

**RSPO**

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

# Newsletter

## For RSPO Members

ISSUE # 2 1

JAN - MAR 2 0 1 1

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***The 8th Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil and 7th Annual General Assembly of RSPO Members. Story on pages 11-13***



***RSPO Trademark Logo  
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The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) is a global multi-stakeholder initiative on sustainable palm oil that was formally established under Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code on 8 April 2004. The not-for-profit Association have members representing major players along the palm oil supply chain. RSPO is a unique platform for pragmatic co-operation to contribute to the expansion of sustainably-produced palm oil and its uses.

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Johan Verburg - Oxfam International

Abetnego Tarigan - Sawit Watch

Tim Killeen - Conservation International

Paul Norton - HSBC

Mohd Nor Kailany - FELDA

Jose Den Toom - Rabobank

Belinda Howell - British Retailers Consortium

#### Advisor to the Executive Board

MR Chandran

### SECRETARIAT

Rikke Netterstrom (Interim Secretary-General)

Darrel Webber (Secretary-General)

Irene Chin (Finance and Administration Director)

Dr. Chong Swee Teck (P&C Certification Manager)

Ganapathy Ramasamy (Grievance Coordinator)

Siew Pei Erl (Membership Coordinator)

Poon Chi Sum (Administrator and Finance Assistant)

Jonathan Rajasegaran (IT Support)

### INDONESIA LIAISON OFFICE

Desi Kusumadewi (Indonesia Director)

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## President's Welcome Message



Dear Sustainable Palm Oil supporters,

Please accept my very Best Wishes for 2011. The outlook is that it will be another year of recovery for the many economies hit by the recession, and a year of continued growth for those not so. Base prices for commodities are expected to stay high, is what my sources tell me. Let us hope that the profits generated from those commodities will be put to good use.

In November 2010, RSPO held its 8<sup>th</sup> Roundtable conference, in Jakarta. For those of you who were there, I think you will agree that it was an excellent meeting. Many thanks are due to the local Organising Committee, and the team on the ground led by our Interim SG, Ms Rikke Netterstrom. Preparations have started already for RT9.

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, the new Secretary-General, Mr Darrel Webber, will take office. I would like to give him a very warm welcome. The RSPO office will relocate as well, since several new appointments have been made, and more will follow in the weeks to come.

The end of 2010 saw several important events, e.g. the Climate Summit in Cancun, Mexico, and the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan. Neither event was a big success, but nor were they the disasters some had expected. They proved that governments find it difficult to give attention to sustainability issues while struggling with economic uncertainties. Private parties are developing carbon credit markets as Voluntary Emission Reduction initiatives, making it ever more likely that some success may be achieved at the next summit.

The RTRS is to start certification in 2011, and is also planning to introduce a Book & Claim system for certified soybean. Like RSPO, RTRS has welcomed a new Executive Secretary, Mr Agustin Mascotena. You can reach him at [Agustin.Mascotena@responsiblesoy.org](mailto:Agustin.Mascotena@responsiblesoy.org)

I will keep you informed.

Jan-Kees Vis

President, Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

# Secretary-General's Report



*A very Happy New Year to you all.*

*2010 was a year of great changes to RSPO. The volume of CSPO capacity more than doubled from less than 1.5 million tonnes to 3.5 million tonnes at year end, produced by 22 growers in four countries. There is still some way to go for markets to catch up, but with 56% of the total volume sold, this is still a great increase from 2009.*

*The end of 2009 also saw significant progress on RSPO certification outside of Malaysia and Indonesia. The first Latin American producer was approved, and National Interpretations were approved for Colombia and Solomon Islands. National Interpretations are in the final phases of approval for Ghana and Thailand. Other countries, particularly in Africa and Latin America are also showing interest.*

