are currently working on a project based on Life Cycle Assessment which is to be submitted to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) for funding. The proponents of this project have invited committee members to participate in this project.

The Meeting had also agreed to make donation in kind i.e. in the form of plywood, to the Japanese Government in response to the recent earth quake and tsunami disasters in Japan.

Mesyuarat ke-24 Jawatankuasa Produk Panel STA telah diadakan pada 15 Mac 2011 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Mesyuarat tersebut dimaklumkan bahawa Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) dan Institut Penyelidikan Perhutanan Malaysia (FRIM) sedang menjalankan projek berasaskan Penilaian Kitar Hidup di mana ianya akan diserahkan kepada Organisasi Kayu Tropika Antarabangsa (ITTO) untuk mendapatkan pembiayaan.

STA合板/人造板委员会于2011年3月15日假古晋，STA大厦召开第24届会议。会议被告知砂拉越林业机构(SFC)联合马来西亚森林研究机构(FRIM)正筹备有关生命周期评估计划，以提交给国际热带木材组织(ITTO)申请资助。

CASH DONATION DRIVE FOR EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI VICTIMS OF JAPAN

In view of our good trading relation with Japan, the 24th Panel Products Committee Meeting on 15 March 2011 recommended that all members especially from the category of Panel Products, Hill Logging, Swamp Logging and Sawmilling, to donate 25 m³ of 11.5 mm-thick structural or concrete plywood or 50 m³ equivalent in round log form (to be sent for processing into plywood at Shin Yang Plywood mill in Bintulu), to be channelled through the Japan Lumber Importers Association (JLIA) to the victims of the recent earthquake and tsunami disasters in Sendai, Japan. This recommendation was further endorsed by the 77th Council Meeting on 17 March 2011.

However, JLIA has subsequently advised that they are unable to receive donations of plywood at the moment due to the extensive damage to their transportation system and structure, and have requested for cash donations instead. In view of this development, and after consulting the principal office bearers of the Association and the Chairman of Panel Products Committee, the Secretariat is now authorised to co-ordinate a cash donation drive, of which the proceeds will be channelled to JLIA at the end of April 2011. All member companies wishing to make cash donations on a voluntary basis for the above purpose, can now channelled the funds to the bank account of Sarawak Timber Association, details as follows:-

HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad
Bangunan Binamas
Lot 138 Section 54 KTL D
Jalan Padungan
93100 Kuching
Account number : 022-014278-021

Please advise by fax at 082-48 7888 or 48 7999 or email at sta@sta.org.my of the amount deposited into STA account. JLIA has indicated that they will acknowledge the donation individually in a publication. However, STA Members will need to advise accordingly if they do not wish to be acknowledged.

Should there be any further queries on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact
Ms Miriam Hong or Dr Peter Kho at 082-33 2222.

Berikutan hubungan perdagangan yang baik dengan Jepun, Mesyuarat ke-24 Jawatankuasa Produk Panel pada 15 Mac 2011 mencadangkan kepada semua ahli terutama ahli daripada kategori Produk Panel, Pembalakan Bukit, Pembalakan Paya dan "sawmilling", agar menyumbangkan 25 m³, 11.5 mm tebal papan lapis struktur atau konkrit atau 50 m³ setara dalam bentuk kayu balak untuk disalurkan melalui Japan Lumber Importers Association (JLIA) kepada mangsa-mangsa gempa bumi dan bencana tsunami di Sendai, Jepun.

Walaupun bagaimanapun, JLIA memaklumkan bahawa mereka tidak dapat menerima bantuan dalam bentuk papan lapis buat sementara waktu, berikutan kerosakkan teruk pada sistem pengangkutan dan struktur, dan sebaliknya memohon agar sumbangan dalam bentuk kewangan dapat disalurkan.

Sekretariat STA telah diberi kuasa untuk menyelaras kutipan sumbangan derma ini, di mana ianya akan disalurkan kepada JLIA pada penghujung bulan April 2011.

