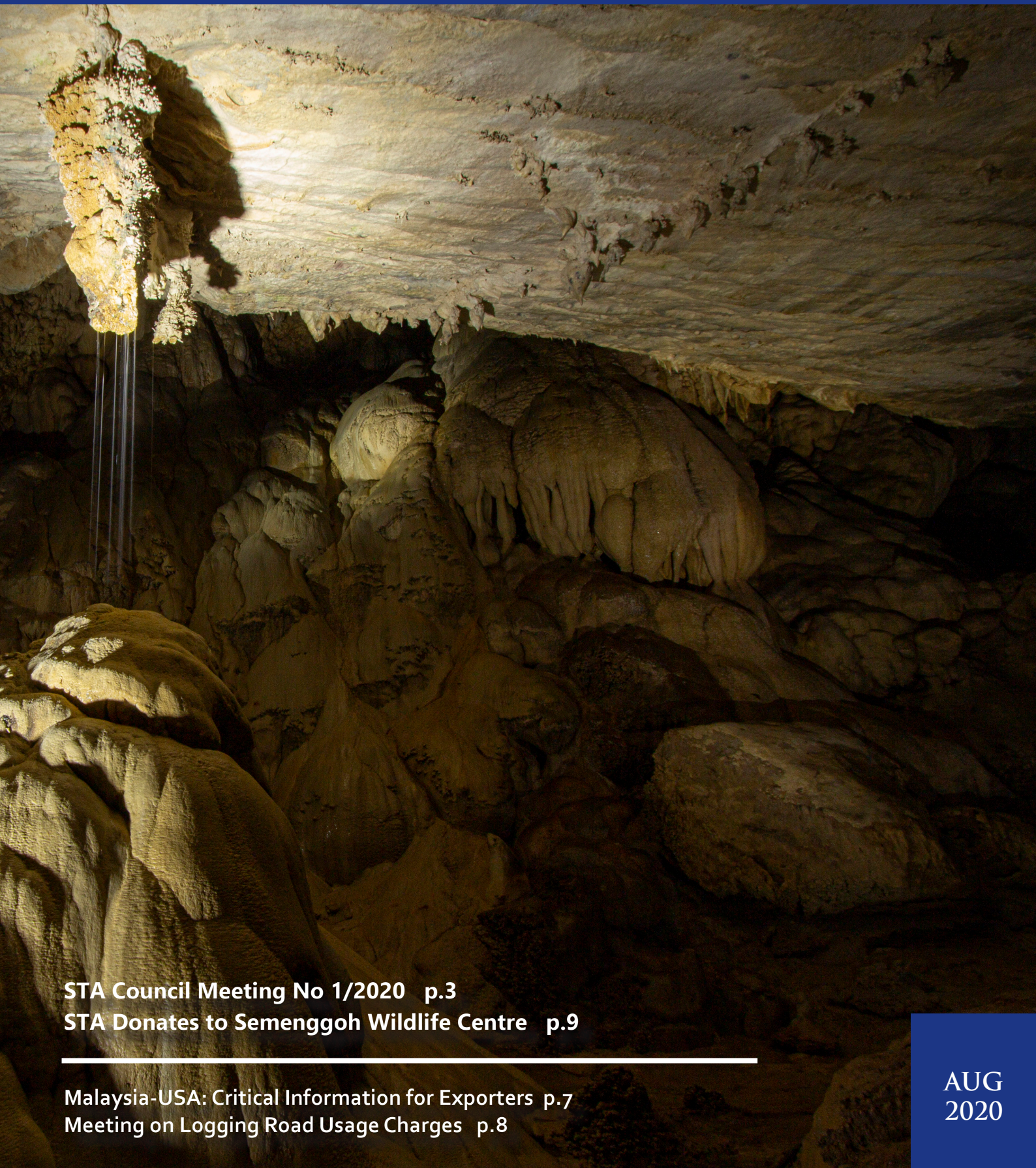


STA Review

Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association
VOLUME 323 PPK 174/05/2013 (032756)



STA Council Meeting No 1/2020 p.3
STA Donates to Semenggoh Wildlife Centre p.9

Malaysia-USA: Critical Information for Exporters p.7
Meeting on Logging Road Usage Charges p.8

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CONTENTS

PAGE

STA REVIEW

| | |
|---|----|
| <i>STA Council Meeting No 1/2020</i> | 3 |
| <i>Announcement: STA Annual General Meeting</i> | 4 |
| <i>STA M&A Committee Meeting No 2/2020</i> | 5 |
| <i>Co-Public Consultation Session with Stakeholders</i> | 5 |
| <i>Virtual Introduction & Refresher Session on FSC Forest Management & Chain of Custody Certification</i> | 6 |
| <i>Malaysia-USA: Critical Information for Exporters</i> | 7 |
| <i>Meeting on Logging Road Usage Charges</i> | 8 |
| <i>STA Donates to Semenggoh Wildlife Centre</i> | 9 |
| <i>18th Meeting of APEC EGILAT</i> | 10 |
| <i>Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Amendment) (No 3) Order 2020</i> | 11 |
| <i>DF Circular No 3/2020: Register of Workmen</i> | 12 |
| <i>DF Circular No 4/2020: Calibration of Weighbridge for Weighing of Logs Extracted from Planted Timber (LPF)</i> | 13 |
| <i>Soft Financing Scheme for Digital & Technology</i> | 14 |
| <i>MTC Webinar on E-commerce Platform</i> | 15 |
| <i>Stakeholders Introductory Dialogue: Master Plan Study on Deep Sea Port at Tanjung Po, Kuching</i> | 27 |

is a monthly magazine published by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) for its members. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information printed in this magazine is accurate and correct, neither STA nor its Council Members, Officers or Employees shall assume any responsibility or be made liable for any inaccuracies and errors printed; nor is such publication, unless otherwise stated, necessarily the views of STA, its Council Members, Officers or Employees. The contents of the STA Review may be reprinted with prior written permission from STA.

