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Issue 201

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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Technical Working Committee Meeting on *Eucalyptus* Species No 2/2015 and Field Visits to Sabah's Forest Plantations



Photo: Group photo in Brumas (SSB) *Eucalyptus* plantation, Tawau

The Technical Working Committee (TWC) Meeting on *Eucalyptus* Species No 2/2015 was convened on 9 March 2015 at Bangunan UMNO Kalabakan, Tawau, Sabah. The meeting was attended by representatives from Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Yayasan Sabah Group, Malaysia Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA).

During the Meeting, the Committee members were updated on the information with regard to the *Eucalyptus* collected from the Sarawak region. The Committee Chairman, Mr Wong Siong Kuan from FDS reported that out of the total of 346,394 hectares of forest plantations established in Sarawak, 28,087.54 hectares have been planted with *Eucalyptus* species i.e. *Eucalyptus pellita* and *Eucalyptus deglupta*. This has been carried out by the twenty-five (25) License for Planted Forests (LPF) holders. The Committee is concern on the cost of

establishment, final product recovery rate and the market value of *Eucalyptus*. Hence, they are in the mist of looking for reference documents to study how the assumption can be used together with the growth and yield data to determine the profitability of *Eucalyptus* trees plantation. The Meeting also appointed Mr Charles Garcia De Chavez from the Yayasan Sabah Group to compile the data for the *Eucalyptus* for the Sabah region.

The Committee members also visited two (2) *Eucalyptus* plantations in Sabah i.e. Brumas estate of Sabah Softwood Berhad (SSB) and Sipitang estate of Sabah Forest Industries Sdn Bhd (SFI) from 10 to 11 March 2015 in conjunction with the Meeting. The field visits were lead by Mr Dominic Rusman Dambul, Chief Operating Officer of SSB and Mr Guy Thornton, General Manager (Plantation) of SFI. During the field visits, the participants of the trip were introduced to the *Eucalyptus* plantations' establishment, silviculture

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DF Circular 4/2015

Sarawak Timber Association has received a DF Circular No 4/2015 from the Forest Department Sarawak ref DF.681.76 (VII) – 05 dated 30 March 2015 on the royalty rate for poles. Append below is the DF Circular for your information. Append on the right is a copy of the DF Circular for your information.



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DF CIRCULAR NO.4/2015

THE ROYALTY RATE FOR POLES

Please be informed that the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Nagari on 26 February 2015 has approved the revision of royalty rate for poles as follows:

- (i) Pole which is 10 cm and less than 30 cm in diameter over-bark to be considered as logs and be charged royalty based on volume under Class I(i) in the First Schedule of Forests Ordinance which is RM65.00 per cubic meter in round and RM130.00 per cubic meter converted instead of by pieces;
- (ii) The new rate covers all species excepts for *Bakau*;
- (iii) The subject title for Class I(iii) in the First Schedule of Forests Ordinance, Cap 126 are changed to "*Bakau Pole*" instead of "Poles" as per the Forest Ordinance, First Schedule (Amendment) Notification, 2015.
- (iv) The revised royalty rate for pole will come into force on **1st May 2015**

Kindly inform all the Regional Managers, the all Forest Timber Licensee, Logging Contractors/ Sub -Contractors accordingly.

Thank you.

"BERSATU BERUSAHA BERBAKTI"
"AN HONOUR TO SERVE"

Your sincerely,


[HAJI SAPUAN AHMAD]
Director of Forests
SARAWAK

To Chief Executive Officer,
Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn. Bhd.

c.c Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment
Regional Forest Officer Kuching
Regional Forest Officer Sibul
Regional Forest Officer Bintulu
Regional Forest Officer Miri
General Manager, Harwood Timber Sdn. Bhd.
General Manager, Sarawak Timber Association

Ref.: DF.681.76(VII) – 05

Date: 30 MAC 2015



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Workshop on the Revision of the National Policy on Biological Diversity

A Workshop on the Revision of the National Policy on Biological Diversity for stakeholders in Sarawak was organised by the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment (MRPE) from 9 to 10 March 2015 at the Grand Margeritha Hotel, Kuching. This Workshop was held as a follow-up from the workshop which was held last November in Kuching.

The Workshop was conducted by ERE Consultant Group, who was appointed by the Ministry of Natural Resources to carry out the revision process of the new National Policy on Biodiversity. ERE Consultant

Group had conducted several consultation workshops in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak since April 2014. The first draft was formulated in May 2014 to update the national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

During the Workshop, the participants deliberated on nine (9) strategies and its proposed action plans. The proposed National Biodiversity Strategies are as follows:

Strategy 1: Connect People to Biodiversity

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Did you know that.....

In Viet Nam, reforestation efforts will be extended in the Lao Cai province by another 8,000 hectares in 2015. For the extension, production and protected forests will be planted along the new Noi Bai-Lao Cai highway which connects Cam Duong and Tan An communes as well as in the lowland districts. About 25% or about 50,000 hectares of the total forestry in Lao Cai are planted forests. Other districts like Bao Yen, Bao Thang and Van Ban have about 50%-65% of forest coverage.

