

STA REVIEW

Monthly Magazine of Sarawak Timber Association

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Engagement with MITI on the Imposition of Anti-Dumping Duty by South Korea on Malaysian Plywood

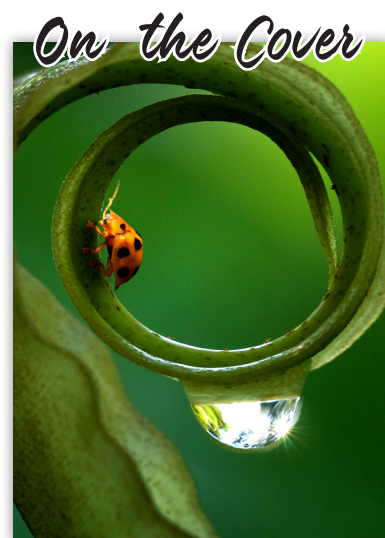
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STA Forest Plantation Committee Meeting No.4/2023

Mr Joseph Lau Ching Hoo, Chairman of the STA Forest Plantation Committee presided over the fourth Committee meeting this year on 3 July 2023 at Wisma STA, Kuching.

The meeting was called to prepare the Committee members for the engagement session with Sabah Timber Industries Association and visit to Jawala plantation in Sabah from 4 to 5 July 2023.

During the meeting, special emphasis was given to evaluate the progress reports of the research and development (R&D) projects on kelampayan and batai, which were being funded by STA. The Committee members carefully reviewed the status and advancements made in these projects.

Another significant topic on the agenda was the status of trial plots establishment by the participating member companies under these R&D projects. This update was essential to track the implementation and assess the effectiveness of the ongoing initiatives.

Other matters reported in the meeting included the proposed policy for allowing mill establishment

in licence for planted forest areas, time limit for carrying forward business losses, proposed R&D collaboration and study visit with State forestry agencies.

STA人工造林委员会于2023年7月3日召开本年度第四次会议，为与沙巴木材工业公会(STIA)的交流会议和参观沙巴Jawala人工林做准备。委员会会员还评估了研发项目的进展报告，并讨论其他事项例如允许在人工林许可证的区域内设立工厂的拟议政策等。

Jawatankuasa Ladang Hutan STA telah mengadakan mesyuarat ke-4 tahun ini pada 3 Julai 2023 sebagai persediaan untuk sesi penglibatan dengan Persatuan Industri Kayu-Kayan Sabah dan lawatan ke ladang hutan Jawala di Sabah. Ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa turut menilai laporan kemajuan projek penyelidikan & pembangunan dan membincangkan perkara lain seperti dasar yang dicadangkan untuk membenarkan penubuhan kilang dalam kawasan lesen ladang hutan.

Farewell Visit by General Manager of STIDC

On 27 July 2023, Datu Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, General Manager of Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) paid a visit to STA. The delegation from STIDC, consisting of 10 members, was warmly received by Mr Wong Ting Chung, Honorary Secretary, Mr Philip Choo, Honorary Treasurer, along with other Council member and downstream committee members.

During the visit, Datu Hashim took the opportunity to bid farewell, as he will be retiring on 31 July 2023. He also used this occasion to introduce his senior management team to the members of STA and emphasised the importance of continuous closer collaboration between STIDC and STA. He encouraged both organisations to work closely together, fostering a stronger partnership to drive mutual growth and development in the timber industry.



(1) A group photo with Datu Haji Hashim (seated, 4th from left); (2) Sharing a light conversation over coffee; (3) Datu Hashim (seated) signing the visitor book.

砂拉越木材工业发展机构(STIDC)总经理拿督哈芝哈欣在退休前于2023年7月27日到访本会以示道别。他还借此机会向本会会员介绍STIDC的高级管理团队，并强调STIDC和本会之间持续密切合作以推动木材工业共同成长和发展的重要性。

Pada 27 Julai 2023, Datu Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, Pengurus Besar Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) telah mengadakan lawatan ke STA untuk mengucapkan selamat tinggal sebelum bersara. Beliau juga mengambil peluang untuk memperkenalkan pasukan pengurusan kanan di STIDC kepada ahli-ahli STA dan menekankan kepentingan kerjasama erat yang berterusan antara STIDC dan STA untuk memacu pertumbuhan dan pembangunan bersama dalam industri perikanan.

Engagement Session with Sabah Timber Industries Association (STIA) and Visit to Jawala Plantation

A delegation consisting of six (6) members from the STA Forest Plantation Committee and STA Secretariat embarked on a fruitful engagement session with Sabah Timber Industries Association (STIA) and its members at Kinabalu Daya Hotel, Sabah on 4 July 2023.

Mr Tan Peng Juan, President of STIA welcomed the STA delegates and shared the roles and functions of STIA as well as information on various aspects of the forestry and timber industry in Sabah, including the royalty system, Forest Plantation Development Action Plan, Sabah Timber Legality Assurance System and sustainable forest management practices. He expressed his optimism that the knowledge exchange between both parties would lay a solid foundation for the continued growth and sustainable development of the forestry and timber industries in both Sabah and Sarawak.

Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA introduced the structure and functions of STA, emphasising the collaborative efforts with government agencies and research institutes. Notable initiatives such as the development, promotion and update of the Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System, skill training for forestry workmen and fund contribution to the forest plantation research & development projects, were highlighted. Additionally, Ms Ting provided valuable insights into the industrial tree plantation industry in Sarawak, including policy direction, assessment, payment of royalty, cess, fees and industry performance.

Both parties exchanged opinions on the challenges faced in industrial tree plantation development within each respective State. Both parties also addressed compliance issues pertaining to international trade regulations, specifically discussing the European Union Deforestation-free Regulation. The topics of industrial tree plantation management certification, Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) practices, carbon trading and establishment of mills in forests were also further explored.

The Committee expressed their enthusiasm for maintaining a close collaboration with STIA in the future, and extended invitation to STIA to visit the forest plantations in Sarawak.



