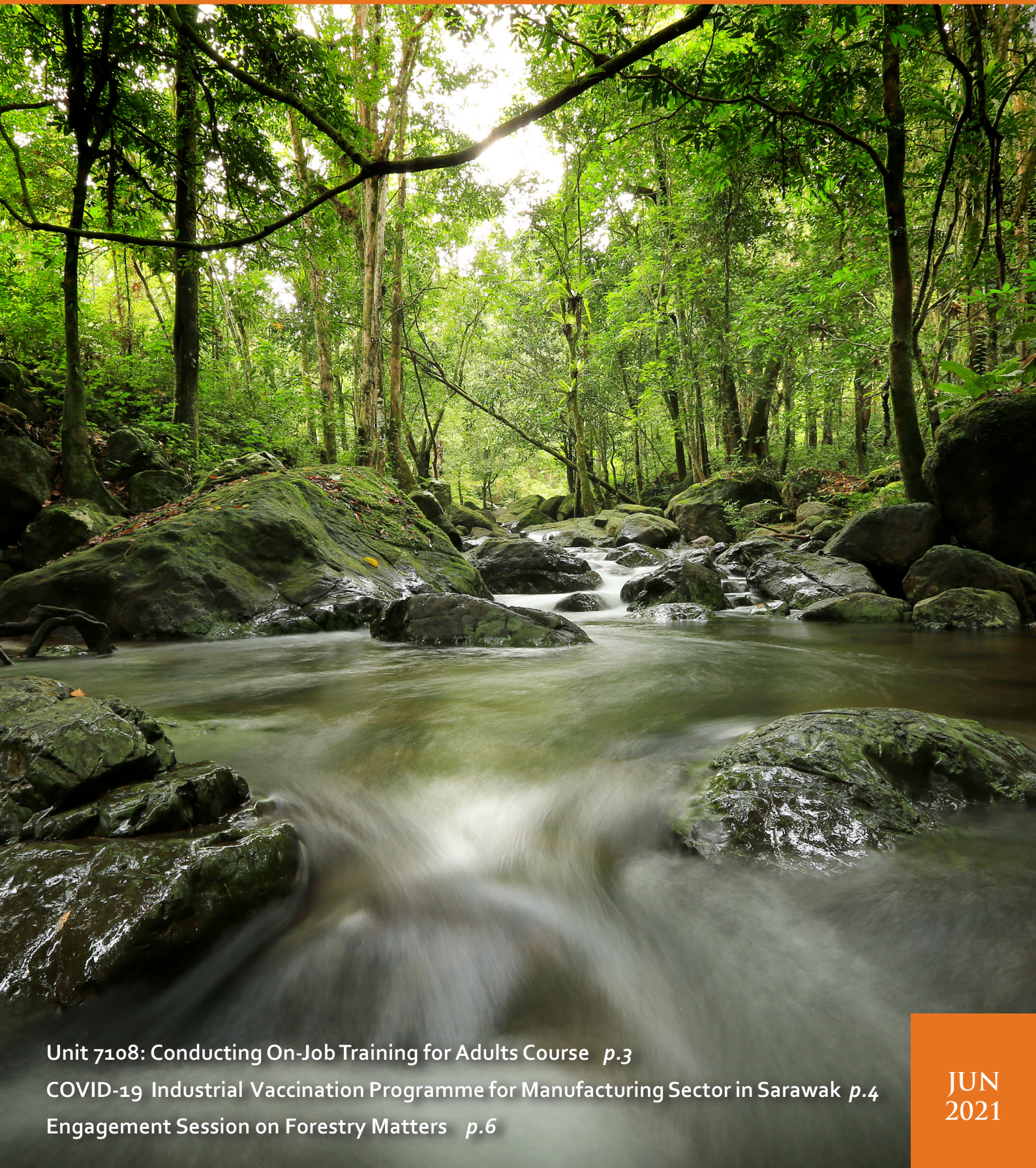


STA Review

Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association
VOLUME 333 PPK 174/05/2013 (032756)



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JUN
2021

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COVER IMAGE



Location: Ranchan, Serian
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Unit 7108: Conducting On-Job Training for Adults Course

STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), the appointed training provider under *The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015*, continues to provide online refresher/training course for Unit 7108: Conducting On-Job Training for Adults. This initiative of conducting training through online method, which STAT started in April 2021, is especially important to ensure ongoing capacity building within the timber industry despite the imposition of movement restriction during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Refresher course for Unit 7108 targets existing in-house trainers of companies to refresh their knowledge prior to conducting training for their operators, while the training course prepares trained workmen to become potential skilled and capable in-house trainers.

The latest refresher course for Unit 7108 was held on 16 June 2021. The course was conducted by two (2) STAT Trainers/Assessors, Mr Denis Aman and Mr Ngumbang Bayang. Seventeen (17) in-house trainers from the timber industry comprising Ta Ann Holdings Berhad, Hariwood Sdn Bhd, WTK Heli-Logging Sdn Bhd, Interglobal Empire Sdn Bhd, Ironwall Sdn Bhd, Jaya Tiasa Holdings Berhad and Jaya Tiasa Forest Plantation Sdn Bhd attended the course.

Throughout the course, relevant information pertaining to training of workmen, the timeline for workmen to complete the training process and relevant training forms to be filled out were shared. An interactive session including a flow chart based explanation was used to guide in-house trainers on the procedures of filling out the training forms.

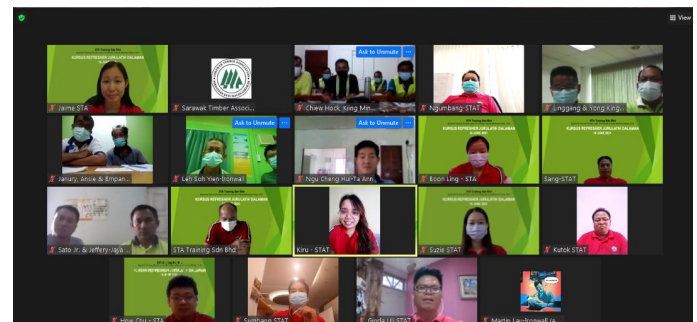
The training course for Unit 7108 was held on 23 and 24 June 2021. Four (4) STAT Trainers/Assessors, Mr Ginda Uli, Mr Sumbang Rani, Mr Sang Sanjan and Mr Kutok Bayang conducted the course which was attended by eight (8) trained workmen from STA member companies involving Jaya Tiasa Forest Plantation Sdn Bhd, Hariwood Sdn Bhd, Syarikat Samling Timber Sdn Bhd and Solid Hartabina Sdn Bhd.

During the course, trained workmen were taught on the essential and fundamental knowledge of becoming a qualified trainer which included adult learning, communication skill, in-house trainer criteria and training form documentation. Other pertinent activities carried out comprised of filling in training forms, online training assessment and individual presentation.

By conducting such online refresher/training course, STAT also endeavours to enhance in-house trainers/trained workmen with the latest training procedures and documentation, at the same time improving their job performance and boosting their confidence level in conducting trainings within their companies.



Refresher course in progress



Training course in progress

STA Training 有限公司 (STAT) 是根据 2015 年森林（员工培训）法令受委为培训机构，并继续为单元 7108：开展在职成人培训课程提供线上进修 / 培训课程。

STAT 于 2021 年 4 月启动了这项通过线上方式进行的培训课程，以确保木材行业的能力建设得以持续，尤其是在因新冠肺炎疫情而实施的行动管制期间。

STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), penyedia latihan yang dilantik di bawah *Peraturan Hutan (Pekerja Terlatih), 2015*, terus menyediakan kursus ulang kaji/latihan dalam talian untuk Unit 7108: Mengadakan Latihan Pekerjaan untuk Orang Dewasa.