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REGULAR FEATURES

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| <i>Statistics</i> | 16 |
|-------------------|----|



COVER IMAGE

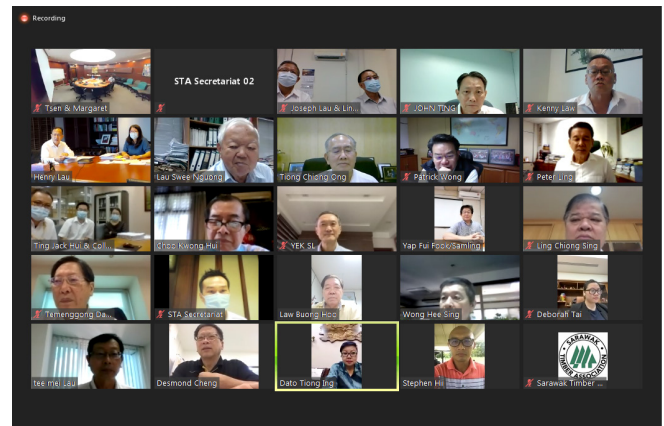
*Mulu Cave, Miri, Sarawak;
Photo credit Mr Chua Chung Nam*

STA Council Meeting No 1/2020

The STA Council Meeting No 1/2020 was conducted virtually on 14 August 2020. Twenty-five members of the Council attended this Meeting, which was chaired by Mr David Tiong, Vice Chairman, in the absence of the Chairman.

The Meeting accepted the nomination from Samling Group of Companies and appointed Mr Yap Fui Fook to replace Mr James Ho Yam Kuan as Permanent Council member from Samling Group of Companies. The Meeting expressed utmost gratitude for Mr Ho's service and contribution to the works of the Association.

The Meeting also received reports from several Category Committees and Working Committees as well as updates on the progress of forest plantation research projects funded by the Association.



Online meeting in progress

The STA Furniture & Other Woodworking, Moulding, Sawmilling and Timber Products Marketing Committees have initiated the development of a web-based trading management system “iTS Timber” as an exclusive platform for all members to trade timber and timber products. iTS Timber will be undergoing a trial run before it is officially made available to all members in September 2020. Interested members will need to register with the Association before they can access iTS Timber.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was initially fixed on 30 March 2020 in accordance with Article 5(a)(i) of STA M&A. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and implementation of the Movement Control Order starting 18 March 2020, the Council were left with no choice but to defer the AGM via a circular resolution until 30 June 2020 and further until 31 December 2020 or until the situation improves, whichever is earlier. The existing elected Council members had to be appointed as Council members until the AGM is called.

In this Meeting, the Council resolved to fix the date for calling the AGM on 30 October 2020. Members shall elect Council members for the new term of 2020 and 2021 in the AGM, and in accordance with Article 8(e)(i) of STA M&A, the appointment of the Election Committee to carry out the election of Council members shall take effect on 30 September 2020. Additionally, the Council also set an alternative date for calling the AGM on 27 November 2020 and the appointment of the Election Committee to take effect on 28 October 2020, both of which will be applicable if there is a need to further postpone the AGM due to circumstances surrounding COVID-19.

The Council also approved the proposed amendments to the STA M&A and resolved to table the proposed amendments at the AGM for voting by the members. The proposed amendments to the STA M&A encompass:

- i. The expansion of the Objects of the Association to include plantation and renaming the “Forest Plantation” category as “Plantation” category to cater for the inclusion of other plantation activities such as oil palm plantation and bamboo plantation;
- ii. Incorporation of the Association's emblem with the Association's name in English and Bahasa Malaysia and a description of the Association's emblem according to the *Societies Act 1966*;
- iii. Procedure of change of official and alternate representatives of member companies by empowering Council to set criteria/qualification for representative and to approve the appointment or change of representatives from member companies;
- iv. The holding of meetings via online or virtual platforms in light of extenuating circumstances such as the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- v. The return of the Nomination Forms to the Association via digital or electronic means such as email or other suitable applications, other than fax.

The Meeting approved financial contributions totaling RM550,000.00 to the following three (3) members for achieving forest management certification under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme in their respective Forest Management Unit (FMU):

| Company | Certified FMU | Size (Hectares) | Date Certified |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Pasin Sdn Bhd | Pasin | 132,151 | 16 March 2020 |
| Samling Plywood (Miri) Sdn Bhd | Geranai | 148,305 | 12 April 2020 |
| Interglobal Empire Sdn Bhd | Entulu - Melatai | 55,112 | 24 July 2020 |

The Meeting also approved one (1) new application for membership and one (1) application for the conversion from Member to Senior Member.

The one (1) new application for membership is as follows:

| Company | Official Category | Official Representative | Proposer | Seconder |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Syn Miaw Ann Trading Co. | Sawmilling | Mr Voon Foh Jin | Mr Wong Kiing Ting | Mr Stephen Hii Hium Ung |

The one (1) application for the conversion from Member to Senior Member is as follows:

| Company | Official Category | Date of Approval as STA Member |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Nam Thai Timber & Trading Sdn Bhd | Timber Products Marketing | 16 January 1989 |

Administrative matters of the Association as well as its three (3) subsidiary companies, namely STA Training Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd and STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, were also addressed during the Meeting.

共有25位理事会会员出席于2020年8月14日在线上召开本年度首次理事会会议。本会主席不克出席，并由副主席张昌恩主持。

会议接纳各小组委员会，工作委员会以及由本会所资助的有关人工林研究项目的报告。会议决定于2020年10月30日召开本会年度会员大会。

理事会也核准本会的拟议章程细则修订并且决议于年度会员大会提呈修订建议，以供会员投票。

Mesyuarat Majlis STA Bil. 1/2020 telah diadakan secara virtual pada 14 Ogos 2020. 25 ahli majlis menghadiri Mesyuarat ini yang dipengerusikan oleh Encik David Tiong, Naib Pengerusi berikutan ketiadaan Pengerusi.

Mesyuarat menerima laporan daripada beberapa Jawatankuasa Kategori dan Jawatankuasa Kerja serta pengemaskinian perkembangan projek penyelidikan ladang hutan yang dibiayai oleh Persatuan. Dalam Mesyuarat ini, Majlis telah menetapkan tarikh untuk mengadakan Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan (AGM) adalah pada 30 Oktober 2020.

Majlis juga meluluskan cadangan pindaan kepada M&A STA dan memutuskan untuk mengemukakan cadangan pindaan tersebut di AGM untuk pengundian oleh ahli-ahli.

Announcement: STA Annual General Meeting

The STA Annual General Meeting for 2020 will be held on Friday, 30 October 2020 at 10.30am at Wisma STA, Kuching.

As it is an election year, members who have yet to renew their membership are required to do so in order to be eligible to vote and/or stand for election as Council Member.

For further information, please contact Ms Kim Ten, Member Services Officer, at telephone number 082-332 222 or email to sta@sta.org.my.

本会2020年度会员大会将于2020年10月30日（星期五），上午10点30分假古晋STA大厦举行。

Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan STA 2020 akan diadakan pada Jumaat, 30 Ogos 2020 pada pukul 10.30 pagi di Wisma STA, Kuching.