Source: VietnamPlus, 11 March 2015

Did you also know that....

According to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Indonesia, the ministry will be allocating IDR33.20 billion (EUR2.38 million/USD2.52 million) to facilitate the wood legality certification (SVLK) for small and medium-sized enterprises in the handicraft and furniture sectors. By 1 January 2016, all the trading of wood products is targeted to be meeting the standard of the SVLK. The move is aimed at preventing illegal logging.

Source: *Bisnis Indonesia*, 18 March 2015



Training Workshop on Plantation Establishment and Silviculture



Photo: Group photo with representatives from Sarawak Forestry, BFC and LPF holders.

Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) in collaboration with Borneo Forestry Cooperative (BFC), organised the Training Workshop on Plantation Establishment and Silviculture from 26 to 27 March 2015 at Seed Bank Semenggoh, Kuching. The objective of the Workshop was to discuss the best operating silviculture practices and plantation establishment in general. The two-day programme was attended by representatives from various Government Agencies, License of Planted Forests (LPFs) holders and other private sectors.

A total of twelve (12) papers were presented as follows:

- Paper 1: *Tree Improvement Program of Eucalyptus* by Mr Mahadir Lapammu
- Paper 2: *Tree Improvement Program of Acacia mangium* by Mr Manuel Espey
- Paper 3: *Ceratocystis : Background and Screening Trials* by Mr Redzuan Rauf
- Paper 4: *Tree Improvement Program of Albizia* by Mr Mahadir Lapammu
- Paper 5: *Species Choice* by Mr Manuel Espey
- Paper 6: *Principles of Silviculture in the Wet Tropics* by Mr David Boden
- Paper 7: *Site Factors Important for Tree Plantations in Borneo* by Mr David Boden
- Paper 8: *Importance of Site Sensitive Harvesting* by Mr David Boden

Paper 9: *Weed Control* by Mr Sato Junior and Mr Agus Alwi

Paper 10: *Seedling Quality and Nursery* by Mr Sato Junior & Mr Mahadir Lapammu

Paper 11: *Importance of Good Planting Operations* by Mr David Boden

Paper 12: *Nutrition and Fertilisation* by Mr Agus Alwi

Mr David Boden, Coordinator of BFC was the main speaker for the Workshop. He has vast experience in silviculture practices and breeding programs throughout the Asean countries. All papers presented covered the cooperative research done by members of BFC, i.e. Sabah Softwoods Berhad (SSB), Asian Forestry Company (Sabah) Sdn Bhd, Sabah Forest Industries Sdn Bhd (SFI) and Jaya Tiasa Forest Plantation Sdn Bhd.

After the presentations, Mr David Boden chaired a discussion on the issues determining the optimum tree plantation operation in Sarawak. The discussion highlighted three (3) main issues i.e. soil disturbance during harvesting, weed control and fertilizer. The programme for the first day ended with a visit to the seed regulatory laboratory of Seed Bank whereby the participants were introduced to the standard procedures on the health screening of seeds.

A field visit to the Sabal Model Forest and *Eucalyptus pellita* plantation plot which was established since 19 May 2011 was organised. During the field visit, information and knowledge were shared and exchanged between the participants and the representatives from Sarawak Forestry as well as BFC.



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practiced as well as the R & D activities carried out for *Eucalyptus* species.

The Committee members also had the opportunity to have a discussion with Sabah Forest Development Authority (SAFODA) on 12 March 2015 at their office in Wisma PERKASA, Kota Kinabalu. The discussion was chaired by Mr Francis G Otigil, General Manager of SAFODA where information and experiences on planting *Eucalyptus* was shared.

In Sabah, most of the planters have shifted from planting *Acacia* to *Eucalyptus* species due to the wide spread occurrence of *Ceratocystis* disease which caused death to about 10% to 20% of the *Acacia* trees in plantations. Among the species selected are mainly *Eucalyptus pellita* and *Eucalyptus* hybrid as these species are well known to be more disease resistance and have straight bole form. Apart from the field visits and discussion, the Committee members were also familiarised with the Sabah's forest plantation management and operating procedures. The issue on whether to recommend *Eucalyptus* as one of the species to be qualified for soft loan financing or not also was addressed.

(Continued from page 2)

Strategy 2: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation
Strategy 3: Sustainable Consumption and Production
Strategy 4: Strengthen Resilience of Ecosystems
Strategy 5: Protect Our Species and Genetic Diversity
Strategy 6: Access and Equitable Sharing of Benefits
Strategy 7: Build Skills and Capabilities of all Stakeholders
Strategy 8: Strengthen Legal and Institutional Framework
Strategy 9: Improve and Share Scientific Knowledge
Strategy 10: Enhance Sustainability Financing and Incentives (not deliberated)

The participants of the Workshop deliberated at length on several proposed projects, roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders under each strategy especially on the implementation issues at the State level.