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BAMBOO - INNOVATION IN TEXTILE APPLICATION



TANGGAM IN MIDDLE EAST DESIGN AND HOSPITALITY WEEK 2019

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MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD



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Cover :
Seminar on Bamboo Innovation in Textile Technology organised by MTIB in collaboration with UTHM was held at UTHM, Batu Pahat, Johor. More details on pages 3 and 15.

BAMBOO - INNOVATION IN TEXTILE APPLICATION

news



Encik Ravi Muthayah, Deputy Secretary-General (Commodities) Ministry of Primary Industries delivering his opening speech at the seminar.

MTIB in collaboration with Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) organised the Seminar on Bamboo Innovation in Textile Technology on 23 September in conjunction with the International Conference and Exposition on Inventions by Institutions of Higher Learning (PECIPTA 2019) at UTHM, Batu Pahat, Johor. The objectives of the seminar were to enhance the community's knowledge on bamboo as a green and alternative raw material as well as promoting a wide variety of uses for bamboo and bamboo products in line with activities as stated in the Malaysian Bamboo

Industry Development Action Plan 2011 - 2020.

The seminar was officiated by Encik Ravi Muthayah, Deputy Secretary-General (Commodities) Ministry of Primary Industries. In his speech, he said that bamboo sources in Peninsular Malaysia recorded by Fifth National Forest Inventory were 74.9 million clumps found in 5.67 million hectares of forested area. He also highlighted that the global trade of bamboo-based products increased by 12.8% from USD60 million in 2017 to USD68.8 billion in 2018. Whilst in Malaysia, the total export and import value for bamboo-based products in 2018 were RM9.97 million and RM96.09 million respectively. Looking at the great potential for bamboo industries, he said that the Ministry through MTIB, government agencies, universities as well as bamboo players need to work together to enable and develop the bamboo industries in Malaysia. These include cooperation through research & development as well as commercialisation which in line with the National Timber Industry Policy (NATIP) and Bamboo Action Plan.

In addition, he also mentioned on the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between MTIB and UTHM which was ratified on 22 September. Under this MoA, MTIB and UTHM will collaborate in research project on the extraction of Malaysian bamboo fibre for textile processing.



MoA signing ceremony between UTHM with respective organisations.



EUROPEAN UNION

Timber Imports From Indonesia Increase

The EU imported 423,000 metric tonnes (MT) of wood products from Indonesia in the year ending May 2019, a 1% reduction compared to 428,000 MT in the year ending May 2018. However, in value terms the EU imports from Indonesia increased 9% from €782 million to €855 million in the same period. As the Euro weakened against the US currency during this period, the increase in dollar value was less significant, up 5% from USD932 million to USD976 million.

Imports of Indonesian wood products stabilised at a high level in Netherlands and UK. Imports were slipping in Germany, France and Greece but rising in Belgium and Spain during this period. Imports in Italy were broadly flat. Although the volumes involved are small, in percentage terms there were potentially significant upticks in imports of Indonesian products in several minor EU markets in the year ending May 2019 compared to the previous 12 month period, notably Czech Republic (+39% to 2,100 tonnes), Ireland (+37% to 1,700 tonnes), Romania (+11% to 1,450 tonnes), and Portugal (+99% to 500 tonnes).

flegtimm.eu, September



GERMAN

Timber Exports are Expected to Increase Further

The oversupply of German logs is very likely to cause the country's log prices to continue to fall. According to the report of the Timber Resources Quarterly, the price of spruce logs in the first quarter of this year in Germany fell by 13% compared with the same period last year. In Euro terms, log prices have reached their lowest level since 2009. Due to the abundant supply of raw materials and the low cost of logs, German long-term timber has increased production and expanded export sales.

In the first quarter 2019, German timber exports increased by 10%, anyway with the continued decline in

the cost of logs in the timber industry, it is expected that the volume of timber exported from Germany will increase further next year.

China wood network. 24 September



JAPAN

Plywood Import Influence by Housing Starts

Annual housing starts in Japan have been within a narrow range over the past six years and previously there was a close relationship between housing starts and imports of plywood (mainly from Malaysia and Indonesia) and with imports of tropical logs which was used to produce plywood. The first signs of a break in the housing and import relationship came in 2015 when plywood imports dipped sharply. Another turning point was this year when plywood imports due to housing stock growth.

One category of plywood, HS441875, dominated Japan's plywood imports and in July plywood in this category accounted for well over 60% of all plywood imports. Year-on-year the volume of July plywood imports from all sources fell 13% and month on month import volumes were flat. The top three shippers remain Malaysia, Indonesia and China. In July shipments from China were down 5% year-on-year and there was an 18% decline in arrivals from Malaysia. July shipments from Indonesia were almost the same volume as in June.

ITTO TTM Report, 1-15 September



NEW ZEALAND

Forestry Industry Gloomy About Log Trade with China

Forestry industry officials are still feeling gloomy about the log trade, 10 weeks after a collapse in sales to China caused layoffs and left logging trucks lying idle. Volumes of log sales are still well down, but prices have inched up slightly. The market does appear to have stabilised and has possibly slightly improved a bit, but clearly it is down from the highest of earlier in the year and the amount of harvesting has responded to fall.

The economic nervousness and a lower currency stemming from China's trade war with the US is the main factor affected the market. Another was a glut in supplies of wood from Europe, as foresters there cut down trees in advance of the spread of a noxious pest through the continent. Other reason stemmed from China's Belt and Road policy, to make the journey more economic, those wagons were packed with logs for the return trip from Europe.

This situation affected in different ways and it really depends on how you are harvesting for, how much capital you have got exposed, or whether you have just made recent investments or to delay cutting down those trees until prices and the demand got better.

Rnz.co.nz, September



TURKEY

Foreign Homebuyers Boost Turkey's Furniture Sector

Turkey's furniture sector has been boosted by a surge in home sales to foreigners thanks to the country's programme for getting citizenship through investment, according to sector observers. Home purchases by foreigners have risen sharply since last year, when Turkey eased conditions under the programme.

Under the changes, foreigners who invest USD500,000 in Turkey, deposit USD 500,000 in Turkish banks, or buy real estate worth USD250,000 acquire the right to lifetime citizenship. In the first seven months of 2019, the number of homes purchased by foreigners leaped 64.5 % year-on-year to over 24,000, according to the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat).

Nuri Gürçan, Head of the Furniture Industry Businessmen Association, said home sales to foreigners pushed up furniture sales by as much as 20%. Iraqi and Saudi nationals were the top foreign home buyers - also show great interest in Turkish furniture.

Hurriyetdailynews, 2 September



UNITED STATES

United States/China Trade War Other Gain Market Share

According to the report, Viet Nam shipped USD1.82 billion in wood household furniture in the first half 2019, compared with USD1.5 billion during the first half of 2018, a 21.4% increase. It experienced an 18.3% increase in the first quarter alone and a 24.7% increase in the second quarter, according to the analysis by investment banking firm Mann, Armistead & Epperson Ltd.

By comparison, Viet Nam saw a 32.1% increase in all household furniture shipments during the first half, with shipments of USD2.6 billion compared with USD1.97 billion in the first half of 2018.

Malaysia also saw significant increases in both wood and overall household furniture shipments, the report noted. Its overall household furniture shipments to the US rose 13.6% during the first quarter and 20.5% during the second quarter, while its wood furniture shipments rose 10.9% in the first quarter and 14.8% during the second quarter.

Taiwan also experienced a surge in furniture shipments according to the report. Its shipments to the US rose 21.2% during the first quarter and 45.7% during the second quarter. Much of this shift occurred in the production of metal furniture, a mainstay of Taiwan's furniture business since much of Taiwan's furniture production shifted to China in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Furniture Today, 24 September



UNITED STATES

California Forest-Risk Procurement Bill Fails

The California Deforestation-Free Procurement Act, legislation which would have required state contractors to certify that certain commodities supplied to the state were not grown, derived, harvested, reared, or produced on land where tropical deforestation occurred, failed to advance out of the California Senate Appropriations Committee. Because it was not approved by the Appropriations Committee it will not proceed to the full California Senate and will not become law in 2019.

ITTO TTM Report, 1-15 September



VIET NAM

Export and Import of Forest Products Improve

According to Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development report, the export and import value of forest products in the first seven months of 2019 reached USD6,047 billion, up 17.9% over the same period in 2018. Wood products are exported to 128 countries and territories. In which, the US, Japan, China, EU and South Korea remained the main export markets, reaching USD5.3 billion, accounting for 87.7% of the export value of forest products.

The whole country has 5,424 enterprises, including 612 FDI enterprises, accounting for 11.3% of the total number of enterprises, and 4,812 domestic enterprises, accounting for 88.7% of the total number of enterprises. There are 2,372 enterprises directly exporting. In the first six months of 2019, the total number of FDI projects registered to invest in the wood processing industry was 44 projects with a total capital of USD135.7 million.

The General Department of Forestry assesses that there are many opportunities in the industry. Demand from the US market for wood products from other countries, including Viet Nam, may increase to compensate for the

shortage of goods due to high taxes from the Chinese market. Viet Nam's exports to the US are mainly wooden products with high added value and this creates an opportunity to change the structure of export products in the direction of increasing the proportion of exports of commodity groups, add value, reduce the export proportion of wood materials. Viet Nam also has many opportunities to receive FDI inflows from China because of its advantages in terms of mechanisms, open policies, cheap labour, transport systems, and deep-sea ports.