鉴于与日本的密切贸易关系，STA合板/人造板委员会在2011年3月15日的第24届会议中提议本会会员特别是该小组、丘陵采伐小组及沼泽地采伐小组捐助25立方米11毫米厚度结构胶合板或混凝土胶合板或50立方米原木予日本。这些捐助品将通过日本木材输入协会(JLIA)，运送至日本以救济日本，仙台大地震和海啸天灾灾民。

然而，因着当地的交通系统和结构严重被破坏，JLIA无法接收胶合板。因此要求现金捐赠。STA秘书处授权处理这项现金捐赠活动。所筹得的款项将在今年4月底呈交给JLIA。

MEETING WITH THE ACTING CONSUL GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA



Photo: From left Mr Choo Kwong Hui, the Honorary Treasurer of STA, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, the Chairman of STA, Bapak Rafail Walangitan, the Acting Consul General of The Republic of Indonesia, and Ms Monica Ari Wijayanti, the Vice-Consul – Consulate of The Republic of Indonesia

The Chairman of the Sarawak Timber Association (STA), Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, the Honorary Treasurer of STA, Mr Choo Kwong Hui and a delegation of nine representatives from member companies of STA met with the Acting Consul General of The Republic of Indonesia, Bapak Rafail Walangitan and his delegation at Wisma STA, Kuching on 16 March 2011.

The purpose of this meeting was to better understand of each other's position on the issue of Indonesian general workers in Sarawak.

The results of the study done by by Curtin Consultancy Services (Malaysia) on the remuneration packages for Indonesian general workers and the recruitment costs to employers in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak were presented to Bapak Rafail and his delegation at this meeting.



Photo: From left Bapak Rafail Walangitan, the Acting Consul General of The Republic of Indonesia, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, the Chairman of STA and Mr Choo Kwong Hui, the Honorary Treasurer of STA



Photo: Bapak Rafail Walangitan, the Acting Consul General of The Republic of Indonesia

本會主席邦曼查拿督黃啓暉，榮譽財政朱光輝先生及本會9間會員公司代表于2011年3月16日假STA大廈會見駐古晉印尼領事館代領事，拉菲瓦林丹先生（譯音）及其領事館代表。

這次會議的目的為理解本會與印尼領事館在本州印尼籍普通工人課題上的立場。

Pengerusi Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA), Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik dan Bendahari Kehormat STA, Encik Choo Kwong Hui dan delegasi seramai sembilan wakil-wakil dari syarikat-syarikat ahli STA telah berjumpa dengan Pemangku Konsul Besar Republik Indonesia, Bapak Rafail Walangitan dan delegasi beliau di Wisma STA, Kuching pada 16 Mac 2011.

Tujuan mesyuarat adalah untuk mewujudkan persefahaman yang lebih baik tentang kedudukan masing-masing berkaitan dengan isu buruh am Indonesia di Sarawak.

MEETING ON RECRUITMENT OF INDONESIAN GENERAL WORKERS, JOGJAKARTA, INDONESIA

The National Board for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Overseas Workers (BNP2TK1) together with the Consulate General of The Republic of Indonesia in Kuching organised a 2-day Business Meeting from 23 to 24 March 2011 at Jogjakarta Hotel in Jogjakarta, Indonesia.

The opening remarks were delivered by the deputy of BNP2TKI of International Cooperation Evaluation Promotion and Marketing, Ibu Dr Endang Sulistyaningsih. This was followed by a welcoming speech by the Head of BNP2TKI, Bapak Moh Jumbuh Hidayat.



Photo: Group Photo

The meeting was organised to share and discuss the current labour market situation in Malaysia and Indonesia. It was also a platform for registered Indonesian recruiting agencies and recruiting personnel to negotiate directly on the recruitment and placement of prospective Indonesian Overseas Workers to Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia, in particular Sarawak and Sabah.

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) and the Sarawak Oil Palm Plantation Owners Association (SOPPOA) were invited by the Acting Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuching, Bapak Rafail Walangitan, MA, to participate in this meeting. Approximately 110 participants comprising representatives from registered Indonesian recruiting agents (PJTKI/PPTKIS) from all provinces of Indonesia, a representative from the Indonesian Embassy in Brunei Darussalam (Bapak Bimo Ariawan), Consul General in Kuching (Bapak Rafail Walingitan), Consul General in Kota Kinabalu (Bapak Supeno Sahid), Consul General in Tawau (Bapak Asrarudin Salam), and relevant Government Departments from Indonesia.

