

SEEDLINKS

THE NEWS PULSE OF MALAYSIAN TIMBER CERTIFICATION COUNCIL



► Page 7 & 8

MC&I SFM: NEW STANDARD FOR SFM CERTIFICATION PUBLISHED

The MC&I SFM is the **new certification standard for sustainable management of natural forest and forest plantation under the MTCS**. It replaces the MC&I(Natural Forest) and MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 standards and will come into force on **January 1, 2021**.

► Page 9 & 10

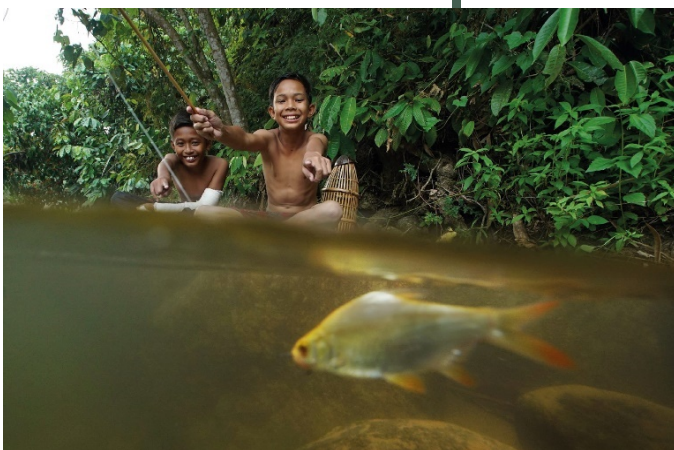
TEO SENG PAPER PRODUCTS OFFERS FIRST MTCS/PEFC-CERTIFIED EGG TRAY IN SUPPORT OF SDGS

Johor-based Teo Seng Paper Products Sdn Bhd stamped a mark in the local paper industry when it recently became **the first company in Malaysia to obtain the CoC Certification under the PEFC for its eco-friendly egg trays**.

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COVID-19 AFFECTS TIMBER BUSINESS; PEFC ISSUES GUIDANCE ON AUDITING PEFC CERTIFIED COMPANIES

MTCC urges all certification bodies under the MTCS to follow the guidance if such restrictions are also imposed in Malaysia. The guidance has **entered into force on March 10, 2020** and is applicable until the PEFC Council revokes it.



MTCC PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST: MORE PRIZES UP FOR GRABS!

► Page 11 & 12

Calling all nature photography enthusiasts! The MTCC Photography Contest returns this year and invites avid photographers to test their skills and submit their best shots which capture the uniqueness of Malaysia's tropical forests.

SEEDLINKS is a quarterly e-newsletter published by MTCC and is available for download at www.mtcc.com.my



A NOTE FROM THE CEO

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present to you the first issue of SEEDLINKS published by the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC). The name SEEDLINKS is inspired by the MTCC logo. As seedlings symbolise growth, new hope and the future, the name reflects the overall content of the newsletter - which is compact with the latest developments and fresh takes on any issues concerning certification and sustainable forest management and how they can help the forest and timber industries to grow, be it at the local or global level. SEEDLINKS is crafted to serve as a bridge to link MTCC with its various stakeholders and strengthen the network.

This quarterly issue is initiated as one of MTCC's initiatives to consistently reach out to you, our valued reader, and keep you updated on certification-related information and industry developments by leveraging all available communication channels. It also fits nicely with the MTCC Strategy 2020-2025 (a short-term action plan to beef up MTCC's certification efforts), in which one of its seven key enablers is to develop closer collaboration with stakeholders and increase effort on communication, education and public awareness.

Despite kicking things off on a positive note at the beginning of the year, the COVID-19 outbreak in Malaysia and across the globe took us all off guard. The global pandemic is having a significant and growing impact on communities and businesses. Various activities are restricted or put to a halt following the movement control order (MCO) or lockdown orders imposed by the affected countries to curb the wave of infections. The situation also sees working from home or WFH becomes the new norm as offices remain closed during MCO.

The local timber industry is not spared from the pandemic impact. In a statement on March 19, the newly appointed Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Dato' Dr Mohd Khairuddin Aman Razali said the timber sector is allowed to resume their activities during MCO period from March 18 to 31 to fulfil the existing contract orders, with companies required to take the necessary COVID-19 prevention and control measures. In a follow-up statement to BERNAMA on March 22, the Ministry said companies need to apply to the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) to be considered for the exemption from MCO, with the processing activities conducted only within the required time frame. In that context, I am aware that not all MTCS-certified timber companies have been allowed to operate over the MCO period and empathise with the challenges that you have to face in this uncertain time.

