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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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16th Series of Sarawak Timber Industry Occupational Safety and Health Campaign



Photo: Group photo

The 16th Series of Sarawak Timber Industry Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Campaign for the management level was held on 18 December 2019 at Promenade Hotel, Bintulu.

This Campaign, attended by about fifty (50) participants from the downstream timber industry and forestry agencies, has been jointly organised by the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) since 2015.

In her Welcoming Speech, Mdm Nur Edora, Manager of Resource Planning Section of STIDC, mentioned that safety at workplace is important because accidents will have negative impacts on both employers and employees, even more so if it involves loss of life.

She urged all participants to establish a safe and healthy working culture for their workers.

In her speech, Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA, thanked STIDC and DOSH for involving STA in organising such campaigns in the past four (4) years. According to her, these campaigns were conducted in camps and mills to create awareness on safety and health at workplace for the workers.

She hoped that through this corporation, a platform could be formed to assist the timber industry players to comply with the requirements of DOSH. Ms Ting also urged the participants to take this opportunity to seek clarification on issues faced by them on the ground.

Subsequently, Mr Syed Mohamed Firdaus of DOSH, gave a presentation on the background of DOSH and two (2) main OSH Acts, i.e. *Factories and Machinery Act 1967 (Act 139)* and *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 (Act 514)* [OSHA 1994].

He also pointed out that the timber industry in Sarawak has

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one of the highest cases in accidents. Besides this, he shared real case scenarios of accidents and their causes, and stressed the importance of conducting hazard identification, risk assessment and risk control (HIRARC) activities at workplace.

Under Section 15, it is stated that employers and self-employed persons have the duty to ensure the safety, health and welfare of their employees at the workplaces. Meanwhile Section 32 states that an employer shall notify the nearest DOSH office of any accident, dangerous occurrence, occupational poisoning or occupational disease which has occurred or is likely to occur at the place of work.

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Briefing on Occupational Safety and Health at Workplace

On 13 December 2019, STA invited the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) Sarawak to conduct a briefing to its staff on the compliance of occupational safety and health at workplace. STA has been actively involved in promoting safety and health at workplaces belonging to its members. This initiative is carried out for the benefit of STA secretariat.

The briefing was conducted by Mr Sadiyuk Henry Rigit, Section Head Statutory Inspection of DOSH Sarawak. During the briefing, he updated STA Secretariat who are present on the requirements of Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 (Act 514) and its required compliance. He also provided an overview of the background of DOSH, principles of OSHA 1994 and duties of employers.

Mr Sadiyuk shared that out of the three Acts that are stipulated under his Department, only two are relevant to STA i.e OSHA 1994 (Act 514) and Factories and Machinery Act (Act139). He elaborated that the objectives of OSHA 1994 are to ensure the safety, health and welfare of employees and to protect others from the risks arising from the activities of work.

Self-regulation is important in handling issues relating to occupational safety and health.

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Photo: Participants attentively listening to presentation by Mr Syed Mohamed Firdaus

He added that employers must develop a good and orderly management system by implementing a safety and health policy as well as to make proper arrangements to be carried out.

He advised the STA Secretariat to form a safety and health committee and to carry out risk assessment in the workplace using the guideline on Hazard Identification Risk Assessment and Risk Control (HIRARC), which can be obtained at DOSH's website: <http://www.dosh.gov.my/index.php/legislation/guidelines/hirarc-2>.



Photo: Briefing by Mr Sadiyuk (5th from right) in session

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Did you know that.....

The last decade saw a number of new commitments to bring deforestation to halt such as the UN REDD+ framework, the New York Declaration on Forests and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which sets out to conserve and restore millions of hectares of forests. Other major changes for forests from the last decade are they have been new technologies such as drone which made it easier to monitor forests. However, biodiversity monitoring technology lagged behind because the technology developed too slowly to measure progress towards these commitments.

Source: 10 Big Changes for Forests over the Last Decade. Available at <https://www.wri.org/blog/2020/01/10-big-changes-forests-over-last-decade>

Did you also know that....

The forests and trees, combined with improved land management, could provide up to 30% of greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation needed by 2030 to limit the global average temperature rise to below 2°C. This was recognized and forms the basis of the “Santiago Call for Action on Forests” that was initiated in the recently concluded 25th Conference of Parties (COP 25) to the United Nation (UN) Climate Change Conference. The Call prompts countries to act on seven (7) essential activities including reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+).

Source: Santiago Call for Action on Forests. Available at https://redd.unfccc.int/files/santiago_call_for_action_on_forests.pdf climate-negotiator-takes-helm-un-summit



Sarawak Sign Language Book Launching Ceremony



Photo: (left) Invited guests joined Mr See Chee How (centre) for photo after the launching of the SwSL book (right picture)

The first edition of the book “Sarawak Sign Language” (SwSL) was launched by the Sarawak Society for the Deaf (SSD) on 19 December 2019, officiated by Mr See Chee How, Batu Lintang Assemblyman, and witnessed by Mr Brian Yeo, Finance and Administration Senior Manager of Sarawak Timber Association (STA); Mr Titus Chuo, Founder of SSD; and Mdm Wenderine Koo, Chairperson of SSD.

Mr Albert Wong Toungh Chui, Project Coordinator of SwSL, cum President of Sarawak Deaf Sports Association and Treasurer of ASEAN Deaf Sports Federation, thanked STA for being the main organisation funding the project with a contribution of RM50,000.00.

The SwSL book is intended to help the people of

Sarawak to learn and understand the communication methods, such as hand gestures, body and facial expression, used by the deaf society in Sarawak.

220 signs were selected from over 1,000 signs collected from all areas across Sarawak. To date, 100 copies of the book have been produced and are available in two (2) languages which are Bahasa Malaysia and English.

SSD will be distributing the SwSL book to special needs organisations located in Kota Samarahan, Sibuan and Miri, as well as three (3) integrated secondary schools, namely Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Datuk Patinggi Haji Abdul Gapor; SMK Rosli Dhoby, Sibuan; and SMK Dato Permaisuri, Miri.

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5th Standards Review Committee Meeting

The review of the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification [MC&I (FMC)], which is a merged standard that incorporates the requirements for certification of both natural forests and forest plantations has come to a conclusion.

The review of the standard commenced in November 2015 and was put on hold in March 2017 to give way to the concurrent review of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) Standards. In March 2018, the review process resumed.

A total of two (2) public consultation sessions, four (4) Standards Review Committee (SRC) Meetings as well as regional consultations in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak have been conducted throughout the review process.

The 5th SRC Meeting was held from 9 to 11 December 2019 in Penang, and attended by seventeen (17) SRC members, two (2) of whom are STA members, and four (4) observers.

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Photo: Group photo

Twenty-six (26) general comments and 256 specific comments from 26 institutions, which were received during the second public consultation held from 19 May to 19 July 2019, were thoroughly considered in the three-day Meeting.

Under the draft MC&I (FMC), several new verifiers have been included for Sarawak, including;

- (i) Land Surveyors Ordinance 2001 (Cap. 40);
- (ii) Director of Forests Circular 2/2019 on Restoration Program within Licensed Area;
- (iii) Policy on Forest Management Certification in Sarawak;
- (iv) Sarawak Forestry Policy, 2019; and

(v) Manual, Procedures and Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management Certification (Green Book).

The final draft of the standard will be tabled to the Malaysian Timber Certification Council Board in March 2020 for approval.

Once approved, the standard shall supersede the MC&I (Natural Forest) and the MC&I Forest Plantation. v2 as the standard to be used for certification of forest management of natural forests and forest plantations in Malaysia.



Photo: Meeting in session.

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