

# STA Review

Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association  
VOLUME 346 PPK 174/05/2013 (032756)



Mechanised Tree Planting System for Sarawak Forestry Sector p.3  
Project on Helmeted Hornbill in Usun Apau National Park p.3  
Symposium on Developing Resilient Industrial Tree Plantations in Sabah p.4

JUL  
2022



# CONTENTS

# PAGE

# STA REVIEW

<i>Mechanised Tree Planting System for Sarawak Forestry Sector</i>	3
<i>Project on Helmeted Hornbill in Usun Apau National Park</i>	3
<i>Symposium on Developing Resilient Industrial Tree Plantations in Sabah: Forestry Pests &amp; Diseases</i>	4
<i>Courtesy Call by Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation</i>	5
<i>HRD Corp Workshop – Claim Module for Training Providers</i>	5
<i>Connecting Asia Pacific Markets for Sustainable Tropical Timber in the Construction Industry</i>	6
<i>Talent Development Workshop</i>	7
<i>Stakeholder Engagement Session for Kuching City Local Plan 2030</i>	8
<i>MTA Engagement Session with Sabah Planters</i>	8
<i>MTA Executive Committee Meeting No.2/2022 &amp; AGM</i>	9
<i>Meeting of MEF East Malaysia Region Members</i>	10
<i>Courtesy Call from Malaysian Employers Federation</i>	10
<i>Employees Provident Fund Statutory Contribution for Employees at 11%</i>	11

## REGULAR FEATURES

<i>Statistics</i>	12
<i>Operator Training Programme</i>	24

## COVER IMAGE

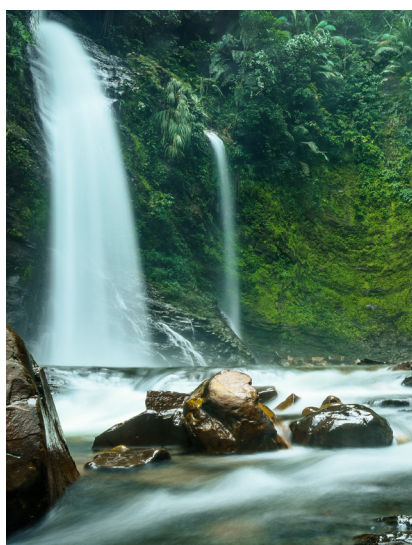


Photo Credit: Stephen Wong Tze Kim  
Location: Keluan Waterfall, Long San

is a monthly magazine published by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) for its members. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information printed in this magazine is accurate and correct, neither STA nor its Council Members, Officers or Employees shall assume any responsibility or be made liable for any inaccuracies and errors printed; nor is such publication, unless otherwise stated, necessarily the views of STA, its Council Members, Officers or Employees. The contents of the STA Review may be reprinted with prior written permission from STA.

STA Review is mailed free of charge to all STA Members. Paid subscription is also available to non-members. An annual subscription fee of RM300.00 is charged to organisations within Malaysia, and US\$400.00 to foreign organisations in other Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand, and US\$600.00 to foreign organisations in American and European countries respectively. The subscription fee is inclusive of courier charges. STA reserves the right to change the subscription fees from time to time to reflect currency fluctuations. Paid subscription is non-refundable.

## EDITORIAL BOARD

### Editor

Annie Ting

### Members

Flora Eliza Saban

Freda Emmanuel

Jaime Chan

Miriam Hong

Wong How Chu

Yii Yien Yien

### Published by

**Sarawak Timber Association**  
11 Floor, Wisma STA,  
26, Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul  
Rahim, 93450 Kuching,  
Sarawak, Malaysia

Tel: ++ (60 82) 332 222  
Fax: ++ (60 82) 487 888  
Email: [sta@sta.org.my](mailto:sta@sta.org.my)  
Website: [www.sta.org.my](http://www.sta.org.my)

### Printed by

**Lee Ming Press Sdn Bhd**  
Lot 2050, Jalan Swasta,  
Pending Industrial Estate,  
93450 Kuching, Sarawak,  
Malaysia

Tel : ++ (60 82) 253 303  
Fax : ++ (60 82) 426 382  
Email : [sales@leeming.com.my](mailto:sales@leeming.com.my)

# Mechanised Tree Planting System for Sarawak Forestry Sector

In order to promote the use of technology in the forestry sector, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) has proposed to conduct a study on mechanised tree planting system in Sarawak.

FDS conducted meetings with STA members on 25 July 2022 in Miri with the aim to provide background information as well as scope of study. The meetings, led by Dr Affendi Bin Suhaili, Head of Forest Technology & Geospatial Division, FDS were attended by representatives from Samling Group of Companies, Shin Yang Group of Companies and STA Secretariat.