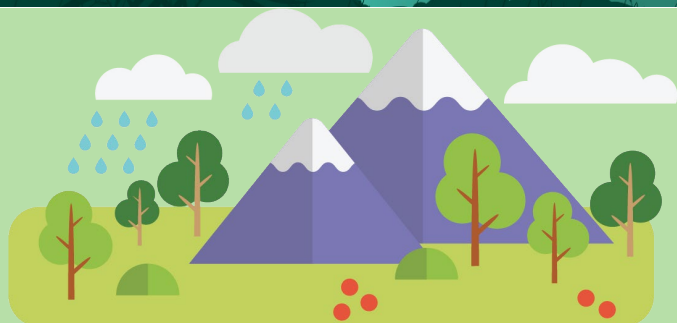
Although the pandemic is keeping us on our toes, let's address this challenge and remain optimistic. Take it as a time to re-think business strategies to stay resilient in weathering the current repercussions as well as the after-effects of the global crisis. Think beyond the pandemic period and create new plans to face the likely shift in industry competitions and tackle the new normal in business.

Last but not least, value the time you are spending with your loved ones at home and remain productive while WFH. Be calm, stay healthy and safe and let's pray and hope for the best.

Yong Teng Koon
Chief Executive Officer

2019 AT A GLANCE

(Full report on page 14 & 15)



FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

23 FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT (FMU)

PENINSULA (5)
SARAWAK (14)
SABAH (4)

16 FMUs
(Natural Forest)
4,255,650.49 mil ha

7 FPMUs
(Forest Plantation)
120,971.06 mil ha

↑2 INCREASE
FMU IN
SARAWAK

↑1 INCREASE
FPMU IN
SARAWAK

↓1 DECREASE
FMU IN
PENINSULA



CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATION

381 TIMBER COMPANIES

PENINSULA (355)
SARAWAK (16)
SABAH (10)

61 NEW
Companies

↑21 NETT INCREASE
COMPANIES
COMPARED TO 2018



EXPORT OF MTCS-CERTIFIED TIMBER PRODUCTS

↓ Plunged **30.2%**
from 2018 export volume

MAJOR IMPORTER: THE NETHERLANDS
26.87% of the total export volume

Total amount of MTCS-certified timber
exported in 2019: **243,366.81m³**

Cumulative total of certified timber and timber
products exported from 2002 to December
2019: **2,202,419.65m³**

GENERAL NEWS



MTCC WELCOMES NEW MINISTER AND DEPUTIES

The month of March saw changes in the political landscape in Malaysia which consequently led to the formation of a new Malaysian cabinet line-up led by Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the country's eighth Prime Minister.

The development also led to the appointment of YB Dato' Dr Mohd Khairuddin Aman Razali as the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities and YB Dato' Sri Dr Wee Jeck Seng and YB Willie Anak Mongin as Deputy Ministers on March 9. MTCC looks forward to working closely with them to advance Malaysia's aspirations and goals for sustainable forest management and certification.

MTCC wishes to record an appreciation to YB Teresa Kok and YB Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin for their strong support of the organisation's work during their tenure as the Minister and Deputy Minister.

On another note, March also saw the end of MTCC chairmanship of Datuk K. Yogeesvaran. MTCC would like to thank Datuk Yogeesvaran for his dedication and noteworthy contributions to MTCC during his tenure as the chairman of the MTCC Board from July 27, 2018 to March 31, 2020.

MTCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES VISIT SAMLING SEGAN FPMU

The MTCC Board of Trustees took the opportunity of its 83rd meeting held in Sarawak to visit the MTCS-certified Samling Segan Forest Plantation Management Unit (FPMU) in Bintulu on 4 March. The Board was briefed by Mr. David Marsden, the Chief Forester and observed the overall forest plantation management practices of the FPMU, including its *Acacia mangium* and *Acacia crassiorpa* nurseries.

The Board also visited the MTCS-certified Samling Plywood (Bintulu) Sdn Bhd, to observe the procedures involved in producing certified plywood under the MTCS. The Board was briefed by the company's Certification Manager, Ms Christina Law Sze Chen.



