



E-NEWSLETTER

SARAWAK OIL PALM PLANTATION OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Chairman's Message

Eric Kiu Kwong Seng



HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR! I wish you have a healthy year in 2023 and much success!

Welcome to another edition of SOPPOA's Newsletter that covers some of important activities participated in the month of December 22 and January 23.

Generally, Year 22 continued to be challenging to business communities – oil palm sector alike. We witnessed few developments after a prolonged two years of movement restriction imposed worldwide in order to control Covid-19.

On April 22, Malaysian government made a decision to open its borders to international travellers to re-ignite the economy. The business communities were delighted as this allow them to start recruiting foreign workers that they were in dire short of during the MCO.

Alongside, announcement of few policies in connection to foreign workers have adversely impacted the business communities. Overall, the productivity did not improve much due to the slow return of foreign workers.

Internationally, the eruption of Russo-Ukrainian War on 24 February 22, had in a way upset the world supply chains. The prices of commodities soared as well as input costs. In short period of time, countries all over the world experienced rising inflation.

Adverse weather patterns in certain countries, shortage of workforces, and etc were additional factors impacted to the prices of commodities.

A blessing in disguise, Malaysian palm oil sector enjoyed an annual average price of RM5,100 a ton according to the report by MPOB director-general to

offset the lower performance continuingly affected by insufficient foreign workers.

Moving in 2023, Malaysian oil palm sector remains challenging.

It is positive to note that the present leader has suggested to hold a meeting with Indonesian government to discuss on the possibility of having CPO benchmark price.

The two largest palm oil producers would also look into proactive strategies to counter the European Union's ban and trade barriers imposed on palm products.

We hope these collaborations would further strengthen the palm oil prices and regain the dignity of palm oil.

This year, SOPPOA will maintain its effort toward its objectives to enhance the members' experiences and knowledge on issues that affecting the operation of oil palm businesses. The secretariat has few enhancement programs for members in the pipeline that related to foreign workers and palm oil mill.

Members are welcomed and encouraged to make suggestion to the secretariat on any relevant training or capacity building program as well.

Last but not least, I am taking this opportunity to inform that the coming Council and Annual General Meeting will be held in the month of March.

Finally, not to miss the up-coming Palm & Lauric Oils is on 6-8 March 2023.

Happy reading.

POC
PALM & LAURIC OILS
PRICE OUTLOOK CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION
(POC2023)
6 - 8 March 2023 | Shangri-La Hotel Kuala Lumpur

Mill Committee Meeting On 1 December 2022



Background

Palm oil mills in Malaysia are required to install air pollution control system at boilers by 31st Dec 2022.

For Sarawak, the same is applied to those palm oil mills that operate EFB incinerator.

To date, not all palm oil mills in Sarawak have able to install air pollution control system at boilers due to certain reasons.

The purpose of this meeting was to gather information and facilitate members in complying to the Environmental Quality Act (EQA) by Department of Environment (DOE).

1 Environment Quality Act (EQA)

Palm oil industry is a highly regulated with the objective of achieving sustainability of palm oil production and use in its entire supply chain.

In terms of environmental aspects, under the Department of Environment's jurisdiction, palm oil industry in Malaysia is subjected to the environmental compliance through

EQA 1974 except for Sabah and Sarawak where 'some parameters' of the environmental compliance for palm oil industry are governed by the state agencies which are Sabah Environment Protection Department and Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) of Sarawak.

There are several regulations under EQA 1974 in which related to palm oil industries depending on the sectors. For example, the development requirement of palm oil plantations and the environmental compliance for palm oil mills. The regulations under the EQA 1974 which are related to palm oil industries are listed below:-

- i. Environmental Quality (Prescribed Activities) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Order 2015;
- ii. Environmental Quality (Prescribed Premises) (Crude Palm Oil) Order 1977);
- iii. Environmental Quality (Prescribed Premises) (Crude Palm Oil) Regulations 1977;
- iv. Environmental Quality (Prescribed Activities) (Open Burning) Order 2003;
- v. Environmental Quality (Scheduled Wastes) Regulations 2005; and
- vi. Environmental Quality (Clean Air) Regulations 2014.



► From..02

2 Regulatory Requirement for Palm oil Mills

The three environmental regulations directly affecting the operation of palm oil mill are:-

- i. Effluent – Environmental Quality (Prescribed Premises) (Crude Palm Oil) Order 1977);
- ii. Air - Environmental Quality (Clean Air) Regulations 2014.
- iii. Scheduled Waste - Environmental Quality (Scheduled Wastes) Regulations 2005.

3 Environmental Quality (Clean Air) Regulations 2014

The imposition of the Environmental Quality (Clean Air) Regulations 2014 by DOE sees significant reduction on the limit of particulate matter (PM) for smoke emission from 400 mg/m³ to 150 mg/m³, respectively.

On top of that, palm oil mill also required to comply with the shade No. 2 (40% opacity) of Ringelmann chart.

A five-year grace period was given to palm oil millers beginning 2014 to comply with the Clean Air Regulations 2014.

The original deadline was in 2019 for full compliance of all mills in Malaysia, but at time most of the palm oil mills in Sarawak were yet to install necessary air pollution control systems at their mills.

The reason being mainly due to the uncertainty and lack of confident of the existing air pollution control system in the market at the time. Insufficient technical knowledge to assist decision makers for respective palm oil mills as well as logistic issues may also contribute to the delayed of the implementation. (Source: DOE)

4 Air Pollution Control Systems

There are four main technologies in development in various industries and currently adopted by palm oil mills. Notwithstanding, each has their own advantages and drawbacks where the millers need to address their requirement before finalizing their decision. They are:-

- i. Bag (fabric) filter – This system is highly efficient to prevent dust from being emitted with clean smoke, but the nature of fabric often caused fire due to high temperature exiting boilers. This however, can be prevented by chilling the exiting smoke to reduce the temperature.

- ii. Electrostatic precipitator (ESP) - The ESP is operating based on electrostatic principle. Flue gas exiting from the boiler combustion chamber laden with dust particulates is channelled to a tall tower chamber with gas made of collecting plates which forms the partition plate spaced at about 400 mm apart.

Electrodes are installed at the center between these collectors planted. The electrodes are supplied with high voltage DC current emitting negative ions so that the dust particulates passing through will be negatively charged. The negatively charged fine particles are then attracted to the positively charge collecting plates along the flue gas passages.

A rapping device (hammering device) is used to knock on the collecting plates at set intervals to dislodge the collected dust particles to the bottom of a tapper hopper, where it will be discharges via rotating air lock device to the conveyor below it for disposal or bagging (source: Prosper)

However, the high capital cost is the major setback.

- iii. Cyclone or multi-cyclone – This system is commonly used in palm oil mill to settle down dust but has a difficulty to settle down fine particles which tend to follow the vortex flow of the clean air. It may able to comply 400 mg/m³ but hardly achieve 150 mg/m³. However, many technology providers claimed that they are able to capture the fine particulate by introducing the mechanical re-cyclone which aims to agglomerate the fine particles with the coarse particles.
- iv. Wet scrubber – It separate the particles from clean air by spraying water on top of the smoke where dust could be easily separated due to difference in specific gravity. However, the effluent generated from the scrubber is quite cumbersome for palm oil mills to handle.

5 Air Pollution Control System at EFB Incinerator

To recap, DOE has alerted the palm oil millers on the banning of the operation of EFB incinerator should the latter fail to comply to the Clean Air Regulations 2014 by end of 2022.

After many appeals, DOE saw the needs of leniency to palm oil millers to extend the operation but subject to "case-by-case" basis.

This has created greater dilemma as the palm oil millers are unable to meet the requirement set by DOE that the

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► From..03

emission parameters should meet the Schedule 3 specifications of the Clean Air Regulations 2014.

In late 2021, SOPPOA brought the matter to the attention of the state government. The matter was taken up by YB Dr. Hazland who was appointed as the deputy minister of a newly formed ministry of Energy and Environmental Sustainability in Jan 2022.

