SEEDLINKS

THE NEWS PULSE OF MALAYSIAN TIMBER CERTIFICATION COUNCIL



► Page 7 MTCC CONDUCTS TRAINING ON PEFC TRADEMARKS FOR FMC HOLDERS

To promote the use of labelling and ensure the correct usage of PEFC trademark, MTCC organised an online training on the PEFC Trademarks for its Forest Management Certification (FMC) certificate holders on 18 February.

► Page 7 COC REFRESHER TRAINING COURSE FOR PEFC NOTIFIED CERTIFICATION BODIES

The virtual training was conducted to fulfill the training requirements as stipulated in para 6.1.2.1 and 6.1.1.4.3 of the PEFC ST 2003:2020 Requirements for Certification Bodies Operating Certification Against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard.

► Page 8 VIRTUAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE PAPER TRENDS AND PEFC CERTIFICATION

The forum was aimed at giving insights on eco-friendly, sustainably sourced paper trends and how small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) of the print, paper and packaging industry and related industries can improve their supply chain compliance with responsible sourcing through the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) scheme.



► Page 10 MTCC PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2021 OFFERS NEW, EXCITING CATEGORIES

MTCC is calling nature shutterbugs to get their creative juices flowing and show their photography flair at the annual MTCC Photography Contest 2021 which runs from 21 March until 30 June.

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,

The first quarter of 2021 has seen positive developments in Malaysia's sustainability agenda particularly with regard to the Malaysian forestry and timber industries.

The year started off with the launch of the 100 Million Tree-Planting Campaign 2020-2025 by Malaysia's Prime Minister, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin on 5 January. On that day, the Prime Minister planted a Merbau tree in the garden of Seri Perdana (the Prime Minister's official residence) to mark the launch of the campaign themed "Greening Malaysia: Our Trees, Our Life." The campaign, helmed by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, is aimed at improving the country's biodiversity and ecosystem while increasing public awareness on the importance of green cover and forest to improve quality of life. With the engagement of Malaysians from all walks of life, it envisions to have 100 million trees planted nationwide by 2025. As of 30 March, a total of 5,607,187 trees have been planted.

The month of March marked a significant milestone in the country's forestry history and MTCC in particular. The Malaysian Forestry Policy (MFP) was launched on 21 March, which coincided with the commemoration of the 9th International Day of Forests. The MFP, which was adopted at the 78th National Land Council meeting on 29 January, signifies Malaysia's solid commitment in strengthening sustainable forest management (SFM). It outlines pragmatic strategies and action plans to address new challenges and demands in the forestry sector at domestic and international levels.

The MFP is a commendable initiative as it unites the forestry policies of Peninsula, Sabah and Sarawak for the first time, as well as recognises the need to see forest beyond timber and addresses emerging issues such as water and food security, climate change and environmental stability. MTCC is pleased to note that the policy includes certification as a crucial tool, with special reference to the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) in promoting the implementation of SFM in the country. MTCC sees this new development as a timely chance to gear up efforts to promote greater uptake of the scheme, which is one of the seven thrusts of the MTCC Strategy 2020-2025. The strategy is aligned with the council's vision for Malaysia to become a nation that appreciates and internalises the full value and contribution of forests towards global sustainability. With united efforts of all states and the MTCS taking centre stage under the MFP, MTCC is more optimistic in propelling Malaysia's sustainability agenda towards greater heights through certification.

On 2 March, the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, through the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC), signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Higher Education to strengthen capacity development and enhance innovations in the timber industry by increasing the marketability of local graduates. The collaboration will engage a first batch of 80 students to enrol in the one-year MTC Engineer Placement and Internship Programme which involves on-the-job and industrial trainings.

March also saw the kick off of the annual MTCC Photography Contest themed "Experience Forest, Experience MTCS-PEFC" which runs from 21 March until 30 June. It offers four new categories to take the excitement up a notch and most importantly, make it more practical for contestants to take their best shots amidst the current movement control order. Apart from a cash prize of RM2,000 for the grand prize winner, winning photo entries will be in the running to win more cash at the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) Photography Contest and be featured among the best Top 12 in the 2022 PEFC "Experience Forests, Experience PEFC" photo calendar.