Following the engagement session, the Committee proceeded to visit the Jawala plantation in Sapulut on 5 July 2023. They were received by Mr Abdul Rahman Khan Bin Hakim Khan, Chief Executive Officer cum Executive Director of Jawala Plantation Industries Sdn Bhd (JPISB) who briefed the group on various crucial aspects of managing industrial tree plantations, with a strong focus on conservation, sustainability and renewability.

He emphasised JPISB's commitment to preserving high conservation value areas, implementing corporate social responsibility programmes, conducting extensive research and development on product innovation, adopting mechanisation techniques for maintenance, and employing solar green energy in daily operations.



(1 & 2) On-site discussion and exchange of knowledge, ideas and experiences in plantation management;
(3) Group photo with Mr Tan Peng Juan, President of STIA (standing, 5th from left) and members;
(4) Group photo with Mr Abdul Rahman Khan, Chief Executive Officer cum Executive Director of JPISB (seated 5th from right) and his team;
(5 & 6) Planting of white kelampayan to commemorate the visit from STA delegates.

The remarkable business model of JPISB, which earned them the prestigious Best Model Forest Plantation in Malaysia award from the Malaysia Timber Industry Board, as well as the Malaysia Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Corporate Excellence award the previous year, left a lasting impression on the Committee.

After the briefing, the group embarked on a tour to the planting plots featuring kelampayan, batai, and *Eucalyptus* trees which provided an excellent platform for exchanging knowledge, ideas, and experiences concerning the management of these specific tree species within the plantation.

The visit also sparked discussions on potential future interactions and collaborations between the Committee and JPISB. Particularly, the exploration of exchanging planting materials and adopting mechanised systems for plantation maintenance was of great interest. Both parties recognised the mutual benefits that such collaboration could bring to the advancement of forestry practices in the region.

In conclusion, the visit to the Jawala plantation was a highly informative and enriching experience for the Committee. Witnessing firsthand the commendable

efforts of JPISB in implementing sustainable and environmentally responsible practices reinforced their commitment to furthering the growth and development of the forestry and timber industries.

由本会六名人工造林委员会会员和本会秘书处组成的代表团于2023年7月4日与沙巴木材工业公会(STIA)及其会员进行富有成果的交流会议。在会议中,双方分享知识及沙巴和砂拉越林业和木材工业可持续发展所面临的问题。第二天,代表团参观位于沙普鲁的Jawala人工林。该人工林于2023年6月荣获马来西亚木材工业局颁发的马来西亚最佳人工林模范奖,并于去年荣获马来西亚环境、社会和治理(ESG)卓越企业奖。

Delegasi yang terdiri daripada 6 ahli Jawatankuasa Ladang Hutan STA dan Sekretariat STA telah mengadakan sesi penglibatan dengan Persatuan Industri Kayu-Kayan Sabah (STIA) dan ahli-ahlinya pada 4 Julai 2023. Dalam sesi tersebut, kedua-dua pihak bertukar maklumat dan isu-isu yang dihadapi dalam pembangunan mampan industri perhutanan dan perkayuan di Sabah dan Sarawak.

Pada hari berikutnya, para delegasi melawat ladang hutan Jawala di Sapulut, penerima Anugerah Perladangan Hutan Model Terbaik di Malaysia pada Jun 2023 daripada Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia serta anugerah Kecemerlangan Korporat Alam Sekitar, Sosial, dan Tadbir Urus Malaysia (ESG) pada tahun lepas.

Seminar on Occupational Safety and Health in Timber Industry

In-conjunction with the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Week 2023, STA in-collaboration with the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) Sarawak organised a Seminar on Occupational Safety and Health in Timber Industry on 11 July 2023. The primary objective was to provide participants with the latest updates on the OSH landscape in Malaysia, along with an in-depth discussion of the main provisions of the *OSH (Amendment) Act 2022*. The seminar took place at Wisma STA Kuching and was made accessible to a wider audience through an online platform, with a total of 150 participants.

Mr Chang Kuet Ming, Chairman of STA OSH Committee, warmly welcomed the participants in his opening remarks and expressed his appreciation to DOSH Sarawak for their invaluable collaboration in organising the seminar. He underscored the event's aim to equip participants with the latest updates on OSH and the *OSH (Amendment) Act 2022*. Mr. Chang commended the dedication shown by STA members towards OSH, as evidenced by the presence of numerous management representatives and key personnel at the seminar.

He expressed his hope that the seminar would foster a better understanding and awareness of the new OSH requirements among the participants. Mr Chang further reaffirmed STA's unwavering commitment to collaborating with DOSH to enhance OSH compliance within STA member companies.

In his keynote address, Ir. Dr Nor Halim Bin Hasan, Director of DOSH Sarawak, highlighted the nationwide celebration of OSH Week starting from 10 July. He urged employers in Sarawak to actively participate in various activities and competitions during OSH Week, including the DOSH 1648K Virtual Steps Challenge with Industry, Stepwise OSH Level Verification and Enhancement for Small and Medium Enterprises, TikTok and poster competitions, among others. Emphasising the OSH Master Plan 2021-2025, he highlighted its goal to enhance the level of OSH at workplaces across the country.

Ir. Dr Nor Halim also pointed out the three (3) lagging indicators that need to be achieved by 2025: reducing occupational mortality, reducing occupational accidents, and reducing occupational diseases and poisoning. He called upon all parties to collaborate and engage in self-regulation to ensure safety and health in their workplaces in line with the *OSH (Amendment) Act 2022*.

During the Seminar, Mr Chai Chong Foong, Head of the Investigation and Prosecution Section at DOSH Sarawak informed participants about the amendments made to the *OSH Act 1994* in 2022. These changes included the introduction of 27 new sections, removal of two (2) sections, and amendments to 35 existing sections, including the integration of the repealed Factories and Machinery (FMA) Act 1967. Mr Chai clarified that the operation of repealed FMA will still be relevant for cases pending applications, continuance of legal proceedings, and other related matters. He emphasises that the *OSH (Amendment) Act 2022* will come into operation on a date to be appointed by the Minister by notification in the Gazette.

