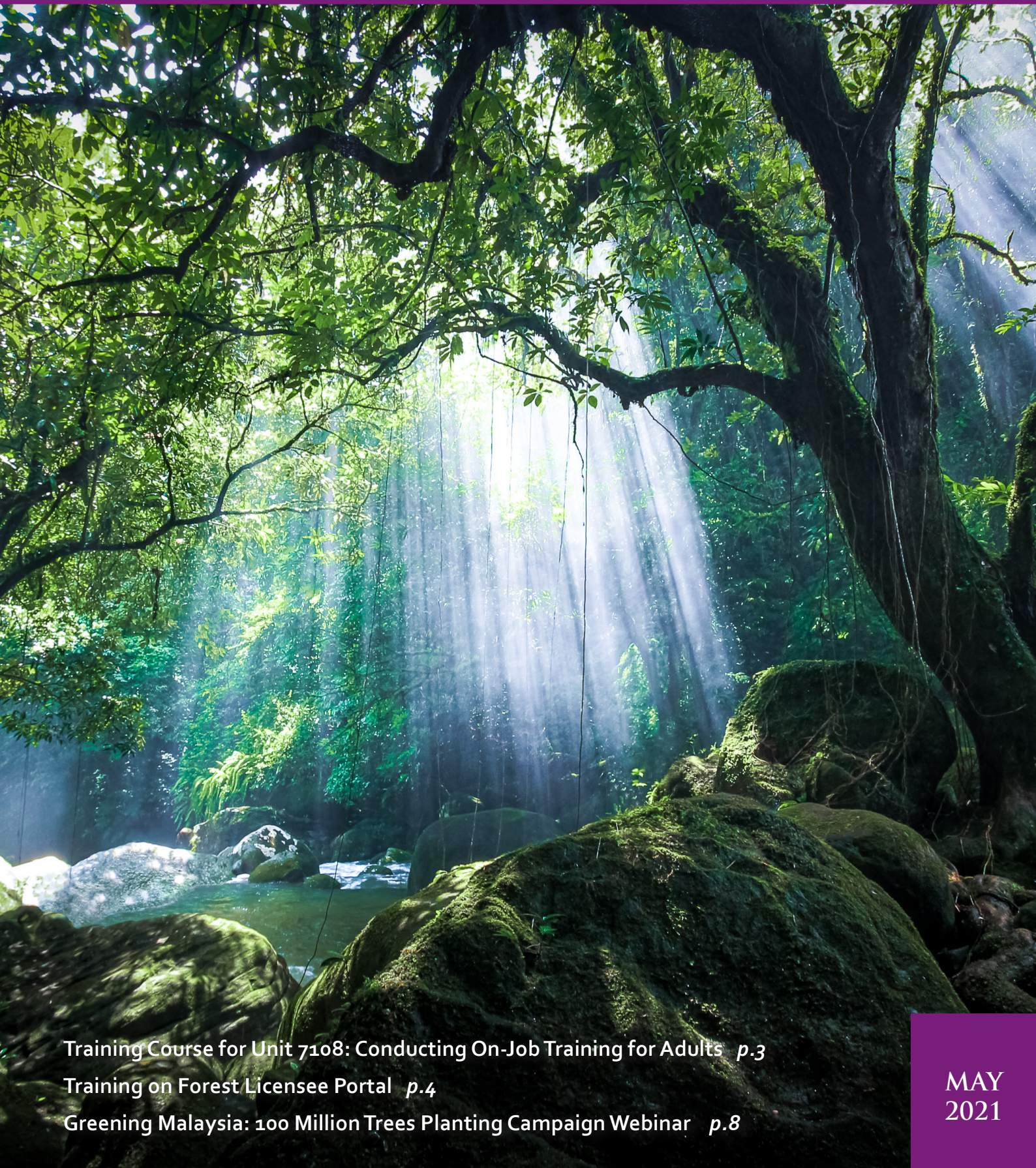


STA Review

Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association
VOLUME 332 PPK 174/05/2013 (032756)



Training Course for Unit 7108: Conducting On-Job Training for Adults p.3

Training on Forest Licensee Portal p.4

Greening Malaysia: 100 Million Trees Planting Campaign Webinar p.8

MAY
2021

CONTENTS

PAGE

STA REVIEW

<i>Training Course for Unit 7108: Conducting On-Job Training for Adults</i>	3
<i>Training on Forest Licensee Portal</i>	4
<i>Engagement Session on Impact Study and Review of Minimum Wages Order 2020</i>	5
<i>Online Roadshow Session: Implementation of Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446) in Sarawak</i>	6
<i>Beyond COVID-19: The Global Wood-based Panels Industry Adapting for The Future</i>	7
<i>Greening Malaysia: 100 Million Trees Planting Campaign Webinar</i>	8
<i>APEC EGILAT Final Workshop on Advancing the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest</i>	10
<i>Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP): Regional Trade Opportunities for Malaysia</i>	23

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

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

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor

Eileen Ting

Members

Annie Ting

Catherine Pua

Freda Emmanuel

Jaime Chan

Kirupaliny Susiee

Law Hui Chau

Lee Ying Hong

Miriam Hong

Tchin Boon Ling

Wong How Chu

Yii Yien Yien

Published by

Sarawak Timber Association
11 Floor, Wisma STA,
26, Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim,
93450 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia
Tel: ++ (60 82) 332 222
Fax: ++ (60 82) 487 888, 487 999
Email: sta@sta.org.my
Website: www.sta.org.my

