

# STA Review

Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association  
VOLUME 316 PPK 174/05/2013 (032756)



JAN  
2020



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COURTESY CALL  
from NIOSH



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MEETING BETWEEN  
Ministry of Primary  
Industries & Timber Industry



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BRIEFING ON  
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### COVER IMAGE

Wind Cave, Kuching, Sarawak;  
Photo credit Mr Liew Ted Ghee

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STA Review is mailed free of charge to all STA Members. Paid subscription is also available to non-members. An annual subscription fee of RM200.00 is charged to organisations within Malaysia, and US\$300.00 to foreign organisations in other Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand, and US\$500.00 to foreign organisations in American and European countries respectively. The subscription fee is inclusive of courier charges. STA reserves the right to change the subscription fees from time to time to reflect currency fluctuations. Paid subscription is non-refundable.

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## Courtesy Call from NIOSH

A Meeting between National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Sarawak and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) was held on 23 January 2020 at Wisma STA, Kuching, to discuss the potential collaboration between the two (2) parties in providing Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) trainings for the forestry and timber industry in Sarawak.

Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA, welcomed the representatives from NIOSH and acknowledged the importance of OSH at workplace to minimise occurrences of accidents or work related diseases. Mr Mohamad Anizan Bin Mohammed Amin, Technical Expert of NIOSH, shared the background, institutional arrangement and core activities of NIOSH.



*Meeting between NIOSH and STA*



*Mr Mohamad Anizan (4<sup>th</sup> from right) presenting a souvenir to Ms Annie Ting of STA*

Besides OSH practitioner's programmes, competency / certificate programmes and trainer's programmes, NIOSH also provides Safety Passport (SP) programmes such as Contractor SP, Oil and Gas SP, Telekom Malaysia SP and Sarawak Energy SP. The SP covers OSH legislation requirements, incident prevention and basic safety at workplace. Trained employees will receive a SP card which includes insurance coverage.

本会与砂全国职业安全与卫生机构 (NIOSH) 在2020年1月23日假本会大厦召开会议，以讨论砂拉越森林及木材业提供职场安全与卫生 (OSH) 培训事宜的合作契机。NIOSH 技术专家莫哈末安尼詹先生分享 NIOSH 的背景，体制安排和核心活动。

Satu Mesyuarat di antara Institut Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan Negara (NIOSH) dan Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) telah diadakan pada 23 Januari 2020 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Mesyuarat bertujuan untuk membincangkan potensi kerjasama di antara kedua-dua pihak dalam penganjuran latihan keselamatan dan kesihatan pekerjaan bagi industri perhutanan dan perkayuan Sarawak. Encik Mohamad Anizan Bin Mohammed Amin, Pakar Teknikal NIOSH berkongsi tentang latar belakang, susunan institusi dan aktiviti teras NIOSH.

## New Minimum Wage of RM1,200 Gazetted

The minimum wage of RM1,200.00 has been gazetted and will officially include fifty-six (56) City Council and Municipal Council areas (the list) effective 1 February 2020. The gazette was released by the Ministry of Human Resources on 10 January 2020 under the Minimum Wages Order 2020. For Sarawak, areas listed include Kuching North, Kuching South, Miri, Padawan, Sibul, Kota Samarahan and Bintulu.

It states that the minimum wage rates payable to an employee who works within the said City Council and Municipal Council areas will be RM5.77 hourly or RM1,200.00 monthly. The daily rates payable for a four-, five- and six-working days in a week will be RM69.23, RM55.38 and RM46.15 respectively. As for areas which are not included in the list, the gazette states that the minimum wage rates will be at RM5.29 hourly or RM1,100.00 per month. The daily rates payable for a four-, five- and six-working days in a week will be RM63.46, RM50.77 and RM42.31 respectively.

In addition, the gazette also applies to employees who do not receive basic wages. Employees who are paid based on piece rate, tonnage, task, trip, or commission must not be paid less than the respective stated minimum wages.

More information on the gazette is available at [www.mohr.gov.my/index.php/en/](http://www.mohr.gov.my/index.php/en/).