STA M&A Committee Meeting No 2/2020

The STA M&A Committee members held its second meeting via video conferencing on 4 August 2020 to follow up on the proposed amendments to the STA M&A. The Meeting was chaired by Dato Henry Lau Lee Kong, Committee Chairman, and attended by six (6) Committee members including the legal advisor of STA.

The Meeting deliberated on the proposed amendments to the M&A which comprised STA emblem and its description including compliance with mandatory laws; procedure of change of official and alternate representatives of STA members; renaming of “*Forest Plantation*” category to “*Plantation*” category; holding of meetings via online or virtual platforms; requisite quorum for Board of Directors meeting for subsidiary companies of STA, namely STA Mutual Sdn Bhd and STA Training Sdn Bhd; as well as the Housekeeping Mandate, among others. The Meeting also decided to table the proposed amendments in the upcoming Council Meeting on 14 August 2020.

大会M&A委员会于2020年8月4日通过视频会议举办第二次会议以便跟进拟修本会章程及细则的订案。该会议由主席拿督刘利康主持，共6位委员会成员包括本会法律顾问出席会议。

Ahli-ahli jawatankuasa M&A STA telah mengadakan mesyuarat keduanya melalui persidangan video pada 4 Ogos 2020 sebagai langkah susulan mengenai cadangan pindaan kepada M&A STA. Mesyuarat dipengerusikan oleh Dato Henry Lau Lee Kong, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa dan dihadiri oleh 6 ahli jawatankuasa termasuk penasihat undang-undang STA.

Co-Public Consultation Session with Stakeholders

The State Service Modernisation Unit (SSMU) of the Sarawak Chief Minister Department together with the Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) organised a Co-Public Consultation Session with Stakeholders via Focus Group Discussion (FDG) on the Pilot Project by the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) under the Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) Programme at Marriot Resort and Spa, Miri, on 28 August 2020. The Session was moderated by Dr Haji Noorhisham Bin Mohamad Alwi.

Dr Haji Noorhisham mentioned that the GRP Programme was introduced to improve the process of governance and to ensure that the regulations produced are of high quality. Every new policy or review on existing regulations should go through the regulatory impact analysis (RIA) to ensure that every process involved in decision-making is done in a transparent and efficient manner. RIA is a systematic approach of examining the likely impacts of a proposed regulation and a range of alternative options which could meet the Government's policy objectives.

In this Session, FDS presented their pilot project which is the “*Review of the Third Schedule on Issuance or Renewal of Licence Rates of Fees of the Forests Ordinance, 2015*”. In the Third Schedule, there are three (3) types of fees imposed including issuance, renewal and processing fee charge to applicants. These fees are one of the sources of revenue for the Sarawak Government. STA attended the Session and provided inputs on the pilot project by FDS.

砂首长部门的州现代服务单位 (SSMU) 连同马来西亚生产力机构(MPC)于2020年8月28日假美里万豪度假酒店及水疗中心通过砂拉越森林局 (FDS) 试点项目的良好监管规范 (GRP) 计划焦点小组讨论 (FDG) 与利益相关者进行联合公众咨询会。咨询会由哈兹诺希山博士主持。

Unit Pemodenan Perkhidmatan Negeri (SSMU) Jabatan Ketua Menteri Sarawak bersama-sama dengan Perbadanan Produktiviti Malaysia (MPC) menganjurkan Sesi Perundingan Awam Bersama dengan Pemegang taruh melalui Perbincangan Kumpulan Fokus (FDG) mengenai Projek Perintis oleh Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) di bawah Program Amalan Pengawalan Baik (GRP) di Marriot Resort and Spa, Miri pada 28 Ogos 2020. Sesi ini dikendalikan oleh Dr Haji Noorhisham Bin Mohamad Alwi.

Dr Haji Noorhisham memaklumkan bahawa Program GRP diperkenalkan untuk meningkatkan proses tadbir urus dan memastikan peraturan-peraturan yang dirangka adalah bermutu tinggi.

Dalam Sesi ini, FDS membentangkan projek perintis mereka yang merupakan “*Kajian Semula Jadual Ketiga mengenai Pengeluaran atau Pembaharuan Kadar Lesen Fi Ordinan Hutan, 2015*”.

Virtual Introduction & Refresher Session on FSC Forest Management & Chain of Custody Certification

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Malaysia organised an Introduction and Refresher Session on FSC Forest Management and Chain of Custody (CoC) Certification from 13 to 14 August 2020 through video conferencing. Approximately seventy-five (75) representatives attended the Session which aimed to introduce and update on FSC's standard and requirements for forest management and CoC certification. The Session was facilitated by Dr Adrian Choo Cheng Yong, Chairman of FSC Malaysia.

Mr Supun Sachithra Nigamuni from the Control Union (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd presented on the FSC forest management certification (FMC). In his presentation, he shared with participants on the overview of FSC, Malaysian National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) as well as FSC FMC and its auditing process. The Malaysian NFSS was officially launched and came into effect on 4 April 2019 with full transition period until 31 December 2020. As at July 2020, there are 684,913 hectares of FSC certified forests, 189 CoC certificates and 11 FM/CoC certificates in Malaysia.

Besides that, Mr Supun also highlighted the policy of association of FSC. The policy provides FSC's position on unacceptable activities of organisations which are or would like to be associated with FSC and the mechanism for disassociation. The FSC will only associate with organisations that are not involved in unacceptable activities and actions such as illegal logging, violation of human rights, destruction of high conservation values, significant conversion of forest to plantation, introduction of genetically modified organisms and violation of any of the International Labour Organisation's core conventions.

Mr Supun also shared with participants on the cut-off date for a forest plantation to undergo FSC FMC. He mentioned that under the criterion 6.10 of Malaysian NFSS, plantations that were established on areas converted from natural forests after November 1994 shall not qualify for certification, except where (i) clear and sufficient evidence is provided that the organisation was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion; or (ii) the conversion affected a very limited portion of the area of the plantation and is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation benefits in the plantation. He also highlighted on the high conservation value, intact forest landscapes, conservation area network and pesticide policy.

For the CoC certification, Ms Selina Cheang of Extensive Standard Technical Services (Malaysia) presented on the introduction and updates of global FSC CoC certification, managing FSC CoC requirements, public communication on FSC CoC certification, and preparation for FSC CoC certification and auditing process.

