

# STA REVIEW

Monthly Magazine of Sarawak Timber Association



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SST Briefing  
for STA Members

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International Day of  
Forests 2025

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Seminar on the Progress of Aggressive Industrial Forest  
Plantation Research & Development Programme



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## STA REVIEW

is a monthly magazine published by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) for its members.



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## SST Briefing for STA Members

In response to recent legislative changes impacting the timber and related industries, STA, in collaboration with the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) Sarawak, successfully organised a one-day briefing on the Sales and Services Tax (SST) on 3 July 2025 at Wisma STA, Kuching.

The event drew strong participation from STA members, particularly those from timber-related sectors who sought clarification on the revised sales tax rates and the expanded scope of service tax, which came into effect on 1 July 2025.

The briefing aimed to provide clear and practical guidance on the updated SST framework, which includes significant changes affecting timber products, palm oil-related products, and other goods. Many timber products that were previously exempt are now subject to sales tax at either 5% or 10%, depending on product classification. These updates have generated considerable concern and interest from industry players, especially regarding compliance requirements.

The session commenced with welcoming remarks by Mr Philip Choo, STA Honorary Treasurer, who thanked RMCD for conducting the timely and important briefing. He highlighted the significant implications of the new SST legislations, particularly the imposition of sales tax on previously exempt timber products and the expanded scope of service tax, which now affects sectors such as construction as well as rental and leasing. He encouraged members to actively engage during the session to gain clarity and better prepare for compliance.

Throughout the day, representatives from RMCD, Mdm Firna Erkafitrie binti Yusuf and Mr Mohd Ramdhan bin Musa provided detailed presentations and addressed



Mr Mohd Ramdhan bin Musa (left) and Mdm Firna Erkafitrie binti Yusuf (centre) were the speakers at the briefing

the questions and concerns raised by STA members. They stressed the importance of ascertaining the correct product tariff codes before determining the applicable sales tax rates. Members were advised that they can seek assistance from the Technical Division of the RMCD to determine the correct tariff codes.

Members expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage directly with RMCD officers and to gain a better understanding of their compliance obligations under the revised SST framework.

STA, dengan kerjasama Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia (JKDM) Sarawak telah menganjurkan taklimat sehari mengenai Cukai Jualan dan Perkhidmatan (SST) pada 3 Julai 2025 di Wisma STA, Kuching. Ahli-ahli STA, khususnya daripada sektor perkayuan telah mengambil bahagian secara aktif bagi mendapatkan penjelasan mengenai kadar cukai jualan yang disemak semula dan skop cukai perkhidmatan yang diperluaskan, yang telah berkuat kuasa pada 1 Julai 2025.

本会与马来西亚皇家关税局(RMCD)砂拉越分局于2025年7月3日, 在古晋STA大厦联合成功举办为期一天的销售与服务税(SST)简报会。本会会员, 尤其是来自木材相关领域的业者, 积极参与并就2025年7月1日正式生效的销售税率调整及服务税适用范围扩大的相关事项, 寻求进一步的澄清与指导。



Mr Philip Choo, STA Honorary Treasurer during his welcoming remarks



Participants gathered for a group photo before the start of the briefing



## SST Expanded Scope: The Much-Anticipated Surprise That Has Everyone Talking

With the current MADANI Government focused on fiscal health, as exemplified by the special measures made on 23 July 2025, it is clear that the government is pursuing a dual strategy of broadening its tax base while simultaneously attempting to cushion the immediate economic impact on the populace.

On 9 June 2025, the Malaysian government announced a significant expansion of the Sales and Service Tax (SST), effective 1 July 2025, a move positioned by the administration as essential for national fiscal stability. The government has defended the expansion as a necessary measure to diversify revenue beyond oil and gas and address national debt, framing it as a crucial step to strengthen the country's financial position. However, this expansion, which coincided with the Phase 3 e-invoice rollout, has left businesses scrambling to adapt to new compliance requirements on a tight deadline.

While consumers may receive temporary relief, businesses face a permanent increase in complexity and cost. The cascading tax effect inherent in the SST system remains, where taxes accumulate through the supply chain, ultimately raising the cost of doing business.

For industries like timber, the reclassification of previously exempt goods such as sawntimber and plywood into the 5% or 10% sales tax bracket presents a significant challenge. This situation is further complicated by the intricate sales tax exemption mechanisms for raw materials, which create compliance burdens for manufacturers producing both taxable and non-taxable goods. These industry-specific issues highlight a disconnect between broad fiscal policies and the granular realities of business operations.

The expanded scope of sales tax has inadvertently resulted in increased complexity and confusion regarding compliance matters. Under the current sales tax mechanism, exemption facilities are available for components and input raw materials used in the manufacturing of both taxable and exempted goods, subject to the fulfilment of pre-requisite conditions imposed by the Government. This creates significant challenges for businesses involved in the production of both taxable and non-taxable products as it complicates the segregation and compliance process. Therefore, further engagement with the relevant authorities and consultation with professional tax advisers is urgently needed to clarify these issues and avoid potential penalties arising from incomplete understanding or misinterpretation of the rules.

Policymakers should consider reintroducing Goods and Services Tax (GST) with improved execution to balance revenue needs with ease of doing business and public welfare. However, the success of any tax reform—be it SST or a future GST 2.0—hinges on public trust. Any effort to strengthen the country's fiscal position must be built on a foundation of transparency and accountability.

Without addressing crucial points such as leakages and ensuring the responsible use of public funds, even well-designed tax measures will struggle to gain the necessary public and business support. Therefore, rather than focusing solely on revenue generation, the government should

prioritise holistic fiscal reform that fosters confidence and ensures that the tax burden is managed with integrity for the benefit of the entire nation.

Malaysia first introduced the GST, a multi-stage, applied at each stage of supply chain at 6% effective 1 April 2015 to replace its SST regimes (SST 1.0). This was an effort by the government to modernise its taxation system aiming to diversify revenue sources beyond oil and gas, by bringing in a broad-base consumption tax – GST.

However, when there was a change of government on 9 May 2018, the new government abolished the GST 1.0 and reverted to previous SST, a single-stage tax system, applied only at the point of manufacturing or import and service provision with certain modification in scope (SST 2.0) effective 1 September 2018.

### A comparison of the two tax systems: Tax Collection Efficiency of GST vs SST

#### GST

GST is a broad-based, multi-stage consumption tax where businesses act as collectors, remitting only the net tax (output tax minus input tax) to the government. Businesses do not bear any additional tax or suffer any embedded tax cost, except the administration of compliance matter. This system ensures that the final tax burden falls on the end consumer, making it transparent and efficient.

For GST compliance requirements, businesses' GST-compliant accounting software automates calculation, reducing errors and evasion.

GST covers nearly all goods and services, increasing government revenue without excessively burdening any single sector. Particularly, certain basic groceries and essential service may be zero rated or exempt to alleviate price increase to the low income group.

#### SST

In contrast, SST is a narrow-based single stage tax imposed at manufacturing/import (Sales Tax) and selected services (Service Tax).

Cascading and embedded tax effect, since businesses cannot claim input tax credits, taxes accumulate through the supply chain. Thus it increases cost of doing business. Its coverage is relatively limited, hence reducing revenue potential and creating distortions in the market. The many different exemption mechanisms and facilities, introduced to minimise tax impact to certain categories of people and market complicate tax compliance, thus increase audit risks and penalties.

*Continued on page 6*

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## SST Expansion: Impact on Businesses and Consumers

Businesses face higher cost which will be passed on to business supply chain and eventually the end consumers. Though few strategies are put in place to reduce cost impact to the SMEs, however they are likely challenged with higher cost of purchase of goods and services.

## A re-think of re-introduction of GST (GST 2.0)?

Businesses generally welcome a GST regime compare to SST regime, especially the Expansion of SST effective 1 July 2025.

Most businesses already have GST-ready accounting systems and their accounting personnel are also familiar with compliance procedures in the previous implementation from April 2015 to August 2018, hence a re-introduction of GST may not require a long preparation of 18 months like when it was introduced in 2015. A short 6 months period of preparation suffice for its smooth re-implementation. As previously experienced, GST brings in higher and stable revenue for the government which are crucial for economic stability and development funding.

To mitigate price increase which may be one-off and inflation, it is generally felt that it can be introduced at a low rate, say 3%, instead of 6%. Targeted subsidies to B40 households such as direct cash aid can be dispatched to offset increase price effects. Basic groceries and essential services such as education and healthcare service may be zero rated or exempted.

## Conclusion: SST Expansion as a stopgap, GST as the Long –Term Solution

While the SST expansion aims to boost government revenue, its structural flaws—cascading taxes, narrow coverage, and compliance burdens—make it inferior to GST. The reintroduction of GST, with better public engagement, clear government support implementation, and safeguards for low-income groups, would provide a more efficient, transparent and sustainable tax system.

Malaysia's fiscal health requires a stable revenue stream, and GST—despite past controversies (such as slow refund)—remains the best option for long-term economic resilience. Policymakers should consider reintroducing GST with improved execution to balance revenue needs with ease of doing business and public welfare.

Any effort to strengthen the country's fiscal position, including through the SST, must be built on transparency and accountability. Without addressing crucial points such as leakages and weak governance, even the most well-designed tax measures will struggle to achieve their goals. Rather than simply introducing new taxes or expanding the scope of the SST, the focus should be on restoring public trust and ensuring the responsible use of public funds. A fair and effective tax system can only succeed when revenue is managed holistically and with integrity.

ANNIE TING  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
SARAWAK TIMBER ASSOCIATION  
28 July 2025

## WWF-Malaysia Pays Courtesy Visit to STA

WWF-Malaysia paid a courtesy visit to STA at Wisma STA on 10 July 2025. The delegation, led by Ms Cynthia Chin, Head of Conservation, was received by Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA. The visit aimed to enhance dialogue between the STA and WWF-Malaysia, with a focus on conservation, community engagement, and exploring potential areas for collaboration.



Ms Cynthia Chin, Head of Conservation at WWF-Malaysia (4<sup>th</sup> from right) presenting a memento to Ms Annie Ting CEO of STA (4<sup>th</sup> from left). Also pictured are members of the WWF-Malaysia delegation and STA Secretariat

During the meeting, WWF-Malaysia presented an overview of its conservation programme and key achievements over the past year. The presentation also touched on future initiatives and identified areas where WWF and STA could work together, especially in raising environmental awareness and capacity building. Both parties expressed interest in exploring joint training sessions that would benefit stakeholders across the forestry sectors.

In the discussion, both STA and WWF-Malaysia acknowledged the importance of continuous and transparent engagement with local communities. Local communities value clear and timely benefits from conservation initiatives and that consistent communication help build trust and long-term support.

WWF-Malaysia telah mengadakan kunjungan hormat ke STA pada 10 Julai 2025 bagi berkongsi perkembangan terkini mengenai program pemuliharaannya serta meneroka peluang kerjasama pada masa hadapan. WWF telah membentangkan pencapaian dan inisiatif yang dirancang dan kedua-dua pihak menyatakan hasrat untuk mengadakan latihan bersama. WWF turut menekankan kepentingan komunikasi yang jelas dan konsisten dengan komuniti bagi membina kepercayaan dan memastikan sokongan berterusan terhadap usaha pemuliharaan.

世界自然基金会(WWF)马来西亚分会于2025年7月10日礼节性拜访本会，以分享其保护计划的最新进展并探讨未来的合作机会。WWF汇报其取得的成果及即将开展的项目，双方均表示有意在培训方面展开合作。WWF也强调与社区保持清晰、一致沟通的重要性，以建立互信并确保对保育工作的持续支持。

## STA Certification Committee Meeting

The STA Certification Committee convened a meeting on 8 July 2025, chaired by Mr Nelson Bijack at Wisma STA. Attended by seven (7) Committee members, the meeting discussed and went through the following documents:

- MTCS ST 1002:2021 Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management
- PEFC ST 1003:2024 Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements

Members reviewed the documents in detail and provided comments, which were subsequently submitted to the Malaysian Timber Certification Council for consideration. The meeting also discussed the Biodiversity Observation for Land and Ecosystem Health (BOLEH) follow-up workshop and other related forestry matters.



Mr Nelson Bijack (centre) chairing the Certification Committee meeting

Jawatankuasa Pensijilan STA yang bermesyuarat pada 8 Julai 2025 di Wisma STA dipengerusikan oleh Encik Nelson Bijack dan dihadiri oleh 7 ahli. Mesyuarat membincangkan MTCS ST 1002:2021 dan PEFC ST 1003:2024 serta menyemak dan membincangkan bengkel susulan Pemerhatian Biodiversiti untuk Kesihatan Tanah dan Ekosistem (BOLEH) dan perkara-perkara berkaitan perhutanan.

本会认证委员会于2025年7月8日在STA大厦召开会议，由纳尔逊比杰克先生主持，并有七名委员出席。会议重点讨论马来西亚木材认证计划标准(MTCS ST 1002:2021)及森林认证认可计划标准(PEFC ST 1003:2024)，并审议和讨论有关土地与生态系统健康的生物多样性观测(BOLEH)后续工作坊及相关林业事宜。



# STA Panel Products Committee Meeting No. 1/2025

STA Panel Products Committee Chairman, Datuk James Ling chaired the virtual STA Panel Products Committee Meeting No 1/2025 on 4 July 2025. The meeting noted a significant drop in Sarawak’s log production this year, with declines of 11.1% from natural forests and 52.2% from industrial forest plantations compared to the same period last year. Meanwhile, log imports surged by 109.8%.

