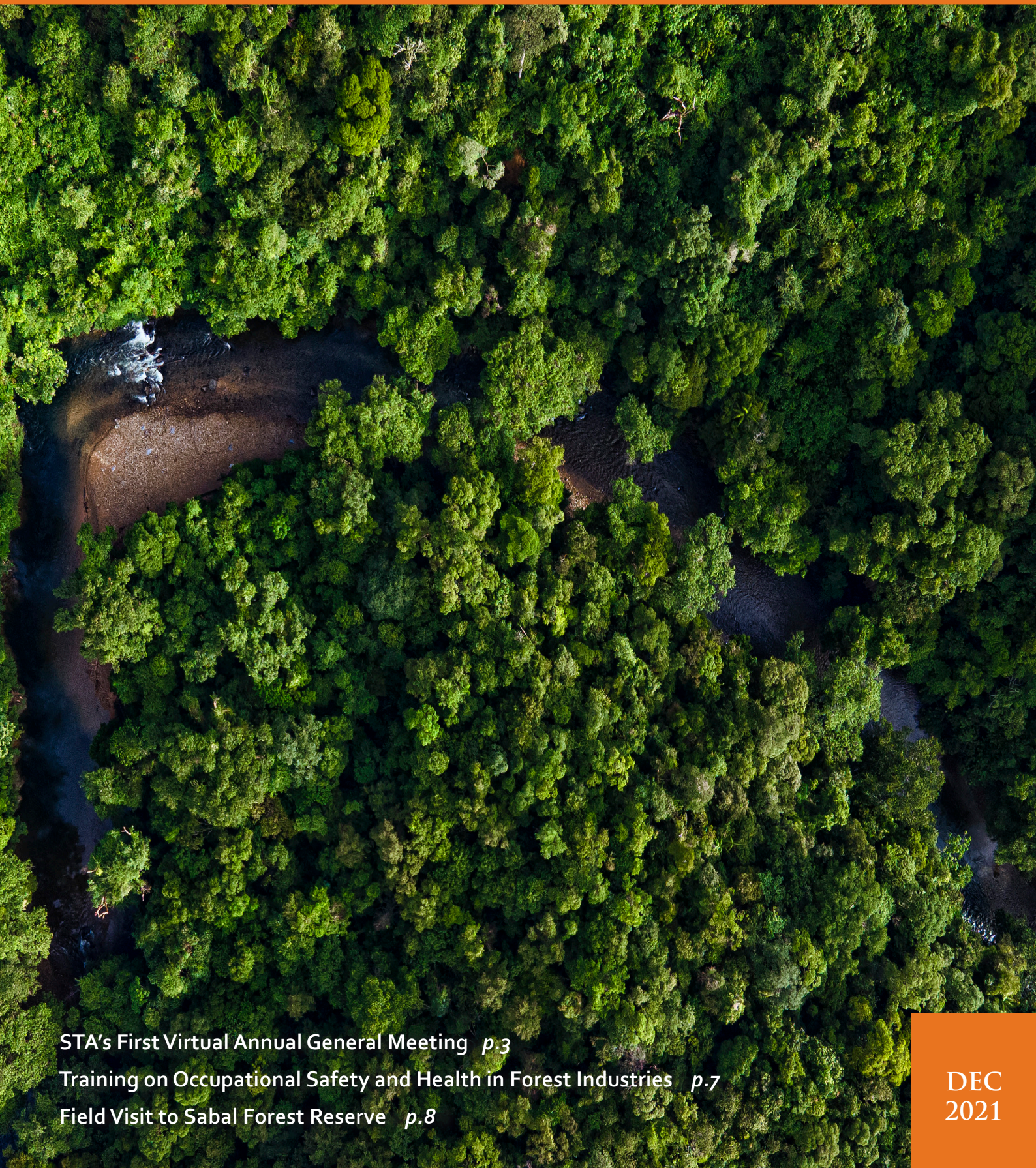


# STA Review

Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association  
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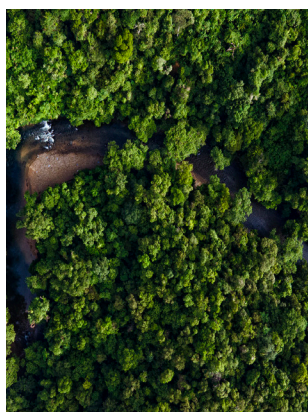
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Location: Lanjak Entimau, Lubok Antu  
Photo Credit: Boon Yee Wee

# STA REVIEW

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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# STA's First Virtual Annual General Meeting

STA held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2021 in full virtual proceedings for the first time on 30 December 2021. The virtual meeting received good attendance response from members throughout Sarawak, allowing them to exercise their rights to participate and vote safely and remotely, as concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic situation remained.

At the meeting, Datuk Sir Wong Kie Yik, Chairman of STA, in his speech, mentioned that the last two (2) years gave the Association the opportunity to prove its resilience during the pandemic. Despite the disruptions unleashed by the pandemic, STA continued to help members with issues of concern and work closely with Government agencies and other stakeholders. It was STA's priority to ensure members were able to continue to operate safely and sustain their businesses, while also catering to future development of the industry.

The Chairman also conveyed his appreciation for the continued trust and support shown by the Council, members and stakeholders, as well as thanked both STA advisors, Datu Hamden Bin Mohammad and Datu Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, for their invaluable assistance. At the same time, he acknowledged the contribution of all frontliners who have been working tirelessly since the pandemic to keep the community safe and the economy moving forward.

Dato Henry Lau, Honorary Secretary, then presented the working report of the Association on behalf of the Council. The report pointed out that since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, STA members and the industry have been inundated with challenges, especially with the shortage of raw materials and manpower as well as soaring costs. Disrupted shipping activities have also led to catastrophic increase in the cost of international shipping, such that freight and shipping costs have increased threefold from pre-COVID time.

The report highlighted that the call by some quarters to revise the current minimum wage upwards is not appropriate now as businesses seek to recover from the prolonged containment measures implemented to break the chain of infections in 2020 and 2021 that had badly affected all economic sectors. It is not clear when the situation will stabilise, with the looming threats of possible lockdowns to curb new COVID-19 variants. If it was not because of the wage subsidy of RM18 billion provided by the Government in 2020 that benefitted more than 300,000 employers and 2.4 million employees, STA believed that the number of companies which ceased operations and employees who lost their jobs would be far more than the reported 32,500 companies and 107,000 employees. STA urged the Government to be more understanding on the

difficulties faced by the employers, particularly the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and micro enterprises.

Notably, the pandemic has impeded STA members from carrying out activities on the ground smoothly. For example, STA members had put in a lot of efforts in trying to comply with the Environmental Quality (Clean Air) Regulations, 2014 which was only made known to them towards the end of the grace period in 2019. During the two-year extension period of 2020 and 2021 granted by the Department of Environment, STA members' progress have been inevitably stalled due to restriction in movements and closure of the country's border which prohibits the arrival of experts and required parts. Hence, STA sought the Government's understanding on the unavoidable slow progress and appealed for more time to be given to the members to achieve relevant objectives. On the matter of moving the industry towards automation to decrease dependency on foreign workers, STA strongly viewed the Government's support as critical because the industry will require technical expertise as well as assistances or subsidies towards upgrading machineries and technologies.

According to the report, STA had to adapt to the new norms of conducting its meetings, trainings and briefings online as the pandemic restricted physical gatherings and travels. STA maintained constant engagement with its members to keep them abreast of matters affecting the industry, such as the implementation of Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446) and occupational safety and health (OSH) in timber industry. Several briefing sessions were conducted either by STA or by inviting speakers from the relevant Government agencies during the year.

To ensure continuity of the training of workmen, STA's subsidiary company, STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), initiated several online training programmes beginning April 2021 to train in-house trainers and operators of its member companies. These in-house trainers would be assisting to train the operators on the ground, leaving STAT's Trainers/Assessor with more time to assess operator thus expediting the training of workmen. Starting from November 2021, STAT resumed physical training and assessment activities in view of the relaxation of inter-district travels.

Vaccination for workers in the timber industry was also especially crucial to keep the pandemic at bay. During the year, STA worked closely with related Government agencies, in particular the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development (MINTRED), to arrange for its members to participate in industrial vaccination programme. Members

were able to set up industrial vaccination centre on-site for their workers or send their workers to nearby unified vaccination centres identified COVID-19 Immunisation Task Force (CITF) Sarawak through resource pooling. As a result, more than 11,000 workers of the industry were vaccinated.

At the virtual AGM today, STA members strongly voiced their constant frustration and helplessness over many issues, in particular shortage of raw materials and manpower which have severely affected the timber industry as a whole. Many operations have either scaled down or closed down, and some who are still operating may not be able to sustain much longer if there is no support and favourable policies from the Government. In order to tackle these issues, STA members agreed to

set up a special committee to gather feedback, so that STA can engage with the Government for the industry's wellbeing.

Another crucial agenda during the AGM was voting on the migration of STA's Memorandum and Articles of Association (M&A) to STA Constitution by the members. The migration is necessary to meet the requirements of the Registry of Societies Malaysia.

A Press Statement was also issued by STA on the same day following the AGM.