Field trip to Samling Segan FPMU



Board of Trustees being briefed on the operation of Samling Plywood (Bintulu) Sdn Bhd



Visit to Samling Plywood (Bintulu) log yard



Visit to nurseries

MTCC AT 17TH MEETING OF APEC'S EXPERTS GROUP ON ILLEGAL LOGGING AND ASSOCIATED TRADE (EGILAT 17)

APEC Expert Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) was created in 2011 with the goal to enhance the efforts of member economies to take concrete steps to combat illegal logging and associated trade, promote trade in legally harvested forest products, and support capacity building activities in member economies.

Held biannually, EGILAT is seeking to identify:

- i. The issues faced by private sector entities throughout the timber supply chain in trading in legally harvested forest products
- ii. The existing resources or materials that are available to help private-sector entities trade in legally harvested forest products
- iii. Potential actions that could be undertaken by APEC economies (on an individual and collective basis) and other parties (including the private sector, civil society, and international organizations) to support the trade in legally harvested forest products.

The 17th Meeting of EGILAT was held on 6-7 February in Putrajaya to progress the implementation of a two-year policy theme focused on “Advancing the trade and distribution of legally harvested forest products.” MTCC participated in the meeting which brought together twelve economies with two economies participating remotely as well as a number of Non-Member Participants (NMPs) including ITTO, IWPA, EFI and TRAFFIC.

Amongst other, the Meeting was updated on the progress of activities made under the 2-year policy theme which included the conduct of two workshops, a stakeholder survey and development of a compendium of resources. The Meeting noted updates by three economies namely Malaysia, Korea and New Zealand on their respective domestic work to combat illegal logging. During a cross-fora information exchange with several regional and international organizations, MTCC, on behalf of PEFC, shared its capacity building activities involving the APEC Secretariat and highlighted opportunities for APEC economies to utilize certification systems to promote the trade in legal timber.

At the preceding workshop held on 4-5 February, MTCC provided an overview on certification as a mechanism that could be used to facilitate trade in legal timber, in addition to various other alternative mechanisms that were presented at the workshop. It was concluded that there was a need to involve industry in the design and implementation of legality measures, and the importance of efforts to build capacity among small-medium enterprises (SMEs) to understand and participate in the trade in legal timber.



MTCC CEO giving an update on the MTCS during workshop



MTCC CEO representing PEFC at EGILAT 17



Participants of the workshop

CERTIFICATION UPDATES

January – March 2020

NEW CERTIFICATE FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT (NATURAL FOREST)

No.	Company	Certificate No.	Certified Area	Contact
1	Pasin Sdn Bhd – Pasin FMU	FMC-NF 00124	132,151.00 ha	nelson.bijack@taann.com.my

NEW CERTIFICATE FOR CHAIN OF CUSTODY

No.	Company	Certificate No.	Product scope	Contact
1	Padang Meha Sawmill (Kedah) Sdn. Bhd.	SGS-PEFC/COC-MY19/1811030256	Purchase of PEFC certified logs, sawmilling and sales of PEFC certified sawn timber and sawmill waste (slabs, off-cuts and sawdust) using Physical Separation Method.	+604 485 0292 p.mehasawmill@gmail.com
2	Eu Lean Timber Sdn. Bhd.	SGS-PEFC/COC-MY20/1811030265	Purchase of PEFC certified sawn timber and plywood products, outsources kiln drying and sales of PEFC sawn timber and plywood products using physical separation method.	+609 277 8333 euleantimber@yahoo.com
3	Ngare Samdop Lhachap Ling Sdn. Bhd.	PSV-MTCC-101057	Extraction of PEFC Certified and PEFC Controlled Sources Logs and branches, trading of PEFC Certified and PEFC Controlled Sources Logs and branches, PEFC Certified and PEFC Controlled Sources wood waste (slabs, offcuts, chips, shavings, sawdust), using Physical Separation Method.	+6019 666 3678 nssl.sdn.bhd@gmail.com
4	Omega Sofa (M) Sdn. Bhd.	SIRIM-COC 00231	1) Purchase of PEFC certified and PEFC controlled source sawn timber, plywood and MDF. 2) Manufacture and sale of PEFC certified and PEFC controlled source furniture using physical separation method. 3) Manufacture and sale of PEFC certified furniture using percentage based method.	+604 508 4232 jeflyn@omegasofa.com