Yong Teng Koon Chief Executive Officer

2020 AT A GLANCE



FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT (FMU)

PENINSULA (6) SARAWAK (19) SABAH (5) **22 FMUs** (Natural Forest) *5,139,745.36 mil ha*

8 FPMUs (Forest Plantation) 132,989.48 mil ha

FMUs IN SARAWAK

FMU IN PENINSULA

FPMU IN SABAH

FMU IN SARAWAK



381

TIMBER COMPANIES

PENINSULA (353) SARAWAK (18) SABAH (10) 36 NEW Companies

EXPORT OF MTCS-CERTIFIED

EXPORT OF MTCS-CERTIFIED TIMBER PRODUCTS

1

Increased **8%** from 2019 export volume

MAJOR IMPORTER: **THE NETHERLANDS**28% of the total export volume

Total amount of MTCS-certified timber exported in 2020: **263,000.78** m³

Cumulative total of certified timber and timber products exported from 2002 to December

2020: **2,465,420.41** m³

EXPORT OF TIMBER PRODUCTS CERTIFIED UNDER THE MTCS IN 2020 PHOSE SHORT OF TIMBER PRODUCTS CERTIFIED UNDER THE MTCS IN 2020 PHOSE SHORT OF TIMBER PRODUCTS CERTIFIED UNDER THE MTCS IN 2020 PHOSE SHORT OF TIMBER PRODUCTS CERTIFIED UNDER THE MTCS IN 2020 PHOSE SHORT OF TIMBER PRODUCTS CERTIFIED UNDER THE MTCS IN 2020 PHOSE SHORT OF TIMBER PRODUCTS CERTIFIED UNDER THE MTCS IN 2020 PHOSE SHORT OF TIMBER PRODUCTS CERTIFIED UNDER THE MTCS IN 2020 PHOSE SHORT OF TIME WITH THE WITH THE MTCS IN 2020 PHOSE SHORT OF TIME WITH THE WITH TH

- 1. The export of timber products certified under the MTCS **increased by 8%** from 243,366.81 m3 in 2019 to 263.000.78 m3 in 2020.
- 2. **The Netherlands** continued to be the major importing country of the MTCS certified timber and timber products followed by **Japan** and **United Kingdom**, accounting for 28%, 19% and 9% respectively of the total export in 2020.
- 3. **Bangladesh, Yemen and Fiji were the three latest destinations**, bringing the total number of destinations importing MTCS certified timber products to 72 since the operation of MTCS in 2001.
- 4. The year saw the decline of major export product, **sawn timber**, from 46.75% in 2019 to 41%. The export of **moudling** also decreased from 28.71% to 23%.
- 5. However, the share of export of **plywood** products jumped from 8.79% in 2019 to 24% in 2020.
- 6. The export performance in 2020 brought the cumulative export of certified timber products to 2,465,420.41 m3.



GENERAL NEWS

THE MTCS DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE 2021-2023

The MTCS Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) is an independent five-member committee appointed by the MTCC Board which deals with any dispute submitted to MTCC relating to its role as the scheme's National Governing Body.

The 87th meeting of the MTCC Board of Trustees held on 4 March considered and approved the following individuals to serve as a member of the DRC for a two-year term from 24 March 2021 to 23 March 2023:

- 1. Tan Sri Dr. Salleh Mohd. Nor
- 2. Dato' Dr. Baharuddin Hj. Ghazali
- 3. Dato' Shaharuddin Mohamad Ismail
- 4. Chew Lye Teng
- 5. Dr. Ramy Bulan

The committee will be chaired by Tan Sri Dr. Salleh Mohd. Nor.

MTCC would like to congratulate them on their appointment and looks forward to working closely with the team.



From left:
Dato' Shaharuddin Mohamad Ismail, Tan Sri Dr. Salleh Mohd Nor,
Dato' Dr. Baharuddin Hj. Ghazali, Chew Lye Teng



Dr. Ramy Bulan

IN MEMORIAM



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Datuk Haji Jamaluddin Mohd. Isa on 15 March 2021.

The late Datuk Haji Jamaluddin who was the then Executive Secretary of the Malay Forest Officers Union, West Malaysia

served as a Board Member of MTCC from 15 May 2001 until 5 September 2005.

MTCC appreciates his contributions towards the council's growth and development at its initial difficult phase, and would like to express our heartfelt condolences to his family on their loss.