Mr Chai also highlighted some key provisions of the *OSH (Amendment) Act 2022*, which now extend to cover all places of work throughout Malaysia, with the exception of employers, domestic servants, armed forces, and work on board ships. Employers are now required to appoint an OSH Coordinator if they employ five (5) or more employees at a workplace. Conducting risk assessments,



(1) Photo call with the Director of DOSH Sarawak (seated, 4th from right) after the Seminar;

(2) Seminar in progress;

(3) STA OSH Committee Meeting chaired by its Chairman, Mr Chang Kuet Ming (seated far right);

(4) Ir. Dr. Nor Halim Bin Hasan, Director of DOSH Sarawak (left) photographed with Mr Chang Kuet Ming, Chairman of STA OSH Committee (centre) and Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (right).

defining duties of employers and principals, granting employees the right to remove themselves from occupational hazards, and regulating OSH practitioners are among the noteworthy changes. Furthermore, the Act imposes heftier penalties for non-compliance with OSH regulations.

Prior to the seminar, the STA OSH Committee meeting was conducted, with Mr Chang Kuet Ming presiding as the Chairman. The meeting received updates from OSH related works undertaken by STA, preparation for the Seminar on OSH in Timber Industry, changes of representatives and discussed potential activities for the Association.

配合2023年职业安全与卫生周，本会与砂拉越职业安全与卫生局合作，于2023年7月11日举办木材业职业安全与卫生(OSH)研讨会。研讨会让参与者有机会了解马来西亚职业安全与卫生状况的最新动态以及2022年职业安全及卫生(修订)法案的主要条文。

Sempena Minggu Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan 2023, pihak STA dengan kerjasama Jabatan Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan Sarawak telah menganjurkan seminar mengenai Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan dalam Industri Perakayuan pada 11 Julai 2023. Seminar bertujuan untuk menyalurkan maklumat terbaru kepada para peserta tentang landskap keselamatan dan kesihatan pekerjaan di Malaysia serta Akta Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan (Pindaan) 2022.



“ESG: The Way Forward for Timber Industry”

Seminar by MTIB

Approximately 100 representatives from the timber industry attended a seminar organised by Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) titled “ESG: The Way Forward for Timber Industry” on 25 July 2023. Held at DoubleTree by Hilton, Putrajaya, the seminar served as an avenue to facilitate knowledge sharing and encourage the adoption and adaptation of environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles in timber industry companies.

In his opening address, Dr Mohd Nor Zamri bin Mat Amin, Director General of MTIB shared that the seminar is one of MTIB’s initiatives to drive positive change towards sustainable practices and central to this pursuit is the commitment to embracing ESG principles, which has become an indispensable aspect for businesses worldwide. Emphasising the growing importance of ESG globally, he underlined how embracing ESG not only ensure compliance with regulations but also guarantees the long-term sustainability and viability of the timber industry while promoting the socio-economic wellbeing of the nation.

The seminar commenced with impactful presentations from Mr Steven Lee, Managing Principal at ESG Malaysia and Prof. Dr Jegatheswaran Ratnasingam, Head of Department at the Faculty of Forestry and Environment, UPM. Both speakers provided valuable insights into the fundamentals of ESG and the current state of ESG adoption in the Malaysian wood products and furniture industries.

One key take away from the presentations was the significance of ESG reporting as a tool for assessing a company’s performance in environmental, social and governance aspects, ultimately leading to better long-term profitability. In preparing for an ESG report, organisation has to first and foremost know what to measure as well as how to measure and transform these data into meaningful disclosures.

In the wood industry, several critical indicators to evaluate a company’s ESG performance were highlighted, including the volume of wood dust generated during product manufacturing, volume of energy used in dust extraction system, greenhouse gas emissions, employee turnover rates, board diversity and community engagement. ESG measurement tools such as ratings, indexes, audits, questionnaires and survey are then used to help organisation gauge and report on their ESG practices effectively.

However, the wood industry faces challenges concerning data management due to limited available data. Addressing this issue will be one of the most significant hurdles when creating ESG disclosures. Additionally, there is no single framework for preparing ESG reports. To navigate this, companies can select and even combine frameworks such as Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), FTSE4Good, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), Taskforce on

Climate-Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) and International Integrated Reporting Council (IR), depending on the purpose and focus of the ESG reports.

By overcoming data management challenges and leveraging appropriate ESG frameworks, companies can effectively measure and report their ESG performance. This not only fulfils regulatory requirements but also strengthens the company’s position in the market, attracts ESG-conscious investors and promotes responsible business practices, benefiting both the company and society at large. With a specific ESG score in hand, an individual company can also better manage and measure progress as well as identify areas of potential concern and risk from an ESG perspective.

The timber industry’s export-oriented nature emphasises the crucial importance of complying with global market requirements. While immediate price premiums might not be granted for ESG compliance, it does open doors to market access, enhancing competitiveness and visibility in the international arena. Furthermore, the significance of ESG performance goes beyond attracting investors or improving ESG scores. Although ESG impacts can be elusive, companies can leverage their ESG performance data to drive continuous improvement in various aspects of their business operations.

Participants who are just beginning to embrace ESG principles are

advised to start by evaluating their material processing, waste management, and energy consumption across all processing stages. By closely examining these critical aspects, organisations can pinpoint areas in need of improvement and implement sustainable practices that not only reduce their ecological footprint but also elevate their overall sustainability performance.

The seminar also explored the advantage of using timber, in comparison to other building materials, in construction industry, with the help of Mr Mohd Hilmi Shamsuri and Prof (K) Dr Zakiah Ahmad who presented findings of their study as well as. Ts. Ngoh Wan Fei, Director of Greenscapes Sdn Bhd.

As an inspiring example, Mr Harith Ridzuan, Director of One Tech (M) Sdn Bhd shared his company’s journey in sustainability practices. Through innovative waste management and recycling initiatives, they transformed timber off-cuts, plastics and fabrics into upcycled furniture and other marketable products. Not only did these efforts lead to higher revenue, but they also enabled the company to expand its presence in international markets.

In summary, the seminar reinforced that ESG is a driving force for positive change in the business world, prompting companies to reevaluate their practices and adopt sustainable strategies. Embracing ESG principles should be viewed as an opportunity for growth and a way to outperform competitors. By doing so, companies in the timber industry can thrive in a competitive landscape and contribute to a more sustainable future for the nation and the world.

