

STA Review

Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association
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**NOV
2020**

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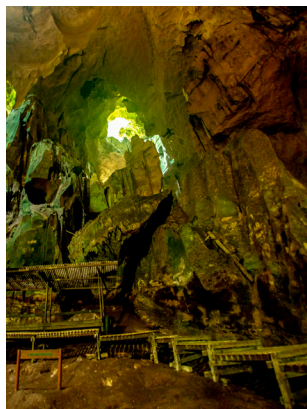
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Niah Cave, Miri, Sarawak;
Photo credit Mr Liew Ted Ghee

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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

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Lee Ming Press Sdn Bhd
No. 48, Jalan Ellis, P.O Box 3068,
93760 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia
Tel : ++ (60 82) 253 303
Fax : ++ (60 82) 426 382
Email : sales@leeming.com.my

STAT Working Team Meeting No 1/2020

The STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) Working Team Meeting No 1/2020 was held on 24 November 2020 through video conferencing. Presided over by Dato Henry Lau Lee Kong, the Meeting was attended by ten (10) Working Team members.

The Meeting was updated on training matters relating to *The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015* (The Rules) as well as findings during the audit and inspection carried out by Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) on the ground to check on compliance with The Rules. The Meeting also deliberated on training arrangement in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic situation and agreed to implement a set of precautionary measures to be followed in the event that Kuching is declared as red zone by the National Security Council or Sarawak State Disaster Management Committee. The measures put in place by STAT to ensure continuity of its delivery of training include requiring its trainers to undergo COVID-19 swab test prior to their travels.

The Meeting has also agreed for STAT to conduct both “Train the Trainer Course” and “In-House Refresher Course” in 2021 with the aim to build up in-house training

capacity. STA member companies can start to register their trained workmen and in-house trainers with STAT to attend these courses.

The Meeting was also informed on other training matters including (i) the development of FDS Licensee Portal by Sarawak Information Systems Sdn Bhd (SAINS) which is expected to be launched in January 2021 enabling licensees to register workmen and nominate them online for trainings; and (ii) a series of workshops on programme to strengthen occupational safety and health in the logging sector which was jointly carried out in September, October and November 2020 by the Department of Occupational Safety and Health Sarawak, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation and STA.

STA培训有限公司 (STAT) 工作小组委员于2020年11月24日通过视频召开今年首次会议。共有10位委员参与该会议，并由拿督刘利康主持。会议汇报培训相关事项最新资讯，包括2015年森林（受训工）规则（规则）以及砂拉越森林局（FDS）在实地进行审核和检查期间的检查结果，以检查是否符合规则。会议也审议受到新冠肺炎疫情所影响的培训安排。

Mesyuarat Kumpulan Kerja STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) Bil 1/2020 telah diadakan pada 24 November 2020 melalui persidangan video. Mesyuarat dipengerusikan oleh Dato Henry Lau Lee Kong dan dihadiri oleh 10 ahli Kumpulan Kerjanya. Mesyuarat telah dikemaskini mengenai perkara latihan yang berkaitan dengan *Peraturan Hutan (Pekerja Terlatih), 2015* serta penemuan semasa audit dan pemeriksaan lapangan tentang pematuhan Peraturan yang dijalankan oleh Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS). Mesyuarat juga membincangkan mengenai aturan latihan berikutan situasi pandemik COVID-19.



iTS Timber: A Different Way to Trade Timber Products

STA has launched a new online timber products trading system known as “iTS Timber”. A convenient and easy-to-use e-platform, it is exclusively built for STA members to trade logs and timber products in hand. With a registered iTS Timber account, STA members will also be able to gain instant and easy access to trade information on logs and timber products posted by other registered members on this e-platform. STA members can also take advantage of the latest contact information of traders and engage in trade activities.

STA members are encouraged to register for free at <https://sta.org.my/iTS-Timber/> to discover more about the benefits of iTS Timber. For further information, please contact Ms Miriam Hong, Assistant Manager, at telephone number 082-332 222 or email to itstimber@sta.org.my.

砂拉越木材公会 (STA) 近期推出新的在线木材产品交易系统 “iTS Timber”。该系统方便易用而且是专门为 STA 会员打造的原木和木材现有产品的交易电子平台。STA 会员受促通过网址 <https://sta.org.my/iTS-Timber/> 免费注册以获知更多 iTS Timber 的好处。

STA telah melancarkan sistem perdagangan produk kayu dalam talian yang dikenali sebagai “iTS Timber”. Sebagai e-platform yang senang dan mudah digunakan, ianya dibangunkan khas untuk ahli-ahli STA bagi memperdagangkan balak dan produk kayu yang dimiliki. Ahli-ahli STA digalakkan untuk mendaftar secara percuma di <https://sta.org.my/iTS-Timber/> untuk mengetahui dengan lebih lanjut mengenai faedah-faedah iTS Timber.

Engagement Session with Members on Trained Workmen and Forestry Matters

The STA Secretariat organised an Engagement Session with STA members from the Categories of Hill Logging, Forest Plantation, Swamp Logging as well as Certification Committee and training coordinators from STA member companies through video conferencing on 11 November 2020. The purpose of the Session was to ensure that members are updated with the latest information on trained workmen and forestry matters to support their operational decision-making.

In this Session, Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA, shared with members the recent development of the training of forestry workmen conducted in compliance with *The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015*, findings by Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) on the target of trained workmen in the five (5) prescribed forestry activities (PFAs) as well as the common findings made by FDS officers during audit and inspection on the ground. She advised each member company to assign a dedicated personnel to oversee the training matters in their company. She reminded members to nominate their workmen for training based on the job that they are required to perform on the ground. During the Session, members also discussed about training arrangement by STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) and ways to avoid training disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Session also noted that FDS has engaged Sarawak Information Systems Sdn Bhd (SAINS) to develop the FDS Licensee Portal which will enable licensees to register workmen and nominate them for trainings. Members were also informed about the newly established OSH Training Module which was developed through the joint collaboration of the Department of Occupational Safety and Health Sarawak, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation and STA. Contribution of token fee by other logging road users towards the maintenance of the roads was also discussed at the Session.

