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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGARWOOD, INCENSE AND FRAGRANCES FOREST PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME RETREAT



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MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD



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Industries officiating
International
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Agarwood, Incense
and Fragrances held
in Kuala Lumpur.
More details on
pages 3 and 15.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGARWOOD, INCENSE AND FRAGRANCES

news



YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries (right) browsing through the Proceeding on National Gaharu Seminar 2018.

The International Conference on Agarwood, Incense and Fragrances was held on 10-11 July in Kuala Lumpur. It was a collaboration by MTIB, Incense Media of India and Agarwood Bumiputera Entrepreneur's Association. The main objective of the conference was to accelerate the development of the Malaysian Agarwood industry and to share the latest information to Karas growers and gaharu entrepreneurs. It was also to inspire Agarwood entrepreneurs in Malaysia and gained a better understanding of the properties of gaharu and its usage for application. This event is also in line with MTIB's Karas and Gaharu Development Action Plan 2011-2021.

The conference was officiated by YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries. She stated that the gaharu international trade involves hundreds of tonnes worth millions of US dollars annually. Due to population growth and lucrative of gaharu industries, the demand for gaharu has increased over the past 30 years.

Malaysia is the fifth country to export Agarwood products after Thailand, Indonesia, India and Viet Nam. The Government and the industry are

working together to promote the growth of the Agarwood industry through development and R&D programmes. As of June 2019, a total of 194 companies and individuals have registered with MTIB with a total plantation area of 1,864 hectares and 1.6 million Karas trees. The export of Agarwood products has been steadily increased throughout the years in tandem with the increasing demand both domestically and globally. To ensure the sustainability of Agarwood industry, MTIB and other stakeholders would continue to multiply



Attendees during the event.



INDONESIA

Expansion of Customary Forests Held Back by Land Rights Issues

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry is targeting the establishment of Customary Forests to provide income sources and employment in rural areas. The Minister, Siti Nurbaya Bakar, said the process of establishing such forests will likely be lengthy as many stakeholders are involved.

Siti said her Ministry took the initiative to determine the area of customary land so that the establishment of customary forest areas can be undertaken. The area targeted consists of around 380,000 ha. of State Forest, Other Use Areas covering 68,935 hectares and existing Customary Forests of 1,950 hectares. Activities will be undertaken initially in Sumatra, Java Bali Nusa Tenggara, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Maluku and Papua.

In related news, according to government officials efforts to hand back control of customary forests to indigenous people is being hampered by overlapping land claims for mines, plantations, forests and public land.

The Indonesian President vowed to return 12.7 million ha. of land to indigenous people following a historic 2013 court ruling lifting state control of customary forests but land rights activists say the progress has been slow because of boundary issues.

Prabianto Mukti Wibowo, Assistant Deputy Minister for Forest Governance in the Ministry, said there are too many maps. Apparently there are 85 thematic maps for forestry, mining, plantations and customary forests, many with overlaps which need to be reconciled on the ground.

www.fordaq.com, 3 July



VIET NAM

Captures Opportunities from the US/China Trade Dispute

In the first three months of 2019 Viet Nam's wood product exports were valued at around USD2.3 billion, some 16% higher than in the same period in 2018. The top export markets for wood products are traditionally the USA, EU, China, Japan and South Korea.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development (MARD), the export growth rate is expected to rise once the EU/ Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement enter into force.

As is the case with several other countries the US/China trade conflict is creating opportunities for expanded investment and exports for Vietnam-made wood products to take advantages of preferential tariffs into the US.

However, some Vietnamese exporters have fallen into the trap of relabeling Chinese imports as made in Viet Nam. Vietnamese authorities are now addressing this and have stepped up Customs checks.

www.fordaq.com, 31 July



CHINA

Rise in China's Plywood Exports

According to the data from China Customs, the volume of China's 2018 plywood exports was 11.33 million m³, up 4% from 2017. The average price for 2018 China's exported plywood was USD489 per m³, a year on year increase of 4%. China's plywood exports to the top 10 countries amounted just 54% in 2018 as market diversification continues.

The pace of growth of China's plywood exports to Viet Nam was the highest, surging 25%. That is because more and more Chinese wood products manufacture enterprises have been transferred to Viet Nam. In addition, the volume of China's plywood exports to the UK and the Philippines rose 18% and 15% respectively.

However, the volume of China's plywood exports to South Korea and the US declined drastically, falling 34% and 22% respectively. The main reason for the decline in exports to South Korea, say analysts, was rising prices.

Increased tariffs and anti-dumping penalties on China's wood products resulted in sharply higher transaction costs to the US market. The US was the largest market for China's plywood exports in 2018 but accounted for just 11% of total plywood exports.

www.fordaq.com, 9 July

CHINA

2018 Output of Main Forest Products

In China, the output of commercial logs in 2018 was 88.11 million m³, a year on year increase of 5%. The log harvest volume by farmers was 4.46 million m³, down 15% year on year. The volume of farmer fuelwood harvests was 16.42 million m³, down 9%.

The output of wood-based panels in 2018 rose 1.4% to 299.09 million m³. Of the total, the output of plywood, fibreboard and particleboard was 179 million m³, 62 million m³ and 27 million m³ respectively. The output of other panel products was 31 million m³ (53% of which was blockboard). The output of plywood rose 4%, but the output of fibreboard, particleboard and other wood-based panels fell 2%, 2% and 3% respectively.

The output of wood and bamboo flooring fell 4%. Of the total, the output of solid wood flooring, solid composite flooring, laminate flooring and bamboo flooring was 117 million square metres, 203 million square metres, 394 million square metres and 75 million square metres respectively.

The output of laminate flooring grew 9% year on year. However, the output of bamboo flooring, solid wood flooring and solid composite flooring declined in 2018.

www.fordaq.com, 2 July



EUROPE

EPF Reports Production Increase

The European Panel Federation (EPF) reports a production increase of 1.7% for 2018. A total of 59.3 million m³ of wood-based materials were produced. The most important product segment is chipboard with 32.0 million m³, an increase of 2.6%.

MDF followed with 12.3 million m³ (-0.5%) and OSB with 6.2 million m³ (-1.6%). Hardboard production reached 0.5 million m³ (+1.5%) and softboard 5.2 million m³ (+5.9%). All this information applies to the EU28 plus

the EFTA states. Plywood production in the EU28 rose by 1.7% to 3.2 million m³.

www.fordaq.com, 8 July



FINLAND

Stable Exports of Forest Products

According to preliminary figures, the value of Finnish forest products exported in April 2019 was EUR1.08 billion. The wood industry generated 23% of this value, the pulp and paper industry 77%.

The export value from January to April amounted to EUR4.41 billion and was therefore at the same level as in the same period of the previous year.

The volume of timber imports in April was 980,000 m³. From January to April, it was 3.60 million m³. Thus, timber imports increased by 22% in 2018 compared to the same period in 2018.

www.fordaq.com, 26 July



BRAZIL

Timber Export Update

In May 2019, Brazilian exports of wood-based products (except pulp and paper) increased 29% in value compared to May 2018, from USD211.1 million to USD272.6 million. The value of pine sawnwood exports increased 24% between May 2018 (USD38.2 million) and May 2019 (USD47.4 million).

In volume terms exports increased 29% over the same period, from 180,800 m³ to 233,300 m³. Tropical sawnwood exports increased 63.2% in volume, from 31,800 m³ in May 2018 to 51,900 m³ in May 2019. In value, exports increased 49.3% from USD14.0 million to USD20.9 million, over the same period.

Pine plywood exports increased 4.7% in value in May 2019 in comparison with May 2018, from USD45.1 million

to USD47.2 million. The volume of Pine plywood exports increased 37% over the same period, from 131,700 m³ to 180,900 m³.

As for tropical plywood, exports declined in volume and in value, from 9,600 m³ (USD4.2 million) in May 2018 to 9,000 m³ (USD3.5 million) in May 2019.

The performance of wooden furniture exporters was encouraging as export values increased from USD34.2 million in May 2018 to USD47.8 million in May 2019, an almost 40% rise.

www.globalwood.org, 3 July



UNITED STATES

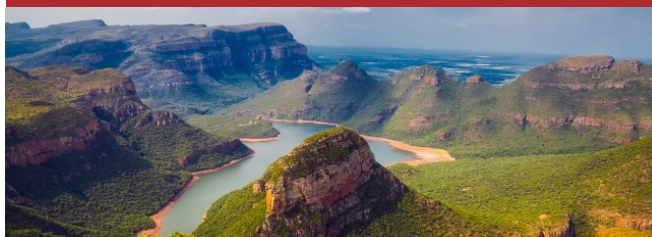
Increased of Flooring Imports

The US imports of hardwood flooring by volume improved for the fourth straight month, rising by 16% in May. Imports for the month were more than 30% higher than in May 2018 and are up 18% year to date.

Imports from China rebounded strongly from very weak numbers in March and April, but still are down 43% year to date. Imports from Brazil fell slightly in May but continue to be strong as Malaysia and Brazil make up for the depressed imports from China.

Imports of assembled flooring panels also moved up strongly in May, rising by 32%. Imports are ahead of 2018 by 11% year to date. Imports from China rose sharply in May, but still lag behind May 2018 totals. Imports from Viet Nam and Thailand more than doubled in May, as both countries continue to increase their market share at China's expense.

www.fordaq.com, 25 July



AFRICA

A Growth Market for Furniture

Several African countries have good potential to develop their furniture industry, both for expanding

internal consumption and for export markets. Total furniture consumption in Africa is expected to rise 2.4% in real terms during 2020 and significant consumption growth is expected longer term.

According to CSIL, Africa has a total household consumption of USD1,400 billion with 1.13 billion inhabitants and per capita GNP of about USD1,700. Consumer demand has grown rapidly in the last decade thanks to an increase of the real income.

With 16% of the world's total population, Africa accounts for only 3% of world GDP but, according to IMF projections, per capita GDP between 2019 and 2023 will grow faster in Africa than in all other world regions except Asia.

CSIL estimated that apparent furniture consumption in Africa (at production or import prices, excluding retail mark-up) was USD9.8 billion in 2017, which is USD8 per capita and represents just 2% of total global furniture consumption.

The main furniture consumer markets in Africa, all with consumption exceeding USD500 million in 2017, are South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Sudan. North Africa, West Africa and South Africa are the main consuming regions, showing the highest per capita furniture consumption. CSIL note that Africa has 59 metropolitan areas with population in excess of 1 million.

