

STA Review

Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association
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2022

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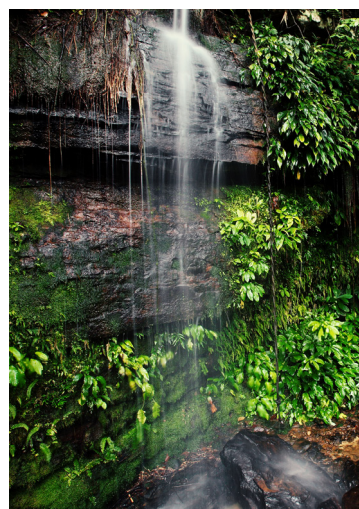


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Meetings of STA Subsidiary Companies



STA Training Sdn Bhd Board of Directors meeting in session

The subsidiary companies of STA, namely STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM), STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) and STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd (STAE), held their respective meetings via video conferencing on 26 August 2022. The meetings were presided over by Datuk Sir Wong Kie Yik and are summarised as follows:

STAM

Both the Board of Honorary Advisors (BHA) and Board of Directors (BOD) approved the continuous provision of Bonded STAScholarship for another five (5) years to one (1) student studying Diploma in Forestry at Universiti Putra Malaysia, Bintulu Campus as well as several financial assistances to charitable organisations. The BOD placed on record their appreciation to the late Mr Lau Swee Nguong for his service and contribution as a member of the BOD and appointed Mr Tiong Chiong Ong as new Director of STA Mutual Sdn Bhd.

STAT

The STAT BOD in its Meeting No 2/2022 deliberated and approved several items ranging from administrative to financial matters of the Company. The meeting also received update that 60 workmen in the 5 (five) prescribed forestry activities (PFA) and 12 workmen in the non-PFA have been assessed and found

competent from the period of 22 February 2022 to 24 July 2022. The Board resolved for the Company to start charging fees to STA members and non-members for skills training and assessment programmes starting January 2023.

STAE

The STAE BOD Meeting No.2/2022 covered and endorsed various items which included the tenancy of Wisma STA, maintenance of the building, as well as financial and administrative matters.

本公司子公司，STA Mutual有限公司、STA Training有限公司以及STA Enterprises有限公司分别于2022年8月26日召开线上董事会议。会议由拿督黄启畔爵士主持，内容如本文英语版所示。

Anak-anak syarikat STA, iaitu STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM), STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) and STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd (STAE) telah mengadakan mesyuarat masing-masing melalui persidangan video pada 26 Ogos 2022. Mesyuarat telah dipengerusikan oleh Datuk Sir Wong Kie Yik dan diperincikan seperti di dalam artikel ini.

STA Forest Plantation Committee Meeting No.2/2022



Meeting in progress

The STA Forest Plantation Committee conducted its second meeting for the year on 16 August 2022 via video conferencing. The meeting was chaired by its Chairman, Mr Peter Ling Kwong Hung and attended by seven (7) Committee members and STA Secretariat.

The meeting invited Associate Professor Dr Ho Wei Seng, Senior Lecturer from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak to brief on the progress of the two (2) STA-funded research and development (R&D) projects entitled 'Quality Kelampayan Research' and 'Scale-Up Production of Kelampayan research'.

STA 人工造林委员会在 2022 年 8 月 16 日举行的本年度第二次会议上接纳相关本会所资助的研究与发展项目的进展报告、各项拟议的合作研究项目以及委员会的活动报告。

The meeting was also informed on various proposed collaboration studies with forestry agencies, research institute and trade association such as (i) survey on *Acacia mangium* plantations and industries in Sarawak, (ii) mechanized tree planting system for forestry sector in Sarawak, and (iii) product development using plantation timber. The meeting also received update on the proposed R&D collaboration between Malaysia (Sarawak) and Australian Government on forest plantation management.

Progress of the appeal against the 10-year limitation to carry forward the unabsorbed business losses and actions taken such as engagement with Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities and participation in the study conducted by Inland Revenue Board under the directive from Ministry of Finance were also shared.

Jawatankuasa Ladang Hutan STA yang diadakan secara maya pada 16 Ogos 2022, telah dimaklumkan mengenai kemajuan projek penyelidikan dan pembangunan yang dibiayai oleh STA, pelbagai cadangan kajian kerjasama serta inisiatif yang dilaksanakan oleh Jawatankuasa dalam mesyuarat kedua bagi tahun tersebut.

Engagement for Potential Collaboration on Research and Development

STA explored potential research collaboration on products development using timber from Sarawak with Malaysian Wood Moulding and Joinery Council (MWMJC) in an engagement session held via video conferencing on 29 August 2022. The session, co-chaired by Mr Peter Ling Kwong Hung, Chairman of the STA Forest Plantation Committee and MWMJC Chairman, Mr George Yap Hong Thien also provided both parties with opportunity to exchange market information on the planted timber as well as on the development of industrial tree plantation in Sarawak.

Mr Yap informed that the 'Product Development Using Plantation Timber' research project aimed to discover suitable planted species for downstream application and commercialization. He suggested

to kick-start the project with trade collaboration by getting the raw material from Sarawak for various value-added products development by MWMJC members and at the same time study the consistency of raw material supply and commercial pricing of the products.

Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA briefed the participants on the roles and functions of STA under the management of the STA Council as well as the efforts taken by STA in research and development for forest plantation especially for the species of Kelampayan. She also introduced Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System to participants and shared policy direction on industrial forest plantation in Sarawak, tree planting progress, planted logs production as



Meeting in progress

本会连同马来西亚木业加工总会(MWMJC)于2022年8月29日通过线上会议，探索使用砂拉越木材开发产品的潜在研究合作。会议为双方提供交流种植木材市场资讯以及砂拉越工业植林发展的机会。

well as issues and challenges faced by the forest plantation industry in Sarawak.

Both parties agreed to have more engagement sessions for closer collaboration between the two regions in near future.

STA meneroka potensi kerjasama penyelidikan dengan Majlis Kayu Kumai & Tanggam Malaysia (MWMJC) mengenai pembangunan produk menggunakan sumber kayu dari Sarawak dalam sesi penglibatan yang diadakan melalui persidangan video pada 29 Ogos 2022. Sesi tersebut turut memberi peluang kepada kedua-dua pihak untuk bertukar maklumat pasaran mengenai tanaman kayu serta pembangunan ladang pokok industri di Sarawak.

