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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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Training on Reduced Impact Logging



Photo: Participants of the Training posing for a group photo

Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) had revised the *Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) Guidelines for Ground-based Harvesting System* for implementation by the forest timber licenses in Sarawak that undertake Forest Management Certification (FMC). In view of this, a series of training was conjointly organised by FDS and SFC in four (4) separate sessions in the month of September 2018 in Miri and Sibu. Participants of the Training comprised representatives from FDS, SFC and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) as well as the forest operators.

Tuan Haji Zolkipli Mohamad Aton, Chief Executive Officer of SFC in his opening remarks informed the participants of the Training that the State Government has imposed on all long-term forest timber licenses to be certified under FMC by year 2022.

In addition, he emphasised that the Training is important to update the forest operators on the policies, processes and procedures, which have changed over the years. Hence, he urged all participants to take note of the requirements of the RIL Guidelines in order to assist with implementation on the ground.

The series of Training was led and conducted by Mr Ting Chek Hieng, Manager, Management & Compliance (Sustainable Forestry & Compliance Division) of SFC and supported by a team of RIL crew from FDS and SFC.

Training was done in two (2) parts; Part 1 covered *pre-harvest planning of logging roads; block layout; landings & skid trails; and pre-felling inventory of trees for harvesting which includes identification; marking and recording of trees for protection; and preparation of RIL Plan (RILP)*, whilst Part 2 covered

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construction of logging road; skid trail; roadside landing; tree-felling; log skidding; and post-harvesting activities.

Apart from the theoretical training, practical trainings were also held at Lambir National Park for the staff of FDS and SFC.

These participants were taught on how to prepare and to plan skid trails; how to carry out pre-felling inventory of trees for harvesting and trees for protection; as well as the

use of clinometer, diameter tape and other instruments for survey and tree height measurement works.

In the winding-up session, Mr Ricky Jonathan Alek, the Assistant Director of FDS emphasised that the implementation of the Forest Management Plan (FMP) has to be stringent in order to achieve FMC with the hope that this certification can help our timber products penetrate the international markets.

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10th Series of Campaign on Occupational Safety and Health for the Timber Industry in Sarawak



Photo: Group photo of participants of the Campaign with the organising committee

The 10th series of Campaign on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) for the Timber Industry in Sarawak was recently concluded at Premier Hotel, Sibu from 4 to 5 September 2018.

The Campaign, jointly conducted by the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) gathered the largest crowd of participants since the inception of the Campaign in 2015, with a total of fifty four (54) representatives from

the timber industry, some of whom are sustainable forest management (SFM) managers, camp managers, sawmill managers, safety & health executives and surveyors as well as officers from STIDC's Central Region Office.

Mr Johari Bin Haji Zainudin, Assistant General Manager (Central Region), STIDC in his opening speech emphasised that safety and health in the workplace should not be overlooked as the timber industry in the State strives to achieve sustainable forest management. Instead, it is the responsibility of all parties to ensure that

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Did you know that.....

Malaysia ranked 55th out of 156 countries assessed in the 2018 Global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index Ranking and Scores which assesses countries' distance to achieving the SDG. With a score of 70.0, Malaysia performed better than its neighboring countries such as Philippines and Indonesia. However, more actions need to be taken in Malaysia to address SDG 15: *Life on Land* which goal is to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat deforestation, and halt and reverse land degradation as well as biodiversity loss.

Source: SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2018. Available at: <http://www.sdgindex.org/assets/files/2018/01%20SDGS%20GLOBAL%20EDITION%20WEB%20V9%20180718.pdf#page=22>

Did you also know that....

Muar is accorded the title "Furniture City of Malaysia" in April 2018 when the 400-hectare Muar Furniture Park was launched. Muar houses approximately 700 factories that account for 45 – 50% of Malaysia's furniture export with monthly export of about 6,000 – 7,000 containers to overseas markets around the world.

In an effort to give recognition to the "Furniture City", next year's Malaysian International Furniture Fair (MIFF) will be themed "Muar, the Furniture City of Malaysia".

Source: Malaysia's Foremost Furniture Hub. Available at: <http://welcome.muarfurniture.org/en/about>



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accidents or work disasters are reduced to a minimum so that cascading effects such as loss of working hours and expertise of the employees can be avoided altogether.

to reduce risk of accidents and diseases at workplaces as well as ways to report any accidents involving death, serious damage to property or machinery, occupational poisoning and diseases.

