

RSPO

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

News
Release
Report
2011

2011

Compilation of News Releases sent in 2011

**Roundtable on
Sustainable
Palm Oil**

Sunday, January 29, 2012

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Summary of News Releases

No	Date	News Release
1	March 2, 2011	Ghana Creates History for Africa
2	April 4, 2011	GAR receives RSPO Membership
3	April 21, 2011	RSPO Comments on Proposed Labeling Bill
4	May 5, 2011	US Retails Giant Walmart Joins RSPO
5	July 1, 2011	Carrefour Indonesia Contributes to Market Transformation towards Sustainable Palm Oil
6	August 1, 2011	Major Headway for the United States in the RSPO
7	August 13, 2011	RSPO is aimed at obtaining stakeholder support
8	August 23, 2011	Sabah to Host World's Largest Sustainable Palm Oil Meeting
9	August 26 2011	1 Million Hectare World Record for Certified Sustainable Palm Oil
10	September 21, 2011	RSPO Supports Dutch Industry's Call On the EU To Abolish Import on Sustainable Palm Oil
11	Oct 10, 2011	Surge in Market Uptake of CSPO

12	Oct 20, 2011	McDonalds Joins the RSPO
13	Nov 1, 2011	800 Delegates From Over 15 Countries to Attend RT9 in Borneo
14	Nov 14, 2011	RSPO Appoints Former Minister of Agriculture and Forestry as Advisor
15	Nov 22, 2011	World's Largest Gathering on Sustainable Palm Oil Kicks off
16	Dec 15, 2011	The Thai Palm Oil Industry is Ready for Sustainable Palm Oil Production – RSPO Certification Underway in Thailand

Full Text of News Release

According to Month

MARCH

Ghana Creates History for Africa

RSPO approves National Interpretation of the Principles and Criteria for sustainable palm oil in Ghana

Kuala Lumpur, March 2, 2011 - The RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) is pleased to announce that a National Interpretation (NI) of the RSPO Principles and Criteria for sustainable palm oil has been approved in Ghana, the first country in Africa to receive this endorsement.

The NI paves the way for RSPO certification of oil palm growers in Ghana, setting out clear indicators for the development of sustainable palm oil appropriate to the local context.

Darrel Webber, the Secretary General of the RSPO Secretariat based in Kuala Lumpur commented that: "This leap towards promoting sustainable palm oil in Ghana is a landmark achievement for Africa, the new frontier for sustainable palm oil, blazing the trail for other countries within this continent to emulate.

"This signifies a historical milestone for Africa, in particular West Africa, the very origin of oil palm (*elaeis guineensis*), which we hope will catapult the continent onto the sustainable pathway for the benefit of People, Plant and Prosperity.

"It is indeed inspiring to see people and nations coming together to play an instrumental role in shaping change for a sustainable future. The RSPO congratulates the NI Working Group and encourages all oil palm growers in Ghana and eventually, others within the African continent to seek certification." Webber concluded.

Central to the philosophy of RSPO as a multi stakeholder organization, is that the NI is developed as a result of intense research, dialogue, feedback and collaboration within a Working Group comprising key constituents in markets involved; which usually includes representatives from each stakeholder group in the palm oil supply chain; local communities; regulatory and governmental bodies; and NGOs.

The Ghana National Interpretation Working Group (GNIWG) comprised experts from various areas of Agronomy, Milling and Research; Environment and Natural Resources; Legal License and Social; and Economics and Labour; in order to embody diverse perspectives.

Gert Vandersmissen, Chairman of GNIWG further commented that: “In the beginning, we faced some challenges in getting the various stakeholders together but as soon as all parties realized the significance of this initiative, we had support beyond expectations. We are thrilled about the first Ghanaian Certified Palm Oil and what the future holds for sustainable palm oil in Africa.”

<http://www.rspo.org/content/ghana-creates-history-africa>

APRIL

GAR Receives RSPO Membership

Jakarta, Singapore, 4 April 2011 - [Golden Agri-Resources Ltd](#) (GAR) joins its subsidiaries PT SMART Tbk (SMART) and PT Ivo Mas Tunggal (IMT), to become a member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). This is following the submission of the full application by GAR on Nov 2010 and a review of the application by the RSPO Grievance Panel (the "Panel"). GAR, SMART and IMT have also submitted their gap assessment prepared by The Forest Trust (TFT) and their time-bound plan to achieve RSPO certification to the RSPO Grievance Panel for their review.

The Panel is satisfied with the dialogue it has with GAR, SMART and IMT and has made its recommendations to the RSPO Executive Board (the “EB”), who has approved and accepted the membership application.

The Panel will review the certification process of SMART and IMT upon submission of the full reports with regard to peat restoration, social research and HCV compensation.

The RSPO will continue to work together with GAR, SMART and IMT to ensure that the companies continue to stay on track for the planned certification of all plantations (as at 30 Jun 2010) by Dec 2015. The RSPO will also be monitoring the progress of all the items mentioned below on a quarterly basis.

Following is a summary from GAR on the progress of specific items:

1. RSPO certification for GAR, SMART and IMT

Requirements: The Panel requires a sufficiently challenging and time-bound plan for the certification of plantations under GAR, SMART and IMT.

Update: GAR, SMART and IMT have engaged international NGO, TFT to help GAR prepare for certification of all its palm oil operations (as at 30 Jun 2010) by Dec 2015. The operations established beyond 30 Jun 2010 will be part of a separate time bound plan.

TFT has completed an initial gap analysis, focusing on documentation and corporate structure supporting RSPO certification. The overall gap assessment and a time-bound plan were submitted to RSPO by GAR at the end of Mar 2011.

2. Social research

Requirements: The Panel requires a more structured research into social impacts and to share the findings openly with the RSPO.

Update: GAR, SMART and IMT engaged Tanjungpura University (UNTAN), Faculty of Agriculture, West Kalimantan, to conduct the social research. UNTAN is assisted by Palangka Raya University, Faculty of Agriculture, Central Kalimantan to conduct the fieldwork for Central Kalimantan. UNTAN commenced work in early Nov 2010 and is finalising the report by Apr 2011.

Following their field visit, top line findings have been compiled for the Panel and it was noted that GAR, SMART and IMT have been operating in accordance with RSPO Criterion 2.3, 7.3, 7.5 and 7.6 and identified some cases involving dispute of land ownership. A final report with the findings from UNTAN will be publicly available in English in May 2011.

Additionally, the company has also identified conflicts on plantations - like in Kerang Mendapo, Jambi - which it does not own, but provides management services. Moving forward, GAR will play a more active role in facilitating a peaceful resolution with support from all stakeholders.

3. Verification that RSPO New Planting Procedures are applied

Requirements: The Panel requires that all GAR majority-owned operations and SMART operations are applying the RSPO's New Planting Procedures (NPP).

Update: British Standards Institution (BSI) has been appointed to ensure application of the NPP. Following the Central Kalimantan Audit Review in early Mar 2011, BSI highlighted to GAR on NPP implementation being required for all new estates post Jan 2010. GAR has shared the list of new planting after Jan 2010 with BSI to incorporate these estates in their Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) verification schedule. BSI will include the NPP verification on the new planting listing in the SOP verification schedule. The completion date is Mar 2012.

4. SOP verification against Independent Verification Exercise (IVEX) findings

Requirements: The Panel requires evidence that the relevant SOP (specifically those on compliance with HCV assessments, peat conservation, community engagement about social impacts) have been changed and are being implemented across all of SMART operations to address all the past failings identified in the IVEX Report and which have lead to legal non- compliance and non-adherence to the RSPO Principles and Criteria.

Update: BSI has been engaged to ensure that the relevant SOP are changed and implemented across all of GAR and SMART operations.

BSI has completed the first of the scheduled field verifications in Central Kalimantan from 2 - 6 Mar covering 1 mill and 3 estates. BSI's field verification on SOP will cover 42 mills, all new plantings (50 estates, including 10 estates belonging to smallholders) and a sample of 32 existing matured plantations (as approved by the Panel) with a 3-month rolling schedule and is due to be completed by Mar 2012.

