

STA Review

Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association
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NOV
2019



4

5TH ECA
Training Course



13

MEETING WITH
HRDF
Regional Manager



18

MARKING 100
YEARS OF
Forest Guardianship

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SST Implementation Technical Committee Meeting No 3/2019

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) convened the SST Implementation Technical Committee Meeting No 3/2019 at its headquarters in Putrajaya on 29 November 2019. The Meeting was chaired by Dato' Seri Paddy Abdul Halim, Director-General of Customs Malaysia, and attended by Dato' Ahmad Maher Bin Abdul Jalil, Deputy Director General of Customs (Customs/SST); Dato' Radziah Binti Abdul Razak, Assistant Director of Customs (SST); and representatives from various trade associations and professional bodies.

In his Opening Remarks, Dato' Seri Paddy announced that the SST Implementation Committee shall be elevated to become the Customs / Private Sector (Sales and Services Tax) Liaison Panel. The Liaison Panel shall be meeting four (4) times annually and the meeting shall be chaired by either the Director-General of Customs or in his absence, the Deputy Director General of Customs (Customs/SST).

He also remarked that generally there is increased awareness on taxes. Businesses are moving at a very fast pace. Although RMCD tries to move at the same pace, certain matters such as policy changes or amendments to the SST legislations may require some time to put through as these matters will require approvals from the Ministry of Finance.

Matters pertaining to sales tax, service tax as well as goods and services tax (GST) submitted by trade associations and professional bodies were presented for discussion during the Meeting. Matters discussed include the recommendation to introduce voluntary disclosure of non-compliance to SST, technical issues on the implementation of digital service tax on 1 January 2020 as well as outstanding GST refunds.

Dato' Radziah informed the Meeting that RMCD shall endeavour to pay GST refund which amounts to RM100,000.00 and below by 31 December 2019. The Guide on Digital Services shall also be amended to provide more clarity.

Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia (RMCD) mengadakan Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Teknikal Pelaksanaan SST Bil. 3/2019 di ibu pejabatnya di Putrajaya pada 29 November 2019. Mesyuarat dipengerusikan oleh Dato' Seri Paddy Abdul Halim, Ketua Pengarah Kastam Malaysia.

Dalam Ucapan Pembukaannya, Dato' Seri Paddy mengumumkan Jawatankuasa Pelaksanaan SST akan dinaikkan menjadi Panel Perunding Kastam / Swasta (Cukai Jualan dan Perkhidmatan).

Perkara berkenaan cukai jualan, cukai perkhidmatan serta cukai barangan dan perkhidmatan (GST) yang dikemukakan oleh persatuan perdagangan dan badan profesional telah dibentangkan sewaktu Mesyuarat itu.

马来西亚皇家关税局 (RMCD) 于2019年11月29日假伯特拉再也总部召开今年第三次消费及服务税 (SST) 实施技术委员会。会议由关税局总监拿督斯里帕迪阿都哈林主持。

拿督斯里帕迪在开幕词中宣布, SST 实施技术委员会将被提升为关税/私界部门 (销售和服务税) 联系小组。

会议也商讨各贸易公会和专业机构所提交有关销售税、服务税和物品服务税 (GST) 的事项。

STA Tea Talk

"Orangutan – People of the Forest" was the topic for the STA Tea Talk which was held on 23 November 2019 at Wisma STA, Kuching. An informal forum organised by the Sarawak Timber Association (STA) for the purpose of dissemination of information, the Talk is held annually and open to the public. The invited speaker was Ms Nor Emel Farnida Binti Jaddil, Park Manager of Semenggoh Wildlife Centre.

Endemic in the islands of Borneo and Sumatra, orangutan is one of the most admired primates in the Asian region. The word 'orangutan' is derived from Malay words 'orang' meaning 'people' and 'hutan' meaning 'forest'. Therefore, orangutan literally means "people of the forest".

The Talk looked at interesting facts about orangutan and its physical characteristics, reproduction and development as well as its behaviour. The speaker also shared conservation efforts of the orangutan in Sarawak.

The Talk attracted approximately sixty (60) participants from different backgrounds such as researchers and officers from various institutions. Also present to welcome the participants was Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA.

专题为“人猿 – 森林之人”的教育讲座会于2019年11月23日假古晋 STA 大厦举行。受邀演讲者是实蒙古野生动物护育中心公园经理奴依美尔女士。讲座会解说有关人猿及其身体特征有趣事实。



Ms Nor Emel (left) receiving a token of appreciation from Ms Annie Ting

"Orangutan – People of the Forest" adalah topik STA Tea Talk yang diadakan pada 23 November 2019 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Penceramah jemputan ialah Cik Nor Emel Farnida Binti Jaddil, Pengurus Taman Pusat Hidupan Liar Semenggoh. Ceramah membentangkan fakta menarik tentang orangutan dan ciri fizikalnya.

5th Environmental Compliance Audit Training Course

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) in collaboration with the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) Sarawak had successfully conducted another Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) Training Course solely for STA members from 21 to 25 October 2019 and 11 to 13 November 2019 at Wisma STA, Kuching.

The Training was part of the initiative taken by the Association to enhance the capacity building within its member companies on environmental management, preparation towards implementation of the *Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008* [NRE(Audit) Rules, 2008] and to support implementation of the pilot projects for ECA. The 5th ECA Training Course was enrolled by twenty-two (22) staff from STA member companies. Upon completion of the Training and passing all pre-requisite examinations, the participants will be qualified as internal environmental auditor for their respective companies under the NRE(Audit) Rules, 2008.



ECA Training in progress



Group photo with Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak (seated, centre)

Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) dengan kerjasama Lembaga Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar (NREB) Sarawak berjaya melaksanakan Kursus Latihan Audit Pematuhan Alam Sekitar (ECA) khusus untuk ahli-ahli STA dari 21 hingga 25 Oktober 2019 dan 11 hingga 13 November 2019 di Wisma STA, Kuching.

Kursus Latihan ECA yang ke-5 ini disertai oleh 22 kakitangan daripada syarikat-syarikat ahli STA. Pada hari pertama Kursus, Encik Peter Sawal, Penasihat Alam Sekitar kepada Kementerian Pembangunan Bandar dan Sumber Asli telah menyampaikan undang-undang dan peraturan-peraturan berkaitan dengan ECA.

Latihan audit lapangan telah diadakan pada 23 Oktober 2019 di sebuah ladang kelapa sawit yang terletak di Kota Samarahan.

本会与天然资源与环境局（NREB）分别于2019年10月21日至25日以及2019年11月11日至13日假古晋 STA大厦成功联合举办针对STA会员的环境合规审核（ECA）培训课程。

总共有22名 STA 会员公司员工参与本届 ECA 培训课程。在培训的第一天，城市发展和天然资源部环境顾问彼得沙瓦先生讲解与 ECA 相关的法律和法规。

一项实地审计也于2019年10月23日假哥打三马拉汉一个油棕种植园进行。

Mr Justine Jok Jau Emang, Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak, in his Welcoming Remarks, thanked STA for supporting and collaborating with NREB in conducting this Training. He mentioned that it is important to protect the existing environment for future generation. Failure to address environmental issues will result in climate change, air pollution, rise in world temperature, etc. Mr Justine also urged STA members to go for self-regulation in environment protection and to promote green label in their products or commodities.

During the first day of Training, Mr Peter Sawal, Environmental Advisor to the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources, presented about laws and regulations related to the ECA, namely (i) NRE(Audit) Rules, 2008 and other legal requirements; (ii) guidelines for NRE(Audit) Rules, 2008; and (iii) format of reporting for environmental quality monitoring.

The key principles of auditing which includes systemic audit process, audit scope, systematic approach during site audit and writing of audit report were conducted by trainer, Ir Dr Chong Hock Guan. The trainer emphasised that ECA is conducted based on the approved terms and conditions stated in the Environmental Impact Assessment report through methods such as interview, document review and site inspection. Participants were told to be professional, uphold integrity and audit based on evidence.

A practical on site audit was held on 23 October 2019 at one of the oil palm plantations in Kota Samarahan. The purpose was to provide participants with first hand audit experience. Participants were divided into four (4) groups to carry out audit practical and were required to submit individual audit report within one (1) week from date of audit. During the last day of Training, participants were assessed through open and closed book examinations.

A total of 111 staff from STA member companies have participated in and benefitted from this ECA Training Course since it started in 2015 of which STA has been subsidising half the expenses of conducting the Training Course for all participants.

