



## MALAYSIAN TIMBER CERTIFICATION COUNCIL

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The Editor,  
The Star,  
Menara Star,  
15 Jalan 16/11,  
46350 Petaling Jaya. (Fax: 03 7955 4039)

Dear Sir,

I would like to refer to the article entitled *Disputed papers* (Star Two, 9 January) to clarify that, contrary to the tone of the above article, the MTCC timber certification scheme has been recognized as providing assurance of either sustainable or legal timber products in a number of countries, such as United Kingdom, The Netherlands, France, Denmark, New Zealand and Japan. In addition the city of Hamburg in Germany has granted a conditional recognition of the MTCC scheme for a two-year period starting from June 2006, during which a joint project is being implemented for Hamburg to provide scientific support to refine the forest management standard used by MTCC.

I would also like to clarify that as with all timber certification schemes throughout the world, the standards used in the MTCC scheme have to abide by the laws of Malaysia or the individual states concerned. With regard to the comments made in the article, MTCC wishes to reiterate that our main focus is to independently assess and certify whether the gazetted permanent reserved forest within the applicant Forest Management Unit are managed in accordance with the requirements of the agreed forest management standard, which is the output of multi-stakeholder consultations.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

**Chew Lye Teng**  
Chief Executive Officer

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