Sharing and discussion on types of planter head, modification of excavator to install the planter head and other technical requirement, cost to operate the system, limitation of the system on Sarawak's undulating and steep terrain as well as impact of soil compaction has provided FDS with better insights on way forward for the project.

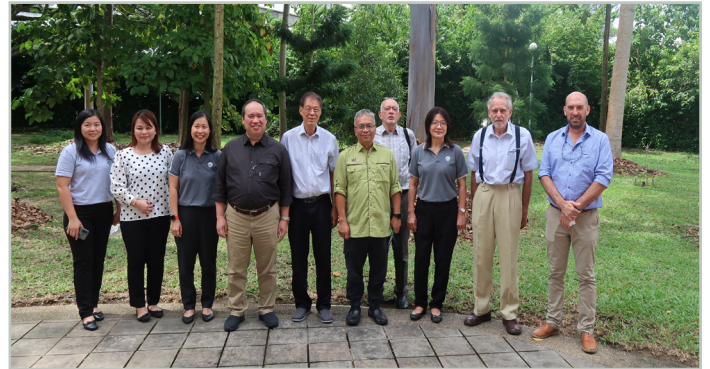


Photo taken after meeting with Samling, led by its Chief Operating Officer, Mr James Ho Yam Kuan. Also seen in photo is Dr Affendi (4<sup>th</sup> from left) and Ms Annie Ting (3<sup>rd</sup> from left)



Meeting with representatives from Shin Yang Group of Companies.

砂拉越森林局（FDS）于2022年7月25日召开会议，为本会会员提供砂拉越机械化植林系统的背景资料，一项研究项目以推广林业部的技术使用。该分享和讨论环节为 FDS 提供对项目前进方向的更好见解。

Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) berkongsi latar belakang sistem penanaman pokok berjentera di Sarawak, satu kajian yang dicadangkan untuk mempromosikan penggunaan teknologi dalam sektor perhutanan, kepada ahli-ahli STA dalam mesyuarat yang diadakan pada 25 Julai 2022.

## Project on Helmeted Hornbill in Usun Apau National Park

In October 2021, following a rapid assessment of Helmeted Hornbill at several selected priority sites in Sarawak in 2019, Malaysian Nature Society Kuching Branch (MNSKB) embarked on a 3-year project on Helmeted Hornbill in Usun Apau National Park.

Through the project, MNSKB aims to, among many, improve the knowledge on ecology and population status of Helmeted Hornbill, a critically endangered hornbill species, in Usun Apau National Park.

Ms Rose Au Nyat Jun, Chair of MNSKB and Ms Batrisyia Teepol, Vice-Chair of MNSKB briefed STA Secretariat on the project via video conference on 20 July 2022.

Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA thanked MNSKB for recognizing STA as an important stakeholder and expressed STA's keenness to work together with

MNSKB, in line with STA's commitment to support and drive necessary interest and commitment towards conservation efforts.

马来西亚自然协会古晋分会(MNSKB)主席罗斯奥小姐(译音)通过线上平台,于2022年7月20日和本会秘书处召开会议讲解有关其一项计划,乌舜阿包国家公园的盔犀鸟。盔犀鸟是一种极度濒危物种,需要特别注意以确保它们的生存,该项目符合本会支持保护工作的承诺。

Persatuan Alam Malaysia Cawangan Kuching (MNSKB) diketuai oleh Pengerusinya, Cik Rose Au Nyat Jun, telah memberi taklimat kepada Sekretariat STA mengenai salah satu projeknya, Burung Enggang Taman Negara Usun Apau melalui persidangan video pada 20 Julai 2022. Ianya adalah spesies terancam kritikal yang memerlukan perhatian khas untuk memastikan kelangsungannya dan projek ini sejajar dengan komitmen STA untuk menyokong usaha pemuliharaan.



# Symposium on Developing Resilient Industrial Tree Plantations in Sabah: Forestry Pests & Diseases

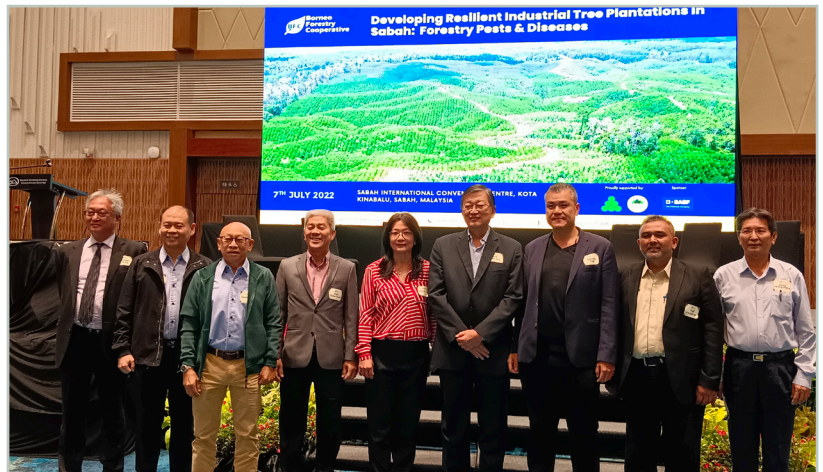
Borneo Forestry Cooperative (BFC), with the support from Sabah Forestry Department and Timber Association of Sabah, organised the “Symposium on Developing Resilient Industrial Tree Plantations in Sabah: Forestry Pests & Diseases” on 7 July 2022 at Sabah International Convention Centre, Kota Kinabalu.