马来西亚木材工业局(MTIB)于2023年7月25日在布城希尔顿逸林酒店举办题为“ESG:木材工业的前进之路”的研讨会。该研讨会约有100名来自木材工业的代表参加,成为促进知识共享和鼓励木材工业公司采用和适应环境、社会和治理(ESG)原则的平台。

在讲说中的其一要点是以ESG报告来评估公司在环境、社会和治理方面的业绩的重要性,最终带来更好的长期盈利能力。该研讨会也建议刚开始执行ESG原则的参与者起步于评估所有加工阶段材料的加工、废物管理和能源消耗。通过仔细检查这些关键方面,公司可以查明需要改进的地方并实施可持续实践,这不仅可以减少其生态足迹,还可以提高其整体可持续发展业绩。

MTIB telah menganjurkan seminar bertajuk “ESG: Hala Tuju untuk Industri Perakayuan” di DoubleTree by Hilton, Putrajaya pada 25 Julai 2023. Seminar dihadiri oleh kira-kira 100 wakil daripada industri perakayuan dan bertujuan sebagai saluran untuk memudahkan perkongsian ilmu, menggalakkan penerimaan dan penyesuaian prinsip alam sekitar, sosial dan tadbir urus (ESG) dalam industri perakayuan.

Satu perkara penting disampaikan dalam pembentangan ialah kepentingan pelaporan ESG sebagai alat untuk menilai prestasi syarikat dalam aspek alam sekitar, sosial dan tadbir urus yang boleh membawa kepada keuntungan jangka panjang. Peserta yang ingin menerimapiakai prinsip ESG dinasihatkan untuk bermula dengan menilai pemprosesan bahan, pengurusan sisa dan penggunaan tenaga di semua peringkat pemprosesan. Dengan meneliti aspek ini, organisasi boleh menentukan bidang yang memerlukan penambahbaikan dan melaksanakan amalan mampan untuk mengurangkan kesan ekologi serta meningkatkan prestasi kemampanan keseluruhannya.

National Standards Committee on Timber, Timber Products and Timber Structure (NSC 22) Meeting No.1/2023

The Department of Standards Malaysia (JSM) convened the National Standards Committee on Timber, Timber Products and Timber Structure (NSC 22) Meeting No 1/2023 on 4 July 2023 at the Mercure Living Putrajaya. The meeting was chaired by Dr Mohd Nor Zamri Mat Amin, Director General of the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB).

The meeting, attended by committee members representing the Government agencies, research institutions, educational establishments and timber trade associations, marked Dr Mohd Nor Zamri’s inaugural chairmanship as Director General of MTIB, during which he highlighted the Committee’s transformation from the Industry Standards Committee (ISC V) to the current National Standards Committee (NSC 22).

The agenda was packed with updates, including the finalisation, approval and publication of several draft Malaysian Standards. Additionally, the meeting received progress reports from Technical Committee (TC) on Timber; TC on Timber Structure; TC on Wood-Based Panels; and TC on Bamboo and Rattan.

The Committee further approved the applications for extension of projects under NSC 22. Specifically, six (6) projects each under NSC 22/TC 1 and NSC 22/TC 2 respectively, along with ten (10) projects under NSC 22/TC 3 were given the green light. A new work item related to bamboo was presented and successfully approved during the meeting.

国家木材, 木材产品和木材结构标准委员会(NSC 22) 在2023年7月4日召开的本年度首次会议中接纳几项马来西亚标准草案的最新进展和技术委员会的进度报告, 并批准了NSC 22旗下的项目延期申请。

Jawatankuasa Piawaian Kebangsaan bagi Kayu, Produk Kayu dan Struktur Kayu (NSC 22) menerima kemas kini berkaitan beberapa draf Piawaian Malaysia, laporan kemajuan daripada jawatankuasa teknikal dan meluluskan permohonan lanjutan projek di bawah NSC 22 dalam Mesyuaratnya Bil. 1/2023 pada 4 Julai 2023.

In exercise of the right to issue directive conferred by clause 12 of the Schedule of the Forests (Planted Forests) Rules, 1997, the Director of Forests has made the following directive:-

2. All holders of Licence for Planted Forests shall submit the following documents:-
 - 2.1 Notice of Commencement of Planting pursuant to Clause 9 (1) of the Terms and Conditions of the Licence for Planted Forests, stipulating the date of commencement of planting of trees on the land over which your respective licence is issued;
 - 2.2 Half Yearly Report for a period of January until June, on or before 30th July of the same year; and
 - 2.3 Half Yearly Report for a period of July until December, on or before 31st January of the following year.
3. Please be reminded that any incompliance of this Directive is amounting to a breach of Terms and Conditions of Licence and the Director may impose such fines or penalties as prescribed in the Forests (Planted Forests) Rules, 1997.
4. Any further breach or default, the holder of licence shall be guilty of an offence, and shall, upon conviction be liable to a fine of ten thousand ringgit (RM 10,000), and in the event of a continuing offence, to a further fine of one thousand ringgit (RM1,000) for each day during which the offence continues.
5. This Directive shall be applicable to any approved contractor or sub-contractor or agent of the holder of licence for Planted Forests and shall take effect from the date of this DF Circular.

Engagement Session on the New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP) 2030

The Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) embarked on a comprehensive review of the New Industrial Master Plan 2030 (NIMP 2030) with a distinctive mission-based approach. This strategic approach aims to drive a transformative shift within the manufacturing industry, focusing on advancing economic complexity, fostering technological advancement for a digitally vibrant nation, striving for net zero targets and embracing environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles while safeguarding economic security and inclusivity.

In tandem with the mission-based NIMP 2030, MITI is also developing

Sectoral Plans 2030 for 21 sectors. As part of this endeavour, a hybrid engagement session between MITI and the timber industry was conducted on 14 July 2023, specifically discussing the Wood, Paper and Furniture Industry Sectoral Plan 2030. The timber industry was represented by various associations, including STA, which are active members of the Malaysian Timber Association (MTA).