CERTIFICATION UPDATES



STATISTIC (as of 31 March 2021)

Total certified forest under MTCS: **5,272,734.84 ha**

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

8 Forest Plantation Management Units (FPMUs) covering **132,989.48 ha**

379 PEFC Certificate for Chain of Custody Holders

NEW CERTIFICATE FOR CHAIN OF CUSTODY (January – March 2021)

No.	Company	Certificate No.	Product scope	Contact
1	Soonfar Woodworks Sdn. Bhd.	PSV-MTCC- 101073	Purchase of PEFC certified sawntimber, mouldings, veneer, plywood, outsourcing Kiln Drying and finger-jointing process and sales of PEFC certified sawntimber, mouldings and finger-jointed, veneer and plywood products.	+6016 826 7200 soonfar@gmail.com
2	MLFD Group Sdn. Bhd. & Molicc System Sdn. Bhd.	T1016988	Purchase of PEFC certified wood materials or PEFC controlled sources wood materials from PEFC certified suppliers and the manufacture of doors and door frames and other interior fittings.	+6019 267 8672 msml.finance@gmail.c om
3	Be Green Resources Sdn. Bhd.	PSV-MTCC- 101074	Purchase of PEFC certified sawmill waste (saw dust, off-cut, bulk, wood slab), manufacture and sales of PEFC certified wood pellets, compress wooden blocks and sawdust blocks.	+ 607 7595 811/ 871/ 816 chkuek_pa@begroup. com
4	Forestry Timber Export Sdn. Bhd.	SGS- PEFC/COC- MY21/18110 30546	Purchase and sales of PEFC certified and PEFC controlled sources sawn timber, veneers and (solid and engineered floorings) products.	+603 7847 1093 jeff@forestrytimber.co m
5	FTE International Ltd	SGS- PEFC/COC- MY21/18110 30547	Purchase and sales of PEFC certified and PEFC controlled sources sawn timber, veneers and (solid and engineered floorings) products.	+608 7408 191 alin@fteinternational.c om
6	Forestry Timber Flooring International Ltd	SGS- PEFC/COC- MY21/18110 30548	Purchase and sales of PEFC certified and PEFC controlled sources sawn timber, veneers and (solid and engineered floorings) products.	+608 7408 191 alin@fteinternational.c om

FOREST MANAGEMENT



Training in progress

MTCC CONDUCTS TRAINING ON PEFC TRADEMARKS FOR FMC HOLDERS

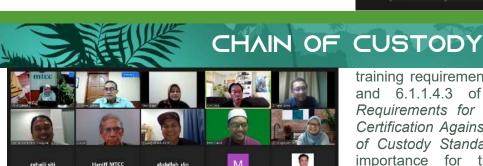
As consumers are increasingly conscious of the impact of their buying decisions, it is becoming more important for certified organisations to visibly communicate their responsible practices to consumers. Therefore, the use of PEFC label by certified organisations is vital as it enables clear communication of their commitment to corporate responsibility and sustainable forest management.

At the same time, labelling also generates awareness for products from PEFC certified forests and what it represents, thus increasing the value of forests and demand for its certified products and services.

To promote the use of labelling and ensure the correct usage of PEFC trademark, MTCC organised an online training on the PEFC Trademarks for its Forest Management Certification (FMC) certificate holders on 18 February. It was attended by 42 participants from certified forest management units (FMUs) and forest plantation management units (FPMUs) as well as downstream certified companies.

The participants were enlightened on the processes involved in applying for the PEFC logo usage licence, dos and don'ts of trademark usage of the latest *PEFC ST 2001:2020 PEFC Trademarks Rules – Requirements*, communicating claims from certified area, as well as the new requirement in *Appendix B: Interpretation on Requirements for Communicating Claims from Certified Areas in the MC&I Sustainable Forest Management (MC&I SFM)* standard which will come into force on 1 September 2021.





Participants of the online training

COC REFRESHER TRAINING COURSE FOR PEFC NOTIFIED CERTIFICATION BODIES

MTCC organised a Chain of Custody (CoC) Refresher Training Course for CoC auditors, reviewers and certification decision makers on 27 January.

The virtual training was conducted to fulfil the

training requirements as stipulated in para 6.1.2.1 and 6.1.1.4.3 of the PEFC ST 2003:2020 Requirements for Certification Bodies Operating Certification Against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard. This training is of special importance for the auditors, reviewers and certification decision makers to be familiar and knowledgeable of the newly revised PEFC ST 2002:2020 Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products-Requirements and PEFC ST 2001:2020 — PEFC Trademarks Rules — Requirements.

The training was conducted by MTCC Manager (Product), Sabrina Mawasi and MTCC Senior Executive (Product), Akmal Saarani who are both PEFC qualified CoC trainers/experts.

The online training was attended by 9 participants from various certification bodies.

COMMUNICATION/ OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



Forum panelist from left: PEFC International Head of Marketing, Fabienne Sinclair, MTCC Manager (Product), Sabrina Mawasi, Sustainability Strategy and Programme Director at Nets Printwork Sdn Bhd and Eco Sentido, Teh Soo Tyng



In line with its continued effort to educate the stakeholders and industry players on certification, MTCC teamed up with Eco Sentido Sdn Bhd and organised the online Eco Sense Forum on "Sustainable Paper Trends and the Need for PEFC Certification" on 29 January.

