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CELEBRATION OF WORLD BAMBOO DAY 2019

TANGGAM's LABEL :

LAUNCHING NEWEST BRAND "ANTARA" AT RIX 2019

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***Cover** :*

World Bamboo Day 2019 was launched by YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries in Ipoh, Perak. More details on pages 3 and 7.

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CELEBRATION OF WORLD BAMBOO DAY 2019

news

World Bamboo Day (WBD) is celebrated annually all over the world to increase the awareness of bamboo and to highlight its benefits to the environment, the Malaysian economic and community. It acts as a platform for networking, to disseminate findings and research outputs as well as to create awareness to the public.

World Bamboo Day 2019 was celebrated in Ipoh, Perak from 12 to 13 October. The two-day programme was organised by MTIB in collaboration with the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and the Malaysian Bamboo Society (MBS).

WBD 2019 was launched by YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries in the presence of YAB Dato' Seri Ahmad Faizal Bin Dato' Azumu, Menteri Besar of Perak on 13 October in Ipoh. In her speech, YB Puan Teresa mentioned that, in Malaysia, MTIB has been the main organiser for WBD since 2012 and has taken the lead in developing and empowering the nation's bamboo industries. Realising the potential of bamboo in contributing to the national income, the Bamboo Industry Action Plan was initiated in 2011 by MTIB with five main strategic thrusts; Bamboo Plantation Establishment, Human Resources and Capital Development, Value-added Products Development, Research and Development, and Marketing, Trade and Promotion. There is a need for the Malaysian bamboo industry to make the radical move to produce higher value-added products through innovation and technology.

Winners of Essay Writing Contest.

Attendees at the event.

In addition, she also highlighted that MTIB statistics in 2018 showed that Malaysia bamboo products export was RM9.9 million (USD2.4 million) with the import value of RM96.1 million (USD23.3 million). Comparing with the global market of USD68.8 billion in 2018, and the China export of USD5.5 billion, Malaysia are still behind in the world map, but it is not too late to move forward. She added that Malaysia is capable to earn more export from bamboo products if bamboo is treated as a commodity like other commodities including oil palm, rubber, timber, pepper, kenaf and cocoa.

Meanwhile, representative from MBS stated that bamboo should not be neglected in any way. It has a potential in balancing the ecosystem, generating the economy and contributing to the livelihood of the rural community. Bamboo products and services including resorts, textile, food, charcoal, laminated board, furniture, crafts, seed and plantation can be further economically enhanced. The community, industry and government should work together and it is imperative for the decision maker to apply integrative and multidimensional strategic approach to leverage bamboo industry in Malaysia.

The mini exhibiton in WBD 2019 were participated by nine exhibitors comprising Dwisha Craft Sdn. Bhd., Pusat Inkubator Negeri Sembilan, Forest

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INDONESIA

Major Effort to Capture Market Share in the US

The Indonesian President recently met with timber industry representatives to discuss how to take advantage of the US/China trade friction specifically on how to push Indonesian furniture exports to the US. The government has introduced incentives such as the value-added tax exemption for logs and a partial relaxation of the timber legality assurance system (SVLK) for exports to countries where SVLK certification is not mandatory.

Indonesia's exports of wood products were worth USD2.2 billion in the first seven months of this year down around 14% year-on-year. On the other hand furniture exports rose 9.4% to USD1.12 billion in the first seven months of this year.

The Chairman of the Association of Indonesian Forest Concessionaires (APHI) Indroyono Soesilo, said value-added tax exemption for log (currently at 10%) is good news for the domestic downstream wood industry.

But serious hurdles are yet to be overcome one of which is the high cost transportation and logistics according to the Director General of Small, Medium and Miscellaneous Industries of the Ministry of Industry, Gati Wibawaningsih. She pointed out that compared to China and Viet Nam, Indonesian exporters face very high logistic costs which undermines competitiveness.

www.fordaq.com, 3 October

MYANMAR

First Timber Legality Certificate Issued

The Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC) has announced that the first MTLAS Legality Certificate has been issued providing details on the shipper, the type of products and species among other details.

Barber Cho, Secretary of MFCC, said getting to this point was the result of two-years of hardwork. Cho continued saying that the MFCC has built a reliable MTLAS with limited resources.

Over the past two years the Certification Committee and supporters compiled the certification standard and provided auditors training for certification bodies. Currently the MFCC recognises three certification bodies and will soon announce approval of others.

The major challenge going forward is accreditation in Myanmar. The Department of Research and Innovation (DRI) under Ministry of Education is currently the official Accreditation Body but the DRI is not yet a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

The IAF is the world association of Conformity Assessment Accreditation Bodies and other bodies interested in conformity assessment in the fields of management systems, products, services, personnel and other similar programmes of conformity assessment.

Because the DRI is not accredited to IAF it has little international standing in the accreditation of Myanmar's certification bodies. As an interim measure, MFCC has assumed the role of accreditation body but it is the priority of the MFCC to solve this accreditation issue as soon as possible.

With the issuance of the first MTLAS legality certificate, Cho, on behalf of the MFCC, put on record the gratitude to PEFC which provided assistance in the development of the legality certification process in Myanmar. The MTLAS process began in 2009 and the PEFC began to provide assistance in 2017/18 for which everyone in Myanmar is grateful.

The MTLAS is a uniquely Myanmar effort but has built upon the experiences of other countries and the PEFC expertise in building capacity in the MFCC, training auditors and introducing the PEFC chain of custody system. The MFCC looks forward to further cooperation with the PEFC to strengthen and promote Myanmar's forestry and wood products sectors.

The MFCC anticipates that as soon as the accreditation issue is resolved the MTLAS certificates will benefit importers in the EU in meeting the due diligence requirements of the EUTR. Cho said he is well aware that there is much to do to overcome the concerns on allegations of corruption in Myanmar, on improving transparency and a host of other domestic issues of concern to the international community.

www.fordaq.com, October

CHINA-RUSSIA
Timber Processing Centre Established

A China-Russia timber processing and trading centre was recently established in Suifenhe City, Heilongjiang Province. The centre occupies an area of 380,000 sqm and cost around RMB600 million.

The aim is for the Centre to be an industrial cluster for the itmber industry and become a timber distribution centre bringing together e-commerce, supply chain finance, logistics, cross-border trade as well as production and processing.

It is estimated that the total annual log volumes required for enterprises in the Centre will be around 2 million m^3 and the value of imports will be as much as RMB2.2 billion.

www.fordaq.com, 21 October

CHINA-ITALY
Cooperation in High Tech Processing

A cooperation agreement was recently signed between Lanshan District government in Linyi city of Shandong Province and the Italian IMAL & PAL Group. The focus of the agreement is on wood machinery R&D to drive technological updating of the wood industry in Lanshan District.

The two parties agree to establish a strategic cooperation partnership to enhance transformation and upgrading of medium and small scale panel processing mills and to jointly establish a China-Italy Wood Machinery Scientific Innovation Centre.

Lanshan District is the largest panel production base in China accounting for 30% of the national panel output with more than 3,200 wood-based enterprises. Annual production is of more than 20 million m^3 of wood products and exports amount to around 1.5 million m^3 of wood products mainly to Europe and the US.

Italian IMAL & PAL Group and its Chinese partner will work together to build a major high-end panel distribution facility.

www.fordaq.com, 9 October

INDIA
Plywood Markets in India

Imports of competitively priced plywood manufactured in China continue to rise as mills in China seek alternative markets for plywood which previously went to the US. Indian mills that rely on log imports for plywood manufacturing have begun to look for alternative sources shunning Malaysia because of comments made by Malaysia's Prime Minister. Analysts say local mills are looking to other South East Asian suppliers for logs.

On the business front, in an interview with the Indian press Keshav Bhajanka, Executive Director of Century Ply said his company is anticipating double-digit growth this fiscal year. He said the MDF and particleboard sectors of the business have been doing well and that the new MDF plant in Hoshiarpur is now operational. Bhajanka commented that demand for wood based panels will depend on an improvement in the real estate sector.

Analysts note that, until recently, the Indian plywood industry was dependent on Myanmar, Indonesia and Lao PDR for its face veneer requirements but that today the industry is turning to African shippers.

www.globalwood.org, 16-31 October

EUROPEAN UNION
Sharp Rise in Tropical Mouldings Import

The EU imports of tropical mouldings (which includes both interior mouldings and exterior decking products) increased sharply, by 26%, to 114,100 MT in the first half of 2019. Import value increased 37% to EUR 173.5 million.

The EU imports of tropical mouldings increased from all the leading suppliers of this commodity in the first half

of 2019 including Brazil (+28% to 48,200 MT), Indonesia (+19% to 37,600 MT), Peru (+27% to 6,700 MT), Malaysia (+23% to 6,900 MT), Gabon (+85% to 4,200 MT) and Bolivia (+55% to 4,200 MT).

Although most of the Brazilian hardwood mouldings product imported into the EU is likely to consist of tropical hardwood, a proportion will be "lyptus", comprising plantation grown Eucalyptus, which some European importers are known to stock and to offer as a PEFC certified product.

In the first half of 2019, imports of tropical mouldings increased in all the leading EU markets including France (+37% to 36,500 MT), Germany (+9% to 20,800 MT), Netherlands (+51% to 19,400 MT), Belgium (+1% to 16,000 MT), the UK (+56% to 6,900 MT), and Italy (+20% to 4,900 MT).

www.fordaq.com, 9 October

EUROPEAN UNION

Imports of Tropical Plywood Made in China Continue Increase

The EU imports of tropical plywood products were 174,200 metric tonne (MT) in the first half of 2019, 8% more than the same period last year. Import value increased 14% to EUR154.4 million.

A large and growing proportion of the plywood faced with tropical hardwood imported into the EU is manufactured in China. The EU imported 76,100 MT of this product from China in the first half of 2019, 39% more than during the same period in 2018.

Imports also increased from Gabon, by 9% to 7,400 MT, Viet Nam, by 3% to 6,100 MT, and Brazil, by 9% to 6,000 MT. These gains offset a 4% fall in imports from Indonesia, to 46,300 MT, and 32% fall from Malaysia, to 19,700 MT.

The EU imports of tropical hardwood plywood during 2019 are being strongly influenced by market issues elsewhere in the world, notably the US-China trade dispute which has led to a dramatic decline in Chinese hardwood plywood exports to the US and increasing diversion of Chinese product to the EU, mainly destined for the UK.