Inisiatif mengadakan latihan melalui kaedah dalam talian, yang dimulakan oleh STAT pada bulan April 2021, amat penting untuk memastikan peningkatan kemampuan yang berterusan dalam industri perkayuan walaupun terdapat sekatan pergerakan semasa wabak COVID-19.

COVID-19 Industrial Vaccination Programme for Manufacturing Sector in Sarawak

In February 2021, the Federal Government launched the National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme as an approach to flatten the curve of the COVID-19 infections in Malaysia. With the vaccine rollout, the Federal Government strategy is to ensure as many residents receive the vaccine in the fastest possible time, and in turn, safeguarding lives and sustaining the national economy. In support of the National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme, Sarawak Government has also been aggressively carrying out the inoculation drive with the aim to have its entire 2.2 million adult population and foreign workers inoculated by the end of August 2021.

STA views vaccination as an important step in keeping COVID-19 at bay and welcomes these efforts by both the Federal and Sarawak Governments. At the same time, STA is encouraged to note that the Sarawak Government is also currently speeding up vaccination for workers in the private sector by setting up industrial vaccination centres at various locations.

In line with the Government's move, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development (MINTRED) was quick to respond by calling a virtual meeting on 4 June 2021 to discuss industrial vaccination programme for the manufacturing sector. The virtual meeting was attended by manufacturers from both Samajaya and Samalaju industrial areas as well as representatives from the Ministry of Health (MOH), ProtectHealth Corporation Sdn Bhd (PH) and associations including STA.

At this meeting, Dr Aszeriah Assahari from PH which is a non-profit organisation under MOH, shared how the vaccination programme would be carried out for the manufacturing sector and the various Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) or vaccination centres to be set up for employees in Sarawak. She emphasised that employers shall need to pay RM30 per worker for two (2) doses to cover administrative costs before the vaccination programme can be carried out for the manufacturers. She further added that this amount cannot be collected from the employees.

MINTRED strongly urged all manufacturers in the timber industry to enroll in the industrial vaccination programme, especially if they have 300 or more employees. The employee must be 18 years old and above, opts for the COVID-19 vaccination voluntarily, and must not have already taken the COVID-19 vaccine or have other vaccination appointment elsewhere. MINTRED also urgently requested interested manufacturers to submit workers' name lists and relevant documents to the COVID-19 Immunisation Task Force (CITF) Sarawak through MINTRED, so that the programme could commence in Sarawak as soon as possible in June 2021.

To expedite the effort, STA has been moving with great urgency and in close coordination with related Government agencies, in particular MINTRED, to arrange for its members to participate in the industrial vaccination programme. STA has been providing consistent and timely communication by email/facsimile/Whatsapp to convey important details of the industrial vaccination programme to its members as well as compiling workers' name lists from the members for submission to MINTRED. Apart from encouraging and assisting its members to have their workers vaccinated, STA is also supporting its Secretariat staff to do the same where most of them have already received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine out of the prescribed two doses.

STA pledges to continue to work diligently and in solidarity with the Government, relevant authorities and its members to address relevant challenges and to ensure the success of the National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme.

为配合政府行动，国际贸易与工业、工业化枢纽和企业发展部 (MINTRED) 迅速做出回应，于 2021 年 6 月 4 日召开线上会议，讨论制造业的工业疫苗接种计划，以进一步保护工作场所。三马再也和三马拉如工业区制造商以及来自卫生部 (MOH)、ProtectHealth 企业有限公司 (PH) 和包括本会在内的公会代表参加了线上会议。为加快这项工作，本会一直在积极行动，并与相关政府机构，特别是 MINTRED，密切合作安排其会员参与工业疫苗接种计划。

Selari dengan langkah Kerajaan, Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri, Terminal Perindustrian dan Pembangunan Usahawan (MINTRED) telah cepat bertindak balas dengan mengadakan pertemuan maya pada 4 Jun 2021 untuk membincangkan program vaksinasi industri untuk sektor pembuatan. Mesyuarat maya tersebut dihadiri oleh pengusaha syarikat dari kedua-dua kawasan perindustrian Samajaya dan Samalaju serta wakil daripada Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), ProtectHealth Corporation Sdn Bhd (PH) dan persatuan termasuk STA. Untuk mempercepatkan usaha tersebut, STA telah bergerak pantas dan berkoordinasi rapat dengan agensi-agensi Kerajaan berkaitan, terutamanya MINTRED, bagi mengatur ahli-ahlinya untuk terlibat dalam program vaksinasi industri.

Exclusive Briefing Session on Implementation of Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446) in Sarawak

STA Secretariat had attended the online roadshow session by the Department of Labour Sarawak (JTK Sarawak) on 6 May 2021 on the implementation of the *Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446)* in Sarawak. Recognising the significant impact of this implementation to STA members, the STA Secretariat is grateful that the Director of Labour Sarawak, Mr Awang Raduan Bin Awang Omar, had generously arranged for Mr Phang Pin, Senior Assistant Director of JTK Sarawak, to give its members an exclusive briefing on Act 446 on 17 June 2021. The session was attended by a total of 120 members from various districts such as Kuching, Bintulu, Miri and Sibiu.

Mr Phang informed that Act 446 was not applicable to Sarawak before the gazette of the *Emergency (Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 (P.U.(A77))* (Emergency Ordinance). Hence, the amendments made to Act 446 vide the *Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities (Amendment) Act 2019 (Act A1604)* which was enforced on 1 September 2020 was equally inapplicable. However, with the gazette of the Emergency Ordinance, Act 446 and Act A1604 are applicable to Sarawak with effect from 26 February 2021.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong has made an announcement after the Conference of Rulers special meeting on COVID-19 pandemic on 16 June 2021 that there is no need for Malaysia to remain in the state of emergency after 1 August 2021. Mr Phang explained that this announcement means that the Emergency Ordinance which was promulgated under the emergency power will be in force until 1 August 2021 and if it is not subsequently approved by the Parliament to continue to be in force, then pursuant to Article 150(7) of the Federal Constitution, the Emergency Ordinance will automatically lapse at the expiration of six (6) months, i.e. 31 January 2022. Consequently, Act 446 and Act A1604 will not apply in Sabah and Sarawak. However, Mr Phang informed that JTK Sarawak is looking at incorporating relevant provisions from Act 446 and Act A1604 into the *Labour Ordinance (Sarawak Cap 76)*.

According to Mr Phang, previously Act 446 only covered estate and mining. However, with the amendments under Act A1604, the scope of Act 446 has now expanded to cover all employment sectors and to employers who intend to provide housing to its employees. He highlighted the newly introduced Part IIIA, which puts responsibility on employers who intend to provide or have provided accommodation to its employees, or providers who provide centralised accommodation, to provide an accommodation in accordance with the minimum requirements specified under the *Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities*

(*Accommodation and Centralised Accommodation*) Regulations 2020. Some important sections, covering sections 24A to 24N under the newly introduced Part IIIA were specifically highlighted to alert employers of the minimum requirements such as provision of water and electricity supply, size and specifications of mattress, bed, bedroom, kitchen, bathroom and ventilation of the accommodation and the duties of employers or centralised accommodation providers to apply for a Certificate for Accommodation from JTK Sarawak. He informed that employers are allowed to collect rent or charges from an employee up to a maximum of RM100 monthly for accommodation by deduction from the wages of the employee according to *Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities (Maximum Rental or Charges for Accommodation) Regulations 2020*.

