

Comment Sheet

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Outline of the Organization

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) is a trade association formed on 7 August 1971 by 3 founding timber associations. STA represents about 500 member companies which are involved in the upstream and downstream activities of the timber industry and its subsequent trade. Some are multinational companies dealing with forestry industry and timber trade, including forest plantations. STA member companies deal with logs and timber products which include sawntimber, plywood, mouldings/dowels, furniture, furniture parts, laminated boards and other panel products. Among the objectives of STA are (1) to promote, foster and enhance the relations between all members of the Association; (2) to promote and uphold as prudently as possible the interests and well being of all members of the Association; (3) to promote, ascertain and protect the continuous well being of the timber trade and industry in the State of Sarawak and so on.

Basic Policies of the organization on illegal logging issues and its activities

STA supports and promotes the practice of sustainable forest management and the trade of legal timber. Logs in Sarawak have been verified by the relevant authorities as those harvested by licensed person(s) from approved area(s) and in accordance with the laws, regulations and procedures pertaining to forestry and trade in the State of Sarawak and/or Malaysia, whichever applies.

Topics1 General Evaluation of Japan's Action for illegal logging issue

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) applauds Japan's efforts in taking necessary actions/measures to address illegal logging internationally as well as domestically especially over the last 6 years. This seminar is one of the Japan's efforts where relevant stakeholders from all over the world are invited together in one forum to share experiences with each other, with the aim of eliminating illegal logging globally. Illegal logging is a very complex issue, and it cannot be done alone. This issue has been further complicated and challenged by the ever evolving definition of legality and sustainability by different international organisations as well as Non-Governmental Groups. It is important to understand the difference between legal and certified timber. Also, STA recognizes that there is an urgent need to

reach international consensus on the definition of legality and sustainability and verification method which can be adopted by all stakeholders. All stakeholders in this context are not only confined to the government and industry but also the NGOs and the interest parties, and all are required to play their part and as well as to take effective actions for mutual benefit of all stakeholders.

Topics2 Possibility of Activities of Industry Associations for illegal logging issue in the context of Goho-wood

STA continues to work closely with the relevant forestry authorities of Sarawak to ensure the supply of logs and timber products are legal, based on the system provided in the Legality Verification of log in Sarawak (LVLS). With this assurance of supply of legal timber we aim to sustain our forests, which is in line with the objectives of Goho-wood. STA strongly believes that to tackle illegal logging effectively requires firm action and commitment from both timber producing and consuming countries. STA and Industry Associations in Japan can work together to publicise these requirements and systems in their own countries.