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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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Corporate Integrity Pledge

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) together with the Forest Department Sarawak organised the Corporate Integrity Pledge (CIP) signing ceremony which was participated by representatives from government agencies, timber licence holders and contractors on 17 November 2014 at the Sarawak Legislative Assembly Complex, Kuching. The signing of this pledge signified the seriousness of the Government agencies and timber industry in promoting transparency and eradicating corruption in the industry.

The Government agencies who signed the pledge were Forest Department Sarawak, Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, Land Custody and Development Authority, Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation and Yayasan Sarawak. The timber licence holders who signed the pledge were KTS Holdings Bhd, RH Forest Corporation Sdn Bhd, Samling Group of Companies, Shin Yang Group of Companies, Ta Ann Group of Companies and WTK Holdings Bhd as well as their contractors.

Assembly Speaker, Tan Sri Datuk Amar Mohd Morshidi Abdul Ghani, the State Secretary and Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hassan, the Second Minister for Resource Planning and Environment.

The CIP is a document that binds organisations in a written commitment to uphold the principles of anti-corruption by creating a fair, transparent and corruption-free working environment. Prior to the signing, Datuk Mustafar Ali praised the state forestry agencies for being the first government agency in Sarawak to sign the CIP this year. He also mentioned that the five core principles of CIP were to promote transparency, integrity and good governance; to include anti-corruption elements to strengthen internal procedures; to abide by the anti-corruption laws; to eradicate all forms of corruptions; and to support anti-corruption initiatives by MACC as well as the government. He added that MACC will always extend a helping hand to corporations that are looking to improve their internal practices in transparency.

The signing of the pledge was witnessed by Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Adenan Satem, the Chief Minister of Sarawak, Datuk Mustafar Ali, the Deputy Chief Commissioner (Prevention) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang, the Deputy Chief Minister, Datuk Amar Mohamad Asfia Awang Nassar, the State Legislative

Briefings on Training of Forestry Workmen and Timber Legality and Trade Requirements

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) and its subsidiary company, STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) had jointly organised a series of Briefings to its members in Miri, Bintulu, Sibu and Kuching from 18 to 24 November 2014 on skills training and financial incentive scheme for training of forestry workmen and on timber legality & trade requirements and other forestry related matters.

The objectives of the Briefings were to provide updates and to disseminate information on The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules and the financial incentive scheme for training of forestry workmen, logs supply, trade statistics, timber legality, trade requirements and other forestry related matters.

These briefings were attended by about 110 participants from the four regions.

The first part of the Briefing was delivered by Dr Peter Kho, Manager of STAT. He informed the participants of the briefings that STAT was established to undertake training programmes for workmen employed by member companies of STA. The training programmes are in place to prepare members of STA ready to meet the requirement of The Forest (Trained Workmen) Rules once it comes into force and to support the implementation of Section 54B of the Forests Ordinance (Cap 126) by the State Government. The two types of training programmes provided are (i) management training and (ii) skills training. These training programmes provide opportunities for managers, senior staff and forest workmen to enhance their skills and knowledge on matters relating to harvesting, management and timber utilisation.

Members also were informed that STAT provides financial support to its member companies, relevant agencies and private individuals who are Sarawak residents to carry out research and development activities that are beneficial to the forest and timber industries in Sarawak. Dr Kho invited members to submit in research proposals that can contribute to the sustainability of the forest resources and rehabilitation of logged over forest

areas.

Dr Kho also explained the financial incentive scheme provided for training of forestry workmen. A financial incentive of RM1,000 will be given to the Company for every workmen assessed competent in any of the prioritised skills sets to encourage pick up of training and to defray the costs of training.

The second part of the Briefing was delivered by Ms Annie Ting, Senior Manager of STA. She updated participants of the Briefings on the current log production from natural forests and planted forests as well as the overview of logs and timber products exported from Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. From the export statistics, plywood and logs are the major exports for Sarawak in 2013 with Japan and India being the main importing countries.

Ms Ting updated participants of the Briefings on the timber legislations imposed by major consumer countries that require importers to carry out due diligence obligations set out under laws and regulations of the importing countries when importing timber and timber products. Examples of imposed timber legislations are the European Union Timber Regulation, the Lacey Act in the United States of America, the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 and the Green Purchasing Policy in Japan. She emphasised the importance for members to keep the Export Licence and all supporting documents for five years for traceability.

She also informed participants of the briefings on the Sarawak State Government's decision to go for forest management certification, the Government's initiative in Heart of Borneo, allegations by the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), anti-dumping and issues pertaining to manpower faced by the timber industry.



Did you know that.....

Trusmadi Forest Reserve, Timimbang-Botitian Forest Reserve, Pin Supu Forest Reserve and Northern Gunung Rara Forest Reserve in Sabah (in total about 150,000 hectares) are on their way to becoming FSC certified. Other forest reserves in Sabah that have been certified by FSC are Tangkulap-Pinangah and Ulu Segama-Malua. WWF-Malaysia is assisting in the FSC certification by providing technical assistance throughout the certification process.

Source: ITTO TTM Report: 20, 16 – 31 October 2014

Did you also know that....

The Department of Forest Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) in Laos has agreed a Voluntary Partnership Agreement for Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) in a bid to certify timber legality to support sustainable forest management as well as ensure a sustainable raw materials supply for the wood industries in the country. The FLEGT, which is an initiative by the EU, intends to offer multiple benefits to Laos in particular bolstering the wooden industry in the country.