*A great challenge for the new RSPO team will be to increase support of CSPO in the market place. A new communications strategy will be rolled out, and there will be greater focus on members' commitment to sourcing and investing in sustainable palm oil. In this issue, we look at the first step in greater market support, through the new trademark, which was launched at RT8. We also include a feature on four growers who have proactively communicated with their market place and financial stakeholders through sustainability reporting. This kind of transparency and accountability not only strengthens the credibility of the members themselves, but also demonstrate what sustainable palm oil is and help raise demand and support for CSPO.*

*On the communications side, our most important member engagement is of course the annual roundtable and general assembly, which has by now become a global event. Let me thank all of those who attended RT8 and GA7, despite the difficulties presented by flight disruptions caused by the volcanic eruption near Yogyakarta. A great appreciation also goes out to those who had to give up in the face of cancellations. This newsletter includes a summary of RT8 and GA7 for those who were unable to attend.*

*I would like to end on a personal note. As you read this, I will have finished my task as Interim Secretary-General of RSPO. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Executive Board, Secretariat staff and the many RSPO members who have helped us achieved tremendous progress at these challenging times of change. I would also like to add a warm welcome to Darrel Webber and the new team members who will take RSPO forward in its continued journey for a more sustainable future. I look forward to being part of the journey.*

*Many thanks and see you at RT9*

*Rikke Netterstrom*

*Outgoing Interim Secretary-General*

## ***Darrel Webber, RSPO's new Secretary-General: "My experience will help me find the right balance"***

**On 17 January 2011, the RSPO welcomed its new Secretary-General in Darrel Webber, already a familiar face at the Roundtable. "My background with palm growers, manufacturing companies and NGOs will help me and RSPO find the right balance," he says.**



Darrel Webber

Darrel Webber (41) was selected as RSPO's new Secretary-General from a field of 44 highly qualified candidates from around the world, the announcement on the RSPO website read. And there may be little doubt that his rich professional background contributed greatly to the outcome of the selection process.

### **Corridors**

Most recently, Webber worked as a Senior Associate at Global Sustainability Associates, a subsidiary of New Britain Palm Oil Limited (NBPOL). In that capacity, he advised NBPOL and other companies and organizations on sustainable agricultural development, including meeting the RSPO Principles and Criteria for sustainable palm oil production.

Prior to that, he spent more than four years at WWF. A native from Sabah, Malaysia, Darrel Webber was initially brought in to lead the Kinabatangan Corridor of Life program at WWF-Malaysia, which meant engaging with stakeholders (including oil palm plantation owners) to help create corridors of sustainable development in the floodplains of the Kinabatangan River.

Barely six months later, however, Webber led the Forest Conversion Initiative (FCI) Program and first entered the world of RSPO.

### **Private sector**

Webber contributed to the development of the RSPO standards through his work in the RSPO Criteria Working Group and Verification Working Group. In November

2007, he was asked to represent WWF-International on palm oil matters and be Vice President of the RSPO Executive Board.

Webber did not start out as a typical NGO person, however. After getting his Bachelor's at the University of Aberdeen (Scotland) in 1992, he worked at various positions in a range of private industries. At Sabah Shipyard Sdn. Bhd., Aokam Perdana Ltd (a timber company), Shell Malaysia Ltd. and Permanis Sandilands Sdn. Bhd. (a beverage manufacturer), Webber was long and thoroughly educated about private sector needs.

"My background with palm growers, manufacturing companies and NGOs will be incredibly important for helping me strike the right balance within the Roundtable," he says. "I know it may sound strange, but I think I have a good understanding of sustainability issues precisely because I worked for all of these different types of organizations."

### **'Not anarchists'**

In his early corporate years, Webber recalls, he thought that protecting some parts of precious tropical forests would suffice for environ-

## Darrel Weber, RSPO's New Secretary-General (continued)

mental conservation. Later, at WWF, he realized that isolated protected areas could end up as 'forest islands'. "Where possible, we should connect these areas," he now understands.

While in the private sector, he did not always think very highly of NGOs, Webber remembers. "I thought NGOs were run by a bunch of anarchists," he says jokingly.

