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Location: Taman Tumbina Zoo, Bintulu
Photo Credit: Vincent Wong Thian Fook

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A Better Home for the Orangutans: Upgrading of Feeding Platforms at Semenggoh Wildlife Centre

The Semenggoh Wildlife Centre at the Semenggoh Nature Reserve is by far the biggest Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre in Sarawak. Currently, the centre serves as a habitat for Orangutans and also a place for visitors to learn about the endangered rare species. The Semenggoh Nature Reserve including the centre is administered and cared for by the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC).

In support of Orangutan conservation and facility upgrading, STA donated RM50,000 in August last year to help refurbish existing feeding platforms of the Orangutans at the centre. STA recently received a progress report from SFC on the related upgrading works which are being carried out using the fund.

According to SFC, three (3) dilapidated feeding platforms were identified for upgrading works. So far, two (2) of them have been refurbished while another one (1) is still in progress. Other transformation includes

replacing old and slippery wooden-planked pathways, which lead to the feeding areas, with concrete pavers. Additionally, the Orangutans are also getting new sturdier climbing ropes to move in the vicinity.

The remaining upgrading works are expected to be completed within a few weeks' time subject to compliance with strict standard operating procedures during the movement control order period due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

STA is delighted to be part of the effort to improve the facilities at Semenggoh Wildlife Centre and hopes that the donation will ensure a comfortable home for the Orangutans.



One of the dilapidated feeding platforms



Work completed on one of the feeding platforms



Concrete pavers leading to feeding areas

为支持人猿保育和设施提升，本会在去年 8 月捐赠了马币五万令吉，以帮助翻新该中心现有的人猿饲养平台。本会最近收到砂拉越森林企业机构(SFC)使用该捐款进行的相关提升工程的进度报告。

Untuk menyokong pemuliharaan Orangutan dan peningkatan kemudahan, STA telah menderma RM50,000 pada bulan Ogos tahun lalu untuk membantu menaik taraf platform makan Orangutan di pusat tersebut. STA telah menerima laporan kemajuan daripada SFC tentang kerja-kerja penaiktarafan yang dilakukan menerusi sumbangan tersebut.



New sturdier climbing ropes for the Orangutans

COVID-19 Industrial Vaccination Centre (PPVIN) Programme for Manufacturing Sector in Sarawak

The joint effort of STA and related Government agencies, in particular the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development (MINTRED), had led to the successful setting up of various PPVIN across Sarawak. Employers could either choose to (i) set up on-site PPVIN at their work premises, mills or factories; or (ii) participate in vaccination arrangement at nearby unified PPVIN identified by the COVID-19 Immunisation Task Force (CITF) Sarawak through resource pooling.

Since early June 2021, STA Secretariat had been communicating with members to provide them with relevant information on 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 Secretariat 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 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 CITF Sarawak to set up PPVIN on-site.

With the strong support from and close collaboration with MINTRED, CITF Sarawak, Ministry of Health, as well as other relevant organisations and frontliners, STA has managed and helped members to arrange approximately 11,300 workers to be vaccinated at PPVIN including (i) Samling Plywood Bintulu, (ii) Shin Yang Plywood Bintulu, (iii) Shin Yang Plywood Kuala Baram Miri, (iv) Shin Yang Menawan, (v) Shin Yang Wood System, (vi) Ta Ann Plywood Sibu, (vii) Emart Riam Miri, and (viii) The Spring Kuching. The Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak, Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, who is also the Minister of International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development, also took the time to visit some of the PPVIN. Apart from that, members from the upstream have also started their vaccination effort in July 2021 at PPVIN on-site or through mobile vaccination centre in particular Sibu region. Additionally, many other workers have received their vaccination via the MySejahtera application.

In spite of the very challenging circumstances facing the industry, STA is deeply encouraged to see the efforts undertaken by members to ensure their workers are inoculated. STA together with its members will remain a strong support of moving towards vaccination for all to ensure overall public health and economic sustainability of the nation.

在砂拉越各地成功建立多种工业疫苗接种中心是本会与相关政府机构，特别是砂国际贸易、工业、工业管理及企业发展部（MINTRED）的积极努力下所获得的回报。

在本会与相关政府机构，特别是砂国际贸易、工业、工业管理及企业发展部（MINTRED）的积极努力下，成功的在砂拉越各地建立了多种工业疫苗接种中心。在 MINTRED、CITF Sarawak、卫生部以及其他相关组织和前线人员的大力支持和密切合作下，本会处理并帮助会员们安排了大约 11,300 名工人在各个中心接种疫苗。



PPVIN Samling Plywood Bintulu



PPVIN Shin Yang Plywood Kuala Baram Miri

Usaha bersama STA dan agensi-agensi Kerajaan yang berkaitan, khususnya Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri, Terminal Perindustrian dan Pembangunan Usahawan (MINTRED) telah membawa kepada kejayaan penubuhan beberapa PPVIN di seluruh Sarawak.

Dengan sokongan kuat dan kerjasama erat dengan MINTRED, CITF Sarawak, Kementerian Kesihatan, serta organisasi dan petugas barisan hadapan, STA telah mengurus dan menolong ahli-ahli mengatur lebih kurang 11,300 pekerja untuk divaksin di PPVIN.