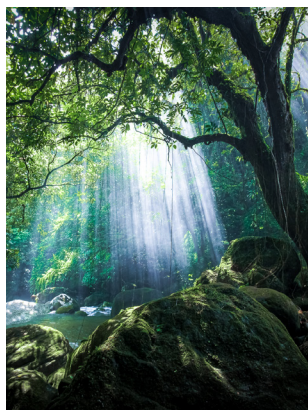
Printed by

Lee Ming Press Sdn Bhd
Lot 2050, Jalan Swasta, Pending Industrial Estate,
93450 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia
Tel : ++ (60 82) 253 303
Fax : ++ (60 82) 426 382
Email : sales@leeming.com.my

REGULAR FEATURES

<i>Statistics</i>	12
-------------------	----

COVER IMAGE



*Location: Bengoh Dam, Padawan
Photo Credit: Clarence Meripa Meechang*

Training Course for Unit 7108: Conducting On-Job Training for Adults

STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), the appointed training provider under *The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015*, organised a Training Course for Unit 7108: Conducting On-Job Training for Adults via video conferencing on 18 and 19 May 2021.

The objective of this Course was to prepare trained workmen to become potential skilled and capable in-house trainers of companies who will be training their operators on forestry activities such as tree felling, log extraction, log loading and others.



Training Course in progress

This Course was conducted by four (4) experienced STAT Trainer/Assessor, Mr Denis Aman, Mr Ginda Uli, Mr Ngumbang Bayang and Mr Sumbang Rani. It was attended by five (5) trained workmen from STA member companies consisting of Shin Yang Sdn Bhd, Shin Yang Forestry Sdn Bhd, Samling Reforestation (Bintulu) Sdn Bhd and Lee Ling Timber Sdn Bhd.

During the 2-day Course, participants were taught on the fundamental knowledge essential in becoming a trainer which comprised of adult learning, communication skill and training form documentation. Other activities such as exercise on filling out relevant training forms, online training assessment and individual presentation were also carried out during the Course.

Previously, STAT had also conducted a Refresher Course for Unit 7108 on 20 April 2021.

本公司子公司 STA Training 有限公司 (STAT) 于2021年5月18日至19日举办线上单元7108：开展在职成人培训课程。STAT 是根据 2015 年森林 (员工培训) 法令下受委任为培训机构。该课程的目的是让训练有素的员工成为熟练和有能力的公司内部培训师，他们将培训公司旗下的操作员进行林业活动，如伐木、原木提取、原木装载等。

该课程是由4名经验丰富的 STAT 培训师/评估员主导，并获得5名来自本会会员公司即昇阳有限公司，昇阳林业有限公司，三林重植林 (民都鲁) 有限公司和利林木材有限公司的受训员工参与。

STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), penyedia latihan yang dilantik di bawah *Peraturan Hutan (Pekerja Terlatih), 2015* telah menganjurkan Kursus Latihan bagi Unit 7108: Mengadakan Latihan Pekerjaan untuk Orang Dewasa melalui persidangan video pada 18 dan 19 Mei 2021. Objektif Kursus adalah untuk melahirkan jurulatih dalaman syarikat yang berkemahiran dan berkebolehan dalam melatih pekerja syarikat dalam aktiviti perhutanan seperti penebangan pokok, penarikan balak, pemuatan balak dan lain-lain.

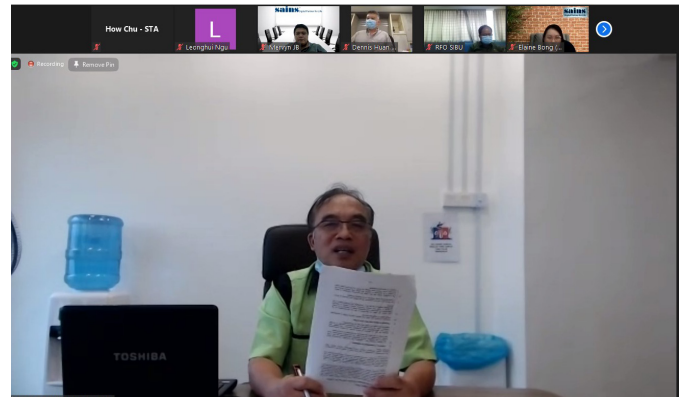
Kursus telah dikendalikan oleh 4 Jurulatih/Penilai STAT yang berpengalaman dan dihadiri oleh 5 peserta daripada ahli syarikat STA iaitu Shin Yang Sdn Bhd, Shin Yang Forestry Sdn Bhd, Samling Reforestation (Bintulu) Sdn Bhd dan Lee Ling Timber Sdn Bhd.

Training on Forest Licensee Portal

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and Sarawak Information Systems Sdn Bhd (SAINS) organised a two-day virtual Training on Forest Licensee Portal for forest licensees from Sibu, Kapit and Sarikei on 19 and 20 May 2021. The objectives of the Training were to outreach to the licensees on the newly developed Portal, to enhance the competency and knowledge of licensees on the Portal's system requirements and to provide hands-on training. A similar training was previously held in Miri at the end of March 2021.

Mr Semilan Ripot, Assistant Director (Revenue and Data Management) of FDS, in his opening remarks said that the Portal has been developed in line with the Sarawak Digital Economy Strategy (2018-2022) to move the forestry sector towards providing digital services between the Government and stakeholders. The Portal will enable licensees to submit information and perform registration/application online by providing functions such as User Administration, Worker Registration, Management Personnel, Daily Production Return (DPR) and Royalty Assessment. Besides that, the Portal will also enable licensees to access their bill listing up to six (6) months. He shared that, at a later stage, licensees will be able to apply transit removal pass using this Portal.

