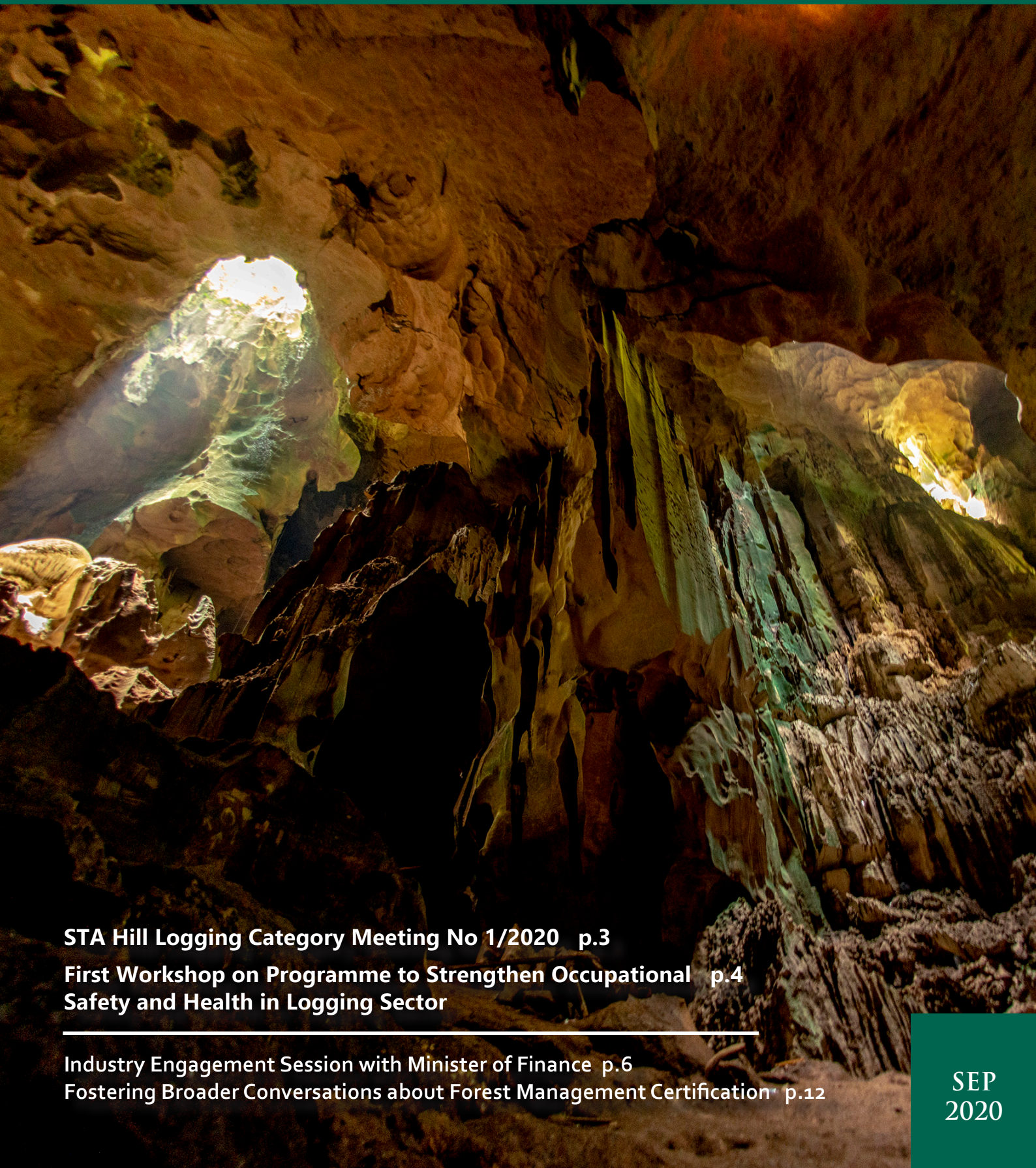


STA Review

Monthly Magazine of the Sarawak Timber Association
VOLUME 324 PPK 174/05/2013 (032756)



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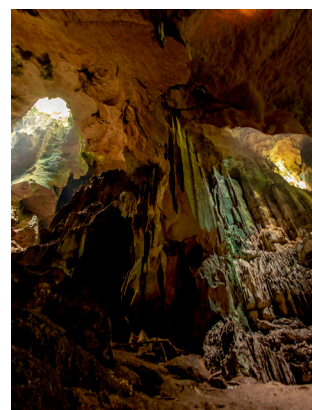
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COVER IMAGE

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

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STA Hill Logging Category Meeting No 1/2020

The STA Hill Logging Category members convened its first Category Meeting for the year on 15 September 2020 via video conferencing. The Meeting was chaired by its Category Chairman, Dato' Sri Law Kiu Kiong. In his welcoming remarks, the Chairman mentioned that the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic have caused huge disruption to domestic businesses and the global economy, and urged members to stay positive and motivated during this trying period.

The Meeting was updated on forestry matters including policy on forest beyond timber, final draft of the revised harmonised reduced impact logging guidelines, restoration programme within licensed area and new rules for employees' minimum housing standards in Peninsular Malaysia.



Virtual meeting in progress

The Meeting also discussed various matters including the *Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules 2015*, registration of workmen, proposed changes to the rates/fees for issuance or renewal of licence, programme to strengthen occupational safety and health in logging sector as well as logging road and bridge usage charges for governmental projects. After intensive deliberation and in support of rural area development, the Meeting agreed on the special logging road and bridge usage charges as well as its Terms and Conditions for contractors implementing governmental projects in rural areas.

STA丘陵采伐小组会员于2020年9月15日透过线上视频召开首次小组会议。

会议由该小组主席拿督斯里刘久健主持。会议更新有关林业事项包括木材之外的森林政策。会议也商讨了多项关于（熟练工人）2015森林规则以及政府项目中的伐木道路及桥梁的使用收费。

Ahli-ahli Kategori Pembalakan Hutan Bukit STA telah mengadakan Mesyuarat Kategori buat kali pertama bagi tahun ini pada 15 September 2020 melalui persidangan video. Mesyuarat dipengerusikan oleh Pengerusi Kategori, Dato' Sri Law Kiu Kiong.