During the engagement session, the timber industry emphasised the critical role of the upstream sector in sustaining the downstream sector. The development of industrial tree plantations was emphasised as a vital aspect of ensuring a

sustainable and uninterrupted supply of raw materials for timber product manufacturing.

In support of the Sectoral Plan, MTA referred MITI to the Malaysian Timber Industry Roadmap, collaboratively formulated by its nine (9) members from Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. This comprehensive roadmap outlines the timber industry's future direction, growth, and development towards becoming a sustainable, innovative and high-value industry by the year 2030.

MITI shall finalise and launch both the NIMP 2030 and the Sectoral Plans 2030 in August 2023. The NIMP 2030 will serve as the primary reference document, providing a clear and forward-looking roadmap to guide Malaysia's industrial development until the year 2030.

DF Circular No.3/2023

Submission of Notice of Commencement of Planting and Half-Yearly Report

The Forest Department Sarawak issued a DF Circular No 3/2023 with reference number (83) JHS/100-1/8/104/Jld.1 dated 31 July 2023 addressed to all holders of licence for planted forests, and copied to STA on submission of notice of commencement of planting and half-yearly report (Clause 9 and 12 of the Schedule of the Forests (Planted Forests) Rules, 1997).

The circular was circulated to STA forest plantation members on the same day.

An excerpt of the above-mentioned circular is appended for your information.

砂州森林局于2023年7月31日发布本年度第3则编号为(83)JHS/100-1/8/104/Jld.1的通告。该通告致函于所有人工林许可证持有者,并提供本会有根据1997年森林(人工林)法规附表第9条和第12条提交开始种植通知书和半年度报告事项的复本。

该通告于同日转发给本会人工造林会员。以上通告的摘录如英文版所列。

Jabatan Hutan Sarawak telah mengeluarkan Pekeliling DF Bil. 3/2023 dengan nombor rujukan (83) JHS/100-1/8/104/Jld.1 bertarikh 31 Julai 2023 mengenai penyerahan notis permulaan penanaman dan laporan setengah tahun (Klausu 9 dan 12 Jadual Peraturan Hutan (Ladang Hutan), 1997). Pekeliling tersebut ditujukan kepada semua pemegang lesen ladang hutan dan disalinkan kepada STA.

Pekeliling telah diedarkan kepada ahli-ahli ladang hutan STA pada hari yang sama. Petikan pekeliling yang disebutkan di atas adalah seperti yang dinyatakan dalam artikel ini.

马来西亚投资、贸易和工业部(MITI)采用基于使命的方法积极对2030年新工业总体规划进行全面审查。其中使命包括推动制造业内部的改革,并纳入环境、社会和治理(ESG)原则,同时维护经济安全和包容性。

马来西亚木材公会向MITI推荐马来西亚木材业蓝图。该蓝图由来自马来西亚半岛、沙巴和砂拉越的九名成员共同制定,概述木材业的未来方向、增长和发展,以在2030年可成为可持续、创新和高价值的行业。

Kementerian Pelaburan, Perdagangan dan Industri (MITI) melaksanakan kajian komprehensif terhadap Pelan Induk Perindustrian Baharu 2023 untuk memacu anjakan transformatif dalam industri perkilangan dan menerapkan prinsip alam sekitar, sosial dan tadbir urus (ESG) di samping pengukuhan dan keterangkuman ekonomi.

MTA merujuk MITI kepada Pelan Hala Tuju Industri Kayu Malaysia yang digubal secara kolaboratif oleh 9 ahlinya yang terdiri daripada Semenanjung Malaysia, Sabah dan Sarawak di mana hala tuju masa depan, pertumbuhan dan pembangunan industri perkayuan mampan, berinovatif serta bernilai tinggi menjelang tahun 2030 telah digariskan.

Sustainable Forestry Towards Net-Zero

Bursa Carbon Exchange (BCX) in collaboration with Control Union (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd and Macquarie Bank Limited jointly hosted an insightful 90-minute webinar titled "Sustainable Forestry towards Net-Zero" on 12 July 2023. The primary objective of this webinar was to raise awareness about project development, validation, and verification with a particular focus on forestry and blue carbon projects.

Mr Suraj Vanniarachchy, Vice President, Global Carbon of Macquarie Bank Limited shed light on Macquarie's role in driving the global transition towards achieving net-zero emissions. With a team of experts spanning various continents and extensive market knowledge, Macquarie is well-equipped to assist companies in navigating the intricacies of carbon management and achieving their sustainability goals. The bank specialises in designing and executing carbon offset projects and actively trades environmental products in both compliance and voluntary markets.

Mr Suraj delved into how carbon offsetting works, starting with the process of sourcing carbon offset projects that are specifically designed to either avoid or remove carbon emissions. These projects then undergo rigorous verification by independent verification bodies to ensure compliance with relevant methodologies. Upon confirmation of the quantity of carbon dioxide (CO₂) tonnes avoided or removed, the registry operator, such as Verra, issues offsets to the verified projects. These carbon offsets can be traded and eventually sold to end consumers through exchanges and marketplaces. Crucially, once these offsets are retired, they are permanently removed from circulation, effectively compensating for a company's identified emissions.

SPEAKERS



SUPUN NIGAMUNI
Managing Director
Control Union Malaysia



SURAJ VANNIARACHCHY
Vice President, Global Carbon
Macquarie Bank Limited

This meticulous process ensures that the offsets cannot be traded again, demonstrating a concrete commitment to offsetting carbon emissions.

Mr Supun Nigamuni, Managing Director of Control Union (Malaysia) also contributed to the webinar, providing valuable insights into the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and its crucial role in verifying carbon offset projects. VCS Programme projects undergo thorough scrutiny, including independent audits conducted by Verra staff and qualified third parties. To maintain transparency, all pertinent information related to VCS projects is publicly accessible through the Registry System. Additionally, Mr Supun briefly touched upon the Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Standard, highlighting their significance in ensuring the credibility and sustainability of carbon offset projects.

