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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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International Symposium on the Promotion of Deforestation-Free Global Supply Chain to Contribute to Halting Deforestation



Photo: (top) Panel Members at the wrap-up session with two moderators; (bottom) Group photo

The International Symposium on the Promotion of Deforestation-Free Global Supply Chain to Contribute to Halting Deforestation - *Challenges of Private Sector for Forest Conservation as the Key to Achieving the SDGs and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* was held on 23 and 24 January 2017 at Mita Conference Hall in Tokyo, Japan.

The 250 participants who attended the Symposium were mostly from stakeholders other than the timber industry to (i) promote better understanding on the implementation status of the New York (2015) global zero deforestation commitments; (ii) facilitate a wider publication of good practices including those by the private

sector in Japan toward the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) as well as Aichi Biodiversity targets; and (iii) provide opportunities for scaling up zero-deforestation activities by a wide range of sectors toward the shared goal of halting deforestation by 2020.

The following were among some of the major points highlighted and discussed by the participants during the 2-day Symposium:

- Acknowledging the importance of actions by both supply and demand sides, the private sector doing business in the Japanese market,

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one of the biggest economies in the world, as well as Japanese enterprises doing business abroad should take all necessary measures to establish procurement policies that contribute to a deforestation-free world for the benefit of present and future generations and continue to disclose information concerning the implementation status thereof while paying due attention to the potential risks of imported commodities becoming the driver of deforestation on the supply side.

- While the primary responsibility of promoting deforestation-free supply chains rest on the private sector, the public sector should also play an active role to this end. In this regard, private and public partnership should be further strengthened by making concerted efforts for scaling up deforestation-free global supply chains.

- Every stakeholder involved in the supply chains of commodities that have potential risks of placing pressures on forest ecosystems should be aware of the fact that commitments to zero-deforestation and disclosure of their implementation status are

increasingly linked to worldwide Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investments. The importance of proactive approaches cannot be over emphasised given that the ESG investment movement will have bigger impacts on business activities in the years to come.

- While deforestation-free global supply chains are promoted by agricultural and other commodity sectors, particular attention should also be paid to the fundamental importance of promoting degradation-free global supply chains of forest products given that forest degradation is now thought to be a bigger contributor to carbon dioxide emissions than deforestation.

It was informed that the outcome of the Symposium will feed into the ongoing international dialogues on deforestation-free commodity supply chains, including the International Conference "*Halting Deforestation and Increasing Forest Area – from Aspiration to Action*", organized by Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) in February 2018 at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Headquarters in Rome, Italy.

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Fourteen Interns Completed Sarawak Forestry Corporation's Conservation Internship Programme

Fourteen (14) interns, who successfully completed the 9-month Conservation Internship Programme (CIP) for Forest Management Certification, received their certificates from Datu Len Talif Salleh, the Assistant Minister of Urban Planning, Land Administration and Environment in a ceremony held in a local hotel in Kuching on 17 January 2018.

The CIP, was organised by Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) on 4th April 2017, in collaboration with Sarawak Timber Association (STA), University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and other stakeholders, is in line with the Government's goal of having more Forest Management Units (FMU) in the Sarawak.

Its primary aim is to train young graduates, who upon completing the course, are competent in conservation and social forestry to assist the timber companies that are undergoing forest management certification.

Datu Len Talif Salleh in his speech, congratulated the interns and proposed this Programme be extended to include tourist guides and wildlife rangers, which in turn would attract more graduates, who are not only confined to the fields of forestry, environment and biological sciences but to engineers and others who are interested in conservation. He expressed the hope that this Programme can be held annually and called for support from the private sector.

Tuan Haji Zolkipli bin Mohamad Aton, SFC acting Chief Executive Officer, said all the interns passed the stringent screening process before they were selected for the 9-month Programme, covering eight (8) modules delivered through a mix of classrooms and practical, fieldwork, laboratory sessions as well assessment.

According to Tuan Haji Zolkipli, the next intake of interns for this Programme will be in April 2018.



Did you know that....

Lawmakers in Hong Kong, the largest markets for ivory have approved a three-year plan to ban the imports of elephant tusks by 2021.

