

SEEDLINKS

THE NEWS PULSE OF MALAYSIAN TIMBER CERTIFICATION COUNCIL



Photo by Chuah Chai Hong

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21ST AGM: BETTER FINANCIAL STATE FOR MTCC IN 2019

MTCC Chairman, Kamaruzaman Mohamad reported that the accounts have been properly drawn up in accordance with the Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards, International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Companies Act 2016 so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position of MTCC as of 31 December 2019.

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MTCC BRIEFS KELANTAN STATE FORESTRY SMALL COMMITTEE ON MTCS

MTCC had an audience with the Menteri Besar of Kelantan, Dato' Ahmad Yakob and members of the State Forestry Committee (JKKP) on 22 September to brief on the requirements of the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) and its importance to the forestry and timber industry in Malaysia.

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CREATING AWARENESS AMONGST LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON CERTIFICATION VALUES

MTCC participated in a seminar on Communities and the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) organised by Samling Sdn Bhd on 25 September in Miri, Sarawak. The objective of the seminar was to create awareness on certification process and to provide a platform for an open discussion on how the requirements of certification standard could benefit the local communities.



2019 MTCC ANNUAL REPORT

We are pleased to inform that the 2019 MTCC Annual Report is now available. [Please click here](#) or scan the QR code to be directed to the Annual Report page.

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,

In a media statement on the Economic and Financial Developments in Malaysia in the Second Quarter of 2020 released on 14 August, Bank Negara says the Malaysian economy is forecasted to grow within the range of -3.5% to -5.5% in 2020, before bouncing back within a growth range of 5.5% to 8.0% in 2021. But, the outlook is subject to the uncertainties surrounding commodity and global prices as well as the emerging developments of COVID-19.

Speaking at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 26 September, Malaysia's Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Mohd Yassin said various structural economic reforms and economic revitalisation programmes have been put in place to address the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, he said, balancing between kick-starting the Malaysian economy and implementing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to curb further waves of infection "has been nothing short of challenging."

Echoing the Prime Minister's statement, weathering the pandemic impact to ensure smooth-flowing implementation process of the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) is not an easy task for MTCC. Thus, despite the projected growth of the country's economy, we are steadfast in continuing our effort to help our multi-stakeholders remain resilient, buoyant and vigilant in this challenging time. Strictly adhering to the SOPs to contain the virus spread remains at the top of MTCC's agenda when it comes to organising events and activities for our stakeholders. For instance, the introduction of the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (MC&I SFM) was conducted via a webinar in July, while the revised PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard, PEFC ST 2002:2020 Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products-Requirements, was introduced to the multi-stakeholders through a series of online briefings via Zoom in September.

On other developments, MTCC recently had a meeting with the Menteri Besar of Kelantan, Dato' Ahmad Yakob and members of the State Forestry Committee where the state has pledged its commitment to reobtain forest management certification. A study to evaluate the implementation of forest certification, specifically the MTCS in Malaysia, is underway. The study, Impact of MTCS on Forest Management, Industry and Trade, is being carried out by the Institute of Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and MTCC.

Last but not least, I am pleased to welcome Mr Pubadi Govindasamy from the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities as the new MTCC board member effective 1 September 2020. He replaces Ms Eleine Juliana Malek who ended her tenure to further her studies. We wish Ms Eleine well in her future endeavours.

Stay safe, everyone!

Yong Teng Koon
Chief Executive Officer

GENERAL NEWS

21ST AGM: BETTER FINANCIAL STATE FOR MTCC IN 2019

The 21st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of MTCC was held at its office premises on 28 July. The main aims of the AGM were to receive and adopt MTCC Annual Report 2019, and to receive and adopt the Audited Financial Reports of MTCC for the financial year ended 31 December 2019 together with the Reports of the Trustees and Auditors.

In presenting the Annual Report, MTCC CEO, Yong Teng Koon highlighted the various achievements of MTCC in 2019. He singled out the successful conduct of the 20th anniversary celebration, the adoption of the revised Vision and Mission, and the MTCC Strategy 2020-2025 as the key highlights for the year. Yong said the revised Vision encapsulates MTCC's determination to see Malaysia as "A nation that appreciates and internalises the full value and contribution of forest towards global sustainability" and the MTCC Strategy 2020-2025 serves as the shorter-term measures toward this endeavour.

