



# STA dan Rakan2

November 2012

For Private Circulation Only

Issue 173

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

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information printed in this news bulletin is accurate and correct, neither STA nor its Officers, Members or Employees shall assume any responsibilities or be made liable for any inaccuracies and errors printed; nor is such publication unless otherwise stated necessarily the views of STA, its Officers, Members or Employees.

The news bulletin is circulated to designated readers free of charge.

## Editorial Board

**Chief Editor:**  
Dr Peter C.S. Kho

**Editor/Secretary:**  
Jaime Chan

**Members:**  
Law Hui Chau  
Salfa Kamazura

## Seminar on the Properties and Processing of *Acacia mangium*



Photo (left): Seminar in progress

Photo (right): Participants at the Gallery of Plantation Timber Products



A Seminar on the Properties and Processing of *Acacia mangium* was jointly organised by the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) on 27 November 2012 at Timber Technology Centre (TTC) in Kuching. Approximately thirty five (35) representatives from Member companies of the Forest Plantation Category, the Sawmilling Category, the Furniture & Other Woodworking Category; and the Panel Products Category attended this Seminar. This Seminar was organised as an output of the first year of a three-year research project entitled "Basic and Working Properties of Juvenile *Acacia mangium* Timber for Products Development in Sarawak", undertaken by SFC with the funding from STA.

The Seminar commenced with the opening remarks by the Acting Deputy General Manager of Applied Forest Science and Industry Development (AFSID), Ms Lucy Chong. She informed the participants that SFC wished to share the research findings of the first year of this study with the industry. She added that more

research data on wood properties will be available by the third year for members to use.

The seminar proceeded with the presentation by speakers from SFC where four (4) papers were presented as follows:

Paper 1: 'Introduction to the Sampling and Collection of *Acacia mangium* as Raw Materials' by Mr Willies Chin

Paper 2: 'Density and Moisture Content of *Acacia mangium*' by Mr Yang Min Chin

Paper 3: 'Sawing Yield and Sawing Properties of *Acacia mangium* Logs' by Mr Teng Xin Yao

Paper 4: 'Slicing of *Acacia mangium* Logs' by Mr Pek Yaw Kee

The presentations ended with a Question & Answer session. The participants then visited the Gallery of Plantation Timber Products where products made of *Acacia mangium* and Kelampayan wood were being showcased.

## International Conference on “Heart of Borneo HOB) +5 and Beyond: Shaping and Nurturing Sabah’s Future Together”

The International Conference on “Heart of Borneo (HOB) +5 and Beyond: Shaping and Nurturing Sabah’s Future Together” was organised by Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) from 6 to 7 November 2012 at the Magellan Sutura Harbour, Kota Kinabalu in Sabah. It was officiated by the Chief Minister of Sabah, Datuk Sri Panglima Musa Hj Aman and was attended by more than six hundred (600) participants from diplomatic missions to Malaysia and various local and international agencies. In his speech read by Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Yee Moh Chai, the Chief Minister disclosed that since the signing of the HOB Declaration almost five years ago, it has fostered good ties amongst the various Government Agencies and partners such as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Malaysia, Sime Darby Bhd, Malaysian Palm Oil Council, HSBC, New Forests Asia (Singapore) Pte Ltd and Non-Government Organisation (NGO) such as Land Environment Animal People (LEAP).

International and local speakers shared their perspectives on conservation and sustainable development in the four (4) sessions. During the Breakout Session, another high-level by-invitation only consultative meeting was conducted separately. During the closing ceremony, the Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Datuk Masidi Manjun disclosed

that the ten (10) resolutions derived from the high-level meeting which among others, is to seek more funds from the Federal Government for the implementation of the Sabah HOB for the next five years and beyond. The high-level meeting also agreed that there must be a sense of ownership of the HOB project, and with support from the NGOs, private sector, and the people, working together with the Government to realise the objectives of the HOB Initiative in Sabah.

Another major resolution discussed was the way forward for the current procedural challenge that is hampering Sabah’s efforts to get World Heritage Site status for the Maliau Basin, the Imbak Canyon and the Danum Valley.

The Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia Minister Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Joseph Kurup said at the closing ceremony of the Conference that “Malaysia reiterates this initiative be continued to be placed within the Government’s sustainable development framework and policy”. He believed the papers presented by the experts have provided the participants with a comprehensive understanding of the HOB initiative in Sabah.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Closed Door Dialogue Session On Timber Trade

The closed door dialogue session on timber trade between Japan and the State of Sarawak was held on 5 November 2012 at the Grand Intercontinental Hotel in Yokohama, Japan.

A total of forty one (41) participants attended the dialogue, comprising the delegation from Sarawak of fifteen (15) government representatives led by the Honourable Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hassan, the Second Minister of Resource Planning and Environment and seven (7) STA representatives led by Dato Henry

Lau, the Honorary Secretary of Sarawak Timber Association (STA); thirteen (13) members of the Japan Lumber Importers’ Association (JLIA) led by Mr Hiroya Sato, the Vice Chairman cum Chairman of Southsea Lumber & Plywood Section of JLIA; two (2) from MATRADE Tokyo including the Trade Commissioner Mr Kua Kiat Chye and Dato’ Freezailah Che Yeom from the Malaysian Timber Certification Council.