15th Occupational Safety and Health Campaign for Timber Industry

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) Sarawak and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) had jointly organised the 15th Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Campaign for Timber Industry from 5 to 6 November 2019 at Lubok Lalang Base Camp located in Limbang, Sarawak. A total of thirty-eight (38) workers comprising general manager, camp manager, shovel drivers, foremen, mechanics, etc, of Lee Ling Timber Sdn Bhd attended the two-day Campaign.

As of November 2019, fifteen (15) similar campaigns had been conducted throughout Sarawak covering logging camps, mills and management of companies. The aim of this OSH Campaign was to create awareness in the timber industry on the importance of occupational safety and health at workplace as well as to carry out ground inspection to assess safety compliance in timber industry.

In his Opening Remarks, Tuan Haji Hamzah Bin Haji Morshidi, Assistant General Manager (Resource Planning) of STIDC, thanked DOSH and STA for their continuous support granted to STIDC in conducting this Campaign. He also thanked Lee Ling Timber Sdn Bhd and all participants for their willingness to participate in this Campaign. Tuan Haji Hamzah urged all employers and employees to comply with the occupational safety and health at workplace in order to prevent occurrence of accident related to work which will affect operation and productivity of the company.

During the two-day Campaign, Mr Mohammad Zaim Bin Kassim, Head of DOSH Miri Branch, presented five (5) papers which are detailed as follows:

- **Introduction to Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), 1994**
Outlined the background and principles of OSHA 1994, responsibilities of employer to provide safety and health at the workplace as well as compliance of safety and health requirements, responsibilities of employee, OSH management.
- **Notification of Accident, Dangerous Occurrence, Occupational Poisoning and Occupational Disease Regulations, 2004**
Requirement under the laws for employer to report immediately to the nearest inspector / DOSH Office using proper mechanism on the occurrence of any accident involving death, serious damage to property or machinery, occupational poisoning and occupational disease.
- **Occupational Safety and Health Committee**
The requirement to establish Occupational Safety and Health Committee under the Occupational Safety and Health (Safety and Health Committee) Regulations 1996 and its functions and responsibilities.
- **Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Risk Control (HIRARC)**
The use of simple HIRARC technique and process to identify various hazards at the workplace such as health



Briefing in progress

hazards, safety hazards and environmental hazards; conduct risk assessment as well as risk control to eliminate or inactivate the hazards at workplace.

- **Occupational Safety and Health (Use and Standard of Exposure Chemical Hazardous to Health) Regulations, 2000**

Provide a legal framework for the employer to control chemicals hazardous to health with respect to their usage and to set workplace exposure standards; identification and risk assessment of chemical hazardous to health, and action to control exposure.

On the second day of the Campaign, a ground inspection was conducted by Mr Ahmad Faiz Bin Zainuddin, Inspection Officer of DOSH Miri, to evaluate the compliance of OSH requirements by Lee Ling Timber Sdn Bhd.

Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC), Jabatan Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan (DOSH) Sarawak dan Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) telah bersama-sama menganjurkan Kempen Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan (OSH) ke-15 untuk Industri Perakayuan dari 5 hingga 6 November 2019 di Kem Lubok Lalang yang terletak di Limbang, Sarawak.

Kempen OSH ini diadakan bertujuan untuk memberi kesedaran kepada industri perakayuan mengenai kepentingan keselamatan dan kesihatan pekerja di tempat kerja serta menjalankan pemeriksaan kawasan untuk menilai pematuhan keselamatan dalam industri perakayuan.

Semasa Kempen 2 hari tersebut, Encik Mohammad Zaim Bin Kassim, Ketua Cawangan DOSH Miri menyampaikan 5 kertas kerja seperti yang disenaraikan dalam artikel ini.

砂拉越木材工业发展机构 (STIDC) 连同砂拉越职场安全与卫生局 (DOSH) 及本会于2019年11月5至6日假林梦鲁伯朗营地举办第15届砂拉越木材工业职场安全及卫生 (OSH) 活动。

该活动旨于向木材工业提升工作场所职场安全与卫生重要性的醒觉和进行地面视察以评估木材工业的安全合规性。

DOSH美里分行负责人穆罕默德扎伊姆先生在为期两天活动上呈现如英文版中所列出的5份论文。

Malaysian Wood Expo 2019

The Malaysian Wood Expo 2019 (MWE 2019), a show jointly organised by the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) and Panels & Furniture Group of Wood Magazines, was held from 19 to 21 November 2019 at the Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur.

MWE 2019 served as an avenue for top exhibitors from renowned international wood-based manufacturers and exporters as well as woodworking suppliers and buyers in Southeast Asia to congregate and to seek advanced solutions and opportunities that empowered their businesses. The Expo attracted participation from more than 120 exhibitors from twenty-two (22) countries.



Puan Teresa Kok delivering her Opening Speech



One of the Pocket Talks in progress

In his Welcoming Remarks, Dato' Low Kian Chuan, Chairman of MTC, said that the Expo showcases not only wood and wood products but also advanced machinery and woodworking solutions.

He added that with challenges such as shortage in the supply of raw materials, increasing labour and manufacturing costs as well as tough competition, the timber industry will need to come up with new initiatives to produce and market new value-added and sustainable timber products, develop new markets, and embrace new technologies and materials to remain competitive.

The Opening Ceremony of MWE 2019 was graced by Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries Malaysia, on 19 November 2019. In her Opening Speech, she commended MTC on its efforts in repositioning and rebranding the inaugural edition of the MWE this year, bringing together timber and wood manufacturers, traders, suppliers, machinery companies and consumers in the wood industry from around the world to exchange ideas, conclude deals and build networks globally.

She added that the Malaysian furniture industry has undergone transformational changes over the years and has contributed significantly to the Malaysian economy. In 2018, the total export value for furniture products reached RM9.83 billion, out of which wooden furniture contributed RM7.79 billion.

The Minister also spoke about the National Policy on Industry 4.0 or better known as Industry4WRD, where local manufacturers are encouraged to produce high value-added products through better designs, functionality and green-based inventions. Given the advances in technology, more adoption of smart manufacturing, automation, digitalisation and artificial intelligence are anticipated to be infused into the production lines.

During the Expo, there was a series of Pocket Talks covering topics such as hardwood timber grading, China's timber market demand and supply, application of Malaysian timber, air pollution control systems, utilisation of wood in future, and e-commerce initiatives, amongst others.

Two (2) business matching sessions were also organised by MTC to facilitate the sourcing of overseas timber raw materials. These 2 sessions, namely the Overseas Suppliers-Malaysian Importers/Manufacturers Exchange Programme and the Incoming Buying Mission, were attended by a few STA members.

Ekspo Kayu Malaysia 2019 (MWE 2019) yang dianjurkan secara bersama oleh Majlis Kayu Malaysia (MTC) dan Kumpulan Majalah-majalah Perabot & Panel Kayu telah diadakan dari 19 hingga 21 November 2019 di Pusat Dagangan Dunia Putra, Kuala Lumpur.

Majlis Pembukaan MWE 2019 telah dirasmikan oleh Puan Teresa Kok, Menteri Industri Utama Malaysia. Dalam Ucapan Pembukaannya, beliau memuji MTC di atas penyusunan dan penjenamaan semula edisi sulung MWE tahun ini.

Ekspo telah menampilkan Bicara Poket bersiri. 2 sesi pepadanan perniagaan turut dianjurkan oleh MTC untuk membantu mendapatkan bahan mentah kayu dari luar negara.

由马来西亚木材理事会（MTC）和《亚洲板材与家具》系列木工杂志于2019年11月19日至21日假吉隆坡太子世界贸易中心联合举办2019年马来西亚木工展览会（MWE 2019）。

马来西亚原产业部部长郭素沁女士在 MWE 2019 开幕式上赞扬MTC为今年MWE重新定位和重塑创始的努力。

展览会进行一系列的讲座。MTC 也举办2场业务配对会议，以促进海外木材原料采购。

Standards Development Workshop on Revision of MS 1714:2003 – Specification for Visual Strength Grading of Tropical Hardwood Timber

A Standards Development Workshop to revise the Malaysian Standard (MS) 1714:2003 – Specification for Visual Strength Grading of Tropical Hardwood Timber was organised from 11 to 12 November 2019 at Hotel Mövenpick KLIA, Kuala Lumpur.

