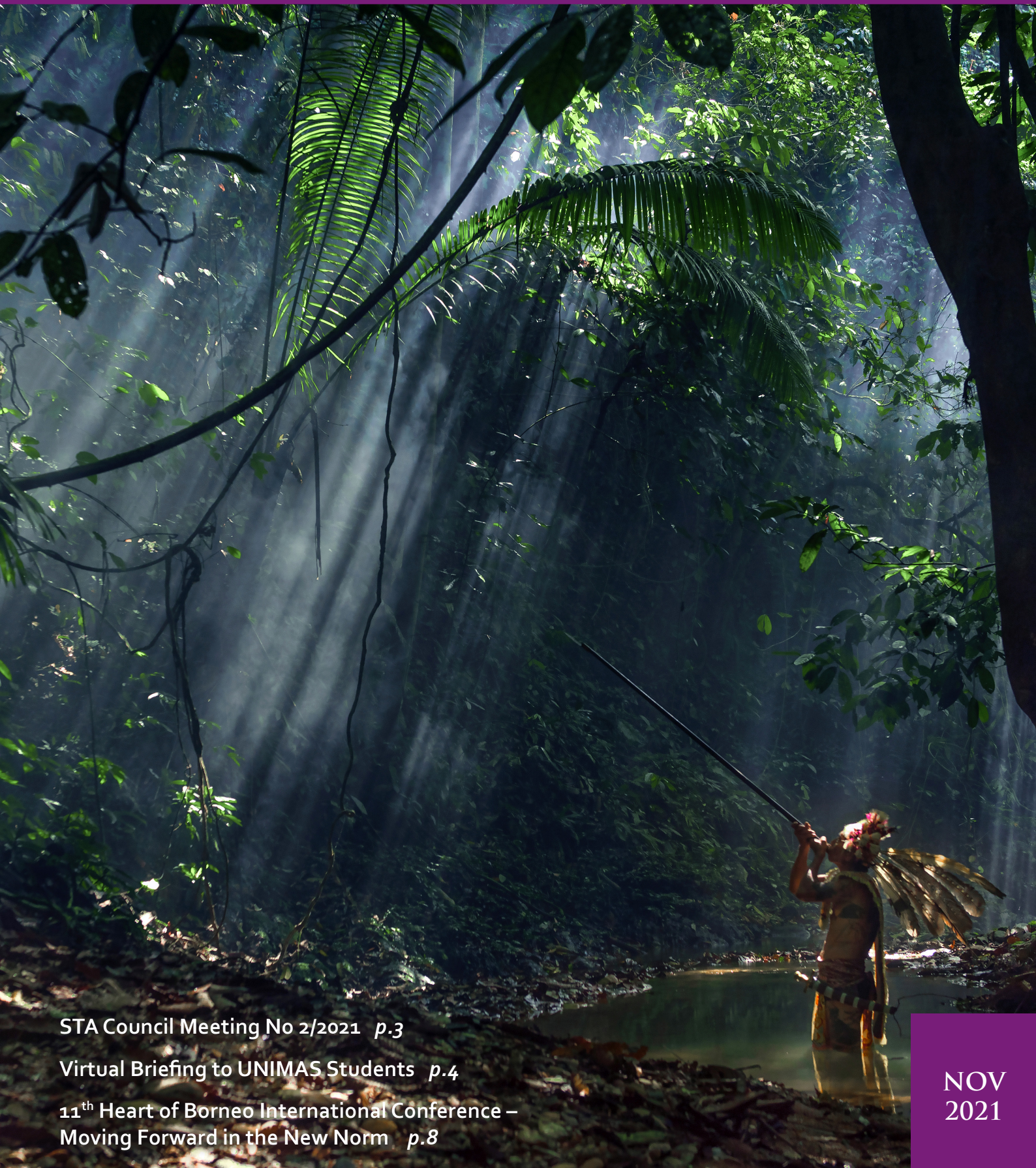


STA Review

Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association
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Location: Kapit
Photo Credit: Edwin Ong Wee Kee

STA REVIEW

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.

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STA Council Meeting No 2/2021

The STA Council held its Meeting No 2/2021 on 26 November 2021 via video conferencing. The Meeting was presided over by Datuk Sir Wong Kie Yik, Chairman of the Association, and attended by Vice Chairman Mr David Tiong, Honorary Secretary Dato Henry Lau, Honorary Treasurer Mr Philip Choo and twenty-eight (28) members of the Council.

The Council received reports from the various Category Committees and Working Committees. Training of operators in the occupational safety and health (OSH) aspect is expected to commence soon following the development of a Training Module on OSH in Forest Industries. The Association is currently working closely with its members and the Department of OSH Sarawak to finalise the training framework, mechanism and materials.