Representatives from various industries in Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia (Sarawak and Sabah) made presentations on working opportunities in the two countries and highlighted some of the challenges the industries in these two countries are facing, including labour shortage. The organiser, BNP2TKI hoped that the meeting will help both countries to resolve the issue.

Badan Nasional Penempatan dan Perlindungan Tenaga Kerja Indonesia (BNP2TK1) bersama-sama dengan Konsulat Jeneral Republik Indonesia di Kuching menganjurkan Mesyuarat Perniagaan 2 hari dari 23 hingga 24 Mac 2011 di Hotel Jogjakarta di Jogjakarta, Indonesia.

Mesyuarat ini dianjurkan bertujuan untuk berkongsi dan membincangkan situasi semasa pasaran tenaga kerja di Malaysia dan Indonesia. Ia juga merupakan satu platform bagi agensi-agensi rekrut Indonesia berdaftar dan kakitangan rekrut untuk berunding secara langsung tentang perekrutan dan penempatan calon Tenaga Kerja Indonesia ke Brunei Darussalam dan Malaysia, khususnya di Sarawak dan Sabah.

安置和保护印尼海外员工全国委员会(BNP2TK1) 连同驻古晋印尼总领事馆于2011年3月23日至24日假印尼，日惹，日惹酒店举办为期2天的商业会议。

这会议旨于分享和讨论马来西亚与印尼当前的劳工市场局势。并且提供平台，让注册的印尼招聘机构及其职员与汶莱和马来西亚，特别是沙巴和砂拉越对招聘和安置印尼海外员工事宜直接谈判。

DIALOGUE ON INDONESIAN WOOD LEGALITY AND VERIFICATION SYSTEM (SVLK)



Photo: The Indonesian Associations' declaration to trade in legal wood products

SVLK was developed by the Indonesian Government through its Ministry of Forestry (MoF) as the only national wood legality system and standard to provide assurance to the global market that the wood products exported from the country use raw materials from sources that are legal in accordance with the Indonesia's rules and regulations.

The participants witnessed the Associations' declaration to trade in legal wood products. They are the Indonesian Exporters Association (GPEI), the Indonesian Forestry Community (MPI), the Association of Indonesian Forest Concessionaires (APHI), the Indonesian Wood Panel Association (APKINDO), the Indonesia Sawmill and Wood Panel Association (ISWA), the Indonesian Pulp and Paper Association (APKI) and the Indonesian Furniture Industry and Handicraft Association (ASMINDO).

The Sarawak group had an informal dialogue on 11 March 2011 to discuss issues pertaining to legality of wood products with the representatives from the MoF, MPI, APHI and APKINDO at APKINDO's office.

The Dialogue on Indonesian Wood Legality and Verification System (SVLK) was organised by the Indonesian Exporters Association (GPEI) in collaboration with PT. Mutu Hijau Indonesia (PT. MHI) on 10 March 2011 in Jakarta. It was supported by their four Ministries, namely the Ministry of Economy Affairs, the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Trade, and three foreign embassies to the Republic of Indonesia, namely the EU Embassy, the USA Embassy and the Japan Embassy.

The Dialogue aimed to understand the market requirements demanded by the European Union (EU), Japan and USA markets to address illegal logging and its associated trade as well as to promote the SVLK to the national and international communities as a recognised system of legality of wood products from the Republic of Indonesia.

HE Dr Marie Elka Pangestu, the Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia in her keynote speech reiterated the importance of SVLK which is the response and manifestation of the Indonesian Government over the international demand for legal wood products. She then urged consumer countries to do their part, i.e. to purchase only legal wood products.

The dialogue was attended by about 200 participants from the Indonesian government authorities, timber associations, bankers, non-governmental organisations, overseas buyers and Sarawak. The group of seven from Sarawak comprised representatives from the Forest Department Sarawak, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd and Sarawak Timber Association.

Dialog tentang Sistem Verifikasi Legalitas Kayu Indonesia (SVLK) telah dianjurkan oleh Gabungan Perusahaan Ekspor Indonesia (GPEI) dengan kerjasama PT. Mutu Hijau Indonesia (PT. MHI) pada 10 Mac 2011 di Jakarta.

