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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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## Briefing on Skills Training & The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015



Photo: (Above) Briefing in session in Kuching; (Bottom) Group photo of participants of Briefing in Miri

STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), a subsidiary company of Sarawak Timber Association (STA), organised a series of Briefing on "Skills Training and the Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015" on 23 October 2018 at Wisma STA in Kuching, on 24 October 2018 at Tanahmas Hotel in Sibu, on 25 October 2018 at Imperial Hotel in Miri and on 26 October 2018 at ParkCity Everly Hotel in Bintulu.

The objective of the Briefings was to keep the timber industry informed on the roles and responsibilities of STAT

as a Training Provider i.e. to fulfil the requirements of Section 51(1) of the Forests Ordinance, 2015 as well as to meet the requirements of forest management certification, legality scheme and etc. The Briefings were also extended to the non-members of STA.

A total of fifty nine (59) participants, which included training coordinators, training supervisors and representatives from Head Offices of STA Member Companies, attended the Briefings.

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Dr Peter Kho, General Manager of STA, updated participants of the Briefings on the background of the training, roles and responsibilities of STAT, legal requirements, skills training and courses offered by STAT, procedure to request for Training and Assessment, responsibility of a Training Coordinator, inspection and verification comments on Trained Workmen by the

Training Agent and etc.

Some concerns raised by the participants of the Briefings included issues on training relating to cutting limits, certification as well as Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS) and the target set for trained workmen.

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## Meeting with Licence for Planted Forest (LPF) Holders and LPF Task Force Meeting No 1/2018

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) called a meeting with Licence for Planted Forests (LPF) holders on 4 October 2018 at Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching. The Meeting was chaired by Tuan Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, Acting General Manager of STIDC and was attended by representatives from Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), LPF Holders and STA Secretariat.

Tuan Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, in his opening remarks informed the participants of the Meeting that the objectives of the meeting were to exchange ideas and information among the LPF Holders and State Forestry Agencies as well as to discuss the issues and challenges faced by the LPF holders and the way forward. He added that the supply of raw materials from natural forests is declining and will eventually affect the downstream industry in the State. He hoped that planted forests can produce sufficient quality resources for the downstream industry in the future.

Puan Dayang Nena Binti Abang Bruce, Deputy General Manager of STIDC briefed the participants of Meeting on the transformation plan for the Sarawak timber industry. She informed the Meeting that the export earnings in 2017 were about RM6.13 billion in which the major portion (98%) came from the primary and secondary industry. STIDC intends to boost the tertiary industry and bring up the export earnings to RM10 billion in 2030, in which RM6 billion will come from the furniture sector.

Mr Wong Siong Kuan, Senior Assistant of the Director

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of Forests, FDS also provided a brief introduction on planted forests in Sarawak and updated the participants of Meeting on the planting progress and log production from plantation forests.

Mr Julaihi Bin Abdullah, Deputy General Manager, SFC briefed the participants of the Meeting on the research and development (R&D) in planted forests in Sarawak. He emphasised the importance of having sustainable R&D in planted forests to ensure the success of forest plantation establishment in Sarawak. He explained that through R&D, better performing seed sources could be identified for the sites in Sarawak.

The Meeting then discussed further on the issues and challenges faced by the LPF holders, amongst others, land claim in the LPF areas, engagement of foreign workers, forest plantation certification requirement, ban of export of plantation logs and etc.

The Meeting agreed to form a LPF Task Force group, led by Puan Dayang Nena Binti Abang Bruce and include representatives from the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources (MUDeNR), STIDC, FDS, SFC, Land and Survey Department, Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, and STA Secretariat. The objective of the Task Force is to discuss in detail, the issues and challenges faced by the LPF holders and to propose solutions for them. The outputs from the discussion will be consolidated into a proposal paper which will be submitted to the Ministers for consideration.



### Did you know that.....

Countries can now create the necessary legal frameworks for effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and their Nationally Determined Contributions through an online *Law and Climate Change Toolkit*, developed by the UN Climate Change Secretariat, UN Environment and the Commonwealth Secretariat. The key features of the Toolkit include functionalities to search existing climate change-related legislation and to undertake an assessment of a selected country's legislation.

Source: The Law and Climate Change Toolkit. Available at: <https://lcc.eaudeweb.ro/about-us/>



## Did you also know that....

A special report on Global Warming of 1.5°C was prepared by 91 authors and review auditors from 40 countries. The report highlights a number of climate change impacts that could be avoided by limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2.0°C, or more. For instance, by 2100, global sea level rise would be 10cm lower with global warming of 1.5°C compared with 2.0°C. The likelihood of an Arctic Ocean free of sea ice in summer would be once per century with global warming of 1.5°C, compared with at least once per decade with 2.0°C.

Source: *Summary of Policymakers for IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C Approved by Governments*. Available at: [https://ipcc.ch/pdf/session48/pr\\_181008\\_P48\\_spm\\_en.pdf](https://ipcc.ch/pdf/session48/pr_181008_P48_spm_en.pdf)



## International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) Special Symposium on Using Impact Assessment to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Malaysia



Photo: Dr Theo Hacking delivering keynote address to establish main underlying theme of the Symposium

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in 2015 established a series of ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the international community. The seventeen (17) SDGs address issues such as climate change, sustainable consumption, innovation, peace and justice for all but significant challenges remain to achieving these goals.

Therefore, a special 2-day symposium was organised by International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), a leading global network on the best practice in the use of impact assessment for informed decision making from 1 to 2 October 2018 at Hilton Hotel, Kuching.

The Symposium, co-hosted by Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus (SUTS) and the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) was attended by more than 100 participants comprising delegates from thirteen (13) countries as well as representatives from the State's government agencies and private sector.

This year's symposium aimed to advance innovation

and communication of best practice in voluntary impact assessment by the private sector, in order to promote sustainable economic growth and development in the Asian region. Keynotes and parallel sessions were delivered by speakers who are passionate about addressing the symposium's broad theme *"Using Impact Assessment to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia"*.

Dr George Ngui, Associate Dean (Research & Development) at SUTS cum the organising co-chair thanked the three (3) sponsors, namely the State Government of Sarawak, Chiba University of Commerce and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) for their support.

Meanwhile, Dr Theo Hacking, Director of Graduate Programmes at the University of Cambridge for Sustainability Leadership, shared with the participants of the Symposium his optimism that the effectiveness of an impact assessment (IA) can be improved if the traditional Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is stretched to focus on sustainability themes.

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*Photo: Mr Nick Taylor presenting his paper in one of the parallel sessions.*

Mr Peter Sawal, Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak, NREB, in his welcoming address shared with the participants of the Symposium that although the requirements for EIA in the State only started in 1994, the State is committed to build on the strong ground that they have formed and hoped that the symposium can help the State transform from the traditional IA process towards SDG-focused IA.

ability to adapt to the region's fast-changing development landscape and offer differentiated responses,

The following are some highlights from the plenary and parallel sessions during the symposium:

1. New strategy is needed to achieve the SDG by 2030, one that involves the development finance institution's

2. An integrative framework that utilises SDGs should be developed and utilised from the beginning of the projects to achieve fairer and more sustainable social and environmental outcomes.

3. Malaysia ranked 55th with a score of 70.0 in the SDG Index & Dashboard Report 2018. The Report provides an assessment of 156 countries' distance to achieving the SDGs and each country's ranking of overall performance.