Sekretariat STA mengadakan Sesi Pertemuan dengan ahli-ahli STA daripada Kategori Pembalakan Bukit, Perladangan Hutan, Pembalakan Paya serta Jawatankuasa Pensijilan serta penyelarapenyelarap latihan dari syarikat anggota STA melalui persidangan video pada 11 November 2020. Sesi ini bertujuan untuk mengemaskini ahli-ahli dengan maklumat terkini mengenai pekerja terlatih dan perkara-perkara perhutanan bagi membantu pelaksanaan operasi mereka.

本会秘书处与本会丘陵采伐、人工造林，沼泽地采伐小组的会员以及本会会员公司的认证委员会和培训协调员于2020年11月11日举办了线上交流会。该交流会议旨在确保向会员提供有关受训工人和林业事务的最新信息，以支持其业务决策。

Final Workshop on Programme to Strengthen Occupational Safety and Health in Logging Sector



Closing remarks by Mr Peter Ling Kwong Hung on behalf of STA

The collaboration between Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) Sarawak, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and STA has culminated in the development of an OSH Training Module for logging sector focusing on the five (5) prescribed

forestry activities (PFAs), i.e. ground survey, tree felling, log extraction, log loading and log transportation. The Training Module was developed through a series of three (3) Workshops all held in Sibu. The first and second Workshops were held on 23-24 September 2020 at Medan Hotel and 19-20 October 2020 at RH Hotel respectively, while the final Workshop was held on 26-27 November 2020 at Kingwood Hotel. In consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, some participants attended the Workshops through video conferencing.

A total of thirty-eight (38) participants attended the final Workshop. In this Workshop, individual assessment was carried out where participants were required to prepare and make a 15-minute presentation on job hazards and job hazard identification in logging operations. Participants who completed and passed this individual assessment will be eligible to be their company's in-house trainer on OSH in logging sector.

A closing ceremony was also held to mark the conclusion of the series of Workshops. During the event, Mr Peter

Ling Kwong Hung, Council member representing STA, congratulated the 3 co-organisers for successfully conducting the Workshops despite the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. He added that STA always believes that safety and health at the workplace is of paramount importance and must not be compromised. It is the responsibility of both employers and employees to maintain an accident-free workplace environment, which in return will boost the employees' morale, as well as increase the company's productivity and profitability. He applauded DOSH Sarawak for taking the lead to develop the OSH Training Module for logging sector that is not only relevant and effective, but also, most importantly, implementable on the ground. Through this programme, a pool of in-house trainers was also produced.

The series of Workshops as well as development of the Training Module was conducted by Associate Professor Dr Mohd Rafee Baharudin, Director of OSH Management, Universiti Putra Malaysia. The established Training Module, first of its kind in Malaysia, was launched by the Director General of DOSH Malaysia, Tuan Ir Zailee Bin Dollah, at the final Workshop.

砂拉越职业安全与卫生局（DOSH），砂拉越木材工业发展机构（STIDC）与本会之间的合作最终为伐木业开发了职场安全与卫生（OSH）培训模块。该培训模块是通过所有在诗巫举办的一系列三个工作坊开发的。最后一个工作坊于2020年11月26日至27日假晶木酒店举办。马来西亚首创的此类培训模块由马来西亚DOSH总监再里先生于最后一个工作坊发布。



Representatives from DOSH, STIDC and STA showing the newly established OSH Training Module during the final Workshop at Kingwood Hotel

Kerjasama di antara Jabatan Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan (DOSH), Sarawak, Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) dan STA telah menyumbang ke arah pembangunan Modul Latihan OSH untuk Sektor Pembalakan. Pembangunan Modul Latihan ini telah dilaksanakan menerusi 3 siri Bengkel yang kesemuanya diadakan di Sibu. Bengkel terakhir telah diadakan pada 26-27 November 2020 di Hotel Kingwood. Modul Latihan yang dibangunkan, pertama seumpamanya di Malaysia telah dilancarkan oleh Ketua Pengarah DOSH Malaysia, Tuan Ir Zailee Bin Dollah, semasa Bengkel terakhir.

Meeting on Usage of Logging Roads for Government Rural Projects

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Port Development (MIPD) Sarawak called a meeting on the usage of logging roads for Government rural projects on 6 November 2020 at its office in Bangunan Baitul Makmur, Kuching. The meeting was chaired by Datu Haji Safri Bin Haji Zainudin, Permanent Secretary of MIPD, and attended by various stakeholders including STA.

The meeting discussed the usage of logging roads by appointed contractors tasked with implementing numerous Government rural projects. As these projects are located in the interior part of Sarawak, the contractors use the logging roads to gain access to the project sites. The meeting deliberated on the need to contribute a token fee towards maintenance costs of the roads for the safety of all road users, and agreed for STA to resubmit proposal on the token fee to MIPD for consideration.

砂基础设施和港口发展部（MIPD）于2020年11月6日假古晋 Baitul Makmur 大厦办事处召开会议商讨政府乡村项目使用伐木道路课题。会议由 MIPD 常务秘书拿督哈兹沙菲利主持。本会连同其它利益相关者代表出席此会议。



Meeting in progress

Kementerian Pembangunan Infrastruktur dan Pelabuhan (MIPD) Sarawak mengadakan pertemuan mengenai penggunaan jalan pembalakan untuk projek luar bandar Kerajaan pada 6 November 2020 di pejabatnya di Bangunan Baitul Makmur, Kuching. Mesyuarat dipengerusikan oleh Datu Haji Safri Bin Haji Zainudin, Setiausaha Tetap MIPD, dan dihadiri oleh pelbagai pihak berkepentingan termasuk STA.

Seminar on Industrial Forest Plantation

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) organised a Seminar on Industrial Forest Plantation themed *“Advancing Sustainable Forestry Through Aggressive Industrial Forest Plantation”* from 4 to 5 November 2020 at Pullman Hotel, Miri.