Despite political instability and relatively poor infrastructure, these urban centres are expanding, with diversifying economies, and have significant potential as growth markets for furniture. In some areas, large investments are being made in real estate and tourism while the hospitality, cultural and entertainment sectors are all boosting demand for furniture.

CSIL report that total furniture imports in Africa (including both internal African trade and imports from outside the region) were worth about USD 3 billion in 2017. About 32% of furniture consumed in Africa is imported from outside the region and 68% is manufactured internally. About 45% of imports from outside the region come from China, followed at a distance by Italy and Turkey.

Most imports from outside the region are destined for Southern and Northern Africa. South Africa is the largest furniture importer in the Southern region, importing mainly from China, Germany, and Italy. In North Africa the largest furniture importer is Morocco (which imports mostly from China, Spain, France and Italy), followed by Algeria, Egypt and Libya.

In 2017, total Africa furniture production was USD7.5 billion in 2017, and only 10% of furniture manufactured in Africa was exported, the main exporting countries being Egypt, South Africa, Morocco and Tunisia.

www.fordaq.com, 25 July

FOREST PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME RETREAT: STRATEGIC PLANNING AND WAY FORWARD



YBhg. Dato' Dr. Tan Yew Chong, Secretary-General of Ministry of Primary Industries summarised all the issues that were discussed.

The retreat on Forest Plantation Development Programme (FPDP) or known as PPLH was held from 18 to 20 July in Bangi, Selangor and 35 participants attended the retreat. The retreat aimed at reviewing the programme, to gain insights and ideas, to expose officers from ministries and agencies to the issues related to forest plantation sector and to develop a strategic plan for 2020-2040. The retreat also focused on the successes and challenges of PPLH during the past thirteen years and identified potential areas of the programme for improvements.

The retreat were attended by the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), MTIB, Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources (KATS), Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (PERHILITAN), Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia (JPSM), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sabah Forestry Department (SFD), Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Malaysian Rubber Board (MRB), Malaysian Timber Council (MTC), Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) and Forest Plantation Development Sdn Bhd (FPDSB).

The welcome speech was delivered by Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, MTIB Deputy Director-General (Development and Commercial). Encik Mohd Kheiruddin stated that the objective of the retreat

was to review the Forest Plantation Development Programme aimed to promote commercial forest cultivation and ensuring sustainable supply of raw materials in the timber industry. To date, 72 approved agreements have been made up of 60 companies with a total area of 120,714.81 hectares.

He added through the retreat, that all participants would be able to contribute ideas and views to ensure the programme continued on a strategic footing by taking into account the needs of industry. The first presentation of the retreat was by FPDSB regarding PPLH's current status, followed by presentation on permanent forest reserved and central forest spine by JPSM, then presentation of wildlife management plan by WILDLIFE, international financing mechanism for forestry programme by FRIM and finally presentation on licensed for planted forest by Forest Department Sarawak.

Later, group discussions were held and focused on three main areas : PPLH Operations and Management; Forest Plantation Sustainability; and also Incentives and Funds for Forest Management.

The conclusions and recommendations for this retreat were made based on the presentations and discussions. The recommendations obtained from this retreat were:



Malaysia: RHB Maintains Buy on Westports Bhd., TP at RM4.32 million

Source: Star (The), Online

RHB research maintained its buy call on Westports Bhd., its top transport pick, with a higher target price of RM4.32 million. Looking ahead, the research house said earnings should be stronger onwards due to the 15% container tariff hike. Transshipment volume enjoyed stronger growth of 15% year-on-year to 1.71 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), while gateway volume increased 7% year-on-year to 0.82 million TEUs.

Brazil: Cargo Handling at São Sebastião Port Rises 22%

Source: Frota & Cia

The first half of 2019, the Port of São Sebastião handled around 356 thousand tonnes of products. An increase of 22% over the same period last year. At the same time, revenues increased 42.8% i.e. USD11.2 million against USD7.8 million in the same period of 2018.

Russian: Throughput of Russian Seaports Grew by 2.3% to 339.63 Million Tonnes

Source : PortNews

In January-May 2019, Russian seaports handled 339.63 million tonnes, 2.3% year-on-year, including 148.82 million tonnes of dry bulk cargo (-5.1%) and 190.81 million tonnes liquid bulk cargo (+9.0%).

Canada: Hutchison Signs Quebec City Box Terminal Deal with Canadian National

Source : Asian Shippers

THE Quebec Port Authority (QPA) has announced the signing of a long-term commercial agreement with Hong Kong's Hutchison Ports and Canadian National Railway to build and operate a CAD775 million (USD573 million) container terminal, known as project Laurentia, and before that Beauport. The port plans to begin construction of a 500,000-TEUs capacity terminal by 2020 that would be operational by 2024-2025. This would mark the return of the Port

Shipments of Timber and Timber Products Through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, June 2019

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all Ports m ³	% Change June 2019/ May 2019
	m ³	% Change June 2019/ May 2019	m ³	% Change June 2019/ May 2019	m ³	% Change June 2019/ May 2019	m ³	% Change June 2019/ May 2019	m ³	% Change June 2019/ May 2019		
Sawntimber	52,844	-26	8,418	67	1,131	-13	383	-20	4,652	-46	67,428	-22
MDF	22,333	-3	547	325	5,279	-30	2,589	-36	14,897	-10	45,644	-11
Mouldings	8,851	-33	161	23	1,202	-42	743	4	1,247	45	12,204	-28
Plywood	4,017	-20	168	100	65	1	311	-18	8,254	-41	12,815	-34
Veneer	510	-1	233	-16	0	0	87	15	3,251	-25	4,081	-22
Particleboard	27,597	2	100	-24	1,921	18	70	-92	1,306	-70	30,992	-9
TOTAL	116,151	-17	9,627	69	9,598	-24	4,182	-37	33,607	-31	173,165	-19

Source : MTIB



of Quebec to a cargo sector it lost in the 1980s after CP Ships, later acquired by Hapag-Lloyd, diverted its North Atlantic container service to Montreal.

China: Asia-Europe Rates Up 5% to USD780 TEUs

Source : Asian Shippers

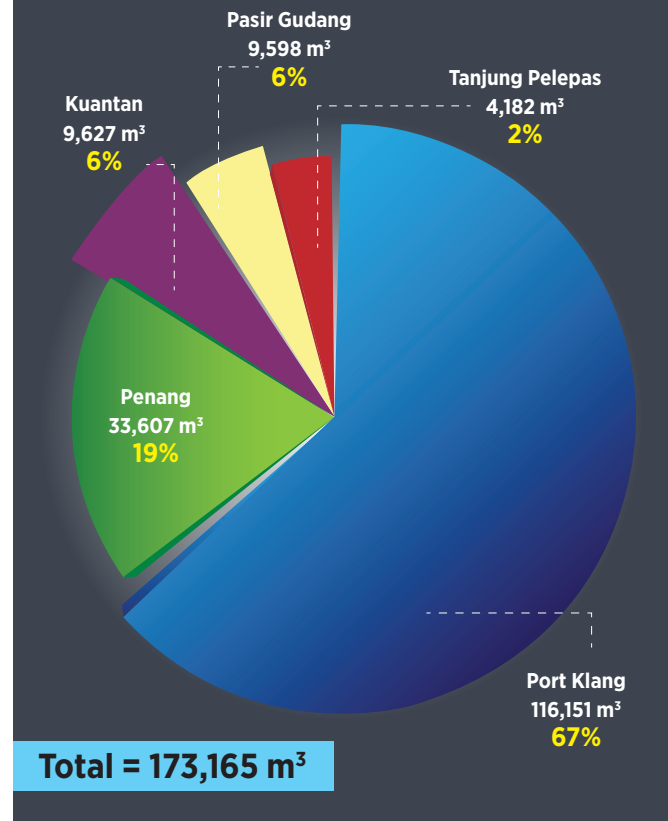
SPOT rates for shipping containers from Asia to northern Europe in the week ending Friday was up 5% to USD780 per TEUs), while the Shanghai-Mediterranean run was up 4.2% to USD740 per TEUs, according to the Shanghai Containerised Freight Index (SCFI).

England: Port of Virginia Handles 261,000 TEUs

Source : Asian Shippers

THE expansion of container handling capacity at its two primary container terminals at the Port of Virginia has resulted in record cargo volumes moving across the facilities with higher efficiency during the month of May. The port processed nearly 261,000 TEUs during the month, 10% more than in the same month last year and making it the busiest May in the port's history. The month's strong cargo volumes were a follow-up to the best April in the port's history, when nearly 246,000 TEUs was processed.

Timber Shipment through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, June 2019



Malaysian Wood

Standing on Excellence



Multiple Uses, Variable Styles

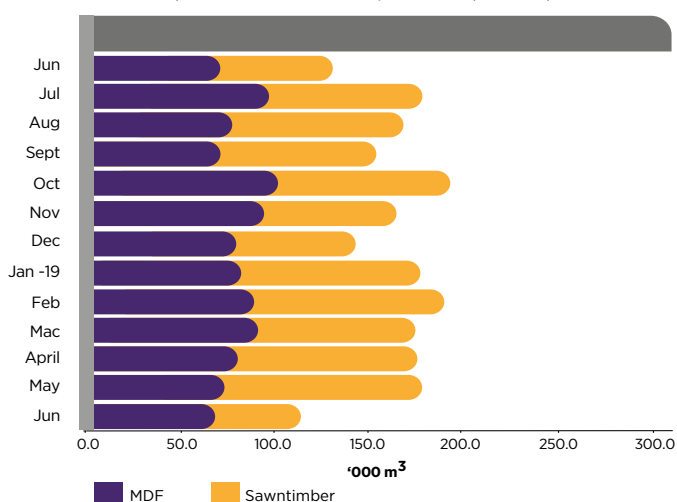
Incomparable Malaysian Wood. Choice for those with exclusive preference. Pushing the Frontier of imagination and creativity. Our Heritage. Our Pride.



Malaysian Timber Industry Board

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Malaysia : Export of Sawntimber and MDF (June 2018-June 2019/Volume ('000m³)



Total export of Malaysian timber and timber products in June 2019 decreased 28% valued at RM1.4 billion over the previous month. Similarly, cumulative export for the period of January to June 2019 decreased 1% valued at RM10.6 billion over the previous corresponding period.