PPVIN Ta Ann Plywood Sibu



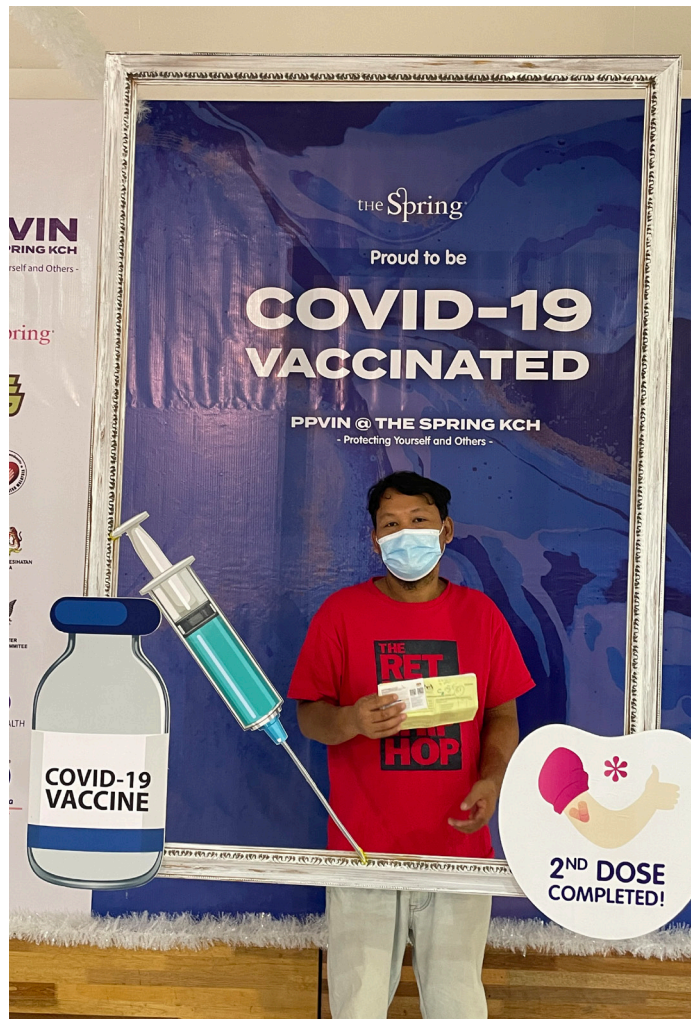
PPVIN The Spring Kuching



PPVIN University College of Technology Sarawak (UCTS) Sibu



A worker receiving his vaccination



A vaccinated worker holding up his vaccination card

Digital Transformation: MyReskill IoT Programme

STA had earlier in March 2021 submitted feedback to the Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) highlighting the need for hiring foreign workers in the manufacturing sector of timber industry in Sarawak. The submission emphasised that manpower is crucial for the resource-based timber industry, especially for the industry's manufacturing sector.

It stated that the industry supports the Government's initiative in moving towards full automation in order to decrease dependency on foreign workers, and pointed out that mills/factories in Sarawak have undergone gradual automation with a lot of efforts put into processes which could be automated. However, due to the industry's unique situation and requirements, some processes still require intensive manual labour and workers' skills/experiences are indispensable.

As a follow up as well as to understand the assistances and needs required by the timber industry in Sarawak, MPC called a virtual meeting with STA on 29 July 2021 chaired by Dr Mohamad Norjayadi Tamam, Deputy Director (Productivity & Competitiveness Development) of MPC.

During the meeting, MPC explored collaboration with STA to implement the MyReskill Internet of Things (IoT) Programme among the timber industry players. The programme serves as an intervention to assist companies in the adoption of Industrial Revolution 4.0. The objective is to train the industry in IoT knowledge and skillset for the non-coding workforce, so that they are able to carry out IoT projects within their companies and remain relevant in the job market. It will bring benefits to both the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) as well as big-scale manufacturing and manufacturing-related services industry.

MPC will also be providing resources and expertise in digital transformation and technology automation which will benefit STA members as well as fortify their competitiveness in the global market.

Before implementing MyReskill IoT programme among timber industry players, both MPC and STA agreed to look into co-organising a webinar by inviting speakers equipped with automation technology background identified by MPC as a way forward.

本会早在2021年3月向马来西亚生产力促进局(MPC)提交了反馈意见，强调在砂拉越木材业的制造业雇用外籍劳工的需求。作为跟进并了解砂拉越木材业所需的援助和需求，MPC 于2021年7月29日与本会召开了线上会议。会议期间，MPC 探讨了与本会的合作，以在木材业者中实施重新技能物联网 (IoT) 计划。

Pada awal bulan Mac 2021, STA telah mengemukakan maklum balas kepada Perbadanan Produktiviti Malaysia (MPC), mengetengahkan keperluan pengambilan pekerja asing dalam sektor pembuatan industri perkayuan di Sarawak. Sebagai tindakan susulan serta untuk memahami bantuan dan keperluan yang diperlukan oleh industri perkayuan di Sarawak, MPC telah mengadakan pertemuan secara maya dengan STA pada 29 Julai 2021. Dalam pertemuan itu, MPC menerokai kerjasama dengan STA untuk melaksanakan Program Perkara Internet MyReskill (IoT) dalam kalangan pemain industri perkayuan.

MTCC New Website Launch cum Farewell to CEO

The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) Chairman, Tuan Haji Kamaruzaman Mohamad, launched their newly revamped website on 16 July 2021. The new layout of the website is friendlier, easier and bolder. Friends of MTCC were invited to witness this memorable moment as well as to bid farewell to Mr Yong Teng Koon, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MTCC on his retirement. Mr Yong had served MTCC for the last twenty (20) years as Manager (Forest Management) and then Senior Manager before being appointed as CEO on 1 January 2013. Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA, on behalf of the Association, also took the opportunity to express appreciation to Mr Yong for all the support and assistances rendered to the Association throughout his tenure and wished him happy retirement.

马来西亚木材认证委员会 (MTCC) 主席哈芝加玛鲁扎曼先生于2021年7月16日推出其新改版的网站，并告别退休的 MTCC 首席执行官 (CEO) 杨天光先生。

本会 CEO 陈燕贞小姐也借此机会对杨先生在任期期间对本会的支持和帮助表示感谢，并祝他退休快乐。

Pengerusi Majlis Pensijilan Kayu Malaysia (MTCC), Tuan Haji Kamaruzaman Mohamad, pada 16 Julai 2021 telah melancarkan laman web mereka yang baru diubahsuai, dan juga meraikan persaraan Encik Yong Teng Koon, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif (CEO) MTCC. Cik Annie Ting, CEO STA, juga mengambil kesempatan untuk mengucapkan penghargaannya kepada Encik Yong atas segala sokongan dan bantuan yang diberikan kepada Persatuan sepanjang tempoh perkhidmatannya dan mengucapkan selamat bersara.

Engagement Sessions with STA Upstream Members on the Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446)

STA conducted engagement sessions with its upstream members on the *Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446)* which was extended to Sarawak on 26 February 2021 following the gazettment of the *Emergency (Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 (P.U.(A77))* and the amendments made vide Act A1604. The engagement sessions were conducted from 5 to 7 July 2021 via video conferencing.

The objectives of the engagement sessions were to share with members on the 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.