Progress of the forest plantation research projects funded by the Association was also provided to the Council. The Phase 2 of the research project entitled "*Development and Deployment of Improved Genetic Materials of Falcattaria moluccana*" by Forest Department Sarawak and GP Pusaka Sdn Bhd has been completed, and the Council approved funding for Phase 3 of this project to be carried out over a period of two (2) years from 2021 to 2022. The Council also approved two (2) new applications for admission as Associate Member under the Hill Logging category:

	Company	Official Representative	Alternate Representative	Proposer	Seconder
1	Suasana Pertiwi Sdn Bhd	Mr Tsen Teck Fen	Mr Yeo Soon Hee	Tan Sri Datuk Amar Yaw Teck Seng	Dato' Sri Law Kiu Kiong
2	Sumber Lumayan Sdn Bhd	Mr Lau Tiong Hong, Ambrose	Ms Ting Pei Jen, April	Mr Ling Kwong Hung	Mr Ling Ting Sie

In accordance with Articles 2(d)(iv) and 3(d)(iv) of the Articles of Association of the Association, the Council had introduced the following criteria for changing official and alternate representatives:

- 1) Shall hold at least a position of Manager and above or equivalent position of responsibility in the company;
- 2) At least 1 year of service in the company or same group of companies;
- 3) At least 18 years old, at the time of submission; and
- 4) Holding citizenship of Malaysian or otherwise approved by the Council.

Besides that, the Council also approved the budget for the Association to facilitate and carry out the activities and work for year 2022. Matters pertaining to STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), STA Mutual Sdn Bhd and STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd were also discussed and approved at this Meeting. In particular, STAT shall be registering as a Training Provider with the Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp). Upon successful registration, STAT can provide skills training programmes under HRD Corp Claimable Course Scheme to the Association's members who are registered under HRD Corp.

The Annual General Meeting for year 2021 (AGM 2021) was initially fixed on 30 March 2021 in accordance with Article 5(a)(i) of the Articles of Association of the Association. However, due to the prevalence of COVID-19 pandemic whereby travels were not permissible without permits, the Council had no choice but to defer the AGM 2021 until the situation improves. In this Meeting, the Council resolved to fix the date for calling the AGM 2021 at 30 December 2021 via online meeting as permitted by the Registry of Societies, Malaysia (ROS) whereby the migration of the STA Memorandum and Articles of Association to STA Constitution as required by ROS shall be tabled for approval by the members.

The Council also resolved to call the Annual General Meeting for year 2022 on 29 March 2022, where the election of Council members for the new term of 2022 and 2023 shall take place. In accordance with Article 8(e)(i) of the Articles of Association of the Association, the Council had appointed five (5) members to form an Election Committee, whose appointment shall take effect on 28 February 2022.

本會理事會于2021年11月26日通过线上视频举办2021年度第二次理事会会议。该会议由本会主席拿督黄启畔爵士主持, 副主席张昌恩先生、荣誉秘书拿督刘利康, 荣誉财政朱光辉先生以及28名理事成员出席了该会议。

Majlis STA telah mengadakan mesyuaratnya Bil. 2/2021 pada 26 November 2021 melalui persidangan video. Mesyuarat dipengerusikan oleh Datuk Sir Wong Kie Yik, Pengerusi STA dan dihadiri oleh Naib Pengerusi Encik David Tiong, Setiausaha Kehormat Dato Henry Lau, Bendahari Kehormat Encik Philip Choo dan 28 ahli-ahli Majlis.

Meetings of STA Subsidiary Companies

The subsidiary companies of STA, namely STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM), STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) and STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd (STAE), held their respective meetings via video conferencing on 16 November 2021. The meetings were presided over by Datuk Sir Wong Kie Yik and are summarised as follows:

i. STAM: The STA Board of Honorary Advisers (BHA) Meeting No 2/2021 discussed and recommended various decisions to the Board of Directors (BOD) of STAM for approval. These included allocation of donation fund as well as financial assistances to be given to schools and non-profit organisations in support of their fund raising and programme activities. Subsequently, the STAM BOD Meeting No 2/2021 approved the decisions made by the BHA and also endorsed the new list of BHA for a 2-year term commencing from 19 October 2021 to 18 October 2023.

ii. STAT: The STAT BOD Meeting No 2/2021 deliberated and approved several items specifically pertaining to financial and administrative matters. The meeting was informed that STAT trainers and assessors have continued to provide training programmes via video conference since April 2021 due to the imposition of

movement restriction during the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual training programmes comprised revision session/refreshers course as well as training course for Unit 7108: Conducting On-Job Training for Adults.

iii. STAE: The STAE BOD Meeting No 2/2021 covered and endorsed various items which included the tenancy of Wisma STA, maintenance of the building, as well as financial and administrative matters.

本公司, STA Mutual 有限公司、STA Training 有限公司以及 STA Enterprises 有限公司分别在2021年11月16日召开董事会议。会议由拿督黄启晔爵士主持, 内容如本文英语版所示。

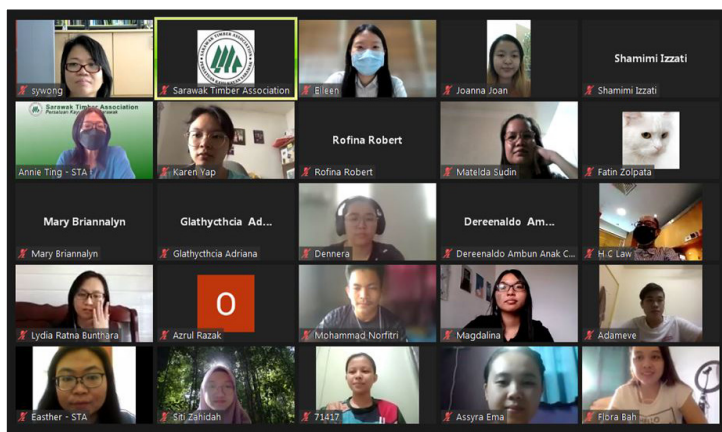
Syarikat-syarikat subsidiari STA, iaitu STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM), STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT) dan STA Enterprises Sdn Bhd (STAE) telah mengadakan mesyuarat masing-masing melalui persidangan video pada 16 November 2021. Mesyuarat dipengerusikan oleh Datuk Sir Wong Kie Yik dan perincian perbincangan adalah seperti di dalam artikel.