SAWNTIMBER

Total export of sawntimber in June 2019 both have decreased in volume and value by 38% and 36% to 110,982 m³ with a value of RM210.9 million as compared to the previous month. Cumulative export for the period of January to June 2019 decreased 2% in to 910,721 m³ totalling RM1.7 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Export of sawntimber to the EU for the month decreased 7% to 7,470 m³ as a result of declining demand from major countries in the region. Export to Germany and the UK increased 34% and 46% to 1,004 m³ and 1,939 m³ respectively. In meanwhile, export to the Netherlands declined 40% to 2,049 m³ followed by France at 16% to 484 m³ and Italy 22% to 461 m³ compared to 591 m³ in the previous month.

Total exports to West Asia decreased 53% to 13,630 m³ from 29,181 m³ recorded in the previous month. Export to Qatar decreased 27% to 391 m³ followed by Iraq with 27% to 1,619 m³ and the UAE 37% to 6,625 m³. On the other hand, export to Bahrain and Saudi Arabia reduced 23% to 419 m³ and 1% to 1,892 m³ respectively. Yemen did not make any purchase this month compared to 11,048 m³ in the previous month.

Buying from ASEAN declined by 43% to 30,478 m³ from 53,824 m³ registered in the previous month. Export of sawntimber to Thailand, a major buyer of sawntimber from Malaysia decreased 33% to 18,613 m³ from 27,869 m³ in the previous month followed by Singapore 37% to 5,051 m³ and Viet Nam 33% to 1,380 m³. The Philippines also decreased 68% to 5,147 m³ compared to 15,855 m³

in the previous month. Contrarily, export to Indonesia increased to 287 m³ from only 18 m³ in the previous month.

Shipments to East Asia decreased 44% to 30,957 m³ from 55,308 m³ in the previous month. Export to South Korea decreased by 36% to 2,105 m³ followed by China 54% to 18,333 m³ and Japan 30% to 3,904 m³. Export to Hong Kong also decreased 59% to 140 m³ from 341 m³ in the previous month. On the other hand, Taiwan increased their purchases this month by 10% to 6,456 m³.

Elsewhere, exports to the US increased 37% to 1,235 m³ whilst intake by Australia decreased 55% to 381 m³. Demand from South Africa decreased 10% to 3,062 m³ from 3,408 m³ in the previous month.

The average FOB price of sawntimber increased 3% to RM1,901 per m³ from RM1,851 per m³ in the previous month. Meanwhile, price of Dark Red Meranti to the Netherlands maintained at RM3,513 per m³ and Keruing was traded at RM2,377 per m³, an increase of 6% from RM2,244 per m³ in the previous month.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Export of MDF in June 2019 both have decreased in volume and value by 17% and 15% to 60,088 m³ totalled RM77.1 million compared to the previous month. Cumulative export for January to June 2019 also recorded a decrease in volume by 9% to 452,186 m³ and in value by 4% worth RM548.5 million over the previous corresponding period.

In ASEAN, total export increased by 10% to 11,626 m³ from 10,537 m³ in the previous month. Export to Indonesia has increased by 81% to 4,691 m³, followed by the Philippines 11% to 2,800 m³ and Singapore 100% to 40 m³. Meanwhile, Viet Nam has reduced its intake by 22% to 3,905 m³.

Exports to East Asia countries registered a decrease of 16% to 11,561 m³ from 13,783 m³ in the previous month. Japan as the largest buyer in the region has reduced its intake by 15% to 10,232 m³, followed by South Korea 50% to 342 m³ and Taiwan 36% to 406 m³. Meanwhile, export to China including Hong Kong has increased by 31% to 581 m³ for this month.

However, export to South Asia countries recorded an increase of 4% to 11,952 m³ from 11,536 m³ in the previous month. Export to Pakistan has increased by 41% to 3,844 m³ followed by Bangladesh 35% to 2,205 m³ and Sri Lanka 57% to 1,007 m³. However, export to India as the largest buyer has decreased by 25% to 4,881 m³ for this month.

Similarly, exports to West Asia region decreased by 29% to 15,096 m³ from 21,177 m³ in the previous month. Export to the UAE has decreased by 15% to 9,147 m³, followed by Kuwait 18% to 2,248 m³, Saudi Arabia 20% to 915 m³ and Qatar 38% to 321 m³. However, export to Oman has increased by 45% to 1,403 m³ followed by Bahrain 8%

to 672 m³, Jordan 863% to 308 m³ and Lebanon 100% to 82 m³. Meanwhile, Iran and Syria did not make any purchases this month.

Elsewhere, exports to the US and South Africa have increased by 14% to 2,395 m³ and 22% to 991 m³ respectively. However, exports to Australia and the UK have decreased by 5% to 2,407 m³ and 48% to 188 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Mauritius resumed its intake of 150 m³ for this month.

The FOB price of MDF has increased to RM1,282 per m³ from RM1,243 per m³, an increase of 3% from the previous month.

PLYWOOD

Export of plywood in June 2019 both have decreased in volume and value by 57% and 60% to 73,982 m³ totalled RM143.2 million compared to the previous month. Similarly, cumulative export for January to June 2019 showed a decrease in volume by 22% to 859,220 m³ and in value by 21% worth RM1.7 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Total export of plywood to the EU countries have decreased by 35% to 4,694 m³ for this month. The UK as the main buyer has reduced its intake by 37% to 3,909 m³ followed by Belgium 67% to 88 m³. However, Ireland and Denmark have increased its buying by 26% to 343 m³ and 19% to 333 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands did not make any purchases this month.

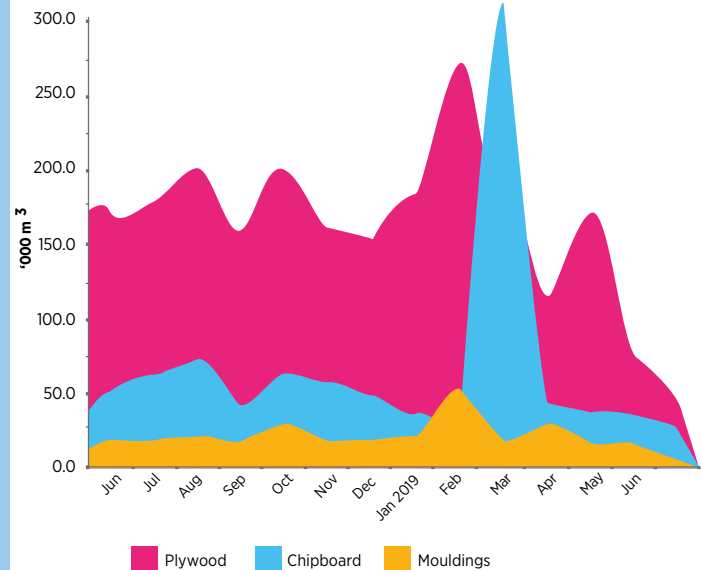
Exports to ASEAN and East Asia region recorded a decrease of 62% to 47,089 m³ compared to the previous month. In East Asia region, Japan as the main importer of Malaysian plywood reduced its intake by 75% to 22,726 m³. Similarly, export to South Korea has decreased by 39% to 8,470 m³, followed by Taiwan 37% to 7,025 m³, Hong Kong 57% to 909 m³ and China 62% to 634 m³ respectively. On the other hand, Malaysia's plywood trade with its ASEAN partners generally showed mixed trend this month. Exports to the Philippines and Brunei have reduced by 9% to 604 m³ and 17% to 517 m³ respectively. However, exports to Thailand and Singapore have increased by 38% to 4,660 m³ and 0.3% to 1,501 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Indonesia does not make any purchases this month.

Export to West Asian region recorded a decrease of 73% to 4,049 m³ compared to the previous month. Exports to Jordan and Qatar have decreased by 88% to 81 m³ and 81% to 40 m³. However, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia increased their buying by 622%, 329%, 17% and 3% to 772 m³, 1,007 m³, 498 m³ and 832 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Yemen does not make any purchases this month.

Export of plywood to the Americas region has reduced by 25% to 13,786 m³ as compared to the previous month. Our main buyer in the Americas region, the US has reduced its intake of plywood by 22% to 11,487 m³. Similarly, exports

Malaysia : Export of Plywood, Chipboard and Mouldings

(June 2018-June 2019/Volume ('000m³)



to Mexico and Canada have decreased by 25% to 2,140 m³ and 79% to 159 m³ respectively. Moving to Oceania region, Australia recorded a decrease in its intake of plywood by 20% to 1,941 m³ and New Zealand does not make any purchases this month.

Export to South Africa has increased by 340% to 189 m³ while Algeria and Mauritius did not make any purchases this month. The FOB price of plywood has decreased by 7% to RM1,936 per m³ from RM2,082 per m³ in the previous month.

MOULDINGS

Exports of mouldings for the month decreased by 13% in volume and 19% in value to 15,924 m³ and RM60.4 million respectively. However, cumulative exports for the period of January to June 2019 increased by 2% both in volume and in value to 122,106 m³ and RM441.1 million respectively as compared to the previous corresponding period in 2018.

Exports to the EU for the month recorded at 5,785 m³, a decrease of 15% compared to the previous month. Belgium and the Netherlands decreased their purchases by 47% and 29% to 369 m³ and 3,048 m³ respectively. However Germany and the UK increased its purchases by 36% and 11% to 645 m³ and 639 m³ compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, Italy did not make any purchases.

Exports to ASEAN region decreased as Viet Nam and Singapore decreased its purchases by 41% and 13% to 478 m³ and 789 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Indonesia resumed its purchases by 34 m³ for the month.

Meanwhile, South Korea and Hong Kong decreased their intake by 30%, and 21% to 1,039 m³ and 275 m³ respectively. However, China, Taiwan and Japan increased their intake by 159%, 58% and 41% to 443 m³, 191 m³ and

JUNE 2019

LOGS

The supplies of logs were reported to be sufficiently available. The average domestic prices of logs for most of the species for the month under review remained at last month's level.

Log prices for the species of Chengal, Balau and Red Balau stood firm at RM4,545 per tonne, RM3,200 per tonne and RM2,200 per tonne respectively. Meanwhile, the price for Keruing increased slightly by 3.6% to RM1,450 per tonne over the previous month. The prices for Kempas and Kapur continued to be traded at RM1,900 per tonne and RM1,680 per tonne respectively. Similarly, the prices for Dark Red Meranti and Red Meranti remained at RM2,080 per tonne and RM1,800 per tonne respectively. However, the price for Yellow Meranti increased by 4.2% to RM1,250 per tonne compared to the previous month. On the other hand, logs prices for Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood remained at RM1,000 per tonne and RM925 per tonne respectively.