Source: Vientiane Times, 12 Nov 2014



6th Annual Heart of Borneo Conference

The Sixth (6th) Annual Heart of Borneo (HoB) Conference which focused on the theme "Enhancing Biodiversity Towards No Net Loss and Beyond Within the HoB Landscape" was organised by the Sabah Forestry Department on 10 November 2014 at Magellan Sutra Harbour Resort, Sabah. The one-day Conference, which was officiated by Datuk Seri G Palanivel, the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) Malaysia, attended by 600 participants from the HoB member countries and relevant international organisations. The Conference had gathered delegates from around the world who share a common interest in demonstrating no net loss and preferably a net gain of biodiversity HoB landscape.

In the opening speech, Datuk Seri G Palanivel mentioned that under the 10th Malaysia Plan, RM24.16 million would be channeled to Sabah and RM10.03 million to Sarawak to adopt the best practices in forest management and biodiversity conservation. The allocation will be increased under the 11th Malaysia Plan mainly for the purpose of replanting programmes and restoration of degraded forests. Additional budgets will also be requested to improve the irrigation and drainage system for Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia to reduce the environmental calamities associated with the loss of forest cover.

Dr Greg Asner from Carnegie Institution for Science, USA delivered the keynote address on his team's groundbreaking work on remote sensing 3-dimensional mapping using the Carnegie Airborne Observatory.

The Conference was divided into two (2) panel sessions. The first panel, focusing on global perspectives, was chaired by Dr Michael Kleiner, Deputy Executive Director, International Union of Forest Research Organisations, Austria. The four (4) papers presented were:

1. *Convention on Biological Diversity perspectives on No Net Loss* by Dr Bráulio de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
2. *The Critical Role of Protected Areas and on*

IUCN's Business and Biodiversity Programme by Ms Jane Lawton, International Union for Conservation of Nature-Asia

3. *The Major Findings and Recommendations of the Latest WWF Living Planet / Forest Reports* by Dato' Dr Dionysius Sharma, WWF-Malaysia

4. *Policies and Tools for Achieving No Net Loss of Biodiversity* by Mr Michael Crowe

The second panel, focusing on practitioner perspectives, was chaired by Datuk Darrel Webber of Secretary General of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil. This session featured presentations by five (5) speakers. The papers were as follows:

1. *Opportunities at the Cutting Edge: Building an Evidence Base in Sabah for Biodiversity No Net Loss and Payment for Ecosystem Services* by Datuk Glen Reynolds, The Royal Society South East Asia Rainforest Research Programme

2. *Experiences with Translating Environmental values into Tabgile Income for Key Stakeholders* by Dr David Cassells, The Nature Conservancy

3. *Future Forest Plantations and Implementation of No Net Loss* by Dr David Brand, New Forests

4. *Enhancing Biodiversity within Oil Palm Plantations* by Mr Simon Siburat, Wilmar International

5. *Forest Owners' Perspectives on the Role of Industrial Tree Plantations in No Net Loss* by Mr Glen MacNair, Forest Solutions

The highlight of the conference was sharing Sabah experiences on the challenges of the biodiversity conservation and protection amidst its very aggressive land-based economic development. Sabah is well known as the global player in palm oil plantation and timber exporting. The Conference also discussed on the no net loss approach especially its effectiveness in preventing biodiversity loss in a global perspective.



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17th Malaysian Forestry Conference

The 17th Malaysian Forestry Conference (MFC) was hosted by the Sabah Forestry Department from 11 to 12 November 2014 at the Magellan Sutera Harbour Resort, Sabah.

The two-day Conference themed "A Century of Forest Management: Lessons Learnt & the Way Forward" was attended by about 600 participants. This Conference provided a forum for Malaysian Foresters to exchange and share information, views and experiences in the administration, management and development of the nation's forest resources.

In his opening speech, the Chief Minister of Sabah, Datuk Seri Musa Aman, told participants that he is doing his best to ensure that the State Government works towards sustainable forest management in Sabah. He mentioned some 3.6million hectares of land had been designated as permanent forests with 2.2million hectares classified as Class II commercial forest reserves. He said even though these are commercial forest reserves, they are however being managed on a sustainable basis through the various practices developed by the Forestry Department at the Deramakot Forest Reserve. The decision of the State Government to widen the Deramakot Forest Reserve management model to the rest of the commercial forest reserves is a show of high political will.

Datuk Musa also welcomed the Sabah Forestry Department's collaborations with various national and international agencies to carry out conservation programs. This includes the cooperation with the International Society of Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME), which implements mangrove rehabilitation activities, the European Union in tackling climate change issues and the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).

There are six (6) plenary sessions namely (i) Forest Management: Technology, Innovation and Practices, (ii) Forest Governance: Policy, Legislation and Enforcement, (iii) Forest Biodiversity: Restoration, Conservation and Protection, (iv) Plantation Forestry: Sustainable Wood Production and Wood Based Industry, (v) Forest Ecosystem Services: Food, Water, Energy, Climate and Recreation and (vi) Social Forestry: Stakeholders, Participatory and Awareness; and a total of three (3) keynote addresses and thirty six (36) papers were presented during the Conference.

There were also field excursions to Klias Peat Swamp Field Centre, Rumbia Information Centre and Padas Damit Forest reserves at the end of the Conference