MTCC Chairman, Kamaruzaman Mohamad tabled the Audited Financial Reports of MTCC for the financial year ended 31 December 2019 together with the Reports of the Trustees and Auditors. The Chairman reported that the accounts have been properly drawn up in accordance with the Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards, International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Companies Act 2016 so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position of MTCC as of 31 December 2019. He was pleased to highlight the overall better financial state of the Council last year with an increase of RM6,289,881 or 7.01% in the "Total Equity and Liabilities" as compared to 2018.

As a result of travel restriction imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, it was a first for the AGM to have members participating both physically and virtually. Also, in attendance were some members of the Board of Trustees, MTCC Company Secretary and a representative from the external auditor firm, Messrs Mazars.



The 21st Annual General Meeting in progress

VISITS TO MTIB AND MTC

MTCC Chairman, Kamaruzaman Mohamad led the MTCC management team to visit the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) at Menara PGRM in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur on 8 September.

The MTCC team comprised MTCC CEO, Yong Teng Koon, Senior Manager (Forest Management), Siti Syaliza Mustapha, Manager (Product), Sabrina Mawasi and Senior Executive (Public Relations and Marketing), Muhammad Hasif Azizan.

The visits were aimed at strengthening the relationships between MTCC, MTIB and MTC, as well as discussing the potential for further collaborations amongst the three agencies towards advancing the forestry sustainability agenda and timber sector in Malaysia.

During the visit to MTIB, the MTCC management team was briefed on MTIB's operations by its Director General, Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani. At MTC, Kamaruzaman and the MTCC team received a warm welcome by MTC Chairman, Mazli Zakuan Mohd Noor. The team was enlightened on MTC's roles and functions by its acting CEO, Wong Kah Cane. The team also visited the MTC Timber Gallery during the trip.



One for the album: The MTCC team with the MTIB management



Briefing in progress



MTCC Chairman, Kamaruzaman Mohamad with the MTCC team during the discussion at MTIB



A get-together with the MTC family



Meeting with MTC Chairman and Acting CEO



Visit to the MTC Timber Gallery

KTK DIVISION OFFICERS VISIT MTCC

A management team from the Timber, Tobacco and Kenaf Development Division (KTK), Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities visited MTCC on 15 September.

Led by its Senior Under Secretary, Pubadi Govindasamy, the team's visit was aimed at understanding MTCC's roles and functions as well as strengthening working relationship between the two organisations. They were briefed by MTCC CEO, Yong Teng Koon on the Council and its operations as well as the various issues and challenges faced in implementing the MTCS.

Joining Pubadi in the visit were Principal Assistant Secretary, Jackson Raao Devadas and Assistant Secretary, Emilia anak Gunggu.



KTK Senior Under Secretary, Pubadi Govindasamy with MTCC CEO, Yong Teng Koon.



CEO Yong briefing the KTK team

MTCC BRIEFS KELANTAN STATE FORESTRY COMMITTEE ON MTCS

MTCC Chairman, Kamaruzaman Mohamad accompanied by CEO Yong Teng Koon and Senior Manager (Forest Management) Siti Syaliza Mustapha had an audience with the Menteri Besar of Kelantan, Dato' Ahmad Yakob and members of the State Forestry Committee (JKKP) in Kota Bahru on 22 September.

The JKKP was briefed on the requirements of the MTCS, the importance of certification for the forestry and timber industry, as well as the latest status on forest management certification in Kelantan. Ensuing from the briefing and follow-up discussion, the JKKP reiterated its commitment to implement sustainable forest management and reobtain forest management certification under the MTCS.