Of course, entering WWF changed all of that. "I learned that they were certainly not anarchists. I developed much greater respect for the work of many people who, I found, often are very knowledgeable about the issues they are dealing with."

Late 2009, he made his final transfer before becoming the RSPO Secretary-General, joining Global Sustainability Associates as a consultant for NBPOL, a major palm oil grower with production units in Papua New Guinea. Again, the experience helped to further nuance his perceptions of the palm oil industry and the sustainability issues it has to confront.

"I have seen with my own eyes the incredible challenges that companies often face while trying to meet the RSPO standards," Webber says. "I commend growers

for having taken a leap of faith and for joining this journey toward greater sustainability of the sector. I think it is the right direction, and I surely hope they will continue on that road."

### Exponential growth

Darrel Webber will lead the much enlarged RSPO Secretariat, which will include four Senior Directors and a team of specialist managers. He took over from interim SG Rikke Netterstrom at a critical juncture in the road of the Roundtable, he says.

"I think the RSPO is doing well in terms of popularity and acceptance," Webber says. "At present, the organization and the market for RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil are on linear growth trajectories, which in itself is good. At the same time, I think that with the right strategies, the right kinds of push, we should be able to transform the linear growth into exponential increases."

The key, Webber says, lies in bringing about even greater acceptance of certified sustainable palm products in the world's major user markets. "It is essential that we also increase that acceptance in regions like China, India and the United States. In those regions we are still at the very beginning, but I think the outlook is positive."

To that end, Webber promises he will work to increase RSPO's outreach, further strengthen its communication and branding efforts and ensure the credibility of the entire certification framework.

### Middle ground

Another important focus of Webber's work will be to prepare for the first review of the RSPO Principles and Criteria, which is tabled for 2012. The review will generate vigorous debate, he knows, as has often been the case in the Roundtable's brief history.

"RSPO is a unique organization," Webber says, "and discussions within RSPO have always been lively. Some will say the criteria are fine and should not be altered; others will say they need to be changed. Stakeholders are always pulling hard in various directions, but in the past we have always ended up somewhere on middle ground with credible, reasonable solutions."

There are not many organizations with a track record like RSPO's, Webber says, "and certainly not with such rapidly growing market acceptance achieved in such a short time."

It is a good indicator, he believes, of the success and the potential of the organization that he is about to lead into a new and exciting chapter.

*"Stakeholders are always pulling hard in various directions, but in the past we have always ended up somewhere on middle ground with credible, reasonable solutions"*

# RSPO Growers sharing their journeys



RSPO requires members to report annually on their progress. This is a condition of membership, and an important means to ensure transparency in commitments towards production and use of certified sustainable palm oil. It is also a means of sharing good practices and forms a basis for benchmarking. Over the years, a handful of growers have taken reporting to the next level by publishing Sustainability Reports in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) – the leading reporting standard. These reports are aimed at a wider range of stakeholders, e.g. investors, customers and NGOs. This comprehensive means of reporting include targets for improvement and key performance indicators to enable stakeholders to track progress and compare company performance.

Here, four RSPO growers share their reporting journeys.



## DAABON: An opportunity for feedback

2010 has been an exciting, and challenging year for DAABON; we made great strides in our mission towards organic and sustainable agriculture, important changes in our corporate responsibility and land expansion policy and produced the *2009 DAABON Sustainability Report*, the first for our organisation.

This report is one more step in our effort to voluntarily comply with the highest environmental and social standards available, in our quest to be as transparent and ac-

countable to all our stakeholders as possible. It was a difficult and sometimes painful process to translate our familiar operational information into public data, but we have also learned to see ourselves through different eyes. We strongly believe that reporting ties in with our sustainability journey, and we hope that by disclosing our performance and discussing the improvements and challenges of our operations, we will not only provide our stakeholders with an overview of our business, but that we also get the opportunity for valuable

feedback, which we strongly believe this is paramount in the development of our sustainability agenda. We owe great thanks to everyone who have contributed their support and feedback to this very first report. Our 2010 report is now in progress. It is going to be a rich document which we aim to have independently verified. We look forward to continuing the journey for many years to come.