Along with that, the Viet Nam-EU Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Law Enforcement, In addition, businesses also need to take a strong and proactive action right now in implementing sustainable forest management and forest certification, planting large timber forests, and replicating typical models. This is the root for legal timber traceability and proactive implementation of VPA / FLEGT.

Viet Nam Administration of Forestry, 12 September

GLOBAL

Plywood Industry Suffering Due to the US-China Trade War

The global plywood industry has been negatively affected by the US-China trade war and the slowdown of China's economy, reports by the Decorative Hardwoods Association. China uses 64% of world's total consumption of plywood at 101 million m³, six times higher than the US, which is the world's second-largest consumer of plywood at 16 million m³.

floordaily.net.Sterling, VA, 20 September


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.



TANGGAM IN MIDDLE EAST DESIGN AND HOSPITALITY WEEK 2019



Middle East Design and Hospitality Week 2019 (INDEX) is an international trade fair held annually at Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC). Held from 17 to 19 September, the event attracted more than 50,000 visitors during its three-day run. The fair, especially for interior designers and architects, took place during the Middle East Design & Hospitality Week, a major event for industry experts from the UAE markets. In addition to INDEX, five more shows took places concurrently namely workspace (Commercial Interior Design), surface design (Surfaces & Coatings), the hotel show (Hospitality), the leisure show (Leisure, Sports, and Resorts) and FIM (Furniture production).

The theme for this year's show was to explore THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME focused on different environments, in the workplace, hospitality environment or residential projects are using asymmetry, typography, geometric shapes and 3D patterns to create unique and inspirational environments. INDEX, now entering its 29th year, provided any professional involved in the design or creation of interior spaces.

TANGGAM participated in INDEX Dubai for the first time this year and brought four companies under the TANGGAM label namely Sujak Studio, Notch Design

Studio, Basicology and Joy Design Studio.

Sujak Studio, founded by an award winning industrial designer, Sujak Hasbullah. He collaborates with local and international brands including furniture, fashion, ceramic, glass, and new material, lighting and architectural products. The company displayed "KEEF Sofa collection" and "Channang" stool collection. Notch Design Studio is a design studio that reinterprets the entire furniture business model. This company offers a sustainable furniture eco - system from the conceptual drawing board to the manufacturing and actual product delivery.

Basicology is a furniture design and lifestyle brand that focuses on original ideas and design solutions





Malaysia: Westports' H1 Box Volume Surges 17% to 5.27 Million TEUs

Source: Asian Shippers

Westports Holdings Bhd. handled 5.27 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in the first half of 2019, a year-on-year increase of 17%. Within this total, transshipment containers rose to 3.54 million TEUs, and gateway volume was up 1.73 million TEUs. On a quarterly basis, Westports achieved a record-breaking container throughput level during the second quarter of 2019 by handling 2.74 million TEUs, driven by the increase to 1.83 million TEUs for transshipment containers and 900,000 TEUs for gateway boxes. Westports container throughput growth, combined with the stable cost of sales, contributed to improved profitability.

Net profit in the first half of the year increased by 24.6% year on year to RM306.22 million (USD74.342 million) on 11.6% higher revenue of RM869.64 million. The sustained favourable growth at the intra-Asia segment has also supported the company's container volume growth of 17%, which is well above the industry's average for container volume.

Westports was expecting to achieve much higher overall container throughput in 2019 due to the company's exposure to the still-buoyant intra-Asia segment as well as the favourable domestic export-oriented sectors.

United States : Port of Los Angeles Breaks Record with 912,154 TEUs in July 2019

Source: SteelGuru

The Port of Los Angeles has set a new single-month cargo record. In July, the Port moved 912,154 TEUs, the busiest July in the Port's 112-year history. Container exchange per vessel reached 9,915 TEUs, the highest and most efficient level ever experienced. Despite the continued decline in exports and high level of uncertainty driven by trade tensions, we continue to optimise our facilities and are grateful for the support and confidence of our supply chain partners.

In July 2019 imports increased 8.7% to 476,438 TEUs compared to the previous year. Exports decreased 4% to 161,340 TEUs while empty containers

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

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all Ports m ³	% Change Aug 2019/ Jul 2019
	m ³	% Change Aug 2019/ Jul 2019	m ³	% Change Aug 2019/ Jul 2019	m ³	% Change Aug 2019/ Jul 2019	m ³	% Change Aug 2019/ Jul 2019	m ³	% Change Aug 2019/ Jul 2019		
Sawntimber	72,625	9	9,106	108	1,198	-39	320	-21	8,276	-14	91,525	11
MDF	41,000	-88	707	100	6,394	-14	2,612	-13	16,108	-11	66,822	-82
Mouldings	12,449	7	106	-18	2,075	18	930	72	1,265	-6	16,825	9
Plywood	3,573	-20	0	0	62	-67	369	91	12,629	-7	16,632	-9
Veneer	417	-37	112	-21	62	-48	19	100	2,638	-9	3,248	-15
Particleboard	34,021	13	258	57	3,905	47	969	2,682	5,516	140	44,668	27
TOTAL	164,085	-64	10,289	114	13,695	-3	5,220	25	46,431	-3	239,720	-54

Source : MTIB



increased 20.7% to 274,376 TEUs. Combined, July overall volumes were 912,154 TEUs. It was the third busiest month in the Port's history and the fourth time the Port eclipsed the 900,000 TEUs mark. However, seven months into 2019 overall volumes have increased 6% compared to 2018, when the Port set an all-time cargo record.

Netherlands: Rotterdam Port Handles Record 240 Million Tonnes of Cargo

Source: Asian Shippers

The Port of Rotterdam handled a record 240 million tonnes of cargo in the first half of the year on the back of all-time high container volumes that rose 6% when calculated by TEUs. Total TEUs rose faster than total cargo tonnage due to a large number of empties handled.

The rise in box throughput was attributed to an increase in import and transshipment volumes within the European market. Containerised cargo from Asian exporters rose, an indicator of strong consumer demand within Europe. The increase in total cargo volume helped push up the first-half operating result by 7% year on year to USD155 million.

Bangladesh: Port of Chittagong Moves Up to 64th Spot in World's Top 100 box Ports

Source: Frola & Cia

Port of Chittagong has climbed six places in the rankings compiled by Lloyd's List annually of the world's top 100 container handling ports, to 64th position, up from 95th place in 2008. Chittagong (aka Chattogram) port saw its container throughput rise 8.9% in 2018 compared to the previous year to a record 2.9 million TEUs, putting the port on track to break the three-million-TEUs mark this year. In 2017, the port handled 2.7 million TEUs.

Last year's volume growth was attributed to manufacturers shifting production lines away from northern China to Southeast Asian nations. Container handling at the port will gradually increase once the Patenga Container Terminal (PCT) and Bay-terminal, which are under construction, commence operations.

The Chinese port of Shanghai topped the list of world's largest ports, after handling 42 million TEUs in 2018, a year-on-year increase of 4.4%.

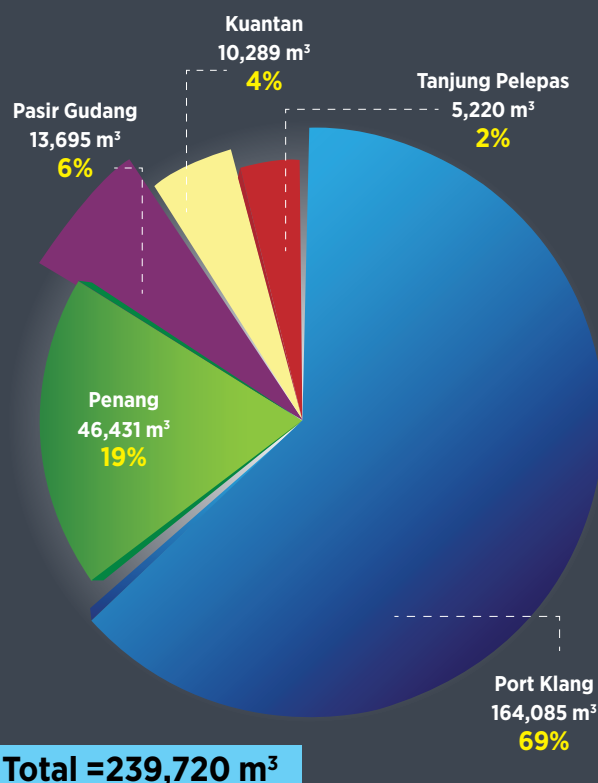
Singapore port continues to hold on to the number two spot. Other ports in China took third, fourth, fifth, seventh, eighth and ninth positions. South Korea's Busan port was ranked sixth and Dubai port is in 10th position in the list compiled by Lloyd's List.