In the first half of 2019, the UK imports of tropical plywood products increased 17% to 95,400 MT, despite widespread reports of overstocking and declining plywood consumption in the country. The UK imports of tropical hardwood plywood from China increased 81% to 55,000 MT in the first six months of 2019, while UK imports from Malaysia fell 32%, to 16,800 MT, and were down 14% from Indonesia to 17,800 MT.

Tropical plywood imports into other EU countries were less volatile in the first half of 2019. Moderate declines in imports in Belgium (-8% to 19,100 MT), Germany (-3% to 13,000 MT), France (-3% to 10,100 MT) and Italy (-2% to 8,800 MT) were offset by an 8% rise in imports in the Netherlands, to 18,500 MT.

www.fordaq.com, 11 October

EUROPE

The Furniture Industry in Europe

With almost 530 million inhabitants, Europe is the second largest market in the world, coming after Asia Pacific and before North America. It accounts for roughly one quarter of the global world furniture market, with a value, at producer prices, in the range of EUR93 billion. Currently the largest markets are Germany, the UK, France, and Italy, absorbing altogether around 60% of the total European furniture consumption.

When it comes to furniture production, Europe keeps maintaining a relevant role, accounting for around one fourth of the global furniture industry. Western Europe is responsible for the largest share, but Eastern countries are the fastest growing ones. Furniture manufacturing has a long history in Europe. This, together with cultural heritage, gives European manufacturers a competitive edge and favours the development of creative competences recognised worldwide. While remaining an SME-based industry, Europe is the headquarters of some of the largest global players. According to CSIL, 85 out of the top 200 furniture manufacturers worldwide are located in this area.

www.fordaq.com, 22 October

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Students from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Temenggung under special stream with their winning prize in the Water-wheel Design Competition.

Research Institute Malaysia , Design Principles Sdn Bhd, Saudagar Bamboo Enterprise, Bamboo Jungle Adventures, Tihara Lifestyle Sdn. Bhd., JB Flavor Enterprise and the Malaysian Bamboo Society.

In addition, essay writing contest, water-wheel design competition, batik painting and angklung music performance were also held during WBD.

Six talks on various topics with the theme "Bamboo the Sustainable National Treasure", were delivered by :

- Dato' Lai Yeng Fock (Tadom Hill Resort) on Bamboo-themed Resort;
- Encik Amir Sariffudin Kassim (FRIM) on Introduction to Bamboo;
- Ir. Mejar Ahmad Mazlan Othman (Bamboo Jungle Adventure) on RM300 Billion Global Bamboo Market : Where We Are?;
- Encik Shariff Ali Jabad Ali (Sahom Valley Resort) on Ecotourism – The Bamboo Way;
- Dr. Nazrul Roslan (Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia) on Textile Bamboo Innovation as New Economic Resource; and
- Dato' Ghazi Sheikh Ramli (Global Innovation & Entrepreneurship Foundation) on Futurising Malaysian Bamboopreneurs Towards Participation in USD100 Billion Global Market .

Thirty-nine essays were received from 12 secondary schools in Ipoh with the title Utilisation of Bamboo in Daily Life, written in Bahasa Melayu and top five winners were selected. For water-wheel design competition, the participants have to design by using at least 60% of bamboo material for the water wheel. Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Temenggung and Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Anderson, Ipoh had won top awards for the competition. This event was opened for public viewing including bamboo lovers and entrepreneurs, professionals including the architects, enginneers, researchers and students.

More than 600 visitors attended the event.

Representative from JB Flavour presenting a souvenir to YAB Dato' Seri Ahmad Faizal Bin Dato' Azumu, Menteri Besar of Perak (fourth from right).

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United Kingdom: Asia-Europe Rates Fell 4.5% to USD757 TEUs, US West Coast (USWC) Soars 25.6% to USD1,615 FEUs

Source: Loadstar (The)

The Spot rates for shipping containers from Asia to northern Europe fell a further 4.5% to USD757 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), while the Shanghai-Mediterranean rates dipped 7.6% to USD895 TEUs, according to the Shanghai Containerised Freight Index (SCFI). The SCFI recorded a massive 25.6% leap on the Shanghai - US west coast leg to USD1,615 forty-foot equivalent units (FEUs) while China-US east coast also saw an impressive 10.5% hike to USD2,691 FEUs.

China: China's Port of Nansha Gains 2M Alliance's US East Coast Service

Source: Asian Shippers

International container volume through Nansha in the first half of the year surged by 19.6% to 3.8 million TEUs, according to port statistics. Total container throughput through Nansha, which accounts for three-quarters of container volume flowing through Guangzhou city, grew by 5.8% to USD15.57 million TEUs. Compared with the 7.6% growth of Guangzhou, the fifth-busiest port with USD21.92 million TEUs, container traffic through Hong Kong declined 5.6% to USD19.6 million TEUs in 2018. Year 2017, total volume through Shenzhen increased by 2.1% to USD25.73 million TEUs.

United States: Los Angeles August Cargo Scores Another Record Breaking 861,081 TEUs

Source: PortNews

In August, the port moved 861,000 TEUs, the busiest August in the port's 112 year history and a 4.2% increase over the same period last year. August 2019 imports increased 4.1% to 438,000 TEUs compared to the previous year. Exports decreased 10% to 146,000 TEUs, the 10th consecutive monthly decline of exports. Empty containers increased 13.8% to

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

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all Ports m^3	% Change Sep 2019/ Aug 2019
	m^3	% Change Sep 2019/ Aug 2019	m^3	% Change Sep 2019/ Aug 2019	m^3	% Change Sep 2019/ Aug 2019	m^3	% Change Sep 2019/ Aug 2019	m^3	% Change Sep 2019/ Aug 2019		
Sawntimber	60,042	-17	3,804	-58	1,555	30	425	33	7,415	-10	73,242	-20
MDF	19,368	-53	386	-45	5,914	-8	2,005	-23	15,259	-5	42,932	-36
Mouldings	9,938	-20	229	117	1,516	-27	990	6	1,164	-8	13,837	-18
Plywood	3,689	3	0	0	6	-90	279	-24	9,437	-25	13,411	-19
Veneer	215	-48	388	245	31	-49	12	-35	2,536	-4	3,183	-2
Particleboard	28,168	-17	366	42	4,038	3	238	-75	7,535	37	40,344	-10
TOTAL	**121,420**	**-26**	**5,172**	**-50**	**13,060**	**-5**	**3,949**	**-24**	**43,347**	**-7**	**186,948**	**-22**

Source : MTIB

277,000 TEUs. Combined, August overall volumes were 861,000 TEUs. The previous August record was set in 2017 with 848,000 TEUs.

Eight months into 2019 overall volumes have increased 5.7% compared to 2018, when the port set an all-time cargo record. Strong volume growth this year is due in part to global supply chain relationships, aggressive marketing and improvements in operational efficiencies.

United Arab Emirates (UAE): Abu Dhabi Ports' Container Volume Up 82.4% in the First Half of 2019

Source: PortNews

Abu Dhabi Ports, one of the UAE's leading proponents of regional trade and investment, revealed robust operational performance with significant volume growth in the first half of 2019. The company, which operates ports and terminals across the UAE, as well as Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi (KIZAD), success was driven in part by concession agreements signed with leading maritime firms, such as Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) and COSCO SHIPPING Ports (CSP).

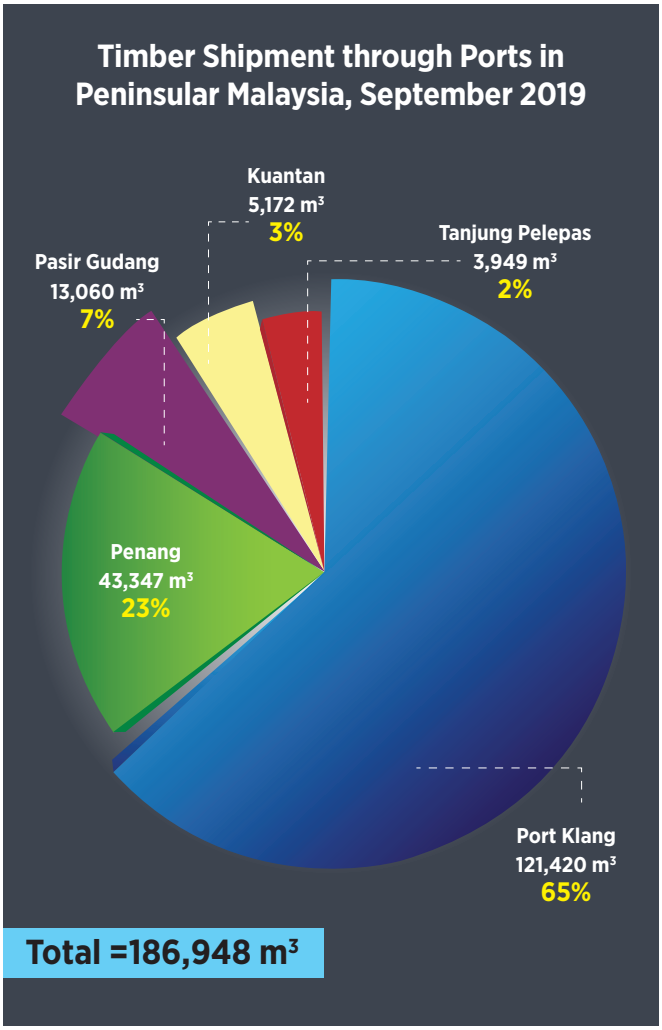
Container volume at Khalifa Port rose from 621,000 TEUs in H1 2018 to 1.1 million TEUs in H1 2019 – an increase of 82.4%. Abu Dhabi Ports saw a significant increase in cruise passengers in the first half of the year, with the total number increasing from 237,000 in H1 2018 to 321,000 for the same period this year – an increase of 35%.

Europe: Throughput of Port Riga (Latvia) in August 2019 Fell by 10.8% YoY to 21.3 Million Tonnes

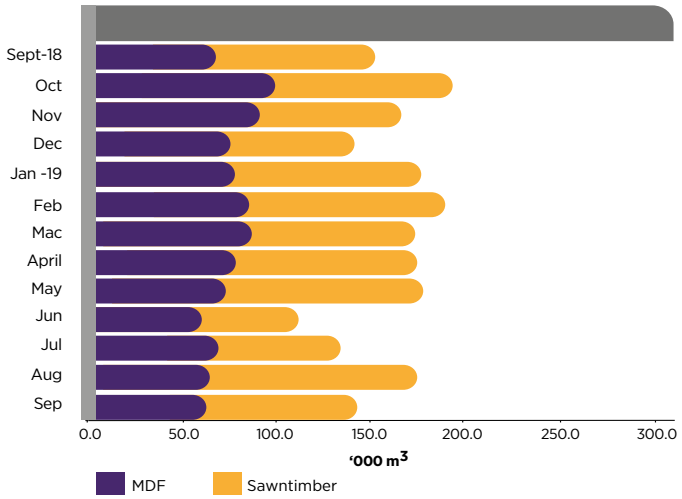
Source: PortNews

Throughput of Port Riga (Latvia) in August 2019 fell by 10.8% Year over Year (YOY) to 21.3 million tonnes. In January-August 2019, the Freeport of Riga (Latvia) handled 21.4 million tonnes of cargo fell by 10.8% year-on-year.