人力资源部于2020年1月10日根据2020年最低薪金法令宣布宪报上已颁布最低薪金为RM1,200.00，并从2020年2月1日起在56个主要城市和市议会区域（列表）正式生效。

砂拉越被列入的地区包括古晋南市，古晋北市，美里，巴达旺，诗巫，三马拉汉和民都鲁。

Gaji minimum sebanyak RM1,200 telah diwartakan dan merangkumi 56 Majlis Bandaraya dan kawasan Majlis Perbandaran berkuatkuasa 1 Februari 2020. Warta tersebut dikeluarkan oleh Kementerian Sumber Manusia pada 10 Januari 2020 di bawah Perintah Gaji Minimum 2020.

Bagi Sarawak, kawasan yang disenaraikan termasuk Kuching Utara, Kuching Selatan, Miri, Padawan, Sibul, Kota Samarahan dan Bintulu.

## Engagement Session on Cash Transaction Limit

STA was invited to an Engagement Session on the Proposed Cash Transaction Limit (CTL) by Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Kuching, held at its office on 15 January 2020. Approximately fifty (50) representatives from the private sector and associations attended the Session. Mr Mohd Irman Haji Mohd Din, Head of BNM Kuching, welcomed the participants and encouraged them to provide any views or suggestions regarding the proposed CTL.

A briefing on the proposed CTL was presented by Mr Rantai Anak Naga, Senior Economist, BNM Kuching. He explained that BNM, being the secretariat to the National Coordination Committee to Counter Money Laundering (NCC), is facilitating this initiative. CTL is defined as the limit on the amount that can be paid by physical cash per transaction. Any single transaction above the limit, which is proposed at RM25,000, cannot be paid by physical cash. Any cash transaction above this limit will have to be paid electronically, by cheque or through financial institutions.

The main objective of CTL is to further complement the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism framework in Malaysia. It also complements the existing measures such as suspicious transaction report and cash threshold report that are submitted by banks to BNM, in order to better provide authorities with the requisite tools to reinforce financial integrity in Malaysia. Mr Rantai mentioned that CTL is neither new nor unique to Malaysia. It is being implemented in various countries such as Australia, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The untraceable and anonymous nature of physical cash is an ideal vehicle to facilitate illicit activities. Therefore, CTL is targeted at large cash transactions that are at higher risk of being abused. However, CTL does not apply to accumulation, holding or safekeeping of physical cash. It also does not affect deposit, withdrawal, transfer, loan repayment or money exchange in any amount through licensed financial institutions.

The participants opined that the proposed CTL should not hinder legitimate physical cash transactions for trading of goods and services. They also felt that the proposed limit of RM25,000 per transaction per day is not practical especially in some remote areas of Sarawak that do not have financial institution facilities and cash payment is still the preferred method. They further emphasised to BNM that a comprehensive study must be carried out before the implementation of CTL.

More information on the proposed CTL is available at [www.bnm.gov.my](http://www.bnm.gov.my).

本会于2020年1月15日受邀出席由古晋国家银行（BNM）在其办事处举办的拟议现金交易限额（CTL）交流会议。古晋 BNM 高级经济学家苒泰先生介绍拟议 CTL。他解释说BNM正在促进这一倡议。CTL 主要目的是要进一步提升马来西亚反洗钱和反恐融资框架。

STA telah dijemput ke Sesi Penglibatan mengenai Cadangan Had Transaksi Tunai (CTL) oleh Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Kuching, yang diadakan di pejabatnya pada 15 Januari 2020. Taklimat mengenai cadangan CTL telah disampaikan oleh Encik Rantai Anak Naga, Ahli Ekonomi Kanan, BNM Kuching. Beliau menjelaskan bahawa BNM sedang memudahcara inisiatif tersebut.

Objektif utama CTL adalah untuk melengkapkan rangka kerja Pencegahan Pengubahan Wang Haram dan Pencegahan Pembiayaan Keganasan di Malaysia.



## Meeting between Ministry of Primary Industries and Timber Industry

A meeting between the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) and timber industry was held on 31 January 2020 in Putrajaya. Mr Ravi Muthayah, Secretary General of MPI, chaired the meeting which was also attended by representatives from the relevant government agencies such as Malaysian Timber Industry Board, Malaysian Timber Council and Forest Plantation Development Sdn Bhd.

The industry was represented by Malaysian Timber Association, Malaysian Wood Industries Association, Sarawak Timber Association (STA), Timber Association of Sabah and Persatuan Pengusaha-Pengusaha Ladang Hutan Negeri Kelantan.