DAABON's 2009 Sustainability Report can be found at <http://issuu.com/daabon/docs/annualreport2009>

## RSPO Growers sharing their journeys (continued)

### New Britain Palm Oil Ltd: A link between performance and engagement

In November 2008 NBPOL released its first Sustainability Report. It was the first of its kind in the oil palm sector and we are now into our third cycle of reporting. All our reports follow the Global Reporting Initiative guidelines (GRI-G3).

Our triple bottom line of People, Planet, and Prosperity summarises our core belief that productivity and efficiency cannot be separated from sustainability. We already report on agricultural and financial performance, so it seemed a natural progression to report on our sustainability performance in the same way. The RSPO standard provides the starting point for continuous improvement. Reporting takes this assessment to the next level and frames it within the context of our stakeholders' perceptions. It promotes greater access and understanding of our company's journey and with the setting of clear KPI's

makes measuring and monitoring of progress transparent.

For NBPOL, the report is the link between performance and engagement. We have used the reports in many different contexts. Investors, particularly ethical Fund Managers, have commented on how valuable the report is for them to appreciate the incremental aspects that make up the company's sustainability profile. We have also received many comments from individual shareholders, proof that sustainability is an issue they are willing to spend time on researching and that in today's climate the report is a natural companion to the financial review.

It is in constant use by the Board and serves as a reference point and guide in their strategic thinking and our own employees have also greeted the report favourably, seeing it as valuable in communicating who and what we believe in.

Our engagement with NGOs has also profited from the report. It enables discussion to occur where previously there was no transparency behind our approach and acts as an introduction to NBPOL as an entity. We will always have critics but many still applaud our willingness to respond to the issues they see as material. It works both ways too, in that we now have a greater appreciation of civil society in terms of how they see negative and positive benefits of oil palm in communities.

Perhaps the warmest response has been from our customers because it's what they want - assurance that their supply chain understands the issues they face and are taking transparent action to tackle the challenges.

NBPOL's sustainability reports can be found at [www.nbpol.com.pg](http://www.nbpol.com.pg)



## RSPO Growers sharing their journeys (continued)



# Wilmar International Limited: An experience in self-examination

When the idea of sustainability reporting was first mooted in Wilmar, it was for the simple reasons that reporting was becoming more commonplace, and that stakeholders expect resource companies like ours to be more transparent about our activities and social and environmental footprint. But as we embarked on the sustainability report journey, we found that the benefits of reporting to our group were far more encompassing than expected. More than just enhancing corporate reputation and an accountability tool to meet stakeholder expectations on transparency, reporting can serve as a management tool to bring operational improvements and strengthen compliance.

Throughout the process of producing the report, we found that it was an experience in self-examination, as we got to identify the weaknesses, risks, stakeholder concerns as well as

opportunities. At the same time the report serves as a scorecard, enabling our concerned stakeholders to examine us, understand our performance and see our commitment and progress towards sustainable development. For example, we understand some of our stakeholders continue to have concerns over the use of the highly controversial Paraquat (an herbicide) in oil palm. While we believe it can be used safely and effectively, we have already phased out all Paraquat usage in some of our larger plantations, and are following a minimization policy towards phase-out for the remaining plantation units by end 2011. Reporting has also served as a management tool that has helped us focus and drive internal execution, especially when we have already publicized our goals to the public, there is a stronger sense of commitment to achieving

those expectations.

On the communications front, reporting helps us manage assumptions of our stakeholders about our Group's sustainability performance, who may otherwise base their opinion about us from unverified third-party sources from the public domain.

Last but not least, we also believe that mandatory reporting will increasingly become the mainstream in the business and regulatory environments. Starting the discipline of regular reporting early would avoid scrambling to collect new information which may result in inaccurate/less than robust data when stakeholders (especially customers, bankers and investors) request for them as part of vetting / auditing process.