The Seminar aimed to (i) establish a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences through discussion pertaining to the aspects of industrial forest plantation; (ii) advocate new strategy for development and management towards aggressive industrial forest plantation in Sarawak; and (iii) strengthen relationship, understanding and cooperation between the Government and stakeholders. The 2-day Seminar received about 200 participants from various Government agencies, institutions of higher learning and Licence for Planted Forests (LPF) holders as well as virtual attendance from Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah.

In his opening remarks, the Chief Minister of Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg said that the forest plantation industry has been facing a number of issues and challenges in the past 2 decades including lack of high quality planting materials, incidences of pest and disease, and suitability of the species to be planted, amongst others, and these need to be addressed holistically to ensure success in achieving the main objectives of forest plantation development.

He stressed that research and development (R&D), which requires time, money, dedication and collaboration of many parties, is one of the key initiatives to address the gaps and facilitate the implementation of industrial forest plantation across Sarawak. He added that aggressive plantation development is only possible if it is done based on scientifically sound and reliable research. Collaboration and knowledge sharing are equally important in attaining fruitful outcomes.

As the use of advanced technology could bring further changes to the forestry sector especially the planted forests as well as the downstream industry, he advised the owners of timber mills to explore new technology for better utilisation and diversification of timber products. The Chief Minister of Sarawak also mentioned that FDS, as the anchor agency, can assume the role of coordinating R&D activities in Sarawak. At the same time, he said that the researchers involved can also undergo training while participating in research programmes.

He also urged the industry to work together with the Government agencies and local universities to intensify R&D on product diversification. He said that the Sarawak Government is willing to allocate fund to undertake collaborative research through local universities, i.e. Universiti Putra Malaysia (Bintulu Campus) and University College of Technology Sarawak (UCTS).

As technology progresses, he also urged the industry players to look into the use of augmented reality (AR) platform to better market and promote their timber and timber products. He then encouraged all forest plantations in Sarawak to undertake forest plantation management certification as reflected in the Policy Direction on Industrial Forest Plantation in Sarawak. Before ending his speech, he shared that the successful implementation of planted forests will create a new dimension in the downstream timber processing in Sarawak, and therefore commitment from all the players are needed to ensure the sustainability of the timber industry in Sarawak.

The Chief Minister of Sarawak then witnessed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding between the Sarawak Government through FDS with Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and the LPF holders on a collaborative project on industrial forest plantation.

During the Seminar, four (4) plenary sessions were hosted, namely (i) Current Development in International Forest Plantation; (ii) Current Development of Research and Development in Sarawak Plantation; (iii) Community, Technology and Certification; and (iv) Other Potential Industrial Tree Species. A total of nineteen (19) papers were presented by local and international speakers.

In the wrap up session, Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, Director of Forests, admitted that the R&D on forest plantation in Sarawak is still at its infancy stage, and a strong R&D team comprising various stakeholders is needed to achieve the R&D goals. He also informed that a steering committee shall be established to monitor and manage the collaborative project on industrial forest plantation. He then advised LPF holders to cooperate and move in the same direction towards a sustainable industrial forest plantation.

Meanwhile, STA, together with its members, i.e. KTS Group, Samling Group, Shin Yang Group, Ta Ann Group and WTK Group, also participated in the exhibition of products organised by FDS in conjunction with the Seminar.



STA exhibition booth

Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS) menganjurkan Seminar Industri Perladangan Hutan yang bertemakan *“Memajukan Perhutanan Mampan Melalui Industri Perladangan Hutan secara Agresif”* dari 4 hingga 5 November 2020 di Hotel Pullman, Miri.

Seminar itu bermatlamat untuk (i) menyediakan platform untuk perkongsian ilmu dan pengalaman melalui perbincangan berkaitan aspek-aspek industri perladangan hutan; (ii) menyasarkan strategi baharu untuk pembangunan dan pengurusan industri perladangan hutan secara agresif di Sarawak; dan (iii) memperketatkan hubungan, persefahaman dan kerjasama di antara Kerajaan dan pihak berkepentingan.

STA, bersama dengan ahli-ahlinya, iaitu Kumpulan KTS, Kumpulan Samling, Kumpulan Shin Yang, Kumpulan Ta Ann and Kumpulan WTK, turut serta dalam pameran produk yang dianjurkan oleh FDS sempena Seminar tersebut.



Chief Minister of Sarawak (5th from right) visiting the STA exhibition booth



Chief Minister of Sarawak officiating the Seminar on Industrial Forest Plantation

砂州森林局（FDS）于2020年11月4日至5日假美里普尔曼酒店举办了一项题为“通过积极的工业化人工造林以促进可持续林业”的工业化人工造林研讨会。

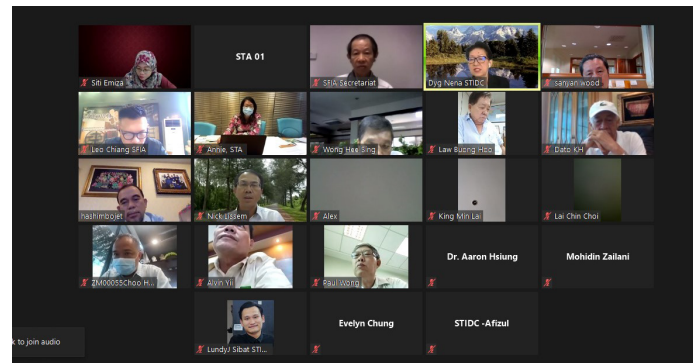
该研讨会旨在 (i) 建立一个通过有关工业化人工造林方面的讨论以分享知识和经验的平台; (ii) 倡导新的发展和管理策略以积极发展砂拉越的工业化人工造林和 (iii) 加强政府与利益相关者之间的关系，理解与合作。

本会和其会员即启德行集团、三林集团、昇阳集团，大安集团和黄传宽集团也参与了由 FDS 配合该研讨会所举办的产品展览会。

Meeting on Current Status of Timber & Furniture Industries

STA members from the Categories of Panel Products, Moulding, Sawmilling, Furniture & Other Woodworking as well as Timber Products Marketing attended a meeting via video conferencing called by the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) together with members from the Sarawak Furniture Industry Association (SFIA) on 5 November 2020.