**STA 于 2021 年 12 月 30 日首次以完整的虚拟程序举行 2021 年年度会员常年大会 (AGM)。本会各区域的会员踊跃出席此线上大会，让他们在新冠肺炎疫情仍然存有担忧当下，能够安全远程行使其权利参与投票。**

**本会主席拿督黄启晔爵士在大会致辞中提到，近两年在疫情期间，让本会有机会证明其应变能力。尽管疫情造成了困扰和不便，本会持续帮助会员们解决相关问题，并与政府机构和其它利益相关者密切合作。本会的首要任务是确保会员们能够继续安全运营并维持其业务，同时还能应对行业的未来发展。**

**主席也向理事会，会员和利益相关者的持续信任和支持表示赞赏，同时也感谢两位顾问，即拿督翰登莫哈末和拿督哈欣柏哲的宝贵协助。此外，主席也感谢所有前线人员自疫情以来孜孜不倦地付出，以维护社区安全和经济发展做出的贡献。**

**本会在会员常年大会后的同一天发表了如英文版中所列出的新闻稿。**

STA telah mengadakan Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan (AGM) 2021 secara maya buat kali pertama pada 30 Disember 2021. Mesyuarat tersebut mendapat sambutan kehadiran yang memberangsangkan daripada ahli-ahlinya di seluruh Sarawak, di mana ahli-ahli boleh menunaikan hak untuk mengambil bahagian dan mengundi dengan selamat dan secara terpencil, meskipun keadaan pandemik COVID-19 kekal menjadi satu kebimbangan.

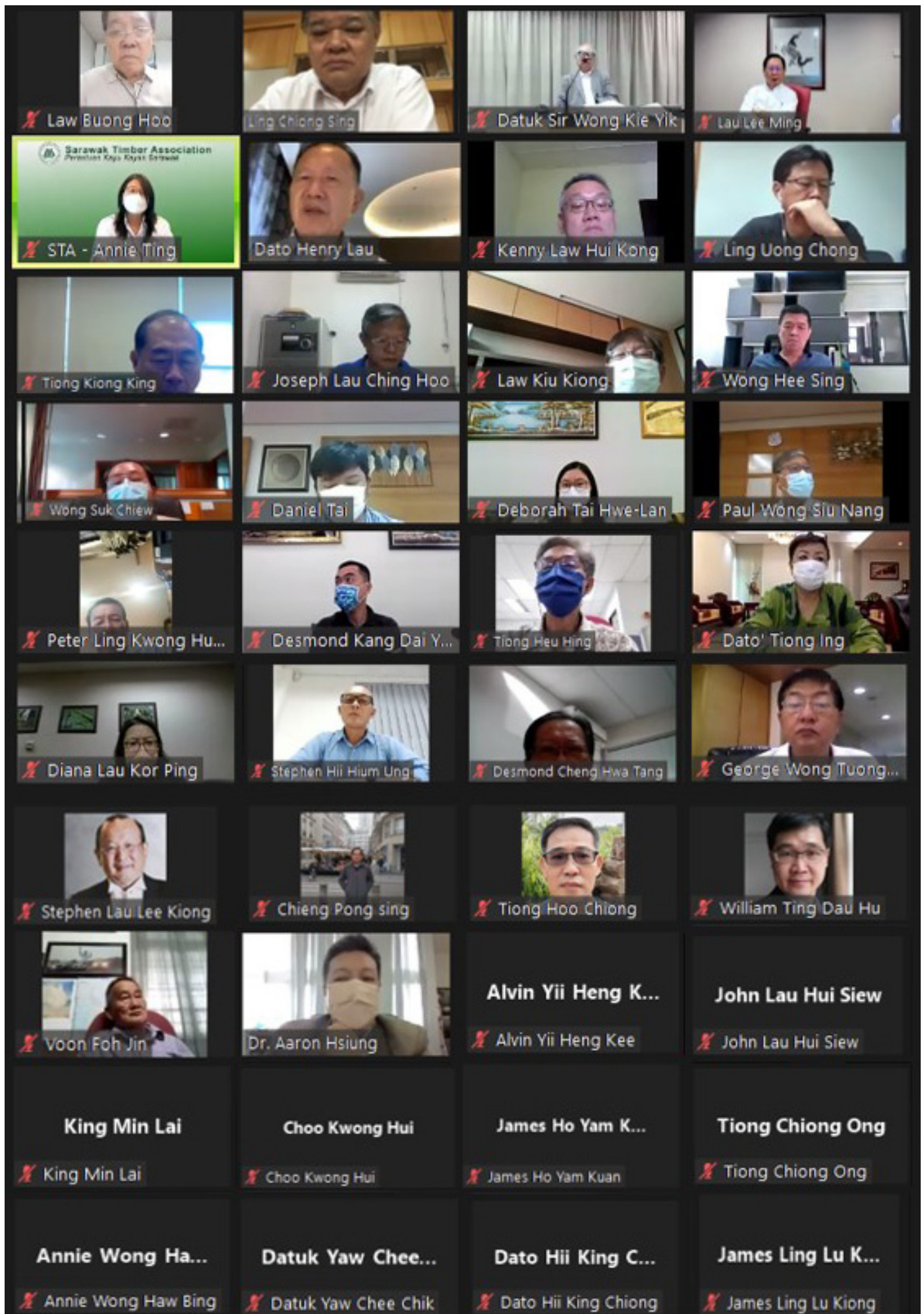
Pada mesyuarat itu, Datuk Sir Wong Kie Yik, Pengerusi STA dalam ucapannya, berkata bahawa 2 tahun ini telah memberi peluang kepada Persatuan untuk membuktikan daya tahannya semasa pandemik. Di sebalik gangguan yang disebabkan oleh wabak, STA terus membantu ahli-ahli yang mengalami isu-isu membimbangkan dan bekerjasama rapat dengan agensi Kerajaan serta pihak berkepentingan yang lain. Adalah menjadi keutamaan STA bagi memastikan ahli-ahlinya dapat terus beroperasi dengan selamat dan mengekalkan perniagaan mereka, di samping memenuhi perkembangan masa depan industri.

Pengerusi juga merakamkan penghargaan di atas kepercayaan dan sokongan berterusan yang ditunjukkan oleh Majlis, ahli-ahli dan pihak berkepentingan, serta mengucapkan terima kasih kepada kedua-dua penasihat STA, Datu Hamden Bin Mohammad dan Datu Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, atas bantuan mereka yang tidak ternilai.

Pada masa yang sama, beliau mengiktiraf sumbangan semua petugas barisan hadapan yang telah bekerja tanpa mengenal penat lelah sejak pandemik untuk memastikan keselamatan masyarakat dan ekonomi bergerak ke hadapan.

STA juga telah mengeluarkan Kenyataan Akhbar pada hari yang sama selepas AGM.





Some STA members participating in the Annual General Meeting



## Continuation of STA Council Meeting No 2/2021

The STA Council Meeting No 2/2021 resumed on 16 December 2021 for the remaining sixteen (16) members of the Council who were unavoidably absent from the meeting held on 26 November 2021, to continue casting their votes on the amendments to STA Constitution which require Unanimous Assenting Vote of all Council members. These amendments which arose from the migration of the STA Memorandum and Articles of Association to STA Constitution as required by Registry of Societies Malaysia, were unanimously passed by all thirty-one (31) members of the Council present in the meeting on 26 November 2021.

The meeting held via video conferencing, was presided over by Datuk Sir Wong Kie Yik, the Chairman of the Association, and attended by Vice Chairman Tan Sri Datuk Ling Chiong Ho and fourteen (14) members of the Council. All members of the Council present unanimously voted in favour of the amendments. The remaining one (1) absent member also voted in favour through postal ballot.

After attaining Unanimous Assenting Vote of all Council

members, these amendments shall be presented in the Annual General Meeting scheduled on 30 December 2021 for Unanimous Assenting Vote of all categories at a General Meeting.

16 名理事会会员不克出席于 2021 年 11 月 26 日所召开的会议，因此，本会理事会 2021 年度第 2 次会议于 2021 年 12 月 16 日重新召开，让当天缺席的理事会会员继续对需要全体理事会会员一致同意投票的章程修正案进行投票。

Mesyuarat Majlis STA Bil. 2/2021 disambung semula pada 16 Disember 2021 untuk baki 16 ahli-ahli Majlis yang tidak dapat hadir mesyuarat yang diadakan pada 26 November 2021, untuk meneruskan pengundian mereka mengenai pindaan Perlembagaan STA yang memerlukan Undi Persetujuan Sebulat suara semua ahli Majlis.

## DF Circular No 6/2021: Royalty Assessment - Logs for Exports

The Director of Forests has issued a DF Circular No 6/2021 with reference number (66)JHS/100-1/8/104/Jld.1 dated 30 December 2021 addressed to all holders of Forest Timber Licences, and copied to STA on the above subject. The following is an excerpt of the above-mentioned circular, for your information:

砂州森林局局长于 2021 年 12 月 30 日发布的编号 6/2021 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。以上通告的转载内容如英文版所列。

Pengarah Hutan telah mengeluarkan Pekeliling DF Bil. 6/2021 dengan nombor rujukan (66)JHS/100-1/8/104/Jld.1 bertarikh 30 Disember 2021 yang ditujukan kepada semua pemegang Lesen Kayu Hutan, dan disalinkan kepada STA mengenai perkara di atas. Petikan pekeliling adalah seperti yang dinyatakan dalam artikel ini.

Further to the DF Circular No. 4/2021 dated 13 September 2021 on the revised royalty rate of export logs and the DF Circular No. 1/2019 on segregation of logs produced from Forest Management Certified Area (Natural Forests) dated 9 January 2019, I wish to inform that:

1. In order to facilitate identification and monitoring of logs for exports and local processing at the registered Place of Royalty Marking (PoRM), the licence holder shall:
  - a) Physically segregated the logs for exports;
  - b) Fill up and submit separate log specification form for exports;
  - c) Stamp at the centre top of all documents related to export logs with the word **"EXPORTS"**
2. In this respect, the licence holder and its authorised representative must also ensure that the logs assembled with its documents at the registered Collection & Distribution Centre (CDC) are to adhere to the existing rules and regulations.

Licensees are required to inform your respective logging operators on the abovementioned. This directive is effective from 1 January 2022.



