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Skills Training, in Support of Section 51 of the Forests Ordinance 2015 (S'wak Cap. 71)

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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Photos: (left) Ms Annie Ting introducing Tuan Hamden bin Haji Mohammad, the Director of Forests, FDS to the Trainers and Assessors of STAT; (above) Tuan Hamden chairing the Dialogue Session between FDS and STAT.

A Briefing on Skills Training in Support of Section 51 of the Forests Ordinance 2015 (S'wak Cap. 71) was organised by STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), a subsidiary company of Sarawak Timber Association (STA) from 12 to 14 February 2019 at Wisma STA, Kuching. The Briefing was provided by Trainers/ Assessors of STAT to officers from the Training Unit of Forest Department Sarawak (FDS).

Training background and knowledge on the five (5) Prescribed Forestry Activities (PFA) such as (i) *Certificate in Tree Felling – Chainsaw (Natural Forest)*; (ii) *Certificate in Log Extraction – Tractor (Natural Forest)*; (iii) *Certificate in Log Loading – Front End Loader (Natural Forest)*; (iv) *Certificate in Clear Fell Site Preparation – Chainsaw (Forest Plantation)*; and (v) *Certificate in Mechanical Site Preparation – Excavator*

(Forest Plantation) were imparted to the officers from the newly established Training Unit of FDS.

Prior to the Briefing, a Dialogue Session was held and chaired by Tuan Hamden bin Haji Mohammad, the Director of Forests (DoF).

In his Opening Remarks, he acknowledged the Briefing as important for the officers in the Technical Training Unit to understand the content of the training being taught to the workmen at logging camps.

As the State Government is taking serious efforts in ensuring that all forestry related industries i.e. logging companies comply with the requirements of Forest Management Certification (FMC) and have their concession areas certified

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as a Forest Management Unit (FMU), these companies' efforts in having more of their workmen trained and assessed as competent is commendable.

During the Session, presentations were delivered by Ms Annie Ting, the Acting Joint Group Chief Executive Officer cum Senior Manager of STA, the Trainers/Assessors as well as Training Officer of STAT. The presentations covered the background of STAT skills training for the five (5) PFA and STAT Database System. Ms Wilhelmina Cluny, Research Officer of FDS also presented on *Sustainable Forest Management and Requirement for the Trained Workmen*.

Twenty one (21) officers i.e. Forest Conservationists, Forests Guards and Ground Operators of the Training Unit of FDS from various regions in Sarawak participated in the subsequent two-and-a-half day Briefing.

The Trainers/Assessors from STAT presented generic units of both Natural Forest and Planted Forest such as General Induction on Forest Operations; Demonstrate Knowledge of Environmental Requirements

in Forest Operations; Demonstrate Knowledge of Forest Planting Site Preparation; and the 5 PFAs.

These presentations also covered the importance of being equipped with full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and awareness of reducing impact to the environment during all forestry operations.

Apart from classroom presentations, a demonstration session on PPE was also conducted by the Trainers/Assessors of STAT for the participants, particularly on the proper method and practice in handling a chainsaw.

At the end of the event, Mr Afriezul bin Abdul Rahman, Senior Executive Forester of FDS expressed his appreciation to STAT for organising the event. He hoped that the cooperation between FDS and STAT will continue after the event and for the furtherance of goals such as formation of the Trained Workmen Advisory Working Group and implementation of verification process from April 2019 onwards.



Photos: (left) Officers from Training Unit, FDS listening to the presentation by Mr Denis Aman, Trainer and Assessor from STAT; (right) Mr Ginda Uli, Trainer and Assessor from STAT (equipped in full PPE) demonstrating the proper way in handling chainsaw

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Did you know that....

The United Nations General Assembly on 1 March 2019 adopted the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The Decade will run from 2021 to 2030 and led by the UN Environment and Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO). The concept emphasise on scaling-up of restoration work to address the severe degradation of landscapes worldwide. These efforts and initiatives will contribute significantly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

Source: UN Declares 2021 to 2030 "Decade on Ecosystem Restoration". Available at <https://news.globallandscapesforum.org/32909/un-declares-2021-to-2030-decade-on-ecosystem-restoration/>

Did you also know that....