马来西亚森林管理委员会(FSC) 通过视频会议于2020年8月13日至14日举办有关FSC森林管理和产销监管链(CoC) 认证的简介和复习会议。大约七十五 (75) 位代表参加了此为介绍和更新FSC的森林管理和CoC认证标准和要求的会议。

来自马来西亚控制联盟有限公司的苏鹏萨兹特拉先生呈现了FSC森林管理认证 (FMC) 。

此外，苏鹏先生也强调了FSC的结社政策。他还与参加者分享人工造林接受成为FSC FMC的截止日期。

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Malaysia telah mengadakan Sesi Pengenalan dan Ulang Kaji mengenai Pensijilan Pengurusan Hutan dan Rantaian Penjagaan (CoC) FSC dari 13 hingga 14 Ogos 2020 melalui persidangan video. Seramai 75 wakil menghadiri Sesi tersebut yang bertujuan untuk memperkenalkan dan mengemaskini standard dan keperluan FSC untuk pensijilan pengurusan hutan serta CoC.

Encik Supun Sachithra Nigamuni daripada Control Union (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd menyampaikan tentang pensijilan pengurusan hutan (FMC) FSC. Beliau turut menggariskan polisi berkaitan dengan FSC.

Encik Supun juga berkongsi dengan para peserta mengenai tarikh akhir bagi pensijilan ladang hutan FSC FMC.

Malaysia-USA: Critical Information for Exporters

The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) and International Wood Products Association (IWPA) jointly organised a transpacific webinar entitled “*Malaysia-USA: Critical Information for Exporters*” on 4 August 2020. Aiming to provide useful and valuable insights for exporting Malaysian timber and timber products to the United States of America (USA), the webinar featured three (3) speakers, namely Mr Wong Kah Cane, Acting Chief Executive Officer of MTC; Ms Cindy L. Squires, Executive Director of IWPA; and Mr Joe O'Donnell, Director of Government and Public Affairs of IWPA. The webinar was moderated by Mr Chow Khoon Liam, Regional Head of MTC Americas.

Sharing information on the timber trade of Malaysia, Mr Wong stated that the country's total export of timber and timber products worldwide for 2019 is RM22.49 billion (USD5.40 billion), with North America capturing RM5.5 billion (USD1.32 billion) or 24.5% of the market share and the USA accounting for RM4.97 billion (USD1.20 billion) or 22.1% of the market share. From 2017 to 2019, the five (5) major products imported into the USA from Malaysia were wooden furniture, plywood, sawn timber, mouldings and builders' joinery & carpentry.

According to IWPA, during the COVID-19 pandemic, wood manufacturing and construction industries are both considered as essential industries in the USA. Hence, production related to wood industry as well as port operations have been continuing while quarantine practices are taking place. Most of the states are adopting the standard operating procedures (SOPs) provided by the federal government. Meanwhile, there is also an increase in the sales of recreational vehicles and boats as these are considered safer ways to travel during the COVID-19

Majlis Kayu Kayan Malaysia (MTC) dan Persatuan Produk Kayu Antarabangsa (IWPA) telah bekerjasama untuk menganjurkan satu webinar transpasifik bertajuk “Malaysia-USA: Maklumat Kritikal untuk Pengeksport” pada 4 Ogos 2020 yang bertujuan untuk memberi pandangan berguna dan bernilai tentang pengeksportan kayu dan produk kayu Malaysia ke Amerika Syarikat (USA).

Menurut IWPA, semasa pandemik COVID-19, kedua-dua industri pembinaan dan pembuatan kayu telah dikategorikan sebagai industri kritikal di USA. Oleh itu, pengeluaran berkaitan dengan industri perakayuan serta operasi pelabuhan telah diteruskan semasa amalan kuarantin sedang berlaku.

IWPA turut bercakap mengenai penguatkuasaan Akta Lacey oleh pihak berkuasa yang memerlukan pengimport mengisytiharkan spesies atau semua spesies yang mungkin dijumpai dalam produk kayu yang diimport.



Transpacific webinar “*Malaysia-USA: Critical Information for Exporters*” jointly organised by MTC and IWPA

pandemic. With people spending more time at home, there is a surge of sales in household and home decoration products as well as exteriors like decking, fencing and siding.

IWPA also talked about the enforcement of Lacey Act by the authorities which requires importers to declare the species or all possible species found in imported timber products. IWPA highlighted that the USA is currently not only looking at the traceability of timber products such as lumber and plywood, but also products from higher value chain such as furniture.

On the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Title VI which came into effect on 22 March 2019, IWPA stated that importers of composite wood products are responsible in ensuring that their goods comply with the Formaldehyde Emissions Standards. IWPA also informed that there may be potential exemptions on laminated product covered under the Act in 2024 depending on the adhesive used and its manufacturing process.

马来西亚木材理事会(MTC)和国际木制品协会(IWPA)于2020年8月4日联办一项“马来西亚-美国：给予出口商的重要信息”的跨太平洋线上研讨会。该研讨会旨在提供关于出口美国(USA)的马来西亚木材和木制品实用及有价值的见解。

根据 IWPA，新冠肺炎疫情期间，木材制造业和建筑业在美国均被视为重要行业。因此，与木材业以及港口营运相关的生产仍在防疫措施实施下继续进行。

IWPA也提到有关当局对《雷斯法案》的强制执行。该法案要求进口商申报在进口木制品中所使用的种类或有可能的种类。

Meeting on Logging Road Usage Charges

The Kapit Resident, Mr Nyurak Ketu, has called for a meeting on issues of logging roads in Kapit on 26 August 2020. The meeting held at the Kompleks Kerajaan Negeri, Kapit, was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Port Development, Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources (MUDeNR), State Security and Enforcement Unit, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, Land and Survey Department, Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB), Forhil Sdn Bhd, Apai Wood Sdn Bhd, Jutakayu Sdn Bhd and STA.



Meeting in progress

Mr Nyurak informed that the meeting is called to discuss charges for logging road usage especially for the Rural Transformation Projects (RTP) in Kapit and Upper Rajang Development Agency (URDA) projects which are part of the Sarawak Government's initiative to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas. These projects involved the usage of logging roads in Kapit and the surrounding areas. He mentioned that the contractors of these projects often do not factor in the costs for using logging roads, and hence they were unable to continue with the projects when charged by logging companies for using the logging roads. Another matter raised in the meeting was between Forhil Sdn Bhd and Apai Wood Sdn Bhd on logging road charges. He hoped that a satisfactory solution for all parties involved can be reached through purposeful discussion.