Dialog ini bertujuan untuk memahami keperluan yang diperlukan oleh pasaran Kesatuan Eropah, Jepun dan Amerika Syarikat untuk menangani masalah pembalakan haram dan perdagangan berkaitan, serta memperkenalkan SVLK kepada komuniti kebangsaan dan antarabangsa sebagai satu sistem legalitas yang diakui bagi produk-produk kayu dari Republik Indonesia.

HE Dr Marie Elka Pangestu, Menteri Perdagangan Republik Indonesia dalam ucapan beliau menegaskan tentang kepentingan SVLK di mana ia merupakan tindakbalas dan manifestasi Kerajaan Indonesia terhadap permintaan antarabangsa untuk produk kayu yang sah.

印尼出口商公会(GPEI)连同印尼PT. Mutu Hijau 于2011年3月10日假印尼, 雅加达举办印尼木材合法性与验证系统(SVLK)对话会。

这对话会旨于让参与者明白欧盟, 日本和美国的市场需求以解决非法采伐和相关贸易。同时, 也促进SVLK予国家和国际社会于认同印尼木材产品的合法性。

印尼贸易部部长, 玛丽. 埃尔加. 邦埃斯杜博士在致词中重申SVLK的重要性, 也是印尼政府对国际合法木材产品需求的回应和表态。

CONFERENCE ON INVESTMENT AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES: MALAYSIA - GABON

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) together with Innovest Advisory Services Pte Ltd and Gabon Special Economic Zone organised the Conference on Investment and Business Opportunities: Malaysia - Gabon on 4 March 2011 in Kuala Lumpur. This Conference aimed to inform potential investors of both countries on the vast investment opportunities available in Gabon as well as in Malaysia. The Honorable Mr Magnagna Christian, the Minister of Water and Forest, Gabon, led a delegate of seven to Malaysia.

The Conference was officiated and launched by the Honorable Dato' Hamzah Zainuddin, the Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Malaysia. In his opening remarks, the Minister said that there are many opportunities between Malaysia and Gabon to develop synergy in the timber sector including the supply of raw materials for downstream processing in Malaysia and capacity building for the timber sector in Gabon.



Gabon has a total land area of 26.8 million hectares where 80% or 22 million hectares is covered by forests and a population of 1.5 million. The country's timber industry is still developing, where timber contributes 4.5% to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) where the main timber species harvested is Okoumé and the main export destination is the European Union (EU).

During this Conference, Gabon was also promoting the Gabon Special Economic Zone (SEZ) which was developed by the Gabon Government in partnership with Olam International. Some of the benefits of SEZ include zero tax for 10 years and concessional tax rate of 10% for the next five years, no custom duty on imports of planting equipment and machineries, and relaxation in the number of foreign labour permitted.

In conjunction with the Conference, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between MTIB and Gabon SEZ to enable the cooperation between the two organisations.

Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia (MTIB) bersama-sama Innovest Advisory Services Pte Ltd dan Zon Ekonomi Khas Gabon menganjurkan satu Persidangan tentang Pelaburan dan Peluang Perniagaan: Malaysia – Gabon pada 4 Mac 2011 di Kuala Lumpur. Persidangan ini menyasarkan untuk memberitahu pelabur-pelabur yang berpotensi di kedua-dua buah negara tentang peluang pelaburan yang luas yang terdapat di Gabon serta di Malaysia.

Persidangan ini dirasmikan dan dilancarkan oleh Dato' Hamzah Zainuddin, Timbalan Menteri Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi Malaysia. Dalam ucapan alu-aluan beliau, Menteri memaklumkan bahawa terdapat banyak peluang antara Malaysia dan Gabon untuk membangunkan sinergi dalam sektor perkayuan termasuk bekalan bahan-bahan mentah untuk pemprosesan hiliran di Malaysia dan pembangunan kapasiti bagi sektor kayu di Gabon.

