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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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5th Series of Campaign on Occupational Safety and Health for the Timber Industry in Sarawak



Photo: Organisers and participants group photo

Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) in collaboration with the Department of Occupational Safety and Health Sarawak (DOSH) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) organised the fifth (5th) series of the Campaign on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) for the Timber Industry in Sarawak from 22 to 24 November 2016 at Kemena Plaza Hotel, Bintulu.

The same Campaign had also been conducted earlier in the year in Sibu, Miri, Kapit and Lawas. The companies that were involved in this series of Campaign were mainly companies that are engaged with the Licence for Planted Forests (LPF) projects.

A total of forty-nine (49) participants from the timber industry and forestry-related agencies participated in this Campaign. The objectives of the Campaign were to increase the awareness of the importance of OSH in the workplace; promote the

understanding of the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) 1994; and provide guidelines on the OSH implementation in the planted forest industry.

Ir Haji Mohd Hatta Bin Zakaria, Director of DOSH Sarawak in his welcoming remarks read by Mr Mohamad Rafizal Bin Alias, Head of DOSH Bintulu Branch, mentioned that the Campaign on OSH is one of the elements under Occupational Safety and Health Master Plan 2016-2020 (OSHMP 2020) which aims to promote the safety and health-focused work culture. He urged companies to adopt excellent OSH management system in their workplaces and achieve either OHSAS 18001 or MS 1722 standard certification.

Datu Haji Sarudu Haji Hoklai, General Manager of STIDC in his opening speech read by Mr Paul Lau Ngie Hung, Assistant

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Briefing by Sawmill Machinery Manufacturers and Fact Finding Trip

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) organised a Briefing by the Sawmill Machinery Manufacturers and Fact Finding Trip for the members of its Sawmilling, Furniture & Other Woodworking as well as Moulding Categories on 14 November 2016 in Bintulu. Approximately forty five (45) representatives from member companies and government agencies namely, SARAWAK FORESTRY Corporation and Forest Department Sarawak, Bintulu region attended the Briefing held at the New World Suites Hotel, Bintulu.

The objectives of the Briefing were to enable members to gain the latest information on the development of sawmill machinery and to adopt the technology to improve their processing operation especially for plantation logs. The aim of the Fact Finding Trip were for members to gain direct, on-the-ground exposure to determine how local furniture and moulding processing mills can produce and market furniture, moulding as well as other timber products made from local planted timbers.

Mr Yap Fui Fook, Honorary Treasurer of both STA Sawmilling as well as Furniture & Other Woodworking Committees, in his welcoming remarks said that in view of the shortage in raw materials and that logs are of smaller sizes, it is timely to look into options and ways to maximize the usage of these logs and improve the ways in processing plantation logs.

The Briefing was divided into two (2) sessions as follows:-

Session 1: Briefing by the Manufacturers of Sawmill Machinery for Small Logs

Paper 1: Trends in Global Sawmilling by Mr Markku Ranin, Fintec Asia Pacific Sdn Bhd

The speaker shared with participants of the Briefing the importance of accurate dimensions and good quality saws. He added that currently there is a shortage in timber and talent in this industry. He informed the participants of the Briefing that the trend now is towards

timber frames and structures as well as providing lumber grading service to the industry.

Paper 2: Machinery for Processing Smaller Logs by Mr Daniel Chan Tho Leong, Benli Machinery Sdn Bhd

The speaker shared with participants of the Briefing the different ways of sawing to produce better quality saws especially for smaller logs. He also spoke on the multiple blades saw machinery from China used in the processing system in China which is efficient, non-technical and low maintenance.

Paper 3: Multiple Blades Saw Machines by Mr Ting Nik Sing, Ting's Band Saw Service

The speaker shared with participants of the Briefing the benefits of science and technology in supporting the manufacturing as well as processing of logs for the industry through product development and innovation. He highlighted this with the support from the line of products developed by a sawmill machinery manufacturer in China.

Session 2: Presentation and Panel Discussion

Paper 4: Utilisation of Timber from Planted Forest in Sarawak by Mr Nicholas Andrew Lisse, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC)

The speaker spoke on the challenges faced by the industry and initiatives taken to promote the utilisation of timber from planted forest. He also shared with participants of the Briefing the impact of planted forest to the supply of raw materials for the industry and informed them that Vietnam is much ahead of Malaysia in this arena. For Sarawak, the planted forest policy is to develop a total area of 1 million hectares (ha) by 2020. According to Mr Nicholas, the total area planted is 394,268 ha as of June 2016. Sarawak started to harvest logs from planted forest in 2011 and the volume had increased by almost 9 fold in last 5 years from 92,534 m³ in 2011 to 813,544 m³ in 2015. The main species currently harvested are *Acacia*
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Did you know that....

In an effort to control the spread of the Asian Long-Horned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), Taiwan has introduced new rules covering log imports. The adult Beetles lay in the cambium of the host tree on hatching the larvae can have a devastating impact of forest areas. From 1 October this year authorities in Taiwan have required the species name and country of origin for all logs to be specified in the quarantine certificates, including logs from mainland China. Logs without correctly completed phytosanitary certificates will be held for investigation which could take up to a month.

Source: MTIB News Extracts (Vol.47/11/16)

Did you also know that....