The Symposium was launched by Datuk Frederick Kugan, Chief Conservator of Forests, Sabah Forestry Department. In his opening remarks, Datuk Frederick quoted the Forest Plantation Action Plan for Sabah (2022-2036) and shared that Sabah is rebuilding the productive capacity of the forest reserves by scaling up high-yielding 400,000 ha of Industrial Tree Plantation (ITP) development in the State. This effort is in line with the Sabah Maju Jaya Development Plan and Sabah Forest Policy 2018.

He pointed out that forest plantation has always been and will continue to be a significant component of the forestry sector, particularly in ensuring a sustainable supply of raw materials to the wood-based industries in Sabah. According to him, integrated pest and disease management is crucial in a productive ITP as it help keeps pest and disease populations at a low level, where no economic damage is done to the standing trees.

He then signed a Memorandum of Understanding with BFC to strengthen, promote and develop research cooperation between parties on the basis of equitable and mutual benefit as well as promote and support productive, profitable and sustainable ITP in Sabah through relevant research in advanced tree breeding and silviculture. The MOU also set out to develop human capital in Sabah forestry by enhancing the capability and capacity of local staff in performing forest researches.

Pengetahuan dan pengalaman mengenai Perladangan Hutan Industri (ITP) serta perosak dan penyakit telah dikongsikan dalam “Simposium Pembangunan Ladang Hutan Industri Berdaya Tahan di Sabah: Perosak & Penyakit Perhutanan”, yang dianjurkan pada 7 Julai 2022 di Pusat Konvensyen Antarabangsa Sabah, Kota Kinabalu. Memorandum Persefahaman untuk memperkukuhkan dan membangunkan kerjasama penyelidikan di antara Jabatan Perhutanan Sabah dan Borneo Forestry Cooperative turut ditandatangani semasa Simposium tersebut.



Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (centre) and Mr Goh Chee Yew, President of MTA (4<sup>th</sup> from right) with the rest of the MTA Executive Committee at the Symposium.

A total of five (5) papers were presented during the Symposium as listed below:

**“Impact of the new ITP economic value chain (EVC) on the bottom line: ways in which ITP EVC performs better”** by Mr Norman Wong, Chairman of TAS

He highlighted the opportunities and impacts of ITP as well as its enabling factors. He also suggested the implementation plans to scale-up the supply and demand in the ITP EVC.

**“The fundamentals of ITP and the cost of development”** by Mr Glen Mac Nair, Chief Executive Officer of Forest Solutions Malaysia Sdn Bhd

He stressed the key factors and the roles of government and investors in developing a successful ITP.

**“Pests and pathogen threats to tropical plantation forestry: lessons learned and future prospects”** by Prof. Mike Wingfield, Founding Director of Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute, University of Pretoria

He shared his experiences and knowledge on pests and pathogen. He informed that the plantation forestry in the region will continuously face new pest problems and opined that an ability to manage these pests will define sustainable plantation forestry in the future.

**“Implementing integrated pest management in ITP in Sabah: challenges and opportunities”** by Dr Simon Lawson, Associate Professor of Forest Health, Forest Industries Research Centre, University of Sunshine Coast

He briefed on the importance of the integrated pest management system for the forest plantation industry, and the needs to improve the regional forest biosecurity to lower the risk of invasion of new pests and diseases.

**“Forest Health: Research and development strategies, surveillance and mitigation”** by Dr Yani Japarudin, Head of Research and Development, Sabah Softwood Berhad

She shared the history of *Ceratocystis* attack on *Acacia mangium* and the strategic implementation through genetic screening and selection to produce tolerant and resistant planting material.

Dr Yani also briefed on the forest health programme for *Eucalyptus pellita* and highlighted the importance of pests and diseases surveillance with the aid of technologies.

