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Building Stakeholder Capacity in Forest Management Certification through RIMBA's Conservation Internship Programme

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) Interns being taught how to properly retrieve camera trap set up for wildlife surveys in Jelalong, Bintulu led by the National Institute of Environmental Study (NIES) Japan; (Right) Interns participate in a frog survey in Kubah National Park.
(Photo courtesy of SARAWAK FORESTRY Corporation)*

In 2013, the State Government which rides on the Research for Intensified Management of Bio-Rich Areas (RIMBA) of Sarawak platform. introduced a policy that requires all forest management units (FMUs) to achieve forest management certification (FMC). This change in policy direction raised concern among the forestry and timber industry players as their progress towards FMC is hindered by several factors such as conflicting guidelines as well as inadequate skilled and experienced manpower.

In recognising that capacity building is an integral part of the implementation of the policy, SARAWAK FORESTRY Corporation (SFC) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) have jointly organised the Conservation Internship Programme (CIP) for Forest Management Certification (FMC)

The first batch of the Programme commenced in April 2017 with fifteen (15) interns who were selected from applicants through a series of interviews and screening. Renowned experts from various international and local institutions and organisations were invited to impart onto the interns understanding and knowledge on biodiversity, policies and regulations governing the forestry and timber industry in the State as well as hands-on experience on subjects pertaining to FMC, i.e. High Conservation Value Area (HCVA) and Reduced Impact Logging (RIL).

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The successfully trained interns from the first batch of the Programme received their certificates in a ceremony held in January 2018 and are currently employed by timber companies in the State. However, capacity challenges are just one dimension of the issue that needs to be addressed in the pursuit of FMC. Coherent approach and greater attention to other factors known to hinder progress on the ground are equally vital to produce sustained change towards FMC.

In line with its objective to strengthen the state of play of the forestry and timber industry for the furtherance of FMC, STA had amplified its commitment by funding most of the cost of the second batch of the Programme which commenced in April 2018 with the participation of fifteen (15) interns with background in forestry, environmental and biological sciences. SFC and STA are hopeful that the eight (8) modules of classroom and *in-situ* lecture, field work as well as industrial and project-based attachment will produce trained personnel who will be able to address the skills needs of the industry.

The modules in the second batch of the Programme were also improved with the inclusion of introduction to Malaysian Criteria & Indicators for Forest Plantation Management Certification (MC&I Forest Plantation. v2) as well as Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO)



Photo: Haji Zolkipli, Acting CEO of SFC handing over a CIP for FMC t-shirt to Ms Annie Ting, Senior Manager of STA while others looked on.

certification so that the interns will have the knowledge and skills that would enable them to respond to the growing demand for skilled workforce, not just in the timber industry but also in the forest plantation and oil palm plantation. The nine (9) months Programme also involves the assistance of several other collaborators namely Ta Ann, Samling, Shin Yang, KTS, Rimbunan Hijau and WTK; Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC); Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC); SIRIM; relevant government bodies, international and local educational institutions and conservation non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

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Reassessment Study on Kelampayan Weight to Volume Conversion Factor

SARAWAK FORESTRY Corporation (SFC), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) jointly conducted a *Reassessment Study on Kelampayan Weight to Volume Conversion Factor* from 16 to 18 April 2018 at Song, Kapit. This study was initiated to verify the Kelampayan weight to volume conversion factor derived from the study conducted last year.

The Kelampayan log samples used in this study were contributed by LPF0010 Ta Ann Plywood Sdn Bhd. The diameters, length and weight of the thirty (30) Kelampayan planted logs were premeasured

by the staff from Ta Ann Plywood Sdn Bhd. The measurements were then verified by the study group members on the actual day of sample collection.

Wood disc samples were collected at both ends and at every 6m interval from six (6) randomly selected full-length logs. These disc samples were transported to Timber Technology Centre (TTC), Applied Forest Science & Industry Development Division (AFSID) of SFC for laboratory testing to determine the conversion factor which will be compared to the factor derived by weight bridge and scaling method.



Did you know that....

You don't have to choose between the economy and the environment. This is the statement made by Australian minister for environment and energy in the third Asia-Pacific Rainforest Summit held 23-25 April at Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Communities needs to be engaged to make initiatives work and only when the citizens understand that environmental protection and livelihoods are not mutually exclusive, but intertwined, they will assist with managing the forest.