本會與其游業會員進行有關1990年員工房屋、住宿及設施最低標準法令(446法令)交流會。該法令是在緊急狀況下制定的2021年員工房屋、住宿及設施最低標準修訂條例(P.U.(A77))的憲報發布并根据A1604法令作出修訂後于2021年2月26日擴展至砂拉越。該交流會通過線上視頻于2021年7月5日至7日進行。

According to Department of Labour Sarawak (JTK Sarawak) in a briefing in June, Act 446 will take effect until its expiration six (6) months from the date the emergency ends. Meanwhile, JTK Sarawak is currently in the process of amending the *Labour Ordinance (Sarawak Cap.76)* to incorporate certain provisions of the Act 446. STA will continue to engage with JTK Sarawak on matters related to Act 446.

STA mengadakan sesi penglibatan dengan ahli-ahli huluannya mengenai *Akta Standard Minimum Perumahan, Penginapan dan Kemudahan Pekerja 1990 (Akta 446)* yang diperluaskan ke Sarawak pada 26 Februari 2021 berikutan pewartaan *Ordinan Darurat (Standard Minimum Perumahan, Penginapan dan Kemudahan Pekerja) (Pindaan) 2021 (P.U.(A77))* dan pindaan yang dibuat melalui Akta A1604. Sesi penglibatan dianjurkan dari 5 hingga 7 Julai 2021 melalui persidangan video.

Revision of STLVS Documents

The officers from Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources (MUDeNR), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (HTSB) and STA met on 9 and 12 July 2021 via video conferencing to discuss and review two (2) Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS) documents, namely the STLVS Standard and the Guidelines for STLVS Audit. Both meetings were chaired by Tuan Jack Liam, Deputy Director of Forests, FDS.

The objectives of the revision were to update the existing 2 documents based on the latest laws and

regulations governing timber legality in Sarawak and to reflect the operational functions of FDS following restructuring of FDS and Sarawak Forestry Corporation in 2020.

The STLVS Standard was developed to facilitate licensee, timber processor and trader to undergo 3rd party verification of forest management, mill operations, trade and customs, while the Guidelines for STLVS Audit was to provide adequate explanations and guidance to assist competent company to apply and register as STLVS audit firm as well as on the implementation of STLVS audit.

城市发展和天然资源部(MUDeNR)、砂拉越森林局(FDS)、砂拉越木材工业发展机构(STIDC)、Harwood Timber 有限公司(HTSB)和本會于2021年7月9日至12日通过线上会议讨论和审查两份砂拉越木材合法性验证系统(STLVS)文件,即STLVS标准和STLVS审计指南。

Pegawai-pegawai daripada Kementerian Pembangunan Bandar dan Sumber Asli (MUDeNR), Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS), Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (HTSB) dan STA bertemu pada 9 dan 12 Julai 2021 melalui persidangan video untuk membincangkan dan mengkaji 2 dokumen Sistem Pengesahan Kesahihan Kayu Sarawak (STLVS), iaitu Standard STLVS dan Garis Panduan Audit untuk STLVS.

Training on FDS Forest Licensee Portal

Following the Forest Licensee Portal Training Workshop organised for Forest Timber Licence (FTL) holders in Miri, Sibul and Kapit regions, the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) organised the same Training Workshop for forty-six (46) FTL holders in the Bintulu region on 13 and 15 July 2021. The objectives of the Training Workshop were to brief FTL holders on the functions of the Forest Licensee Portal and the prerequisites for using the portal, as well as provide a demonstration and hands on training session for the FTL holders to familiarise themselves with the portal.

In his opening remarks, Mr Semilan Ripot, Senior Assistant Director, Revenue and Data Management Division, FDS, shared that the Sarawak Government is embarking on the digital application for some of the processes under the Chain of Custody (CoC) of logs. As such, the Forest Licensee Portal has been developed for licensees to transact or interact with FDS through digitisation process. He added that the portal shall be used to support FDS and licensees to facilitate submission of application and endorsement by FDS.

He hoped that the available services provided through the portal, i.e. worker registration, user administration registration, management personnel registration, daily production return (natural log), royalty assessment (natural log) and bill viewing can be fully implemented statewide by end of this year. Meanwhile, the removal pass (transit) application and services for planted logs are still in the development stage.

During the Training Workshop, few aspects of the portal usage were discussed and clarified including worker's insurance requirement, screening of management personnel, deactivation of portal administrator and user, admissible user number for each activity, colour laser printing of royalty certificate, etc.

随着为美里，诗巫和加帛区域的森林许可证 (FTL) 持有者成功举办的 FTL 持有者网站培训工作坊，砂拉越森林局 (FDS) 继续于2021年7月13日至15日为46位来自民都鲁区域的FTL持有者举办同样的培训工作坊。

Selepas penganjuran Bengkel Latihan Portal Pemegang Lesen Hutan untuk pemegang-pemegang Lesen Pembalakan (FTL) di Wilayah Miri, Sibul dan Kapit, Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) turut mengadakan Bengkel Latihan yang serupa untuk 46 pemegang-pemegang FTL di wilayah Bintulu pada 13 dan 15 Julai 2021.

Directives on Felling of Protected Tree Species and Prohibition of Hunting in Timber Licenced Area

The Director of Forests, Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, extended to STA a copy of the letter dated 19 July 2021 reminding all timber licensees, contractors and authorised agents to comply with the two (2) Directives issued by the Controller of Wild Life in April 2021. The 2 Directives are (i) SFC Circular No 1/2021 - Directive on Felling of Protected Tree Species in Timber Licenced Area; and (ii) SFC Circular No 2/2021 - Directive on Prohibition of Hunting in Timber Licenced Area, which were made by virtue of provisions in the *Wild Life Protection Ordinance, 1998*.

Failure to abide by these Directives will lead to actions being taken against the company, licensee or any person without further notice. Licensees are required to extend the Directives to the relevant parties involved with ground operations.

Both Circulars were communicated to STA members via email in April 2021. SFC had also organised an online briefing earlier in March to disseminate the information.

砂拉越森林局局长拿督韩旦于2021年7月19日致函本会，提醒所有木材许可证持有者、承包商和授权代理人遵守野生生物管理员于2021年4月发布的两则指令。这两则指令是根据1998年野生动物保护法令制定为 (i) 砂拉越森林企业机构 (SFC) 通告编号1/2021 - 砍伐木材特许区内受保护树种的指令；和SFC通告编号2/2021 - 禁止在木材特许区狩猎的指令。

Pengarah Hutan, Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, telah memanjangkan salinan surat yang bertarikh 19 Julai 2021 kepada STA untuk mengingatkan semua pemegang lesen pembalakan, kontraktor dan ejen lantikan untuk mematuhi 2 Arahan yang telah dikeluarkan oleh Pengawal Hidupan Liar pada bulan April 2021. 2 Arahan tersebut adalah (i) Pekeliling SFC Bil. 1/2021 - Arahan tentang Penebangan Spesis Pokok yang Dilindungi di Kawasan Lesen Kayu; dan (ii) Pekeliling SFC Bil. 2/2021 - Arahan tentang Larangan Memburu di Kawasan Lesen Kayu, yang dibuat berdasarkan peruntukan di dalam *Ordinan Perlindungan Hidupan Liar, 1998*.