Mesyuarat dikemaskini mengenai perkara perhutanan termasuk polisi hutan melangkaui pengeluaran kayu balak. Mesyuarat juga berbincang tentang beberapa perkara seperti Peraturan Hutan (Pekerja Terlatih) 2015 serta caj penggunaan jalan pembalakan dan jambatan bagi projek kerajaan.

STA Forest Plantation Committee Meeting No 2/2020

The Chairman of STA Forest Plantation Committee, Mr Peter Ling Kwong Hung, called the second Committee Meeting this year on 18 September 2020 via video conferencing.

The Meeting discussed various issues and matters relating to the forest plantation industry such as logging road and bridge usage charges, registration of workmen, calibration of weighbridge, 30% discount on annual land rent from the Sarawak Government as well as new rules for employees' minimum housing standards in Peninsular Malaysia, among others.

本会人工造林委员会主席林光训先生于2020年9月18日在线上召开了本年度第二次委员会会议。会议讨论与人工造林工业有关的各种问题与事项。会议也接纳由本会资助的多项研究与发展项目报告。

The Meeting also received updates on the progress of various research and development projects funded by STA including the printing and distribution of monograph entitled "*Silviculture, Genetics and Molecular Breeding of Neolamarckia cadamba (Kelampayan) in Sarawak*" jointly published by Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Sarawak Forestry Corporation and STA.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Ladang Hutan STA, Encik Peter Ling Kwong Hung telah mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa kedua untuk tahun ini pada 18 September 2020 melalui persidangan video. Mesyuarat membincangkan beberapa isu dan perkara yang berkaitan dengan industri ladang hutan. Mesyuarat juga menerima laporan mengenai perkembangan bagi beberapa projek penyelidikan dan pembangunan yang dibiayai oleh STA.

First Workshop on Programme to Strengthen Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in Logging Sector

The First Workshop on Programme to Strengthen OSH in Logging Sector under the compliances support programme of the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) Sarawak was held on from 23 to 24 September 2020 at Medan Hotel, Sibu. This Workshop was jointly organised by DOSH Sarawak, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and STA.

A total of forty (40) participants comprising STA members and officers from STIDC, Forest Department Sarawak, DOSH and STA participated in the Workshop. The objectives of this Workshop were to develop an OSH training module focusing on logging sector for companies to train their in-house operators, to promote self-regulation as well as to enhance workplace safety and health.

During the opening ceremony, Ms Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer of STA, mentioned that the cooperation among the three (3) organisations dates back to 2015 where more than fifteen (15) OSH campaigns throughout Sarawak, covering logging camps and management of companies, were held. She recognised that it is timely to develop an OSH training module for the forestry and timber industry especially for capacity building, so that in-house trainers can pass down their OSH knowledge to the ground operators. She encouraged the participants to contribute by sharing their ground experiences in developing an effective training module that are implementable on the ground.

Ir Dr Nor Halim Bin Hasan, Director of DOSH Sarawak, in his welcoming speech, thanked all participants for attending and making this Workshop a success. He shared that this Workshop is the first of its kind in Malaysia. He acknowledged that the logging sector is one of the main contributors of Sarawak's economy. Therefore, one of the initiatives taken up by the Department is to develop the "Train the Trainer" training module for the logging sector. It is hoped that this training module can be used throughout Malaysia in the future.

He also presented the topic "Towards New Norms of Occupational Safety and Health in Workplace" where he shared on OSH development in Malaysia, importance of OSH as well as workplace accidents statistics and trend. He also shared the five (5) strategies of OSH Master Plan 2020, i.e. (i) Government Leadership; (ii) Strengthening of OSH Management at the Workplace; (iii) OSH Sharing and Network; (iv) Mainstreaming of Industrial Hygiene; and (v) International OSH Strategic Alliance.

Besides that, he also covered the technology and new norms in OSH such as using the DOSH integrated online system for company, competent person and machinery registration, certificate renewal as well as incident reporting. During the Movement Control Order period, he shared that DOSH conducted live streaming sessions via

the DOSH Facebook page in conjunction with the World OSH Day 2020 and OSH Week 2020. Apart from that, DOSH also organised online sessions with companies having fatality cases, as well as with the industry and OSH practitioners regarding COVID-19 and OSH issues at the workplace.

The Workshop and development of the training module was conducted by Associate Professor Dr Mohd Rafee Baharudin, Director of OSH Management, Universiti Putra Malaysia. The training module targeted future trainers and focused on 3 activities including tree felling, loading and unloading as well as log transportation.

The next two (2) Workshops will be conducted from 19 to 20 October 2020 and from 9 to 10 November 2020 respectively in Sibu.



Welcoming speech by Ir Dr Nor Halim Bin Hasan,
Director of DOSH Sarawak

本会连同砂拉越职场安全与卫生局 (DOSH) 及砂拉越木材工业发展机构 (STIDC) 在DOSH合规支持计划下于2020年9月23日至24日假诗巫美丹酒店联办增强伐木业职场安全与卫生 (OSH) 计划的首个工作坊。

此工作坊旨予开发专注于伐木业培训模块，以培训会员公司内部操作员，促进自我监察以及提升职场安全与卫生。

本会首席执行官陈燕贞小姐在开幕仪式致词时认同开发专注于森林和木材业培训模块是及时的，特别是对于能力建设，以便内部培训员可将其职业安全与卫生知识传授给地面操作员。

DOSH 局长诺哈林在致欢迎辞中称此工作坊是马来西亚首例。

Bengkel Pertama bagi Program Pemantapan OSH untuk Sektor Pembalakan di bawah program sokongan pematuhan Jabatan Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan (DOSH) Sarawak telah diadakan dari 23 hingga 24 September 2020 di Hotel Medan, Sibu. Bengkel ini dianjurkan secara bersama oleh DOSH Sarawak, Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) dan STA.