Both representatives from SEB and Forhil Sdn Bhd clarified that they have obtained approval from State Planning Authority on the alignment of an alternative route proposed by SEB to the Baleh Dam site. Forhil Sdn Bhd has been appointed as the contractor to construct and maintain the alternative route. The representative from Forhil Sdn Bhd mentioned that they are collecting utilisation fee for commercial activity and clarified that there are no charges for the local communities to use the alternative route.

Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA, shared that since the 1990s, the timber industry players through STA had mutually agreed on a guideline for logging road usage charges based on the understanding that the relevant parties will be using each other's roads as well as following the rules and regulations to minimise the damage to the logging roads. In support of the Sarawak Government's projects to develop the rural areas, STA had recently revised the guideline to provide token or minimal maintenance rate for transporting materials by other users who are using the logging roads.

Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA, shared that since the 1990s, the timber industry players through STA had mutually agreed on a guideline for logging road usage charges based on the understanding that the relevant parties will be using each other's roads as well as following the rules and regulations to minimise the damage to the logging roads. In support of the Sarawak Government's projects to develop the rural areas, STA had recently revised the guideline to provide token or minimal maintenance rate for transporting materials by other users who are using the logging roads.

The Meeting agreed to have FDS to resolve the matter between Forhil Sdn Bhd and Apai Wood Sdn Bhd, and also to have the Sarawak State Attorney-General's Chambers to decide on the ownership of the alternative route to Baleh Dam site. MUDeNR will also be putting up a paper in the cabinet on the charges for logging road usage.

加帛省长努拉科迪先生于2020年8月26日召开会议商讨加帛伐木道路课题。

省长称此会议主要商讨收取伐木道路使用费特别是对于加帛乡村改造计划（RTP）和拉让江上游发展机构（URDA）计划。这是砂拉越政府缩小城市与乡村差距的举措之一。

Residen Kapit, Encik Nyurak Ketu telah mengadakan satu mesyuarat mengenai isu jalan pembalakan di Kapit pada 26 Ogos 2020.

Beliau memaklumkan bahawa mesyuarat bertujuan untuk membincangkan mengenai penggunaan jalan pembalakan terutamanya untuk Projek Transformasi Luar Bandar (RTP) di Kapit dan projek-projek Upper Rajang Development Agency (URDA) yang merupakan sebahagian daripada inisiatif Kerajaan Negeri Sarawak untuk merapatkan jurang di antara kawasan bandar dan kawasan luar bandar.

STA Donates to Semenggoh Wildlife Centre

The Chief Minister of Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, officiated the laying of the foundation stone for the development of Semenggoh Rainforest Discovery Centre and launched the internet connectivity at Semenggoh Wildlife Centre (SWC) on 19 August 2020. The initiative was a joint collaboration between Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and Sarawak Multimedia Authority (SMA).

In his opening speech, the Chief Minister of Sarawak mentioned that the Sarawak Government has allocated over RM30 million to upgrade facilities at the SWC. The allocation came as part of the Sarawak Government's serious efforts on wildlife conservation in Sarawak as well as to enable visitors from all over the world to enjoy the natural beauty and exotic wildlife at the centre. He also mentioned that SFC, which is an authority body for forestry and wildlife management and conservation in the State, had been restructured to improve the effectiveness of wildlife conservation.

Held in conjunction with the International Orang Utan Day falling on 19 August, the ceremony also saw Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of STA, handing over a donation of RM50,000 from STA to upgrade the feeding platforms for orang utans at SWC. The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation also donated RM50,000 for orang utan conservation.

Also present were Datuk Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Youth and Sports Sarawak; Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh, Assistant Minister of Urban Planning, Land Administration and Environment Sarawak; Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, Director of Forests; as well as Tuan Haji Zolkipli Mohamad Aton, CEO of SFC cum Controller of Wild Life and Controller of National Parks and Nature Reserves.



Ms Annie Ting (3rd from left) presenting the donation to Tuan Haji Zolkipli Mohamad Aton, witnessed by the Chief Minister of Sarawak (4th from right)

砂拉越首席部长拿督巴丁宜阿邦佐哈里于2020年8月19日主持了发展实蒙谷雨林探索中心的奠基仪式，以及开启了实蒙谷野生动物保育中心（SWC）的网络连接。该倡议是由砂拉越林业机构（SFC）和砂拉越多媒体局（SMA）联合合作项目。

为配合8月19日的国际人猿日，本会首席执行官陈燕贞小姐也在仪式上移交由 STA 捐款的马币五万令吉，以提升 SWC 的人猿喂食台。砂拉越木材工业发展机构也为入猿保育献出马币五万令吉的捐款。

Ketua Menteri Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg telah merasmikan perletakan batu asas bagi pembangunan Semenggoh Rainforest Discovery Centre dan melancarkan jaringan internet di Pusat Hidupan Liar Semenggoh (SWC) pada 19 Ogos 2020. Inisiatif ini adalah kerjasama di antara Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) dan Sarawak Multimedia Authority (SMA).

Dianjurkan bersempena dengan Hari Orang Utan Antarabangsa yang jatuh pada 19 Ogos, majlis turut menyaksikan Cik Annie Ting, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif STA, menyerahkan sumbangan RM50,000 daripada STA bagi menaiktaraf platform makan untuk orang utan di SWC. Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak turut menyumbang RM50,000 untuk pemuliharaan orang utan.

18th Meeting of APEC EGILAT

Malaysia hosted the 18th Meeting of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Expert Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) on 25 August 2020 through video conferencing. The Meeting was attended by sixteen (16) member economies, namely Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Chinese Taipei, the United States (US) and Viet Nam. The Meeting was chaired by Ms Emma Hatcher, the EGILAT Chair for 2020-2021.

In the welcoming remarks by APEC host, Mr Pubadi a/l Govindasamy, Undersecretary for Timber, Tobacco and Kenaf Industries Division from the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC), spoke on the importance of forestry and timber industry in Malaysia. In 2019, this sector alone contributed RM22.5 billion or about 22.2% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). He encouraged member economies to continue to exchange information on the distribution of legal timber and timber products for mutual benefits.

A total of five (5) member economies, namely Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, the US and Viet Nam shared about their existing efforts and domestic work in combatting illegal logging and promoting trade of legal timber and timber products. Indonesia mentioned that its *Sistem Verifikasi Legalitas Kayu (SVLK)* has successfully supported their efforts in combatting illegal logging and increasing exports. Meanwhile, New Zealand shared on their recent cabinet policy decision to implement the *National Wood Legality Assurance System* to regulate domestic and imported timber and timber products. Under this draft bill, the regulated parties need to develop and maintain a due diligence system to ensure purchased timber and timber products are legally harvested. Consultation of the draft bill with affected parties and trade partners will be carried out early 2021. The draft bill is expected to come into effect in 2023.