Sarawak Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030

The Chief Minister of Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, launched the Sarawak Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030 on 22 July 2021 in conjunction with the Sarawak Day celebration.

PCDS 2030 is a long term plan which provides the direction and strategies for Sarawak to achieve its aspiration of becoming a developed State by the year 2030. It was formulated through the collaboration, comments and feedback among relevant ministries, agencies, academicians, organisations and industry players. The Sarawak Economic Action Council (SEAC), which was formed on 6 May 2020, headed the preparation of PCDS 2030.

According to the Chief Minister, Sarawak needs to double the size of its economy from RM136 billion in 2019 to RM282 billion in 2030. To achieve this target, Sarawak's economy needs to grow on average 6-8% per annum until 2030. The Sarawak Government is committing an estimated RM63 billion to implement the PCDS 2030 under the 12th Malaysia Plan, whereby RM30 billion will come from direct development expenditure and RM33 billion from alternative funding.

The core objectives of PCDS 2030 comprised (i) changing Sarawak's economic structure by increasing production scale to capture efficiencies upstream, increasing downstream activities and growing the services sector to support primary and secondary sectors' activities in a sustainable manner; (ii) modernising and increasing efficiency driven by both digital and physical connectivity; and (iii) increasing

household income to gross domestic product (GDP) share by creating more jobs and encouraging entrepreneurship. In order to accelerate economic development, the plan outlines seven (7) strategic thrusts which include (i) economic structure; (ii) ease of doing business; (iii) targeted spending; (iv) optimise assets and human capital; (v) digital and execution; (vi) social inclusivity; and (vii) environmental sustainability.

The Chief Minister is confident that Sarawak's 2030 aspiration can be realised as both public and private sectors are working very hard to develop Sarawak. PCDS 2030 is a testimony of Sarawak's commitment towards prosperous, inclusive and environmentally sustainable Sarawak.

During the plan's preparation period back in 2020, STA joined two (2) of the Working Teams established to support SEAC in coming up with action plans for the identified key sectors. They were the Forestry Working Team, led by the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources as well as the Manufacturing Working Team headed by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development Sarawak.

砂拉越首席部长拿督巴丁宜阿邦佐哈里于 2021 年 7 月 22 日在砂拉越日庆典上推出 2030 年砂拉越新冠肺炎疫情后续发展策略(PCDS)。

PCDS 2030 是一项长期计划，为砂拉越在 2030 年实现成为发达州属的愿望提供方向和策略。该策略是通过相关部门、机构、学院、组织和行业之间的合作、评论和反馈而制定的。于 2020 年 5 月 6 日成立的砂拉越经济行动理事会 (SEAC) 领导 PCDS 2030 的准备工作。

Ketua Menteri Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg telah melancarkan Strategi Pembangunan Pasca COVID-19 (PCDS) 2030 Sarawak pada 22 Julai 2021 bersempena dengan sambutan Hari Sarawak.

PCDS 2030 adalah pelan jangka panjang yang menggariskan arah dan strategi bagi Sarawak untuk mencapai aspirasi negeri maju menjelang tahun 2030. Ianya dirancang melalui kerjasama, komen dan maklum balas di antara kementerian, agensi, ahli akademik, organisasi dan pemain industri. Majlis Tindakan Ekonomi Sarawak (SEAC) yang dibentuk pada 6 Mei 2020 telah menerajui penyediaan PCDS 2030.



Image courtesy of Sarawak Government

HRD Corp Meet & Greet Virtual Session

The Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp), under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resources, is responsible for driving Malaysia's talent development aspirations through the collection of levy from employers and the funding of training and development programmes for the Malaysian workforce. In recent years, HRD Corp has evolved its mission to also include driving employment and industrial training placements, career coaching and counselling and developing income generating opportunities for Malaysians from a diverse range of skillsets, backgrounds and capabilities.

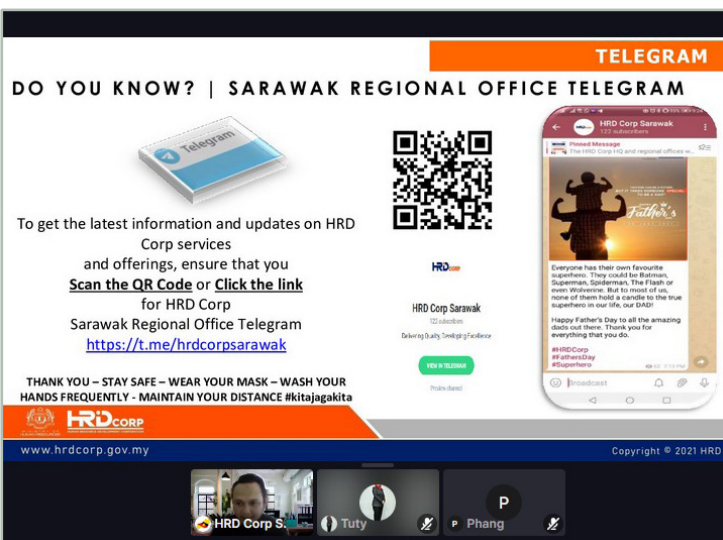
With this mission in mind, HRD Corp Sarawak organised a Meet & Greet virtual session on 15 July 2021 to highlight to Sarawakian employers some of the initiatives undertaken by HRD Corp through the two (2) economic stimulus packages, i.e. PEMERKASA+ and PEMULIH, to mitigate the adverse impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and continuous lockdowns. The Malaysian Government launched PEMERKASA+ in May 2021, while PEMULIH was unveiled in June 2021.