Tuan Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, General Manager of STIDC, welcomed the timber and furniture industry players and said that the main objective of the meeting was to update members from STA and SFIA on the proposals submitted by both associations to help the industries during the COVID-19 pandemic period.



Online meeting in progress

STIDC had deliberated on these proposals in its management meeting and also made submission to the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources for consideration. STIDC had also gathered feedback from the timber and furniture industries on their current situation especially during the pandemic period. STIDC shared that the proposal made by STA for royalty rebate has been revised and resubmitted, and it is currently pending for consideration by the Sarawak Government. Meanwhile, STIDC noted that for some other proposals, incentives have already been given through the Sarawakku Sayang Special Aid Package by the Sarawak Government and Prihatin/Penjana Stimulus Packages by the Federal Government.

During the online meeting, both STA and SFIA briefed STIDC on the current concerns of timber and furniture industries. STA urged STIDC to look into few issues such as fumigation charges on imported logs and its requirements, prohibition of importing ordinary plywood into Sarawak, compliance with *Environmental Quality (Clean Air) Regulations 2014*, as well as implementation of automation technology to sustain the industries.

Tuan Haji Hashim admitted that the pandemic has adversely impacted the plywood, veneer and sawmill of the timber industry as well as the furniture industry. He acknowledged that the industries are facing great challenges and hoped the industry players can work together with STIDC to come up with initiatives to help them recover from the impact.

本会合板、制模、锯木、傢俬与其它木工,木材产品行销小组的会员以及砂拉越傢俬工业联合会 (SFIA) 的会员于2020年11月5日一起参与一项由砂拉越木材工业发展机构 (STIDC) 召开的线上视频会议。

STIDC 总经理哈兹哈信先生欢迎木材和傢俬业者,并表示该会议旨在向本会和 SFIA 会员提供有关两个协会所提交在新冠肺炎疫情期间帮助行业的提案的最新消息。

Ahli-ahli STA daripada Kategori Produk Panel, Kayu Kumai, Penggergajian Kayu, Perabot & Kerja Kayu yang lain serta Pemasaran Produk Kayu menghadiri perjumpaan melalui persidangan video yang diadakan oleh Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) bersama-sama dengan ahli-ahli daripada Persatuan Industri Perabot Sarawak (SFIA) pada 5 November 2020.

Tuan Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet, Pengurus Besar STIDC mengalu-alukan para pemain industri kayu dan perabot, dan menyatakan bahawa tujuan utama perjumpaan ini adalah untuk mengemas kini ahli-ahli daripada STA dan SFIA mengenai cadangan yang dikemukakan oleh kedua-dua persatuan bagi membantu industri ketika wabak COVID-19.

Meeting between STIDC and STA on Importation of Plywood

One of the issues raised by STA during the meeting with Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) on 5 November 2020 was the prohibition of importing ordinary plywood into Sarawak. Subsequently, STIDC called a meeting on 30 November 2020 via video conferencing to further discuss this issue with STA. The meeting, chaired by Mdm Dayang Nena Abang Bruce, Deputy General Manager of STIDC, was attended by STA members from the Panel Products Category and officers from the Trade Control Division and Registration Division of STIDC.

STIDC shared that numerous consultations with STA members had been held prior and after the issuance of the prohibition. The meeting then deliberated on various concerns and non-compliance arising from the prohibition. The meeting concluded by setting up a task force to look into the matters regarding importation of plywood into Sarawak. This task force, which consists of representatives from STIDC and STA, shall be convening its first meeting in the near future to be chaired by the General Manager of STIDC.

在2020年11月5日与砂拉越木材工业发展局（STIDC）举行的在线会议上，本会提出的事项之一是普通胶合板禁止进口到砂拉越。有鉴于此，STIDC于2020年11月30日通过视频会议与本会进一步讨论此事项。

Salah satu isu yang dibangkitkan oleh STA dan Persatuan Industri Perabot Sarawak semasa mesyuarat dengan Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) pada 5 November 2020 adalah larangan pengimportan papan lapis biasa ke Sarawak. Susulan itu, STIDC telah mengadakan mesyuarat dengan STA pada 30 November 2020 melalui persidangan video untuk membincangkan isu ini secara terperinci.

DF Circular No 5/2020: Imposition of 500 Meters Width Buffer Zone Along the Licence Boundary of Forest Timber Licences and Licences for Planted Forests that are Directly Adjacent to Certified Forest Management Units

STA had received a DF Circular No 5/2020 with reference number (51) JHS/100-1/8/104/Jld.1 dated 9 November 2020 from the Forest Department Sarawak on 17 November 2020 addressed to all holders of Forest Timber Licences and Licences for Planted Forests, and copied to STA on the above subject. The following is an excerpt of the above-mentioned circular, for your information:

本会于2020年11月17日接获来自砂州森林局于2020年11月9日所发布的编号5/2020通告。该通告致函于所有森林木材和人工林种植执照持有者，并提供本会有关事项的复本。以上通告的摘录如英文版所列。

