

Headline	STIDC holds training workshop on uses of bamboo		
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STIDC holds training workshop on uses of bamboo

KUCHING: Sarawak Timber Industrial Development Corporation (STIDC) takes a new milestone in creating greater awareness and promoting the use of bamboo among the people.

Besides promoting bamboo products at the Sarawak Timber and SMEs Expo 2015, STIDC in collaboration with its Chinese counterparts presently conducts a training workshop on the uses of bamboo.

The two-week training workshop which started from 16-30 October at PUSAKA Furniture Industry Complex, Kota Samarahan near here is facilitated by Mr Weiren Zeng of the Centre of Anji Bamboo Research and Design, China. He is assisted by specialists in bamboo weaving, bamboo buildings and furniture with decades of experience.

The training workshop focuses on raw bamboo processing, bamboo weaving, bamboo furniture-making as well as basic handling of bamboo craft tools.

Through the training workshop, STIDC hopes to share knowledge with the participants to become new entrepreneurs by making simple household furniture, baskets and handicrafts to meet market demands and generate

income.

Awareness on the economic potential of bamboo in the state is evident by the presence of a Bamboo Museum and Bamboo Botanical Park in the state capital. Apparently, there is interest to develop the bamboo industry and to sustain these resources for the benefit of the present and future generations.

STIDC and other government agencies plan to collaborate with their Chinese counterparts to integrate the bamboo industry within the timber industry.

The MoU signing between STIDC and Centre of Anji Bamboo Research and Design (CABRD) during the opening ceremony of the Sarawak Timber and SMEs Expo 2015 reflected STIDC's commitment to develop the bamboo industry in the state.

The MoU charts the way forward for technical collaboration on research and development (R&D) on bamboo plantations and bamboo products manufacturing in the state.

STIDC was selected by the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) to represent Malaysia in the Aid Programme on Capacity Building for Bamboo and Rattan Sustainable Development

by attending a training seminar on SMEs of the bamboo industry from 9-23 April, 2015 in China.

Sarawak has huge potentials in the bamboo industry due to available land and suitable soil and climate for the development of the industry. Bamboo in Sarawak is mainly used for handicrafts. It is also one of the fastest growing crops and matures between three and four years. It is also a renewable source of raw materials and has great potentials for SMEs in Sarawak.

Bamboo is poised to add value to timber and R&D on bamboo therefore helps to spearhead the development of SMEs in the state.

Looking at its economic potential, there is good prospect for the bamboo industry particularly in Sarawak. The global market value for bamboo products is forecasted at USD15-20billion by 2018 with USA as the major consumer.

According to the Malaysian Timber Industry Board and Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), there are 70 bamboo species in Malaysia in which 50 species are found in the Peninsular, 30 in Sabah and 20 in Sarawak. Out of these, only 12 species are used commercially.