

MTCC FIELD TRIP REPORT TO KTS PLANTATION SDN BHD

A. INTRODUCTION

MTCC has carried out a study trip to KTSP on July 18th – 19th. This field study is part of the program of a nationwide initiative by MTCC to study the impact of MTCS on Forest Management, Industry and Trade after 20 years of implementation. The same exercise have been conducted in West Malaysia and Sarawak, and Sabah is the last region to be covered. The study, which is funded by MTCC is carried out by the Institute of Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi. The study team comprises of the following;

- 1) Dato' Shaharuddin Mohamad Ismail - Associate Fellow, UKM
- 2) Ass. Prof. Dr. Ahmad Fariz - Sr. Research Fellow, UKM
- 3) Ms. Ku Adriani Binti Ku Ayob - UKM
- 4) Nurul Hidayah Binti Shamsul Ariffin - UKM
- 5) Nurlina Binti Mohamad Ramzan - UKM
- 6) Siti Zuhaili Binti Hassan - UKM
- 7) Haniff Salleh - MTCC
- 8) Amelia Cynthia Bosi - SFD (SFM)
- 9) Charlene Billy - SFD (SFM)

B. THE PROGRAM

This is a two-day program which involve dialogue, field discussion, Rehabilitation plot and CoC mechanism demo from harvesting compartment to the stumping. During the Opening Meeting, KTSP presented the general information on Area Info., Main Forest Operation, Certification and Research & Collaboration. Also presented was the CoC flow from Compartment to Stumping. This followed by slide presentation by LESTARI team on over view of certification progress in West Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. The level of compliance of respective states by Principle was also presented.

Various issues on impact of MTCS on Forest Management, Industry and Trade was discussed. However, the following issues record matters relevant to KTSP:

- 1) Premium Price: *KTSP highlighted the none-existence of Premium Price of Certified Timber which was the main attraction point when the MTCS was introduced. The team acknowledge that the same issue has been raised elsewhere, especially in West Malaysia where the most certified area has been recorded, though data shows Europe are importing less than the targeted volume due to shortage of supply. No satisfactory explanation was given by the team apart from speculating uncoordinated marketing strategy by the Government as the main cause.*
- 2) Challenges towards certification: *KTSP highlighted various challenges, which among the main challenges are high Upfront costs for Planning, Assessment and Facility upgrade. Similarly, cost to maintain certification is also very significant such as Impact Monitoring, Staffing for Certification, Benefits to Workers and HCV management -as compared to overall operational cost.*

- 3) Community related issues: *KTSP has less Community related issue for the reason that there is no community reside in the Forests Reserve. Similarly, based on the SIA there is no adjacent community that is directly impacted by forestry operation.*
- 4) Impact of MTCS on reputation: *KTSP highlighted that reputation is one of the most tangible benefit realised from MTCS. KTSP is now one of the most recognizable company in the forest industry at national level which practicing SFM as demonstrated through various awards obtained. However, most of the SFM program carried out by KTSP is beyond the requirement of MTCS, such as Research Collaboration and establishment of SFM Concept unique to SLFR.*
- 5) Impact of MTCS on Forest Management practices: *KTSP view the impact at various level; i) Novice Level -where organisation try to obtain certification, ii) Intermediate Level -where organisation maintaining certification, and iii) Advance Level -where certified organisation developing own concept of SFM which is usually beyond the requirement of MTCS. KTSP is of the opinion that SLFR is at Advance Level where various SFM concept has been developed such as the HPC (Forest Rehabilitation) and PPSP (Growth Monitoring). The maximum benefit are realised at Level iii where best practices are most appreciated and voluntarily applied to achieve sustainable economic benefits.*

C. CONCLUSION

Overall, the visit has less direct benefits to KTSP per se, however it has provide a platform for practitioner to provide insight for MTCS to realign their strategy to realise the full potential of Forests certification economically, mainly as a result of effective market mechanism that favour premium price for certified timber.

Photo



Field visit to harvesting area where tree harvesting was demonstrated.



Group photo with the delegates before they depart from KTS Plantation.



Group photo with the delegate at stumping, last field visit area.