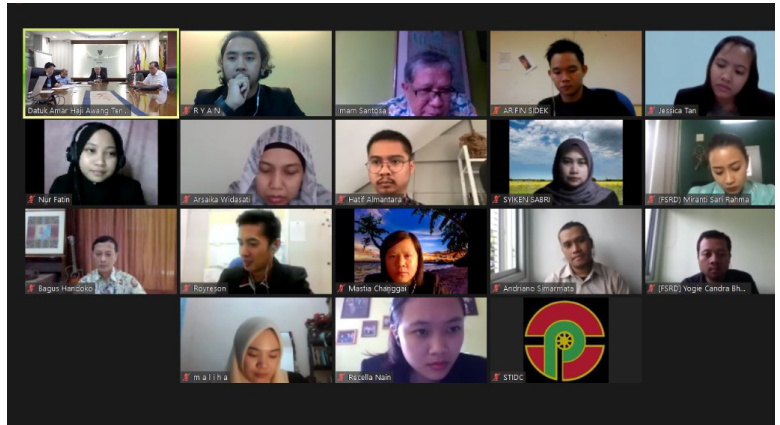
STA telah menerima Surat Pekeliling DF Bil 5/2020 mengenai perkara di atas dengan nombor rujukan (51) JHS/100-1/8/104/Jld.1 bertarikh 9 November 2020 daripada Jabatan Hutan Sarawak pada 17 November 2020 yang ditujukan kepada semua Pemegang Lesen Hutan dan Pemegang Lesen Ladang Hutan serta disalinkan kepada STA. Petikan dari pekeling tersebut adalah seperti yang disenaraikan dalam artikel ini.

With effect from the date of this circular, all **NON-CERTIFIED** Forest Timber Licences (FTLs) and Licence for planted Forests (LPF), that are directly adjacent to any certified Forest Management Unit (FMU), are required to establish and maintain a 500 meters width buffer zone along their shared common boundaries (between the non-certified FTLs/LPFs and the certified FMUs). This buffer zone is to be excluded from (a) timber harvesting activities by the non-certified FTLs and (b) plantation development activities by the non-certified LPFs. No roads & skid trails are to be constructed inside the buffer zone. This is to prevent any trespassing and encroachment into the certified FMU and to ensure that the certified status of the FMU is not jeopardized.

2. For the case of LPFs, if the buffer zone that has to be established under this Circular is already planted, the LPF holder is allowed to maintain the tree plantation and harvest it at maturity. Upon completion of harvesting, the area will revert to a buffer zone and the LPF holder is to carry out landscape restoration using indigenous species.

Virtual Briefing on Progress of Sarawak Young Designers Training Programme 2020

At a virtual briefing held on 26 November 2020, Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak, who is also the Second Minister of Urban Development & Natural Resources, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Industry Terminal & Entrepreneur Development cum Chairman of Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) Board of Management, received updates on the progress of the second batch of Sarawak Young Designers (SayD'SignersSarawak) Training Programme conducted by Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB) Indonesia in 2020.



The briefing was delivered by Dr Imam Santosa, a manager of SayD'SignersSarawak Training Programme at ITB.

Participants of the Virtual Briefing on Progress of Sarawak Young Designers Training Programme 2020

Formerly known as the Pool of Young Designers (POYOD) Training Programme, the SayD'SignersSarawak Training Programme has been carried out by STIDC since 2018 to be in line with its vision to transform the Sarawak's timber industry especially the furniture industry into a high value added industry by 2030. The programme allows fresh graduates from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) to go for industrial attachment with local industry players in Sarawak during the first year, and subsequently receive advanced training in furniture design at ITB in the following year.

For the programme's second batch, ITB is currently training nine (9) fresh graduates from UNIMAS. ITB highlighted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme was adjusted accordingly and most classes are now being conducted online. The training duration, which is supposed to end in December 2020, has also been extended to the middle of next year. According to STIDC, the first batch of six (6) graduates have completed their training and are now employed by furniture companies in Sarawak.

The successful implementation of this programme is supported by Sarawak Furniture Industry Association, STA, STIDC subsidiary companies and vendors as well as the timber industry players.

砂拉越副首席部长拿督阿玛哈芝阿旺登雅在2020年11月26日举行的线上汇报会上听取由印尼万隆工艺学院 (ITB) 提供的2020年第二批砂拉越年轻设计师 (SayD' SignersSarawak) 培训计划的进展。他也是第二城市发展及天然资源部长，国际贸易与工业、工业管道及企业发展部长及砂拉越木材工业发展机构 (STIDC) 董事会主席。

汇报会由来自 ITB SayD' SignersSarawak 培训计划经理依曼山都萨博士主持。

Dalam taklimat virtual yang diadakan pada 26 November 2020, Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Timbalan Ketua Menteri Sarawak merangkap Menteri Kedua Pembangunan Bandar & Sumber Asli, Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri, Terminal Perindustrian & Pembangunan Usahawan serta Pengerusi Lembaga Pengurusan Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC), telah menerima kemaskini mengenai perkembangan kumpulan kedua Program Latihan Pereka Muda Sarawak (SayD'SignersSarawak) yang dikendalikan oleh Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB) Indonesia pada tahun 2020.

Taklimat disampaikan oleh Dr Imam Santosa, Pengurus Program Latihan SayD'SignersSarawak di ITB.

Stakeholder Engagement Session on Movable Property Security Interest Bill

On 4 November 2020, the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM) organised a stakeholder engagement session with associations and business chambers in Sarawak with the aim to introduce the Movable Property Security Interest (MPSI) Bill.

Mr Khuzairi Yahaya, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Regulatory & Enforcement) of SSM, shared that such online engagement session was necessary as SSM was given a mandate by The Special Task Force to Facilitate Business (PEMUDAH) to study the legal framework that governs the process of creation, registration and enforcement of movable assets as security interests or collateral to obtain loans, financing or carry out an obligation which will benefit micro enterprises as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Malaysia. He further explained that the Consultation Paper for the Introduction of MPSI Bill was distributed on 8 October 2020 to relevant professional bodies, agencies, associations and chambers for feedback and comments.

Ms Khairon Niza Md Akhir, Executive (Regulatory Development & Services Division) of SSM, updated stakeholders that Malaysia was ranked 23rd among 189 economies in getting credit in the World Bank Report *“Doing Business 2015: Going Beyond Efficiency”*. Following this, the proposal to have the MPSI Bill in Malaysia was initiated based on the existing legal framework which identified two (2) major gaps comprising (i) absence of an integrated or unified legal framework for movable assets that are used as collateral for a loan or an obligation; and (ii) lack of a unified collateral registry in operation for both incorporated and unincorporated entities.