碳信用交易所(BCX), Control Union 马来西亚有限公司和麦格理银行有限公司于2023年7月12日联合举办题为“可持续林业迈向净零”的线上研讨会,以提高群众对碳抵消的认识,特别关注林业和蓝碳项目。参与者了解碳抵消的工作原理,并获得有关用于验证碳抵消项目的验证碳标准的深入知识。

Bursa Carbon Exchange (BCX), Control Union (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd dan Macquarie Bank Limited menganjurkan webinar yang bertajuk "Perhutanan Mampan ke arah Bersih-Sifar" pada 12 Julai 2023. Tujuan webinar adalah untuk meningkatkan kesedaran peserta tentang aktiviti pengimbangan karbon khususnya dalam sektor perhutanan dan projek karbon biru. Peserta juga mempelajari kaedah pengimbangan karbon dan Piawaian Karbon Disahkan yang digunakan untuk mengesahkan projek pengimbangan karbon.

Industry Excellence Award 2024

The Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) organised a series of Roadshow to promote the *Anugerah Kecemerlangan Industri* (AKI) or Industry Excellence Award 2024. These Roadshows serve as a platform to disseminate information about the award including the assessment methods, evaluation criteria and guidance on the application process. The first of the three Roadshows was conducted at the Waterfront Hotel, Kuching on 6 July 2023.

The AKI, introduced by MITI in 1991, stands as a prestigious accolade that aims to honour and recognise companies that have consistently showcased excellence in their management practices, maintained high standards in the quality of products and services, and consistently provided significant value to their stakeholders.

AKI 2024 shall feature eight (8) categories of awards, of which three (3) are new categories, namely the ESG Excellence Award, the Productivity Excellence Award and the "Most Successful in Recovery" Special Award.

Participants shall undergo an evaluation process that includes pitching session and site visit, and shall be evaluated using the Malaysian Business Excellence Framework, which consists of seven (7) criteria, seventeen (17) sub-criteria and sixty six (66) questions.

The winners shall be announced during AKI 2024 Award Dinner next year. As a token of recognition, AKI 2024 winners will receive a range of incentives such as trophies and cash prize as well as free promotion and publicity, and free participation in exhibition, seminar, training sessions and human capital development programme.

Participation in AKI 2024 is free and will be open until 31 August 2023. Interested companies can submit their applications online through the official AKI website: <https://aki.miti.gov.my>.

马来西亚投资、贸易和工业部(MITI)举办一系列关于企业卓越奖(AKI)的资讯分享讲座。AKI旨在表彰和认可那些在管理实践中持续表现卓越,在产品和服务质量方面保持高标准,并持续为利益相关者提供重要价值的公司。企业可免费参与AKI 2024至到2023年8月31日。

Kementerian Pelaburan, Perdagangan dan Industri (MITI) mengadakan satu siri jerayawara bagi menyalurkan maklumat mengenai Anugerah Kecemerlangan Industri (AKI) yang bertujuan untuk mengiktiraf syarikat yang mempamerkan kecemerlangan dalam amalan pengurusan, pengekalan piawaian tinggi dari segi kualiti, produk dan perkhidmatan serta memberi nilai tambah kepada pemegang taruh mereka. Penyertaan dalam AKI 2024 adalah secara percuma dan akan dibuka sehingga 31 Ogos 2023.

The Prime Minister's Award	The winner shall be selected among the winners of the Manufacturing Sector Excellence Award, Services Sector Excellence Award and Open Category Excellence Award.
Manufacturing Sector Excellence Award	Winners shall be selected from domestic companies under three (3) sub-categories based on their sales turnover
Services Sector Excellence Award	Winners shall be selected from domestic companies under four (4) sub-categories based on their sales turnover
Open Category Excellence Award	For multinational companies from both manufacturing and services sector
Most Promising Excellence Award	Recognition to a company for the development of various aspects in the company and displaying exceptional promise of leadership and significant growth for the future through its vision and mission
Industry4WRD Excellence Award	Recognition to a company that has successfully implemented Industry 4.0 technologies and processes
ESG Excellence Award	Recognition to a company that has set an exceptional example in complying ESG aspects
Productivity Excellence Award	Three sub-categories are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company - Recognition to a company that spearheads and implements productivity strategies and initiatives Individual - Recognition of an individual who is a role model to others in productivity 'Most Successful in Recovery' Special Award - Recognition to a company that has successfully overcome the impact of the pandemic with innovation and productivity



IWPA's Overseas Member Forum

On 25 July 2023, STA as one of the overseas member of International Wood Products Association (IWPA), joined an informative webinar organised to provide updates on the advocacy works carried out by IWPA on behalf of the industry.

Mr Jordan McIlvain, IWPA President took the opportunity to commend the efforts of IWPA staff members, including Ms Ashley Amidon, the Executive Director; Mr Joe O'Donnell, the Director of Government & Public Affairs; and Mr Baron Williams, the Membership, Marketing and

Operations Manager. He expressed gratitude for their dedicated work and reiterated IWPA's commitment to continuously seek ways to better serve its members.

During the webinar, Ms Amidon provided a comprehensive overview of the role and functions of IWPA. She encouraged members to actively participate in committees and engage in IWPA's ongoing government affairs and legislative initiatives, emphasising the importance of collective involvement in shaping industry-related policies.

Mr O'Donnell highlighted some of IWPA's recent government relations efforts, including the Lacey Act Improvement Project, the Retroactive Renewal of the Generalised System of Preference

Programme and the US Department of Commerce Vietnam Assembly Case. Additionally, he shed light on IWPA's international advocacy efforts and its role as a resource for emerging issues such as logistic challenges, health regulations and phytosanitary documentations.

Lastly Mr Williams informed the members about the ongoing update to IWPA's online community platform, designed to enhance member engagement and facilitate seamless communication within the IWPA community.

