

MASKAYU

VOL 12 : DECEMBER 2019

ISSN 0126-771X



KUALA LUMPUR WOOD & LIFESTYLE FAIR 2019

THE NEW SECRETARY-GENERAL,
MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

ISSN 0126-771X



MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD



03



16



17



20

Contents

Highlights

03 Kuala Lumpur Wood & Lifestyle Fair 2019

15 The New Secretary-General, Ministry of Primary Industries

16 55th Session of International Tropical Timber Council

17 Wood and Biofibre International Conference 2019

19 Briefing on Finding of the National Timber Industry Census Study

20 International Bamboo Maestro 2019 – Construction Material of the Future

21 Advanced Course on Operational of CNC Boring Machine

22 Furniture Market in the United States of America

23 4th Haikou International Conference on Agarwood Industry Development

23 United Arab Emirates : Dubai Woodshow Gears Up To Link Opportunities For Timber Industry

30 Teluto-Suitable for Plywood

Regular Features

04 Timber World in Brief

08 Shipping News

10 Timber Round-Up

12 Domestic Trade News

32 MTIB Moments

Chief Editor

Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani
Director-General

Editorial Members

Dato' Dr. Mohd Puat Dahalan
Hj. Mahpar Atan
Hjh. Robiyah Hj. Husin
Hj. Zulkepli Abd Rani
Hj. Kamaruzaman Othman
Dr. Mohd Nor Zamri Mat Amin
Saiful Bahri Salleh

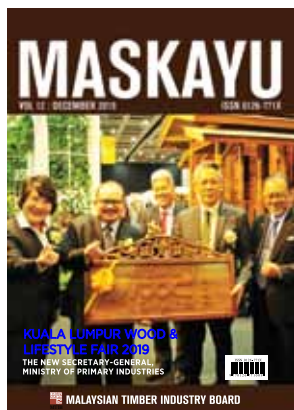
Farydatul Nazly Mohd Zin
Noorazimah Sarkom@Hj. Othman
Mohd Nizam Hamid
Mohd Amin Kadir
Shamsul Azman Abdul Aziz
Hafsah Hasbi

Publisher

MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD
(MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES)
Level 13 - 17, Menara PGRM, 8, Jalan Pudu Ulu, Cheras,
P.O. Box 10887, 50728 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel : 603-9282 2235
Fax : 603-9200 3769/9283 9792
E-mail : info@mtib.gov.my
Website : www.mtib.gov.my



Read eMASKAYU at
www.mtib.gov.my



Cover :

YB Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin, Deputy Minister of Primary Industries officiated the Kuala Lumpur Wood & Lifestyle Fair 2019 at KLCC.

For more details, please refer pages 3 and 7.

KUALA LUMPUR WOOD & LIFESTYLE FAIR 2019

news



YB Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin, Deputy Minister of Primary Industries officiating KLWLF 2019.

The Wood and Lifestyle Fair (WLF) 2019 is an annual MTIB event which was held in several states namely Kedah, Perak, Johor, Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Sabah and Kuala Lumpur. This programme aimed to promote and enhance the Bumiputera Economic Community's (BEC) economic presence and participation in the country. The WLF is a platform for furniture entrepreneurs to promote their products in the domestic market in order to pave the way for subsequent foray into international market.

The Kuala Lumpur Wood & Lifestyle Fair (KLWLF) 2019 was held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre from 13 to 15 December. This year's edition saw another collaboration between MTIB and the Malaysian Furniture & Furnishings Fair (MF3) for the second consecutive year with 34 participating companies occupying about 1,197 square metres of exhibition area. The KLWLF was able to draw a large crowd by showcasing furniture products ranging from traditional to modern designed wood furniture. The range of furniture products showcased at the fair also highlighted the beauty, elegance and versatility of Malaysian timbers in furniture making. For the first time, the KLWLF featured the replica of Melaka House which was about 40 square metres in floor space using Teak wood that was a unique selling point to attract more visitors.

YB Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin, Deputy Minister of Primary Industries who officiated the event informed the audience in his opening speech, that the furniture industry is the most vibrant "Made in Malaysia" industry in Malaysia. He added that this industry was a significant contributor to



The replica of Melaka House using Teak wood displayed during the fair.



CHINA

Forestry Industry Continuous Expansion

According to the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China's forestry sector has seen continuous expansion in recent years. The gross output of the industry in the first three quarters of the year hit USD730.5 billion, up 5.3% year-on-year. China has seen a significant expansion in the forestry sector with improved development quality, said Zhang Jianlong, Head of the administration.

China's foreign trade of forest products in 2018 totalled USD160.3 billion, making it the largest consuming and trading nation of wood forest products, data showed.

"The forestry industry's rapid development has facilitated the adjustment of the rural economic structure, expanded employment and increased the income of forest workers, and boosted the targeted poverty alleviation efforts in impoverished regions. The country has over 50 million people working in the forestry sector, with some earning 20% or even as much as 60% of their income from forest products.

Xin zua, Globalwood.org., 2 December

CHINA

Wood Flooring Industry

There are nearly 3,000 wood flooring enterprises with around 1 million employees in China. The total output of wood and bamboo flooring in 2018 was 789 million m³. The process of consolidation in the wood flooring industry has accelerated in recent years with a concentration towards dominant brand enterprises. The output of the top 10 large-scale enterprises accounts for more than 30% of the total output of the sector.

More and more wood flooring enterprises regard innovation as their development strategy and have invested heavily in R&D to continuously improve their technological innovation. Chinese wood flooring enterprises have over than 8,000 patents.

globalwood.org, 15 December



GABON

Export Sawnwood to be Kiln Dried

The news from Gabon is that the government has issued a Decree stating that, from 1 January 2020 sawnwood for

export must be kiln dried. This, it is reported, does not apply to timbers used for marine/waterworks. Currently it is not possible to verify this change in regulations.

Also from Gabon it has been rumoured that a trial shipment of scaled and bar tagged Kevagingo will be allowed to test the monitoring process. If this is successful the industry hopes a decision will be taken on approving export quotas.

Globalwood.org., 31 December



GERMAN

Lumber Market Continued to Grow

Germany's exports of softwood lumber reached a 10 year record high of 8.2 million m³ in 2018, which was 10% higher than the previous year and 23% more than in 2014. Exports have continued to grow in 2019, with the biggest increases coming in shipments to China, the US, the UK and India. The development in trade with China has been quite remarkable, with export volumes surging from 102,000 m³ during the first nine months of 2018 to 580,000 m³ during the same period in 2019.

The US has become the major destination for German lumber, with shipments increasing 10-fold in just three years. The US is not only the largest market for German lumber exporters, but it has also been the market that has paid the highest prices.

woodbusiness.ca, 18 December



GHANA

Verified Legal Timber Sales

The Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) of the Ghana Forestry Commission held a workshop on the feasibility study of establishing legal wood depots through Public/Private Partnership approach.

The workshop which is part of a programme was supported by the FAO and its donor partners on the theme "Enhancing stakeholders interest in the Domestic Timber Trade Network (DoTTNet) process to meet the demand and supply of legal timber in the Domestic market in Ghana".