Meeting with the Director of Occupational Safety and Health Sarawak

STA, led by Mr Chang Kuet Ming, Chairman of STA Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Committee met with Ir. Dr. Nor Halim Bin Hasan, the Director of OSH Sarawak in a meeting at his office on 9 August 2022 to update and discuss matters pertaining to OSH in forest industry.

Mr Chang feedback that the OSH training initiated by Department of Occupational Safety and Health Sarawak, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation and STA in 2020 has benefitted the forest industry in their progress towards legal compliances and sustainable forest management. There are 30 qualified in-house trainers in STA member companies and as of July 2022, a total of 230 forest workers were trained.

The meeting also agreed for dialogue sessions to be held with timber industry players on the implementation of OSH (Amendment) Act 2022 upon finalisation of the act by the Attorney General. The OSH (Amendment) Act 2022 was passed by the Parliament on 16 March 2022 with multiple changes that will inevitably affect the industry, such as re-administration of OSH legislation, new duties on principal, as well as employer and self-employed person.



Meeting in session

本会职业安全与卫生(OSH)委员会主席郑国明先生于2022年8月9日领团会见砂拉越职业安全与卫生局局长Ir.诺哈林博士，以跟进和讨论相关林业职业安全与卫生事宜。

STA, diketuai oleh Encik Chang Kuet Ming, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan (OSH) STA bertemu dengan Ir. Dr. Nor Halim Bin Hasan, Pengarah OSH Sarawak dalam satu mesyuarat di pejabatnya pada 9 Ogos 2022 untuk mengemaskini dan membincangkan perkara-perkara berkaitan OSH dalam industri perhutanan.

23rd AGM of the Malaysian Timber Certification Council

The 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) was held on 18 August 2022 at its office. The meeting was presided over by Mr Haji Kamarizaman Bin Mohamad, Chairman of MTCC.

Ms Siti Syaliza Mustapha, Chief Executive Officer of MTCC shared the Annual Report 2021 in which it was highlighted that on 18 November 2021, MTCC had received a certificate from the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Scheme (PEFC) for the maintenance of endorsement of the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) for another five (5) years. She also updated that there are new forest management unit and forest plantation management unit in Kedah and Sabah respectively.

Following that, the audited account for the financial year ended 31 December 2021, reports of the

第23届马来西亚木材认证委员会(MTCC)常年大会在其主席哈兹卡玛里扎曼主持下于2022年8月18日假吉隆坡办事处召开。



Meeting in progress

Trustees and Auditors, and the Annual Report for the year 2021 were tabled and adopted by the members. The meeting was further informed of a Stakeholders Dialogue that will be organised in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Mesuarat Agung Tahunan Majlis Pensijilan Kayu Malaysia (MTCC) yang ke-23 telah diadakan pada 18 Ogos 2022 di pejabatnya. Mesuarat dipengerusikan oleh Encik Haji Kamarizaman Bin Mohamad, Pengerusi MTCC.

Meeting with Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities on the 10-Year Limitation to Carry Forward Unabsorbed Business Losses

STA, represented by the STA Forest Plantation Committee had an engagement session with Datuk Willie Anak Mongin, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities on 1 April 2022 in Bintulu, Sarawak. During the engagement session, the issue of 10-year limitation on the carry forward of unabsorbed business losses was highlighted to the Deputy Minister. It was highlighted that due to the long gestation period for planted trees, the imposition of the limitation will detrimentally impact the development of the forest plantation industry which provides an alternative source of raw materials to the downstream processing sector.

As a follow-up, STA had a meeting with the Deputy Minister on 4 August 2022 at the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities to further explain the impact of this tax law on forest plantation industry and the way forward. Officers from the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Ministry of Finance (MOF),

Malaysian Timber Council, Malaysian Timber Industry Board and Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) were also present at the meeting.

In his opening remarks, Datuk Willie mentioned that the purpose of this meeting was to obtain feedback from the relevant ministries and agencies as well as to discuss the way forward to resolve the predicament faced by the forest plantation industry arising from this tax law. In support of the forest plantation industry, he had written to the Minister of Finance in June 2022 requesting him to reconsider the industry's appeal.

MOF had extended the time limit to carry forward unabsorbed business losses from 7 years to 10 years when announcing the Federal Budget 2022, in consideration of the difficulties faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. MOF has also appointed the Inland Revenue Board (IRB) to conduct a comprehensive study on the need to further



Datuk Willie Anak Mongin (3rd from left) with the Sarawak delegation (left to right) Ms Hajah Haluyah Awi, STIDC Deputy General Manager, Datu Haji Hashim Haji Bojet, STIDC General Manager cum Chairman of STA Working Committee on Unabsorbed Losses, Mr Peter Ling, STA Forest Plantation Committee Chairman, Ms Annie Ting, STA CEO and Ms Linda Kuang, Partner, Ernst & Young Tax Consultants Sdn Bhd



Datu Haji Hashim Haji Bojet (3rd from left) presents a memento to Datuk Willie Anak Mongin (2nd from left)

extend the time limit to carry forward unabsorbed business losses for sectors/industries with long gestation period such as forest plantation, agriculture commodities as well as large-scale infrastructure projects such as power stations and highways.

Ms Linda Kuang, Partner from Ernst & Young Tax Consultants Sdn Bhd briefed the Deputy Minister and participants of the meeting on the impact of the tax law. Companies had to make huge investments in forest plantation and the planted trees can only be harvested after 7 to 15 years, depending on species and the intended end usage. Companies require at least 2 to 3 rotations of planting before they can start utilising business losses, due to the long gestation period as well as high capital and agriculture allowances that need to be utilised first.

Datu Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, Chairman of STA Working Committee on Unabsorbed Losses cum General Manager of STIDC emphasised the importance of the forest plantation in providing the much needed raw materials to the downstream sector towards meeting the Sarawak Government's

targeted RM8 billion in export value for timber and timber products by year 2030. As an infant industry, there is still much for the industry players to learn and the support of the Government is essential to grow the industry.