2022 年 7 月 7 日在亚庇沙巴国际会展中心举办的“发展沙巴弹性工业树木种植：林业病虫害研讨会”分享有关工业树木种植 (ITP) 与病虫害的知识和经验。沙巴森林局和婆罗州林业合作社也在研讨会上签署加强和发展研究合作的谅解备忘录。



## Courtesy Call by Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation

The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), represented by its Director, Mr Zamzuri Mohamed and Operations Administrative Assistant, Haji Mohammad Nazurudin Othman, paid a courtesy call to STA on 13 July 2022 at Wisma STA, Kuching. Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA, Mr Brian Yeo, Finance & Administration Senior Manager, STA and Ms Emily Chua, Assistant Manager of STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd were there to welcome the guests.

Both parties took the opportunity to share their current works and discussed future partnership in particular on trade and engagements for the wellbeing of members of STA. STA is committed to foster and maintain close collaboration with stakeholders such as MATRADE for the mutual benefit of developing and advancing the timber industry.



Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) posed for photo with Mr Zamzuri Mohamed (centre), Director of MATRADE and Haji Mohammad Nazurudin, Operations Administrative Assistant (2<sup>nd</sup> from left).

马来西亚对外贸易发展局(MATRADE)砂拉越分局局长占祖里与运营行政助理, 哈兹莫哈末纳祖儒丁于 2022 年 7 月 13 日前往古晋STA大厦礼貌拜访本会, 主要分享他们当前的工作并讨论未来的伙伴关系, 特别是在贸易和参与方面, 以促进本会成员的福祉。

Delegasi dari Perbadanan Pembangunan Perdagangan Luar Malaysia (MATRADE), diketuai oleh Pengarahnya, Encik Zamzuri Mohamed telah membuat kunjungan hormat ke STA pada 13 Julai 2022 di Wisma STA, Kuching untuk berkongsi mengenai kerja semasa dan membincangkan potensi kerjasama khususnya perdagangan dan penglibatan untuk kesejahteraan ahli-ahli STA.

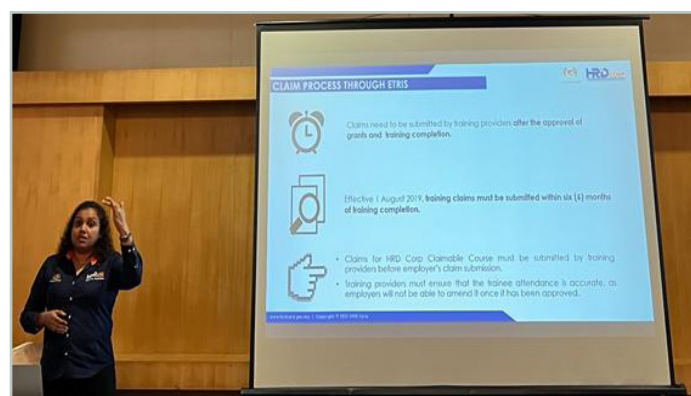
## HRD Corp Workshop – Claim Module for Training Providers

A workshop on Claim Module for Training Providers was conducted on 6 July 2022 at Imperial Hotel, Kuching in conjunction with the Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) Open Day Sarawak. Participants were exposed to topics such as grant approval (before training); claim submission (within 6 months upon completion of training) and claim process through e-TRIS.

Ms Geetha Ganesan, Special Officer to Chief Executive of HRD Corp highlighted that in order to qualify for training grants, training programmes must be structured to include training objectives, training activities and lesson plans.

HRD Corp Microcredential (MC) Initiative which provides registered employers with the opportunities to get their employees certified while enhancing their skills and knowledge through HRD Corp registered training courses was also introduced in the workshop. It provides value to existing HRD Corp registered training courses by ensuring

all MC courses offered through HRD Corp meet the required standards of HRD Corp MC Framework, in line with the requirements set by the accreditation bodies.



Ms Geetha Ganesan, Special Officer to Chief Executive of HRD Corp conducting the workshop.

配合人力资源发展机构(HRD Corp)砂拉越开放日, 一项为培训机构提供的索偿机制研讨会于2022年7月6日在古晋帝宫酒店举行。参与者聆听相关课题例如拨款批准(培训前); 提交索偿(在完成培训后的6个月内)和通过 e-TRIS系统的索偿程序。研讨会也介绍HRD Corp其中一个新增值的项目, 即HRD Corp 微证书 (MC) 倡议。

Bengkel mengenai Modul Tuntutan untuk Penyedia Latihan telah diadakan pada 6 Julai 2022 di Hotel Imperial, Kuching bersempena dengan hari terbuka Sarawak. Peserta didedahkan dengan topik seperti kelulusan geran (sebelum latihan); penyerahan tuntutan (dalam masa 6 bulan setelah selesai latihan) dan proses tuntutan melalui e-tris. Salah satu nilai tambah baru HRD Corp, inisiatif Microcredential HRD Corp (MC) turut diperkenalkan.



