Message from the Chairman, RT5 Organising Committee

Dear RT5 delegates,

Selamat Datang; the Organising Committee would like to thank you for coming to RT5 which we believe would be a benchmark event that would set the stage for production and trade in certified sustainable palm oil. We extend a special welcome back to participants who have attended previous RT meetings since 2003. We would like to thank them for their continuing interest and support.

When the Organising Committee started its task in July 2007, it brainstormed on how to make RT5 the best ever RT meeting with regards to process, content and results. We commenced with a thorough review of the feedback received from participants at RT3 and RT4 meetings in 2005 and 2006. With this hindsight, we were able to design and organise RT5 that is built on what went well in the past meetings and more importantly, based on suggestions for improvement by the former participants. We hope the delivery of RT5 will meet your expectations. However, in the spirit of RSPO Principle #8, we welcome any suggestions for improvement; in this context we would encourage you to complete the RT5 feedback form.

RT5 differs from the previous meetings in several aspects, the main ones being the facilitation approach and provision of greater opportunity for stakeholder participation. Facilitation of this year’s meeting has been raised to a higher level through the use of two large group facilitation techniques, namely The World Café and the Open Space Technology. The World Café (TWC) has been employed to foster collaborative dialogue among various stakeholders on the implementation of the RSPO certification system for sustainable palm oil.

Recognising the need for wider participation by RSPO’s stakeholders, a special session has been included in RT5 to provide members and stakeholders the opportunity to share results of their work as well as to provide a platform for people to raise and lead discussion topics or issues pertaining to promoting the growth, trade in and use of sustainable palm oil. In order to accommodate as many topics as possible and to maximise participation, we are using the Open Space Technology (OST) for the conduct of Session V on Meeting Stakeholder Expectations.

RT5 is designed to provide the platform for stakeholders along the oil palm supply chain to review the progress made in the production, trade in and use of sustainable palm oil. We hope you will have a fruitful and successful meeting and that collectively, we can work towards making RSPO certified sustainable palm oil a reality soon.

The Organising Committee would like to take the opportunity to thank YB Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui, Minister of Plantation Industries & Commodities, Malaysia for consenting to deliver the RT5 keynote address. We would also like to thank YBhg Dato’ Seri Ahmad Zubir Murshid, Group President/CEO of Synergy Drive Berhad for his Opening Address.

We would like to record our appreciation to our sponsors, media partner, Shangri-La Hotel, exhibitors, session chairs, facilitators, authors and speakers, rapporteurs and all those who have contributed towards the organisation of RT5.

Teoh Cheng Hai
Chairman, RT5 Organising Committee