As the Chairman of the Technical Committee on Timber (TC/V/1–Timber), Associate Professor Dr Eric H'ng Paik San of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) chaired the Workshop, which was co-facilitated by the Department of Standards Malaysia and Malaysian Timber Industry Board.



Participants going through the specification of MS 1714:2003

The main objective of the Workshop was to revise MS 1714:2003, agreed upon during the Working Group (WG) on Visual Strength Grading of Tropical Hardwood Meeting on 16 August 2017. However, due to administrative changes, the review process of this Standard has been delayed.

At the two-day Workshop, participants went through the specification of MS 1714:2003 including referenced documents, definitions, strength of graded timber, measurement of characteristics, requirements for various grades, marking of visually strength graded timber, related tables, figures, diagrams, etc. The specification will be changed and updated according to the latest ISO and MS 544 (Code of practice for structural use of timber).

Meanwhile, the Workshop renamed the title of the Standard to “MS1714 Specification for Visual Strength Grade of Malaysian Hardwood Timber”. This Standard is applicable to timber from natural forests and planted forests. The Workshop also assigned the WG headed by Dr Mohd Ariff Jamaludin of UPM to re-look into the whole specification by incorporating comments from the Workshop especially regarding classification of timber as “Hardwood Structural Grade”, definitions, control and supervision of strength grading operations, as well as names of timber and abbreviation codes.

Bengkel Pembangunan Piawaian untuk mengkaji semula Piawaian Malaysia (MS) 1714:2003 - Spesifikasi untuk Penilaian Kekuatan Visual Kayu Tropika telah dianjurkan dari 11 hingga 12 November 2019 di Hotel Mövenpick KLIA, Kuala Lumpur.

Selaku Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Teknikal Kayu (TC/V/1–Kayu), Profesor Madya Dr Eric H'ng Paik San daripada Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) telah mempengerusikan Bengkel tersebut yang dibantu oleh Jabatan Piawaian Malaysia dan Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia.

Dalam Bengkel selama 2 hari tersebut, para peserta telah melalui spesifikasi MS 1714:2003. Piawaian ini boleh digunapakai untuk kayu dari hutan semula jadi dan hutan ladang.

标准制定工作坊于2019年11月11日至12日假吉隆坡国际机场瑞享酒店进行，以修订马来西亚标准（MS）1714：2003 - 热带硬锯木视觉强度评级规范。

此次连同马来西亚标准局和马来西亚木材工业局举办的工作坊，由马来西亚木材技术委员会（TC / V / 1 – Timber）主席兼马来西亚博特拉大学（UPM）副教授方毕山博士主持。

参与者在为期两天的工作坊研讨适用于天然林和人工造林木材的 MS 1714：2003 标准规范。

MTA Visit to Nanning, China

The Malaysian Timber Association (MTA) organised a visit to Nanning, Guangxi, China, from 24 to 25 November 2019 for its Executive Committee Members. The visit aimed to look at the *Eucalyptus* plantations and to learn the optimum and efficient utilisation of *Eucalyptus* timber in Guangxi. The delegation of twelve (12) members was led by Mr Goh Chee Yew, President of MTA.



Visiting the *Eucalyptus* plot inside
the Guangxi Qipo State-Owned Forest Farm

The delegation was received by the Guangxi Forestry Industry Trade Association (GFITA) and a meeting was conducted after that. During the meeting, Mr Li Ke Fu, President of GFITA, gave a briefing on the *Eucalyptus* plantations in Guangxi. He shared that as at 2018, Guangxi has about 2.4 million hectares of *Eucalyptus* plantations with accumulated timber volume of about 110 million cubic metre. In 2018, *Eucalyptus* log production volume in Guangxi reached 24 million cubic metre, accounting for 27.2% of the country's commercial timber production. Since year 2001, the vigorous development of *Eucalyptus* plantations has brought several changes and benefits to Guangxi such as increased forest coverage and accumulated timber volume, promoted the rapid development of forest products industry, increased the forest farmers' income, as well as achieved significant economic, social and ecological benefits.

He added that the strong vitality and significant benefits of Guangxi *Eucalyptus* industry have attracted huge local and foreign investment and financing in that sector. The *Eucalyptus* plantations in Guangxi have also greatly contributed to the country's socio-economic development and ecological environment security especially in carbon fixation and oxygen release, air purifying and climate regulation. He said that the ecosystem service value of Guangxi's *Eucalyptus* plantations is able to reach RMB124.7 billion per year.

Mr Li also highlighted several issues that need to be addressed in planting *Eucalyptus*, such as the combination of short and long planting cycles to produce timber with different quality and for different end uses, as well as the establishment of scientific planting and operating models for biodiversity conservation and protection. He added that studies are in progress to produce *Eucalyptus* hybrid clones that are more resistant or tolerant to diseases.

During the two-day visit, the delegation, accompanied by representatives from GFITA, visited the China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) Forest and Wood Products Exhibition 2019, Guangxi Gaofeng Forest Park, Guangxi Forest Research Institute, Guangxi Qipo State-Owned Forest Farm, as well as a few timber processing enterprises and a biomass power generation plant in the Guangxi Shanxu Industrial Park.

Along the trip, the delegation was exposed to the advanced research and development programme on *Eucalyptus* plantation, forest ecotourism development and the comprehensive industrial chain of forest products in Guangxi. The Chinese Government's great effort in developing the forest plantations and forest products industries is to be applauded.

Persatuan Kayu Kayan Malaysia (MTA) menganjurkan lawatan ke Nanning dan Guangxi, China, dari 24 hingga 25 November 2019 untuk Ahli Jawatankuasa Eksekutifnya. Lawatan bertujuan untuk melihat tanaman *Eucalyptus* dan belajar mengenai penggunaan optimum kayu *Eucalyptus* di Guangxi. Rombongan seramai 12 ahli itu diketuai oleh Encik Goh Chee Yew, Presiden MTA.

Rombongan telah disambut oleh Persatuan Perdagangan Industri Perhutanan Guangxi (GFITA) dan satu mesyuarat telah diadakan selepas itu. Dalam mesyuarat itu, Encik Li Ke Fu, Presiden GFITA memberi taklimat mengenai perladangan *Eucalyptus* di Guangxi. Encik Li turut menekankan beberapa isu-isu berkaitan penanaman yang harus ditangani.

Sepanjang lawatan, rombongan didedahkan dengan program penyelidikan dan pembangunan lanjutan mengenai perladangan *Eucalyptus*, pembangunan eko-pelancongan hutan dan rangkaian industri hasil hutan di Guangxi yang menyeluruh.

马来西亚木材公会（MTA）为其执行委员会成员于2019年11月24日至25日举办了一项前往中国广西南宁的访问。该项访问是为了考察桉树种植以及学习在广西桉树木材的最佳和有效利用。12位成员的代表团由 MTA 主席吴志耀先生带领。

广西林业产业行业协会（GFITA）接待了该代表团,并在之后进行了会议。GFITA 主席李可夫先生在会议中简要介绍了广西的桉树种植。

李先生也强调了种植中需要解决的几项问题。在旅程中，代表团接触了在广西的桉树种植的高级研究和开发计划，森林生态旅游发展与林产品综合产业链。

Engagement Session with Industries on the Review of Non-Tariff Measures

The Malaysia Productivity Blueprint was launched in 2017 as a national strategy to drive productivity growth until the year 2020. A National Productivity Council (NPC) was set up and few meetings were conducted to carry out preliminary works such as data collection and analysis. Subsequently, one of the immediate actions was identified, i.e. to review non-tariff measures (NTMs) and its procedural requirements that impede business growth, including accelerating the improvement of Malaysia's trade facilitation performance.

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), NTMs are defined as policy measures, other than ordinary customs tariffs that can potentially have an economic effect on international trade in goods, changing quantities traded, or prices or both.



Dato' Lokman Hakim Ali delivering his Opening Remarks

An Engagement Session with industries on the review of NTMs was held on 19 November 2019 at One World Hotel, Petaling Jaya. Organised by a Working Group involving representatives from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and its agencies together with representatives from the Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC), SIRIM Berhad, Department of Standards Malaysia and several appointed facilitators, the aim of the Session was to capture comments and inputs from businesses regarding NTMs implemented by MITI. About 150 business stakeholders across all industries including trade and manufacturing associations attended the event.

