



December 2018

For Private Circulation Only

Issue 246

Final Presentation from Interns of the Second Conservation Internship Program for Forest Management Certification

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) One of the interns delivering her final presentation, (right) Group photo in the Presentation Session in Miri.

Thirteen (13) interns of the Second Batch of Conservation Internship Program (CIP) for Forest Management Certification (FMC) with background in forestry, environmental and biological sciences completed the nine-month Program consisting of modules which included classroom theory, *in-situ* lecture, field work as well as industrial attachments in December 2018.

These modules focused on topics related to timber certification under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) for sustainable forest management and were carefully developed in collaboration with Sarawak Timber Association (STA), higher learning institutions such as Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)

and relevant Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

As a prerequisite for graduating from the Program, the interns were required to present their final report on their six (6) weeks industrial attachment with Forest Management Units (FMUs) across Sarawak.

The presentations were conducted in two (2) sessions, namely in Sibuan on 20 December 2018 and Miri on 21 December 2018. Both sessions were chaired by Haji Nizam Kaderi, Deputy General Manager (Sustainable Forestry & Compliance), Sarawak Forestry

(Continue on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

Corporation Sdn Bhd (SFCSB) and attended by officers from SFC Regional Offices, representatives from FMUs that provided industrial attachment to the interns and STA Secretariat.

Haji Nizam shared that the CIP for FMC has produced a total of twenty seven (27) conservationists for the benefit of the forestry and timber industry. He added that the graduates from the 1st batch of CIP for FMC are currently employed by companies in the forestry and timber industry to assist in their pursuit for FMC. He is glad that the initiative by SFCSB was successful in achieving its objectives of building capacity and strengthening the state of play of the forestry and timber industry for the furtherance of FMC.

He also thanked STA for their commitment in advancing

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Workshop cum Field Visit to Research Plots under STA-funded *Falcataria moluccana* Research Project

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) had granted a research and development (R&D) funding of RM2,398,707.00 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, jointly conducted with Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd (SFCSB), aimed 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, higher tolerance to pests and diseases as well as increase supply of quality *Falcataria moluccana* seeds and seedlings.

Towards the end of the Phase 1 of the project, GPP in collaboration with SFC organised a Workshop cum Field Visit to the research plots from 27 to 28 December 2018 in Bintulu. The main purpose of the Workshop which was attended by twenty-one (21) representatives from STA Forest Plantation Category, SFC and STA Secretariat was to provide update on the progress of the project and disseminate preliminary findings from Phase 1 of the project.

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the goals of CIP for FMC through continuous support since the beginning and funding most of the costs of the second CIP for FMC.

The interns shared their activities and experiences gained throughout their attachments at FMUs belonging to Billion Venture Sdn Bhd, GP Pusaka Sdn Bhd, Jaya Tiasa Holdings Bhd, Limba Jaya Timber Sdn Bhd, Samling Group of Companies, Shin Yang Group of Companies, Solid Timber Sdn Bhd, Subur Tiasa Holdings Bhd and Ta Ann Holdings Bhd.

Throughout the industrial attachment, the interns were provided with opportunities to activities in the field of High Conservation Value Areas (HCVA), Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs), water catchment demarcation, wildlife survey as well as saltlicks monitoring and maintenance.

The Workshop was conducted at the Samarakan Training Centre located inside the License for Planted Forests (LPF) 0043. A paper presentation delivered by Mr Elecio Solon Laureto, R&D Manager of GPP, assisted by Mr Nicholas Guwang, R&D Supervisor and Ms Thien Lu Zie, R&D Officer highlighted the methodologies and preliminary findings of the four (4) main activities conducted under Phase 1 of the 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.

In the two-day Programme, participants of the Workshop visited the research plots in LPF0043 and LPF0013. During the site visits, participants discussed on silviculture practices and fertiliser application regime, used in the trials.

They also shared their experiences and knowledge in managing problems related the pests and diseases encountered in their *Falcataria moluccana* plantations especially the gall rust disease.



Did you know that.....

A total of six (6) Forest Management Units (FMUs) in Sarawak with a combined area of 561,703 ha have been awarded the Certificate of Forest Management (Natural Forest), under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS), a scheme endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). These FMUs are Ravenscourt FMU, Kapit FMU, Anap Muput FMU, Linau FMU, Ulu Trusan FMU and Bahau Kahei FMU.