Implementation of the MPSI Bill will allow movable assets to be used as collaterals for SMEs to obtain credit as well as longer credit period. With the introduction of MPSI Bill, a few existing legislations will be impacted such as *Companies Act 2016*, *Sale of Goods Act 1957*, *Bills of Sale Act 1950*, *Bills of Sale Ordinance (Sabah Cap. 14)* and *Bills of Sale Ordinance (Sarawak Cap. 68)*. The registration of movable assets, i.e. tangible or intangible (except for aircraft, ship, etc), used as collaterals to secure a payment or performance of an obligation, is on voluntary basis.

During the closing remark, Mr Khuzairi was delighted that the associations and business chambers in Sarawak accepted the proposal for MPSI Bill. This Bill will be tabled to the Parliament early next year and is expected to be introduced in the second half of 2021.

马来西亚公司委员会（SSM）于2020年11月4日为砂拉越公会和商会举办一项与利益相关者线上研讨会，旨在介绍动产担保权益（MPSI）法案。

SSM 副首席执行官（法规与执法）古仔里亚哈雅先生解释说引入 MPSI 法案的咨询文件已于2020年10月8日分发给相关的专业团体，机构，公会和商会以征求反馈和意见。

MPSI 法案的执行将允许动产被用作中小企业的抵押品以获得信贷以及更长的信贷期。

Pada 4 November 2020, Suruhanjaya Syarikat Malaysia (SSM) menganjurkan sesi penglibatan pihak berkepentingan dengan persatuan dan dewan perniagaan di Sarawak yang bertujuan untuk memperkenalkan Rang Undang-Undang Kepentingan Keselamatan Harta Bergerak (MPSI).

Encik Khuzairi Yahaya, Timbalan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif (Peraturan dan Penguatkuasaan) SSM, menjelaskan Kertas Perundingan untuk Pengenalan Rang Undang-Undang MPSI telah diedarkan pada 8 Oktober 2020 kepada badan professional, agensi, persatuan dan dewan yang berkaitan untuk maklum balas dan komen.

Perlaksanaan Rang Undang-Undang MPSI akan membolehkan aset alih digunakan sebagai jaminan bagi SME untuk mendapatkan kredit serta tempoh kredit yang lebih lama.

#MyMudah Programme to Address Regulatory Burdens

Businesses in Malaysia are struggling to recover from the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which include decline in revenue, disruption in operation, reduction in local demand as well as liquidity crisis. Thus, in an effort to stimulate economic growth, the Federal Government has introduced an initiative called MalaysiaMudah or #MyMudah programme to address and remove unnecessary regulatory burdens that are impeding business recovery during this challenging period.

The decision to implement the #MyMudah programme was made at an Economic Action Council (EAC) meeting chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia on 20 July 2020. EAC has given Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) the mandate to implement the #MyMudah programme.

On 20 November 2020, MPC Sarawak, in collaboration with the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) Sarawak, organised a launching ceremony of the #MyMudah programme through video conferencing. The function was attended by government officials, major industry players and STA.

Dato' Abdul Latif Abu Seman, Director General of MPC, mentioned that the #MyMudah programme will try to address unnecessary regulations, bureaucracy or red tape as well as reduce business and compliance costs faced by companies and businesses in order to support their business recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. He added that MPC together with The Special Task Force to Facilitate Business (PEMUDAH) are working closely with EAC to intervene and to act as solution provider on this matter. Companies and businesses are encouraged to utilise the "*Unified Public Consultation (UPC) Portal*", an online platform, to submit regulatory issues encountered so that the Government is able to look into these issues while maintaining continuous engagement with the stakeholders.

Dato' Abdul Latif reported that as at October 2020, there are more than 100 issues submitted by associations, businesses through the UPC Portal. He further explained that with full cooperation from the Sarawak Government, various initiatives have been mapped out by MPC Sarawak under the Sarawak Productivity Programme to enhance Sarawak's productivity and economic growth.

The Chief Minister of Sarawak in his keynote address highlighted that the Penjana Stimulus Package unveiled by the Federal Government which focuses on six (6) strategies, i.e. resolve, resilience, restart,

recovery, revitalise and reform, are presently on track. On 6 May 2020, Sarawak has also formed its own EAC to facilitate Sarawak's economic recovery post COVID-19, while complementing the national economic action plan. The Chief Minister added that the #MyMudah programme will assist businesses in reducing costs by 50% in public services. MPC has laid a foundation for Sarawak to be attractive in doing business in addition to Sarawak's own digital economic strategy. The keynote address was read by Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak, who is also the Second Minister of Urban Development & Natural Resources cum Minister of International Trade and Industry, Industry Terminal & Entrepreneur Development.

In conjunction with the launching ceremony, a sharing session was also held to talk about the roles and functions of The Special Task Force to Facilitate Business Sarawak (SAMUDAH) as well as strategies to implement the #MyMudah programme. The UPC Portal was also demonstrated during the sharing session.

Pada 20 November 2020, Perbadanan Produktiviti Malaysia (MPC) Sarawak dengan kerjasama Unit Perancang Ekonomi (EPU) Sarawak telah menganjurkan majlis pelancaran program #MyMudah melalui persidangan video. Majlis dihadiri oleh pegawai kerajaan, pemain industri utama dan STA.

Dato' Abdul Latif Abu Seman, Ketua Pengarah MPC, berkata bahawa program #MyMudah akan membantu menangani peraturan yang tidak perlu, kerenah birokrasi serta mengurangkan kos perniagaan dan pematuhan yang dihadapi oleh syarikat dan perniagaan untuk menyokong pemulihan perniagaan selepas krisis COVID-19.

Syarikat dan perniagaan adalah digalakkan menggunakan "*Unified Public Consultation (UPC) Portal*", platform atas talian untuk mengemukakan isu pengawalseliaan yang dihadapi supaya Kerajaan dapat menyiasat isu-isu tersebut di samping mengekalkan penglibatan berterusan dengan pihak berkepentingan.