Echoing the sentiments of Datu Hasim, Mr Peter Ling, Chairman of STA Forest Plantation Committee added that the research and trial planting conducted by the industry players to identify the right species for commercial planting will take many years to complete. For example, it has taken the industry players more than 8 years to ascertain and produce Kelampayan mutant clone that may carry favourable traits and this study is still pending field testing.

Datuk Willie cautioned on the possible loss of tax revenue to the Government due to the spill over effect on the downstream sector arising from shortage of raw materials, if the Government does not support the forest plantation industry. This matter affects not only forest plantations in Sarawak, but also those in Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah. Hence, Datuk Willie suggested for STA to take the lead and work together with their counterparts in Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah in putting forward a holistic proposal to the Ministry of Finance and Inland Revenue Board.

Subsequent to that, STA met with the Malaysian Timber Association and Sabah Timber Industries Association on 5 August 2022. Their feedback and inputs were collated and included in STA's response for the IRB consultation paper submitted on 9 August 2022.

作为跟进 STA 森林种植委员会和种植与原产业部副部长拿督威利莫因之间于 2022 年 4 月 1 日举行的会议，本会于 2022 年 8 月 4 日在种植和原产业部与其副部长会面以更进一步说明在人工林种植业实施未吸收业务亏损结转的 10 年限制和前进的方向。

拿督威利极力支持本会的申述，并建议本会与马来西亚半岛和沙巴的同行合作，向财政部和税务局提出整体提案。

Susulan daripada sesi perjumpaan di antara Jawatankuasa Ladang Hutan STA dan Timbalan Menteri Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi Datuk Willie Anak Mongin pada 1 April 2022, STA telah mengadakan pertemuan dengan Timbalan Menteri pada 4 Ogos 2022 di Kementerian Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi untuk menjelaskan dengan lebih lanjut mengenai pengenaan had 10 tahun ke atas kerugian perniagaan yang tidak diserap terhadap industri perladangan hutan dan langkah ke hadapan.

Datuk Willie menyokong rayuan STA dan mencadangkan agar STA bekerjasama dengan rakan sejawatan mereka di Semenanjung Malaysia dan Sabah untuk mengemukakan cadangan holistik kepada Kementerian Kewangan dan Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri.

Training on Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) Guidelines for Ground-Based Timber Harvesting in the State of Sarawak, version 2021

Following the experience gained from international collaborative projects, namely the Model Forest Management Area (MFMA) with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in 1993-1996, and Forest Management Information System (FOMISS) with the Malaysian-German Technical Cooperation in 1995-2001, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) developed the Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) Guidelines for Ground-Based Timber Harvesting in Sarawak in 1999.

In 2019, FDS in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) revised the RIL Guidelines in accordance with the internationally recognized best practice standards for timber harvesting in tropical forests. Version 2021 of the revised RIL Guidelines was produced through this collaboration.

Prior to implementing the revised RIL Guidelines, FDS and STA jointly organised Trainings to impart knowledge and build capacity on the revised RIL Guidelines highlight new requirements and changes made in the latest RIL Guidelines and address the issues and challenges faced in the implementation of RIL.

The series of trainings which were carried out in Miri from 26-27 July 2022 and Sibu from 10-11 August 2022 received participation from 235 STA members and staff from FDS, Yayasan Sarawak, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, Sarawak Planted Forest Sdn Bhd and STA Secretariat.

Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA in her welcoming remarks thanked FDS for developing and regularly reviewing the RIL Guidelines to ensure that the guidelines remain effective and practical in supporting the goals of sustainable forest management in Sarawak. She also commended STA members for their participation and support in the training.

Datu Hamden bin Mohammad, the Director of Forests, in his opening speech in Miri mentioned that the revised RIL Guidelines is on par with global standards certified and confirmed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). He emphasised that the Sarawak Government has mandated all long-term forest timber licence holders to obtain Forest Management Certification (FMC) by end of 2022, which also call for mandatory



Datu Hamden bin Mohammad, Director of Forests (centre) posed for group photo with (from far left) Mr Ricky Jonatahan Alek, Assistant Director for Planning and Management Division, Mr Abang Ahmad Abang Morni, Deputy Director of Forests (Forest Management), (2nd right) Mr James Ho Yam Kuan, STA Council, Ms Annie Ting, STA CEO and the rest of the participants.



Training on RIL guidelines in session.

implementation of RIL practices on the ground. He added that the revised RIL Guidelines is targeted to be implemented by industry players in 2023.

In the trainings, six chapters of the RIL Guidelines were presented in detailed by Mr Ting Chek Hieng from FDS, assisted by Mr Kutok Bayang and Mr Ginda Uli from STA Training Sdn Bhd. It was informed during the Training that RIL ground training for individual company will be provided upon written request to FDS.

砂森林局和本会近期在美里和诗巫总结一系列关于减少影响伐木(RIL)指南2021年修订版的培训。这些培训帮助235名参与者更好地了解有关最新的RIL指南中的要求与做出的更改, 并作为各方分享和讨论 RIL 实施过程中面临的问题和挑战的一个途径。

Baru-baru ini, FDS dan STA telah mengadakan satu siri latihan mengenai Garis Panduan Pembalakan Berimpak Rendah (RIL) Versi 2021 di Miri dan Sibu yang disertai oleh 235 peserta. Peserta berpeluang untuk mengetahui dengan lebih lanjut tentang keperluan dan perubahan dalam Garis Panduan RIL terbaharu serta berkongsi

Meeting on Proposed Gazettement of Timber Industry Regulations on Formaldehyde Emission Level from Panel Based Products



Meeting in progress

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) called a meeting on proposed gazettement of Timber Industry Regulations on Formaldehyde Emission Level from Panel Based Products on 11 August 2022 at its office in Menara PGRM Kuala Lumpur.

Representatives from Malaysian Furniture Council, Malaysian Plywood Manufacturer's Association, Malaysian MDF Manufacturer's Association, Sabah Timber Industries Association, STA as well as University Putra Malaysia heard comments and concerns from MFC and discussed the impact that implementation of formaldehyde emission level regulation could have towards domestic and imported panel based products in Malaysia.

MTIB Director General, Mr Haji Kamaruzaman Othman in his welcoming remarks explained that the Regulation is intended to protect the health of consumers from exposure to formaldehyde especially in various timber products.

He added that various engagement and consultation sessions have been carried out since 2015 to obtain inputs and suggestions from various parties on the proposed Regulation.