FOREST MANAGEMENT

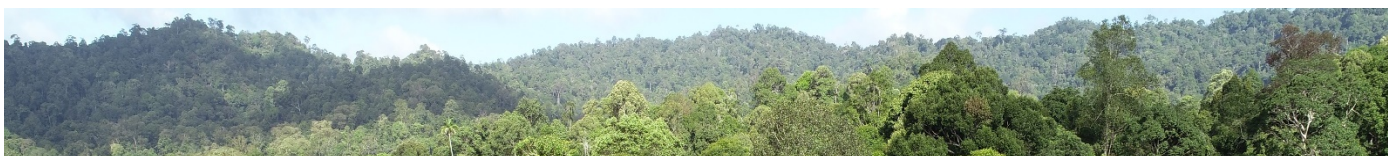
MC&I SFM: NEW STANDARD FOR SFM CERTIFICATION PUBLISHED

The *Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (MC&I SFM)* was approved by MTCC Board of Trustees at its 83rd Meeting held on March 5 as **the new certification standard for sustainable management of natural forest and forest plantation under the MTCS**. It replaces the MC&I(Natural Forest) and MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 standards and will come into force on **January 1, 2021**.

The MC&I SFM was formulated by a 15-member multi-stakeholder Standards Review Committee (SRC) through an extensive process held from 2015 to 2019 to review the MC&I(Natural Forest), incorporating requirements of the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 as well as the PEFC Benchmark Standard on Sustainable Forest Management. The SRC comprised equal number of members representing indigenous peoples, workers union, environmental and economic stakeholder groups, as well as relevant government agencies from Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia. A total of five SRC meetings, two public comments and three regional stakeholder consultations, one each in Kuching, Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Lumpur were conducted.



Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (MC&I SFM)



What are the major changes?

While maintaining the overall structure of the current forest management standards, the MC&I SFM contains streamlined requirements of the MC&I(Natural Forest) and MC&I Forest Plantation.v2, with the requirements under Principle 10 of MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 incorporated into the relevant requirements in Principles 1 to 9. Additional requirements that had been included in MC&I SFM are as follows:

1. 'conversion of severely degraded forest to forest plantation' which contains provision for establishing forest plantation on severely degraded forest (Criterion 6.11);
2. 'afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems' which prohibits the establishment of forest plantation on ecologically important non-forest ecosystems after 31 December 2010 (Criterion 6.12);
3. clear communication of claims for products from certified area (Appendix B);
4. inclusion of additional reference to international conventions and treaties i.e. *ILO No. 169: Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention 1989* and *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972* (Criterion 1.3); and
5. incorporation of an interpretation for requirements on implementing internal audit, management review and continual improvement (Appendix A).

While similar requirements have been streamlined, differentiations have been made in requirements that apply specifically to either natural forest or forest plantation. Therefore, applicants of MTCS forest management certification must clearly indicate the scope of certification of the forest management unit (FMU) whether it covers natural forest or forest plantation or both. Audit of the FMU will be conducted against the specific requirements covered by the scope of the FMU.

During the nine-month transition period from the publication date of the standard on April 1 to the date of entry into force on January 1, 2021, MTCC will conduct training for certification bodies and briefing sessions to relevant stakeholders on the requirements of the new standard.

Notwithstanding the above, the current situation related to Covid-19 outbreak is expected to have an impact and affect the relevant activities to be conducted by MTCC, including the application date of the standard set on January 1, 2021. You will be duly informed should there be any changes made with regard to this matter.

The standard is available for [download](#) and request for a hardcopy can be made by contacting Mr Melvin Ku at melvin@mtcc.com.my



CHAIN OF CUSTODY

REVISED PEFC ST 2002:2020 CHAIN OF CUSTODY OF FOREST AND TREE BASED PRODUCTS – REQUIREMENTS

The PEFC Council has adopted PEFC ST 2002:2020 *Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products – Requirements* as the revised chain of custody standard.

The standard dated 14 February 2020 replaces PEFC ST 2002:2013 *Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products- Requirements* Second Edition dated 7 December 2015 which is the current chain of custody standard used under the MTCS. An 18-month transition period has been granted for the application of the new standard and that the PEFC ST 2002: 2013 will be withdrawn on 14 August 2021. However, during the transition period, certificate holders are given the option of being audited to the current standard (PEFC ST 2002:2013) or the revised standard (PEFC ST 2002:2020).