Virtual Briefing to UNIMAS Students

STA on 9 November 2021 hosted a virtual briefing for a group of thirty-five (35) final year students from the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, undergoing the course of Wood Science and Protection Technology from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). The group was headed by their lecturer, Associate Professor Dr Wong Sin Yeng.

Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA briefed them on (i) background of STA and its subsidiary companies; (ii) Sarawak's timber industry in terms of the available resources from both natural and planted forests, types of timber and timber products developed by the industry as well as their export performance; (iii) management of forest in Sarawak which included implementation of the Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System and forest management certification; as well as (iv) various challenges faced by the industry. The group was also presented with a pictorial tour of the STA Exhibition Centre which serves as an education and promotion focal point for information related to the forestry and timber industry in Sarawak. Ms Ting encouraged the students to visit the centre once the COVID-19 pandemic situation has improved.

The virtual briefing ended with a question and answer session. The session saw active participation from the group with various questions raised on the roles played by STA in the timber industry, issues on planted forests, career opportunities for the students and the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the industry.



Associate Professor Dr Wong (1st row, 1st from left) with Ms Annie Ting (2nd row, 1st from left) and some of the students during the virtual briefing

本会于2021年11月9日为一组35名来自资源科学与技术学院,正在就读马来西亚砂拉越大学 (UNIMAS) 木材科学与保护技术课程最后一年的大学生举办了线上简报会。该组大学生由他们的讲师, 黄欣燕博士 (译音) 副教授带领。

STA telah mengadakan taklimat secara maya pada 9 November 2021 untuk sekumpulan 35 orang pelajar tahun akhir jurusan sains kayu dan teknologi perlindungan daripada Fakulti Sains dan Teknologi Sumber, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). Kumpulan tersebut diketuai oleh pensyarah Profesor Madya Dr. Wong Sin Yeng.

Webinar on Export Incentives and Exporters Development Programmes by MATRADE

More Sarawakian companies should take the opportunity to utilise the various export incentives and exporters development programmes offered by the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE). This was the key message highlighted during the webinar MATRADE organised on 16 November 2021.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr Abu Bakar Yusof, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (Exporters Development) of MATRADE, urged more small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Sarawak to participate in MATRADE's export assistance and development programmes. On digitalisation, he pointed out that MATRADE has been using online platforms as leverage to organise events, trainings and meetings. Due to travel restrictions imposed by most countries since last year, MATRADE has also embarked on virtual business meeting arrangements, known as eBizMatch programme, for foreign buyers and Malaysian companies. As at the end of October this year, 1,651 online business matchings have been arranged between 1,060 Malaysian exporters and 877 foreign importers.

Meanwhile, the keynote address was delivered by Dato' Mohammad Medan Abdullah, CEO of Bintulu Port Holdings Berhad, who is also a board member of MATRADE. Being on the same page as Mr Abu Bakar, he also encouraged Sarawakian businesses to approach MATRADE, especially its Kuching office, to seek relevant guidance and assistance. He explained that MATRADE has come up with expanded scope of export incentives and exporters development programmes to ramp up its assistance to the exporters at various stages of their export journey and to help build their capabilities.

At the same time, Dato' Mohammad Medan congratulated the Malaysian business community for their resilience and tireless efforts in promoting Malaysian products and services overseas despite the numerous challenges faced during the COVID-19 crisis. He hoped for continued collaboration between the Government and the business sector to sustain and intensify the good work done over the past years.

The webinar covered some of MATRADE's initiatives which included (i) Bumiputera, Women and Youth Exporters Development Programme, (ii) Mid-tier Companies Development Programme, (iii) eTRADE Programme 2.0, (iv) Services Export Fund, and (v) Market Development Grant. MATRADE also invited one of its members, East Asia Palm Products Sdn Bhd, to share experiences of how MATRADE has played a role in developing the company's export potential as well as some of the issues encountered when exporting its products. For more information about MATRADE's initiatives, visit www.matrade.gov.my

马来西亚对外贸易发展公司 (MATRADE) 于2021年11月16日所举办的线上研讨会中强调更多砂拉越公司应借机利用 MATRADE 所提供的各种出口奖掖和出口商发展计划。

Lebih banyak syarikat Sarawak harus mengambil peluang untuk menggunakan pelbagai insentif eksport dan program pembangunan pengeksport yang ditawarkan oleh Perbadanan Pembangunan Perdagangan Luar Malaysia (MATRADE). Ini merupakan mesej utama yang ditekankan semasa webinar MATRADE yang dianjurkan pada 16 November 2021.



Lineup of speakers for the webinar

Webinar on Opportunities in the Timber Industry Post COVID-19 Pandemic & Benefit of Free Trade Agreements (FTA) to the Development of the National's Timber Industry

"Malaysia timber and timber products export increased by 4% for the first eight (8) months of 2021 compared to the same corresponding period in 2020. In order to achieve the target of RM28 billion in exports of timber and timber products and RM20 billion in value of domestic market outlined in the National Timber Industry Strategic Plan (2021-2025), the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) will work together with the industry. MTIB is fully aware of current crucial issues faced by the industry such as shortage of raw material and manpower, increment in production cost and tariff & non-tariff barriers," were some of the points highlighted by Mdm Roslina Binti Idris, Deputy Director General (Development & Commercial) of MTIB, in her welcoming remarks during the webinar by MTIB on 2 November 2021.