Objektif Bengkel adalah untuk membangunkan modul latihan OSH khusus untuk sektor pembalakan bagi membolehkan syarikat melatih pengendali dalaman mereka, untuk mempromosikan pematuhan sendiri serta untuk meningkatkan keselamatan dan kesihatan di tempat kerja.

Semasa upacara perasmian, Cik Annie Ting, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif STA menyatakan bahawa sudah tiba masanya untuk membangunkan modul latihan OSH untuk industri perhutanan dan perkayuan terutamanya untuk pembangunan kapasiti supaya pelatih dalaman dapat menyalurkan pengetahuan OSH kepada pengendali di lapangan.

Ir Dr Nor Halim Bin Hasan, Pengarah DOSH Sarawak, dalam ucapan alu-aluannya berkongsi bahawa Bengkel ini adalah yang pertama seumpamanya di Malaysia.

Notice for Submission of Registration Application(s) through New Registration Online System - STIDC Timber Industry Information System (STIS)

STA had received a notice dated 18 September 2020 from the General Manager of Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) on submitting registration application(s) through its online system known as “*STIDC Timber Industry Information System (STIS)*”.

The following is an excerpt of the above-mentioned notice, for your information:

I am pleased to inform that STIDC has developed the STIDC Timber Industry Information System (STIS), which enable the timber related activities to be registered online.

Therefore, effective **1st September 2020**, all registration application(s) have to be submitted through STIS for processing and approval by STIDC officers. This System also enable the user to make payment online and to print the approved Certificate of Registration.

Kindly click to the link below to access to the system:

<https://stis.sarawaktimber.gov.my>

Please contact our Registration officers at the nearest STIDC Offices for **username and password** for renewal of registration application. Meanwhile, any new application can be accessed through new sign up.

砂拉越木材公会 (STA) 收到砂拉越木材工业发展机构 (STIDC) 总经理的来函通知相关其称为 “STIDC Timber Industry Information System (STIS)” 的在线提交申请注册系统。来函的摘录如同英文版中列出。

STA telah menerima notis daripada Pengurus Besar Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC) bertarikh 18 September 2020 mengenai penghantaran permohonan pendaftaran melalui sistem dalam taliannya yang dikenali sebagai “*Sistem Maklumat Industri Kayu STIDC (STIS)*”. Petikan notis adalah seperti yang disenaraikan dalam artikel ini.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development (MINTRED) and Economic Planning Unit (EPU) Sarawak jointly organised the Industry Engagement Session with the Minister of Finance, Senator Dato' Sri Tengku Zafrul Bin Tengku Abdul Aziz, on 17 September 2020, at Hilton Hotel, Kuching.

In his remarks, Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Bin Ali Hasan, Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak, who is also the Minister of International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development cum Second Minister of Urban Development and Natural Resources, mentioned that the economic growth of Sarawak must leapfrog from 4% to 5% annually over the last few years to 8% annually in order to achieve its aspiration of becoming a high income economy by 2030 as envisaged by the Sarawak Economic Action Council. To achieve this, the Sarawak Government shall formulate new strategies and implement new initiatives to attract new investments, including digitalising approval processes, cutting red tapes and having regular engagements with industry players.

Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah also highlighted that good basic infrastructures are pre-requisites for Sarawak to be more competitive and attract foreign direct investments. Unfortunately, Sarawak's competitiveness has been hampered by high logistic costs due to poor road, air, sea and internet connectivity. Therefore, he called upon the Minister of Finance to provide more Federal funding to improve the infrastructures in Sarawak, including to establish deep sea ports as well as provide favourable tax incentives to offset against high logistic costs. He also requested for funding to develop more industrial parks such as a new high tech park and a marine engineering park to meet the demand of the investors.

Senator Dato' Sri Tengku Zafrul, in his remarks, underscored Sarawak's contribution to the Malaysian economy. In 2019, Sarawak contributed 9.6% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Malaysia, representing the third highest contributor amongst all the states in the country. Major commodities such as liquefied natural gas (LNG), crude petroleum and palm oil accounted for 64% of Sarawak's total exports and 6.4% of Malaysia's total export.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has tested the resilience of every person and entity, presenting an unprecedented situation with no previous reference to guide us through this testing time. Malaysia's economy is expected to contract in 2020 with job losses as high as 2 million predicted, and it is uncertain if the situation will normalise in 2021.

He shared that the Federal Government had come up with an approach comprising six (6) key stages in the fight against COVID-19 and rebuilding the nation's economy,

i.e. Resolve, Resilience, Restart, Recovery, Revitalise and Reform. Both PRIHATIN Economic Stimulus Package and PENJANA or National Economic Recovery Plan were rolled out to address immediate and short term economic recovery. The upcoming Federal Budget 2021, which is to be announced on 6 November 2020, is the fifth stage of the nation's economic recovery journey – Revitalise. The budget shall focus on four (4) key areas which are Caring for the People, Steering the Economy, Enabling Sustainable Living and Enhancing Service Delivery. This Session has provided a timely opportunity for his Ministry to discuss how the Sarawak Government and representatives from various industries can work together with the Federal Government to improve the nation's economy.

The Engagement Session commenced after remarks by the Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak and the Minister of Finance. Moderated by Datuk Amar Jaul Samion, Sarawak State Secretary, representatives from associations and business chambers of key sectors in Sarawak such as oil and gas, manufacturing, agro-commodities, tourism and timber raised issues affecting them and put forward requests for the consideration of Ministry of Finance (MOF).

Several associations and business chambers requested the Federal Government to provide more funds for the Special Relief Facility (SRF) as well as incentives to assist the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from Sarawak. According to Datuk Amar Jaul Samion, a total of 2,443 applicants from Sarawak had applied for the SRF which had an allocation of RM10 billion. While some applications had been approved totalling up to RM944 million, there were still 2,097 applicants whose applications were not approved or pending for approval.