Wilmar's 2009 Sustainability Report can be found at [www.wilmar-international.com](http://www.wilmar-international.com)

## RSPO Growers sharing their journeys (continued)

### Kulim: Embedding sustainability in decision making

Over the years, Kulim has developed a strategy which focuses on delivering high quality sustainable palm oil. We believe that People, Planet and Profit are intertwined, sustain each other and have to be represented in the Group's overall business strategy

With each passing year, we deepen our understanding of the company interdependence with the world and the responsibilities that result from this connectedness. We recognize that our sustained prosperity depends on an economically vital, inclusive, and educated society as well as on a healthy environment.

We have now issued two Sustainability Reports. They cover our business objectives, values and sustainability performance. We acknowledge that there is more pressure and intense stakeholder scrutiny, and that the way we integrate sustainability into our business strategy and culture needs to be com-

municated publicly. Reporting has created significant practical challenges in terms of developing and preparation, and quantifying traditionally qualitative measures, such as human rights and labour performance.

The reports reflect how we embed sustainability in the company's decision making, core business strategy and culture, governance objectives and our value chain. There's been a shift in values over time and these can be seen as a competitive advantage in terms of investor and stakeholder relations. Our sustainability initiatives will increasingly become scrutinised by analysts, investors, employees and media, so transparency becomes a powerful force pushing us along the sustainability journey, but which also creates significant reporting challenges in the longer term.

Reporting on our sustainability journey ensures that sustainability risks are

firmly embedded in the compliance and risk management processes which enable management to capture the economic opportunities presented by sustainability.

At the same time, sustainability is fully integrated with the business and operation strategy, top management and board-level decision makings. This ensures that stakeholders' expectations are met and through transparent reporting.

Kulim's sustainability report can be found at [www.kulim.com.my](http://www.kulim.com.my)



# RSPO trademark logo to be available for use soon

In November 2010, at the RSPO annual Roundtable (RT8) meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, the new trademark logo for RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil was officially unveiled. A few months from now, when updated rules on market communications have been finalized and taken effect, the new trademark will become available for on-product or about-product use by market parties worldwide.

The symbol, which represents a palm top in the form of a globe, will enable retailers and consumer food manufacturers worldwide to more clearly demonstrate the use of ingredients sourced through RSPO's Segregated or Mass Balance supply chain system. The logo will reassure consumers that the products they buy have contributed to the sustainable cultivation and production of palm products.

RSPO has already entered registration procedures for the trademark in many countries. At the same time, the RSPO Standing Committee on Communication & Claims is in the process of finalizing the rules on

when and how the trademark can be used in the market place.

A few months from now, RSPO members will be able to apply for a license to use the logo for their on-product or about-product communications.

While the trademark is not yet available and the rules have not been finalized, a brief Q&A on the future rules has been posted in RSPO's online Market Center ([www.rspo.eu/market](http://www.rspo.eu/market)) to keep palm oil users informed. The web page answers a number of key questions that are frequently raised.

Among the questions that are answered:

- Can I already use the new trademark logo on my product?
- Will the trademark logo be available in my own language?
- Can I just copy the trademark image and use it on a product?
- Will I be able to use the trademark logo if I buy GreenPalm certificates?
- Will I be able to use the trademark logo if only parts of my palm ingredients were sourced through RSPO systems?

More information can be found through the Market Center or by e-mail to

[communications@rspo.eu](mailto:communications@rspo.eu).



*“The logo will reassure consumers that the products they buy have contributed to the sustainable cultivation and production of palm products.”*

## Report on the 8<sup>th</sup> Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil

*The 8<sup>th</sup> Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil (RT8) was held from 8 to 11 November 2010 at Hotel Mulia Senayan, Jakarta, Indonesia. Despite the unfortunate eruption by Mount Merapi in Yogyakarta causing many flights to be cancelled / delayed, 750 delegates arrived from 29 countries.*

The theme was “RSPO is also for Smallholders”, an opportunity for RSPO to embrace smallholders in its collective journey to producing sustainable palm oil. Mr. Mukti Sarjono, Indonesian Directorate Generale of Plantation and Crops, who officially opened the meet on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture RI, stated that the focus on smallholders was appropriate to the historical development of oil palm cultivation in Indonesia - initially done through large plantations which are now more than 41% owned by smallholders.