Turkey: Shipment at SOCAR Terminal Exceeds 280,000 TEUs on Eastern Aegean

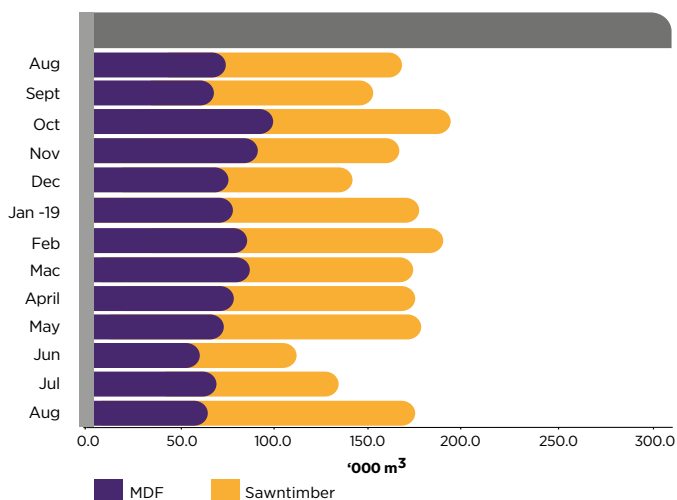
Source: Asian Shippers

The volume of shipments at SOCAR Terminal stood at 2.8 million TEUs. Located in Aliaga, on the western shores of Turkey, the terminal remains the largest container terminal in Turkey's Aegean Region, with an annual capacity of 1.3 million TEUs.

Timber Shipment through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, August 2019



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



Total export of Malaysian timber and timber products in August 2019 increased 4% valued at RM2.0 billion over the previous month. Meanwhile, cumulative export for the period of January to August 2019 decreased slightly to value at RM14.52 billion over RM14.54 billion in the previous corresponding period.

SAWNTIMBER

Total export of sawntimber in August 2019 increased 26% both in volume and value to 174,101 m³ valued at RM327.2 million as compared to the previous month. Cumulative export for the period of January to August 2019 decreased both 4% in volume and value to 1.2 million m³ totalling RM2.3 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Export of sawntimber to the EU for the month increased 22% to 9,721 m³ over the previous month as a result of high demand from major countries in the region. Export to Italy and Netherlands increased 218% and 58% to 308 m³ and 5,319 m³ respectively. France and the United Kingdom also increased 16% and 13% of their purchased to 930 m³ and 1,467 m³ respectively. In the meanwhile, export to Belgium declined 44% to 559 m³ followed by Germany 30% to 710 m³.

Total exports to West Asia increased 34% to 26,546 m³ from 19,811 m³ recorded in the previous month. Export to Yemen increased 335% to 9,077 m³ from 2,085 m³ recorded in the previous month followed by Iraq with 38% to 3,323 m³ and Oman 33% to 2,871 m³. In the meanwhile, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE decreased its intake of sawntimber by 48%, 24% and 15% to 364 m³, 777 m³ and 7,643 m³ respectively.

Buying from ASEAN increased by 19% to 49,279 m³ from 41,428 m³ registered in the previous month. Export of sawntimber to Viet Nam increased 59% to 2,091 m³ followed by Thailand 32% to 26,848 m³ and Philippines 9% to 12,180 m³. Contrarily, export to Indonesia decreased 50% to 107 m³ followed by Singapore 4% to 8,053 m³ compared to the previous month.

In the meanwhile, shipments to East Asia increased 51% to 49,464 m³ from 32,808 m³ in the previous month. Export to South Korea increased by 90% to 4,698 m³ followed by China 65% to 30,832 m³ and Taiwan 44% to 7,609 m³. Export to Hong Kong also increased 30% to 593 m³ from 457 m³ in the previous month. In the meanwhile, Japan reduced its intake of sawntimber by 3% to 5,732 m³ compared to 5,886 m³ in the previous month.

Elsewhere, exports to the US increased 53% to 2,443 m³ whilst intake by Australia decreased 22% to 841 m³. Demand from South Africa increased 17% to 4,711 m³ from 4,030 m³ in the previous month.

The average FOB price of sawntimber decreased slightly to RM1,879 per m³ from RM1,882 per m³ in the previous month. Meanwhile, price of Dark Red Meranti to Netherlands decreased 5% to RM3,112 per m³ from RM3,263 per m³ in the previous month. Keruing was traded at RM2,739 per m³, an increase of 17% from RM2,341 per m³ in the previous month.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Export of MDF in August 2019 both have decreased in volume and value by 6% and 1% to 64,922 m³ totalled RM89.5 million compared to the previous month. Similarly, cumulative export for January to August 2019 recorded a decrease in volume by 12% to 585,828 m³ and in value by 6% worth RM728.7 million over the previous corresponding period.

In ASEAN, total export decreased by 3% to 10,883 m³ from 11,169 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Indonesia and Singapore have reduced by 12% to 3,726 m³ and 67% to 63 m³ respectively. However, Viet Nam and the Philippines have increased their intake by 13% to 3,647 m³ and 22% to 3,143 m³ respectively.

Exports to East Asia countries registered an increase of 2% to 15,268 m³ from 14,950 m³ in the previous month. Japan as the largest buyer in the region has decreased its intake by 1% to 13,413 m³. However, Taiwan has increased its buying by 37% to 987 m³, followed by China including Hong Kong 19% to 536 m³ and South Korea 70% to 332 m³ respectively.

However, export to South Asia countries recorded a decrease of 28% to 7,352 m³ from 10,228 m³ in the previous month. Exports to India has decreased by 6% to 4,003 m³ followed by Pakistan 15% to 2,844 m³ and Bangladesh 54% to 505 m³. However, Sri Lanka does not make any purchase this month.

On the other hand, export to West Asia region increased by 13% to 19,283 m³ from 17,134 m³ in the previous month. Export to the UAE has increased by 43% to 8,993 m³, followed by Kuwait 584% to 4,397 m³ and Oman by 32% to 2,101 m³. Similarly, exports to Saudi Arabia and Jordan have increased to 1,702 m³ and 807 m³ from 580 m³ and 21 m³ in the previous month. However, exports to Bahrain and Qatar have reduced by 35% to 827 m³ and 62% to 424 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Syria and Iran did not make

any purchases this month.

Elsewhere, exports to the US and Mauritius have increased by 18% to 2,202 m³ and 55% to 134 m³ respectively. In contrast, exports to Australia have increased by 9% to 2,812 m³, followed by South Africa 45% to 851 m³ and the UK 40% to 211 m³ respectively.

The FOB price of MDF has increased to RM1,379 per m³ from RM1,319 per m³, an increase of 5% from the previous month.

PLYWOOD

Export of plywood in August 2019 both have decreased in volume and value by 6% and 10% to 148,441 m³ totalled RM289.7 million compared to the previous month. Similarly, cumulative export for January to August 2019 showed a decrease in volume by 21% to 1.2 million m³ and in value by 22% worth RM2.4 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Total export of plywood to the EU countries have decreased by 2% to 6,087 m³ for this month. The UK as the main buyer has decreased its intake by 7% to 4,964 m³ followed by Belgium 34% to 86 m³. Contrarily, Denmark has increased its buying by 40% to 522 m³. Meanwhile, France, Ireland and Italy have resumed its intake for this month by 76 m³, 351 m³ and 49 m³ respectively. However, Germany and the Netherlands did not make any purchases this month.

Exports to ASEAN and East Asia region recorded a decrease of 8% to 109,789 m³ compared to the previous month. In East Asia region, Japan as the main importer of Malaysian plywood decreased its intake by 15% to 67,653 m³. Similarly, export to South Korea has decreased by 16% to 15,827 m³. Contrarily, export to Taiwan has increased by 29% to 11,523 m³, followed by China 16% to 1,569 m³ and Hong Kong 28% to 1,472 m³ respectively.

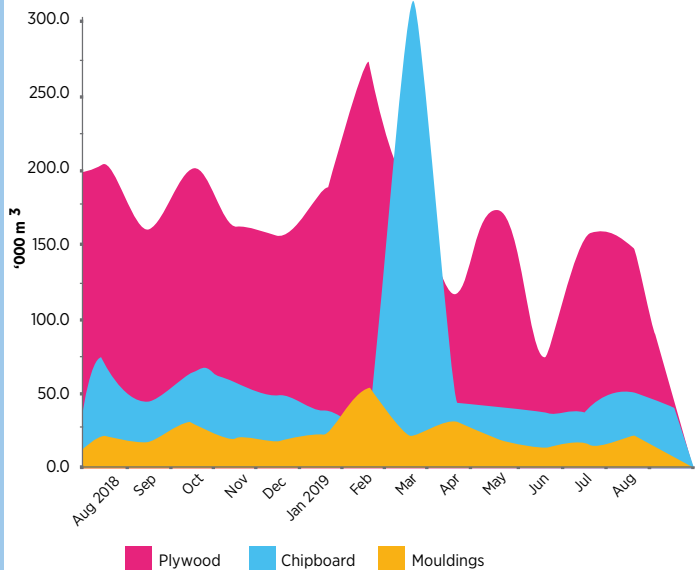
Meanwhile, Malaysia's plywood trade with its ASEAN partners showed mixed trend for this month. Exports to Singapore and Brunei have increased by 13% to 2,221 m³ and 231% to 2,692 m³ respectively. However, exports to Thailand and the Philippines have decreased by 10% to 5,735 m³ and 31% to 588 m³ respectively. Indonesia does not make any purchases this month.

Export to West Asia region recorded an increase of 176% to 13,875 m³ where the biggest buyer for this month, Yemen resumed its intake by 8,726 m³. Similarly, exports to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Kuwait have increased by 16% to 1,066 m³, 61% to 386 m³ and 100% to 386 m³ respectively. In contrast, the UAE has reduced its buying by 16% to 1,803 m³ while Qatar does not make any purchase this month.