PLYWOOD

The supply of plywood to the domestic market remained adequate for the month under review. Plywood of 4 mm, 6 mm, 9 mm and 12 mm of thicknesses were continued to be traded at RM14.60, RM22.00, RM38.00 and RM48.00 per piece respectively.

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE * - JUNE 2019

The shipments of logs from Sabah to Peninsular Malaysia for the month charted in volume to 1,470 m³ worth at RM490,000. Trade of sawntimber fell by 62% in volume from 449 m³ to 171 m³ worth at

SAWNTIMBER

The average sawntimber prices for most of the species in the domestic market continued to be firm.

The sawntimber prices of Chengal and Balau maintained at RM6,850 per m³ and RM3,390 per m³ respectively. Similarly, the prices for Keruing, Kempas and Kapur stood at RM1,303 per m³, RM2,542 per m³ and RM1,751 per m³ respectively. The prices for Dark Red Meranti and Red Meranti remained at RM2,041 per m³ and RM2,013 per m³ respectively. Meanwhile, the prices of Nyatoh and Sepetir increased by 2.2% and 0.6% to RM1,624 per m³ and RM1,706 per m³ compared to the previous month. On the other hand, sawntimber prices of Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood continued to chart at RM1,024 per m³ and RM953 per m³ respectively.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Domestic supply of MDF remained stable as prices continued to chart at last month's level. MDF of 4 mm, 6 mm, 9 mm and 12 mm of thicknesses were sold at RM13.00, RM16.24, RM21.96 and RM28.64 per piece respectively.

RM86,000. Likewise, trade of plywood fell by 54% in volume to 2,909 m³ worth at RM5.8 million.

Trade of sawntimber from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia fell by 63% in volume from 1,693 m³ to 619 m³ worth at RM954,000. Similarly, trade of plywood fell by 25% in volume to 2,430 m³ worth at RM2.8 million. Trade of veneer fell by 57% in volume to 2,628 m³ worth at RM3.9 million.

No intra trade from Peninsular Malaysia to Sabah and Sarawak was recorded in June 2019.

*AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWNTIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA RINGGIT MALAYSIA JUNE 2019

SPECIES	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS		SCANTLINGS/m³
HEAVY HARDWOOD					
Chengal	4,545	6,850	5,438		7,451
Balau	3,200	3,390	3,178		2,754
Red Balau	2,200	2,966	2,684		3,284
Merbau	3,250	4,661	3,814		3,955
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,000	1,024	812		1,028
MEDIUM HARDWOOD					
Keruing	1,450	1,303	1,215		2,203
Kempas	1,900	2,542	2,436		2,719
Kapur	1,680	1,751	1,423		1,766
Mengkulang	1,300	2,048	1,081		2,126
Tualang	1,425	2,472	2,331		2,493
LIGHT HARDWOOD					
Dark Red Meranti	2,080	2,041	1,709		3,016
Red Meranti	1,800	2,013	1,730		2,189
Yellow Meranti	1,250	1,568	1,236		1,271
White Meranti	1,480	2,472	1,412		2,260
Mersawa	1,730	1,836	1,695		2,048
Nyatoh	1,325	1,624	1,186		1,271
Sepetir	1,350	1,706	1,003		1,730
Jelutong	1,100	1,780	1,215		1,801
Mixed Light Hardwood	925	953	742		978
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD <i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>					
	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
	158	1" X 1"	2"X2"	3"X 3"	4" X 4"
		1,028	1,146	1,295	1,483
PLYWOOD 4' X 8'	4 mm	6 mm	9 mm		12 mm
(RM per piece)	14.60	22.00	38.00		48.00
MDF 4' X 8'	4 mm	6 mm	9 mm		12 mm
(RM per piece)	13.00	16.24	21.96		28.64

Note: Log prices ex-batau. Sawn timber, plywood, MDF and Malaysian Rubberwood (*Hevea brasiliensis*) prices ex-mill

* Prices are only indicative

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE - JUNE 2019

From	Product	May 2019		Jun 2019		% Change in Value June 2019/May 2019	% Change in Volume June 2019/May 2019
		Vol (m ³)	Val (RM' 000)	Vol (m ³)	Val (RM' 000)		
SABAH	Logs	1,470	490	1,470	490	0	0
	Sawntimber	449	689	171	86	-62	-88
	Plywood	6,366	11,327	2,909	5,838	-54	-48
	Veneer	35	77	0	0	-100	-100
SARAWAK	Logs	80	21	0	0	-100	-100
	Sawntimber	1,693	2,885	619	954	-63	-67
	Plywood	3,236	4,338	2,430	2,836	-25	-35
	Veneer	6,060	4,881	2,628	3,920	-57	-20

Source :- Department Of Statistic, Malaysia

Cont. from page 11

2,106 m³ compared to the previous month.

Elsewhere, export to Canada and Australia decreased by 44% and 2% to 26 m³ and 2,073 m³ respectively. Similarly, the US also decreased its intakes by 56% to 1,301 m³ compared to 2,931 m³ in the previous month.

FOB unit value decreased 7% to RM3,792 per m³ compared to RM4,061 per m³ in the previous month.

VENEER

Export of veneer for June 2019 increased by 5% in volume and but declined 20% in value to 6,627 m³ at RM60.4 million as compared to the previous month. Exports to China and Taiwan have increased by 71% and 29% to 1,972 m³ and 2,702 m³ respectively. Similarly, India also has increased its intake of veneer by 1% to 386 m³.

Contrarily, Australia and the Philippines have reduced its intake of veneer by 19% and 20% to 91 m³ and 1,091 m³ respectively. Exports to South Korea also have reduced by 82% to 31 m³. On the other hand, Canada, Italy, Chile and Viet Nam did not make any purchase this month.

The FOB price of veneer for June 2019 is at RM1,325 per m³, a decrease of 24% from RM1,749 per m³ on the previous month.

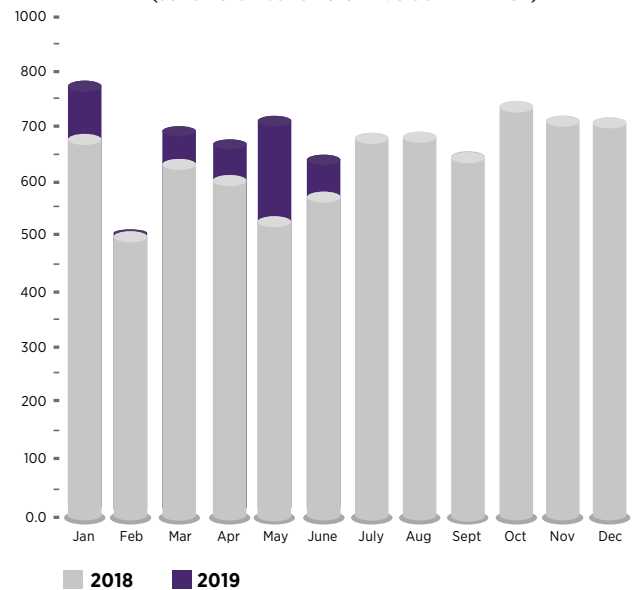
BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

Total BJC cumulative exports for the period of January to June 2019 decreased 9% to RM480.4 million as compared to RM524.8 million in the corresponding period last year. Export to the EU decreased 23% to RM147.6 million. Export to Sweden and Germany increased by 119% and 21% to RM5.0 million and RM14.5 million respectively. Meanwhile, export to Turkey, France, Denmark, Italy, the UK and Belgium decreased by 95%, 46%, 34%, 32%, 29% and 23% to RM65.8 thousand, RM11.8 million, RM11.7 million, RM2.7 million, RM56.7 million and RM21.1 million respectively.

In Asia, exports to South Korea, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, India, Japan and Taiwan increase by 70%, 65%, 41%, 52%, 25%, 7% and 3% to RM853.4 thousand, RM1.1 million, RM4.3 million, RM18.6 million, RM34.1 million and RM5.0 million respectively. However, exports to Viet Nam, Pakistan, Singapore and Thailand decreased by 38%, 29%, 16% and 16% to RM13.6 million, RM1.5 million, RM36.5 million and RM9.0 million respectively. Meanwhile, Qatar and Bahrain resumed their purchases for the period.

Exports to Mauritius, the US, South Africa and Australia increased by 463%, 16%, 10% and 6% to RM394.5 thousand, RM61.1 million, RM9.3 million and RM105.6 million respectively. Meanwhile, Reunion Island did not make any purchases.

Malaysia : Export of Wooden Furniture
(June 2018 - June 2019 in Value RM million)



FURNITURE

Export of wooden and rattan furniture for the first half of 2019 increased 12% to RM4.0 billion from RM3.6 billion in the previous corresponding period.

Imports of wooden furniture by the US increased 26% to RM1.6 billion from RM1.3 billion in the previous corresponding period of 2018. Demand from Canada also increased 25% to RM146.3 million whilst export to Australia declined 13% to RM222.3 million. In Europe, shipment to the UK increased 39% to RM256.7 million followed by Belgium 37% to RM24.1 million, Poland 13% to RM18.3 million and Spain 8% to RM10.3 million. Meanwhile, export to France, Sweden and Russia decreased 3% to RM31.7 million, 6% to RM14.7 million and 16% to RM13.1 million respectively.

In East Asia, China reduced consumption by 14% to RM93.9 million from RM109.6 million in 2018. Export to South Korea also declined 10% to RM43.9 million whilst Japan increased 15% to RM286.3 million from RM249.0 million in 2018. Export to India improved slightly to RM99.9 million from RM98.6 million in the previous corresponding period.

In ASEAN region, export to Singapore increased 4% to RM218.5 million followed by the Philippines 10% to RM107.9 million compared to the previous corresponding period. Export to West Asia saw growth as the UAE increased intake by 11% to RM72.1 million followed by Saudi Arabia with 51% to RM90.7 million and Kuwait 6% to RM25.4 million.

Rattan furniture shipments for the period of January to June 2019 decreased 58% to RM979.9 thousand from RM2.3 million in the previous corresponding period. Export to Australia improved significantly to RM388.7 thousand from only RM15.5 thousand in the previous corresponding period. Meanwhile, export to Japan declined 74% to RM65.6 thousand followed by Singapore 1% to RM49.3 thousand. The US, American Samoa and China resumed purchases by RM352.6 thousand, RM65.6 thousand and RM5.2 thousand respectively.



YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries at one of the Indian companies displaying gaharu products.



Exhibitor from India.

efforts and implement various initiatives to promote and expand the market and the development of domestic Agarwood industry.

The conference was attended by more than 100 invited guest including government officials, local entrepreneurs, gaharu exporters and representatives from Indian companies that manufactured Agarwood products and perfumery. A total of 11 papers from domestic and international speakers were presented during the first day of the conference which were as follows :

- Overview of Fragrances Industry by Mr. Senthil, Delta's Trade Link, India



YB Puan Teresa Kok (centre) posing at one of the Malaysian companies producing gaharu fragrance.

- Perfumery Industry – a Global Overview by Mr. Josh Lee, Malaysia
- Darshan Industry by Mr. Goldy Nagdev, Hari Darshan Group, India
- Malaysian Business Development in the Perfumery and Cosmetics Industry by Encik Noor Azmi, CEO SME Corp, Malaysia
- Agarwood Industry in Malaysia by Encik Mohd Zamakhsyary Mustapa, Universiti Putra Malaysia
- A New Prospective: Exploiting Potential Malaysian Essential Oils by Dr. Nor Azah, Forest Research Institute Malaysia
- Agarwood Production Via Inoculation by Dr. Baharudin Salleh, Agrouniverse Sdn. Bhd., Malaysia
- CITES Regulation by Tuan Hj. Zulkepli Abd Rani, MTIB, Malaysia
- Scenario of Agarwood in India by Mr. Nishant, Nishant Aromas, India
- Agarwood Distillation by Encik Mohd Ruslan, Oud Agarwood Enterprise, Malaysia

On the second day, the participants visited the Karas/gaharu plantation, Bio-Benua Sdn. Bhd in Kuala Linggi, Melaka to see for themselves the gaharu industry starting from the Karas tree planting, inoculation process and the final production of gaharu products.



Resak Vatica spp.

Malaysian Wood
Standing on Excellence

Tak Lapuk Dek Hujan, Tak Lekang Dek Panas
Timeless, Enduring

Cont. from page 7

- the need to maintain the forest plantation programme as the establishment of a forest plantation serves the purpose of supplying timber raw materials other than natural forests and contributes to economic, social and environmental growth;
- conducting research and detailed study on timber species with commercial characteristics by taking into account the impact of the soil structure and minimising the impact on the ecosystem of the area in addition to emphasis on the concept of environmental sustainability;
- 130,000 hectares of approved plantation areas were retained for the next round of plantation;
- implement community forestry by involvement of indigenous people and villagers in the activities to ensure that everyone benefits from the programme; and
- to rebrand Forest Plantation Development

Programme to Sustainable Forest Development Programme (SFDP)(2020-2040).

To facilitate further collaboration, MTIB and MPI would form a joint committee with the relevant ministries and agencies to develop a strategic plan for forest plantations.



Group discussion.



Participants at the retreat.

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Incomparable Malaysian Wood. Choice for those with exclusive preference. Pushing the Frontier of imagination and creativity. Our Heritage. Our Pride.



Malaysian Timber Industry Board

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KEDAH WOOD & LIFESTYLE FAIR (KWLF) 2019



Encik Ravi Muthayah, Deputy Secretary-General (Commodities), Ministry of Primary Industries (second from right) officiating the Kedah Wood & Lifestyle Fair 2019.

Kedah Wood & Lifestyle Fair (KWLF) is a yearly furniture trade show since 2016. It was aimed at assisting the development of Bumiputera Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) from the northern region. KWLF provided a platform for them to promote their products in the domestic market and to increase their market share in the timber-related products and services industry.

KWLF 2019 which ran for 11 days in Complex Star Parade, Alor Setar, Kedah, from 17 to 27 July aimed to record RM2.5 million target sales compared to RM1.9 million sales last year. Twenty-seven entrepreneurs participated in this fair.

A wide range of timber products from kitchen cabinets, wood carvings and wood-based materials were showcased at KWLF. Various activities were held to attract visitors such as Lucky Draw, Buskers Music Show, Quiz Competition and Carving Demonstration.

KWLF 2019 was officiated by Encik Ravi Muthayah, Deputy Secretary-General (Commodities), Ministry of Primary Industries. In his opening speech, beside KWLF, Wood & Lifestyle Fair (WLF) were also held in several other states including Johor, Perak, Pahang, Kelantan, Sabah, Melaka, Terengganu and Kuala Lumpur. Since 2016, WLF had generated RM35 million in sales. He believed that WLF 2019 would help Bumiputera SMEs become more dynamic in their respective businesses and hoped that through WLF, the Bumiputera timber industry would grow rapidly.

He urged Bumiputera SMEs to move out from their comfort zone and to be more proactive such as conducting their business online such as social media. This approach was appropriate as current business trends had changed.

A total of 6,100 visitors comprising individuals, government officials and companies from the private sector attended the KWLF 2019.



The VIPs posing at one of the booths during KWLF.



The group posing at Akuart Enterprise booth.

NATIONAL CONSULTATION TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING TECHNICAL REGULATION ON FORMALDEHYDE EMISSION LIMIT FROM WOOD-BASED PANEL PRODUCTS

Formaldehyde is a colourless gas found in indoor and outdoor air. High levels of formaldehyde air concentrations may cause irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat. It can worsen asthma symptoms and allergic sensitivities, especially in children. Formaldehyde levels in indoor air are typically significantly higher than in outdoor air because formaldehyde is emitted from various indoor sources including combustion (such as cooking, cigarette smoke, and fireplaces), building materials, and household products. Outdoor sources of formaldehyde include combustion (such as on-road vehicles, forest fires), industrial processes, and secondary atmospheric formation.

In timber industry, formaldehyde can be a significant component in resins that are used as adhesives/binders in wood-based panel products. Malaysia is one of the important producers of wood-based panel products with an export value of RM6.25 billion 2018. Despite exportation, Malaysia is also importing these products from other countries with a total value of RM1.56 billion in the same year.

At present, there is no regulation enforced in Malaysia on formaldehyde emission limit for local use and imported products. Hence, the domestic wood-based panels market is flooded with unknown



Tuan Hj. Mahpar Atan, MTIB Director of Industry Development delivering his paper.

formaldehyde contents. Therefore, it is pertinent to develop a formaldehyde emission technical regulation in Malaysia in ensuring the safety and health of the consumers as well as end-users. Although voluntary standard is available, testing indicates that some products currently imported are found with level of formaldehyde emission that exceed the requirements in the standards and could cause high risk to human health.



YBrs. Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, MTIB Deputy Director-General (Development and Commercial) seated centre posing with participants at the event.

As awareness of the other countries is increasing over the years, Malaysia has no time to lose in keeping up with international standards. If neighbouring countries imposed their regulations successively, Malaysia will eventually fall victim to dumping activities if no action is taken for the non-compliance products by those regulated countries as well as to reduce the health risk to Malaysian. Hence the Ministry of Primary Industries through MTIB is proposing to implement a regulation on formaldehyde emission limit from wood-based panels products.

MTIB organised a National Consultation entitled "Towards Implementing Technical Regulation on Formaldehyde Emission Limit from Wood-based Panel Products" which was held on 29 July in Kuala Lumpur. The specific objectives of the consultation were as follows:

- to inform timber industries, effected stakeholders as well as public users on the proposed regulatory approach to reduce the emission of formaldehyde to indoor air from wood-based panel products that are locally manufactured and imported into Malaysia;
- to seek views from the timber industries, stakeholders and relevant government agencies with respect to the economic and technical considerations that would guide the development of the proposed regulations; and
- to solicit information about the challenges and needs of all implicated sectors as well as small and medium enterprises that may be impacted by the proposed regulations.

The consultation was officiated by Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, MTIB Deputy Director-General (Development and Commercial). In his opening remarks, he underlined the importance of technical regulation to strengthen the timber industry performance as well as to enhance

competitiveness of Malaysian timber products for global market such as Europe, Japan, China, Korea and recently Canada. He also added if the dumping situation continues or worsens, domestic manufacturers would be eventually drove out of business due to unfair competition with dumping imports.

A total of three papers were presented during the consultation which included Propose Formaldehyde Emission Limit from Wood-based Panels Products Regulation that has been delivered by Tuan Hj. Mahpar Atan, MTIB Director of Industry Development; while Prof. Dr. Paridah Md Tahir from Universiti Putra Malaysia talked on Findings Study on Formaldehyde Emission Limit. A representative from Malaysian Productivity Corporation, Puan Norshariza was invited during the session to give an information on the progress of technical regulation developed by MTIB.

A panel discussion and stakeholders' engagement were also conducted to debate on the issues and challenges that may arise due to the imposition of the technical regulation on formaldehyde emission limits. Datuk Wira Sheikh Othman Sheikh Abdul Rahman, Chairman of The Malaysian Panel Products Manufacturer's Association was invited as one of the panels to give the industry views and inputs related to the propose regulation.

The consultation was attended by more than 100 participants which comprised manufacturers / industries, specifiers, academicians and researchers in the fields related to timber industries as well as government agencies/private sectors. The consultation received positive feedback by the participants in providing their views/inputs as part of improving technical regulation development process by the MTIB.



Jelutong Dyers App



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Lukisan Seribu Makna, Kayu Eratkan Semua
A Picture Paints a Thousand Words. Wood Binds Them All

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ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE IN VISUAL STRENGTH GRADING OF STRUCTURAL TIMBER GRADING ACCORDING TO EN 14081 AND DIN 4074



Group photo with Dr. Simon Aicher, Chief Academic Director and Mr. Gerhard Dill Langer, Academic Officer at Materials Testing Institute of Stuttgart, Germany.



Briefing on Grading System Based on European Standards for Graded Timber EN 14081 Divided into Visual Strength Grading and Machine Grading. Visual Strength Grading to German Standard DIN 4074 and into DIN 4074-1:2012 (Softwood) and DIN 4074-52008 (Hardwood).