During the Training, licensees were informed that the Forest Guard at Forest One Stop Compliance Centre (FoSCC) will receive notification in the Sarawak Log Tracking and Forest Revenue System (REVLOG) upon



Opening remarks by Mr Semilan Ripot, Assistant Director (Revenue and Data Management), FDS

submission of DPR and royalty assessment data by licensees. Upon verification and approval by Forest Guard at FoSCC, licensees will be notified via the Portal to generate DPR reference number for DPR registration as well as royalty reference number and royalty certificate for royalty assessment application. For both processes, licensees will still need to submit hardcopies of the relevant documents to FoSCC within fourteen (14) days from approval date.

The Portal is expected to be in full implementation statewide by third quarter of 2021. The Training was conducted by Mr Joshua Deri, Senior Executive Forester of FDS and Mr Mervyn Jim Brooke Officer of SAINS.

砂拉越森林局(FDS)和砂拉越资讯系统有限公司 (SAINS) 于2021年5月19日至20日为来自诗巫、加帛和泗里街的森林许可证持有者举办为期2天的森林许可证持有者网站线上培训。此培训旨在拓展新开发的网站，提升许可证持有者对网站系统要求的技能和知识，并提供实践培训。

该网站将提供用户管理、工人注册、员工管理、每日生产回报 (DPR) 和税率评估等功能，促使许可证持有者在线提交资讯和进行注册/申请。

该网站预计在2021年第三季度在全州全面实施。

Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) dan Sarawak Information Systems Sdn Bhd (SAINS) mengadakan Latihan maya 2 hari mengenai Portal Pemegang Lesen Hutan untuk pemegang-pemegang lesen hutan dari Sibu, Kapit dan Sarikei pada 19 dan 20 Mei 2021. Objektif Latihan adalah untuk menjangkau pemegang lesen mengenai Portal yang baru dibangunkan, untuk meningkatkan kecekapan dan pengetahuan pemegang lesen mengenai keperluan sistem Portal serta untuk memberikan latihan.

Portal ini membolehkan pemegang lesen menghantar maklumat dan melakukan pendaftaran / permohonan secara dalam talian dengan menyediakan fungsi seperti Pentadbiran Pengguna, Pendaftaran Pekerja, Pengurusan Kakitangan, Pengembalian Pengeluaran Harian (DPR) dan Penilaian Royalti.

Portal ini dijangka akan dilaksanakan sepenuhnya di seluruh negeri menjelang suku ketiga 2021.

Engagement Session on Impact Study and Review of Minimum Wages Order 2020

The National Wages Consultative Council (NWCC) under the Ministry of Human Resources (MoHR) organised an online engagement session on the impact study and review of the *Minimum Wages Order 2020* (MWO 2020) on 6 May 2021. Attended by fifty-two (52) representatives across industries and associations including STA, the objective of the session was to gather feedback from employers on the impact of MWO 2020 after it came into effect on 1 February 2020.

The session was moderated by Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Datuk Dr Anuwar Bin Ali, Chairman of the National Wages Consultative Technical Committee. He mentioned that under the requirement of the NWCC Act 2011, the NWCC is required to review the MWO at least once in every two (2) years. Feedbacks gathered in this session would be submitted to the NWCC for consideration.

During the session, STA appealed to NWCC and MoHR to (i) put on hold the coming review of the minimum wage (MW) considering that companies are still reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and (ii) look into foreign exchange remittance by foreign workers in relation to the country's economy as well as purchasing power of the people when studying the impact of MW increase.

Other participants shared the same sentiments with STA. They added that the MW implementation has led companies to revise wages for all the employees and thus inadvertently causing pays to go up across the board in the organisation. Some also commented that the MW increase does not commensurate with the increase of employee's productivity and performance.

Subsequently, STA submitted a follow-up feedback to NWCC on 11 May 2021.

Minimum Wages Order 2020		City Council Area	
Effective from 1 February 2020		1. Johor Bahru	9. Petaling Jaya
		2. Iskandar Puteri	10. Kuala Terengganu
		3. Alor Setar	11. Kuching Utara
		4. Melaka Bersejarah	12. Kuching Selatan
		5. Pulau Pinang	13. Miri
		6. Seberang Perai	14. Kota Kinabalu
		7. Ipoh	15. Kuala Lumpur
		8. Shah Alam	16. Seremban
Territory		Municipal Council Area	
Minimum Wage Rate		1. Batu Pahat	14. Hang Tuah Jaya
Place of employment is in any of the 16 City Council areas or 40 Municipal Council areas	Monthly	2. Kluang	15. Port Dickson
	RM1,200	3. Kulai	16. Jempol
Territory	Minimum Wage Rate	4. Muar	17. Kuantan
	Monthly	5. Segamat	18. Temerloh
Place of employment is in any area other than the listed City Council areas or Municipal Council areas	Monthly	6. Pasir Gudang	19. Bentong
	RM1,100	7. Kulim	20. Manjung
		8. Sungai Petani	21. Kuala Kangsar
		9. Langkawi	22. Taiping
		10. Kubang Pasu	23. Teluk Intan
		11. Kota Bharu	24. Kangar
		12. Alor Gajah	25. Ampang Jaya
		13. Jasin	26. Kajang
		27. Klang	30. Sepang
		28. Selayang	31. Kemaman
		29. Subang Jaya	32. Dungun
		33. Padawan	34. Sibu
		35. Kota Samarahan	36. Bintulu
		37. Sandakan	38. Tawau
		39. Labuan	40. Putrajaya

Overview of Minimum Wages Order 2020 (Image courtesy of NWCC)

人力资源部 (MoHR) 旗下的国家薪资咨询委员会 (NWCC) 于 2021 年 5 月 6 日举办线上会议以讨论 2020 年最低薪金制 (MWO 2020) 的影响和审查。52 名来自各行业和公会代表包括 STA 参与了该会议。会议的目的是收集雇主对 MWO 2020 于 2020 年 2 月 1 日生效后的影响的反馈。