STA was deeply appreciative of the support rendered by JTK Sarawak through Mr Phang to speak in this exclusive briefing for the benefits of its members. It was an insightful session and Mr Phang assisted in clarifying many queries raised by the members. He also provided details of the point of contact to STA and its members for further enquiries. Members are encouraged to contact Mr Phang at telephone number 082-242261 or email jtkswk.mohr.gov.my for any enquiries concerning Act 446 and Act A1604.

本会秘书处参加了由砂拉越劳工部 (JTK Sarawak) 于 2021年5月6日所举办关于砂拉越实施1990年员工房屋, 住宿及设施最低标准法令 (446法令) 的线上说明会。意识到此实施对本会会员的重大影响, 本会秘书处感谢砂拉越劳工部长阿旺拉端先生 (译音) 于2021年6月17日慷慨安排了 JTK Sarawak 高级助理总监彭品先生 (译音) 为本会会员讲解有关446法令的独家简报会。共有120位来自古晋、民都鲁、美里和诗巫等不同区域的会员出席了该线上简报会。

Sekretariat STA telah menghadiri sesi jerayawara dalam talian oleh Jabatan Tenaga Kerja Sarawak (JTK Sarawak) pada 6 Mei 2021 mengenai pelaksanaan *Akta Perumahan, Penginapan dan Kemudahan Minimum Pekerja 1990 (Akta 446)* di Sarawak. Menyedari implikasi besar pelaksanaan Akta ini kepada ahli-ahli STA, Sekretariat STA bersyukur kerana Pengarah Tenaga Kerja Sarawak, Encik Awang Raduan Bin Awang Omar, telah dengan murah hatinya mengatur Encik Phang Pin, Penolong Pengarah Kanan JTK Sarawak, untuk memberi taklimat eksklusif kepada ahli-ahlinya mengenai Akta 446 pada 17 Jun 2021. Sesi ini dihadiri oleh 120 ahli-ahli STA daripada pelbagai daerah seperti Kuching, Bintulu, Miri dan Sibiu.

Engagement Session on Forestry Matters

STA Secretariat maintains good working relationship with Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) by engaging the Department from time to time. The latest engagement session was held on 18 June 2021 via video conferencing. The session, attended by officers from both organisations, was chaired by Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, Director of Forests, while STA Secretariat was led by its Chief Executive Officer, Ms Annie Ting.

The purpose of this session was to enable STA to keep abreast with the Department's directions and plans for the industry as well as to seek clarification on administrative matters in light of the restriction in certain activities by the Department due to the recent lockdown to curb COVID-19 transmission.

Datu Hamden in his welcoming remarks shared the latest operational arrangements in FDS following the imposition of movement control order (MCO) in Sarawak from 29 May to 28 June 2021 in order to flatten the COVID-19 infection curve. FDS has implemented work from home policy with only 20% of their staff allowed to work in the office. The respective officers in Forest One Stop Compliance Centres and Enforcement Division will continue to carry out their duties on the ground.

During the session, Datu Hamden also mentioned that the Sarawak Government has recognised forestry and timber processing companies as essential services and allowed to operate throughout MCO after considering minimal COVID-19 infection reported in the workplaces. Therefore, he reminded all STA members to continue adhering to the strict standard operating procedures to prevent outbreak in workplace.

The session also discussed matters on the implementation of forest management certification, Native Territorial Domain of Land Code as well as skill sets training provided by STA Training Sdn Bhd, the appointed training provider under *The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015* and a subsidiary company of STA.



Engagement Session between
FDS and STA

本会秘书处时常与砂拉越森林局（FDS）保持良好的工作关系。最近一次的接洽是在2021年6月18日通过视频会议方式进行。此会议的目的让本会能够保持了解该局对行业的指示和计划，以及鉴于最近为遏制新冠肺炎传播所采取的封锁措施，而导致该局对某些活动的限制，寻求行政事宜的澄清。

Sekretariat STA terus menjalinkan hubungan kerja yang baik dengan Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) melalui penglibatan dengan Jabatan dari semasa ke semasa. Sesi perhubungan yang terbaru diadakan pada 18 Jun 2021 melalui persidangan video. Matlamat sesi ini adalah untuk membolehkan STA mengetahui hala tuju dan rancangan Jabatan untuk industri serta mendapatkan penjelasan mengenai hal-hal pentadbiran dengan mengambil kira sekatan dalam aktiviti tertentu oleh Jabatan kerana kawal pergerakan baru-baru ini untuk mengekang penyebaran COVID-19.

BASF Webinar on New Herbicide Kixor®

BASF Malaysia organised a webinar on 23 June 2021 to introduce their new herbicide product – Kixor®. About thirty-eight (38) participants from Forest Department Sarawak, STA members and officers, Forest Research Institute Malaysia, plantation companies from Sabah and Sarawak, as well as independent consultants joined the webinar. It was moderated by Mr Alex Tong, Sales Excellence & Channel Manager of BASF Malaysia.

The webinar started with a video presentation introducing the BASF Group to the participants. It was followed by product information and knowledge sharing session led by Mr Murdiyanto Murdiy, Marketing Manager from BASF Indonesia and Mr Romi Bin Jumadi, Techno Commercial Manager (Sarawak) from Crop Protection (M) Sdn Bhd. The usage of various products for weed control in peat land area as well as in tree and oil palm plantations including its efficacy tests were shared with participants.

Kixor® is aligned to the principles of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and represents a new standard for control of broadleaf weeds, ferns and hardy weeds. Rapid foliar burndown and good residual efficacy are amongst

the advantages of Kixor® in forestry crop. Through research, the mixtures of different types of herbicides with Kixor® will provide good burn enhancement.

巴斯夫马来西亚于2021年6月23日举办线上研讨会介绍他们的新产品Kixor®。Kixor®符合森林管理委员会(FSC)的原则,代表了控制阔叶杂草、蕨类植物和耐寒杂草的新标准。快速的叶面燃烧和良好的残留功效是Kixor®在林业作物中的优势之一。

BASF Malaysia menganjurkan webinar pada 23 Jun 2021 untuk memperkenalkan produk racun rumpai terbaru mereka- Kixor®. Kixor® selari dengan prinsip-prinsip Majlis Pengawasan Hutan (FSC) dan mewakili standard baru untuk kawalan rumpai berdaun lebar, pakis dan rumpai lasak. Memusnahkan daun dengan cepat dan keberkesanan sisa yang baik merupakan antara kelebihan Kixor® dalam tanaman perhutanan.

JC3 Flagship Conference 2021: #Financeforchange

The sustainable finance landscape is changing fast. The implications of climate change on financial stability can no longer be ignored. The financial sector has both the responsibility and ability to improve its preparedness to manage the impacts of climate change, as well as mitigate environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks while supporting the transition towards a low carbon economy through its products and services.

Aimed to accelerate sustainable development and catalyse action within all financial institutions (FI) in Malaysia as well as stakeholders, i.e. FI clients and investees in their value chain, the Joint Committee on Climate Change (JC3) in collaboration with the United Kingdom (UK) Government and Ernst & Young and together with few co-organisers and event partners organised the JC3 Flagship Conference on 23-25 June 2021 virtually. The JC3 is a platform established in September 2019 to pursue collaborative actions for building climate resilience within the Malaysian financial sector. The JC3 is co-chaired by Bank Negara Malaysia and Securities Commission Malaysia with members comprising senior officials from Bursa Malaysia Berhad (Bursa), nineteen (19) financial industry players and relevant experts.

During the virtual conference on 25 June 2021, Tan Sri Abdul Wahid Omar, Chairman of Bursa, in his keynote address, shared with the private sector the role and initiatives of Bursa in advocating sustainability and the pathway to global commitment towards net-zero by 2050. Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood, Special Advisor on Public Health to Prime Minister, in her presentation, said that COVID-19 was just a dress rehearsal and highlighted

that if climate change topic is to be avoided and not overcome, it is foreseen that in thirty (30) years to come, our situation will deteriorate and the risk of ecosystem collapsing and spread of diseases will be greater.