The first meeting to brief on the prospect of EFB incinerator operation in Sarawak was chaired by YB Dr. Hazland, NREB and DOE senior officials and SOPPOA Mill Committee members on 20th Jan 2022.

The meeting was very encouraging and YB Dr. Hazland firmly decided that DOE has no reason to ban the EFB incinerator which bring benefit to the industry especially when it is able to convert oil palm by-product to organic fertilizer that can be applied directly to peat soil estates.

Such a process is in-line with the government's initiative on circular economy.

The meeting also decided that specifications set in Schedule 3 of the Clean Air Regulation 2014 which met for municipal or clinical waste cannot be used to regulate the palm oil mill whose emission are mainly organic matters.

In this respect, the Director of DOE (Air) accepted the shortcoming and agreed that palm oil mill should be regulated based on Schedule 2 instead.

Despite the achievement at the meeting, many palm oil millers continued to face difficulty in applying for the extension for their existing EFB incinerator.

Lack of coordination between the DOE Sarawak and HQ further complicating the application processes.

In order to facilitate members, SOPPOA issued another letter to DOE HQ on 8 September 2022 to request for considering a blanket approval to defer the installation of smoke emission particulate matter abatement equipment as agreed in the meeting chaired by YB Dr. Hazland instead of requiring individual palm oil mill to apply separately.

However, as usual instead of granting approval directly, DOE has posed additional terms for palm oil millers to comply prior to considering the blanket approval requested by SOPPOA as in its letter dated 24 Nov 2022.

In view of this, a meeting was called on 1 Dec 2022 with the mill committee to gather views and to response collectively to those additional terms.

5.1 SOPPOA's responses to the terms raised by DOE

(i) *Persatuan SOPPOA hendaklah mengemukakan Jadual Pelaksanaan Kajian dan Jadual Pemasangan Sistem Kawalan Pencemaran Udara dengan segera kepada Jabtan ini;*

A meeting chaired by the Deputy Minister for Energy and Environmental Sustainability Sarawak with the presence of DOE and NREB officials on 20 January 2022 unanimously agreed that there is no workable technology or system for the control of smoke emission from the EFB incinerator. Following the advice, SOPPOA submitted a project proposal to a relevant department in March 2022 for research collaboration but did not materialize as there was no fund available.

In view of the need to comply with the extension's conditions given by DOE, SOPPOA Mill Committee has resorted to seek for other potential research collaborators and therefore revised the research timeline as in Table 1:

Table 1: R&D Timeline

Item	Description	2023				2024			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1	Carry out ultimate analysis of EFB fiber								
2	Laboratory simulation of processes								
3	Laboratory testing, calibration and optimization								
4	Designing laboratory scale fuel burning equipment								
5	Testing and optimization of laboratory scale burning equipment								

Table 2: Pilot Timeline

Item	Description	2025				2026			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1	Engage consultant on design of pilot burning equipment								
2	Identify mill location for pilot trial								
3	Procurement and construction of pilot system								
4	Testing, calibration and optimization								
5	Data collection and optimization								

► Cont..05



► From..04

(ii) Tempoh pelaksanaan kajian sehinggalah system kawalan pencemaran udara dipasang sepenuhnya untuk beroperasi di premis-premis tersebut adalah hanya dibenarkan sehingga 31 Disember 2024. Tiada tempoh lanjutan dipertimbangkan selepas 31 Disember 2024;

There is not much reference available in reference to EFB incinerator. Therefore, the R&D has to start from scratch and undergo series of pilot scale trial before it can be commercialized. However, this is provided the laboratory result is satisfactory and scalable.

In order to have a more comprehensive proposal, the timeline for pilot trial is included as in Table 2:

(iii) Sistem kawalan pencemaran udara yang dipasang hendaklah berupaya mematuhi Jadual Kedua, Peraturan-Peraturan Kualiti Alam Sekeliling (Udara Bersih) 2014 iaitu 150 mg/m³ bagi Particulate Matter (PM) dan 1000 mg/m³ bagi karbon monoxide (CO), tiada asap hitam serta mematuhi Peraturan 12, kelegapan iaitu kelegapan No. 1 dalam Carta Ringelmann atau kurang dari 20% kelegapan apabila diukur dengan transmissometer; dan

The Schedule 2 of the Environment Clean Air (2014), 150 mg/m³ for Particulate Matter (PM) and 1000 mg/m³ for carbon monoxide (CO), is used as benchmark for the design of the proposed smoke emission control system.

(iv) Premis kilang kelapa sawit hendaklah memohon Lesen Pelanggaran secara individu di bawah Seksyen 22(1), Akta Kualiti Alam Sekeliling 1974 dan Peraturan 25, Peraturan-Peraturan Kualiti Alam Sekeliling (Udara Bersih) 2014 daripada JAS Negeri Sarawak dan sesalinan kepada Ibu Pejabat JAS serta mengemukakan Jadual Pelaksanaan spesifik pemasangan system kawalan pencemaran udara dalam tempoh tersebut.

Palm oil mill that is interested in applying for the extension on the operation of the current EFB incinerator to 31

December 2024 has been advised to submit its application individually with the proposed R&D implementation timelines detailed in (i) and (ii).

5.2 Summary

With the above feedbacks, we hope that DOE would consider supporting the extension on the operation of EFB incinerator in Sarawak which is crucial not only to reduce the problem causes by EFB heaps but also to return the by-product to the field in supporting the circular economy initiative by the government.

6 Air Pollution Control System at Boiler

It was reported that a palm oil miller who had applied for the extension of grace period for installing an air pollution control system at its palm oil mill has received a rejection from DOE Sarawak on 30th November 2022.

The reason was that the 5-year grace period given ended on 5th Jun 2019 dan Lesen Pelanggaran which ends on 31 Dec 2022 will not be extended further.

There is likelihood that more palm oil mills are going to face similar consequent due to lack of progress in the implementation.

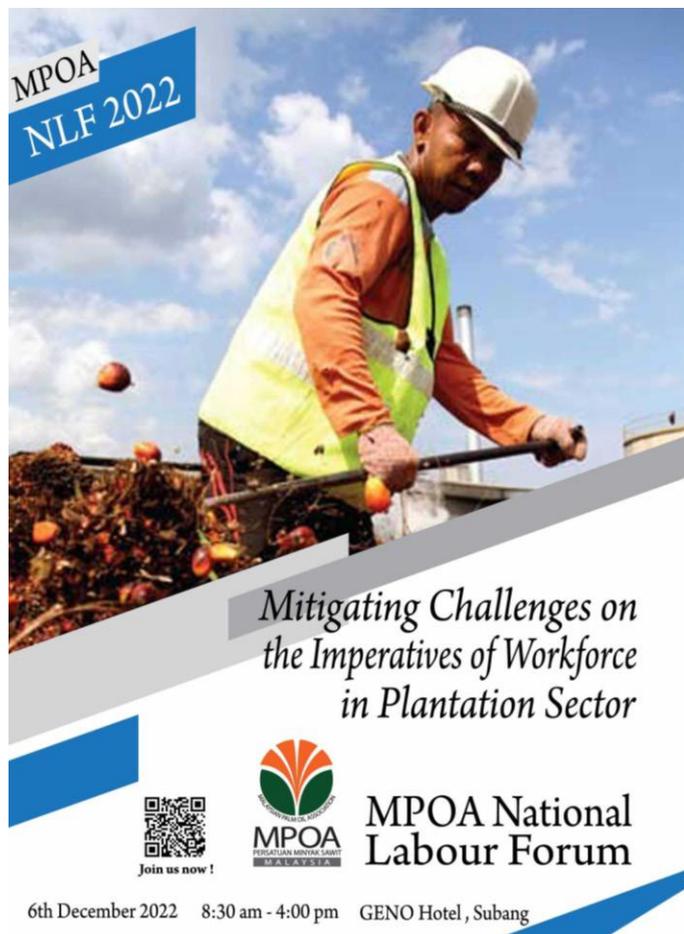
SOPPOA had raised the predicament to MPOB during a recent meeting on 7 Nov 2022. The director-general of MPOB had promised to undertake the case and to engage with DOE to find an amicable solution.