5. High Conservation Value (HCV) compensation

Requirements: The Panel requires that SMART and IMT develop, implement and independently verify an acceptable package of measures related to the land cleared by SMART without HCV assessment; a) Compensation for the instances of land cleared between 2005 and 2007 according to guidance established by the RSPO; and b) Suitable additional remediation measures agreed in consultation with the RSPO for the land cleared after 2007.

Update: As discussed and agreed with the Panel, the companies have engaged the Faculty of Forestry of Bogor Agriculture University (IPB) led by Ir. Nyoto Santosa, an RSPO registered HCV assessor, to conduct a historic HCV assessment. The final report of the HCV historic assessment is expected by mid-Apr 2011. The compensation plan will be proposed by end Apr 2011. GAR, SMART and IMT will discuss and consult the Panel before submitting the compensation plan.

6. Deep peat restoration

Requirements: To develop a plan, to be approved in advance by RSPO and to be independently verified on implementation, to mitigate the effects of, if not restore and subsequently conserve the deep peat identified as having been planted.

Update: SMART and IMT engaged a Peat Restoration Team (PRT) which consists of the Faculty of Agriculture of IPB and the Indonesian Center for Agricultural Land Resource Research and Development, for the deep peat restoration project.

The PRT has visited the affected areas in Ketapang, Central Kalimantan and Kapuas Hulu in early Dec 2010 and have requested for an extension of the deadline for the deep peat restoration plan. As agreed with the Panel, this will be due by the end of May 2011.

Conclusion

GAR is committed to taking a leadership role and will work with multi-stakeholders to find solutions toward sustainable palm oil production. The company is committed to complying with the national laws and regulations and the RSPO Principles and Criteria. GAR has launched its Forest Conservation Policy and is in the process of developing its Yield Improvement Policy and Social and Community Engagement Policy in collaboration with TFT.

<http://www.rspo.org/content/gar-receives-rspo-membership>

RSPO Comments on Proposed Palm Oil Labeling Bill In Australia

Kuala Lumpur, April 21, 2011: The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) today released a statement of their positioning on the Truth in Labeling - Palm Oil Bill 2010 in Australia, whereby mandatory labeling of products containing palm oil has been proposed. The purpose of the Act is to ensure that consumers have clear, accurate information about the inclusion of palm oil in foods; and to encourage the use of certified sustainable palm oil in order to promote the protection of wildlife habitats. RSPO supports the latter objective.

Darrel Webber, Secretary General of the RSPO, commented that: "“However, distinguishing palm oil as the only edible oil that requires labeling implies that other edible oils do not face similar challenges. RSPO takes a strong view against this supposition as issues surrounding environmental destruction; social concerns and wildlife conservation are prevalent across the board with cultivation of any type of monoculture crops.

"Further to this, such a labeling exercise that singles out palm oil may only serve to ostracize agricultural farmers in developing countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, South America, West Africa, etc. whose key source of income comes from palm oil. These smallholders need to be educated, guided, encouraged and inspired to adopt sustainable standards and solutions, rather than have their livelihoods affected. RSPO certification program aims to support smallholders in this light." Webber reiterated.

He went on to say that: "The long term repercussion of this proposed Bill may decrease the demand for palm oil but will not eliminate the key reasons this proposal is aimed at addressing in the first place. This is because edible oil is a key ingredient in most consumer products. Demand would merely shift to other vegetable oils, increasing the sustainability problems connected to these other particular crops."

An imminent development which the RSPO hopes will address some of the strategic thinking and considerations behind this proposed Bill will be the launch of the RSPO trademark, which will be stamped on product packaging and labels which contain RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) in their raw material or feedstock, targeted for launch by middle of the year. The trademark will enable consumers to confirm very quickly that the products they buy contribute to sustainable production of palm oil. The trademark logo could end up on the packaging of thousands of consumer products worldwide.

"RSPO certification at the plantation level and the trademark on the end product completes the loop from upstream to downstream within the supply chain and will reflect that sustainable oil palm

cultivation does not contribute to the sustained destruction of valuable tropical forests or damage the interests of people in the regions where the palms are grown." Webber concluded.

Latest market statistics on CSPO (certified sustainable palm oil)

The growth of CSPO is clearly demonstrated by these latest statistics. Production of CSPO for the current year to date has reached a record high of 4.657million metric tons, already considerably surpassing last year's full year production of 2.821million metric tons. The uptake of certified sustainable palm oil for the current year to date is 2.146million metric tons, which has also already exceeded previous year's uptake of 1.456million metric tons.

How RSPO aims to address concerns

The Roundtable promotes palm oil production practices that help reduce deforestation, preserve biodiversity, and respect the livelihoods of rural communities in oil producing countries. It ensures that no new primary forest or other high conservation value areas are sacrificed for palm oil plantations, that plantations apply accepted best practices and that the basic rights and living conditions of millions of plantation workers, smallholders and indigenous people are fully respected.

<http://www.rspo.org/content/rspo-comments-proposed-palm-oil-labeling-bill-australia>

MAY

Indonesia: Benchmark for Sustainable Palm Oil in Emerging Markets

RSPO applauds efforts made by Indonesian members towards sustainable palm oil

Jakarta, 19 May 2011 – *The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), a multi-stakeholder organization that aims to develop and implement global standards for sustainable palm oil, reaffirmed today that as the world's largest palm oil producer, Indonesia, is in a strong position to be a benchmark for new emerging markets to adopt sustainable practices.*

The Secretary General of RSPO, Darrel Webber said that: "With around 3.7 million of its population involved in the palm oil agricultural sector that contributes 6-7% to the country's GDP, Indonesia should be geared to inspire and blaze the trail for new frontiers such as Thailand; Central and West Africa

(Liberia, Ghana, Cameroon, Nigeria, Congo); Latin and Central America (Columbia, Honduras, Ecuador, Brazil), in embracing sustainable standards despite the challenges faced.”

In Indonesia, 45% of palm oil is produced by small holders. One of the key challenges in Indonesia is the funding and technical support for smallholders in adopting sustainable standards. The role of the government and private sector is critical in this area. “Capacity building for Indonesian smallholders is important so they are aware of the fact that sustainable palm oil is an inevitable future, both for national and international consumption.” Webber further reiterated.

In line with this, the RSPO has recently finalized a substantial funding mechanism valued at EURO200,000 per year for a period of 3 years with Solidaridad, a social development non-governmental organization. This sum which is the largest single funding contribution ever made by RSPO, is part of a larger fund that Solidaridad aims to generate for the purpose of supporting independent smallholders from around the world. Indonesia will certainly benefit from this initiative given the large presence of smallholders and their contribution to the palm oil sector.

“Despite the challenges, significant progress and commitment has already been made in addressing some of these issues. In fact, many Indonesian member companies have conceived and implemented world class standards and practices towards achieving CSPO (Certified Sustainable Palm Oil). RSPO aspires to proactively position Indonesia’s successes within the international arena, through its outreach exercise in Europe, India and China.”

“Indonesia has recorded phenomenal year on year growth of CSPO production: 200, 000 metric tonnes in 2009; quadrupled to 800,000 metric tonnes in 2010; to a whopping 1.2million metric tonnes in the current year as of April 2011. This is a 600% increase in CSPO production in Indonesia in just two years! This astounding success should be attributed also to the Indonesia Government, GAPKI and Indonesian growers.” Webber reiterated.

“The market transformation to Sustainable Palm Oil is expected to be confronted with challenges, as any other far reaching change. We must demonstrate willingness as well as unfaltering tenacity, commitment and dedication in addressing these impediments.”

“As the largest palm oil producer in the world, Indonesia can be referred to as a solid and encouraging role model who has participated actively together with RSPO in coming up with innovative ideas and solutions in achieving CSPO, for the benefit of the country and its people.”