The delegation from STA comprised Mr Philip Choo Kwong Hui, Honorary Treasurer; Tuan Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, Chairman of STA Working Group on Unabsorbed Losses;

Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer; and Ms Yii Yien Yien, Assistant Manager.

During the meeting, representatives from Ernst & Young Tax Consultants Sdn Bhd, consultant of STA, highlighted the impact of the seven-year limitation to carry forward unabsorbed business losses, unutilised reinvestment allowances and unutilised pioneer losses effective from year of assessment 2019 on the forest plantation industry. Prior to year of assessment 2019, these losses and allowances can be carried forward indefinitely.

However, under the new tax law, genuine business cost/ losses and relevant tax incentives not utilised within 7 years are now required to be written off. This means harsh impact on the forest plantation industry, as the companies in forest plantation have to plough in huge investments to establish and maintain forest plantations, and their investments do not see immediate returns due to the long gestation period of the trees planted which ranges from seven (7) to fifteen (15) years.

The Meeting concurred that forest plantation is different from other sectors such as manufacturing which benefits from numerous incentives. MPI took note of the industry's application to the Ministry of Finance (MoF) to seek exemption from the new tax law for the forest plantation industry.

MPI shall lend its support to the industry with a letter to the MoF to strengthen the industry's application, before the industry meets with representatives from the Tax Division of MoF in February 2020.



*Meeting in progress*

Pertemuan di antara Kementerian Perusahaan Utama (MPI) dan industri perkayuan telah diadakan pada 31 Januari 2020 di Putrajaya.

Encik Ravi Muthayah, Ketua Setiausaha MPI mempengerusikan mesyuarat tersebut yang turut dihadiri oleh wakil-wakil daripada agensi-agensi kerajaan yang berkaitan.

Semasa mesyuarat, wakil daripada Ernst & Young Tax Consultants Sdn Bhd selaku perunding STA menekankan tentang kesan had tujuh tahun untuk membawa kerugian perniagaan yang tidak diserap, elaun pelaburan semula tidak terpakai dan kerugian perintis yang tidak digunakan mulai tahun taksiran 2019 ke atas industri ladang hutan.

原产业部（MPI）与木材工业代表于2020年1月31日假布城举行一项会议。该会议由 MPI 秘书长拉维先生主持，相关政府机构官员也出席了该会议。

会议期间，本会顾问安永税务顾问有限公司代表强调从2019课税年度起生效的结转未吸收业务损失的7年限制，未利用的再投资津贴和未利用的开拓者损失对人工林业的影响。



# Press Statement on Restructuring of State's Forestry Agencies

The following Press Statement was issued by Sarawak Timber Association in response to the latest exercise by the State Government in restructuring the Forest Department Sarawak and Sarawak Forestry Corporation which took effect on 2 January 2020.

Kenyataan Akhbar berikut dikeluarkan oleh Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak berikutan pelaksanaan terkini oleh Kerajaan Negeri mengenai penstrukturan semula Jabatan Hutan Sarawak dan Sarawak Forestry Corporation yang berkuatkuasa mulai 2 Januari 2020.

以下是本會回应州政府在2020年1月2日生效的重组砂拉越森林局和砂拉越林业公司的最新举措而发布的新闻声明。



## **PRESS STATEMENT** (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

### **STA RESPONSES QUESTION TO RESTRUCTURING OF THE STATE'S FORESTRY AGENCIES**

With the latest exercise by the State Government in restructuring the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) which took effect on 2 January 2020, STA is aware that the functions of both agencies have been streamlined for the intended purpose of stronger focus. And hence, STA hopes to see a much more robust and efficient operational and administrative procedures with the removal of redundancies and duplications.

STA understands that FDS will now handle all operational matters pertaining to forest management, research & development, forest engineering, forest compliance, revenue collection and compliance as well as forest plantations. As the forestry industry will be greatly impacted, it is important to ensure that the re-assignments of these functions and relevant personnel from SFC to FDS, especially at the regional offices and One Stop Compliance Centres (OSCCs), are performed in a timely manner. All these factors need to be prudently considered to avoid or at most minimise any delays or disruptions to the forest operations on the ground.