The US shared on its Lacey Act De Minimis Exception which came into effect on 1 April 2020. The regulation was amended to establish an exception to the declaration requirement for products containing a minimal amount of plant material. The minimal amount of plant material is defined as no more than 5% of the total weight of the individual product unit, provided that the total weight of the plant material in an entry of products in the same 10-digit provision of the Harmonised Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) does not exceed 2.9kg. This does not apply to products containing plant material listed in the (i) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) appendix; (ii) endangered or threatened species under the *US Endangered Species Act 1973*; and (iii) species protected pursuant to any US state conservation law. Both Japan and Viet Nam also highlighted their respective national legality system in promoting legally harvested timber and timber products.

During the Meeting, member economies also shared implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on illegal logging and associated trade in their respective countries. Mr Pubadi said that Malaysia was not spared from COVID-19 and that the Movement Control Order (MCO) was implemented in response to the health crisis. Forest management activities were allowed during the MCO with strict standard operating procedures while forest monitoring and enforcement activities were carried out using aerial surveillance to ensure continuity of legal compliance.

Besides that, Mr Pubadi also pointed out that the pandemic has interrupted timber trading activities in Malaysia as well as consumer countries. For instance, port control and restrictions imposed by importing economies had caused various issues including stranded consignments at ports, changes to shipping schedules, order cancellations leading to excess stock at factories and increased costs in operation. Export value of timber and timber products from Malaysia had declined by 8.74% in the first five (5) months of 2020 as compared to the same corresponding period of 2019.

Australia provided an update on the EGILAT policy theme "*Advancing the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products*" which was agreed upon prior to COVID-19. Although COVID-19 has significantly affected the forestry and timber industry, member economies felt that the policy theme remains valid and should be further pursued by relevant entities. The US also covered the progress of an on-going industry survey and proposed to revise the survey by considering global development before presenting the results to member economies in the next APEC EGILAT Meeting. New Zealand delivered the progress report on the project "*Compendium of Resources for the Facilitation of the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products in the APEC Region*" of which the final report is expected to be published in August 2021.

The next APECT EGILAT Meeting will be hosted by New Zealand in 2021.

马来西亚于2020年8月25日主办第18届亚太经济合作组织 (APEC) 非法采伐与相关贸易专家小组(EGILAT) 视频会议。会议由2020年至2021年EGILAT主席艾玛海切尔小姐主持，并获得16个经济体的参与。

种植及原产业部 (MPIC) 旗下木材、烟草与红麻业部门秘书布巴迪先生代表APEC主办单位致词并发表马来西亚林业和木材工业的重要性。

一共有5个经济体即印尼，日本，纽西兰，美国和越南分享他们在打击非法伐木和促进合法木材和木制品贸易方面的现有努力和国内事务。经济体代表也在会议中分享新冠肺炎疫情对各自国家非法伐木和相关贸易的影响。下一届 APECT EGILAT 会议将于 2021 年由纽西兰召开。

Malaysia selaku tuan rumah telah mengadakan Mesyuarat ke-18 Kumpulan Pakar mengenai Pembalakan Haram dan Perdagangan Bersekutu (EGILAT) Kerjasama Ekonomi Asia Pasifik (APEC) pada 25 Ogos 2020 melalui persidangan video. Mesyuarat dihadiri oleh 16 ahli ekonomi. Mesyuarat dipengerusikan oleh Cik Emma Hatcher, Pengerusi EGILAT untuk 2020-2021.

Sejumlah 5 ahli ekonomi iaitu Indonesia, Jepun, New Zealand, Amerika Syarikat dan Viet Nam berkongsi mengenai usaha sedia ada dan kerja domestik mereka dalam memerangi pembalakan haram serta menggalakkan perdagangan kayu dan produk kayu yang sah. Semasa Mesyuarat, ahli-ahli ekonomi turut berkongsi mengenai implikasi pandemik COVID-19 ke atas pembalakan haram dan perdagangan yang berkaitan di negara masing-masing. Mesyuarat EGILAT APEC 2021 akan dianjurkan oleh New Zealand.

Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Amendment) (No 3) Order 2020

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) has informed the Association that the Customs (Prohibition of Imports) Order 2017 [P.U. (A) 103/2017] has been amended in the Second Schedule, in Part I (Goods which is prohibited to be imported into Malaysia except under an import license), in relation to item 2, by inserting after sub-item (4) in column (2) and the particulars against it in columns (3) and (4) the following sub-items and particulars:

| (1) Item No. | (2) Description of Goods | (3) Chapter/Heading/ Subheading | (4) country | (5) Ministry/Department/Statutory Body Issuing Licence |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| | "(5) Particleboard/ Chipboard | 44.10 | All Countries". | |
| | (6) Fibreboard | 44.11 | | |

Under this Order, which shall come into operation on 17 October 2020, importers of particleboard/chipboard and fibreboard shall need to apply and obtain import licence from STIDC.

砂拉越木材工业发展机构 (STIDC) 通知本会相关2017年海关（禁止进口）法令[P.U. (A) 103/2017] 附表2第一部分（禁止进口到马来西亚的货物，除非获得进口许可证）已被修订。修订内容如同英文版中列出。

该修订法令将于2020年10月17日生效，届时塑合板和纤维板的进口商必须向 STIDC 申请并获得进口许可证。

Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) telah memberitahu Persatuan bahawa Perintah Kastam (Larangan Mengimport) 2017 [P.U. (A) 103/2017] telah diubah dalam Jadual Kedua, di Bahagian I (Barang yang dilarang diimport ke Malaysia kecuali di bawah lesen import) seperti yang ditunjukkan dalam artikel.

Perintah ini akan mula berkuatkuasa pada 17 Oktober 2020. Berikutan itu, pengimport papan partikel / papan serpai dan papan gentian perlu memohon dan mendapatkan lesen import dari STIDC.

DF Circular No 3/2020: Register of Workmen

STA had received a DF Circular No 3/2020 with reference number (49)JHS/100-1/8/104/Jld.1 dated 19 August 2020 from the Forest Department Sarawak on 28 August 2020 addressed to all Holders of Licence, and copied to STA, on the above subject.