Among the initiatives disseminated by HRD Corp included:

- **HRD Levy Exemption.** Under PEMERKASA+, HRD levy payment for the month of June 2021 is exempted for employers registered with HRD Corp. Under PEMULIH, registered employers who are unable to operate during the movement control order period are provided 2-month levy exemption from July to August 2021. Apart from that, newly registered employers in new sectors covered by the expansion of the Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad (PSMB) Act 2001 are also given levy exemption of six (6) months from July until December 2021.
- **Vaccine Acceleration for the Workforce.** Under PEMULIH, employers registered with HRD Corp will be able to utilise their HRD levy balance to cover for their employees' COVID-19 vaccine administration costs by participating in the Public-Private Partnership COVID-19 Industry Immunisation Programme.
- **Free online training courses via e-LATiH.** Under PEMERKASA+, Malaysian workforce can register and access e-LATiH which is an online learning platform that offers unlimited free access to more than 400 skills development and educational courses customised to the needs of the Malaysian industries. To access e-LATiH, register online at website elatih.hrdcorp.gov.my

Additionally, HRD Corp Sarawak invited Mr Phang Pin, Senior Assistant Director from the Department of Labour Sarawak, to share details on the implementation of the *Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446)* in Sarawak. In his presentation, Mr Phang explained about the various guidelines in providing employees' accommodation based on the provisions of Act 446. These guidelines included (i) appointment of person-in-charge of accommodation; (ii) compliance with laws of local authorities; (iii) basic amenities which shall not be shared; (iv) availability of water and electricity supplies; (v) separate accommodation for opposite gender; (vi) maintenance of accommodation; (vii) medical assistance for employees; (viii) maximum rental/charges; (ix) preventive measures for infectious diseases; and (x) fire safety measures.

Meanwhile, on 7 July 2021, HRD Corp Sarawak also held an online briefing for newly registered employers to share similar information, which emphasised on the coverage and levy payment under the expansion of PSMB Act 2001 as well as benefits that could be enjoyed by HRD Corp members.



Stay updated on news from HRD Corp Sarawak by subscribing to its Telegram channel

砂拉越人力资源机构 (HRD Corp) 于2021年7月15日举办线上见面会, 向砂拉越雇主强调 HRD Corp 通过两个经济刺激配套, 即 PEMERKASA+ 和 PEMULIH 采取的一些举措, 以减轻新冠肺炎疫情和持续封锁造成的不利影响。

Perbadanan Pembangunan Sumber Manusia (HRD Corp) Sarawak mengadakan sesi bertemu dan berkenalan secara maya pada 15 Julai 2021 untuk mengetengahkan kepada majikan-majikan di Sarawak mengenai beberapa inisiatif yang telah dilakukan oleh HRD Corp melalui 2 pakej rangsangan ekonomi, i.e. PEMERKASA+ dan PEMULIH, untuk membantu mengurangkan kesan negatif oleh pandemik COVID-19 dan sekatan yang berterusan.

MATRADE eNational Export Day 2021

The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), which is the national trade promotion agency under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), partnered with Google Malaysia to organise a 3-day online National Export Day from 13 to 15 July 2021.

Themed “*Reignite Your Exports*”, the event aimed to address the needs and ways for Malaysian companies to manoeuvre through the challenging COVID-19 pandemic period to revitalise their export business. About 2,000 participants across the globe attended the event.

During the launching ceremony on 13 July 2021, MATRADE Chairman Tan Sri Dr Halim Mohammad, in his welcoming remarks, shared that due to the pandemic, MATRADE has changed its approach to cater for a more agile assistance as well as to enhance relevant promotion activities to ensure Malaysian companies remain competitive. MATRADE is also targeting to help small and medium enterprises exporters to gain more market exposure by encouraging them to use online platform. Tan Sri Dr Halim also announced that MATRADE is currently offering free membership registration.



Signing and exchanging of documents to become collaborative partners

Senator Datuk Lim Ban Hong, Deputy Minister of MITI, in his keynote address, applauded Malaysian exporters for their quick response in adapting to stay afloat in the current pandemic situation. He said that the national economy will gradually open in accordance with the four (4) phases of the National Recovery Plan. He further added that Malaysia's external trade is showing a positive growth trajectory with robust demand for electrical & electronics products and digitalisation of businesses.

During the 3-day event, prominent speakers and panellists from diverse background discussed on topics relating to business agility, export facilitation financing, digitalisation, sustainable development as well as global market opportunities. Building on these topics, they shared their experiences on how to adapt and thrive in light of the ongoing challenges imposed by the pandemic.

The event also saw both Google Malaysia and Bank Islam signing on to become MATRADE's collaborative partners. To help businesses capitalise on the increasing global trade opportunities, Google Malaysia will support and assist MATRADE members in exporting their products and services overseas through digitalisation, while Bank Islam will provide relevant financial assistance as well as trade advice and support. Notably, this public-private synergy will also leverage on shared assets to organise enrichment programmes in the longer term to raise the business community's competitiveness, which would include immersion sessions on digital tools, global networking and business matching initiatives.

The full recording of the eNational Export Day 2021 can be viewed on MATRADE's YouTube channel.

作为国际贸易和工业部 (MITI) 旗下的国家贸易促进机构,马来西亚对外贸易发展公司局 (MATRADE) 与马来西亚谷歌合作于2021年7月13日至15日举办为期3天的线上全国出口日。该活动题为“重燃你的出口”,主要是解决马来西亚公司在充满挑战的新冠肺炎疫情时期进行运作的需求和方式,以振兴其出口业务。

Perbadanan Pembangunan Perdagangan Luar Malaysia (MATRADE) sebuah agensi promosi perdagangan nasional di bawah Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri (MITI), telah bekerjasama dengan Google Malaysia untuk menganjurkan Hari Eksport Nasional dalam talian selama 3 hari dari 13 hingga 15 Julai 2021. Bertemakan “*Reignite Your Exports*”, acara tersebut bertujuan untuk menangani keperluan dan langkah susulan bagi syarikat-syarikat Malaysia untuk mengharungi cabaran COVID-19 dengan pengaktifan semula perniagaan eksport mereka.

How Has Supporting MSMEs to Operate Legally and Sustainably Improved Forest Governance and Livelihoods

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) play a critical role in meeting the growing demand for forest products worldwide and making vital contributions to livelihoods and national economies. It is estimated that MSMEs provide over 50% of total forest-related employment, with the figure in some countries as high as 80% to 90% of employment. Additionally, MSMEs are the main suppliers to domestic and regional markets in tropical timber-producing regions.