STA urges the State Government to bridge the communication gap between the agencies and the industry players on this restructuring and transformation exercise, so that the industry players will have a clear understanding on the new roles and responsibilities of officers in both agencies. Having a better grasp of the changes will also assure that issues relating to legality compliance and certification are promptly responded to and proactively resolved. STA hopes that all documentations related to statutory requirements under the State forestry laws have already been put in place for a smooth transition.

STA will continue to collaborate and work closely with both agencies to support their objectives in managing the forest resources and in conserving Sarawak's biodiversity.

Sarawak Timber Association  
7 January 2020



Following the Press Statement, the Association also wrote to the Director of Forests on this matter on 15 January 2020.

In the letter, the Association reiterated that the industry needs to benefit from the advantages of this restructuring exercise as well as be assured that the current systematic arrangements and procedures will not be unduly affected. During this interval, there should also be a proper and transparent mechanism put in place to ensure smooth transition, else a grace period should be provided. STA also requested for a briefing to be conducted by FDS so that its members will have a clear understanding on this restructuring exercise.

The Director of Forests responded in writing on 20 January 2020 that the forest functions under the Forests Ordinance, 2015 are under the purview of FDS. The functions shall be administered by FDS Regional Offices (FDS RO) and FDS Headquarters (FDS HQ) as follows:

No	Activities	Action By
1	Submission of: i. General Harvesting Plan (GP) ii. Detailed Harvesting Plan (DP) / Road Plan iii. Tree Harvesting Plan (THP) iv. Annual Harvesting Plan (AHP)	FDS HQ
2	Application for Permit to Enter Coupe (PEC) and Permit to Harvest Coupe (PHC)	FDS RO
3	Endorsement of operations under PEC and PHC	FDS RO
4	Application for range of Log Production Identity (LPI)	FDS RO
5	Application for royalty marking and removal pass (transit)	One-Stop Compliance Centre
6	Application for Post Harvesting Block Inspection (PLBI) after completion of harvesting	FDS RO
7	Forest management certification compliance issue	FDS HQ
8	Application and approval of Reduced Impact Logging Plan (RILP)	FDS RO
9	Capacity building in supporting forest management certification	FDS HQ
10	Administration of Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS)	FDS HQ
11	Reporting of encroachment or illegal logging activities/wildlife trade by outsiders within forest timber licence area	FDS HQ / FDS RO

新闻声明发布后，本会也于2020年1月15日就此事致函森林局局长。

Selepas Kenyataan Akhbar tersebut, Persatuan juga menulis kepada Pengarah Hutan Sarawak mengenai perkara ini pada 15 Januari 2020.



# Briefing on Pre-Arrival Processing

In conjunction with Meet the Client Day, the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) organised a Briefing on Pre-Arrival Processing (PAP). Tuan Austin James Nieet, Assistant Senior Director Customs II, presented to participants the procedures of PAP during the briefing on 21 January 2020 at Wisma Kastam, Kuching.

PAP came into force on 1 January 2020 in accordance with Sections 52, 56 and 78B of Customs Act (Amendment) 2019.

An effort by RMCD to improve trade facilitation in line with the PAP standard set by the World Trade Organisation Trade Facilitation Agreement, PAP involves online submission which is applicable to importation of goods declared under Form K1.

The objective of PAP is to enable importers to begin the process of clearing their goods through customs before the goods actually arrive at the destination port. This means the clearance process of goods will be much faster and efficient when it arrives at the destination since paper work has already been completed.

Once a vessel or an air cargo has departed from the country of origin, importers can submit online PAP import declarations with the required documents and details such as estimated time of arrival, information of vessel/air cargo, master bill of lading, airway bill and house bill of lading. Once it is submitted, RMCD will proceed to check the documentation and assess the duties to be paid, if any.



*Tuan Austin James Nieet introducing the PAP*

Any payment of duties, if any, will need to be made prior to the arrival of goods. However, paid duties are not refundable if goods are not unloaded at the destination port due to some circumstances. Upon arrival, physical inspections will still be conducted by RMCD if necessary.

Currently, PAP is only applicable to transportation of imported goods through vessels.