Senator Dato' Sri Tengku Zafrul mentioned that the RM10 billion under the SRF has been exhausted due to overwhelming demand. Nevertheless, he took note of the requests for more funds and incentives. The Federal Government is considering a more targeted approach to assist the most affected industries.

He also highlighted several other schemes that the Federal Government has put in place to assist affected businesses such as Automation and Digitalisation Facility (ADF) and Danajamin PRIHATIN Guarantee Scheme (DPGS). ADF is a loan scheme worth RM300 million to incentivise SMEs to automate processes and digitalise operations to increase productivity and efficiency, while DPGS is a scheme worth RM50 billion which covers up to 80% of the loan amount for financing capital requirements. Other available schemes include All Economic Sector (AES) Facility, Agrofood Facility (AF) and Micro Enterprises Facility (MEF).

Both Mr Philip Choo, STA Honorary Treasurer, and Mr Andrew Cheng, Chief Executive Officer of Sarawak Oil Palm Plantation Owners Association, took this opportunity to highlight the predicaments faced by both the forest plantation industry and oil palm industry arising from the implementation of the 7-year limitation on the carry forward of unabsorbed business losses. Both industries involve huge capital investments which cannot be recovered within 7 years. On top of that, the forest plantation industry is affected by long gestation period as it takes years, 7 to 15 years depending on the species, before the trees planted can be harvested for revenue generation purposes. This means that the losses accumulated cannot be used to set off against future income and will be permanently lost before the company starts harvesting to generate revenue.

Senator Dato' Sri Tengku Zafrul explained that this tax law was introduced to ensure unutilised allowances and losses are not carried forward excessively, causing revenue leakages to the Government. He informed that the issue affects not only the forest plantation and oil palm industries, but also the telecommunications, logistics and energy sectors. Hence, the MOF is currently reviewing this tax law and he is optimistic that this issue can be addressed.

Datuk Amar Jaul Samion concluded the Engagement Session by highlighting that Sarawak suffers from a number of disadvantages. In particular, the disadvantages of Sarawak's location have resulted in higher shipping costs and costs of production. Thus, the cost of doing business is higher in Sarawak compared to Peninsular Malaysia and this has affected the competitiveness of the businesses in Sarawak. He appealed to Senator Dato' Sri Tengku Zafrul to assist businesses in Sarawak to be more competitive.

Senator Dato' Sri Tengku Zafrul gave his assurance that the MOF will endeavour to address the issues and concerns raised by the Sarawak Government and business community.

Also present in the Session were Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah Bin Haji Yusof, Senior Minister of Works; Datu Liaw Soon Eng, Permanent Secretary of MINTRED; and Madam Zakiah Binti Jaafar, Deputy Secretary General of MOF.

The EPU Sarawak received a total of eighty-two (82) issues from various chambers and associations. As not all issues were discussed in this Engagement Session, EPU Sarawak shall compile and submit all these issues to MOF.



Engagement Session in progress

砂国际贸易与工业部，工业化枢纽与企业发展部（MINTRED）和砂经济策划单位（EPU）于2020年9月17日假古晋希尔顿酒店联合举办了业界与财政部长拿督斯里东姑赛夫鲁参议员的对话会议。

砂州主要行业如石油与天然气、制造业、农商品业、旅游业和木材业的公会与商会代表提出了影响他们的问题以及要求财政部（MOF）考虑的请求。

本会荣誉财政朱光辉先生借此机会强调人工造林工业面对在结转未吸收业务损失的7年限制实施后所产生的困境。

Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri, Terminal Perindustrian dan Pembangunan Usahawan (MINTRED) dan Unit Perancang Ekonomi (EPU) Sarawak telah bersama-sama menganjurkan Sesi Penglibatan Industri dengan Menteri Kewangan, Senator Dato' Sri Tengku Zafrul Bin Tengku Abdul Aziz pada 17 September 2020, Hotel Hilton, Kuching.

Wakil-wakil daripada persatuan dan dewan perniagaan bagi sektor utama di Sarawak seperti minyak dan gas, pembuatan, agro-komoditi, pelancongan dan perkayuan menimbulkan pelbagai isu yang telah memberi kesan kepada mereka serta mengemukakan permintaan untuk pertimbangan oleh Kementerian Kewangan (MOF).

Encik Philip Choo, Bendahari Kehormat STA, telah menggariskan kesukaran yang dihadapi oleh industri ladang hutan ekoran daripada pelaksanaan had 7-tahun untuk membawa kerugian perniagaan yang tidak diserap.

MTA Executive Committee Meeting No 2/2020

The Malaysian Timber Association (MTA) Executive Committee (EXCO) Meeting was conducted for the second time this year on 4 September 2020 via a combination of physical and virtual meeting. The Meeting was presided over by Mr Goh Chee Yew, President of MTA.

During the Meeting, MTA EXCO members provided updates on matters or issues that their respective associations are currently undertaking or dealing with including new rules for employees' minimum housing standards in Peninsular Malaysia, consultation of Sabah Timber Industry Master Plan and import restriction on panel products by the Malaysian Timber Industry Board.

马来西亚木材公会（MTA）于2020年9月4日通过实体和线上的结合，召开其本年度第二次执行委员会会议。会议由主席吴志耀先生主持。

MTA 委员会会员在会议中汇报各自公会目前正进行或处理的课题与事项。

会议也商讨马来西亚在联合国环境规划署-世界自然保护监测中心（UNEP-WCMC）于 2020年6月所发布的马来西亚国家概况报告相关事宜的前进方向。

Mesuarat kedua Jawatankuasa Eksekutif Persatuan Kayu Malaysia (MTA) bagi tahun ini telah dilaksanakan pada 4 September 2020 melalui gabungan pertemuan fizikal dan maya. Mesyuarat dipengerusikan oleh Encik Goh Chee Yew, Presiden MTA.

Semasa Mesyuarat, ahli-ahli EXCO MTA berkongsi maklumat terkini mengenai isu-isu semasa yang sedang ditangani oleh persatuan masing-masing.