Subsequently, MPOB had raised the matter for discussion in their BOD meeting on 7 Dec 2022.

Without taking risk as the deadline is approaching, SOPPOA has written to the DG to request MPOB to step in immediately to avoid any cessation of operation imposed by DOE on certain palm oil mills in the state.



MPOA National Labor Forum On 6 December 2022



1 Welcome Remarks

In his opening remarks, Joseph Tek, CEO of MPOA briefly ran through the background of the organization. It was interesting to know that MPOA is an integration of three associations of the Rubber Growers Association, the United Planting Association of Malaysia, and the Malaysian Oil Palm Growers Council.

He also highlighted that MPOA has actively engaged with stakeholders on the issues of 1) recruitment and return of foreign workers, 2) HRDC's levy, 3) multi-tier levy mechanism, 4) mechanization with MARCOP, and 5) proposed Sabah foreign workers' card.

With the continuing shortage of foreign workers, he estimated that the plantation sector is expected to incur approximately RM20 bil this year.

ESTIMATED REVENUE LOSSES DUE TO SHORTAGE OF HARVESTERS = RM20 BILLION

Production Loss Due To Shortage of Harvesters									
No to shortage (E persons)	41,000	# This could have been higher							
No of working da (days)	280								
Assumption on Productivity	FFB Losses	CPO Losses	Assumed Ag. Price	Revenue	Cost	Pre-Tax Profit	Tax losses Tax rate @ 24%		
CPO								Income Tax	
FFB Yield (t/ha)	1.5	17,220,000	3,444,000	5,120	17,633,280,000	(12,054,000,000)	8,082,594,450	1,939,822,668	
OER (%)	20.0								
Oil Yield (t/ha)	0.3							Windfall Profit Tax	
								602,355,600	
								376,601,400	
CPOK	881,000	387,450	6,481	2,500,314,450				CPO Exports Tax	
								1,410,062,400	
									Total Tax Revenue loss (End SST in Sabah/Selangor)
								20,136,594,450	4,329,442,068

Malaysia Palm Oil Association (MPOA) organized its annual labor forum with the theme "Mitigating Challenges on the Imperatives of Workforce in Palntation Sector" this year on Tuesday, 6 Dec at Geno Hotel, Subang.

Pertinent and updated briefings were shared by invited speakers from the Ministry of Human Resources (MOHR) – Migration Worker Management Division on Plantation Sector, Department of Labor Peninsular Malaysia (JTKSM) on Plantation Sector, immigration Department of Malaysia (JIM) – Foreign Worker Division on Plantation Sector, Bestinet Sdn Bhd which is the custodian of the Foreign Workers Centralized Management System (FWCMS), the Human Resource Development Corporation (HRDC) for HRD Levy for the Plantation, the Ministry of Plantation Commodities (MPIC), Innovation Promotion and Industrial Human Capital Department (PIMI) and Institute of Malaysian Plantation and Commodities (IMPAC).

To have a better understanding, the association has carried out a survey on its members' companies on foreign workers. The total of foreign workers as indicated by 10 larger companies was 74,636 persons against the total approved of 27,775 as up to mid-Oct 22.

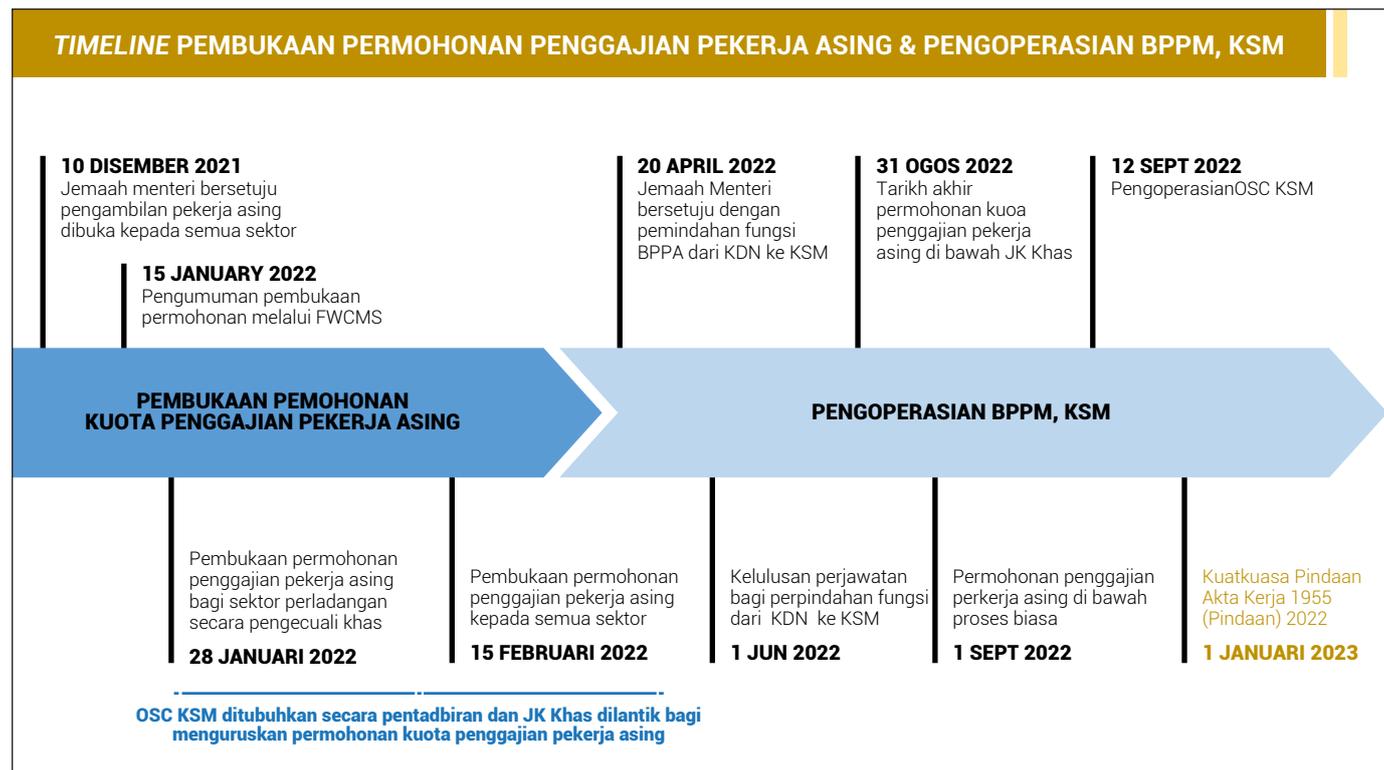
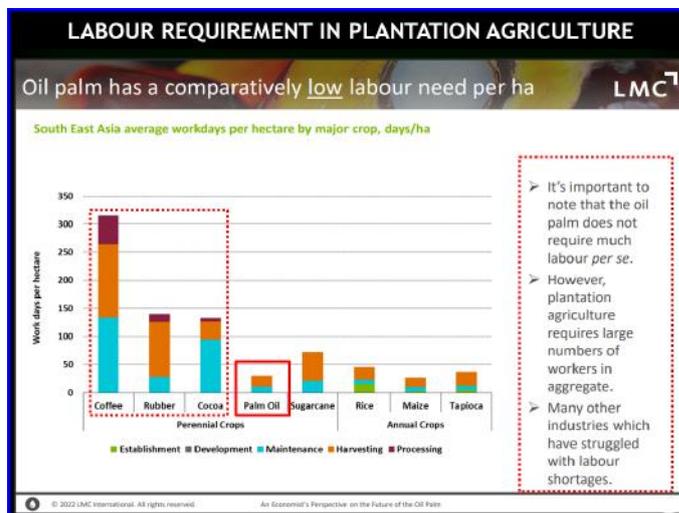
He also showed the breakdown of approval based on nationality for the first 10 months of this year.