“Indonesia can demonstrate that practicing sustainable standards does not have to be at the expense of the country’s social and economic development, in fact, it can play an imperative role in catapulting the nation’s prosperity, ethics, success, compassion and reputation in the world’s eye. ” Webber further commented.

The upcoming launch of RSPO trademark is a labeling that would finally allow consumers to visibly distinguish sustainable palm oil right on the store shelves. The RSPO trademark will address the increase in discerning consumers as palm oil can be found in most consumer products.

All these initiatives and upcoming milestones, namely the RSPO trademark launch, proactive outreach programs in Europe, India and China as well as the smallholder's assistance programs, are all intended to increase Indonesian palm oil's competitive edge, which should thereby increase the uptake in markets around the globe.

The transformation of the market to establish CSPO as the norm is in a period of transition but we are confident that RSPO's vision of making this the norm will be realized through commitment and collaboration.

"We are aware on how important palm oil is to the people of Indonesian and the country's economy. Millions of livelihood depends on it, and the palm oil industry contributes greatly to state revenue, which can in turn fund the nation's growth. As such, we are fully committed in ensuring that Indonesian palm oil remains sustainable and desirable in the global market," concluded Webber.

The RSPO reaffirmed that the organization is here to guide and uphold its obligation towards Sustainable Palm Oil through its Code of Conduct and Certification Systems for its diverse group of member organizations within the seven sectors of the palm oil sphere from all around the world. Indonesia companies comprise the second largest membership base in the RSPO, after Malaysia.

<http://www.rspo.org/content/indonesia-benchmark-sustainable-palm-oil-emerging-markets>

RSPO Trademark: Next Phase in Transformation to Sustainable Palm Oil

Launch expected to boost demand after impressive record on supply side



Kuala Lumpur 1 June 2011 - The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), the multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to promote the growth and use of sustainable palm oil, today enters a next phase in its drive to transform the market. The RSPO released its brand new trademark for use in the market by its members. From now on, producers of household products such as margarine, cookies, chocolate, soap and cosmetics will be able to clearly show their commitment to sustainable palm oil through the use of the trademark.

RSPO Secretary General Darrel Webber is convinced the trademark will stimulate all parties across the supply chain to step up their efforts. "This is a milestone moment in the history of the RSPO and the palm oil industry at large. The trademark will soon make it possible for consumers to make a well-informed choice for products containing sustainable palm oil. This would boost global demand which is important in view of the remarkable growth in the production of certified sustainable palm oil by growers in Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, West Africa, South America, etc.

"This progress stamps RSPO's commitment and capacity towards its member organizations and the industry at large, not only in encouraging sustainable production of CSPO, but also bracing the marketplace on the demand side." Webber added.

RSPO members will be able to use the trademark logo on-pack and in communication about products that contain palm-derived ingredients sourced in compliance with the RSPO standards.

Belinda Howell, representing the Retailers' Palm Oil Group, who is also member of the Executive Board of the RSPO, commented that: "There is a growing awareness among consumers that palm oil is a key ingredient in their everyday products. We therefore welcome the fact that consumers will now be able to make a conscious choice for products with palm oil that has been produced in an environmentally and socially responsible way. We expect that consumer goods producers and retailers will start using the RSPO trademark as ingredients using certified sustainable palm oil become available, to demonstrate to consumers that their products are the responsible option."

RSPO President Jan Kees Vis, responsible for sustainable sourcing development with Unilever, the largest buyer of palm oil globally, said: “We have come a long way since the RSPO was founded in 2004, with currently around nine percent of all palm oil produced in the world being RSPO certified. It is also true however we still have a long way to go. This is the time to achieve a breakthrough in global demand for certified sustainable palm oil and the trademark will play a key role, as does the commitment by a growing number of companies to only use sustainable palm oil by the year 2015.”

The design of the trademark was unveiled in November 2010 at the 8th Roundtable Meeting of the RSPO in Jakarta, Indonesia. Now, rules governing the use of the trademark have been finalized and a procedure to apply for trademark licenses has been put into place. All details on how to apply as well as all rules can be found on the website at www.rspo.info/market.

The RSPO trademark is being registered in more than sixty countries worldwide, including all major palm oil markets. The RSPO will actively reach out to consumers and other stakeholders in important consumer markets such as Europe, India and China to support the further transition to sustainable palm oil and the trademark will play a central role in these efforts.

9 Percent of world's palm oil production now certified

The current estimated annual production capacity of RSPO-certified production units, 4.2 million tonnes of sustainable palm oil, equals about 9 percent of global production, estimated to be about 46 million tonnes annually. An estimated 11,500 tonnes of sustainable palm oil currently leave RSPO-certified oil mills every day. About 54 percent of the world's current RSPO-certified palm oil production capacity is in Malaysia. Indonesia is second, with about 35 percent of the current global supply. Papua New Guinea and Colombia provide the remaining 10 percent and 1 percent, respectively.

<http://www.rspo.org/content/rspo-trademark-next-phase-transformation-sustainable-palm-oil>

Malaysia sets record as world's largest producer of certified sustainable palm oil

RSPO commends Malaysia for commitment and achievement in sustainable arena

Kuala Lumpur, 16 June 2011 – Setting the record as the world's largest producer of Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) accounting for over 50% of total CSPO production to date, Malaysia is certainly deserving of recognition on the world stage with regards to sustainable practices.

The achievement is a reflection of Malaysia's active representation and contribution in the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), a multi-stakeholder organization that aims to develop and implement

global standards for sustainable palm oil. Malaysian companies make up 20% of RSPO's total membership, the highest by country representation amongst the organization's 600 members from over 50 countries around the globe, with United Kingdom and Indonesia tracking closely.



The Secretary General of RSPO, Darrel Webber said that: "Malaysia is growing from success to success, and is undoubtedly on the crest of a wave right now in the production of sustainable palm oil. Achieving the status as the world's largest CSPO producer in less than three years since certification commenced, while being the world's second largest producer of Crude Palm Oil (CPO), is no small feat. This astounding success should be attributed to the dedicated Malaysian growers, the Malaysian Palm Oil Association and the Malaysian Government." Webber reiterated.

With over half a million of its population involved in the palm oil agricultural sector that contributes 8% to the country's GDP, Malaysia has forged ahead in an exemplary manner to embrace changes in all aspects ranging from technical competence, technological innovations, financing mechanisms as well as national and international collaboration. Malaysia should be referred to as a solid and encouraging role model who has participated actively together with RSPO in coming up with innovative ideas and solutions in achieving CSPO.

"Malaysia's expertise in the production of sustainable palm oil will be applied to markets such as Thailand; Central and West Africa, Latin and Central America. RSPO will share these successful case studies from Malaysia in the international arena, through its outreach exercise in Europe, India and China." Webber stated.

In Malaysia, approximately 11% of oil palm plantations are owned by smallholders. "The private sector and government have been very supportive and committed in supporting the agricultural sector, primarily smallholders. In fact, the Malaysian Government had allocated RM50million to the Malaysian Palm Oil Board to support independent small holders in oil palm cultivation. "The fact that thousands of smallholders in producing countries have been certified and with that, been given international market access, is an exemplary achievement of companies, communities, individuals and governments involved." Webber further reiterated.

The RSPO has recently finalized a substantial funding mechanism valued at EURO200, 000 per year for a period of 3 years with Solidaridad, a social development non-governmental organization. This sum which is the largest single funding contribution ever made by RSPO, is part of a larger fund that Solidaridad aims to generate for the purpose of supporting independent smallholders from around the world. Malaysia stands to benefit from this initiative given the presence of smallholders and their contribution to the palm oil sector.

The recent launch of the RSPO trademark is a labeling that would finally allow discerning consumers around the world to make educated and informed choices over their purchase of products that contain certified sustainable palm oil. The RSPO trademark is aimed also increasing the commitment of stakeholders along the supply chain beyond the palm oil producers, in ensuring increasing demand and uptake of CSPO.