At the event, Mdm Zaleha Jaafar, Head of Lifestyle & Life Sciences (Export Acceleration Division) from Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), urged the 160 participants to focus on adopting sustainable practices. 50% foreign customers are concerned about the sustainability of products that they buy which indicates rising interest and demand for sustainability. With policymakers around the world imposing great emphasis on global and national sustainability commitments, such as the Paris Agreement, United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and National Sustainability Agenda, she encouraged Malaysian exporters to work towards going green and become eco-friendlier in order to enhance their product value. She also revealed that e-commerce revenues are projected to grow to USD5.4 trillion in 2022 and hence recommended small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to adopt e-commerce as a strategy to penetrate massive untapped global market.

The webinar continued with presentation by Mr Nik Mohd Salihin Nik Mustafa, Principal Assistant Director (Strategic Negotiations Division) from Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). He gave an overview of free trade agreements (FTAs) signed by Malaysia. Being a developing country with a small domestic market of approximately 32 million populations, Malaysia is highly dependent on international trade. FTA, which is a legally binding trade agreement between two or more countries providing favourable treatments, is an important platform for Malaysia to gain better access and to advance the country's trade and industrial development agenda.

To date, Malaysia has signed 16 FTAs. Out of these, 7 bilateral FTAs and 7 regional FTAs have been implemented, whereas Comprehensive & Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) are pending ratification and entry into force. In addition, there are also 2 FTAs currently under negotiation, i.e. Malaysia-Turkey FTA as well as Malaysia-European Free

Trade Association Partnership (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland).

The last speaker was Mr Augustine Jude, Senior Assistant Director (Industry & Trade Support Division) of MITI. He introduced the concept of Preferential Certificate of Origin (PCO) and Non-Preferential Certificate of Origin (NPCO) as well as rules of origin. Certificate of Origin (CO) is a document to prove the origin of a product for import and export. MITI issues PCO to exporters for their importers to enjoy tariff concession based on the signed FTAs. As for NPCO, it can be issued by MITI's appointed chamber of commerce and trade association. NPCO serves as a proof of origin and no tariff concession will be enjoyed by the importers as it is issued to exporters for exporting to non-FTA member countries. Mr Augustine explained the criteria to determine the origin of goods and highlighted that wrong declaration of Harmonised System (HS) code for raw materials and finished product as well as different HS code declaration for importing and exporting are among the reasons MITI rejected issuance of PCO to exporters.

马来西亚木材工业局 (MTIB) 发展与商业部副部长罗斯丽娜女士在 MTIB 于 2021 年 11 月 2 日举行的网络研讨会上的欢迎辞中强调与 2020 年同期相比, 马来西亚木材和木制品在 2021 年首八个月出口率增长了 4%。MTIB 将与木材业者合作, 以达到国家木材工业 2021-2025 年策略计划中规定的马币 280 亿令吉木材和木制品出口和马币 200 亿令吉国内市场价值的目标。MTIB 完全意识和认同木材业目前所面临的关键问题, 当中包括原材料和劳工短缺、生产成本增加以及关税和非关税壁垒。

"Eksport kayu dan produk kayu Malaysia telah meningkat sebanyak 4% untuk 8 bulan pertama 2021 berbanding tempoh yang sama pada 2020. Bagi mencapai sasaran RM28 bilion eksport kayu dan produk kayu dan RM20 bilion dalam pasaran domestik yang digariskan dalam Pelan Strategik Industri Perindustrian Kayu Kebangsaan (2021-2025), Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia (MTIB) akan bekerjasama dengan industri. MTIB menyedari sepenuhnya isu penting semasa yang dihadapi oleh industri seperti kekurangan bahan mentah dan tenaga kerja, kenaikan kos pengeluaran dan halangan tarif & bukan tarif," antara perkara yang diketengahkan oleh Puan Roslina Binti Idris, Timbalan Ketua Pengarah (Pembangunan & Komersial) MTIB, dalam ucapan alu-aluan beliau semasa webinar anjuran MTIB pada 2 November 2021.

Workshop to Prepare Paper Work for Electronic and Electric Waste (E-Waste) Management in Sarawak

As the interest for internet of things (IoT) grows, so do electronic and electric waste (e-waste) concerns. Therefore, it is important for the Sarawak Government to decide how to manage e-waste because lack of forethought on management and disposal of e-waste will lead to improper disposal of e-waste thus affecting environment and health of the communities.

These were highlighted by Mr Justine Jok Jau, Special Administrative Officer, in delivering the welcoming remarks on behalf of Datu Sr Zaidi Bin Haji Mahdi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development & Natural Resources (MUDeNR) at the Workshop to Prepare Paper Work for Electronic and Electric Waste (e-waste) Management in Sarawak in Merdeka Palace Hotel on 25-26 November 2021. He added that the conduct of the Workshop was timely to obtain input from stakeholders to formulate an effective e-waste management and disposal mechanism for Sarawak.