The meeting also discussed preparation works of the Tri-Nations Meeting which will be held in Imperial Hotel Miri on 18 September 2025 and accepted Mr Su Ming Tung of Ta Ann Plywood Sdn Bhd, as new member of the STA Panel Products Committee, replacing Mr Paul Wong.

The meeting recognised the importance of the Sarawak Government promoting greater awareness of planted timber as a sustainable resource for plywood production. It also highlighted the need to prioritise the cultivation of species suited for high-quality timber, rather than short-rotation varieties primarily used for wood chips. Rising operational costs, particularly those related to taxes and fees on foreign labour, are placing significant pressure on plywood manufacturers. In response, the meeting concluded that it is both timely and necessary for the committee to engage with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development to gain clearer insight into the Government’s strategic direction for the forestry and downstream timber sectors.



Jawatankuasa Panel Produk STA yang bermesyuarat pada 4 Julai 2025 mengambil maklum mengenai penurunan mendadak dalam pengeluaran kayu balak serta lonjakan dalam import. Pengerusi Datuk James Ling menekankan keperluan untuk mempromosikan penggunaan kayu tanaman bagi pengeluaran papan lapis dan persediaan untuk Mesyuarat Tiga Negara turut dibincangkan. Jawatankuasa juga mencadangkan sesi dialog bersama Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar bagi membincangkan peningkatan kos industri.

本会人造板委员会于2025年7月4日召开会议，会上指出原木产量大幅下滑，而进口量则显著上升。主席拿督林如健强调，应积极推广使用人工林木材生产胶合板，并讨论三国会议的筹备事宜。委员会同时建议与天然资源与城市发展部(MUDeNR)展开对话，以共同探讨日益上升的工业营运成本。

# International Day of Forests 2025

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) celebrated the State-level International Day of Forests 2025 on 12 July 2025 at the Forest Research Centre (FRC), Kuching. The event was officiated by the Premier of Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg. This year’s theme, “Forests and Foods,” highlighted the crucial role forests play in ensuring food security, safeguarding biodiversity, and supporting local livelihoods. Forests provide vital ecosystem services such as clean air and water, climate regulation, soil fertility, and pollination, which are essential for environmental sustainability and community well-being.

The celebration brought together representatives from government and private agencies, non-governmental organisations, universities, and local communities. A major highlight of the event was the planting of the 50 millionth tree by the Premier of Sarawak, surpassing the state’s original five-year target of 35 million under the National Greening Malaysia Campaign. Sarawak currently leads all Malaysian states in tree-planting efforts, reflecting its leadership in forest restoration and climate action.



The Premier planted and watered the 50 millionth tree, marking the state’s achievement beyond its five-year greening target

The Premier also officiated the Forest Resources One Stop Visual Gallery, a new facility developed under the Heart

of Borneo Phase III project, funded through the 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan. The gallery serves as an interactive hub for research, learning, and the promotion of forest-based knowledge and ecotourism.

The celebration also featured an extensive exhibition showcasing cutting-edge forestry technologies, traditional forest products, and non-timber forest produce by agencies, research institutions, and local communities. STA shared a booth with the FDS, showcasing forest traceability using blockchain technology.

In preparation for the main event, a series of sports activities were organised to foster team spirit and strengthen stakeholder engagement. These activities included badminton, bowling, futsal, golf, and blowpipe competitions. On 14 June 2025, STA and FDS co-organised a golf tournament at Kelab Golf Sarawak, where the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) team clinched the Challenge Trophy.

STA also participated in the badminton tournament hosted by Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd in Sibu from 14 to 15 June 2025, finishing as second runner-up. In the bowling competition organised by STIDC, STA’s CEO, Ms Annie Ting took first place in the VIP category.

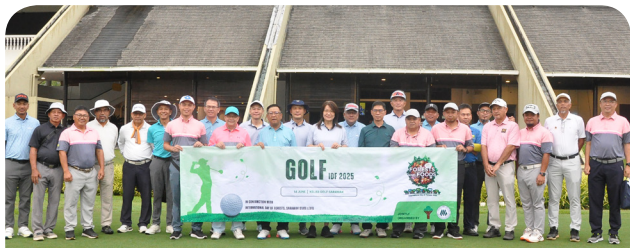


The STA Secretariat and its members posed for a group photo during the International Day of Forests 2025

Jabatan Hutan Sarawak telah menganjurkan Sambutan Hari Hutan Antarabangsa Peringkat Negeri 2025 pada 12 Julai 2025 di Kuching bertemakan “Hutan dan Makanan.” Premier Sarawak telah menanam pokok yang ke-50 juta, sekali gus melepasi sasaran penghijauan negeri. Antara acara utama termasuklah pelancaran galeri hutan, pameran dan aktiviti sukan. STA turut mengambil bahagian secara aktif seperti penganjuran bersama kejohanan golf serta memenangi acara boling dan badminton.

砂森林局(FDS)于2025年7月12日在古晋举办州级国际森林日庆典，主题为“森林与食物”。砂拉越总理亲自种下第5,000万棵树，标志着州属绿化目标的超额完成。庆典亮点包括森林画廊的启用、展览及各类体育活动。本会积极参与其盛会，不仅协办高尔夫球赛，亦在保龄球和羽毛球项目中荣获佳绩。

“ Overview of the sports activities conducted in conjunction with the State-level International Day of Forests 2025 “





## Courtesy Visit by H.E. Anne Vasara, the Ambassador of Finland to Malaysia



Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA (4<sup>th</sup> from right), presents a memento to H.E. Anne Vasara, Ambassador of Finland (4<sup>th</sup> from left), together with STA Council members Mr Stephen Hii (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) and Mr Joseph Lau (2<sup>nd</sup> from right)

A courtesy visit by Her Excellency Anne Vasara, the Ambassador of Finland to Malaysia, took place on 16 July 2025 at Wisma STA. The Ambassador was warmly received by Mr Joseph Lau and Mr Stephen Hii, both members of the STA Council, as well as Ms Annie Ting, the Chief Executive Officer of STA.

During the visit, Ms Ting introduced STA and provided an in-depth briefing on the Association's functions and key contributions, including support in areas like timber legality, sustainable forest management, research

collaborations, and trade promotions. She also shared insights on the Sarawak Government's policies for the forestry and timber sector, emphasising the role of the industry in societal progress. Additionally, Ms Ting highlighted the Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System and provided an update on its digitalisation progress within the sector.

The discussions also covered potential areas of collaboration between Finland and Sarawak, particularly in terms of advancing technology within the timber industry. Ms Ting emphasised the need for technological re-investment to support the transformation of the sector, aligning with Sarawak's reformation plan that focuses on shifting resources from natural forests to forest plantations. This transition highlights the need for modern technologies to help manage and utilise planted timber effectively.

Further discussions also covered possible partnerships in training and research collaborations, which would support both the forestry and timber industry in Sarawak. Both parties expressed interest in fostering deeper ties and exploring innovative solutions to drive the future growth and development of Sarawak's timber industry.

*Puan Yang Terutama Anne Vasara, Duta Besar Finland ke Malaysia telah mengadakan kunjungan hormat ke Wisma STA pada 16 Julai 2025 di mana beliau diberi taklimat mengenai peranan dan sumbangan yang dimainkan oleh STA dalam menyokong sektor perikanan. Perbincangan tertumpu kepada potensi kerjasama dalam bidang teknologi, latihan dan penyelidikan bagi menyokong transformasi industri, khususnya dalam pengurusan ladang hutan dan kemajuan sektor perikanan Sarawak yang mampan.*

芬兰驻马来西亚大使安妮瓦萨拉阁下于2025年7月16日礼节性拜访本会，并听取本会在支持木材工业方面的角色与贡献简报。双方就技术、培训及研究领域的潜在合作进行讨论，以支持工业转型，特别是在人工林管理和推动砂拉越木材工业可持续发展方面。

## The Workshop on Strategic Direction and Restructuring of National Standard Committee on Timber, Timber Products and Timber Structure (NSC 22)

As a member of the National Standard Committee on Timber, Timber Products and Timber Structure (NSC 22), STA participated in a workshop held on 29 July 2025 at Hotel Ibis Styles Sepang to discuss the strategic direction and restructuring of NSC 22.

The workshop was chaired by Ts. Farydatul Nazly Mohd Zin, Deputy Chairman of NSC 22 and Deputy Director General (Development and Commercial) of the Malaysian Timber Industry Board. In her remarks, she emphasised the importance of active and meaningful participation from all members, highlighting that regular engagement and the sharing of expertise are essential in shaping robust and forward-looking Malaysian Standards (MS) for timber and related sectors.

Members were invited to provide feedback on current priorities and to propose areas requiring further standardisation or enhancement. This consultative and inclusive approach is intended to cultivate a dynamic standards development ecosystem that supports innovation, sustainability, and global competitiveness for Malaysia's timber industry.

The Department of Standards Malaysia, which serves as the NSC 22 secretariat, reported that as of 28 July 2025, a total of 95 MS had been developed under NSC 22. These include thirty (30) under Technical Committee (TC) 1 – Timber; nineteen (19) under TC 2 – Timber Structures; thirty nine (39) under TC 3 – Wood-based Panels and seven (7) under TC 4 – Bamboo and Rattan.

Key matters discussed during the meeting included the ISO voting mechanism, the existing scopes of NCS 22 and its technical committees, as well as the introduction of TC 5 – Sustainable Timber & Timber-based Products. TC 5, which was carved out from TC 1, will now independently address sustainability-focused areas within the timber sector.

The meeting concluded with agreement to expand NCS 22 membership. The Malaysian Timber Certification Council and the Sabah Forestry Department will be invited to join the Committee and STA's participation will also be broadened to include TC 3 and TC 5.



Group photo taken after the workshop

*STA telah menghadiri bengkel pada 29 Julai 2025 di Hotel Ibis Styles Sepang untuk membincangkan hala tuju strategik dan penstrukturan semula Jawatankuasa Standard Nasional mengenai Kayu, Produk Kayu dan Struktur Kayu (NSC 22). Hasil utama termasuk pembentukan TC 5 mengenai Kayu & Produk Berasaskan Kayu Lestari, memperluaskan keahlian dan menyeru penyertaan aktif untuk mengukuhkan Piawaian Malaysia untuk kayu, produk kayu dan struktur kayu.*

本会出席于2025年7月29日假雪邦宜必思尚品酒店举行的工作坊，讨论国家木材、木制品和木结构标准委员会(NSC 22)的重组及其策略方向。主要成果包括成立关于可持续木材与木材基产品的第五个技术委员会(TC 5)、扩大会员范围并呼吁积极参与，以强化马来西亚木材、木制品和木结构的标准。



# NREB's Stakeholder Engagement Programme Series 1/2025

The Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) held its first Stakeholder Engagement Programme for 2025 on 16 July 2025 at Pullman Hotel, Miri drawing over 200 participants including State agencies, environmental consultants, project proponents and STA. Themed “*Empowering Development through Environmental Awareness and Compliance in Sarawak*”, the event aimed to enhance environmental understanding, promote responsible development and strengthen cooperation between regulators and industry players.



Datu Jack anak Liam, Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak addressed stakeholders at the opening of the programme, reinforcing NREB's commitment to raising environmental awareness and compliance

In his opening remarks, Datu Jack anak Liam, Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak, emphasised the critical role of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as a key regulatory tool under the Natural Resources and Environment Ordinance and the Natural Resources and Environment (Prescribed Activities) Order 1994. He reminded proponents of prescribed activities to obtain EIA approval before starting any project, as the process identifies measures to mitigate environmental risks.

He also announced several ongoing initiatives by NREB to enhance the EIA process. These include the formation of an Internal EIA Technical Review Committee, improvements to the EIA Consultant Star Rating System and the development of an online EIA Submission Platform in line with Sarawak's ambition to achieve 100% online services by 2030.

The programme featured five (5) informative presentations across two (2) sessions, each focusing on key components of Sarawak's environmental framework. The first session, moderated by Mdm Penny

Sumok, Deputy Controller (Operations), began with Mr Joshua Iman, Head of Legal Unit, who provided a briefing on the Natural Resources and Environment Ordinance, 2024 (Chapter 87). STA sought clarification on the enforcement timeline of the new Ordinance. Mr Joshua explained that phased implementation is expected, with certain provisions to be enforced by the end of 2025.

The second paper, delivered by Mr Jong Chean Fuei, Head of the Natural Resources and Environmental Management Division, highlighted the importance of the EIA screening process in identifying project risks early and determining the appropriate assessment pathway.

In Session 2, chaired by Mr Kenny Poon, Deputy Controller (Management), Mr Tsai Koh Fen, Head of the Compliance and Enforcement Division, presented strategies to strengthen enforcement and improve compliance. Mdm Mary Magdalen, Head of the Environmental Monitoring Division, provided updates on Sarawak's river water quality while Mdm Marinni Khir, Head of the Environmental Education Division, introduced the Premier of Sarawak Environmental Award.

