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# STA dan Rakan2

## Courtesy Call to the Chief Minister of Sarawak

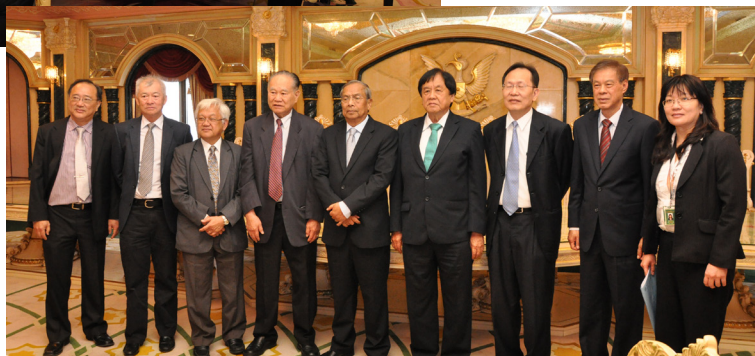
This monthly news bulletin is produced by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) to disseminate information to our counterparts on training, research and other relevant areas.

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*Photo (left): Discussion with the Right Honourable Chief Minister and (below) Group photo*



The Permanent Council members of the Sarawak Timber Association (STA), led by its Chairman Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, paid a courtesy call to the Right Honourable Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr) Haji Adenan Satem, the Chief Minister of Sarawak on 28 May 2014 at Wisma Bapa Malaysia, Kuching.

and development in the tree plantation sector, environmental and international trade requirements.

STA Permanent Council members took the opportunity to introduce STA as well as to highlight pertinent issues and challenges faced by the forestry and timber industry of Sarawak to the Chief Minister of Sarawak. Amongst the highlighted issues included land use policy, land claims, tenure of timber licences, issuance of provisional leases and short term licences, financial strain on the timber and forest plantation industry, manpower shortage, research

STA Permanent Council members are delighted to receive positive response from the Chief Minister of Sarawak on the ways forward in relation to the highlighted issues for the betterment of the forestry and timber industry in Sarawak. The Chief Minister of Sarawak urged STA to be more proactive in training and conducting research and development. He is also very positive in addressing the shortage of manpower faced by the forestry and timber industry.

STA will continue to work closely with the relevant forestry agencies under the leadership of the Chief Minister of Sarawak.

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## STA Dinner – Appreciation to His Excellency the Governor of Sarawak and Welcoming the Chief Minister of Sarawak

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) with great honour, hosted a dinner on 28 May 2014 at Wisma STA in Kuching to record its upmost appreciation to His Excellency the Governor of Sarawak, Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, for his pioneering and profound contributions towards the timber industry in Sarawak during his tenure as the Chief Minister of Sarawak from 1981 to 2014; a total of 33 years of golden leadership. At the dinner, STA also welcomed the new Chief Minister of Sarawak, Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr) Haji Adenan Satem.

The memorable evening kicked off with an opening speech by STA Chairman, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, which was read by STA Honorary Secretary, Dato Henry Lau. The Chairman highlighted that the forestry and timber industry has provided a great number of job opportunities and rewards to some 100,000 people, not including those spin-off industries. It was also mentioned that Tun Pehin Sri, during his tenure as the Chief Minister had encouraged timber industry players to join STA, as a single body would ensure the forestry and timber industry is united and able to work closely among members and to carry out forestry and timber activities in the best and practical manner.

In response to the Chairman's speech, the Chief Minister of Sarawak commented that he would continue the immeasurable efforts done by his predecessor, to bring the timber industry to even a greater height as well as to achieve a high profile not only in the state and country but also in the international arena. He also emphasised that STA should not be too dependent on the Government to tackle the anti tropical campaigns but instead should be more proactive in handling the issue. In addition, the Chief Minister reiterated that the industry should take more responsibilities in training as well as conducting research.

His Excellency the Governor of Sarawak also highlighted the State's forestry and timber industry has

achieved sustainable development with good ethics though it has got a bad name overseas over its logging activities due to the negative agenda by anti-logging Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and "if only the NGOs can come and see what is happening in the State, they will know a lot of their campaigns against the industry is misplaced". Nevertheless, the International Trade Timber Organization (ITTO) which was invited by His Excellency during his tenure as the Chief Minister has come out with a good report about the forestry and timber industry, timber people and longhouse folk. In addition, His Excellency hoped that this kind of true and positive statement will spread globally despite the negative statements which are still on going in the Europe.

One of the highlights at the dinner was the launching of the STA's project, on a book entitled "A Life in Sarawak Timber: Up Close and Personal" documenting the history of the industry, facts and figures, by the Chief Minister and witnessed by His Excellency the Governor of Sarawak.

At this auspicious occasion, the Chairman of STA proudly presented a Golden Member Medal to his Excellency Tun Pehin Sri in recognition of his vision and exemplary leadership in propelling the growth of the Sarawak's timber industry in an orderly and progressive manner and will always be honoured for his continuous support to STA and the timber industry. A Golden Member Medal was also presented to the Chief Minister of Sarawak to welcome him as a member to STA and the timber industry.

