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Folder Title: President Wolfensohn - Briefing Book for President's Meetings and Events - Luncheon Meeting - Susan Rice - United States Assistant Secretary of State for Africa - April 14, 1998

Folder ID: 30490166

Series: Meeting and event briefing materials

Dates: 03/25/1998 – 04/14/1998

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THE WORLD BANK

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Dinner Meeting: Mr. Yaw Chee Ming
Samling Strategic Corp. Sdn. Bhd., Malaysia

Friday, April 3, 1998

7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Mr. K's Restaurant <Private Dining Room>
2121 K St, N.W.

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President Wolfensohn - Briefing Book for President's Meetings - Meeting Material
Dinner Meeting - Yaw Chee Ming - Samling Strategic Corporation Sdn Bhd -

Archive Management for the President's Office

Document Log

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1825

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A. CLASSIFICATION

☒	Meeting Material
☐	Trips
☐	Speeches

☐	Annual Meetings
☐	Corporate Management
☐	Communications with Staff

☐	Phone Logs
☐	Calendar
☐	Press Clippings/Photos

☐	JDW Transcripts
☐	Social Events
☐	Other

B. SUBJECT: DINNER MEETING: MR. YAW CHEE MING, SAMLING STRATEGIC CORPORATION SDN. BHD., MALAYSIA (B) (N) <Grand total: 9>
// TIME: 7:30 - 9:00 P.M. // VENUE: MR. K'S RESTAURANT <PRIVATE DINING ROOM>, 2121 K STREET, N.W. // CONTACT NUMBER OF RESTAURANT: 331-8868 // SECONDARY CONTACT: MR. EVANS OF TROPICAL FORESTS FOUNDATION @ 703-518-8834 // WB CONTACT: KERSTIN @ 31407 NOTE: RESERVATION AT MR. K'S HAS BEEN MADE BY MR. EVANS FOR 8 PEOPLE // IN ATTENDANCE: JDW, NEWCOMBE, (WATSON-not attending-leave), B. MAGRATH, J. DOUGLAS <TOTAL: 4> EXTERNAL ATTENDEES <TOTAL: 5>: MR. YAW CHEE-MING, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MR. LOONG SIEW-KONG, VICE PRESIDENT, MR. KIESTER EVANS, TROPICAL FORESTS FOUNDATION, USA <NOTE: PER MR. DON FITES OF CATERPILLAR> MR. BOB PETERSEN, VICE PRESIDENT, CATERPILLAR INC., MR. BRUCE CABARLE, DIRECTOR, GLOBAL PROGRAMME, WWF // (B) BY DOUGLAS/NEWCOMBE // DUE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, EXC: MM // LFG (3/25)
Brief includes:
--- Memo to JDW from K. Newcombe, Apr. 2

DATE: 04/03/98

C. VPU

Corporate

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☐	MPS
☐	OED
☐	SEC/Board
☐	TRE

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☐	EAP
☐	ECA
☐	LAC
☐	MNA
☐	SAS

Central

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☐	DEC
☒	ESD
☐	FPD
☐	FPR
☐	HRO

Affiliates

☐	GEF
☐	ICSID
☐	IFC
☐	Inspection Panel
☐	Kennedy Center
☐	MIGA

D. EXTERNAL PARTNER

☐	IMF
☐	UN
☐	MDB/Other IO
☐	NGO
☐	Private Sector

☐	Part I
☐	Part II
☐	Other

E. COMMENTS:

File Location



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Marisela Montolio, qd

Date:

04/14/98

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OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 2, 1998

TO: Mr. James D. Wolfensohn, EXC

FROM: Ken Newcombe, ENV

EXTENSION: 36010

SUBJECT: **Briefing on Dinner Meeting with CEO of Samling**

This is a briefing for the dinner meeting with Mr. Chee Yaw, CEO of the Malaysian company, Samling Corporation at 7:30 p.m. at Mr. K's. Also invited to this meeting are:

- **Mr. S.K. Loong**, VP, Samling Corporation.
- **Mr. Kiester Evans**, Tropical Forest Foundation, Washington, D.C.
He attended the January 9 meeting as the guest of Mr. Donald Fites, Caterpillar Inc.
- **Ken Newcombe**, ENV.
- **Jim Douglas**, Senior Forestry Advisor, RDV.
Jim is familiar with Samling's operations and has worked with their senior management.
- **Bill Magrath**, Senior Resources Economist, RDV.
Bill is familiar with Samling's operations in Cambodia and has worked with their senior management.