The stakeholders were drawn from industry players including Domestic Lumber Millers Association of Ghana

(DoLMAG), Domestic Lumber Trade Association, TUC holders (GTMO and GTA), Nature and Development Foundation, Tropenbos International Ghana, and Kumasi Wood Cluster Association (KWC), representative of the EU-Ghana Delegation and representatives from the Forestry Commission.

A media release from the Ghana Forestry Commission reports that Dr. Ben N. Donkor, Executive Director of TIDD stated that the success of Ghana's FLEGT/VPA is largely pivoted on a well-structured and regulated domestic market which can also be a catalyst for development and growth in the timber industry of Ghana.

Globalwood.org., 18 December



INDONESIA

Forest Development Roadmap (2019-2024) and Aiming for a Rise in Exports to the EU

Indonesian Forest Entrepreneurs Association (APHI) has launched its 2019-2045 Production Forest Development Roadmap with the aim of expanding social forestry and re-configuring forestry businesses. The roadmap contains investment, production and export targets as well as targets for employment in the forestry sector. The Plan encompasses issues such as non-timber forest products and environmental services.

According to the APHI Chairman, in 2020 the forestry sector will face challenges and strategic issues in investment development and there is a need to boost forestry performance which will involve developing multibusinesses, synergising and balancing the flow of goods, funding, rationalisation and review of fees and developing new clusters for enterprises.

The government has targeted a 10% growth in export of wood products to the EU in 2020. The Forest Products Processing and Marketing Director of the Ministry said wood products from Indonesia are of high quality and efforts to increase production capacity will be required if the target is to be achieved.

The value of Indonesian wood product exports to the EU in 2017 reached USD994.5 million rising by 8.5% to USD1.08 billion last year. This year export values in the 11 months to were USD963 million.

Globalwood.org., 31 December



INDIA

Birch Plywood Price Drops

Reports from Russia plywood industry suggested that 'Birch plywood prices' have reduced by 10% to 13% because the demand has slumped down in international market. The downward trend in Birch plywood prices began quite ago during November-December 2018. The Russian plywood manufacturers found themselves facing a slump in deliveries of laminated boards to Turkey due to global conflicts and slowing economy.

The desired effect on prices did not show up though big volumes largely remained absent. However the demand stagnated and volumes decreased in other core markets of Europe and overseas that hit the Birch plywood manufacturers further. Post March 2019, the pressure build up led to price softening as majority of Russian units continued production. As a result, there was a huge build up of stocks of finished products in many of the factories leading spiral down prices in tune to 15%. After some initial orders of big volumes on cheaper prices the inventories came down and the prices stabilised at 10% lower value compared to same time previous year during April - May.

This phase has caused extreme pressure to prices that has spread to other assortments. The reduction in prices have also caused a great deal of uncertainty and fear of stock devaluation amongst central European Birch plywood importers. On the contrary Indian buyer of Birch plywood have taken the advantage and have placed significant volumes to gain out of the scenario. On the other side, many Russian plywood manufacturing companies are also trying to expand their market in India, and looking for good suppliers. They say that India is very good market for plywood consumption, hence they see more potential of their product in India.

Birch plywood is increasingly getting popular among Indian buyers because of its perfectly calibrated property, uniformity at every layer and quality levels of European standard. Importers of Birch plywood who have been consistently working for the marketing of this product in their targeted pockets are reportedly successful in getting orders from good retail counters. The retailers, who are selling their products through architects, designers and big OEMs do find Birch plywood buyers because of its genuine quality properties.

The Ply Reporter finds the presence of Birch Plywood at every good retail counters in metro, tier 1 and tier 2 cities. Retailers explained that they earn reasonable margin in Birch plywood because of its look, Birch wood, no core gap and no thickness variation features. Besides, this product is made in Europe, hence it is easy to convince premium class customers and their designers. Importers present Birch plywood as the best plywood, having all adequate feature of genuine plywood, hence it is equivalent to the branded segment products. The price reduction has presented an opportunity to make this product reach to deeper pockets of Indian market.

plyreporter.com, 20 December



SOUTH KOREA

Investigating Dumping of Plywood by Viet Nam

In December the Korean Trade Commission announced an anti-dumping investigation on plywood imported from Viet Nam. This came about as Korea's domestic manufacturers complained that imports from Viet Nam are damaging the domestic industry. According to the Korean news agency, Viet Nam's wood products have a 40% market share in Korea, a market worth around USD650 million.

It has been reported that the Korean Wood Production Association is proposing an anti-dumping duty of 93.5% on Vietnamese plywood in stark contrast to the antidumping rate from 3.96% to 38.1% for plywood imported from Malaysia and China.

fordaq.com, 18 December



UNITED KINGDOM

Use More Timber Frames in New Housing

The next government must ramp up the amount of domestically-produced timber used in new housing starts across England from the current 22% to 40%, according to a news report. Right-leaning think tank the Policy Exchange said land policy after the UK leaves the EU should encourage the construction sector to use more home-grown timber.

In a news report, the group called for timber frames to account for 40% of new housing starts in England, Wales and Northern Ireland by 2025, noting that in Scotland this figure was already over 80%.

The Policy Exchange, said timber frames currently accounted for 22% of new housing starts in England, 17% in Northern Ireland and 30% in Wales. The UK currently imports more than three quarters (80%) of the 57 million m³ of wood products it consumes, the exchange's report said.

And it highlighted a Forestry Commission estimate that England had between 60 million and 100 million tonnes of 'overdue' timber in broadleaved woodlands, "demonstrating that there is a lot of slack in the market".

The report also proposed a 'Forest of Britain', connecting Land's End to John O'Groats via Wales, "as a lasting monument to mark the Queen's platinum jubilee in 2022. "This would be a two-mile-wide corridor connecting conservation sites along the country to raise the profile of woodlands, containing 300 million trees," it added.

housingtoday.co.uk, 2 December



VIET NAM

Wood Exports Exceeding Target

Việt Nam's wood exports this year are set to reach up to USD11.5 billion, exceeding the industry's own target of USD10.5 billion, a 20% increase compared to last year. According to the Vietnam Timber and Forest Product Association (VTFPA) Đỗ Xuân Lập, Vietnamese firms had been able to enter and gain footholds in numerous markets around the world, overcoming their shortcomings and limitations.

Exports of wood products to the US have seen a sharp rise this year, as well as robust growth to markets including Japan, the UK, Canada, Germany and Netherlands, said the department of import-export under the Ministry of Industry and Trade. With Japan and Canada partners in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), the department said Vietnamese firms were starting to take advantage of the trade deal's reduced tariffs to penetrate these markets.

As the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) is set to take effect in 2020, Vietnamese firms can also look forward to similar tariff cuts and trade advantages from the EU, one of Việt Nam's major export markets of wood products. The department has set a target of USD12 billion for wood exports in 2020, saying the fast growth of large markets such as the US and the EU are major drivers for the industry.

Viet Nam News, Globalwood.org., 30 December



Business negotiation during the fair.

the timber sector with export earnings valued at RM22.3 billion in 2018. From January to August 2019, the total furniture export earnings had reached RM6.9 billion, out of which wooden furniture contributed RM5.6 billion. According to him, this sector was expected to hit RM12 billion annual export earnings by 2020.

He also emphasised on the importance of creating our own “Made in Malaysia” identity for furniture products both in the domestic and global market with Malaysia’s strong pool of industry players with a niche in manufacturing. He believed the local branding could be enhanced and thus further promotes Malaysia as a furniture manufacturing hub for the region.

