

STA Review

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STA Council Meeting No. 1/2022

The STA Council Meeting No. 1/2022 was conducted online on 3 March 2022. The meeting was presided over by Chairman Datuk Sir Wong Kie Yik and attended by Vice Chairman Mr David Tiong, Honorary Secretary Dato Henry Lau, Honorary Treasurer Mr Philip Choo and twenty six (26) members of the Council.

The Council in this meeting resolved to close the voting process for the amendments arising from the migration of STA Memorandum and Articles of Association (STA M&A) to STA Constitution which requires Unanimous Assenting Vote of all categories at a General Meeting on 21 January 2022, upon obtaining the requisite consent from two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of all members in the Sawmilling and Timber Products Marketing categories to approve these amendments.

Voting for these amendments were kept open to allow collection of votes from members in these two (2) categories who were absent at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 30 December 2021 (AGM 2021) to continue after AGM 2021 in accordance with the resolution made by STA members at the AGM 2021. All other amendments had achieved the requisite approvals in accordance with the STA M&A at the AGM 2021. The STA Constitution was successfully filed with the Registry of Societies Malaysia (ROS) on 23 February 2022 with several housekeeping amendments pursuant to the Temporary Housekeeping mandate approved by members at the AGM 2021. These housekeeping amendments were ratified in this Council Meeting and shall be tabled at the forthcoming AGM for ratification by the members.

As the STA Constitution is still pending the approval from ROS, the Director of ROS, Sarawak Branch had allowed STA to organise its AGM for year 2022 (AGM 2022) after approval has been obtained for STA Constitution. In view of this and sudden upsurge in COVID-19 case, the Council had deferred AGM 2022 from 29 March 2022 to 15 June 2022. The existing elected Council members were appointed as Council members until AGM 2022 is called.

In accordance with Article 8(e)(i) of the STA M&A, appointment of the Election Committee to carry out the election of Council members shall take effect on 17 May 2022.



Meeting in progress

The Council received reports from several Category Committees and Working Committees and updates on the progress of forest plantation research projects funded by STA. STA is looking into being a member of the Special Task Force formed by the Immigration and Labour Unit under the Premier Department to resolve issues and challenges including revamping obsolete procedures on the recruitment of foreign workers. STA shall also be engaging with both the Forest Department Sarawak and Labour Department Sarawak on the proposed incorporation of some provisions of the *Employees' Minimum Standard of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990* into the *Labour Ordinance (Sarawak Cap. 76)*. Administrative matters of STA as well as its subsidiary companies; STA Training Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd and STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd were also addressed in the meeting.

本年度首次砂拉越木材公会理事会会议于 2022 年 3 月 3 日在线上召开，由主席拿督黄启暉爵士主持。会议批准本会章程的内务修改，并接纳多份各个小组委员会和工作委员会的报告以及由本会资助的人工林研究项目的进展报告。

Mesuarat Majlis STA Bil. 1/2022 telah diadakan secara maya pada 3 Mac 2022 dan dipengerusikan oleh Pengerusi Datuk Sir Wong Kie Yik. Mesuarat mengesahkan pindaan ke atas Perlembagaan STA, menerima laporan daripada Jawatankuasa Kategori dan Jawatankuasa Kerja serta kemaskini perkembangan projek penyelidikan ladang hutan yang dibiayai oleh STA.

Premier of Sarawak

The State Legislative Assembly passed the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2022 on 15 February 2022. One of the amendments was the change of the designation and style of 'Chief Minister' to 'Premier'.

With the amendments to the Constitution of the State of Sarawak, the Chief Minister of Sarawak is officially known as the 'Premier of Sarawak' with effect from 1 March 2022.

The Office of the Chief Minister will be referred to as the 'Office of the Premier of Sarawak'. His Deputy Chief Minister shall be addressed as 'Deputy Premier' and Assistant Minister as 'Deputy Minister'.

从 2022 年 3 月 1 日起，砂拉越首席部长正式被称为“砂拉越总理”。首席部长办公室将被称为“砂拉越总理办公室”。他的副首席部长改称为“副总理”，而助理部长则称为“副部长”。

Berkuat kuasa 1 Mac 2022, Ketua Menteri Sarawak secara rasmi dikenali sebagai 'Premier Sarawak', Pejabat Ketua Menteri sebagai 'Pejabat Premier Sarawak', Timbalan Ketua Menteri sebagai 'Timbalan Premier' dan Menteri Muda sebagai 'Timbalan Menteri'.

STA Constitution Committee Meeting No 1/2022

The migration exercise of STA Memorandum and Articles to STA Constitution has been lodged with the Registry of Societies on 23 February 2022 for consideration and approval. Subsequently, STA legal advisor informed the Secretariat that the Registrar of Societies, Sarawak office has reviewed and made some queries to the STA Constitution.

Therefore, STA Constitution Committee under the chairmanship of Dato Henry Lau met on 29 March 2022 to deliberate the proposed amendments to the STA Constitution prepared by the legal advisor in response to Registrar of Societies' queries.

The proposed amendments to the STA Constitution shall be tabled to the meeting of STA Council and members of the Association for approval and ratification.