Oil palm sector is labor intensive. However, it is interesting to note that when compares to some major plantation sectors like coffee, rubber or cocoa, the numbers of labor employed in oil palm plantation is by far lower.



► From..06

MPOA SURVEY ON FOREIGN WORKERS RECRUITMENT (as of 30 November 2022)														
Arrival of Foreign Workers Year 2022 as of 30 November 2022 from Top 10 MPOA members (Peninsular Malaysia)														
Total FW Requirement	Current Active FW	No. Of Quota Application	No. Of FW Approved	Source Country	Jan-Jun 22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Sub-Total	Estimated Dec 22	Total 2022	
74,664	55,815	30,805	28,724		331	926	1,391	3,134	3,340	5,037	14,159	4,174	18,333	
				1	Indonesia	183	252	671	1,456	1,812	2,463	6,837	2,782	9,619
				2	Bangladesh	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	60	30	90	
				3	India	123	664	670	1,283	1,330	2,462	6,532	1,362	7,894
				4	Nepal	25	10	50	395	198	52	730		730
						331	926	1,391	3,134	3,340	5,037	14,159	4,174	18,333
						% FW Approved						49.3%	14.5%	63.8%
						% FW Requirement						19.0%	5.6%	24.6%



2 Briefing by the Migrant Worker Management Division or Bahagian Pengurusan Pekerja Migran (BPPM)

Pn. Asrinayati binti Mokhtar informed that BPPM was established since the transfer of function in managing migrant workers from the home ministry to MOHR in Apr 22.

The decision was based on the feasibility study initiated back in 2013 whereby the task force committee found that the management of migrant workers was best to placed under MOHR.

This was followed by the incorporation of a 'one-stop-center' online system for the processing of all documents related migrant workers recruitment in West Malaysia only via Foreign Workers Centralized Management System (FWCMS).

► Cont..08



► From..07

ELEVATING LABOUR STANDARDS

1. LABOUR LEGISLATIONS

1. **EA Amendment 1955**
 - ▶ irrespective of wages
 - ▶ non- discriminatory
 - ▶ notice on sexual harrasment.
 - ▶ forced labour provision.
 - ▶ reduce weekly work hours.
 - ▶ prior approval from DG
 - ▶ Labour to employ foreign workers
2. **Minimum Wage.**
3. **Act 446**
 - ▶ accommodation compliance
4. **Act PES 1981**
 - ▶ regulating private employment agencies.
5. **Act CYP 1966**
 - ▶ employment of children and young persons
 - ▶ notice on prohibiting children at work place.

2. ENFORCEMENT

- Intensifying enforcement activities via:**
- ▶ labour inspections specifically on plantation sector.
 - ▶ Integrated enforcement to tackle issues on forced labour and trafficking in persons
 - ▶ established a Special Task Force Team to look into forced labour activities under Section 908

4. OUTREACH

- ▶ established a Technical Committee led by JTKSM comprising of 6 sectors which are identified as prone to forced labour activities including plantation sectors

3. LABOUR EDUCATION

- ▶ educating employers and unions on the current updates of laws, policies and directives set by MOHR/JTKSM

5. ROAD MAP

- ▶ developed National Action Plan on Forced Labour (2021-2025)
- ▶ actively involved in the National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons (2021-2025)

3

Briefing by Department of Labor Peninsular Malaysia (JTKSM)

The deputy director, Hj. Mohd. Asri bun Abdul Wahab informed that JTKSM focuses on 5 main roles namely

- i. labor legislations,
- ii. enforcement,
- iii. labor education,
- iv. outreach, and
- v. road map.

He emphasized that starting 1 Jan 23 there are few amendments to the employment act 1955.

- i. wages – current regulation only covers those who are earning RM2,500 or less per month. However, there will be no limit starting 2023.
- ii. non-discriminatory & sexual harassment – that all premises must display notice in public space to show their commitment.
- iii. forced labor provision – to comply to the ILO indicators of forced labor.
- iv. reduced weekly work hours – from present 48 to 45 hours effective Sep 22.
- v. Foreign worker recruitment – must obtain prior approval from DG Labor who will focus of the following aspects before approving:-
 - a. no outstanding cases related to labor,
 - b. benefits and facilities to workers, and
 - c. accommodation.

4

Briefing by Foreign Worker Division, Immigration Department of Malaysia (JIM)

The speaker highlighted the 'dos' and 'don'ts' of employers in terms of management of foreign workers which are covered in Akta Imigresen 1959/63.

She also reminded that under Sek.6(1)(d) Akta Imigresen, no person other than a citizen shall enter Malaysia without a valid pass or permit.

Under the Immigration Passport Act 1966, every person entering Malaysia from any place beyond Malaysia shall produce to an immigration officer a passport.

There are common offences committed by employers intentionally or unintentionally such as:-

KESALAHAN-KESALAHAN YANG BIASA DILAKUKAN OLEH MAJIKAN (SAMA ADA SECARA SEDAR ATAU TIDAK, SENGAJA ATAU TIDAK SENGAJA)			
Melindungi/ Menggajikan PATI	Melanggar Syarat Pas	Tinggal Lebih Masa	Gagal Mengemukakan Dokumen
Force Labour	Pekerja Asing Menjalankan Hubungan Dengan Warga Tempatan	Membenarkan Pekerja Menjalankan Pekerjaan Lain	Gagal Menginsuranskan Dokumen

► Cont..09



► From..08

5 Briefing by Bestinet Sdn Bhd on the FWCMS

En. Ayub bin Adb Rahman, CEO said prior to the employment of FWCMS, the manual recruitment process for foreign workers were complex, not integrated, and involves various entities.

The worst part, the whole process might take up to as long as 9 months to recruit a foreign worker.

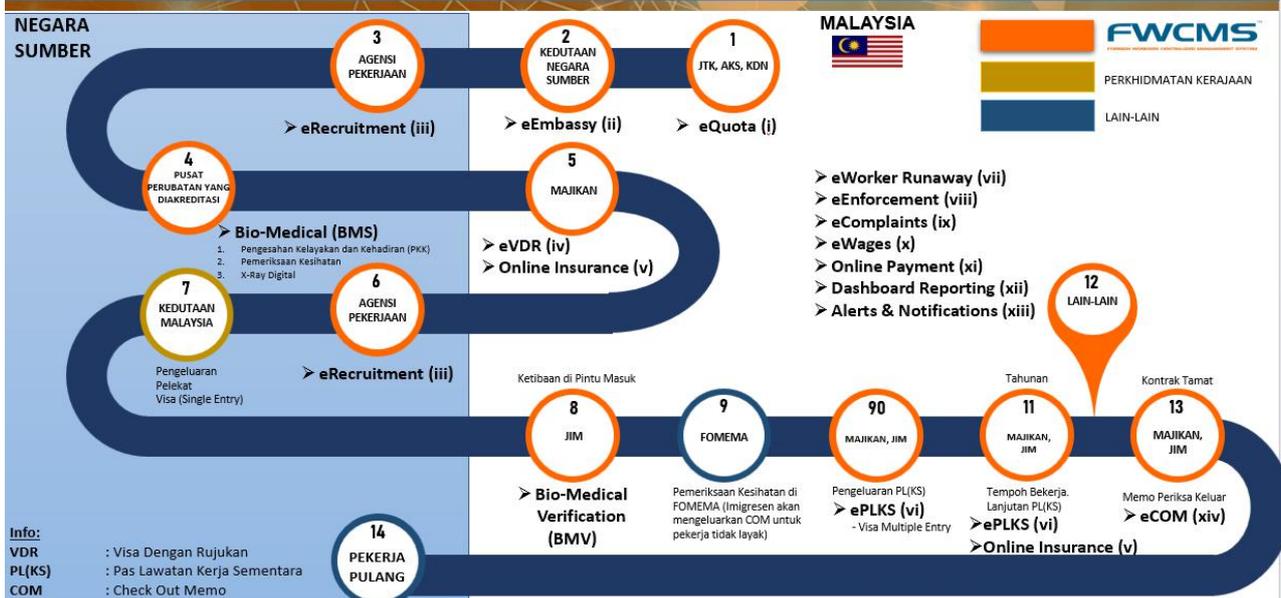
The FWCMS is a digital system with the ability to integrate all the stakeholders under one migrant worker management platform.

