

September 2017

For Private Circulation Only

Issue 231

This monthly news bulletin is produced by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) to disseminate information to our counterparts on training, research and other relevant areas.

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## 20th Tri-Nation Joint Meeting of JPMA/JLIA/APKINDO/STA



Photo (top and bottom): Meeting in progress

The 20th Tri-Nation Joint Meeting of Japan Plywood Manufacturers' Association (JPMA), Japan Lumber Importers' Association (JLIA), Assosiasi Panel Kayu Indonesia (APKINDO) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) was held on 19 September 2017 at Fairmont Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia.

This year, sixty two (62) participants; two (2) from JPMA, seventeen (17) from JLIA, thirty six (36) from APKINDO, and seven (7) from STA, attended the Meeting, which was hosted by APKINDO. The heads of delegation from all three (3) nations; Mr A A Malik, Secretary General of APKINDO, Mr Akihisa Fukuda, Chairman of JLIA, Mr Atsuhiko Inoue, Chairman of JPMA and Dato' Sri Patrick Wong, Honorary Treasurer of STA Panel Products Committee, hoped that this meeting, which started since 6 December 1999, would enable the nations to continue to discuss the supply and demand of panel products

as well as to work closely together for the benefit of all parties involved.

During the Meeting, each Association presented their country's market report. Among the issues discussed were the log production from natural forests and planted forests in Malaysia and Indonesia; domestic plywood production in Japan; forestry policies of Sarawak; supply and demand of plywood; legality, verification and certification as well as consumption by biomass power plants.

The Meeting agreed that increased in costs of machineries, labour and fuel as well as stronger Ringgit Malaysia and Indonesian Rupiah against US Dollar in the previous quarter had made it tougher for the running of business. The shift in raw material supply from natural forests to planted forests in future is inevitable. Despite the increased in

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plywood production in Japan, the Japanese importers still require hardwood plywood from Malaysia and Indonesia. All parties further agreed that continued support from each other in this difficult economic time is very much needed. The 21st Tri-Nation Joint Meeting will be held in Tokyo, Japan in 2018.

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## Presentation Ceremony of Sarawak Timber Association's Financial Contributions to Social & Welfare Organisations in Conjunction with the 81st Birthday Celebration of His Excellency The Governor of Sarawak, Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud

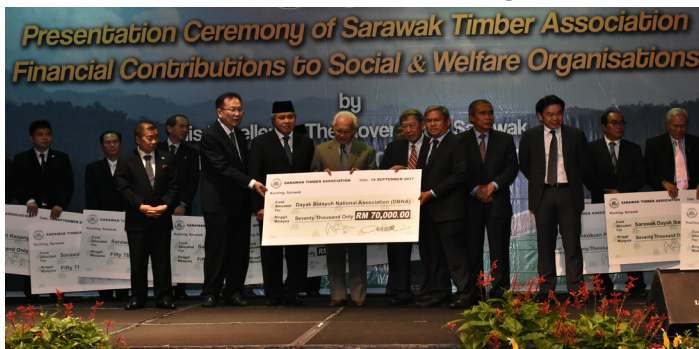


Photo (left): Representative from one of the selected Social and Welfare Organisations receiving the mock cheque; (right) His Excellency cutting a slice out of the birthday cake presented to him for his 81st birthday

Sarawak Timber Association (STA), in collaboration with Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and the support of officers from the Astana Negeri Sarawak, State Protocol, Public Relations Unit and other related government agencies organised a "Presentation Ceremony of Sarawak Timber Association's Financial Contributions to Social & Welfare Organisations" in conjunction with the 81st Birthday Celebration of His Excellency The Governor of Sarawak, Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud on 14 September 2017 at the Pullman Hotel, Kuching.

Prior to the Presentation Ceremony, a delegation comprising representatives from both STA and FDS paid a Courtesy Call to His Excellency The Governor of Sarawak, Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud at his residence on 13 September 2017. The Courtesy Call was led by Datu Len Talif Salleh, Assistant Minister of

Urban Planning, Land Administration and Environment to brief the Governor on the Presentation Ceremony which has the objective of accentuating STA's continuous commitment and belief in giving back to the society, through its subsidiary company, STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM).

Dato Henry Lau Lee Kong, Honorary Secretary of STA in his welcoming speech during the Presentation Ceremony, highlighted that His Excellency's farsighted vision and support in the last three (3) decades had enabled the industry to steer and chart not only progresses but also overcome many challenges such as rising costs, volatility of markets and attacks by non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

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### Did you know that.....

United States (US) withdrawal from the Paris Agreement could mean three billion tones more of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere each year, increasing the rate of rising sea levels and melting ice sheets. The US could add as much as 0.3 degrees Celsius to global warming by the end of the century. However, under the rules of the Paris Agreement, the process of the US withdrawal could take at least three years, making the US decision to formally leave the accord only valid by the year 2020.