STA 章程委员会在其主席拿督刘利康主持下于 2022 年 3 月 29 日召开线上会议，审议本会法律顾问回应社团注册官对本会章程进行审查后的询问而准备的修订建议。



Meeting in progress

Jawatankuasa Perlembagaan STA di bawah pengerusi Dato Henry Lau telah bermesyuarat pada 29 Mac 2022 untuk membincangkan cadangan pindaan yang disediakan oleh penasihat undang-undang STA berhubung pertanyaan daripada Pendaftar Pertubuhan berikutan semakan Perlembagaan STA.

Trainings on Occupational Safety and Health in Forest Industry by In-House Trainers

In the first quarter of 2022, a total of 89 forest workers from three (3) STA member companies namely Ta Ann Holdings Bhd, Shin Yang Sdn Bhd and Jaya Tiasa Holdings Bhd attended Trainings on Occupational Safety and Health in Forest Industry conducted by their in-house trainers on 25 January 2022, 24 February 2022 and 17 March 2022, respectively.

The one-day Training was part of the continuous effort to promote and cultivate awareness amongst forest workers on the importance of practising occupational safety and health at workplace as well as to minimise the occurrence of work related accidents and diseases.

During the Training, forest workers were taught on basic requirements of *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994*, *Factory and Machinery Act 1967*, *Destruction of Disease Bearing Insects Act 1975* and *Prevention* as well as

Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988. The trainers also shared with forest workers on hazard, standard operating procedures and job hazard analysis for (i) ground survey, (ii) tree felling, (iii) log extraction, (iv) log loading and unloading, and (v) log transportation.

This in-house training was mooted jointly by Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) Sarawak, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) in 2020 through a series of workshops.



Forest workers from Shin Yang Sdn Bhd attended Training conducted by Mr Hii Wei Bing

Through these workshops, a Training Module on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in Forest Industries was developed and 30 personnel from forest industry were successfully trained as in-house trainers to train their forest workers.

As of today, a total of 129 forest workers have been trained under this programme, thus contributing to the pool of trained forest workers in Sarawak.



Training conducted by Mr Thomas Richard of Ta Ann Holdings Bhd

在2022年第一季度，一共有89名来自3间本会会员公司的森林员工参加了由各别内部培训师所举办的林业职业安全与卫生培训。为期一天的培训是持续努力促进和培养森林员工对在工作场所实践职业安全与卫生的重要性以及尽量减少与工作相关的事故和疾病的发生的认识的一部分。

Pada suku pertama 2022, seramai 89 pekerja hutan daripada 3 syarikat ahli STA telah menghadiri Latihan Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan dalam Industri Perhutanan yang dikendalikan oleh jurulatih dalaman syarikat masing-masing. Latihan itu merupakan sebahagian daripada usaha berterusan untuk memupuk kesedaran di kalangan pekerja hutan tentang kepentingan keselamatan dan kesihatan pekerjaan di tempat kerja serta meminimumkan kemalangan dan penyakit berkaitan kerja.

Training on Directional Tree Felling Techniques

The Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM) and Forestry Training Centre Terengganu (FTCT) had jointly organised Training on Directional Tree Felling Techniques 2/2022 at the Forestry Training Centre Belimbing, Pahang from 7 to 10 March 2022.

The Training was attended by participants from Pahang Forestry Department, Johor Forestry Department, Terengganu Forestry Department, Malaysia Tree Climbers Association (MTCA), STA Training Sdn Bhd as well as freelance tree fellers.

In the welcoming remarks by Mr Nasrul Akmal bin Amaludin, Course Coordinator from FTCT, he informed that this was the second time this year the Department organised training on directional tree felling for tree fellers with the objective to strengthen their knowledge, techniques and safety in tree felling using chainsaw.

In the theoretical session, Tuan Haji Solehan Bin Saorani, trainer from FTCT explained on forest management in Peninsular Malaysia, logging activity and roles of tree fellers in forest harvesting as well as the requirement of directional tree felling in the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (MC&I SFM). He emphasised the importance of competency among tree fellers. Besides minimising risks associated with tree felling activities, the correct techniques in tree felling activities and proper handling of chainsaw can also aid in reducing impact to the surrounding environment as well as generate higher productivity.

The technicians from Husqvarna Malaysia briefed the participants on a chainsaw's components, its functions and maintenance. Tree fellers can only benefit from optimum use of chainsaws if they understand the components well and the chainsaw is regularly maintained.



Practical and assessment sessions at the logging concession area in Ulu Lepar, Pahang

The participants were also informed on importance of using personnel protective equipment when performing tree felling activity. Hands-on chainsaw maintenance was also shown by the technicians after the theoretical session. Participants were divided into groups during tree felling practical session held in one of the logging concession areas in Ulu Lepar, Pahang.

In the practical session, the trainers demonstrated bore and release back cut techniques, usage of felling aids, determination of tree felling direction and planning of escape routes.

Following that, participants demonstrated their knowledge in directional tree felling for assessment by the trainers. Mr Mohd Tarmizi bin Ahmad, Head of FTCT, in his closing remarks hoped that the Training was successful in strengthening knowledge and skills in directional tree felling using chainsaw among participants.

Participants who passed the examination and assessment will receive Certificate of Competency from FPDM.