Engineered Timber Products (ETP) includes a range of derivative wood products which are manufactured by binding or fixing the strands, particles, fibres, or veneers or boards of wood, together with adhesives, or other methods of fixation to form composite material comprise timber products such as Laminated Timber, Laminated Veneer Lumber, Glulam, cross laminated timber and many more. Knowing the immense potential of ETP in global construction industry, MTIB has collaborated with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Shah Alam, Selangor headed by Prof. Dr. Zakiah Ahmad on Wood Engineered Timber Products Project that focuses on Cross Laminated Timber. This collaboration is further enhanced with a knowledge transfer programme of Visual Strength Grading with the University of Stuttgart, Germany.

Recognising the need to learn and understand the Visual Strength Grading of Structural Timber (VSG) in softwood and hardwood according to European Standard EN14081, MTIB officers attended a seven-day training programme on Visual Strength Grading EN14081 in University of Stuttgart in Germany from 1 to 6 July. This programme includes theoretical and practical aspects including field trips to strengthen the acquired data that has already been undertaken in the industry. This course focuses specifically on Strength Grading of Timber according to European and Malaysian Standards.

The course was facilitated by Mr. Gerhard Dill Langer, an expert in European Standard EN14081 and German Standard DIN 4074. Some of the modules delivered in the programme were the

Introduction of Softwood and European Woods (basics of grading), European System of Grading, National Grading Rules and European Regulations and Includes Grading and Strength (Classes). The modules also included Grading on Finger Jointed Timber, Visual Grading. According to German Standard DIN 4074 which included various types of timber (joists, boards, laths), detailed explanation of grading characteristics and the use of machine strengthening grading which could help speed up the method grading wood in the field. This method would save time and operating costs.

During the programme, MTIB had participated in several industry visits such as BUGA Wood Pavilion and airport exhibition hall in Stuttgart, HASSLACHER Holzbauteile GmbH & Co. KG, manufacturer of ETP; ERBACHER, warehouse in timber construction and others. While visiting an airport exhibition hall in Stuttgart, MTIB was shown the usage of glulam in beam frame structure and acts as a load-bearing structure that stand at a height of over 60 feet.

MTIB also visited Bundesgartenschau Heilbronn Pavilions, where the company collaborated with University of Stuttgart in the idea of building a sculpture in a unique fibre-based design from Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) of Beech wood and Spruce. MTIB also visited several construction sites as Prinz-Eugen Areal in Munich and new university sports grounds of the Technical University of Munich. Both construction sites fully utilised ETP as their building materials and load bearing structure. Yet, in the same time, the building portrays environmentally friendly element and its aesthetics design façade.



YBrs. Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, MTIB Deputy Director-General presenting a souvenir to YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries (second from right) during her visit to MTIB booth.

The 20th International Architecture, Interior Design and Building Exhibition Malaysia (ARCHIDEX) was held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) on 3-6 July. The co-organisers of the event were the Malaysian Institute of Architects (Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia or PAM) and C.I.S Network Sdn. Bhd. Since its introduction in 2000, ARCHIDEX has been Malaysia's most successful annual industry event for the architecture, interior design and building industry.

Present to officiate the event was the guest of honour, YB Tuan Baru Bian, Minister of Work Malaysia, who also went on a brief tour of the halls after the opening ceremony. One highlight from the opening ceremony that emphasised this year's theme of 'Tomorrow' was the appearance of three smart mobile robots, which rolled onto the stage to assist with the opening ceremony. The opening ceremony ended with a special presentation of mementos to the past and present PAM Presidents, to thank them for their roles in helping make ARCHIDEX into what it was today - a not to be missed regional platform for the architecture and building industry.

Bridging professionals and the variety of high-quality materials from Malaysia and the world, all delegates and visitors were able to explore exhibitors from more than 20 countries and four country pavilions from China, Korea, Singapore and Taiwan. The four-day event was packed with concurrent events and networking sessions through its conferences, forums, trade talks, daily presentations, discussions, meetings, awards and product launches. ARCHIDEX provide the opportunity to network with traders across the globe and the power of face-to-face business meetings instead of via e-mail or phone. The fair had attracted over 35,000 trade and public visitors from over 70 countries.

ARCHIDEX 2019



Products displayed at Design Principles Sdn. Bhd. booth.

MTIB participated ARCHIDEX 2019 in order to promote Malaysian timber and timber products. Six companies joined MTIB at this fair; Diamond Bamboosa Enterprise, MM Doors Sdn. Bhd., Design Principles Sdn. Bhd., Banderu Sdn. Bhd., Dahlia Setiaurus Sdn. Bhd. and Muhamad Takyudin Hashim. The companies displayed various timber products such as doors, timber house, timber structure, reclaimed timber, sofa, chairs and wood plastic composite. ARCHIDEX was an excellent platform to enable Malaysian timber industry to showcase and introduce their products to a wider market.



Booth of Muhamad Takyudin Hashim at ARCHIDEX 2019.

22ND ASOF AND ITS RELATED MEETINGS



Head of Delegation of the 22nd AWG-FPD Meeting

The Twenty Second Meeting of The ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (22nd ASOF) and its related meeting was held from 15-19 July in Makati City, Philippines. The Meeting was preceded by the following events at the same venue:

- a) The 22nd Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Forest Products Development (22nd AWG-FPD), held from 15-16 July ; and
- b) The 20th International Seminar on Current International Issues Affecting Forestry and Forest Products: Forestry and Ecosystem Services, held on 17 July .

The 22nd ASOF Meeting was held on 18-19 July in Makati City, Philippines. Mr. Jonas R. Leones, Undersecretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines warmly welcomed all delegates from ASEAN Member States (AMS) and dialogue/international partners to the Philippines. He underlined the importance of ASEAN to strengthen sustainable forest management (SFM) implementation and enhance competitiveness of ASEAN forest products. He also encouraged the operationalisation of the regional tools at the national level in pursuing the SFM and promote trade facilitation as well as enhance cooperation in addressing common issues such as climate change, food security and biodiversity conservation among AMS.

The 22nd ASOF Meeting was held in plenary and closed sessions during which several important issues were highlighted and deliberated. Mr. Nonito Tamayo, Director of Forest Management Bureau (FMB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines and Mr. Sapol Boonsermsuk, Director of International Forestry Cooperation Division, Royal Forest Department, Thailand were elected as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the 22nd ASOF Meeting, respectively.

The Meeting took note on the progress report of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2016-2025) as well as the status on implementation of Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) for ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry (2016-2025). AMS also updated on national's progress activities in accordance with Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) system for SFM which among others include the forest statistic in the country, forest policies and regulations related to SFM, initiatives to improve forest management, challenges and opportunities as well as recommendation to strengthen SFM implementation in the region based on the principles of SFM. Meanwhile, the representatives from 5 ASEAN Working Groups (AWG) reported on the outcomes of the meetings namely AWG on Forest Products Development (AWG-FPD), AWG on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement (AWG-CITES & WE), AWG on Social Forestry (AWG-SF), AWG on Forest Management (AWG-FM) and AWG on Forests and Climate Change (AWG-FCC).



Malaysian delegation at the 22nd ASOF Meeting.

The meeting was informed on the several cooperation with dialogue partners namely ASEAN-ROK Cooperation in Forestry, ASEAN-German Programme on Climate Smart Land Use, EU-FLEGT Facility Support to the FLEG Work Plan, Department of Agriculture on Forestry Australia and China-ASEAN Cooperation on Forestry for Implementation of the Nanning Initiative.

In conjunction with the ASOF meeting, the 22nd Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Forest Products Development (AWG-FPD) was held earlier on 15-16 July 2019 at the same venue. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Romulo Aggangan, Director, Department of Science and Technology-Forest Products Research and Development Institute (DOST-FPRDI), Philippines while Mr. Sapol Boonsermsuk, Director of International Forestry Cooperation Division, Royal Forest Department, Thailand was elected as Vice Chairperson of the Meeting. During

opening remarks, Dr. Romulo Aggangan encouraged AMS to enhance collaborations to facilitate exchange of information, capacity building, transfer of technology, and sharing of expertise on forest products development and trade.

Several issues were discussed and reported by AMS during the AWG-FPD meeting including:

- **Cooperation in the Timber Certification Initiative;**

The AMS reported on the progress of the use of Criteria & Indicators (C&I) for legality of timber, forest management certification, the implementation of timber certification and legality assurance systems as well as the development of ASEAN Chain of Custody (CoC) Guidelines for legality and sustainable timber and Progress on the FLEG Work Plan (2016-2025).

- **Cooperation in Herbal and Medicinal Plants (HMP);**

The meeting took note on the progress of herbal and medicinal plants from each member state including research and development activities, production and marketing, private sectors involvement as well as conservation initiatives. For the exchange of database in ASEAN, Herbal and Medicinal Plants Volume II has been published and made available online.

- **Cooperation in Forest Products Development;**

The meeting noted on the implementation of Equivalent Timber Names in ASEAN project, the development of project proposal study on trade of selected Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) and regional knowledge network on forest products development. On strengthening trade promotions, the meeting took note on several initiatives that will be organised by Malaysia in 2019. The meeting took note on the progress of FLEGT VPA negotiation by 7 AMS whereby Indonesia has been fully implementing FLEGT license since November 2016 while others are still in the process. On the development of national

standards through the Adoption or Modification of ISO Standard, the Meeting noted on the progress and submission made by AMS regarding to the 45 wood-based standards identified for harmonisation in ASEAN. On strengthening cooperation in human resources development in forest products development, the meeting was updated on the capacity building proposal of training on wood and plant identification using computer vision and spectroscopy.

- **Plan of Action (PoA) for ASEAN Cooperation in Forest Products Development; and**

- **Joint Consultation Between the AWG-FPD and ACCSQ Working Group on Standards and Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA).**

Malaysian delegates also had the opportunity to participate in the 20th International Seminar on Issues Affecting Forestry and Forest Products: Forestry and Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) held on 17 July 2019. The issues related to payment ecosystem services in forestry, policy for payment environment services in Viet Nam, REDD-Plus as payment of environment services, ecotourism as a viable mechanism for PES in sustaining biodiversity, water's user fee for watershed conservation, Korea's forest welfare policies, mechanisms for ongoing measurement and reporting on forestry and ecosystem service were discussed during the seminar.

Malaysia was represented by 11 delegates comprises of YBhg. Datuk Borhanudin Hj. Arshad (ASOF Leader), Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia; Cik Erien Noor Md Nasir (Head of Delegation for AWG-FPD), MTIB; Puan Ani Fazlina Dahri @ Abdul Latif and Cik Nur Illyani Ibrahim, Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources; Puan Nor Shahira Mat Nasir, MTIB; En. Haniff Bin Salleh, Malaysian Timber Certification Council; Encik Hamden Bin Mohammad, Forest Department Sarawak; Puan Annie Ting Yien Ding, Sarawak Timber Association; Encik Zolkipli Bin Mohamad Aton and Encik Mohamad Jirin Anis, Sarawak Forestry Corporation and Encik Abu Hassan Bin Yusuf, Harwood Timber.