Dato' Lokman Hakim Ali, Secretary General of MITI, in his Opening Remarks, informed participants that the Session served as a good platform for the Government to listen to the industries and to further improve public services. He noted that many industries are not leveraging on the free trade agreements that Malaysia had signed. In addition, most industries are still labour intensive despite guidance on automation provided by the Government.

During the Session, a video presentation on the current work progress of reviewing NTMs was shown. Some legislations which the Working Group is looking into include (i) *Strategic Trade Act 2010 [Act 708]*; (ii) *Chemicals Weapons Convention Act 2005 [Act 641]*; (iii) *Countervailing and Anti-Dumping Duties Act 1993 [Act 504]*; and (iv) *Safeguards Act 2006 [Act 657]*.

A public consultation on the review of NTMs has also been made available on the MPC website for a period of thirty (30) days starting from 19 November 2019. The final report containing recommendations for improvements on NTMs will be reviewed by MITI and then submitted to the NPC for further action.

Satu Sesi Penglibatan bersama industri mengenai kajian semula langkah-langkah bukan tariff (NTMs) telah diadakan pada 19 November 2019 di Hotel One World, Petaling Jaya.

Dianjurkan oleh satu Kumpulan Kerja termasuk wakil-wakil daripada Kementerian Perdagangan dan Perusahaan (MITI) dan agensinya bersama dengan wakil-wakil daripada Perbadanan Produktiviti Malaysia (MPC), SIRIM Berhad, Jabatan Standard Malaysia serta beberapa fasilitator yang dilantik. Tujuan Sesi adalah untuk mendapatkan komen dan input daripada pihak perniagaan mengenai NTMs yang dilaksanakan oleh MITI. Semasa Sesi itu, satu video tentang perkembangan kerja semasa kajian semula NTMs telah disiarkan.

一项与工业互动审核非关税措施（NTMs）环节于2019年11月19日假八打灵再也世界酒店举行。

该环节是由国际贸易及工业部及其相关机构、大马生产力机构（MPC）、大马规格与工业研究机构（SIRIM），大马规格局以及众多受委任协调机构一同组成的工作团队所举办。其目的是要获取商业机构对于 MITI 所推行的 NTMs 的反馈与意见。在环节中也展示了目前审查 NTMs 进展的一项演示视频。

Forum on Forest Plantation, Processing, and Sabah's Economic Future

Timber Association of Sabah (TAS), in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry Sabah, Sabah Forestry Department, Borneo Forestry Cooperative and Sapulut Forest Development Sdn Bhd, organised a Forum on Forest Plantation, Processing, and Sabah's Economic Future on 11 November 2019 at The Palace Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. The Forum was attended by ninety-seven (97) participants from various government agencies, non-governmental organisations, associations, professional bodies, financial institutions, as well as industry players and contributors.

In his Welcoming Speech, Mr Norman Wong, President of TAS, said that the purpose of the Forum was to increase awareness on the contribution of forest plantation timber to the industries and also to highlight its latent potential for greater contribution through new products and services. He then urged the stakeholders in the forest plantation and processing industry to contribute by providing inputs in preparation of Sabah's first Forestry and Timber Industry Master Plan.

He also informed the participants that the Finance Act 2018 which was gazetted end of last year has restricted the carry forward of unabsorbed business losses to seven (7) years only. He said that the tree planters have to harvest the trees within 7 years from planting in order for them to benefit from the tax law. However, this would not give rise to good quality timber for downstream processing into high value timber products because good quality timber needs at least 10 to 15 years of growing period. He said that this tax law was made without consulting the industry and hence is bringing devastating effect to the forest plantation industry.

Mr Wong also called for a better progression of the economic value chain, where all the hiccups and hindrances should be removed so that the forest plantation and its related downstream industries are able to perform better in the world stage.

The Forum was officiated by Datuk Seri Panglima Wilfred Madius Tangau, Deputy Chief Minister of Sabah who is also the State Minister of Trade and Industry. In his Keynote Address, he said that the Sabah Government has banned the export of log to fulfil the local demand for timber. Furthermore, the Sabah Government is promoting revolution in the downstream processing industry to produce high value timber products with the available timber resources in the State, while creating more job opportunities for the Sabah people. He also added that the Sabah Government is looking into developing the Lombok-Makassar shipping route to increase economic, trade and industrial activities of the State.

A total of four (4) papers were presented during the Forum as follows:

- **Sabah Forest Plantations, Past, Present and Future**
by Mr Mike Janssen, Acacia Forest Industries Sdn Bhd



Forum in progress

- **Forest Plantations – Contributing to a Sustainable Landscape**
by Mr Christopher Garside, Gerak Saga Sdn Bhd
- **Forest Industry 4.0: Sustainable Plantation Forests for Added-Value Wood Products**
by Professor Roger Meder, Meder Consulting
- **Cross Laminated Timber (CLT): Plantation Forestry, Economies of Scale and Value Chain Creation for Sabah**
by Mr Bryant Wong, Sapulut Forest Development Sdn Bhd

Generally, the papers highlighted the development of forest plantations in Sabah, its pivotal role in sustainable forest management, its ability to provide a sustainable resource and at the same time allowing preservation and enhancement of social and environmental values. The papers also underscored the forest plantation timber as raw material for the processing of value-added wood products such as CLT and emphasised the importance of sustained planted raw material supply in achieving economies of scale to ensure the viability of the relevant industries. The Forum ended with a question and answer session.

沙巴木材公会（TAS）与沙巴贸易和工业部，沙巴林业局，婆罗洲林业合作社以及沙普鲁特森林发展有限公司合作于2019年11月11日假沙巴亚庇皇宫酒店联办人工造林，制造加工和沙巴经济未来论坛。

TAS主席黄守仁先生致欢迎词称此论坛的目的是提高人们对人工造林木材对工业贡献的认知，并指出透过推出新产品和服务更能推动其贡献的潜力。

论坛由沙巴副首席部长兼任贸易及工业部部长拿督斯里马迪乌斯登敖主持开幕。

论坛所呈现的4张论文如英文版中所列。

共有四项课程于培训中呈现，如本文所示。

Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sabah (TAS) dengan kerjasama Kementerian Perdagangan dan Industri Sabah, Jabatan Perhutanan Sabah, Koperasi Perhutanan Borneo dan Pembangunan Hutan Sapulut Sdn Bhd telah menganjurkan Forum Perladangan Hutan, Pemprosesan dan Masa Depan Ekonomi Sabah pada 11 November 2019 di Hotel The Palace, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Dalam Ucapan Pembukaannya, Encik Norman Wong, Presiden TAS berkata tujuan Forum tersebut adalah untuk meningkatkan kesedaran mengenai sumbangan kayu ladang hutan kepada industri dan untuk menyerlahkan potensinya untuk memberi sumbangan yang lebih besar menerusi hasil dan perkhidmatan baru.

Forum itu dirasmikan oleh Datuk Seri Panglima Wilfred Madius Tangau, Timbalan Ketua Menteri Sabah yang juga merupakan Menteri Perdagangan dan Industri Negeri.

4 kertas kerja telah dibentangkan dalam Forum seperti yang disenaraikan dalam artikel ini.

ILMIA Town Hall Session

The Institute of Labour Market Information and Analysis (ILMIA) under the Ministry of Human Resources (MoHR) and UNIMAS Holdings Sdn Bhd (UHSB) held a Town Hall Session on the Socio-Economic Impact from Employment of Low Skilled Foreign Workers and International Internship Program in Malaysia on 11 November 2019 at the Auditorium Islamic Information Centre, Kuching. About 100 representatives including employers, trade unions and government agencies attended the event.

During the Session, Dr Kartinah Ayupp, Associate Professor of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, informed the participants that the purpose of the study is to gather related information that will help the Government in formulating better policies on managing foreign workers, expatriates and international internship students in Malaysia. Through the Town Hall Session, she hoped to obtain inputs and views from the participants regarding the study. The final report for the currently on-going study will be released in February 2020.

Institut Maklumat dan Analisis Pasaran Buruh (ILMIA) mengadakan Sesi Dewan tentang Kesan Sosio-Ekonomi daripada Pengambilan Pekerja Asing Berkemahiran Rendah dan Program Latihan Antarabangsa di Malaysia pada 11 November 2019 di Auditorium Pusat Maklumat Islam, Kuching.

Dalam Sesi tersebut, Dr Kartinah Ayupp, Profesor Madya daripada Universiti Malaysia Sarawak memaklumkan kepada para peserta bahawa tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk mengumpul maklumat berkaitan yang dapat membantu Kerajaan dalam merangka dasar yang lebih baik dalam mengurus pekerja-pekerja asing, warga asing dan pelajar pelatih antarabangsa di Malaysia.

