During the first decade of the 21st century, there has been a widespread consensus that organizations need to adopt strategies for sustainable development and social responsibility. Although the impact and the extent of these initiatives remains subject to debate, there can be no doubt that the social and environmental context of organizations will be key factors in the rise and fall of companies, brands and organizations.

As a certification, inspection and assurance body, DQS holds a crucial position in this evolution. In our capacity of assessors, we hold the privilege of being able to evaluate and influence the actions and impacts of a large number of organizations.

The approval of DQS Malaysia as one of the first certification bodies for Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) audits is another step in the right direction: towards a sustainable future.

Dr. Sied Sadek
Managing Director of DQS CFS GmbH
In line with the establishment and official launching of Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) MS 2530:2013, DQS Malaysia has designed, developed and conducted the world’s very FIRST MSPO Lead Auditor Course from 26th to 30th January 2015. This world’s first MSPO Lead Auditor Course was participated by pool of professionals from ex-General Manager of Forestry Corporation, ex-Land Development Officer cum University Visiting Lecturer, NGO’s Advocate cum Commissioner for Oath, MPOB Certified CoP Auditors, Oil Palm/Forestry and Social & Environmental experts to ISCC Auditor. The course was delivered by MSPO Lead Auditor and MPOB’s Head of Sustainability Standard and Certification Centre and during this training, the participants acquired the necessary knowledge and skills to proficiently plan and perform internal and external audits in compliance with ISO 19011; the certification process according to ISO 17021. Based on practical exercises, the participants developed the skills (mastering audit techniques) and competencies (managing audit teams and audit program, communicating with customers, conflict resolution, etc.) necessary to efficiently conduct an audit. Effectiveness of the course was evaluated by the examination undertaken during the last session of the course.
This MSPO Public Training course is designed for participants who wish to gain knowledge of MSPO requirements, National Standards on sustainability applicable to palm oil industry supply chain from plantation to oil mills and refineries. It focuses on the interpretation and implementation of MSPO requirements, legal and specific requirements in compliance with MSPO. Participants from various company have joined the training eg; Ta Ann Holdings Berhad (Sarawak), Rimbunan Hijau (Sarawak), SALCRA (Sarawak), PPB Oil Palms (Sabah), JC Chang (Sabah), IOI Plantation (Peninsular), Oriental Plantation (Peninsular), etc.
Europe is a huge market for palm oil. This includes the supply chains for energy and fuel. The European Union, in which a wide range of the most economically relevant EU-countries participate, is setting up the “European bioeconomy”, which aims at alleviating climate change and strengthening the energy security. Due to increasing demand of transport fuels, biofuels and biofuel investments are part of the strategy.

The EU “Renewable Energy Directive” (RED) mandates that 20% of EU final energy use should come from renewable sources, and includes a sub-target that 10% of the energy used in transport should be from renewable sources. Recent studies even showed that EU legislation underestimated biofuels’ climate benefits – it’s likely 80% better than expected.

It’s not only requirements of the RED – it’s also widely agreed on EU political and business level, that palm oil (as other biogenetic oil) should come from sustainable production. Deforestation, indirect land use change, biodiversity loss and further environmental and social aspects are increasingly part of public awareness, discussion and criticism. Not all discussion is to the point, not all reasoning is based on knowledge, but there is a common call for credible checks of production conditions of the palm oil.

This is where the benefit of sustainability standards comes in: Using a certification system fosters credibility. EU regulation currently accepts 6 certification standards for palm oil (plus 13 accepted certification systems with different scope), as proof of sustainable palm oil production. They are recognized market tools, which significantly support the acceptance of sustainable palm oil in Europe. Market, regulatory bodies and informed public accept the benefits of sustainability certification standards: if set up well, they are appropriate tools to identify sustainability hot-spots, to manage compliance with market regulations, and to support capacity building.

Sustainability is part of product quality: a Malaysian transparent and credible certification system for sustainable palm oil is a consequent step to further improve market share in the EU, to promote Malaysia’s sustainability activities and to demonstrate the quality of its products.

Mr. Bernd Bruhns,
Renewable Energy Expert
MALAYSIAN PALM OIL’S SUSTAINABILITY HELPS ENTIRE COUNTRIES GO GREENER

Palm oil is one of the world’s most important commodities. As populations look for the most eco-friendly choices, more attention than ever is being paid to sustainable Malaysian palm oil. Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Didier Reynders made headlines around the world when he announced that his country imposes no restrictions on Malaysian palm oil imports because, “production of the commodity is sustainable.” Reynders added that Belgians would be educated about the “good social practices” of Malaysia’s palm oil industry.

By 2050, world demand of oils and fats is expected to require double the current production. Malaysia plans to continue to take center stage in the international supply chain in this sector. “Other sources of edible oils will not be able to expand so easily, as they are land intensive,” explained Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Yusof Basiron, CEO, Malaysian Palm Oil Council. “The responsibility will fall on the palm oil, which is land efficient.”

What makes the oil palm so inherently sustainable?

Land is a finite resource. Experts explain that oil palm plantation is a sustainable and environmentally beneficial activity. In addition, the production and processing of palm oil is, in itself, a sustainable process. Almost all oil palm plantations by-products can be used. Empty shell husks, for example, can be used as fertilizer, to generate electricity or fortify concrete.

Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) is Malaysia’s own sustainable palm oil certification program. MSPO standards include Good Agriculture Practices to ensure that activities are carried out sustainable to play a responsible role in reducing the environmental footprint. The Malaysian palm oil industry is further committed to aggressive wildlife conservation efforts.

Sources: Asia Palm Oil Magazine
The 6th Reach & Remind Friends of the Industry Seminar 2015 & Dialogue was organised by MPOC on 12 February 2015, at the Putrajaya Marriott Hotel. The event was a rousing success, which saw almost 400 stakeholders from the Malaysian palm oil industry giving their support in attending the seminar and dialogue.

YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Malaysia, accompanied by YB Dato’ Noriah Kasnon, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Malaysia and other notable industry stewards were present. YB Minister later launched the ‘Grown by the People, for the People’ book, as well as MPOC’s 2015 Essay Competition and World Palm Portraits Photography Competition during the Opening Ceremony.

The highlight of the 6th Reach & Remind event was the dialogue with YB Minister, which presented the Malaysian palm oil industry an opportunity to raise issues that reflected the event’s theme, ‘Creating greater market opportunities in 2015’. Here, the stakeholders mostly shared their concerns with tax requirements and labour related issues that affected Malaysian palm oil’s competitiveness.

Following the dialogue, the event also saw 6 papers presented, namely:

- 2015 Outlook for the Malaysian palm oil industry (MPOC)
- Biodiesel industry’s role in the palm oil mix (MBA)
- Full Outturn Guarantee (FOG): assisting the palm oil industry to reduce potential transit losses (ATS)
- Sustainability certifications: how far and how deep should the Malaysian palm oil industry commit? (MPOA)
- Global demands for CSPO – where are the markets headed? (RSPO)
- MSPO: milestones, adoption and implementation (MPOB)

Towards the end of the event, the feedbacks from the participants were very encouraging, many stating that the Malaysian palm oil industry should see more of such programmes being organised.

Sources: MPOC
The MSPO Public Training is your first step towards a professional career as a MSPO auditor. Through this course, you will learn how to schedule, plan, lead and execute a successful MSPO audit for any organization related to oil palm plantations.

The MSPO Public Training will be a prerequisite for demonstrating basic competency for conducting, evaluating and reviewing the MSPO Principles & Criteria.

Limited spaces are available, so drop us an email soon to secure a seat and enjoy the early bird rate. Closing date for registration is one week before actual date.