Mesyuarat juga membincangkan langkah seterusnya untuk Malaysia mengenai "*United Nations Environment Program-World Conservation Monitoring Center (UNEP-WCMC) Malaysia Country Overview Report*" yang diterbitkan pada Jun 2020.

MTA Annual General Meeting 2020

After the MTA Executive Committee Meeting No 2/2020, Mr Goh also chaired the MTA Annual General Meeting 2020. The Meeting approved the Honorary Treasurer's Report and the Audited Financial Statement of the Association for the year 2019 as well as Executive Committee's Report of the Association during the year 2019.

The Meeting also endorsed the Association's donation towards the COVID-19 Relief Fund set up by the Malaysian Timber Council as well as payment of consultation fee for engaging a tax consultant to pursue exemption from the 7-year limitation on the carry forward of unabsorbed business losses for the forest plantation industry.

MTA委员会会议结束后，主席吴志耀先生紧接着主持MTA会员常年大会。会议批准该会2019年的几份报告和赞同该会对马来西亚木材委员会设立的新冠肺炎救济基金的捐款。

Selepas Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Eksekutif MTA Bil. 2/2020, Encik Goh turut mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan MTA 2020. Mesyuarat telah meluluskan beberapa laporan Persatuan untuk tahun 2019 serta menyokong sumbangan oleh Persatuan untuk Tabung Bantuan COVID-19 yang ditubuhkan oleh Majlis Kayu-Kayan Malaysia.

PEFC Public Consultation: Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS)

The MTCS which is developed and operated by the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) and endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) is required to revise its certification standards and other relevant technical documents once every five (5) years. MTCC has submitted its revised standards and other relevant MTCS documentation to PEFC for re-endorsement on 1 July 2020.

To ensure transparency and accountability in the endorsement process, PEFC has called for a stakeholders' consultation through webinar on 8 September 2020. Stakeholders from around the world were invited to comment and feedback on the revised standards and other relevant MTCS documentation.

During the webinar session, Ms Siti Syaliza Mustapha, Senior Manager (Forest Management) of MTCC, shared statistics related to forest certification in Malaysia. As of 30 April 2020, Malaysia has a total of 5,289,676.49 hectares of forest certified under MTCS from 23 Forest Management Units (FMUs) and 7 Forest Plantation Management Units (FPMUs) as well as 2.3 million m³ of MTCS/PEFC certified timber products exported to 68 destinations worldwide.

She further highlighted that the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (Natural Forest) [MC&I (Natural Forest)], which is the certification standard used to assess management practices of natural forests under MTCS since 2012, underwent a review since 2015. After a series of meetings among members of the Standard Review Committee and public consultations, the MC&I (Natural Forest) and MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 were combined into one document, called the MC&I Sustainable Forest Management (MC&I SFM). She also highlighted some of the changes made to the standard.

The MC&I SFM replaces the MC&I (Natural Forest) and MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 standards and will come into force on 1 January 2021.

Recording of the webinar is available at www.pefc.org/news/public-consultation-malaysian-timber-certification-scheme.

由马来西亚木材认证委员会（MTCC）开发和运营并得到森林验证认可计划（PEFC）认可的马来西亚木材认证方案（MTCS），每五（5）年必须修订其认证标准和其他相关技术文件。

MTCC 已将其修订后的标准和其他相关 MTCS 文档提交给 PEFC，以在2020年7月1日重新批准。

为确保认可过程中的透明度和问责制，PEFC 呼吁通过2020年9月8日的线上研讨会让利益相关者咨询。

来自世界各地的利益相关者被邀请对修订后的标准和其他相关 MTCS 文档发表评论和反馈。

MTCS yang dibangunkan dan dikendalikan oleh Majlis Pensijilan Kayu Malaysia (MTCC) dan disahkan oleh Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), perlu untuk menyemak semula piawaian pensijilan dan dokumen teknikal lain yang berkaitan bagi sekali setiap 5 tahun.

MTCC telah mengemukakan piawaian pensijilan dan dokumen teknikal berkaitan yang disemak semula kepada PEFC bagi tujuan pengesahan semula pada 1 Julai 2020.

Untuk memastikan ketelusan dan kebertanggungjawaban dalam proses pengesahan, PEFC telah mengadakan konsultasi dengan pihak berkepentingan melalui webinar pada 8 September 2020.

Pihak berkepentingan daripada seluruh dunia telah dijemput untuk memberi komen dan maklum balas mengenai piawaian pensijilan yang disemak semula dan dokumentasi lain yang berkaitan dengan MTCS.

Online Briefing Session on Revised PEFC Chain of Custody Standard

The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC), the organisation in charge of developing and operating the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS), has adopted the revised Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) Standard (ST) 2002:2020 Chain of Custody (CoC) of Forest and Tree Based Products - Requirements. The revised CoC standard, which entered into force on 14 February 2020, replaces the PEFC ST 2002:2013 CoC of Forest Based Products - Requirements (Second Edition) previously used under MTCS.

On 10 September 2020, MTCC organised an online briefing session to provide stakeholders a better understanding on the requirements and changes made to the revised CoC standard.

One of the notable changes is extending the definition of *"controversial sources"* to cover additional sustainability requirements and provide clearer interpretation on avoiding material originating from unsustainable activities. These include sustainability of production and harvest levels, biodiversity, ecologically important forest areas, fundamental principles and rights to work as well as rights of indigenous people.

Other changes to the CoC standard comprise, among others, (i) introduction of a new *"100% PEFC Origin"* claim for products that contain 100% material from PEFC-certified forests that has been physically separated from any non-certified wood a company may

be using; (ii) Trees Outside Forests or TOF, which are referring to trees growing outside areas of nationally designated forest land, now enter the CoC as forest and tree based products and are no longer categorised as *"neutral material"*; (iii) companies using the credit method can expand their credit accounts from twelve (12) to become twenty-four (24) months; (iv) product groups may cover several sites under multi-site certification; and (v) verification of supplier's certified status shall be done on the PEFC website.

