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# STA dan Rakan2

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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## Follow-up Meeting with the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities



*Photo: Group photo with all the representatives*

A Meeting between the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) was held on 17 October 2013 at Wisma STA, Kuching. This Meeting was a follow-up to the meeting between the Minister of MPIC, Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas and STA, which was held on 1 August 2013. A total of thirty one (31) representatives from MPIC, the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB), the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC), the Protem Secretariat Malaysia - European Union Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement (Malaysia -EU FLEGT VPA), the Chief Minister's Department Sarawak, the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment (MRPE), State forestry agencies and the STA Secretariat attended the Meeting.

The Meeting was jointly chaired by Dr Peter Kho, General Manager of STA and Mr M Nagarajan, Deputy Secretary General (Commodities) of MPIC. In his opening remarks, Dr Kho informed the Meeting that the Minister of MPIC had agreed, during

the last meeting, to look into several outstanding issues affecting the timber industry in Sarawak namely, the Malaysia-European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement (Malaysia-EU FLEGT VPA), the Malaysia Timber Legality Assurance System (MYTLAS), tax incentives for forest plantation development and the gazettment of certain provisions approved by the Federal Minister of Human Resource.

Mr Wong Ting Chung, Deputy General Manager (Strategic Planning), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) presented the Sarawak's Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS) to provide a better understanding of the framework, process and tools used by the forestry authorities to ensure timber legality in Sarawak. He mentioned that, the STLVS is enforced by four agencies dealing with forestry and timber industry under the MRPE. It was noted by both parties that STLVS is already well established and it could easily be translated into Sarawak  
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## First Consultation Draft National Forest Policy

The National Forest Policy (NFP) is a document that forms the basis of determining the direction of development and management of forest resources. In accordance with the Federal Constitution, forestry is a state matter and the State Governments have complete jurisdiction over their respective forest resources. The Federal Government provides technical advice on forest management and development, undertakes research and education, and promotes industrial development of wood-based industries and trade.

Following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the NFP was amended in 1993 to further enhance sustainable management of forest resources in Malaysia. The Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM) along with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) made effort to review the existing NFP so that it remains relevant. The review of the NFP was first held on 4 to 6 September 2012 in Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan. The review was successful in getting a variety of inputs to guide the creation of the new policy which is clearer and more comprehensive. Further to the review, a draft NFP 2013 has been produced by the Task Force in

charge of drafting the policy

The FDPM organised a Workshop on the First Consultation Draft NFP on 7 to 9 October 2013 at the Royale Bintang Hotel, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan. The objective of the Workshop was to obtain input and feedback from stakeholders of the First Draft NFP 2013 before the draft is being finalised. A total of ninety (90) participants comprised officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Forestry Department Headquarters Peninsular Malaysia, State Forestry Departments, Government Agencies, the timber industry and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) attended the workshop.

During the Workshop, participants were divided into four (4) groups to discuss in details the eleven (11) main Thrusts as well as all the Strategies and Action Plans contained in the Draft NFP. A total of 293 comments and proposals were received from participants in the 3-day Workshop. The task Force shall use the comments and proposals received from this Workshop to further enhance the Draft NFP

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Timber Legality Assurance System (Sarawak TLAS).

Pn Loke Sim Wah from the Protem Secretariat Malaysia-EU FLEGT VPA briefed all representatives at the meeting on the FLEGT VPA and TLAS, covering the objectives of the VPA, the market benefits of signing FLEGT VPA and the ability to address allegations of illegal logging, the background of FLEGT VPA negotiations and its progress as well as on the overview, structure and the agreed principles and the development of TLAS.

STA registered its concerns on the agreed principles and general understanding of the FLEGT VPA and on TLAS development which are in apparent

contradiction with the FLEGT Briefing Notes provided by EU.

On the MYTLAS document, STA felt that the title and the information in the booklet is misleading as it only covers Peninsular Malaysia and not the three regions (Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak and Sabah). STA requested the Ministry to stop promoting MYTLAS, remove the document from MTIB and MTC websites any promotion of the MYTLAS document on the websites with immediate effect.

The MPIC took note of the concerns raised by STA and suggested separate meetings to further deliberate on the issues raised by both parties especially the Malaysia-EU FLEGT VPA, MYTLAS, and other forestry matters.



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

The government of Indonesia will develop a licensing system based on the Timber Legality Certification Scheme (SVLK) for timber products to be exported to the EU under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade, Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT-VPA) signed by both parties. Under the agreement, which will be further ratified for enforcement, Indonesia hopes to curb illegal timber production by passing only certified timber products for exports. Indonesia exports around 10% of its timber products to Europe and will become the first Asian country that is a FLEGT-VPA partner of the EU under the deal.