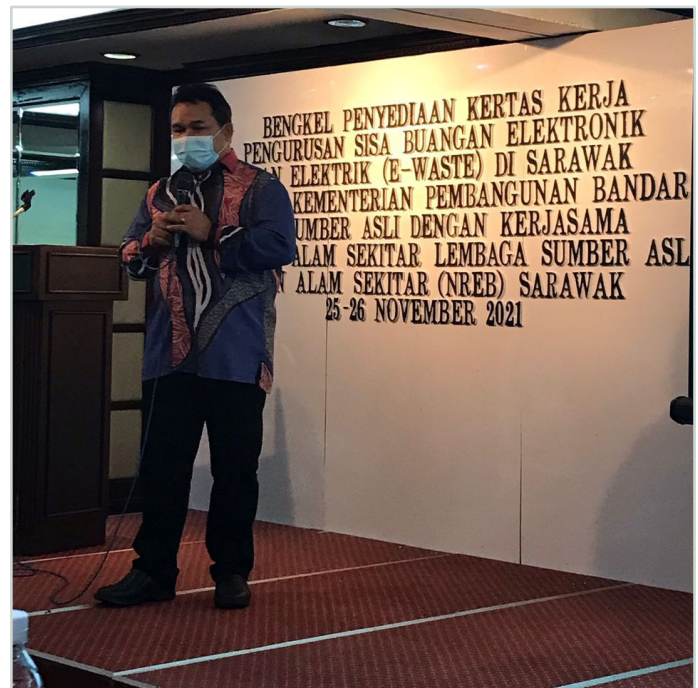
In the presentation by Mr Hamzah Bin Mohamad, Director of Department of Environment (DoE) Sarawak, representatives from various agencies such as the Royal Malaysians Customs Department, Royal Malaysian Police, Ministry of Local Government and Housing Sarawak, Trienekens (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd and STA learned that there are two (2) types of e-waste generated, namely from the industry and the household. DoE is more concerned with the latter because of the volume produced and the lack of awareness on proper disposal of e-waste.

Mr Hamzah also highlighted that DoE is drafting a specific regulation on e-waste. The drafted Regulation which emphasises the concept of shared responsibility among stakeholders such as manufacturers and importers, consumers/waste generators as well as collectors and recyclers is currently in the final stages of obtaining approval from the Attorney General's Chambers.

Participants were then divided into four (4) groups to discuss, among others, existing method for collection and disposal as well as propose changes to improve the mechanism. Legal and financial implication of the groups' proposed changes were also discussed.

砂拉越电子垃圾管理文件草拟工作坊于2021年11月25日至26日在古晋独立皇宫酒店举行。特别行政官佐丁祖兆先生在代表城市发展及天然资源部(MUDeNR)常务秘书拿督再迪致词时强调随着对互联网(IoT)的兴趣不断增长,对电子和电器垃圾(e-waste)的关注也在增加当中。

因此,砂拉越政府决定如何管理电子垃圾很重要,因为对电子垃圾的管理和处置缺乏远见将导致电子垃圾处理不当,从而影响社区的环境与健康。



Mr Hamzah Bin Mohamad, Director of DoE Sarawak, presenting on the electrical and electronic waste management in Malaysia

All four (4) groups agreed that the Workshop was an important start to establish a proper e-waste management system for Sarawak. Proper collection systems were also highlighted as crucial and effort should not end at manufacturers' buyback programmes where they buy back old devices to recycle or resell. Everyone should play a part to successfully tackle the issue of e-waste. In his closing remark, Mr Justine commended the Sarawak Government for being the leading State to start the initiative and framework for e-waste management.

Peningkatan minat terhadap internet of things (IoT) turut meningkatkan kebimbangan mengenai sisa elektronik dan elektrik (e-waste). Oleh itu, adalah penting bagi Kerajaan Sarawak untuk merumuskan kaedah pengurusan e-waste kerana tanpa perancangan awal tentang pengurusan dan pelupusan e-waste akan menyebabkan pelupusan e-waste yang tidak betul sekali gus menjejaskan alam sekitar dan kesihatan masyarakat.

Perkara ini telah diketengahkan oleh Encik Justine Jok Jau, Pegawai Pentadbiran Khas, semasa menyampaikan ucapan alu-aluan bagi pihak Datu Sr. Zaidi Bin Haji Mahdi, Setiausaha Tetap, Kementerian Pembangunan Bandar dan Sumber Asli (MUDeNR) di Bengkel Penyediaan Kertas Kerja untuk Pengurusan Sisa Elektronik dan Elektrik (e-waste) di Sarawak di Hotel Merdeka Palace pada 25-26 November 2021.

Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) organised the 11th International Conference on the Heart of Borneo (HoB) Initiatives with the theme “*HoB Initiative – Moving Forward in the New Norm*” on 9 and 10 November 2021.

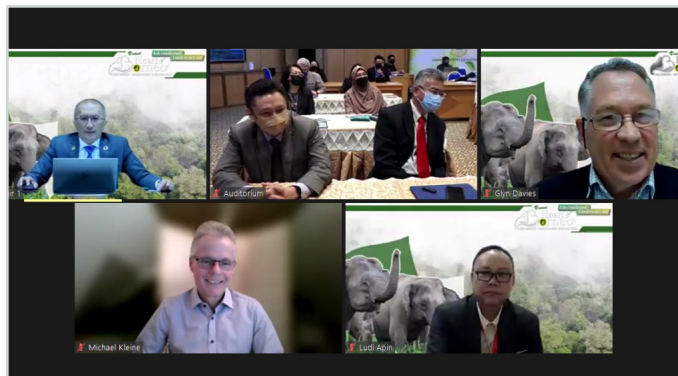
The first virtual conference was joined by Datuk Seri Takayudin Bin Hassan, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources; Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji Bin Haji Noor, Chief Minister of Sabah; Datuk Frederick Kugan, Chief Conservator of Forest, Sabah; Datuk Sam Mannan, Technical Advisor (Forestry) to the Chief Minister of Sabah; and Datuk Darrel Webber, Technical Advisor (Climate Change) to the Chief Minister of Sabah.