Source: Certified Forest Management Unit (FMU). Available at: <https://mtcc.com.my/certified-forests/>

Did you also know that....

To date, five (5) Forest Plantation Management Units (FPMUs) in the State namely Lana FPMU, Kejin Long Lama FPMU, Penyuan FPMU, Masama FPMU and Segan FPMU have obtained forest management certification under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS), endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). These FPMUs with a combined area of 75,493.35 ha showed compliance with a comprehensive set of criteria in the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Plantation.v2 (MC&I Forest Plantation.v2).

Source: Certified Forest Management Unit (FMU). Available at: <https://mtcc.com.my/certified-forests/>



3rd Training on Environmental Quality Monitoring



Photo: (upper left) Training in session, (bottom left) Group photo, (right) Water sampling exercise at a river

On 9 November 2017, eight (8) member companies of Sarawak Timber Association (STA) voluntarily participated in the first Pilot Projects for Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA), initiated by Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) in a joint effort with STA to facilitate smooth and feasible implementation of the Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008. had been organised from 30 January to 1 February 2018 and from 26 to 27 July 2018. The 3rd Training on EQM was successfully held from 6 to 7 December at RH Hotel, Sibu with active participation of twenty-seven (27) representatives from STA member companies. In total, the series of Trainings had created a pool of sixty-eight (68) trained personnel in the forestry and timber industry.

On 29 November 2018, seven (7) more STA member companies volunteered to participate in the second batch of Pilot Projects for ECA.

The call for self-regulation in environmental management and protection as per required by the NRE (Audit) Rules necessitated the conduct of ECAs by the company's own qualified internal auditor and a third (3rd) party external auditors registered with the NREB. The ECA also requires status of environment, particularly river water quality within project site, to be reported.

Therefore, in the effort to create a pool of trained personnel in the field of monitoring water quality, STA and NREB began organising the Training on Environmental Quality Monitoring (EQM). Since then, two (2) Trainings

The 3rd Training on EQM was conducted by a team of trainers from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) led by Dr Tay Meng Guan who is an experienced trainer in the field of water sampling and analyses. The two-day Training provided participants with knowledge on protocols of water sampling and handling of equipment for *in-situ* and *ex-situ* analysis. Participants of the Training also took part in field excursion along a river in Julau where the Trainers demonstrated the collection of water samples and guided the participants in their hands on experience.

In his closing speech, Mr Tsai Koh Fen, Acting Assistant Controller of NREB, informed participants of the Training that he is pleased with the commitment made by the forestry and timber industry towards supporting the full implementation of the NRE (Audit) Rules, 2008.

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11th Occupational Safety and Health for Timber Industry Campaign 2018

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) Sarawak and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) had jointly organised the 11th Occupational Safety and Health for Timber Industry Campaign 2018 from 3 to 4 December 2018, at Grand Margherita Hotel in Kuching.

The Campaign, which focused on the downstream timber industries, aimed to promote and create awareness amongst the management and workers of timber companies on the importance of occupational safety and health at the workplace and to minimise any occurrence of accidents related to work.

Tuan Haji Hamzah Haji Morshidi, the Assistant General Manager of Resource Planning, STIDC, in his speech said that the Occupational Safety and Health Campaign started in 2015 with the aim to help the timber industry to provide a better and safer workplace.

He added that a company not only needs to ensure the safety and health of its employees, but also the general public who may have access to the workplace. This is because any accident that occur could bring negative

impact to a company, such as negative reputation and financial loss. However, it should not just be the responsibility of the employer but also every individual at the workplace to ensure workplace safety and health.

He hoped that through this Campaign, participants will gain a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a company and its employees on the safety and health at their workplace; the importance to set up a safety and health committee to manage the safety of the workplace and to have personnel who are capable to establish strategic risk assessment and control.

Six (6) papers were presented during the Briefing, namely The Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994, Factory and Machinery Act 1967, Notification of Accident, Dangerous Occurrence, Occupational Poisoning and Occupational Disease Regulation 2004, Regulation of Work Safety and Health (Safety and Health Committee 1996), Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Risk Control as well as Use and Standard of Exposure of Chemicals Hazardous to Health (USECHH Regulation).

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