The Indonesian Association of Forest Concessionaires (APHI) and the Borneo Initiative jointly hosted a Sustainable Business Event 2014 in Surabaya from November 10-11. The aim was to increase market awareness in export markets for the SVLK and FSC certified Indonesian producers. This event could count on the presence and support of the International Wood Products Association (IWPA) from the USA as well as the UK Timber Trade Federation (TTF). Thus, this event brought together 12 international timber companies from the USA, Europe and Asia plus 24 Indonesian industries involved in the production of plywood, veneer, indoor flooring, outdoor decking, truck flooring and garden furniture.

The program consisted of a half-day seminar and a full-day business meeting, followed by two days industry visit in Surabaya and forest excursion in Kalimantan.

Feedback collected indicates that all of attendees were satisfied with the event and they will participate in a next trade event of APHI and TBI. All American and European buyers indicated that they found new business contacts, and several of them immediately concluded concrete business deals.

“I have been visiting Indonesia for 20 years now, and I am most impressed to see great improvements in forest management” says Mr. Chris Connelly of Wood Brokerage and President of IWPA. “I am very happy to see the progress made by Government in developing and implementing its new system of regulations to control legal harvesting (SVLK). In addition, sustainability is much ensured too by the great number of forest concessions and industries that have achieved, or are on the way to achieving voluntary forest management certificates (FSC). As USA buyers, we feel now so much more comfortable in conducting business with Indonesian forest industries.”

Looking forward, Mr. Connelly says, “to grow its market share in the USA market, the Indonesian forestry sector must become better at promoting all the effort that is going into legal and sustainable production, and the intrinsic values of sustainable harvesting from natural forests that safeguard so many values – wildlife, indigenous cultures, and carbon stocks to mitigate climate change. USA markets must be sensitised to appreciate the special origin of Indonesian wood products.” APHI and The Borneo Initiative will respond to this call to action and will work on the further promotion of Indonesian certified wood products overseas.
We are pleased to announce that Iwan Kurniawan took over as Program Coordinator Indonesia as from November 2014.

Iwan has a broad ranging experience with forest certification, both as a forest management consultant as well as lead auditor both for SVLK/PHPL and FSC certification. Iwan has travelled extensively within Indonesia and throughout the South-Asian region. Iwan can be contacted at iwankp@theborneoinitiative.org.

The first FSC main assessment in Papua has been conducted in the month of October 2014 in PT. Bintuni Utami Murni Wood Industries. The company needs to address a few corrective action requests but expects to resolve these shortly, and intends to achieve FSC certification early in 2015.

Additionally, The Borneo Initiative expects to see 17 companies achieve FSC certification in Kalimantan in 2015 (about 1.2 million ha) plus 4 companies (with 0.5 million ha) in Papua in 2015.

Building with FSC tropical wood delivers a lot for the forest, the environment and for the end user. That was the main conclusion of the meeting “Building on Tropical Timber” jointly organised by FSC Netherlands and The Borneo Initiative, which took place on 16 October 2014 and hosted by FSC tropical timber housing association, Eigen Haard in Amsterdam.

“Your supply line is their lifeline”

Mr. Wim Ellenbroek, Program Director of The Borneo Initiative in his presentation stressed that FSC forest certification only has a future if there is a demand for tropical FSC timber. End users, like government agencies and departments, and housing associations are the ones who can pull the tropical timber chain, and therefore their demand has a direct contribution to the sustainable management of tropical forests, and so, their conservation.

“Lesser Known Species”

Mr. Frans van Nunen, Director of Dekker Hout Vianen, gave a presentation on the qualities of lesser-used timber species. He emphasised the point that broadening the range of commercial species will help forest managers to get more value out of their operations, thus enhancing their motivation for sustainable forest management.

We expect that three more forest concessions will complete their agreements still this calendar year.

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