On the introduction of the Trademark, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Malaysia, His Excellency Paul Bekkers, commented that: “We believe that the establishment of the RSPO Trademark is a strategic and positive progression. The Trademark is a critical component in serving the demands and needs of consumers who are becoming more and more conscious of their purchasing decisions based on responsibly sourced products. The Trademark will also further enhance and solidify the uptake of certified sustainable palm oil amongst manufacturers and retailers. I would like to complement Malaysian palm oil producers for providing half of the world’s sustainably produced palm oil. The Netherlands reaffirms its promise towards supporting certified sustainable palm oil and is looking forward to the inclusion of criteria for carbon emission in the certification standards as well.” The Netherlands is Europe’s largest importer of palm oil and the first country to commit towards 100% RSPO certified sustainable palm oil by 2015.

“Embracing sustainable standards and practices today and into the future for palm oil or any commodity, is inevitable. The way forward is ‘Commercial Wisdom’ - capitalism combined with compassionate responsibility. RSPO will continue to facilitate the adoption of our certification standards amongst growers while necessitating demand through the Trademark, to allow businesses, communities and nations to ride on the bandwagon towards a promising future.” Webber concluded.

<http://www.rspo.org/content/malaysia-expected-maintain-position-world%E2%80%99s-largest-producer-certified-sustainable-palm-oil>

JULY

Carrefour Indonesia Contributes to Market Transformation towards Sustainable Palm Oil

Carrefour is committed to exclusively source sustainable palm oil products by 2015

JAKARTA, 1 July 2011 – PT Carrefour Indonesia, a multinational retail company, reiterates its commitment to be a responsible company with its declaration to exclusively source certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) and its implementation of the RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) Trademark. This will encourage Carrefour customers to make the right decision in choosing products that contain sustainable palm oil through the RSPO Trademark labelling.

As a member of RSPO, the multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to promote the growth and use of sustainable palm oil in the world, Carrefour has a responsibility to promote the production and use of sustainable palm oil in the world. This is aligned with RSPO's mission, which is to transform the market towards the use of palm oil that is produced in an environmentally-responsible and sustainable manner, around the world generally, and specifically in Indonesia, as the world's largest producer of palm oil.



(Faisal Firdaus, Sustainable Development Manager, PT Carrefour Indonesia)

"We are confident that environmental consciousness among Indonesian consumers is on the rise. We can observe this rapidly growing sentiment in the day to day life in Indonesia from environmental friendly choices from transportation modes; recycled materials; and purchase of products. As such, we have committed to exclusively buy certified sustainable palm oil by 2015," said Faisal Firdaus, Sustainable Development Manager, PT Carrefour Indonesia.

With the RSPO Trademark, which will be displayed on the packaging of products that contain palm-derived ingredients sourced in compliance with the RSPO standards, Carrefour's customers can directly be involved in the effort to conserve the environment and in helping to transform the Indonesian palm oil industry into a sustainable industry.

The global RSPO Trademark which was recently introduced into the market this year provides the right momentum for Carrefour and a number of consumer goods manufacturers to intensively educate the public on the benefits and values that separate products, which contain certified sustainable palm oil.

"Carrefour commits to playing our part in this market transformation as a responsible retailer, and also encourages other stakeholders within the palm oil supply chain to come together in raising the level of awareness amongst consumers in Indonesia towards sustainable palm oil sourced in an environmentally-friendly and socially-responsible manner," said Faisal Firdaus.

Darrel Webber, Secretary General of RSPO positively welcomes Carrefour's commitment, which is in line with RSPO's mission. We hope that the initiative taken by Carrefour will inspire other retailers and other parties in the Indonesian palm oil supply chain to transform the Indonesian palm oil industry into a sustainable industry, so its products can be well-received in international markets, such as Europe, India, and China.

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The current estimated annual production capacity of RSPO-certified production units, 4.2 million tonnes of sustainable palm oil, equals about 9 percent of global production, estimated to be about 46 million tonnes annually. An estimated 11,500 tonnes of sustainable palm oil currently leave RSPO-certified oil mills every day. About 54 percent of the world's current RSPO-certified palm oil production capacity is in Malaysia. Indonesia is second, with about 35 percent of the current global supply. Papua New Guinea and Colombia provide the remaining 10 percent and 1 percent, respectively.

About Carrefour Indonesia

Carrefour Indonesia established since 1998 and has 81 stores throughout 27 cities in Indonesia. Carrefour stores in Indonesia have recorded 72 million transactions in 2010, up from about 62 millions transactions in the previous year. Carrefour products supplied by 4.000 suppliers, including 70% are Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Carrefour Indonesia has also continued to foster SME development by providing a special location for SMEs called People's Corner at several Carrefour stores in Indonesia. Carrefour Indonesia is visioning to become the preferred retailers in Indonesia by 2012. For further information, please refer to our website: www.carrefour.co.id

<http://www.rspo.org/content/carrefour-indonesia-contributes-market-transformation-towards-sustainable-palm-oil>

AUGUST

Major Headway for the United States in the RSPO

Formidable parties from key sectors; retail, financial & consumer goods, underline commitment to certified sustainable palm oil drive

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, August 1, 2011 – World’s major consumer market, the United States of America (US), has made significant headway in a multi stakeholder initiative, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) that aims to promote the growth and use of sustainable palm oil in the world.

Three US headquartered global companies, retailer Walmart, confectionery producer The Hershey Company and financial services leader Citigroup recently became members of RSPO , joining the organization’s 650 member organizations from 50 countries around the globe. Currently, the United States (US) sits as the 7th largest membership base in the RSPO represented by a broad spectrum of industries from consumer goods manufacturers, cosmetics; processors & traders; financial sector; retailers; and non- governmental organizations.

Darrel Webber, secretary general of RSPO, is delighted to welcome Walmart, The Hershey Company and Citigroup on board: “We are in the threshold of significant transformation in the pursuit of responsible and sustainable endeavours. Developments such as this that mark the entry of very established businesses from such an advanced and progressive market as the US, only further fortifies our conviction that not only is change possible, it is inevitable. The RSPO applauds Walmart, The Hershey

Company and Citigroup for the determination and commitment towards the goal of promoting sustainable palm oil.

With the recent launch of the trademark, RSPO will complete its aspiration to involve the entire supply chain by reaching out to the consumer. And clearly the American consumer is a very important one in our global drive for certified sustainable palm oil.



Just within this year in the past 6 months, the RSPO has had its membership portfolio increased by close to 20% from organizations across stakeholder groups and countries around the globe. This increasing and expanding diversity within the RSPO, allows us to further comprehend and empathize with the various dynamics and challenges while celebrating the attainments within the sustainable palm oil arena.” Webber concluded.

For confectioner Hershey’s, becoming a member of the RSPO fits with its long history of being a socially responsible company. “Our commitment to the communities where we live, work and do business traces back to our founder, Milton Hershey, who cared deeply about consumers, the community and children. Joining the RSPO is a logical step in our commitment to conduct our business in a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable manner. ,” said Andy McCormick, Vice President of Public Affairs at the Hershey Company.

"For our palm oil clients, one of their challenges is finding ways to balance economic, environmental and social needs. As part of Citi's commitment to Responsible Finance, Citi is proud to join our clients and NGO partners as members of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). Indeed, we have incorporated the RSPO's Principles and Criteria into Citi's environmental and social policies and standards, and we look forward to partnering with our clients jointly to achieve greater sustainability in the sector moving forward," joint statement issued today by Tigor M. Siahaan, Citi Country Officer Indonesia and Courtney Lowrance, a Director within Citi's global Environmental and Social Risk Management Unit based in New York.

As a member of RSPO, all these organizations are coming together to be a part of an ever increasing group of companies that are united behind one important mission: to transform the market for palm oil to one that is sustainable, environmentally and socially. The move is particularly significant as it underscores the RSPO as a truly global organization.

<http://www.rspo.org/content/major-headway-united-states-rspo>

RSPO is aimed at obtaining stakeholders' support

13 August 2011

The question of whether the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) is needed in the landscape of national standards being introduced may indeed be a likely first thought. The RSPO welcomes diverse opinions and perspectives, no matter how far reaching and incongruous it may seem. The essence of discourse is that it brings forth at most times, an eventual harmonisation. And other times, a bearing to remain where one started off.