He also urged industry players to continue working closely with other stakeholders throughout the supply chain and broaden their network to explore new possibilities strategically. He hoped that the timber industry will remain competitive and



Visitor at Katta Kayu booth.

continue to contribute for the development of Malaysian economy.

More than 4,000 visitors comprising individuals, government officials and companies attended the KLWLF 2019.



Resak Vatica spp.

Malaysian Wood
Standing on Excellence

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



Malaysia: Westports Handled 8.04 Million TEUs of Containers in 3rd Quarter of 2019

Source: Edge Financial Daily (The)

Westports Holdings Bhd handled 8.04 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of containers during the nine-month period. Increased throughput of 16% over the previous corresponding period has been contributed by transshipment containers, which improved to 5.39 million TEUs, while gateway volume expanded to 2.65 million TEUs. It achieved another consecutive record-breaking container throughput level in the third quarter of 2019 by handling 2.77 million TEUs. The port operator said transshipment containers, including for intra-Asia, increased to 1.85 million TEUs whereas gateway boxes which support domestic economic activities grew to 920,000 TEUs. Westports continued volume growth has underpinned Port Klang's overall ranking as among the world's 12th busiest port as the company

accounted for 80% of Port Klang's overall container throughput. Westports expected to handle a record of more than 10 million TEUs of containers in year 2019.

United Kingdom: Asia-Europe Soars 19% to USD707 TEUs, US West Coast (USWC) up 17% to USD 1,588 FEUs

Source: Asian Shippers

SPOT rates for shipping containers from Asia to northern Europe in end of month soared 19% to USD707 per TEUs. Asia-Mediterranean rates were stable at USD710 per TEUs, according to the Shanghai Containerised Freight Index (SCFI). Rates from Shanghai-US west coast also shot up 17% to USD1,588 per forty-foot equivalent units (FEUs) while China-US east coast increased 8% to USD 2,604 per FEUs.

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

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all Ports m ³	% Change Nov 2019/ Oct 2019
	m ³	% Change Nov 2019/ Oct 2019	m ³	% Change Nov 2019/ Oct 2019	m ³	% Change Nov 2019/ Oct 2019	m ³	% Change Nov 2019/ Oct 2019	m ³	% Change Nov 2019/ Oct 2019		
Sawntimber	58,550	-25	3,447	-62	1,056	-23	363	-14	8,992	-7	72,408	-27
MDF	20,029	0	450	75	4,013	-24	2,724	13	12,850	-11	40,066	-5
Mouldings	9,502	-23	183	1	1,482	-19	444	-54	1,166	-5	12,777	-23
Plywood	3,788	-61	166	1	12	-74	223	-44	7,497	-25	11,686	-43
Veneer	657	-11	0	-100	30	0	14	-71	2,074	-16	2,775	-16
Particleboard	34,999	-1	466	372	3,507	-11	0	-100	6,535	-9	45,507	-3
TOTAL	127,525	-19	4,712	-52	10,100	-19	3,768	-18	39,114	-13	185,219	-19

Source : MTIB



Germany: Port of Hamburg Cargo Tops All on Northern Range

Source: Asian Shippers

The Port of Hamburg seaborne cargo increased 3.2% year on year in the first nine months of the year to 104 million tons, outperforming Northern Range rivals.

Container volume was up 6.9% year on year to 7 million per TEUs as Hamburg regained market share, rising 0.7% points in competition with other major container ports, whose growth averaged 3.4%. During the first three quarters of 2109, Hamburg's transshipments were up 4.3%. Transporting 4.4 million TEUs in the first nine months, landside seaport-hinterland services achieved 8.6% growth.

Container Terminal Burchardkai (CTB) at Hamburg port that can handle mega containerships with a carrying capacity of 23,000 TEUs. The new gantry cranes manufactured by ZPMC will replace three smaller units at CTB.

HHLA is expecting delivery of another two gantry cranes of the same type in the 1st quarter of 2020. After the new handling equipment has gradually commenced operations, HHLA will have an extra mega-ship berth at Burchardkai. Last year, the number of calls at the port of Hamburg by containerships with a capacity of 18,000 TEUs to 22,000 TEUs rose by 47%. This trend is continuing, after the number grew by 40% in the first half of this year. 

India: India's Adani Ports Handle Milestone 109 Million Tonnes of Cargo in H1

Source: Asian Shippers

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited handled a record 109 million tonnes of cargo across its network of ports and terminals in India in the first half of the current financial year that ended, representing year-on-year volume growth of 9%.

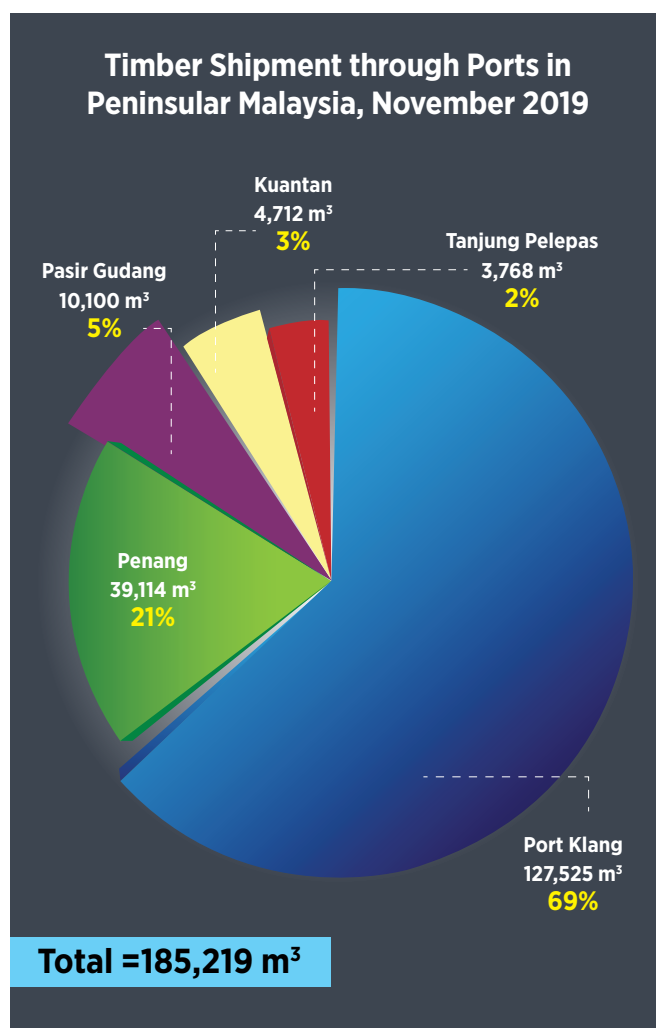
The fastest growing port within the group was Dhamra, on the eastern coast, which registered a growth rate of 46%. Kattupalli, to the south, achieved a 17% increase, while the western ports of Hazira and Mundra saw cargo volumes rise by 7% and 5% respectively.

There were a number of highlights over the reporting period, including the development of a new container terminal at Mundra with an annual handling capacity of 500,000 TEUs.