# Connecting Asia Pacific Markets for Sustainable Tropical Timber in the Construction Industry

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in partnership with the United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) Lower Mekong Initiative conducted a webinar “Connecting Asia Pacific Markets for Sustainable Tropical Timber in the Construction Industry” on 7 July 2022. The webinar brought together representatives from timber companies, construction companies, industry professionals, associations and government agencies.

The one-hour webinar discussed the utilisation of FSC-certified tropical timber by businesses in achieving sustainability, challenges of sourcing tropical timber in the construction industry, and solutions to address those identified challenges.

In her introductory remarks, Ms Cindy Cheng, FSC Asia Pacific Regional Director, highlighted that the UN-REDD Lower Mekong Initiative aims to support legal and sustainable forestry in the Lower Mekong Region (LMR) through improved governance, reduce forest degradation and deforestation as well as promote sustainable forest management. The initiative will also contribute towards legal and sustainable timber trade in Southeast Asia.

The webinar, moderated by Mr Daniel Gudsell, Marketing Director of Abodo Wood Ltd, featured four (4) panel speakers from Australia Timber Importers Federation (ATIF), Mitsubishi Estate Co. Ltd., New Zealand Imported Timber Trade Group (NZITTG), and PT Kayu Lapis Indonesia respectively.

Mr John Halkett, General Manager of ATIF shared that the COVID-19 pandemic and invasion of Russia into Ukraine have disrupted the supply chain of imported timber supplies into Australian market, causing shortage of raw materials in the construction and building industries. He also shared that the limited supplies from their traditional sources have forced them to explore importation of tropical timber from other countries such as Papua New Guinea and Solomon.

Mr Malcolm Scott, Chair of the NZITTG disclosed that New Zealand is much focused on sustainability and

森林管理理事会(FSC)于2022年7月7日举办了一项题为“连接亚太地区建筑业可持续热带木材市场”线上研讨会。来自木材公司、建筑公司，政府机构的代表了解世界各地为推进可持续发展目标所做出的努力。



Panel Speakers featured during the Webinar

has a long history of importing timber, buying from countries with certified sustainable tropical hardwoods including Papua New Guinea, various South American countries, the Solomon Islands, African countries, Fiji, and others.

Another speaker, Mr Budi Hermawan, Marketing Director from PT Kayu Lapis Indonesia shared some of the company's initiative towards sustainable development goals, namely efficient use of raw materials, reduction of carbon emissions through sustainable forest management, supply chain transparency and responsible sourcing of wood raw materials.

Mr Hiroaki Ishikawa, Corporate Planning Department, Sustainability Management and Promotion Group Special Appointive Advisor from Mitsubishi Estate Co. Ltd. highlighted the company's commitment to switch all concrete forming boards used in construction sites to certified materials by 2030 as part of their efforts to support sustainable timber. He added that some of the challenges faced in utilising FSC certified timber are increase in construction cost and limited supply of certified timber.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) telah mengadakan webinar “Menghubungkan Pasaran Asia Pasifik untuk Kayu Tropika Mampan dalam Industri Pembinaan” pada 7 Julai 2022 di mana wakil-wakil daripada syarikat perkayuan, syarikat pembinaan, agensi-agensi kerajaan dimaklumkan mengenai usaha-usaha yang diambil di seluruh dunia dalam memperkasakan matlamat pembangunan lestari.



# Talent Development Workshop

Seventy (70) participants from various agencies, institutions, and departments attended the 3-day Talent Development Workshop organised by the Ministry of Education, Innovation and Talent Development (MEITD) Sarawak from 13 to 15 July 2022, at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCKK).

The workshop was organised to, among many others, develop a new framework for talent development in line with the Post-COVID Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030) and promote active collaborations across ministries, departments as well as technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and higher learning institutions.

The inaugural workshop was officiated by Datuk Roland Sagah Wee Inn, Minister of Education, Innovation, and Talent Development who stated that with this effort, the educational institutions in the state will continuously receive updated data on the skill set requirements from various industries for their planning of pertinent courses. He added that each of the industry sectors listed in the PCDS 2030 have their own needs pertaining to skills sets, workforce, technologies and equipments; all of which may change from time to time, under the volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous environment today.



*Participants of the workshop discussing during group activity*

砂拉越教育、创新和人才发展部(MEITD)于 2022 年 7 月 13 日至 15 日在古晋婆罗洲会展中心(BCKK)举办为期 3 天的人才发展工作坊。首届工作坊旨在制定一个新的人才发展框架，以配合2030年后冠病发展策略(PCDS 2030)，并促进各部门、单位以及技术和职业教育与培训(TVET)和高等教育机构之间的积极合作。

During the workshop, participants were divided into groups to discuss possible mechanisms that could encourage stronger collaboration between the industries and talent providers such as universities and training centres in narrowing the talent gap in Sarawak. All the inputs derived from group discussions were presented to Datuk Francis Harden Hollis, Deputy Minister (Talent Development) and Datu Kameri Haji Affandi, Permanent Secretary of MEITD.

