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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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## Roadshows on Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS) and Forestry-related Matters



*Photo: Briefing in Sibu*

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) The briefings in the four (4) regions organised a series of Roadshows on were conducted by Ms Annie Ting, Sarawak Timber Legality Verification Senior Manager of STA. She highlighted matters related to natural resources, forest policies, STLVS, trade and market requirements as well as other forestry-related matters.

The purposes of the Roadshows were to update members on the latest developments in STLVS as well as to inform members on recent changes to policies on forestry matters, DF Circulars and Directives, trade and market requirements as well as other forestry-related matters. She informed participants of the Roadshows that logs production from natural forests had decreased over the past few years. In 2016, a total of 7.4 million m<sup>3</sup> logs were harvested from natural forests while 1.3 million m<sup>3</sup> of logs were harvested from planted forests.

The series of Roadshows, attended by a total of 222 participants with background ranging from forest surveyors to shipping clerks from STA member companies, also provided an avenue for members to share information on issues and challenges faced when complying with the requirements of STLVS as well as other requirements related to forestry such as those on environmental compliance as well as safety and health. She also informed participants that in 2016, the State Forestry Agencies under the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources (MUDNR) (formerly known as the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment), had come out with the STLVS Standard for independent third party verification of forest operations, timber processing and trade of timber and timber products against the compliance of existing laws, regulations and procedures governing

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forests and timber trade in Sarawak. She urged all members to understand their own operational activities and to make sure they comply to STLVS Standard as all Members must ensure that they supply and use only legal timber for manufacturing of timber products and its subsequent trade.

Ms Ting shared with the participants of the Roadshows latest information on the export of timber and timber products from Sarawak, which was dominated by logs, plywood and sawntimber, with a total export value of RM5.9 billion in 2016. She also briefed participants on the laws and regulations put in place by a few countries when importing timber and timber products such as Lacey Act 2008, Formaldehyde Emissions Regulation for Composite Wood Products as well as Antidumping and Countervailing Duties by the United States of America, European Timber Regulation 2013

by the European Union, Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 by Australia and Clean Wood Act 2017 by Japan. The participants were also informed on the current forestry policies and directives issued by the State Government, such as the requirement of forest management certification for all forest management units, reduced impact logging, Log Reservation Quota, forest plantation development, implementation of the Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015 as well as the Companies Act 2016.

During the Roadshows, participants raised questions concerning the requirement for all FMUs to have forest management certification, STLVS, the five (5) prescribed forestry activities under The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules 2015 as well as Receiving, Sorting and Delivery (RS&D) charges for handling timber products at Kuching Senari Port.

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## Roadshow on the Implementation of the Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015

STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) and SARAWAK FORESTRY Corporation Sdn Bhd (SFCSB) jointly organised a series of Roadshows on the "Implementation of the Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015". Four (4) briefings had been organised in Miri on 26 April 2017, Bintulu on 27 April 2017, Sibu on 28 April 2017 and Kuching on 17 May 2017, participated by representatives from the timber industry and forestry-related agencies.

In the Briefing in Kuching, Dr Peter Kho, Manager of STAT gave a brief introduction on the background of skills training and informed all participants at the Briefing that STAT has been appointed as a Training Provider. He further sought the co-operation of both members of STA and non members to plan their training needs of their workmen to ensure they are able to comply with the requirements of both The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules 2015 (The Rules) and Forests Ordinance 2015.

He also emphasised on the importance of skills training, types of training courses offered by STAT as well as

methods of carrying out skills training and assessments.

Ms Shirley Lyn Michael Gias, Manager Forest Industry Training, on behalf of Tuan Haji Zolkipli Mohd Aton, Acting General Manager, Strategic Planning and Special Projects Division of SFC gave a presentation on the requirement of The Rules, the responsibilities of the timber licensees or contractors as well as SFC's roles and responsibilities as an Agent. She also highlighted the consequences of non-compliance (employer and workman) under the Forests Ordinance, 2015 and The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015. She then presented the Standard Operating Procedures for the monitoring of compliance for both employers and workmen.

Participants at the Briefing were urged to fully understand and be aware of the requirements of Section 51(1) of The Forests Ordinance, 2015 and The Rules. Those interested to get their workmen trained are requested to contact either Dr Peter Kho or Ms Melinda Chai at 082-332222.

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### Did you know that....