Although the indigenous people form less than five (5) per cent of the world's population, they protect eighty (80) per cent of global biodiversity. Hence, half of the 14 members of Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will comprise of indigenous people to give them a chance to share their traditional knowledge on the environment.

Source: Indigenous People to Have Say in UN Climate Policy. Available at <https://www.scidev.net/asia-pacific/indigenous/news/indigenous-people-to-have-say-in-un-climate-policy.htmlcom/2019/01/18/shortage-despite-log-export-ban/>



Preparatory Meetings, in Support of the 2nd Pilot Projects for Environmental Compliance Audit



Photos: (left) Representatives from participating STA member companies listening to the presentation delivered by NREB officers in the Meeting in Miri; (right) Consultation session between the NREB, led by Mr Dau Utan, Head of NREB Sibu Regional Office and representatives from Raplex Sdn Bhd, one of STA member companies participating in the Pilot Projects.



The Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) have jointly conducted a series of Preparatory Meetings for the seven (7) STA member companies participating in the 2nd Pilot Projects for Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) at (i) Meritz Hotel, Miri on 13 February 2019, (ii) Tanahmas Hotel, Sibu on 14 February 2019 and (iii) NREB Headquarters Office, Kuching on 15 February 2019.

NREB officers from the headquarters and regional offices, representatives from the participating companies and STA Secretariat attended the meetings which were organised with the aim to establish clear understanding of the (i) roles and responsibilities of all parties to the Pilot Projects, (ii) Pilot Projects timeline, (iii) environmental audit process and most importantly to discuss each of the companies' Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Approval Terms and Conditions.

Ms Annie Ting, Senior Manager of STA thanked the NREB for their effort in conducting the series of meetings for the benefit of all parties, especially the participating companies which will undertake the Internal ECAs. She also requested the NREB to revisit a commitment made by

both the NREB and STA in the 1st Pilot Projects to address the issue of irrelevant or overlapping EIA Approval Terms and Conditions.

Mr Tsai Koh Fen, Head of Environmental Regulation Section, NREB, agreed to address these discrepancies with utmost attention and urgency as one of the Pilot Project's objectives is to identify weaknesses and provide opportunities for improvement.

Ms Elizabeth Nyomek, Head of Compliance and Enforcement Section, NREB, shared with the participants of the meetings that under the Pilot Projects, the participating companies are required to conduct one (1) cycle of ECA consisting of two (2) Internal ECAs and one (1) External ECA and call for continuous commitment from all parties to the Pilot Projects as they migrate from EMR to ECA, as required under the NRE (Audit) Rules, 2008.

Mr Mathew Losey, Head of Environmental Audit Unit, NREB, informed the Meeting that the companies can seek for guidance from the NREB pertaining to processes and requirements of ECA in accordance with the NRE (Audit) Rules prior to the company's conduct of 1st Internal ECA.

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Fourth Standard Review Committee Meeting

The fourth Standard Review Committee (SRC) meeting was held from 18 to 20 February 2019 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. During this SRC meeting, Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) as Secretariat to the SRC meeting informed the SRC members that the review of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) sustainability benchmark standard has been concluded and was approved in November 2018.

They also informed on the requirements of the sustainable forest management in the benchmark standard. The new benchmark standard expanded the social requirements to include minimum wages for forest workers, equal opportunities for employment and non-discrimination, and promotes gender equality.

The benchmark standard also touched on ecosystem services and allowance for conversion of degraded forest under specific circumstances. Besides these, tree outside forests were also included in the benchmark standard.

Members of the SRC deliberated on the incorporation of Principle 10 into Principles 1 to 9 of the merged standard i.e. Malaysian Criteria and Indicator (MC&I) Forest Management.

The meeting went through the comparison between the PEFC Benchmark Standard and MC&I Forest Management and included several new indicators such as Universal Declaration on Human Rights; Anti-Corruption Act, 1997; Whistleblower Protection Act, 2010; and ILO 169 - Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989.

The Meeting also went through the definition of key terms used in the MC&I Forest Management.

The MC&I Forest Management will be circulated to stakeholders for Second Public Comment for sixty (60) days and MTCC will also be holding a regional consultation on the MC&I Forest Management.

Following that, the SRC will meet again to deliberate on Enquiry Draft. The MTCC is targeting for the final MC&I Forest Management to be adopted by end of 2019.

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