After 13 August 2021, all audits for chain of custody certification, whether first-time audits, surveillance or recertification audits shall only be carried out against the revised PEFC ST 2002:2020 document.

What are the major changes?

- (i) Due to the extension of the scope of PEFC sustainable forest management standard to cover “trees outside forests” (e.g. “Agroforestry”), the scope of the chain of custody standard has also been extended to cover this aspect.
- (ii) The definition of “controversial sources” has been expanded to incorporate additional sustainability requirements, requiring companies along the entire timber value chain to help promote responsible forestry.
- (iii) An addition of Chapter 7: DDS, with the intent to highlight that for product groups where organisations are only using material that came with PEFC claims from PEFC certified suppliers, the DDS requirements can be easily conducted and without having to open the whole of Appendix 1.

MTCC Board of Trustees at its 83rd Meeting held on March 5 has approved the adoption of the PEFC ST 2002:2020 *Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products – Requirements* as the revised chain of custody standard under the MTCS. MTCC will be organising a series of briefing sessions to provide certificate holders with a better understanding on the requirements and changes made in the revised PEFC ST 2002:2020 standard as compared to the PEFC ST 2002:2013 document. You will be advised in due course with regard to the dates and venues of the briefing sessions, taking into consideration the challenges posed by the current COVID 19 pandemic.

The standard is available for [download](#).



PEFC ST 2002:2020
Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products - Requirements

(Note: In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, PEFC has granted a further 6 -month extension for the application of the standard to 14 February 2022.)



Ms Cynthia S.L. Tan from Bureau Veritas Malaysia (third from left) presenting the MTCS CoC Certificate to Mr Nam Hiok Yong, Director of Teo Seng Paper Products, and witnessed by Mr Yong Teng Koon, MTCC CEO



Visit to Teo Seng Paper Products factory

TEO SENG PAPER PRODUCTS OFFERS FIRST MTCS/PEFC-CERTIFIED EGG TRAYS IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Johor-based Teo Seng Paper Products Sdn Bhd (Teo Seng Paper Products) stamped a mark in the local paper industry when it recently became the first company in Malaysia to obtain the Chain of Custody (CoC) Certification under the PEFC for its eco-friendly egg trays. Teo Seng Paper Products is a subsidiary of Teo Seng Capital Bhd, an investment holding company in which its principal businesses include poultry farming and marketing of chicken eggs, manufacturing and marketing of animal feeds, paper egg trays and organic fermented fertiliser, as well as distribution of animal health products and solution provider.

As a leading global alliance of national forest certification systems, the PEFC works with the whole forest supply chain to support and ensure that forest and tree-based products are ethically and sustainably produced while encouraging consumers to make informed decisions when it comes to buying such products. The PEFC CoC Certificate enables the company to use the PEFC label on its egg trays as a mark of its compliance to the sustainability requirements of the PEFC CoC standard.

The label would not only boost the company's competitive edge but also reflects its commitment in supporting national sustainability agenda.

The certificate was presented by Bureau Veritas Malaysia (an independent Certification Body) certification manager Ms Cynthia S.L. Tan to Teo Seng Paper Products director Mr Nam Hiok Yong at the company's plant in Yong Peng on March 12. The presentation of the certificate was witnessed by MTCC CEO Mr Yong Teng Koon.

Teo Seng Paper Products product development executive, Mr Edan Na said the company has been producing sturdy egg trays made of recycled newspapers and corrugated cartons since 1995, in line with its vision to produce sustainable products for the industry. At present, the company uses 400 tonnes of recycled papers to produce 6.3 million units of egg tray every month mainly for local consumption.

He said the company sees the PEFC CoC Certification not only for the green cause but also as a good marketing tool to penetrate new markets and enhance their market presence.

"Currently, most of our egg trays are utilised for our in-house egg brand and sold to local farms. With the PEFC label, we're gearing up our efforts to enhance our sales and tap into other potential markets."

"The certification is an important milestone for us as it is one of the company's targets in going green. And turning wasted papers into an eco-friendly product is our way to help reduce congestions at the already limited dumpsites in our country. It's our little contribution for Malaysia," he added.

Congratulating the company, MTCC CEO Mr Yong said the effort by Teo Seng Paper Products to have its paper egg trays certified is commendable and in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. In utilising recycled materials, the company has shown its business leadership in mainstreaming its sustainability practices to ensure resource efficiency, reduce waste and that material consumption does not lead to over-extraction of resources and degradation of environmental resources.