Cont. from page 20

MTIB had observed that the grading methods practiced by European Standards on softwood and hardwood were quite lenient compared to Malaysian Standard (VSG) MS 1714 which were more stringent and specific in determining the defects of timber. The knowledge gained during the course would be useful in improving and improve the current rules on VSG MS 1714 in ETPs comprising of finger jointed, glulam, LVL etc. This was due to the fact that Malaysia did not have any specific rules in engineered timber

products. Furthermore, MTIB would be able to assist timber graders and industry players to enhance their skills and knowledge in grading ETPs (glulam, LVL, finger-jointed, CLT) in structural VSG.

This course was attended by Encik Abdul Rafa Tan, Encik Jambari Surif and Encik Mohider Mat Salleh from Industry Development Division, MTIB. Prof. Dr. Zakiah Ahmad, Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, UiTM, Shah Alam also joined the course.

WORLD SKILLS COMPETITION WORKSHOP IN TAIWAN – EXCHANGE ON WOODWORKING PRACTICE



Posing after the official opening

Malaysian contestants participated in the 2019 WorldSkills Competition Workshop in Taiwan – Exchange on Woodworking Practice. The competition was held in Taichung-Changhua-Nantou Regional Branch (TCNR) under Workforce Development Agency, Ministry of Labour Taiwan from 27 June until 3 July. This competition was a friendly skill competition with five objectives as follows:

- To improve skill capacities of youth in the country and to increase people's understanding toward WorldSkills International (WSI) and Taiwan National Skills Competition;
- To enhance international-scale training model by actively cooperate with international organization and corporations; and
- To promote vocational education, vocational training and skills competition and realise the purpose of enhancing the capacities of young generation in TVET, so as to boost competitiveness of talents in the countries and cultivate quality labour force which could meet the demands in industry.

There were seven contestants from different countries participated in the competition such as Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia. About 30 participants comprised contestants,

experts and delegates were involved with the three-day competition.

The cabinet making trade category from Malaysia was represented by Joerdan Jesselly James. He was one of the trainees from Wood Industry Skills Development Centre (WISDEC) and was under the supervision of Encik Amri Mustafa, a national expert in cabinet making. Meanwhile, joinery trade, it was represented by Encik Muhamad Yusri Aiman Nasir from Akademi Binaan Malaysia Wilayah Timur



Test project - joinery.

(ABMWT). He was under the supervision of Encik Saifol Azri Mohamad, a national expert in joinery.

In the competition, the cabinet making trade has four components whereby the contestants needed to complete several tasks: carcass, table top, leg and drawer. In fine woodworking, common forms of cabinet making include dovetail joints, dowel joints, mortise and tenon joints, biscuit joints, half lap joints, and lipping joint.



Test project - cabinet making.

The joinery trade involves the process of connecting or joining two or more pieces of wood together through the use of various forms of wood joints. In fine woodworking, common forms of joinery include dovetail joints, mortise-and-tenon joints biscuit joints, lap joints, and spline joints. Joiners should be able to construct doors, windows, stairs and other architectural objects. Joinery involves work both by hand and machine.

In order to develop human capital in the timber industry, MTIB was appointed as Industry Lead Body (ILB) by Department of Skills Development (JPK), Ministry of Human Resources. As ILB, MTIB undertakes training programmes and activities, in order to elevate the level of skills of human resources in the timber industry. MTIB through WISDEC has been involved in the skills competition since 12 years ago. Through this competition, Malaysian contestants were able to enhance their skills in preparation for the WorldSkills Competition 2019 in Kazan Russia.

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51ST MEETING OF THE ASEAN CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDS AND QUALITY



Participants posing with YBhg Datuk Fadilah Baharin of Standards Malaysia.

The 51st Meeting of the ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) was held on 9-11 July in Kuala Lumpur. It was hosted by Department of Standards Malaysia, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia and officially opened by YBhg. Datuk Fadillah Baharin, Director-General, Department of Standards Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Chaiyavat Tangkrock-olan, Director, International Affairs Division, Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI), Thailand. The Vice Chair was Ms. Vu Thi Tu Quyen, Acting Director, International Cooperation Department, Directorate for Standards, Metrology and Quality (STAMEQ), Viet Nam.

The Meeting discussed the recent developments in ASEAN economic integration initiatives as well as the follow-up actions taken on matters arising from the 50th ACCSQ Meeting held on 11-13 December 2018 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. These includes the status of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Priority Deliverables for 2019 on Standards and Conformance as well as the finalisation and signing of the ASEAN Agreement on Regulatory Framework for Traditional Medicines; and Health Supplements; Review on the 1998 ASEAN Framework Agreement on MRA and Monitoring the ASEAN Standards and Conformance Strategic Plan 2016-2025 where the detailed outcome monitoring template will be used by the ACCSQ/WGs/PWGs to monitor and record the progress of their 2016-2025 work plans.

PROGRESS OF WORKING GROUPS AND PRODUCT WORKING GROUPS UNDER ACCSQ

PROGRESS IN WG 1 – STANDARDS

Puan Hj. Mahsuri Mat Dris, Chair of The Task Force on Wood-based Products (TFWBP) from MTIB, Malaysia, on behalf of the Chair of WG 1, reported the outcomes of 42nd WG 1 Meeting held from 27 to 28 June 2019 in Da Nang, Viet Nam. Malaysia has updated on the Revision of ASEAN Guidelines on Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) as well as current harmonisation status. It was noted that the status are at different level of harmonisation for 20 Priority Products, Safety and EMC; Electrical and Electronic Equipment; Medical Device; Rubber; Wood-based products; Cosmetics; and Conformity Assessments.

Updates on Technical Harmonisation in Wood-based Products Sector

The Meeting was updated on the 45 wood-based products standards submitted by the Task Force on Wood-based Products (TFWBP) for harmonisation. The TFWBP has agreed to start with the harmonisation of ISO 2426-2:2000 Plywood as a pilot project in developing national/regional annexes to supplement international standards.

New Areas for Harmonisation

The Meeting was also informed on the following progress/decisions made in the WG 1 study groups on harmonisation of standards for new areas including Smart Cities; Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy (EE/RE); Digital Trade (including



Malaysian delegates during the meeting.

e-Commerce and Cyber Security) and Smart Manufacturing Standards including IR 4.0. The WG 1 activities would also include cooperation with Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC) and ISO REI-Asia, Cooperation with PTB as well as with EU ARISE Plus.

PROGRESS IN WG 2 – CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

Malaysian representative for WG 2 reported on the outcomes of the 36th WG 2 Meeting which was held on 24-26 April 2019. This also include the progress on the 2016 – 2025 WG 2 Work Plan on various items, including among others, (i) figures of CABs that have been accredited by NABs; (ii) progress on National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar; (iii) establishment of pool of accreditation experts; (iv) implementation of capacity building activities as supported by various ACCSQ Dialogue Partners.

PROGRESS IN WG 3 - LEGAL METROLOGY

The Chair of WG 3 reported on the progress of Legal Metrology following the outcomes of the 31st WG 3 Meeting held on 20-21 March 2019 in ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia. The Coordinated and Strategic Approach to Metrology at the ASEAN level WG 3 discussed on the Concept Paper from PTB on the Coordinated and Strategic Approach to Metrology at the ASEAN level, and agreed to put this activity in future consideration and to allocate the resources for this activity to other high priority activities.

Progress in Building and Construction

The Chair of the Building and Construction Working Group (BCWG) reported the outcomes of the 1st BCWG Meeting held on 30 April - 2 May 2019 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting noted that BCWG had conducted its First Meeting following the endorsement of its TOR by

ACCSQ and SEOM respectively. The Meeting further noted on the progress on discussion of the 13 th draft MRA on Building and Construction Materials (MRA on BC) as well as update on timeline for finalisation and signing of the MRA on BC. The Meeting also noted on the progress of implementation of project proposal by E-READI on “Eurocodes - Awareness Raising and Training on the Implementation of Policies and Standards for Sustainable Construction in ASEAN Countries”.

INTEGRATION INTO GLOBAL ECONOMY

ASEAN-China FTA Sub-committee on Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment (ACFTA SC-STRACAP)

Malaysia updated the Meeting on the progress of the ACFTA SC-STRACAP on the following priority sectors, in order of priority, to be the focus of the SC-STRACAP in the implementation of its work programme, namely:

- Prepared Foodstuff; (ii) Healthcare (Cosmetics, Traditional Medicines, Health Supplements); (iii) Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE); (iv) Wood-based; (v) Automotives. The Meeting noted the agreed follow-up actions for the priority sectors, as follows:
- On item (i) Prepared Foodstuff and (iii) EEE, China required further information on status of ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework and the Agreement on ASEAN Harmonised EEE Regulatory Regime (AHEEERR) respectively, which the ASEAN Secretariat had already reverted the information to China;
- On item ii (Healthcare) and item iv (Wood-based Products Sector), the ASEAN Cosmetic Committee (ACC), Traditional Medicines and Health Supplements Product Working Group (TMHSPWG), and Task Force on Wood-based Products (TFWBP) have been invited to submit their respective project proposals, if any, by the next SC-STRACAP Meeting tentatively scheduled for April 2020.

