

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 25 January 2022

Webinar on “Future-Proofing Sarawak Forestry through Sustainability”

For a long time, the forest and forest industry sector has been an important foreign-exchange earner for Sarawak. However, the forest areas has declined at an alarming rate. According to Global Forest Watch (GFW) from 2001 to 2020, Malaysia lost 8.39Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 29% decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 4.82Gt of CO₂e emissions. During this period Sarawak had accounted for the most tree cover loss at 3.04Mha. With this policy makers have identified the need to shift towards environmentally sustainable economic growth. Chief Minister Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg in a recent event urged the need to balance the demand of the environment, as well as the demand for the economy to move forward. He also said, “Our land-use policy, as well as our forestation, including replanting of forest and also the idea of carbon trading will be included in our future economic strategies.” (The Malaysian Reserve).

Therefore, it is essential that all stakeholders are harmonized on the way forward for Sarawak’s forest industry. Accordingly Control Union (CU), a global leader in Forest Certification will be hosting a webinar on “Future-Proofing Sarawak Forestry through Sustainability” in collaboration with Forest Department Sarawak, FSC Malaysia, Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC), WWF-Malaysia and Malaysia HR Forum on 15th February 2022. The Webinar aims to bring together all relevant forestry stakeholders to review and analyse key challenges facing the sector and ways to address these.

The event is to be officiated by YB Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak cum Second Minister of Urban Development and Natural Resources, & Minister of International Trade and Investment, Sarawak who will also deliver the Keynote address.

The webinar aims to the exchange of views and experiences on all aspects of forests and forestry-based certifications, which may lead to the formulation of broad recommendations applicable at national and regional levels. The event also provides an opportunity to produce an overview of the sector, in order to discern trends, adapt policies, create awareness in decision-makers, and influence public opinion. Given the high number of participants expected, it intends to be a valuable forum for strengthening the role of forests in general as well as in the context of critical environmental, economic and social issues and taking into account the developments in the global sustainable development agenda in Future-Proofing Sarawak Forestry Industry.

The webinar will include half a day of online sessions including keynote and plenary addresses, as well as a panel discussion. Plenary addresses will feature both research-based talks featuring prominent scientists, and more pragmatic, real-world presentations featuring prominent practitioners or policymakers from industry, government, and NGOs.

About Control Union:

Control Union (CU) founded in 1920 in Netherlands, specialises in inspection and certification of food, agriculture, animal feed, textiles, minerals, forest products, biomass, biofuels, tourism and oil and gas-related equipment among many other sectors. Control Union (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd is the Malaysian subsidiary of Control Union operating in Malaysia since 1987, services clients in both East and West Malaysia and around the world. With the recent accreditation for MTCS-FMC, CU is the only certification body to provide a one stop shop solution for all sustainability assurance needs of the Malaysian forestry Industry. Being a global leader in Forest Certification with servicing over 3000 satisfied clients globally, CU has extensive experience with verifying under local conditions if all requirements are met according to applicable scheme owners' standards. Verifying compliance with legal requirements is an important part of CU's regular forestry and timber audits. CU's experience in this field has led to frequent requests from clients to support them in meeting legal timber sourcing, processing and importing requirements with CU being recognised by the European Commission as a Monitoring Organisation since 2014 in order to assist European companies in meeting the EUTR (995/2010) Due Diligence requirements. In Malaysia, CU with its global and local accreditations and recognitions provides certification and assurance services for FSC, PEFC COC, MTCS, FMC, STLVS (Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System), CE Marking, Sustainable Tourism, ESG Assurance, Sustainable Biomass (SBP, GGL, RSB) and on Carbon Services (ISO 14064, ISO 14067, Carbon Neutral, Plan Vivo, VCS, Gold Standard, CCB Standards). More information, please visit <https://www.petersoncontrolunion.com/> .