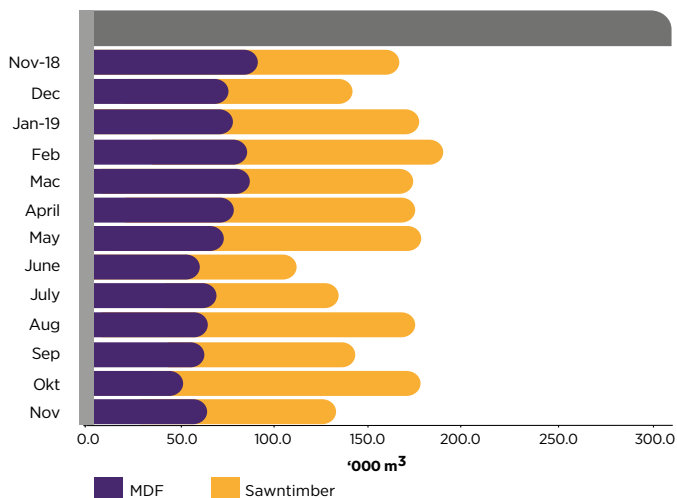
Germany: Hamburg Port Takes Delivery of Three Gantry Cranes to Handle 23,000 TEUs Box Ships

Source: Asian Shippers

Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG (HHLA) has received three new container gantry cranes for its



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



Total export of Malaysia timber and timber products in November 2019 decreased by 3% valued at RM2.0 billion over the previous month. Meanwhile, cumulative export for the period of January to November 2019 increased by 0.3% to RM20.5 billion over RM20.4 billion in the previous corresponding period in 2018.

SAWNTIMBER

Total export of sawntimber in November 2019 both have decreased in volume and value by 27% and 25% to 130,027 m³ with a value of RM236.5 million as compared to the previous month. Cumulative export for the period of January to November 2019 decreased 6% in volume and 7% in value to 1.7 million m³ totalling RM3.1 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Export of sawntimber to the EU for the month decreased 57% to 3,708 m³ over the previous month as a result of lower demand from major countries in the region. The Netherlands as the main buyer has decreased its intake by 55% to 1,300 m³ from 2,900 m³ in the previous month. Export to Germany decreased 77% to 226 m³ from 1,000 m³ recorded in the previous month followed by France with 70% to 305 m³ and the UK 48% to 804 m³. Similarly, export to Italy also decreased 72% to 161 m³ from 572 m³ recorded in the previous month followed by Belgium with 39% to 501 m³.

Total exports to West Asia increased 13% to 29,588 m³ from 26,237 m³ recorded in the previous month. Export to Yemen increased 55% to 15,193 m³ from 9,815 m³ recorded in the previous month followed by the UAE with 47% to 7,468 m³. In the meanwhile, exports to Oman and Saudi Arabia decreased by 56% to 1,751 m³ and 41% to 952 m³ respectively. Similarly, Bahrain and Qatar also decreased its intake of sawntimber by 64% to 338 m³ and 2% to 1,122 m³ respectively. Iraq did not make any purchases this month.

Buying from ASEAN decreased by 40% to 33,665 m³ from 55,732 m³ registered in the previous month. Thailand as the main buyer in ASEAN has decreased its intake of sawntimber by 55% to 15,122 m³. Export of sawntimber to Philippines also decreased by 25% to 9,146 m³ followed by Viet Nam with 20% to 1,829 m³. Contrarily, export to

Singapore slightly increased by 2% to 7,568 m³ compared to the previous month. On the other hand, Indonesia did not make any purchases this month.

In the meanwhile, shipments to East Asia decreased 33% to 34,208 m³ from 51,182 m³ in the previous month. China as the main buyer has decreased their purchased with 41% to 19,586 m³ from 33,371 m³ recorded in the previous month. Similarly, export to South Korea has decreased by 34% to 3,638 m³ followed by Taiwan with 14% to 6,084 m³ and Japan 6% to 4,644 m³. In meanwhile, export to Hong Kong increased 21% to 256 m³ from 212 m³ in the previous month.

Elsewhere, exports to the US increased 93% to 1,832 m³ whilst intake by Australia decreased 55% to 489 m³. Demand from South Africa decreased 67% to 1,352 m³ from 4,115 m³ in the previous month.

The average FOB price of sawntimber increased slightly to RM1,819 per m³ from RM1,778 per m³ in the previous month. Meanwhile, price of Dark Red Meranti to Netherlands decreased slightly to RM3,270 per m³ from RM3,339 per m³ in the previous month. Keruing was traded at RM2,525 per m³, a decreased of 66% from RM7,489 per m³ in the previous month.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Export of MDF in November 2019 has increased in volume by 6% to 64,619 m³ but has decreased in value by 2% totalled RM87.6 million compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, cumulative export for January to November 2019 recorded a decrease in volume by 16% to 775,227 m³ and in value by 9% worth RM992.0 million over the previous corresponding period.

In ASEAN, total export decreased by 8% to 8,366 m³ from 9,128 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Viet Nam and Singapore have reduced by 39% to 1,769 m³ and 38% to 179 m³ respectively. However, Philippines and Indonesia have increased their intake by 15% to 3,812 m³ and 5% to 2,216 m³ respectively.

Exports to East Asia countries registered a decrease of 1% to 15,679 m³ from 15,777 m³ in the previous month. Exports to China including Hong Kong and South Korea have decreased by 77% to 112 m³ and 44% to 227 m³ respectively. However, Japan as the largest buyer in the region has increased its intake by 1% to 14,552 m³ followed by Taiwan with 81% to 772 m³.

Meanwhile, export to South Asia countries recorded an increase of 1% to 10,789 m³ from 10,662 m³ in the previous month. Export to Sri Lanka recorded an increase by 156% to 2,739 m³. However, export to India decreased by 26% to 3,779 m³ followed by Pakistan by 1% to 3,679 m³ and Bangladesh 17% to 592 m³.

Export to West Asia region increased by 31% to 17,309 m³ from 13,250 m³ in the previous month. Kuwait has increased its buying to 3,311 m³ followed by Lebanon 1,322 m³, Jordan 821 m³, Qatar 411 m³ and Bahrain 160 m³. Meanwhile, the UAE as the largest buyer has decreased its intake by 5% to 7,359 m³, followed by Saudi Arabia 28% to 1,141 m³ and Oman 59% to 694 m³. Iran and Syria did not

make any purchases this month.

Elsewhere, export to the US has increased by 5% to 1,895 m³. Meanwhile, export to Australia decreased by 22% to 2,369 m³ and followed by the UK 20% to 170 m³, South Africa 87% to 149 m³ and Mauritius 58% to 27 m³.

The FOB price of MDF has reduced to RM1,356 per m³ from RM1,459 per m³, a decrease of 7% from the previous month.

PLYWOOD

Export of plywood in November 2019 both have decreased in volume and value by 3% and 7% to 147,683 m³ totalled RM269.0 million compared to the previous month. Similarly, cumulative export for January to November 2019 showed a decrease in volume by 20% to 1.6 million m³ and in value by 25% worth RM3.2 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Total export of plywood to the EU have increased by 27% to 5,043 m³ for this month. The UK as the main buyer has increased its import volume by 50% to 4,570 m³. However, Ireland, Denmark and Netherlands have reduced its buying by 55% to 300 m³, 67% to 43 m³ and 48% to 43 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Belgium maintained its buying at 44 m³ whilst France, Germany and Italy did not make any purchases this month.