在会议中, STA 呼吁 NWCC 和 MoHR (i) 暂停即将进行的最低薪资 (MW) 审查以考虑到公司仍受到新冠肺炎疫情的影响; 和(ii) 在研究 MW 增加的影响时也需调查与国家经济相关的外劳外汇汇款以及人民的购买能力。

Majlis Perundingan Gaji Negara (NWCC) di bawah Kementerian Sumber Manusia telah mengadakan sesi pertemuan secara dalam talian mengenai kajian impak dan semakan semula ke atas *Perintah Gaji Minimum 2020* (MWO 2020) pada 6 Mei 2021. Dihadiri oleh 52 wakil-wakil merentasi industri dan persatuan termasuk STA, objektif sesi adalah untuk mengumpul maklum balas daripada para majikan mengenai impak MWO 2020 selepas ia berkuatkuasa dari 1 Februari 2020.

Semasa sesi tersebut, STA merayu kepada NWCC dan MoHR untuk (i) menunda semakan semula gaji minimum (MW) memandangkan syarikat-syarikat masih terkesan oleh pandemik COVID-19; dan (ii) meneliti pengirisan wang asing oleh pekerja asing berhubung dengan ekonomi negara serta kuasa beli rakyat apabila mengkaji impak peningkatan MW.

Online Roadshow Session: Implementation of Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446) in Sarawak

The Department of Labour Sarawak (JTK Sarawak), under the Ministry of Human Resources, organised an online roadshow session on 6 May 2021 to share information about the provisions of *Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446)* in Sarawak as well as the duties and responsibilities of employers under this Act. A total of twenty-eight (28) representatives from trade unions and associations including STA attended the session. The speaker for the session was Mr Phang Pin, Officer of JTK Sarawak.

In the past, Act 446 was only applicable to Peninsular Malaysia and the Federal Territory of Labuan. However, with the *Emergency (Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021* in place on 26 February 2021, Act 446 is now applicable throughout Malaysia, i.e. including Sabah and Sarawak. This also means amendments made to the Act in 2019 vide the *Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities (Amendment) Act 2019 (Act A1604)* which was enforced on 1 September 2020 are equally applicable across the country.

According to Mr Phang, originally Act 446 only covered estate and mining sectors. However, with the amendments made under Act A1604, the scope of Act 446 has been expanded to cover all employment sectors where accommodation is provided to employees. He also highlighted the new "*Part IIIA*" introduced in Act A1604 which obligates employers and centralised accommodation providers to ensure that accommodation provided for employees complies with the minimum requirements as stipulated in the *Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities (Accommodation and Centralised Accommodation) Regulations 2020*.

Some of these minimum requirements touched on (i) availability of water and electricity supply; (ii) provision of non-shareable basic amenities including bed, mattress with pillow and blanket, and locked cupboard; (iii) provision of spaces including bedroom/sleeping area, rest area, dining area, kitchen and bathroom/toilet; as well as (iv) duties of employers and centralised accommodation providers in applying for a Certificate for Accommodation with JTK Sarawak. Apart from this, the maximum rental or accommodation charges that an employer can collect from an employee is RM100 by deduction from the employee's wages.

For more information on Act 446, visit www.jtkswk.gov.my

人力资源部属下的砂拉越劳工部 (JTK Sarawak) 于2021年5月6日举办了一场线上说明会，分享有关1990年员工房屋，住宿和设施基本标准法令 (446法令) 条规的资讯以及砂州雇主在该法令下的义务和责任。

以往，446法令只适用于马来西亚半岛和纳闽联邦直辖区。然而，随着在紧急状态下制定的2021年员工房屋，住宿和设施基本标准法令 (修订) 条例于2021年2月26日生效，446法令如今已适用于全国，即包括沙巴和砂拉越。

Jabatan Tenaga Kerja Sarawak (JTK Sarawak), di bawah Kementerian Sumber Manusia, telah mengadakan sesi jerayawara secara dalam talian pada 6 Mei 2021 bagi berkongsi maklumat mengenai peruntukan *Akta Standard Minimum Perumahan, Penginapan dan Kemudahan Pekerja 1990 (Akta 446)* di Sarawak serta tugas dan tanggungjawab majikan di bawah Akta ini.

Sebelum ini, Akta 446 hanya berkuatkuasa di Semenanjung Malaysia dan Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan. Walau bagaimanapun, dengan penguatkuasaan *Ordinan Darurat (Standard Minimum Perumahan, Penginapan dan Kemudahan Pekerja) (Pindaan) 2021* pada 26 Februari 2021, Akta 446 kini terpakai di seluruh Malaysia, i.e. termasuk Sabah dan Sarawak.

WBPI Virtual Conference Looks Beyond COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a shock to economies all over the world. Currently countries are recovering and adjusting from the tight travel restrictions imposed to control the virus. As a result, the Wood Based Panels International (WBPI) organised a virtual conference on 11 May as a gathering point for global panels industry leaders to look into how the industry is adapting to the future. Participants included primary panel manufacturers, secondary processors, technology/equipment suppliers, furniture design community and other stakeholders.

The half-day online conference featured expert speakers/panellists from the European region sharing and discussing global wood-based panel markets performance, furniture and design trend movements, as well as updates on woodworking technologies. It also specifically looked at how the industry is adjusting to the current pandemic situation.



The virtual conference by WBPI gathered global panels industry leaders to look into how the industry is adapting to the future

According to Mr Edi Snaidero, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of European Furniture Industries Confederation, the European furniture sector saw a 7.4% reverse in 2019-2020. The office furniture segment was harder hit with an 11% contraction, while the kitchen sector was unchanged at -0.1%. However, with the pandemic making people spending more time indoors and investing in their homes, big recoveries were experienced in Q3 and Q4 of 2020 which indicate a good sign for the future.

