



FACULTY OF PLANTATION AND AGRO-TECHNOLOGY
DIPLOMA IN PLANTING INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT (DPIM)
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA SARAWAK

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING REPORT
(DURATION OF TRAINING: 5th MARCH 2018 – 8th JUNE 2018)
STESEN PENYELIDIKAN RRIM SIMILAJAU, BINTULU

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I would like thanks to God because give my strength and health to finish my internship successfully. Next, I would like to express the deepest gratitude to my lecturer, Mr. Syukrie Bin Haji Abu Talip for giving us the chance to do our internship for three months to improve my performance and let I gain more hands on experiences before I complete my Diploma in Planting Industry Management.

Besides that, a big thanks and appreciation to the manager of RRIM Similajau Station, Mr. Salihin Bin Sekot for giving a chance to broaden my knowledge and experience at Malaysian Rubber Board, RRIM Similajau Station, Bintulu, Sarawak. I as the trainees at RRIM Similajau Station learnt a lot about rubber tree management, especially regarding activities for weeding, tapping and manuring.

To Research Assistant, Mr. Thomas anak Ningkang and his assistant, Mr. Giring anak January Enju, thank you for your guidance and sharing their experiences on how conducting the rubber tree to I starting from the day 1 until the end of our practical. Not forget, the staffs of RRIM Similajau Station, I will always remember the teachings from all of you.

I also thanks to my family in terms of financial and moral support, I would also like to thank you for the sacrifices that you did. Not to forget, I would like to thanks to Malaysian Rubber Board generally and Research Station RRIM Similajau, Bintulu personally and I will never forget all of you with I moment at this agency.

During these 3 months working at Lembaga Getah Malaysia as a trainee, I am exposed to many new experiences which are very valuable for me to learn and carry out when I face world of working in the future. I have learned a lot how to communicate with people who came from difference ages, difference communication skills and also those who come from different life background. Apart from that, working together as team is the most important thing in work life because by having a great team that knows how to corporate together can give us a lot of benefits.

Lastly, to those whose is involved directly and indirectly by helping me during my training period. I would like to give my gratitude for having me as their trainee at Stesen Penyelidikan, RRIM Similjau, Bintulu. Without the experience, guidance and knowledge that has been shared by them to me, I might not be able to learn completely about rubber technically. May God pour the blessing abundantly to all of you. Thank you.

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ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND



MALAYSIA RUBBER BOARD

The Malaysian Rubber Board (MRB) is the custodian of the rubber industry in Malaysia. It was established on 1st January 1998, it has under its fold there well establish agencies (RRIM, MRRDB and MRELB), which are now merged into one, which have contributed significantly to the development of the rubber industry for the last 78 years. The R&D excellence in Natural Rubber, accomplished by the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia (RRIM), has an impact on the Malaysian NR producing countries.

The primary objectives of MRB is to assist in the development and modernization of Malaysian rubber industry in all aspects from cultivation of the rubber tree, the extraction and processing of its raw rubber, the manufacture of rubber products and the marketing of rubber and its products.

INTRODUCTION TO RUBBER

Natural rubber (NR) is a major industrial raw material harvested from the rubber tree. Among the twenty odd plant species that are known to produce rubber, no less than twelve belong to the *Hevea brasiliensis* from the Euphorbiaceae family is economically exploited. The tree is a native of the Amazonian rain forest of South America. Hevea is tropical crop that can survive within 1,000km north and south of the equator, except for the arid regions. It requires 180-250cm of rainfall per year and a temperature of 25-35 degree Celcius. Rubber can be planted to a maximum elevation of 500m above the sea level. It acquires a deep firm soil of the loamy texture with free drainage and tolerates a water table of 100cm from the surface and below. The rubber tree is a perennial crop with an economic life-span of approximately thirty years. When fully matured, it can reach a height of 18-20 meter. Originally identified as a forest vegetation, Hevea wood is a valuable tropical timber which comes under the semi-hard category and most suitable for the furniture industry. Its latex, harvested from the tree, has been major contributor to the NR industry towards the development of various rubber and rubber-based products.