The forum was aimed at giving insights on ecofriendly, sustainably sourced paper trends and how small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) of the print, paper and packaging industry and related industries can improve their supply chain compliance with responsible sourcing through the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) scheme. PEFC is the world's largest forest certification scheme with 320 million hectares of PEFC-certified forests, over 20,000 certified companies in 85 countries and endorsed international members in 48 countries.

Three topics were presented at the forum which was moderated by Sunita Devi of Eco Sentido. In her presentation titled "Opportunities for a PEFC Chain of Custody certificate holder from the Print, Paper Packaging Industry", PEFC International Head of Marketing, Fabienne Sinclair talked about PEFC and the growing global demand for wood as well as certified timber and timber products, particularly in Europe.



Forum participants

"Many industries are relying on timber which I think is good because it's a natural and renewable material. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) reported that the demand for wood alone is expected to triple to 10 billion cubic metres by 2050...When it comes to trend pertaining to the print and paper packaging industry, the Pro Carton Consumer Packaging Perceptions study highlights that 90% of the 7,000 consumers surveyed in seven European countries say that labelling or information about the environmentally-friendliness of packaging matters to them," she said.



Graphic: https://www.procarton.com

Would you like the government or brands to introduce information on-pack to show how environmentally-friendly the packaging format is?

Survey respondents are crying out for greater guidance on the packaging they buy. A resounding 90% of shoppers in all countries surveyed say they'd like information about the environmentally-friendliness of packaging. A very strong message indeed!

Such demands can be fulfilled if forests are managed in a sustainable manner and responsible sourcing via inclusive procurement policies is in place – as implemented by certification schemes such as PEFC, said Sinclair.

Sustainability Strategy and Programme Director at Nets Printwork Sdn Bhd and Eco Sentido, Teh Soo Tyng shared Nets Printwork's experience in obtaining the PEFC certification from an eco-printing solution company's perspective. Apart from that, she highlighted the company's inspiring Carbon Neutral Print Programme – a carbon offsetting programme which engages their clients to invest in

tree-planting projects to balance the carbon footprint generated from the printing process.

In her presentation on "How to Become PEFC-certified under MTCS", MTCC Manager (Product), Sabrina Mawasi enlightened the participants with a step-by-step process of obtaining the PEFC Chain of Custody certification under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS). The presentations were followed by a Q&A session.

In rounding up the session, MTCC CEO, Yong Teng Koon said it is about time that businesses as well as the public do their bit in ensuring the sustainability of forests and forest resources to benefit future generations.

"At this juncture in time where forest resources are scarce and the demand for them are increasing, I think the call is for us to be responsible in production and consumption. All of us need to do our part to ensure forest sustainability for our future generations — just like our tagline, 'Sustainable Forest, Sustainable Future.' It's never too late to do the right thing," he said.

A total of 50 industry players mainly from the print, paper and packaging industry participated in the two-hour event.



MTCC virtual booth

MTCC DEBUTS AT MIFF FURNIVERSE 2021

MTCC recently participated in the virtual B2B furniture fair, MIFF Furniverse 2021 for the first time with a mission to continuously reach out to local and global timber industry players and increase awareness on forest and timber certification.

MIFF Furniverse 2021 was held from 8 March until 12 March, offering an online sourcing alternative to global furniture buyers. To the uninitiated, MIFF Furniverse is the latest digital event experience by the Malaysian International Furniture Fair (MIFF). MIFF is among the top furniture fairs across the globe particularly in Southeast Asia.

MTCC CEO, Yong Teng Koon said such virtual trading experience is the go-to in today's business sphere and an ideal platform for MTCC to consistently connect and update industry players in these challenging times.

"This real-time platform is an opportunity for us to reach out to more industry players beyond boundaries and raise awareness on certified or sustainably sourced timber from Malaysia and their applications," said Yong.

He added that the pandemic-hit situation has inevitably caused many businesses to re-strategise to weather the impact.

"So, we see this as a timely opportunity to share insights especially with conscious businesses and encourage them to consider certified timber throughout their supply chain."

The MTCC booth was viewed 422 times and received 177 local and international visitors from the Philippines, Singapore, Armenia, South Korea, Uruguay, Canada, India, China, Turkey, Kuwait and USA.











MTCC PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2021 OFFERS NEW, EXCITING CATEGORIES

MTCC is calling nature shutterbugs to get their creative juices flowing and show their photography flair at the annual MTCC Photography Contest 2021 which runs from 21 March until 30 June.