为配合“客户见面日”活动，马来西亚皇家关税局（RMCD）举办关于预先报关（PAP）简报会。

根据2019年关税法（修正案）第52，56和78B条例，PAP于2020年1月1日正式生效。

PAP涉及在线提交，该提交适用于通过表格 K1 申报的货物进口。PAP旨在让进口商能够在货物实际到达目的港之前就开始通过关税清关过程。目前，PAP仅适用于通过船只进口货物的运输。

Sempena Hari Bertemu Pelanggan, Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia (RMCD) telah menganjurkan Taklimat mengenai Pre-Arrival Processing (PAP). PAP berkuatkuasa mulai 1 Januari 2020 selaras dengan Seksyen 52, 56 dan 78B Akta Kastam (Pindaan) 2019.

PAP melibatkan penyerahan dalam talian bagi pengimportan barangan yang diikrar di bawah Borong K1. Objektif PAP adalah untuk membolehkan pengimport memulakan proses pelepasan barangan melalui kastam sebelum barangan itu tiba di pelabuhan destinasi.

Pada masa ini, PAP hanya terpakai bagi pengangkutan barangan import melalui kapal.



## Meeting on OSH Training Programmes

The Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) held a meeting with the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) on matters pertaining to occupational safety and health (OSH) training programmes and utilisation of HRDF levy at Wisma Perkeso, Kuching, on 7 January 2020.

The Meeting was chaired by Ms Tuty Binti Bujang, Regional Manager of HRDF. The objective of the Meeting was to discuss relevant OSH training programmes offered by NIOSH for the forestry and timber industry, as well as the utilisation of HRDF levy by eligible employers.

As HRDF levy can be used to pay for the fees of approved OSH training programmes, Ms Tuty suggested for HRDF and NIOSH to co-organise these training programmes for STA members so that they are able to claim the levy. However, this is only applicable to STA members who are registered with HRDF.

Ms Christy Claire De Guzman, Head of Enforcement Section of DOSH, informed the Meeting that DOSH, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and STA have been conducting OSH campaigns for the forestry and timber industry since 2015. Although the campaigns have benefitted the industry, the topics covered during the campaigns need to be more comprehensive in order to further minimise occurrences of accidents at the workplace.

She also added that this year, DOSH will focus on the forestry and timber industry including engaging with the industry players to develop a new set of OSH guidelines specifically for the forestry and timber industry in Sarawak.

人力资源开发基金（HRDF）和职业安全与卫生局（DOSH）、国家职业安全与卫生机构（NIOSH）以及本（STA）于2020年1月7日假古晋PERKESO大厦召开会议商讨有关职场安全与卫生（OSH）培训计划和HRDF征税使用事宜。

该会议由 HRDF 区域经理杜蒂小姐主持。会议旨在讨论由 NIOSH 所提供给林业和木材业的相关 OSH 培训计划，以及合格雇主对 HRDF 征税的使用。



*Meeting in progress*

Dana Pembangunan Sumber Manusia (HRDF) telah mengadakan mesyuarat dengan Jabatan Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan (DOSH), Institut Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan Kebangsaan (NIOSH) dan Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak (STA) mengenai program latihan keselamatan dan kesihatan pekerjaan dan penggunaan levi HRDF di Wisma Perkeso, Kuching pada 7 Januari 2020.

Mesyuarat dipengerusikan oleh Cik Tuty Binti Bujang, Pengurus Wilayah HRDF. Objektif Mesyuarat adalah untuk membincangkan program latihan keselamatan dan kesihatan pekerjaan yang ditawarkan oleh NIOSH di industri perhutanan dan perkayuan serta penggunaan levi HRDF oleh majikan berkeelayakan.

# Stakeholder Consultation Session on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in Malaysia

The Stakeholder Consultation Session on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in Malaysia was organised by the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources on 15 January 2020 at Imperial Hotel, Kuching.



Dr Agnes Agama presenting her work

The Session was conducted by Dr Agnes Agama, Co-Director & Head of Policy Impacts, and Ms Melissa Payne, Science Impact Coordinator, who are both from the South East Asia Rainforest Research Partnership. Mr Rambli Bin Ahmad, Ecologist from Sarawak Forestry Corporation, facilitated the Session.

Dr Agnes spoke on the work that had been done on OECMs internationally mainly through the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). In 2010, the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10/CBD) adopted the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In Target 11, it calls for “at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas” to be conserved by way of

“well-connected systems of protected areas and OECMs”. However, until now, CBD parties have focused on reporting coverage of protected areas only, even though OECMs can make a valid contribution to the Target.

