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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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5th Environmental Compliance Audit Training Course



Photo: Ir Dr Chong (standing) conducting the Training.

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) in collaboration with the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) Sarawak recently concluded another Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) Training Course solely for STA members from 21 to 25 October 2019 and 11 to 13 November 2019 at Wisma STA, Kuching.

The Training was part of the Association's many initiatives to enhance the capacity building within its member companies on environmental management, preparation towards implementation of the *Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008* [NRE (Audit) Rules, 2008] and to support implementation of the pilot projects for ECA.

The 5th ECA Training Course was enrolled by twenty-two (22) staff from STA member companies. Upon completion of the Training and passing all pre-requisite examinations,

the participants will be qualified as internal environmental auditor for their respective companies under the NRE (Audit) Rules, 2008.

Mr Justine Jok Jau Emang, Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak, in his Welcoming Remarks, thanked STA for supporting and collaborating with NREB in conducting this Training.

He mentioned that it is important to protect the existing environment for future generation. Failure to address environmental issues will result in climate change, air pollution, rise in world temperature, etc. Mr Justine also urged STA members to go for self-regulation in environment protection and to promote green label in their products or commodities.

The Training began with a session from Mr Peter Sawal, Environmental Advisor to the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources who presented

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on laws and regulations related to the ECA, namely (i) NRE (Audit) Rules, 2008 and other legal requirements; (ii) guidelines for NRE (Audit) Rules, 2008; and (iii) format of reporting for environmental quality monitoring.

The key principles of auditing which includes systemic audit process, audit scope, systematic approach during site audit and writing of audit report were explained by trainer, Ir Dr Chong Hock Guan. He emphasised that ECA is carried out against the company's approved terms and conditions stated in the Environmental Impact Assessment report through methods such as interview, document review and site inspection. Participants were reminded to remain professional, uphold integrity and conduct audit based on evidence.

A practical on site audit was subsequently held on 23 October 2019 at one of the oil palm plantations in Kota Samarahan.

The exercise serves as a mock audit to provide participants with first hand audit experience, following which, they are required to submit individual audit report within one (1) week from date of audit. The Training ended with open book and closed book examinations.

STA began organising ECA Training Courses, in collaboration with the NREB since 2015. To date, a total of 111 staff from STA member companies have participated in and benefitted from the series of ECA Training Courses with 50 per cent subsidy from STA.

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Meeting with Director of Forests



Photo: Datu Hamden (fourth from left) speaking to STA Secretariat, led by its CEO, Ms Annie (fourth from right), in the presence of other senior officers from the FDS.

On 5 November 2019, Sarawak Timber Association (STA), led by Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer, paid a visit to Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, Director of Forests, to provide him with updates on forestry matters currently facing companies in the forestry and timber industry.

Ms Ting also took the opportunity to congratulate Datu Hamden on his conferment of Darjah Jasa Bakti

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Sarawak which carries the title "Datu" and hoped that close working relationship between the industry players and the Government can be maintained.

Joined by senior officers from the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and STA Secretariat, the group discussed forestry related matters highlighted by Ms Ting pertaining to forest management certification (FMC), Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS), the *Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015*, relevant trainings offered by the FDS and several other forest operation issues in both natural forests and forest plantations.

Datu Hamden assured STA that FDS will follow through on the challenges brought to his attention and with these issues in mind, align policies and simplify forest operation procedures to facilitate the development of the industry which has benefitted the State in terms of revenue earnings.

He also shared the Department's future plans to build capacity within the Department as well as the industry. On the same note, he added that the door to feedback is always open for the industry players and STA, and commended the industry players for supporting the FDS over the years and for showing improvement in managing the forests.

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Did you know that....

The last remaining female Sumatran rhino died on 23 November at the Borneo Rhino Sanctuary in Sabah. The death of Iman marks the extinction of her species in Malaysia following the death of the last male Sumatran rhino just six (6) months ago. There are less than 80 Sumatran rhinos left in the planet and the species' last hope lies in Indonesia. Iman's death underscores the urgency of a global community's efforts to save the Sumatran rhino from extinction.