During the session, MTCC also shared the new PEFC ST 2001:2020 Trademarks Rules - Requirements, which replaces the PEFC ST 2001:2008 Logo Usage Rules (Second Edition). One of the important changes is requiring companies to use the PEFC Label Generator which is an online tool to create PEFC trademarks in order to ensure requirement alignment. Apart from this, the *"R"* or *"TM"* symbols have also been removed from the PEFC logo and initials. There are also additional label messages for the PEFC off-product label, so that more options are given to companies, brands and forest owners to communicate their use of certified material. The new PEFC Trademarks standard also entered into force on 14 February 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, PEFC has extended its 18-month transition period by another six (6) months. The new transition date, which is the date by when all procedures need to be in line with the requirements of the 2020 standards, is 14 February 2022.

一个负责马来西亚木材认证方案（MTCS）的开发和运营组织，马来西亚木材认证理事会（MTCC）已采用修订的森林验证认可计划（PEFC）标准（ST）2002:2020的林木产品的产销监管链（CoC）-要求。该修订的CoC标准于2020年2月14日实施，替代了MTCS之前采用的PEFC ST 2002:2013 CoC 林产品-要求（第二版）。

MTCC 于2020年9月10日举办了一项线上简报，以便提供利益相关者更好地了解修订后的 CoC 标准的要求和更改。

Majlis Pensijilan Kayu Malaysia (MTCC) sebuah organisasi yang bertanggungjawab untuk membangunkan dan mengendalikan Skim Pensijilan Kayu Malaysia (MTCS), telah menerima pakai Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) Standard (ST) 2002:2020 Chain of Custody (CoC) of Forest and Tree Based Products - Requirements yang disemak semula. Piawaian CoC yang disemak semula telah berkuatkuasa mulai 14 Februari 2020 menggantikan PEFC ST 2002:2013 CoC of Forest Based Products - Requirements (Edisi Kedua) yang sebelumnya digunakan di bawah MTCS.

Pada 10 September 2020, MTCC telah menganjurkan sesi taklimat dalam talian untuk memberi pemahaman yang lebih baik kepada para pemegang taruh mengenai keperluan dan perubahan dalam standard CoC yang disemak semula.

Meeting on Final Draft of Revised RIL Guidelines

A Meeting on the Final Draft of Revised Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) Guidelines was called by Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, Director of Forests, on 14 September 2020, at the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) office, Bangunan Baitul Makmur II. This Meeting was attended by officers from the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources, FDS, World Wide Fund for Nature Malaysia and STA.

Datu Hamden, in his opening remarks, highlighted that the RIL Guidelines is revised with the objectives to reduce, minimise or avoid adverse impacts on the forest and social environment as well as to be in line with international best practices in timber harvesting

of natural tropical rainforests. The Guidelines has six (6) chapters including (i) Introduction; (ii) Forest Management and General Harvesting Planning; (iii) Pre-harvest Planning; (iv) Harvesting Operations; (v) Safety, Health and Social Benefits; and (vi) Post-harvesting Activities.

In this Meeting, comments were sought from the participants on the final draft of revised RIL Guidelines. The Meeting agreed to form a smaller group to further discuss on a few issues which were raised. An educational video on RIL which was produced by officers from FDS was also shown during the Meeting.

一项针对消减伐木影响（RIL）指南的最终草案会议由森林局局长拿督翰登莫哈末于2020年9月14日假砂森林局（FDS）于伊斯兰福利基金会第二大厦办事处召开。

会议出席者包括来自城市发展和自然资源部，FDS，马来西亚世界自然基金会和本会。

Mesyuarat mengenai Draf Akhir Semakan Semula Garis Panduan Pembalakan Berimpak Rendah (RIL) telah dipengerusikan oleh Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, Pengarah Hutan pada 14 September 2020 di pejabat Jabatan Hutan Sarawak (FDS), Bangunan Baitul Makmur II.

Mesyuarat dihadiri oleh pegawai-pegawai daripada Kementerian Pembangunan Bandar dan Sumber Asli, FDS, Tabung Alam Sedunia Malaysia dan STA.



STA
PHOTOGRAPHY
CONTEST

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

Entry Deadline:
30 November 2020

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Fostering Broader Conversations ab

STA and its members will step up efforts to facilitate engagements between key stakeholders, namely the Sarawak Government, timber operators and local communities. An engaging and respectful relationship among all key stakeholders in the industry is important in order to achieve the Sarawak Government's goal of establishing a forest management industry that is both sustainable and viable.

One such initiative was a seminar organised by STA member, Syarikat Samling Timber Sdn Bhd on Communities and the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) at Mega Hotel, Miri, on 25 September 2020. The seminar facilitated a knowledge sharing platform that would benefit local communities, to help them understand better and gain greater insights on forest certification in Sarawak as well as its benefits and impacts on local communities. The seminar, supported by the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), was attended by approximately ninety (90) representatives from the local communities, non-governmental organisation (NGO) and forest certification-related agencies.

Datu Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, Director of Forests, said in his opening remarks read by Mr Abang Ahmad Abang Morni, Deputy Director of Forests II, that the Sarawak Government has made it mandatory for all long-term forest timber licensees to obtain Forest Management Certification (FMC) as part of the Sarawak Government's commitment to ensure that forests and their resources are managed in a sustainable manner.

He also shared that, thus far, fourteen (14) Forest Management Units (FMUs) amounting to 1.3 million hectares of Sarawak's natural forests, had been certified under MTCS which is endorsed by the international organisation, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

The MTCS Standard was developed and reviewed by a multi-stakeholder review committee that comprised representatives from various stakeholder groups which included independently elected representatives from indigenous people, workers' unions, environmental and economics groups, and relevant government agencies from Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. The multi-stakeholder committee ensured that a range of issues including environmental, economic, social and those related to forests, are addressed in the Standard. The MTCS Standard can be found on the MTCC website at <https://mtcc.com.my/certification-standards/>.