According to her, IUCN defined OECMs as “a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values”.

She also shared details about a project that she has been working on since October 2019. The aim of the project, which is expected to end in September 2021, is to strengthen the area-based in-situ conservation of biodiversity in Malaysia and the main activity is to investigate the potential of OECMs approach for Malaysia. She also pointed out that Malaysia is in the exploratory and collaborative phases with regard to OECMs.

砂拉越城市发展与天然资源部于2020年1月5日假古晋帝宫酒店举办马来西亚其他有效区域保护措施 (OECMs) 利益相关者咨询会议。

会议由东南亚雨林研究合作伙伴联合主任兼政策影响主管艾格尼丝博士和科学影响协调员梅丽莎伯尼小姐主持。艾格尼丝博士发表通过国际自然保护联盟 (IUCN) 所完成的国际性 OECMs 工作。

Sesi Perundingan Pihak Berkepentingan mengenai Langkah-Langkah Berkesan Lain bagi Pemuliharaan Berasaskan Kawasan (OECMs) di Malaysia telah dianjurkan oleh Kementerian Pembangunan Bandar dan Sumber Asli pada 15 Januari 2020 di Hotel Imperial, Kuching.

Sesi itu dilaksanakan oleh Dr Agnes Agama, Pengarah Bersama & Ketua Impak Polisi, dan Cik Melissa Payne, Penyelaras Impak Sains, daripada Penyelidikan Bersama Hutan Tropika Asia Tenggara.

Dr Agnes menjelaskan mengenai kerja yang telah dilakukan oleh OECMs di peringkat antarabangsa terutamanya melalui Kesatuan Antarabangsa untuk Pemuliharaan Alam Sekitar (IUCN).



# Meeting on Group Distribution of Approval in Principle for Employment of Non-Resident Workers in Sarawak Forestry and Timber Industry

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) held a Meeting on Group Distribution of Approval in Principle (AP) for Employment of Non-Resident Workers in Sarawak Forestry and Timber Industry at Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching, on 20 January 2020. About thirty (30) representatives from the Department of Labour Sarawak (JTK Sarawak), Immigration Department Sarawak and STA members attended the Meeting.

Chaired by Tuan Haji Hamzah Bin Haji Morshidi, Assistant General Manager (Resource Planning) of STIDC, the objective of the Meeting was to discuss matters and obtain feedback related to AP. Tuan Haji Hamzah informed participants that STIDC is currently conducting a study on the matrix for mills manufacturing charcoal, dowel, moulding and furniture as well as forest plantation sector.

During the Meeting, Mr Dedua Anak Taim of JTK Sarawak explained that an online system known as “*Monitoring System on The Employment of Non-Sarawakians*” (MSEN) was implemented to narrow down the manpower gap between industries and JTK Sarawak. He added that JTK Sarawak will still verify hard copies of AP applications in addition to e-applications received via MSEN. Once the AP application is approved, JTK Sarawak will inform the employer through email, and the application status will also be reflected in MSEN with other information such as balance of AP quota and its expiry date. Employers are advised to get in touch with JTK Sarawak if the application has been pending for approval for more than four (4) weeks.



*Meeting in progress*

The Meeting agreed to hold regular engagement sessions between the timber industry and relevant government agencies on labour issues in order to better understand situations on the ground and work together to resolve any non-compliance practices.

The standard checklist on the procedure of labour permit application can be obtained at JTK Sarawak offices or its website [www.jtkswk.gov.my](http://www.jtkswk.gov.my).

砂拉越木材工业发展机构 (STIDC) 于2020年1月20日假古晋环境部召开一项砂拉越森林和木材业雇佣非居民员工原则批准 (AP) 分配会议。该会议是由 STIDC 助理总经理 (资源与策划) 哈兹汉扎先生主持。会议目的是讨论关于AP事项以及获取反馈。会议期间, 砂劳工局 (JTK) 官员得端先生解释说一项名为“雇佣非砂拉越子民监控系统” (MSEN) 线上系统已实施以便缩短工业与砂 JTK 的人力差距。

Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) telah mengadakan Mesyuarat mengenai Pengeluaran Berkumpulan Kelulusan Secara Dasar (AP) untuk Penggajian Pekerja Bukan Pemastautin di Industri Perhutanan dan Perkayuan Sarawak di Wisma Sumber Alam, Kuching pada 20 Januari 2020.