RSPO also had the honor of the Chairman of the Indonesia Presidential Advisory Council, Emil Salim, as a keynote speaker. Salim stated that Malaysia and Indonesia have been blessed with great wealth in natural resources as well as high diversity of both species and ecosystems. Still struggling with their develop-

ment, the countries' challenge is how to achieve sustainability in the process, i.e., balance natural resource use for economic growth with the environment's continued ability to support life. Methods that can be applied are, for example, bottom-up approaches, participatory planning, spatial planning and others.

RT8 had several interactive and plenary sessions involving many prominent speakers. The World Café, for example, was a platform to get direct feedback from participants focusing on a few key topics, amongst which were smallholders, certification, as well as communications and claims. The feedback gathered was presented on the last day by each topic host.

(continued on next page)

*“RT8 was an opportunity for RSPO to embrace smallholders in its collective journey to producing sustainable palm oil.”*



Opening session of RT8

# Report on RT8 (continued)



*Smallholder posing a question at the plenary session*



*World Café Session*



*Prof. Emil Salim with RSPO Vice President II, Derom Bangun and EB member, Dr. Tim Killeen*



*Coffee break*

In summary, the participants want RSPO to pay attention to the following:

- A price premium, or incentive, for CSPO production, for the large producers as well as smallholders
- Financial support and trading system for smallholders
- Independent smallholders
- Better outreach in regional and district levels
- Better outreach to government sectors
- More guidance documents on certification and better communication towards members.
- Accommodate more stakeholder groups in RSPO governance, such as bio-fuel and oleo-chemical groups.
- Strategy plan and branding for RSPO

(Continued on next page)

## Report from RT8

(continued)

The decision by Indonesia to establish the Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) system was a heated topic of discussion. It was stated by Mr. Sarjono that Indonesia is currently preparing ISPO. It is basically to be a guidance scheme on sustainable oil palm production based on the existing legislation in Indonesia; thus, its provisions will be mandatory for all plantations in the country. The plenary session on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day provided an opportunity to delve deeper into this issue when Dr. Rosediana Suharto from the Indonesian Palm Oil Commission gave a briefing on ISPO. The background to the initiative was to help achieve the commitment made by Indo-

nesia in 2020 to reduce its GHG emissions by 26%. ISPO will be established in 2011. There were questions galore from the participants, including smallholders, concerned about what the implementation portends.

The closing of RT8 included a dedicated session to appreciate the 25,000 oil palm farmers who have obtained RSPO certification. The ceremony honored two companies each from Malaysia (Felda and Keresa Plantations), Indonesia (PT Hindoli and PT Agrowiratama) and Papua New Guinea (New Britain Palm Oil Ltd and Hargy Oil Palms Ltd).



*RSPO President, Jan-Kees Vis giving certificate of appreciation at the Smallholder Certification Ceremony*

## Summary of GA7 outcomes and Executive Board follow-up

The 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly was held on 11 November in Jakarta. In addition to the mandatory votes on the treasurer's report, annual accounts and appointment of auditors, seven resolutions were tabled:

**Resolution 6b: "To require 28 days' notice for submission of a member's GA resolution".** The resolution was passed with 173 votes in favour, 12 against, and 2 abstained.

**Resolution 6c: "To reduce the requirements for a quorum in the RSPO statutes and bylaws to thirty five per cent of the ordinary membership".** The resolution was withdrawn.

**Resolution 6d: "Preserving integrity of the standard".** The resolution was passed with 85 votes in favour, 60 against, and 42 abstained. The Executive Board will discuss a process for review of the RSPO Standard.