Exports to ASEAN and East Asia region recorded a decrease of 5% to 97,449 m³ compared to the previous month. In East Asia region, Japan as the main importer of Malaysian plywood reduced its intake by 8% to 65,457 m³ followed by South Korea by 4% to 10,798 m³. Contrarily, Taiwan has increased its buying by 3% to 9,312 m³ followed by Hong Kong 26% to 2,384 m³ and China 4% to 1,089 m³. Meanwhile, Malaysia's plywood trade with its ASEAN partners showed a mixed trend for this month. Exports to Thailand and Brunei Darussalam have decreased by 25% to 3,668 m³ and 28% to 492 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, exports to Singapore and Philippines have increased by 116% to 2,467 m³ and 96% to 1,393 m³ respectively. Indonesia does not make any purchases this month.

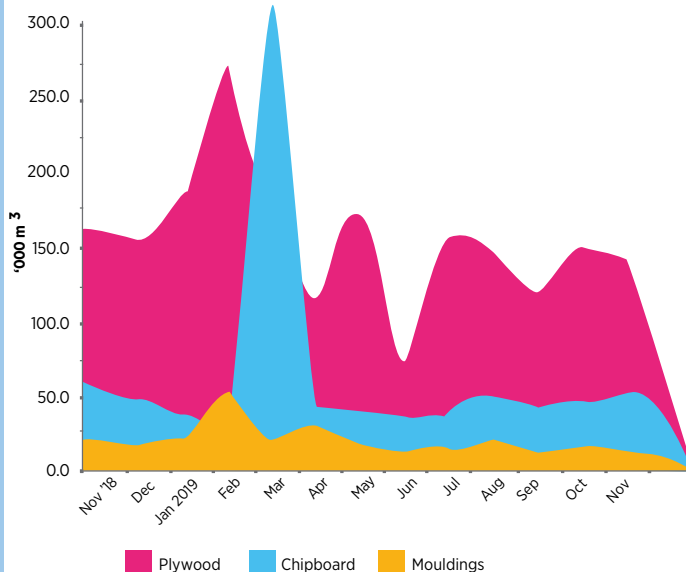
Export to West Asian region recorded an increase of 16% to 19,135 m³ where the biggest buyer for this month, Yemen has increased its buying by 27% to 15,959 m³. Similarly, export to Saudi Arabia increased from 85 m³ in the previous month to 683 m³ followed by Kuwait 155% to 493 m³ and Qatar 100% to 242 m³. In contrast, exports to the UAE and Bahrain have decreased by 2% to 1,311 m³ and 82% to 43 m³ respectively.

Export of plywood to the Americas region has decreased by 15% to 21,067 m³ as compared to the previous month. Our main buyer in the Americas region, the US has reduced its intake of plywood by 25% to 16,838 from 22,331 m³ last month. Contrarily, exports to Mexico and Canada have increased by 30% to 2,932 m³ and 665% to 1,255 m³ respectively. Moving to Oceania region, Australia has reduced its intake by 38% to 1,915 m³ however New Zealand has increased its buying by 54% to 63 m³.

Exports to South Africa and Mauritius have increased by 93% to 166 m³ and 100% to 25 m³ respectively. Meanwhile,

Malaysia : Export of Plywood, Chipboard and Mouldings

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



Turkey resumed its buying at 43 m³ for this month.

The FOB price of plywood has decreased by 4% to RM1,821 per m³ from RM1,887 per m³ in the previous month.

MOULDINGS

Exports of mouldings for the month decreased by 21% in volume and 14% in value to 16,138 m³ and RM63.6 million respectively. However, cumulative exports for the period of January to November 2019 decreased by 3% in volume and increased 0.3% in value to 214,031 m³ and RM798.5 million respectively as compared to the previous corresponding period in 2018.

Exports to the EU for the month recorded at 5,382 m³, a decrease of 27% compared to the previous month. Italy, the UK, Netherlands and Germany decreased their purchases by 85%, 62%, 36% and 6% to 7 m³, 229 m³, 2,975 m³ and 763 m³ respectively. However Belgium increased its purchases by 9% to 343 m³ compared to the previous month.

Exports to ASEAN region decreased as Indonesia and Viet Nam decreased their purchases by 83% and 35% to 36 m³ and 561 m³ respectively. However, Singapore increased its purchases by 33% to 1,210 m³ compared to the previous month.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea decreased their intakes by 44%, 15% and 1% to 206 m³, 1,637 m³ and 1,423 m³ respectively. However, China and Taiwan increase their purchases by 66% and 15% to 495 m³ and 86 m³ compared to the previous month.

Elsewhere, export to the US and Australia decreased by 33% and 24% to 1,425 m³ and 2,291 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Canada resumed its purchases to 72 m³.

FOB unit value increased 8% to RM3,942 per m³ compared to RM3,662 per m³ in the previous month.

NOVEMBER 2019

LOGS

The supply of logs was reported sufficient to cater the demand particularly in Peninsular Malaysia.

Log prices for the species of Chengal and Balau stood firm at RM4,550 per tonne and RM3,500 per tonne respectively. Meanwhile, the prices of Merbau increased slightly by 6.1% to RM3,500 per tonne over the previous month. The prices for Keruing remained at RM1,500 per tonne whilst Kapur increased by 0.6% to RM1,700 per tonne. The prices for Dark Red Meranti and Red Meranti stood firm at RM2,100 per tonne and RM1,830 per tonne. On the other hand, logs prices of Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood remained at RM1,011 per tonne and RM950 per tonne respectively.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Domestic supply of MDF remained stable as prices continued to chart at last month's level. MDF of 4 mm, 6 mm, 9 mm and 12 mm of thicknesses were sold at RM13.30, RM16.60, RM22.50 and RM29.35 per piece respectively.

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE * - NOVEMBER 2019

The shipments of sawntimber from Sabah to Peninsular Malaysia for the month fell by 56% in volume from 136 m³ to 60 m³ worth at RM177,000. Meanwhile, trade of plywood increased by 89% in

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 and Balau maintained at RM7,062 per m³ and RM3,453 per m³ respectively. Meanwhile, the prices of Keruing decreased slightly by 2.8% to RM1,236 per m³ whilst Kempas stood at RM2,592 per m³ respectively. The prices for Dark Red Meranti decreased by 0.6% to RM2,036 per m³ whilst Red Meranti increased by 1.1% to RM2,013 per m³ respectively. 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. 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.

volume from 2,157 m³ to 4,066 m³ worth at RM6.7 million.

Trade of sawntimber from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia increased significantly from 431 m³ to 1,211 m³ recorded last month worth at RM1.9 million. Meanwhile, trade of plywood fell by 16% in volume from 3,082 m³ to 2,581 m³ worth at RM2.8 million whilst veneer increased by 2% in volume to 2,673 m³ worth at RM3.5 million.