Mr Calvin Chin Yen Chih, Head of Department, DOSH Sibu Branch was also present to grace the opening ceremony and delivered an introduction to Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) 1994, the main legislative reference used in Malaysia to ensure safety, health and welfare of people at the workplace.

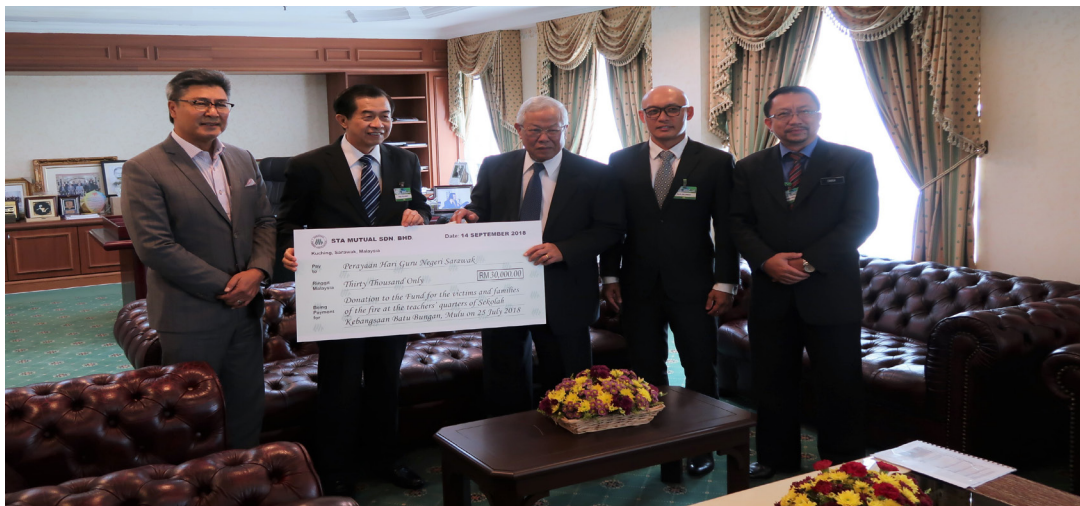
He further highlighted the requirement of OSH (Safety and Health Committee) Regulations 1996 which calls for an OSH Committee to be formed at workplaces.

This was followed by a series of presentations from Mr Shamsudin Bin Abdul Aziz, Factories and Machineries Assistant Inspector from DOSH in which he shared ways

The participants of the Campaign were also guided, in groups, to identify hazards, assess and control risks in their respective workplaces. The next series of OSH Campaigns will be conducted in Kapit and Kuching.

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Financial Assistance to Fire Victims of SK Batu Bungan, Mulu



From Left : Datu Sudarsono Osman, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Education Science and Technological Research Sarawak; Mr Philip Choo Kwong Hui, Honorary Treasurer of STA cum Company Secretary of STAM; Dato Sri Michael Manyin Jawong, Minister of Education, Science and Technological Research Sarawak; Mr Stephen Hii Hium Ung, STA Council Member and Mr Omar Bin Haji Mahli, Representative from Sarawak Education Department.

On 14 September, Sarawak Timber Association (STA) through STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM), a subsidiary company of STA, provided a financial assistance of RM30,000.00 towards the fund to help the fire victims of SK Batu Bungan, Mulu.

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The presentation of the financial assistance was held in the office of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Research Sarawak, Baitulmakmur Building (MASJA), where the mock cheque was handed over to Dato Sri Michael Manyin Jawong, Minister of Education, Science and Technological Research Sarawak by Mr Philip Choo Kwong Hui, STA Honorary Treasurer cum Company Secretary of STAM. Mr Stephen Hii Hium Ung, a STA Council Member was in attendance.

The fund was set up by Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, the Chief Minister of Sarawak after the fire incident on 25 July 2018. The Association had pledged to donate the amount when Dato Sri Michael Manyin Jawong made an appeal to assist the fire victims and their families in his speech during the STA Presentation Ceremony of Cash Awards, Financial Contributions and Scholarships at the Imperial Hotel in Kuching on 26 July 2018.

The collected amount will be managed by the Director of Sarawak Education Department through the "Perayaan Hari Guru Negeri Sarawak" Fund. The Association hopes this donation will help to support and alleviate the loss suffered by the victims and their families.

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