# Training on Occupational Safety and Health in Forest Industries

STA continues its efforts to promote and cultivate awareness on occupational safety and health among its members who are operating in the forestry sector. This was demonstrated through the conduct of an online Training on Occupational Safety and Health in Forest Industries on 15 December 2021 for forty (40) personnel from STA member companies.



Some participants from STA member company

In the remarks by Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA, she underscored the importance of having a safe and healthy working environment to maximise the work productivity and to minimise occurrences of occupational related accidents and health issues. She hoped that through this Training, participants will have a better understanding of the occupational safety and health in the forest industry.

During the Training, participants were taught on the basic requirements of the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994*, *Factory and Machinery Act 1967*, *Destruction of Disease Bearing Insects Act 1975* and *Prevention as well as Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988*. Under the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994*, the general duties of employer in providing adequate measures on safety and health at workplace were highlighted. Likewise, the general duties of employees such as wearing protective equipment or clothing, complying with instruction or measures instituted by employer as well as taking reasonable care for the safety and health of oneself and others were also emphasised.

Besides that, participants learned about hazard, hazard classification and identification. In general, hazard can be defined as a source or a situation with a potential for harm in terms of human injury or ill health, damage to property, damage to the environment or combination of these. Hazard can be classified into five (5) categories, including (i) physical, (ii) chemical, (iii) biological, (iv) ergonomic, and (v) psychosocial, and is identified through techniques such as auditing, interview and observation.

The one-day Training also covered basic flow chart and standard operating procedures, job hazard analysis for five (5) forestry activities, namely (i) ground survey, (ii) tree felling, (iii) log extraction, (iv) log loading and unloading, as well as (v) log transportation. In the job hazard analysis, each of the 5 activities was broken down into specific steps, with every step being analysed for specific hazards and to develop safe work procedures to eliminate or reduce those hazards. Participants were also taught on the risk, risk assessment and risk control methods. Risk is the evaluation of likelihood and severity of the credible incident/event sequences in order to determine magnitude and to determine risk control. Likelihood consideration includes past record, working environment, management commitment, awareness, training and others while severity can be ranked from negligible to catastrophic. In terms of risk control, it can be divided into few steps comprising elimination, substitution, isolation, engineering controls and others.

The Training was facilitated by three (3) Trainers, namely Mr Wong How Chu of STA as well as Mr Ginda Uli and Mr Sumbang Rani both from STA Training Sdn Bhd, who are all qualified Trainers under the Occupational Safety and Health in Forest Industries (Train-the-Trainer) Programme. The Train-the-Trainer Programme was jointly developed by the Department of Occupational Safety and Health Sarawak, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation and STA in 2020 with the objectives to promote self-regulation and to enhance the safety and health at workplace.

本会继续努力促进和培养其在林业部门运作的会员的职业安全与健康意识。2021年12月15日为40名来自本会会员公司的员工所举办的有关林业职业安全与健康的线上培训展示了这一点。

STA meneruskan usahanya untuk mempromosi dan menerapkan kesedaran tentang keselamatan dan kesihatan pekerjaan dalam kalangan ahli-ahlinya yang beroperasi dalam sektor perhutanan. Usaha ini telah diterjemahkan melalui penganjuran Latihan Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan dalam Industri Perhutanan dalam talian pada 15 Disember 2021 yang disertai oleh 40 orang kakitangan daripada ahli syarikat STA.



# Field Visit to Sabal Forest Reserve

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) has proposed an alternative method to measure the volume of planted logs for royalty assessment at Licence for Planted Forests (LPF).

This alternative method utilised the standing tree volume of the planted species, and is specifically for (i) planted logs that are to be processed at the mill within the LPF areas or (ii) weighbridge facility that is not available in the LPF areas.

Before implementing this method, STA, its member companies, and FDS decided to conduct a study to verify the standing tree volume table and the work instruction developed for this method. Sabal Forest Reserve has been chosen by FDS as the first location to conduct the study followed by areas in participating STA member companies. This study has been delayed several months this year due to the movement restrictions orders implemented by the Sarawak Government in curbing the COVID-19 pandemic.

FDS and STA represented by its Secretariat staff jointly visited the study site at Sabal Forest Reserve on 22 December 2021. The group, led by Mr Semilan Anak Ripot, Senior Assistant Director of Forests, Revenue and Data Management Division, FDS, observed the pre-felling inventory of planted trees being carried out by FDS recently as well as discussed on the challenges and difficulties encountered during the inventory process such as manpower requirement, topography variation, measuring equipment availability and utilisation.



*Group photo taken at the Sabal Forest Reserve*



*FDS demonstrating the method to measure and grade timber*

The group agreed to have a discussion session with the relevant stakeholders to share the preliminary findings and discuss the way forward for the study.

砂森林局 (FDS) 提出一项测量人工造林许可证 (LPF) 的种植原木量特许权税收评估的替代方案。在实施此方法之前，本会和其会员公司以及 FDS 决定进行一项研究，以验证立树量表和为此方法制定的操作指示。

萨巴尔森林保护区被 FDS 选为进行研究的第一个地点。为此，FDS和代表STA的秘书处工作人员于2021年12月22日一起前往参观了该研究地点。

Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) telah mencadangkan kaedah alternatif untuk mengukur isipadu balak yang ditanam untuk penilaian royalty di Lesen Hutan Tanam (LPF). Sebelum menggunakan kaedah ini, STA dan ahli syarikatnya serta FDS menjalankan kajian untuk mengesahkan jadual isipadu pokok berdiri dan arahan kerja yang dibangunkan untuk kaedah ini.

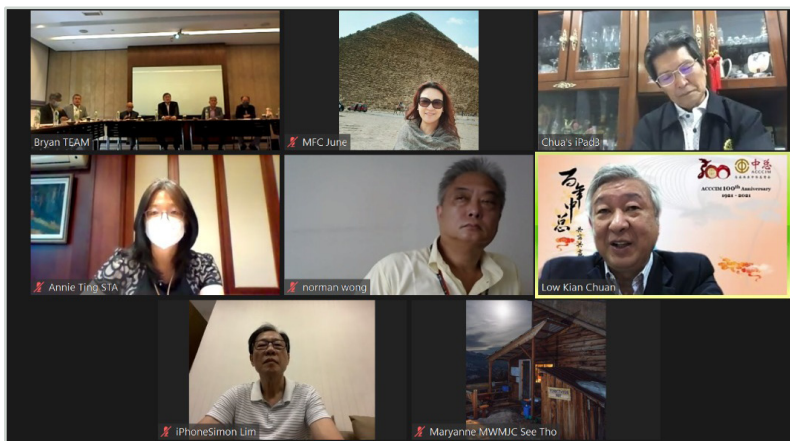
Hutan Simpan Sabal telah dipilih oleh FDS sebagai lokasi pertama untuk menjalankan kajian ini. FDS dan STA yang diwakili oleh kakitangan Sekretariatnya bersama-sama melawati tapak kajian di Hutan Simpan Sabal pada 22 Disember 2021.



# MTA Holds Its Executive Committee Meeting No 2/2021 and Annual General Meeting 2021

**MTA Executive Committee Meeting No 2/2021.** The Malaysian Timber Association (MTA) Executive Committee (EXCO) members met for the second time this year on 28 December 2021 at Aloft KL Sentral Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. Members from East Malaysia joined the meeting via video conferencing. This hybrid meeting was chaired by Mr Goh Chee Yew, President of MTA.

During the meeting, MTA EXCO members reported on matters or issues that each association is currently dealing with such as the investigation by Vietnamese Ministry of International Trade on tables/chairs imported from West Malaysia, multi-tier levy and traceable movement of foreign workers and lifting of log ban in Sabah. The meeting also discussed few matters arising from the previous meeting including the submission to Malaysian Timber Council on United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) Malaysia Country Overview Report and environmental charge rate for Contravention Licence for emission of air pollutants under Section 22 (1) and Regulation 25 of the *Environmental Quality (Clean Air) Regulations, 2014* and the *Environmental Quality Act, 1974 (Act 127)*.



MTA EXCO Meeting No 2/2021 in progress

**MTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2021.** Immediately after the MTA EXCO Meeting No 2/2021, the President of MTA chaired the MTA AGM 2021. The meeting approved and adopted the Honorary Treasurer's Report and the Audited Financial Statements of the Association for the year ending 31 December 2020, Executive Committee's Report on the Association for the period of September 2020 to 30 November 2021 as well as financial contribution of RM50,000 to aid flood victims.

This year was an election year and the following EXCO members were elected to serve for the period of 2021-2023:

President	: Malaysian Wood Industries Association
Vice President	: Sarawak Timber Association
Honorary Secretary	: Malaysian Wood Moulding & Joinery Council
Honorary Treasurer	: Sabah Timber Industries Association
Committee Members	: (1) Association of Malaysian Bumiputra Timber & Furniture Entrepreneurs (2) Malaysian Furniture Council (3) Timber Association of Sabah (4) The Malaysian Panel-Products Manufacturers' Association (5) The Timber Exporters Association of Malaysia

马来西亚木材公会 (MTA) 执行委员会 (EXCO) 会员在 MTA 主席吴志友先生主持下于 2021 年 12 月 28 日假吉隆坡 Aloft KL Sentral 酒店召开今年第二次会议。东马的 EXCO 会员则通过视频参加此会议。

常年会员大会紧随着举行，成功推选任期 2021-2023 年的 EXCO 会员。

Ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa Eksekutif (EXCO) Persatuan Kayu Kayan Malaysia (MTA) bermesyuarat untuk kali kedua pada 28 Disember 2021 di Hotel KL Sentral, Kuala Lumpur. Ahli-ahli daripada Malaysia Timur menyertai mesyuarat tersebut melalui persidangan video. Mesyuarat hibrid ini telah dipengerusikan oleh Encik Goh Chee Yew, Presiden MTA.