Briefing to the State Forestry Committee in progress



MTCC Chairman, Kamaruzaman Mohamad presenting a token of appreciation to the Kelantan Menteri Besar, Dato' Ahmad Yakob

CREATING AWARENESS AMONGST LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON CERTIFICATION VALUES

MTCC participated in a seminar on Communities and the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) organised by Samling Sdn Bhd on 25 September in Miri, Sarawak. The objective of the seminar was to create awareness on certification process and to provide a platform for an open discussion on how the requirements of certification standard could benefit the local communities.

The seminar was attended by 86 participants from 27 organisations including representatives from indigenous people associations/groups and NGOs such as Save Rivers, Keruan Organisation, Orang Ulu National Association (OUNA), Federation of Orang Ulu Association Sarawak Malaysia (FORUM), Rurum Kelabit Sarawak, Persatuan Kayan Sarawak, Persatuan Kebangsaan Kenyah Sarawak, Persatuan Saban Sarawak, Persatuan Bisaya Sarawak, Persatuan Lun Bawang Sarawak, Penipong Melawan Sarawak (Berawan) and the Gerenai Community Right Action Committee (GCRAC).

Six papers were presented at the one-day seminar. Evelyn Jugi from Forest Department Sarawak spoke about the state's policy on mandatory certification while Siti Syaliza Mustapha from MTCC explained about the MTCS and its roles and implementation. Khairul Najwan Ahmad Jahari from SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd talked about third-party auditing process followed by a paper on High Conservation Value Areas presented by Dr Samantha Liew from WWF. Dr Roland Kueh from Forestry Science Department, Universiti Putra Malaysia (Bintulu campus) described the conduct of social impact assessment and Peter Kallang from Save Rivers highlighted the indigenous peoples' concerns on the rights to manage their land and the interpretation of "free, prior and informed consent". The presentations were followed by a Q&A session moderated by Dr Jason Hon from WWF.

The seminar provided a good platform for participants to gain further understanding on certification and the roles and functions of the various agencies involved in implementing sustainable forest management in Sarawak.



The panel of presenters at the seminar



Siti Syaliza Mustapha giving her presentation on MTCC and the operation of MTCS



Siti Syaliza Mustapha exchanging views with Peter Kallang and Dr Jason Hon.

WORKSHOP ON FOREST CERTIFICATION PROCESS AND IMPLEMENTATION IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

A study titled The Impact of MTCS on Forest Management, Industry and Trade is currently being conducted to evaluate the impact of implementation of forest certification in Malaysia. The study is a joint effort by the Institute of Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and MTCC to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the MTCS on forest management practices, timber industry and trade among government agencies, certified forest and industry sectors, logging companies, primary and secondary timber processing companies and timber traders.



Group photo of the participants

A two-day workshop was held at the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia's Forest Training Institute in Kepong to obtain feedback from the participants (forest managers) on the process and implementation of forest certification under the MTCS, identify factors and constraints faced, as well as options/proposals to enhance the implementation of forest certification in Malaysia. The workshop was attended by 45 participants from the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia Headquarters, Forest Training Institute and the various State Forest Departments in Peninsular Malaysia.



Break-out group session in progress

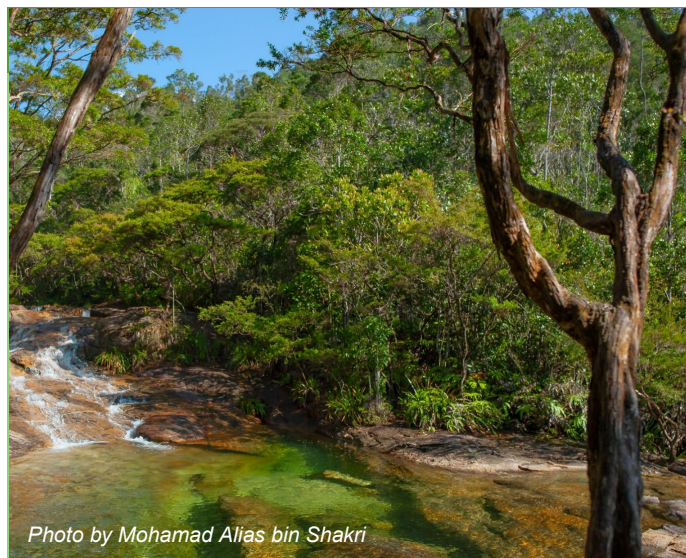
PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON RE-ENDORSEMENT OF THE MALAYSIAN TIMBER CERTIFICATION SCHEME BY PEFC

Operating a scheme that is endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), MTCC is required to revise its certification standards and other relevant technical documents once every five years. The revision ensures that latest development in PEFC requirements, new scientific information, practical experience gained in the field, and expectations as well as aspirations of society towards sustainable forest management are considered by the national schemes and implemented as part of PEFC's commitment to continuous improvement.