Chronologically speaking, the RSPO was established long before the pressure from non-governmental organisations (NGO). It was conceived and established by visionary individuals representing various sectors.

It is indeed technically correct to say that the RSPO was not established simply to represent the growers. The reason why RSPO was formed in 2004 was precisely to obtain the support of all stakeholders in the industry. What good would it bring if we simply focused on motivating growers to toil towards certification, if we are unable to bring other stakeholders within this complex supply chain to commit on their end towards positive uptake of the CSPO (certified sustainable palm oil)?

There were many questions raised within this article by P. Gunasegaram that the RSPO views as an accountability to respond to, one at a time.

“How does one ensure that all production going into a mill or a refinery is from certified sources?”: There are two stages of certification; first covers mills and plantations (supply base); second stage is when the CSPO that is produced by the mills are transported and processed by the refineries covered by our supply chain certification. At end product level, this is supported by our trademark; so consumers are aware of products are using palm oil that is sustainable sourced.

Currently, we are almost about to achieve 1 million hectares of certified sustainable oil palm plantations. Without a doubt, the tribute should go to our RSPO grower members around the world. CSPO is currently at 4.9 million tonnes, almost 10% of global production of crude palm oil. The figure is rapidly increasing.

“If supply is contaminated with a bit of uncertified oil palm or palm oil, does the entire batch become uncertified?: Notwithstanding the gravity of the term 'contamination', this in the case of CSPO does not come into context anyway. One of our supply chain systems allow for mixing of certified with non-certified palm oil, within one of the supply chain mechanisms called mass balance, to accommodate end users' requirements. It's an acceptable option and standard industry practice.

“And who are the people who certify the oil?”: RSPO is a standard setting body and a certification scheme operator. Under our scheme, qualified certifying bodies (including Sirim among others) are appointed to audit and certify the mills and plantations as well as supply chain. The certifying bodies are now monitored by an international accreditation agency.

Can growers expect their views to be well represented under such circumstances?: Operating on a multi stakeholder platform, decisions within the RSPO (including the executive board) are made through consensus, which accentuates that any stakeholder group regardless of the size of their representation has a right to veto or object to any proposals.

It may not be reasonable to view the other six stakeholder groups as one entity against the growers, as implied in the article. Every stakeholder group work within their own premise by bringing up the challenges faced to come up with mutually beneficial decisions.

Even so, the RSPO continues to remain open and accessible to any feedback that demonstrates and substantiates the fact that any stakeholder was not given a fair and equal opportunity to have their concerns raised.

On the matter of composition of grower companies represented in the RSPO and its inadequacy reflected in the article; from a country perspective, Malaysia and Indonesia account for approximately 37% of total membership, while Europe currently tallies at 57%. It might be worth to note here that Europe in the context of our membership covers 20 countries. Europe currently makes up the largest consumer market for CSPO. Independent of any complex arithmetic, a strategic and rationale way of perceiving this would be the fact that having a strong representation of members from consumer markets within the RSPO, can only serve as an advantage to growers in the creation of commitment and demand.

It may helpful to note that with regards to the “perceived limited number of grower members in the RSPO” reflected in the article, the number of growers around the world is bound by geographical limitations (climate dictated). On the other hand, companies involved in downstream processing are not bound by climate or such influences, and hence can be unlimited and can be ubiquitous in any part of the world. So it's understandable that the processors and traders outnumber growers, not just within the RSPO but within the industry at large. And in fact, this too serves the advantage of growers as they further mobilise and strengthen the supply chain advancement.

The fact that the current secretary general is from WWF, is indeed a reality. Out of over 40 candidates from around the world who were shortlisted for the role of secretary-general of the RSPO, as a result of announcements in the international sphere including *The Economist's* Darrel Webber, was finally appointed by the executive board.

Among others, Webber's NGO credentials were perceived by the board as tremendous value as it stamps the significance of commitment to protect people and the planet. Webber also brings combined experience with a multinational organisation within the oil and gas sector in understanding the future trends of utilisation of plant sources for the energy sector; and his previous capacity with a leading producer of sustainable palm oil allows for comprehension of the challenges and complexities by growers in embracing sustainable standards. While the task ahead continues to be challenging, his representation of all stakeholder groups is as all-embracing as it needs to be.

In conclusion, the RSPO highly acknowledges and commends the achievements demonstrated by grower members who have undertaken the journey of certification. Much has been achieved. And much will continue to be delivered. Be it with the RSPO, national standards, or any other endeavour, the goal of certified sustainable palm oil is pivotal in conserving the welfare of nations, businesses, people and our dwelling.

The market demands for credible and robust standards. While the establishment of the RSPO is yet to completely address all the issues faced within the palm oil sector, it certainly has come a long way in inspiring change and innovation. RSPO leaves the future to the market to decide and dictate and till then, remains steadfast and resolute in its values towards its vision.

Source: The Star Online

PRESS CONFERENCE

Sabah to Host World's Largest Sustainable Palm Oil Meeting

Annual Round Table Meeting by the RSPO welcomes delegates from all around the world

Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, 23 August 2011 - Multi stakeholder initiative, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), announced today, that its 9th Annual Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil (RT9) will be held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah this year.

The announcement was made at a joint press conference between the Minister of Industrial Development, Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Raymond Tan Shu Kiah on behalf of Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Musa Hj. Aman, the Chief Minister of Sabah together with the Secretary General of RSPO, Darrel Webber.

The RT is the world's largest meeting on sustainable palm oil organized annually by RSPO as a platform to exchange views and experiences among various stakeholders in developed and developing countries; and to strengthen their co-operation and support towards a unified vision. Last year, the RT 8, attracted over 800 delegates from 30 countries around the world.

This year, Sabah has been given the honour to host the RT9 with its theme: "RSPO Certified. Transforming the Market. Together." which will be held from November 22nd to 24th.

Darrel Webber, Secretary General of the RSPO, commented that: "Sabah is becoming an ideal location to host many international conventions, with many factors contributing to its popularity. Amongst these would be its efficiency and infrastructure; intellectual and knowledge based capacity; its charm and appeal as a diverse and culturally rich heritage; as well as the beauty and magnificence of its bio diversity".

"Most importantly, is that Sabah is highly committed to embracing world class sustainable practices in the production of certified sustainable palm oil. In fact, some of the first few mills certified within Malaysia were located in Sabah. And Sabah contributes to over 40% of total certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) production in Malaysia, which is the highest producer of CSPO in the world." Webber added.

"This is very significant as we are seeing more and more internationally acclaimed platforms and events hosted here, in the land below the wind. Sabah also seems to be the host and grounds for numerous international knowledge based and bio diversity related assemblies, which is certainly gaining world stature. We are indeed very proud of this." Commented by the Minister of Industrial Development, Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Raymond Tan Shu Kiah on behalf of Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Musa Hj. Aman, the Chief Minister of Sabah.

I am grateful towards the RSPO for spearheading the entire palm oil supply chain from upstream to downstream in guiding and motivating world class best practices in protecting our dwelling and our people for the future of all. It is precisely initiatives such as the RSPO that allow for Sabah to attract investors to develop our resources, introduce technology and up-skill the current workforce with best practices." Yang Amat Berhormat further commented.

This year, the RSPO expects the RT9 to continue to be well received from the international scene as sustainably produced palm oil gains increasing interest, attention and momentum as the solution to concerns faced within the sector. Already, the RT9 has delegates from 15 countries around the world from both grower and consumer markets, who have registered to attend. For more information about RT9 and how to register, please log on to www.rt9.rspo.org.

<http://www.rspo.org/content/sabah-host-worlds-largest-sustainable-palm-oil-meeting>

SEPTEMBER

RSPO Supports Dutch Industry's Call on The EU To Abolish Import Duty On Sustainable Palm Oil

Kuala Lumpur, September 19 2011. The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) supports the Dutch Product Board for Margarine, Fats and Oils (MVO) in its call on behalf of Dutch Oil and Fats sector, for the European Union (EU) to abolish the import duty on RSPO's Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO).