Beberapa isu yang telah dikemukakan oleh para peserta semasa sesi tersebut adalah seperti yang disenaraikan dalam artikel ini.



Participants of the Town Hall Session

Some of the issues put forward by the participants include:

- Due to the setting of the uniform minimum wage rate across the country, local workers prefer to work in industries that provide more comfortable working environments such as shopping malls, offices, etc., as compared to less attractive environments such as factories, farms, etc.;
- Local people especially younger generation are not attracted to working in dirty, dangerous and difficult (3D) industries as these industries do not give high wages and do not provide proper recognition to their skills;
- No education and vocational training centres for local workers residing in remote areas; and
- Difficulty in retaining local people as they are very mobile.

劳市场资讯与分析研究所 (ILMIA) 于2019年11月11日假古晋伊斯兰信息中心礼堂举办在马来西亚雇用低技能外劳和国际实习计划对社会经济影响大会。

砂拉越大学副教授卡蒂娜博士告知参与者此研究的目的是透过收集相关信息，将助于政府制定更好的外劳，外籍员工和马来西亚国际实习生的管理政策。

参与者所提出的一些问题如英文版中所列。

Briefing on HRDF Strategic Initiative Schemes

The Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) held a Briefing on its Strategic Initiative Schemes (Schemes) at Merdeka Palace Hotel, Kuching, on 19 November 2019 which was attended by about thirty (30) participants. The objective of the Briefing was to inform registered employers about benefits of the Schemes.

Mr Zulhafeez Saharrudin, Executive Officer (Product & Services Unit) of HRDF, informed participants that the Schemes were launched in 2019, and aim to support the national human capital agenda towards the creation of a 35% skilled Malaysian workforce which will enable the country to become a high income economy. The Schemes are designed to help unemployed graduates, secondary school leavers, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), employees as well as other dedicated target groups. The Schemes will also increase the quality and employability of Malaysian talents through upskilling and reskilling initiatives.

There are nine (9) Schemes and they are summarised as follows:

i. Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL)

To enable workers to get recognition on their skills and competency according to the level determined by the Department of Skills Development.

ii. Graduates Enhancement Programme for Employability (GENERATE) 2.0

An initiative specifically designed to enhance the employability of unemployed graduates.

iii. Skim Latihan Dual Nasional (SLDN)-Apprenticeship

To increase the supply of skilled workers in the industry; jointly determined by HRDF and the industry concerned. The training is a combination of theory and practical at approved training centres with emphasis on practical and structured “on-the-job” training at the premises of sponsoring employers.

iv. SME Graduates Scheme

A four (4) month mini semester programme which is implemented in collaboration with Malaysian local universities. The concept of this Scheme is based on the Tokyo SME University programme.

v. Industry Certification (INDCERT)

Training courses identified by employers' associations/government agencies to enable businesses to move up the value chain through industry based certification training for existing employees of HRDF registered employers.

vi. OKU Talent Enhancement Programme (OTEP)

To assist People with Disabilities (PWDs) in securing employment by furnishing them with appropriate knowledge, skills and competencies that are required by the industry.



Mr Zulhafeez Saharrudin briefing participants on the Schemes

vii. SME Skills

Training courses for SMEs focusing on functional areas which will be identified and implemented through collaboration with government agencies or employers' associations.

viii. B40 Capacity Building Programme (B40 CaB)

Specifically designed to assist Malaysians from the Group B40 (household income less than RM3,860.00) to get any related skills and competencies which will enable them to secure better employment opportunities and increase their income.

ix. Housewives Enhancement and Reactivate Talent (HEARTS)

To train housewives in the latent workforce in specialised fields that would enable them to work from home or under flexible working arrangement.

Participants were also informed by Ms Tuty Bujang, Regional Manager of HRDF, that the current allowance for employers to carry forward their unutilised levy for a particular year up to five (5) years after which they will be forfeited, shall be reduced to two (2) years only. HRDF will be issuing a circular on this matter soon.

Guidelines on the Schemes are available on the website www.hrdf.com.my/employer/hrdf-schemes/.

For more information, members can also contact Mr Zulhafeez Saharrudin at 03-20964622 or email mzulhafeez@hrdf.com.my.

人力资源发展基金 (HRDF) 于2019年11月19日假古晋独立皇宫酒店举行一项其主动性策略方案 (Schemes) 汇报会。其目的是要知会已注册雇主有关 Schemes 的好处。

HRDF执行员 (产品与服务单位) 祖哈菲先生告诉参与者 Schemes 是在2019年推出, 目的是支持我国人力资本议程。

所推出的九项 Schemes 简略如英语版所示。

Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad (HRDF) telah mengadakan satu Taklimat mengenai Skim Inisiatif Strategik di Hotel Merdeka Palace, Kuching, pada 19 November 2019.

Matlamat Taklimat adalah untuk memaklumkan kepada majikan berdaftar mengenai manfaat Skim tersebut. Encik Zulhafeez Saharrudin, Pegawai Eksekutif (Unit Produk & Perkhidmatan) HRDF, memberitahu para peserta bahawa Skim telah dilancarkan pada 2019 dan bertujuan untuk menyokong agenda modal insan nasional.

Kesemua 9 Skim adalah seperti yang disenaraikan dalam artikel ini.

Meeting with Regional Manager of HRDF

The STA Secretariat met with Ms Tuty Bujang, Regional Manager of Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF), on 28 November 2019 at Wisma PERKESO, Kuching. The purpose of the Meeting was to discuss and have a better understanding of the revised policy related to unutilised levy as announced via HRDF Employer's Circular No 7/2019.

According to the Circular, the period for unutilised levy is reduced from five (5) years to two (2) years, and any unutilised levy in the past 2 years will be forfeited effective 1 January 2020. However, a maximum levy balance of RM10,000.00 will remain in the respective HRDF account of affected employers upon their ineligibility. Employers with less than levy balance of RM10,000.00 will not be impacted by this revision.

To avoid forfeiture of levy, Ms Tuty advised affected employers to participate in 2 upcoming programmes, namely "Briefing on Jom TVET & RiSE4WRD with HRDF" and "Jom Guna Levi Workshop".

During the Meeting, possibility of future collaborations with HRDF and its sister agencies such as the Department of Occupational Safety & Health and the National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health were also discussed. The Meeting also touched on various training programmes which could be organised in line with the needs of the industry including workplace safety and health, noise exposure, risk assessment, etc.

Ms Tuty expressed deep interest and indicated willingness to render support in fulfilling the training needs of the industry. The STA Secretariat will meet Ms Tuty in December again to discuss future collaborations in greater details.

STA秘书处于2019年11月28日假古晋PERKESO大厦会见人力资源发展基金 (HRDF) 区域经理图蒂布詹女士。

会议目的是讨论并详细理解 HRDF 雇主编号7/2019通告宣布未使用征税有关的修订政策。

为了避免征税没收，图蒂女士建议受影响的雇主报名参加即将举行的两项课程。会议也讨论 HRDF 与其姊妹机构未来合作的可能性。



Ms Tuty Bujang (centre) with the STA Secretariat

Sekretariat STA telah berjumpa dengan Cik Tuty Bujang, Pengurus Wilayah Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad (HRDF) pada 28 November 2019 di Wisma PERKESO, Kuching.

Tujuan perjumpaan adalah untuk berbincang dan mendapatkan pemahaman yang lebih baik mengenai semakan semula dasar levi yang tidak digunakan seperti mana yang diumumkan melalui Pekeliling Majikan HRDF Bil. 7/2019.

Untuk mengelakkan pelucuthakan levi, Cik Tuty menasihati majikan yang terjejas untuk menyertai 2 program yang akan datang. Semasa perjumpaan, kemungkinan untuk bekerjasama dengan HRDF dan agensi berkaitan di masa depan turut dibincangkan.

Meeting on Harvesting Costs

Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) called a Meeting on 18 November 2019 to discuss the harvesting costs of the timber industry. The Meeting, chaired by Tuan Jack Liam, Deputy Director of Forests, was attended by representatives from Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA).