*(Continue on page 4)*



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

According to the Sarawak Timber Industry Development (STIDC), the exports of timber and timber products by Sarawak state in the first half 2012 went down by 0.2% to MYR 3.70 billion (EUR 925.01 million USD 1.21 billion) compared to a year ago. The STIDC has set a modest export target of MYR 7 billion for timber and timber product exports from Sarawak in the full year of 2012. It is expected 94% of the total exports will come from the main export commodity of veneer, lumber, sawn timber and plywood

*Source: Utusan Malaysia, 17 Oct 2012*

## Did you also know that....

In order to enhance bilateral trade and boost economic ties between China and Malaysia, both nations are finalizing a five-year economic cooperation plan. The plan which would commence from 2013 to 2017 would consist of specific activities for implementation, including manufacturing, infrastructure, investment, agriculture, industrial parks and services. To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Malaysia-Chinese relations, giant pandas will be arriving in Malaysia.

Source: New Straits Times, 20 Nov 2012



## Fourth Meeting of the Japan – Malaysia Expert Group of Sustainable Forest Management and Trade of Legal Timber



Photo: meeting in progress

The Fourth (4th) Meeting of the Expert Group on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Trade in Legally Obtained Timber (EG-SFM), under the Japan-Malaysia Economic Partnership Agreement (JMEPA), was held on 3 November 2012 in Yokohama, Japan.

The participants to the meeting comprised senior officials from the Forestry Agency of Japan (Forestry Agency) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan (MAFF) and the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Malaysia (MPIC). Amongst other participants who attended the meeting by invitation was a representative from the Sarawak Timber Association (STA).

The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr Osamu Hashiramoto, the Director, Wood Products Trade Office, Forestry Agency and Mr M Nagarajan, the Deputy Secretary-General (Commodities) of MPIC.

Mr Hashiramoto informed the meeting that he is the successor to Mr Makoto Ozawa. In his remarks, Mr Hashiramoto highlighted the significance of the trade of wood products between both countries, and recognised Malaysia as the major timber products exporter to Japan. He highlighted the agenda items of the meeting, including

deliberation on matters in relation to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM); trade of legal timber and timber products; research and development projects and transfer of technology to enhance the management of forests.

Both countries shared the efforts taken in promoting and implementing SFM. The Meeting noted that it is important to further strengthen the roles of SFM in both countries to address emerging issues on forestry and timber trade, including climate change and the involvement of the local community.

Japan has a forest area of 25 million hectares, which is 69% of its total land area. Out of the total forest area, 59% is natural forests (14.75% million ha) and 41% is planted forests (10.25 million ha) with tree species of *Cryptomeria japonica* - Japanese Cedar (43%), *Chamaecyparis obtuse* - Japanese Cypress (25%) and others (32%).

Both countries also provided updates on the recent trend of timber and timber products trade from sustainable resources. Japan reiterated that Malaysia has remained as its major supplier of plywood despite emerging competitors such as China and Indonesia. The Meeting noted that the market demand for tropical timber in Japan has declined.

Japan updated the meeting on the government procurement policy in Japan in relation to legality-verified wood products (Goho-wood). Japan expects the demand for Goho-wood to increase. This will also promote the use of legal and sustainable timber in public buildings.

The Meeting agreed that the fifth (5th) Meeting of EG-SFM will be hosted by Malaysia in 2013.



### **Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak Sarawak Timber Association**

11 Floor, Wisma STA, Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.  
Telephone: ++(60 82) 332 222 Facsimile: ++(60 82) 487 888, 487 999  
E-mail: sta@sta.org.my Website: www.sta.org.my

(continued from page 2)

The dialogue session provided the opportunity for STA Members' buyers and members of JLIA to have a face-to-face dialogue with the Second Minister of Resource Planning and Environment and Assistant Ministers together with senior officials from our forestry agencies on forestry and trade-related issues as well as an allegations by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) against timber companies on their harvesting and forestry activities in Sarawak.

The Second Minister reiterated the Sarawak Government's firm commitment to ensure Sarawak continues to manage its forests in a manner where the supply of timber from its designated Permanent Forest Estate is sustainable. He then informed that timber volume from the agricultural conversion areas is expected to be reduced in the near future and be replaced by planted timbers. The Sarawak Government is targeting to establish one million hectares (ha) of planted forests by the year 2020. Currently, a total area of about 300,000 ha has been planted with different types of tree species (mainly *Acacia mangium*) by the industry. Sarawak is aware of the increasing demand for timber producing countries, in particular from tropical countries, to demonstrate to the world that their timber products are legally produced. Legal timber in the

context of Sarawak is timber harvested by licensed persons from approved areas and verified by the relevant authorities in accordance with the laws, regulations and procedures pertaining to forestry and the timber trade in Sarawak. The State's forest-related legislations broadly cover timber harvesting, royalty collection, timber transportation and compliance with import and export requirements.

The Second Minister with the support from the Sarawak delegation clarified some misunderstanding on issues related to forestry in Sarawak with facts and figures. He then welcomed any interested parties including the NGOs who sincerely want to understand the matter to visit Sarawak to see for themselves the situation rather than listening from third parties.

STA and JLIA will continue to work closely together to strengthen the trade relationship between Japan and the State of Sarawak, Malaysia as well as to enhance the business partnership to sustain the trade of legal logs and timber products.