Source: Malaysia Says Goodbye to Iman, its Last Sumatran Rhino. Available at <https://www.livescience.com/malaysia-last-sumatran-rhino-dies.html>

Did you also know that....

China, Brazil, India and South Africa accounts for 36.6 per cent of the world's total carbon dioxide emissions in 2017. This was shared in the recently concluded 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25) which gathered leaders from 195 participating nations. Although countries like China, the world's biggest producer of carbon emission, agree that financing plays a key part in handling climate change, very little has been done to put a global carbon market in place.

*Source: China's New Climate Negotiator Takes Swipe at US in Debut at UN summit in Madrid.
Available at <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3041517/chinas-new-chief-climate-negotiator-takes-helm-un-summit>*



15th Occupational Safety and Health Campaign for Timber Industry



Photo: Participants of the Campaign

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) Sarawak and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) had jointly organised the 15th Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Campaign for Timber Industry from 5 to 6 November 2019 at Lubok Lalang Base Camp located in Limbang, Sarawak.

A total of thirty-eight (38) workers comprising general manager, camp manager, shovel drivers, foremen, mechanics, etc, of Lee Ling Timber Sdn Bhd attended the two-day Campaign.

As of November 2019, fifteen (15) similar campaigns had been conducted throughout Sarawak covering logging camps, mills and management of companies. The aim of this OSH Campaign was to create awareness in the timber industry on the importance of occupational safety and health at workplace as well as to carry out ground inspection to assess safety compliance in timber industry.

In his Opening Remarks, Tuan Haji Hamzah Bin Haji Morshidi, Assistant General Manager (Resource Planning) of STIDC, thanked DOSH and STA for their continuous support granted to STIDC in conducting this Campaign.

He also thanked Lee Ling Timber Sdn Bhd and all participants for their willingness to participate in this Campaign. Tuan Haji Hamzah urged all employers and employees to comply with the occupational safety and health at workplace in order to prevent occurrence of accident related to work which will affect operation and productivity of the company.

This was followed by presentations by Mr Mohammad Zaim Bin Kassim, Head of DOSH Miri Branch on (i) Introduction to Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), 1994; (ii) Notification of Accident, Dangerous Occurrence, Occupational Poisoning and Occupational Disease Regulations, 2004; (iii) Occupational Safety and Health Committee; (iv) Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Risk Control (HIRARC) and (v) Occupational Safety and Health (Use and Standard of Exposure Chemical Hazardous to Health) Regulations, 2000.

Mr Ahmad Faiz Bin Zainuddin, Inspection Officer of DOSH Miri, led a ground inspection at Lee Ling Timber Sdn Bhd. The exercise which is carried out to evaluate compliance of OSH requirements also provided participants with an insight of how enforcement works are carried out by DOSH.

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STA Tea Talk

"Orangutan – People of the Forest" was the topic for the STA Tea Talk which was held on 23 November 2019 at Wisma STA, Kuching and delivered by Ms Nor Emel Farnida Binti Jaddil, Park Manager of Semenggoh Wildlife Centre.

Endemic in the islands of Borneo and Sumatra, orangutan is one of the most admired primates in the Asian region. The word 'orangutan' is derived from Malay words 'orang' meaning 'people' and 'hutan' meaning 'forest'. Therefore, orangutan literally means "people of the forest".



Photo: Participants attentively watching short clips of Orangutan shared by the speaker



Photo: Ms Nor Emel (left) receiving a token of appreciation from Ms Annie (centre)

The Talk highlighted interesting facts about orangutan and its physical characteristics, behaviour, reproduction as well as conservation efforts of the orangutan in Sarawak.

The Talk attracted approximately sixty (60) participants from different backgrounds such as researchers and officers from various institutions. Also present to welcome the participants was Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA.

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