马来西亚半岛林业部(FDPM)和登嘉楼林业培训中心(FTCT)于2022年3月7日至10日假彭亨州伯林宾林业培训中心联合举办了本年度第二次定向伐木技术培训。为期四天的培训分为两个部分，理论和实践课程涵盖了伐木工的角色、定向伐木的重要性,电锯的正确使用方法和维护以及正确的定向伐木技术。

Jabatan Perhutanan Semenanjung Malaysia (FDPM) dan Pusat Latihan Perhutanan Terengganu (FTCT) telah bersama-sama menganjurkan Latihan Teknik Penebangan Pokok Berarah 2/2022 di Pusat Latihan Perhutanan Belimbing, Pahang dari 7 hingga 10 Mac 2022. Latihan empat-hari itu melibatkan teori dan praktikal yang merangkumi peranan penebang pokok, kepentingan penebangan pokok berarah, pengendalian dan penyelenggaraan gergaji berantai serta teknik penebangan pokok berarah yang betul.

Technical Committee Meeting No 1/2022 on Timber

The Standardisation Division under the Department of Standards Malaysia had called the Meeting No 1/2022 of the Technical Committee on Timber (NSC V/TC 1) on 1 March 2022.

Professor Madya Dato' Dr H'ng Paik San, Chairman of NSC V/TC 1 welcomed all newly appointed or re-appointed committee members from the academic institutions, research institutions, Government agencies and timber industries to the meeting and reminded committee members to activate their ISOLutions account in order to receive meeting documents and documentation of standards as well as to participate in online voting.

马来西亚标准部属下的标准化部门于 2022 年 3 月 1 日召开了本年度首次木材技术委员会会议(NSC V/TC 1)。委员会讨论了国际标准化组织 (ISO) 发布的几项标准, 这些标准应由委员会成员投票。

The committee also discussed postings of standards by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) due for voting by committee members and further discussed the appointment of coordinator, representative for Malaysia as well as the appointment of expert to deliver Malaysia's country-specific conditions for forestry at the international meetings of ISO Technical Committee 287 on Sustainable Processes for Wood and Wood-based products.

Bahagian Standardisasi di bawah Jabatan Standard Malaysia mengadakan Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Teknikal Kayu (NSC V/TC 1) Bil 1/2022 pada 1 Mac 2022 dan berbincang mengenai beberapa piawaian oleh Organisasi Antarabangsa untuk Piawaian (ISO) yang akan dikemukakan kepada ahli jawatankuasa untuk undian.

Pilot Project on the Employment of Bangladeshi Workers

On 28 March 2022, STA invited Mr Augustine Chin, Chairman of BIMP-EAGA Business Council Malaysia Sarawak Chapter (Trade and Investment Facilitation Cluster) to give a virtual briefing on the pilot project on the employment of Bangladeshi workers to interested STA members.

Although employers in Sarawak can only hire workers from Indonesia, Mr Chin informed that Dato Gerawat Gala, Assistant Minister in the Premier of Sarawak's office (Labour, Immigration and Project Monitoring) had agreed

in principle to implement a pilot project on the employment of 1,000 Bangladeshi workers in Sarawak. The project shall be presented for approval at the forthcoming Sarawak State Legislative Assembly.

STA is supportive of this pilot project which can overcome the shortage of workers faced by STA members currently and will work closely with BIMP-EAGA Business Council Malaysia Sarawak Chapter for the successful execution of this pilot project.

本会于2022年3月28日邀请汶莱 - 印尼 - 马来西亚 - 菲律宾东盟东部增长区(BIMP-EAGA) 马来西亚商业理事会砂拉越分会 (贸易和投资促进集群) 主席奥古斯丁。陈先生向感兴趣的 STA 会员就孟加拉工人就业试点项目进行线上简报。会支持这个试点项目, 因它可缓解本会会员目前所面对工人短缺问题。

Pada 28 Mac 2022, STA telah menjemput Encik Augustine Chin, Pengerusi BIMP-EAGA Majlis Perniagaan Malaysia Sarawak Chapter (Kluster Fasilitasi Perdagangan dan Pelaburan) untuk memberi taklimat maya mengenai projek perintis pengambilan pekerja Bangladesh kepada ahli-ahli STA. STA menyokong projek perintis untuk mengatasi masalah kekurangan pekerja yang dihadapi oleh ahli STA ketika ini.

Dialogue on Driftwood

Forest Department Sarawak organised a series of Dialogue on Driftwood at Sibu and Kapit, on 24 and 25 March 2022 respectively. The Dialogue was attended by representatives from the Government agencies such as Forest Department Sarawak, Natural Resources and Environment Board, Sibu and Kapit Residence Office, Ministry of Modernization of Agriculture, Native Land and Regional Development, State Security and Enforcement Unit; representatives from long houses at Rajang river; STA member and STA.

Mr Abang Ahmad Abang Morni, Deputy Director of Forests informed the participants that the purpose of the Dialogue is to obtain views, information and involvement of local

community on driftwood issues as well as find suggestions for the issue of driftwood collection. Driftwood is defined as large sized wood or forest debris such as branch, root, twigs, etc. drifting in the main river and is found on river banks and beach coast.

He shared that after the Dialogue, his Department will draft policy paper to be discussed at the Ministerial level and later by the Sarawak Cabinet. The communities suggested that the licence to collect driftwood be granted through (i) zoning or to (ii) head of long house or village community development and security committee or (iii) company that have barge or (iv) individual interested in collecting the driftwood.