The first batch of FLEGT timber container was delivered from Indonesia to the EU on 15 November 2016. The FLEGT licensing scheme is the first of its kind in the world, and is the result of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between Indonesia and the EU. Indonesia's FLEGT-licensing scheme is based on a mandatory timber legality assurance system called the SVLK that was developed by representatives of Indonesian forestry stakeholders.

Source: MTIB News Extracts (Vol.48/11/16)



Technical Committee Meeting on the Research of *Ceratocystis* Disease on *Acacia mangium* No 1/2016

A Technical Committee Meeting on the Research of *Ceratocystis* Disease on *Acacia mangium* No 1/2016 was called by the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) on 15 November 2016 at Menara PGRM 2, Kuala Lumpur.

The Meeting was chaired by Tuan Haji Kamaruzaman Bin Othman, Director (Forest Plantation Division) of MTIB. In his opening remarks, he welcomed and thanked all the representatives from Government agencies and private sectors for attending the meeting. He explained to the Meeting on the purpose of formation of this Technical Committee; which is to monitor the project on Research of *Ceratocystis* Disease on *Acacia mangium* conducted by Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) with the funding from MTIB.

He also informed the Meeting that this research will be carried out in selected *Acacia* plantations in the whole of Malaysia and cooperation from all parties involved is essential for the success of this project. He then briefed the Meeting on the Terms of Reference (TOR) for this Technical Committee.

Dr Mohd Farid Bin Ahmad from FRIM gave a presentation on the MTIB-funded project entitled "Strategy and Management of Wilting Disease Caused by *Ceratocystis* Fungus which Threatens *Acacia mangium* Stands in Malaysia". He briefed the members on the project background, objectives, methodologies as well as the costs of the project. He also highlighted the expected outputs from this project as well as the research impacts. He then showed the Meeting on the selected research plots throughout Malaysia and explained the roles of the agencies that are involved in this project.

The Meeting has an extensive discussion on the research module, project schedule, *Acacia* sample plots selection and others. The Meeting also went through and accepted the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between MTIB and FRIM on this project with the total funding amount of RM712,860.00. This MOA will be tabled to the Project Steering Committee for approval.

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and *Albizia*.

Panel Discussion: Enhancing Value-adding Opportunities for *Acacia* in Sarawak

Panel Members:

1. Mr Nicholas Andrew Lissem, Industrial Planning Session Manager, STIDC on the subject of Policies and Marketing
2. Ms Diana Lau, Council Member of STA and Marketing Manager of Cheongon Enterprise Sdn Bhd on the subject of Material Supply
3. Mr Yap Fui Fook, Council Member of STA and General Manager of Samling Housing Products Sdn Bhd on the subject of Processing and Value-adding

Participants of the Briefing raised a few issues during the panel discussion session which included; the inadequate supply of raw materials and lower grade logs for processing in sawmills, inconsistency in shapes and sizes of logs compared to logs of planted species in other countries as well as the long drying period of *Acacia* timber.

In the Fact Finding Trip in the afternoon of the same day, the committee members visited Magna-Foremost Sdn Bhd, a company under Samling Group of Companies. Mr Yap headed the group visit and explained to the Group the processing of *Acacia* logs and also gave a tour of the sawmill.



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General Manager (Resource Development) of STIDC, expressed his gratitude to DOSH, STA and participants of the Campaign for their attendance and support. He stressed that the safety and health at the workplace is equally important as the goal of strengthening the competitiveness of the companies. He added that the occurrences of accidents at the workplace can cause loss of life and affect the productivity, image and reputation of the companies. He reminded participants of the Campaign that safety and health at the workplace is one of the requirements that the companies must comply with, in order to achieve forest certification. He urged employers and employees to play their roles and take full responsibilities in ensuring a safe and healthy working environment.

The Campaign was facilitated by Mr Sadiyuk Henry Rigit, Head of Enforcement Section of DOSH Sarawak and Mr Hong Boon Jing, Factories and Machineries Assistant Inspector of DOSH Sarawak. They briefed the participants of the Campaign on the OSHA 1994 and Notification of Accident, Dangerous Occurrence, Occupational Poisoning and Occupational Disease (NADOPOD) Regulations 2004. They also introduced the participants of the Campaign to the establishment of OSH Committee at the workplace, OSH programme and its management system.

Mr Sadiyuk then gave a presentation to the participants of the Campaign on Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Risk Control (HIRARC) technique for the risk management system at the workplace. The presentation was followed by a group discussion on the issues related to the implementation of OSH in the forestry sector as well as HIRARC assignment.

The 5th series of the Campaign has incorporated an additional topic, which is on the Use and Standard of Exposure of Chemicals Hazardous to Health (USECHH) Regulations 2000. This Regulation is used as a legal framework to control the exposure of chemicals hazardous to health at workplace and aimed to prevent the occurrence of occupational diseases, poisoning or adverse health effect.

A site audit, led by Mr Sadiyuk, was conducted on the last day of Campaign at LPF0043 Sarawak Planted Forest Sdn Bhd (SPF), Samarakan. Both on-site and document audits were carried out to check for compliance against OSH requirements. Mr Sadiyuk briefed the participants of the Campaign on the key areas audited by DOSH and provided comments and possible improvements on the current OSH system implemented by SPF.