

TIMBER GROUP RECOGNISES TECHNICAL EDUCATION

BY [AVALAI](#)

THE STAR



Choo (left) and ILPKS director Mohd Ridwan Abdul Yazid (right) exchanging documents at Wisma STA.

KUCHING: Sarawak Timber Association (STA) via its subsidiary STA Mutual Sdn Bhd (STAM) has signed an education financial assistance agreement with Institut Latihan Perindustrian Kota Samarahan (ILPKS) and Institut Kemahiran Mara (IKM).

For the first time, the association is providing financial assistance to students who are studying in the technical institutes in Sarawak to promote skilled workforce for industries in Sarawak.

STA, in collaboration with ILPKS, will provide aid for nine outstanding students from the institutes involved, to attend professional certificate courses ranging from emergency preparedness, response plan, incident reporting, analysis technique to oil-and-gas safety courses.

STA will cover fees of up to RM2,500 for each student during the duration.

STA chairman Datuk Wong Kie Yik said the association hoped that the courses would add value to the students' career.

The association will provide financial assistance up to RM1, 800 each for six outstanding IKM students, who currently undergoing certificate of electrical, automotive, marine and welding engineering course.

STA has also rewarded 452 SPM students and 169 STPM students who have achieved excellent results in last year's examinations. SPM students have received RM550 each whereas STPM students received RM650 each. There will be another round of cash awards for this year.

It has presented STA Scholarships to four recipients who are pursuing forestry and timber trade industry bachelor degree at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas), Universiti Putra Malaysia, Swinburne Universiti of Technology Sarawak and Curtin University of Technology Sarawak.

Since 2005, 19 STA scholarship recipients have graduated from the aforementioned universities.

Through STA, Daiken Corp Bhd has also rewarded the scholarships to three university students.

Its collaboration with institutes of higher learning saw the association allocating RM400,000 to Unimas for a research project to produce high quality planting material for forest plantation. STA provided RM582,420 to Swinburne for a biofertiliser research project.

“STAM has also allocated a total of RM126,000 to help needy rural schools within timber concession areas. In addition, extra assistance is provided for the repair and maintenance of furniture and key facilities in some of the rural schools nominated by the member companies.

“A sum of RM360,000 has been allocated for these projects.

The association hopes that with the assistance, it is able to create better environment and facilities for students in these selected ruralschools,” said Wong said in a speech read out by STA treasurer Philip Choo Kwong Hui.