The event also witnessed the exchange of two memoranda between Curtin University Malaysia and the NREB on cooperation in research and development to advance environmental protection and sustainability, and on ecological studies of the Miri River to identify potential conservation areas that support the riverine ecosystem and benefit local communities.

The event concluded with a closing address by Datuk Haji Len Talif Salleh, Deputy Minister for Urban Planning, Land Administration and Environment. He affirmed Sarawak's ongoing efforts to take full control of environmental governance

under Article 95C of the Federal Constitution. He noted that the transition will be phased, with NREB currently drafting subsidiary regulations to facilitate the shift.

STA mengambil bahagian dalam Program Penglibatan Pemegang Taruh NREB pada 16 Julai 2025 di Miri yang memberi tumpuan kepada meningkatkan pematuhan dan kesedaran alam sekitar. Kemas kini utama termasuklah penambahbaikan kepada proses EIA, penguatkuasaan berperingkat Ordinan Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar 2024 (Bab 87) dan langkah Sarawak ke arah autonomi alam sekitar sepenuhnya.

本会于2025年7月16日参与在美里铂尔曼酒店举办的天然资源与环境局(NREB)利益相关者交流会,旨在加强环境合规性和提高意识。会议内容涵盖环境影响评估(EIA)流程的优化、2024年天然资源与环境法令(第87章)分阶段实施的执法进展,以及砂拉越迈向全面环境治理自主化的策略



Mdm Penny Sumok (left) moderates an insightful discussion with Mr Jong Chean Fuei, Head of the Natural Resources and Environmental Management Division (centre) and Mr Joshua Iman, Head of Legal Unit (right)

## MTA Management Coordination Discussion

The newly elected President of the Malaysian Timber Association (MTA), Mr Tan Peng Juan, convened a Management Coordination Discussion on 11 July 2025 at Menara PGRM, Kuala Lumpur. The session was held to review the status of ongoing MTA matters and their progress, facilitate the handover of responsibilities from the Immediate Past President, and discuss the allocation of portfolios and distribution of tasks among MTA members.



Discussion in progress

Acknowledging MTA's growing recognition, particularly among key forestry-related agencies across the three (3) regions, the discussion focused on the continuation of critical initiatives previously undertaken by the association. These included follow-ups on correspondence related to the European Union Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR) Timber Coalition, and other market-specific technical requirements. Among other key topics discussed were Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), forest regeneration, Industrial Tree Plantation (ITP) and forest plantation development and utilisation, workforce development, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices, social media engagement, information technology and digitalisation as well as public relations.

Members reaffirmed their commitment to work collaboratively in supporting the association's objectives and ensuring continuity in its operations and outreach efforts.

Presiden Persatuan Perikanan Malaysia (MTA) yang baru, Encik Tan Peng Juan, telah mempengerusikan satu perbincangan pada 11 Julai 2025 untuk meneliti inisiatif yang sedang dijalankan bagi memastikan peralihan kepimpinan yang lancar serta mengagihkan tanggungjawab. Ahli-ahli bersetuju untuk meneruskan inisiatif yang telah dijalankan sebelum ini seperti Gabungan Perikanan Peraturan Bebas Penyahutan Kesatuan Eropah (EUDR) dan keperluan pasaran. Topik seperti penjanaan semula hutan, ladang hutan industri dan amalan Alam Sekitar, Sosial dan Tadbir Urus (ESG) turut dibincangkan bagi membimbing halatuju masa depan MTA.

新任马来西亚木业联合会(MTA)主席陈鼎元先生于2025年7月11日主持会议,审议正在进行的各项倡议,确保领导层顺利交接,并分配相关职责。与会成员一致同意继续推进联合会此前所推动的项目,例如欧盟无毁林法规(EUDR)木材联盟及市场要求等。会议亦讨论森林再生、工业种植林(ITP)以及环境、社会与治理(ESG)等议题,为MTA未来的发展方向提供指导。



# MTA and International Wood Products Association Collaborate on CITES Concerns over *Shorea* Species Listing

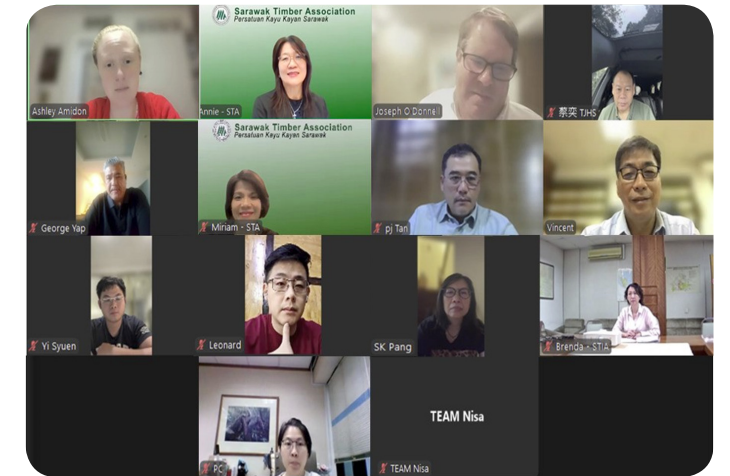
On 2 July 2025, members of the Malaysian Timber Association (MTA) CITES Task Force held a virtual meeting with Ms Ashley Amidon, Executive Director of the International Wood Products Association (IWPA) and Mr Joseph O'Donnell, IWPA's Manager of Government and Public Affairs. The engagement aimed to discuss and explore strategies to address the European Commission's (EC) proposal to list *Shorea* species under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The EC's proposal is driven by concerns over the declining population and potential over-exploitation of *Shorea* species. Listing under Appendix II would place the species under regulated trade to prevent it from becoming endangered.

Mr O'Donnell shared that IWPA is closely monitoring developments related to the potential listing of commercial timber species under CITES. He confirmed that the proposal to include *Shorea* species in Appendix II will not be tabled at the upcoming 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, scheduled to take place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 24 November to 5 December 2025.

Both IWPA and MTA CITES Task Force agreed to maintain close collaboration on this issue. Both associations will continue to monitor developments, share relevant information, and engage with other industry

associations and international alliances. This cooperative approach aims to ensure that any decisions regarding the listing of *Shorea* species are based on sound science, accurate data, and fair trade practices, while also considering the sustainability efforts already undertaken by the Malaysian timber industry.

*Pada 2 Julai 2025, Pasukan Petugas CITES Persatuan Perakayuan Malaysia (MTA) telah mengadakan pertemuan dengan Persatuan Produk Kayu Antarabangsa (IWPA) bagi membincangkan cadangan Suruhanjaya Eropah untuk menyenaraikan spesies Shorea di bawah Konvensyen Perdagangan Antarabangsa bagi Spesies Fauna dan Flora Liar Terancam (CITES) Lampiran II. Walaupun tidak dibentangkan untuk Mesyuarat Persidangan Parti yang akan datang, kedua-dua pihak bersetuju untuk bekerjasama dengan rapat, berkongsi maklumat, dan menyokong keputusan berdasarkan sains, usaha kelestarian, dan perdagangan yang adil untuk melindungi kepentingan industri perakayuan Malaysia.*



Group photo

2025年7月2日，马来西亚木业联合会(MTA)濒危野生动植物种国际贸易公约(CITES)工作组与国际木材产品协会(IWPA)会面，讨论欧盟委员会拟将娑罗属(*Shorea*)物种列入CITES附录二的提案。尽管该提案未被提交到即将召开的缔约方会议进行审议，双方仍达成共识，承诺密切合作、共享信息，并共同倡导基于科学依据、可持续发展与公平贸易的决策，以维护马来西亚木材工业的利益。

## Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) Debriefing Session

The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) held a debriefing session on 11 July 2025 at the MTC Foyer, Menara PGRM, Kuala Lumpur for two (2) events it sponsored. These were the

- (i) Malaysian Wood Moulding & Joinery Council (MWMJC) Marketing, Sourcing & Technical Mission to New Zealand, held from 23 April to 4 May 2025 to equip timber industry players with the right exposure and opportunities to acquire technical knowledge.
- (ii) Malaysian Timber Association (MTA)-MTC Mission on the European Union Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR) in Belgium, the Netherlands, and the Czech Republic from 17 to 24 May 2025 to continue engagement and reiterate the Malaysian timber industry's position on the EUDR.

The session was attended by approximately 100 participants, including members of the MTA, who joined in-person and virtually. In her welcoming remarks, Mdm Noraihan Abdul Rahman, Chief Executive Officer of MTC reiterated MTC's commitment to strengthening the resilience of the timber industry through collaboration, reinforcing the foundations for growth, and enhancing the long-term sustainability and global competitiveness of the Malaysian timber sector.

Mr Ng Boon Kuan, Chairman of MWMJC expressed gratitude to the MTC Industry & Market Development Committee for supporting the technical mission to New Zealand which provided valuable industry exposure and facilitated meaningful engagements with New Zealand's forestry and timber sectors. Mr Ng also highlighted New Zealand's strong emphasis on developing its national Industrial Tree Plantation (ITP) initiatives, particularly those focused on *Radiata* pine, driven by a

clear national strategy and supported by continuous research and development efforts.

Mr Jerry Tan, Board Member of MWMJC cum Organising Chairman of the mission, shared with participants an overview of the mission and highlighted the potential market for thermally modified timber, as well as the promising use of *Radiata* pine for outdoor timber products and engineered wood, as long as proper treatment is applied. He added that MWMJC is considering a follow-up mission to facilitate more in-depth industrial engagement with New Zealand counterparts.

Mr Yong Teng Koon, MTA EUDR Advisor informed participants that the mission to EU, MTA's fourth mission to date, also served to assess the preparedness of EU Competent Authorities and operators in implementing the EUDR. In addition, it aimed to strengthen Malaysia's advocacy efforts and networks with EU policymakers and relevant stakeholders.

Malaysia was commended as the only country that has maintained consistent, proactive engagement with the EU through regular annual visits. Malaysia should be classified as a "low-risk" country in the EU's benchmarking system, rather than the current "standard risk" category. The current classification subjects Malaysian timber products to a 3%

inspection rate and requires operators to conduct risk assessments and apply mitigation measures.

As a way forward, Malaysia through MTC plans to engage with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to ensure the accuracy of deforestation data in the upcoming Global Forest Resources Assessment. This effort will support Malaysia's case in initiating dialogue with EU authorities to review and potentially upgrade its classification to "low-risk."

*Pada 11 Julai 2025, Majlis Perakayuan Malaysia (MTC) telah mengadakan sesi taklimat mengenai misi tajaan ke New Zealand dan Kesatuan Eropah (EU) yang memfokuskan kepada pendedahan teknikal dan advokasi berkenaan Peraturan Bebas Penyahutan Kesatuan Eropah (EUDR). Majlis Kayu Kumai dan Tanggam Malaysia (MWMJC) mengetengahkan peluang dalam penggunaan kayu Radiata pine dan kayu yang diubah suai secara terma, manakala Persatuan Perakayuan Malaysia (MTA) menekankan kepentingan penglibatan berterusan dengan pihak berkepentingan di EU. Malaysia dipuji atas usaha konsisten dalam mendekati pihak EU dan akan meneruskan dialog serta penyediaan data penebangan hutan yang tepat bagi menyokong pengelasan semula sebagai negara "berisiko rendah" di bawah EUDR.*

2025年7月11日，马来西亚木材理事会(MTC)就其赞助前往新西兰和欧盟的代表团举行汇报会，关注于技术交流和欧盟无毁林法规(EUDR)倡导。马来西亚木业加工总会(MWMJC)重点介绍辐射松和热改性木材的市场潜力，而马来西亚木业联合会(MTA)则强调与欧盟利益相关方的持续合作。马来西亚因与欧盟持续的沟通而受到赞扬，并将开展对话并提供准确的森林砍伐数据，以争取其根据EUDR重新归类为“低风险”国家。



*Delegates of MTC-MTA Mission on the EUDR, Mr Khairul Anwar, Director of MTC (far left), Mr Yong Teng Koon (2<sup>nd</sup> right), together with MTA Executive Committee Members, Mr Tu Kui Foh, Ms Annie Ting, Mr George Yap, Mr Chua Song Fong (from left to right) during the Question and Answer Session*



# The Forest Department Sarawak Integrity Day 2025

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) held its Integrity Day 2025 on 3 July 2025 at Promenade Hotel Bintulu in an event officiated by Dato' Murshid Diraja Dr. Juanda Jaya, Deputy Minister in the Sarawak Premier's Department (Integrity and Ombudsman). Held annually, the celebration is part of FDS' ongoing efforts to cultivate a culture of integrity and strengthen departmental governance, reinforcing Sarawak's commitment toward transparent and ethical forestry management.

This year's theme, *'From Seeds to Canopies, Everything Matters'*, underscored the importance of every role within the Department, regardless of rank or function. The event was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Natural Resources and Environment Board, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, and timber licensees in the Miri, Bintulu, and Sibul regions, officers from FDS and STA Secretariat.