The port authority was informed, transshipment of wood pellets – grew by 19.8% to 681,000 tonnes, coal fell by 30.3% to 6.6 million tonnes, oil products – fell by 13.7% to 2.4 million tonnes, ore – grew by 12.5% to 388,400 tonnes. The port's container throughput grew by 2.7% to 311,000 TEUs.



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



Total export of Malaysian timber and timber products in September 2019 decreased 8% valued at RM1.9 billion over the previous month. Meanwhile, cumulative export for the period of January to September 2019 increased slightly to value at RM16.39 billion over RM16.31 billion in the previous corresponding period.

SAWNTIMBER

Total export of sawntimber in September both have decreased in volume and value by 16% and 17% to 146,202 m³ with a value of RM271.5 million as compared to the previous month. Cumulative export for the period of January to September 2019 decreased both 4% in volume and value to 1.4 million m³ totalling RM2.6 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Export of sawntimber to the EU for the month decreased 34% to 6,414 m³ over the previous month as a result of lower demand from major countries in the region. Netherlands as the main buyer has decreased its intake by 42% to 3,088 m³ from 5,319 m³ in the previous month. Export to France decreased 79% to 197 m³ from 930 m³ recorded in the previous month followed by Germany with 46% to 381 m³ and the UK 27% to 1,075 m³. In the meanwhile, export to Italy increased 132% to 713 m³ compared to the previous month.

Total exports to West Asia decreased 4% to 25,568 m³ from 26,546 m³ recorded in the previous month. Export to Yemen increased 43% to 12,990 m³ from 9,077 m³ recorded in the previous month. In the meanwhile, export to the UAE decreased 24% to 5,820 m³ from 7,643 m³ recorded in the previous month followed by Oman with 36% to 2,754 m³ and Iraq 44% to 1,846 m³. Qatar and Bahrain also decreased its intake of sawntimber by 50% to 388 m³ and 29% to 257 m³ respectively.

Buying from ASEAN decreased by 32% to 33,463 m³ from 49,279 m³ registered in the previous month. Thailand as the main buyer in ASEAN has decreased its intake of sawntimber by 30% to 18,904 m3. Export of sawntimber to Philippines also decreased by 50% to 6,051 m³ followed by Viet Nam with 31% to 1,442 m³ and Singapore 18% to 6,647 m³. Contrarily, export to Indonesia increased 252% to 377 m³ compared to the previous month.

In the meanwhile, shipments to East Asia slightly increased by 1% to 49,902 m³ from 49,464 m³ in the previous month. China as the main buyer has increased their purchased with 18% to 36,234 m³ from 30,832 m³ recorded in the previous month. Contrarily, South Korea has decreased import by 23% to 3,600 m³ followed by Taiwan with 26% to 5,639 m³ and Japan 26% to 4,256 m³. Export to Hong Kong also decreased 74% to 157 m³ from 593 m³ in the previous month.

Elsewhere, exports to the US decreased 46% to 1,318 m³ whilst intake by Australia decreased 32% to 574 m³. Demand from South Africa increased 14% to 5,379 m³ from 4,711 m³ in the previous month.

The average FOB price of sawntimber decreased slightly to RM1,857 per m³ from RM1,879 per m³ in the previous month. Meanwhile, price of Dark Red Meranti to Netherlands increased 10% to RM3,415 per m³ from RM3,112 per m³ in the previous month. Keruing was traded at RM2,232 per m³, a decrease of 19% from RM2,739 per m³ in the previous month.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Export of MDF in September 2019 both have decreased in volume and value by 2% and 3% to 63,673 m³ totalled RM86.6 million compared to the previous month. Similarly, cumulative export for January to September 2019 recorded a decrease in volume by 12% to 649,501 m³ and in value by 6% worth RM815.3 million over the previous corresponding period.

In ASEAN, total export decreased by 19% to 8,826 m³ from 10,883 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Indonesia, Viet Nam and Singapore have decreased by 31% to 2,586 m³, 36% to 2,337 m³ and 35% to 41 m³ respectively. However, Philippines have increased their intake by 13% to 3,561 m³ for this month.

Exports to East Asia countries registered an increase of 1% to 15,373 m³ from 15,268 m³ in the previous month. Japan as the largest buyer in the region has increased its intake by 1% to 13,564 m³ and followed by China including Hong Kong with 47% to 786 m³. However, Taiwan has reduced its buying by 22% to 775 m³ and followed by South Korea 25% to 248 m³ respectively.

Similarly, export to South Asia countries recorded an increase of 30% to 9,582 m³ from 7,352 m³ in the previous month. Export to India has increased by 35% to 5,405 m³ followed by Bangladesh 193% to 1,478 m³ and Sri Lanka 100% to 21 m³. However, Pakistan has reduced its intake by 6% to 2,678 m³ for this month.

On the other hand, export to West Asia region decreased by 7% to 18,001 m³ from 19,283 m³ in the previous month. The UAE as the largest buyer has decreased its intake by 19% to 7,300 m³, followed by Kuwait 49% to 2,266 m³ and Oman 43% to 1,192 m³. Similarly, exports to Saudi Arabia and Jordan also decreased by 55% to 773 m³ and 20%

to 647 m³ respectively. Contrarily, exports to Bahrain and Qatar have increased by 94% to 1,608 m³ and 181% to 1,192 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Syria and Lebanon have resumed their buying at 4,008 m³ and 164 m³ respectively and Iran doesn't make any purchase this month.

Elsewhere, exports to the US and Mauritius have increased by 47% to 3,238 m³ and 18% to 158 m³ respectively. The UK also recorded an increase by 50% to 316 m³. In contrast, exports to Australia and South Africa have decreased by 11% to 2,512 m³ and 28% to 615 m³ respectively.

The FOB price of MDF has decreased to RM1,360 per m³ from RM1,379 per m³, a decrease by 1% from the previous month.

PLYWOOD

Export of plywood in September 2019 both have decreased in volume and value by 12% and 16% to 131,235 m³ totalled RM243.8 million compared to the previous month. Similarly, cumulative export for January to September 2019 showed a decrease in volume by 21% to 1.3 million m³ and in value by 24% worth RM2.6 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Total export of plywood to the EU countries have decreased by 26% to 4,504 m³ for this month. The UK as the main buyer in the region has decreased its intake by 16% to 4,187 m³, meanwhile Ireland has resumed its intake to 274 m³. However, most of European countries didn't make any purchases this month such as Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and Netherlands.

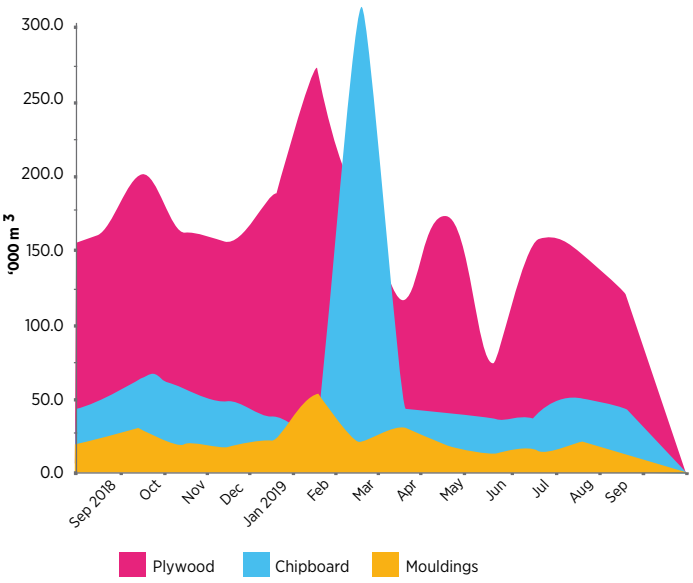
Exports to ASEAN and East Asia region recorded a decrease of 21% to 86,698 m³ compared to the previous month. In East Asia region, Japan as the main importer of Malaysian plywood decreased its intake by 21% to 53,423 m³. Similarly, exports to South Korea and Taiwan have decreased by 26% to 11,716 m³ and 3% to 11,240 m³ respectively.

China also recorded a decrease in import by 28% to 1,130 m³ but Hong Kong has increased their import by 17% to 1,727 m³. Meanwhile, Malaysia's plywood trade with its ASEAN partners recorded negative growth for this month. Exports to Thailand and Singapore have decreased by 37% to 3,630 m³ and 17% to 1,834 m³ respectively. Similarly, exports to Brunei and Philippines have decreased by 55% to 1,222 m³ and 7% to 547 m³ respectively. Indonesia does not make any purchase this month.

Export to West Asian region recorded an increase of 23% to 17,109 m³ where the biggest buyer for this month, Yemen increased its intake by 62% to 14,099 m³. Similarly, export to Bahrain has increased by 52% to 585 m³. In contrast, the UAE and Saudi Arabia have reduced its buying by 23% to 1,397 m³ and 71% to 311 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Kuwait and Qatar did not make any purchases this month.

Export of plywood to the Americas region has increased by 41% to 17,839 m³ as compared to the previous month. Our main buyer in the Americas region, the US has increased its intake of plywood by 48% to 14,384 m³. Similarly, export to Canada also increased by 108% to 1,118

Malaysia : Export of Plywood, Chipboard and Mouldings
(September 2018-September 2019/Volume ('000m³)



m³, however export to Mexico has decreased by 3% 2,337 m³. Moving to Oceania region, Australia has reduced its intake by 10% to 2,599 m³ however New Zealand recorded an increase in its intake of plywood by 52% to 64 m³.

Export to South Africa has decreased by 63% to 85 m³ meanwhile, Algeria and Mauritius did not make any purchase this month. Similarly, Turkey does not make any purchases this month.

The FOB price of plywood has decreased by 5% to RM1,858 per m³ from RM1,952 per m³ in the previous month.