Mr Frank Goecke, Director of Afry Management Consulting, shared that particleboard capacity utilisation had dropped 3-6% globally in 2020, while production output and demand fell by 2-5% due to temporary COVID-19 shutdowns. However, North America and China defied the trend on production output, with the former rising by 1.6% and the latter 1.9%. For medium-density fibreboard (MDF), production and demand dropped in most global regions in 2020, except for South America, which recorded an increase of 4.7% in production and 5% in demand.

During the event, Mr Giulio Masotti, CEO of Wood Skin, demonstrated how his company's products are finding new applications for wood-based panels by using design software, computer numerical control (CNC) machines and composite materials. With these technologies, his company is able to create complex foldable 3D structures that are quick to install and bringing new design possibilities to the wood-based panel markets.

国际人造板 (WBPI) 于2021年5月11日举办线上研讨会, 作为全球面板业行业领导者探讨该行业如何适应未来的聚焦点。参与者包括主要面板制造商、二级加工商、技术/设备供应商、家具设计社区和其他利益相关者。

为期半天的线上研讨会会有来自欧洲地区的专业演讲者/小组成员分享和讨论全球人造板市场表现、家具和设计趋势动向, 以及木工技术的更新。会议也特别探讨了该行业如何适应当前的疫情情势。

Panel Berasaskan Kayu Antarabangsa (WBPI) telah mengadakan persidangan secara maya pada 11 Mei, mengumpulkan pemimpin-pemimpin industri panel global bagi meneliti bagaimana industri menyesuaikan diri ke arah masa depan. Peserta-peserta termasuk pengeluar utama panel, pemproses sekunder, pembekal teknologi/peralatan, komuniti reka bentuk perabot dan pihak berkepentingan yang lain.

Persidangan secara dalam talian separuh hari menampilkan penceramah/ahli panel pakar daripada rantau Eropah yang berkongsi dan berbincang mengenai prestasi pasaran global panel berasaskan kayu, trend aliran perabot dan reka bentuk, serta pengemaskinian teknologi kerja kayu. Ianya turut berkongsi khususnya mengenai bagaimana industri membuat pelarasan kepada keadaan semasa pandemik.

“Greening Malaysia: 100 Million Trees Planting Campaign Webinar” was organised by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (KeTSA) and the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia (JPSM), in collaboration with the Habitat Foundation and the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB)-Malaysia Chapter on 25 May 2021.

The webinar, the first in a series of webinars to serve as a platform for sharing experiences and expertise in forest restoration efforts throughout Malaysia, was conducted in support of the Greening Malaysia Agenda, launched by the Prime Minister, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, on 5 January 2021. Through the 100 Million Trees Planting Campaign, the programme themed *“Our Trees, Our Life”* hopes to emphasise the importance of forests to improve the country's ecosystem and biodiversity.

Moderated by Dr Ahmad Zafir Bin Abdul Wahab, Head of Education, Research and Training, The Habitat Foundation cum Vice President of SCB-Malaysia Chapter, the webinar was joined by panelists (i) Dato' Haji Zahari Bin Ibrahim, Deputy Director General, Forestry (Policy & Planning), JPSM; (ii) Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, Director of Forests, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS); (iii) Mr Karim Bin Abd Samad, Head of Corporate Communications and Innovation Division, Sabah Forestry Department (SFD); and (iv) Dr Dzaeman Bin Dzulkifli David, Executive Director, Tropical Rainforest Conservation Research Centre (TRCRC).

Dr Farrah Shameen Binti Mohamad Ashray, Under Secretary (Forestry Management Division) of KeTSA, shared in her opening remarks that the success and lessons learned from the previous *“1 Warga 1 Pokok Campaign”* launched in 2010 has taught the Ministry to take on a more strategic approach in this campaign by calling in participation from the whole of society, including members of the private sector, to plant 100 million trees from 2021 to 2025. She added that, in the campaign, trees are defined as woody plant with roots, stems, branches and leaves.

Those who sign up and contribute to the planting campaign are entitled to redeem merchandise. In addition to that, individuals or private companies who channel contributions to Yayasan Hijau Malaysia (YHM) will be eligible for tax deduction under Section 44 (11C) of Income Tax Act 1967.

Dato' Haji Zahari in his presentation shared that the initiative to plant more trees in Peninsular Malaysia began in 2005 through the tree planting programme of mangroves and other suitable species along national coastlines and it is being continued with the



The 100 Million Trees Planting Campaign was launched by the Prime Minister, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, on 5 January 2021

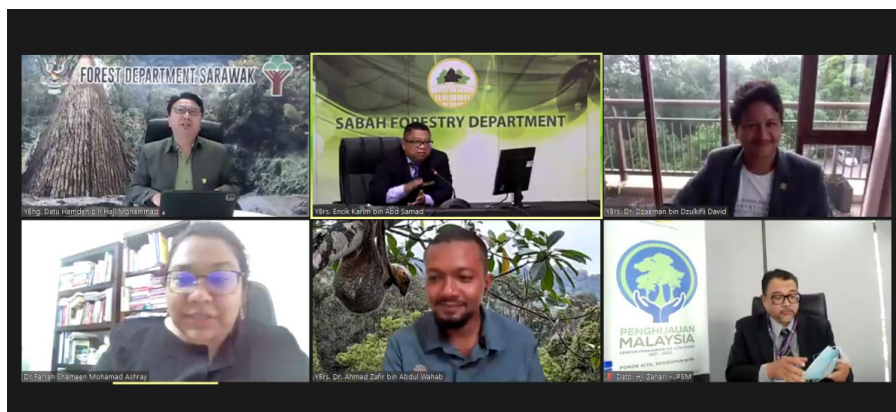
current Greening Malaysia Agenda. He also shared a number of reforestation success stories achieved in Peninsular Malaysia as well as enrichment planting initiatives carried out at Permanent Reserves Forests in the region since 1970.