According to Mr Mohd Zamakhsyary Mustapa of MTIB Industry Development Unit, the Regulation is applicable to fibreboard, particleboard as

well as plywood, with exception to plywood with HS codes of 4410.12 (Oriented Strand Board), 4410.19 (Waferboard), 4411.12 (Fibreboard <5mm), 4411.92 (Hardboard), 4411.93 & 4411.94 (Mediumboard & softboard) and 4412.99 (Veneered & Laminated Panel).

Countries such as United States of America, Canada, Japan, Taiwan, Philippines and China have implemented formaldehyde emission regulation within their country.

Representative from MFC highlighted that full and immediate implementation of the regulation will introduce huge manufacturing costs and compromise the ability of Malaysia furniture industry to compete internationally.

With the increase of other costs such as shipping, minimum wage and levy, the furniture industry requested for a reasonable time frame to comply with the regulation.

The industry needs more time to strengthen its position and ability to absorb additional cost increases, and cautioned that immediate implementation of the regulation could force some factories to close down.

The meeting agreed to formulate a mechanism that will benefit all parties and form a task force comprising representatives from relevant associations in the three (3) regions to study the impact of implementing the Regulation and propose way forward.

Pertemuan di antara MTIB dan pihak berkepentingan daripada industri perabot mengenai cadangan pewartaan Peraturan Industri Kayu Mengenai Tahap Pelepasan Formaldehid daripada Produk Berasaskan Panel pada 11 Ogos 2022 telah memberi peluang kepada semua pihak untuk mengetahui dengan lebih lanjut mengenai Peraturan tersebut.

Peserta juga berpeluang mengetengahkan kebimbangan serta berbincang justeru memutuskan arah tuju yang harus diambil untuk memastikan kelancaran pelaksanaan Peraturan tersebut.

马来西亚木材工业局与家具行业的利益相关者于2022年8月11日举行会议，讨论拟议的合板产品甲醛释放水平的木材行业法规，为各方提供该法规的更多信息，并让各方表达关注的领域，以及探讨前进的方向以确保该法规顺利实施。

Visit of the Muar Furniture Association (MFA)

STA delegation led by Mr Lai King Min, Vice Chairman of STA Furniture & Other Woodworking Committee and 3 other members together with STA Chief Executive Officer Ms Annie Ting received the visit of a delegation of 16 committee members from MFA, headed by its President, Mr Steve Ong Yeou Huan on 25 August 2022 at Wisma STA, Kuching.

During the visit, both STA and MFA made an introductory on their roles and functions. In addition, STA shared types of logs and timber products from Sarawak and the latest information and progress of industrial forest plantation in Sarawak.

Meanwhile MFA included the introduction of Muar Furniture Town; the uniqueness of Muar Furniture Park with over 800 factories of main-con and sub con in furniture chain; total value export from Muar, Muar Furniture Park 2.0; issues faced by the industry such as planning of industrial zone, manpower, supply of raw material, tax incentive and grant and support of Local Authority.

Both parties discussed lengthily on issues and challenges highlighted by MFA as well as issues such as usage of Acacia instead of rubber wood; endorsement of FSC certification instead of national scheme, MTCS endorsed by PEFC due to market driven requirements by end-users; awareness education programme on PEFC certification.

Mr Nicholas Lissem, Assistant General Manager (Industrial Planning & Licensing) of STIDC recognised that the industry required Government's assistance on issues raised, ie research on the usage of Acacia, certified products using PEFC or FSC, awareness programme and integration on the Sarawak furniture parks.

MFA 5-day visit to Sarawak, from 24 August to 28 August 2022 is coordinated by Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) on investment potential in the proposed furniture parks in Sarawak, ie Demak Laut Furniture Park and Tanjung Manis Furniture Park.



Group photo



Discussion in session



Tour to STA Exhibition Centre, led by Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (far right)

STA 傢俬与其它木工委员会在其副主席赖金民先生（译音）带领下于2022年8月25日假本会大厦接待一组16位来自麻坡家具同业商会(MFA)代表的拜访。

Jawatankuasa Perabot & Kerja Kayu Lain STA dan ahli-ahlinya yang diketuai oleh Naib Pengerusinya, Encik Lai King Min menerima kunjungan 16 ahli-ahli delegasi daripada Persatuan Perabot Muar (MFA) pada 25 Ogos 2022 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Kedua-dua pihak berkongsi maklumat mengenai peranan dan fungsi masing-masing serta membincangkan isu-isu yang dihadapi.

STA Timber Products Marketing Committee Meeting

The STA Timber Products Marketing Committee members met on 30 August 2022 via zoom platform chaired by its Committee chairman, Mr Stephen Hii.

The Committee members met to discuss and deliberated few pertinent issues affecting the operation of timber industry.

Among agenda discussed were supply of raw materials including imported timber into Sarawak; export of value added products from Sarawak; foreign workers recruitment and shortage of labour; as well as global politic changes that affecting timber export performance.

The committee agreed to set up a team among committee members and work together as trade partner to overcome common issues such as

STA木材产品行销委员会于2022年8月30日召开线上会议讨论和审议影响木材业运作的问题，例如原材料供应、砂拉越增值产品出口、外劳招聘和劳动力短缺事宜。

marketing, types of machinery for producing value added products and strategise a masterplan for types of value added products using the available raw materials either from local and imported.

The Committee also agreed to participate together with other interested members from categories of downstream activities in the Wood Processing & Furniture Production Machinery Exhibition which is supported by STA, scheduled to be held from 6 to 9 October at Setia City Convention Centre Shah Alam Selangor.

Ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa Pemasaran Produk Kayu STA telah bermesyuarat secara maya pada 30 Ogos 2022 untuk berbincang dan berkongsi tentang isu-isu yang menjejaskan operasi industri perkayuan, seperti bekalan bahan mentah, eksport produk tambah nilai dari Sarawak, pengambilan pekerja asing dan kekurangan tenaga buruh.

DF Circular No.3/2022 and DF Circular No.4/2022

The Forest Department Sarawak issued the following two (2) DF Circulars, addressed to all Forest Timber Licence holders, and copied to STA.

These DF Circulars were circulated to STA members on 12 August 2022.