Export of plywood to the Americas region has decreased by 31% to 12,675 m³ as compared to the previous month. Our main buyer in the Americas region, the US has reduced its intake of plywood by 40% to 9,725 m³. Contrarily, exports to Mexico and Canada have increased by 23% to 2,413 m³ and 90% to 537 m³ respectively. Moving to Oceania region, both Australia and New Zealand recorded

Malaysia : Export of Plywood, Chipboard and Mouldings

(August 2018-August 2019/Volume ('000m³)



a decrease in its intake of plywood by 15% to 2,896 m³ and 34% to 42 m³ respectively.

Export to South Africa has increased by 113% to 228 m³ compared 107 m³ in the previous month. In meanwhile, Algeria, Mauritius and Turkey did not make any purchases this month.

The FOB price of plywood has decreased by 5% to RM1,952 per m³ from RM2,047 per m³ in the previous month.

MOULDINGS

Export of mouldings for the month increased by 20% in volume and 19% in value to 21,284 m³ and RM85.1 million respectively. However, cumulative exports for the period of January to August 2019 decreased by 0.5% in volume however increased by 3% in value to 161,066 m³ worth RM597.5 million respectively as compared to the previous corresponding period in 2018.

Exports to the EU for the month recorded at 7,574 m³, an increase of 31% compared to the previous month. Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands increased their purchases by 86%, 15% and 15% to 727 m³, 667 m³ and 4,072 m³ respectively. However the UK decreased its purchases by 15% to 452 m³ compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, Italy did not make any purchases.

Exports to ASEAN region increased as Viet Nam increased its purchases by 154% to 1,099 m³. However, export to Singapore decreased by 12% to 788 m³ compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, Indonesia resumed its purchases to 71 m³.

Meanwhile, China, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea increased their intake by 286%, 33%, 30%, and 21% to 220 m³, 222 m³, 1,951 m³ and 1,554 m³ respectively. However, Hong Kong decreased its intake by 10% to 476 m³ compared to the previous month.

AUGUST 2019

LOGS

The supply of logs was reported sufficient to cater the demand in the local markets.

Log prices for the species of Chengal increased by 0.1% to RM4,550 per tonne. Meanwhile, the prices of Balau and Red Balau stood firm at RM3,200 per tonne and RM2,200 per tonne respectively. Similarly, the price for Keruing continued to be traded at RM1,450 per tonne whilst Kempas increased by 1.1% to RM1,920 per tonne. The prices for Dark Red Meranti and Red Meranti remained at RM2,080 per tonne and RM1,800 per tonne respectively. On the other hand, logs prices for Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood remained at RM1,011 per tonne and RM925 per tonne respectively.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Industry reported that the supply of MDF to the domestic market continued to be sufficient whereby positive demand from domestic markets. Prices of the MDF increased slightly by 2.2% to 2.5% on average for the month under review. The MDF of 4 mm, 6 mm, 9 mm and 12 mm of thicknesses were traded at RM13.30, RM16.60, RM22.50 and RM29.35 per piece respectively.

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE * - AUGUST 2019

The shipments of logs from Sabah to Peninsular Malaysia for the month increased slightly by 3% in volume from 1,386 m³ to 1,428 m³ worth at RM476,000. Similarly, trade of sawntimber increased by 21% in volume from 458 m³ to 554 m³ worth at

SAWNTIMBER

The average prices of sawntimber for most of the species in the domestic market continued to firm whilst some of the species experiencing slightly increased.

The sawntimber prices of Chengal increased slightly by 3.1% to RM7,062 per m³ whilst Balau maintained at RM3,453 per m³ respectively. Meanwhile, the prices for Keruing fell by 2.4% to RM1,271 per m³ whilst Kempas increased slightly by 1.9% to RM2,592 per m³ respectively. Similarly, the prices for Dark Red Meranti and Nyatoh increased slightly by 0.3% and 2.2% to RM2,048 per m³ and RM1,660 per m³ over previous month. On the other hand, sawntimber prices of Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood continued to chart at RM1,013 per m³ and RM929 per m³ for this month.

PLYWOOD

The supply of plywood to the domestic market remained adequate for the month under review. The prices of plywood for 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.

RM848,000. Likewise, trade of plywood increased by 36% in volume to 4,191 m³ worth at RM7.8 million.

Trade of sawntimber from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia increased slightly by 11% in volume from 703 m³ to 781 m³ worth at RM1.3 million. Meanwhile, trade of plywood fell by 38% in volume from 3,287 m³ to 2,033 m³ worth at RM3.1 million. Trade of veneer increased slightly by 2% in volume to 2,708 m³ worth at RM3.9 million.

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

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

SPECIES	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m ³			
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS/m ³	
HEAVY HARDWOOD					
Chengal	4,550	7,062	5,473		7,804
Balau	3,200	3,453	3,143		2,860
Red Balau	2,200	2,966	2,684		3,284
Merbau	3,250	4,696	3,884		4,025
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,011	1,013	805		1,024
MEDIUM HARDWOOD					
Keruing	1,450	1,271	1,215		2,203
Kempas	1,920	2,592	2,436		2,825
Kapur	1,690	1,751	1,423		1,766
Mengkulang	1,300	2,048	1,081		2,126
Tualang	1,425	2,507	2,366		2,500
LIGHT HARDWOOD					
Dark Red Meranti	2,080	2,048	1,695		3,001
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	1,700	1,808	1,695		2,048
Nyato	1,325	1,660	1,186		1,306
Sepetir	1,350	1,706	1,003		1,730
Jelutong	1,100	1,780	1,215		1,801
Mixed Light Hardwood	925	929	731		968
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD <i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>					
	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m ³			
		1" X 1"	2" X 2"	3" X 3"	4" X 4"
	158	1,059	1,146	1,295	1,483
PLYWOOD 4' X 8'					
(RM per piece)	4 mm	6 mm	9 mm	12 mm	
	14.60	22.00	38.00	48.00	
MDF 4' X 8'					
(RM per piece)	4 mm	6 mm	9 mm	12 mm	
	13.30	16.60	22.50	29.35	

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

* Prices are only indicative

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE - AUGUST 2019

From	Product	Jul 2019		Aug 2019		% Change in Value Aug 2019/July 2019	% Change in Volume Aug 2019/July 2019
		Vol (m ³)	Val (RM' 000)	Vol (m ³)	Val (RM' 000)		
SABAH	Logs	1,386	462	1,428	476	3	3
	Sawntimber	458	953	554	848	21	-11
	Plywood	3,087	6,183	4,191	7,792	36	26
	Veneer	0	0	0	0	0	0
SARAWAK	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	703	1,039	781	1,263	11	22
	Plywood	3,287	3,993	2,033	3,069	-38	-23
	Veneer	2,664	3,863	2,708	3,866	2	0

Source :- Department Of Statistic, Malaysia

Cont. from page 11

Elsewhere, export to Canada and Australia increased by 172% and 18% to 79 m³ and 3,208 m³ respectively. Similarly, the US decreased its intakes by 14% to 2,309 m³ compared to 2,675 m³ in the previous month.

FOB unit value decreased 1% to RM3,998 per m³ compared to RM4,032 per m³ in the previous month.

VENEER

Export of veneer for August 2019 decreased by 9% in volume and 16% in value to 8,565 m³ at RM 11.6 million as compared to the previous month. Exports to Australia and Taiwan have increased by 122% and 35% to 195 m³ and 4,826 m³ respectively. Similarly, South Korea and Taiwan also have increased its intake of veneer by 52% to 358 m³ and 35% to 4,826 m³ respectively.

Contrarily, exports to China, India and the Philippines have decreased by 61% to 969 m³, 37% to 366 m³ and 29% to 1,191 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Singapore has resumed its intake by 11 m³ for this month. On the other hand, Canada, Italy, Chile and Viet Nam did not make any purchase this month.

The FOB price of veneer for August 2019 was at RM1,354 per m³, a decrease of 7% from RM1,454 per m³ in the previous month.

BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

Total BJC cumulative exports for the period of January to August 2019 decreased 5% to RM662.4 million as compared to RM697.8 million in the corresponding period last year. Export to the EU decreased 17% to RM204.5 million. Export to Turkey, France, Denmark and Italy decreased by 95%, 48%, 32% and 24% to RM65.8 thousand, RM16.3 million, RM13.5 million and RM4.0 million respectively. Similarly, export to the UK, Belgium and the Netherlands also decreased by 16%, 12% and 11% to RM80.2 million, RM31.6 million and RM16.3 million respectively. Meanwhile, export to Sweden and Germany increased by 87% and 23% to RM5.5 million and RM21.0 million respectively.

In Asia, exports to Pakistan, Viet Nam, Singapore and Thailand decreased by 33%, 33%, 14% and 12% to RM1.7 million, RM18.5 million, RM53.2 million and RM13.5 million respectively. However, exports to Qatar improved significantly to RM4.1 million from only RM6.6 thousand in the previous corresponding period. Exports to South Korea, India, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Japan also increase by 74%, 27%, 17%, 10%, 7% and 1% to RM1.0 million, RM25.9 million, RM7.6 million, RM1.3 million, RM4.8 million and RM45.0 million respectively. Meanwhile, Bahrain resumed its purchases for the period.