In his opening speech, Datu Haji Hamden bin Haji Mohamad, the Director of Forests, emphasised the importance of upholding integrity at all levels. He underscored the Department's commitment to continuous improvement through capacity building and accountability, including training as lead auditors for the Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) ISO 37001:2016 and the Certified Financial Investigator Programme.

Datu Haji Hamden also shared that in 2024, the headquarters of FDS, the Kapit Regional Forest Office, the Industrial Forest Research Centre, and the Research and Development Division at the Forest Research Centre in Kuching were awarded with MS ISO 37001:2016 ABMS certification. He urged the FDS officers not to be discouraged by the three (3) non-conformities and numerous opportunities for improvement (OFIs) identified during the recent surveillance audit. Instead, he encouraged them to embrace these findings as valuable input for strengthening the system and enhancing the workplace culture within the Department.



Dato' Murshid Diraja Dr. Juanda Jaya, Deputy Minister in the Sarawak Premier's Department (Integrity and Ombudsman) (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) officiating the FDS' Integrity Day 2025, witnessed by Datu Haji Hamden bin Haji Mohamad, the Director of Forests (2<sup>nd</sup> from right)

A highlight of the event was the anti-corruption pledge by forestry officers and the commitment signing ceremony by eleven licensee representatives from companies and communities, namely Raplex Sdn Bhd, Ravenscourt Sdn Bhd, Shin Yang Sdn Bhd, Samling Sdn Bhd, Cipta Reforestation, Agritech (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd, Rich Ventura Plantation, Focus Titanium Sdn Bhd, Yihin Resources Sdn Bhd, Tuan Rumah Ado Bilong, and the Anap Muput Community.

The programme also featured a series of insightful presentations by speakers from key enforcement and regulatory agencies. Mr Abdul Kadir Mohamad from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission spoke on *"Offences Related to Act 694"* while Mr Raymond Menggat from FDS shared insights on *"Integrity from a Psychological Perspective"*. Deputy Superintendent Angela Ladie from the Royal Malaysia Police addressed *"Criminal Offences by Public Servants (Sexual Harassment by Public Servants)"* and Ms Evonne Leonora Simon from the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission delivered a session on *"Scammers and How to Handle Them"*.

*Acara integriti tahunan FDS, bertemakan "Dari Benih Ke Kanopi, Segalanya Penting," telah diadakan di Hotel Promenade Bintulu dan dirasmikan oleh Dato' Murshid Diraja Dr. Juanda Jaya, Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier Sarawak (Integriti dan Ombudsman). Acara ini menampilkan ikrar integriti dan pembentangan agensi, mengukuhkan komitmen Jabatan terhadap tadbir urus perhutanan yang beretika dan penambahbaikan berterusan di semua peringkat jabatan dan operasi pemegang lesen.*

砂森林局 (FDS) 年度诚信活动以“从种子到树冠，事事皆重要”为主题，于民都鲁凯城酒店举行，并由砂拉越总理署(廉政及监察单位)副部长拿督朱安达贾博士主持开幕。本次活动设有诚信承诺仪式及各相关部门的专题汇报，旨在强化该局对道德林业治理的承诺，并推动各部门和持牌经营者持续改进。

# Performance of Timber as a Construction Material

STA attended a webinar hosted by the Malaysian Timber Council under its Timber Talk Series on 9 July 2025, organised as part of its ongoing efforts to promote the use of timber, particularly in the construction industry. The event featured two (2) renowned speakers, Dr. Adlin Sabrina Muhammad Roseley, Senior Lecturer at Universiti Putra Malaysia and ChM Dr. Tumirah Khadiran, Senior Research Officer at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). They shared their insights with online participants on the topic *"Performance of Timber as a Construction Material"*.

The 90-minute talk included a presentation by Dr. Adlin Sabrina, who shared findings from a comparative study carried out between solid timber and laminated veneer lumber made from the planted species Batai. She explained that engineered wood is a purposefully designed material developed to surpass the natural strength properties of solid wood. By breaking timber down into smaller strips, defects such as knots, splits, or sloping grain can be removed or evenly distributed, resulting in a composite material with improved uniformity, strength, and stiffness.

Dr. Adlin highlighted design flexibility as one of the most significant advantages of engineered wood. Unlike solid timber, engineered wood is created by bonding together smaller wood elements, allowing for the formation of intricate and customised shapes. Structural composite lumber, such as glulam, can be manufactured to follow precise curves and complex architectural designs. Additionally, it can be produced using by-products or waste materials from wood-processing industries, further contributing to sustainability and resource efficiency.

Dr. Adlin also walked participants through the production process of engineered wood panels using veneer and sawn timber. She showcased real-life applications, including the Malaysian Timber Industry Board Glulam Gallery and the White Seraya House, as successful examples of engineered wood in construction.

She emphasised that engineered wood, with its sustainable attributes, high performance, and design adaptability, is poised to transform the future of timber construction. It aligns well with green certification requirements and supports the growing trend of modular and environmentally responsible building design.



Glimpse of (left to right) ChM Dr. Tumirah Khadiran, Dr. Adlin Sabrina Muhammad Roseley, and Mr. Muhammad Faizal Zulkifli of MTC during the webinar

Following that, ChM Dr. Tumirah Khadiran discussed the general characteristics and four (4) types of timber, namely heavy hardwood, medium hardwood, light hardwood, and softwood. Dr. Tumirah also explained the durability classification of wood and wood-based products, ranging from Class H1 to H6, highlighting their respective usage categories, application examples, and the biological agents that affect them, such as insects, fungi, borers, and termites.

According to Dr. Tumirah, FRIM is actively involved in timber preservation efforts to extend the service life, safety, and performance of timber. She emphasised that proper preservation using the appropriate techniques for specific applications can significantly enhance timber durability. Dr. Tumirah also shared insights into the types of preservatives available, the preservation techniques used including both pressure and non-pressure treatments, and FRIM's ongoing research on commercial preservatives as well as lab-scale studies.

*Sesi Timber Talk anjuran Majlis Perakayuan Malaysia pada 9 Julai 2025 menampilkan pakar-pakar daripada Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) dan Institut Penyelidikan Perhutanan Malaysia (FRIM) yang membincangkan prestasi kayu lapis berlamina, aplikasi glulam, pengelasan ketahanan kayu serta penyelidikan FRIM mengenai kaedah rawatan dan pengawetan kayu. Sesi tersebut turut menekankan kekuatan, fleksibiliti, kelestarian kayu, kejuruteraan serta teknik untuk memanjangkan jangka hayat kayu.*

马来西亚木材理事会(MTC)于2025年7月9日举办木材讲座，邀请来自马来西亚博特拉大学(UPM)和马来西亚森林研究机构(FRIM)的专家，就胶合单板层积材(LVL)的性能、胶合木的应用、木材耐久性分类，以及FRIM在木材处理与防腐技术方面的研究进行探讨。讲座还重点介绍工程木材的强度、柔韧性、可持续性以及延长木材使用寿命的技术。



## Meeting on Enrichment Planting

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) convened a meeting on enrichment planting on 14 July 2025 at Bangunan Baitul Makmur II, Kuching. The meeting was chaired by Mr Arifin bin Awang Zulkifli, Head of the Licensing Division, and was attended by FDS officers and STA.

During the meeting, STA highlighted the challenges faced by its members in implementing enrichment planting and explored potential ways in which STA could support its members in addressing these challenges.

Following the discussions, the meeting agreed to organise a workshop to conduct a detailed review of the enrichment planting Guidelines and to refine the Guidelines in a manner that would contribute meaningfully to forest restoration efforts.

In preparation for the workshop, STA held a virtual briefing session with its members on 15 July 2025 to inform them about the proposed workshop and to seek nominations from those interested in attending. Subsequently, members met virtually on 29 July 2025 to further discuss the guidelines and provided input to make them more practical for on-the-ground implementation. These inputs will be shared with the FDS during the workshop in August. The proposed workshop is scheduled to be held in August 2025 in Sibü.

*Jabatan Hutan Sarawak telah mengadakan mesyuarat pada 14 Julai 2025 untuk membincangkan pelbagai aspek penanaman pengayaan. Dalam mesyuarat tersebut, STA telah mengetengahkan cabaran yang dihadapi oleh ahli-ahlinya dan telah dipersetujui bahawa satu bengkel akan dianjurkan bagi meneliti dan menambah baik Garis Panduan sedia ada. Susulan itu, STA telah memberi taklimat kepada ahli-ahlinya dan mendapatkan pencalonan untuk menyertai bengkel yang dirancang pada Ogos 2025 di Sibü bagi menyokong usaha pemulihan hutan.*

砂森林局(FDS)于2025年7月14日召开会议，讨论有关富集种植的各项议题。会议中，本会强调会员所面临的挑战，并同意举办工作坊以审查和完善相关指南。随后，本会向会员作出简报并征集工作坊的提名。该工作坊计划于2025年8月在诗巫举行，以支持森林修复。

## ASEAN Sustainable Forestry Summit 2025

The ASEAN Sustainable Forestry Summit 2025 was held at the Shangri-La Tanjung Aru Resort on 29 July 2025. Jointly organised by the KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific and the ASEAN Economic Club, the Summit brought together policymakers, business leaders, and environmental experts from across Southeast Asia to address the urgent need for sustainable forestry and climate resilience. STA participated as an Associate Sponsor of the event.

The event was officiated by Sabah Minister of Finance, Datuk Seri Panglima Masidi Manjun, who represented Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji Haji Noor. In his speech, he stated that the passing of the Climate Change and Carbon Governance Enactment 2025 during the recent Sabah State Assembly sitting has opened up new opportunities for Sabah to attract investors. This legal foundation provides the certainty investors need—but the greater opportunity lies in regional collaboration. The Chief Minister reiterated that Sabah is now a net sink jurisdiction, meaning it absorbs more carbon than it emits. He shared that Sabah is among the rare few jurisdictions in the world to hold this status, and it is estimated that Sabah

alone contributes approximately 36 percent of Malaysia's total carbon sequestration.

He also highlighted Sabah's Forest Plantation Development Action Plan, aimed at rehabilitating 400,000 hectares over 15 years and creating 40,000 jobs, with FMU licence holders urged to stay committed to the plan.

The Summit featured four panel sessions that explored key topics in sustainable forestry within ASEAN. These included sustainable forestry investment, leading voices on the future of ASEAN forestry, carbon markets and climate financing, and the integration of biodiversity and climate resilience in forestry. Panellists examined how ASEAN can scale up forestry as an investable asset class. Discussions highlighted successful models in conservation finance, blended investment structures, and public-private partnerships. They also addressed the evolving role of certification in promoting sustainability, pricing mechanisms, policy alignment, and strategies for leveraging climate financing to accelerate forest protection and reforestation. The panel emphasised the importance of market transparency and environmental integrity in building trust in carbon initiatives.

The Guest of Honour, Tuan Yang Terutama Tun Datuk Seri Panglima (Dr.) Musa bin Haji Aman, Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sabah, graced the luncheon with his presence.



*Datuk Seri Panglima Masidi Manjun, Sabah Minister of Finance (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), presented a memento to Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), in appreciation of STA's support as an Associate Sponsor*

*Sidang Kemuncak Perhutanan Lestari ASEAN 2025 yang diadakan pada 29 Julai 2025 di Sabah, menghimpunkan pemimpin serantau untuk memajukan perhutanan mampan dan daya tahan iklim. Dirasmikan oleh Menteri Kewangan Sabah, Datuk Seri Panglima Masidi Manjun, acara itu mengetengahkan undang-undang tadbir urus karbon baharu negeri dan rancangan pemulihan hutan yang bercita-cita tinggi. Melalui 4 sesi panel dinamik, perwakilan meneroka peluang pelaburan, pasaran karbon dan integrasi biodiversiti. STA menyertai sebagai Penaja Bersekutu.*

2025年东盟(ASEAN)可持续林业峰会于2025年7月29日在沙巴举行，汇集各区域领导共同推动可持续林业和气候适应力。该会由沙巴财政部长拿督斯里邦里玛马希迪曼俊主持开幕，重点介绍该洲新的碳治理法令和大规模的森林恢复计划。通过四场精彩的专题研讨，代表们探讨投资机会，碳市场以及生物多样性整合等议题。本会作为协办赞助商出席。

## SFIA Installation Dinner

STA was invited by the Sarawak Furniture Industry Association (SFIA) to attend a dinner held in conjunction with the installation of its 17<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee of the SFIA Youth Club for the 2025–2028 term. The event was held at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCKK) on 18 July 2025.

The event was graced by Haji Zainal Abidin bin Haji Abdullah, General Manager of the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), who delivered the keynote address. He remarked that Sarawak's export performance remains promising despite ongoing challenges. He added that the furniture industry holds significant potential, particularly through investments in

skills development, innovation and sustainable practices. Strengthening collaboration within the sector, he said, would help Sarawak carve out a more competitive position in the global market.

He also emphasised STIDC's commitment to advancing the furniture industry in Sarawak through the development of a comprehensive Furniture Industry Blueprint. This strategic document outlines a clear, strategic pathway for the sector's growth, focusing on product development, supply chain enhancement and market expansion. The successful realisation of the blueprint, he noted, hinges on close collaboration with SFIA.