MOULDINGS

Exports of mouldings for the month decreased by 22% in volume and 25% in value to 16,639 m³ and RM63.5 million respectively. However, cumulative exports for the period of January to September 2019 decreased by 1% in volume and increase by 2% in value to 177,705 m³ and RM661.0 million respectively as compared to the previous corresponding period in 2018.

Exports to the EU for the month recorded at 6,371 m³, a decrease of 16% compared to the previous month. Netherlands, the UK and Belgium decreased their purchases by 15%, 13% and 7% to 3,468 m³, 394 m³ and 673 m³ respectively. However, Germany increased its purchases by 7% to 716 m³ compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, Italy did not make any purchases.

Exports to ASEAN region decreased as Viet Nam decreased its purchases by 51% to 535 m³. However, export to Singapore increased by 13% to 893 m³ compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, Indonesia resumed its purchases to 71 m³ for the month.

Meanwhile, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Japan and South Korea decreased their intake by 84%, 67%, 36%, 23% and 16% to 35 m³, 158 m³, 140 m³, 1,502 m³ and 1,300 m³ respectively.

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SEPTEMBER 2019

LOGS

Supply and price of logs continued to stable in the market. Most mills reported that they have adequate log inventories for current usage.

Log prices for the species of Chengal stood firm at RM4,550 per tonne. Meanwhile, the prices of Balau and Merbau increased slightly by 9.4% and 1.5% to RM3,500 per tonne and RM3,300 per tonne respectively. Similarly, the price for Keruing and Kempas increased by 3.4% and 1.1% to RM1,500 per tonne and RM1,920 per tonne respectively. Likewise, the prices for Dark Red Meranti and White Meranti increased by 1.0% and 1.4% to RM2,100 per tonne and RM1,500 per tonne respectively. On the other hand, logs prices for Mixed Heavy Hardwood remained at RM1,011 per tonne whilst Mixed Light Hardwood increased by 2.7% to RM950 per tonne respectively.

SAWNTIMBER

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

The sawntimber prices of Chengal maintained at RM7,062 per m^3. Meanwhile, the prices of Balau increased slightly by 1.2% to RM3,496 per m^3. The prices for Keruing and Kempas stood at RM1,271 per m^3 and RM2,592 per m^3 respectively. Meanwhile, the prices for Red Meranti and White Meranti fell by 1.1% and 0.3% to RM1,992 per m^3 and RM2,465 per m^3 respectively. On the other hand, sawn timber prices of Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood continued to chart at RM1,013 per m^3 and RM929 per m^3 for this month.

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 RM13.30, RM16.60, RM22.50 and RM29.35 per piece 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 * - SEPTEMBER 2019

The shipments of logs from Sabah to Peninsular Malaysia for the month fell by 93% in volume from 1,428 m3 to 104 m3 worth at RM356,000. Similarly, trade of sawn timber fell by 97% in volume from 554 m^3 to 17 m^3 worth at RM26,000. Meanwhile, trade of plywood increased by 6% in volume to 4,449 m^3 worth at RM7.9 million.

Trade of sawntimber from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia fell by 10% in volume from 781 m^3 to 701 m^3 worth at RM1.1 million. Similarly, trade of plywood fell by 18% in volume from 2,033 m^3 to 1,673 m^3 worth at RM2.1 million. Likewise, trade of veneer fell by 4% in volume to 2,598 m^3 worth at RM3.6 million.

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

** Source: MTIB and Department of Statistics, Malaysia*

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

SPECIES	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³		
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS/m³
HEAVY HARDWOOD				
Chengal	4,550	7,062	5,473	7,804
Balau	3,500	3,496	3,143	2,966
Red Balau	2,200	2,966	2,684	3,284
Merbau	3,300	4,696	3,884	4,025
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,011	1,013	805	1,024
MEDIUM HARDWOOD				
Keruing	1,500	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	1,250	2,055	1,130	2,189
Tualang	1,425	2,507	2,366	2,500
LIGHT HARDWOOD				
Dark Red Meranti	2,100	2,048	1,695	3,001
Red Meranti	1,800	1,992	1,766	2,189
Yellow Meranti	1,250	1,568	1,236	1,271
White Meranti	1,500	2,465	1,412	2,260
Mersawa	1,700	1,808	1,695	2,048
Nyatoh	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	950	929	731	968

MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD *Hevea brasiliensis*	**LOGS/tonne**	**SAWNTIMBER/m³**			
	158	1" X 1"	2"X2"	3"X 3"	4" X 4"
		1,059	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)	13.30	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 - SEPTEMBER 2019

From	Product	Aug 2019		Sep 2019		% Change in Value Sep 2019/Aug 2019	% Change in Volume Sep 2019/Aug 2019
		Vol (m³)	Val (RM' 000)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM' 000)		
SABAH	Logs	1,428	476	104	356	-93	-25
	Sawntimber	554	848	17	26	-97	-97
	Plywood	4,191	7,792	4,449	7,957	6	2
	Veneer	0	0	0	0	0	0
SARAWAK	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	781	1,263	701	1,070	-10	-15
	Plywood	2,033	3,069	1,673	2,137	-18	-30
	Veneer	2,708	3,866	2,598	3,622	-4	-6

Source :- Department Of Statistic, Malaysia

Cont. from page 11

Elsewhere, export to Australia and the US decreased by 42% and 5% to 1,864 m^3 and 2,191 m^3 respectively. Meanwhile, Canada did not make any purchases.

FOB unit value decreased 5% to RM3,816 per m^3 compared to RM3,998 per m^3 in the previous month.

VENEER

Export of veneer for September 2019 increased by 28% in volume and 34% in value to 10,998 m^3 at RM15.5 million as compared to the previous month. Taiwan as the main buyer has increased its intake by 30% to 6,248 m^3 from 4,826 m^3 in the previous month. Similarly, Philippines and South Korea have increased by 47% to 1,747 m^3 and 93% to 690 m^3 respectively. On the other hand, Italy and Canada have resumed its intake by 25 m^3 and 24 m^3 for this month.

Contrarily, exports to Australia has decreased by 27% to 142 m^3 compared to the previous month followed by India with 6% to 345 m^3 and China 4% to 930 m^3. Meanwhile, Chile and Viet Nam did not make any purchases this month.

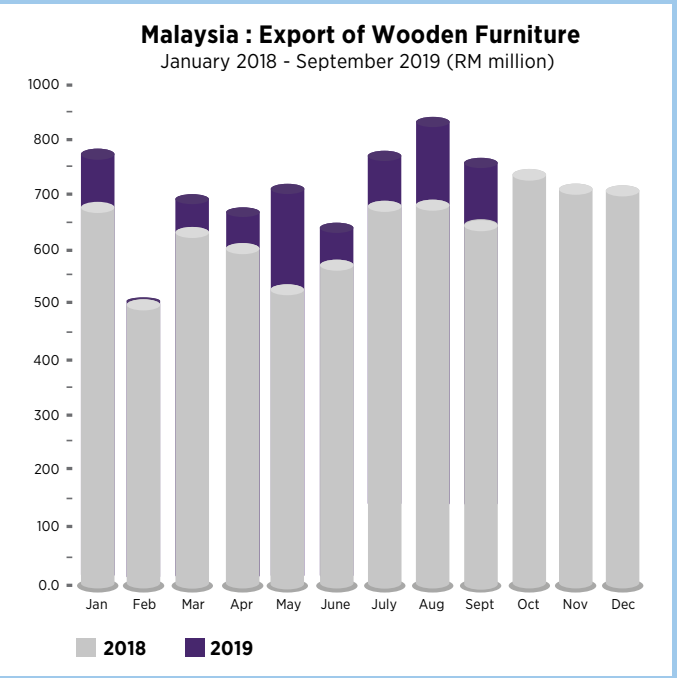
The FOB price of veneer for September 2019 was at RM1,408 per m^3, an increase of 4% from RM1,354 per m^3 in the previous month.

BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

Total BJC cumulative exports for the period of January to September 2019 decreased 5% to RM752.0 million as compared to RM793.1 million in the corresponding period last year. Export to the EU decreased 17% to RM228.1 million. Export to Turkey, France, Denmark and Italy decreased by 95%, 46%, 28% and 17% to RM65.8 thousand, RM18.1 million, RM14.8 million and RM4.8 million respectively. Similarly, export to the UK, Belgium and Netherlands decreased by 16%, 12% and 9% to RM90.2 million, RM35.2 million and RM18.0 million respectively. Meanwhile, export to Sweden and Germany increase by 102% and 15% to RM6.0 million and RM22.9 million respectively.

In Asia, exports to Pakistan, Viet Nam, Thailand, Singapore, the UAE and Japan decreased by 47%, 32%, 13%, 11%, 7% and 4% to RM1.7 million, RM20.6 million, RM15.1 million, RM62.0 million, RM4.8 million and RM50.5 million respectively. In meanwhile, export to Qatar improved significantly to RM4.4 million from only RM6.5 thousand in the previous corresponding period. Exports to South Korea, India, Taiwan and Saudi Arabia also increase by 194%, 23%, 14% and 10% to RM2.4 million, RM29.1 million, RM8.2 million and RM1.3 million respectively. Meanwhile, Bahrain resumed its intake by RM68.9 thousand for this month.

Exports to Mauritius, the US and Australia increased by 29%, 27% and 3% to RM510.5 thousand, RM106.4 million and RM155.9 million respectively. However, export to South Africa decreased by 2% to RM13.9 million compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, Reunion Island did not make any purchases.



FURNITURE

Export of wooden and rattan furniture for the third quarter of 2019 increased 14% to RM6.4 billion from RM5.6 billion in the previous corresponding period.

Imports of wooden furniture by the US increased 34% to RM2.7 billion from RM2.0 billion in the previous corresponding period of 2018. Demand from Canada also increased 15% to RM221.9 million whilst export to Australia declined 11% to RM348.0 million. In Europe, shipment to the UK increased 35% to RM374.7 million followed by Belgium 36% to RM38.8 million, Poland 9% to RM28.5 million and Spain with slight increased to RM14.47 million from RM14.45 million in the previous corresponding period. Meanwhile, export to France, and Sweden decreased 4% to RM47.9 million and 8% to RM22.0 million respectively. Purchases by Russia declined as well by 24% to RM17.5 million from RM22.9 million in the previous corresponding period.

In East Asia, China reduced consumption by 9% to RM154.8 million from RM170.6 million in 2018. Export to South Korea also declined 4% to RM67.2 million whilst Japan increased import by 7% to RM438.5 million from RM409.4 million in 2018. Export to India improved 5% to RM173.5 million from RM164.6 million in the previous corresponding period.