COVID-19 AFFECTS TIMBER BUSINESS; PEFC ISSUES GUIDANCE ON AUDITING PEFC-CERTIFIED COMPANIES

The outbreak of COVID-19 has shaken many industries across the globe, with the businesses of mainly small and medium-sized players brought to a halt.

The outbreak is also disrupting certification activities and processes. Due to this, the PEFC Council has issued a guidance on auditing PEFC-certified companies affected by travel and medical restrictions resulted from the pandemic.

MTCC urges all certification bodies under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) to follow the guidance if such restrictions are also imposed in Malaysia. The guidance has entered into force on March 10 and is applicable until the PEFC Council revokes it. For detailed procedures on the guidance application, as well as specific rules for initial and re-certification audits, surveillance audits and verification of corrective actions, please [download the following document here.](#)

For further enquiries, please contact Mr Akmal Saarani at akmal@mtcc.com.my

COMMUNICATION/ OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



MTCC PHOTO GRAPHY Contest

*“Experience Forest,
Experience MTCS-PEFC”*

5 Categories

Photo Categories - (1) People & Forest (2) Forest & Forest Landscapes (3) Forest & Fauna

Video Category - (4) Wonders & Sounds of Nature

Social Media (Facebook/Instagram) Category - (5) #fortheloveofnature

APRIL 22
DEADLINE: JULY 06 2020

For details and contest form, visit Facebook pages:
MTCC.Malaysia or AdvancedImagesTravelution,
majalahFotografika, PhotoCreatorTravelmate &
www.mtcc.com.my



PCP
PUBLICATIONS

PRIZES

Overall

1x Grand Prize – RM2,000 cash + Prize

Photo Categories

1x First Prize – RM1,200 cash + Prize

2x Merit Prize – RM600 cash + Prize

10x Consolation Prize – RM200 cash + Prize

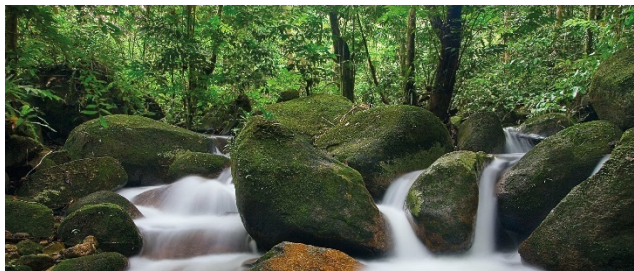
Video Category

2x Best Video Clips – RM500 cash + Prize

Social Media (Facebook/Instagram) Category

3x Best Photo – RM100 cash + Prize

7x Merit Prize – RM50 cash + Prize



MTCC PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST RETURNS THIS YEAR WITH MORE PRIZES UP FOR GRAB

Calling all nature photography enthusiasts! The MTCC Photography Contest returns this year and invites avid photographers to test their skills and submit their best shots which capture the uniqueness of Malaysia's tropical forests.

The contest, themed "Experience Forest, Experience MTCC-PEFC" will run from April 22 to July 6, 2020 and includes five categories including one new category for social media butterflies to show their photography flair on Instagram and Facebook.

MTCC CEO Mr Yong Teng Koon said the contest, a third-time collaboration between MTCC and PCP Publications, is aimed at raising public awareness on the beauty and benefits of our tropical lush forests while promoting the importance of valuing the nature and sustainable forest management through timber certification to benefit future generations.

"The MTCC Photography Contest is one of MTCC's initiatives to inculcate the love and appreciation for forests and nature among the public via visual arts – which we believe have more impact in conveying messages concerning environment conservation. It is also in line with our revised Vision desiring Malaysia to be *A nation that appreciates and internalises the full value and contribution of forest towards global sustainability*. We'd received high quality entries that captured the richness of our forests and the people responsible for their well-being when we organised the contests in 2017 and 2018. We definitely look forward to see more inspiring shots by adding more prizes and categories this time around," he said.

The contest consists of five categories:

- People & Forest
- Forest & Forest Landscapes
- Forest & Fauna
- Wonders & Sound of Nature (video category)
- Social Media (Facebook/Instagram)
Category: #fortheloveofnature

"The new category, #fortheloveofnature, invites social media butterflies to capture creative shots showing how they do their part to protect the environment. For example, cleaning up rubbish after having a picnic or camping in the forests. We hope they can inspire and spread positive messages to more people by sharing their entries and environmentally-friendly vibes on the social media," he added.