Currently, the EU is charging a 3.8% duty on crude palm oil imported into Europe. The Dutch Oils and Fats sector believes that abolishing the EU import duty on sustainable palm oil will serve to offset most of the additional costs to produce sustainable palm oil and will help to remove a significant barrier to its market uptake in Europe.

The MVO's proposal requests that the EU levy on RSPO's CSPO imported from Malaysia and Indonesia for use in consumer goods be abolished. Currently, crude palm oil for use in non-food products and palm oil originating from nearly all other producing countries are exempted from import duties.

Darrel Webber, RSPO Secretary General, commented: “The Dutch industry initiative once again places the Netherlands, the largest palm oil importer and processor in Europe, at the forefront of spearheading market transformation towards sustainable palm oil. The RSPO commends and supports the MVO’s resolution aimed at stimulating demand for sustainable palm oil.”

“Since the beginning of the certification process in 2008, we have witnessed increased accountability on the part of our sustainably operating palm oil producers. This has resulted in CSPO now boasting close to 5 million metric tonnes, equal to 10% of global palm oil production – an exceptional accomplishment for a commodity with such a highly complex supply chain as palm oil.

“RSPO has achieved this important result thanks to the commitment of its member companies. They understand the importance of producing palm oil responsibly and sustainably to the benefit of our people and our planet. In addition, the commitment towards 100% CSPO by 2015 on the demand side by many established global organizations - including processors, traders, consumer goods manufacturers and retailers - has been a major driver in getting growers on board.

“While such developments are a crucial step in the right direction, as demonstrated by the growing uptake of CSPO from 26% in 2009 to 56% in 2010, it is imperative that market uptake of sustainable palm oil accelerate at a greater pace to match the increasing rate of production. Industries should embrace the use of CSPO.

“The RSPO looks forward to future opportunities for dialogue and cooperation with EU decision-makers regarding the proposal made by the MVO.” Webber concluded.

The Netherlands, the fourth-largest country by RSPO membership, is also the second-largest EU consumer market in the RSPO, after the United Kingdom.

<http://www.rspo.org/content/rspo-supports-dutch-industrys-call-eu-abolish-import-duty-sustainable-palm-oil>

OCTOBER

Surge In Market Uptake Of Certified Sustainable Palm Oil

Kuala Lumpur, October 11 2011. Multi-stakeholder initiative, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), is pleased to announce a surge in market uptake of Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO). 70% CSPO uptake was recorded in September 2011, the highest by month this year and significantly higher than 48% recorded same time in September last year. This positive development has been urgently awaited. Uptake for CSPO increased from 25.3% in 2009 to 46.2% in 2010.

Secretary General of RSPO, Darrel Webber also commented that: “A significant increase of market commitment to and uptake of CSPO is a key priority for RSPO. The RSPO is beyond merely a certification scheme or standard. We are a multi stakeholder initiative that represents the production front; demand end and everything in between. The uptake has been steadily increasing, but it continues to require accelerated commitment. Through the annual communications on progress requirement by the RSPO, significant number of retailers, consumer goods manufacturers and processors and traders have committed to working towards sourcing 100% CSPO ingredients in their products by dates ranging from 2012 to 2015. The RSPO has the dynamics and system to make this work; it is only a matter of time.”

RSPO President Jan Kees Vis, also Director Sustainable Sourcing Development at Unilever, is pleased with the increase: “The current number sparks hopes that a breakthrough is near. Historically there has always been a delay in market take up versus production increase, as buyers of large companies have to commit as long as a year in advance to buy raw materials. So they will only sign on to what they are sure they can actually purchase from the market in the future. Significant uptake of CSPO should be a clear target that all stakeholders on the demand side should be committed to work towards.”

The RSPO is fully committed to further promote market uptake, according to Vis: “Our newly launched RSPO trademark will boost consumer awareness and demand for CSPO. We will also stimulate commitment by nations and companies to make the transition by a stated moment, comparable to that of the Netherlands, where the industry has committed to source CSPO only by 2015. The WWF Palm Oil Buyers Scorecard 2011 – that measures commitment and performance of over 130 major retailers and manufacturers to CSPO - to be launched in November – will also be of great importance.”

On behalf of the Retailers Palm Oil Group, which comprises some of the most established retailers around the world, Belinda Howell commented: “We fully understand that growers that have made significant investments and efforts to achieve RSPO certification have been frustrated by the apparent lack of take-up in the market. The retailers are working very hard with their suppliers to source CSPO ingredients for their products through the complex palm oil supply chains”.

One good example is UK retailer Waitrose. Technical Manager Compliance John Clague: “Our target is to ensure all palm oil in Waitrose branded products are RSPO certified by December 2012. To date, 68% of the palm oil used in our products is from segregated CSPO sources predominantly through the dedication of our biscuits and bar soap suppliers. Our biscuit suppliers have been using CSPO ingredients in our products since December 2010. Our bar soap range has been labelled with the RSPO Trademark and was introduced into our stores from July 2011. We will continue to support the RSPO through the purchase of green palm credits to cover our remaining palm oil usage until the project is completed.”

<http://www.rspo.org/content/surge-market-uptake-certified-sustainable-palm-oil>

McDonald's Joins The RSPO

Consumer markets demand for RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil is on the rise

Kuala Lumpur, 17 October 2011 - McDonald's Corp. has officially been approved as a member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) following its announcement earlier this year on its commitment to source food from certified sustainable sources.

Only recently, three other US headquartered global companies, retailer Walmart, confectionery producer The Hershey Company and financial services leader Citigroup became members of the RSPO, joining the organization's 700 member organizations from 50 countries around the globe. Currently, the United States (US) sits as the 7th largest membership base in the RSPO represented by a broad spectrum of industries from consumer goods manufacturers, cosmetics; processors & traders; financial sector; retailers; and non- governmental organizations.

Darrel Webber, RSPO's Secretary General, discusses this trend: "RSPO is a multi-stakeholder initiative promoting the production and use of certified sustainable palm oil. The RSPO's increasing membership within the consumer and retail sectors denote their commitment towards sustainable palm oil. It is an affirmative development on the demand side to complement the production and supply of sustainable palm oil. RSPO's vision to transform the market and make sustainable palm oil the norm can only be achieved with the active participation of all parties involved in the supply chain, from growers to traders, manufacturers and retailers.

Thanks to companies like McDonald's, end consumers will become increasingly aware of the importance of sourcing sustainable palm oil responsibly through ethical based purchase decisions. In the larger context, the consumption of sustainable palm oil will benefit communities and the environment in producer countries around the world. Ultimately, the RSPO aspires to facilitate a linkage from responsible growers to responsible consumers committed to the use of sustainable palm oil."

Francesca DeBiase, McDonald's vice president, Worldwide Strategic Sourcing commented that: "McDonald's is committed to sustainable sourcing of our raw materials, and participating in multi-stakeholder engagements such as the RSPO is one way for us to lend further support towards sustainable palm oil and put the power and leadership of our brand behind the RSPO and their commitment to ensuring sustainable palm oil."

To encourage this process, on 1 June 2011, RSPO released its new trademark which RSPO members can use for product communication. From now on, producers of household products such as margarine, cookies, chocolate, soap and cosmetics will be able to illustrate their commitment to sustainable palm oil through the use of the RSPO trademark. This will enable consumers to fully participate in contributing to a sustainable future by selecting products that display the RSPO trademark, and thus contain palm oil derivatives that are produced and sourced according to RSPO's standards.

McDonald's commitment to sustainable palm oil is part of the company's Sustainable Land Management Commitment (SLMC). This is the result of an internal analysis to determine which of its most purchased raw materials have the greatest environmental and sustainability impact. The analysis was carried out

with the support of WWF, a founding member of RSPO. Palm oil was identified as one of the five initial priorities of the Sustainable Land Management Commitment.