In ASEAN region, export to Singapore increased 19% to RM391.4 million followed by Philippines 13% to RM172.6 million compared to the previous corresponding period. Export to West Asia saw growth as the UAE increased intake by 16% to RM111.9 million followed by Saudi Arabia with 52% to RM138.7 million and Kuwait 6% to RM36.0 million.

Rattan furniture shipments for the period of review decreased 53% to RM1.2 million from RM2.6 million in the previous corresponding period. Export to Australia improved significantly to RM388.7 thousand from only RM51.5 thousand in the previous corresponding period. Export to Singapore increased 93% to RM153.0 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.

TANGGAM'S LABEL :
LAUNCHING NEWEST BRAND "ANTARA" AT RiX 2019

An array of ANTARA products.

ANTARA dining set.

The annual REKA Interiors Exhibition (RiX) is an event held during the REKA Design Week 2019 organised by MIID REKA Sdn. Bhd. (MRSB). RiX celebrates design as it brings excitement to the interior design industry. In its third year, the event was held on 17-20 October at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

The exhibition marks an exciting collaboration between two iconic organisations renowned for their dedication towards excellence in design; MRSB, a subsidiary of Malaysian Institute of Interior Designers (MIID) represents the professional community of interior designers in Malaysia while C.I.S Network Sdn. Bhd. (C.I.S) is the award-winning organiser for HOMEDEC. This initiative between MIID and C.I.S will further promote the ever evolving interior design industry, which has contributed to the Malaysian economy.

The objective of the event is to enable exhibitors to promote their collection of products and services to interior designers, architects, products designers and buyers. Based on 2018 statistics, RiX received about 6,350 total visitorship and 46% comprising trade visitors.

TANGGAM® is an initiative mooted by MTIB to select, promote and market outstanding designs, designers as well as furniture products at the international level. TANGGAM® is an essential platform to create a portfolio of new exciting designs that have an international market appeal which can be manufactured by Malaysian furniture manufacturers. At present, 16 young designers have listed under TANGGAM® label who are actively involved in the programme.

In RiX 2019, Notch Design Plt which is one of the TANGGAM designers launched its new brand; ANTARA which focused on solid wood furniture especially Malaysian timber. ANTARA is also a knock-down solid wood furniture made from Nyatoh species. ANTARA is focusing and targeting the medium-high market for local and international market by coming out with a range of working/dining table with chair, shelf, tv console and side table.

Throughout the exhibition, positive responses from various visitors had been received either on the design aspect or the excellent application of the solid wood itself. There were enquiries by hotel and cafe owners with multiple requests for custom solid wood furniture.

RiX is also a perfect platform for designers and suppliers to come together to think out of the box and discover new ideas that benefits the industry. The exhibition is not just a creative way to showcase products to designers and exhibitors alike, but also to engage with visitors or clients, to open their minds and to look at how much potential different materials can have in the creative design industry.

As a way forward, TANGGAM® will enhance its role to position its designers as a forefront in designing and promoting local identity. TANGGAM® believe that its design have strong cultural roots and it is able to place its design group with better stand and wider market acceptance and thus would be a guideline for Original Design Manufacturer (ODM) and Own Brand Manufacturing (OBM) for the international market.

A potential buyer is negotiating on the price of furniture.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM CREATES NETWORK TO ENCOURAGE GLOBAL GREEN SUPPLY CHAINS

Panel discussion during the forum.

In response to the challenges and changing demands in consumer markets underpinned by legality and sustainability requirements, International Forum–Together Towards Global Green Supply Chains–A Forest Products Industry Initiative was held on 22–25 October in Shanghai and Huzhou, China. The forum was being co-organised by International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) , the China Timber and Wood Products Distribution Association (CTWPDA), the Centre for International Forest Products Trade (CINFT) of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China (NFGA), and the International Tropical Timber Technical Association (ATIBT).

The forum was also supported by the China Green Carbon Foundation (CGCF), the CTWPDA Hardwood Sub-Committee, the Shanghai Timber Trade Association (STTA) and the Global Green Supply Chains (GGSC) Secretariat. The event was an initiative of the forest industry sector in partnership with ITTO and others to promote nature-based solutions within the global efforts to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals by advancing legal and sustainable supply chains. Such supply chains will incentivise responsible production and purchasing practices while also leading to additional benefits in poverty alleviation, the creation of employment, economic growth, income generation, and substantial climate-change mitigation.

This forum which comprised enterprises, timber associations, governments and intergovernmental organisations had agreed to create a voluntary network among forest managers, producers, traders, the processing industry and consumers to add value to forests through the recognition of their economic, social and environmental values and the incorporation of legality and sustainability in all forestry operations.

The GGSC Network, which will be maintained by a coalition of forest companies and other wood-industry stakeholders committed to legal and sustainable supply chains, received support in a statement by companies pledging to help build a collaborative network of global green supply chain to promote the sustainable development of forest industries and contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of global forest resources. The network is open to all interested parties worldwide, including stakeholders in producer countries and along supply chains to the consumers of final products.

ITTO which is the lead co-organiser of the international forum, is mandated to promote sustainable forest management (SFM) and the expansion and diversification of tropical timber trade from legal and sustainable sources. It has helped in leading the GGSC initiative through its Legal and Sustainable Supply Chains Programme (LSSC). The co-organisers of the forum are committed in supporting and facilitating the establishment and operation of the GGSC Network.

Malaysian delegates attending the forum.

"The development of global green supply chains will enhance the production, processing, distribution and consumption of legal and sustainable timber and forest products, including tropical timber," said Mr. Robert Hunink, President of ATIBT. "In so doing it will bring benefits to all stakeholders, from governments and forest owners in the tropics to end-consumers," he added. Forum participants learnt that the world is facing environmental challenges, including climate change, deforestation, species extinctions and desertification.

"We know that forests, and especially tropical forests, contain extraordinary biodiversity, are crucial for efforts on climate-change mitigation, and have huge cultural importance for indigenous and other traditional peoples," said Mr. John Leigh, Chairman of the International Tropical Timber Council.

"Yet the land they occupy is also valuable for farming, ranching, mining and urban development. To minimise the risk of losing the forests, therefore, it is imperative that they generate substantive economic benefits for income, jobs, livelihoods and development in general. This is why we need green supply chains to ensure stable supplies – domestically and internationally – of legal and sustainable timber from sustainably managed forests," added Mr. Leigh.

Forum participants also discussed on harnessing the role of the wood industry to mitigate climate change, the increasing demand for wood products globally, efforts to ensure legality and sustainability in global wood supply chains, and how to move forward in the development of global green supply chains.

"The industry faces many challenges in the global adoption of green wood supply chains," said Mr. Zhu Guangquan, Chief Expert of CTWPDA."It requires a spirit of partnership throughout the industry and ultimately, all actors will benefit."

The GGSC Network will foster closer collaboration and information exchange between all partners in global supply chains by sharing know-how and enhancing business and technical cooperation.

The forum was attended by more than 350 participants, including major players in the tropical wood products industry and trade. It was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Primary Industries, Sarawak Forest Department, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, Timber Exporters Association of Malaysia , Sarawak Timber Association. MTIB was represented by Encik Mohd Nizam Hamid from Trade Development.

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Malaysian Timber Industry Board

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Multiple Uses, Variable Styles

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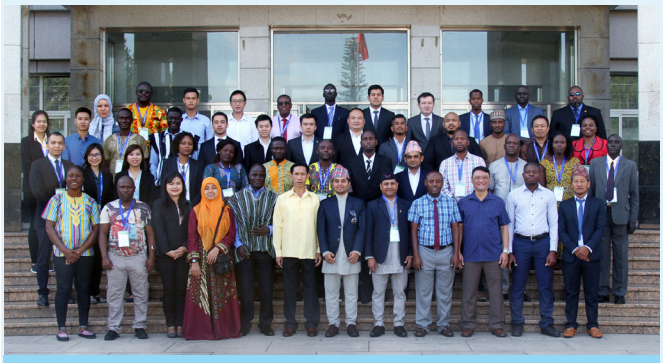
SEMINAR ON WILDLIFE PROTECTION AND CITES IMPLEMENTATION FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



Partiicipants of the seminar.

Field visit to Insect Museum of West China in Chengdu.

The seminar for officials from developing countries in charge of import and export management and protection of endangered species was sponsored by Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (MOFCOM) and hosted by National Academy of Forestry and Grassland Administration (NAFGA), with duration of 21 days from 8 to 28 September. The purpose of the seminar was to share China's experience in capacity building, awareness promotion, strengthening legislation and law implementation respecting the protection of endangered species, and making contribution to setting up an international communication platform for endangered species protection.

The topics of the seminar include the practice and achievements of China's protection of wildlife especially endangered species; management policies, regulations and cases of import and export of endangered species; the protection and international trade of endangered species; the development of forestry ecology and the management of nature reserves; the prevention and control of epidemic diseases of wildlife and the rescue of affected wildlife; the recognition and marking of wildlife, endangered species and the products.

Encik Ahmad Ikhsan Zainuddin from MTIB delivering a paper on country report for Malaysia about biodiversity, CITES listed species and authorities.

During the seminar, participants visited Chengdu City, Mianyang City, Leshan City and other places in the Sichuan Province, southwest of China and visit local forestry bureaus, forest public security bureaus, wildlife rescue centre and station, national nature reserves and other places. Through a variety of programmes and activities such as lectures, case studies, discussions and field visits, it is hoped that China's resolution and practice to combat illegal trade of endangered species and its firm stance to standardise the management of wildlife international trade and to combat illegal trade can be better known and understood by the world.

China is an important destination for shipments from all over the world especially for timber trades. China imports and re-export timber species that are listed in the Appendices in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). So far, more than 250 timber species have been listed in the CITES Appendices.

Being a contracting party of CITES, the Chinese government has always placed emphasis on the conservation and sustainable use of timber resources by strictly implementing the CITES and by improving the law enforcement for cracking down on illegal trade and trafficking. The rapid inclusion and increase in the number of timber species in the CITES Appendices for control pose a formidable challenge in the implementing of the CITES, since it requires an identification of timber species that are subject to international trade regulations.

The seminar was attended by 49 participants from 14 countries mainly from African and Asian countries. Four government officers from Malaysia participated in the seminar namely MTIB, Department of Agriculture and Sabah Wildlife Department. MTIB was represented by Encik Ahmad Ikhsan Zainuddin and Encik Ahmad Syarilizwan Talib from Licensing and Inspectorate.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON TIMBER (ISO/TC 218) AND ITS RELATED MEETINGS

Meeting in session.

Malaysian delegates posing for the camera.

