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Conference discusses pertinent timber issues

By Yvonne Tuah

KUCHING: The Sarawak Grand Timber Expo and Conference 2013, and Sarawak small and medium enterprises (SMEs) Expo 2013 will discuss and highlight pertinent issues relating to the timber industry not only domestically but also globally.

The event, which is jointly organised by the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and the Ministry of Industrial Development (MID), will be holding an International Conference on Timber at Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCKK) from June 7 to 8.

Concurrently held with the exhibition for the timber and SMEs, the conference brings together speakers from overseas as well as locals to speak on various issues that are of interest to the timber industry and the SMEs.

Among others, speakers from US, Australia and China will present papers on the challenges facing the current timber markets and the market requirements while speakers from South Korea and Indonesia are expected to share information and experiences on the forest plantation and the SMEs industries respectively.

Speakers from Forest Research

Institute Malaysia and Malaysian Timber Certification in Malaysia as well as the Forestry Department, Sarawak will also present talks during the conference.

In total, the two day conference will see over 12 speakers presenting talks on the timber and SME industries.

Yesterday, the conference saw speaker Oscar John Ngayop, assistant director of Planted Forest, Forest Department of Sarawak, presenting his talk on 'Sustaining the future supply of raw material for the development of the timber downstream processing industry in Sarawak'.

Additionally, Nicholas Andrew Lisse, manager of Industrial Planning, STIDC presented a paper on 'The development status of the timber industry in Sarawak'.

Director of Serba Dinamik Sdn Bhd, Haji Abdul Kadier Sahib also shared his experience on building his enterprise as well as the successes the company had achieved over the years.

International presenters, Guangping Han, an associate professor of Northeast Forestry

University China, presented 'Market potential and outlook on timber products in China'

while Mitchell Ben, director of International Forest policy, Forest Branch, Climate Change Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in Australia, presented talks on 'The market requirements for the timber products export to Australia'.

Today, some of the talks that will be presented are 'The development status and challenges of furniture industry in Malaysia' by Dr Jegatheswaran Ratnasingam from the Faculty of Forestry, University Putra Malaysia, 'The potential

utilisation of fast growing species from planted forest' by Dr Mohd Nor Mohd Yusoff, deputy director general of FRIM, and 'The prospects and challenges of timber certification in Malaysia' by Datuk Dr Freezailah Che Yom, chairman of MTCC.

Attendance to the conference is still open to those who are interested to participate.

Concurrently, the expo is still open to the public from 10am to 6pm daily until June 10, 2013. Admission to the expo is free, however, registration is required by completing the Expo Registration Form available at BCKK.

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TIMBER CONFERENCE: Photo shows attendees of the Sarawak Grand Timber Expo and Conference 2013, and Sarawak SMEs Expo 2013 launch yesterday. The expo will concurrently hold an International Conference on Timber with speakers from overseas as well as locals to speak on various issues that are of interest to the timber industry and the SMEs.