Senior officers from the State Forestry Agencies were also invited to attend the dinner.



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

According to the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), Indonesia is anticipated to be given the forest certification system by end of 2014. PEFC is expected to complete the result of the forest certification system in August 2014. PEFC's certification has been implemented in 60% of the forest in the world. Its certification is accepted by more than 34 buyer countries globally.

*Source: 8 May 2014, Bisnis Indonesia*

## Did you also know that....

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio has stepped up with a \$1 million donation to the Elephant Crisis Fund, an initiative that aims to stop the ivory poaching crisis. The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, which is a joint effort between the Save the Elephants and Wildlife Conservation Network to provide emergency support for projects that address poaching, trafficking and demand for ivory. In total, the event generated more than \$2 million for the fund, which has an initial target of \$5 million by 2016.

Source: 12 May 2014, mongabay.com



## Graduation Ceremony for the Third Cohort of the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management)

Eleven (11) students out of the twenty (20) students from the third cohort of the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science (Sustainable Tropical Forest Management) attended the morning graduation ceremony at the Lincoln Event Centre in Christchurch, New Zealand on 2 May 2014. They were amongst the 215 graduands who received their degrees, diplomas and certificates. Mr Philip Choo, the Honorary Treasurer of Sarawak Timber Association and Board Member of STA Training Sdn Bhd, led the group of 20 students, their spouses and family members to attend the event.

The ceremony began with the powhiri, a traditional Maori welcome, which served to welcome the graduands as well as diploma and certificate recipients as fully-fledged members of the University community. The 11 students were called on to the stage one by one where each student was personally capped by the Chancellor, Mr Thomas C Lambie to signify the conferment of the postgraduate degree and thereafter received a parchment from him.

The group was also taken on a tour of the campus of Lincoln University a day before the graduation ceremony and had the opportunity to meet with teaching, support and management staff of this programme over the graduation lunch hosted by the University.

Prior to the convocation ceremony, the students and their families were taken on a specially organised trip to the South Island, where they had the chance to visit the tourist towns of Arrowtown and Queenstown. Some members of the group went on a Hamilton jet cruise along the Kawarau river, bungy jumping and a historic Chinese settlement near Arrowtown. They were also taken to see a FSC-certified forestry operation, owned and managed by Blakely Pacific Ltd near the town of Geraldine and an agroforestry trial near Rolleston.

A smaller group was taken to a tour of the northern part of the South Island of New Zealand, visiting Kaikoura, Nelson, Greymouth and Hokitika after the graduation ceremony.

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## The 5th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade

The 5th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) was held from 7 to 8 May 2014 in Qingdao, China. The Meeting was chaired by Mr Xia Jun, Chairman EGILAT with the participation from eighteen (18) member economies namely Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, USA, and Vietnam.

The Malaysian delegation of six (6) members was led by Mr Mad Zaidi Mohd Karli, Under-Secretary, Rubber and Jatropha Industry Development Division of the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC).

The origin of the APEC EGILAT lies in the APEC Leaders' meeting in Yokohama in 2010, at which Leaders pledged to enhance cooperation to address

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concerns of illegal logging and its associated trade as well as to promote sustainable forest management and rehabilitation. Its main objectives are to promote trade in legally harvested forest products, combat illegal logging and its associated trade as well as to build capacity.

The Meeting deliberated on the issues of the EGILAT including the work done in 2013, the recommendations from the independent assessment of EGILAT in 2013, the Strategic Plan 2013 – 2017 and the 2014 Work Plan.

Member economies acknowledged that there is no single definition on timber legality and through the member economies' presentations on their respective legislative requirements for legal timber at the Meeting, it was concluded that the existing legality mainly covers the categories of harvesting, transportation and trade. The Meeting agreed that information sharing in this respect is very important to promote better understanding of the legality requirements by the different economies. A taskforce was formed to develop a template for gathering information in the respect to laws, regulations and market requirements on legal timber, which is to be posted in the website yet to be created for information sharing amongst the economies. The proposed template will be tabled for discussion in the next EGILAT Meeting in Beijing some

time in August 2014.

The next EGILAT Meeting will also deliberate on the Chinese's proposal on Regional Timber Legality Recognition Mechanism after the newly appointed taskforce has studied the proposal. The Meeting noted that this proposal is to help to harmonise the market requirements and the assurance/verification systems as well as to avoid duplication in market efforts, extra costs and confusion in the industrial sector. The Chinese economy aims to realise the timber legality recognition within Asia-Pacific region by 2025 through policy dialogues, technical exchanges, capacity building and information sharing.

A one-day workshop on "Developing Timber Legality Assurance Systems" was held in conjunction with the 5th Meeting of APEC EGILAT on 6 May 2014 at the same venue for the participants from APEC economies, non-APEC economies and international organisations to enhance communication and exchange on best practices and lessons learned in developing effective and creditable timber legality assurance system.