Following the approval by the 83rd Meeting of the Board of Trustees, MTCC has submitted its revised standards and other relevant MTCS documentation to PEFC for re-endorsement on 1 July 2020. PEFC is currently conducting a 60-day global public consultation on the revised MTCS from 18 August to 17 October 2020 to seek feedback from stakeholders on any aspect of the scheme. A webinar was also organised by PEFC on 8 September to allow MTCC to introduce the revised MTCS standards and technical documents to the interested stakeholders.

For more information regarding the PEFC assessment process and how to participate in the stakeholder consultation, please visit <https://www.pefc.org/news/public-consultation-malaysian-timber-certification-scheme>.

CERTIFICATION UPDATES



STATISTIC *(as of 30 September 2020)*

Total certified forest under MTCS:
5,244,641.49 ha

22 Forest Management Units (FMUs)
covering **5,139,745.36 ha**

7 Forest Plantation Management Units (FPMUs)
covering **104,896.13 ha**

382 PEFC Certificate for
Chain of Custody Holders

NEW CERTIFICATE FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

No.	Company	Certificate No.	Certified Area	Contact
1	Johor State Forestry Department - Johor FMU	FMC-NF 00126	285,292.87 ha	salimaman@forestry.gov.my
2	Billion Venture Sdn Bhd - Gaat-Mengiong FMU	FMC-NF 00127	66,190.00 ha	gaatmengiong@gmail.com
3	Interglobal Empire Sdn Bhd - Entulu-Melatai FMU	FMC-NF 00128	55,112.00 ha	khling@wtk.com.my
4	Shin Yang Sdn Bhd - Danum FMU	FMC-NF 00129	200,383.00 ha	andywong@shinyang.com.my
5	Subur Tiasa Holdings Bhd - Mujong-Melinau FMU	FMC-NF 00130	41,696.00 ha	Hsl001@suburtiasa.com
6	Sapulut Forest Development Sdn Bhd - Sapulut FPMU	FMC-FP 00118	12,486.42 ha	teddy.sius@sapulut.com

NEW CERTIFICATE FOR CHAIN OF CUSTODY

No.	Company	Certificate No.	Product scope	Contact
1	Straits Green Energy Sdn Bhd	SIRIM - COC 00233	Purchase and sales of PEFC-certified wood pellet and timber products using physical separation method.	+603 3323 9886 wei@sge.global
2	Jackwood Sdn Bhd	PSV-MTCC-101061	Purchase of PEFC-certified sawn timber and sawmill waste (saw dust, wood chip, slab and off-cuts), moulding, finger-jointed and lamination timber products, outsourcing moulding, warehousing, kiln-drying and sales of	+603 7980 0195 / 7980 0197 jimwoodsb@gmail.com