**Resolution 6e: "Ensuring balance between producers and non-producers".** The resolution was passed with 104 votes in favour, 66 against and 17 abstained. The Executive Board will address this resolution in a dedicated Executive Board meeting in March.

(Continued on next page)

## Summary and follow-up of GA7 (continued)

**Resolution 6f: “Postponement of Implementation and Review of New Planting Procedure (NPP)”**. The resolution was withdrawn. The Executive Board is currently drawing up the terms of reference for reviewing the NPP.

**Resolution 6g: “Market support for Sustainable Palm Oil”**. The resolution was passed with 99 votes in favour, 68 against, and 20 abstained. A subgroup in the EB is looking into how these requirements can be assured in the planned strengthening of annual communications of progress.

**Resolution 6h: “HCV in non-primary forests”**. The resolution was passed with 114 votes in favour, 61 against, and 12 abstained. The Executive Board has drafted a clear position statement, reiterating the value of all HCVs. This is posted on [www.rspo.org](http://www.rspo.org)

**Executive Board elections** saw only one seat contested - in the Traders and Processors category where Cargill and AAK were nominated. AAK, the incumbent, retained the seat with 35 votes over 22. Cadbury, Rabobank, Retailers Palm Oil Working Group, FELDA, Sawit Watch and WWF were reelected without contest. SIAT replaced Agropalma as representative for Producers, Rest of the World. All EB seats are elected for two years.

The full draft GA7 Minutes are available from [www.rspo.org](http://www.rspo.org)



*Votes being collected*



*Vote counting*



*Participant commenting on a resolution*

## RSPO Management team almost complete

In addition to the appointment of Darrel Webber as Secretary-General, the restructuring of the Secretariat described in the October Newsletter is moving along. Three Directors have been appointed:

In Indonesia, **Desi Kusumadewi** is the Indonesia Director. As RSPO Indonesia Liaison Officer, Desi coordinated Indonesia activities for three years prior to going on study leave to read for her Masters degree in the Netherlands. Her new role will see a continuation of Indonesia activities, but with added management and strategic responsibilities.

In the Kuala Lumpur Secretariat, **Irene Chin Suk Kwan** has joined as Finance and Administration Director. Irene will be responsible for human resources, IT, Finance and Administration, and will be supported by dedicated administration staff in Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta. She was Senior Finance Manager and company secretary with Vector International, a Malaysian company



in the home security industry, where she upgraded the whole accounting systems from manual to automated with internal procedure. Prior to this, she was an Accountant for almost 10 years.

From mid-February, **Anne Gabriel** will join the KL Secretariat as Communications Director. Anne will be responsible for overseeing a global communications strategy, which includes an increased focus on markets in Europe, China and India. Anne is well-placed to take on this role, as a seasoned global communications professional. Most recently, Anne ran her own communications agency, and prior to this, she was the Managing Director of Weber Shandwick, a role that she held for nine years. She built the company from a medium-sized business with a staff of 8 to a team of over 40 at the height of the business.

In addition, **Dr Chong Swee Teck** is appointed P&C Certification Manager, **Dr Asril Darussamin** appointed Indonesia Smallholder Affairs Coordinator and **Mr Jonathan Rajasegaran** has joined as IT Coordinator.

Over the coming months, the technical team will be expanded to include a Technical Director, a Biodiversity Manager and a Supply Chain Certification Manager.



Desi Kusumadewi  
Indonesia Director



Irene Chin Suk Kwan  
Finance and Admin Director



Anne Gabriel  
Communications Director

## Numbers of RSPO Certified Companies as of January 2010

### Growers' Certification

Companies : 22  
 Palm Oil Mills : 81  
 Volume CSPO : 3,510,859 T  
 Volume: CSPK : 792,071 T  
 Production Area : 689,683 ha

### Supply Chain Certification

Companies : 64  
 Facilities : 113

## Membership Profile as of January 2010