The following six (6) speakers also shared a range of subjects:

- **Paper 1: Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Management Certification in Sarawak**
by Mdm Evelyn Jugi from FDS

- **Paper 2: Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS)**
by Ms Siti Syaliza Bt Mustapha, Senior Manager (Forest Management) at Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC)

- **Paper 3: MTCS Audit Process**
by Mr Khairul Najwan B Ahmad Jahari, Senior Lead Auditor at SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd

- **Paper 4: High Conservation Value Assessment and the MTCS: Local Communities – Benefits and Responsibilities**
by Dr Samantha Liew, Senior Officer from World Wide Fund for Nature Malaysia (WWF-Malaysia)

- **Paper 5: Social Impact Assessment and the MTCS: Local Communities – Benefits**
by Dr Roland Kueh, Senior Lecturer of Universiti Putra Malaysia Bintulu Sarawak Campus (UPMKB)

- **Paper 6: Perspective of Local Community on Forest Certification**
by Mr Peter Kallang, Chairman of SAVE Rivers, replacing Mr Thomas Jalong, Secretary-General of Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (JOAS)

The final session of the day was moderated by Dr Jason Hon, Head of WWF-Malaysia (Sarawak), when all speakers made themselves available to take questions from the representatives of local communities.

Over the various sessions, the panel explained clearly the process an organisation would go through to obtain certification. All FMUs are guided by MTCS Standard and a Forest Management Plan (FMP) which covers planned forestry activities, protection, monitoring, and control arrangements. The FMP must first be approved by the Director of Forests and includes the environmental and social impact assessments, and high conservation value assessments as well as mechanisms in the engagement or participation of relevant local communities in the management of FMU area. Upon being certified, the public summary of the FMP will be posted by the respective FMUs on their websites. The FMU's compliance to the FMP and to the MTCS Standard is subject to regulatory oversight by various agencies, and also monitored annually through independent third party FMC surveillance audits.

about Forest Management Certification

The panel of speakers highlighted the importance of engagement and communication between all stakeholders. In particular, effective two-way communication between FMU and members of local communities is crucial in order to effectively address and resolve any issues arising from the FMC process.



From left: Dr Jason Hon, Policy Manager of WWF-Malaysia; Mr Peter Kallang, Chairman of SAVE Rivers; Mr Abg Ahmad Abg Morni, Deputy Director of Forests; and Ms Siti Syaliza Bt Mustapha, Senior Manager (Forest Management) of MTCC

One important platform for such engagement is the Community Representative Committee (CRC) which typically consists of village leaders. The CRC allows local communities to raise any concerns or share opinions and suggestions for further deliberation by the Forest Management Certification Liaison Committee (FMCLC). The FMCLC which consists of representatives from forest-related government agencies, CRC and FMU is formed to look after the interest of community.

Participants at the seminar clearly saw that all appropriate mechanisms to address issues between different stakeholders are already available to local communities located within an FMU and registered with the local District Office. It was also clear that local communities and FMUs need to arrive at an agreement before a decision can be made to progress any development plans further. However, it was acknowledged that more awareness raising exercises should be conducted to ensure that local communities are aware of the existence and value of such platforms, which would also facilitate their meaningful participation during community engagement.

One challenge to effective community engagement is the migration to urban areas by younger members of the communities seeking better living standards for their families. An organisation seeking to engage meaningfully with a community would find only elderly members in villages, which could raise concerns when it comes to obtaining consent.

Mr Khairul Najwan, who has practical knowledge and wisdom born of experience from many years as an FMC auditor, reminded participants that CRC is part of the requirements for sustainable forest management and certification in Sarawak. He urged local communities to make use of the proper mechanisms and channels that are available within the certification process to actively bring up issues affecting the local communities.

This seminar by Syarikat Samling Timber Sdn Bhd has met its intention which is to raise the awareness and understanding of timber certification process as well as the roles of the different stakeholders. STA was given to understand that the company will look into the matters raised during the seminar.

本会及其会员将加紧努力促进主要利益相关者，即砂州政府，木材业者和当地社区之间的互动。所有主要利益相关者之间的互动和相互尊重的关系对于实现砂州政府建立可持续和可行的森林管理目标至关重要。

由本会会员三林木材有限公司于2020年9月25日假美里美佳酒店所举办的一项关于社区和马来西亚木材认证计划 (MTCS) 的研讨会便是其中的倡议。

该研讨会提供一个知识共享平台，让当地社区受益，以促进帮助他们更深入了解砂拉越森林认证的见识及其对当地社区的利益和影响。

STA dan ahli-ahlinya akan memperkasakan usahanya untuk memudahkan penglibatan di antara pihak pemegang taruh utama, iaitu Kerajaan Sarawak, operator balak dan komuniti tempatan. Hubungan erat dan hormat-menghormati dalam kalangan semua pemegang taruh utama industri adalah penting untuk mencapai matlamat Kerajaan Sarawak bagi menubuhkan industri pengurusan hutan yang mampan dan berdaya maju.

Salah satu inisiatif adalah melalui seminar yang dianjurkan oleh ahli STA, Syarikat Samling Timber Sdn Bhd mengenai Komuniti dan Skim Pensijilan Hutan Malaysia (MTCS) di Hotel Mega, Miri pada 25 September 2020.

Seminar tersebut telah menyediakan platform perkongsian pengetahuan yang boleh memanfaatkan komuniti tempatan, membantu mereka untuk lebih memahami dan mendapatkan pandangan yang lebih menyeluruh tentang pensijilan hutan di Sarawak serta manfaat dan kesan ke atas komuniti tempatan.

MTC Webinar: Doing Business in the USA

The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) organised a webinar entitled *“Doing Business in the USA”* on 29 September 2020. The objective of the webinar was to provide pertinent information on the current market situation of furniture products in the United States of America (USA), as well as how Malaysian manufacturers and businesses can take this opportunity to go into the USA market.

The webinar featured two (2) experienced speakers from the furniture industry in the USA, namely Mr Alfred Bolton, Managing Partner of High Point Exhibitions Inc (HPE); and Mr Michael Waggoner, President and Chief Executive Officer of American Furniture Connection LLC (AFC). The webinar was moderated by Mr Chow Khoon Liam, Regional Head of MTC Americas.