The conference continued with three (3) panel sessions on topics of (i) sustainability is no longer an option; (ii) changing ESG and climate requirements from banks; and (iii) leveraging on sustainable finance for green growth. It was concluded that sustainable finance is complex, but all parties must play their critical roles to ensure private sector is educated and committed in moving towards ESG.

旨在加速可持续发展并促进马来西亚所有金融机构(FI)和利益相关者,即FI客户及其价值链中的被投资方,气候变化联合委员会(JC3)联合英国(UK)政府和安永一起与数个协办单位以及活动合作伙伴于2021年6月23至25日举办JC3线上旗舰会议。

Dengan tujuan untuk mempercepat pembangunan mampan dan menggalakkan tindakan dalam semua institusi kewangan (FI) di Malaysia serta pihak berkepentingan, iaitu pelanggan FI dan penerima pelaburan dalam rantai nilai mereka, Jawatankuasa Bersama mengenai Perubahan Iklim (JC3) telah bekerjasama dengan Kerajaan United Kingdom (UK) dan Ernst & Young dan bersama dengan beberapa penganjur dan rakan acara untuk mengadakan Persidangan Utama JC3 pada 23-25 Jun 2021 secara virtual.

Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) conducted a 4-day “Knowledge Sharing Session: Update on Forestry Operation” for its staff from 9 to 14 June 2021 via online platform. The first three (3) days of the session was opened to public and received overwhelming participation from other forestry-related agencies as well as industry players and non-governmental organisations including STA.

In his opening remarks, the Director of Forests, Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, shared that following the implementation of full movement control order in Sarawak, the Sarawak State Secretary has issued a circular instructing all State Government agencies to implement work from home policy effective 1 June 2021. Therefore, the virtual session was organised to provide operational progress of FDS in 2020 and 2021 to its staff and stakeholders. He hoped the session will benefit all participants and serve as a training platform for the staff of FDS in forestry operation.

He acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected some of the Department's work progresses and that certain operating strategies have been realigned to suit the current situation. For example, “Seed Ball” method using drone technology to propagate seeds was introduced to replace conventional seed planting activities. This is to prevent the pandemic from hampering Sarawak's progress in achieving its tree planting targets of thirty-five (35) million trees in support of the national 100 Million Trees Planting Campaign 2021-2025.

The session was moderated by Mr Oscar John Anak Ngayop, Senior Assistant Director (Licensing Division) of FDS and the following are the topics and speakers from various divisions/units of FDS:

9 June 2021

- **Paper 1: Current Status of FLR Programme & Greening Sarawak Campaign**
by Ms Zarina Binti Haji Shebli, Restoration & Industrial Forest Division
- **Paper 2: Current Status of Kumpulan Inovatif dan Kreatif (KIK), Key Focus Activities (KFA), High Performance Team (HPT) and other Programmes**
by Mr Haji Happsupina Bin Sait, Organisational Development & Project Development Division
- **Paper 3: Current Status of Lubok Antu Communal Forest Project**
by Mr Haji Azahari Bin Omar, Social Forestry Division

10 June 2021

- **Paper 1: Guidelines for UAV Drone Operation**
by Mr Jamali Bin Mohamad, Forest Technology & Geospatial
- **Paper 2: Preparation and Establishment of Seed Bomb to Support FLR Programme in Sarawak**
by Ms Hajah Mohizah Binti Haji Mohamad, Research Development & Innovation Division
- **Paper 3: Current Status of the Project on Planting Mangrove and other Species at Coastal Area of Sarawak**
by Ms Zarina Binti Haji Shebli, Restoration & Industrial Forest Division

11 June 2021

- **Paper 1: Latest Development Progress of the Collaborative Projects**
by Ms Runi Anak Sylvester Pungga, International Affairs Division
- **Paper 2: Call Price and Tender Process and Status**
by Mr Vincent Bin Kasik, Procurement Unit
- **Paper 3: Forest Licensee Portal & Forest One Stop Compliance Center (FOSCC)**
by Mr Semilan Anak Ripot, Revenue & Data Management Division

14 June 2021 (Close Door Session)

- **Paper 1: Forest Management Certification (Natural Forests): Issues and Challenges**
by Mr Wira Azizi Bin Kader, Planning & Management Division
- **Paper 2: Preventive and Enforcement Activities**
by Mr Sulaiman Bin Haji Jamahari, Preventive & Enforcement Division

Some of the highlights shared during the session included forest landscape restoration (FLR) activities where Ms Zarina spoke on the 100 Million Trees Planting Campaign in Malaysia, in which, Sarawak ranks top in the campaign by planting a total of 4,612,716 trees. She also shared the various efforts taken by FDS under the campaign such as (i) reviving and establishment of nurseries for seedling production; (ii) establishment of seed production area to provide seeds of known origin from the best phenotypes; and (iii) aerial surveillance for identification of degraded areas within permanent forest estate for planting and restoration programme.

2021: Update on Forestry Operation

Another highlight was on FDS utilising the “Seed Ball” method to support FLR in Sarawak. Seed balls are made from seeds that are wrapped in soil matter and then dried. The advantages of seed balls, amongst others, are less labour intensive and less cost for reforestation activities at remote and inaccessible areas. Ms Hajah Mohizah also shared a few success stories on the usage of seed balls for land reforestation.

Mr Semilan presented information on the Forest One Stop Compliance Centre (FoSCC) and Forest Licensee Portal (FLP). He shared the important role of FoSCC such as processing daily production return (DPR), royalty marking application, transit removal pass, as well as incoming and shoutout logs. On FLP, Mr Semilan said that it was developed in line with the Sarawak Digital Economy Strategy (2018-2022). The FLP will enable licensees to submit information and perform registration/application online by providing functions such as User Administration, Worker Registration, Management Personnel, DPR and Royalty Assessment.

砂森林局 (FDS) 于2021年6月9至14日通过线上视频为其员工举办为期4天的“知识分享会:林业经营更新”。分享会的前3天向公众开放,并获得其他林业相关机构以及行业者和包括本会在内的非政府组织的热烈参与。在致欢迎辞时,砂森林局局长拿督翰旦哈芝莫哈末承认新冠肺炎疫情影响了该部门的一些工作进展,并且已重新调整某些运营策略以适应当前情况。分享会期间的一些重点包括砂拉越森林景观修复活动,森林一站式合规中心的角色以及森林许可证持有者门户网站的开发。



One of the presentations made in the sharing session

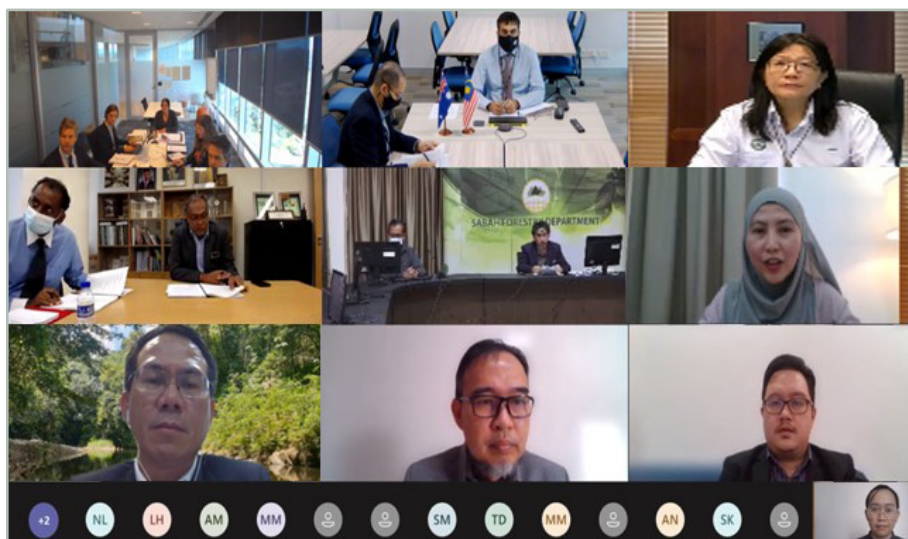
Jabatan Hutan Sarawak mengadakan “Sesi Perkongsian Ilmu: Kemas kini mengenai Operasi Perhutanan” selama 4 hari untuk kakitangannya dari 9 hingga 14 Jun 2021 melalui platform dalam talian. 3 hari pertama sesi turut dibuka kepada orang awam dan mendapat penyertaan memberangsangkan daripada agensi-agensi lain yang berkaitan dengan perhutanan serta pemain industri dan badan bukan kerajaan termasuk STA.