Sharing session in progress

砂拉越马来西亚生产力机构（MPC）连同砂拉越经济策划单位（EPU）于2020年11月20日通过视频会议举办 #MyMudah 计划推展礼。政府官员，主要工业者和本会代表参与该推展礼。

MPC总监拿督阿都拉迪阿布沙曼称 #MyMudah 计划将尝试解决不必要的法规，官僚主义或繁文末节，并降低公司和企业面临的业务和合规成本，以支持在新冠肺炎疫情危机后恢复其业务。

总监鼓励公司和企业善用统一公共咨询（UPC）网站，一个可以提交所面对的监管问题的在线平台，让政府能够更迅速的掌握这些问题的情况，同时保持与利益相关者的持续参与。

Meeting with Economic Planning Unit Sarawak on Digital Banking

The Sarawak Government has envisioned to further expand the banking services in Sarawak in addition to the Development Bank of Sarawak (DBOS) which is currently focused on providing funding for development projects in Sarawak. In order to achieve this vision, the Sarawak Government has recently engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) as consultant to construct a digital banking business model.

A meeting among officers of Economic Planning Unit Sarawak, PwC consultants and STA members was held on 18 November 2020 via video conferencing to obtain feedback and comments relevant to the development of digital banking in Sarawak. PwC introduced the context behind the application process of digital banking licence and its requirements. According to PwC, a digital bank is branchless and operates through technology and internet connection.

All parties admitted that internet connectivity is a major concern of digital banking, particularly for users in the rural areas of Sarawak. PwC proposed the possibility of acquiring an agent network with digital means to better serve the communities in rural areas. The timber industry can also support the vision of the Sarawak Government by being involved in initiatives related to digital banking, as well as encouraging its workforce and communities residing in the vicinity of concession areas to adopt and utilise digital banking services.

砂拉越目前设有砂拉越开发银行（DBOS），专注于为砂拉越的发展项目提供资金。然而砂拉越政府已设想进一步扩大砂拉越的银行服务，于是委任PricewaterhouseCoopers（PwC）为顾问并构建数码银行业务模型。

砂拉越经济策划部官员，PwC 顾问和STA会员于2020年11月18日在线上进行会议以获取相关在砂拉越建设数码银行的反馈和意见。

Kerajaan Sarawak berhasrat untuk memperluaskan perkhidmatan perbankan di Sarawak selain Bank Pembangunan Sarawak (DBOS), yang fokus pada penyediaan dana untuk projek pembangunan di Sarawak. Untuk mencapai visi ini, Kerajaan Sarawak baru-baru ini melantik PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) sebagai perunding untuk mengetengahkan model perniagaan perbankan digital.

Mesyuarat di antara pegawai Unit Perancang Ekonomi Sarawak, perunding PwC dan anggota STA telah diadakan pada 18 November 2020 melalui persidangan video untuk mendapatkan maklum balas dan komen yang berkaitan dengan perkembangan perbankan digital di Sarawak.

200-Day Countdown Event: A Forum

The XV World Forestry Congress 2021 (WFC 2021), which is held every six (6) years, is the most influential conference in forestry, serving as the global platform for members of the international community to come together and issue recommendations and declarations on major forest issues. The theme of WFC 2021 is *“Building a Green, Healthy and Resilient Future with Forests”*. It will take place from 24 to 28 May 2021 at Seoul, South Korea.

WFC 2021 will set the stage for a timely discussion of how forests can help address and adapt to climate change, combat desertification, preserve biodiversity, and resolve other global environmental issues. At the same time, the coming global gathering will provide a great opportunity to build cross-border cooperation and partnerships in forestry.

Counting down to the WFC 2021, the Korea Forest Service (KFS) organised a special 200-Day Countdown Event: A Forum on “Message From Forests” on 9 November 2020 via YouTube online streaming. The Forum aimed to discuss the roles and future of forests in solving the issues of natural disasters caused by climate change, with the view to garner greater attention and interest from the international community in the coming WFC 2021.

The event kicked off with welcoming message by His Excellency Mr Park Chongho, Minister of KFS. He shared that climate change has caused warning signals from the nature such as forest fires, landslides, desertification, COVID-19 pandemic, etc, and the forests can be the nature-based solution in responding to the climate crisis. Thus, the world should work together to achieve the sustainable development goals of the forests.

He added that South Korea has been recognised as a successful country in forest restoration, and in accordance with report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), South Korea was ranked first in increasing the forest stock per unit area in 2019. He hoped that through this Forum, the forest management module for forest fire prevention, forest restoration and ecotourism can be shared.

In the congratulatory speech by Mr Ban Kimoon, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, he highlighted Goal 15 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which seeks to protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems,

sustainable manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

The Forum was divided into two (2) sessions with a total of eight (8) papers presentation as listed below:

Session 1: Warning Signals Sent from Forests

Paper 1: Collapse of Civilizations due to Destruction of Forests

by Mr Park Jung-hwan, Author of “Humanities on Plants”

Paper 2: Cause and Prevention of the Outbreak of Zoonotic diseases

by Ms Kim Soon Ae, Director of Department of Evaluation and Research of Korea Foundation for International Healthcare

Paper 3: Forest Destruction induced by Climate Change, its Socio-Economic Damage and How to Respond

by Mr Tieguhong Julius Chupezi, Chief Forestry Officer of African Development Bank

Paper 4: Massive Forest Fires and its Secondary Effects

by Mr Peter Moore, Fire Specialist of FAO

Session 2: Solutions Offered by Forests

Paper 5: Reforestation-based Solutions for Local Community Issues and Environment Problems

by Mr Chencho Norbu, Secretary-General of Asian Forest Cooperation Organisation

Paper 6: Forest Benefits and Co-prosperity with Humanity

by Mr Park Bumjin, Professor of Chungnam National University

Paper 7: Efforts and Direction of the International Communities to Protect our Forests

by Mr Mark Buttigieg, Economic Counsellor of British Embassy Seoul

Paper 8: Share Cases of Social Responsibility, Companies Protecting Forests

by Mr Yoo Hee Seok, Team Manager of SK Forest Co Ltd

The recording of the Forum can be viewed online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuzBvP0EQs4.