McDonald's uses palm oil primarily within Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Africa, and Latin America as a restaurant frying oil and as a par-fry for pre-cooking of products such as French fries, chicken sandwiches and Chicken McNuggets.

<http://www.rspo.org/content/mcdonald%E2%80%99s-joins-rspo>

NOVEMBER

800 Delegates From Over 15 Countries To Attend RT9 In Borneo

World's largest annual meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil aims at transforming the market through effective discourse

Kuala Lumpur, October 31 2011 – The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) has started the countdown to its ninth annual Round Table meeting (RT9) in Sabah, Borneo. The RT is the world's largest meeting on sustainable palm oil organized annually by RSPO as a platform to exchange views and experiences among various stakeholders in developed and developing countries; and to strengthen their co-operation and support towards a unified vision.

Themed: "RSPO Certified: Transforming the Market. Together," approximately 800 delegates from over 15 countries around the world from both grower and consumer markets have registered to attend the annual meeting on sustainable palm oil.

RT9 will begin with an official opening ceremony by guest of honour Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities of Malaysia. Jonathon Porritt, co-founder and director of the Forum for the Future and former advisor to the UK government, will follow as the key note speaker. For the first time this year, the conference has a Concluding Oration which will be presented by Yang Berbahagia Datuk Sam Mannan of the Sabah Forestry Department.

The RT9 this year boasts an impressive line-up of speakers who are experts in various subject matters. Amongst them include world's leading environmentalists; sustainability advocates; policy makers; government representatives; academics; diplomatic envoys; private sector captains of industries; international financiers; philanthropists etc.

Board members and general members of the RSPO – all experts in their respective fields - will be very active during the RT9, but important outside perspective will also be represented by high level representatives. Some of the speakers outside the RSPO membership fraternity will include HE Vincent Piket, Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Malaysia who will speak on European Union and Palm Oil; Ir Gamal Nasir, Director General Estate Crops, Ministry of Agriculture,

Indonesia on National Standards; Justin Mundy, Director of the UK-based The Prince's Charities' International Sustainability Unit on REDD+ and Roundtables; Dr Sun Weijun of Julong Group on a business perspective of CSPO in China, etc.

The list of plenary sessions and speakers at the RT9 forms a good reflection of the key motivations and priorities that will steer us towards market transformation. Some of these key themes include the significance of Green House Gasses, the impact and role of smallholders in the market transformation, the emergence of new frontiers (new producing countries in for example West Africa and Latin America) and also transparency, communications and claims (including trademark) as well as trade and traceability. Also, the efforts to also move the sustainability needle in very important consumer markets such as India and China will receive due attention.

Darrel Webber, Secretary General of the RSPO, comments: ***"We are delighted that RT9 this year is so well received amongst the international scene. It is a clear testimony that sustainably produced palm oil is gaining increasing interest, attention and momentum as the solution to concerns faced within the sector. It is the effort of every individual and organization that will lead towards enabling the global environment to support sustainability in palm oil throughout the supply chain despite challenges faced."***

"RT 9 comes at a pivotal moment in time for the drive of RSPO to transform the palm oil industry towards one where sustainable palm oil will be the norm. A significant increase of market commitment towards the uptake of CSPO is a current priority for RSPO even though the uptake has been steadily increasing on a year on year basis. We believe the RSPO has the dynamics and system to make this work; it is only a matter of time. We continue to advance forward with unyielding conviction, collaboration and coherence for a better tomorrow. RT9 is a key part of this endeavour." Webber added.

Main sponsors for this year's RT9 include Sime Darby; Musim Mas; Agropalma; Cargill; HSBC and Rabobank. Exhibitors include Sawit Watch; GreenPalm; Proforest Sdn Bhd; Control Union (M) Sdn Bhd; UTZ CERTIFIED Good Inside; Wild Asia Sdn Bhd; Credent Technology (Asia) Pte Ltd; NGOs; World Resources Institute; Daemeter Consulting; PT REA Kaltim Plantations; Solidaridad Network; EcoOils Limited; IPALM (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd; PT Earthline; Roundtable On Sustainable Palm Oil; BORNEO CONSERVATION TRUST; Bayer Co. (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd; UNICEF. Media partners comprise Mongabay (social media); ENDS Report (UK); Agro Asia (Indonesia); Jakarta Globe (Indonesia); Daily Express (Sabah) and collaboration with China Food News (China).

About RT9:

Positioned as the world's largest sustainable palm oil conference and held since 2003, the annual roundtable or RT is a platform to exchange views and experiences among various stakeholders in developed and developing countries; to strengthen their co-operation and support in promoting sustainable palm oil. The annual roundtable is positioned as an industry event organized to seek participation from players within the palm oil sector from all around the world. Last year, the event attracted over 700 other delegates from all around the world representing various stakeholder groups in the palm oil supply chain.

This year, RT9 will be held from November 21, 2011 in Sutera Harbour Hotel, Sabah, Kota Kinabalu. RT9 will be organized over 3 days comprising presentation papers; workshops; breakout sessions; dialogues. More information about the RT9 can be accessed at www.rt9.rspo.org.

<http://www.rspo.org/content/800-delegates-over-15-countries-attend-rt9-borneo>

PRESS CONFERENCE

World's Largest Gathering On Sustainable Palm Oil Kicks Off

November 22, 2011, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah - The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), a multi-stakeholder organization that promotes sustainable practices in the palm oil industry, today officially opened its 9th annual Roundtable Meeting or RT9, themed “RSPO Certified. Transforming the Market. Together.” The event, which is attended by over 1,000 delegates from 34 countries around the world from both grower and consumer markets, was officially opened by Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities of Malaysia.

“The convening of RT9 and the overwhelming response to this event reflects the seriousness of all the stakeholders in the industry on the issue of sustainability. It is also heartening to know the cross-section of the participants present here today, to deliberate on the approach towards sustainability,” said Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, in his opening speech.

“Malaysia will continue to undertake measures towards making the palm oil industry environmentally friendly by

encouraging the industry to trap methane and research into utilization of the palm biomass. I am optimistic that the aggregation of all these measures will further enhance the development of the Malaysian palm oil industry, and without doubt boost the image of the palm oil produced by Malaysia. I also wish to reiterate that Malaysia is committed towards sustainable management of its forest resources and ensures a balance between developmental needs and environmental preservation.” Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Bernard Dompok continued.

Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Bernard Dompok’s opening speech was followed by a key note speech by Jonathon Porritt, co-founder and director of the Forum for the Future and former advisor to the UK government, who is one of the many experts in their respective fields who will exchange valuable insight and share their own unique experience during the course of RT9.

Jan Kees, RSPO President RSPO and Global Director Sustainable Sourcing Development Unilever applauded the efforts by producer members of RSPO: “Over 5 million tonnes of production capacity has been certified since RSPO certification of production of palm oil began in 2008. This deserves praise to

all the producers who has gone through the effort of adapting their management systems and practices towards certification. All praise to all those who are in the process.”

Jan Kees further added that: “RSPO aims to communicate that its certified palm oil has been produced in a sustainable way, providing assurance that good agronomic practices have been applied; biodiversity is protected; that no high conservation value areas have been converted; that free and prior and informed consent has been deployed to reach agreement with local communities; that proper working conditions are guaranteed; and the list of considerations continue.

The presence of such prominent figures and experts from all over the world underscores a dire need for the palm oil industry to embrace sustainability standards of the highest order. The RT9 provides an active platform for these great minds to enlighten every party associated with palm oil, empowering them to bolster their collective effort to realize RSPO’s mission, which is to make sustainable palm oil as the norm.

The RT9 opening kick-starts a healthy variety of panel discussions and seminars that boast an impressive line-up of speakers who are experts in various subject matters. These in-depth sessions feature world’s leading environmentalists, sustainability advocates, policy makers, government representatives, academics, diplomatic envoys, private sector captains of industries, international financiers, and philanthropists. The panel discussions will cover a variety of key themes that are integral for market transformation. Some of these key themes include the significance of Green House Gasses, the impact and role of smallholders in the market transformation, the emergence of new frontiers (new producing countries in for example West Africa and Latin America) and also transparency, communications and claims (including trademark) as well as trade and traceability. Also, the efforts to also move the sustainability needle in very important consumer markets such as India and China will receive due attention.