Source: COP 23 hopes to move Paris accord forward, <http://www.scidev.net/asia-pacific/climate-change/analysis-blog/cop-23-hopes-to-move-paris-accord-forward.html>



## Did you also know that....

Reclamation works for the Forest City in Johor, a China-funded real estate project launched in 2014 is currently ongoing and four artificial islands will soon rise up from the waters and bringing Malaysia's shoreline ever closer to Singapore. The magnitude of the construction works has raised concern among environmentalists who claimed that it could have dire consequences on the local ecosystems if left unsupervised. The project is also purported to have invaded a nearby intertidal seagrass meadow, potentially altering currents and threatening the ecosystem's rich biodiversity.

Source: Malaysia's Forest City and the damage done, <https://thediplomat.com/2017/08/malysias-forest-city-and-the-damage-done/>



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Datuk Patinggi Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, the Chief Minister of Sarawak, in his speech read by Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Deputy Chief Minister urged the timber industry players to take up the challenge set forth by the State Government to adopt the latest technologies in running their operations to help expedite the digital economy embarked by the State Government and at the same time ensuring that the timber industry remains relevant.

The auspicious occasion, attended by approximately 300 representatives from the selected Social and Welfare

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Organisations, universities, members of STA as well as State's forestry agencies witnessed the distribution of funds allocated by STA, amounting to RM1.07 million to 19 selected Social and Welfare Organisations in the State.

The funds allocated to these organisations are in line with the State Government's aim to improve the overall quality of life and well-being of its people. It is hoped that the funds allocated will be able to assist these organisations in financing and implementing projects as well as activities that will further enhance their range of activities and efforts to improve the social and welfare lives of the needy.

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## 7th Occupational Safety and Health Campaign for the Timber Industry



Photo (left): Participants of the Campaign guided through the exercise of identifying hazards in workplace through HIRARC; (right): Participants listened attentively to an explanation given by DOSH Officer during ground inspection.

The 7th series of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Campaign for the Timber Industry was jointly organised by Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) Sarawak and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) from 13 to 14 September 2017 in Berkakap Camp, Kapit.

The 2-day Campaign was attended by forty (40) workers, comprising a camp manager, tree fellers, lorry drivers, tractor operators and etc. The objectives of this Campaign were to promote and create awareness on the importance of OSH in the workplace as well as to conduct ground inspection to assess safety practises in the logging activities.

Mr Donny Ron, Executive Officer (Operation Section) of STIDC Sibul, in his opening remarks informed participants that this Campaign was organised at camp level in order to reach out to workers working in remote areas.

During the Campaign, five (5) papers were presented by Mr Haizul Afta Bin Masri and Mr Hong Boon Jing, both from DOSH Sarawak which provided participants of the Campaign with introduction to (i) OSH Act (OSHA) 1994, (ii) Occupational Safety and Health (Use and Standard of Exposure Chemical Hazardous to Health) Regulations 2000 (USECHH Regulations) as well as (iii)

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Occupational Safety and Health (Notification of Accident, Dangerous Occurrence, Occupational Poisoning and Occupational Disease) Regulations 2004 (NADOPOD).

In addition to that, the participants of the Campaign were also briefed on the use of simple Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Risk Control (HIRARC) techniques

and processes to identify various hazardous in the workplace as well as on the importance of setting up Occupational Safety and Health Committee.

Following that, a ground inspection was conducted by DOSH officers and joined by participants of the Campaign to evaluate the compliance of OSH requirements in Berkakap Camp.

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## **Weight to Volume Conversion Factor Study for Planted Kelampayan and *Eucalyptus pellita* Logs – 2nd Series**

The second series of the Weight to Volume Conversion Factor Study for Kelampayan and *Eucalyptus pellita* was conducted from 11 to 14 September 2017 in Bintulu and participated by eleven (11) representatives from Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and STA Secretariat. The objective of the Study was to derive the conversion factor which will be used in royalty and cess assessment of planted Kelampayan and *Eucalyptus pellita* logs.

The second series of study was conducted in collaboration with STA members' companies, i.e. WTK Reforestation Sdn Bhd and Samling Reforestation (Bintulu) Sdn Bhd.

The study group measured the weight and volume of thirty (30) planted Kelampayan and *Eucalyptus pellita* full-length logs provided by STA members' companies. The study group also selected seven (7) full-length logs of Kelampayan and *Eucalyptus pellita* for laboratory testing. These logs were transported to the Timber Technology Centre (TTC), SFC in Kuching for basic density, moisture content and bark percentage determination.

The weight to volume conversion factor for planted Kelampayan and *Eucalyptus pellita* logs will be determined by comparing the results from both field measurement and laboratory testing.