Similar efforts are also being carried out in Sabah and Sarawak as both aim to plant 40 million and 35 million trees respectively in the next five (5) years, in support of the campaign. It was noted that high determination is needed to successfully achieve rehabilitation targets as highlighted by Mr Karim in sharing his experience on SFD's project at Bukit Piton Forest Reserve where a total of 300,000 seedlings from 95 indigenous fast growing, wild fruit trees and dipterocarp species were planted on 5,400 hectares of heavily degraded area. Ten (10) years later, the forest was restored to its ecological functions and the project was also successful in protecting wildlife habitat and increasing biodiversity richness, evident in the increasing number of Orangutans from 172 to 387 individuals in the area.

Meanwhile, in Sarawak, forest landscape restoration activities contribute greatly to the approximately 4.5 million trees planted in Sarawak, the most number of trees planted by a State in Malaysia, recorded under the campaign. Datu Hamden shared that capacity building

Trees Planting Campaign Webinar

and direct employment provided to local communities involved in the establishment of nurseries and production of seedlings have not only made the enormous task efficient and manageable, but also provided alternative livelihood for the local communities. He also acknowledged supports from other departments, agencies, private organisations and non-governmental organisations.



Beside the communities' involvement in forest landscape restoration

Webinar in progress

activities, FDS is also working on developing a new method known as “Seed Ball” in tree planting by using drone technology as an initiative to continue tree planting activities especially during the COVID-19 pandemic period and manpower shortage. The project, named as “Throw and Grow”, focuses on direct seeding by dropping seeds in forest areas to be restored.

On the other hand, Dr Dzaeman shared the ten (10) golden rules to follow in planting or restoration programmes, some of which are to protect existing forests first, prioritise participation of local people, maximise biodiversity recovery, as well as select the right area for reforestation and right tree species. He also outlined the recommended restoration strategies based on the five (5) levels of ‘degradedness’ of land as well as highlighted the seven (7) principles of forest landscape restoration and the benefits derived from using a landscape approach to restoration.

To participate in the 100 Million Trees Planting Campaign or to obtain more information such as statistics on number of trees planted and rewards, visit www.100jutapokok.gov.my or download the Penghijauan Malaysia mobile application.

马来西亚能源和天然资源部 (KeTSA) 和马来西亚半岛林业局 (JPSM) 联合栖息地基金会以及保护生物学学会 (SCB)-马来西亚分会于2021年5月25日举办“绿化马来西亚：1 亿棵树植树运动网络研讨会”。

此为网络研讨会系列中的首个研讨会，旨在分享马来西亚森林恢复工作经验和专业知识的平台，以支持首相丹斯里慕尤丁于 2021 年 1 月 5 日发起的马来西亚绿化议程。通过1 亿棵树植树运动，题为“我们的树木，我们的生命”强调森林对改善国家生态系统和生物多样性的重要性。

“Penghijauan Malaysia: Webinar Kempen Penanaman 100 Juta Pokok” dianjurkan oleh Kementerian Tenaga dan Sumber Asli (KeTSA) dan Jabatan Perhutanan Semenanjung Malaysia (JPSM), dengan kerjasama Yayasan Habitat dan Persatuan Biologi Pemuliharaan (SCB) - Malaysia pada 25 Mei 2021.

Webinar, yang pertama dalam siri webinar berfungsi sebagai platform untuk berkongsi pengalaman dan kepakaran dalam usaha pemuliharaan hutan di seluruh Malaysia, diadakan untuk menyokong Agenda Penghijauan Malaysia yang dilancarkan oleh Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin pada 5 Januari 2021. Melalui Kempen Penanaman 100 Juta Pokok yang bertemakan “*Pokok Kita, Kehidupan Kita*” diharapkan dapat menekankan pentingnya hutan untuk meningkatkan ekosistem dan biodiversiti negara.

APEC EGILAT Final Workshop on Advancing the Trade

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Expert Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (APEC EGILAT) formed in 2011 aims to enhance the efforts of individual member economies to combat illegal logging and its associated trade, to promote the trade in legally harvested timber products, and to support capacity building activities in APEC economies.

In order to achieve these objectives, the 15th EGILAT Meeting held in Santiago, Chile in February 2019 had agreed to implement a policy theme focusing on *“Advancing the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products”*.

Based on the policy theme and outcomes of the previous two series of Workshops in Puerto Varas, Chile in August 2019 and Putrajaya in February 2020 respectively, the 3rd and final Workshop was held on 27 and 28 May 2021 via video conferencing. The Workshop aimed to help EGILAT identify the key issues faced by private sector operators in ensuring legality in timber supply chains as well as develop concrete ideas and opportunities to address these issues for the benefit of industry and governments.

The Workshop was attended by approximately 140 participants from across the APEC forest products sector including economy representatives and policy makers, private sector, relevant civil society and international organisations. STA also participated in the Workshop.

The Workshop was chaired by the EGILAT Chair, Ms Emma Hatcher, and moderated by Ms Cindy Squires, Executive Director/Chief Executive Director of the United States' International Wood Products Association (IWPA). Ms Hatcher in her introductory remarks shared that the twenty-one (21) APEC economies account for 2.19 billion hectares or over 50% of the world's forests and represent about 80% of the international timber trade in forest related products globally. APEC economies have implemented their own forest legality frameworks to promote trade in legally harvested forest products and it is important for private sector to understand the legal requirements and to manage the risks of timber legality. She also relayed her hope that participants would be able to gain real world insights on what businesses need to drive legal timber trade and look forward to the many businesses in sharing their experiences over the course of the two-day Workshop.