As demand for forest products grows and subsequently placing more pressure on national forest resources, MSMEs in the forestry sector have become central in ensuring that usage of forest resources is legal and sustainable into the future. To better understand the role of MSMEs in this context, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO-EU) Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme together with the European Forest Institute (EFI) organised a webinar on 14 July 2021 entitled *“How Has Supporting MSMEs to Operate Legally and Sustainably Improved Forest Governance and Livelihoods”*. The webinar was moderated by Ms Sheam Satkuru, Director of Operations, International Tropical Timber Organisation.

The event invited two (2) project beneficiaries, Mr Wichat Prathanrat, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Banthi Subdistrict Municipality, Thailand, and Mr Le Phi Chien, Director of Bach Viet and Dan Phuong Carpentry Joint Stock Company, Viet Nam, to share their experiences of how their community/organisation have benefitted from the support of FAO-FLEGT Programme and EFI.

This was followed by a panel discussion offering perspectives from Asia, Africa and Latin America on (i) building capacity of MSMEs to operate legally and sustainably; (ii) integrating MSMEs into legal supply chains; and (iii) helping MSMEs to overcome barriers to formalisation. Joining the panel discussion were four (4) panellists including Mr Ngo Sy Hoai, Vice President & Secretary General, Viet Nam Timber and Forest Product Association, Viet Nam; Mr Peter Zormelo, Head, Trade & Industry Development Forestry Commission, Ghana; Mr Laurent Ayemou, Independent Expert, MSMEs, and Former Project Manager, Association des Volontaires pour le Service International, Côte d'Ivoire; and Ms Alejandra Ospitia, Executive Director, Federación de Industriales de la Madera, Colombia.

In her closing remarks, Ms Valérie Merckx, Head of FLEGT and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation & Forest Degradation Unit at EFI, stated that the webinar demonstrated how MSMEs can be part of the solution to improve forest governance and meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals. MSMEs should be encouraged to adopt legal and sustainable sourcing and processing practices through specialised trainings, with legal frameworks adapted to their unique circumstances. By developing an enabling environment, support to MSMEs allows them to thrive, becoming essential for rural economies, jobs and livelihoods, as well as sustainability.

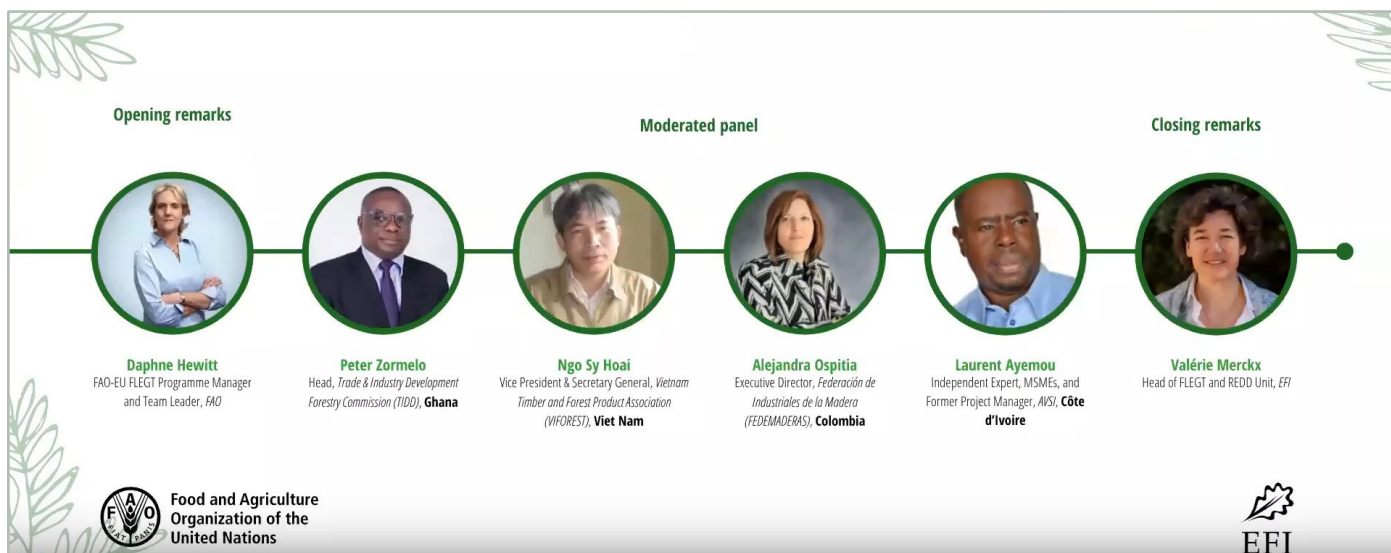
For more information on the webinar, visit www.fao.org/in-action/eu-fao-flegt-programme/news-events/news-details/en/c/1417174/

随着对林产品需求的增长以及随之而来对国家森林资源的压力越来越大，林业部的中小微型企业 (MSMEs) 已成为确保未来森林资源使用合法和可持续发展的核心。

为了更好地了解 MSMEs 在这方面的作用，联合国粮食及农业组织 (FAO-EU) 森林执法、治理和贸易 (FLEGT) 计划与欧洲森林研究所 (EFI) 于2021年7月14日举办题为“支持中小微型企业合法经营和可持续发展如何改善森林治理和生活”的线上研讨会。

Peningkatan permintaan untuk produk hutan telah memberi tekanan besar ke atas sumber hutan nasional, perusahaan mikro, kecil dan sederhana (MSMEs) di sektor perhutanan dalam memastikan penggunaan sumber-sumber hutan adalah sah dan berkekalan di masa depan.

Untuk lebih memahami peranan MSMEs dalam konteks ini, Program Penguatkuasaan, Tadbir Urus dan Perdagangan (FLEGT) Organisasi Makanan dan Pertanian Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (FAO-EU) bersama-sama dengan Institut Hutan Eropah (EFI) telah mengadakan webinar pada 14 Julai 2021 bertajuk *“Bagaimana Mendukung MSMEs untuk Beroperasi secara Sah dan Meningkatkan Tadbir Urus Hutan Mampu dan Sumber Pencarian”*.



Webinar demonstrated how MSMEs can be part of the solution to improve forest governance and meet UN Sustainable Development Goals

Webinar on FSC Conversion Remedy Procedure

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Policy on Conversion provides FSC's general position and fundamental principles on conversion of natural forests and High Conservation Value areas to other land uses. The Policy also seeks to provide a pathway for forest areas converted after November 1994 and before the effective date of the Policy, to associate with FSC. However, remedy is required as a condition of potential forest management certification and association with FSC.