Carrying the theme "Experience Forest, Experience MTCS-PEFC", the contest is a joint effort between MTCC and PCP Publications which aims at raising public awareness via photography on the uniqueness and benefits of Malaysia's tropical forests while promoting the importance of valuing the nature and sustainable forest management through certification to benefit future generations.

MTCC CEO, Yong Teng Koon said the contest was launched on 21 March which coincided with the commemoration of the 9th International Day of Forests themed "Forest Restoration: a path to recovery and well-being". The theme gels well with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) that calls for forest restoration and sustainable forest management efforts to combat the impact of environmental and biodiversity crises.

Fresh Takes

Yong said the contest offers four new categories, taking into account the current movement control order imposed by the Malaysian government to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The four new categories consist of three photo categories namely Natural Forest Landscapes, Wood in Our Life and Stay Safe, Stay Green (social media category) and one video category, I Wonder, I Wander. The fresh takes are meant to create more excitement and make it more practical for contestants to take their best shots and stay creative despite the restrictions.

We look forward to receive more amazing entries this year as the contest has never failed to attract astounding works of art since the first edition of the contest in 2017," he said and added that a total of 166 participants from throughout Malaysia took part in the contest last year, with 1,384 photographs and 19 short video submissions.

Besides the grand prize of RM2,000, the contest offers one first prize of RM1,200, two merit prizes of RM600 and 10 consolation prizes of RM200 for each winner of the respective photo category. The social media category offers RM100 each for the best three entries and seven merit prizes of RM50 each. The best two video clips will receive a cash prize of RM500 each. All winners will also receive a book/magazine courtesy of PCP Publications.

Participation is open to all Malaysians who have a passion for forests, wood and photography. Participants may submit up to 10 images for each category and are required to upload their entries to a cloud storage system and email the link to mtcc@pcp2u.my.

For details and contest form, visit the following Facebook pages:

MTCC.Malaysia, AdvancedImagesTravelution, majalahFotografika or PhotoCreatorTravelmate





MALAYSIA'S 100-MILLION TREE-PLANTING CAMPAIGN 2020-2025

Malaysia's green agenda this year kickstarted with the launch of the 100-million tree-planting campaign 2020-2025 by Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin on 5 January 2021. The campaign, which is part of the Greening Malaysia programme, is aimed at having 100 million trees planted across the country over the next five years. Greening Malaysia is one of the national agendas that tackles nature and environmental issues such as climate change and biological diversity conservation towards improving Malaysians' quality of life. The campaign was organised by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources in collaboration with Department of Peninsular Malaysia (JPSM), state forestry departments, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and state governments.

Full article/ Campaign details:

https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2021/01/654640/pm-launches-100-million-tree-planting-campaign &

https://www.100jutapokok.gov.my/

GREENING OF URBAN LANDSCAPES COULD HELP BOOST MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The pandemic has pinpointed to us, so far, that most of us do not have enough access to nature. City dwellers, for instance, are becoming more appreciative of limited, green spaces such as parks and gardens as their source for peace of mind during the pandemic. This is no surprise with the growing evidence from recent studies on positive effects of nature and green environments in boosting mental and physical health. This development suggests that city planning with greening up agenda e.g. adding trees to a city block, should be prioritised for the well-being of people in the future.

Full article:

https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg24933270-800-green-spaces-arent-just-for-nature-they-boost-our-mental-health-too/

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FUTURE WITH SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING

Sarah Craig, the vice-president of global media platform, Spark, opines that the use of recycled materials in packaging is perceived as a blanketed positivity and has many advantages. With a significant increase in environmentally aware consumers, there is still more to think about when it comes to sustainable packaging such as minimising the sheer volume of packaging by using no more components or materials than necessary, designing ready-to-ship packaging as well as choosing delivery partners that practice responsible packaging with no/less environmental impact.

Full article:

https://www.thedrum.com/opinion/2021/03/25/packaging-can-help-save-the-world

PRIORITISE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AREAS TO LOWER COST AND GET MORE IMPACT

In a study titled "Global priority areas for ecosystem restoration" which was published in Nature in 2020, environmental scientists at the International Institute for Sustainability (IIS) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, found that prioritising the locations of ecosystem restoration can have a tremendous impact on achieving key environmental goals while substantially lowering the costs of doing so. They found that restoring priority areas using their multicriteria framework can make restoration 13 times more cost effective than focusing on one criteria on any given land parcel alone.

Full article:

https://news.globallandscapesforum.org/49877/which-landscapes-should-we-restore-first/



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