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# STA dan Rakan2

## Regional Conference on Planted Forests in 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) Datuk Mohd Naroden Majais delivering his opening speech and (Below) Field trip to Samling Reforestation (Bintulu) Sdn Bhd



Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), in collaboration with Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Sarawak Planted Forests Sdn Bhd and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) organised the Regional Conference on Planted Forests in Sarawak, themed 'Sustaining the Future of Planted Forests Industry in Sarawak' from 13 to 15 October 2014 at Parkcity Everyly Hotel, Bintulu. The three-day programme was attended by 250 participants from various States and Federal Government Agencies, institutions of higher learning, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), License of Planted Forests (LPFs) holders and other private sectors.

The objectives of the Conference were to:

1. update and share experiences and information on planted forests by the industry in the region;
2. disseminate information on Research and Development in Planted Forests;
3. highlight the economic, utilisation and potential market of timber/wood produced from planted forests; and
4. chart the way forward for the development of planted forests in Sarawak

In the opening speech of the Chief Minister of Sarawak read by the

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Assistant Minister of Resource Planning, Datuk Mohd Naroden Majais said that the forest plantation can be a way to reduce the timber industry's dependency on natural forests. He hoped that the State would be able to produce 15 million cubic metres per year with the planting of fast growing species.

He urged all licencees of planted forests in the State to step up their planting rate and propose action plans to address all issues and challenges faced in its implementation. As the timber from planted forests are to complement the timber produced from natural forests, those who had been issues with licences for planted forest have no choice but to plant their respective areas as described in their tree planting plans. He acknowledged that the development of planted forests is not an easy task as there are many challenges and issues faced in its implementation; however efforts should be doubled to resolve issues and to ensure the areas licensed to them are developed.

He also wanted to see the licencees and the relevant agencies such as FDS, SFC and Land & Survey Department working together to resolve issues especially those relating to land matters.

In terms of research and development support to improve the quality of the planting material, he said the Government would help the tree plantation development through SFC. The Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment has commissioned SFC to address the reported shortage of high-quality planting materials. SFC is assigned to fast-track the development of R&D capacities in not only SFC but also amongst the LPF holders in the State. He thus hoped the industry would respond positively to this Government's initiative.

Also present in the ceremony were Datu Len Talif Salleh, Assistant Minister of Environment, Datu Sudarsono Osman, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment and Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad, Director of Forests, Sarawak.

There were three (3) plenary sessions i.e. (1) Forest Plantation Development and Management; (2) Research and Development in Forest Plantation; and (3) Economic, Certification and Manpower Issues in which a total of fourteen (14) working papers were presented by both local and overseas speakers.

Two field trips i.e Sarawak Planted Forest Sdn Bhd (LPF/0043) and Samling Reforestation (Bintulu) Sdn Bhd (LPF/0014) were also organised for the participants after the conference.

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## Technical Working Committee on Forest Plantation Development

The Technical Committee on Forest Plantation Development met on 30 October 2014 at the Boardroom of the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB), chaired by Dr Jalaluddin Harun, the Director-General of MTIB.

After deliberating on the financial analysis to determine the minimum area for bamboo plantation, the Committee unanimously agreed to recommend bamboo to be a species to qualify for the soft loan, which is administered by Forest Plantation Development Sdn Bhd. The Committee, after extensive discussion, also agreed to recommend a combined system of Enrichment

and Mosaic Planting proposed by a soft loan recipient be accepted.

Members of the Committee from the three forestry regions presented information on their respective region's experience on planting eucalypts (*deglupta*, *grandis*, *grandis* and *urophylla* hybrid and *pellita*). The Committee was informed that there are growing interests within the plantation industry, especially in Sabah and Sarawak, to plant *Eucalyptus pellita*. It was

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

New Zealand is now the world's largest supplier of softwood logs with exports increasing fourfold to almost two billion dollars in five years. More than 20 percent of the world's softwood log trade originates from New Zealand. A majority of the log volumes were destined for China, but South Korea, India and Japan were also sourcing logs from New Zealand. Russia and the US ranked second and third as global log suppliers, each shipping about 15 percent of the softwood logs traded in the world last year.

Source: Wood Resources International October 2014



## Did you also know that....

Governments, multinational companies and campaigners are pledging to halt the loss of the world's natural forests by 2030. A declaration announced as part of a UN summit on climate change being held in New York also pledges to halve the rate of deforestation by the end of this decade and to restore hundreds of millions of acres of degraded land.

Source: People and Forests E-News October 2014



## The Fourth Meeting of Standard Review Committee



Photo (above) Group photo of SRC members and (right) Field trip



The Review of Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (Forest Plantations) [MC&I(Forest Plantations)] which started in January 2013 has come to an end after the Fourth Meeting of the Standard Review Committee (SRC) which was held from 29 to 31 October 2014 in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan.

The SRC considered the comments and proposals received from the 60-day third public comment on Enquiry Draft 3, conducted from 25 July to 22

September 2014. After three days of meeting, the SRC finalised the revised standard for certification of forest plantation and concluded the revision process. A field trip to the Orang Asli village at Ayer Lerek Kuala Pilah, Compartment 133 and 124 of Permanent Forest Reserve Pasoh and compartment 4 of Permanent Forest Reserve Setul, Mantin was also arranged for the SRC members on the second day of the meeting.

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then agreed that a Working Committee, comprising a representative each from Forest Research Institute of Malaysia, Forest Department Sarawak, Sabah Forest Department/Kumpulan Yayasan Sabah and Sarawak Timber Association, be formed to come out with a project paper on *Eucalyptus pellita* for the Technical Working Committee to consider in the next meeting.

Information on the extent of the disease *Ceratocystis* in *Acacia mangium* plantations were presented by members of the Committee from the three forestry regions. On further discussion, members were informed that plantation developers in both Sabah and Sarawak are already seeking assistance from an expert from South Africa on this matter.



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## STA TeaTalk



*Photo (left) Speaker, Mr Jay Blakeney and (Right) Participants of the Talk*

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) organised a Tea Talk entitled "Industrial Forest Plantation – Supplying Forest Products and Reducing Pressure on Remaining Natural Forests" on 18 October 2014 at Wisma STA, Kuching. Mr Jay Blakeney, the speaker for the Tea Talk, is a retired International Forestry Consultant, with working experience in more than 31 countries in Asia-Pacific, North America, South America, Africa and Europe.

While the demand for timber is increasing due to urbanisation and population growth, the supply for natural timber is decreasing. The speaker presented facts and figures on plantation, which will ease the

pressure on the demand for timber from natural forests. The topic attracted a total of 121 participants from different backgrounds and experiences such as foresters, businessmen, nature lovers, media, architects and students from a few local institutions.

The 50-minute presentation was followed by a Questions and Answers session. The Talk ended with light refreshments for the participants of the Talk.