The ACCSQ Meeting was attended by representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat. The representatives from International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), ISO Regional Initiative Engagement - Asia (ISO REI-Asia), Korean Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS) of Korea and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of Australia also attended the Meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(DECEMBER 2019)

3-6
December

WOODEX 2019

International tradeshow for timber products, machinery, equipment, materials for timber and woodworking industries

VENUE : Crocus Expo, Pavillion 1
Moscow, Russia
ORGANISER : ITE Group
DETAILS Tel : + 7 (499) 750-08-28
E-mail: woodex@ite-expo.ru

ESPRIT MEUBLE 2019

Trade Furniture Fair

VENUE : Porte De Versailles,
Paris, France
ORGANISER : Esprit Meuble Paris
DETAILS Tel : +33 (0) 15309 3191
E-mail: herve.dosramos@espritmeuble.com

6-10
December

12-15
December

ZAK DOORS AND WINDOW 2019

Trade Fair for doors, windows, facades, technologies, components and products

VENUE : Pragati Maidan
New Delhi, India
ORGANISER : Zak Trade Fairs and Exhibitions Pvt. Ltd.
DETAILS F-25, Ground Floor, Kalkaji,
New Delhi - 110019 India
Tel : +91 1142576202 Fax : +91 1126449010 E-mail: info@zakgroup.com

15th WOOD AND FURNITURE ASIA 2019

The premier furniture, interior and woodworking machinery show

VENUE : Karachi Expo Centre
Karachi, Pakistan
ORGANISER : Ecommerce Gateway Pakistan Pvt. Ltd.
DETAILS Tel : (92-21) 111 222 444
Fax : (92-21) 3486 0830
E-mail: info@furnitureasia.com.pk

14-16
December

Furniture Market in Italy

Introduction

Italy is universally known as a leader in furniture design and manufacturing but today, the country is getting more and more dependent on imports. Italy's imports of furniture are constantly increasing and the leading partners are no longer only European countries but also Asian countries. China is the leading exporter of furniture to Italy followed by Viet Nam, ranked at 19, Indonesia at 24, Thailand at 37 and Malaysia at 45.

Market Trend

Italy is considered the sixth largest furniture market after the US, Germany, Japan, the UK and China. Per capita consumption of furniture in Italy in 2018 was about Euro 285 (USD 320).

Among the variables determining the purchase of furniture are originality, aesthetic content, solidity, functionality, distinctiveness and innovative design as well as eco-sustainability and price. Italy's trend for furniture is more to modern designs rather than classical type. Materials and colours are important to attract customers. Sustainable eco-friendly furniture and products where the characteristics of length, lightness and safety in their finishing and the ability to recycle and renew the materials from which they are produced are more sought after these days.

Upholstery, dining, bedroom and kitchen furniture are influenced by new designs, modern materials and combination of different materials (i.e. wood, glass, plastic, leather, steel, and textile). The finishing of the materials is getting more important and the trend is modern and bright colour.

General lifestyle trends are having an important impact on changing trends in furniture. The home has become a more important place, and Italian

consumers are growingly more concerned about their overall quality of life and wellbeing. They want to reflect this in how their homes are furnished. Italian consumers prefer individualised furniture that reflects their lifestyle.

In 2018, Italy imported a total of € 3.56 billion (USD 4 billion) worth of furniture, which was 2.9% higher from the previous year. Main furniture products that were imported in 2018 were wooden furniture and parts; seats and; lamps and lighting

Malaysia was ranked 45th and was the 4th largest ASEAN exporter of furniture in Italy with 0.07% market share after Viet Nam (1.11%), Indonesia (0.70% market share) and Thailand (0.21%). Malaysia's main exports of furniture to Italy were: wooden furniture, seats with wooden frames, seat parts and components, lamps as well as mattresses.

Conclusion

In order to access the Italian market, it is very important to meet the local taste especially in terms of design and quality. Cooperation with local designers will certainly help to penetrate the Italian market. Cooperation with large furniture chain stores could also be another effective strategy.

Another good potential is for environmentally friendly products that are produced from sustainable sources which is a growing demand among Italian buyers. The new values and trends are eco-sustainability, innovative, versatile, rational and simple.

For any enquiry, please contact MATRADE Milan at milan@matrade.gov.my

Note : *This article was contributed by MATRADE.*

KARAI- SUITABLE FOR FLOORING

INTRODUCTION

Karai is the timber from the family of *Annonaceae*. Vernacular names applied include Akau (Sarawak), Antoi (Peninsular Malaysia), Jangkang (Peninsular Malaysia) with various epithets, Kepayang Babi (Sarawak), Mangitan (Peninsular Malaysia), Manitan (Peninsular Malaysia). Major species include *Alphonsea curtisii*, *A. elliptica*, *A. johorensis*, *A. maingayi*, *Cyathocalyx pruniferus*, *C. sumatranus*, *Mezzettia parviflora*, *Mitrephoromaingayi*, *M. vulpine*, *Monocarpia euneura*, *Platymita siamensis*, *Polyalthia glauca*, *P. hypoleuca*, *P. sclerophylla*, *P. sumatrana*, *Xylopia ferruginea*, *X. fusca* and *X. stenopetala*.

Wood Properties

The sapwood is normally not differentiated from the heartwood, which is light yellow-white or light yellow-brown, often with a green tinge. The timber is a Light Hardwood with a density of 370-975 kg/m³ air dry, although the majority of the timbers falls within the range of 515-720 kg/m³ air dry.

Durability

Karai has been classified as non-durable under exposed conditions in Malaysia (Wong, 1982). The above classification is mainly based on the findings by Jackson (1965) who tested the timber *Monocarpia marginalis* (formerly known as *Cyathocalyx maingayi*) under natural conditions and the timber was completely destroyed in slightly more than a year. Mohd. Dahlan *et. al.*, (1987)



Wood colour and texture.



Karai leaves

tested the natural durability of three species of karai, namely *Monocarpia marginalis*, *Xylopia fusca* and *Mezzettia leptopoda* and they were found to be not durable. Desch (1957) reported that in Sumatra, the timber of *Mezzettia leptopoda* or a related species, when used for planks under cover or protected from rain are fairly durable. In India, Pearson *et al.* (1932) described the timber of *Polyalthia* as fairly durable for internal work and not very susceptible to insect and fungal attacks.

Preservative Treatment

The timber is very amenable to preservative treatment.

Texture

The texture is rather coarse and uneven due to the presence of the extremely large rays.

Strength Properties

The timber falls into Strength Group C (Engku, 1988b) or SG 5 (MS 544:Part 2:2001).

Strength Properties of Karai

Species	Test Condition	Modulus of Elasticity (MPa)	Modulus of Rupture (MPa)	Compression Parallel to Grain (MPa)	Compression Perpendicular to Grain (MPa)	Shear Strength (MPa)
<i>Mezzettia leptopoda</i>	Green	12,500	59	34.5	2.29	6.6
	Air dry	14,800	80	51.0	4.62	8.0
<i>Monocarpia marginalis</i>	Green	13,000	66	36.3	2.91	7.4
	Air dry	13,800	85	46.0	4.07	8.4
<i>Xylopia fusca</i>	Green	12,100	57	26.5	3.93	7.0
	Air dry	13,400	80	41.5	3.65	11.3

Machining Properties

The timber is easy to work and plane and the surface produced may not be perfectly smooth. Boring is easy, but the surface obtained may be rough. Turning is easy and a smooth finish may be achieved.

Machining Properties of Karai

Test Condition	Sawing		Planing		Boring		Turning	
	Re-sawing	Cross Cutting	Ease of Planing	Quality of Finish	Ease of Boring	Quality of Finish	Ease of Turning	Quality of Finish
Green	easy	easy	easy	moderately smooth	easy	rough	-	-
Air dry	easy	easy	easy	moderately smooth	easy	rough	easy	smooth

Nailing Property

The nailing property is rated as poor.

Air Drying

The seasoning properties of the timber vary according to the species and are summarised below:

Species	Time to air dry (months)		Remarks
	13 mm thick boards	38 mm thick boards	
<i>Mezzettia parviflora</i>	1.5	2	Very fast drying; moderate cupping and insect and fungal attack.
<i>Monocarpia euneura</i>	4	5	Fairly slow drying; moderate splitting; slight end-checking and surface-checking.
<i>Xylopia fusca</i>	3	5	Fairly slow drying; moderate cupping, bowing and staining; slight end-checking and insect attacks.

Kiln-Drying

Kiln Schedule H is recommended. However, the schedule is based on the test carried out on the species of *Mezzettia parviflora*, the density of which is about 670 kg/m³ air dry. When dealing

with the heavier varieties of karai, e.g. *Alphonsea elliptica* (density: 975 kg/m³) and *Polyalthia rumphii* (density: 805-815 kg/m³), due care should be taken to use a milder schedule to prevent the occurrence of drying defects.

Kiln Schedule H

Moisture Content (%)	Temperature (Dry Bulb)		Temperature (Wet Bulb)		Relative Humidity (%)
	°F	°C	°F	°C	
Green	135	57.0	127	53.0	80
50	135	57.0	126	52.0	75
40	140	60.0	126	52.0	65
30	150	65.5	129	54.0	55
20	170	76.5	136	58.0	40

Shrinkage

The shrinkage of some species is summarised below:

Species	Shrinkage (%) (Green to air dry)		Remarks
	Radial	Tangential	
<i>Mezzettia parviflora</i>	4	4.4	Very high shrinkage
<i>Monocarpia euneura</i>	1.5	2.7	Moderate shrinkage
<i>Xylopia fusca</i>	2.8	4.5	Very high shrinkage

Uses

The timber is suitable for general light construction, plywood, pencil, match boxes and splints, ornamental items, bentwood, packing cases and crates. The heavier species can be used for flooring, joists (light construction), railway sleepers, ship and boat building (masts, spars, oars and helms), tool handles (non-impact) and cooling tower (non-structural).

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- Wong, T.M. 1982. *A Dictionary of Malaysian Timbers*. Revised by Lim, S.C. & Chung, R.C.K. Malayan Forest Records No. 30. FRIM, Kuala Lumpur. 201 pp.



YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries visited MTIB booth during the Malaysian Timber Conference 2019 organised by MTC on 25 July 2019, Kuala Lumpur.



YB Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Md Akin, Deputy Minister of Primary Industries presenting a certificate of participation in the Sayangi Komoditi Programme to Encik Muhamad Faizul Razilah, Deputy Director of WISDEC. The event was organised by IMPAC, MPI on 3 July 2019 at Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka.



YBrs. Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, MTIB Deputy Director-General (Development and Commercial) presenting a memento to YBhg. Mejar (K) Dato'Hj. Ajan Mohamad, CEO of Terengganu Timber Industry Training Centre. The photo was taken during a courtesy visit to MTIB, Kuala Lumpur on 15 July 2019.



A courtesy visit by YBrs. Encik Samsudin Hj. Noor, Director-General of National Kenaf and Tobacco Board and his officials to FIDEC located in Banting, Selangor on 18 July 2019.



Representatives from Harwood Timber Sdn. Bhd., Sarawak visited MTIB, Kuala Lumpur on 26 July 2019.



MTIB organised a course on Social Etiquette and Protocol for its personnel on 23-25 July 2019 at MTIB, Kuala Lumpur.