To this end, FSC Conversion Remedy Procedure was developed as a mechanism to translate the Policy into operational practices and three (3) webinars were conducted on 24 June 2021, 1 July 2021 and 28 July 2021 respectively to present the second draft of the FSC Conversion Remedy Procedure.

The series of webinars provided stakeholders with opportunity to understand the development process of and the proposals included in the draft document. Participants were also able to ask questions to guide their participation in the ongoing public consultation until 14 August 2021.

The FSC Conversion Remedy Procedure contains the requirements and guidance for the conversion including (i) guidance to apply the cut-off rule that prohibits an organisation from being eligible to apply for certification against FSC standards or association with FSC due to conversion; (ii) requirements to mitigate the effects of past conversion by restoring and/or conserving environmental values, and by restituting socio-economic values; and (iii) information on the eligibility criteria to enter the FSC system.

With the establishment of the Policy, other FSC policies and standards relevant to conversion will be amended and aligned with the Policy, including (i) FSC-STD-01-001 *FSC Principles and Criteria of Forest Stewardship* and the associated national or regional Forest Stewardship Standards; (ii) FSC-POL-01-004 *Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC*; (iii) FSC-STD-30-010 *Forest management requirements for FSC Controlled Wood certification*; and (iv) FSC-STD-40-005 *Requirements for sourcing FSC Controlled Wood*.

森林管理委员会(FSC)所制定的转化补救程序, 是项机制以翻译FSC转化政策为操作实践。为此, 分别于2021年6月24日、2021年7月1日和2021年7月28日召开3次线上研讨会以商讨FSC转化补救程序第二版草案。这系列的线上研讨会为利益相关者提供了解文件草案的制定过程和提案的机会。参与者也能够提出问题以指导他们参与正在进行的公众咨询, 直至2021年8月14日。

Prosedur Pemulihan Penukaran FSC telah dibangunkan sebagai satu mekanisme untuk menterjemahkan Dasar Penukaran Majlis Pengawasan Hutan (FSC) ke dalam amalan operasi dan 3 webinar telah diadakan masing-masing pada 24 Jun 2021, 1 Julai 2021 dan 28 Julai 2021 bagi membentangkan draf kedua Prosedur Pemulihan Penukaran FSC. Siri webinar ini memberi peluang kepada pihak berkepentingan untuk memahami proses pembangunan prosedur dan cadangan yang dikemukakan dalam draf dokumen. Peserta juga dapat mengemukakan soalan untuk membimbing penyertaan mereka dalam perundingan awam yang berterusan sehingga 14 Ogos 2021.

International Webinar on Forest Operations and Climate Change: The RIL-C Approach

The Faculty of Forestry and Environment of Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) University in collaboration with Jurnal Manajemen Hutan Tropika (JMHT), International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) had jointly organised an international webinar on “Forest Operations and Climate Change: The Reduced Impact Logging for Climate (RIL-C) Approach” via video conferencing on 21 July 2021. Approximately 500 participants consisting academia, researchers, government officers, practitioners, entrepreneurs, non-government organisations, journalists and students, from thirty (30) countries had registered for the webinar.

In the welcoming remarks, both Dr Ir Naresworo Nugroho, Dean of Faculty of Forestry and Environment, IPB University and Professor Dr Woodam Chung, Coordinator of IUFRO Division 3, expressed their gratitude to the organisers, speakers and participants for attending the webinar. Dr Ir Naresworo shared that the objectives of the webinar were to provide an avenue for academia, practitioners and authorities to discuss the RIL-C approach in forest harvesting as well as to identify the potential of RIL-C in reducing carbon emission.

The webinar was moderated by Professor Gs Dr Mohd Hasmadi Ismail, Faculty of Forestry and Environment, UPM, and featured three (3) paper presentations as listed below:

- **Paper 1: The Role of RIL-C Implementation in REDD+ Programs** by Professor Dr Elias of Department of Forest Management, Faculty of Forestry and Environment, IPB University

The paper outlined the RIL-C approach and its ability to reduce carbon emission for forest operation in the tropics. The RIL-C which only extracts moderate production volume per hectare will further minimise the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission compared to common RIL and conventional logging. The study has shown that RIL-C is able to (i) reduce 51% of the CO₂ emission caused by conventional logging and (ii) maintain 77% of the forest carbon stock post logging. The study also concluded that CO₂ absorption rate and

carbon stock growth rate were higher in an RIL-C area compared to conventional logging area.

- **Paper 2: RIL and RIL-C Approaches for Climate Change Solution and Sustainable Forest Management in Indonesia** by Dr Iman Santoso, Vice Chairman of the Association for Indonesian Forest Cessionaires

The paper shared the experiences and benefits of RIL and RIL-C implementation in Indonesia, the legal basis for RIL and RIL-C implementation and potential carbon emission reduction from RIL-C. The challenges for RIL-C implementation from different aspects such as financial and scientific support, capacity building, incentives, as well as carbon economy policy were also highlighted. The Indonesia Government has enforced policy and regulations on RIL and RIL-C implementation in the country, and active Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) certified forest concessions in Indonesia are mandated to implement RIL-C to support the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target.

- **Paper 3: Reducing Carbon Emissions through Improved Forest Management** by Dr Ismail Parlan, Director General of Forest Research Institute Malaysia

The presenter shared a study on reducing forest degradation and emissions through SFM in Peninsular Malaysia. In that study, the Forest Department Peninsular Malaysia had introduced several methods to improve forest management and reduce climate change such as utilisation of long haulage winching system for log extraction, establishment of riverine buffer, protection of fruit trees, implementation of maximum allowable cut and forest rehabilitation. An estimated 74.1 tonnes carbon per hectare were gained following the implementation of improved forest management.

During the webinar, there were discussions on the mechanism to assess and verify the amount of carbon emission reduced, timber trade business to carbon trade, and carbon as by-product of RIL.