Exports to Mauritius, the US, Australia and South Africa increased by 629%, 21%, 9% and 1% to RM510.5 thousand, RM89.3 million, RM140.1 million and RM12.3 million respectively. Meanwhile, Reunion Island did not make any purchases.

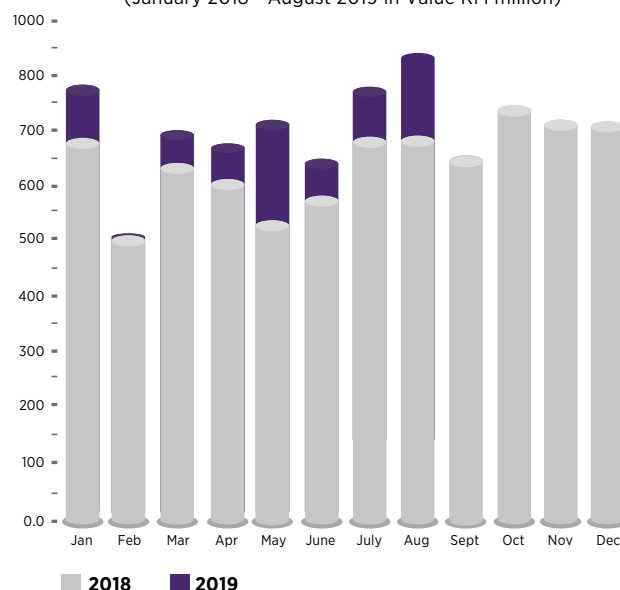
FURNITURE

Export of wooden and rattan furniture for the first eight

AUGUST 2019

Malaysia : Export of Wooden Furniture

(January 2018 - August 2019 in Value RM million)



months of 2019 increased 14% to RM5.6 billion from RM4.95 billion in the previous corresponding period.

Import of wooden furniture by the US increased 31% to RM2.4 billion from RM1.8 billion in the previous corresponding period of 2018. Demand from Canada also increased 19% to RM200.2 million whilst export to Australia declined 11% to RM306.1 million. In Europe, shipment to the UK increased 37% to RM338.5 million followed by Belgium 42% to RM35.4 million and Poland 12% to RM25.8 million. Meanwhile, export to France, Sweden and Spain decreased 6% to RM42.4 million, 8% to RM19.6 million and 3% to RM12.9 million respectively. Purchases by Russia declined as well by 23% to RM15.7 million from RM20.4 million in the previous corresponding period.

In East Asia, China reduced consumption by 11% to RM136.4 million from RM152.4 million in 2018. Export to South Korea also declined 4% to RM61.5 million whilst Japan increased import by 14% to RM389.7 million from RM342.2 million in 2018. Export to India improved 3% to RM149.6 million from RM144.8 million in the previous corresponding period.

In ASEAN region, export to Singapore increased 2% to RM300.5 million followed by the Philippines 13% to RM152.3 million compared to the previous corresponding period. Export to West Asia saw growth as the UAE increased intake by 13% to RM97.3 million followed by Saudi Arabia with 54% to RM124.8 million and Kuwait 7% to RM32.4 million.

Rattan furniture shipments for the period of January to August 2019 decreased 55% to RM1.2 million from RM2.6 million in the previous corresponding period. Export to Australia improved significantly to RM388.7 thousand from only RM29.2 thousand in the previous corresponding period. Export to Singapore increased 87% to RM131.2 thousand whilst export to Japan declined 81% to RM65.6 thousand. The US, American Samoa and China resumed purchases by RM352.6 thousand, RM65.6 thousand and RM5.2 thousand respectively.

Cont. from page 3



VIPs during official opening of the seminar.

Two papers were delivered during the seminar. The first paper entitled From Bamboo into Yarn was presented by Ts. Dr. Mohd Nazrul bin Roslan, Head of Advanced Technology Centre (ATC), UTHM. In his presentation, he highlighted that bamboo could be promoted as future raw material supply for wood and textile products. He stated that the preliminary study on bamboo fibre properties had been carried out. However, there is lack of studies in terms of fibre properties for yarn processing by using mechanical extraction method. The collaboration between MTIB and UTHM is seen as one of the potential way to promote the usage of bamboo in textile industry.

The second paper was delivered by Cik Regina Leong, President of Malaysian Textile and Apparel Centre (MATAAC). MATAAC was established on 10 March 1994 and is a specialised training centre for the textile and apparel industry. During the seminar, she shared the functions and roles of MATAAC as well as the current scenario of global and Malaysian textile industries. At the end of the presentation, she expressed her support

for MTIB and UTHM's collaboration in introducing bamboo fibre as an alternative material in the textile industry.

The seminar was attended by approximately 300 participants comprising representatives from relevant stakeholders such as the timber and textile industry players, researchers, as well as government agencies, academicians and associations.



Attendees during the event.



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Congratulations

ENCIK MOHD KHEIRUDDIN BIN MOHD RANI APPOINTED AS THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MTIB

Effective from 1 September 2019, Encik Mohd Kheiruddin bin Mohd Rani was appointed as the Director-General of MTIB. He succeeded Dato' Dr. Jalaluddin bin Harun, who officially retired from the post on 31 December 2018.

Encik Mohd. Kheiruddin graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from University of Malaya. He has more than 30 years of experience in the timber industry and has been representing Malaysia in various international trade negotiations, International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) forums and other international conferences and seminars. He is currently a Chairperson for Economics, Statistics and Markets (CEM) for the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO).

He began his career in MTIB as an officer at the Domestic Trade Unit from 1986 until 1997. In 1998, he was transferred to the Registration Unit. Later he was promoted to Deputy Director of Strategic Planning Division in 2001 followed by Head of Administration & Finance (2003 – 2008) and Director of Bumiputera Entrepreneur Development (now known as Bumiputera Economic Empowerment Division from 2008 to 2011). He was the Director of Trade Development Division from 2012 until 2 May 2019. On 3 May 2019, he was promoted as Deputy Director-General of MTIB (Development and Commercial).

On behalf of all MTIB management and staff, we would like to congratulate Encik Mohd Kheiruddin for his appointment and look forward for his leadership in MTIB and the Malaysian timber industry at large. 



Encik Mohd Kheiruddin bin Mohd Rani

Congratulations

DATO' DR. MOHD PUAT BIN DAHALAN APPOINTED AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR- GENERAL OF MTIB

Dato' Dr. Mohd Puat bin Dahalan has been appointed as the Deputy Director-General (Management and Operation) of MTIB effective 3 September 2019. Dato' Dr. Mohd. Puat succeeded Puan Hj. Norchahaya Binti Hashim who had retired from government services since 17 June 2019. Prior to his current appointment, he was Selangor State Forestry Director.

Dato' Dr. Mohd Puat obtained his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Environmental Science from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Master of Science (Tropical Forest Resource Management), Bachelor of Forestry Science (Hons) and Diploma in Forestry from Universiti Putra Malaysia. He obtained his Post Graduated Diploma in Business Administration from Swansea Institute of Higher Education (an Associated Institution of the University of Wales, UK).

He has vast experience representing the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia in various international conferences and seminars. He was granted the *Darjah Indera Mahkota Pahang (D.I.M.P)* with the titleship Dato' on 27 January 2018 by His Royal Highness, Sultan of Pahang.

MTIB most welcome Dato' Dr. Mohd Puat as the Deputy Director-General (Management and Operation) of MTIB and is looking forward to work together with him in the next coming years. 



Dato' Dr. Mohd Puat Dahalan

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as well as collaborating and proposing for design projects. Presenting latest collection “BSCL” by four award winning Malaysian designers, a living room set that is sophisticated and to serve an urban lifestyle. Joy Design&studio is furniture design hub that brings intelligent solution for home furnishing needs. The studio aims at introducing better furniture design to the living household by keeping up with current trends with market research.

Acting as a platform for interaction between designers and industry players and to promote the image of Malaysian furniture and catalysing the transition of this sector from Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to Original Design Manufacturer (ODM), and eventually Own Brand Manufacturing (OBM). INDEX provided the opportunity for them to showcase and market their products in the Middle East furniture market.

In this region, classical furniture design is still popular with the local buyers and the contemporary ones are the choice of the expatriate who usually lives in smaller residences compared to the Arabs. Home furniture from China and Turkey is popular amongst UAE nationals and residents as the prices are much lower for sofa sets, bedroom and dining table sets. Retailers mentioned that furniture from Turkey and China is favoured by their customers due to their affordable prices, attractive designs and beautiful colour combinations with alternative usage of raw materials which appealed to youngsters and newly married couples due to their lower purchasing capacity. Furniture from Italy, Spain and France is available in a few retail stores which are considered expensive, meant for high-end market.

Malaysian furniture was visible in some retail outlets in UAE which included the living room and office



At the Malaysian Timber Council's office in Dubai.

furniture. Most Asian expats in UAE continue to buy Malaysian home furniture which are admired for its durability and value for money by their exceptional quality with affordable wide selection to choose from. At the same time, importers here have a good experience in dealing with Malaysian suppliers stating that the after sales service is commendable. During the exhibition, the TANGGAM designers obtained a total sales of RM900,000.00

MTIB was represented by Tuan Hj. Mahpar Atan, Encik Muhd Muzakir Kamaruzaman and representative from the Ministry of Primary Industries, Encik Tee Meng Yong. Representatives of TANGGAM designers from their respective studios were also in attendance; Encik Sujak Hasbollah (Sujak Studio), Encik Hazmi Zakaria and Encik Ezran Zainal (Notch Design Studio Plt), Puan Izyan Syamimi and Encik Lim Bo Qiang (Basicology) and Tuan Sheikh Mohd Azrul and Encik Shazwan Nur Rafiq (Joy Design&studio).