国际木材产品协会(IWPA)在2023年7月25日举办的线上研讨会中向其海外会员介绍IWPA代表工业开展的宣传工作。该协会也鼓励会员们积极参与委员会并从事于IWPA正在进行的政府事务和立法举措。

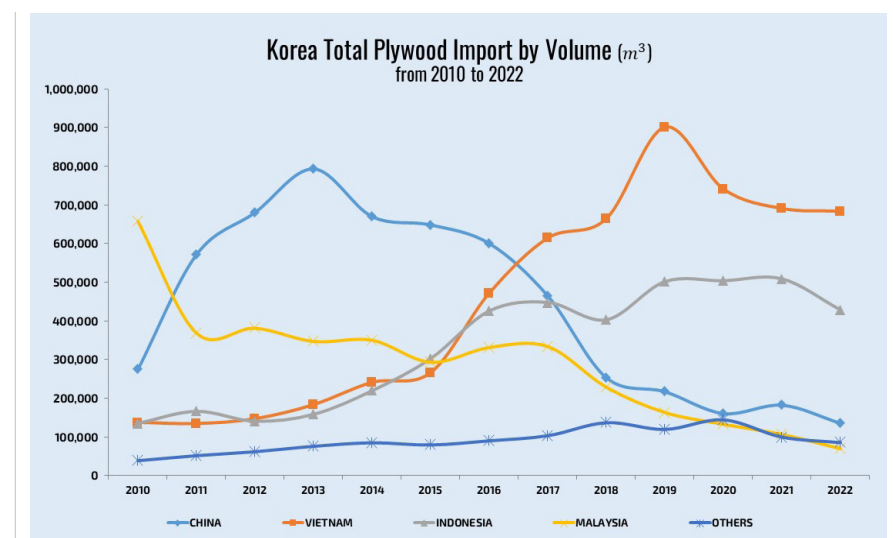
Persatuan Produk Kayu Antarabangsa (IWPA) berkongsi maklumat terkini tentang kerja-kerja advokasi yang dijalankan oleh IWPA untuk pihak industri melalui webinar yang diadakan pada 25 Julai 2023. Ahli-ahli digalakkan untuk mengambil bahagian secara aktif dalam jawatankuasa dan melibatkan diri dalam kerja-kerja semasa IWPA berkaitan hal ehwal kerajaan dan inisiatif perundangan.

Engagement with MITI on the Imposition of Anti-Dumping Duty by South Korea on Malaysian Plywood

On 14 July 2023, a crucial engagement session was conducted with the Trade Practices Section of the Ministry of Investment, Trade & Industry (MITI). The timing of this session was of utmost importance as the South Korea Ministry of Strategy and Finance, in response to a request from the Korea Wood Panel Association had, on 3 July 2023, taken a significant step by deciding to initiate the 4th sunset review on the imposition of anti-dumping duties on plywood with size equal or more than 6mm thickness originating in or exported from Malaysia.

During the virtual session, Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA presented the historical context of the anti-dumping measures that were first imposed on 1 February 2011, with the highest margin set at 38.10%. Consequently, Malaysia experienced a substantial reduction in plywood exports to South Korea. She highlighted the tireless efforts made by the plywood industry and provided justification for the revocation of these anti-dumping duties.

The engagement session provided STA with a better understanding of the procedures to navigate through the intricate aspects



Source: Korea Customs Service

of the anti-dumping review process. MITI also offered their guidance and support to ensure that STA's efforts to present a strong case for the revocation of anti-dumping duties on Malaysian plywood exports to South Korea are well-informed and effective.

本会与马来西亚投资、贸易和工业部(MITI)旗下的贸易惯例所于2023年7月14日召开线上会议,讨论韩国对原产于马来西亚的进口胶合板征收反倾销税事项。通过会议, MITI提出了几项措施以制定针对反倾销税的最佳行动方案。

Satu sesi libat urus bersama Seksyen Amalan Perdagangan dari Kementerian Pelaburan, Perdagangan dan Industri (MITI) telah diadakan pada 14 Julai 2023 bagi membincangkan duti anti-lambakan yang dikenakan oleh Korea Selatan terhadap pengimportan papan lapis dari Malaysia. Dalam sesi itu, beberapa langkah telah dicadangkan untuk menyusun strategi tindakan terbaik terhadap duti anti-lambakan tersebut.

Dialogue on Foreign Workers Recalibration Programme 2.0

The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia Kuching (KDRI) organised a hybrid dialogue on Foreign Workers Recalibration Programme 2.0 (RTK 2.0) on 25 July 2023. Officers from the Immigration Department of Malaysia (JIM) and Department of Labour (JTK) Sarawak were invited to brief stakeholders about the application procedure and requirements of RTK 2.0.

The RTK 2.0 which commenced on 1 July 2023 and is scheduled to conclude on 31 December 2023, has been designed to recalibrate the status of foreign workers in Malaysia, thereby legalising their stay and employment in the country.

Moderated by His Excellency Raden Sigit Witjaksono, the Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuching, the dialogue provided a platform for stakeholders to gain better understanding and seek clarifications about RTK 2.0. In his address, His Excellency Raden encouraged employers to take advantage of RTK 2.0 to register and legalise Indonesian

employees who are currently working in their companies without valid work permits. He emphasised KDRI's support for the programme, as it will offer legal protection to Indonesian migrant workers employed in Sarawak. Moreover, he urged companies to consult KDRI for inquiries related to RTK 2.0.

During the event, Mr Muhammad Salman bin Jafri, the Head of Foreign Workers Division at JIM Sarawak, provided an introduction to RTK 2.0 and its application processes. He explained that the programme's implementation aims to regularise the status of illegal immigrants in Sarawak, transforming them into legal workers, based on the conditions set by the Sarawak government through JIM and JTK. The eligible foreign citizens covered under RTK 2.0 include those who have committed offences related to their immigration status on or before 31 December 2022. This includes violations such as entering and residing in Malaysia without a valid pass, overstaying, and violating pass conditions. Additionally, applicants

must possess at least six (6) months' validity on their travel documents.

Mr Muhammad Salman further clarified that the sectors covered under RTK 2.0 include manufacturing, construction, mining & quarrying, plantation, agriculture, services and foreign domestic workers. He also specified that the Sarawak government only accepts applicants from 16 source countries, namely Indonesia, Bangladesh, Thailand, India, Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and China.

To streamline the process, he informed that all applications and payments for RTK 2.0 would be made online through the recalibration portal. A recalibration fee of RM1,500 must be paid for each foreign worker in Sarawak. For additional information on RTK 2.0, members were encouraged to visit the portal at <https://imigresen-online.imi.gov.my/rtk/main>.