Source: 1 October 2013, Jakarta Post

## Did you also know that....

The State Forestry Administration of China has released an industry outline for 2013-2020. The goal is to achieve CNY 10 trillion (USD 1.63 trillion) in output value by 2020. By 2020, the ratio of voluntary tree planting is to reach 70%, natural wetland protection rate at 60% and forest cover to reach at least 23%.

Source: Wood168, 24 Sep 2013



## Briefing on the results of a Re-assessment of the conservation status of three genera of Dipterocarpaceae (*Dipterocarpus*, *Dryobalanops* and *Shorea*) in Sarawak

The Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) jointly organised a series of briefings on the results of a Re-assessment of the conservation status of three genera of Dipterocarpaceae (*Dipterocarpus*, *Dryobalanops* and *Shorea*) in Sarawak on 22 October 2013 and 24 October 2013 in Wisma STA, Kuching and Tanahmas Hotel, Sibul respectively. The re-assessment was done on three genera i.e. *Dipterocarpus*, *Dryobalanops* and *Shorea* based on the International Union of Conservation for Nature (IUCN) categories and criteria. The research project which commenced in 2008 was funded by STA.

The briefings also gathered inputs and comments on the results of the research project. A total of fifty six (56) participants from STA Member companies, SFC, STA and students from the Post Graduate Diploma in Applied Science (PGDip) of Lincoln University attended these briefings.

In the opening remarks by Ms Lucy Chong, the Deputy General Manager of AFSID welcomed and thanked all the participants for their time in attending the briefings. She also thanked STA and STA members for

providing the funds as well as for their support during the re-assessment trips for the research project.

Four (4) papers were presented during the briefings:

1. "Introduction to IUCN & IUCN Red List" presented by Ms Julia Sang, SFC
2. "Introduction to STA IUCN Project on Re-assessment of the Conservation Status of Three Genera of Dipterocarpaceae (*Dipterocarpus*, *Dryobalanops* and *Shorea*) in Sarawak" presented by Ms Vilma Bodos, SFC
3. "Sarawak Red List: The Conservation Status of *Dipterocarpus*, *Dryobalanops* and *Shorea* in Sarawak" presented Ms Julia Sang, SFC
4. "Threatened Species of Dipterocarpaceae in the Timber Concession Areas" presented by Ms Vilma Bodos, SFC

Ms Lucy Chong chaired the general discussion session which was held after the presentations.

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## Meeting on the Forest Watch Project with NGOs in Sarawak

A meeting on the Forest Watch Project with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) was conducted by Transparency International – Malaysia (TIM) on 9 October 2013 at the Grand Continental Hotel, Kuching. Approximately sixteen (16) participants attended the meeting.

The Meeting was briefed on the Forest Governance Integrity (FGI) programme and was introduced to the Forest Watch Mobile Application (a Forest Watch Project launched by

FGI programme). The goal of FGI programme is to work towards a society with corruption-free forest governance and sustainable management to enable the increase in the economic development, reduction in poverty and protection of the environment.

Forest Watch Mobile Application enables the public to monitor illegal logging activities by submitting a report, which includes snapshots or images from

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## **National Committee on the Use of Timber in Construction Meeting No 2/2013**

The second meeting for 2013 for the National Committee on the Use of Timber in Construction (NCUTC) was chaired by the Deputy Director General of Research and Development, Dr Mohamed Nor bin Mohd Yusoff on 28 October 2013 in Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM)'s campus in Kepong, Malaysia. It was attended by sixteen (16) representatives from Government Agencies and Associations that are directly involved in the use of timber in construction.

The meeting deliberated on ways to raise awareness and the use of timber in construction through a smaller seminar, tentatively scheduled to be held in March 2014 as well as to the Public Works Department, local Institutions of Higher Learning and relevant Associations. Members also discussed the need for fire performance data for main timber species used in construction; providing inputs to the Uniform Building Bye-laws; full-size testing facilities; a proposal on regulating the minimum usage of timber as a material for construction and a certified timber treaters scheme. The Committee acknowledged that the relatively higher costs of timber structures may be the reason for contractors to use other building materials instead.

The Committee also discussed matters related to Research and Development, such as, the licensing aspects of the Stress Grading Machine prototype and the incising technology developed by FRIM and concurred to have a retreat to discuss these matters in detail.

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Google Earth through the usage of Android mobile phones. However, they are required to register with TIM as a forest monitor volunteer. There will be a monitoring and advisory team of experts who will review and respond to the reports.