			PEFC-certified sawn timber and wood pallets.	
3	Wason Resources Sdn Bhd	SIRIM - COC 00234	Purchase and sale of PEFC-certified and controlled sources of scaffold board, sawn timber, plywood, medium density fibre board, particleboard, wood chips, sawdust, timber slab and building components using physical separation method.	+603 7847 6368 lilychong@wasonmalaysia.com
4	Mini Sawmill Sdn Bhd	SIRIM - COC 00235	1) Purchase of PEFC-certified logs. 2) Purchase and sales of PEFC-certified sawn timber using physical separation method.	+607 883 2452 tytee11@gmail.com
5	La Pinang Sdn Bhd	PSV-MTCC-101060	Purchase of PEFC sawn timber, outsourced of manufacturing of doors and sales of PEFC-certified doors.	+603 9130 1358 lapinang@yahoo.co.uk
6	Tree One Mega Pellet Sdn Bhd	CU-PEFC-873731	Fuelwood (including chips, residues, pellets, bricks, etc.)	+608 633 3099 jackyk@samling.com.my
7	Optimus Wood and General Trade Sdn Bhd	PSV-MTCC-101062	Purchase of PEFC-controlled sources logs and PEFC-certified blockboard, MDF, veneer and plywood, manufacture and sales of PEFC-controlled sources plywood and veneer, PEFC-certified blockboard, MDF, veneer and plywood.	+604 438 0306 optimuswood1@gmail.com
8	Ving Door Sdn Bhd	PSV-MTCC-101063	Purchase of PEFC-certified sawntimber, plywood and MDF manufacture and sales of PEFC-certified door (solid and composite) and door frame.	+603 8734 6121 vingdoor@gmail.com
9	Montco Sdn Bhd	PSV-MTCC-101064	Purchase of PEFC-certified sawntimber, plywood and doors (solid and composite), outsourcing KD process and mouldings, and sales of PEFC-certified sawn timber, mouldings, plywood and doors (solid and composite).	+603 2631 2270 wysern@motco.com.my
10	Khaspermata Sdn Bhd	SIRIM - COC 00236	1) Purchase of PEFC-certified and PEFC-controlled sources logs. 2) Manufacture and sales of plywood, blockboard, veneer and wood pellet using the physical separation and percentage-based method.	+608 977 1043 Khaspermata02@gmail.com



Participants of the webinar

WEBINAR ON MC&I SFM

About 140 participants representing government agencies, social and environmental interest groups, industry, certification bodies, academic institutions as well as students from the Peninsula, Sabah and Sarawak attended a three-hour webinar to introduce the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (MC&I SFM) conducted by MTCC on 21 July.

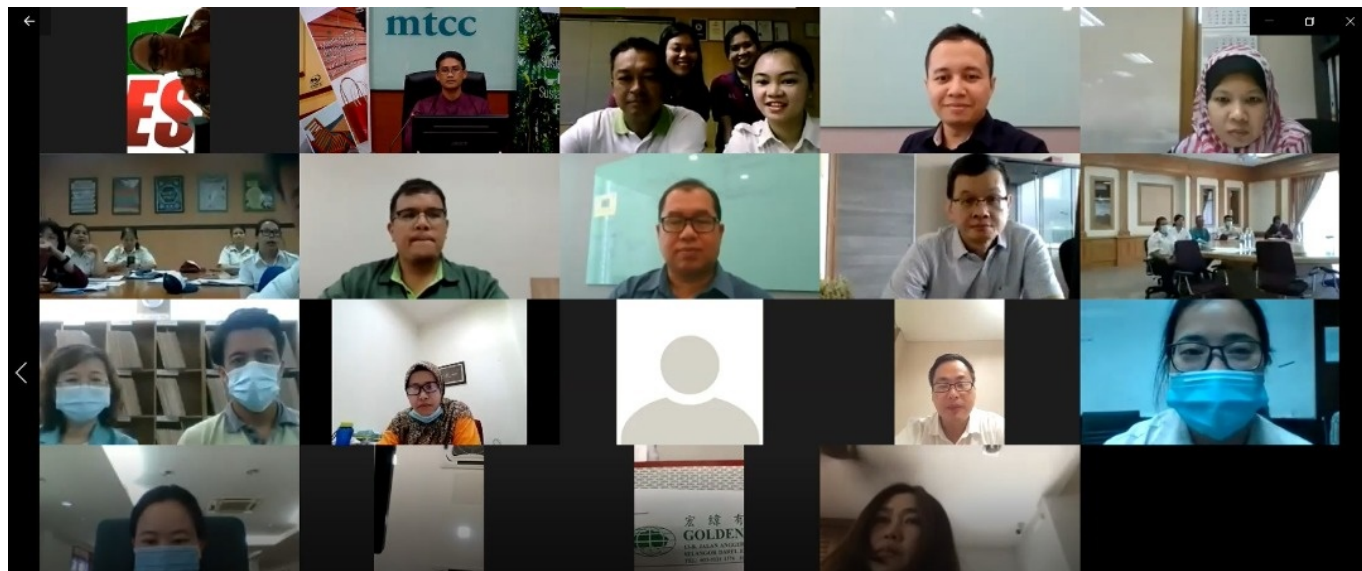
In his welcoming remarks, MTCC CEO, Yong Teng Koon commented that the MC&I SFM is the outcome of an extensive standard review process which took place from 2015 to 2019. This 2-in-1 standard replaces the MC&I(Natural Forest) and MC&I Forest Plantation v.2 standards. As a scheme endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the standard also incorporates relevant PEFC benchmarks for sustainable forest management.