This move follows a similar pending ban passed in mainland China, another major market for illicit ivory, end of 2017. The planned ban will also include harsher penalties for ivory smugglers with the maximum prison sentence for them increasing from 2 years to 10 years.

Source: Hong Kong Will Ban the Trade in Ivory, available at <http://cleanmalaysia.com/2018/02/13/hong-kong-will-ban-trade-ivory/>

Did you also know that....

In Kuching, Sarawak, residents generate 800 grams of waste on average, every single day. This level of wastage amounts to 690,000kg of waste daily, three (3) times the national average. The amounts of waste have reached such endemic proportions in the city that local landfills are swamped. So are local rivers, many of which have been badly polluted with as much as 300,000 tons of waste being released into them locally each year.

Source: *Kuching is Being Swamped by Waste*, available at <http://cleanmalaysia.com/2018/02/07/kuching-swamped-waste/>



Training on Environmental Quality Monitoring, in support of Pilot Projects for Environmental Compliance Audit



Photo: (clockwise) The Trainer introducing participants to equipments used for water quality monitoring; The Trainer demonstrating water sampling protocols on site; Participants in groups of five (5) collecting water samples and in-situ readings.

A Training on Environmental Quality Monitoring course was organised by Chemsain HRD Sdn Bhd, in collaboration with the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) from 30 January to 1 February 2018 at Kemena Hotel, Bintulu.

The Training, conducted to build capacity in support of the Pilot Projects for Environmental Compliance Audit was fully funded by STA and attended by twenty (20) personnel from the eight (8) member companies of STA that had volunteered to undertake the Pilot Projects.

The Training was developed with the objective to train the participants in environmental monitoring and sampling method, with emphasis on the collection of water samples. This is to meet the audit requirement as environmental quality monitoring (EQM) is a component of Internal Environmental Compliance Audit.

The Pilot Projects, initiated by Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) to determine the feasibility of implementing the Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008 was launched on 9 November 2017.

The 3-day Training, conducted by Professor Dr Lau Seng, an experienced trainer in the field of water sampling and analyses included protocols on water sampling and handling of equipment for in-situ and ex-situ analysis, includes hands on exercise on water sampling.

Mr Justine Jok Jau, Deputy Controller, NREB in his closing remarks informed participants of the Training that he hoped the Training would help eliminate element of impropriety in the collection of water samples. He also urged participants of the Training to contact the relevant staff from NREB directly for assistance and guidance in the migration from Environmental Monitoring Report (EMR) to Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA).

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Training Programme of WISDEC Sabah 2018

The Wood Industry Skills Development Centre (WISDEC) Sabah has scheduled the following courses for wood-based industry manufacturers in Sabah and Sarawak. The main objective is to enable the industry and public to participate in the programme that is offered by WISDEC.

The courses offered by WISDEC Sabah from February to October 2018 are summarised as follows:-

NO.	CODE	DATE	COURSE	FEE
1.	WM 425	26 – 27 FEBRUARY	HIRARC ANALYSIS IN WOOD BASED INDUSTRIES	RM 265
2.	WD 409	12 – 14 MARCH	BUSINESS COACHING FOR FURNITURE ENTREPRENEURS	RM 395
3.	WM 411	16 – 18 APRIL	PRODUCT BUDGETTING AND COSTING	RM 397
4.	WM 425	7 – 8 MAY	PERONEMA CANESCENS PROCESSING	RM 265
5.	WC 406	16 – 19 JULY	FURNITURE MAKING – DISPLAY CABINET (TETRISZ)	RM 530
6.	WT 404	6 – 9 AUGUST	TECHNOLOGY AND OPERATION OF WOOD WORKING MACHINE (6 HEAD MOULDER)	RM 530
7.	WS 304	24 – 26 SEPTEMBER	SAW DOCTORING	RM 397.50
8.	WT 403	15 – 18 OCTOBER	TECHNOLOGY AND OPERATION OF WOODWORKING MACHINE CNC ROUTER (ALPHACAM SOFTWARE)	RM 530

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