Sejurus selepas Mesyuarat MTA EXCO Bil. 2/2021, Encik Goh mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Am Tahunan MTA 2021 yang menyaksikan pengundian ahli-ahli EXCO untuk tempoh 2021-2023.

# SWIS Webinar: Way Forward to Data Analytics

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Research (MESTR) organised a webinar on the Sarawak Workforce Information System (SWIS): Way Forward to Data Analytics on 14 December 2021.

Attended by forty-three (43) representatives from Government agencies, associations, business chambers, educational institutions and industries, the webinar aimed to introduce the new features and functions of data analytics of SWIS and also to gather user feedback.

The welcoming address was given by Mr Shariman Bin Jamil, Head of Workforce Development Division, MESTR. According to him, SWIS is a web-based system that will capture the current and projected workforce supply and demand data in Sarawak. Data is collected at source from educational and training institutions for workforce supply as well as from industries and commerce for workforce demand. SWIS is not only able to generate statistics and reports, but also facilitate data sharing within MESTR and among other relevant agencies.

He added that SWIS is now live, having been deployed successfully since September 2018. Training courses on SWIS were carried out in few regions since then. However, some of these courses were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Up to date, a total of 89 educational institutions and 224 companies

have voluntarily registered as SWIS users. Mr Shariman informed that MESTR plans to deploy an engagement team next year to institutions and industries to further promote and encourage the usage of SWIS.

Mdm Noor Farizaa, System Analyst from Sarawak Information Systems Sdn Bhd (SAINS), highlighted various enhancements made to SWIS. She explained that data entry in SWIS has been simplified and it is also easier to access details on courses offered by institutions and information on graduates. Furthermore, user can generate dynamic reports and charts to analyse workforce trends.

Another officer from SAINS, Ms Beatrice Chin, presented several data analytics dashboards available in SWIS which included Industrial Demand Analysis Dashboard, Workforce Analytics Dashboard, Institution Supply Analysis Dashboard and Graduate Information Dashboard. Among the functions of these dashboards include graduate and vacancy projection, institution performance analysis, retirement trend as well as industry talent analysis.

Participants also took the opportunity to discuss the role and usage of SWIS such as implementation policy of SWIS, benefits of registering a user account, system migration done by the Federal and State Government agencies, accuracy of data and challenges encountered by data entry personnel.

砂拉越教育、科学及工艺研究部 (MESTR) 于 2021 年 12 月 14 日举办砂拉越劳动力资讯系统 (SWIS): 数据分析的前进方向线上研讨会。

SWIS是收集砂拉越当前和预计劳动力供求数据的线上系统。数据是从教育和培训机构劳动力供应以及工业和商业劳动力需求所收集的。SWIS 不仅能够生成统计数据和报告, 还能促进 MESTR 内部和其他相关机构之间的数据共享。

Kementerian Pendidikan, Sains dan Penyelidikan Teknologi Sarawak (MESTR) mengadakan webinar mengenai Sistem Maklumat Tenaga Kerja Sarawak (SWIS): Menuju ke arah Analitis Data, pada 14 Disember 2021.

SWIS merupakan satu sistem berasaskan web yang dapat mengumpul data penawaran dan permintaan tenaga kerja semasa dan unjuran di Sarawak. Sumber data dikumpul daripada institusi pendidikan dan latihan bagi pembekalan tenaga kerja serta daripada industri dan perdagangan untuk permintaan tenaga kerja. SWIS bukan sahaja mampu menjana statistik dan laporan, tetapi ianya juga memudahkan perkongsian data dalam MESTR dan di antara agensi-agensi lain yang berkaitan.



# 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Sessions of the Associated Committees

At the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) and Sessions of the Associated Committees held virtually from 29 November 2021 to 3 December 2021, Ms Sheam Satkuru became the first lady appointed by the International Tropical Timber Organisation's (ITTO) governing body, the ITTC, by consensus, as its Executive Director for a 4-year term. Ms Satkuru who is a Malaysian has been the Director of Operations at ITTO since 2017 and will take up the Executive Director post in the first quarter of 2022.

During the 1-week meeting, amongst others, ITTC adopted the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2022-2026 to guide its activities with new ITTO mission statement, that is "to facilitate discussion, consultation, international cooperation and policy development on the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainably and legally harvested forests and on the sustainable management of tropical forests". ITTO SAP 2022-2026 aims:

- To highlight ITTO's contribution to Sustainable Development Goals, Global Forest Goals, etc;
- To recognise that COVID recovery may preoccupy the tropical forest sector during SAP 2022-2026; and
- To serve as transitional guidance documents between 2022 and launch of process to renegotiate the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) 2006. The 2026 time horizon for the new SAP coincides with expected extension of ITTA 2006 to 2026.

ITTC also received reports from its four (4) committees, namely (i) Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management (CRF); (ii) Committee on Economic, Statistics and Markets (CEM); (iii) Committee on Forest Industry (CFI); and (iv) Committee on Finance and Administration (CFA), updating and highlighting their activities, on-going policy work as well as projects.

The Council agreed for the 58<sup>th</sup> ITTC session to take place in Yokohama, Japan from 7-12 November 2022.

STA would like to congratulate Ms Satkuru on her appointment as the Executive Director of ITTO, and look forward to working with her.

第57届国际热带木材理事会 (ITTC) 与其相关委员会于2021年11月29日至12月3日在线上召开会议。国际热带木材组织 (ITTO) 管理机构, ITTC, 一致同意委任其首位女性执行董事 Sheam Satkuru 小姐, 任期4年。

在为期 1 周的会议期间, ITTC 商议多项课题, 同时也采纳具有新 ITTO 使命宣言的 2022-2026 年策略行动计划 (SAP) 来指导其活动。

Pada Sesi ke-57 Majlis Kayu Tropika Antarabangsa (ITTC) dan Sesi Jawatankuasa Bersekutu yang diadakan secara maya dari 29 November 2021 hingga 3 Disember 2021, Cik Sheam Satkuru menjadi wanita pertama yang dilantik oleh badan induk Pertubuhan Kayu Tropika Antarabangsa (ITTO), ITTC, secara konsensus, sebagai Pengarah Eksekutifnya untuk tempoh 4 tahun.

Dalam mesyuarat seminggu itu, antara lain, ITTC menerima pakai Pelan Tindakan Strategik (SAP) 2022-2026 untuk membimbing aktiviti dengan kenyataan misi ITTO yang baharu.



Malaysian delegates with ITTC Chair Mr Kheiruddin Mohd Rani (seated, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left), the newly appointed Executive Director of ITTO Ms Sheam Satkuru (seated, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and the Chair of CRF for 2022 Ms Siti Syaliza Mustapha (seated, 1<sup>st</sup> right) at Putrajaya, Malaysia. Other Malaysian delegates such as STA joined the meeting via online platform from their respective location in Sabah or Sarawak  
(Image courtesy of Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities)

# International Conference of Forest Resources Management 2021



*The Chief Minister of Sarawak giving the opening speech*

The International Conference of Forest Resources Management 2021, with the theme “*Integrating Knowledge for Improvement*”, was held in Bintulu on 10 and 11 December 2021. The conference was jointly hosted by the Forest Department Sarawak and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Bintulu Campus.

The conference was attended by about 160 participants from various countries such as the United States of America, Japan, United Kingdom, Singapore, the Philippines, France, Italy, Canada, Indonesia, Peru, Brunei and Australia, from the public and private sectors, environmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, scientific bodies and forestry societies, both physically and virtually.

Datu Hamden Mohammed, Director of Forests, in his welcoming remarks mentioned that Sarawak is committed to sustainable management and stewardship of forests resources with best management practices. He hoped that the findings and experiences gained through this conference will assist stakeholders in enhancing the current policy in forest certification and sustainable forest management (SFM). He shared that Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) has issued a directive to restore all timber license areas using only indigenous tree species to uphold the state policy on SFM since January 2019.

In addition, Sarawak aims to plant 35 million trees throughout the State by 2025 to support Malaysia's Greening Programme. This is an effort to conserve the country's biodiversity while improving the quality of the natural environment and the ecology of rivers. He also mentioned that FDS is trying a new approach to accelerate the restoration effort by using drone technology and seed ball, where the drone will sow or drop the seed ball in the targeted planting area. This method is appropriate to facilitate tree planting activities at locations that are very far or difficult to access.

He concluded by mentioning that, for Sarawak, forest

management certification is the critical tool to improve forest management standards and practices in Sarawak. He believed that the resolution from this conference will enable Sarawak to further strengthen its forest resource management and how the forests are used today to protect them for tomorrow.

In his opening speech, the Chief Minister of Sarawak, the Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari mentioned that conservation, restoration efforts, and sustainable use of forest ecosystems and biodiversity are fundamental to achieving forest resource management objectives. He shared that to ensure that Sarawak is able to embark on full-fledged transformation capitalising on mega-trends around the world such as globalisation, supply chain resilience, digitalisation, the new industrial revolution, circular economy, and transition towards a low carbon economy, the Sarawak Economic Action Council (SEAC) was formed on 6 May 2020 to formulate the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030. Under the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030, the forestry sector aims to be globally recognised in the sustainable management of tropical forests and biodiversity conservation while enhancing the rapid growth of the timber industry. The initiative includes restoring 200,000 hectares of degraded forest areas, certification of 4.5 million hectares of long-term forest license area (natural forest) by 2022, and 178,000 hectares forest plantation by 2025 under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme and Forest Stewardship Council.