Yong also provided an update on the implementation of the MTCS and highlighted the current progress of MTCS.

The presentation on the requirements of MC&I SFM was made by Senior Manager (Forest Management), Siti Syaliza Mustapha who highlighted that the revised standard contains nine principles, 49 criteria, and 99 indicators for natural forest (NF) and 105 indicators for forest plantation (FP).

She drew the attention of the participants to the key changes to the standard and highlighted the inclusion of a number of new requirements related to the conversion of severely degraded forest to forest plantation, afforestation of ecological important non-forest ecosystem, interpretation for internal audit and management review, the need for continual improvement, and interpretation on requirements for communicating claims from certified area.

The participants were further informed that the MC&I SFM was launched by MTCC on 1 April 2020 and will come into force on 1 January 2021.



MTCC INTRODUCES REVISED PEFC INTERNATIONAL COC STANDARD

MTCC organised a series of briefing sessions to introduce the revised PEFC International Chain of Custody (CoC) Standard, PEFC ST 2002:2020 Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products-Requirements.

The PEFC ST 2002:2020, which replaces the PEFC ST 2002:2013 Chain of Custody of Forest Based Product-Requirements Second Edition dated 7 December 2015, will come into effect from 14 Feb 2022.

MTCC kick started the series with an introductory three-hour webinar on 10 September where participants were provided with an overview related to the revision process, and the key changes made in the revised standard. It was followed by five one-hourly sessions held from 21-25 September, with each session focusing on one chapter of the standard.

The online briefing sessions were conducted by Manager (Product), Sabrina Mawasi, Senior Executive (Product), Akmal Saarani and Executive (Product), Adibah Mohamad Aris via Zoom.

The sessions were well attended by participants representing the various timber-related industries in Malaysia with an average attendance of 157 participants per session.



MTCC Manager (Product), Sabrina Mawasi conducting the briefing

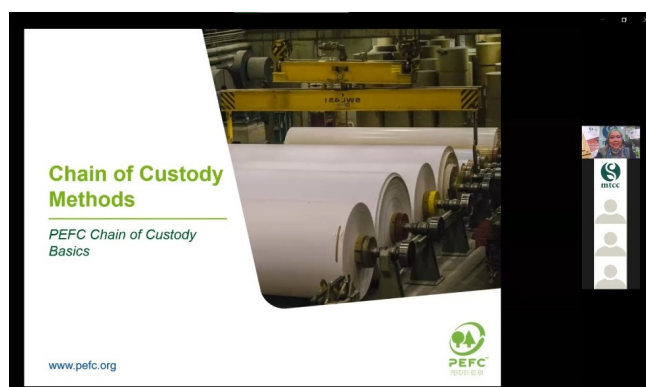


Photo by Neoh Choo Hon

COMMUNICATION/ OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



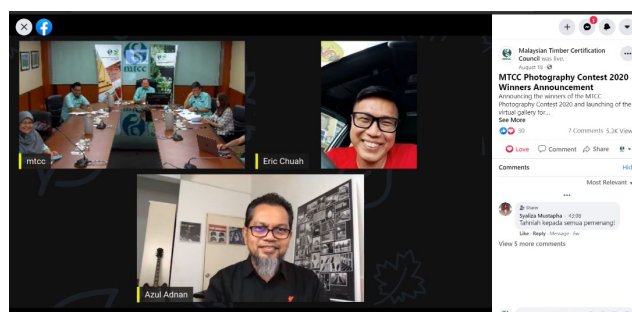
A breathtaking view of a tree overlooking beautiful mountains at Cameron Highlands, Pahang earned Chuah Chai Hong the overall grand prize.