Datuk Francis in his concluding remarks emphasised the importance of having clear strategies and key performance indicators to match the needs and requirements of the industries and higher learning institutions including TVET. He anticipated that these strategies would provide solution to unemployment issues currently faced by graduates in Sarawak. He shared that MEITD will form a task force to look into the detailed implementation of the recommended strategies from the workshop to produce talented, skilled and qualified workforce in the future.



*Representatives from various agencies, institutions and departments that participated in the 3-day workshop.*

Kementerian Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat (MEITD) Sarawak mengadakan Bengkel Pembangunan Bakat selama 3 hari di Pusat Konvensyen Borneo Kuching (BCKK) dari 13 hingga 15 Julai 2022. Bengkel sulung ini bertujuan untuk membangunkan rangka kerja baharu untuk pembangunan bakat selaras dengan Strategi Pembangunan Pasca Covid 2030 (PCDS 2030) dan mempromosikan kerjasama aktif di seluruh kementerian, jabatan serta Pendidikan Teknikal dan Latihan Vokasional (TVET) dan institusi pengajian tinggi.



# Stakeholder Engagement Session for Kuching City Local Plan 2030

Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development (MUDeNR) has commissioned local consultants and foreign partners from Australia to undertake a study on Kuching City Local Plan 2030.

A stakeholder engagement session, as part of the public participation programme for the nearly completed 12-month study was carried out on 18 July 2022 at Waterfront Hotel, Kuching to, among others, provide participants with a detailed understanding of work completed as well as brief on the approach, proposals and recommendations of the plan.

Datu Sajeli Kipli, Advisor in the Planning and Urban Development Division of MUDeNR, in his welcoming remarks, stated that the Kuching City Local Plan 2030 is the first plan that entails a public participation programme.

He took the opportunity to emphasise the importance of engaging with representatives of State and Federal ministries, departments and agencies as well as chairmen and representatives of professional bodies, associations, institutions and non-governmental organisations in developing a plan to make Kuching a more conducive place to work, play and live in.

He further commended the team of consultants and experts for considering previously developed plan

在天然资源及城市发展部(MUDeNR)的委托下，利益相关者于2022年7月18日假古晋海滨酒店进行2030年古晋市地方计划研究，为公众参与计划的一部分。

参与者详细了解已完成的工作以及计划的方法、提议和建议的简要介绍。

such as the Sarawak Master Land Use Plan into the study and suggested that they also consider the Sarawak Real Estate Study in firming up findings for the study.

The engagement session commenced with briefing by the consultant, followed by presentation on a series of subjects related to the study, such as housing and community facilities, employment, industry and agriculture, urban design, as well as transport and connectivity.

A number of participants called for planning for Sarawak to be integrated and extensive discussion revolved around the issue of affordable housing, which most felt is a factor of many variables, such as maintenance and management as well as cost of labour and construction materials.

The consultant shared that the team will deliberate upon all verbal and written feedbacks received in their objective of developing a plan that is comprehensive and strategic, across all sectors.

Sesi penglibatan pemegang taruh merupakan sebahagian daripada program penyertaan awam untuk kajian Pelan Tempatan Bandaraya Kuching 2030 yang tugaskan oleh Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar (MUDeNR) telah diadakan pada 18 Julai 2022 di Hotel Waterfront, Kuching.

Peserta-peserta berpeluang untuk memahami secara terperinci tentang kerja-kerja yang telah disiapkan serta pendekatan, kertas kerja dan cadangan pelan.

## MTA Engagement Session with Sabah Planters

Malaysian Wood Moulding and Joinery Council (MWMJC), a member of Malaysian Timber Association (MTA), engaged with tree planters from Sabah on 6 July 2022 at Hyatt Regency Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

The engagement session was conducted to learn on the knowledge and experiences on planted raw material supply from Sabah planters.

In his welcoming speech, Mr Goh Chee Yew, Chairman of MTA said that the engagement session is timely given the shortage of raw materials currently faced by the downstream timber processing industry in Malaysia.

He added that the session will certainly benefit MWMJC's project on utilisation of planted species to produce high value-added timber products.

Mr Edmund Lim Boon Yew, Board Member of MWMJC shared that the 12-month project funded by Malaysian Timber Council is aimed to identify suitable fast-growing species for manufacturing downstream timber products.

According to him, the main planted species targeted in this project are *Acacia*, *Eucalyptus*, Kelampayan and Batai.