砂拉越森林局分别于 2022 年 3 月 24 日和 25 日在诗巫和加帛召开一系列关于漂流木对话会。此对话的目的是获取当地社区对漂流木问题的看法、信息和参与，并就漂流木收集问题寻求建议。

Jabatan Hutan Sarawak menganjurkan Dialog bersiri tentang Kayu Hanyut di Sibu dan Kapit, masing-masing pada 24 dan 25 Mac 2022. Tujuan Dialog diadakan adalah untuk mendapatkan pandangan, maklumat dan penglibatan masyarakat setempat mengenai isu kayu hanyut serta mencari cadangan untuk isu pengumpulan kayu hanyut.

Honorary Visit from Forest Plantation Development Sdn Bhd

Forest Plantation Development Sdn Bhd (FPDSB) Chief Executive Officer, Mr Zharudin Narudin and his officers were in Kuching for a working visit from 14 to 16 March 2022.

Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA met with the delegation on 14 March 2022 and discussed the forest plantation development in Sarawak, the planted timber market trend and opportunities as well as challenges faced by the forest plantation industry.

The information on the soft loan facility provided under the Program Pembangunan Ladang Hutan (PPLH) was also shared during the visit. This soft loan facility is provided by Malaysian Timber Industry Board, through FPDSB, to companies that meet the criteria of PPLH.

Both FPDSB and STA hoped to further strengthen the close cooperation between both organizations for the development of forest plantations in Malaysia.

人工林发展有限公司 (FPDSB) 首席执行官扎鲁丁先生与其官员于 2022 年 3 月 14 日至 16 日在古晋进行工作访问。STA 首席执行官陈燕贞女士于 2022 年 3 月 14 日与他们会面讨论砂拉越的人工林发展、种植木材的市场趋势和机遇，以及人工林产业面临的挑战。



Ms Annie Ting, CEO of STA (seated, right) flanked by delegates from FPDSB, led by its CEO, Mr Zharudin Narudin (seated, middle)

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif, Encik Zharudin Narudin dan pegawainya berada di Kuching untuk lawatan kerja dari 14 hingga 16 Mac 2022. Cik Annie Ting, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif STA bertemu dengan delegasi pada 14 Mac 2022 dan membincangkan tentang pembangunan ladang hutan di Sarawak, perkembangan dan peluang pasaran kayu yang ditanam serta cabaran yang dihadapi oleh industri ladang hutan.

Workshop on the Data Collection Survey on Protection of Vulnerable Workers in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis

Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) has engaged the Environmental Resource Management (ERM) Japan Ltd to carry out a project entitled “Data Collection Survey on Protection of Vulnerable Workers in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis” on twenty two (22) developing countries in South East Asia, South Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Mediterranean that have close economic ties with Japan.

JICA is a Japanese government agency that aims to contribute to the promotion of international cooperation and sound development of Japanese and global economy.

In connection to the project, ERM conducted a half-day online workshop on 22 March 2022 targeting forestry, timber and rubber industries in Malaysia, attended by approximately twenty five (25) participants from the government agencies, trade unions, civil society organisations and trade associations including STA.

Mr Masahiro Habu, Assistant Project Manager, ERM in his welcoming remarks mentioned the workshop aims to share latest information, promote international best practices and collect additional information on the protection of workers during and post COVID-19 pandemic. The project focus areas are prevention of child labour and forced labour; non-discrimination on employment and working conditions; grievance redress mechanism; occupational safety and health; as well as other major issue related to the protection of life and dignity of worker.

Representatives from civil society organisations and trade union, Ms Joanne Chua from International Organisation for Migration, Mr Adrian Pereira from North-South Initiative and Mr Somahsundram Karupiah from Malaysian Trade Union Congress discussed impacts of COVID-19 on migrant workers in Malaysia. They also touched on each of their experiences in responding to the needs of the migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms Jessie Cheah from the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia further highlighted the progress made by Malaysia in addressing human rights issues. She added that Malaysia has passed the Employment (Amendment) Bill 2021 which will see improvements in the labour industry particularly on the issues of forced labour, implemented the upgraded Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodation and Amenities Act 1990 as well as launched the National Action Plan on Forced Labour 2021 – 2025 and National Action Plan on Anti-Trafficking In Persons 2021 – 2025.

Participants were then divided into four (4) groups to discuss challenges and good business practices on human rights during and post COVID-19 pandemic with regards to migrant workers as well as their expectations on the supports from donors including JICA.

The outcome from this workshop shall form part of the report for this project and will be used by JICA in planning its future work, including potential supports to governments and collaboration and cooperation with corporates and civil societies to promote protection of workers.