PHOTO CONTEST SPARKS LOVE FOR FORESTS AMONG PHOTOGRAPHY BUFFS

A photograph can spark an interest or create a passion in a particular subject. It can trigger emotion and mood, narrates a story and most of all, inspires – All the elements which are stunningly reflected in the winning entries of photographs and short videos from the recently concluded MTCC Photography Contest 2020.

Themed “Experience Forest, Experience MTCS-PEFC”, the contest entered its third edition this year and was jointly organised by MTCC and PCP Publications, the publisher for photography magazines namely Photo Creator, Advanced Images, Fotografika, Travelmate and Travelution. It was aimed at raising public awareness on the beauty and benefits of Malaysia’s tropical forests while promoting the importance of valuing the nature and managing the green wonders through timber certification to benefit future generations.

MTCC Chairman, Kamaruzaman Mohamad and the judging panel comprising MTCC CEO, Yong Teng Koon, PCP Publications General Manager and Editor-In-Chief, Jessica Chan announced the 49 winners at a live-streamed ceremony held at the MTCC office on 22 August. Reputable photographer and guest judge, Azul Adnan virtually joined the event which was set to the tone of the new normal and held as part of the online Kuala Lumpur Photography Festival 2020 (KLPPF 2020) organised by PCP Publications.



The Facebook live-streamed ceremony

Winning Photos

A total of 166 participants from throughout Malaysia took part in the contest, with 1,384 photographs and 19 short videos submitted to compete in five categories namely People & Forest, Forest & Forest Landscapes, Forest & Animals, Wonders & Sound of Nature (short video clips) and #forthe love of nature (social media photograph category).

A breathtaking view of a tree overlooking beautiful mountains at Cameron Highlands, Pahang earned Chuah Chai Hong the overall grand prize. The 43-year-old engineer from Penang walked away with RM2,000 in cash, a certificate and magazines courtesy of PCP Publications.

Virtually joining the hybrid event, Chuah said he was surprised to know that his entry, titled 'Gigantic Bonsai Tree and Mountains' won the top spot. "I spotted the view during a hiking trip from Gunung Siku leading towards Gunung Irau in Cameron Highlands in March 2019. I was resting under a tree and from my spot, the tree was like a giant bonsai overlooking the mountains. The view was simply magnificent so I quickly took out my camera and snapped it," he said.

"What makes Chua's photo special is its striking and unusual perspective. The three judges didn't see such a viewpoint from the other entries. The tree overhead matches nicely with the slanting and shape of the mountains in the distance. There's a beautiful and unique balance of landscape elements in the overall scene," said guest judge, Azul, on the grand prize-winning criteria.

Chan said such an impactful image has attracted the judges to take a second look. "We looked for images that we haven't seen commonly, something unusual or something that came with originality," she added.



First prize winner: Forest & People category

The first prize for the People & Forest category went to Tan Ee Long, a 42-year-old photographer from Muar, Johor. Tan's winning picture titled 'Charcoal-Making' captures the old-fashioned way of charcoal-making and its age-old charm in Kuala Sepetang, Taiping, Perak. Charcoal-production from mangrove logs is a traditional source of livelihood for villagers in that area.



First prize winner: Forest & Forest Landscape category

Photographer Mohd Nazri Sulaiman, 46, from Batu Pahat, Johor, was chosen as the first prize winner in the Forest & Forest Landscape category. His entry, titled 'Mystical Mossy Forest' shows a majestic and mystical view of Mossy Forest in Cameron Highlands, Pahang.



First prize winner: Forest & Animals-category

Tuan Aafa Tuan Othman, a 32-year-old teacher from Tanah Merah, Kelantan, emerged the first prize winner in the Forest & Animals category. He won the judges' heart with a beautiful image of the unique Blue-banded Pitta (one of the endemic birds of Borneo) captured in Lahad Datu, Sabah. The first prize winners of each category received RM1,200.