Forest Solutions Malaysia Sdn Bhd, led by its Chief Executive Officer, Mr Glen Mac Nair briefed the group on the functions and services provided by the company covering all aspects from the pre-start feasibility to long term project management on forest plantation.

Also shared in the session was the lesson learnt by Sabah Softwoods Berhad (SSB) along the forest plantation development journey, delivered by Dr Yani Japarudin, Head of Research and Development of SSB.

She emphasised that key parameters for a profitable tree plantation are productivity, economic viability and sustainability, which could be improved by choosing the right species, improving planting material and by adopting best operational practices.

Majlis Kayu Kumai dan Tanggam Malaysia (MWMJC), salah satu ahli Persatuan Kayu Kayan Malaysia (MTA) telah mengadakan sesi penglibatan dengan penanam pokok dari Sabah pada 6 Julai 2022 di Hotel Hyatt Regency, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Tujuan sesi tersebut diadakan adalah untuk memperoleh maklumat dan pengalaman mengenai bekalan bahan mentah dari ladang hutan di Sabah.

马来西亚木材协会 (MTA) 的成员, 即马来西亚木业加工总会(MWMJC), 于2022年7月6日在沙巴亚庇凯悦酒店与当地的人工林种植公司进行交流, 以学习人工林原木供应的知识和经验。

## MTA Executive Committee Meeting No.2/2022 and AGM

In conjunction with the Borneo Forestry Cooperative (BFC) symposium “*Developing Resilient Industrial Tree Plantations in Sabah: Forestry Pests & Diseases*” in Sabah on 7 July 2022, the Malaysian Timber Association (MTA) Executive Committee Meeting No 2/2022 and Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2022 were held on 8 July 2022 at Hyatt Regency Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Both meetings were presided over by Mr Goh Chee Yew, MTA President.

In the Executive Committee Meeting, each Executive Committee members reported on matters and issues undertaken and dealt with.

They also discussed the European Union Deforestation-Free Products Regulation, Social Compliance Practices in Employment of Migrant Workers in the Malaysian Timber Industry, Timber Industry 10-year Roadmap as well as Product Development using Plantation Timber (PDPT).

The Executive Committee further agreed to form a PDPT technical committee under the chairmanship of Malaysian Wood Moulding & Joinery Council and discussed the timeline for the completion of Timber Industry 10-year Roadmap report by the appointed consultant.

Meanwhile, members at the AGM received and adopted the Executive Committee's report on the workings of the MTA during the year of 2021 as well as the audited financial statement of the MTA for the year ending 2021.



Mr Goh Chee Yew, President of MTA (centre) presiding over both the Executive Committee Meeting and Annual General Meeting.

Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Eksekutif Bil 2/2022 dan Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan 2022 Persatuan Kayu Kayan Malaysia (MTA) telah diadakan pada 8 Julai 2022 dan dipengerusikan oleh Pengerusinya, Encik Goh Chee Yew.

Antara perkara-perkara yang dibincangkan dalam Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Eksekutif adalah Peraturan Produk Bebas – Penyahutanan Kesatuan Eropah, Amalan Pematuhan Sosial dalam Penggajian Pekerja Asing dalam Industri Perkayuan Malaysia dan Pelan Hala Tuju 10 Tahun Industri Perkayuan.

马来西亚木材公会(MTA)本年度第二次执行委员会会议和2022年常年大会于2022年7月8日举行, 由其主席吴志耀先生主持。

执行委员会会议讨论的一些事项涉及欧盟无毁森林产品条规, 马来西亚木材业雇佣移民员工的社会责任实践和木材业的10年蓝图。



## Meeting of MEF East Malaysia Region Members

The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) organised a virtual meeting on 20 July 2022 attended by 15 members of MEF East Malaysia Region. Chaired by Mr Bernard John Kanny, MEF's Senior Consultant – Industrial Relations, the meeting aimed at sharing information about absenteeism and related misconduct.

In his presentation, Mr Nantha Kumar, Senior Consultant – Industrial Relations gave an overview of absenteeism and related misconduct as well as ways to handle such situation. He informed participants that unauthorised absenteeism includes taking extended tea breaks, lunch breaks and even extended toilet breaks. Hence, any instance where an employee is away from his workplace without authorisation constitutes unauthorised absenteeism.

He emphasised that abscondment or desertion is serious offences which can amount to a breach of contract. Section 15(2) Employment Act 1955 stipulates that an employee is deemed to have breached his contract of service with the employer if he has been absent from work for more than two consecutive working days without

prior leave from the employer unless he/she has a reasonable excuse and has informed the employer.

Mr Nantha reminded participants that Section 15(2) was only a deeming provision and employers may only terminate without notice pursuant to Section 13(2) Employment Act 1955. He added that the burden of proof falls on the employer and it is important for the employer to communicate clearly to its employee whenever the employee commits absenteeism without leave.