The Workshop featured eight (8) presentations delivered by selected expert speakers from APEC economies on their practical experiences, challenges and opportunities in dealing with legally harvested forest products. Mr Muhtar Bin Suhaili, Chief Executive Officer of Malaysian Timber Council (MTC), made a presentation highlighting trade of timber and timber products from Malaysia to/from APEC economies, Malaysian Timber Legality Guidance Template and Malaysian Country Specific Guidelines as reliable documents for legal timber trade from Malaysia. He also shared the challenges in producing legally harvested timber products such as bias in procurement of timber for major projects, development in import requirements, and negative perceptions by environmental non-governmental organisation over tropical timber, among others. At the end of his presentation, Mr Muhtar urged the timber purchasing countries to participate in producing legally harvested timber products through transparent communication and cost sharing.



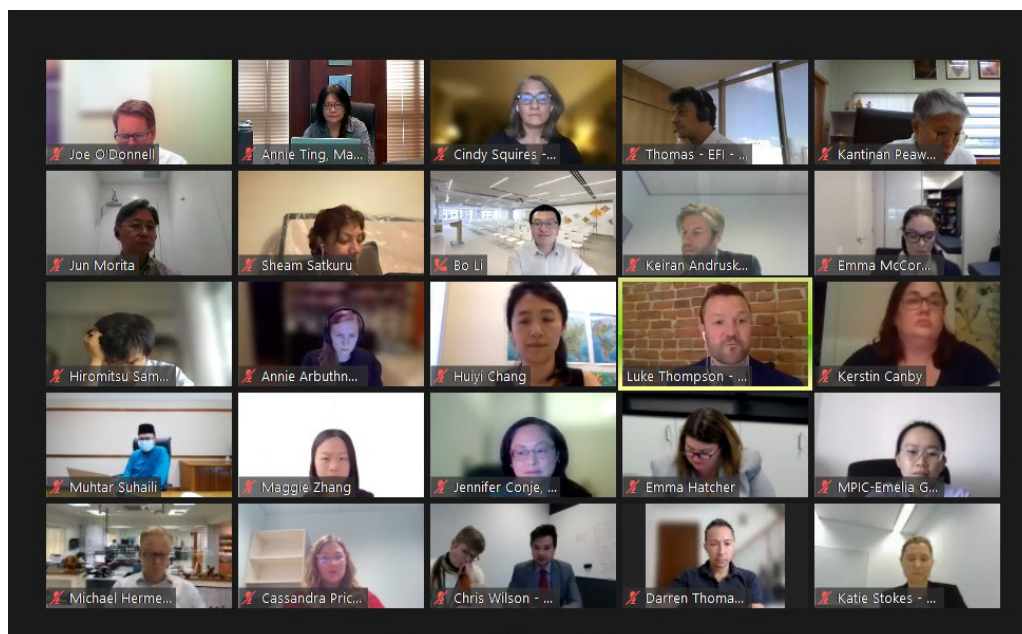
Presentation by the Chief Executive Officer of Malaysian Timber Council

On the second day of the Workshop, participants were divided into discussion groups led by moderators. Five (5) pertinent topics were explored in promoting legally harvested forest products including (i) technology; (ii) regulatory approaches; (iii) creating incentives for legal timber; (iv) supporting data, information and resources; and (v) building the capacity of businesses.

Based on these discussions, a number of gaps which need to be addressed to further promote trade in legally harvested forest products were identified such as (i) market recognition and consumer demand for legal timber products; (ii) capacity building in small and medium enterprises; (iii) development and broader take up of new and emerging technologies; (iv) complexity of timber legality requirements across jurisdictions; as well

e and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products

as (v) access to supporting resources to help businesses trade in legally harvested forest products. The Workshop also recognised that besides the cooperation between governments and private sector, education also play an important role towards promoting legally harvested forest products.



Some of the participants of the APEC EGILAT Final Workshop

亚太经济合作组织非法采伐及相关贸易专家组（APEC EGILAT）成立于 2011 年，旨在加强各成员经济体打击非法采伐及其相关贸易的努力，促进合法采伐木材产品贸易，以及支持 APEC 经济体的能力建设活动。为实现这些目标，2019 年 2 月在智利圣地亚哥举行的第 15 届 EGILAT 会议同意实施以“促进合法采伐林产品贸易和分配”为重点的政策主题。

根据政策主题和前两个分别于 2019 年 8 月在智利巴拉斯港和 2020 年 2 月在布城举行的系列研讨会的成果，第三次也是最后一次研讨会于 2021 年 5 月 27 日至 28 日通过视频会议进行。研讨会旨在帮助 EGILAT 探讨私营界运营商在确保木材供应链合法性方面所面临的关键问题，并为行业和政府的利益寻求解决这些问题的具体想法和机会。

Kumpulan Pakar mengenai Pembalakan Haram dan Perdagangan Bersekutu Kerjasama Ekonomi Asia Pasifik (APEC EGILAT) ditubuhkan pada 2011 bertujuan untuk meningkatkan usaha negara-negara anggota dalam membanteras pembalakan haram dan perdagangan bersekutunya, mempromosi perdagangan produk kayu yang sah, dan menyokong aktiviti pembangunan kapasiti dalam ekonomi APEC. Dalam mencapai objektif tersebut, Mesyuarat EGILAT ke-15 yang diadakan di Santiago, Chile pada Februari 2019 telah bersetuju untuk melaksanakan dasar tema bertumpukan *“Meningkatkan Perdagangan dan Pengedaran Hasil Hutan yang Dituai secara Sah”*.