Video, Social Media Categories

Mohamad Naquiddin Zakaria clinched the top spot and won Best Video in the Wonders & Sound of Nature video category. Titled 'Experience Forest', his video features scenic flora and fauna (cont.)

landscapes in forests in Terengganu and Negeri Sembilan. Jesus Cede Prudente received Special Mention in the same category for his 'Mass Flowering' video showing mass flowering in Danum Valley, Sabah – a scenic and unusual phenomenon where species in the lowland dipterocarp forest simultaneously flower and fruit. On another note, 10 winners were picked as winners in the #fortheloveofnature social media (photograph) category.

Continued Initiative

MTCC Chairman, Kamaruzaman said the contest was in line with MTCC's new Vision and Mission which emphasise on the importance of sustainable forest management to be internalised and appreciated at the national level if global sustainability is to be achieved.

"The contest is part of MTCC's continued initiatives to reach out to the public through increased communication, education and public awareness efforts. It also jives well with the fifth thrust of the MTCC Strategy 2020-2025, a short-term plan formulated from the new Vision and Mission which focuses on ensuring that the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) continues to be relevant in sustainable forest management efforts locally and globally," he said.

NEWS ACROSS THE GLOBE

JUST HALF OF MAJOR TIMBER AND PULP SUPPLIERS COMMITTED TO ZERO DEFORESTATION

The latest report published by the Sustainability Policy Transparency Toolkit or SPOTT, a corporate transparency initiative launched in 2014 by the Zoological Society of London, highlights the lack of forest protection efforts among the world's 100 most significant timber and pulp companies, with only half being committed to zero deforestation in their supply chains.

The relationship between these companies and their suppliers is one of the weakest areas in this year's report, with a mere 15% having the policies to support contracted smallholders and only 20% would discuss legal requirements and company policy compliance with their suppliers. These results are deemed as unsettling, given the importance of smallholders in tropical countries in reducing deforestation and forest degradation by balancing sustainable forest management and enhancing livelihoods with forest resources.

Full article:

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/09/just-half-of-major-timber-and-pulp-suppliers-committed-to-zero-deforestation-report>

THE BURNING ISSUE: FIGHTING FOREST FIRES WITH TECHNOLOGY

A number of technological innovations have emerged over the last few years to help prevent and respond to forest fires more effectively. The advent of Internet of Things (IoT) devices and wireless sensors allows early-stage detection and warning, while drones, together with satellite surveillance, enable faster detection and response by the emergency response team. Machine-learning and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are being applied to large datasets to identify environmental threats such as deforestation which increase the risk of major fires. Despite these technological wonders in reducing forest fire incidences, they must be coupled with a long-term commitment - from both the public and private sectors - to sustainable land management and good governance of natural resources.

Full article:

<https://www.computerweekly.com/blog/Eyes-on-APAC/The-burning-issue-fighting-forest-fires-with-technology>

THESE SCIENTISTS ARE LISTENING TO THE BORNEO RAINFOREST TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY

A team of scientists from Imperial College London, Universiti Malaysia Sabah and the South East Asia Rainforest Research Partnership has been working on the SAFE Project where they use solar-powered audio technology to know the health of the Borneo rainforest. The project says the level of noise which the forest creates could indicate the state of its health and biodiversity.

Full article:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/08/scientists-listen-to-rainforest-biodiversity-safe/>

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY EMERGES AS A CRUCIAL CONCERN FOR 2021

With climate change being high on the news agenda today, it is vital for all businesses to do their bit towards a greener planet by becoming more eco-friendly. Industries which rely on the world's forests for their products are giving a nod to incorporating sustainable forest management in their business ethos and practices. Adopting certification schemes promoted by the PEFC or the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and getting their products marked with a label as proof of their sustainable practices are among their commitment towards creating a greener planet.

Full article:

<https://blueandgreentomorrow.com/environment/sustainable-forestry-emerges-as-crucial-concern/>



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