He informed that Sarawak Government is also looking into new revenue streams from forest resources through Payment for Ecosystem Services, such as carbon offset projects that will benefit the rural communities, protect the ecosystems, and restore the forests. He disclosed that FDS, UPM Bintulu Campus, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Sarawak Biodiversity Centre, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, and Sarawak Tropical Peat Research Institute are among the agencies that are working in tropical forestry research in the State. Therefore, it is high time for Sarawak in various research disciplines to collaborate among themselves and at the same time attract international organisations and research institutions to work together on a common platform to expand knowledge for better managing the forest resources. He also announced that the State Government has agreed to appoint UPM Bintulu Campus as a Research Hub for Forestry in Sarawak with total funding of RM10 million.

This conference has four (4) sub-themes which are:

1. Forest Restoration and Social Forestry,
2. Forest Governance, Technology and Engineering,
3. Biodiversity Conservation, and
4. Ecosystem Services



Twenty-one (21) papers were presented over the 2-day conference with three (3) keynote speakers. They were Dr John Innes from University of British Columbia Canada who talked on utilising knowledge on forests to improve forest management in times of growing uncertainties; Datu Hamden Mohammad spoke on integrating knowledge on forest resource management for greater social-economic and environmental sustainability in Sarawak; and Dr Plinio Sist of IUFRO-CIRED France shared the importance of a paradigm shift in management of tropical natural forests.

2021 年森林资源管理国际研讨会于 2021 年 12 月 10 日至 11 日在民都鲁举行。研讨会的主题为“整合知识促使改进”，并由砂森林局和马来西亚博特拉大学 (UPM) 民都鲁分校联合主办。

砂森林局局长拿督哈姆登穆罕默德在致词中提到，砂拉越致力于通过最佳管理方式实践对森林资源进行可持续管理和经营。他希望通过本次研讨会所获得的结果和经验能有助于利益相关者加强当前的森林认证和可持续森林管理 (SFM) 政策。

Persidangan Antarabangsa Pengurusan Sumber Hutan 2021, bertemakan “*Mengintegrasikan Ilmu Untuk Penambahbaikan*”, telah diadakan di Bintulu pada 10 dan 11 Disember 2021. Persidangan dianjurkan secara bersama oleh Jabatan Hutan Sarawak dan Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Kampus Bintulu.

Datu Hamden Mohammed, Pengarah Hutan, dalam ucapan alu-aluannya menyebut bahawa Sarawak komited dalam pengurusan mampan dan pengawasan sumber hutan melalui amalan pengurusan terbaik. Beliau berharap penemuan dan pengalaman yang diperolehi menerusi persidangan ini akan dapat membantu pihak berkepentingan dalam mempertingkatkan dasar semasa dalam pensijilan hutan dan pengurusan hutan secara mampan (SFM).

## Redistribution of Forest Timber Licences and Licences for Planted Forests to the Eight Regional Forest Offices under the Restructuring Exercise of Forest Department Sarawak

The Director of Forests has written a letter with reference number (4)JHS/PMD/100-11/1/100/Jld.1 dated 28 December 2021 informing that some of the Forest Timber Licences (FTLs) and Licences for Planted Forests (LPFs) will be redistributed among the eight (8) Regional Forest Offices (RFO) based on the proposed RFO boundaries under the restructuring exercise of Forest Department Sarawak.

The operational management for all the affected FTLs and LPFs will be transferred to the new RFO respectively with effect from 1 February 2022.

STA members that require further information may contact the STA Secretariat, either Ms Jaime Chan or Mr Wong How Chu, at telephone number 082-332 222.

森林局长致函编号(4)JHS/PMD/100-11/1/100/Jld.1，日期为 2021 年 12 月 28 日，告知本会部分森林木材许可证 (FTL) 和人工造林许可证 (LPF) 将根据砂拉越林业局重组工作中提议的区域森林办事处 (RFO) 边界，在 8 个 RFO 之间重新分配。

自 2022 年 2 月 1 日起，所有受影响的 FTL 和 LPF 的运营管理将分别转移到新的 RFO。

Pengarah Hutan telah menulis surat dengan nombor rujukan (4)JHS/PMD/100-11/1/100/Jld.1 bertarikh 28 Disember 2021 memaklumkan bahawa beberapa Lesen Kayu Hutan (FTL) dan Lesen untuk Ladang Hutan (LPF) akan diagihkan semula di antara 8 Pejabat Hutan Wilayah (RFO) berdasarkan cadangan sempadan RFO di bawah penstrukturan semula Jabatan Hutan Sarawak.

Pengurusan operasi untuk semua FTL dan LPF terlibat akan dipindahkan ke RFO baharu berkuat kuasa 1 Februari 2022.

# Biodiversity Conservation Awareness Programme for Industries in Sarawak

Approximately forty (40) representatives from the agriculture, forestry, mining, quarry, construction development industries and non-governmental organisation (NGO) benefitted from the Biodiversity Conservation Awareness Programme for Industries, organised by the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources (MUDeNR) via video conferencing on 22 December 2021.

In the opening remarks by Mr Justine Jok Jau, Special Administrative Officer, on behalf of Datu Sr Zaidi Bin Haji Mahdi, Permanent Secretary of MUDeNR, highlighted that Malaysia is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> globally based on estimates of the country's richness in biodiversity. He added that targets made by Malaysian delegation led by Dato' Sri Tuan Ibrahim Bin Tuan Man, Minister in the Ministry of Environment and Water, to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emission at the recently concluded United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP-26) would benefit environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation alike. These targets can only be achieved if all areas of society, Governments, NGOs, private sectors act together and the Programme provides industry players with the right avenue to learn more about regulations, policies, strategies and initiatives undertaken by the Government and NGOs to conserve the biodiversity.



*Participants of the programme*

Mr Justine also gave an overview of biodiversity conservation and management to attendees of the Programme, in which he explained that biodiversity is “the occurrence of different types of ecosystems, different species of organisms with the whole range of their variants and genes adapted to different climates, environments along with their interactions and processes.” He also shared the numerous benefits from biodiversity which included pollination and pest control, carbon storage and sequestration. The present and potential uses of biodiversity as biological resources were highlighted by Ms Diviana Tan Anak Robert, Research Officer from Sarawak Biodiversity Centre (SBC). The success stories of two (2) access and benefit sharing (ABS) projects, namely LitSara and AdenoSara were also featured in her presentation.

Mr Oswald Braken Tisen, Deputy Chief Executive Officer I, Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), in his presentation informed that biodiversity conservation is a major thrust in SFC as it is mandated to manage wildlife and national parks in Sarawak following a restructuring exercise between SFC and Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) in 2019. Conservation efforts are also carried out in the marine biodiversity which included protection of nesting beaches for sea turtles as well as annual coral reef cleaning with Government and corporate agencies.

Mr Shaffeque Affendy Bin Zakaria, Wildlife Officer, FDS, highlighted efforts carried out by FDS in integrating conservation and sustainable forest management. One of the examples is the Kelingang Range scientific expedition in 2019 which helped the FDS forge collaboration with local communities in promoting Government efforts in conservation of forest resources and collect samples of as well as document flora and fauna of Kelingang Range. Scientific expedition carried out under the Heart of Borneo initiative was also highlighted.

Through the presentation by WWF-Malaysia, participants learned about sustainable forest and high conservation value managements as well as watershed management for river and freshwater ecosystems protection. It was also shared that one component of river that is often forgotten is life in river, and while Sarawak has diverse eco-hydrological systems, Sarawak still lacks information on freshwater habitats and species.

Sarawak Energy Berhad (Mukah Power Generation), champion of the 9<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister's Environmental Award in the Large Enterprise Category (Manufacturing Sector), was also invited to share their success story which included existing and future initiatives with regards to biodiversity and natural resources conservation. Sarawak Energy's environmental initiatives which include go green programme that aims to use zero polystyrene and reduce single-use plastic as well as its environmental activity such as beach nourishment of the heavily eroded Bedengan River was highlighted by Mr Abbas Salimi Bin Madon, Station Manager. He commended the top management's good leadership and clear direction for fuelling their biodiversity conservation journey and is proud that their commitments towards the environment, biodiversity and sustainability are recognised by the Government and enabling them to share with other industries.

Mr Justine, in his closing remarks noted that the Programme has been successful in highlighting the importance of the environment and suggested that such awareness programme be extended to the community too.



大约40名来自农业、林业、采矿、采石场、建筑开发行业和非政府组织 (NGO) 的代表受益于由城市发展及天然资源部 (MUDeNR) 于2021年12月22日通过线上视频所举办的工业生物多样性保护意识计划。在特别行政员贾斯汀先生代表 MUDeNR 常务秘书拿督再迪玛第的开场辞中, 他强调根据对该国生物多样性丰富程度的估计, 马来西亚在全球排名第 12 位。

Wakil-wakil daripada industri pertanian, perhutanan, perlombongan, kuari, pembinaan dan pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO) mendapat manfaat daripada Program Kesedaran Pemuliharaan Biodiversiti untuk Industri yang dianjurkan oleh Kementerian Pembangunan Bandar dan Sumber Asli (MUDeNR) melalui persidangan video pada 22 Disember 2021. Dalam ucapan pembukaan oleh Encik Justine Jok Jau, Pegawai Pentadbiran Khas, bagi pihak Datu Sr Zaidi Bin Haji Mahdi, Setiausaha Tetap MUDeNR, beliau menekankan Malaysia menduduki tempat ke-12 di peringkat global berdasarkan anggaran kekayaan biodiversiti negara.

## Engagement Session with the Manufacturing Sector on Workforce Development Perspective

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Research Sarawak (MESTR) organised an engagement session with the manufacturing sector on workforce development perspective on 8 December 2021 at Pullman Hotel, Kuching.

The session was attended by representatives from Government agencies, manufacturing sector and associations including STA, with the objective to obtain further feedback on workforce related issues and suggestions on ways they could be resolved. This session served as a follow-up to the qualitative survey carried out by MESTR in October 2021.