Meeting in progress

During the Meeting, Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA, presented the current market outlook of logs and timber products in Sarawak. She highlighted that the logs and timber products from Sarawak are facing stiff competition abroad and losing its market shares to other countries with lower production cost that are able to sell at cheaper prices. She also presented factors such as decline in log production volume, hike in the Hill Timber Premium and Timber Premium (Rehabilitation & Development) as well as increase in minimum wage rate and costs of fuel, lubricants and spare parts, which have all contributed significantly to the escalating costs borne by producers.

She appealed to the Meeting not to further increase the royalty, premium and cess as the industry cannot absorb any further rise in costs. She also requested for a review to streamline and simplify the functions and operations of the forestry agencies which will also reduce the operational costs for the industry.

Tuan Jack informed the Meeting that functions and operations of the forestry agencies shall be reviewed and the FDS shall be taking over some of the functions of SFC. He also agreed to look into STA's appeals and will further discuss them with the higher authorities.

砂森林局（FDS）于2019年11月18日召开会议，商讨木材工业的采伐成本。会议由FDS副局长杰克连先生主持，出席者包括砂拉越林业机构（SFC）及本会代表。

在会议中，本会首席执行官陈燕贞小姐介绍当今砂拉越原木和木材产品的市场前景。她在会议申诉，由于木材工业已无法再吸纳任何更高的成本，因此开采税、附加费及印花税不得进一步提高。杰克连先生通知会议，将对森林机构的职能及运作进行审查。

Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) telah memanggil satu Mesyuarat pada 18 November 2019 untuk membincangkan kos penuaian industri perikanan. Mesyuarat dipengerusikan oleh Tuan Jack Liam, Timbalan Pengarah Hutan, dan dihadiri oleh wakil-wakil daripada Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) dan Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA).

Semasa Mesyuarat, Cik Annie Ting, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif STA, membentangkan pandangan pasaran semasa mengenai kayu balak dan produk kayu di Sarawak. Beliau menyeru untuk tidak lagi meningkatkan royalti, premium dan ses kerana industri sudah tidak berupaya menyerap kenaikan kos. Tuan Jack memaklumkan kepada Mesyuarat bahawa fungsi dan operasi untuk agensi-agensi perhutanan akan dikaji semula.

In-house Planted Forest Research Program Annual Technical Meeting

An In-house Planted Forest Research Programme (PFRP) Annual Technical Meeting was conducted by Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) on 13 November 2019 at Imperial Hotel, Kuching. The Meeting was presided over by Mr Julaihi Bin Abdullah, Deputy General Manager, Applied Forest Science and Industry Development (AFSID) Division of SFC, and was attended by representatives from Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Licence for Planted Forests (LPF) companies as well as STA Secretariat.

In his Welcoming Remarks, Mr Julaihi highlighted the objectives of forest plantation development which are to reduce the extraction of timber from natural forests and to ensure sustainable raw material supply for the local wood processing industry. He added that the log production volume from natural forests is declining, hence the Sarawak Government has initiated the forest plantation programme in the State with the tree planting target of 1 million hectares to be achieved by 2025. He further informed the participants that the current total planted area is below the target set due to unexpected hiccups along the way, e.g. lack of high quality planting materials, which has slowed down the overall progress and



Participants of the PFRP Annual Technical Meeting

development. Hence, the Sarawak Government, through SFC, has taken the initiative to establish the PFRP in 2016 aiming to collaborate with LPF companies in intensifying research and development (R&D) to produce high quality planting materials. He hoped that the PFRP will continue to receive support from the State and Federal Governments as well as LPF companies in upcoming years.

A total of sixty-seven (67) research plots comprising taxa-seed source, progeny and silviculture trials were established and maintained in the participating LPF areas throughout Sarawak. The researchers from SFC had conducted pest and disease surveillance, growth and soil analysis, terrain and topography surveys as well as other research activities in these areas. Mr Julaihi highlighted to the Meeting that the matching of the tree species and seed source with the proper site is a challenge in the PFRP due to variable site conditions in Sarawak.

The significant progress and insights of the PFRP were shared with the participants through paper presentations by the researchers from SFC. The Meeting also invited representatives from Borneo Tree Seeds & Seedlings Supplies Sdn Bhd and Shin Yang Forestry Sdn Bhd to share their tree planting experiences. A discussion and review session was also held on the areas that need further improvement as well as the way forward of the PFRP.

Mesyuarat Teknikal Tahunan bagi Program Dalam Penyelidikan Ladang Hutan (PFRP) telah diadakan oleh Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) pada 13 November 2019 di Hotel Imperial, Kuching.

Mesyuarat dipengerusikan oleh Encik Julaihi Bin Abdullah, Timbalan Pengurus Besar, Bahagian Sains Gunaan dan Pembangunan Industri (AFSID) SFC.

Dalam Ucapan Alu-aluannya, Encik Julaihi menggariskan matlamat pembangunan ladang hutan. Beliau selanjutnya memaklumkan kepada peserta bahawa jumlah semasa kawasan yang ditanam adalah dibawah sasaran disebabkan oleh rintangan yang tidak dijangka sepanjang pelaksanaannya.

Perkembangan dan maklumat bagi PFRP dikongsi dengan para peserta melalui pembentangan kertas kerja oleh penyelidik-penyelidik daripada SFC.

砂拉越林业机构 (SFC) 于2019年11月13日假古晋帝宫酒店召开内部人工造林研究计划 (PFRP) 年度技术会议。此会议由 SFC 应用森林科学与工业发展单位副总经理祖莱喜先生主持。

祖莱喜先生在致欢迎词时强调人工造林发展的目标。他进一步告知与会者, 由于种植过程中出现状况, 目前的总种植面积低于设定的目标。

SFC 研究员通过论文报告与与会者分享 PFRP 的重要进展和观察。

Stakeholders Consultation Workshop – A Gap Assessment on the Harmonised RIL Guidelines in Support of Sustainable Forest Management in Sarawak

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) signed a Letter of Agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations on 27 March 2019 to conduct a gap assessment on the Harmonised Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) Guidelines for Sarawak against international best practice and through multi-stakeholder consultation (Project).

Supported by the FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme, the one-year Project costs USD109,920.00 and is managed by FDS in partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature Malaysia (WWF-Malaysia).

In line with the Project, a Stakeholders Consultation Workshop was organised by FDS and WWF-Malaysia on 18 November 2019 at Imperial Hotel, Miri, and attended by representatives from various government agencies, industry players, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and STA Secretariat. The objectives of the Workshop were to share results and obtain feedback from relevant stakeholders on the outcomes of the gap assessment and recommendations for the current Sarawak RIL Guidelines by the consultant, International Forest Management Consultants Sdn Bhd (IFMCSB).

In his Welcoming Remarks, Mr Abang Ahmad Bin Abang Morni, Acting Deputy Director (Development & Administration) of FDS, mentioned that the Project was to improve the current Sarawak RIL Guidelines based on international standards and urged all participants to provide their inputs and feedback on the recommendations by IFMCSB. He acknowledged

that not all recommendations can be implemented in Sarawak.

Mdm Madeline George Pau, Senior Executive Forester of FDS cum Project Coordinator, briefed the participants on the project overview and said that the comments and feedback from the Workshop will be tabled in the Forest Management Certification Technical Committee for revision and consideration. Subsequently, the improved RIL Guidelines will undergo field testing to assess practicality on the ground, and consolidated findings will be shared in the final workshop.



Stakeholders involved in the Consultation Workshop

The gap assessment and recommendations of the Harmonised RIL Guidelines for Sarawak was prepared by Mr Bernd Hahn-Schilling from IFMCSB and presented by Mr Ricky Jonathan Alek, Assistant Director (Forest Management & Planning Division) of FDS.

In order to develop a comprehensive and state-of-the-art RIL Guidelines of international standards, the current Sarawak RIL Guidelines was benchmarked against the following standards:

- i. Code of Practice for Forest Harvesting in the Asia Pacific. Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) Bangkok, Thailand 1999;
- ii. RIL Operation Guide Book. Code of Practice for Forest Harvesting in Sabah, Malaysia. Third Edition. Sabah Forestry Department 2009;
- iii. Guidelines for Reduced Impact Logging in Peninsular Malaysia. Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur 2003; and
- iv. Reduced Impact Logging Guidelines for Indonesia. Elias, G. Applegate, K. Kartawinata, Machdudh and A. Klassen. Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Bogor, Indonesia 2001.

According to IFMCSB, the current Sarawak RIL Guidelines already has numerous essential elements for reducing negative harvesting impacts. However, in order to achieve best industry practices and to meet the highest international standards of timber harvesting, there is a need for substantial improvement.

