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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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Second Batch of 13 Interns Receive Certificates for Completing Conservation Internship Programme (CIP)



Photos: (left) Mr Philip Choo Kwong Hui, Honorary Treasurer of STA addressing attendees at the ceremony; (right) The interns pose for a photo with Tuan Haji Zolkipli Bin Mohamad Aton, CEO of SFCSB

Thirteen (13) interns of the second batch of Conservation Internship Programme (CIP) for Forest Management Certification (FMC) received their certificates in a ceremony held at the Waterfront Hotel on 18 March 2019.

The CIP was launched by Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) under the umbrella of Research for Intensified Management of Bio-Rich Areas of Sarawak (RIMBA) with the inception of the first programme in 2017.

The successful conduct of the second batch was made possible with major financial support from Sarawak Timber Association (STA), with the objective to train conservation experts in the State to be equipped with the necessary technical knowledge and capabilities.

The end result would see to it that their focus and in-depth training in the field of conservation would enable them to facilitate the certification of the Forest

Management Units (FMUs) in the State from the conservation perspective.

The 9-month CIP which consists of classrooms and *in-situ* lectures, hands-on learning, fieldwork, and assessment is viewed by the industry as a strategic investment in capacity building.

Under the RIMBA set-up, the interns are exposed to intense working environment of research works as they collaborated with renowned researchers on site. To date, most of the graduates are working with companies in the timber industry.

The Chief Executive Officer of Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd (SFCSB), Tuan Haji Zolkipli Bin Mohamad Aton presented the certificates to the interns, witnessed by STA Honorary Treasurer, Mr Philip Choo Kwong Hui who was in attendance to represent the Chairman of STA, Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik.

(Continue on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Also present at the ceremony were representatives from Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) as well as officers from both SFCBS and STA.

Photo: Ms Ferly Cynte Lanan anak Henry Gim, seen here receiving her certificate, underwent six (6) weeks pre-requisite industrial attachment with one of the companies in the forestry and timber industry. She went on to accept a job offer from the company as a Forest Certification Executive.



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Workshop on Forest Management Certification and Forest Management Unit Readiness Assessment



Photos: (Left) The hall was filled to its capacity with officers from various forestry agencies and representatives from the forestry and timber industry; (Right) Group discussion on challenges faced by different stakeholders towards achieving forest management certification.

The *Workshop on Forest Management Certification (FMC) and Forest Management Unit (FMU) Readiness Assessment* was organised by Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd (SFCBS) at two (2) locations i.e. Imperial Hotel, Miri on 15 March 2019 and Tanahmas Hotel, Sibu on 19 March 2019.

The Workshop, attended by representatives from Sarawak's forestry agencies and timber industry players, aimed to create awareness and prepare the FMUs on FMC critical requirements so as to ascertain the state of readiness of FMUs in achieving FMC by the year 2022.

It also served as a platform for the timber industry players to gain better insights and clarifications regarding FMC issues and to share experiences on the challenges faced during the FMC process.

Tuan Haji Zolkipli Mohamad Aton, the Chief Executive Officer of SFCBS officiated the Workshop and in his Opening Remarks, thanked all participants for attending the Workshop as it reflected their commitment towards achieving FMC by the year 2022.

(Continue on page 3)



Did you know that.....

Most of the world is talking about turning grey to green through various initiatives, to come to terms with the dramatic increase in urbanized areas, as the United Nations (UN) predicts that two-thirds of the world's population will be living in cities by year 2050. The Chinese government in China, for example, is building a new city, "Forest City" where buildings will be covered in over 40,000 trees. In Italy, "Library of Trees" was built over an area of 100,000 sqm to serve as giant green lung for the city.

Source: 7 Ways Towns and Cities are Turning from Gray to Green. Available at <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/11/7-ways-towns-and-cities-are-turning-from-grey-to-green/>

Did you also know that....

Malaysia ranked 61 out of 180 countries assessed in year 2018 by Transparency International, a global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption, for its Corruption Perception Index 2018. The score, retained at 47 out of 100 points saw Malaysia moving a spot higher from the previous year. Among ASEAN countries, Malaysia is among the top three after Singapore (ranked 3rd) and Brunei (ranked 31st) and ranked above Indonesia (ranked 89th) and Vietnam (ranked 117th).

Source: Corruption Perception Index 2018. Available at <https://www.transparency.org/cpi2018#results>



(Continued from page 2)

He hoped the participants would take the opportunity to address critical requirements of the FMC as well as acquire fundamental knowledge and understanding on FMC process in order to prepare their FMUs to undergo certification.