- i. **DF Circular No. 3/2022** on Government Hammer Mark for Export Logs (Natural Logs) with reference number (72) JHS/100-1/8/104/Jld.1 dated 9 August 2022

Pursuant to DF Circular No.6/2021 – Royalty Assessment – Logs for Export and DF Circular No.6/2008 – Plastic Tags for Logs and Poles Size Timber, it was decided that the logs from natural forests for export or cause to be exported shall be embossed at both ends with Special Government Hammer Mark (small size) to denote the logs are royaltied.

The mark size is 3.2 cm in width and 3.2 cm in height.

- ii. **DF Circular No. 4/2022** on Removal of Logs by Conveyances on River with reference number (73) JHS/100-1/8/104/Jld. dated 29 July 2022

Pursuant to Rule 22(5) of Forest Rule 1987, in regards to the removal of royaltied logs (natural and planted), it has been decided that transportation of Local and Export logs in one conveyance shall not be mixed up along these routes:

- Batang Rejang River to Kuala Rajang or/and Export Point
- Batang Kemena to Kuala Kemena or/and Export Point
- Batang Baram to Kuala Baram or/and Export Point

砂森林局局长发出2则通告,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。以上通告的转载内容如英文版所列。

Petikan daripada 2 Pekeliling DF yang dikeluarkan oleh Jabatan Hutan Sarawak, ditujukan kepada semua pemegang Lesen Kayu Hutan, dan disalinkan kepada STA adalah seperti yang dinyatakan dalam artikel ini.

22nd Meeting of Asia Pacific Economic Corporation (APEC) Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT)



Malaysian delegation at the Meeting, led by Ms Habibah Ahmad, Deputy Undersecretary (Acting Undersecretary) of the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (5th from right). On her left is Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA.

The 22nd hybrid Meeting of Asia Pacific Economic Corporation (APEC) Expert Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) was hosted by Thailand on 21 and 22 August 2022. The meeting was chaired by EGILAT Chair Ms. Jennifer Conje from the United States of America and opened by Mr. Wanchai Jariyasetthachok, Deputy Director General of the Royal Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand physically at the Shangri-La Hotel in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Sixteen economies namely Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States and Viet Nam participated in EGILAT 22 with thirteen economies including Malaysia presented their reports at the meeting physically. The Malaysian delegation was led by Ms. Habibah Ahmad, Deputy Undersecretary (Acting Undersecretary) of the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities.

Mr. Febby Andryananto updated on the EGILAT's works in 2022 comprising Work Plan for 2022, Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027 and 2-Year (2022 - 2023) Policy Theme 2 “*Advancing the trade and distribution of legally harvested forest products: Navigating to legal timber*” with 2 projects, each by the United States of America and Indonesia, where Concept Notes (CN) have been submitted. He also

updated briefly on the status of the funding for the APEC projects with 86% of CN approved during the Project Session 2, 2022.

Chile, on behalf of the Informal Policy Theme Discussion Group (IPTDG), reported on the recap of Policy Theme 1 and summary of Policy Theme 2. The meeting noted that EGILAT completed its project on “*Advancing the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products in the APEC Region*” under Policy Theme 1 with three publications.

The meeting further noted that Policy Theme 2 “*Advancing the trade and distribution of legally harvested forest products: Navigating to legal timber*” was adopted in April 2022 with the aim to add value in the following two (2) broad areas:

- i. Outline/take stock of the different approaches to legal timber trade, including timber legality frameworks, regulations, policies and other measures; and
- ii. Explore and raise awareness of available and emerging data, tools and technologies to help navigate to legal timber.

ITTO, WRI and Forest Trend at the cross fora information exchange session shared their works

towards promoting trade of legally harvested forests products through capacity building programmes, publications as well as using data and tools and its challenges.

The meeting noted the presentations made by member economies on their respective work and regulations update to combat illegal logging and to promote trade in legal forest products. It was also shared that, with the completion of Timber Legality Guidance Template (TLGT) by both Indonesia and Thailand, there are 12 TLGTs available for access at APEC EGILAT's website.

The meeting was closed by Mr Sapol Boonsermsuk, Director of the International Forestry Cooperation Division, Royal Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand. Following that, the Royal Forest Department organised a field trip to the Forest Industry Organization and Thaweephan Company Limited.

由泰国主办的第 22 届亚太经合组织(APEC)非法采伐及相关贸易专家小组(EGILAT)混合会议于 2022 年 8 月 21 日至 22 日举行。来自美国的EGILAT主席洁妮菲女士主持该会议。会议接纳相关EGILAT 2022 年的活动进展, 以及各成员国打击非法采伐和促进合法林产品贸易而实施的相应工作和法规的报告。

Mesyuarat hibrid Kerjasama Ekonomi Asia-Pasifik (APEC) mengenai Pembalakan Haram dan Perdagangan Bersekutu (EGILAT) ke-22 telah dianjurkan oleh Thailand pada 21 dan 22 Ogos 2022, dan dipengerusikan oleh Pengerusi EGILAT Cik Jennifer Conje daripada Amerika Syarikat. Mesyuarat menerima kemas kini tentang kerja-kerja EGILAT pada tahun 2022, kerja dan peraturan yang dikuatkuasakan oleh ahli-ahlinya untuk memerangi pembalakan haram dan mempromosikan perdagangan produk hutan yang sah.

Meeting of MEF East Malaysia Region Members

The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) organised a virtual meeting on 16 August 2022 attended by 19 members of MEF East Malaysia Region. Chaired by Mr Bernard John Kanny, MEF's Senior Consultant – IR, the meeting aimed at sharing information about the law on prolonged illness.

In his presentation, Mr Justin Lee, Senior Consultant – IR of MEF explained that an employee is deemed to have prolonged illness when he or she is absent from work for an extended period of time due to illness.

The term "prolonged" is used when the number of days that the employee is absent from work exceeds the total number of days entitled for sick leave and hospitalization, which is 60 days in aggregate.

The rights and responsibilities of both employer and employee with prolonged illness were also discussed in the meeting. Both parties should discuss option to keep employee in employment for a reasonable period of time and in the event that the employee had to be dismissed, employers must be able to justify that the inability of the employee with prolonged illness to work is the reason for dismissal.

Among some of the concerns raised by members are (i) clarity of chronic disease and mental health under prolonged illness, (ii) reasonable time frame for employers to react and consider boarding out an employee on prolonged illness, (iii) law for description on what can be considered as prolonged illness; and (iv) probability of Sarawak Labour Ordinance be amended to incorporate the amendments of Employment Act 1955.