A total of eighty-three (83) recommendations were suggested to be included into the current Sarawak RIL Guidelines covering various aspects such as staff and stakeholder competencies, forest harvest planning, roading and watercourse crossings, harvesting operations, camp hygiene, safety and health, etc.

Later, participants were divided into three (3) groups, namely (i) Government agencies; (ii) Forest Management Units; and (iii) Civil Society and NGOs, to discuss the recommendations suggested by IFMCSB.

Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) menandatangani Surat Perjanjian dengan Pertubuhan Makanan dan Pertanian (FAO) Pertubuhan Bangsa-bangsa Bersatu pada 27 Mac 2019 untuk melaksanakan penilaian jurang bagi Garis Panduan Pembalakan Kurang Impak (RIL) yang harmonis untuk Sarawak terhadap amalan terbaik antarabangsa dan melalui perundingan pelbagai pihak.

Selaras dengan Projek ini, satu Bengkel Perundingan Pihak Berkepentingan telah dianjurkan oleh FDS dan WWF-Malaysia pada 18 November 2019 di Hotel Imperial, Miri.

Tujuan Bengkel itu adalah untuk berkongsi keputusan dan mendapatkan maklum balas daripada pihak berkepentingan berkenaan mengenai hasil penilaian jurang serta cadangan untuk Garis Panduan RIL Sarawak semasa oleh pakar perunding, International Forest Management Consultants Sdn Bhd (IFMCSB).

Sejumlah 83 cadangan telah dicadangkan untuk dimasukkan ke dalam Garis Panduan RIL Sarawak semasa yang meliputi pelbagai aspek.



Mr Abang Ahmad Bin Abang Morni giving his Welcoming Remarks

砂州森林局（FDS）与联合国粮食及农业组织（FAO）于2019年3月27日签署了协议书,并根据国际最佳实践和通过多方利益相关者咨询对砂拉越统一减少伐木影响（RIL）指南进行差距评估。

为配合该项目，FDS和世界自然基金会马来西亚分会于2019年11月18日假美里帝宫酒店举行利益相关者咨询研讨会。

该研讨会旨在分享成果并从利益相关者那里收集对差距评估结果以及国际森林管理顾问有限公司（IFMCSB）对当前砂拉越 RIL 指南建议的反馈。

共有83项建议涵盖各个方面被提议纳入当前砂拉越 RIL 指南。

Visit by the Delegation from European Union Embassy in Kuala Lumpur to Forest Department Sarawak



Group photo with H.E. Maria Castillo Fernandez (front row, 4th from left)

On 19 November 2019, Her Excellency (H.E.) Maria Castillo Fernandez, European Union (EU) Ambassador to Malaysia, led a delegation of nine (9) ambassadors from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, France, Ireland, Norway, Spain and Switzerland on a visit to Forest Department Sarawak (FDS).

Dr Stephen Teo, Senior Research Officer from the International Affair Division of FDS, shared Sarawak's history of forestry, land

use policy and future of forestry to the delegation as well as representatives from various forestry agencies and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) that were present. He also underscored the Department's effort in harnessing the implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) in Sarawak.

During the discussion that ensued after the presentation by Dr Teo, Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA, highlighted that the prices of tropical logs and timber products have not increased in tandem with the increase in costs of managing tropical forests. Significant reduction in log production volume, improving ground practices which increases operational costs, third party audits, higher labour costs in meeting international labour standards and more engagement with the local communities are some of the factors contributing to the unit cost increase for SFM in Sarawak. Therefore, consumers also need to be equally responsible in sharing the costs of managing the tropical forests in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

欧盟（EU）驻马大使玛利亚费南德斯于2019年11月19日带领九位大使参访砂森林局（FDS）。

FDS国际事务部高级研究员张平博士（译名）向该代表团分享砂州林业历史、土地运用政策以及林业的前景。

随后，本会首席执行官陈燕贞小姐强调，热带原木和木材产品的价格并没有随着管理热带森林的高成本而上涨。

Pada 19 November 2019, Puan Yang Terutama (H.E.) Maria Castillo Fernandez, Duta Besar Kesatuan Eropah (EU) ke Malaysia mengetuai satu delegasi yang terdiri daripada 9 duta-duta besar telah mengunjungi Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS).

Dr Stephen Teo, Pegawai Penyelidik Kanan daripada Bahagian Hal Ehwal Antarabangsa FDS, berkongsi mengenai sejarah perhutanan Sarawak, dasar penggunaan tanah dan masa depan perhutanan kepada delegasi tersebut.

Semasa perbincangan yang diadakan selepas pembentangan oleh Dr Teo, Cik Annie Ting, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif STA, menggariskan bahawa harga kayu balak dan produk kayu tropikal tidak meningkat selari dengan kenaikan kos untuk mengurus hutan tropikal.

Marking 100 Years of Forest Guardianship

Throughout the year of 2019, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) held a series of events in conjunction with its 100th year anniversary celebration. The month of November also saw various prominent activities being organised for this special occasion.

Forest Fun Run

One of them was the Forest Fun Run conducted successfully in major cities across Sarawak involving Bintulu, Miri, Sibu, Sarikei and Kuching.

The final venue for the Run was held in Kuching on 3 November 2019 at the Sarawak State Library, and present to flag off the runners was the Chief Minister of Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg.

Accompanying him were Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak; Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Petra Jaya Member of Parliament; Dato Sri Haji Mohamad Abu Bakar Bin Marzuki, Deputy State Secretary; and Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, Director of Forests.

In his Welcoming Remarks, Datu Hamden pointed out that the Fun Run organised by FDS was different because it included tree planting activities and the design of finisher medals were based on local tree species.

He added that the medals resembling tree species, i.e. 'Belian' for Bintulu, 'Tapang' for Miri, 'Ensurai' for Sibu, 'Bakau Minyak' for Sarikei and 'Engkabang' for Kuching, could be pieced together to form a unique collection.

According to him, the tree planting activities and the themed medals were also in line with the forest landscape restoration programme of Sarawak launched by the Chief Minister at the Sabal Agroforestry Centre, Simunjan, in June 2019.

After flagging off the runners, the Chief Minister and other dignitaries proceeded to a tree planting ceremony nearby. They were later joined by the first 100 runners who had completed their run and were rewarded a tree seedling each to be planted at the spot.

As co-organisers of the event, the Sarawak Timber Association (STA) and several STA members also took part in the Run.

Forest Talk

On 20 November 2019, FDS also organised a Forest Talk with the theme "The Journey of 100 Years", at Hilton Hotel, Kuching.



Deputy Chief Minister (6th from left) with the panellists of the Forest Talk

The aim of the Talk was to reminisce the history, contributions and achievements of FDS over 100 years through sharing of experience and knowledge from invited panellists which consisted of retired and experienced foresters as well as past and present Director of Forests.

The Deputy Chief Minister, in his Opening Speech, mentioned that the Sarawak Government has to date gazetted 4.3 million hectares as Permanent Forest Estates mainly for timber production, and 0.82 million hectares of land as totally protected areas. He mentioned that it is the Sarawak Government's plan to gazette one (1) million hectares of land as totally protected areas by 2020.

Datuk Amar also disclosed that FDS is committed in implementing the forest landscape restoration programme on a large scale effective this year by planting local tree species in degraded forest areas.

He further informed that the establishment of the planted forests is a long-term strategy towards providing alternative sources of raw materials for the timber industry in Sarawak which also helps to reduce the dependency on natural forests.

To date, a total of 446,229 hectares of forest plantation has been established. He advised the staff of FDS to leverage on new technology and adopt effective strategies in managing forest resources for the benefit of the present and future generations.

The Talk comprised two (2) sessions, with the first session being moderated by Associate Professor Dr Mohd Zaki Hamzah of Universiti Putra Malaysia where the panellists shared the past, present and future of FDS.

The second session was moderated by Dr Arnold Puyok of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak and the panellists spoke on the way forward for FDS.

The Talk attracted some 400 participants from various government agencies, retired foresters, non-governmental organisations and the timber industry.



The finisher medal collection was presented to the co-organisers as a token of appreciation during the Forest Run

Gala Dinner

A gala dinner to mark the Department's celebration was later held on 22 November 2019 at the Sarawak State Legislative Assembly Complex, Petra Jaya.