Dalam ucapan perasmiaannya, Pengarah Hutan, Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, mengakui bahawa pandemik COVID-19 telah mempengaruhi beberapa aturan kerja Jabatan dan strategi operasi tertentu telah disesuaikan dengan keadaan semasa. Beberapa topik utama yang dikongsi dalam sesi tersebut termasuk aktiviti pemulihan lanskap hutan di Sarawak, peranan Pusat Pematuhan Sehenti dan pembangunan Portal Pemegang Lesen Hutan.

9th Forestry and Timber Technical Working Group (FTTWG) Meeting

The 9th Meeting of the Forestry and Timber Technical Working Group (FTTWG) under the 12th Malaysia-Australia Agricultural Cooperation Working Group (MAACWG), hosted by Australia was held on 25 June 2021 via video conferencing and attended by officers from both countries.

The biennial meeting was co-chaired by Ms Julie Gaglia, Assistant Secretary of Agvet Chemical, Fisheries, Forestry and Engagement Division, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWR), Australia, and Mr Pubadi a/l Govindasamy, Senior Undersecretary of Timber, Tobacco and Kenaf Industries Development Division, Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC), Malaysia.



Meeting in progress

Ms Gaglia, in her opening remarks, highlighted the importance of timber trade between Malaysia and Australia. In 2020, Australia imported approximately RM878 million worth of timber and timber products from Malaysia while exporting approximately RM200 million to Malaysia. She reiterated the commitment by the Australia Government in combatting illegal logging and associated trade, involvement in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Expert Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT), as well as development of Malaysian Country Specific Guidelines (MCSG) to support trade in legally harvested timber and timber products.

Meanwhile, Mr Pubadi highlighted the important role that the Working Group play in promoting bilateral consultation and cooperation between Australia and Malaysia on forestry and timber sector. He mentioned that Malaysia is gratified with the economic relationship with Australia in the timber trade and hoped that the updated MCSG based on latest the laws and regulations related to legal timber in Malaysia will continue to promote timber trade between both countries.

Ms Syazrah Hamidon from the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (KeTSA) presented the newly adopted Malaysian Forestry Policy 2020. The Policy was formulated by encompassing key aspects of the forest policies of Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. The key areas of the Policy include sustainable forest management, protection and conservation of biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, application of latest forestry technology, strengthening research and development as well as enhancing knowledge sharing.

Besides that, Malaysia also took the opportunity to provide updates on MCSG. Mr Balamurugan a/l Nallamuthu of MPIC underscored to the meeting the amendments to the MCSG, in particular for Sabah and Sarawak following changes to the laws and regulations in both States.

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (HTSB) and STA had met virtually on 19 June 2021 to update the MCSG-Sarawak. Tuan Jack Liam, Deputy Director of Forests, FDS, chaired the virtual meeting. The updated MCSG-Sarawak was then extended to MPIC for the 9th Meeting of FTTWG.

During the meeting, Australia shared their progress of plantation forests for production. Almost two (2) million hectares of commercial plantations were established in Australia, with main planted species including *Pinus radiata*, *Eucalyptus globulus* and *Eucalyptus nitens*. In between 2019-2020, these plantations produced approximately 25.96 million m³ of logs. The Australian Government had launched their National Forest Industries Plan in 2018 to support industry in achieving the goal of establishing one (1) billion new plantation trees.

Australia also highlighted the ongoing revision of their illegal logging laws. The *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* and *Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012* are required to undergo revision every ten (10) years. The key reform areas include implementation of timber identification sampling and traceability techniques, reconsidering scope of regulated timber products and reducing workload for importers and processors. The engagement with international community on the revision is expected to take place in 2022.

Both countries discussed and identified few potential collaborations in relation to furniture design industry, forest plantation development in Sarawak and MCSG.

第十二届马澳农业合作工作组 (MAACWG) 旗下的第九届林业和木材技术工作组 (FTTWG) 会议在澳洲主持下于2021年6月25日通过视频会议方式进行。两国官员代表踊跃出席。在会议上，马来西亚介绍新通过的 2020 年马来西亚林业政策，该政策涵盖马来西亚半岛、沙巴和砂拉越森林政策的关键元素。马来西亚也提供有关马来西亚国家特定准则 (MCSG) 最新资讯，强调 MCSG 的修正案，特别是在沙巴和砂拉越两州的法规和条例有所更改之后。

Mesyuarat Kumpulan Kerja Teknikal Perhutanan dan Perkayuan (FTTWG) ke-9 di bawah Kumpulan Kerja Kerjasama Pertanian Malaysia-Australia (MAACWG) ke-12, yang dianjurkan oleh Australia telah diadakan pada 25 Jun 2021 melalui persidangan video dan dihadiri oleh pegawai daripada kedua-dua negara. Semasa pertemuan, Malaysia telah membentangkan Dasar Perhutanan Malaysia 2020 yang baru diterima pakai dan dibentuk dengan merangkumi aspek-aspek penting dasar hutan Semenanjung Malaysia, Sabah dan Sarawak. Malaysia juga memberi kemas kini mengenai Garis Panduan Spesifik Negara Malaysia (MCSG), yang menggariskan pindaan terhadap MCSG, khususnya untuk Sabah dan Sarawak berikutan perubahan kepada undang-undang dan peraturan di kedua-dua negeri tersebut.

Meeting on Malaysia Country Overview

To aid the implementation of the European Union (EU) Timber Regulation, the United Nations Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) as consultant to the European Commission produced and published Overviews of timber source countries on the European Commission website. These Country Overviews, including one for Malaysia, hold information on the country's forestry and timber sectors namely forest status, timber trade statistics, risks of illegality as well as relevant national legislations serves as a reference guide to both competent authorities in EU and operators undertaking risk management exercise as part of the due diligence system.

The Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) noticed that the factual information and inputs gathered from a series of stakeholder consultation involving representatives from forestry agencies and timber industry of the three (3) regions in Malaysia that were provided to the consultant in 2019 were not reflected in the June 2020 version of the Country Overview for Malaysia published on the website. For this reason, the Country Overview for Malaysia version June 2020 is deficient in accuracy and obsolete in fact, and should not be used as a reference when undertaking a risk management exercise.

MPIC had highlighted to the EU Embassy in Malaysia that the published Country Overview for Malaysia could fuel misleading interpretations, damage public trust in Malaysia's forestry and timber sectors and create a range of problems going forward. MPIC was then advised that the publication is due for a review.