印尼茂物农业研究所 (IPB) 大学林业与环境科系与 Jurnal Manajemen Hutan Tropika (JMHT)、国际林业研究组织联盟 (IUFRO) 和马来西亚博特拉大学 (UPM) 合作, 于2021年7月21日共同举办一场标题为“森林操作和气候变化: 为气候减少伐木影响(RIL-C)方法”的国际线上研讨会。该研讨会的目的是提供学术界、从业人士和有关当局相关RIL-C方法砍伐森林以及 RIL-C 减少碳排放潜能的探讨途径。

Fakulti Perhutanan dan Alam Sekitar, Universiti Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) dengan kerjasama Jurnal Manajemen Hutan Tropika (JMHT), Kesatuan Antarabangsa Pertubuhan Penyelidikan Perhutanan (IUFRO) dan Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) telah menganjurkan webinar antarabangsa mengenai “Operasi Hutan dan Perubahan Iklim: Pendekatan Pembalakan Berimpak Rendah untuk Iklim (RIL-C)” melalui persidangan video pada 21 Julai 2021. Objektif webinar adalah untuk menyediakan ruang bagi para akademik, pengamal dan pihak berkuasa untuk membincangkan mengenai pendekatan RIL-C dalam penuaian hutan serta mengenalpasti potensi RIL-C dalam pengurangan pelepasan karbon.

Webinar on Mass Flowering of the Malaysian Rainforest

Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources and The Habitat Foundation jointly organised a Webinar on Mass Flowering of the Malaysian Rainforest on 30 July 2021 via online platform. The webinar themed “*Capitalising on The Event for Mass Production of Planting Materials*” is the second session of the Webinar Series under the Greening Malaysia: 100 Million Trees Campaign, said the Director General of FRIM, Dr Ismail Parlan who was also the moderator of the webinar. In his welcoming remarks, Dr Ismail welcomed both local and international participants to the webinar and expressed his gratitude to the speakers for their knowledge sharing.

A total of six (6) papers were presented during the webinar as listed below:

- **Paper 1: Pattern of Flowering in Peninsular Malaysia's Forest: Trend Over a 30-year Period** by Ms Nashatul Zaimah Noor Azman, Head of Seed Technology Laboratory, FRIM

The paper provided general information of the forest flowering pattern in Peninsular Malaysia, especially for dipterocarp species in the last 30-year where six (6) mass flowering events were recorded in 1993, 1998, 2002, 2007, 2014 and 2021 respectively. The triggering factors and the mechanism that precipitates mass flowering were also shared. Issues and challenges related to reforestation and conservation of dipterocarp resources were also highlighted.

- **Paper 2: Seeds Collection for Ecosystem Restoration** by Mr Mohd Rizal Sabran, Head of Section, Planting Material Technology, Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM)

The paper introduced the Electronic Forest Genetic Resources Information System (e-FORGRIS), a centralised information management system related to forest tree seeds and plant acquisition implemented by FDPM. An overview of the FDPM's mass flowering monitoring and seeds collection activities were also included in the presentation.

- **Paper 3: General Flowering of Tropical Forest and Its Implication to Forestry in Sabah** by Dr Reuben Nilus, Head of Forest Ecosystem Management Research Programme, Forest Research Centre, Sabah Forestry Department (SFD)

The speaker briefed on the historical events of mass flowering and mast fruiting in Sabah as well as the

various protection, conservation and restoration programme conducted. In the last century, eight (8) general flowering and mast fruiting were recorded by SFD. A Rainforest Discovery Centre located at Sandakan, Sabah, was also established to raise public awareness on, amongst others, the various wonderful wild fruits and the role it plays in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

- **Paper 4: Managing Source of Planting Materials in Governing Sarawak's Greening Programme** by Ms Zarina Hj Shebli, Assistant Director, Restoration and Industrial Forest Division, Forest Department Sarawak

The paper provided an overview of the flowering and fruiting phenology of indigenous tree species in Sarawak as well as the constraints and challenges in collecting and storing seeds. Management of planting materials which involved the local community in seeds and wildlings collection as well as procurement was also elaborated.

- **Paper 5: Community-Powered Conservation: A Voluntary Dipterocarp Seed Project** by Ms Afzaa Abdul Aziz, Project Manager for Elmina Rainforest Knowledge Centre (ERKC), Tropical Rainforest Conservation and Research Centre (TRCRC)

The speaker introduced the voluntary dipterocarp seed collection project of TRCRC and the key focus of ERKC established in partnership with Sime Darby Property. The speaker also invited the participant to join their webinar on community-powered conservation case studies which will be held on 6 August 2021.

- **Paper 6: Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)'s Role Towards Greening Programme through Communication Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)** by Professor Dr Ahmad Ismail, President, Malaysian Nature Society

The speaker explained how NGO participate in biodiversity protection, management and conservation which includes research for species conservation and habitat restoration, education for knowledge creation and understanding, raising public awareness and supporting government policies on restoration.

The webinar ended with a question and answer session. According to FRIM, the video recording of the event will be shared in Greening Malaysia Website www.100jutapokok.gov.my

马来西亚森林研究所 (FRIM) 与能源和天然资源部以及栖息地基金会于 2021 年 7 月 30 日通过在线平台联合举办了有关马来西亚热带雨林大规模开花的线上研讨会。

Institut Penyelidikan Perhutanan Malaysia (FRIM) dengan kerjasama Kementerian Tenaga dan Sumber Asli dan Yayasan Habitat telah menganjurkan webinar mengenai Pembungaan Besar-besaran Hutan Tropika Malaysia pada 30 Julai 2021 melalui platform dalam talian.

Online Refresher/Training Course
JULY 2021

UNIT 7108: CONDUCTING ON-JOB TRAINING FOR ADULTS

Targeting existing (Refresher Course) or potential (Training Course) in-house trainers who will be training their operators on forestry activities such as tree felling, log extraction, log loading, etc.



Tree Felling - Chainsaw in Forest Plantation

Unit 7108 is set up for the capacity building of the forestry workforce in terms of upskilling and expanding trained workmen capabilities to be in-house trainers. The course covers adult learning, communication skill, forestry related matter and training documentation process and requirements.

Refresher Course : 9 July 2021
STAT Trainer/Assessor : Mr Ginda Uli, Mr Sumbang Rani and Mr Sang Sanjan
Participants : Raplex Sdn Bhd

Training Course : 13 and 14 July 2021
STAT Trainer/Assessor : Mr Ngumbang Bayang, Mr Kutok Bayang and Mr Denis Aman
Participants : Solid Hartabina Sdn Bhd



Trainers in action



Snapshot of participants and trainers

STA member companies who wish to nominate their in-house trainers for the refresher course or trained workmen (Malaysian only) to undergo the training course, please do submit names to STAT for arrangement.

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.

Wishing all Malaysians

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

AUGUST 31

*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 Kebangsaan 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
所有会员和读者国庆日愉快