Event details:

Date: 15 February 2022

Time: 2pm-6pm

Medium: Remote Online Via MS Teams

Organizer: Control Union

Enclosed herewith Keynote Speaker & Plenary list as invited

Keynote: YB Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak cum Second Minister of Urban Development and Natural Resources, & Minister of International Trade and Investment, Sarawak

Plenary Speakers

1. *Mr. Abg Ahmad Bin Abg Morni, Deputy Director (Forest Management); Forest Department Sarawak*
2. *Mr. Supun Nigamuni; General Manager, Control Union Malaysia*
3. *Ms. Charmaine Chee, Country Manager, Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®); FSC*
4. *Ms. Siti Syaliza Mustapha, Chief Executive Officer, Malaysian Timber Certification Council; MTCC*
5. *Mr. Arulkumar Singaraveloo, Co-Founder, Malaysia HR Forum*
6. *Ms. Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer, Sarawak Timber Association; STA*
7. *Dr. Jason Hon, Head of Conservation Sarawak, WWF-Malaysia*

Registration available via: <https://forms.controlunion.com/view.php?id=333771>

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FUTURE-PROOFING SARAWAK FORESTRY THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY

PLENARY SPEAKER



MR. SUPUN NIGAMUNI
General Manager
Control Union Malaysia

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**YB DATUK AMAR HAJI AWANG
TENGAH BIN ALI HASAN**
Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak cum
Second Minister of Urban Development and Natural Resources, &
Minister of International Trade and Investment, Sarawak

WEBINAR
TUESDAY
15 FEB 2022
2-6PM



Scan to Register



MR. ABG AHMAD BIN ABG MORNI
Deputy Director (Forest Management)
Forest Department Sarawak; FDS



MS. CHARMINE CHEE
Country Manager, Malaysia
Forest Stewardship Council®; FSC®



MS. SITI SYALIZA MUSTAPHA
Chief Executive Officer
Malaysian Timber Certification Council;
MTCC



MR. ARULKUMAR SINGARAVELOO
CO-FOUNDER Malaysia HR Forum



MS. ANNIE TING
Chief Executive Officer
Sarawak Timber Association; STA



DR. JASON HON
Head of Conservation, Sarawak
WWF-Malaysia

Any further enquiry, email to shammera@controlunion.com or call us at +603 3377 1600

In partnership with:







DETAILED AGENDA AND TOPICS

Time	Program
13.30	Registration
14.00	Welcome Address, Introductory Remarks by Control Union
14.10	Key Note Address by YB Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak cum Second Minister of Urban Development and Natural Resources, & Minister of International Trade and Investment, Sarawak
14.30	Plenary Address 1: Topic: Sarawak's Forestry Policy Directions Towards Sustainability; Benchmarking With Global Norms Speaker: Mr. Abg Ahmad Bin Abg Morni, Deputy Director (Forest Management); Forest Department Sarawak
14.50	Plenary Address 2: Topic: The Changing Face of Consumerism: Perception, Belief and Acceptability and value proposition of Control Union to Forestry Industry Speaker: Mr. Supun Nigamuni; General Manager, Control Union Malaysia
15.10	Plenary Address 3: Topic: Future-Proofing the forestry Industry with ESG Enablers, and Relevancy of FSC® in Sarawak Speaker: Ms. Charmaine Chee, Country Manager, Malaysia, Forest Stewardship Council®; FSC®
15.30	Plenary Address 4: Topic: How MTCS has contributed to Sustainability in Sarawak Forestry; What to Expect in Future Speaker: Ms. Siti Syaliza Mustapha, Chief Executive Officer, Malaysian Timber Certification Council; MTCC
15.50	Plenary Address 5: Topic: Eliminating Social Compliance Risks in Malaysian Forestry Industries Speaker: Mr. Arulkumar Singaraveloo, CO-FOUNDER Malaysia HR Forum
16.10	Plenary Address 6: Topic: Changing the Narrative: Sarawak's Timber Industry Push Towards a Holistic Sustainability Strategy Speaker: Ms. Annie Ting, Chief Executive Officer, Sarawak Timber Association; STA
16.30	Plenary Address 7: Topic: Status of Sarawak Forestry Industry, what has been done, what can be done: an NGO Perspective Speaker: Dr. Jason Hon, Head of Conservation, Sarawak, WWF-Malaysia
17.00	Panel Discussion, Q&A: All panelists, moderated by Control Union
18.00	End of Session