Beyond the installation ceremonies, invited guests also witnessed the official unveiling of the SFIA Youth Club logo, the formal introduction of the Youth Club committee members, and the presentation of certificates to the newly appointed Advisors and sponsors.

*Satu majlis makan malam telah diadakan pada 18 Julai 2025 di BCKK untuk melantik Jawatankuasa Ke-17 Persatuan Industri Perabot Sarawak (SFIA) dan Jawatankuasa Ke-2 Kelab Belia SFIA bagi penggal 2025-2028. Tetamu kehormat, Haji Zainal Abidin bin Haji Abdullah menonjolkan potensi eksport Sarawak dan menekankan Pelan Tindakan Industri Perabot Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak yang menggariskan strategi untuk pembangunan produk, peningkatan rantaian bekalan dan pengembangan pasaran. Acara itu turut menampilkan pengenalan logo Kelab Belia dan ahli jawatankuasa serta penyampaian sijil.*

砂拉越家具工业联合会(SFIA)于2025年7月18日假古晋婆罗洲会展中心(BCKK)举行其第十七届委员会暨2025至2028年第二届的青年俱乐部委员会就职晚宴。荣誉嘉宾，哈芝再纳阿比丁先生强调砂拉越的出口潜能并重点介绍砂拉越木材工业发展机构(STIDC)的家具工业蓝图，阐明产品开发、加强供应链以及市场拓展的策略。当晚还进行青年俱乐部徽标揭幕仪式、介绍委员会会员并颁发证书。



# Seminar on the Progress of Aggressive Industrial Forest Plantation Research & Development Programme

The Seminar on the Progress of Aggressive Industrial Forest Plantation Research & Development (R&D) Programme was organised by the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) in collaboration with STA from 24 to 25 July 2025 at Hilton Kuching. Held under the theme “Driving Sustainability and Productivity in Forest Plantations – R&D Update Through Strategic Collaborations”, the seminar served as a timely platform to review progress, address emerging challenges, and chart the path forward for Sarawak’s industrial forest plantation agenda.

In his welcoming remarks, Haji Happysupina bin Sait, Deputy Director of Forests (Forests Conservation and Development) at FDS explained that the industrial forest plantation initiative, launched in 1997, is designed to establish 1 million hectares of plantations by 2025, with the goal of producing 15 million cubic meters of logs annually to support Sarawak’s timber industry. This initiative also plays a crucial role in

achieving the RM8 billion export target outlined in Sarawak’s Post-COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030. However, given the current economic climate and declining global demand, meeting this target by 2025 appears increasingly unlikely. He suggested extending the initiative’s timeline to 2030, which would allow for greater flexibility in adapting to market conditions and maximising its full potential.

He went on to emphasise the achievements of the Industrial Forest Research Centre under FDS, bringing to light the critical need for ongoing research and stronger public-private partnerships to boost productivity and enhance climate resilience. He informed that the federal government, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, is supporting the R&D of the industrial forest plantation under the 13<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan (13MP). In addition, FDS has proposed a complementary framework at the state level. One key project, which leverages artificial intelligence and digital technologies, aims to improve forest management practices by tackling challenges such as pest outbreaks and site-species mismatches. This initiative presents the growing importance of innovation and research in ensuring the sustainability of industrial forest plantations.

The seminar brought together key stakeholders from across the industrial forest plantation sector, reflecting a strong commitment to multi-stakeholder collaboration. A series of research paper presentations were delivered by FDS researchers, covering vital topics such as forest disease, insect pest surveillance, establishment and assessment of progeny trials, seeds and seed production areas, and growth performance of some planted species in Sarawak. These sessions offered valuable insights into scientific advancements and practical approaches to support industrial forest plantation sector.

Additionally, FDS officers shared key issues and strategic concerns facing the industrial forest plantation sector in Sarawak, emphasising that this sector is becoming increasingly important and relevant, particularly in ensuring the sustainability of wood production to supplement the raw material demands of Sarawak’s wood-based industries. The insights shared reinforced the urgency of strategic planning and research-driven solutions to sustain long-term supply and sector viability.

The seminar also featured an experience-sharing segment by prominent industry players including Samling Group, Shin Yang Forestry Sdn Bhd, and Jawala Plantation Industries Sdn Bhd, who respectively underlined the progress made through R&D collaborations, field-based challenges and economic perspectives for the industrial forest plantation sector.



Haji Happysupina delivering welcoming remarks (Photo courtesy of FDS)

A key highlight of the event was the brainstorming discussion session, which focused on shaping the future direction of industrial forest plantation R&D. Co-facilitated by Ms Zarina binti Haji Shebli, Senior Assistant Director of Forests at FDS, and Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA, the session encouraged participants to identify practical strategies for enhancing plantation management. The discussion also underscored the need to realign research priorities to support a more resilient and sustainable ecosystem. Participants explored ways to strengthen collaboration through clearly defined roles, effective knowledge transfer, and the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding framework.

Ms Ting delivered the seminar’s closing remarks, expressing her appreciation for the continued collaboration between the FDS, holders of License for Planted Forests, and STA. She reinforced the importance of building on existing efforts rather than “reinventing the wheel”, stressing the need for collective action. For plantation R&D to effectively support the industry, particularly in securing a stable raw material supply, she pointed out that researchers and practitioners must work from a shared understanding and common goals. She concluded on an optimistic note, expressing confidence that the seminar would foster stronger collaboration and lead to more impactful outcomes for the future of Sarawak’s industrial forest plantation sector.

积极工业人工林研究与发展(R&D)计划进展研讨会于2025年7月24日至25日在古晋举行,旨在回顾砂拉越的种植目标,并强调由于经济挑战,需将目标期限延长至2030年。研讨会重点展示研究与发展工作、公私领域的合作成果,并就研究重点、可持续性 & 策略性议题进行汇报与讨论。研讨会亦涵盖业界的观点,并呼吁加强合作伙伴关系、以确保长期的原材料供应及工业韧性。



Ms Annie Ting facilitating one of the group discussions during the brainstorming session (Photo courtesy of FDS)



Ms Annie Ting delivering closing remarks (Photo courtesy of FDS)

Seminar mengenai Kemajuan Program Penyelidikan dan Pembangunan (R&D) Perladangan Hutan Industri Secara Agresif yang diadakan pada 24–25 Julai 2025 di Kuching telah mengkaji semula sasaran perladangan hutan Sarawak dan menekankan keperluan untuk melanjutkan tempoh masa sehingga tahun 2030 disebabkan oleh cabaran ekonomi. Seminar ini menampilkan usaha R&D, kerjasama di antara sektor awam dan swasta serta pembentangan dan perbincangan mengenai keutamaan penyelidikan, kelestarian dan isu strategik. Acara turut merangkumi pandangan industri dan diakhiri dengan seruan untuk mengukuhkan kerjasama bagi memastikan bekalan bahan mentah jangka panjang dan daya tahan sektor.



Group photo (Photo courtesy of FDS)



# MEF East Malaysia (Sarawak) Regional Meeting No. 7/2025

The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) East Malaysia (Sarawak) Region convened its seventh meeting on 24 July 2025. The session was facilitated by Ms Dayang Jamillah binti Tun Abang Muhd Salahuddin, Consultant of Industrial Relations at MEF Sarawak.

A key highlight of the meeting was a knowledge-sharing session titled “Understanding Stamp Duty”, presented by Mdm Meriam binti Abdul Hamid, Assistant Director General of the Inland Revenue Board (IRB) Sarawak.

The Stamp Duty Act 1949 requires payment of stamp duty on all executed written documents, whether handwritten, typewritten, printed, recorded or transmitted electronically. Understanding stamp duty obligations is essential for ensuring documents are legally valid and compliant. Duty payers must observe the timelines for paying stamp duty:

- Payment must be made within 30 days from the date the document is executed in Malaysia.
- If the document is executed outside Malaysia, payment must be made within 30 days after it is received in Malaysia.

Failure to meet these deadlines could result in penalties or legal complications.

Period	Penalty for late stamping
Within 3 months after stamping due date	RM50.00 or 10% of the deficient duty, whichever is higher
After 3 months from the stamping due date	RM100.00 or 20% of the deficient duty, whichever is higher

To streamline compliance and efficiency, the IRB Malaysia shall be implementing the Stamp Duty Self-Assessment System (SDSAS) in phases starting 1 January 2026. Under SDSAS, duty payers shall be responsible for submitting document for stamping, assessing and paying stamp duties, as well as retaining relevant records for seven (7) years.

PHASE 1	1 JANUARY 2026	PHASE 2	1 JANUARY 2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rent and lease</li><li>• General stamping</li><li>• Securities</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transfer of real estate (without involving valuation)</li></ul>	
PHASE 3	1 JANUARY 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instruments other than Phases 1 and 2</li></ul>	

Mdm Meriam also shared findings from the recent stamp duty audits initiated in 2024. Failure to stamp, delay in paying stamp duty, lack of understanding/knowledge, incomplete record keeping and misclassification of documents stamped were among the issues found during the audits.

The stamp duty audits also revealed a high number of unstamped employment contracts. In response, IRB Malaysia issued a media statement on 6 June 2025, confirming the Ministry of Finance’s final decision regarding stamp duty on employment contract documents. The decision outlines the following timeline regarding the stamping of employment contracts executed:

- a) Before 1 January 2025, stamp duty exemption is given;
- b) From 1 January 2025 until 31 December 2025, stamp duty is applicable, but remission of penalty will be granted for late stamping; and
- c) From 1 January 2026, stamp duty is applicable and late stamping will incur the applicable penalty.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, during which participants raised questions and shared concerns related to stamp duty matters.

Mesyyarat ke-7 Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan Malaysia (MEF) Malaysia Timur (Wilayah Sarawak) bagi tahun 2025 telah diadakan pada 24 Julai 2025, menampilkan sesi perkongsian pengetahuan mengenai “Memahami Duti Setem.” Sesi tersebut menekankan kepentingan pematuhan yang tepat pada masanya dan tepat terhadap keperluan duti setem, khususnya sebagai persediaan untuk Sistem Taksir Sendiri Duti Setem, yang akan dilancarkan secara berfasa mulai 1 Januari 2026 untuk menyelaraskan proses penyeteman dan meningkatkan akauntabiliti.

马来西亚雇主联合会(MEF)东马(砂拉越)区域于2025年7月24日召开第七次会议，内容包括有关“了解印花税”的知识分享环节。该环节强调及时且准确遵守印花税要求的重要性，特别是为将于2026年1月1日起分阶段推出的印花税自我评估系统(SDSAS)做准备，以简化印花流程并加强问责制。

# Sarawak Industrial Harmony Programme 2025

The Sarawak Industrial Harmony Programme 2025 themed “Sustaining Industrial Harmony through Legal Empowerment”, was held on 30 July 2025 at The Waterfront Hotel Kuching. Organised by the Department of Industrial Relations (Jabatan Perhubungan Perindustrian, JPP) Sarawak, the programme drew approximately 250 participants, including employers, employees, trade unions, training providers and academics.

Held as part of the National Industrial Harmony Action Plan (Pelan Tindakan Keharmonian Perusahaan, PETIK), the programme aimed to raise awareness of the Industrial Relations Act 1967 and serve as a platform to address human resource management challenges within a legal framework.

In his keynote, Mr Aminuddin bin Ab. Rahaman, Deputy Director General of the JPP Malaysia, explained that the theme of this year’s programme was aligned with the recent enforcement of amendments to the Industrial Relations Act 1967 and related regulations. These reforms reflect Malaysia’s obligations under the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, particularly the Labour Chapter, which requires all member countries to adopt and uphold laws, regulations, and practices consistent with the rights outlined in the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998).

Mr Aminuddin further noted that this programme is one of many initiatives introduced by the JPP under PETIK and funded through allocations from the 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan (12MP) Development Budget, aiming to foster greater understanding of labour laws and strengthen industrial harmony in the private sector.

The event was officiated by Datuk Gerawat Gala, the Deputy Minister in the Premier’s Department (Labour, Immigration and Project Monitoring). In his address, Datuk Gerawat emphasised the importance of nurturing tripartite relations and social cohesion, stating that industrial harmony is essential to business prosperity, industry competitiveness, and national economic stability. He highlighted Sarawak’s progress, noting that the Industrial Harmony Index (IHI) has increased from 79.3% in 2022 to 81.5% in 2025, reflecting growing collaboration between employers and employees.

He also encouraged wider adoption of the Productivity-Linked Wage System (PLWS), and highlighted that companies meeting IHI Self-Assessment criteria may receive the Harmonious Company Rating Certificate.

With Sarawak’s workforce projected to reach 1.5 million by 2030, Datuk Gerawat emphasised the importance of sustained efforts to support industrial harmony.

The event featured presentations on key developments in industrial relations, including updates to the Industrial Relations Act 1967 and the 2009 Industrial Relations Regulations. Topics addressed included legal recognition of unions, individual rights, grievance procedures and best practices in industrial relations. The PLWS was presented as a strategy for boosting productivity and motivation, while the IHI Self- Assessment was introduced as a tool for organisations to evaluate and improve workplace harmony.