日本国际协力机构顾问,环境资源管理(ERM)于 2022 年 3 月 22 日为“应对新冠肺炎疫情危机保护弱势员工的数据收集调查”项目举办为期半天的线上研讨会,以分享最新信息、推广国际最佳实践并收集有关在新冠肺炎疫情期间和之后保护员工的更多信息。研讨会也分享马来西亚在解决人权问题方面所取得的进展

Bengkel setengah hari dalam talian telah diadakan pada 22 Mac 2022 oleh perunding JICA, ERM untuk projek “*Tinjauan Pengumpulan Data mengenai Perlindungan Pekerja Terdedah dalam Tindak Balas terhadap Krisis COVID-19*” untuk berkongsi maklumat terkini, mempromosikan amalan terbaik antarabangsa dan mengumpul maklumat tambahan tentang perlindungan pekerja semasa dan selepas pandemik COVID-19. Kemajuan yang dicapai oleh Malaysia dalam menangani isu hak asasi manusia, turut dikongsi dalam bengkel tersebut.

Forests for Sustainable Lifestyles & Circular Economy Webinar

Along with the established role that forests play in achieving global climate change mitigation and adaptation goals, forests also contribute to reducing the consumption of unrecyclable packaging that are increasing with the rise of online shopping and delivery.

The “*Forests for sustainable lifestyles and a circular economy*” webinar, held on 21 March 2022 by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in conjunction with the International Day of Forests 2022 gave insights into how forest based fibres can produce innovative fashion and packaging product that will support the transition to more sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

It shed light on the innovative uses of wood fibre-based products in our everyday lives and asks the question of “how can a sustainable production and consumption of wood products help to decarbonize industries, transform the way we use or reuse resources and support the transition towards more sustainable lifestyles?”

Mr Simone Cipriani, Chair of the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion who moderated Part 1 of the webinar which focuses on fashion shared that woods have lower carbon footprint and environmental impact as compared to many other alternative materials that are currently being used in many industries. He was joined by a distinguished panel of speakers in discussing the importance of moving from plastic dominated linear business model to one that is circular and bio based.

配合 2022年国际森林日,联合国欧洲经济委员会(UNECE)于2022年3月21日举办“可持续生活方式和循环经济的森林”线上研讨会,深入探讨森林的纤维如何生产创新的时尚和包装产品,以支持走向更可持续的生产和消费模式过渡期。

Mr Carlo Covini, Project Manager at Lenzing AG, shared that with the help of technology, Lenzing AG is able to process fibre from wood and different forms of waste to produce wood-based viscose fibres for the textile industry.

Responsible sourcing was also highlighted as crucial to ensure that the wood used in the process comes from certified and controlled sources.

It was also learnt that a holistic set of commitments on climate action, including reducing emissions to net zero by year 2050 are detailed in the Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action, adopted by signatories from companies across the fashion value chain.

In Part 2 of the webinar which discussion centred around packaging, speakers highlight the role that renewable and recyclable forest products play in mitigating climate change. Ms Outi Marin, Head of Sustainability Reporting at Smurfit Kappa, leading providers of paper-based packaging in the world shared her opinion that given the important role that recycle fibres play in circular economy, she is optimistic that paper-based packaging can capture market share and compete with plastic packaging.

Webinar “*Hutan untuk Gaya Hidup Lestari dan Ekonomi Sirkular*” yang diadakan pada 21 Mac 2022 oleh Suruhanjaya Ekonomi Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu untuk Eropah bersempena Hari Hutan Antarabangsa 2022 memberi gambaran tentang bagaimana fiber berasaskan hutan boleh menghasilkan fesyen dan produk pembungkusan yang inovatif untuk menyokong peralihan kepada corak pengeluaran dan penggunaan yang lebih mampan.

New Proposals and Emerging Practices: Environmental and Human Rights Due Diligence in Europe and Asia

B+HRAsia: Enabling Sustainable Economic Development through the Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework (B+HR Asia) is a project by the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to promote the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). B+HR Asia is focused on developing policy frameworks, supporting access to remedy, and promoting the uptake of human rights due diligence (HRDD) by businesses. Through close partnerships with Asian governments, business and civil societies, a number of dialogues, training, research, small grant provision and awareness raising activities had been arranged. Training Guide known as *HRDD Rapid Self-Assessment Tool* and supplementary tool, *COVID-19 and HRDD: A Rapid Self-Assessment for Business* had been launched in 2019 and is now accessible by thousands of users spanning five (5) continents.

On 23 February 2022, the EU launched its proposed Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, also referred to as Environmental and Human Rights Due Diligence (EHRDD), aimed at imposing on companies of a certain size operating in the EU far-reaching due

Therefore, businesses including the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) need to improve their business practices to meet the expectations of shareholders and consumers. UNDP has carried out trainings and hoped that Malaysia will grasp the opportunities to understand, follow and implement the proposed practices on human rights.

Ms Alexandra Kusova, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs of the EU Commission provided an overview on the proposed Directive. Both EU and non-EU companies are required to adopt a plan to ensure that the company's business model and strategy are compatible with the transition to a sustainable economy, including limiting global warming to 1.5°C in line with the Paris Agreement.

Ms Ruenvadee Suwanmongkol, Secretary-General of the Securities and Exchange Commission Thailand talked about the progress made by Thai businesses in addressing climate change and human rights for corporate sustainability, while Ms Amanda Murphy, Counsel of Clifford Chance highlighted the implications of EHRDD on businesses in Asia. Although SMEs are not included in the scope of EHRDD, they, as contractors and subcontractors to companies which fall under the scope, will also be impacted by the provisions.