The committee of ISO TC 218: Timber that has been established 20 years ago, is responsible for the development of standards for round, sawn and processed timber, and timber materials use in all fields of application including terminology, specifications and test methods. The ISO standards developed under this committee provide a strong basis that can be applied in the development of national and international regulation through the consensus of globally experts, regulators and governments.

The 18th Meeting of the ISO/TC 218: Timber was convened from 28 October to 1 November in Saitama, Japan. The meeting was jointly organised by Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC) and Incorporated Administrative Agency Food and Agricultural Materials Inspection Centre (FAMIC). The meeting was chaired by Professor Oleksii Tsytsyliano from Ukraine and officially opened by Mr. Takeshi Kinchi, President of FAMIC. Mr Takeshi underlined the role of International Standards as an acceleration tool in improving the quality and safety of products whereby FAMIC coordinates Japanese opinion and make efforts to have them incorporated in ISO Standards.

During the 18th plenary meeting, each convener of working groups (WGs) reported on the development of the respective WG activities and the status of the ISO standards that are being developed. The comments and amendments on the ISO standards were further deliberated in the respective WG meetings. The Convenor of WG 4: Test Method, Prof. Dr. Paridah Md Tahir from Malaysia chaired the meeting on Standardisation of test methods for physical and mechanical characteristic of timber. Sixteen resolutions has been approved by ISO/TC 218 as a follow-up actions by the WGs for the next meeting. At present, seven WGs are actively involved in the deliberation which includes:

- WG 1: Terminology (Convener: Canada)
- WG 2: Round timber (Convener: Belarus)
- WG 3: Sawn and processed timber (Convener: Republic of Korea)
- WG 4: Test method (Convener: Malaysia)
- WG 5: Parquet flooring (Convener: France)
- WG 6: Wooden products (Convener: China)
- WG 7: Wood residue and post-consumer wood (Convener: Ukraine)

No.	ISO Standard	Stage
1.	ISO/CD 24294 – Timber -- Round and sawntimber – Vocabulary	Committee draft
2.	ISO/CD 8965 – Logging Industry -- Technology – Vocabulary	Committee draft
3.	ISO/FDIS 13061-5 – Physical and mechanical properties of wood -- Test methods for small clear wood specimens -- Part 5: Determination of strength in compression perpendicular to grain	Final Draft International Standard
4.	ISO/DIS 17300-1.2 – Wood residue and post-consumer wood – Classification -- Part 1: Vocabulary	Draft International Standard
5.	ISO/CD 13061-18 - Physical and mechanical properties of wood — Test methods for small clear wood specimens — Part 18: Vocabulary	Committee Draft
6.	ISO/FDIS 3129 (3rd revision) Wood — Sampling methods and general requirements for physical and mechanical testing of small clear wood specimens	Final Draft International Standard

As of October 2019, a total of 63 ISO Standards were published and the following six ISO standards were at different stages of development:

Apart from the meeting, the delegation had the opportunity to visit POLUS-TEC Bandou Factory which is one of the most famous 'Pre-cut' factories in Japan. The company imports wood from all over the world and fully automated in delivering "pre-cut" beams for housing sector in Japan.

A total of 40 international delegates attended the meeting from 14 countries namely Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Republic of Tanzania. Malaysia was represented by six delegates comprised Prof. Dr. Paridah Md Tahir from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM - Head of delegation), Assoc. Prof. Dr. H'ng Paik San from UPM, Encik Awang Mentali Awang Mohd Sulaiman from Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, Encik Mohd Syafiq Mohd Zakaria & Cik Fatin Najihah Mohammad Nasir from Standard Malaysia and Puan Nor Shahira Mat Nasir from MTIB.

Malaysian Wood
Standing on Excellence

Shaping the Timber Industry of Malaysia

Spot the difference

They look similar, are made from the same type of hardwood and have similar price tags. The only difference is that one came from a rainforest and the other from a plantation.

Every year, millions of trees are felled to fulfill the demands of the timber industry. Problems arise when these trees are not replaced as fast as they are taken, causing a multitude of environmental problems.

MTIB is fully aware of the need for renewable resources. One solution is forest plantation, where trees are planted specifically for commercial purposes. Not only does it provide a steady supply of timber, it also works to the advantage of our environment.

We care about the environment as much as we care about the timber industry, which is why it is important for us to come up with solutions that benefit both – because beautiful furniture doesn't have to come with a high environmental price tag.

MTIB

MTIB is committed towards enhancing the sustainable growth of the Malaysian timber industry through various initiatives and innovations.

For more information, contact:

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facebook.com/pages/Malaysian-Timber-Industry-Board

CANADA :
LUMBER MARKET OUTLOOK

Introduction

Canada is roughly the same size as the United States, at 3.8 million square miles however it only has one-tenth the people, about 34.6 million. Canada is sparsely populated due to the climate. Its northern half is cold for so much of the year that the ground remains permanently frozen. As a result, 90% of the people live within 100 miles of the US border. Canada has more fresh water than any other country. It has between 2 – 3 million lakes however most of cannot be used for productive uses, such as hydropower or even irrigation. Only 4.3% of Canada's land is suitable for farming, compared to 16.9% of land in the US and 12.9% in Mexico.

Economy

Canada's economic freedom score is 77.7, making its economy the 8th freest in the 2019 index and the country ranked 1st among 32 countries in Americas region. The government is emphasising trade diversification, export promotion and support for small businesses and domestic industries. Canada's economic competitiveness has been sustained by the solid institutional foundations of an open-market system and high degree of regulatory efficiency.

Canada is the world's second-largest country by land area and has its 10th-largest economy. Canada closely resembles the US in its market-oriented economic system, patterns of production and high living standards. Leading sectors include automotive and other manufacturers, forest products, minerals and petroleum. About three-quarters of Canada's exports go to the US.

In 1988, the economies of Canada and the US became even more deeply intertwined when the governments of the two countries signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Subsequently, in 1992, Mexico joined the agreement, which became known as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). In 2018, it was renegotiated into a revised deal known as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which was signed on 30 November 2018.

Forest Sector

The forest sector is an important contributor to Canada's economy, providing jobs to Canadians from coast to coast. The forestry industry contributed USD24.6 billion (1.6%) to Canada's nominal gross domestic product (GDP) in 2017. Meanwhile, the forest industry directly employed 209,940 people (1.1% of total employment) and 6% of those were indigenous.

Canada has about 347 million hectares of forest land of which, 68% consists of coniferous, 16% mixedwood, 11% broadleaf and 6% temporarily non-treed. The most common tree species in Canada is the black spruce whilst 49% of Canada's forests were certified to third party standards of sustainable forest management.

Over the last decade, the sector has faced various challenges that resulted in mill closures and thousands of jobs lost. In response to those challenges, the forest industry has developed new and innovative products and materials, diversified its international markets and developed new end-use markets.

In 2017, Canada's forest products export was valued a USD35.7 billion, a 3.8% increase from 2016. Canada is the world leading exporter and the second-largest producer of softwood lumber with British Columbia representing 63% of exports. In terms of structural

panels, the country is the third-largest producer and second-largest exporter in the world.

The country continues to diversify its forest product markets, exporting to 180 countries around the world and the US remains as Canada's primary export destination. Despite the increased competition from low-cost producers, Canada continue to benefit from advantageous access to large and growing offshore markets.

Timber Production

According to the FAO latest forest statistics on Canada, the country produced approximately 216 million m3 of wood in 2017. The production details are as follows:

Canada: Production of Timber and Timber Products, 2013-2017

(Volume : m^3)

PRODUCT	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Logs	126,088	126,909	129,141	136,443	134,820
Pulpwood	19,802	20,339	20,339	16,453	16,453
Wood Chips and Particles	3,231	2,805	2,576	2,215	2,549
Sawntimber	42,813	43,351	47,115	49,724	49,495
Veneer	600	520	610	670	760
Plywood	1,792	1,810	1,929	2,205	2,253
Particleboard	1,700	1,710	1,722	1,761	1,745
Oriented Strand Board	6,268	6,877	7,074	7,002	7,153
Fibreboard	891	931	1,054	1,045	1,118
Total	**203,185**	**205,252**	**211,560**	**217,518**	**216,346**

Source: FAO

Malaysia: Export of Timber and Timber Products to Canada

Canada has always been an important trade partner in timber with Malaysia. In 2018, export of Malaysian timber and timber products to Canada declined 2% to RM298.4 million from RM304.2 million in 2017. However, for the period of January to September 2019, export to Canada registered an increase of 19% to RM252.1 million over the previous corresponding period. Canada ranked 15th with 1.5% of Malaysia's total market share. Wooden furniture was the main product exported with a total value of RM221.9 million, followed by fibreboard at RM7.5 million and plywood at RM7.49 million.

Malaysia: Export of Timber and Timber Products to Canada, 2014-2019 (Jan-Sep)

(Value: RM)

PRODUCT	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Jan-Sep)
Sawntimber	1,139,051	1,281,737	3,024,523	2,068,432	4,093,455	6,981,907
Plywood	6,080,802	8,387,798	9,570,399	7,507,779	8,487,972	7,492,976
Veneer	209,054	426,395	282,619	1,127,333	1,489,880	1,544,362
Mouldings	3,530,331	3,590,999	4,794,953	4,824,409	4,199,898	2,586,330
Chipboard/Particleboard			185,143	208,819	297,417	395,502
Fibreboard	1,596,436	1,059,534	3,129,305	5,355,848	5,113,055	7,541,639
Wooden Frame	3,377,828	4,715,335	5,118,805	4,366,828	3,966,207	2,667,112
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	2,118,155	1,339,188	719,664	541,168	652,909	776,196
Wooden Furniture	264,097,633	300,461,179	262,818,968	278,153,020	270,069,043	221,940,822
Rattan Furniture	26,782	708,803	0	0	0	0
Other Products	286,082	55,444	80,586	60,921	20,981	132,542
Total	**282,462,154**	**322,026,412**	**289,724,965**	**304,214,557**	**298,390,817**	**252,059,388**

Source: MTIB /DOSM

Malaysia: Import of Timber and Timber Products from Canada

In 2018, import of Malaysian timber and timber products from Canada registered an increase of 36% to RM62.2 million from RM45.7 million in 2017. Meanwhile, for the period of January to September 2019, import from Canada declined 13% to RM38.9 million over the previous corresponding period. Sawntimber was the main product imported with a total value of RM22.0 million followed by veneer at RM897 thousand.