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

*AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWNTIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, NOVEMBER 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	3,453	3,143		2,860
Red Balau	2,300	3,037	2,754		3,319
Merbau	3,500	4,696	3,927		3,955
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,011	1,013	805		1,024
MEDIUM HARDWOOD					
Keruing	1,500	1,236	1,215		2,203
Kempas	1,920	2,592	2,472		2,825
Kapur	1,700	1,751	1,423		1,746
Mengkulang	1,300	2,105	1,271		2,189
Tualang	1,425	2,507	2,331		2,493
LIGHT HARDWOOD					
Dark Red Meranti	2,100	2,036	1,695		2,860
Red Meranti	1,830	2,013	1,766		2,189
Yellow Meranti	1,250	1,568	1,236		1,271
White Meranti	1,500	2,472	1,306		2,260
Mersawa	1,700	1,808	1,695		2,048
Nyato	1,325	1,660	1,257		1,306
Sepetir	1,350	1,706	1,003		1,730
Jelutong	1,140	1,815	1,215		1,801
Mixed Light Hardwood	950	929	731		968
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD <i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
	160	1" X 1"	2"X2"	3"X 3"	4" X 4"
		1,112	1,195	1,375	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 - NOVEMBER 2019

From	Product	Oct 2019		Nov 2019		% Change in Value Nov 2019/Oct 2019	% Change in Volume Nov 2019/Oct 2019
		Vol (m ³)	Val (RM' 000)	Vol (m ³)	Val (RM' 000)		
SABAH	Logs	3,780	1,255	0	0	-100	-100
	Sawntimber	136	316	60	177	-56	-44
	Plywood	2,157	3,959	4,066	6,667	89	68
	Veneer	0	0	0	0	0	0
SARAWAK	Sarawak						
	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	431	785	1,211	1,850	181	136
	Plywood	3,082	3,568	2,581	2,812	-16	-21
	Veneer	2,628	3,569	2,673	3,502	2	-2

Source: Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and Department of Statistics, Malaysia

Cont. from page 11

VENEER

Export of veneer for November 2019 reduced by 15% in volume and 7% in value to 8,812 m³ at RM15.0 million as compared to the previous month. Taiwan as the main buyer has decreased its intake by 14% to 5,079 m³ from 5,924 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, export to Australia decreased 76% to 47 m³ followed by China 42% to 807 m³ and South Korea 38% to 412 m³.

Contrarily, exports to the US has increased by 147% to 84 m³ compared to the previous month followed by Philippines with 100% to 1,269 m³ and India 29% to 508 m³. Meanwhile, Singapore, Italy and Viet Nam did not make any purchases this month.

The FOB price of veneer for November 2019 was at RM1,708 per m³, an increase of 9% from RM1,567 per m³, in the previous month.

BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

Total BJC cumulative exports for the period of January to November 2019 decreased 3% to RM945.8 million as compared to RM971.3 million in the corresponding period last year. Export to the EU decreased 13% to RM277.2 million. Export to Turkey, France, Denmark and Italy decreased by 96%, 40%, 19% and 3% to RM65.8 thousand, RM21.6 million, RM18.4 million and RM5.9 million respectively. Similarly, exports to the UK, Belgium and the Netherlands decreased by 14%, 5% and 8% to RM108.6 million, RM44.0 million and RM21.6 million respectively. Meanwhile, exports to Sweden and Germany increase by 117% and 15% to RM7.0 million and RM27.3 million respectively.

In Asia, exports to Pakistan, Viet Nam, the UAE, Singapore, Thailand and Japan decreased by 36%, 26%, 9%, 8%, 7% and 6% to RM2.1 million, RM27.2 million, RM5.4 million, RM78.5 million, RM19.4 million and RM63.0 million respectively. Export to Qatar improved to RM4.5 million from only RM6.5 thousand in the previous corresponding period. Similarly, exports to South Korea, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia and India and increase by 487%, 23%, 20% and 16% to RM5.3 million, RM10.6 million, RM1.5 million and RM36.4 million respectively. Meanwhile, Bahrain resumed its purchases for the period.

Exports to the US, Mauritius and Australia increased by 32%, 2% and 1% to RM147.0 million, RM798.5 thousand and RM190.0 million respectively. However, export to South Africa decreased by 7% to RM17.2 million compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, Reunion Island did not make any purchases.

FURNITURE

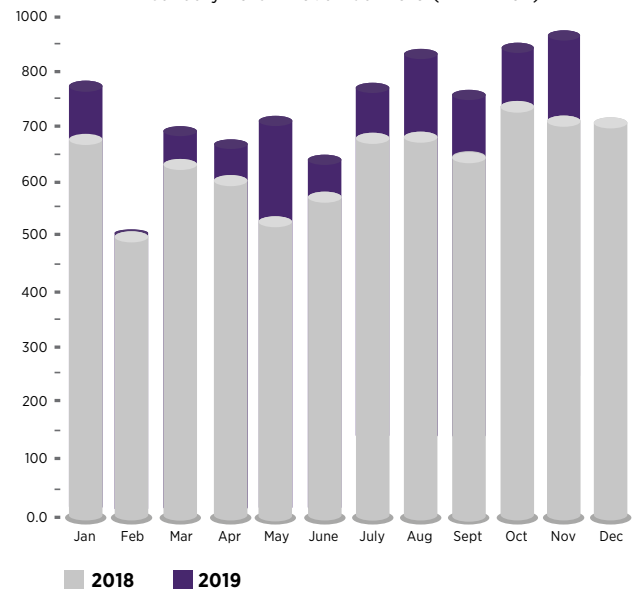
Export of wooden and rattan furniture for the first 11 months of 2019 increased 16% to RM8.2 billion from RM7.1 billion in the previous corresponding period.

Imports of wooden furniture by the US increased 40%

NOVEMBER 2019

Malaysia : Export of Wooden Furniture

January 2018 - November 2019 (RM million)



to RM3.6 billion from RM2.6 billion in the previous corresponding period of 2018. Demand from Canada also increased 11% to RM268.4 million whilst export to Australia declined 10% to RM439.4 million. In Europe, shipment to the UK increased 31% to RM462.7 million followed by Belgium 35% to RM46.7 million and Spain 6% to RM17.4 million. Meanwhile, export to France, Poland and Sweden decreased 3% to RM58.7 million, 1% to RM33.7 million and 8% to RM26.7 million respectively. Purchases by Russia declined as well by 27% to RM20.1 million from RM27.6 million in the previous corresponding period.

In East Asia, China reduced consumption by 9% to RM205.6 million from RM224.9 million in 2018. Export to South Korea also declined 4% to RM82.7 million whilst Japan increased import by 2% to RM558.5 million from RM547.1 million in 2018. Export to India improved 4% to RM223.0 million from RM214.4 million in the previous corresponding period.

In ASEAN region, export to Singapore increased 1% to RM419.3 million followed by Philippines 14% to RM222.5 million compared to the previous corresponding period. Export to West Asia saw growth as the UAE increased intake by 16% to RM139.7 million followed by Saudi Arabia with 44% to RM164.2 million and Kuwait 14% to RM45.8 million.

Rattan furniture shipments for the period of review decreased 50% to RM1.4 million from RM2.9 million in the previous corresponding period. Export to Australia improved significantly to RM408.4 thousand from only RM53 thousand in the previous corresponding period. Export to Singapore increased 59% to RM179.5 thousand. The US, Japan, American Samoa, China, France and Spain resumed purchases by RM352.6 thousand, RM65.6 thousand, RM65.6 thousand, RM5.2 thousand, RM56.2 thousand and RM49.7 thousand respectively.