Mesyuarat dipengerusikan oleh Tuan Haji Hamzah Bin Haji Morshidi, Penolong Pengurus Besar (Perancangan Sumber) STIDC. Objektif Mesyuarat adalah untuk membincangkan dan mendapatkan maklum balas mengenai AP.

Semasa Mesyuarat, Encik Dedua Anak Taim daripada JTK Sarawak menerangkan tentang sistem dalam talian yang dikenali sebagai “*Monitoring System on The Employment of Non-Sarawakians*” (MSEN) yang telah dilaksanakan untuk mengurangkan jurang tenaga kerja di antara industri dan JTK Sarawak.

## BiteSize Talk

Sarawak Research and Development Council (SRDC) organised a BiteSize Talk on 21 January 2020 at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCKK). The objective of the Talk was to introduce the area of ecology and reforestation research with special application in tropical forest to fellow researchers in Sarawak.

The Talk was delivered by Professor Andrew Hector from Oxford University, United Kingdom. He briefed participants on the “*Sabah Biodiversity Experiment*”, a forest rehabilitation project conducted in collaboration with the Sabah Government and local and international non-government organisations.

He shared that the 500-hectare experimental site located near the Danum Valley research station in Sabah is divided into small plots for various restoration trials. Enrichment line planting was applied and annual data collection has

been conducted since 2002 to investigate the forest ecosystem services provided by the research plots. He further reinforced the Talk with various interesting findings from the project, which have also been published in many peer-reviewed journals.

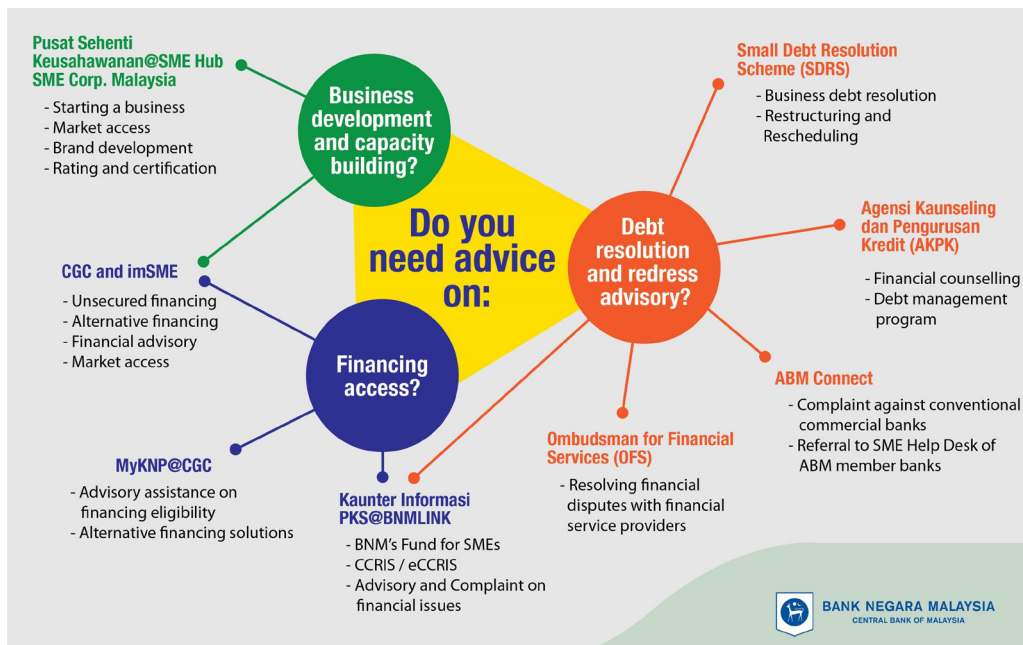
SRDC is exploring potential collaborations with Professor Hector and the Oxford University in areas of ecology and biodiversity as well as therapeutic drug discovery and testing.