MPIC took the upcoming review exercise of the document as an opportunity to provide, once again, updated and factual information on Malaysia's forestry and timber sectors to the consultant. Mr Pubadi a/l Govindasamy, Senior Undersecretary of Timber, Tobacco and Kenaf Industries Development Division, MPIC, chaired a meeting with relevant stakeholders via video conferencing on 8 June 2021 to collate critical inputs from all 3 regions. The draft document was subsequently forwarded to all stakeholders for further review and comments. Once finalised, it will be submitted to the consultant to ensure that the Country Overview for Malaysia which is used as a reference guide contains accurate information.

来自马来西亚3个区域的林业机构和木材工业代表于2021年6月8日与马来西亚种植及原产业部(MPIC)召开线上会议，以在敲定最新修订版马来西亚国家概览文件之前寻求利益相关者的关键意见。

Pada 8 Jun 2021, wakil-wakil daripada agensi perhutanan dan industri perkayuan bagi 3 wilayah di Malaysia telah menyertai Kementerian Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi (MPIC) dalam pertemuan untuk mendapatkan input kritikal daripada pihak berkepentingan sebelum memuktamadkan dokumen semakan terkini mengenai Profil Negara Malaysia.

RCEP and CPTPP as Game-Changers in ASEAN's Post COVID-19 Economic Recovery

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) Malaysia is calling for the Malaysian Government to ratify the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) by end of year 2021. This intention was revealed during a webinar held by ASEAN-BAC Malaysia on 22 June 2021 attended by more than 300 representatives from various industries, business associations and Government officials.

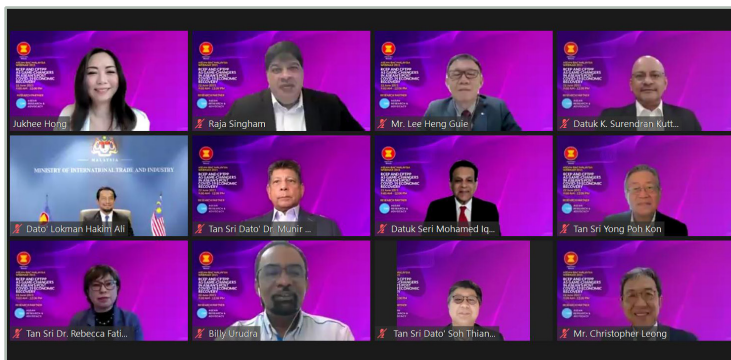
Datuk Seri Hasnol Zam Zam Ahmad, Secretary General of Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, in his special address, emphasised that the Government is committed to ensuring that the post-pandemic economic recovery process is implemented in a structured and timely manner and that free trade agreements such as RCEP will certainly help in the recovery of domestic businesses.

Speaking at the webinar, Tan Sri Dato' Dr Munir Majid, Chairman of ASEAN-BAC Malaysia, urged the Government to take swift action in the ratification of both RCEP and CPTPP in order to gain early mover advantage. This would also fortify stronger partnerships with other ASEAN Member States and signatory countries of both trading blocs, ensuring a sustainable economic recovery for Malaysia and the region.

Moreover, it provides opportunities for Malaysian businesses by offering market access to nearly a third of the world's population, widening intra-regional sourcing channels of raw materials at a competitive pricing, integrating supply chain, promoting greater transparency for sharing trade facilitation, economic cooperation, standardisation rules in relation to e-commerce and providing certainty in the protection of intellectual property rights. Ratification of RCEP and CPTPP has become even more relevant given the effects of COVID-19 on Malaysia's economy.

The webinar discussed and examined pertinent issues including RCEP as an important catalyst for Malaysia's growth and ways to cement the country's position as a gateway for RCEP as well as how CPTPP could provide complementary platform to RCEP in strengthening trade and investment. Later, ASEAN-BAC Malaysia also presented the Memorandum of Support which was signed by twenty-one (21) business associations for the Malaysian Government to expedite the ratification of both RCEP and CPTPP. The Memorandum of Support has been submitted to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

For more information on the webinar, visit aseanbac.com.my/asean-bac-malaysia-webinar/



Webinar in progress

马来西亚东盟商业咨询委员会 (ASEAN-BAC) 呼吁马来西亚政府在 2021 年底之前批准区域全面经济伙伴关系协定 (RCEP) 和全面与进步跨太平洋伙伴关系协定 (CPTPP)。马来西亚 ASEAN-BAC 是于 2021 年 6 月 22 日在线上研讨会时透露这项意图。

马来西亚 ASEAN-BAC 也随后提交由 21 个商业协会签署的支持备忘录，供马来西亚政府加快批准 RCEP 和 CPTPP。此份备忘录已呈交给国际贸易和工业部。

Majlis Penasihat Perniagaan - Persatuan Negara-negara Asia Tenggara (ASEAN-BAC) Malaysia menyeru Kerajaan Malaysia untuk memuktamadkan Perjanjian Kerjasama Ekonomi Komprehensif Serantau (RCEP) dan Perjanjian Komprehensif dan Progresif bagi Perkongsian Trans-Pasifik (CPTPP) sehingga akhir tahun 2021. Hasrat itu telah disuarakan dalam webinar yang diadakan oleh ASEAN-BAC Malaysia pada 22 Jun 2021.

Seterusnya, ASEAN-BAC Malaysia juga menyampaikan Memorandum Sokongan yang ditandatangani oleh 21 persatuan perniagaan kepada Kerajaan Malaysia untuk mempercepatkan pengesahan kedua-dua RCEP dan CPTPP. Memorandum Sokongan telah diserahkan kepada Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri.

Webinar on FSC Conversion Remedy Procedure

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is in the process of developing a new Policy on Conversion to provide a pathway for forest areas, converted after November 1994 and before the effective date of the Policy, to enter the FSC system by either associating with FSC or becoming FSC certified and maintaining FSC certification.

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

FSC has also established a technical working group to develop a mechanism to translate the FSC Policy on Conversion into operational practices. A key component of this mechanism is the FSC Conversion Remedy Procedure. In its aim to incentivise and advance restoration and conservation of natural forest and restitution of social harms associated with conversion, FSC requires organisations to demonstrate conformance with the FSC Conversion Remedy Procedure first before being eligible to apply for FSC forest management certification or associate with FSC.

The FSC Conversion Remedy Procedure contains the requirements and guidance for the conversion including (i) guidance to apply the cut-off rule that prohibits an

organisation from being eligible to apply for certification against FSC standards or association with FSC due to conversion; (ii) requirements to mitigate the effects of past conversion by restoring and/or conserving environmental values, and by restituting socio-economic values; and (iii) information on the eligibility criteria to enter the FSC system.

The 2nd draft of the FSC Conversion Remedy Procedure is currently undergoing public consultation until 14 August 2021, during which, three (3) webinars will be conducted on 24 June 2021, 1 July 2021 and 28 July 2021 respectively to introduce the said draft. These webinars present an opportunity to understand the development process and the proposals included in the draft. More information and registration links for the webinars are available at FSC website [fsc.org/en/newsfeed/second-draft-of-the-fsc-conversion-remedy-procedure-open-for-consultation](https://www.fsc.org/en/newsfeed/second-draft-of-the-fsc-conversion-remedy-procedure-open-for-consultation).

STA participated in the first webinar held on 24 June 2021. During the webinar, Ms Yan Li, FSC Policy Manager, briefed the participants on the history of the establishment of FSC Conversion Policy and the Conversion Remedy Procedure. She also explained the structure of the Conversion Remedy Procedure and the respective milestones to be achieved before being eligible to apply for forest management certification. Before ending the session, Ms Yan Li encouraged all interested stakeholders to provide input for improvement through the online consultation platform consultation-platform.fsc.org. The feedback received is critical to further develop the FSC Conversion Remedy Procedure which will help restore damages caused by forest conversion.