At the session, Mr Zulkipli Ismail, Sectional Head for Employability Section, Workforce Development Division, MESTR, explained that his section conducted a survey to find out the various challenges faced by manufacturing companies across Sarawak. The survey put forth questions on topics comprising (i) hiring of expatriates and skilled foreign workers, (ii) attitude, skills and knowledge of the locals, (iii) role of employers in preparing their workers for future job requirements, as well as (iv) other workforce issues such as labour shortage and unclear policy implementation by the authorities. Mr Zulkipli was grateful for the cooperation shown by the manufacturing sector in completing the

survey and affirmed that his team would be working with other relevant Government agencies to look into the issues and recommendations submitted.

Some of the key points discussed during the engagement session were:

- Collaboration among Government agencies, learning institutions and the industry to develop upskilling programmes in line with the needs of the industry;
- Longer internship period with allowance provided to ensure graduates are well-equipped with hands-on work experience;
- Suitable exposure such as field trip, virtual tour and career talk to promote interests among local youth to work in the manufacturing sector;
- Increase awareness of retraining programmes through social media and advertisement as well as availability of incentives and study grants;
- Tax incentives/relief or other recognition from the Government for employers involved in workforce localisation programme; and
- More networking and workshops required to address the gap between education and industry requirements.

砂拉越教育、科学及工艺研究部 (MESTR) 于 2021 年 12 月 8 日在古晋铂尔曼酒店与制造业进行一场相关劳动力发展观点的交流会。来自政府机构、制造业和包括 STA 在内的社团代表出席了会议, 目的是就劳动力相关问题获取进一步的反馈, 并就如何解决这些问题提出建议。本次会议是 MESTR 于 2021 年 10 月进行的定性调查后的后续跟进。

Kementerian Pendidikan, Sains dan Penyelidikan Teknologi Sarawak (MESTR) telah mengadakan sesi penglibatan dengan sektor pembuatan mengenai perspektif pembangunan tenaga kerja pada 8 Disember 2021 di Hotel Pullman, Kuching. Sesi itu dihadiri oleh wakil-wakil daripada agensi Kerajaan, sektor pembuatan dan persatuan termasuk STA, dengan objektif untuk mendapatkan maklum balas lanjut mengenai isu berkaitan tenaga kerja dan cadangan langkah penyelesaian. Sesi ini adalah susulan kepada kajian kualitatif yang dijalankan oleh MESTR pada Oktober 2021.

# Conference on Tropical Forestry 2021

The Faculty of Tropical Forestry (FPT) of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) organised a conference on Tropical Forestry 2021 (TF2021) from 14 to 15 December 2021 via online platform. About 135 local and international participants from various government agencies, academia, private sector and non-governmental organisations joined the conference.

Associate Professor Dr Normah Awang Besar @ Raffie, Dean of FPT, UMS, informed that the TF2021 is the first virtual conference organised by the faculty with the main aim of bringing together domestic and international researchers, academicians and practitioners in the field of forestry science, especially tropical forestry, to share knowledge and present the latest research results, as well as exchange ideas and forge collaborative relationships.

She shared that the tropical forest was chosen as the main theme of the conference as it offers various important ecosystem services which has increased the interest of researchers around the world to study and deepen their understanding on the ecology of tropical forest in order to formulate sustainable management and conservation practices for the tropical forests.

The conference was launched by Professor Datuk ChM Ts Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin, Vice-Chancellor of UMS. In his opening speech, he said the tropical forestry resources are threatened by human activities and changing climate. Hence, retaining and protecting the remaining tropical forest areas from conversion to other land uses is crucial for environmental, cultural and forest products functions.

He added that the sustainable forest management principles and forest policies encompassing the forest functions must be supported by concerted research that produces practical solutions to various problems. He then applauded the significant contribution of researchers who are involved in the tropical forestry research, and hoped that the conference could be an excellent platform for sharing of findings and create opportunities for collaboration.

The 2-day conference featured a total of sixty-nine (69) paper presentations covering dynamic topics on forest ecology & conservation, forest management, biodiversity & genetic conservation, forest policy & economics, forest remote sensing & geographic information system (GIS), forest protection, forest soil & silviculture, social forestry, nature tourism & recreation, plantation forestry, agroforestry, zoology & wildlife, wood science, and forest products & engineering.

The keynote speaker, Tan Sri Dr Salleh Mohd Nor, the first Director-General of Forest Research Institute Malaysia, gave a talk on the challenges of tertiary forestry education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He shared his thoughts that the forestry as a profession should not be a “sunset



*The conference was launched by the Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah, who also gave the opening speech*

industry” as forestry is one of the oldest professions in the world and is a major contributor to national wealth of many countries. He drew the attention of the participants on the important roles of forests in mitigating climate change, and emphasised the potential of tropical forestry in producing timber via forest plantations to fulfill the global demand for timber. Nevertheless, he said the role of forests as watersheds, as habitat for biodiversity and for carbon sequestration are the new challenges for this profession. He hoped this profession can regain attention and be accredited internationally.

Datuk Frederick Kugan, Chief Conservator of Forests, Sabah Forestry Department (SFD), was also invited to speak in the conference. He talked about the conservation approaches for the forestry sector in Sabah such as (i) managed retention towards no nett loss/nett gain; (ii) state-wide forest management plan; (iii) high conservation values and community conserved areas; (iv) rationalisation of land use; (v) new revenue resources from ecotourism and payments for ecosystem services; (vi) mainstreaming conservation in other sectors; and (vii) community forestry projects.

The SFD aims to reorient the conservation agenda for the benefit and well-being of the people of Sabah. He added that the Sustainable Forest Management Policy was adopted since 1997 to conserve, protect and enhance the State's forest resources and maintain a balance between economy, environment and social development. He also said that the reinvention of the forest management plan in the State is still on-going.

In their State-wide Forest Master Plan, SFD targets to establish about 400 thousand hectares of high productivity commercial planted forests with integrated conservation strategies, and to increase the planted timber revenue from RM1.74 billions in year 2021 to RM11.5 billions in year 2035. However, he admitted that the establishment cost of planted forests is not cheap and marketing challenges for this particular industry persist.



马来西亚沙巴大学 (UMS) 热带林业学院 (FPT) 于 2021 年 12 月 14 日至 15 日举办 2021 年热带林业线上研讨会 (TF2021)。约 135 名来自各政府机构、学术界、私人界和非政府组织的本地和国际参与者出席了研讨会。

UMS FPT 院长奴玛阿旺比萨副教授表示, TF2021 是该学院举办的第一次线上研讨会, 主要目的是汇集国内外林业科学领域特别是热带林业的研究人员、学术人员和从业人士分享知识和展示最新的研究成果, 以及促进交流和建立合作关系。



*Some of the speakers and participants of the conference*

Fakulti Perhutanan Tropika (FPT) Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) telah menganjurkan persidangan Perhutanan Tropika 2021 (TF2021) dari 14 hingga 15 Disember 2021 melalui platform dalam talian. Sebanyak 135 peserta tempatan dan antarabangsa daripada pelbagai agensi kerajaan, badan akademik, sektor swasta dan organisasi bukan kerajaan menyertai persidangan itu.

Profesor Madya Dr Normah Awang Besar @ Raffie, Dekan FPT, UMS, memaklumkan bahawa TF2021 adalah persidangan maya pertama anjuran fakulti dengan matlamat utama menghimpunkan penyelidik, ahli akademik dan pengamal sains perhutanan tempatan dan antarabangsa, terutamanya perhutanan tropika, untuk berkongsi pengetahuan dan membentangkan hasil penyelidikan terkini serta bertukar idea dan menjalinkan hubungan kerjasama.



## Wishing all Members & Readers

A Happy & Prosperous  
Chinese New Year 2022

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 Tahun Baru Cina  
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  
新年快乐、万事如意



# 2021 Year in Review

2021 gave STA the opportunity to prove its resilience in times of uncertainties and challenges. Despite the continuous disruption by COVID-19 pandemic, STA was committed to forge ahead, by helping members with issues of concern and working closely with Government agencies and other stakeholders. As always, STA's priority is to ensure members are able to continue to operate safely and sustain their businesses, while also catering to future development of the industry.

## Highlights of The Year

**COVID-19 vaccination for the industry.** Since early June 2021, STA had communicated with members on relevant details with regards to industrial vaccination, as well as to assist them to intensify and accelerate vaccination for both of their local and foreign workers. To ensure a smooth vaccination process, STA coordinated administrative related matters between members and relevant parties such as (i) site visit/inspection; (ii) logistics arrangement; (iii) communication on latest standard operating procedures; (iv) compilation of workers' name lists for submission to Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development (MINTRED) for vaccine registration; and also (v) payment of administrative costs incurred for vaccination related activities.

Meanwhile, various members also applied and were subsequently approved by COVID-19 Immunisation Task Force (CITF) Sarawak to set up industrial vaccination centre on-site. Additionally, many other workers also received their vaccination via mobile vaccination centre or the MySejahtera application. Subsequently, more than 11,000 workers of the industry were vaccinated. Likewise, all the STA Secretariat staff also completed their vaccination, allowing them to carry out their duties safely.



*The Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak, Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan (seated, centre), who is also the Minister of International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development, visited the COVID-19 Industrial Vaccination Centre at The Spring Kuching, among others*



*The judges presenting the winning photos for the STA 1st Photography Contest*

**STA 1<sup>st</sup> Photography Contest.** STA successfully organised its 1st photography contest with the theme "Forests and Forest Landscapes of Sarawak". The contest, carried out in collaboration with Sarawak Photo-Art Society (SPAS), was open to keen photographers to capture the natural beauty and uniqueness of the forests environment in Sarawak.