SEBELUM FWCMS

Keseluruhan proses memerlukan masa hingga 3 hingga 9 bulan untuk pekerja asing tiba secara fizikal untuk bekerja di Malaysia

Application & Issuance of JCS	Quota Approval	Source Country Approval	Recruitment & Documentation	Medical	Induction	Insurance	VDR (Calling Visa)	Single Entry Visa	Entry into Malaysia	Management	Repatriate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Key Activities: • Raise needs in Jobs Malaysia • Submit application • Employer eligibility check • JCS Cert	• Approval of quota at KDN OSC	• Approval to hire in source country: - Employment contract - Recruitment agent	• Recruitment activities: - FW selection - Interview	• Medical check-up in source country • Issuance of Medical Cert	• Induction/onboard-ing course for FW: - Law & regulation - Cultures, practices	• Purchase of insurance for FW	• Submit application for VDR (as a group visa)	• Visa issuance for individual worker	• Medical check-up • PL(KS) issuance	• Renewal of PL(KS), Insurance • Payment of salary • Complaint/run away	• Checkout memo • Departure
Min 4 Minggu	1 Minggu	4 Minggu	4 Minggu	8 Minggu	2 Minggu	1 Minggu	12 Minggu	2 Minggu	JUMLAH 12 Minggu 38 Minggu		
Max 12 Minggu	4 Minggu										

FWCMS Adalah Platform Holistik dan Digital Sepenuhnya



► Cont..10



► From..09



6 Briefing on Human Resource Development Corporation (HRDC)

The scheme was to encourage employers covered under the Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad (PSMB) Act 2001 to retrain and upgrade the skills of their local employees, apprentices and trainees in line with their business needs and the development strategy of their company.

Effective 1 Apr 22, this scheme was enforced on oil palm sector.

The total number of employers registered under agriculture, forestry and fishing is summarized in Table below.

Within the same period, these sectors have registered 116,502 numbers of employees, with a total of 1,515 approved grant applications, and a total of 8,199 places approved for training.

At the same time, the total levy collected was RM30.4 mil, while approved financial assistance was RM6.5 mil and total claim reimbursed was RM5.1 mil.

7 Briefing by Institute of Malaysian Plantation and Commodities (IMPAC), MPIC

The main objective of IMPAC is to merge and coordinate all courses and trainings carried out by all the 6 agencies under MPIC.

Currently IMPAC has 7 training centers throughout the countries namely Selangor, Kelantan, Pahang, Negeri Sembilan, Sabah and Sarawak.

Here are some of the courses IMPAC caters for the oil palm sector:-

i. Short-term

- MPOB Oil Palm Products Surveying Course & Examination,
- Margarine Course,
- Kursus & Peperiksaan Kemahiran Manggred Buah Sawit,
- Kursus Pengurusan & Penyelenggaraan Nurseri Sawit,
- Kursus & Peperiksaan Penyelia Kilang Sawit,
- Kursus Pengendali Makmal Kilang Sawit,
- Kursus Kemahiran & Pengetahuan Asas Rawatan Effluen Sawit,
- Kursus Teknologi Pemanduan Jentera Ladang
- Kursus Penyelia Bengkel Kilang Sawit.

ii. Long-term

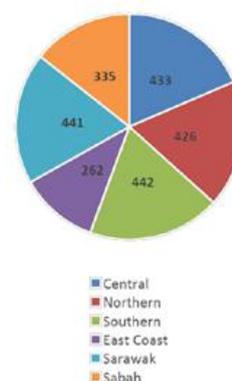
- Intensive Diploma in Oil Palm Management & Technology (IDOPMT),
- Diploma in Palm Oil Milling Technology & Management (DIPOM),
- Kursus Operasi Mekanisasi Ladang (KOML).

A total of 357 long-term and 1,849 short-term courses were organized in 2019 against 338 and 6,233 respectively in 2018.

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING

Total Number of Registered Employers : 2,339

Bil	Sector Activities	No of Employers
1	Animal production	209
2	Aquaculture	87
3	Fishing	51
4	Gathering of non-wood forest products	17
5	Growing of non-perennial crops	100
6	Growing of perennial crops	1053
7	Hunting, trapping and related service activities	1
8	Logging	130
9	Mixed farming	165
10	Plant propagation	147
11	Silviculture and other forestry activities	26
12	Support activities to agriculture and post-harvest crop activities	298
13	Support services to forestry	55



Data as of October 2022



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Approved foreign workers met only 19% of oil palm plantation sector's requirement in 2022 – MPOA

KUALA LUMPUR (Dec 6): The Malaysian Palm Oil Association (MPOA), which estimated RM20 billion in revenue losses for the oil palm plantation sector following harvester shortages, said the foreign workers approved for the sector translated into only 19% of the total required in 2022.

MPOA chief executive Joseph Tek Choon Yee, citing a recent MPOA survey on foreign workers from January to November 2022 among its top 10 planter members in Malaysia, said the numbers of foreign workers coming in are still far from an earlier estimate of over 120,000 workers required to address the present shortages of workers in the oil palm plantation sector. He said as of Nov 30, 14,159 foreign workers had been recruited and had entered Malaysia.

The foreign workers for the plantation sector came from Indonesia (6,837), India (6,532), Nepal (730) and Bangladesh (60).

Tek said these represented 49% (14,159 entered / 28,724 approved) of the foreign workers approved by the authorities but they were merely 19% (14,159 entered / 74,664 required) of the total foreign workers required in 2022.

"The plantation sector acknowledges the efforts and stride made by the various government agencies thus far, which include solving domestic glitches at our

receiving end and the formation of the one-stop centre of Foreign Workers Division under the [Ministry of Human Resources].

"However, bottleneck issues still persist at the various source countries and also including [at the point of arrival]. In many instances, final processes involved in the recruitment are beyond the capacity of most industry players towards expediting the arrival of the large numbers of foreign workers," he added.

Tek in his keynote briefing at the National Labour Forum said the association is looking to "proactively engage with the government on the matters relating to labour and other human resource imperatives affecting the plantation sector".

In addition to the slow return of the foreign workers, the forum also deliberated on matters relating to HRDC levy, multi-tier levy system, mechanisation and the proposed foreign workers' card in Sabah.

Tek said therefore a renewed and effective government-to-government engagement is important to expedite arrival of the foreign workers.

Additionally, he said there is the need for the relevant authorities to review the recruitment of foreign workers based on sectoral differentiation.

Source: Bloomberg



Malaysia palm growers to lose RM20b on labour shortage

KUALA LUMPUR (Dec 7): A CHRONIC shortage of plantation workers in Malaysia may cost palm oil producers about RM20 billion (S\$6.2 billion) this year, says the Malaysian Palm Oil Association (MPOA).

The tight labour situation could curb supply and boost global palm oil prices. After Indonesia, Malaysia is the biggest producer of the tropical oil, which is used in products from food and cosmetics to biofuels.

An MPOA survey of the top 10 planters showed that palm growers hired around 14,000 foreign workers this year through November. This was just a fifth of the industry's needs, and about half of the number approved by the authorities.

Malaysia's palm oil sector is reliant on overseas labour. It struggled to bring in more workers even after movement curbs during the pandemic were relaxed. While the government had assured the industry that it would accelerate worker approval, planters said slow progress had led to crop losses.

Without enough boots on the ground, many farmers have had to leave ripened fruit rotting on trees.

Joseph Tek, chief executive of the MPOA, said the number of foreign workers coming into Malaysia was "trifling" compared to the amount needed. He added that while there had been efforts by various agencies to facilitate worker arrivals, bottlenecks still persisted. The MPOA, which represents estates accounting for 40 per cent of the country's planted palm area, estimated in September that Malaysian output of palm oil would drop for a third year, to 18 million tons in 2022.