THE NEW SECRETARY-GENERAL, MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES



TUAN RAVI MUTHAYAH
Secretary-General
Ministry of Primary Industries

MTIB congratulates Tuan Ravi Muthayah on his appointment as the Secretary-General, Ministry of Primary Industries effective on 23 December 2019.

Tuan Ravi Muthayah was born on 23 October 1962 in Sungai Petani, Kedah. He has been in the public service for 30 years since he first joined the Administration and Diplomatic Services (PTD) on 1 August 1989.

Tuan Ravi Muthayah obtained his Master of Business Administration (MBA), from University of Kobe, Japan, Bachelor of Economics (Hons), University of Malaya (UM) and Diploma in Public Administration (DPA), INTAN.

Prior to his current appointment, he was the Deputy Secretary-General (Commodities) of the Ministry of Primary Industries since 4 July 2018. He has previously served in three other main government agencies; namely Ministry of Finance (MOF), Ministry of Domestic Trade & Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) and Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister's Department. In addition, Tuan Ravi is also one of the Board Members of the Malaysian Rubber Board and the Board of Trustees of the Malaysian Timber Council.

MTIB's Board Members and management team look forward to working closely with Tuan Ravi Muthayah to further enhance the Malaysian timber industry. 

55th SESSION OF INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL



Malaysian delegates during the meeting.

The International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) has welcomed new guidelines aimed at assisting the restoration of degraded tropical forests and forest lands and thereby enabling the sustainable management of landscapes over time. This was one of the outcomes highlighted during the 55th ITTC meeting held on 2-7 December in Lome, Togo. The session was officially chaired by Council Chair, Mr. John Leigh who highlighted the council about the need for a strong ITTO, as an organisation that has the capacity to develop policies as well as implementing it. He urged all delegates to do their best to make the organisation functioning well.

His Excellency, Kome Selom Klassou, Prime Minister of Togo who opened the session, highlighted that the global forests face enormous risks, and their degradation and loss are contributing to global warming. "Forest resources are not infinite; on the contrary they are deteriorating at an alarming rate," he said. He also added that in order to address these major challenges, there is a need to reverse the trend and also to promote consistent policies for sustainable forest management.

Also speaking at the opening session, Dr. Gerhard Dieterle, ITTO Executive Director, said there was now clear international recognition that forests and forest products can contribute substantially to the mitigation of climate change. "This is a substantial shift from previous approaches, in which timber and wood-based energy were treated as a cause of the problem rather than an integral part of the solution," he said.

The Council decided to pilot a new programmatic

approach to its work in the period of 2020-2022, with four programme lines as follows: Legal and Sustainable Supply Chains; Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; Forest Landscape Restoration and Resilient Livelihoods; and Emerging Issues and Innovation. During the piloting phase, the Council will seek to further develop the programmatic approach with clear objectives and a streamlined project-cycle process. An advisory board has been established to receive updates on the pilot phase and provide advice to the Executive Director.

Related to the 2019 Annual Market Discussion organised by the Trade Advisory Group (TAG), the theme was "Added value processing in Africa-the opportunities and challenges". Seven speakers presented their papers amongst others focusing on changes need to be done to spur the development of the value-added processing sector in ITTO member countries in West and Central Africa.

The Malaysian delegation to the meeting was led by Encik Mad Zaidi bin Mohd Karli, Undersecretary of Timber Tobacco and Kenaf Industries Division, Ministry of Primary Industries. A total of five delegates attended the meeting comprising representatives from MTIB, Malaysian Timber Council, Sarawak Forestry Department and Sarawak Timber Association. The 56th session of the International Tropical Timber Council and sessions of the Associated Committees will be held in Yokohama, Japan in 2020.

MTIB was represented by Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, Director-General of MTIB. 

WOOD AND BIOFIBRE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2019



Tuan Hj. Mahpur Atan, MTIB Director of Industry Development (centre) as a moderator discussing the issues and way forward for the wood-based industry.

Wood and Biofibre Conference (WOBIK) was previously named as the International Conference on Kenaf and Allied Fibres (ICKAF), which was held every four years since 2009. WOBIK2019 took place on 3-5 December in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah and it was organised by the Institute of Tropical Forestry and Forest Products, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). The conference was co-organised by few agencies such as MTIB, Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB), Politeknik Kota Kinabalu, and National Kenaf and Tobacco Board of Malaysia (LKTN).

The highlights of the event were the presentations from two honourable keynote speakers namely Dr. Philippe Guizol and Prof. Dr. Hyun-Joong Kim. Dr. Guizol is a forester and a social scientist working with Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), France. He is an expert specialising in forest plantations management. His keynote paper entitled "Reconciling Forest Plantations with Ecosystems Restoration".

Meanwhile, Prof. Dr. Hyun-Joong is a professor from Seoul National University, South Korea. He is an expert in high-functionality adhesion material, biomass-based composite and functionality eco-friendly coatings material. He presented a paper entitled "Exploring Advancements and Recent Innovation in Biomass-based High Functional Materials for IR 4.0".

WOBIK2019 seeks to bring together industry and academia to discuss the latest developments in wood and biofibre, from upstream agricultural-related topic to downstream fibre processing and



Attendees during WOBIK2019.

product advancement as well as the socio-economic impact of these commodities. WOBIK covered topics namely Forest Plantation and Planting Material, Biopolymer and Derivatives, Wood Fibre and Processing, Wood Technology and Application, Advanced Technology in Forest Plantation and Industries, Biocomposite Technology, Socio-Economic, Policy and Green Financing, Forest Plantation Management & Internet of Things (IoT), Biocomposite Technology and Biobased Packaging, and Advanced Biobased Materials.

Dr. Loh Yueh Feng from MTIB presented a paper entitled The Palm Plywood: Its Opportunities and Challenges in Furniture Making. There was also a Flash Talk session chaired by Dr. Yeoh Beng Hoong from MTIB which comprised eight presenters to

Cont.next page



YB Datuk Peter Anthony, Minister of Infrastructure Development of Sabah accompanied by Tuan Hj. Mahpur Atan, MTIB Director of Industry Development visiting MTIB booth after officiating WOBIC2019.

deliver their research findings and they are selected from among 50 posters participation. This session requires presenters to present their research within five minutes and were evaluated based on criterias such as research contents, knowledge, findings, voice and eye contact.

On the second day a dialogue session was held to discuss the current issues and challenges in the wood industry. The agencies and institutions involved in the discussion were MTIB, MPOB, Sabah Forestry Department and UPM. Issues discussed included the lack of collaboration between upstream and downstream, mobilisation of oil palm biomass material such as oil palm trunk, empty fruit bunches and oil palm fronds to the wood industry and challenges in forest plantation.

Based on the discussion, the panels are recognising the value of a holistic approach to sustainable wood and biofibre production, so that the final product meets the needs of all. Wood and biofibres are vital biomaterials for all aspects of the human being life. The biomaterials are renewable, environmentally friendly and they have large diversities of

applications such as making ropes, buildings and automotive applications, as well as extraction of bioproducts for health care and food applications. Recently, the developments of the wood and biofibre products have been growing with the increase of environmental concern.