Malaysia: Import of Timber and Timber Products from Canada, 2014 – 2019 (January-September)

(Value: RM)

PRODUCT	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Jan-Sep)
Logs	150,323	-	-	-	-	542,272
Sawntimber	19,403,303	18,570,325	15,246,720	19,235,409	25,380,199	21,971,478
Veneer	617,700	276,020	1,875,714	6,370,742	3,182,936	897,553
Mouldings	-	-	11,461	429,285	21,109	61,338
Chipboard/Particleboard	-	-	-	45,929	40,575	-
Fibreboard	11,879	-	-	-	156,466	-
Wooden Furniture	728,549	403,201	435,558	1,193,450	165,778	225,308
Rattan Furniture	-	5,298	-	-	-	-
Other Products	11,505,507	13,177,339	16,032,421	18,381,968	33,285,642	15,205,614
TOTAL	**32,417,261**	**32,432,183**	**33,601,874**	**45,656,783**	**62,232,705**	**38,903,563**

Source: MTIB /DOSM

Canada's Export of Timber axnd Timber Products

Canada's export of timber and timber products in 2018 increased marginally to USD17.1 billion over USD16.9 billion in 2017. Canada export mainly sawntimber, furniture, particleboard and BJC. Export of sawntimber and furniture totaled USD8.2 billion and USD2.8 billion respectively. In addition, export of particleboard totaled USD2.0 billion followed by BJC at USD1.2 billion.

Canada: Export of Timber and Timber Products, 2014-2018

(Value: USD'000)

PRODUCT	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sawntimber	7,815,150	6,926,441	7,804,099	8,335,643	8,239,911
Furniture & Parts	2,272,703	2,483,013	2,760,688	2,771,946	2,803,134
Particleboard	1,293,916	1,267,428	1,590,167	1,811,936	1,998,508
Builders Joinery and Carpentry	974,321	1,052,255	1,144,943	1,198,138	1,193,283
Logs	820,481	622,174	680,025	722,170	684,136
Fuel Wood	350,666	313,625	402,903	383,227	452,467
Plywood	250,889	280,054	326,471	356,691	384,637
Other Articles of Wood	339,171	352,117	357,002	341,360	366,443
Fibreboard	266,548	296,463	302,658	313,070	349,936
Veneer	255,474	277,004	270,351	295,119	329,064
Mouldings	142,908	157,467	172,448	171,137	138,815
Packing Cases	87,339	95,139	98,544	106,136	103,639
Wood Marquetry	10,266	16,279	18,180	15,377	14,097
Hoopwood	5,012	6,021	6,545	9,972	10,643
Wooden Frames	5,608	6,186	5,179	5,859	5,668
Tableware and Kitchenware	2,194	2,924	3,144	4,267	3,718
Railway Sleepers	3,184	4,083	3,895	3,607	3,099
Wood Charcoal	1,433	1,873	1,758	2,138	1,635
Tools, Bodies and Handles	2,567	2,227	1,966	1,385	1,136
Casks, Barrels, Vats and Tubs	3,600	2,281	1,236	1,144	677
Densified Wood	420	266	414	704	348
Wood Wool & Flour	250	303	250	271	272
TOTAL	**14,904,100**	**14,165,623**	**15,952,866**	**16,851,297**	**17,085,266**

Source: International Trade Centre

Malaysian Wood
Standing on Excellence

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.

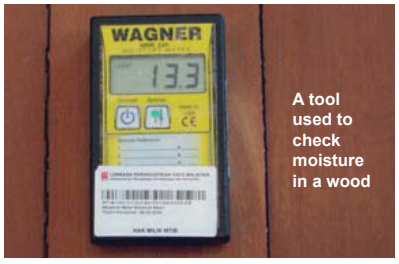
You can be rest assured that your products meet quality standards and hence extend the lifespan with minimal maintenance cost if it is verified to specification.

Checking moisture content

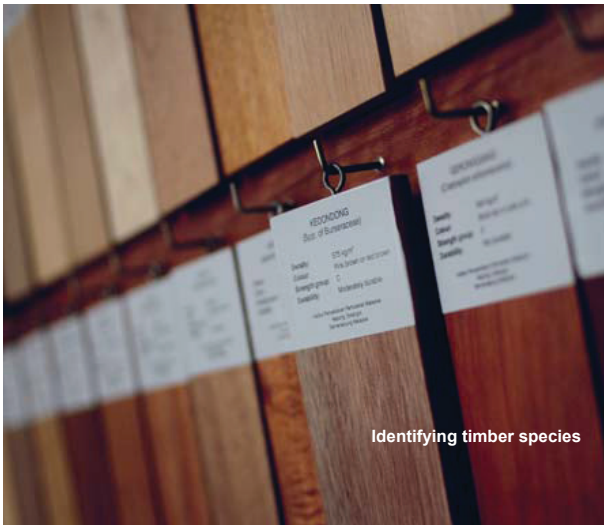
Services

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

Thickness checking on cracked timber



A tool used to check moisture in a wood


Identifying timber species

For more information and enquiries:

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Canada's Import of Timber and Timber Products

Canada's import of timber and timber products in 2018 increased slightly by 3% to USD6.0 million over the previous corresponding period. Canada import mainly furniture, sawntimber, plywood and fibreboard. Import of furniture and sawntimber totaled USD2.9 billion and USD483.7 million respectively. Meanwhile, import of plywood and fibreboard recorded at USD420.2 million and USD410.4 million respectively.

Canada: Import of Timber and Timber Products, 2014-2018

(Value: USD'000)

PRODUCT	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Furniture & Parts	2,841,096	2,688,316	2,628,003	2,866,443	2,940,220
Sawntimber	548,109	461,566	464,630	473,116	483,660
Plywood	340,896	315,693	353,641	422,925	420,217
Fibreboard	453,352	410,759	430,560	426,699	410,393
Builders Joinery and Carpentry	406,683	377,599	344,068	370,501	374,679
Logs	312,738	332,773	289,665	274,195	317,176
Mouldings	291,203	256,826	235,979	186,197	166,002
Other Articles of Wood	175,144	149,604	155,623	159,142	163,408
Veneer	132,323	125,314	118,889	129,621	141,246
Railway Sleepers	110,805	138,512	125,760	121,237	132,675
Fuel Wood	126,374	121,868	93,932	97,606	123,470
Particleboard	102,840	94,306	94,275	100,670	104,057
Packing Cases	55,159	57,777	66,767	58,613	60,439
Wood Marquetry.	50,612	55,318	49,761	54,503	53,883
Tableware and Kitchenware	31,325	33,268	36,198	37,953	39,928
Wooden Frames	33,108	32,657	32,607	27,547	30,752
Casks, Barrels, Vats and Tubs	19,822	22,303	24,044	27,703	29,096
Tools, Bodies and Handles	9,843	7,552	6,288	13,041	13,350
Wood Charcoal	11,545	10,776	11,764	10,771	13,310
Densified Wood	2,040	2,249	2,887	3,081	3,299
Wood Wool & Flour	1,512	1,200	1,143	1,002	1,104
Hoopwood	433	631	695	427	474
TOTAL	**6,056,962**	**5,696,867**	**5,567,179**	**5,862,993**	**6,022,838**

Source: International Trade Centre

NATIONAL CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR PLYWOOD

Products Certification - Towards Widen Market Access and Trade Facilitation

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.

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
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MTIB

STANDARDS MALAYSIA
ACCREDITED CERTIFICATION BODY

MS ISO/IEC 17065:2012
PC 03042012 CB 06

Import Tariff

Canada's import duty on timber and timber products ranges from 0 – 10%. Details are as follows:

Hs Code	Product	MFN Rate (%)
4401	Fuel Wood	0
4402	Wood Charcoal	0 – 6.5
4403	Logs	0
4404	Hoop Wood	0
4405	Wood Wool and Wood Flour	0
4406	Sleepers	0
4407	Sawntimber	0
4408	Veneer	0
4409	Mouldings	0 – 3.5
4410	Particleboard	0
4411	Fibreboard	0 – 6
4412	Plywood	0
4413	Densified Wood	0
4414	Wooden Frames	6
4415	Packing Cases	0 – 9.5
4416	Cask, Barrels, Vats and Tubs	0
4417	Tools Bodies and Handle	0 – 6
4418	BJC	0 – 8
4419	Tableware and Kitchenware	0
4420	Wood Marquetry	6 – 7
4421	Other Articles of Wood	0 – 9.5
9104-9403	Wooden Furniture	0 – 9.5

Source: Canada Border Service Agency

Outlook and Prospects

Canada is one of the world's richest countries and the economy has historically been based around trading natural resources but is now dominated by the service sector. Canada and the US have a very tight economic relationship and approximately 80% of all Canadian trade is with the US. Though Canada has a generally free-market economy, the government still play important roles in regulating and subsidising many industries.

Globalisation is increasing trade possibilities beyond Canadian producers' traditional markets. The US market has long been the main importer of Canadian forest products, however, the impact of the US housing crash and global financial crisis that began in 2008 spurred Canadian producers to expand to other markets. Exports to Asian markets, mainly China, have risen sharply over the past decade and helped increase the robustness of this trade-dependent sector. At the same time. Canada's industry has been struggling under the US softwood tariffs imposed in 2017. The tariffs which average about 20% push mills in British Columbia (B.C.) and Quebec from about a break-even point to a negative 15-20% loss.

Looking into the outlook of the Canadian lumber industry, Malaysian timber exporters should take the opportunities to enhance their presence in the Canadian market through participation in major timber, furniture and construction fairs and exhibitions. In addition, the Malaysia should also find ways to improve business networking with Canadian counterparts and seek new businesses or strategic alliances.

References:

- *Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)*
- *MTIB's statistics*
- *International Trade Centre*
- *Canada Forest Fact Book, 2018-2019*
- *www.nrcan.gc.ca – natural resources Canada*
- *The Canadian Press*

In Canada, the principal softwood lumber species are Spruce, Pine, Hemlock, Douglas Fir, Larch and Western Red Cedar, while the predominant hardwood species are Birch, Maple and Oak.

KAIZEN SOLUTION APPROACH AS A GAME CHANGER FOR MARDOM PRO TO SUSTAIN IN FURNITURE BUSINESS IN THE GLOBAL MARKETS

Briefing at Mardom Pro company.

Background of the Company

Mardom Pro is a modern furniture production company that was established in 1985 by Jan Walaszek who is also the founder of the Mardom Group. The company initially produced curtain steel rods before introducing wooden curtain rods in the Polish and international markets. Although many years passed, Roma, in an almost identical form, remain among Mardom products and its manufacturing continues to this day.