Concerns over weaker production may support prices. Palm oil jumped earlier in the year following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but then declined as supply improved and Indonesia ramped up exports. Prices have turned upward again, however, rising about 20 per cent since late September.

Tek said the palm oil sector was seeking help from Malaysia's new government to expedite bringing in more plantation workers. He added that the authorities were taking steps, like chartering planes and renewing agreements with governments in source countries, to bring in more workers.

Source: The Business Times

Webinar On Impact Of EU Forced Labour Regulation On The Palm Oil Sector On 13 Dec 2022



1 Overview of Global Forced Labor

According to 2022 ILO estimate, there were about 27.6 mil people worldwide work in conditions of forced labor. Prevalence of forced labor varies significantly but North Korea found to be the worst offender with an estimated rate of 104.6 per 1000 population. Eritrea (93), Burundi (40), the Central Africa Republic (22.3) and Afghanistan (22.2) round out the "top five".

Malaysia ranked 42nd in the world with a prevalence rate of 6.9 which is slightly better than one EU member – Greece (7.9) and two EU candidate countries – North Macedonia (8.7) and Albania (6.9).

This implies that forced labor is not only confined to underdeveloped or developing countries but also in developed countries.

2 Recent Global Developments on Forced Labor Regulations

Much of the forced labor regulations are focused on recent trends in the United Nation (UN) and affiliated agencies, the United States (US) and the European Union (EU).

Despite there is a widespread commitment to end forced labor by Malaysia but adoption, implementation, and enforcement of international conventions remain a challenge.

Malaysia has participated in EU by ratifying the "Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and

Practices Similar to Slavery" (226 U.N.T.S. 3, 1957, adopted the 2030 Agenda, which seeks to "eradicate forced labor and human trafficking and end child labor in all its forms", created a National SDG Council and presented two Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) in 2017 and 2021 that feature prominently in promotional materials used by the Malaysian palm oil industry, and a signatory to 2018 UN Resolution "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration".

Malaysia is an observer state at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) whereby IOM supports Malaysia with counter-trafficking, immigration, and border management programs.

Malaysia also a signatory to the Forced Labor Convention since 1975 and became the second ASEAN member state to ratify the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labor Convention in March 2022.

International Labor Organization (ILO) Indicators of Forced Labor (2012) intended to help "front-line" personnel identify potential victims of forced labor. Malaysian companies have incorporated these indicators into their certification processes. Besides, Malaysia has participated in workshops "Ending forced labor by 2030: A review of policies and programmes" with ILO to increase awareness of forced labor issues for journalist, Migrant Workers Resource Centers and etc.

EU in the last two years has increased regulatory output on forced labor to address particularly egregious abuses in China, to align its policies with the US, and to demonstrate its commitment to a global leadership role on labor issues. The three pathways that EU focuses on are human rights, sustainability and direct focus on forced labor.

On human rights, EU has maintained regular dialogue with the Malaysian Human Rights Commission (SUHAKAM) and the Malaysian Bar Council.

EU also welcomes Malaysia's "National Action Plan on Forced Labor 2021-2025.

▶ Cont..14



► From..13

It is important to take note that on Jun 22, European Parliament passed a resolution on new trade instrument to ban products made by forced labor. However, unlike the US, it recommends that product seizures should occur "on the basis of sufficient evidence that forced labor has been used", while releases of seized goods require remediation so that "indicators of forced labor are no longer present".

On Sep 22, European Commission passed a "Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on prohibiting products made with forced labor on the Union market. This covers all products (made in the EU for domestic consumption and exports, and imported goods) without targeting specific companies and industries which EU member states will be responsible for implementation and enforcement.

3 Malaysia's Palm Oil Industry and Forced Labor

Based on case study through research, field visits, and interviews the speaker agreed that commonly identified areas in need of policy responses for palm oil industry include recruitment, working and living conditions, sustainability and diffusion of new regulations and norms.

One of reason recruitment process is potentially exploitative because it is institutionally fragmented across national borders with limited transparency and accountability between employers, recruiters, and their local and regional subcontractors. The presence of a large number of actors, including unethical agents, in a complex labor supply chain complicates meaningful enforcement efforts by governments or the private sectors.

Upon arrival at the working place, the foreign workers are susceptible to pay below the legal minimum, lack of safety equipment and healthcare, inability to organize collectively and access legal remedies, and substandard housing. All of these issues tend to occur more frequently among workers employed by smallholders.

On the positive side, sustainability efforts by Malaysia perceived as a competitive advantage in relation to countries such as Indonesia. Palm oil industry now advocates for its products by linking them to environmentally friendly production methods. Industry representatives are more aware of the growing

importance of environment, social, and governance (ESG) principles embedded in EU regulations.

The speaker observed that there are positive responses taken by the public and private sector.

For example the National Action Plans and Laws that cover:-

- National Action Plan on Forced Labor 2021-2025 (NAPFL),
- National Action Plan on Anti-Trafficking in Persons 2021-2025 (NAPTIP),
- Under development: National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAPBHR) and National Action Plan on Elimination of Child Labor (NAPCL),
- Article 6 of the Federal Constitution prohibits all forms of slavery and forced labor except for compulsory service for national purposes,
- Penal code,
- 16 national laws that address forced labor,
- Mar 22: Malaysia amended "Employment Act 1955" to improve working conditions and protect potential victim of forced labor,
- Apr 22: Ministry of Human Resources announced e-wages online system to monitor regular payments by employers (including foreign workers),
- May 22: minimum wage increase,
- Support from industry with "Employment Undertaking".

4 Recommendations for EU Policymaking on Forced Labor

In order to better implement forced labor policy across the supply chain, the speaker has made several recommendations for improvement.

- Avoid trade restrictions and anti-competitive behavior (or other actions that may trigger accusations of hypocrisy),
- Improve communication and transparency about the regulatory process and the regulations themselves,
- To provide support or perhaps incentivising countries that take meaningful steps to improve human rights initiatives,
- Need to overcome capacity barriers to raise awareness of forced labor issues all the way down to smallholders and migrant workers themselves.

The speaker convinced that the EU Institution is already look set for the proposal.

Members of the European Parliament have been vocal about their desire for the measure to ban products made with forced labor from entering the EU market.

Follow Up On Foreign Workers Recruitment With YB Datuk Gerawat On 14 Dec 22



The borders were officially opened on 1 Apr 22 after 2 years of lockdown. The expectation especially by the oil palm sector was high after suffered from two years of labor shortage.

A series of meetings have been called with the relevant authorities on preparation to receive foreign workers into the state for employment.

The last meeting with YB Datuk Gerawat to discuss matters related to foreign workers recruitment was on 29 Jun 22. The meeting was fruitful with quite a number of propositions were made to improve in particularly on the processing time.

Unfortunately, several months have passed but the oil palm sector remains short of foreign workers despite experiencing slow recovery.

According to the members' companies, the slow recruitment of foreign workers is attributed to slow recruitment processing times.

In view of the seriousness of the issue, the secretariat has requested a meeting to follow up with YB Datuk Gerawat on 14 Dec 22 to update him on the scenario and seek his advice especially in relation to tackling this prolonged problem.

The secretariat has prepared a series of points input by the HR Committee for discussing during the meeting.

1. The oil palm sector experiences returning of foreign workers but at slow rate. A number of bigger plantation companies reportedly saw some improvements in terms of foreign workers shortage from 50% to about 20-30%. (One established plantation company still reports as high as 50%).

Datuk Gerawat presented that based on his recorded the numbers of AP approved was 56,000. But the utilization was low at 16,000.

He wasn't certain of the rationale behind on why there were so many APP being approved yet the industry was still unable to fully utilized them.

As such he has requested SOPPOA to submit the list on all the companies that experienced delay in AP application so that his department can act directly on it.

SOPPOA reasoned that the low utilization of AP usually resulted from the 'unsuccessful' recruitment of foreign workers. As the processing time is lengthy, there were high tendency that workers who had waited for long decided to pursue other opportunities.

As a result, by the time application documents were received, the employers have to cancel them and resulted in un-utilized AP.