森林管理委员会 (FSC) 正制定新的转化政策，提供在 1994 年 11 月之后和政策生效日期之前转化的林区通过与 FSC 关联或获取和保持 FSC 认证加入 FSC 系统的途径。FSC 也成立了一个技术工作小组，以制定实践 FSC 转化政策的操作机制。该机制的其中一个关键部分是 FSC 转化补救程序。

FSC 转化补救程序的第二版草案目前正在接受公众咨询，直至 2021 年 8 月 14 日。在此期间，3 场线上研讨会将分别于 2021 年 6 月 24 日、2021 年 7 月 1 日和 2021 年 7 月 28 日举行，以介绍该草案。本会参加于 2021 年 6 月 24 日举行的第一场线上研讨会。

Majlis Pengawasan Hutan (FSC) dalam proses untuk membangunkan Dasar Penukaran baharu bagi kawasan hutan, yang ditukar selepas November 1994 dan sebelum tarikh kuatkuasa Dasar, untuk memasuki sistem FSC dengan bersekutu dengan FSC atau diperakui oleh FSC dan mengekalkan persijilan FSC. FSC juga telah membentuk satu kumpulan kerja teknikal untuk membangunkan mekanisma bagi menterjemahkan Dasar Penukaran FSC kepada amalan operasi. Komponen utama mekanisma ini adalah Prosedur Pemulihan Penukaran FSC.

Draf kedua Prosedur Pemulihan Penukaran FSC sedang melalui perundingan awam sehingga 14 Ogos 2021, di mana 3 webinar akan diadakan pada 24 Jun 2021, 1 Julai 2021 dan 28 Julai 2021 untuk memperkenalkan draf tersebut. STA mengambil bahagian dalam webinar pertama yang diadakan pada 24 Jun 2021.

International Conference on Forest Education

The International Conference on Forest Education (ICFE) was held virtually from 22 to 24 June 2021 to provide insight into the important role that forest education plays in maximising the contributions of forests and trees to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as to overcome the growing disconnect between people, nature and forests.

The conference is a cooperative effort of six (6) members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), namely Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO), Center for International Forestry Research-World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). The conference is supported by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Government of Germany. Attending the event were a wide range of stakeholders from scientific and educational institutions, government ministries, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, regional and global organisations, as well as students.

During the event, participants discussed the current situation of forest education by sharing their experiences and perspectives on key challenges, needs, opportunities and initiatives to strengthen forest education. There was consensus that robust forest education and training programmes are vital in (i) reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, (ii) protecting and restoring ecosystems, (iii) mitigating and adapting to climate change, and (iv) realising the full contributions of forests and trees to the achievement of SDGs. Participants were also strongly encouraged to endorse the Call to Action on Forest Education launched at the conference which aimed to raise awareness of the need to strengthen forest education, capacity development and knowledge sharing worldwide.

Meanwhile, the conference revealed results of a global survey carried out by FAO, ITTO and IUFRO. According to the survey, more must be done to improve forest education in many parts of the world. While forest education has evolved and the number, diversity and qualifications of graduates have increased in most regions, forest education resources are insufficient or limited in large parts of the Global South. The survey also discovered that in most regions, primary and secondary schools are not effectively educating students about forests and trees, or motivating them to pursue forest-related studies and careers. Graduates' understanding of cultural and social aspects of forest and tree management is often limited. In many regions, innovative teaching approaches, digital tools and online learning resources are not adequately employed, and forest education in entrepreneurship and preparation of students for the growing green jobs sector is not sufficient.

The 3-day event concluded with the launch of a Joint Initiative on Forest Education by CPF. Through this initiative, there are plans to (i) establish a Forest Education Partnership; (ii) launch an online platform to facilitate information dissemination and networking on forest education; (iii) work to improve forest education curricula and training systems; and (iv) run a global communications campaign to encourage young people to pursue forest-related careers.

For more information on the outcomes of ICFE, visit www.fao.org/forestry/forest-education/conference/en/



Call to Action on Forest Education consisting of 8 key actions was launched during the International Conference on Forest Education
(Image courtesy of FAO)

国际森林教育大会 (ICFE) 于2021年6月22日至24日通过视频方式举行。该大会旨在深入了解森林教育在无限度发挥森林和树木对联合国可持续发展目标 (SDG) 的贡献以及克服人、自然和森林之间日益严重的脱节方面所发挥的重要作用。

该大会是森林合作伙伴关系 (CPF) 6名成员的合作成果。活动期间，与会者通过分享他们对加强森林教育的主要挑战、需求、机遇和举措的经验和观点，讨论森林教育的现状。

Persidangan Antarabangsa mengenai Pendidikan Hutan (ICFE) telah dianjurkan secara virtual dari 22 hingga 24 Jun 2021 bagi memberi pemahaman mengenai peranan penting yang dimainkan oleh pendidikan hutan dalam memaksimumkan sumbangan hutan dan pokok kepada Matlamat Pembangunan Mampan (SDG) Pertubuhan Bangsa-bangsa Bersatu, serta mengatasi jurang hubungan di antara manusia, alam sekitar dan hutan yang semakin meningkat.

Persidangan ini merupakan usaha kerjasama di antara 6 anggota Perkongsian Kerjasama Hutan (CPF). Ketika acara tersebut, para peserta membincangkan tentang situasi pendidikan hutan semasa melalui perkongsian pengalaman dan perspektif masing-masing berkaitan cabaran, keperluan, peluang dan inisiatif untuk memperkukuhkan pendidikan hutan.

Webinar on Biodiversity Conservation and Its Management in Malaysia

On 24 June 2021, the Sarawak Biodiversity Centre (SBC) invited Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr Abdul Latiff Bin Mohamad, Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, who is also the past recipient of Merdeka Award in Environment Category, to share insight on biodiversity conservation and its management in Malaysia as well as the implementation of strategies for effective management of biodiversity. More than 300 participants tuned in to the "*Biodiversity Conservation and its Management in Malaysia*" webinar via video conferencing and Facebook live.

Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr Abdul Latiff dwelt into strategies employed by the Malaysian Government to manage our heritage and credited SBC and the Sarawak Government for undertaking biotechnology initiatives to realise the importance of biodiversity. Although the actual value of biodiversity is unknown, he opined that the promise made in the National Policy on Biological Diversity 2016-2025, namely to conserve and utilise our biological diversity in a sustainable manner can only be achieved if it is assimilated down to the society.

He added that among some of the strategies that can be adopted to effectively manage biodiversity include (i) improving scientific knowledge on biodiversity; (ii) enhancing sustainable utilisation of biodiversity; (iii) integrating conservation programmes in policies; (iv) enhancing skill, capability and competence; (v) encouraging private sector participation; and (vi) minimising impact of human activities. Implementation of each of these strategies require the completion of steps referred to as action plans and among some that have been carried out in Malaysia are the establishment of the (i) National Biodiversity and Biotechnology Committee chaired by the Prime Minister; (ii) Centres of Excellences; and (iii) SBC.

He also shared that while it is good for a country to experience urbanisation process, population and industrial growth, it should not be at the expense of the natural resources. Regional efforts such as the Heart of Borneo initiative in Sabah and Sarawak as well as the Central Forest Spine in Peninsular Malaysia are commended efforts to maintain and increase our forested area.

He concluded that for Malaysia or any State to effectively manage rich biodiversity and forward biotechnology agenda, the implementation of the National Policy on Biological Diversity must be enhanced at all levels to achieve development that are sustainable, bringing less detriment to our ecosystem diversity.