The event attracted participants from the international arena and served as a platform to share knowledge, research ideas and information on forest conservation, especially on HoB.

Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji in his officiating speech shared that since the inception of HoB Initiative in 2007, more than 26% of the State’s land area or about 1.9 million hectares have been gazetted as Totally Protected Areas (TPAs). He added that Sabah has not only maintained 50% of its land mass under forest cover, but has increased forest cover to 65%. The HoB projects alone have restored 2,000 hectares of forest reserves. He also congratulated scientists and writers at HoB for their hard work and determination in conducting researches which have greatly benefited the scientific community and public. At the event, 2 new books by Markus Gubiil entitled “*A Checklist of Trees of Sabah – New Edition*” and “*Panduan Bergambar Likofit dan Paku Pakis di Sabah*” were released.

The conference kicked started with presentations on HoB implementation in Brunei and Sarawak. Mr Zaeidi Haji Berudin from Forestry Department, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, Brunei, shared some of the projects carried out to support the Brunei HoB Initiative such as the Carbon Exchange & Forest Dynamics of Peat Forest, Biodiversity Action Plan and Proposed Establishment of a Teraja Conservation Forest. He also highlighted that the forest resource assessment conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in 2020 has revealed that about 72% of the country’s land area is covered in forest.

Ms Salina Binti Haji Hamdi, HoB Project Coordinator from Forest Department Sarawak, shared that the sustainable forest management (SFM) pillar of HoB is in line with the Sarawak Government’s policy of making forest management certification (FMC) mandatory for all long term forest timber licences by year 2022. According to her, Sarawak Government had gained remarkable achievement in getting all FMUs within the HoB areas to be certified.



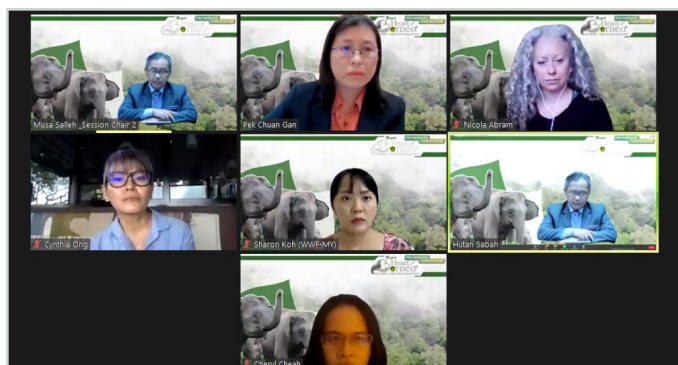
Speakers and moderator in Session 1

To date, thirteen (13) forest management units with an area of 1,274,022 hectares had been certified under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme.

In Session 1: Protected Area and Sustainable Natural Resources Management chaired by Mr Indra Purwandita Sunjoto, SFD, participants learned about the two-phase inventory design that was proposed to help generate high quality data for effective monitoring, reporting and verification of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

According to Mr Reuben Nilu from Forest Research Centre, SFD, this is to supplement the Sabah Government’s need for an appropriate remote sensing technology with recognised technique that are familiar elsewhere that would reduce cost and manpower to operate in order for the Government to report forest and other land-use resource assessment to a number of international initiatives, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity and Sustainable Development Goals.

Both Dr Robert Ong from SFD and Dr Glyn Davies from World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) also touched on the big question of how to establish balance between different land uses in achieving different objective of conservation and development and in some ways try to deliver sustainable development goals. Dr Davies highlighted that government leadership is crucial in jurisdictional approach.



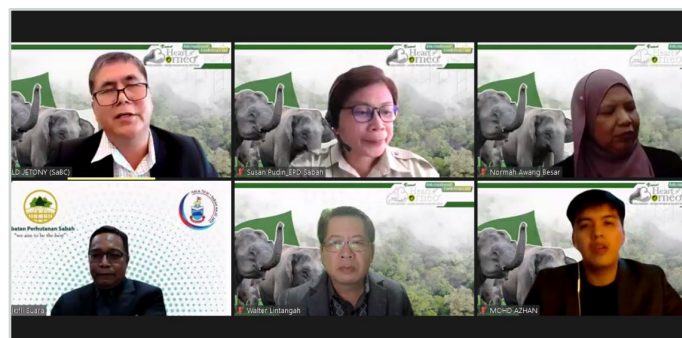
Speakers and moderator of Session 2

ence – Moving Forward in the New Norm

In Session 2: Sustainable Land Use Development and Management, participants heard updates on the “*Integrated Landscape Management of Heart of Borneo Landscapes in Sabah*” from Ms Gan Pek Chuan, Acting Head, Sustainable and Resilient Development, United Nations Development Programme. According to her, the project concept which was approved and started with Sabah and Sarawak in 2020 experienced a change in implementing partner in 2021 which led to Sabah taking the implementing lead focusing on Sabah’s landscape. The project objective is to transform land use planning and management in Sabah to contain the footprint of palm oil production and maintain high value forest for environment and development benefits.