► From..15

Type of Application	Before MCO	Proposed by Datuk	Present
AP Quota	2 – 6 months	1.5 months	2 – 6 months
New Labor Licence	2 – 3 months	7 days	1 month
Calling Visa	2 – 3 months	30 days	1 – 2 months

2. There are two paths for recruitment through i) job order and ii) social visa. The former is not preferred as the process is lengthy that easily take up to not less than eight months. It is not unusual that by the time the recruitment process complete, the worker has moved to other places or no longer interest in the job due to long waiting period.

Datuk Gerawat said recruitment can only be done through job order journey. He informed that according to the Indonesian Consulate, there are many registered Indonesian employment agencies that available to help expedite the process in Indonesia and suggested SOPPOA to obtain the list from the Consulate.

3. The recruitment processing remaining the biggest setback. Despite there are some improvements, the applicant company remain optimistic for further improvement.

Table below shows the processing time required for each application before the MCO, proposed during the meeting with Datuk Gerawat, and present scenario.

Department of Labor, Immigration and Project Monitoring (ILMU) would take note on the matter related to the time for processing AP since there was no official from SS Office in the meeting.

Tn. Rahman iterated that it is JTKSWK Client's Charter that the New Labor Licence application to be issued within 7 days upon receipt of complete application.

He suspected that the delay may be caused by other factors for example error in data entry and etc.

He acknowledged that the Monitoring System on the Employment of Non-Sarawakians (MSEN) would not capture any error input by employer. As a result, it can only be detected after the hardcopy of the application has been submitted for review.

PIAGAM PELANGGAN JABATAN TENAGA KERJA SARAWAK

Jabatan Tenaga Kerja Sarawak berjanji untuk memberikan perkhidmatan yang terbaik bagi memenuhi keperluan pelanggannya

1 ADUAN BURUH
Aduan Buruh akan disiasat dan keputusan akan dimaklumkan dalam tempoh **30 hari** dari tarikh aduan diterima.

2 TUNTUTAN BURUH
Tuntutan Buruh akan didengar / dibicarakan dan diberi perintah dalam tempoh **90 hari** dari tarikh tuntutan diterima.

3 LESEN UNTUK MENGGAJI PEKERJA BUKAN PEMASTAUTIN
Mengeluarkan keputusan bagi permohonan **Surat Kelulusan Secara Dasar (AP)** dalam tempoh **5 hari** dari tarikh Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Lokalisasi.
Lesen Baru di bawah AP dan Gantikan akan dikeluarkan dalam tempoh **7 hari** dari tarikh permohonan lengkap diterima.
Mengeluarkan keputusan bagi permohonan **Lesen Pembaharuan** dalam tempoh **10 hari** dari tarikh permohonan lengkap diterima.



4 PERMIT PERBURUHAN
Semua permohonan akan diberi keputusan dalam tempoh **28 hari** dari tarikh permohonan lengkap diterima.

5 PERMOHONAN UNTUK LESEN AGENSI PEKERJAAN SWASTA
Semua permohonan diproses dan keputusan dikeluarkan dalam tempoh **28 hari** dari tarikh permohonan lengkap diterima.

6 ADUAN AWAM
Maklumbalas berkaitan aduan awam akan diberi dalam tempoh **3 hari** bekerja dari tarikh penerimaan aduan.

► Cont..17



► From..16

On this note, SOPPOA has requested JTKSWK to conduct a workshop on the enhancement on MSEN for its members. The workshop should not only familiar users in submitting application but should also highlight mistakes usually made during the processes.

4. Only one batch of New Labor Licence application from a same company can be processed at a time. The company is allowed to submit a second batch any time but it can only be processed after the previous batch is cleared.

The rationale of this feature is to keep tract on the AP utilization given to a particular company.

Tn. Rahman agreed that this feature should be improved in the new APP for online recruitment which under development.

5. New Labor Licence is submitted online. However, the applicant company is required to provide a full set of hardcopy document to the Labor Department.

MSEN does not have the feature for uploading workers document externally. As a result, printed hardcopy documents have to be supplied for JTK officials for internal uploading.

Datu Gerawat agreed that such a feature should be made available in the coming new APP.

6. Approval in Principle (AP) application require applicant company to provide information for the existing employees plus their monthly wages. Unfortunately, this information has to keyed in individually as it cannot be imported from external spreadsheet nor it can be stored for future submission.

Tn Rahman informed that the 'New' button should be used for the first submission.

There is 'Additional' button for any subsequent submission so that employer does not need to re-key the information on employee names and salary.

The request to omit employee name and salary is not possible as it is government regulation to require employer to provide information of employees.

7. The previous Journey Performed Visa was simpler and faster compares to current Single Entry Visa.

The JIM official did not brief on the Journey Performed (JP) visa. But based on JIM website the JP is a special visa that is required by the JIM for citizens bearing passports from countries not listed in Appendix 1. JP visa is a one-time visa stamped alongside with the MM2H visa.

However, she explained that a Single Entry Visa is issued to foreign nationals who require a visa to enter Malaysia mainly for a social visit. It is normally valid for a single entry and for a period of three months from the date of issue.

Generally, there are three types of work permit.

Foreign workers who wish to be employed in plantation sector within Malaysia will have to apply for Temporary Employment Pass.

8. The validity of passport must not less than 18 months for the extension of work permit. In many cases, due to slow processing time, many applications are not able to meet the requirement.

Tn. Muhamaddie explained that 18 months validity is one of the criteria under the rule and policies for hiring foreign worker.

9. Indonesian worker who is above 45 years old is not allowed to apply for employment. Those who have exceeded 45 years old cannot be employed by a different company.

Despite Tn Muhammaddie clarified that it is part of the policies, Datuk Gerawat agreed to explore the rationale behind.

10. Our previous meeting emphasized on advantages of a 'one-stop-center' for foreign worker recruitment processing.

From the meeting, it was clear that ILMU is working on an APP application to integrate all the processes for recruiting foreign worker.

Even though no timeline was given, Datuk Gerawat ensured that the industrial players would be invited for a workshop to assess the applicability of the system when the time is right.



MPOB-MPOA Technical R&D Forum On 11 January 2023

In her opening remarks Dr. Zainab, deputy director-general of MPOB welcomed all the participants to the meeting which was jointly organized by MPOB and MPOA.

She strongly believed that with active interactions with the industry players is a way forward in achieving good progress to Malaysia palm oil industry

An excellent example of such interaction is this very technical R&D forum which has been conducted for more than ten 10 years now with MPOA.

Together they have addressed various research priorities in the past 10 years and to recap the most recent meeting that took place 14 December 2021.

Of his, MPOA has highlighted some of the many concerns that affecting the oil palm industry to be addressed by MPOB in the past years.

In this forum, MPOA has highlighted four areas to be deliberated.

1. Sustainability & Certification

The MSPO certification status as of 31 December 2022 was that a total of 97% planted area certified with MSPO. This comprises 81% of independent smallholders, 100% of organized smallholders and 99% of estates and plantations.

Under the new revised MSPO 2022 Standard, new plantings can only be carried out with consideration of land status and size, current land use, soil type and topography, alignment with authorities' land use plan, and industry related government policies.

In addition, comprehensive HCV, environmental and social impact assessment are undertaken prior to new plantings and a management plan is implemented, monitored and regularly updated during operations.

New plantings on peat land, terrain/slopes exceeding 25o/300 m above sea level, fragile and marginal soils are prohibited unless permitted by the state authorities that have jurisdiction over land matters.

On top of that, no new plantings are carried out on customary land without the owners' free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).

On issue related to land clearing, MPOB has enforced the mandatory use of Borang Akuan Jualan dan Penerimaan Bahan Tanaman Kelapa Sawit on 1 January 2022.

Based on Phase 1 mapping conducted by MPOB, there was a 16% difference in oil palm planted areas between satellite mapping and those registered with the agency which may need further verification with other agencies like Jabatan Hutan Semenanjung Malaysia, Jabatan Ukur dan Pemetaan and etc.