砂拉越生物多样化中心 (SBC) 于2021年6月24日邀请马来西亚国立大学科学技术学院名誉教授拿督阿杜拉蒂博士分享他对马来西亚生物多样化保护及其管理的见解，以及有效管理生物多样化的实施策略。拿督阿杜拉蒂博士过去也曾获得环境组别的默迪卡奖。

Pada 24 Jun 2021, Pusat Kepelbagaian Biodiversiti (SBC) menjemput Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr Abdul Latiff Bin Mohamad, Fakulti Sains dan Teknologi, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia yang juga merupakan penerima Anugerah Merdeka masa lalu dalam Kategori Persekitaran untuk berkongsi pandangan mengenai pemuliharaan biodiversiti dan pengurusanannya di Malaysia serta pelaksanaan strategi untuk pengurusan biodiversiti yang berkesan.

eTRADE Programme 2.0: Encouraging Malaysian SMEs to Go Online

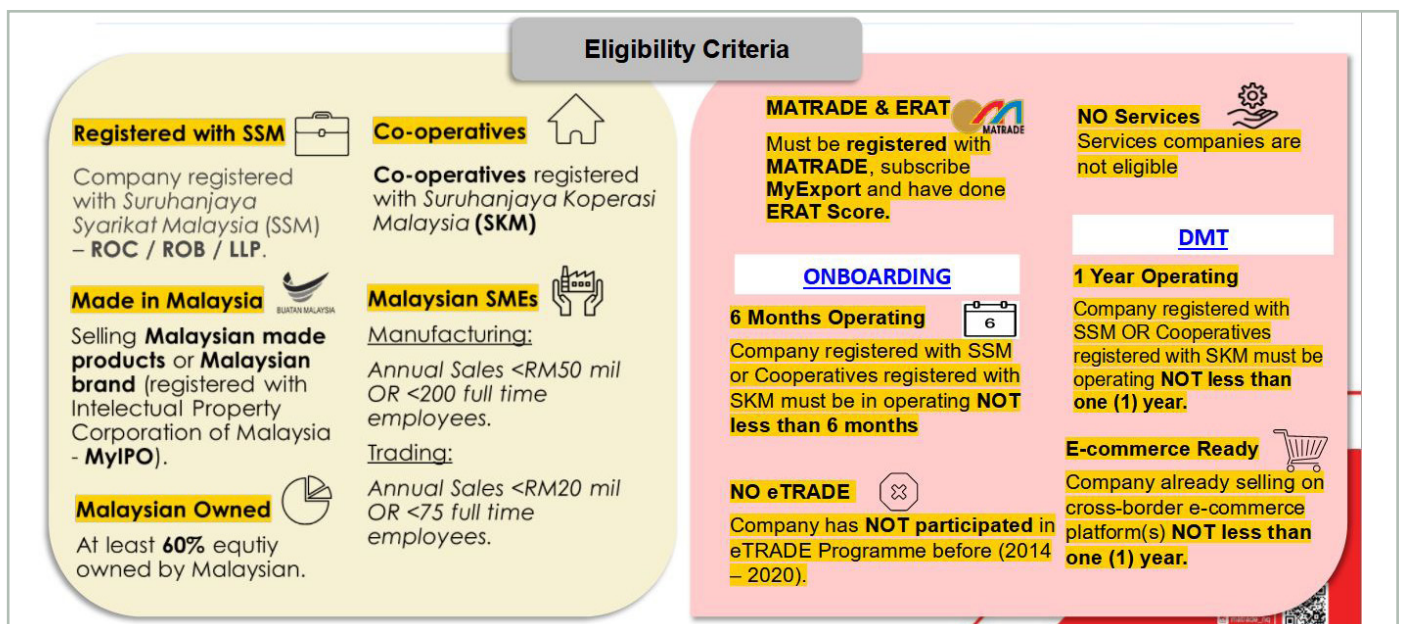
The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) in collaboration with the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) organised a webinar on 3 June 2021 to introduce and share information about the eTRADE Programme 2.0 to the timber industry. Implemented by MATRADE, eTRADE Programme 2.0 is an enhancement of the former eTRADE Programme under the 11th Malaysia Plan. It aims to encourage Malaysian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to use e-commerce platforms to increase market access, create business opportunities and accelerate export sales. The webinar was attended by more than 150 industry players and Government officials.

In his welcoming speech, Mr Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, Director General of MTIB, shared the latest export performance of Malaysia's timber and timber products. He pointed out that even though the country has been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the export performance of Malaysia's timber and timber products remains encouraging and on the uptrend. For example, the value of timber and timber product exports for 2020 declined by only 2% to RM22.02 billion compared with RM22.50 billion in 2019; and for the first quarter of 2021, the timber and timber products registered a 9% growth with export value of RM6.06 billion compared with RM5.50 billion for the corresponding period of last year.

According to Mr Mohd Kheiruddin, it is timely now for the industry to carry out operations in the new norms and to look into online trading as a way to overcome the constraints of limited physical interaction. He hoped that, through this webinar, the information shared on the Programme would be beneficial for the industry and motivate more companies to do their business transactions online.

Under the Programme, there are two (2) financial incentives offered, namely (i) Onboarding Scheme; and (ii) Digital Marketing & Training (DMT) Scheme. For Onboarding Scheme, qualified SMEs can claim up to RM5,000 per company through reimbursement for expenses incurred in onboarding cross-border e-commerce platforms of their choice. SMEs are also allowed to join multiple platforms, so that they have more options in choosing the platforms that best suit their needs and target markets. Meanwhile, for DMT Scheme, qualified SMEs are able to receive up to RM20,000 per company through reimbursement to cover their costs in undertaking digital marketing activities to promote their products and for attending e-commerce related training programmes.

For more information and to apply for eTRADE Programme 2.0, visit www.matrade.gov.my/en/etrade



Some of the eligibility criteria for eTRADE Programme 2.0 (Image courtesy of MATRADE)

由 MATRADE 实施的电子贸易计划 2.0 是之前在第11马来西亚计划下的电子贸易计划的强化版。该计划旨在鼓励马来西亚中小型企业 (SMEs) 利用电子商务平台增加市场准入，创造商机和加速出口销售。

Dilaksanakan oleh MATRADE, Program eTRADE 2.0 adalah penambahbaikan program eTRADE sebelumnya di bawah Rancangan Malaysia ke-11. Program ini bertujuan untuk mendorong perusahaan kecil dan sederhana Malaysia (SMEs) menggunakan platform e-dagang bagi meningkatkan akses pasaran, mencipta peluang perniagaan dan mempercepatkan penjualan eksport.

Payment of Royalty, Premium and Cess During MCO Period in Sarawak

On 8 June 2021, STA received a memo from the Director of Forests on the payment of royalty, premium and cess during the movement control order (MCO) period in Sarawak. The memo mentioned that during the MCO period, all service counters at Urban Transformation Centres (UTCs) and treasury divisional counters will be closed. Therefore, STA members are advised to make revenue bill payments through RHB Bank to “*Kerajaan Negeri Sarawak*”. The payment procedure was also attached in the memo.

Further to that, on 16 June 2021, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) informed STA that the Treasury Headquarters had requested for all revenue bill payments to be made through regional bank account instead. Members were also advised to use local bank cheque to make the payment.

Subsequently, with UTCs resuming services starting 1 July 2021, FDS informed STA that all revenue bill payments shall be made through UTC counters. Members were also advised to adhere to the standard operating procedures and to wear face mask and practice physical distancing while making payments at UTCs.

All the above information was closely communicated to members via email and WhatsApps in the month of June 2021.

在2021年6月份中，本会通过电子邮件和 **WhatsApps**，即時通信应用程式的沟通管道跟会员汇报有关砂州行动管制令期间缴交伐木特许权费和税款方式。

Pada bulan Jun 2021, STA berkomunikasi rapat dengan ahli-ahlinya melalui emel dan WhatsApps mengenai pembayaran royalti, premium dan cess semasa tempoh MCO di Sarawak.