The DF Circular was also circulated to members on 28 August 2020 and is reproduced as below:

1. Pursuant to Section 49 of The Forests Ordinance 2015 (Cap.71), I hereby direct all licence holder or contractor appointed by a licence holder to prepare, keep and maintain the Registration of Workmen encompasses details required in paragraph 4 (hereinafter referred to as "Register of Workmen").
2. The Register of Workmen shall be kept and maintained at its principal place of business i.e. site office and a copy of such Register at the main office.
3. The workman for this purpose is defined as any person who has entered into or works under contract of service or contract for service for licence holder and contractor appointed, whether by way of manual labour or otherwise. Therefore, the Register of Workmen to be include anyone who are employed, engaged and hired to manage, administer and provide services in/for the license.
4. The Register of Workmen shall includes the following particulars (including, but not limited to):
 - i. Passport size photo
 - ii. Full name as in NRIC or Passport
 - iii. Job designation
 - iv. Location of work place
 - v. Date of appointment
 - vi. National Registration Identification Card no. / Passport number
 - vii. Nationality
 - viii. Gender
 - ix. Date of Birth
 - x. Place of Birth
 - xi. Residential / correspondence address
 - xii. Contact number
 - xiii. EPF number
 - xiv. SOCSO Number
 - xv. Insurance Number
 - xvi. Income Tax Number
 - xvii. Driving License/ Class
 - xviii. Education background/ Training record(s)
 - xix. Previous Employment history/ record
 - xx. Next of Kin / emergency contact
 - xxi. Sample of employee signature

Please refer to the attached sample (Appendix A) for reference.

5. A monthly return on the "list of all workman" employed with the detailed attached (Appendix B) must be updated and submitted to the Director of Forests on the first week of the following month.
6. Any alterations in, and erasure to the names shall from time to time be inserted in the Register and should notify the Director of Forests in writing.
7. Any failure to comply to this statutory requirement is deem as an offence which liable to be punished under Section 49 (3)(a) & (b).
8. This directive shall apply to all license holder and contractor appointed by the license holder with effect on the 1st September 2020.

A digital format of the DF Circular, including Appendix A and Appendix B mentioned above, can also be obtained from the Forest Department Sarawak website <https://forestry.sarawak.gov.my/>.

本會于2020年8月28日接获来自砂州森林局于2020年8月19日所发布的编号3/2020通告。该通告致函于所有执照持有者，并提供本会有关事项的复本。

以上通告也于2020年8月28日告知会员，转载内容如英文版所列。

STA telah menerima Surat Pekeliling DF Bil. 3/2020 mengenai perkara di atas dengan nombor rujukan (49) JHS/100-1/8/104/Jld.1 bertarikh 19 Ogos 2020 daripada Jabatan Hutan Sarawak pada 28 Ogos 2020 yang ditujukan kepada semua Pemegang Lesen dan disalinkan kepada STA.

Pekeliling DF juga diedarkan kepada ahli-ahli STA pada 28 Ogos 2020 dan diterbitkan semula seperti dalam artikel.

DF Circular No 4/2020: Calibration of Weighbridge for Weighing of Logs Extracted from Planted Timber (LPF)

STA had received a DF Circular No 4/2020 with reference number (50) JHS/100-1/8/104/Jld.1 dated 21 August 2020 from the Forest Department Sarawak on 28 August 2020 addressed to all Holders of Licence for Planted Forests, and copied to STA on the above subject.

The DF Circular was also circulated to members on 1 September 2020 and is reproduced as below:

All weighbridges used for weighing of logs extracted from Licence of Planted Forest (LPF) must be calibrated regularly or at least once a year by the accredited authority. This is to ensure the weighbridge is accurately measuring the weight of conveyance and planted timber when placed on it.

You are required to submit a copy of Weighbridge Calibration Certificate issued by the accredited authority to Forest Department Sarawak for record and monitoring purposes.

A digital format of the DF Circular can also be obtained from the Forest Department Sarawak website <https://forestry.sarawak.gov.my/>.

本會于2020年8月28日接获来自砂州森林局于2020年8月21日所发布的编号4/2020通告。该通告致函于所有人工林种植执照持有者，并提供本会有关事项的复本。

以上通告也于2020年9月1日告知会员，转载内容如英文版所列。

STA telah menerima Surat Pekeliling DF Bil. 4/2020 mengenai perkara di atas dengan nombor rujukan (50) JHS/100-1/8/104/Jld.1 bertarikh 21 Ogos 2020 daripada Jabatan Hutan Sarawak pada 28 Ogos 2020 yang ditujukan kepada semua Pemegang Lesen Ladang Hutan dan disalinkan kepada STA.

Pekeliling DF juga diedarkan kepada ahli-ahli STA pada 1 September 2020 dan diterbitkan semula seperti dalam artikel.

Soft Financing Scheme for Digital & Technology

The Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Berhad (MIDF), an agency of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), has been actively helping local entrepreneurs with the provision of financing facilities at governmental preferential rates for manufacturing and services sector since 1960.

In line with the Government's call for digitalisation, MIDF has established the Soft Financing Scheme for Digital & Technology (SFDT) to encourage and increase utilisation of digital technologies among local small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This will also in turn escalate the competitiveness, efficiency and marketability of the SMEs.

Under SFDT, applicants will be enjoying better financing features as below:

| Eligibility | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMEs incorporated under the Companies Act 1965/2016 or Registration of Business Ordinance 1956; At least 60% equity held by Malaysians; Company must be currently active in business and in operation for at least 6 months; Possess a valid business licence issued by local authority. | |
| Sectors | Interest /Profit Rate |
| All sectors | As low as 4% per annum on yearly rest |
| Repayment | Financing Tenure |
| a) IT Hardware & Software / Motor Vehicle / Machinery / Equipment | Up to 5 years (including grace period of up to 1 year) |
| b) Working Capital Term Financing | Up to 5 years (including grace period of up to 6 months) |
| c) Purchase Revolving Credit / Sales Revolving Credit Facility for the purchase of raw materials and stock | Up to 150 days for each drawdown including an option to rollover for a period not exceeding 60 days for eligible borrowers |
| d) Contract Financing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Pre-financing: Up to 180 days for each drawdown ii. Post-financing (Factoring): Up to 120 days for each drawdown |
| Financing Amount | Margin of Financing |
| Minimum: RM30,000 Maximum: RM 1 million | Up to 90% of the total costs (as per eligible items) including legal fees related to MIDF financing |

For more information on SFDT, members can visit MIDF website www.midf.com.my or email to GrowYourBusiness@midf.com.my or speak to MIDF Business Advisory Consultant at 1-300-88-6433.

