



Sabah Forest Industries Sdn. Bhd.

Sabah Hosts International Forest Plantation Managers' Meet

Sabah (Malaysia); April 11, 2010: Sabah Forest Industries (SFI), Malaysia, a subsidiary of Ballarpur Industries Limited (BILT) and part of the US\$ 4 bn Avantha Group, in collaboration with WWF-Malaysia, hosted a meeting for the members of the **New Generation Plantation Project (NGPP)** at its headquarters in Sipitang from 6 -9 April 2010.

WWF's NGGP collects examples of well-managed and appropriately located plantations. The project uses real world learning laboratories in different parts of the world to get new insights on how to enhance positive impacts of plantations.

At the meeting, the delegates deliberated through five days of discussions and field excursions to SFI's plantation operations, focusing on biodiversity, bio-energy and the carbon market and its linkages towards forest plantation development.

According to **Mr. Rod Taylor, WWF International's Forest Program Director**, "When applied to plantations, the new generation can be contrasted with poor and outmoded plantation practices that, for example, disregard the rights or livelihoods of local people or destroy natural habitats."

"An 'upgrade' to the new generation involves progressing from worker relations to meaningful consultation with stakeholders; going beyond the design of tree compartments within a management unit to planning that takes into account how the plantation fits within the wider landscape; and voluntarily exceeding legal requirements to protect high conservation values," he added.

Mr. Sanjeev Chadha, Joint CEO of SFI said, "Being part of the Avantha Group has heightened our awareness of the global nature of our business. Our participation in NGPP allows us to understand and shape the future of SFI's forest plantation operations, paving the way for us to become a global player."

NGPP brings together large forest plantation companies operating in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas, including Mondi, UPM-Kymmene, Stora Enso, Portucel, CMPC, Masisa and Sabah Forest Industries in a platform of engagement with WWF and the government officials from China's State Forestry Administration, United Kingdom's Forest Commission and Sabah Forestry Department, Malaysia.

The objective is to share experiences and to work together to develop policies and procedures for supporting biodiversity conservation and ensuring that the benefits from forest plantations accrue to the wider community while contributing to sustainable economic growth.

About Avantha

The US\$ 4 bn Avantha Group is one of India's leading business conglomerates. Its successful entities include BILT, Crompton Greaves, The Global Green Company, Avantha Power & Infrastructure, Solaris ChemTech Industries, Biltech Building Elements, Salient Business Solutions, and Avantha Technologies.

With an impressive global footprint, Avantha operates in over ten countries, employing 20,000 people worldwide. The Group has business interests in diverse areas including power transmission and distribution equipment and services, paper and pulp, energy and infrastructure, food processing, farm forestry, chemicals, IT and ITES. Led by Gautam Thapar, Avantha demonstrates strong leadership globally and emerges as a focused corporate, leveraging its knowledge, leadership and operations, adding lasting value for its stakeholders and investors.

About Ballarpur Industries Limited

Ballarpur Industries Limited (BILT), part of the US\$ 4 billion Avantha Group, is India's largest manufacturer of writing and printing (W&P) paper. BILT's subsidiaries include Sabah Forest Industries (SFI), Malaysia's largest pulp and paper company, and BILT Tree Tech Limited (BTTL), which runs BILT's farm forestry programme in several states in India. BILT has six manufacturing units across India, which give the company geographic coverage over most of the domestic market. BILT has a dominant share of the high-end coated paper segment in India. The company accounts for over 50% of the coated wood-free paper market, an impressive 85% of the bond paper market and nearly 45% of the hi-bright Maplitho market, besides being India's largest exporter of coated paper. BILT is the first Indian paper company to feature among the global top 100.

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