Forum on “Messages From Forests”

2021年第十五届世界林业大会（WFC 2021）是林业领域最具影响力的会议。这每六年举行一次的大会是国际社会成员聚集在一起并就主要森林议题发表建议和宣言的国际平台。WFC 2021 的主题是“用森林建设绿色，健康和韧性的未来”。它将于2021年5月24日至28日在韩国首尔举行。

倒计时至 WFC 2021，韩国森林服务局（KFS）于2020年11月9日举办一项线上200天倒计时特别活动，即标题为“森林信息”的论坛会。该论坛旨在讨论森林在解决气候变化所造成的自然灾害问题方面的作用和未来，并期望吸引国际社会对即将到来的 WFC 2021 产生更多关注和兴趣。

Kongres Perhutanan Dunia XV 2021 (WFC 2021) yang diadakan setiap 6 tahun merupakan persidangan yang paling berpengaruh dalam bidang perhutanan, berfungsi sebagai platform global bagi anggota masyarakat antarabangsa untuk berkumpul dan mengetengahkan cadangan dan pernyataan mengenai masalah hutan. Tema WFC 2021 adalah “*Membangunkan Masa Depan Hijau, Sihat dan Berdaya Tahan dengan Hutan*”. Ianya akan berlangsung dari 24 hingga 28 Mei 2021 di Seoul, Korea Selatan.

Ke arah WFC 2021, Korea Forest Service (KFS) menganjurkan Acara Countdown 200-Hari khas: Forum mengenai “Mesej Dari Hutan” pada 9 November 2020 melalui siaran langsung dalam talian YouTube. Forum ini bertujuan untuk membincangkan peranan dan masa depan hutan dalam menyelesaikan masalah bencana alam yang disebabkan oleh perubahan iklim, dengan tujuan untuk mendapatkan perhatian dan minat yang lebih mendalam daripada masyarakat antarabangsa semasa WFC 2021 yang akan datang.



**STA
PHOTOGRAPHY
CONTEST**

Organised by  In collaboration with 

THEME: Forests and Forest Landscapes of Sarawak

1st Prize : RM3,000 + Plaque
2nd Prize : RM1,500 + Plaque
3rd Prize : RM1,000 + Plaque
10 Consolation Prizes : RM200 each

In view of the movement restriction due to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation (i.e. Kuching was under Conditional Movement Control Order from 9 November-27 November 2020), the Contest is extended until **Thursday, 31 December 2020**.

All photos received will remain sealed and intact until the submission period has ended. Other Terms & Conditions of the Contest remain the same.

For more information, please visit our website www.sta.org.my

56th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Sessions of the Associated Committees

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 56th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (56-ITTC) and the Associated Sessions of its four (4) Committees met virtually for the first time, from 9 November 2020 to 13 November 2020, to discuss a wide-ranging agenda aimed at promoting sustainable tropical forest management and the trade of sustainably produced tropical timber. The Chair of 56-ITTC, Mr Bjorn Merckell from Sweden, opened the session on 9 November 2020. He expressed confidence that the virtual Council session would be held successfully with everyone's cooperation.

In his opening remarks, Mr Merckell said "In addition to being a global health crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected global production, with millions of companies worldwide at risk of collapse, small and medium-sized enterprises are the most affected." He further commented that global timber supply chains are reported to have been severely disrupted and may not return to pre-crisis production levels until 2026. He noted that tropical forests are under increased pressure as people migrate back to rural homes in search of refuge, with an associated spike in the use of forest resources to support local needs for food, fibre and energy. He then highlighted that the pandemic provided further impetus for the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) to encourage the massive restoration of degraded forest ecosystems as part of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and also to strengthen its efforts to promote wood as a material of choice for building back better.

Over the 5-day deliberations with the support from the Informal Advisory Group, the Producer and Consumer caucuses and 4 Committees, 56-ITTC adopted 5 decisions, including (i) approved financing of 8 new projects and 2 new pre-projects; (ii) adoption of ITTO biennial work programme for 2020-2021; (iii) further extension of the ITTO strategic action plan for 2013-2018; (iv) implementation of ITTO's new financial architecture-phase 2; and (v) selection, election and recruitment of the Executive Director of ITTO.

ITTC will convene its next session on 2-7 November 2021 in Yokohama, Japan. Mr Kheiruddin Rani from Malaysia and Mr Jesse Mahoney from Australia have been elected as the next Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

因着新冠肺炎疫情，第56届国际热带木材理事会 (56-ITTC) 与其4组相关委员会于2020年11月9日至13日首次在线上召开会议，讨论旨在促进可持续的热带森林管理和可持续生产的热带木材贸易的广泛议程。

Disebabkan oleh wabak COVID-19, Sesi Majlis Kayu Tropika Antarabangsa ke-56 (56-ITTC) dan Sesi Bersekutu dari 4 Jawatankuasanya bertemu secara maya buat pertama kali, dari 9 hingga 13 November 2020 untuk membincangkan pelbagai agenda yang bertujuan untuk mempromosikan pengurusan mampan hutan tropika dan perdagangan kayu tropika yang dihasilkan secara mampan.





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wisma STA, Kuching

**Monday, 10:30 am
28 December 2020**

**This is an Election Year.
Registration starts at 9:00 am**

For further information, please contact STA Secretariat at
telephone number 082-332 222 or email to sta@sta.org.my

Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan 2020 bagi Persatuan Kayu Kayan Sarawak akan diadakan pada
Isnin, 28 December 2020 pada pukul 10.30 pagi di Wisma STA, Kuching.

本会2020年度会员大会将于2020年12月28日（星期一），上午10点30分假古晋STA大厦举行。