“The variety of topics from diverse disciplines at the RT9 reflects RSPO’s principles to involve all sides of the roundtable, ensuring that all parties are not left out and all considerations are taken into account. We believe that market transformation should be driven by everyone who will be affected by it. In that way, everyone’s interest is accommodated, and everyone’s concerns are addressed,” concluded Darrel Webber, Secretary General of RSPO.

Participants of the RT9 opening also witnessed the unveiling of products with the RSPO trademark that was launched in June this year. The trademarked products include soap products from Waitrose and a number of food products. The RSPO trademark in these products’ packaging makes it possible for

consumers to make a well-informed choice for products containing sustainable palm oil. The trademark is also expected to stimulate all parties across the supply chain to step up their efforts and boost global demand for sustainable palm oil.



“RSPO has been at the forefront of various efforts to ensure sustainability in the palm oil industry. I am pleased to note that the industry has made

tremendous progress in certification under the RSPO. I also hope that RSPO will engage more smallholders, smallholder's organizations and growers' associations towards obtaining the certification process. This in the longer term will allow more areas to be covered under the ambit of RSPO.” concludes Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, in his opening address.

<http://www.rspo.org/content/worlds-largest-gathering-sustainable-palm-oil-kicks>

RSPO Appoints Former Indonesian Minister of Agriculture and Forestry as Advisor

Jakarta, 14 November 2011 – The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), a multi-stakeholder organisation that promotes sustainable practices in the palm oil industry, today proudly announced the appointment of Prof. Dr. Ir. Bungaran Saragih as its new Advisor in Indonesia, after seeking for the best candidate for almost a year.

Prof. Saragih’s credential as a former Indonesian Minister of Agriculture and a renowned academic in the same field places him at the forefront of Indonesia’s thriving agriculture sector, of which palm oil is a major part. As such, Prof. Saragih is well-positioned to support RSPO’s mission to promote sustainable palm oil in the world’s largest palm oil producing country.

Darrel Webber, RSPO Secretary General, said: “The appointment of Prof. Saragih marks an exciting chapter in RSPO’s history. His macro-level knowledge of the Indonesian palm oil sector would enable RSPO to further discern the context of the Indonesian palm oil stakeholders and therefore providing the RSPO with rich content for effective decisions, policies and initiatives. The Indonesian palm oil industry is an important part in realising our mission to make sustainable palm oil the norm all over the world, and it is therefore crucial to have someone esteemed and respected within the sector to bolster this.”

“Besides having unrivalled credentials in the agriculture sector, both as a government official and as an academic, Prof. Saragih is known for his work with civil society. He is a good ambassador for sustainability and shares the same values as RSPO. We are privileged to have him on board.” added Darrel Webber.

RSPO President, Jan Kees Vis also commented on this recent development: “The appointment of Professor Bungaran as Advisor to RSPO is undoubtedly a significant impetus to the cause RSPO is committed to. Indonesia continues to be a good benchmark for new emerging markets and has already played an instrumental role by contributing over 40% of RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil around the world. This appointment clearly attests RSPO’s continued steadfast commitment to all its Indonesian members who have and will continue to deliver world class standards in best practices towards sustainable palm oil.”

“Right from the very beginning, I have been committed to the RSPO vision and mission. We have to advance RSPO to be committed towards the paradigm of sustainable development without slanting

towards pure conservationist and or pure developmentalist. The world particularly developing countries can't afford extremist approach for development.” Prof. Saragih comments on his appointment.

Prof. Saragih was a prominent government official in Indonesia, having served as Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Forestry in between the years of 2000 to 2004. In recognition of his significant contribution during his tenure in the government, he was awarded the Satyalancana Development Award by the President of the Republic of Indonesia in 2002.

Prof. Saragih also has an illustrious academic background. He served as a lecturer at Bogor Agricultural Institute, which is Indonesia’s finest academic and research institution on agriculture, from 1968 – 2010. Since 2010, he became Professor Emeritus at the Bogor Agricultural Institute.

He presently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Borneo Orang-utan Survival Foundation, a non-profit organization established in 1991 that devotes itself to promoting the conservation of Borneo orang-utans and their habitat in collaboration with local stakeholders.

Prof. Saragih earned his PhD in Socio-economics from the North Caroline State University, Raleigh, USA in 1980, his Master of Arts in Economics from the same University in 1977, and his Bachelor degree in Socio-economics from the Bogor Agricultural Institute in 1971.

<http://www.rspo.org/content/rspo-appoints-former-indonesian-minister-agriculture-and-forestry-advisor-0>

DECEMBER

JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE

The Thai Palm Oil Industry is ready for sustainable palm oil production – RSPO certification under way in Thailand

15 DEC 2011; The Thai Palm Oil Industry and the RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) are ready for sustainable palm oil production in Thailand. In a joint press conference the Secretary General of RSPO and the Chairman of the ‘Thai Oil Palm and Palm Oil Association’, the ‘Palm Oil Crushing Mill Association’, the ‘Thai Biodiesel Producer Association’ and the ‘Palm Oil Refinery Association’ announced the approval and publication of the ***National Interpretation (NI) of the RSPO in Thailand.***

The approved Thai NI allows the Thai Palm Oil Industry to certify Palm Oil as sustainable under the RSPO certification scheme. RSPO is supporting environmental, social and economically friendly production of Palm Oil avoiding all negative impacts which put non-sustainable Palm Oil under criticism. The process of the Thai NI development was supported by GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer internationale Zusammenarbeit) and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Environment. Mrs. Wiwan Boonya – Chairwoman of the Oil Palm and Palm Oil Association – states that "we are extremely satisfied with the approval of the Thai NI, as we have done this process in a transparent manner, also to include the smallholders of Thailand, which constitute of 98% of the growers."



Sustainability certification under the RSPO allows the Thai Palm Oil Industry to open up new markets, both domestically and internationally. There is an ever increasing demand for sustainable Palm Oil and the Thai Palm Oil Industry is now in a position to deliver sustainable Palm Oil to meet the demands of their customers. Mr. Sanin Triyanond – Chairman of Thai Biodiesel Producer Association – explains that "fulfilling RSPO is becoming a requirement for the Biodiesel Industry in Thailand, as most of

our customers are asking for it. We are looking forward to delivering certified biodiesel to them." Mr. Krisada Chavananand – Chairman of the Palm Oil Crushing Mill Association – adds that "also the Palm Oil Crushing Mills are committed towards their customers – such as the Biodiesel producers and refineries in Thailand – to meet the demand of sustainably certified oils." The very first Thai Palm Oil Mill will most likely be certified in 2012, also involving smallholders who must be certified as part of their supply base. The chairman of Palm Oil Refinery Association - Mr. Asanee Mallamphut states that "as all members of the Palm Oil supply chain in Thailand have to rely on smallholders as their supply base, we must make sure that we meet our social responsibility towards the farmers and RSPO certification is helping in this a lot."

Thailand is the third largest producer of Palm Oil in the world. Mr. Darrel Webber – Secretary General of the RSPO – announces that "The readiness of Thailand for Certified Sustainable Palm Oil production is a major step forward in promoting the growth and use of sustainable palm oil towards our goal in transforming markets to make it the norm. The RSPO applauds this progressive milestone which is a result of the commitment and effort of many institutions and individuals in Thailand."

Further information can be obtained from:

Associations	GIZ	RSPO Secretariat
Mr. Sanin Triyanond	Mrs. Siriporn Treepornpairat	Laila Wilfred
Chairman of Thai Biodiesel	PR Manager	Communications Coordinator

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<http://www.rspo.org/content/thai-palm-oil-industry-ready-sustainable-palm-oil-production-%E2%80%93-rspo-certification-under-way->