Basicology products.



ANTARA by Notch Design Plt.

FOURTH MEETING ON ISO/TC 296: BAMBOO AND RATTAN



Group photo of participants.

The Fourth Meeting of ISO/TC 296 was held from 2 to 6 September in Manila hosted by National Standardisation Agency of Bureau of Philippines. The objective of this meeting was to advance standard development on bamboo, rattan and derived material that will harmonise in terminology, classifications, specifications, test methods and quality requirement. Malaysia has participated in this meeting annually since it was officially launched on 26 April 2016.

In an opening speech to delegates, Mr. Neil P. Catajay, on behalf of the Bureau of Philippines Standards, stated that the development of the bamboo is a priority sector for Philippines as listed in a strategic resource of the Philippines Development Plan: a strategy for national development up to 2022. He highlighted the development of international standards in bamboo and rattan plays an important role for removing potential barriers to trade and ensuring a higher quality of products. In addition, ISO TC 296 meeting is an excellent platform for bamboo and rattan experts to exchange and transfer of their knowledge.

Speaking on behalf of the Chairperson of ISO/TC 296, Committee Manager Dr. Changhua Fang expressed his satisfaction with the progress of the group so far. At present, a total of eight ISO standards are at different stage of development by the respective Working Groups (WG) meetings which comprises WG 1 on Terminology of Bamboo Products (ISO/TC 296/WG 1); WG 2 on Bamboo Flooring (ISO/

TC 296/WG 2); WG 3 on Bamboo Charcoal (ISO/TC 296/WG 3); WG 4 on Rattan (ISO/TC 296/WG 4); and WG 5 on Engineered Bamboo for General Purposes (ISO/TC 296/WG 5).

The meeting was attended by 90 delegates from 12 countries namely China, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines and Uganda. Malaysia was represented by six delegates as follows:

- Dr. Wan Tarmeze Wan Ariffin – Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) as Head of Delegation
- Encik Mohd Hariz Husni – MTIB
- Dr. Mohd Khairun Anwar Uyup – FRIM
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Ariff Jamaludin – Universiti Teknologi MARA
- Encik Johari Bin Zainuddin – Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC)
- Tuan Hj.Hamzah Hj. Mohd Morshidi – STIDC



Malaysia delegates at the meeting.

TECHNICAL TRAINING ON LABORATORY TESTING - BANGOR BIOCOMPOSITE CENTRE

In conjunction with the expanding of several areas of chemical testing scope under ISO/IEC 17025 and to further improve the competency of laboratory personnel and signatory personnel according to MS ISO/IEC 17025, a training programme was held in Biocomposite Centre, University of Bangor, United Kingdom from 19 to 30 August.

The Biocomposite Centre is a research, development and testing institute for wood and biocomposite industry in the United Kingdom. They are actively involve in developing wood products and biocomposites based on standards, especially British Standard (BS) and ISO standards. The institute is equipped with facilities to assist the industry in the development of panel products biocomposites and provide mechanicals, chemicals and volatile of compound (VOC) testing services.

The training programme was administered by Dr. Rob Elias, Dr. Graham Ormondroyd, Dr Morwenna Spear and Dr Simon Curling who have more than 20 years of experience in fibre and biocomposites, new product development and applications with the wood-based industry. The scope of the training included lectures, practical and industry visits. Practical hands-on activities on chemical testing based on BS, American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and ISO standard were also conducted. During the training, the lecturers shared critical problems faced during testing of products. In addition, information and experience sharing through case study from the testing lab were also indicated.

The summary of training programmes that the participants have learned for the chemical testing are listed as follows :

- Health and safety issues;
- Extractives and effects on gluing;
- Indoor air quality in the EU policy, resin properties, impacts on emissions volatile organic compound



Presentation and discussion on experimental result.

- (VOC) release and build environment;
- Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC)/ Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), characterisation and VOC Micro-Chamber based on ISO 16000 Standard;
- Chemical composition based on TAPPI Standard;
- Formaldehyde release (perforator method) EN 120/ ISO 12460-5;
- Methods analysis and wood extractives effect on resin and adhesion;
- Water interactions with fibre surface; and
- Dynamic vapour sorption (DVS).

The participants were also allowed to visit a factory that manufactures equipments of VOC and hazard gas monitoring systems. They were able to see the latest technologies development in the UK such as fixed gas detection instruments for formaldehyde and other toxic gases in any indoor environments, including hospitals, laboratories, offices, public buildings, schools and colleges, recreational areas, hotels, homes and apartments, restaurants and bars, museums & art galleries and industrial plants.

The training was attended by Dr. Yeoh Beng Hoong, Puan Norjihan A. Bakar and Puan Hairani Mohd Noh from FIDEC.



Hands-on training.

PROMOTING MALAYSIAN DESIGN IN SOUTH KOREA'S FURNITURE MARKET



Group photo with Puan Norhaliza Yunos, MATRADE Trade Commissioner in Seoul.

South Korea's largest furniture exhibition, '2019 Korea International Furniture and Interior Exhibition (KOFURN)', has been held at KINTEX, Seoul from 29 August to 1 September. KOFURN 2019 commemorated its 30th edition since the fair was first organised in 1981. The fair consisted of 394 companies with 1,948 booths participated by various local SME companies and international companies such as Downing and Dax Furniture from United Kingdom, Emmons from USA, Turkey and ASEAN member countries. This fair showcased various furniture and other related industrial products such as home, office, children, design furniture, interior accessories, woodworking machinery, raw and subsidiary materials. KOFURN 2019 was organised by the Korean Federation of Furniture Industry Cooperative (KKFIC).

Recognising the immense potential held by the

furniture industry in ASEAN members, the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) organised the ASEAN Pavilion in KOFURN 2019. The ASEAN Pavilion exhibited furniture and interior decorative items by 84 companies from eight ASEAN member states namely Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Through MATRADE and MTIB, 10 Malaysian furniture companies were invited to be part of this prestigious fair. The invited Malaysian companies were BSL Furniture Sdn. Bhd., CF Fantastic Industries Sdn. Bhd., Creative Carpentry (M) Sdn. Bhd., Hup Chong Furniture Sdn. Bhd., IB Sofa Sdn. Bhd., Meranti Marshal Sdn. Bhd., Mobilia International Sdn. Bhd., SF Furniture Sdn. Bhd., TMH Furniture Sdn. Bhd. and Wegmans Furniture Industries Sdn. Bhd. The ASEAN Korean Centre is an international organisation established in March 2009 to increase trade, accelerate investment flow, invigorate tourism and enrich cultural exchanges between ASEAN Member States and South Korea.

From observation, the South Korean market was captivated by the minimalist yet modern concept of furniture and household items. Wooden furniture with natural finishing that require minimum space also garnered high attention amongst Korean buyers. During the fair, 72 business meetings comprising 24 Korean buyers were arranged with the Malaysian companies at the Malaysia Pavilion. Subsequently, the Malaysia Pavilion had gained RM1.43 million of actual and potential sale. MTIB was represented by Puan Norhaizurah Zulkarnain from Trade Development.



Among the products displayed at Malaysia Pavilion.

STRUCTURAL BAMBOO ANOTHER FOCUS AREA UNDER ISO/TC 165:TIMBER STRUCTURES



ISO/TC165:Timber Structures is one of the important committees involved in the development of ISO Standards at ISO level where at present Malaysia is a P member under this committee. The number of current status of ISO /TC 165 are as follows:

- Standards and technical reports currently under development : 13
- New or preliminary work items approved in the last year : 9
- Standards published in 2018 : 6
- Total number of standards and technical reports published under ISO/TC165 : 49

As a follow-up from the previous meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey, the 33rd ISO/TC 165 Timber Structures meeting was held from 23 to 26 September in Bogota, Colombia and it was hosted by the Colombian Institute of Technical Standards and Certification (ICONTEC), International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR,) Refocosta, Rothoblaas Colombia and Basebahay. A total of 28 resolutions of the ISO/TC 165 were concluded during the plenary meeting including the WG reorganisation

and dissolution of WG6 . The TC discussed the reorganisation and dissolution of WG's under ISO TC 165 based on the following observations:

- WG 2 and WG 7 have been active and are expected to remain active and relevant in the future and WG 12 is expected to be active with increased interest in using bamboo for structural applications.
- The scopes of WG 6 and WG 11 are narrow, and these WG's are less active compared with WG 2 and WG 7. However, they address sawntimber and glued joints, respectively, which are important elements in timber structures.
- Although WG10 has been active but the narrow scope will restrict its activities in the future. Based on these observations and the recommendations of the Chairman Advisory Committee (CAG) and the TC discussions, it was recommended that the WG structure be revised as shown in the following table :

NEW WG STRUCTURE OF ISO TC 165

Group	Title	Recommendation	Scope in New Structure	Proposed Convenor
WG 2	Requirements for structural glued laminated elements	Revise title to: 'Structural glued wood products'	Product standards for glued Engineered Wood Products (EWP): finger jointed lumber, glulam, Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL), I-beam, Cross Laminated Timber (CLT), evaluation procedures for structural adhesives	B. J. Yeh
WG 6	Glued joints for timber structures	Disbanded, and scope covered under the revised WG 2		
WG 7	Connections and assemblies	Maintain its current title and scope	Test methods for mechanical joints and assemblies	To be discussed
WG 10	Evaluation of characteristic values for structural timber products	Revise title to: 'Characteristic properties and design specifications'	Derivation of characteristic properties, design values and design methods for components and connections	Geoff Boughton

WG 11	Classifications for solid timber	Revise title to: 'Solid and mechanically laminated timber products'	Production and grading of Sawntimber, non-glued laminated timber products	Kevin Cheung
WG 12	Structural use of bamboo	No change	Structural design, test methods, grading and production requirements	Kewei Liu



Group photo of participants.