Three Critically Endangered Sumatran rhinos were known to survive in Malaysia. Although all 3 rhinos could not reproduce naturally, a plan to help preserve diverse genetic material for this species with low birthrates was made after a 25 years old female rhino, named Puntung was found to still produce eggs. However, the female rhino was diagnosed with terminal cancer in April 2017 and her health deteriorated rapidly that the government had authorized euthanasia to end her suffering, on 4 June 2017. Reproductive specialists are now working hard to recover any egg cells that may be present in her ovaries to contribute to the survival of her species.

Source: <https://news.mongabay.com/2017/06/one-of-malaysias-last-rhinos-euthanized-to-end-her-suffering/>

## Did you also know that....

A team of scientists from Switzerland has devised a cheap and effective way to split carbon dioxide into carbon monoxide and oxygen inexpensively, by using a technique of electrolysis employing copper-oxide nanowires modified with tin oxide. The solar-driven CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, with an efficiency of 13.4% is vital for improving the efficiency of alternative forms of energy as we continue to wean ourselves off fossil fuels and transition to cleaner and greener energy while also seeking to reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

Source: <http://cleanmalaysia.com/2017/06/12/solar-powered-co2-reduction-just-got-major-boost/>



## Heart of Borneo (HoB) Scientific Expedition, Long Banga Seminar 2017



*Photo: Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan joined by other honorable guests in officiating the Seminar*

Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), with the support from the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources Sarawak (formerly known as the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment Sarawak) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia organised the Sarawak Heart of Borneo (HoB) Scientific Expedition, Long Banga Seminar 2017 from 3 to 4 May 2017 at the Imperial Hotel, Kuching.

Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad, the Director of Forests Sarawak in his welcoming speech informed participants of the Seminar that the 14-day scientific expedition, involving more than 100 botanists, zoologists, geologists and sociologists were conducted in August 2016, with the objectives to evaluate the biodiversity, tourism potential and threats to the area. He further mentioned that the theme of the Seminar, "Where The Beat Goes On" is intended to put emphasis on the importance of continuing the conservation efforts in HoB, nine (9) years after the conservation agreement was signed by the governments of Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia on 12 February 2007 to demonstrate their commitments.

Datuk Amar Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, the Chief Minister of Sarawak,

in his opening speech, read by Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak, Second Minister of Urban Development and Natural Resources Sarawak cum Minister of Industrial and Entrepreneur Development, shared with participants of the Seminar several of the State's commitments and policies as part of the State's strategy to achieve sustainable land use and forest management goals.

These comprised the extension of the current 942,000 hectares (ha) of Totally Protected Areas (TPAs), including water bodies to 1 million ha by the year 2020; the mandatory requirement of Forest Management Certification (FMC) for all timber concession areas located within the HoB by July 2017; open door policy for scientific studies to be carried out in the State's bio-rich areas and no more issuance of new timber licenses except for areas earmarked for development.

The three (3) sessions of the Seminar saw a total of twenty two (22) presentations of findings from the scientific expedition which included among many others the sighting of a species of moss which was thought to have gone extinct.

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## **Concept Paper on Proposed Industrial Forests and Strategy and Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration in Sarawak**

A meeting on a Concept Paper on Proposed Industrial Forests and Strategy and Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration in Sarawak was called by Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) on 9 May 2017 at Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching.

The Meeting, chaired by Mr Jack Liam, Acting Deputy Director of Forests I of FDS, was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources (MUDNR) (formerly known as the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment), State Forestry Agencies and Sarawak Timber Association (STA).

The delegation from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) led by Dato' Dr Nik Muhamad Bin Nik Abdul Majid presented the Concept Paper on Proposed Industrial Forests to the participants of the Meeting. They explained the concept of industrial forest model including its outputs and impacts to Sarawak. Generally, the goal of the industrial forest model

is to develop an industrial forest showcase that takes into account, the environmental, the social-economics and bio-forest products that can benefit the communities, industry partners and State Government.

Dr Riina Jalonen of Bioversity International presented the Strategy and Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration in Sarawak. She shared with the participants of the Meeting the Strategy and Action Plan which were inputs collated from the Expert Workshop conducted in March 2017.

The delegation from UPM also presented their Concept Paper on Proposed Industrial Forests to Datu Len Talif Salleh, Assistant Minister of Environment on 23 May 2017.