马来西亚雇主联合会(MEF)在 2022 年 8 月 16 日举行的线上会议中向其东马区成员分享相关长期疾病法律的资讯。

Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan Malaysia (MEF) telah berkongsi maklumat mengenai undang-undang penyakit berpanjangan kepada ahli-ahlinya di wilayah Malaysia Timur dalam mesyuarat maya yang berlangsung pada 16 Ogos 2022.

PEFC Group Certification Dialogue Webinar Series

Since 2010, the Smallholder Group Certification Programme, developed by Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) to promote smallholder certification have been collaborating with partners to contribute to local needs and build capacity across a range of pre-requisites to certification.

In continuation of that long-running effort, PEFC in its collaboration with the UN-REDD Initiative: Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Region held a series of webinars throughout July and August 2022 to facilitate knowledge and experience sharing amongst its members and industry stakeholders as well as to provide capacity, network and tools to reduce barriers.

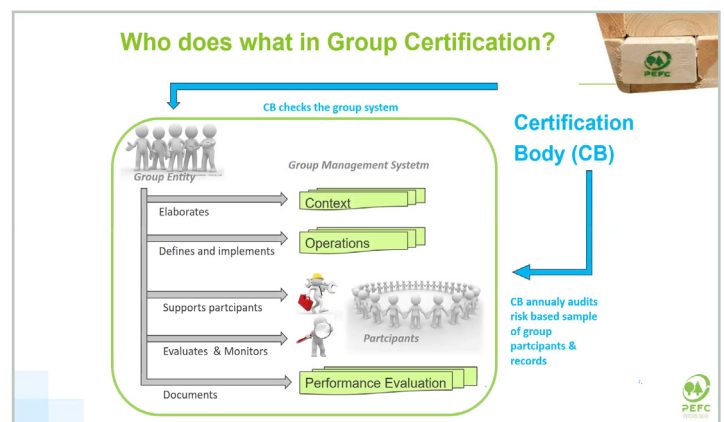
In the “*Smallholder Group Forest Management Certification: PEFC Standard and Tools*” webinar on 27 July 2022, participants obtained perspective of PEFC group certification and an overview of PEFC’s unique, inclusive approach to group certification. Mr Bounthan Souksavath, former Capacity Builder and Development Officer at Luang Prabang Teak Program (LPTP) shared the processes involved in preparing for group certification, which began with building awareness on sustainable forest management among teak farmers. The session ended with a remark that assistance and support should be extended to smallholders, particularly in Southeast Asia, who are most vulnerable to cost increases.

The “*Scaling Up Group Certification through Collaboration among the PEFC Alliance*” webinar on 3 August 2022 focused on PEFC group and regional certification through the shared experiences of its partners in Spain and Thailand. Participants also heard about how PEFC assisted small-scale forest and rubber plantation owners in Thailand gained sustainable forest management certification. The roles of local, community-driven organisations such as farmer cooperatives in facilitating the transition towards certification were highlighted as vital to the success.

The focus turned towards central Vietnam in the “*Which are the Pathways toward Group Certification for Smallholders in Vietnam?*” webinar held on 10 August, where participants learned from the



The document referred to by stakeholders in developing their national group certification requirements.



Overview of roles of different stakeholders in PEFC's group certification

experiences of a group of *Acacia* forest owners who have generated extra revenue streams whilst reducing pressure on forests.

Mr Nguyễn Văn Bích from Vietnam Forest Certification Office shared on the pilot models of Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme group certification in Yen Bai and Quang Tri, Vietnam, with emphasis on the advantages and limitations in different type of management structures/entities such as enterprise, forest owner association and cooperative alliance/union.

The PEFC regional group certification in Finland and Germany were also shared during webinar. Amongst the benefits highlighted were cost savings for the administrative and maintenance of certificate, joint responsibility on certification compliance between forest owners and organisations/companies.

PEFC 在 2022 年 7 月和 8 月期间举办了一系列关于团体认证的线上研讨会，以促进其成员和行业利益相关者的知识和经验分享。参与者了解有关利益相关者的角色、参与的流程以及从团体认证中获得的好处。

PEFC mengadakan siri webinar mengenai pensijilan kelompok sepanjang Julai dan Ogos 2022 untuk memudahkan perkongsian pengetahuan dan pengalaman dalam kalangan ahli-ahlinya dan pihak berkepentingan industri. Peserta belajar tentang peranan pihak berkepentingan, proses yang terlibat serta faedah yang boleh dicapai daripada pensijilan kelompok.

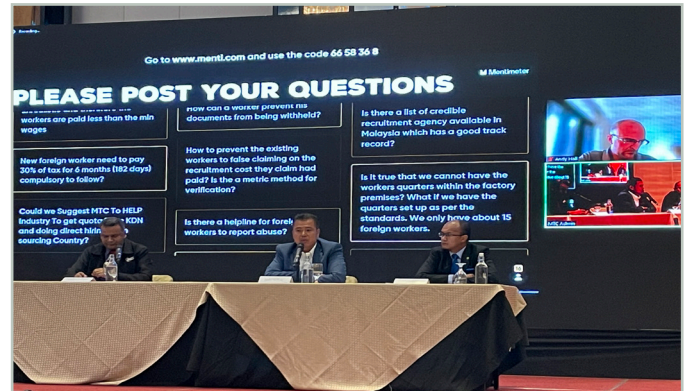
Seminar on Enhanced Social Compliance Practices in Employment of Migrant Workers in the Malaysian Timber Industry

The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) organized a seminar on “Enhanced Social Compliance Practices in Employment of Migrant Workers in the Malaysian Timber Industry” at Le Meridien Putrajaya on 8 August 2022. The Seminar which focused on social aspect of the ESG in line with MTC’s Must-Win for 2022 on “Intensity IR 4.0 Adoption and Environment Social Governance (ESG) Initiatives” was participated by more than 200 participants who attended in person and via video conferencing.

In his welcoming remark, MTC’s Chief Executive Officer, Mr Muhtar Sulaili, highlighted challenges faced by the Malaysian timber players. Issues related to labour are growing more pressing as several companies are subjected to export ban imposed by the United States Customs and Boarder Protection Department (US CBP) over allegations of forced labour practices.