Application of bamboo roof truss at the club house in Bogota.

Besides WGs and plenary meeting, there was also a presentation by ISO Technical Programme Manager (TPM), Dr. Anna Caterina Rossi on the development process of an ISO project. The TPM also gave training to the delegates on accessing documents from the ISO website, posting topics on the ISO Forum for WG's, and gave an update on ISO Directives as well as reported on ISO's Sustainable Goals and the ISO Code of Conduct.

In addition to the meeting, a technical tour was organised to observe the application of Guadua natural subtropic bamboo structures in Bogota such as for pedestrian bridge, guard house as well as club house outside Bogota. At present few low-cost houses project in Bogota also used bamboo as water down pipes and trusses.

The meeting was attended by 29 delegates from 14 countries such as Australia, Canada, Colombia, Ghana, Japan, Malaysia and USA as well as representatives from ISO and Association Française de Normalisation (AFNOR). It is important for

Malaysia to continuously participate in the meeting since Malaysia is one of the major producers of tropical hardwood timbers which have great potentials as structurers and the data gathered through various R&D projects being carried out by MTIB will be part of the country's inputs required under ISO/TC 165.

Since bamboo is another focussed alternative material by Malaysian industry, concerted efforts could be made including in the R&D&C for the development of standards for bamboo structures using tropical bamboo as discussed under WG 12 which is currently lead by China. ISO TC165 decides to hold the 34th meeting of ISO TC 165 in Chengdu, China from 21 to 24 September 2020.

Malaysia was represented by Encik Shahrul Mat Tahir (Department of Standards Malaysia) as the Malaysian Head of Delegation, Puan Hjh. Mahsuri Mat Dris (MTIB) and Prof. Dr. Zakiah Ahmad (UiTM).

NGILAS-

SUITABLE FOR FLOORING

INTRODUCTION

The Standard Malaysian Name, which is of Sarawakian origin, for the timber of *Parastemon* spp. (*Chrysobalanaceae*). The ASEAN Standard Name for the timber, which is of Indonesian origin, is Malas. Vernacular names applied include Mmendailas (Sabah) and Nyalas (Peninsular Malaysia). Major species include *P. grandifructus* and *P. urophyllus*. The sapwood is light purple-brown when fresh, becoming grey-brown to light red-brown on exposure and is not sharply differentiated from the heartwood, which is purple brown when fresh, becoming brown with a light purple or red tinge when dry. Also known as Malas (Indonesia).

Strength Group

Medium Hardwood

Botanical Description

It is a tree up to 40 m tall, often with small buttresses. The bole is cylindrical, branchless for 20 m, from 70 cm up to 180 cm in diameter.

Distribution

Found in lowland, swamps and secondary forest.

Texture

Moderately coarse and even. On tangential surface appear some watered-silk figure and on radial



Wood colour and texture.



Ngilas tree

surface appear some ribbon figure.

Grain

Straight or slightly interlocked

Growth Ring

Indistinct and sometimes visible by fewer vessels but less parenchyma.

Vessel

Medium-sized, mostly solitary with tendency to arrange obliquely. Tyloses abundant and deposit is absent.

Wood Parenchyma

Wood parenchyma is abundant, apotracheal in narrow bands and distinct to naked eyes

Physical Properties

*Air Dry Density	915 – 1015 kg/m ³
Shrinkage Radial	2.7%
Shrinkage Tangential	4.8%
Seasoning	Difficult to dry, may cause end check and surface check
Recommended Kiln Schedule	D

**Air Drying - The timber seasons fairly rapidly with slight cupping, bowing, splitting and a moderate amount of end-checking as the main sources of degrade. Thick boards of 13 mm take two months to air dry, while 38 mm thick boards take four months.*

Machining Properties

It is very difficult to resaw and cross-cut and is generally slightly difficult to work and plane. The surface produced, however, is smooth.

Strength Group	SG 2
Static Bending MOE	17,540 N/mm ²
Static Bending MOR	93.5 N/mm ²
Perpendicular to Grain	n.a
Parallel to Grain	48 N/mm ²
Shear Strength	14 N/mm ²

Durability

Moderately durable

Treatability

Moderately difficult

Uses

Uses for medium to heavy construction if protected. It also can be used for flooring, fence post, laboratory benches, bridges, ship and buildings, salt-water piling, railway sleepers, sporting goods

and agriculture implements. It also yield a very good quality charcoal.

References:

- <http://www.tropicaltimber.info/specie/malas-parastemon-urophyllus/>
- Burgess, H. J. 1958. *Strength Grouping of Malaysian Timbers*. Malayan Forest Service Trade Leaflet No.25. The Malaysian Timber Industry Board and Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur. 15 pp.
- Wong, T. M. 1982. *A Dictionary of Malaysian Timbers*. Revised by Lim, S. C. & Chung, R. C. K. Malayan Forest Record No. 30. Forest Research Institute Malaysia Kuala Lumpur. 201 pp.
- (Photo of Nyilas Padang, Sarawak) <https://www.flickr.com/photos/berniedup/15146650153/in/photostream/>



Resak Vatica spp.

Malaysian Wood
Standing on Excellence

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

CTCS WORLDWIDE SDN. BHD. : TIMBER WITH CONFIDENCE

COMPANY BACKGROUND

CTCS Worldwide Sdn. Bhd. (CWSB) is a subsidiary company wholly owned by MTIB and was incorporated on 23 January 2019. The company was established as a result of the success story from the Certified Timber and Credible Suppliers (CTCS) Programme which has been in operation from 2013 to 2019 aimed at promoting the use of certified timber in building and construction industry.

CWSB's principal business is a project management company, to champion SME's entrepreneurs to secure opportunities and penetrate domestic and export project markets at the private, Government-Linked Company (GLC) and government levels offering value proposition encompassing strategic marketing, branding, design, capacity building and product quality control and competitive pricing to ensure that they are more credible, competitive and sustainable.

The Chief Executive Officer of CWSB is Tuan Hj. Ahmad Shah Mohamad currently leading its seven staffs.

VISION AND MISSION OF CTCS WORLDWIDE SDN. BHD.

Vision-To be a sustainable and proactive organisation by providing competitive edge for Bumiputera and SME Vendors.

Mission - To promote and empower the use of timber and timber products in the construction industry in Malaysia.

CWSB BUSINESS STRATEGY AND CONCEPT

- **Structured and Sustainable Business Approach**
Marketing and addressing industry needs professionally, dynamically and innovatively;
- **Sustainable and Competitive**
Supporting SME Entrepreneurs in domestic and export market in marketing and sales; and
- **Capitalising on Opportunities**
Procuring projects in private , GLC's and government sectors.



*Tuan Hj. Ahmad Shah Mohamad,
CEO of CWSB*

ACTIVITIES OF CWSB

Business Enhancement and Market Outreach Programme 2019 (BEMORE'19)

This programme aimed at supporting the development of vendor/entrepreneur in interior design industry and timber-based product manufacturing. The programme creates jobs and contracts opportunities for the SMEs and at the same time nurture the SME at an enterprise level to move up the business chain and enlarge the capital market.

- **Johor Wood and Lifestyle Fair**
BEMORE 2019 kicked start in July 2019 in Johor Wood and Lifestyle Fair from 1 to 4 August 2019 in Johor Bahru. A mixture of products designed by CWSB and vendor's products with industrial concepts were displayed which included coffee table, sofa, dining table, chairs, TV Console, shelves, kitchen cabinet, wardrobe, dresser and bookshelf.
- **Perak Wood and Lifestyle Fair**
Perak Wood and Lifestyle Fair exhibited from 28 August to 1 September 2019 in Ipoh, Perak. CWSB's range of products received positive response and inquiries from the visitors.
- **Pahang Wood and Lifestyle Fair**
Pahang Wood and Lifestyle Fair took place from 21 to 29 September 2019 in Kuantan, Pahang. During the exhibition, CWSB received various inquiries regarding the interior design concept displayed at the booth.



CWSB booth showcasing multiple range of products with industrial concept.



KASSA dining table by Meranti Furniture Sdn. Bhd. displayed at CWSB booth during the Johor Wood and Lifestyle Fair.



Briefing to students on CWSB's products during the Perak Wood and Lifestyle Fair.



CWSB's booth in the Pahang Wood and Lifestyle Fair.

Apart from BEMORE'19, CWSB is actively engaging with various developers and agencies to secure construction and housing projects, offering selection of focus products as indicated above.

Moving forward, CWSB will enhance its role, and to be sustainable whilst enhancing SME's business development while reach its objective to provide the competitive edge for SMEs' to market their products and in project markets, domestic and exports.