Mr Haji Rahman bin Haji Masaat, the Senior Assistant Director of JTK Sarawak briefed the participants on the latest procedure of the Monitoring System on the Employment of Non-Sarawakians (MSEN). He highlighted

that the policy on MSEN remains unchanged, with the exception that employers can now source general workers not only from Indonesia but also from Bangladesh, Nepal, Philippines and India. He added that under RTK 2.0, some flexibility is provided, such as employers being exempted from advertising on MyFutureJobs and no age limit for foreign workers, as long as they are deemed fit for work.

In addition, employers are urged to follow the requirements of Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodation & Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446) in Sarawak. He also informed that JTK Sarawak is actively developing and implementing an integrated digital platform to expedite the application, monitoring and approval processes for foreign workers.

印尼驻古晋总领事馆(KDRI)于2023年7月25日举办非法外劳漂白计划2.0 (RTK 2.0)对话会。马来西亚移民局(JIM)和砂拉越劳工局(JTK)的官员受邀向利益相关者讲解RTK 2.0的申请程序和条件。RTK 2.0是政府规范砂拉越非法移民身份的举措,在根据砂拉越政府通过JIM和JTK设定的条件下将他们转换为合法外劳。

Konsulat Jeneral Republik Indonesia Kuching (KDRI) telah menganjurkan dialog pada 25 Julai 2023. Pegawai dari Jabatan Imigresen Malaysia (JIM) dan Jabatan Tenaga Kerja (JTK) Sarawak dijemput untuk memberi taklimat kepada pihak berkepentingan mengenai prosedur permohonan dan keperluan bagi Program Rekalisasi Pekerja Asing 2.0 (RTK 2.0). RTK 2.0 adalah inisiatif kerajaan untuk menyelaraskan status pendatang asing tanpa izin di Sarawak dengan menukarkan status mereka kepada pekerja sah berdasarkan syarat yang ditetapkan oleh kerajaan Sarawak melalui JIM dan JTK.

Meeting of MEF East Malaysia Region Members No.7/2023

On 24 July 2023, the Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) East Malaysia (Sarawak) Regional Meeting No. 7/2023 took place at its office, presided over by its newly recruited Consultant-Industrial Relations, Ms Dayang Jamillah Tun Abg Muhd Salahuddin. The meeting unanimously adopted the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 June 2023.

Ms Mildred Voon, Division Head of the Social Development and Performance Management Division at the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) Sarawak presented Sarawak's strategic vision for the next eight (8) years, as outlined in the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030.

PCDS 2030, launched by the Premier of Sarawak in July 2021, envisions transforming the region into a thriving society driven by data and innovation. The overarching goal is to achieve economic prosperity, social inclusivity and a sustainable environment by 2030. To realise this ambitious vision, Sarawak aims to contribute to Malaysia's greenhouse gas emission reduction of 45%, reach a median monthly household income of RM15,000 and achieve a GDP of RM282 billion.

Central to the successful realisation of PCDS 2030 are six (6) key economic sectors and seven (7) key enablers that will drive growth and progress. To ensure effective implementation and progress tracking, the Performance Management & Delivery Sector in

the EPU is rigorously monitoring the strategy's execution.

Ms Voon further shared on Sarawak's green energy transition initiatives, emphasising the shift towards cleaner and sustainable energy sources. This include a substantial increase in the usage of hydro power over coal and fossil fuels, the establishment of the Kuching Urban Transportation System, and the adoption of Carbon Capture & Storage technologies.

The second speaker, Mr Yusuf Harun, Secretary of National Wages Consultative Council (NWCC) from the Ministry of Human Resources in Putrajaya, provided a comprehensive overview of the development and implementation of wage policies in Malaysia over the past 76 years. The latest Minimum Wage Order 2022, which came into effect on 1 May 2022 brought about a uniform minimum wage of RM1,500 and an hourly rate of RM7.21 throughout Malaysia.

While progress has been made, Mr Yusuf also acknowledged there are existing challenges that remain to be addressed, including issues related to unequal wage distribution and slow compensation increments for workers. He concluded that the minimum wage cannot be used in isolation and hence the need to develop and introduce the wage models such as productivity linked wage system, living wage model and progressive wage model, as well as formulate wage policy that is supported by various incentives.

砂拉越经济规划单位(EPU)和布城人力资源部的代表受邀参加2023年7月24日所召开的马来西亚雇主联合会(MEF)东马砂拉越会议,分享2030年后疫情发展策略(PCDS)中砂拉越的策略和愿景,并讨论于2022年5月1日生效的最新2022年最低薪金法令。

Wakil-wakil daripada Unit Perancang Ekonomi (EPU) Sarawak dan Kementerian Sumber Manusia Putrajaya telah dijemput ke mesyuarat Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan Malaysia (MEF) Malaysia Timur (Sarawak) pada 24 Julai 2023 untuk berkongsi wawasan strategik Sarawak seperti yang digariskan dalam Strategi Pembangunan Pasca COVID-19 (PCDS) 2030 dan membincangkan tentang Perintah Gaji Minimum 2022 terkini yang berkuat kuasa pada 1 Mei 2022.



Happy Independence Day

SELAMAT HARI MERDEKA MALAYSIA **31st AUGUST**

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 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



STA TRAINING SDN BHD

SKILLS TRAINING FOR TRAINED WORKMEN



TREE FELLING – CHAINSAW (NATURAL FOREST)

A **Certificate in Tree Felling – Chainsaw (Natural Forest)** is awarded to an operator who has demonstrated competence in felling trees in a commercial natural forest harvesting operation.



SCOPE OF TRAINING COVERS SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE IN:

- Safety and health
- Basic maintenance of chainsaw
- Felling of trees safely by using proper techniques that minimise breakage and facilitate operation

MEET THE TRAINERS



GINDA ULI
Trainer/Assessor



KUTOK BAYANG
Trainer/Assessor



NGUMBANG BAYANG
Trainer/Assessor



SUMBANG RANI
Trainer/Assessor

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 **Ms Suzie Adee** at 082 – 332 222 or email at suzie@sta.org.my