The following papers were presented in the Workshop;

Paper 1: Forest Management Plan (FMP) and Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)

- by Mr Ricky Jonathan, FDS (Miri) and Mr Wira Azizi, FDS (Sibu)

The speakers reiterated on the commitment made by the Sarawak Government where all long term forest timber licenses (FTL) must obtain FMC by the year 2022. Participants were informed that there are currently six (6) FMUs certified in Sarawak. The speakers also shared on the content of FMP which comprises thirteen (13) chapters as well as demonstrated calculation for AAC used in Deramakot FMU in Sabah. The licensees took the opportunity to share limitations faced such as lack of knowledge and skill in preparing FMP and incomplete FMP.

Paper 2: The Establishment of Permanent Sample Plot (PSP)

- by Ms Bibian Diway, SFCSB (Miri, Sibu)

The speaker shared information on PSP, plot establishment, data collection, data analysis and reporting which are part of FMC requirements. She also recounted her experiences in PSP establishment for Research and Development for the PSP Network Project.

Paper 3: High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF)

- by Mr Malcom Demies, SFCSB (Miri) and Ms Jacqueline Henry Ripan, SFCSB (Sibu)

Both the speakers highlighted the importance of HCVF in particular for its environmental, socio-economic, biodiversity as well as landscape attributes. They also emphasised the identification of HCVF through stakeholders' consultation process.

Those present were also informed that HCVF has been included as one of the requirements of Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme and Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil.

Paper 4: Social Impact Assessment (SIA)

- by Dr Samantha Liew, WWF-Malaysia (Miri, Sibu)

The speaker shared the key steps involved in an SIA process, such as identification of needs and interests of stakeholders as well as stakeholder engagements which makes SIA an important planning tool in addressing social component.

Paper 5: Community Relations Mechanism in FMC, Sarawak

- by Ms Wilhelmina Cluny, FDS (Miri, Sibu)

The speaker underlined consultation framework of Forest Management Certification Liaison Committee (FMCLC) as an effective mechanism to resolve conflict.

Paper 6: Common Issues of Concern Raised During Pre-Assessment Audit

- by Ms Evelyn Jugi, SFCSB (Miri, Sibu)

The speaker briefed about common issues faced by licensees when undergoing audit based on each principle in the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for FMC (Natural Forest) [MC&I(Natural Forest)].

Participants were then divided into groups to discuss and share the challenges faced by timber industry players and government agencies alike, in achieving the goal towards FMC.

The groups were also requested to provide (i) a list of trainings that are required from Sarawak's forestry agencies and (ii) feedback on the verifiers stipulated in the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCS) standard.

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Dialogue Session Called By Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) called a Dialogue Session with STA plywood and sawn timber members on 21 March 2019 to gather feedback on current situation and issues faced by industry players. Approximately 55 representatives from the timber industry, STIDC and STA Secretariat attended the Session.

In his Welcoming Remarks, Tuan Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, General Manager of STIDC said that STIDC initiated the Dialogue as a follow up to the *Stakeholders Consultation on the Proposed Forestry Policies* held in January 2019. It is important for STIDC to work together with STA in making the move to gather more information before the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources (MuDeNR) finalises the policies for the timber industry. He emphasised that the proposed forestry policies must be able to encourage growth of the industry.

Ms Annie Ting, Senior Manager of STA, presented the issues and challenges by outlining the current situation relating to resources, production as well as domestic and international markets. She also touched on additional costs, labour as well as trade issues. She also put forward recommendations on how the Sarawak Government

could assist the downstream sector. She shared that the Japanese Government encourages its industry to use local logs through provision of subsidy as well as subsidising 30% of the machinery cost for a mill set up. The Japanese Government also encourages the usage of domestic logs for public buildings to secure its domestic market.

Recognising the tough situation of the industry, Tuan Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet proposed for the industry to provide related data such as total product cost structure to STIDC as they agreed to introduce immediate, medium and long term solutions. These solutions include organising resource buying mission and awareness programme to attract the locals to work in the timber industry; liaising with the Labour Department Sarawak on employment period of foreign workers and arrangements for their night shift allowance; appealing to the Department of Environment to defer the installation of Continuous Emission Monitoring System in mills; as well as setting up a Task Force aiming to help the downstream sector to address issues affecting their daily operations.

Both STIDC and STA agreed to work closely to ensure that the proposed solutions can be carried out to assist the industry to sustain.

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