A total of 160 qualified photographs were carefully reviewed and considered by a panel of judges consisting of representatives from SPAS, STA Council Members and Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of STA.

The winners for the contest were announced on 19 March 2021, with STA giving out three (3) top prizes and ten (10) consolation prizes in total.



# 2021 Year in Review

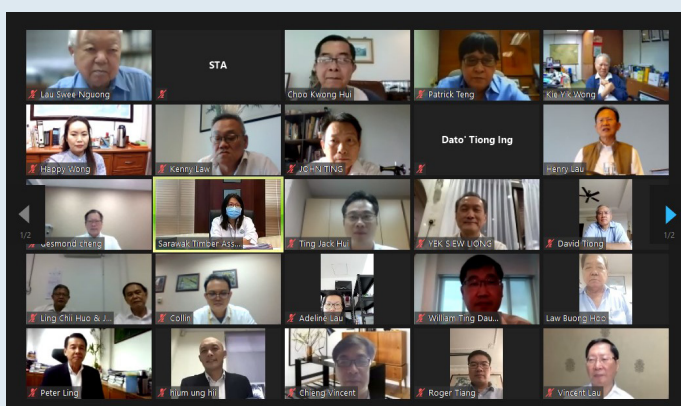
## Highlights of The Year (cont.)

**Going online with members.** As the pandemic restricted physical gatherings and travels, STA adapted to the new norms by conducting its meetings and briefings online. During the year, two (2) Council Meetings as well as several Category Meetings, Committee Meetings and Subsidiary Company Meetings were held virtually. STA also successfully conducted its first online Annual General Meeting on 30 December 2021.

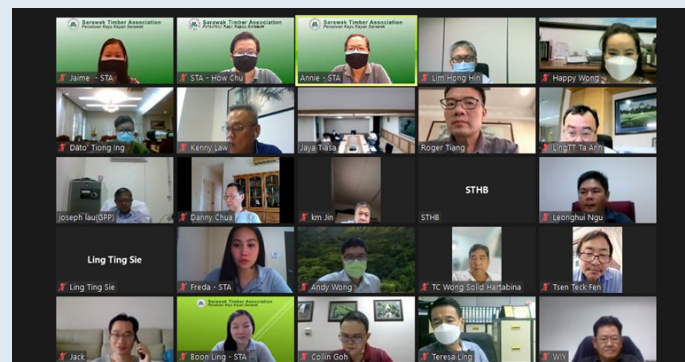
Apart from these, various briefing sessions on issues affecting the industry, such as the implementation of *Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446)*, compliance with the *Environmental Quality (Clean Air) Regulations 2014*, as well as occupational safety and health (OSH) in timber industry, were also carried out to keep members up-to-date on the latest development.



*STA Panel Products Committee members convened virtually on 29 April 2021 under the chairmanship of Dato' Sri Patrick Wong Haw Yeong. The meeting shared the current situation of the timber industry and prices of plywood for international markets, as well as discussed issues including restriction on the importation of ordinary plywood for thickness of 6mm and above into Sarawak and installation of Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (CEMS) in compliance with Environmental Quality (Clean Air) Regulations 2014*



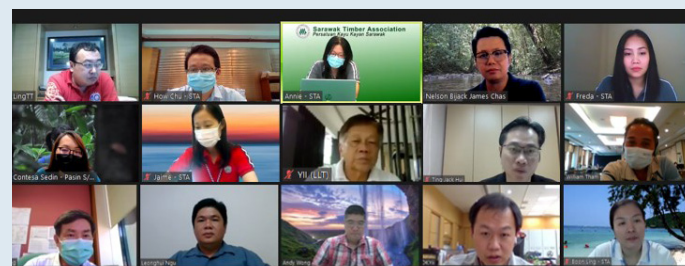
*STA Council for the term 2020 and 2021 held its inaugural meeting on 8 March 2021 online since taking office on 28 December 2020. The Meeting, chaired by Dato' Sir Wong Kie Yik, was attended by Vice Chairman Mr David Tiong, Honorary Secretary Dato Henry Lau, Honorary Treasurer Mr Philip Choo and 28 members of the Council*



*STA Hill Logging Category Members met virtually on 1 September 2021 to discuss matters relating to hill logging operations such as logging roads maintenance fee for the implementation of government projects, standard operating procedure for forestry activities under National Recovery Plan due to COVID-19, felling of protected tree species and prohibition of hunting in timber licensed area, as well as the floating wood debris incident at Baleh Hydroelectric dam site*



*STA Secretariat in action during the online Annual General Meeting on 30 December 2021*



*From 5 to 7 July 2021, STA conducted online engagement sessions with its upstream members on the implementation of Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446). Such sessions were important for STA to share information with members on requirements stipulated in Act 446 and to understand challenges faced by them when complying with the Act, in particular for permanent and temporary accommodations provided to their employees in logging areas.*

# 2021 Year in Review

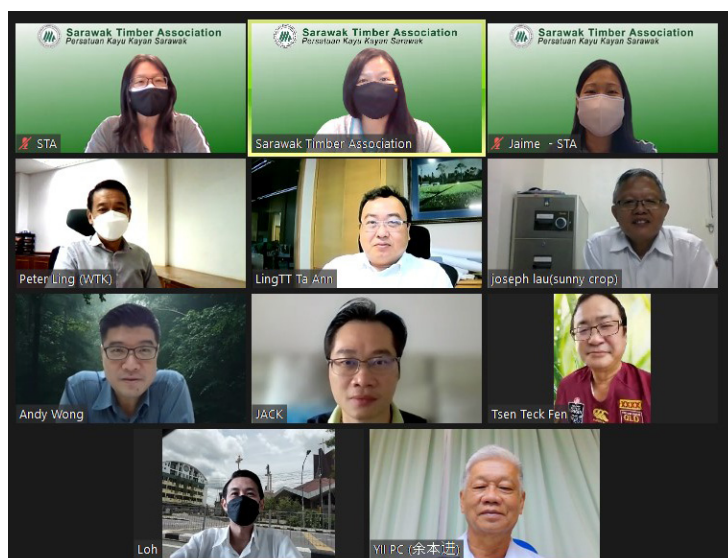
## Highlights of The Year (cont.)

**Development on forest plantation.** STA continued to fund research projects to improve the growth and yield of tree species planted in Sarawak such as *Falcataria moluccana* and *Neolamarckia cadamba*. As of now, there are three (3) on-going projects with a total invested amount of around RM1.79 million.

In 2021, a research article entitled “*In vitro* induction and identification of polyploid *Neolamarckia cadamba* plants by colchicine treatment” documenting the methodology on producing the mutant clone of Kelampayan was published by Universiti Malaysia Sarawak and STA in an open access journal named PeerJ Life and Environment.

	Name of Research Project	Research Conducted by
1	Production of Quality Kelampayan Planting Materials for Industrial Tree Plantation in Sarawak Using Plant Tissue Culture Technique - Phase 1	Universiti Malaysia Sarawak
2	Development and Deployment of Improved Genetic Materials of <i>Falcataria moluccana</i> - Phase 3	Forest Department Sarawak & GP Pusaka Sdn Bhd
3	Scaling-up Production of Micropropagated Kelampayan Clone Towards Sustainable Growth of the Wood-based Industry in Sarawak	Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

*The 3 on-going research projects funded by STA*



STA Forest Plantation Committee met up for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time on 28 September 2021 to evaluate progress reports of research & development projects funded by the Association. Also discussed were forest plantation related matters such as circulars and directives from the Director of Forests, standing tree volume study for royalty assessment of planted timber, skills training under STA Training Sdn Bhd, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUFRO Acacia Conference 2021



STA Secretariat staff and representatives from Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) jointly visited the Sabal Forest Reserve on 22 December 2021. This visit was part of a study to verify the standing tree volume table and the work instruction developed for the alternative method to measure the volume of planted logs for royalty assessment at Licence for Planted Forests (LPF) proposed by FDS



# 2021 Year in Review

## Highlights of The Year (cont.)

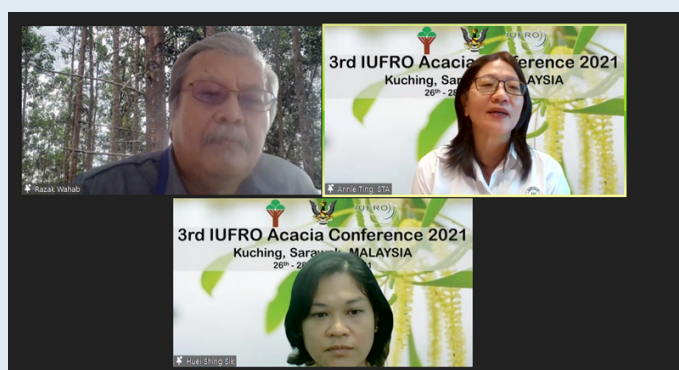
### Participating in 3<sup>rd</sup> IUFRO Acacia Conference.

In support of industrial forest plantation, STA took part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) *Acacia* Conference from 26 to 28 October 2021 via online platform.

The conference was jointly organised by FDS and the IUFRO Working Party 2.08.07 on Genetics and Silviculture of *Acacia*. Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA, moderated the conference's session on "*High Value-added Timber Products*". This session featured a total of six (6) papers highlighting the usage of planted *Acacia* wood in manufacturing engineered wood products, the optimised accelerated drying protocol for *Acacia* sawn timber and the thermal treatment for improving the physical wood properties of *Acacia* hybrid.

Also discussed was the potential of *Eucalyptus pellita* for structural used application due to its mechanical properties that are comparable with tropical hardwood

species. The session expressed optimism that the abundant resources of planted raw materials in Sarawak have the potential to drive the market growth of engineered wood products as material for furniture and construction purposes.