Additionally, the programme spotlighted success stories from Sarawak-based companies namely Sarawak Information Systems Sdn Bhd, Sakura Ferroalloys Sdn Bhd and KYH Recycle Industries Sdn Bhd, finalists for the Harmonious Company Award 2025, selected from a pool of 102 entries nationwide. TM Technology Services Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Telekom Malaysia that provides infrastructure and digital solutions was named the national champion for this year.

Program Keharmonian Perindustrian Sarawak 2025 yang diadakan pada 30 Julai 2025 di Kuching memberi tumpuan kepada “Melestarikan Keharmonian Industri melalui Pemerkasaan Undang-undang.” Dianjurkan di bawah Pelan Tindakan Keharmonian Industri Kebangsaan, acara itu mengumpulkan 250 peserta untuk meningkatkan kesedaran mengenai Akta Perhubungan Perusahaan 1967 dan mempromosikan amalan terbaik perhubungan di tempat kerja. Topik utama termasuk pindaan terbaru undang-undang, Sistem Upah Berkaitan Produktiviti dan Indeks Harmoni Industri. Program itu turut menampilkan pembentangan dan sesi perkongsian oleh syarikat berpangkalan di Sarawak yang diiktiraf kerana mempromosikan persekitaran tempat kerja yang harmoni.

2025年砂拉越工业和谐计划于2025年7月30日在古晋举行，主题为“透过法律赋能维持工业和谐”。该活动在国家工业和谐行动计划框架下举行，集结二百五十位参与者以提高对1967年工业关系法案的认知并推广工作场所关系中的最佳实践。主要议题包括近期的法律修订、生产力挂钩的薪酬制度以及工业和谐指数。该活动也包括砂拉越本地企业的演讲和分享环节，他们因促进和谐工作场所环境而获得表彰。



# Stakeholder Engagement Workshop on Proposed Amendments to *Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad* (PSMB) Act

The Human Resources Development Corporation hosted a stakeholder engagement workshop at the Riverside Majestic Hotel, Puteri Wing, in Kuching on 6 July 2025. The session was part of an ongoing consultation process to seek industry input on potential updates to the PSMB Act. STA was represented by Dr Suzie Adee, Assistant Manager (Human Resource, Administration & Projects) and Mr Wong How Chu, Assistant Manager of STA Training Sdn Bhd at the workshop, which served as a platform for stakeholders to provide perspectives on workforce-related matters in the context of a rapidly changing employment landscape.

Participants engaged in group discussions and presentations, offering valuable insights, sharing operational concerns and putting forward constructive suggestions. Topics discussed during the session included potential adjustments to key sections of the Act, procedural matters and operational implications. Stakeholders highlighted the importance of streamlining compliance processes and optimising administrative procedures.

Among the suggestions raised were the need to harmonise data requirements across agencies, improve claim processes especially for reserved or unclaimed cases and allow greater organisational flexibility in workforce classification. Participants



Participants, representatives from HRD Corp and facilitators from PwC posed for a group photo after the stakeholder engagement workshop

also proposed extending the fund utilisation period and involving employer representatives more directly in policy-related deliberations.

*Perbadanan Pembangunan Sumber Manusia mengadakan bengkel pihak berkepentingan pada 6 Julai 2025 di Kuching bagi mengumpul input industri mengenai cadangan pindaan Akta Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad (PSMB). Perbincangan memberi tumpuan kepada penyeragaman pemuatan, menambah baik proses tuntutan dan meningkatkan fleksibiliti dalam pengelasan tenaga kerja. Pihak berkepentingan juga mengesyorkan keperluan penyeragaman data, melanjutkan tempoh penggunaan dana, dan melibatkan majikan secara lebih aktif dalam membuat keputusan dasar.*

人力资源发展机构(HRD Corp)于2025年7月6日在古晋举行利益相关方研讨会，就着人力资源发展局(PSMB)法令的拟议修正征求业界意见。其讨论重点包括简化合规性、优化申索流程以及加强劳动力分类的灵活性。利益相关者也建议标准化数据要求、延长基金使用期限并让雇主更积极地参与政策决策。

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AUDIT TRAINING

**Date** : 7-11 July 2025 (Part 1)

**Venue** : Wisma STA, Kuching

**Trainer** : Mr Justine Jok Jau Emang and Mr Peter Sawal



The STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), an appointed Training Provider had collaborated with the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) to organise the Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) training course with objectives to provide a thorough understanding and practical application of the ECA process to meet the requirements the *Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008*, and the associated guidelines as well as to promote self-regulation within the industry players. This training will enable qualified personnel to be registered as Environmental Auditor with NREB and to conduct internal audit, migrating from the existing Environmental Monitoring Reports (EMR) submission.

With effect from 1 July 2024, it is mandatory for the forestry sector in Sarawak to implement the Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) while for agriculture (oil palm plantation), quarry, and mining sectors; it will come into effect on 1 January 2027.

For more information on the above training, please contact Mr Wong How Chu at 082-332222 or email to [howchu@sta.org.my](mailto:howchu@sta.org.my)

## Image Captions:

- Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA (seated, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right), Mr Tsai Koh Fen, Head of Compliance and Enforcement Division, NREB (seated, 4<sup>th</sup> from right) and trainer, Mr Peter Sawal, (seated, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left) posed for group photo with ECA participants
- Participants presenting their audit findings during closing meeting
- Participants were divided into groups for hands-on practical audit at one of the oil palm plantation in Samarahan-Serian Road, Sarawak
- Photo-call with auditee representatives after completion of hands-on site audit

Wishing all Members and Readers

**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY**

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 Merdeka kepada semua ahli STA dan para pembaca.

本会主席,理事会,管理委员会和STA秘书处, STA Enterprises有限公司, STA Mutual 有限公司和 STA Training 有限公司全体职员在此祝愿所有会员和读者国庆日快乐。



PRODUCTION OF LOGS FROM NATURAL FORESTS BY REGION FROM SARAWAK-  
HILL AND SWAMP SPECIES  
PENGELUARAN BALAK DARI HUTAN SEMULA JADI MENGIKUT BAHAGIAN DARI SARAWAK - SPESIS HUTAN BUKIT DAN  
HUTAN PAYA  
砂拉越各区域天然林原木生产量 - 丘陵与沼泽地树种

Region	Apr '25	Apr '24	May '25	May '24	Jun '25	Jun '24	Jan - Jun '25	Jan - Jun '24
	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)
Kuching (Hill)	171	---	---	913	289	647	949	1,974
(Swamp)	958	---	593	---	---	---	2,304	---
Sibu (Hill)	20,641	26,750	26,026	18,718	22,133	17,936	122,205	119,859
(Swamp)	1,221	1,034	3,550	780	4,534	---	13,832	8,042
Bintulu (Hill)	42,910	53,533	56,797	55,567	53,305	55,320	275,397	338,045
(Swamp)	6,558	1,276	4,258	---	1,255	1,016	15,796	8,133
Miri (Hill)	10,823	6,776	8,719	6,836	14,827	9,691	55,679	46,331
(Swamp)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Kapit (Hill)	55,809	50,564	59,798	42,561	56,700	54,097	281,345	288,193
(Swamp)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Limbang (Hill)	8,214	7,786	8,403	4,301	6,165	4,035	33,623	44,026
(Swamp)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Sarikei (Hill)	1,542	1,047	2,645	3,564	2,235	---	7,557	17,818
(Swamp)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Sri Aman (Hill)	429	432	---	---	---	---	1,404	432
(Swamp)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Subtotal (Hill)	140,539	146,888	162,388	132,460	155,654	141,726	778,159	856,678
(Swamp)	8,737	2,310	8,401	780	5,789	1,016	31,932	16,175
TOTAL	149,276	149,198	170,789	133,240	161,443	142,742	810,091	872,853

Source of data : Forest Department Sarawak  
(Please note that the figures for July 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)

PRODUCTION OF LOGS FROM NATURAL FORESTS BY HILL SPECIES FROM  
SARAWAK  
PENGELUARAN BALAK DARI HUTAN SEMULA JADI MENGIKUT SPESIS HUTAN BUKIT DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越丘陵地树种之天然林原木生产量

Hill Species	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25	Jan - Jun '25
	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)
Bindang	994	68	2,148	647	1,781	5,842
Meranti	45,233	50,404	63,004	71,461	63,479	333,896
Kapur	3,785	3,246	4,047	4,839	4,641	23,175
Keruing	2,326	2,572	2,864	4,145	3,846	17,577
Sepetir	141	165	240	222	246	1,121
Selangan Batu	973	1,551	2,469	2,945	2,777	12,367
Nyato	1,036	1,050	1,323	1,622	1,859	7,554
Other species	54,449	58,054	64,444	76,507	77,025	376,627
TOTAL:	108,937	117,110	140,539	162,388	155,654	778,159

PRODUCTION OF LOGS FROM NATURAL FORESTS BY SWAMP SPECIES  
FROM SARAWAK  
PENGELUARAN BALAK DARI HUTAN SEMULA JADI MENGIKUT SPESIS HUTAN PAYA DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越沼泽地树种之天然林原木生产量

Swamp Species	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25	Jan - Jun '25
	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)
Jongkong	6	---	13	18	1	38
Sepetir	---	---	---	---	8	8
Kapur	169	20	596	385	177	1,374
Keruing	24	5	6	26	29	107
Meranti	385	109	599	600	380	2,290
Other species	2,361	2,582	7,523	7,372	5,194	28,115
TOTAL:	2,945	2,716	8,737	8,401	5,789	31,932

Source of data : Forest Department Sarawak  
(Please note that the figures for July 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)



SARAWAK timber trade statistics

PRODUCTION OF LOGS FROM INDUSTRIAL FOREST PLANTATION BY REGION FROM SARAWAK

PENGELUARAN BALAK DARI PERLADANGAN HUTAN INDUSTRI MENGIKUT BAHAGIAN DARI SARAWAK

砂拉越各区域工业人工林原木种类生产量

Region		Apr '25	Apr '24	May '25	May '24	Jun '25	Jun '24	Jan - Jun '25	Jan - Jun '24
		Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)	Vol (m³)
Sibu	(ACMG)	3,653	6,907	762	8,364	1,609	5,679	12,846	36,547
	(ALBZ)	1,372	1,081	---	535	---	1,342	4,825	5,097
	(EUCA)	729	---	---	---	---	---	2,783	---
	(KLPN)	44	841	---	400	231	989	354	5,012
Bintulu	(ACMG)	15,733	41,368	15,603	47,749	14,933	42,119	93,939	293,332
	(ALBZ)	3,608	5,595	7,530	9,845	4,478	12,873	19,554	38,146
	(EUCA)	1,510	794	152	2,069	2,239	2,535	13,563	11,576
	(GMELINA)	---	---	---	292	---	---	---	292
	(KLPN)	---	144	---	---	---	42	---	277
Miri	(ACMG)	11,997	15,832	10,411	8,542	14,472	11,266	54,570	77,007
	(ALBZ)	2,977	1,438	4,181	1,336	4,057	1,632	21,173	9,789
	(EUCA)	5,112	8,512	10,386	7,014	9,692	11,839	38,866	47,201
	(GMELINA)	---	---	490	---	1,570	---	2,060	---
	(KLPN)	---	---	46	---	---	---	166	---
Limbang	(ACMG)	---	1,320	---	2,576	---	690	---	8,972
Subtotal	(ACMG)	31,383	65,427	26,776	67,231	31,014	59,754	161,355	415,858
	(ALBZ)	7,957	8,114	11,711	11,716	8,535	15,847	45,552	53,032
	(EUCA)	7,351	9,306	10,538	9,083	11,931	14,374	55,212	58,777
	(GMELINA)	---	---	490	292	1,570	---	2,060	292
	(KLPN)	44	985	46	400	231	1,031	520	5,289
TOTAL:		46,735	83,832	49,561	88,722	53,281	91,006	264,699	533,248

Source of data : Forest Department Sarawak  
(Please note that the figures for July 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)

\*ACMG - Acacia mangium ALBZ - Albizia EUCA - Eucalyptus GMELINA - Gmelina arborea KLPN - Kelampayan MHGN - Mahogany