马来西亚雇主联合会(MEF)于2022年7月20日通过线上会议,向东马区域会员分享有关旷工和相关不当行为的资讯,未经授权的旷工包括延长茶歇、午休时间,甚至延长上厕所时间。

Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan Malaysia (MEF) berkongsi maklumat mengenai ketidakhadiran dan salah laku berkaitan kepada ahli-ahlinya di Wilayah Malaysia Timur semasa mesyuarat maya pada 20 Julai 2022. Ketidakhadiran tanpa kebenaran termasuklah mengambil rehat pagi, rehat tengah hari dan ke tandas melebihi masa yang ditetapkan.

## Courtesy Call from Malaysian Employers Federation

Mr Mohd Syukri Ahmad Sudari, Vice President of the Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) and his two (2) colleagues were in Kuching for the opening ceremony of MEF Sarawak newly relocated office at DUBS, on 4 July 2022.

While in Kuching, he took the opportunity to pay a visit to STA at its office, Wisma STA. During the visit, MEF assured STA of their commitment to sustaining a mutually beneficial relationship as both parties took the opportunity to explore future training collaboration.

Encik Mohd Syukri Ahmad Sudari, Naib Presiden Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan Malaysia (MEF) dan 2 rakannya berada di Kuching untuk upacara perasmian pejabat baharu MEF Sarawak di DUBS, pada 4 Julai 2022.

Semasa di Kuching, beliau mengambil kesempatan untuk melawat pejabat STA, Wisma STA. Semasa lawatan tersebut, MEF memberi jaminan untuk mengekalkan hubungan baik antara kedua-dua pihak serta meneroka kerjasama latihan di masa hadapan.



Ms Annie Ting (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), CEO of STA and Ms Peggy Chew (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), STA Legal Advisor joined Mr Mohd Syukri Ahmad Sudari (far right), Vice President of MEF and his officers for a photo.

马来西亚雇主联合会(MEF)副主席莫哈末苏奇里先生和他的两位同事于2022年7月4日在古晋出席砂拉越MEF新迁至DUBS商业中心的办公室的开幕仪式。

在古晋期间,他特此前来STA大厦拜访本会。访问期间,双方借此机会探索未来的培训合作,MEF也向本会保证他们将致力于维持双方互惠互利的关系。



## Employees Provident Fund Statutory Contribution for Employees at 11%

STA had received a Circular AG 12/2022 dated 7 July 2022 from the Malaysian Employers Federation on the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Statutory Contribution for Employees at Eleven Per Cent (11%) effective 1 July 2022. The details of the Circular are as follows:

Following the Budget 2022 announcement, EPF had announced the reduction of the statutory contribution rate for employees to 9% until June 2022 after which the statutory contribution rate for employees would return to 11%.

With effect from 1 July 2022, the EPF statutory contribution rate for employees below 60 years of age is eleven per cent (11%). The amount of contributions based on the 11% statutory contribution rate for employees are as per the Third Schedule of the EPF Act 1991.

The employer's share of contribution remains at the existing employers' EPF statutory rates of contribution and the statutory contribution rate for employees aged 60 years old and above remains unchanged.

本会接获来自马来西亚雇主联合会于2022年7月7日所发布的编号12/2022通告。该通告告知自 2022 年 7 月 1 日起，雇员公积金(EPF)的员工法定缴款比例为 11%。通告的详情如文章所列。

STA telah menerima Pekeliling AG 12/2022 bertarikh 7 Julai 2022 daripada Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan Malaysia mengenai Sumbangan Berkanun Caruman Berkanun Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) untuk Pekerja pada kadar 11% berkuat kuasa 1 Julai 2022. Butiran Pekeliling adalah seperti yang dinyatakan dalam artikel ini.



*Pengerusi, Ahli-Ahli Majlis, pihak Pengurusan dan Kakitangan STA, STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd dan STA Training Sdn Bhd ingin mengucapkan Selamat Hari Merdeka kepada semua warga Malaysia.*

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



# July OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAMME

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

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

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

## Tree Felling- Chainsaw (Natural Forest) & Tree and Log Identification

Date : 15 - 22 July 2022  
Location : Berkakap Camp, Kapit  
STAT Trainer : Mr Sumbang Rani  
Company : Solid Hartabina Sdn Bhd



## Tree Felling- Chainsaw (Natural Forest); Log Extraction- Tractor (Natural Forest); & Log and Timber Identification

Date : 22 - 27 July 2022  
Location : Bina Camp, Kapit  
STAT Trainer : Mr Sumbang Rani  
Company : Jaya Tiasa Holdings Berhad



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*.