Invited speakers, Mr Andy Hall, an internationally recognized migrant worker rights specialist and Mr Arulkumar Singaraveloo, co-founder and CEO of Malaysia HR Forum spoke about key elements that contribute to forced labour practices as well as effective ways and methods to eliminate and prevent forced labour practices.

Mr Arulkumar elaborated on the eleven (11) indicators developed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) which suggest a worker is in a situation of forced labour, namely abuse of vulnerability, deception, restriction of movement, isolation, physical and sexual violence, intimidation and threats, retention of identity documents,



Panel discussion

withholding of wages, debt bondage, abusive working and living conditions as well as excessive overtime.

He urged Malaysian companies to adopt more stringent standards in order to meet with ILO’s expectations. He further highlighted some key areas of concern in foreign workers employment in Malaysian industries such as high commitment fees, deceit and false promises on terms and conditions of employment contract, substandard housing and living conditions, and excessive overtime and long hours of work.

In a call for action, he suggested MTC to gather its members and collectively eliminate excessive recruitment fee, deceptive recruitment and other causes that would leave workers exploitable. He also encouraged Malaysian timber players to adopt an ethical recruitment practices and adhere to Malaysian laws such as Malaysian Passport Act 1966, Malaysian Immigration Act 1959/63.

马来西亚木材理事会(MTC) 近期举办一项关于“加强马来西亚木材行业雇佣移民员工的社会责任实践”的研讨会。该研讨会揭示了与劳工有关的问题，以及马来西亚木材业者可以采取的有效方式和方法来改善当前的合规性。

Majlis Perakayuan Malaysia (MTC) baru-baru ini telah menganjurkan seminar mengenai “Amalan Pematuhan Sosial yang Dipertingkatkan dalam Penggajian Pekerja Migran dalam Industri Perakayuan Malaysia”, berkongsi isu-isu berkaitan buruh dan langkah-langkah berkesan yang boleh diambil oleh pemain industri perakayuan di Malaysia untuk meningkatkan pematuhan semasa.

SFC Introduces Electric Buggy Services at Semenggoh Wildlife Centre



Datuk Len Talif Salleh, Deputy Minister of Urban Planning, Land Administration and Environment (10th from left) joined Mr Lo Khare Chiang, Batu Kitang State Assemblyman (8th from left), Mr Zolkipli Mohamad Aton, Chief Executive Officer of SFC (9th from left), Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA (11th from left) and other guests for a group picture.

Semenggoh Wildlife Centre (SWC), the biggest Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre in Sarawak is administered and cared for by Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd (SFC) since 2003. The SWC was awarded the World Excellence Tourism Awards for Best Sustainable Tourism Programme category for Eco Tourism (Wildlife Conservation Centre) in conjunction with the World Excellence Tourism Award 2020 ceremony in March 2020 which recognises SWC's excellence in the areas of wildlife conservation and rehabilitation.

In support of Sarawak Government's commitment in moving towards green technology and to ensure the reduction of carbon emissions in Totally Protected Areas, SFC introduced the use of Electric Buggy Services (EBS) in SWC. The initiative was launched by Datu Len Talif Salleh, Deputy Minister of Urban Planning, Land Administration and Environment, in a ceremony at SWC on 27 August 2022, in the presence of Mr Zolkipli Mohamad Aton, Chief Executive Officer of SFC, Mr Lo Khare Chiang, Batu Kitang State Assemblyman, and Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA.

In his officiating speech, Datuk Len acknowledged that the use of EBS is a step



Datuk Len (seated at the 2nd row, right) and other distinguished guests hopped on the electric buggy to commute within the SWC.

towards achieving net zero emissions by 2050 across the entire operations, in line with the global drive for decarbonisation. He added that the EBS would also be implemented in other locations such as Sama Jaya Nature Reserve, Samunsam Wildlife Sanctuary, Similaju National Park and Gunung Apeng National Park.

Mr Zolkipli shared that with the implementation of EBS at SWC effective 1 September 2022, no private vehicles will be permitted to enter SWC and visitors can either hop on EBS for a fee, cycle or walk to commute within the SWC.



(Standing front, left to right) Mr Zolkipli Mohamad Aton, CEO of SFC, Ms Tessy Nimos, Head of Forest Division, Ministry of Natural Resources & Urban Development, Datu Len Talif Salleh, Deputy Minister of Urban Planning, Land Administration and Environment and Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA posing with orangutan in the background.

砂拉越林业机构于2022年8月27日在实蒙谷野生动物中心(SWC)推展使用电动车服务(EBS)。自 2022 年 9 月 1 日起, 私家车将不得进入SWC。访客可以付费搭乘EBS, 骑自行车或步行在SWC内通勤。

SFC memperkenalkan penggunaan Perkhidmatan Buggy Elektrik (EBS) di Pusat Hidupan Liar Semenggoh dalam majlis pelancaran yang bertempat di Pusat tersebut pada 27 Ogos 2022. Berkuatkuasa 1 September 2022, tiada kenderaan persendirian dibenarkan memasuki SWC dan pengunjung boleh sama ada menaiki EBS dengan bayaran, berbasikal atau berjalan kaki untuk berulang-alik di dalam SWC.

Engagement Session for the Proposed Amendment of Trade Union Act 1959 (Act 262)

The Trade Union Affair Department (TUAD) under the Ministry of Human Resources, tasked to amend Trade Union Act 1959 (Act 262) held several engagement sessions with stakeholders to discuss and explain the proposed amendments.

On 17 August 2022, an engagement session with representatives from employer associations and chambers of commerce throughout Sarawak was held.

The session was joined by representatives from Strategic Negotiations Division, Ministry of International Trade & Industry Malaysia (MITI) namely Ms Arividya Arimuthu, Senior Director and Mr Nik Mohd Salihin Nik Mustafa, Principal Assistant Director.

Mr Kamal bin Pardi, Director General of TUAD, in his welcoming remarks informed that the Trade Unions Act 1959 is expected to be tabled in Parliament for amendment to comply with the requirements by International Labour Organisation (ILO) in relation to the ratification of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Mr Nik Mohd Salihin shared findings from a cost-benefit analysis commissioned by MITI which underscored the positive impact that Malaysia could gain from ratifying CPTPP, particularly on its national gross domestic product, trade and investment.