Experts from Malaysia, Indonesia and Mongolia were also invited to share their views and experiences in handling human rights in businesses. Despite the lack of domestic legislation focusing specifically on human rights in Asia, companies with businesses in Asia particularly those with global operations are required to pay more attention to human rights and modern slavery issues in their own value chains given the global focus placed on these issues.

It is anticipated that the European Commission will issue guidance and a set of voluntary model clauses to support companies in complying with their obligations under the proposed Directive.

一场关于新推出的拟议企业可持续发展尽职调查指令（也称为环境和人权尽职调查（EHRDD））的线上研讨会于2022年3月23日举行。研讨会敦促包括中小型企业（SME）在内的企业改进其业务实践，以满足股东和消费者的期望。

Pada 23 Mac 2022, satu webinar telah dihoskan mengenai cadangan Arahan Ketekunan Wajar Kelestarian Korporat yang baru dilancarkan, juga dirujuk sebagai Ketekunan Wajar Alam Sekitar dan Hak Asasi Manusia (EHRDD). Perniagaan termasuk perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) digesa meningkatkan amalan perniagaan mereka bagi memenuhi jangkaan pemegang taruh dan pengguna mereka.

PERSONAL SCOPE- WHO ?				
		LARGE EU LLCs + REGULATED FINANCIAL COMPANIES	NON-EU COMPANIES	SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
GROUP 1	500+ employees and more than net €150 million of turnover*	+/- 9,400 companies	+/- 2,600 companies	Micro companies and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are not directly concerned by the proposed rules.
GROUP 2	250+ employees and more than net €40 million of turnover*, operating in defined high impact sectors. The rules will apply to this group 2 years later than to group 1.	+/- 3,400 companies	+/- 1,400 companies	

* Worldwide turnover for EU companies and EU wide turnover for non EU companies

Companies coming under the scope of the proposed Directive

due diligence obligations covering adverse human rights and environmental impacts of their own operations, and those of their subsidiaries and their upstream and downstream value chain. Therefore, UNDP with its EU partners hosted a webinar on 23 March 2022 aimed at raising awareness on the UNGPs and EHRDD and advocating wider adoption of HRDD practices among businesses in Asia and other regions through sharing of lessons learned.

The webinar, attended by 640 participants mainly from the Asia and the EU, was moderated by Ms Jehan Aziz Abdul, UNDP Business and Human Resource Specialist, Malaysia. Mr Niloy Banerjee, Resident Representative, UNDP Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam in his welcoming remarks mentioned that uptakes on social and environmental standards in business practices have been slow. Some businesses were sanctioned in recent years for providing poor working conditions or not being environmentally friendly.

Malaysian Conservation Conference 2022

Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) hosted the first Malaysian Conservation Conference (MCC) from 29 to 31 March 2022 at Imperial Hotel, Kuching. The inaugural Conference was launched by the Premier of Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Haji Openg in the presence of Haji Zolkipli Mohamad Aton, Chief Executive Officer of SFC, Salman Haji Saaban, Director of Protected Areas Division, Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (PERHILITAN), Mdm Sylvia Alsisto, Wildlife Officer, Sabah Wildlife Department and Dr Nasrulkhaim Maidin, Senior Principal Assistant Director Sabah Parks.

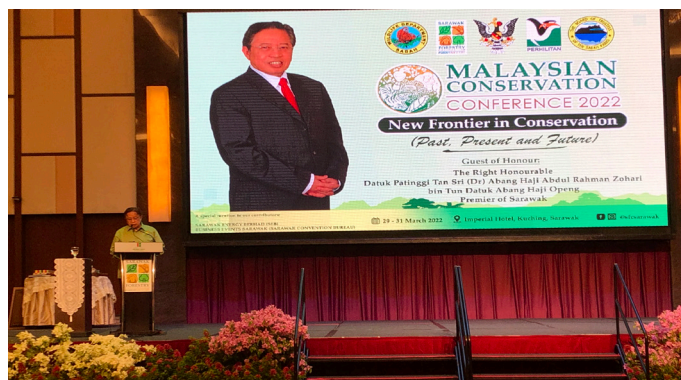
The 3-day hybrid Conference was also joined by internationally renowned speakers who shared their thoughts, ideas and knowledge to approximately 300 delegates.

In his opening speech, Tuan Haji Zolkipli Mohamad Aton shared that our world is facing unprecedented threats and is in dire need of human intervention. The Conference is deemed timely to discuss issue of conservation and environmental sustainability and he urged everyone to do their utmost best to conserve and protect our biodiversity, in tandem with the theme of the Conference, “*New Frontier in Conservation: Past, Present and Future*”.

He shared that SFC is supporting Sarawak's target to reforest the state with 35 million trees through the Rewilding Project in Totally Protected Areas (TPAs). He also informed that SFC is also planning the International Primatological Society (IPS) Congress in 2023, where the blueprint of the Congress is being developed, taking into consideration the key points inclusive of recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in fields of primatology and conservation.

Dr Madhu Rao, Chairperson for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas and Senior Advisor, Wildlife Conservation Society in her keynote address highlighted that biodiversity is essential to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals and that nature can be conserved, restored and used sustainably but need urgent and concerted efforts to make the necessary transformative change.