29 September 2020 | Tuesday
8.00 pm (Malaysian time) | 8.00 am (American time)

**MALAYSIA - USA
“DOING BUSINESS
IN THE USA”**

Malaysian Representative
Mr Wong Kah Cane
Deputy CEO
MTC

Moderator
Mr Chow Khoon Liam
Regional Head
MTC Americas

American Representative
Mr Alfred L. Bolton
Managing Partner
High Point Exhibitions, Inc

To register :
<http://mtc.com.my/doingbusinessinusa>

*You will receive an email notification with the login details from MTC by 28 September 2020

Webinar “Doing Business in the USA” organised by MTC

Both Mr Bolton and Mr Waggoner introduced the roles of their organisation. According to Mr Bolton, HPE creates and operates special pavilions, showrooms and promotions for international companies, associations and governments to exhibit at the semi-annual High Point Home Furnishings Market (HPHFM) and Las Vegas Home Furniture Market. Sharing information about the HPHFM, he said it receives buyers from different regions in the USA with the top five (5) buyer companies being Furnitureland South, Wayfair, Rooms To Go, Lowe’s and Costco. On the other hand, Mr Waggoner shared that AFC is a furniture marketing consulting organisation that advises and assists home furnishing manufacturers around the world on how and where to sell their products in the USA market.

Affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the year 2020 has been tough for both consumers and furniture makers in the USA. As the country was on a lockdown, the manufacturing line was disrupted from 1 March 2020 until the beginning of June 2020. All sectors along the entire local supply chain including the furniture sector were deeply impacted. The major concern among businesses in the USA is the uncertainty on what is in store in the near future and what will happen when the situation recovers and for businesses to resume like before.

However, both speakers believed that there are currently opportunities for Malaysian manufacturers and businesses to enter the USA market for furniture sector. Specifically, a continued growth is forecasted for the sales of home office furniture within the next few months as more people work from home due to the pandemic. In the USA, some companies have also provided allowances to their employees for the purchases of home office furniture. Meanwhile, online sales are also anticipated to increase due to the convenience of products purchased being delivered directly to the homes of consumers.

While price remains a key element, the most important driving factor for furniture buyers in the USA is the consistency of the product that can be delivered on time and as promised. Currently, USA furniture retailers are unable to secure enough products because the local supply chain has not caught up and they are looking to other countries to place orders.

Both speakers encouraged Malaysian manufacturers and businesses to produce quality products that are unique, well-designed and fairly priced in order to attract buyers in the USA market.

马来西亚木材理事会（MTC）于2020年9月29日举办题目为“在美国经商”线上研讨会。该线上研讨会的目的是提供有关美国家具产品当前市场形势的相关信息，以及马来西亚制造商和企业如何利用这个机会进入美国市场。

线上研讨会邀请2名来自美国家具行业的资深发言人主讲。

受到新冠肺炎疫情的影响，2020年对于美国的消费者和家具制造商而言是艰难的一年。由于该国处于封锁状态，生产线从2020年3月1日到2020年6月初受到冲击。当地供应链中的所有企业包括家具业都受到了深远的影响。

但是，两位发言人都认为，马来西亚制造商和企业目前有机会进入美国家具行业市场。具体来说，更多人因新冠肺炎疫情而待在家里办公，预计未来几个月内家庭办公家具的销售量将持续增长。

Majlis Kayu Malaysia (MTC) telah menganjurkan webinar bertajuk “*Menjalankan Perniagaan di USA*” pada 29 September 2020. Objektif webinar adalah untuk memberikan maklumat berkaitan dengan situasi semasa pasaran produk perabot di Amerika Syarikat (USA) dan juga bagaimana pengeluar dan perniaga Malaysia dapat mengambil peluang ini untuk menembusi pasaran USA.

Webinar itu menampilkan 2 penceramah berpengalaman daripada industri perabot di USA.

Terkesan oleh wabak COVID-19, tahun 2020 merupakan tahun yang mencabar untuk pengguna dan pembuat perabot di USA. Ketika negara dikenakan kawalan pergerakan, industri pembuatan telah terganggu dari 1 Mac 2020 hingga awal Jun 2020. Semua sektor di rantai bekalan tempatan termasuk sektor perabot telah teruk terjejas.

Walau bagaimanapun, kedua-dua penceramah percaya terdapat peluang semasa untuk para pengeluar dan peniaga sektor perabot di Malaysia untuk memasuki pasaran USA. Terutamanya, pertumbuhan berterusan dijangka untuk penjualan perabot pejabat rumah dalam beberapa bulan yang akan datang kerana semakin banyak orang yang bekerja dari rumah disebabkan oleh wabak tersebut .

Transfer of Work Functions from Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd (SFC) to Forest Department Sarawak (FDS)

STA had received a notice with reference number (49)JHS/500-6/2/100/Jld.1 dated 11 September 2020 from FDS on 28 September 2020 addressed to all Forest Timber Licensees, and copied to STA, on the above subject.

The following is an excerpt of the above-mentioned notice, for your information:

2. Effective from 2nd January 2020, all the functions related to Forest Operations under the jurisdiction of Forest Ordinance 2015 has been transferred to Forest Department Sarawak. Therefore, pertaining to this matter, any reference made in the work process and documentation in the name of SFC shall be change to FDS as the implementing agency with immediate effect.
3. Kindly amend your company work process/flow, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and relevant guidelines accordingly.

本会收到砂森林局编号(49)JHS/500-6/2/100/Jld.1发给所有森林木材许可证持有人，并复本本会的通告。通告的摘录如同英文版中所列出。

STA telah menerima notis dengan rujukan (49)JHS/500-6/2/100/Jld.1 yang bertarikh 11 September 2020 dari Jabatan Hutan Sarawak pada 28 September 2020 yang ditujukan kepada semua Pemegang Lesen Hutan, dan disalinkan kepada STA mengenai perkara di atas. Petikan notis adalah seperti yang disenaraikan dalam artikel ini.



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.