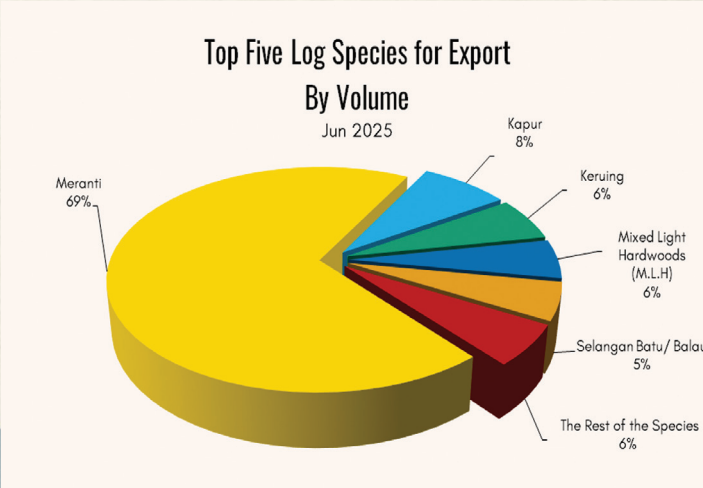
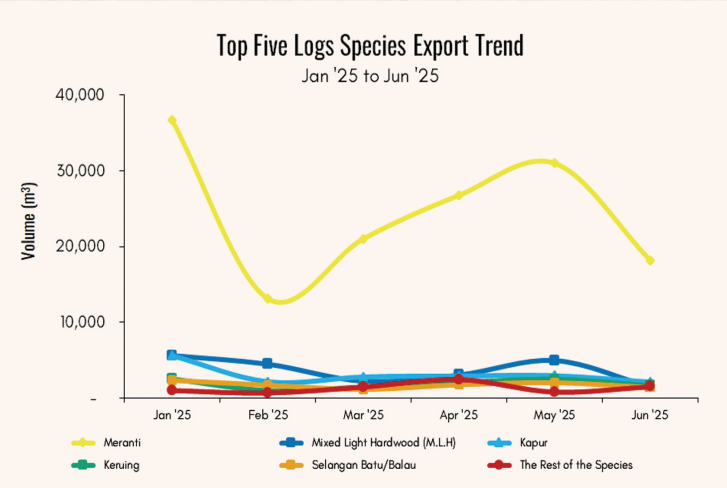
EXPORT OF LOGS BY SPECIES FROM SARAWAK

EKSPORT BALAK MENGIKUT SPESIS DARI SARAWAK

砂拉越原木树种出口量

Species	Apr '25		May '25		Jun '25		Jan - Jun '25		Jan - Jun '24	
	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM)
Arau	99	116,695	131	151,491	58	62,577	710	847,168	1,365	1,594,509
Bindang/Damar Minyak/Agathis	1,599	1,507,862	---	---	1,003	1,128,443	3,675	3,631,781	---	---
Kapur	2,917	3,302,500	2,962	3,199,877	2,109	2,284,539	18,571	20,493,136	23,728	26,695,367
Keruing	2,034	1,605,050	2,496	2,072,739	1,627	1,293,548	11,125	8,951,112	28,146	22,019,613
Meranti	26,788	20,724,690	31,032	24,657,019	18,188	14,250,371	146,882	111,072,706	150,069	110,867,449
Mersawa	279	240,694	199	178,513	222	190,756	1,170	1,024,211	3,329	2,397,864
Mixed Light Hardwoods (M.L.H)	3,058	1,974,417	4,986	3,197,925	1,472	917,016	21,911	13,292,765	26,683	17,255,370
Nyatoh	82	48,945	64	38,787	56	34,497	468	278,177	185	124,742
Resak	409	330,480	256	221,024	194	164,410	1,472	1,233,107	1,938	1,693,663
Selangan Batu/Balau	1,748	2,962,533	2,000	3,208,261	1,419	2,363,450	10,319	16,867,567	11,662	17,938,098
Other Species	10	5,317	184	127,176	8	9,853	617	410,241	150	90,671
TOTAL:	39,023	32,819,183	44,310	37,052,812	26,356	22,699,460	216,920	178,101,971	247,255	200,677,346

Source of data: Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation  
(Please note that the figures for July 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)



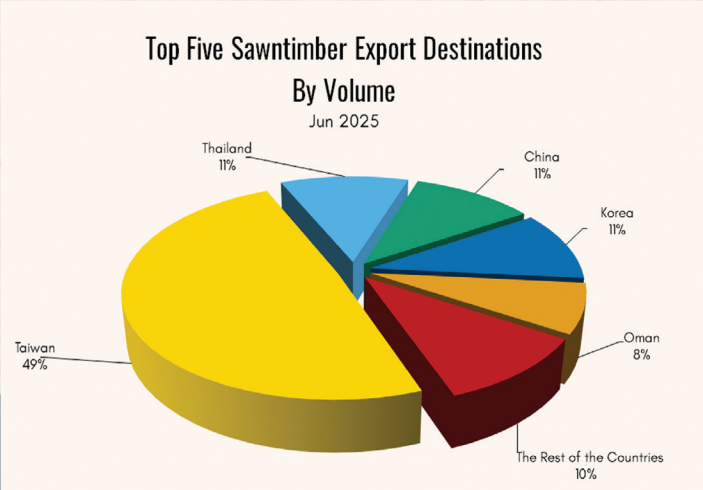
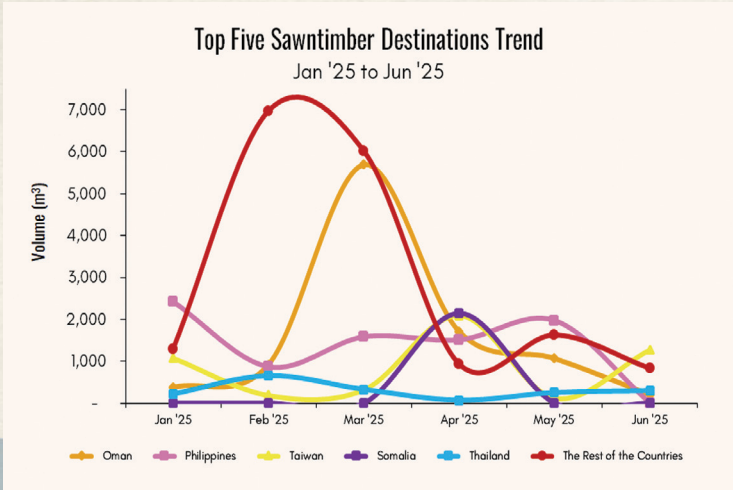


SARAWAK timber trade statistics

EXPORT OF SAWNTIMBER BY DESTINATIONS FROM SARAWAK
EKSPORT KAYU BERGERGAJI MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越至各目的地之锯木出口量

Table with 11 columns: Country of Destination, Apr '25 (Vol, Val), May '25 (Vol, Val), Jun '25 (Vol, Val), Jan - Jun '25 (Vol, Val), Jan - Jun '24 (Vol, Val). Rows include Australia, Brunei, China, Japan, Korea, Oman, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Other Countries, and TOTAL.

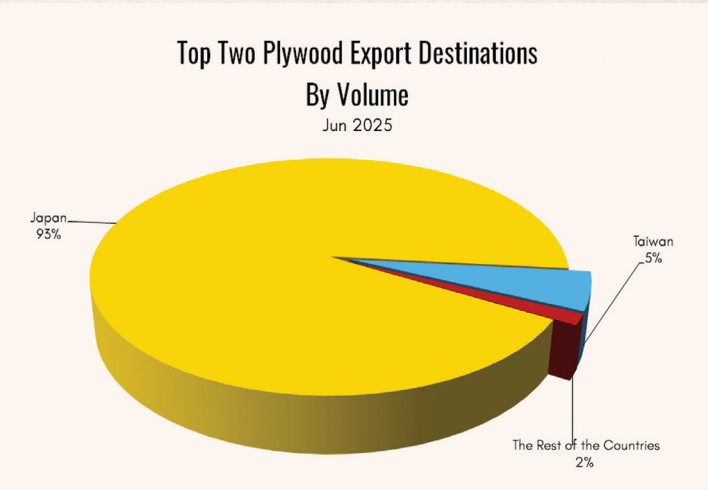
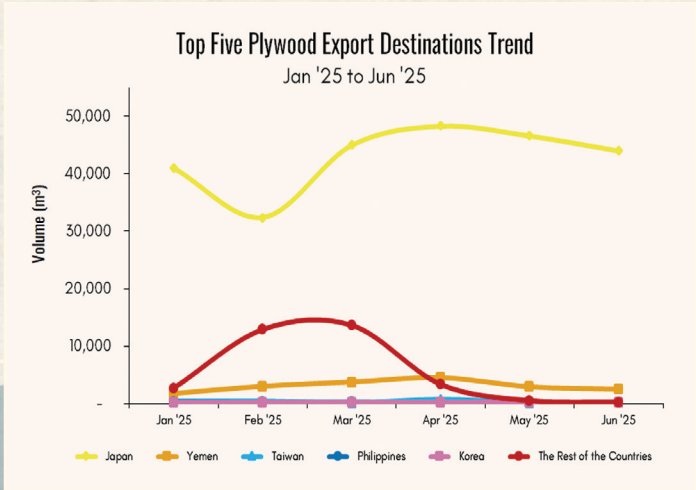
Source of data : Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation
(Please note that the figures for July 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)



EXPORT OF PLYWOOD BY DESTINATIONS FROM SARAWAK
EKSPORT PAPAN LAPIS MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK
砂拉越至各目的地之胶合板出口量

Table with 11 columns: Country of Destination, Apr '25 (Vol, Val), May '25 (Vol, Val), Jun '25 (Vol, Val), Jan - Jun '25 (Vol, Val), Jan - Jun '24 (Vol, Val). Rows include Australia, Brunei, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Other Countries, and TOTAL.

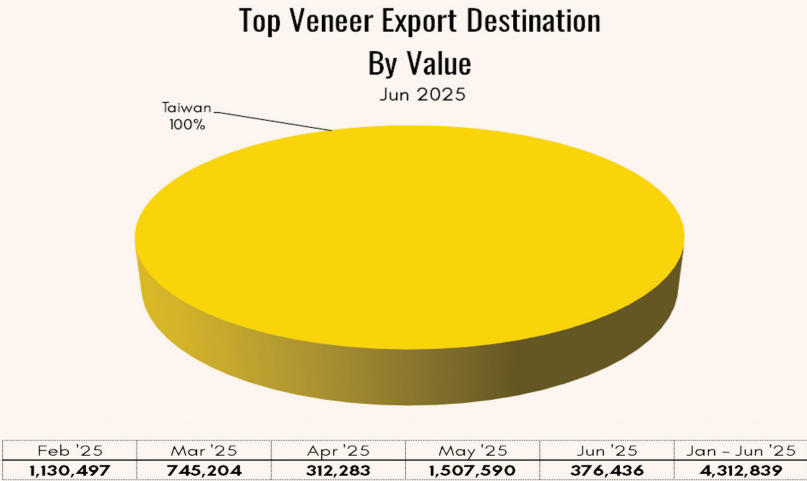
Source of data : Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation
(Please note that the figures for July 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)



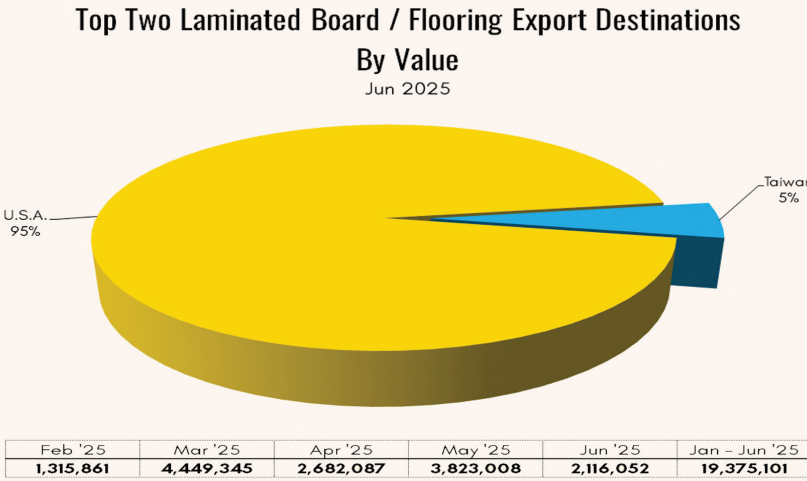




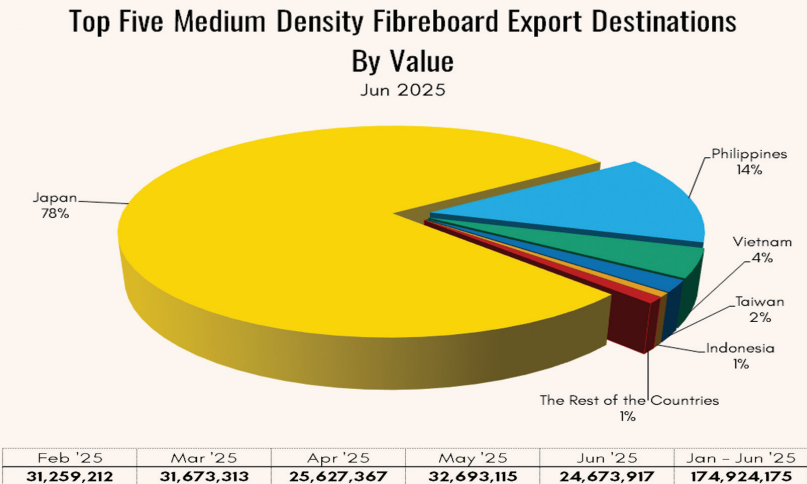
EXPORT VALUE OF VENEER BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK  
NILAI EKSPORT VENIR MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之单板出口值