Source: Citizens Key to Green Management and Protection, available at <https://www.scidev.net/asia-pacific/forestry/scidev-net-at-large/citizens-key-to-green-management-and-protection.html>

Did you also know that....

Responsible land use, land-use change and forestry are vital for countries to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). At the third Asia-Pacific Rainforest Summit, William McGoldrick, Director of Climate Strategy at The Nature Conservancy called for countries to look not just at forests, but also at the competing demands for land. Productive use of landscape as well as investment in forest restoration and revegetation are important as forest sector supports other sectors including agriculture and energy.

Source: Addressing Peoples' Needs Critical to Forest Protection, available at <https://www.scidev.net/asia-pacific/forestry/news/addressing-peoples-needs-critical-to-forest-protection.html>



CSR Initiative by Sarawak Timber Association and Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation for 14 pre-school students of Sekolah Kebangsaan Kampung Buda, Spaoh, Betong



Photo: The pre-school which was successfully rebuilt with the financial assistance received from STA

Sarawak Timber Association (STA), through its subsidiary company, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM) together with Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) in its Corporate Social Responsibility's (CSR) initiative towards the education of children in the rural areas, has provided financial assistance to Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Kampung Buda in Spaoh, a primary school located by the riverbank of Sungai Batang Saribas, Betong.

The financial assistance which was channelled through STIDC, in a total sum of RM173,000.00 was presented to SK Kampung Buda in two (2) separate presentation ceremonies on 4 May 2017 and 21 August 2017 respectively. The fund was allocated for the infrastructure and re-building of the pre-school of SK Kampung Buda.

On 2 January 2018, sixty two (62) out of seventy six (76) students of SK Kampung Buda have started their classes in the brand-new school building with six (6) furnished classrooms, a science room and an administrative room as well as a toilet block, an initiative by Lebuhraya Borneo Utara Sdn Bhd.

As the remaining 14 pre-school students were still at the old building, Mr Kon @ Sapawi Bin Yahu, the Headmaster of SK Kampung Buda cum Adviser for

Persatuan Ibubapa Guru (PIBG) of SK Kampung Buda, decided to build a new temporarily pre-school building to provide a conducive environment for these students to study. On 1 March 2018, these students finally moved over to the new temporarily pre-school building. A simple ceremony was organised by SK Kampung Buda on 5 January 2018 to launch the new temporarily pre-school building.

The Ceremony was officiated by Mr Mohammad Razi Bin Sitam, State Assemblyman (DUN) Saribas followed by the handing over of the symbolic key to Mr Kon, witnessed by Mr Thomas Tarang, Head of School Development of Education Office Betong District, Mr Aleksey Aman, Deputy Education Officer of Betong District, Madam Norhayati Haji Bujang, Officer of STIDC and Madam Thresa Aji, Administrative Officer of STAM. The Ceremony was also attended by Haji Ismail Bin Pie, Head of PIBG SK Kampung Buda cum Head of Kampung Buda as well as parents of the students.

Mr Kon in his welcoming remarks informed those present at the Ceremony that the temporarily pre-school building will also be used as a resource center for the students to do their extracurricular activities and any other official function(s) of the school.

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An *Opening Ceremony of the Second Batch of CIP for* interns will still be subject to a company interview. *FMC* was successfully held on 16 April 2018 at SFC's

Corporate Office, attended by the interns to the second While STA view that capacity building can provide enhanced batch of the Programme as well as representatives and ultimately optimal utilisation of workforces, there are from SFC and STA, including Haji Zolkipli Mohamad other overarching efforts that needs to come into play. Aton, Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of The State government needs to continue to SFC and Ms Annie Ting, Senior Manager of STA. provide assistance to and engage with all stakeholders so that the State's policy can be

Haji Zolkipli in his welcoming speech, informed interns implemented more effectively for mutual benefits. that the Programme is designed to impart skills and knowledge to the interns so that upon completion of the The long term and transformative collaboration Programme, the successfully trained interns can help between industry players and forestry agencies the industry with conservation works. However, there are necessary in order to achieve the scale of is no guarantee of employment upon completion of impact that the State envisaged through this policy. the Programme as the taking in of successfully trained



Photo: Fifteen (15) interns of the second batch of CIP for FMC in a photo call with representatives from STA.