



Media Release

For Immediate Release

Samling's forest plantation achieves PEFC-endorsed MTCS certification

(MIRI, 10 SEPTEMBER 2014) – Samling's industrial tree plantation (ITP) in Segan, Bintulu has successfully obtained a forest management certification under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) and attains the distinction for being the first ITP in Malaysia that is sustainably harvesting its planted trees to be certified under the scheme.

The certification is endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the larger of the world's two major forest certification organisations. In order to be certified, an audit must be conducted to ensure compliance with a comprehensive set of criteria based on ten forest management principles known as the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management (Forest Plantation), or MC&I. The 10,800-hectare Segan ITP was audited by SIRIM QAS International, one of the two authorised certification bodies in Malaysia.

"Now, having achieved certification of our Segan plantation, we are already preparing our other forest plantations for SIRIM audits under MTCS. Our target is for each plantation to be certified before harvesting starts," said Mr James Ho, Chief Operating Officer of Samling Group of Companies, at the certificate presentation ceremony held in Miri today.

"We are also focussed on gaining market access through the value given to our timber and timber products by the newly acquired certification status. Samling's ability to say to our buyers that we are certified under MTCS in Malaysia or that we are certified by Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in New Zealand strengthens our already long-established relationships with them, and attracts the attention of prospective new buyers.

"Certification helps generate a feel-good factor and gives customers the assurance that when it comes to Samling's plantation grown timber, be it our Acacia Mangium which we call BORNEOTEAK® under a registered trademark, or radiata pine, or any other species that we grow, these buyers are able to promote some of those products as 'eco-friendly'," said Ho.

The company acknowledges that a large part of its future in the timber industry lies with its sustainable managed ITPs that produce the certified logs from which eco-products are made.

"To that end, Samling will use the PEFC logo with pride in the knowledge that our customers can accept with confidence that when a Samling product bears the PEFC logo it is truly an eco-product," added Ho.

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About Samling Group of Companies (www.samling.com)

Samling Group of Companies is an integrated forest resource, plantation and wood products company. Headquartered in Sarawak, the Group has an established international presence with strategically located operations in Malaysia, Guyana, New Zealand, Australia and China. We have a long track record of forest management expertise with integrated operations covering the entire wood supply chain from forest resource to manufactured wood products. As a leader player in the natural resources sector, we are committed to creating long-term value under sustainable principles.

Samling has five active industrial plantations in northern Sarawak. We have more than 13 years' experience in developing and managing ITPs in accordance with the industry's best practices.

Media Contact

Ellis Loke

Corporate Communications

Tel: +603 2032 3969 Email: lokemy@samling.com.my