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURNITURE EXPORTS TO SAUDI ARABIA

Introduction

The Saudi Arabia furniture sector is positively influenced by the continuously development of new housing units, which partially has to do by the young and growing population. It is estimated that 1.65 million homes need to be built over the next five years. The government has met this challenge by allocating USD66.7 billion for the construction of 500,000 housing units.

Market Trend

Based on report from Research and Markets, it is anticipated that the demand in the furniture industry of the Kingdom will grow at a CAGR of around 11% during 2018-2022. Growing population, increased urbanisation, strong demand for housing and rising income, support the market for sales of residential furniture, which is estimated to be USD1.7 billion and expected to rise 10% annually until 2020.

Commercial furniture sales were estimated to be USD216 million last year, with office furniture growth driven by:

- Government sector launching major projects in almost all government ministries and commissions;
- Semi-government agencies that invested in new projects all over Saudi Arabia;

- Private sector new entities and expansion of existing ones that benefited from the economic growth; and
- Continuous government spending although with slower pace than the last five years due to instability of oil prices.

Saudi Arabia imports about 70% of its annual furniture requirements. This is not surprising since there is lack of local source of raw materials such as wood and fabric as well as equipment and skill labor for the industry. Many of the locally produced wood furniture are made from imported wood. It is therefore, more profitable to import ready-made-furniture and sell it to the market instead of manufacturing it.

Conclusion

Malaysian companies specialising in household furniture, office furniture, and specialised furniture (such as schools, hospitals and airport furniture) should consider expanding their business to Saudi Arabia as demand is expected to surge way beyond current supply.

For any enquiry, please contact MATRADE Jeddah at jeddah@matrade.gov.my

Note : This article was contributed by MATRADE.

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.





NATIONAL CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR PLYWOOD

The Product Certification Scheme for plywood is operated by the MTIB Certification Body (MTIB CB) which started in 2012. The scheme is essentially voluntary in nature, which determines conformity with product standards through initial testing and assessment of a Factory Quality Management System. It is followed by Surveillance that takes into account the Factory Quality Management System and the testing samples.

**Products Certification -
Towards Widen Market
Access and Trade
Facilitation**

We committed:

- To provide services to our customers consistently, efficiently and professionally
- To conform customers' needs and to all product certification requirements



Further enquiries or information kindly contact:

Product Certification Unit
Director-General Office
Malaysian Timber Industry Board
Level 13-17, Menara PGRM, No.8, Jalan Pudu Ulu, Cheras
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Tel: 603-9282 2235
Fax: 603-92003769/ 92846214
website: www.mtib.gov.my



TIMBER VERIFICATION SERVICES

Timber has always been a preferred material in homes and other buildings as it creates warmth and coziness, and also highlighting elegance. While it is widely used in developed countries, Malaysian consumers tend to avoid timber based on perceived quality and maintenance problems.

Defects such as splitting, delamination, decay and insect attacks can be easily avoided if the right quality and correct specification of timber is selected and used from the outset.

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) offers timber verification services that can assist you to ensure the timber you choose is of the right quality and correct specification for its intended usage and application. The services include timber grading, identification of species, determination of moisture content, determination of preservatives and other services.

You can be rest assured that your products meet quality standards and hence extend the lifespan with minimal maintenance cost if it is verified to specification.



Services

1. Timber Grading
2. Identification of Species
3. Determination of Moisture Content
4. Determination of Preservative

For more information and enquiries:

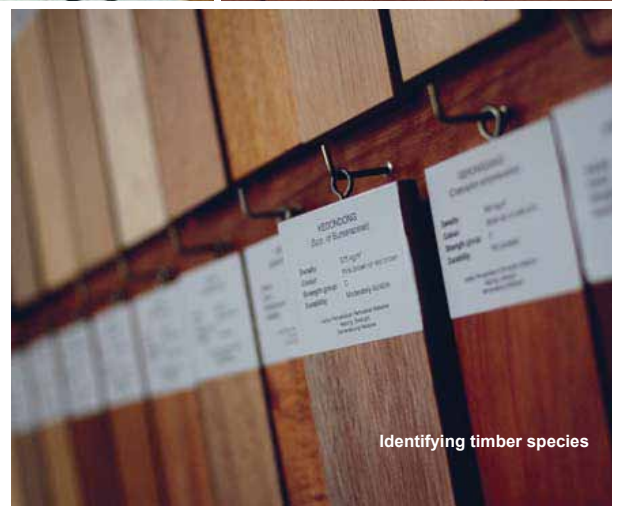
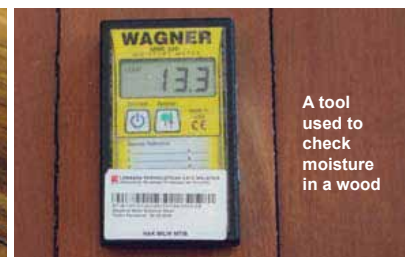


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CONFERENCE ON ENGINEERED TIMBER PRODUCTS

Innovatek is a company which specialises in connecting and supporting businesses, organised a one-day conference in Auckland, New Zealand on 3 September. The objective of this event is to grow the capability and use of wood in commercial and multi-residential buildings.

In recent years, there is a growing use of engineered timber products such as glue-laminated timber (glulam), laminated veneer lumber (LVL) and cross-laminated timber (CLT). Developers worldwide are capitalising on these innovated timber products particularly in new commercial buildings. Microsoft's latest building in the Silicon Valley, USA is one example.

Engineered timber products offer high-performance and dimensionally stable options for building project, whether large or small, residential or commercial. It allows prefabricating of large wood members' particular for wall, floor and roof construction. The product enable the design and construction of taller wood buildings as high as 18-storey. It also offers design versatility for architects thus, contributing to the wide range and variety of opportunities for the wood products.

The conference highlighted how the CLT timbers are reshaping the construction industry in Australasia, USA, Canada and Europe. Conference speakers also shared their experience and lesson learned when using engineered timbers at building site. In order to have an orderly development in the use of these new materials, products manufacturers are working hand-in-hand with the construction industry.

The papers presented were as follows:

- Lessons Learned from the Building Site - Key Aspects of Mass Timber Designs that Deliver the Best Results for Clients by Mr. Ralph Austin from Seagate Mass Timber;
- Practical Perspectives on Challenges and Opportunities for Mass Timber in Commercial Construction and How CLT Manufacturers are Meeting Building Code Challenges by Mr. Gary Caulfield and Mr Nick Milestone from TRADA;
- LVL Case Study : Design and Site-specific Challenges in the Beatrice Tinsley Building Project by Mr. Andre Kirstein from Beca;

- Case Study : Lessons Learnt and Processes for Improvement for CLT Emergency Housing Builds by Mr. Alastair Miles of Miles Construction, Mr. Julian Addington of Engco and Mr. Bernie O'Fagan of RM Designs;
- Lendlease Approach to Mass Timber Building: Case Study - Kambri Redevelopment, Canberra by Mr. Andrew Smith from Lendlease;
- Futurebuild LVL Case Study - Botany Toyota Dealership and Workshop by Mr. Alistair Scott of Woodhams Meikle Zhan Architects, Mr. Rohan Pollard of Blueprint Consulting Engineers and Mr. Andrew Hewitt of Timberlab Solutions;
- Case Study : How CLT is Reshaping the Australian Construction Industry and Making Us Think Differently About Building Projects by Mr. Rob De Brincat from Atelier Projects;
- Moisture Management of Mass Timber Buildings by Mr. Shawn McIsaac from Oculus Architectural Engineering; and
- Prefabricated Engineered Wood Products and Building Regulation: Practical and Tactical Legal Issues by Ms. Louise Swann from The Building Business.

The conference brought together the leaders in engineered wood design as well as construction players particularly in New Zealand. With the various case study highlighted during the event, it is hoped that the participants are able to learn on the advantages of using engineered wood products.

In New Zealand, there is an initiative to build two exemplar buildings using the engineered timber products. The first one is a six-storey residential apartment building at Clearwater, Christchurch and a second building for offices in the North Island of New Zealand. A new CLT manufacturing plant is also under construction in Rotorua to cater for the anticipated high demand of the product in New Zealand.

A total of 113 participants registered for this event. Among those attended include specifiers, engineers, architects, quantity surveyors, developers, technical directors, project managers and company managers. Dr. Singaram from Industry Development of MTIB attended this conference.



Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani (right) receiving a letter of appointment as the Director-General of MTIB from YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries. (19 September 2019 at MPI, Putrajaya).



Encik Ravi Muthayah, Deputy Secretary-General (Commodities) of MPI (second from right) viewing the bamboo products during PECIPTA 2019. (20-24 September 2019 at UTHM, Batu Pahat, Johor).



Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, MTIB Director-General and on his left, Dato' Dr. Mohd Puat Dahalan, MTIB Deputy Director-General (Management and Operation) visiting one of the exhibitor's booth during Kelantan Wood and Lifestyle Fair. (27-29 September 2019 in Kota Bharu).



MTIB officials attended a workshop on SME and Career Competency Profile. (19-20 September 2019 in Kuala Lumpur).



MTIB personnel attended a course on eMall's System Operation. (11-12 September 2019, MTIB Kuala Lumpur).



A briefing and pre screening exercises on the Application of Foreign Workers in the Furniture Sector organised by MITI, Malaysia. (17 September 2019 in Muar, Johor).