马来西亚木材工业局 (MTIB) 连同Innovest Advisory Services私人有限公司和加蓬经济特区于2011年3月4日在吉隆坡举办马来西亚 - 加蓬投资和商业机会协商会。此会议旨在告知潜在投资者在马来西亚与加蓬两国诸多的投资机会。

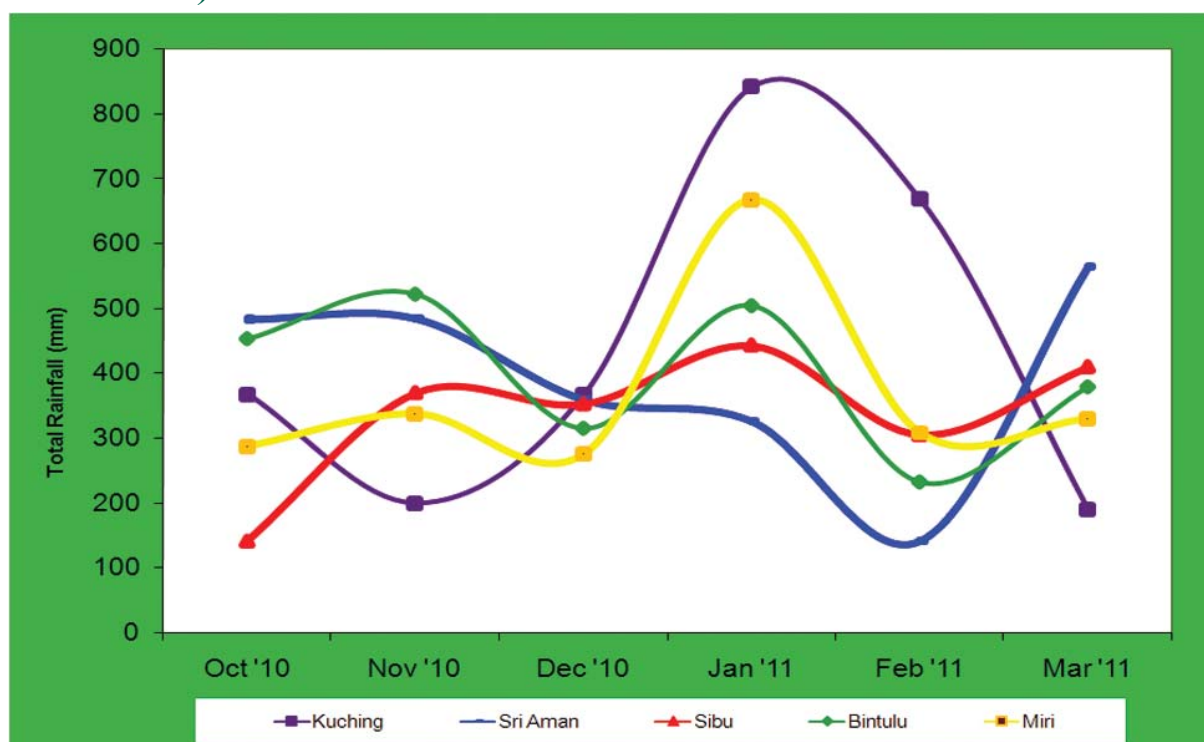
马来西亚种植及原产业部副部长,拿督哈姆扎。翟努丁 (译音) 主持此会议。部长在开幕词中称马来西亚和加蓬之间有很多木业协同作用发展机会包括马来西亚下游加工业原料供应及加蓬木业能力建设。

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENTS	VENUE	ORGANISER
20 - 22 April	MEF Industrial Relations Conference – Managing IR in Changing Environment	Bayview Hotel, Langkawi, Kedah, Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malaysian Employers Federation
11 - 12 May	7th Annual National Employment Law Conference 2011	Hilton Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MySeminars Sdn Bhd
18 -21 May	The 14 th China Chongqing International Investment And Global Sourcing Fair	Chongqing City, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Commerce of China Chongqing Municipal People's Government Asia-Pacific CEO Association, Worldwide
21 - 24 May	The 4 th Global Outsourcing Summit	MaAnShan City, Anhui Province, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MaAnShan Municipal Government, China Asia-Pacific CEO Association, Worldwide AITEC, Ministry of Commerce, China
30 May - 3 June	Ligna Hanover : World Fair for the Forestry and Wood Industries	Hannover, Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deutsche Messe AG
22 - 23 June	Forests, Markets, Policy & Practice 2011 - 4 th Annual International Conference and Technical Workshops	Shanghai, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rainforest Alliance (RA) WWF- Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) The Forest Trust (TFT)

RAINFALL : OCTOBER '10 - MARCH '11

KADAR HUJAN BULANAN



Source : Malaysian Meteorological Services