Purpose of meeting with Mr. Yaw

We had originally requested that Mr. Yaw participate in the first meeting, but the January 9 date conflicted with Asian holidays and the Samling annual event. We had worked, unsuccessfully, to bring about a meeting between you and Mr. Yaw before the January date.

As you will recall, participants at the January 9 meeting agreed that private sector representation should be expanded to include representatives of the Malaysian timber industry. Donald Fites of Caterpillar has taken upon himself the commitment to bring at least two Malaysian companies to the table. Mr. Fites and Kiester Evans have been pivotal in bringing this about.

Mr. Yaw and Mr. Loong are already attending the Thursday, April 2 working group #2 meeting on sustainable forest management in New York City, hosted by Mr. John Luke, CEO of Westvaco. Many consider this working group to be the one where the issues over which the private sector and environmental NGOs have come to an impasse will be discussed. Namely, the role of the private sector in natural forest management and the role of certification. As can be expected, expected participants for this working group include almost all of the original CEOs. I can brief you on the major outcomes of this working group on Friday evening before the dinner meeting if you desire.

The Samling Company

We hope that through careful dialogue and trust generated through the CEOs process, that Samling will allow us to follow-up an interesting field based program based on one of their company operations.

- Samling is the largest of the Malaysian logging companies, with operations in Sarawak, Cambodia, Guyana and several other locations. The current CEO, Mr. Yaw, is the scion of the originating family: the firm is still held by the family.
- Mr. Yaw approached the Bank some months ago (unsolicited) because of Bank involvement in the forestry sector in Cambodia (part of the preparation for an adjustment operation). Samling has the largest forestry concession area in Cambodia.
- The company is by no means an exemplary forest operator and has attracted bad publicity due to aggressive and poorly managed logging operations. It has been criticized for the non-sustainable nature of its operations in several countries. This includes operations in Cambodia, where harvest rates are well in excess of the sustainable output from the resources. Targeting by environmental NGOs comes right at time when the Malaysian forest products industry is making a determined push into the more environmentally-sensitive European/US markets.
- Mr. Yaw has acknowledge there are problems to some extent and claims that he wants Samling to raise the quality of its operations: it is no longer tenable in a business sense to continue highly opportunistic and exploitative forest operations. He wants the Bank to help convene a group of stakeholders who could define a reasonable set of standards for the company to observe, and to oversee a credible monitoring exercise. He does not trust NGOs alone to be sufficiently impartial. He was prepared to place one of Samling's major overseas operations in a program of this nature, when the original discussion took place.
- At the same time, the Malaysian Government appears to be on the move on the forests issue: at a meeting convened by the Malaysian Timber Industries Marketing Board in early march, the Bank representative at the meeting was able to engage senior Government people in a conversation on the subject of Malaysia opening its own forest operations to international scrutiny - a conversation that could not have occurred even a few months ago.
- We hope that through careful dialogue and trust generated through the CEOs process, that Samling will invite us, in coordination with World Bank operations in Cambodia, to follow-up with Mr. Yaw's idea to have the Bank help convene a group of stakeholders to define a reasonable set of standards and oversee a credible monitoring exercise.

cc: Messrs./Mmes: C. Koch-Weser (MDOMD); I. Johnson (ESDVP); A. McCalla, W. Magrath, J. Douglas (RDV); R. Watson, K. Canby, I. Alegre, M. Bojorge (ENV)