Speaking at the function, the Chief Minister believed that Sarawak's forests remain an overlooked and undervalued asset with potentials to be explored, and encouraged FDS to broaden its revenue base apart from taxes and royalties collected from the timber industry. He added that a new source of forest revenue, i.e. royalty on standing tree, is in the midst of consultation with industry players. Additionally, the Sarawak Government is also diversifying its revenue base by going into carbon credit trading.



Tun Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud (5th from right) flipping through the book "A Century of Commitments" launched during the Gala Dinner

The gala dinner was attended by Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak, Tun Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, together with State cabinet ministers and senior government officers.

砂拉越森林局（FDS）在2019年全年举办系列活动庆祝其100周年。

如英文版中所述，FDS在11月里为此特殊庆典举办各项重要活动。

Sepanjang tahun 2019, Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) telah menganjurkan satu siri acara sempena sambutan ulang tahun ke-100 Jabatan.

Pada bulan November, pelbagai aktiviti prominen telah diadakan untuk menyambut peristiwa istimewa ini seperti mana yang dinyatakan dalam artikel ini.

Sarawak Customs / Private Consultative Panel Meeting No 1/2019

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) called the Sarawak Customs / Private Consultative Panel Meeting No 1/2019 at Wisma Kastam, Kuching, on 26 November 2019. The Meeting was co-chaired by Tuan Herman Shah Abdullah, Senior Assistant Director of RMCD Sarawak, and Dato Tan Jit Kee, President of Kuching Chinese General Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCGCCI).

A total of thirty (30) representatives from private sectors including KCGCCI, Federation of Malaysian Manufactures, Persatuan Pengimport Dan Peniaga Kenderaan Melayu Malaysia (PEKEMA) Sarawak, Sarawak Electronic & Supporting Industries Companies Association, Sarawak Forwarding Agencies Association, Sarawak Shipping Association, Sarawak Timber Association, as well as Senior Officers from RMCD Sarawak attended this Meeting.



Meeting in progress

In his Welcoming Remarks, Dato Tan thanked RMCD for organising the Meeting which served as a platform for private sector to highlight issues and challenges faced during import and export activities and to find ways on how RMCD could facilitate the process. According to him, the recent timely refund of RM50.9 million from goods and services tax (GST) with the assistance of RMCD was much appreciated by the business community that is dealing with unrests in the global economy and domestic markets. Dato Tan also hoped for more cargo scanners to be placed at the ports in Sarawak with the fund allocated by the Federal Government. Such additional facility at the ports will create a good and friendly business environment.

RMCD updated the Meeting that three (3) series of briefings on the Ubiquitous Customs (uCustoms) Engagement Programme were conducted at various venues throughout Sarawak involving freight forwarders, shipping agents and port operators. The first pilot project for the uCustoms system which was initially scheduled for end of 2019 in Senari Port, Kuching, involving ten (10) companies will only be carried out during the first quarter of 2020.

The Meeting deliberated on various issues such as (i) differences in HS codes and their interpretations by customs officers; (ii) availability of customs officers' support; (iii) examination and physical checking of cargo/container at port; and (iv) client charter for customs clearance of imported goods.

Two (2) presentations were also made during the Meeting. The first presentation by Mr Ramli Othman, Deputy Director of Customs of RMCD Sarawak, was about the imposition of digital service tax of 6% on any digital services provided by a foreign registered person to any consumer in Malaysia effective 1 January 2020. In the second presentation, Tuan Herman talked about the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) which is used to facilitate the movement of goods in transit by roads throughout the ASEAN region. Currently, countries on the Borneo Island, Indonesia and the Philippines are excluded; and it is only applicable to transit of goods on the mainland between three (3) countries or more. The pilot run for ACTS in Malaysia is expected to start on 27 January 2020.

Tuan Herman in his Closing Remarks welcomed the private sector in raising any issues so that RMCD is able to look into them accordingly.

Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia (RMCD) mengadakan Mesyuarat Panel Perundingan Kastam / Swasta Bil. 1/2019 di Wisma Kastam, Kuching, pada 26 November 2019. Mesyuarat dipengerusikan bersama oleh Tuan Herman Shah Abdullah, Penolong Kanan Pengarah Kastam Sarawak dan Dato Tan Jit Kee, Presiden Dewan Perdagangan Dan Perindustrian Cina Kuching (KCGCCI).

Dalam Ucapan Alu-aluannya, Dato Tan berterima kasih kepada RMCD kerana mengadakan Mesyuarat tersebut yang menjadi platform kepada sektor swasta untuk menggariskan isu dan cabaran yang dihadapi semasa aktiviti import dan eksport serta mencari cara bagaimana RMCD dapat memudahkan proses tersebut.

Mesyuarat membincangkan beberapa isu. 2 pembentangan telah disampaikan semasa Mesyuarat.

马来西亚皇家关税局 (RMCD) 于2019年11月26日假古晋关税局大厦召开砂拉越关税/商界咨询小组本年度首届会议。会议由砂关税局高级助理局长赫尔曼沙阿都拉先生和古晋中华总商会 (KCGCCI) 主席拿督陈日枝主持。

拿督陈日枝致欢迎词中感谢RMCD举办这次会议。会议将是私界强调进出口活动中所面临的问题和挑战以及如何让RMCD 促进程序的一个平台。

会议讨论多个关切课题。会议期间也呈现2份简报。

Field Inspection to STA-Funded Research Project Area

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) had granted funding of approximately RM2.4 million to GP Pusaka Sdn Bhd (GPP) for a research project entitled “Development and Deployment of Improved Genetic Materials of *Falcataria moluccana* – Phase 1 (2017-2018)”. This project aims to produce genetically improved varieties of *Falcataria moluccana* which are expected to give higher yield, better form with wood properties suitable for solid wood processing, tolerance to pests and diseases as well as to increase supply of quality *Falcataria moluccana* planting materials.



Participants at the Clonal Hedge Garden at LPF0043, Samarakan

A Field Inspection to the research area located at Licence for Planted Forests (LPF) 0043, Samarakan, Bintulu, was conducted on 7 November 2019. A total of eleven (11) representatives from STA Forest Plantation Committee, Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and STA Secretariat attended the Field Inspection. The main purpose of the Field Inspection was to obtain an update on the status of clonal development of *Falcataria moluccana*.

The participants were briefed by Dr Arno Brune, Senior Forest Geneticist of GPP, at the Samarakan Training Centre. The briefing focused on the methodologies and preliminary findings of the four (4) main activities conducted under this project, namely (i) Establishment of Seed Production Areas (SPAs); (ii) Development of Elite Clonal Population; (iii) Establishment of Progeny Trial; and (iv) Pests and Disease Surveillances. The group then visited the Clonal Hedge Garden where the clonal materials of *Falcataria moluccana* were planted.

Towards the end of the field inspection, a discussion was held and the way forward for this project was discussed.

Pemeriksaan lapangan untuk projek penyelidikan yang dibiayai oleh STA yang terletak di Lesen Ladang Hutan (LPF) 0043, Samarakan, Bintulu, telah dijalankan pada 7 November 2019.

Tujuan utama pemeriksaan lapangan adalah untuk mendapatkan status terkini mengenai perkembangan klonal *Falcataria moluccana*.

Para peserta diberi taklimat oleh Dr Arno Brune, Ahli Genetik Hutan Senior GPP, di Pusat Latihan Samarakan. Taklimat tersebut tertumpu kepada kaedah-kaedah dan penemuan awal 4 aktiviti-aktiviti utama yang dijalankan di bawah projek ini.

一项由 STA 资助的研究项目实地考察于2019年11月7日假 民都鲁 Samarakan 人工造林许可证编号0043进行。

此实地考察主要目的是获取有关南洋楹的最新复制发展资讯。

GPP 高级森林遗传专家阿诺博士在 Samarakan 培训中心向参与者汇报有关此计划下所进行的四 (4) 个主要活动的方法和初步研究结果。



Wishing all Members and Readers

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From the Chairman, Council Members, Management and Staff of STA,
STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd and STA Training Sdn Bhd

Pengerusi, Ahli-Ahli Majlis, pihak Pengurusan dan Kakitangan STA,
STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd dan STA Training Sdn Bhd ingin mengucapkan
Selamat Hari Krismas & Tahun Baru kepada semua ahli STA dan para pembaca

本会主席, 理事会, 管理委员会, 秘书处,
STA Enterprises 有限公司, STA Mutual 有限公司及 STA Training 有限公司
全体职员在此祝所有会员和读者圣诞节及新年快乐。