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**IOI GROUP**

## **IOI Pelita Land Dispute Update: Socialisation of Resolution Plan**

IOI Corporation Berhad (IOI) has been working with the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) Complaints Panel and other stakeholders to resolve the IOI Pelita land dispute issue. Recent efforts have been focusing on the development of a resolution plan that follows the FPIC spirit and meets the RSPO P&C for conflict resolution. The resolution plan received a conditional endorsement from the Complaints Panel in end of June 2018. As a result, IOI was able to go ahead with the resolution plan socialisation visit to all 11 communities involved in the dispute to seek their consent for the implementation of the resolution plan.



*Scenic view at Long Jegan, Tinjar, Sarawak*

After a week-long trip from 28 June to 6 July 2018 in Tinjar, Sarawak, IOI team successfully concluded a socialisation programme with 11 local communities who are participating in the IOI Pelita's land dispute resolution process.

In addition to IOI's Head of Stakeholder Engagement Mr. Carl Dagenhart, and his team, the group of visitors included Grassroots' representatives Mr. Andrew Ng and Mr. Lim Si Siew, RSPO's representative Mr. Senniah Appalasamy and Pelita's representative Mr. Samuel Batok.

Reaching the remote villages was not easy. The roads leading to longhouses were muddy and prone to flooding. The communities are located in isolated areas and have limited access to electricity, clean water and any telephone network or Internet, thus the only way to get in touch with these communities is to actually visit them.



*(left) Our vehicle stuck in wet mud en route to the longhouse community. (right) Flooded road to the longhouse due to heavy rain.*

Upon reaching the longhouses, the visitors were able to experience the famed Sarawakian hospitality, starting with handshakes, laughs and servings of local delicacies. Each socialisation session was kicked off with a presentation of the draft resolution plan. The presentations were conducted in Bahasa Malaysia by IOI Pelita Community Liaison Officer Mr. Wilson Pasang, an Orang Ulu who is familiar with local context and has good rapport with the communities.



*Socialisation programme presentation at Long Teran Kanan A.*

After the presentations, the Q&A sessions were facilitated by both Mr. Wilson and Mr. Carl Dagenhart (with translation into Bahasa Malaysia and local dialect when necessary). The IOI team emphasized the fact that the resolution process, as outlined in the resolution plan, has to take time and include multiple steps because the main objective is to build communities' capacity to understand the issues and participate effectively in the resolution process. The importance of the participatory mapping process was also stressed and each community was informed that all their issues and claims will be captured, verified and documented through that process.

At the end of each session, IOI provided a thorough explanation on communities' right to give consent or to not grant it, and on their right to take as much time as needed to make a well-informed decision. IOI team also informed each community that they can be provided, free of charge, with all necessary support, including legal advice, should they need it to arrive at their decision.



*(left) Socialisation programme presentation at Long Tuyut. (right) IOI Stakeholder Engagement Team with IOI Pelita, Grassroots and RSPO*

All communities and their leaders responded positively towards the resolution plan. IOI encouraged them to take their time to discuss the matter internally first and, if needed, will seek independent advice before they make the final decision.

The socialisation programme was an important milestone on IOI's path towards the IOI Pelita land dispute resolution. It showcased IOI's and other stakeholders' determination to bring the dispute to a resolution that would be fair to all parties involved. The visit also helped further improve the relationship between communities and IOI Pelita.

IOI remains committed to resolving this long-standing dispute by working together with all stakeholders and following the FPIC process. We are optimistic that this collaborative effort will succeed and lead to a better future for both communities and the company.