Participation is open to all Malaysians who have a passion for forests and photography. For details, visit www.mtcc.com.my or the following Facebook pages:

- [MTCC.Malaysia](https://www.facebook.com/MTCC.Malaysia)
- [AdvancedImagesTravelution](https://www.facebook.com/AdvancedImagesTravelution)
- [majalahFotografika](https://www.facebook.com/majalahFotografika)
- [PhotoCreator Travelmate](https://www.facebook.com/PhotoCreatorTravelmate)





From left to right: MTCC CEO Mr Yong Teng Koon, Mr Muhammad Iqbal Ishak, Mr Ivan Low Xin Yi (representing Ms Tan Xu Chee) and Prof Madya Dr Mohd Nazre Saleh at the award presentation ceremony

MTCC RECOGNISES OUTSTANDING STUDENTS IN FORESTRY-RELATED STUDIES

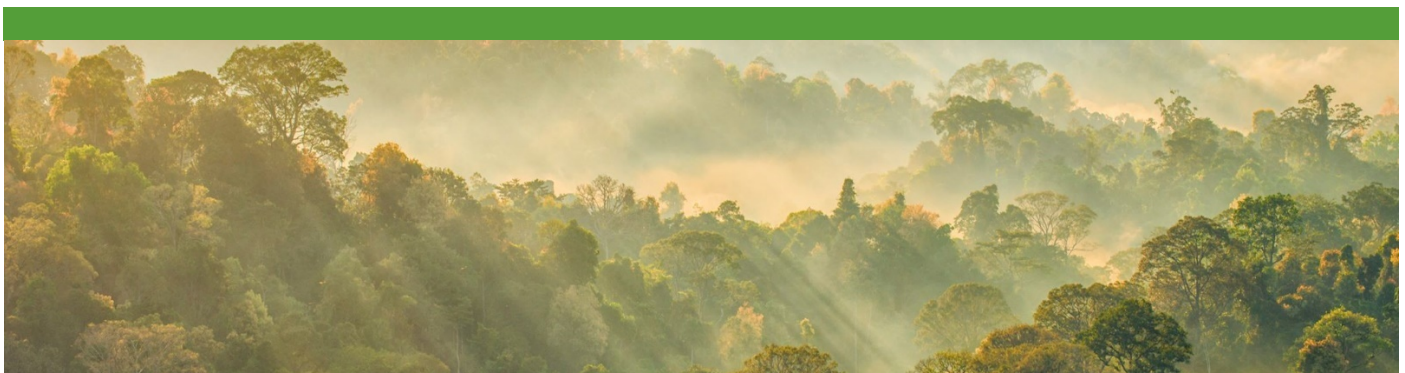
The MTCC Academic Award on Sustainable Forest Management and Timber Certification (MTCC Academic Award) is a mark of recognition for academic excellence among students of forestry-based studies at the university level.

For Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), the 2019 MTCC Academic Awards were presented to two graduating students from the Faculty of Forestry for their overall academic performance and final year projects related to environmental issue and Malaysia's furniture industry on February 29. Mr Muhammad Iqbal Ishak received the award for his thesis titled "Soil Erosion on Deforested Land in Cameron Highlands", while Ms Tan Xu Chee was given the recognition for her research on "Labour Composition, Productivity and Skill Developments in the Malaysian Furniture Sector." Each recipient received RM1,000 in cash and a certificate from MTCC.

MTCC CEO Mr Yong Teng Koon said the MTCC Academic Award is a joint effort between MTCC and UPM's Faculty of Forestry since 2016.

"Sustainable management of forest and certification are only possible with knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated human resource. In this context, we are privileged to collaborate with the Faculty of Forestry, UPM knowing the significance of quality forestry education in ensuring the supply of such skilled workforce to meet the challenge of the endeavour."

"The award is not only aimed at boosting academic excellence among university students from the forestry field. Most importantly, it is meant to engage and inspire these young generations to love and care for our forests and make them realise that they can make an impact from what they learn to sustainably manage the forests and build a sustainable future. We hope that with this award, we can instil an awareness in their eager minds that the future of our forests lies in their hands," he added.



