Cert. No. SPO 559278
RSPO Principles & Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production: 2007; MY National Interpretation: 2008

Keresa Plantations meets international sustainability standards

Kuching, November 2010 – The first Sarawakian-owned oil palm plantation company, Keresa Plantations Sdn Bhd was certified by the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) recently.

The company first embarked on their RSPO journey two years ago and has been continuously improving its operations and practices across all sectors as required by the RSPO.

Keresa Plantations, located in Bintulu, Sarawak, owns land total of 6,023 hectares, and is one of the smallest companies in the industry to be certified. The company's CPO Mill is officially the certified unit and the scope of the certification includes the crop from Keresa Plantations and its neighboring indigenous smallholders.

Mr. Graeme Iain Brown, Managing Director for Keresa Plantations and Keresa Mill says, "Others questioned why a small-sized plantation company like Keresa would want to join RSPO in the first place. They figured we did not know what we were getting ourselves into. In the face of crisis which both the natural and business world is facing, there is a serious need for us to review the way business is practiced".

In the early stages of understanding and implementing the RSPO criteria, Keresa's management realized the importance of doing things differently. Keresa Plantations' General Manager Mr. A.K Kumaran explains, "I realized that although we've been taking care of the workers in terms of their wages, RSPO's approach is more holistic - we have to look at safety, housing and health, and improving communication between management and their work force."

Keresa is committed to continuous improvement. With this attitude in mind, Keresa has gone the extra mile by initiating one of Sarawak's first independent group scheme for smallholders, currently a work in progress. This programme seeks to prepare and support smallholders to be RSPO certified as well. Keresa's sincere belief and dedication in sustainability and RSPO makes them a role model both in corporate and agriculture industry for all to emulate.

Keresa is a living example of David and Goliath. With RSPO under its belt, Keresa proves to be a leader in sustainable palm oil and to be able stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the leaders in the plantation industry.

The first RSPO certified plantation was announced in 2008 and since then, certification has been dominated by large companies such as United Plantations, Wilmar and Sime Darby.

The RSPO is a global, multi-stakeholder initiative on sustainable palm oil and its members come from different backgrounds including environmental and social NGOs, banks and investors, growers, processors, manufacturers and retailers of palm oil products. The RSPO Principles and Criteria are the only guideline requirements for the oil palm sector and have been described as the world's toughest standards for sustainable agriculture production.

For more information on **Keresa Plantations and Keresa Mill**, visit: **http://www.keresa.com.my/**

Media enquiries contact: Khairul Azizan Alias, Group General Manager, Keresa Plantations & Keresa Mill, Tel: +6082245587 / Fax: +6082239462