Berdasarkan tema dasar dan hasil daripada 2 siri Bengkel sebelumnya, masing-masing di Puerto Varas, Chile pada Ogos 2019 dan Putrajaya pada Februari 2020, Bengkel yang ke-3 dan terakhir telah diadakan pada 27 dan 28 Mei 2021 melalui persidangan video. Bengkel ini bertujuan untuk membantu EGILAT dalam mengenalpasti isu-isu utama yang dihadapi oleh pengusaha sektor swasta dalam memastikan kesahihan rantai bekalan kayu dan mengembangkan idea serta peluang yang jelas untuk menangani isu-isu tersebut bagi kepentingan industri dan kerajaan.

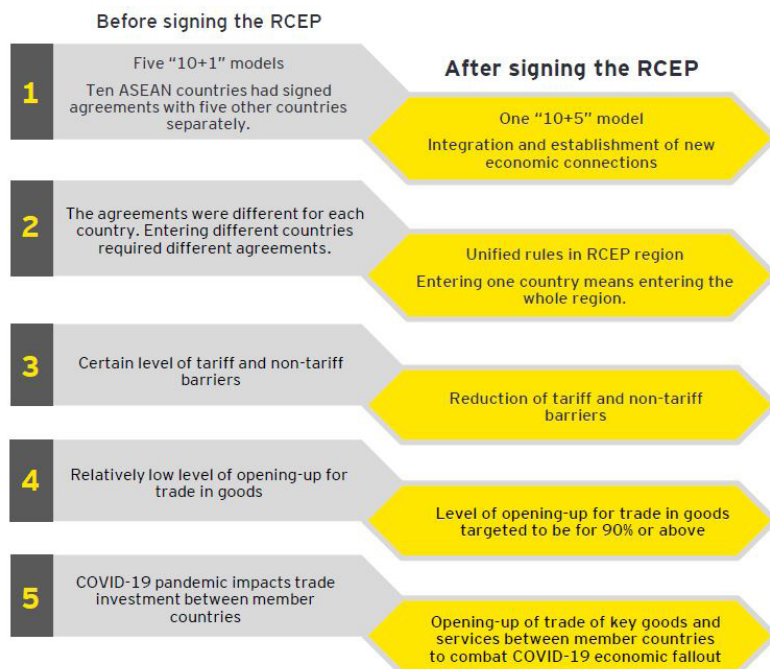
Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP): Regional Trade Opportunities for Malaysia

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a free trade agreement to broaden and deepen the engagement of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with Australia, China, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand. The ASEAN Member States include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The RCEP agreement aims to create an integrated market with the fifteen (15) countries, making it easier for products and services of each of these countries to be available across the region.

The RCEP agreement will enter into force sixty (60) days after the date on which at least six (6) ASEAN Member States and three (3) non-ASEAN Member States have completed ratification of the Agreement. It is anticipated to come into force in 2022.

What are the benefits of RCEP?

The RCEP aims to establish a unified rule system for member countries to accelerate the flow of goods, technology, services and capital for regional trade.



Did you know?

Malaysia's access to a wider RCEP market presents significant trading and investment opportunities.



World's largest free-trade bloc

RCEP members comprise nearly one-third of the world's population and account for almost 30% of global gross domestic product.



Regional trade facilitation

90% of import tariffs will be progressively phased out between members. Common rules and provisions will be set up to better facilitate the movement of goods, funds and people across the region.



Access to China market and investors

The RCEP allows Chinese companies to invest in regional markets and likewise, for RCEP members to access the Chinese market.



North Asian investment interest

The RCEP may further drive North Asian investment into ASEAN - from 2015-2019, Mainland China, Japan and South Korea registered some of the largest FDI into ASEAN.



Wider regional opportunities for SMEs

The RCEP contains provisions targeted towards small and medium enterprises (SMEs), providing a more level playing field for Malaysian SMEs and facilitating their access to the larger, regional market.

Benefits of RCEP (Image courtesy of Ernst & Young Tax Consultants Sdn Bhd)

区域全面经济伙伴关系 (RCEP) 是一项自由贸易协定, 旨在扩大和加深东南亚国家联盟 (ASEAN) 与澳大利亚、中国、日本、韩国和新西兰的接触。

RCEP协定将在至少6个东盟成员国和3个非东盟成员国完成批准该协定之日起60天后生效。RCEP协定预计将于2022年生效。

Kerjasama Ekonomi Komprehensif Serantau (RCEP) adalah perjanjian perdagangan bebas untuk memperluas dan memperdalam hubungan Persatuan Negara-negara Asia Tenggara (ASEAN) dengan Australia, China, Jepun, Korea Selatan dan New Zealand.

Perjanjian RCEP akan berkuatkuasa 60 hari setelah tarikh di mana sekurang-kurangnya 6 Negara Anggota ASEAN dan 3 Negara Anggota bukan ASEAN telah melengkapkan ratifikasi Perjanjian tersebut. Ia dijangka berkuatkuasa pada tahun 2022.

Wishing all Members and Readers

SELAMAT HARI GAWAI

*From the Chairman, Council Members,
Management and staff of STA,
STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd and
STA Training Sdn Bhd*

Pengerusi, Ahli-ahli Majlis, pihak Pengurusan dan kakitangan STA,
STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd dan
STA Training Sdn Bhd ingin mengucapkan
Selamat Hari Gawai, Gayu Guru Gerai Nyamai,
Lantang Senang Nguan Menoa
kepada semua ahli-ahli STA dan para pembaca

本会主席，理事会，管理委员会，秘书处，
STA Enterprises有限公司，STA Mutual有限公司及
STA Training有限公司全体职员
全体职员在此祝愿所有达雅会员和读者
丰收节快乐