The Premier of Sarawak, in his speech disclosed that Sarawak's Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 placed environmental sustainability as one of the three main pillars to steer Sarawak toward its 2030 goals. He shared that Sarawak is committed towards preservation of six (6) million hectares of land as permanent forests and one (1) million hectares as TPAs. The Conference saw twenty seven (27) oral presentations and six (6) oral presentations in the six (6) sub-themes. At the end of the Conference, twelve (12) resolutions on biodiversity conservation and protection were adopted.



Premier of Sarawak delivering his opening remarks

The Conference was closed by Datuk Amar Jaul Samion, Sarawak State Secretary who acknowledged the 6 sub-themes of the Conference as fitting in keeping the community of applied conservation practitioners abreast with interesting and emerging issues.

He warned that future survival of humanities is at stake if global environmental threats such as climate change, COVID-19 which may potentially have wildlife link and ever increasing wildlife threat are not addressed immediately.

He reminded delegates that while the inaugural Conference served as a great starting point for greater results in the future, the responsibility lies on all parties to work together and commit to improve technology and innovation in pursuing conservation for our future generation.

砂拉越林业机构有限公司(SFC)于2022年3月29日至31日假古晋帝宫酒店主办以“保护新前沿：过去，现在和未来”为主题的首届马来西亚保护大会(MCC)。大会总共通过了12项关于生物多样性保护和养护的决议。



STA Secretariat and some of the representatives from STA members present at the Conference

Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) menganjurkan Persidangan Pemuliharaan Malaysia (MCC) yang pertama dengan tema “Sempadan Baru dalam Pemuliharaan: Dulu, Kini dan Masa Depan” dari 29 hingga 31 Mac 2022 di Hotel Imperial, Kuching. Pada penghujung Persidangan, 12 resolusi pemuliharaan dan perlindungan biodiversiti telah diterima pakai.

MIDF Green Conference 2022

The Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Berhad (MIDF) is a financial services provider in three (3) core business areas; investment banking, development finance and asset management.

With the aims to expand on the topic of how current global developments can and will affect future generations and to promote a healthy discourse and gain insights on the practical implications of critical economic activities and policies for posterity, MIDF organised a Green Conference 2022 with the theme *"Beyond the Blah Blah Blah"* focusing on the principles of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and sustainability. The Conference was held virtually on 9 March 2022 and brought together approximately 500 participants.

In his opening address, Dato' Charon Wardini Mokhzani, MIDF Group Managing Director pointed out that shares of the listed companies in Malaysia perform poorly due to ESG discount. The shares of these companies are trading lower than it ought to be despite having a demand for the end products.

Furthermore, Malaysia was placed in the bottom tier for human trafficking as well as forced labour according to the reports published by the United States of America, *2021 Trafficking in Persons Report* by the Department of States and the *International Child Labour & Forced Labour Reports* of the Department of Labour. This indicates that very little effort is being made within Malaysia to address the problem and has consequently caused some companies to be overlooked by investors.

He added that many local companies are addressing the issues that have been raised and are correcting the misperceptions. If companies were to embrace ESG, it would help lift stock valuations and increase long term returns to investors. Malaysia could see an improvement in international investor interest if it is able to address the "social" criteria in the ESG requirements.

Dato' Sri Mustapha Mohamed, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) in his keynote address mentioned that the Government has made a commitment to move towards net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The government is currently developing the framework, which includes exploring the introduction of a voluntary carbon market, carbon pricing mechanism such as carbon tax, and the expansion of green technology tax incentives.

Although it may be painful and challenging for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and micro businesses, zero carbon emissions is a transition that businesses must undertake as developed nations are transitioning towards greener energy sources at a fairly rapid pace.

The three (3) panels sessions, (1) Does Being ESG Compliant Help with Rising Capital; (2) Idealism of Green vs Practicality of Brown; and (3) What Does the Future Hold, were moderated by experts Mr Andrew Chan, South East Asia Sustainability & Climate Change Leader of PricewaterhouseCoopers, Datuk Dominic Silva, Chief Executive Officer of MIDF Amanah Investment Bank and Ms Arina Kok, Partner, Climate Change and Sustainability of Ernst & Young respectively.

The panelists believed in the concept of *"to do good, do no harm"* in adopting ESG into businesses. Investment opportunities will definitely improve when ESG is practised, which will benefit the businesses in the long run. Engagements with Government, institutions and industries are important to ensure the principles of ESG can be carried out to benefit all parties. The panelists opined that businesses need to strike a balance in achieving the objectives while minimizing risks when addressing climate change and carbon trading/tax matter.

Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Mamat, Chairman of MIDF urged Government, industry practitioner to work together, play their part to apply green practices which is essential to businesses.

马来西亚工业发展金融有限公司 (MIDF) 于 2022 年 3 月 9 日举办主题为 *"Beyond the Blah Blah Blah"* 的 2022 年绿色研讨会，主要关注环境、社会和治理 (ESG) 以及可持续性原则。MIDF 集团董事总经理拿督查荣瓦迪尼在致词中指出如果公司接受 ESG，将有助于提升股票估值并增加投资者的长期回报。我国有望改善国际投资者的兴趣。首相署部长（经济事务）拿督斯里慕斯达法告知政府已承诺于 2050 年实现净零碳排放。有关 2050 年净零排放目标的更多细节可能会在今年公布。

Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Berhad (MIDF) telah menganjurkan Persidangan Hijau 2022 dengan tema *"Beyond the Blah Blah Blah"* yang memberi tumpuan kepada prinsip Alam Sekitar, Sosial dan Tadbir Urus (ESG) dan kelestarian pada 9 Mac 2022.