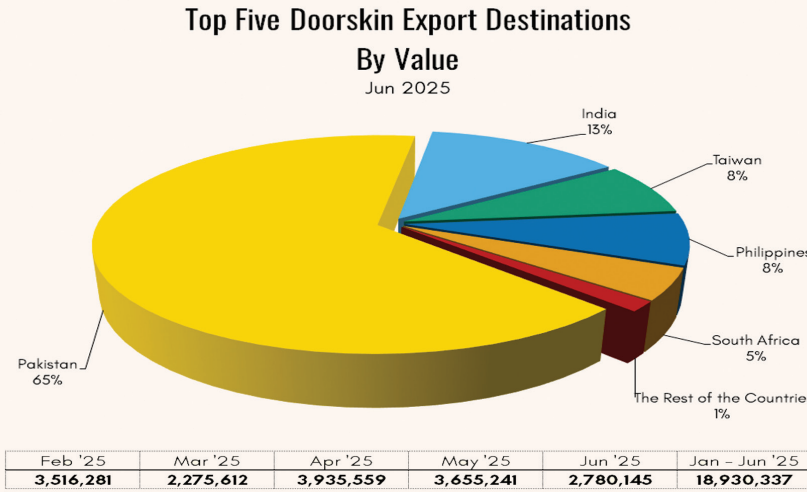
EXPORT VALUE OF LAMINATED BOARD / FLOORING BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK  
NILAI EKSPORT PAPAN LAMINA / LANTAI MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之层压板/地板出口值



EXPORT VALUE OF MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK  
NILAI EKSPORT PAPAN GENTIAN BERKETUMPATAN SEDERHANA MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之中密度纤维板出口值



EXPORT VALUE OF DOORSKIN BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK  
NILAI EKSPORT DAUN PINTU MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之门皮出口值



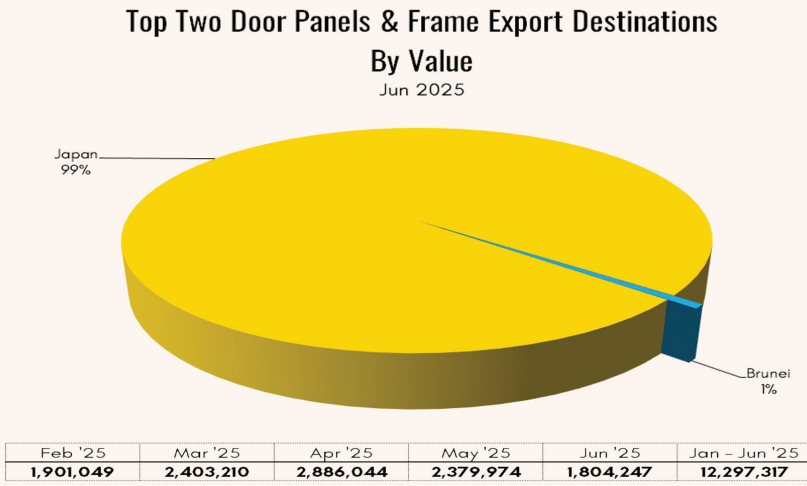
EXPORT VALUE OF PARTICLEBOARD BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK  
NILAI EKSPORT PAPAN SERPAI MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之塑合板出口值

*Remark:*  
No export of particleboard was recorded in Jun 2025

Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25	Jan - Jun '25
---	---	---	---	---	113,694



EXPORT VALUE OF DOOR PANELS & FRAME BY DESTINATION FROM SARAWAK  
NILAI EKSPORT PANEL & BINGKAI PINTU MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之门框出口值



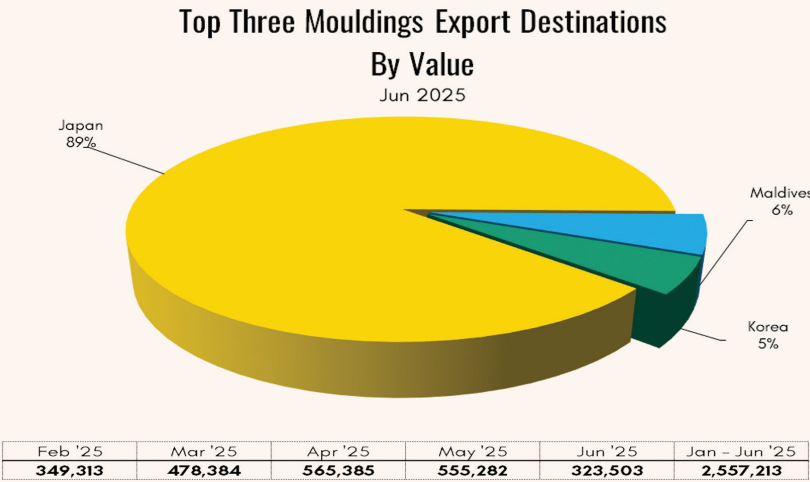
Source of data : Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation  
(Please note that the figures for July 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)

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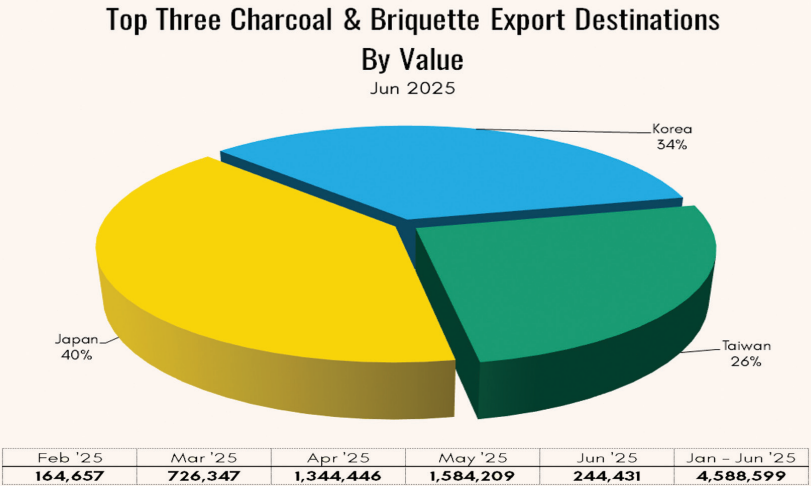




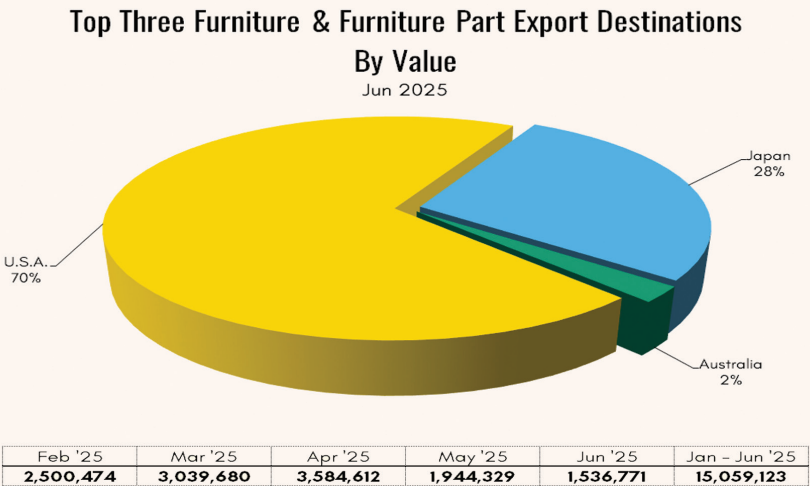
EXPORT VALUE OF  
MOULDINGS BY  
DESTINATION FROM  
SARAWAK  
NILAI EKSPORT KAYU KUMAI  
MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI  
SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之制模出口值



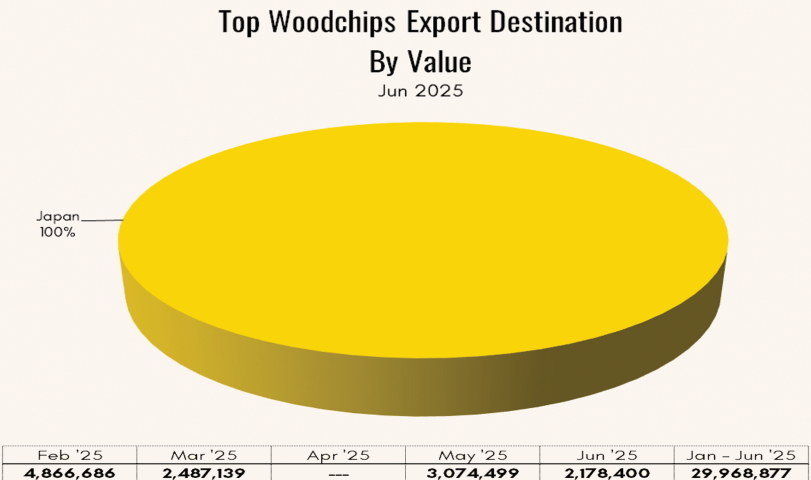
EXPORT VALUE OF  
CHARCOAL & BRIQUETTE  
BY DESTINATION FROM  
SARAWAK  
NILAI EKSPORT ARANG & BRIKET  
MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI  
SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之木炭和  
煤球出口值



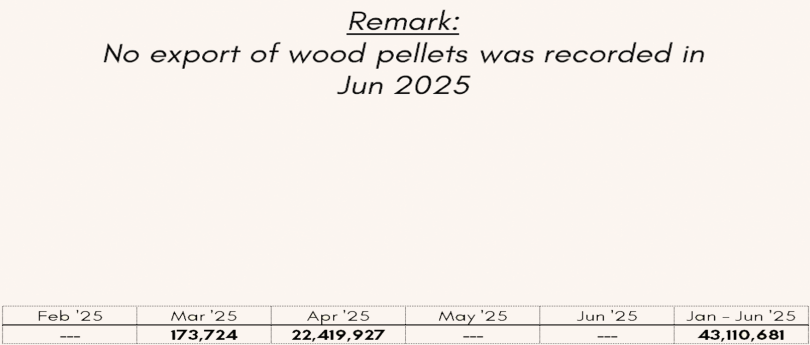
EXPORT VALUE OF  
FURNITURE & FURNITURE  
PARTS BY DESTINATION  
FROM SARAWAK  
NILAI EKSPORT PERABOT &  
BAHAGIANNYA MENGIKUT  
DESTINASI DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之家具及  
其零件出口值



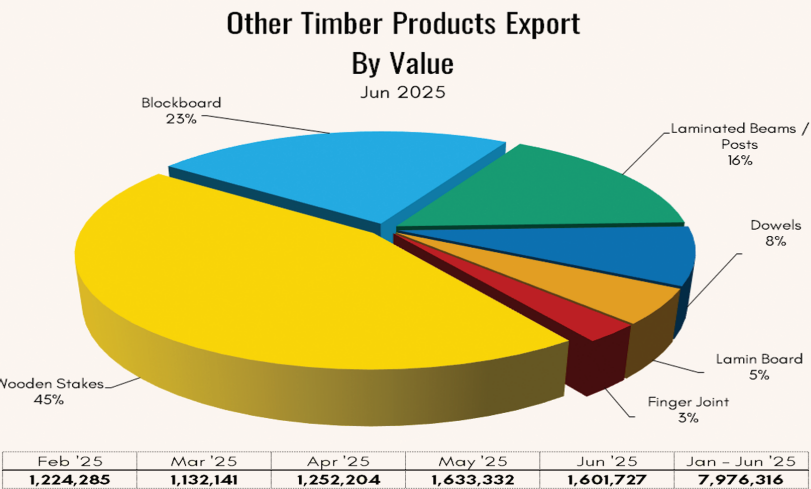
EXPORT VALUE OF  
WOODCHIPS BY  
DESTINATION FROM  
SARAWAK  
NILAI EKSPORT CIP KAYU  
MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI  
SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之木屑出口值



EXPORT VALUE OF WOOD  
PELLETS BY DESTINATION  
FROM SARAWAK  
NILAI EKSPORT PELET KAYU  
MENGIKUT DESTINASI DARI  
SARAWAK  
砂拉越至各目的地之木屑颗粒出口值



EXPORT VALUE OF OTHER  
TIMBER PRODUCTS FROM  
SARAWAK  
NILAI EKSPORT PRODUK KAYU  
LAIN DARI SARAWAK  
砂拉越其它木制品出口值



Source of data : Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation  
(Please note that the figures for July 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)

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(Please note that the figures for July 2025 Edition may be subject to change in the next Edition due to revised data from source)



**STA TRAINING SDN BHD**

## OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAMME JULY 2025

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

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

For this month, STAT conducted ground operator training programme as follows:

### > **Mechanical Site Preparation - Excavator (Forest Plantation)**

**STAT Trainer / Assessor** : Mr Ginda Uli  
**Date** : 8 - 11 July 2025  
**Location** : LPF Bangau Camp, Mukah  
**Company** : Tanjong Manis Resources Sdn Bhd



Under Section 51 of the Forests Ordinance 2015, forest workmen are required to receive training from a training provider and demonstrate their competence through assessment. STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) is the appointed training provider by Forest Department Sarawak to provide skills training for the five (5) prescribed forestry activities (PFAs) as listed in Schedule 1 The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015.

## GET IN TOUCH

For more information, contact Mr Wong How Chu at 082 - 332 222 or email at [howchu@sta.org.my](mailto:howchu@sta.org.my)