Meeting in session

He also highlighted that MITI and the Attorney-General Chambers are working towards ensuring Malaysia's commitment to the CPTPP and domestic structure reform are fulfilled.

人力资源部属下的工业关系局于 2022 年 8 月 17 日的交流会议上向砂拉越雇主协会和商会的代表讲解 1959 年工会法令 (第 262 法令) 的拟议修正案。

Jabatan Hal Ehwal Kesatuan Sekerja di bawah Kementerian Sumber Manusia menjelaskan cadangan pindaan Akta Kesatuan Sekerja 1959 (Akta 262) kepada wakil-wakil persatuan majikan dan dewan perniagaan di seluruh Sarawak melalui sesi penglibatan yang diadakan pada 17 Ogos 2022.

STA Photography Contest 2022 Winners



FIRST PRIZE WINNER

Tan Song Wei

"Robberfly Foraging"

Location: Sama Jaya Forest Park, Kuching

Following the success of the first STA photography contest held in 2020, STA has once again successfully organised its second photography contest with the theme *"The World Through Macro Lens: Flora & Fauna of Sarawak"*. This contest was organised in collaboration with Sarawak Photo-Art Society (SPAS) and was launched on 1 May 2022 and was open to enthusiastic photographers to capture the close up beauty of either flora or fauna found in the forests of Sarawak.

The contest went through two (2) judging sessions namely, Filtering Panel Session and Judging Panel Session, both held at the Pre-Function Hall at Level 4 of Wisma STA in Kuching on 1 August 2022 and 17 August 2022 respectively. The panel of judges were professional photographers who reviewed and considered 248 qualified photographs. The contest concluded on 17 August 2022 with the following winners.

The results have been published in STA website at www.sta.org.my on 18 August 2022.

SECOND PRIZE WINNER



Liew Yong Fei

"Black Ants Hunting The Larvae"

Location: Uni Garden, Kota Samarahan

THIRD PRIZE WINNER



Chong Say Liong

"Iridescent Beauty"

Location: Gunung Gading National Park, Lundu

Consolation Prize Winner

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Mak Sen Fatt
"Hi, I'm Here. Can You See Me?"
Location: Kuching | • Bong Ted Onn
"Cicada Shedding Skin"
Location: Kpg. Santubong, Kuching |
| • Aylwin Lim Kheng Siang
"Bibasis Jaina"
Location: Batang Ai | • Wong Muh Lung
"A Tortoise Beetle Climbs Down On A Wild Flower"
Location: Serian |
| • Bruce Teo Kuo Leat
"Sparassidae. Heteropoda davidbowie (David Bowie's Huntsman)"
Location: Borneo Happy Farm, Kuching | • Ting Pang Sing
"Common Grass Yellow Butterfly Mating"
Location: Serian |
| • Hu Toh Kai
"Bugs Mating"
Location: Pending, Kuching | • John Lai Teck Kee
"Nymphaea Nouchali Var Caerulea"
Location: Botanical Garden, Kuching |
| • Peter Lee Pui Weng
"Pyrops Intricatus (Lantern Fly of Borneo)"
Location: Sibul | • Chai Nyong Sen
"Snail"
Location: Taman Stutong Indah, Kuching |

在2022年5月1日发起并以“微距镜头下的世界：砂拉越的动植物”为主题的STA第二届摄影比赛在近期结束。获奖照片和完整的获奖者名单如本文英语版所示。

STA telah melancarkan peraduan fotografi keduanya pada 1 Mei 2022 dengan tema "Dunia melalui Lensa Makro: Flora & Fauna Sarawak". Senarai pemenang dan gambar adalah seperti dalam artikel ini.



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 warga Malaysia.

本会主席，理事会成员，管理委员会和秘书处
STA Enterprises有限公司，STA Mutual有限公司和 STA Training有限公司
全体职员在此祝愿所有马来西亚人民马来西亚日快乐。

August

OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAMME

Skills training in forestry activities have been designed to provide forest workmen with basic knowledge and practical skills required to work safely in the forests. It helps to create awareness on the environment, sustainable forest management as well as occupational safety and health.

STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), a subsidiary company of STA, offers training to workmen in the forestry and timber industry. Presently, there are twelve (12) skills sets offered by STAT.

For this month, STAT conducted on ground operator training programmes as follows.



Tree Felling- Chainsaw (Natural Forest); Log Extraction- Tractor (Natural Forest) & Log Loading- Front End Loader (Natural Forest)

Date : 15 - 20 August 2022
Location : SMS Contractor Office, Bintulu
STAT Trainer : Mr Denis Aman & Mr Kutok Bayang
Company : Plus Force Sdn Bhd

Tree Felling- Chainsaw (Natural Forest) & Log Extraction- Tractor (Natural Forest)

Date : 12 - 17 August 2022
Location : Sepantu Camp, Sri Aman
STAT Trainer : Mr Ginda Uli
Company : WTK Group of Companies



Tree Felling- Chainsaw (Natural Forest); Log Extraction- Tractor (Natural Forest) & Mechanical Site Preparation- Excavator (Forest Plantation)

Date : 15 - 21 August 2022
Location : Pila Camp, Kapit
STAT Trainer : Mr Sang Sanjan & Mr Ngumbang Bayang
Company : Ironwall Sdn Bhd

Tree Felling- Chainsaw (Natural Forest); Log Extraction- Tractor (Natural Forest); Log Loading- Front End Loader (Natural Forest) & Mechanical Site Preparation- Excavator (Forest Plantation)

Date : 21 - 27 August 2022
Location : Engkeramuh Camp, Kapit
STAT Trainer : Mr Sang Sanjan & Mr Ngumbang Bayang
Company : Hariwood Sdn Bhd

Tree Felling- Chainsaw (Natural Forest); Log Extraction- Tractor (Natural Forest) & Log Loading- Front End Loader (Natural Forest)

Date : 20 - 24 August 2022
Location : Nibong Camp, Tubau
STAT Trainer : Mr Denis Aman & Mr Kutok Bayang
Company : Shin Yang Sdn Bhd



STAT is the appointed training provider by Forest Department Sarawak to provide skills training for the five (5) prescribed forestry activities (PFAs) as listed in Schedule 1 The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015.