A team of presenters from diverse background, led by Ms Cynthia Ong, presented the findings and recommendation from a 4-year initiative by LEAP-Forever Sabah called “*Human Habitat Highways*” which highlights the potential impact from construction of Pan Borneo Highway. Tunnels, underpasses or elevated highways were suggested as options worth exploring in place of constructing roads and highways across forested areas.

Ms Marcie Elene and Ms Chin Sing Yun from Wilmar Malaysia Conservation Team shared that Bukit Durang and Sekar Imej Conservation Area located in their Sarawak and Sabah operations are home to significant conservation values which need protection from encroachment as well as habitat disturbance. Ms Chin added that they do look at potential connectivity with forest reserve to retain the ecosystem of high conservation value areas because small forest fragments in oil palm plantations play an important role in maintaining native species diversity and the ecosystem service.



Session 4 in progress

number of achievements; (iii) Rimba Collective initiative that aims to provide funding to support long term, sustainable conservation and restoration of forests; and (iv) goals and initiatives undertaken by INPEX Corporation, Japan’s largest oil and natural gas exploration and production company as well as Shell Energy towards a net zero target.

The approaches undertaken by various agencies to build capacity were highlighted in Session 4 of the conference. Among some of the initiatives shared were the development of Prior and Informed Consent Guidelines by Sabah Biodiversity Centre (SaBC), Sabah Environmental Education Policy led by Environment Protection Department Sabah, establishment of Faculty of Tropical Forestry in Universiti Malaysia Sabah and empowerment strategies by SFD to strengthen forest enforcement in Sabah.

沙巴森林局 (SFD) 于2021年11月9日至10日举办第11届婆罗洲之心 (HoB) 倡议国际研讨会。题目为“HoB倡议-在新常态中前进”吸引来自国际舞台的参与者，并作为分享森林保护知识、研究思想和信息的平台，特别是关于 HoB。



Speakers and moderator of Session 3

In Session 3 themed “*Forest Beyond Timber*”, participants were exposed to (i) the works done by the Sabah Tourism Board in promoting and supporting community based tourism; (ii) success story of the Central Forest Spine, an initiative by the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia which resulted in a

Jabatan Perhutanan Sabah (SFD) telah menganjurkan Persidangan Antarabangsa ke-11 mengenai Inisiatif Heart of Borneo (HoB) dengan tema “*Inisiatif HoB – Melangkah ke Hadapan dalam Norma Baharu*” pada 9 dan 10 November 2021. Acara tersebut telah menarik penyertaan peserta dari arena antarabangsa dan berfungsi sebagai platform untuk berkongsi pengetahuan, idea penyelidikan dan maklumat mengenai pemuliharaan hutan, terutamanya mengenai HoB.

Conference on Sustainably Managed Forests as Part of the Solution to Climate Change

The Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition (STTC) and Fair&Precious, the Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT) initiative for the sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin, organised a conference on *"Sustainably Managed Forests as Part of the Solution to Climate Change: Recognising the Value of Certified Forests and Ecosystem Services"* on 18 November 2021. The conference was attended by representatives from the timber and forest industries, trade federations, non-governmental organisations, government and civil society.

The conference focused on two (2) main topics, i.e. impacts of European Union (EU) tropical timber imports and forest certification on climate change as well as landscape approach and ecosystem services. Following an introductory keynote, linking good governance and sustainability, from Mr Hervé Maidou, Secretary General of the Commission of Central African Forests, three (3) presentations were presented, namely (i) Introduction on the Impact of EU Tropical Timber Imports on Tropical Forests and the Carbon Footprint by Mr Mark van Benthem (Director of Probos and Founding Partner of STTC), (ii) Elaboration on the EU Green Deal in Relation to EU Tropical Timber Imports and Climate Mitigation by Ms René Boot (Director of Tropenbos International), and (iii) Governance and Sustainable Forest Management in the Context of the Congo Basin by Mr Hervé Maidou.

Participants were also divided into twelve (12) parallel breakout sessions to further discuss on a wide range of topics, from the landscape approach in driving sustainability, to the development of environmental product declarations for tropical timber products. Some of the interesting topics of discussion included (i) Global Forests Need Global Governance: A Call to Action for United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), (ii) The Timber Trade Portal: Supporting Traders in Importing Legal Timber, (iii) Returning on 25 Years' Experience of Sustainable Forest Management in the Tropics, and (iv) Lobbying and Marketing to Contribute to a More Positive Image of Utilising Tropical Timber.

The third and final part of the conference discussed the relationship between the landscape sustainability approach and ecosystem services. Presentations on a project called 'SourceUp' and linking landscape initiatives to global buyers, landscape approaches and sustainability intensification and integration of ecosystem services to maintain certified forests were shared.

Mr Olman Serrano, President of ATIBT, in his closing remarks mentioned that concessionaires have been managing forests sustainably, but until today, there is still no mechanism to help them obtain financial benefit for the work that they do which not only provide part of the big solution to climate change, but also help maintain biodiversity. Therefore, more works needs to be done to explain the great value of sustainably managed certified forests to policy makers and the world.