为响应政府数据化的号召，马来西亚工业发展融资机构（MIDF）成立数据化与科技软融资计划（SFDT），以鼓励和提高本地中小型企业（SMEs）采用数据化科技。这也将提升SMEs的竞争力，效率和产品可销售性。

Sejajar dengan permintaan Kerajaan ke arah digitalisasi, Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Berhad (MIDF) telah membentuk Skim Pembiayaan Mudah untuk Digital & Teknologi (SFDT) bagi mendorong dan meningkatkan penggunaan teknologi digital dalam kalangan perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) tempatan. Ini turut akan meningkatkan daya saing, kecekapan dan kebolehpasaran PKS.

MTC Webinar on E-commerce Platform

The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) organised a webinar on e-commerce platform on 12 August 2020. The webinar invited Mr Eric Lian, Marketing and Partnership Executive from EasyStore Commerce Sdn Bhd, to talk about contemporary e-commerce trend and what EasyStore could offer to entrepreneurs.

Mr Lian presented the various benefits of e-commerce like free from geographical constraint, 24/7 online operation as well as easy access to multiple online channels and marketplaces. He further elaborated on how EasyStore could assist businesses through leveraging the available tools provided by an e-commerce platform to secure marketplaces such as Shopee, Lazada, Lelong, etc.

“The subscription fee is only RM59 per month, and there is no need to recruit an IT team to maintain the platform,” said Mr Lian. He introduced the comprehensive solutions that EasyStore is offering which include the ready-to-go theme templates designed for store setup, guidelines for product details input, order form, payment gateways and shipping partners.



*Speaker of the day, Mr Eric Lian,
from EasyStore Commerce Sdn Bhd*

He also provided some examples of local furniture brands such as Lasprecious, Esta Ventures and Tekka Shop that have taken the step to go beyond the conventional or traditional way of offline selling, and making online selling of home living accessories, bedding and other furniture a reality. Mr Eric Lian mentioned that EasyStore is offering a 14-day trial for any individual or entrepreneur who wishes to try out the e-commerce platform.

EasyStore was founded in 2013 and currently supports more than 40,000 brands in utilising e-commerce platform to generate income.

马来西亚木材理事会 (MTC) 于2020年8月12日举办了一个电子商务平台线上研讨会。该线上研讨会邀请了 EasyStore 商务有限公司的执行官 (营销与合作伙伴) 廉艾力克先生谈论现代电子商务趋势以及该公司可提供企业家的服务。

廉先生介绍了电子商务的各种好处。他也提供一些本地家具品牌的例子，这些品牌已迈向超越普及或传统式线下销售方式的步伐，实践线上销售居家生活装饰品，床上用品和其他家具。

Majlis Kayu Kayan Malaysia (MTC) telah mengadakan webinar mengenai platform e-dagang pada 12 Ogos 2020. MTC telah menjemput Encik Eric Lian, Eksekutif Pemasaran dan Perkongsian dari EasyStore Commerce Sdn Bhd untuk berkongsi tentang trend e-dagang kontemporari dan apa yang boleh ditawarkan oleh EasyStore kepada para usahawan.

Encik Lian membentangkan pelbagai manfaat e-dagang. Beliau juga memberi beberapa contoh jenama perabot tempatan yang telah mengambil langkah untuk melangkaui cara jualan offline yang konvensional atau tradisional, dan menjadikan jualan aksesori rumah, peralatan bilik tidur dan perabot online satu realiti.

Stakeholders Introductory Dialogue: Master Plan Study on Deep Sea Port at Tanjung Po, Kuching

A Stakeholders Introductory Dialogue on the Master Plan Study on Deep Sea Port at Tanjung Po was organised by the Kuching Port Authority on 4 August 2020 via video conferencing. Attended by the private sector, State agencies and associations including STA, the aim of the session was to gather inputs for the master plan study on the deep sea port at Tanjung Po. The Sarawak Government has appointed Jurutera Minsar Consult Sdn Bhd as the consultant to carry out the study.

The consultant highlighted some of the main advantages of building the deep sea port at Tanjung Po which included (i) natural deeper navigational draft of ten (10) metres at port approach; (ii) strategically well-linked by roads as well as near to Kuching and Demak Laut Industrial Park to carry out import/export activities; (iii) good road access to Kuching and tourist sites to attract cruise ships; (iv) potential for transshipment business and development of a new free trade / industrial zone to the southern region of Sarawak and West Kalimantan; and (v) minimal displacement of residents and other economic or environmentally sensitive activities.

In addition to identifying development options of a sustainable deep sea port, the study will also focus on adopting a “green port” concept that will co-exist with the adjacent Bako National Park. Kuching currently does not have a deep sea port and all existing port terminals are located along the banks of the Sarawak River.

Some of the questions raised and discussed during the dialogue were proximity to major materials and resources, road connectivity and accessibility, port infrastructure availability such as bulking facility, as well as capability of the port to attract maritime traffic.

古晋港务局于2020年8月4日通过视频会议与利益相关者进行丹戎埔深海港总体规划研究对话会。对话会获得私人领域，州政府部门和公会包括砂拉越木材公会的参与，并旨在收集对丹戎埔深海港总体规划研究的反馈意见。砂州政府已经任命 **Jurutera Minsar Consult Sdn Bhd** 为该研究的顾问。



Location of Tanjung Po, Kuching

Dialog Pengenalan Pihak Berkepentingan mengenai Kajian Pelan Induk bagi Pelabuhan Laut Dalam di Tanjung Po telah dianjurkan oleh Lembaga Pelabuhan Kuching pada 4 Ogos 2020 melalui persidangan video. Dihadiri oleh sektor swasta, agensi kerajaan dan persatuan termasuk STA, tujuan sesi adalah untuk mengumpul input mengenai kajian pelan induk bagi pelabuhan laut dalam di Tanjung Po. Kerajaan Sarawak telah melantik Jurutera Minsar Consult Sdn Bhd sebagai perunding dalam menjalankan kajian tersebut.

Erratum Notice

On Page 2 of the STA Review for July 2020 Edition, the “COVER IMAGE” should read as follows:

“Mulu Cave, Miri, Sarawak; Photo credit Mr Chua Chung Nam”

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Wishing all Members and Readers



From the Chairman, Council Members,
Management and staff of STA,
STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd
and STA Training Sdn Bhd

Pengerusi, Ahli-ahli Majlis,
pihak Pengurusan dan kakitangan STA, STA
Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd
dan STA Training Sdn Bhd ingin mengucapkan
Selamat Hari Malaysia kepada semua ahli-ahli
STA dan para pembaca

本会主席，理事会，管理委员会，
秘书处，STA Enterprises有限公司，
STA Mutual有限公司及STA Training有
限公司全体职员在此祝愿所有会员和读
者马来西亚日愉快