Dalam ucapan perasmian, Dato' Charon Wardini Mokhzani, Pengarah Urusan Kumpulan MIDF berkongsi bahawa jika syarikat menerima pakai ESG, ianya akan membantu menaikkan penilaian saham dan meningkatkan pulangan jangka panjang kepada pelabur. Malaysia boleh menikmati peningkatan minat pelabur antarabangsa. Dato' Sri Mustapha Mohamed, Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Ekonomi) memaklumkan bahawa Kerajaan telah membuat komitmen untuk menuju ke arah pelepasan karbon sifar bersih menjelang 2050. Butiran lanjut mengenai sasaran tersebut mungkin akan dikeluarkan pada tahun ini.

MARCH 2022

OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAMME

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

STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) functions to provide skills training for the five (5) prescribed forestry activities (PFAs) as listed in Schedule 1 of *The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015*, and non-PFAs. The skills training offered by STAT are open to the industry. Presently, there are twelve (12) skills sets offered by STAT.

For this month, STAT conducted the operator training programme on the ground consisting of training, revision and assessment as follows:

• Tree Felling- Chainsaw (Natural Forest); & Log Loading - Excavator (Natural Forest)

Date : 28 February - 5 March 2022
Location : Muput Camp, Tatau
STAT Trainer/ Assessor : Mr Sang Sanjan & Mr Ngumbang
Company : Zedtee Sdn Bhd

• Tree & Log Identification and Log & Timber Identification

Date : 8 - 13 March 2022
Location : Entulu-Melatai FMU, Putai
STAT Trainer/ Assessor : Mr Sumbang Rani
Company : WTK Group

• Tree Felling- Chainsaw (Natural Forest); & Log Extraction - Tractor (Natural Forest)

Date : 13 - 18 March 2022
Location : Pasin Camp, Song
STAT Trainer/ Assessor : Mr Sumbang Rani
Company : Hariwood Sdn Bhd

• Tree Felling- Chainsaw (Natural Forest); & Log Extraction - Tractor (Natural Forest) & Log Loading - Excavator (Natural Forest)

Date : 22 - 27 March 2022
Location : Entulu-Melatai FMU, Putai
STAT Trainer/ Assessor : Mr Ginda Uli & Mr Sang Sanjan
Company : WTK Group

• Tree Felling- Chainsaw (Natural Forest); & Log Extraction - Tractor (Natural Forest) & Log Loading - Excavator (Natural Forest)

Date : 27 March - 1 April 2022
Location : Song Logging Camp, Kapit
STAT Trainer/ Assessor : Mr Ginda Uli & Mr Sang Sanjan
Company : WTK Group



Skills set: Tree Felling - Chainsaw (Natural Forest)
Activity: Scarf making practice during training conducted at Muput Camp, Tatau



Skills set: Log & Timber Identification
Activity: On-site log and timber identification at Entulu-Melatai FMU, Putai



Skills set: Log Extraction - Tractor (Natural Forest)
Activity: Tractor maintenance shown by one of the workman of Pasin Camp, Song.

STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), a subsidiary company of STA, offers training to workmen in the forestry and timber industry. STAT is the appointed training provider under *The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015*

Task Force Meeting on Floating Debris at Baleh River

Datu Sr Zaidi Bin Haji Madhi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development chaired the Task Force meeting on floating debris at Baleh River met on 7 March 2022.

The Task Force discussed action plan framework which included immediate action (within two months), medium term (2 to 6 months) and long term (more than 6 months). Agencies such as Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Natural Resources and Environment Board and Sarawak Rivers Board (SRB) updated the meeting on the actions taken by them since the floating wood debris incident in August 2021. The Task Force was informed that lifting of the suspension on salvage logging operation is dependent on the recommendation in the study on Biomass Removal Plan (BRP) and decision from the State Cabinet after the study on BRP is completed.

It was also shared that the Sarawak Government, through FDS has appointed Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd as contractor to remove the floating debris in the Baleh River, Kapit for a period of one (1) year. Representatives from SRB reported that they are planning to install four (4) log booms at Baleh River, Melatai River, Mengiong River and Entulu River.

巴莱河流漂浮碎片专案组会议于2022年3月7日召开，讨论行动计划的框架，并接纳其他机构自2021年8月发生的漂浮木碎事件之后所采取的行动报告。

会议也记录暂停伐木清笕作业的进展，委任承包商清除漂浮碎片事项以及安装水上栏木浮筒计划。

Mesyyarat Pasukan Petugas mengenai serpihan kayu terapung di Sungai Baleh pada 7 Mac 2022 membincangkan rangka kerja pelan tindakan, menerima maklumat terkini daripada agensi lain tentang tindakan yang diambil sejak kejadian serpihan kayu terapung pada Ogos 2021.

Mesyyarat turut mengambil maklum status penggantungan operasi pembalakan pembersihan, pelantikan kontraktor untuk mengutip serpihan kayu terapung dan rancangan untuk memasang perangkap kayu.