In 1996, they began to diversify their timber supply chain business involving upstream and downstream activities. Currently, the company has several plants such as sawmills, kiln drying, furniture parts, wood briquettes and furniture processing as well as finishing products. The company mainly use Pine, Birch and Beech species in their production line which were imported from the State Forests in Poland.

Range of Products

Currently, Mardom Pro products are mainly solid wood furniture, wood briquettes, baby coat and wooden curtain rods. As an approach to protect the environment, the company obtained the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification in 2016 for all their range of products.

Market Distribution

Mardom Pro exports its products to global markets such as Germany, and Scandinavian countries and also via strategic business partner such as Leroy Merlin, Castorama, IKEA, OBI, NOMI and Praktiker.

Kaizen Approach as a Medium to Increase Productivity and Reduce Cost of Doing Business. Mardom Pro implements the Lean Manufacturing principle and Kaizen philosophy to constantly improve its production line in order to reduce losses and at the same time improve the quality of their products. Mardom Pro's commitment to teamwork and continuous improvement culture and working environment are the key factors for its successful journey for the past 34 years.

In 2003, the company implemented 5S for a new modern production hall with an area of 2,500 m^2. The company implements a production organisation system and ecological air purification systems and wood waste treatment.

In 2010, Mardom Pro invested heavily in automation and robotic equipment in order to increase its manufacturing efficiency and productivity as well as to produce quality timber products for their client worldwide. From 2017 to 2019, a total of €12 million was spent on new machineries such as sanding welt belt, CNC and two units of Kuka robotic machine to enhance their capacity production and to create an autonomous working environment that involved cutting, jointing, lamination and tenoning process.

In order to cut the lead time for production and to reduce the impact of increasing labour cost, the company practised a first flow layout Lean Manufacturing concept and conveyor line to reduce the waiting time in workstation and work in progress (WIP) area by using time controller programming. The technique of poka yoke, 5S,

Credit Photo: Mardom Pro
Wood briquettes produced by Mardom Pro mainly export for Germany markets.

Credit Photo: Furniture and Wood Technology Centre (CETEM), Spain
Group photo session by delegation from Malaysia-EU HE Erasmus 4.0 Programme with Mardom Pro management held in Lipniki Stare 27, Poland.

Quality Control Cycle (QCC) and Total Quality Management (TQM) are being used by companies such as Toyota Motor Corporation and other multinational companies (MNC).

In Poland, the average minimum wages paid by employers in the furniture industry is about €900 per month. Mardom Pro implemented shift working hours for their employees to maintain their company productivity level. Kaizen or continuous improvement culture in their working environment had benefitted the company as this encourages their staff to create new ideas or suggestion to solve problems in their jobs and therefore helps to achieve its goals to reduce production cost and to create more profit for their company.

Way Forward

In order to sustain in the Polish furniture business, Mardom Pro collaborate with Warsaw University of Life Sciences (WULS) to share experience and knowledge among others to cater to continuous improvement in production management and to offer internship and working experience in the furniture industry. The company also invested a new plant in Lipniki Stare to cater production demand from IKEA especially for the local and USA market.

Achievements by Mardom Pro

- 2003 : 4S and IWAY Implementation system - international standards systems for environmental protection, social conditions, work and wooden products.
- 2008 : Implementation of The ISO 9001-2001 System
- 2011 : Certification ISO 9001-2009 quality certificate in the scope of production planning and purchase of log for production purposes.
- 2014: Completion of The Group's Exercise Process After the transformation, two entities operate in Mardom Group: Mardom Pro and Mardom Home.
- 2016 : Receiving FSC Certificate SGSCH-CoC-003517 : A Certificate Confirming That the Company's Products are Made of Certified Wood Raw Material.

FEATURE

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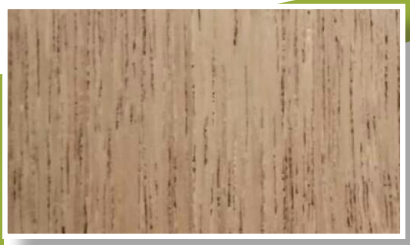
References:

- *http://mardomgrupa.pl/en/*
- *Interview with Mardom Pro company on 3 June 2019*
- *https://twitter.com/hashtag/making4.0*

MERBAU-
MALAYSIA NATIONAL TREE



Wood colour and texture.

Merbau tree

INTRODUCTION

Merbau Wood As National Tree Species

The Merbau *(Intsia palembanica Miq.)* tree was announced as national tree species by YAB Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia on 23 August 2019 during the opening ceremony exhibition of "Our Forest: Journey Through Our Rainforest", organised by the Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources in Kuala Lumpur. Merbau was selected as a symbol of the integrity of the nation's forest as a result of sustainable management and the conservation of Malaysian biodiversity. The message was to ensure that development is not hindered in efforts to protect forests.

Facebook Mahathir Mohamad

YAB Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia officiating the exhibition of Our Forest: Journey through Our Rainforest on 23 August 2019.

Merbau, which belongs to the family of *Fabaceae* is one of the commercial wood species in Malaysia and has high properties in nature which is highly demanded in market. The local name of Merbau includes Alai, Anglai, Ipil, Lemelai, Malacca Teak, Merbau Ayer, Merbau Ayer and Merbau Bukit.

The species mainly distributed in Peninsular Malaysia, along river valleys, in low hills near streams, and in moist sites on alluvial soil (Wyatt-Smith, 1953). It had been reported by Verdcourt, (1979) approximately nine species of *Intsia* was distributed widely throughout Southeast Asia and islands of the Southwest Pacific such as *Intsia bijuga, Intsia palembanica, Intsia acuminata. Intsia amboinensis, Intsia bakeri, Intsia plurijuga, Intsia puberula, Intsia retusa* and *Intsia rhomboidea.*

Description and Ethnobotany of Merbau

Merbau wood are small to large trees evergreen or deciduous, up to 42-50 m tall; bole sometimes of poor shape, branchless up to 20-25 m; slight buttress 60-75 cm to huge buttress up to 2 m; diameter at breast height up to 160-250 cm, with spreading crown. The nine species are similar in all aspects except for few minor differences in the number of leaflets per rachis and the shape of the leaflet apices.

The genus is found in coastal forests and lowland tropical rainforest to an altitude of 1,000 m. Seedlings require canopy opening for rapid initial growth typical of many secondary species. Once established, they require partial shade to grow. They can grow on a variety of soil types except on peat soils.

Anatomy of Merbau

The wood had differentiated heartwood that is yellow or orange-brown when freshly cut but in time depends to bronze or dark red. In exposed condition, it weathers to silvery grey. The fresh wood is distinctive for sulfur–yellow deposits that occur in the pores.

Mechanical Properties of Merbau

Merbau wood is categorised under Strength Group 4 under the MS 544 standard. The basic mechanical properties of Merbau is shown in **Table 1.**

Table 1 : Strength Properties of Merbau (Engku, 1988b)

Test Condition	Modulus of Elasticity (MPa)	Modulus of Rupture (MPa)	Compression Parallel to Grain (MPa)	Compression Perpendicular to Grain (MPa)	Shear Strength (MPa)
Green	13,900	89.0	46.7	6.4	10.8
Air dry	15,400	116.0	58.2	9.2	12.5

Natural Durability and Dimensional Stability of Merbau

Merbau wood is usually sound to the heart and notably free of defects. The wood is highly resistant to biodeterioration agent such as subterranean termites and fungi. The classification of wood durability in Malaysia was based on field trial where the wood was stacks in graveyard testing.

Approximately, 50 mm (width) by 50 mm (thick) by 600 mm (length) are half buried in test grounds and half of the specimens were exposed to the atmosphere. The wood specimens were monitored periodically and the number of years that the wood can last under specifics condition is used to classify the durability of the wood as shown in **Table 2.**

Table 2: The Classes for Durability of Lignocellulosic Materials in Temperate, Tropical and Laboratory Conditions (Findlay, 1985)

Durability Class	Service Life Under		
	Temperate Exposure (years)	Tropical Exposure (years)	Laboratory Exposure (% wt. loss)
Perishable	< 5	<2	>30
Non-durable	5-10	2-5	10-30
Moderately Durable	10-15	-	5-10
Durable	15-25	5-10	1-5
Very Durable	25 +	10 +	< 1

Two such tests were conducted on the Merbau species. In the first series of such tests, the average service life for 14 test specimens was 5.5 years. In the second test, the average service life for 60 specimens was six years. However, it has been reported that the timber is highly susceptible to powder-post beetle attacks.

The timber seasons slowly without any degrade except for some powder-post-beetle attacks on the sapwood. Boards of 13 mm thick take approximately 4.5 months to air dry, while 38 mm thick boards take six months. Shrinkage values are particularly low. Radial shrinkage averaging 0.9% and tangential shrinkage averaging 1.6%.

Uses

Merbau is a heavy and hard wood which is not easy to work with. In general, it is unsuitable for veneer and plywood. Merbau is a very good timber for general-purpose use. The timber is suitable for interior finishing, panelling, mouldings, office fittings, flooring (heavy traffic), superior joinery, cabinet-making, musical instruments, ornamental items and carvings. The timber is widely used for the manufacture of reproduction antique furniture and strip flooring in the country.

It is also suitable for heavy construction, power transmission poles, railway sleepers, decking, columns (heavy duty), door and window frames and sills, fender supports, staircase (apron lining, rough bracket, baluster, balustrade, carriage, handrail, newel, riser, stringer, tread, bullnose, round end and winder), heavy duty furniture, tool handles (impact) and pallets (heavy permanent type).

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YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries (centre) posing with VIPs during an exhibition on bamboo products.(8-9 October 2019, Parliament, Kuala Lumpur).

MTIB officials led by Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, MTIB Director-General (sixth from right) during a courtesy visit to UPEN Perak. The group met YB Dato' Seri Ir. Haji Mohammad Nizar bin Jamaluddin, Chairman of the Perak Investment, Industrial and Corridor Development Committee. (1 October 2019).

Courtesy visit by Selangor and Kuala Lumpur Wood Industries Association (SKLWIA). (4 October 2019, MTIB, Kuala Lumpur).

Members of 'Persatuan Pengusaha Industri Perabot Bumiputera Malaysia' (PETRA) visited MTIB, Kuala Lumpur. (7 October 2019).

Courtesy visit by members of 'Persatuan Usahawan Perabot Bumiputera Kebangsaan' (PUPUK) to MTIB, Kuala Lumpur. (8 October 2019).

MTIB organised a workshop on Proof-Read to Perfection for MTIB officers. (8-9 October 2019, MTIB, Kuala Lumpur).