可持续热带木材联盟 (STTC) 联同Fair&Precious于2021年11月18日举行“可持续森林管理为解决气候变化的方案之一：承认森林认证和生态系统服务的价值”研讨会。Fair&Precious是国际热带木材技术协会 (ATIBT) 在刚果盆地可持续森林管理倡议下的品牌。

Gabungan Kayu Tropika Mampan (STTC) dan Fair&Precious, inisiatif Persatuan Teknikal Kayu Tropika Antarabangsa (ATIBT) untuk pengurusan hutan mampan di Lembangan Congo, menganjurkan persidangan mengenai "Pengurusan Hutan secara Mampan sebagai Sebahagian daripada Penyelesaian kepada Perubahan Iklim: Mengiktiraf Nilai Hutan Diperakui dan Perkhidmatan Ekosistem" pada 18 November 2021.

57th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council

The International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC), is the governing body of International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), meeting once a year to discuss a wide-ranging agenda aimed at promoting sustainable tropical forest management and the trade of sustainably produced tropical timber. The 57th ITTC and Associated Sessions of the Committee were once again held virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, from 29 November to 3 December 2021.

The 57th ITTC Chair Mr Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, in his opening remarks, highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a huge shift in the global economic landscapes, including the forestry industry. He believed that the forestry industry can recover as countries increasingly adopt recovery measures and move towards a promising future. The Chair stressed the importance for the Council at this session to make decisions amongst others on the appointment of new Executive Director to lead the ITTO for the next four years, the extension of ITTA, 2006 which would otherwise lapse on 7 December 2021, and the

adoption of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2022-2026. The ITTO Annual Market Discussion on Challenges in manufacturing and trade during the COVID-19 pandemic was organised and presented by the Trade Advisory Group on 30 December 2021. More details of this event will be covered in the December 2021 Edition.

由于新冠肺炎疫情还在持续发展，第57届ITTC和相关委员会会议再次以虚拟方式于2021年11月29日至12月3日举行。此活动的更多详细信息将在2021年12月版中揭晓。

ITTC ke-57 dan Sesi Jawatankuasa Berkaitan sekali lagi diadakan secara maya berikutan pandemik COVID-19 yang berterusan, dari 29 November hingga 3 Disember 2021. Butiran lanjut tentang acara ini akan diliputi dalam Edisi Disember 2021.

Employer Advisory Services

The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) had implemented a new initiative “Employer Advisory Services” with the main objective of providing proactive engagement and partnering approach with potential/existing EPF employers to increase awareness and encourage employers to be self-regulated with a common goal to safeguard members’ contribution.

EPF through STA organised an advisory service session for the its members on 25 November 2021 via video conferencing. A total of twenty-six (26) participants attended the session which saw presentation from two (2) EPF officers, Mr Shahiran Khalid and Mdm Shahela Saad.

Mr Shahiran Khalid covered a brief introduction of EPF and the responsibilities of employers. In summary, employers are required to register new employee with EPF within seven (7) days from the date of employment and to make EPF contributions compulsory as spelt out in the *EPF Act 1991*.

Employers are also required to pay EPF contributions in respect of any person engaged to work under a Contract of Service or Apprenticeship. Employers have to ensure accurate monthly contributions are deducted from employees’ salary and remitted to EPF on or before the 15th of the following month. Failure to comply with the relevant sections is subjected to penalties under the *EPF Act 1991*.

Mdm Shahela Saad introduced EPF’s e-Payroll facility which is an enhancement of the existing i-Akaun (Employer) to assist small and medium-sized enterprise users who are not using any payroll management system or do not have the financial means to utilise a payroll solution. The e-Payroll facility is free for use by all registered i-Akaun (Employer) users.

For any enquiries, please contact Mr Shahiran Khalid at telephone number 013-2898526 or email to shahiran@epf.gov.my.

雇员公积金 (EPF) 通过本会 于2021年11月25日为其会员举办了一场线上咨询服务简报会。

一共有26名全员代表听取2名 EPF 官员, 沙希兰先生和莎何拉女士的简报。

Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) melalui STA telah menganjurkan sesi khidmat nasihat kepada ahli-ahlinya pada 25 November 2021 melalui persidangan video.

Seramai 26 peserta telah menghadiri sesi tersebut yang menyaksikan pembentangan daripada 2 pegawai KWSP, Encik Shahiran Khalid dan Puan Shahela Saad.

Wishing all Members and Readers

*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year 2022*

*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 Krismas & Tahun Baru 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有限公司全体职员在此祝愿
所有会员和读者圣诞节及新年快乐

NOVEMBER 2021

ONLINE OPERATOR TRAINING: TREE & LOG IDENTIFICATION SKILLS SET

The session is designed with the aim 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.



Skills set: Clear-Fell Site Preparation – Chainsaw (Forest Plantation), Activity: Cutting Large Tree Crown

In view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions, STAT has started online trainings since April 2021. This is especially important to ensure continuity of STAT's training activities while minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

STAT conducted an online operator training for Tree and Log Identification Skills Set on 22 November 2021. The STAT Trainer/Assessor was Mr Sumbang Rani and joining the training were workmen from Jaya Tiasa Holdings Berhad.



Mr Sumbang Rani conducting the online operator training



Workmen from Jaya Tiasa Holdings Berhad attending the training

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.

New Addition of *Gmelina arborea* Species to Production of Logs from Planted Forests by Region from Sarawak

Dear Members and Readers,

From November 2021 Edition onwards, the production volume for *Gmelina arborea* species will be made available. We hope that this new addition would help to provide you with a better overview of the planted species in Sarawak.

Editorial Board of STA Review