砂拉越研究与发展理事会（SRDC）于2020年1月21日假古晋婆罗洲会展中心（BCKK）举办小型讲座会。该讲座会的目的是为了向砂拉越的研究人员介绍在热带森林中有特殊应用的生态学和造林研究领域。

讲座会由英国牛津大学的安德鲁赫克特教授主持。

Majlis Penyelidikan dan Pembangunan Sarawak (SRDC) telah menganjurkan Ceramah BiteSize pada 21 Januari 2020 di Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCKK). Objektif Ceramah adalah untuk memperkenalkan bidang penyelidikan ekologi dan penanaman semula hutan dengan aplikasi khusus di hutan tropika kepada rakan-rakan penyelidik Sarawak. Ceramah dibentangkan oleh Profesor Andrew Hector daripada Universiti Oxford, United Kingdom.

## SME Financing Touchpoints



*SME Financing Touchpoints: A Guide on Where To Seek Advice (Image courtesy of BNM)*

The Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) has created an SME Financing Touchpoints where small and medium enterprises (SMEs), including micro entrepreneurs, are able to seek advice on business development, capacity building, financing access and other assistances offered by various agencies and organisations. More information is available on website [www.bnm.gov.my](http://www.bnm.gov.my).

马来西亚国家银行（BNM）设立了中小企业（SME）融资互动渠道，如图所示。

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) telah mewujudkan Pusat Interaksi Pembiayaan SME seperti yang ditunjukkan dalam artikel ini.



# Government Financial Assistance Programmes by MIDF

Founded in 1960, Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Berhad (MIDF), an agency of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), has been assisting local entrepreneurs with the provision of financing facilities at Government preferential rates for the manufacturing and services sectors.

MIDF continues to offer various soft financing scheme facilities with better financing features such as a more competitive financing profit rate, longer repayment tenure and higher margin of financing.

Among the soft financing schemes offered are as detailed below:

## Soft Financing Schemes

- **Soft Loan Scheme for Automation and Modernisation**
- **Soft Loan Scheme for Services Sector**
- **Soft Loan Scheme for Services Export**
- **Soft Loan Scheme for Small and Medium Enterprises**

## Basic Qualification Criteria

- Domestic based manufacturing companies with at least 51% of shares owned by Malaysian.
- Domestic based services providers with at least 60% of shares owned by Malaysian.

## Applicant's Eligibility

## Interest / Profit Rates

- |                                            |    |
|--------------------------------------------|----|
| a. Export of services by service providers | 2% |
| b. Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs)       | 4% |
| c. Non-SMEs                                | 5% |

## Type of Financing

- Industrial Land & Building/Factory/Commercial Property/Shop-lot
- Machinery/Equipment/Commercial Vehicles
- IT Equipment/Hardware / Software
- Purchase Revolving Credit & Sales Revolving Credit
- Factory Facility
- Term Financing (For Advertising and Promotional)

MIDF had also recently established a Business Advisory Unit primarily to assist local entrepreneurs in accessing financing facilities from MIDF and to provide other value added financial advisory services to their businesses.

For more information, members can email to [GrowYourBusiness@midf.com.my](mailto:GrowYourBusiness@midf.com.my) or speak to a Business Advisory Consultant at 1-300-88-6433. Alternatively, details on the schemes are available on website [www.midf.com.my](http://www.midf.com.my).

Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Berhad (MIDF), ditubuhkan pada tahun 1960, merupakan sebuah agensi Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri (MITI) yang membantu usahawan tempatan dengan menyediakan kemudahan pembiayaan pada kadar istimewa Kerajaan bagi sektor pembuatan dan perkhidmatan.

MIDF terus menawarkan pelbagai kemudahan skim pembiayaan mudah dengan ciri pembiayaan yang lebih baik seperti yang disenaraikan dalam artikel ini.

马来西亚兴业金融机构（MIDF）于1960年创立，为国际贸易和工业部（MITI）旗下机构，致力协助本土企业家在制造业和服务业获得政府提供优惠融资设施及价格。

## Sarawak Timber Association

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wisma STA, Kuching

Monday, 10:30 am  
30 March 2020

Registration starts at 9:00 am

As it is an election year, pursuant to Articles of STA Memorandum and Articles of Association, members who have yet to renew their membership before the effective date, which is on 2 March 2020, are kindly reminded to do so in order to be eligible to vote and/or stand for election as Council Member.

Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan 2020 bagi Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak akan diadakan pada Isnin, 30 Mac 2020 pada pukul 10.30 pagi di Wisma STA, Kuching.

本会2020年度会员大会将于2020年3月30日（星期一），上午10点30分假古晋STA大厦举行。