During the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUFRO Acacia Conference, Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (top right) moderated the session on "*High Value-added Timber Products*"

**Celebrating IDF.** The International Day of Forests (IDF) is celebrated worldwide on 21 March annually. This year, the theme was "*Forests Restoration: A Path to Recover and Well-Being*", emphasising on the importance of forest restoration to curb crisis related to biodiversity and climate change for better health and general well-being of the people as well as future generations.

For the State-level celebration of IDF 2021, STA joined other forestry agencies to organise the launching ceremony held on 26 March 2021, at Bukit Siol, Kuching. STA also participated in the tree planting event held in conjunction with IDF on 24 March 2021.



STA participated in the tree planting event held in conjunction with IDF on 24 March 2021



A visit to the STA Booth at the mini exhibition held during the IDF launching ceremony on 26 March 2021



# 2021 Year in Review

## Highlights of The Year (cont.)

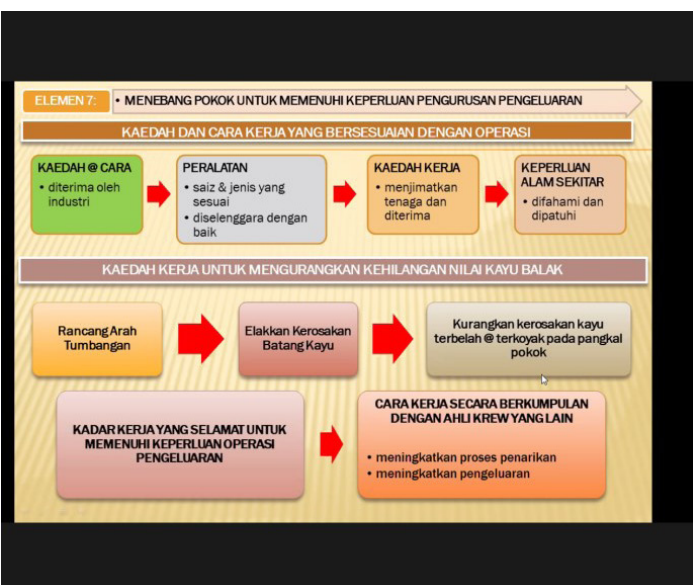
**Initiating online training.** Throughout the year, STA Training Sdn Bhd's (STAT) training programme on the ground was disrupted due to movement restrictions imposed by the Sarawak Disaster Management Committee (SDMC).

To ensure continuity of the training of workmen and to comply with DF Circular No 6/2020: The Directive on Trained Workmen issued by Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), STAT initiated online training beginning April 2021 to train in-house trainers and operators of the industry.

Later on, in August 2021, STAT organised an online engagement session with STA member companies to further explore training needs of the industry. STAT has also resumed physical training and assessment activities in November 2021 following the relaxation of inter-district travels.



STAT on 26 August 2021 conducted an online engagement session with representatives from STA member companies consisting of training coordinators, administrators and managers to further identify the industry's training needs



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, STAT started online training in April 2021 to train in-house trainers and operators of the timber industry

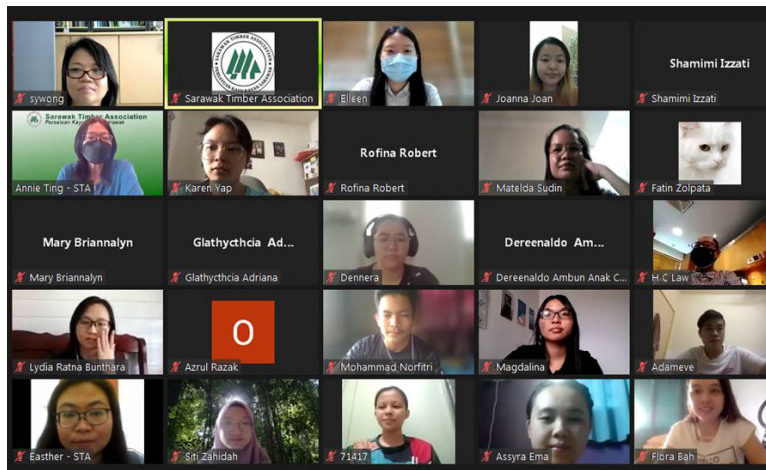


# 2021 Year in Review

## Highlights of The Year (cont.)

**Virtual Briefing to UNIMAS Students.** STA hosted a virtual briefing session on 9 November 2021 for a group of thirty-five (35) final year students from the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, undergoing the course of Wood Science and Protection Technology from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS).

The topics of interest shared with the students included (i) background of STA and its subsidiary companies; (ii) Sarawak's timber industry in terms of the available resources from both natural and planted forests, types of timber and timber products developed by the industry as well as their export performance; (iii) management of forest in Sarawak which included implementation of the Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System and forest management certification; as well as (iv) various challenges faced by the industry. The group, headed by their lecturer Associate Professor Dr Wong Sin Yeng, participated actively in the session and raised various questions such as the roles played by STA in the timber industry, issues on planted forests, career opportunities for the students and the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the industry.



*Associate Professor Dr Wong (1<sup>st</sup> row, 1<sup>st</sup> from left) and some of the students during the virtual briefing*

**Feedback on labour challenges.** On 29 March 2021, STA submitted feedback to the Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) on the need for foreign workers in the manufacturing sector of timber industry in Sarawak. The submission was compiled and produced in close communication with and assistances from STA members.

In the submission, STA highlighted the Government's policy in reducing the country's dependency on foreign workers by only allowing employers in three (3) sectors, namely construction, plantation and agriculture, to recruit foreign workers, which was reported by the media on 29 July 2020.

STA strongly believed that more careful consideration is required by looking into the needs and unique situation of each sector such as the manufacturing sector of the timber industry. STA also pointed out the difficulties of moving towards full automation or Industrial Revolution 4.0 without proper guidelines or incentives from the Government.

**Ensuring workplace safety and health.** STA continues its efforts to promote and cultivate awareness on occupational safety and health among its members who are operating in the forestry sector. On 15 December 2021, STA conducted an online Training on Occupational Safety and Health in Forest Industries for STA member companies. The Training was facilitated by three (3) Trainers, namely Mr Wong How Chu of STA as well as Mr Ginda Uli and Mr Sumbang Rani of STA Training Sdn Bhd, who are all qualified Trainers under the Occupational Safety and Health in Forest Industries (Train-the-Trainer) Programme.

**Other efforts important to the industry.** STA was also actively involved in several efforts impacting the industry, including revision of Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System documents, development of Malaysian Country Specific Guidelines – Sarawak, sunseting review of *Australia's Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012*, and feedback to the Ministry of Transport Sarawak on cabotage policy liberalisation in Sarawak.

DECEMBER 2021

## 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) functions to provide skills training for the five (5) prescribed forestry activities (PFAs) as listed in Schedule 1 of *The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015*, and non-PFAs. The skills training offered by STAT are open to the industry. Presently, there are twelve (12) skills sets offered by STAT.

In view of the recent relaxation of inter-district travel, STAT has resumed physical training and assessment activities. For this month, STAT conducted the operator training programme on the ground consisting of training, revision, assessment as follows:

Skills Set : Tree Felling- Chainsaw (Natural Forest) & Log Extraction- Tractor (Natural Forest)  
Date : 3 – 8 December 2021 & 9 – 13 December 2021  
Location : Kejin Camp, Baram & Belawan Camp, Tubau  
STAT Trainer/Assessor : Mr Ginda Uli  
Company : Shin Yang Sdn Bhd

Skills Set : Tree & Log Identification  
Date : 4 – 7 December 2021 & 8 – 11 December 2021  
Location : Mantan Camp, Kapit & Pila Camp, Kapit  
STAT Trainer/Assessor : Mr Sumbang Rani  
Company : Jaya Tiasa Holdings Bhd & Raplex Sdn Bhd

Skills Set : Mechanical Site Preparation- Excavator (Planted Forest) & Tree Felling- Chainsaw (Natural Forest)  
Date : 10 – 13 December 2021 & 14 – 17 December 2021  
Location : Muput Camp, Tatau  
STAT Trainer/Assessor : Mr Ngumbang Bayang  
Company : Zedtee Sdn Bhd



*Identifying log species by observing its anatomy using hand lens*



*3-point method of entering and exiting an excavator*

STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), a subsidiary company of STA, offers training to workmen in the forestry and timber industry. STAT is the appointed training provider under *The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015*.



## Planting of Oil Palm within LPF Licensed Areas

STA received a letter issued by the Director of Forests with reference number (21)JHS/RIFD/600-8/4/100 Jld.7 dated 27 December 2021 regarding the planting of oil palm within the Licence for Planted Forests (LPF) areas. The letter informed that based on the revised Policy Direction on Industrial Tree Plantation in Sarawak which was endorsed by the State Government on 22 January 2020, there shall be no new oil palm planting within any LPF licensed areas. All relevant LPF holders are strictly reminded to only maintain their existing oil palm plantation within the respective LPF areas until it reaches the end of rotation period or for a maximum of 25-year rotation, after which the areas shall be restored for planting of timber and non-timber species such as bamboo, rattan, etc.

In this connection, those LPFs with oil palm planting that are reaching the end of rotation period (for at least 2 years before the end of the rotation), are required to submit the Tree Planting Plan (TPP) for all ex-oil palm areas to Forest Department Sarawak.

本会接获来自砂森林局局长于2021年12月27日所发布编号为(21)JHS/RIFD/600-8/4/100 Jld.7, 有关在人造林许可证 (LPF)区域内种植油棕的信函。

STA menerima surat yang dikeluarkan oleh Pengarah Hutan dengan nombor rujukan (21)JHS/RIFD/600-8/4/100 Jld.7 bertarikh 27 Disember 2021 mengenai penanaman kelapa sawit di dalam kawasan Lesen Hutan Tanam (LPF).