2. Mechanization

It was informed that the Mechanization and Automation Research Consortium of Oil Palm (MARCOP) was officially launched on 18 November 2021.

MARCOP is fully funded by a matching grant from the Malaysian government and the oil palm industry.

The RM30 mil of additional cess collection in 2021 has been disbursed to MARCOP. However, only RM10 mil of RM30 mil allocated matching from government has been disbursed so far.

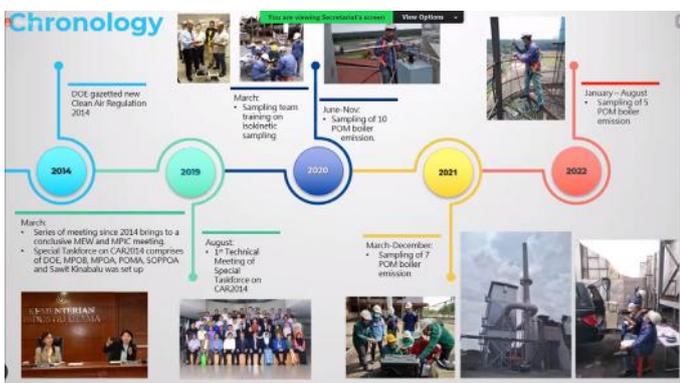
To date, MARCOP's main committee has reviewed more than 20 proposals but has yet to finalize any commitment. For example:-

- i. Drone technology for harvesting is a relatively new concept. MARCOP has received a few proposals and conducted a detailed evaluation. It was envisaged that the technology is not ready yet for commercial adoption by the industry. Existing cutting mechanism, such as mini-chainsaw attached to the drone for pruning or FFB harvesting, impacted the drone's stability. Thus, it is agreed to the suggestion that a precise cutting mechanism needs to be duly addressed.



► From..18

- ii. For the automated ripeness detection system, most of them are on a conceptual basis where no real scenario experiment has been carried out. MARCOP has requested all the inventors to proceed with actual testing before any decision on funding is made.
- iii. The Cantas has evolved since its introduction 15 years ago. The current unit uses a battery and electric motor. Its limitations will be the battery density and palm height (up to 15 feet). The primary components producers are Wilwaukee, Makita and Mori. Several efforts have been made to improve the technology further, and most of the measures have been started by the leading suppliers without the MARCOP's funding.



3. Air Pollution Control

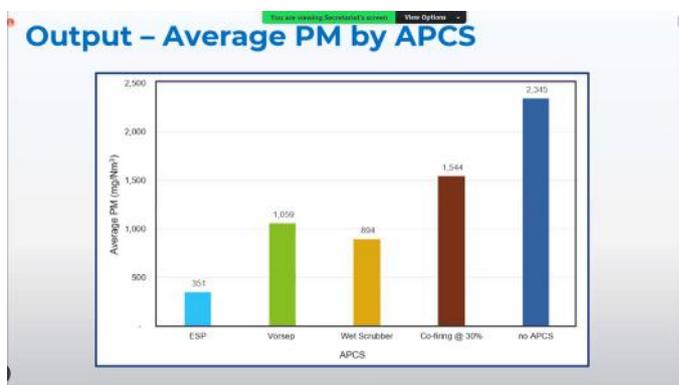
MPOB has formed a special task force to look into the efficiency of various air pollution control systems installed at palm oil mills (POM) in particularly the electrostatic precipitator (ESP).

The sampling method was based on MS1596:2003 (Determination of Concentration and Mass Flow of Particulate Matter in Flue Gas for Stationary Source Emissions) and USEPA Method 1-5.



The result shows in the able can be summarized as followings:-

- i. ESPs are able to reduce the particulate emission from POM boilers to an average of 329 mg/Nm³ in comparison to the average of 2,345 mg/Nm³ for a POM boiler without any APCS.
- ii. However only three of the sampling with ESPs were able to record a particulate emission below the regulated 150 mg/Nm³.
- iii. It is suspected that electrical resistivity of the particulate from POM boilers plays a significant role in contributing to the non-compliance of the system.



Result of ESP emissions

No.	MIR ID	APCS	Sample count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	CO ₂ Aver age	O ₂ Aver age	PM average (mg/Nm ³)	PM min (mg/Nm ³)	PM max (mg/Nm ³)
1	SB	ESP 1	1	701	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.8	18.0	701	-	-
2	SB (JS-ESM)	ESP 1	6	130	259	285	375	144	408	-	-	7.6	13.2	229	130	408
			2	339	338	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.9	13.8	338.5	338
3	LT	ESP 1	4	657	532	416	559	-	-	-	-	4.6	10.5	541	416	657
4	Sn	ESP 1	4	866	547	340	920	-	-	-	-	11.9	8.4	668	340	920
5	Sd	ESP 2	4	258	245	265	328	-	-	-	-	9.8	10.4	274	245	328
6	SrB	ESP 2	5	149	285	468	282	821	-	-	-	4.6	16.0	401	149	821
7	Ch (JS-CKSB)	ESP 2	6	184	165	225	241	226	138	-	-	4.5	16.3	197	138	241
			3	429	758	390	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	15.3	526	390
8	BB	ESP 4	8	447	215	246	241	168	221	181	201	7.8	12.9	237	180	416

ESP x = Electrostatic Precipitator x field
 JS-ESM = Joint Sampling with Environmental Science Malaysia
 JS-CKSB = Joint Sampling with Chemsain Konsulten Sdn Bhd

In a separate presentation, Sime Darby shared that it has installed all POMs with APCS with a total cost of RM69.09 mil; 5 POMs with single field ESP, 21 POMs with double field ESP, and 7 POMs with Vorsep.

Based on its experience, the challenges faced by the Sime Darby to comply with the Environmental (Clean Air) 2014 on opacity and total particulate matter are as followings:

- i. Consistency of fuel supply to boiler combustion (throughput issues), composition ration and condition. For example, food combustion and consistency is critical for APCS to achieve the desired result.

► Cont..20

► From..19

- ii. Maintenance and upkeep of APCS due to manpower and operation issues.
 - iii. High dust emission above 700 mg/m³ (maximum design specification) from boiler to ESP.
 - iv. CEMS dirty lenses that need frequent cleaning due to inefficient blower or too heavy dust.
 - v. Presence of moisture vapor being detected and translated as dust burden by CEMS.
 - vi. Wrong calibration unput into CEMS.
- To ensure scheduled maintenance for APCS are followed and sustain.
 - Contract services to the ESP/Vorsep proprietors to maintain the equipment's reliability.
 - To carry out weekly CEMS equipment/instrument upkeep and maintenance – lens cleaning.
 - To ensure POM boiler and steam turbine efficiency monitored and sustain.
 - To ensure smooth operation and achieve desire throughput for sufficient fuel for better combustion control.

Therefore, in order to achieve the desire results from the APCS, Sime Darby has suggested few advises for improvements as followings:-

- i. Technical solution to achieve control limit opacity and particulate matters
 - High efficiency biomass boiler.
 - Acoustic cleaning system for boiler.
 - Multicyclone for boiler in Vorsep system.
 - Vibrating/moving grate fine tuning, operation and maintenance.
 - Right sizing ID and FD fans for draught control.
 - High temperature of flue gas for best operation of ESP and Vorsep.
 - Adopting Iso-K testing for performance monitoring.
- ii. Operational solutions to achieve control limit opacity and particulate matters
 - POM to practice weekly inspection, maintenance and upkeep for APCS.

4. Palm Oil & Food Safety

MPOB informed that the price mechanism for the washed/unwashed CPO will be decided between buyer and seller.

MPOB will not interfere in setting up CPO price mechanism.

The latest circular regarding the implementation of 3-MCPDE and GE levels in processed palm oil dated 21 December 2022 was endorsed and the new date for implementation will be on 1 January 2026.

In a survey carried out by MPOB, a total of 26 samples received from POMA southern, Central, Northern and Eastern regions showed that 92% of the samples contained total chloride of more than 2 mg/kg; with 19% of these samples having total chloride of more than 10 mg/kg.