FOREST MANAGEMENT AND CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATIONS IN 2019



FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

Natural Forest

A total of 16 forest management units (FMUs) covering 4,255,650.49 ha of natural forest were certified under the MTCS as at December 31, 2019.

The Terengganu, Pahang, Selangor and Perak FMUs have renewed their certification after undergoing successful recertification audits by SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd (SIRIM QAS) against the requirements of the MC&I(Natural Forest). The Negeri Sembilan FMU maintained its certification after undergoing a successful surveillance audit. On the down side, the certification for Kedah FMU was suspended on May 8, 2019 and the certificate subsequently expired on May 31, 2019 due to non-closure of a major non-conformity.

SIRIM QAS awarded two new certificates to Raplex Sdn Bhd (Raplex FMU) and Solid Hartabina Sdn Bhd (Melatai Para FMU), both in Sarawak. The certification for Anap Muput FMU was renewed following a successful recertification audit, while Ravenscourt FMU, Kapit FMU, Linau FMU, Ulu Trusan FMU and Bahau Kahei FMU maintained their certification following successful surveillance audits.

In Sabah, Bornion Timber Sdn Bhd (FMU 11) successfully renewed its certificate on October 21, 2019 after a successful recertification audit while Segaliud Lokan FMU (FMU 19B) and Sapulut Forest Reserve (FMU 14) maintained their certification following successful surveillance audits.

Forest Plantation

Seven forest plantation management units (FPMUs) covering 120,971.06 ha of forest plantations were certified under the MTCS as at December 31, 2019.

A new certificate was awarded to Samling Reforestation (Bintulu) Sdn Bhd (Marudi FPMU) by SIRIM QAS. Penyuan FPMU and Masama FPMU renewed their certification following successful recertification audits, while Bornion Timber FPMU, Segan FPMU, Kejin Long Lama FPMU and Lana FPMU maintained their certification following successful surveillance audits.



CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATION

In 2019, a total of 61 companies were awarded the PEFC Chain of Custody (CoC) certificates by eight PEFC-notified Certification Bodies (CBs).

However, the year also saw the withdrawal and expiry of 36 certificates and the suspension of four certificates. As a result, the net increase in the number of PEFC CoC certificate holders for the year was 21, and the total number of PEFC CoC certificate holders as at December 31 stood at 381. The full list for the above is available on the PEFC website at <https://www.pefc.org/find-certified>

EXPORT OF TIMBER PRODUCTS CERTIFIED UNDER THE MTCS IN 2019



1. The export of timber products certified under the MTCS plunged 30.23% from 348,801.57 m³ in 2018 to 243,366.81 m³ in 2019.
2. The year saw the decline of major export product, **sawn timber**, from 52.11% in 2018 to 46.75%. The export of **plywood** also decreased significantly from 17.57% in 2018 to 8.79% in 2019.
3. The export of **moulding products** however increased from 17.74% in 2018 to 28.71% in 2019.
4. **Wood pellets** became the latest product exported from Malaysia, constituting 7.64% of the total export last year.
5. **The Netherlands** continued to be the major importing country of the MTCS-certified timber and timber products followed by **the United Kingdom** and **the United States**, accounting for 26.87%, 8.98% and 8.49% respectively of the total export in 2019.
6. **Saipan, Guam** and **Seychelles** were the three latest export destinations, bringing the total number of countries importing MTCS-certified timber products to 69 since the operation of the MTCS in 2001.
7. The export performance in 2019 brought the cumulative export of certified timber products to 2,202,419.65 m³.



MEMO

OFFICE CLOSED NOTICE

Following the announcement by Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin on March 16, 2020, the Movement Control Order (MCO) will be imposed from March 18 to 31, 2020 throughout the country to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. This control order is made under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 and the Police Act 1967.

Among others, the MCO includes the closure of all Government and private premises except those involved in essential services (water, electricity, energy, telecommunications, postal, transportation, irrigation, oil, gas, fuel, lubricants, broadcasting, finance, banking, health, pharmacy, fire, prison, port, airport, safety, defence, cleaning, retail and food supply).

In compliance with the above Order, please be informed that the MTCC office will be closed and will be run remotely with the staff Working From Home (WFH) from March 18 to April 28, 2020. For important matters, we are reachable through phone, email or WhatsApp as follows:

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We appreciate your understanding and apologise for any inconvenience caused.



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