MTIB, through Fibre and Biocomposite Centre (FIDEC) had participated in the exhibition which took place in conjunction with WOBIC2019. The main objectives of the participation were to reach industry players by providing technical consultation and paving the way to connect with those who are seeking new ideas, as well as technology commercialisation and collaboration especially related to fibre processing and product advancement. MTIB had displayed a range of fibre and biocomposite items including raw material, products, furniture design, prototype and processing. The exhibition was also participated by Sabah Softwoods Berhad, LKTN, MPOB and Kyungpook National University, South Korea.

The WOBIC2019 successfully gathers participants from over 30 countries and six continents to attend, providing the most international context with which to understand the fibre and lignocellulosic materials.



VIPs and MTIB officials posing at MTIB booth which displayed products from oil palm trunk and wood plastic composite.



Malaysian Wood
Standing on Excellence

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

BRIEFING ON FINDING OF THE NATIONAL TIMBER INDUSTRY CENSUS STUDY



Dato' Dr. Mohd Puat bin Dahalan, MTIB Deputy Director-General (Management and Operation) presenting a souvenir to Puan Suraya Hj. Mohamed Ali (left) from STIDC.

MTIB completed a national census on the Malaysian timber industry in 2018. The main objective of the census is to gather information about total timber mills, workforce, raw material and production in Malaysia with respect to the timber industry. The outcome of the census was presented during briefing sessions in Bangi, Selangor on 6 November, followed by Kota Kinabalu, Sabah on 21 November and in Kuching, Sarawak on 22 December.

The briefing session at Sabah was officiated by YB Datuk Madiem Layapan, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry Sabah. In his speech, he stated that the finding of this census is crucial for the Sabah government to draft the Sabah Timber Industry Master Plan. The Master Plan will focus on increasing the production of the state's high value-added timber products especially furniture. With this census it will guide the state's government to have a better understanding on timber industry in Malaysia, especially Sabah.

Meanwhile, the briefing session in Peninsular and Sarawak was officiated by Tuan Hj. Mahpar Atan, MTIB Director of Industry Development and Dato' Dr. Mohd Puat Dahalan, MTIB Deputy Director-General (Management and Operation) respectively. In their speeches, they stated that the timber census is crucial for stakeholders especially policy makers to steer the future growth and development of the timber industry in Malaysia. The information gained from the census will help MTIB to draft the appropriate and effective strategic planning for the Malaysian timber industry



One for the album-Group photo taken in Bangi, Selangor.



Attendees during the briefing session in Kuching, Sarawak.

for the next five years in line with the 12th Malaysian Plan strategic paper for timber sector.

The three census briefing sessions were led by Dr. Khamurudin from UKM Pakarunding Sdn. Bhd. who highlighted that there are four scope covered in this census namely raw material, workforce, technology and production. He stated that the total active timber mills during the census period in year 2017/2018 was 1901 mills and total workers was 115,657 which consists of 51,974 local workers and 63,683 foreign workers. The census reveals that most timber mills operations are currently at semi-automated and manual stage. The technology level which comprised fully-auto, semi-auto and manual varies across the timber sector depending on types of products produced. For instance, medium density fibreboard mills mostly using full automated machinery while sawntimber mills were using more semi-automated machinery.

To ensure the improvement of productivity for the timber industry, Dr. Khamurudin highlighted three areas that need to be closely managed. First is to ensure the sustainability of the industry raw material. Second is to keep pace with the technological advancement so that the product will be relevant and marketable globally. Third is to develop local interested talent to be a competent workforce in the timber industry. Furthermore, to improve productivity, there is a need to involve more on R&D especially in technology, where the new technology must align with the current manufacturing process to avoid disruption of current operation. Adoption of innovation and training can be encouraged by improving the existing practice of supply chain by comparing with successful companies which have good practices especially in Lean management, ISO and 5S. Strategic partnership can be enhanced through collaboration with research institute and higher learning institutions to develop platform for knowledge and technology sharing.

All three briefing sessions was attended by 200 participants comprised related government agencies, industry players as well as representatives of timber associations.

Note: The census report will be available at www.mtib.gov.my

INTERNATIONAL BAMBOO MAESTRO 2019 – CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL OF THE FUTURE

Various efforts were made by the Ministry of Primary Industries with engagement from private sectors to further develop the bamboo industry in Malaysia. The Ministry's direction is to highlight bamboo as an alternative source of raw materials for the timber industry. Therefore, Bamboo Jungle Adventures, a company with vast experience on bamboo application, organised The International Bamboo Maestro 2019.

The programme was held in Sungai Siput, Perak from 16 to 19 December and it was the third time Bamboo Jungle Adventures hosted such event since 2015. The objectives of the programme were to gather participants and create a platform for technology transfer, exchanging thoughts, experience and skills on the usage of bamboo as structural application.

There were five papers presented during the programme. Dr. Siti Rafedah Abdul Karim from Universiti Teknologi MARA presented a paper on Bamboo Preservation and Treatment. She highlighted on the bamboo preservation method and treatment practices used by bamboo players along with R&D's conducted in the related field. Papers related to the Bamboo Design, Construction and Architecture were presented by engineers and architects namely Ir. Ahmad Mazlan Othman from Bamboo Jungle Adventures (Malaysia), Dr. Markus Rosalieb from Chiangmai Life Construction (Thailand), Ar. Thana Uthapattakoon from Arsomsilp Institute of the Arts (Thailand), Ar. Rosario Encarnacion-

Bamboo bending process for the bamboo ridge beam.



Making rafters for roofing.



Attendees of the event.



The construction of Organic Bamboo Sala.

Tan from St Mary University (Philippines) and Ar. Widhi Nugroho from WNA Studio Bali (Indonesia). The topics presented was about the design of bamboo buildings and construction methods and also the sharing of some successful projects that have been carried out in their respective countries.

The programme also held a hands-on activity session where the participants had an opportunity to build Organic Bamboo Sala from the preparation of components such as roofing, ridge beam, frames until wall construction. This construction activity was led and supervised by Balinese Bamboo Master Builder from Indonesia and Ar. Thana from Thailand.

This programme was attended by more than 30 participants comprises local and international architects, representatives of the bamboo industry and enthusiasts as well as government officers. Through learning and exchanging thoughts, experience and skills, this programme has achieved its aim to level up the enthusiasm among the participants in bamboo construction as well as create the awareness of the potential of bamboo as construction material of the future.

MTIB was represented by Puan Norhazaedawati Baharuddin from Fibre and Biocomposite Centre (FIDEC) and Encik Nabil Fikri Leemon from MTIB Northern Region.

ADVANCED COURSE ON OPERATIONAL OF CNC BORING MACHINE



Encik Si Chin Keong from SCM Group Asia Sdn. Bhd. briefed on the safety aspects of the machine.



Encik Si Chin Keong explaining the proper maintenance and troubleshooting of the CNC boring machine.

In MTIB's effort to enhance technical knowledge and to increase the manufacturing skills of the Bumiputera furniture operators handling the CNC boring machine, MTIB organised an Advanced Course on Operational of CNC Boring Machine from 20 to 21 November. The course was conducted at Mazarul Enterprise Sdn. Bhd. in Arau, Perlis and it was attended by nine participants from five companies namely Paharuddin Industries Sdn. Bhd, Perniagaan Khazali Sdn. Bhd., Mazarul Enterprise Sdn. Bhd., A.N. Interior Sdn. Bhd. and Nasir Decoration Sdn. Bhd.

The two-day course was conducted by Encik Si Chin Keong, a technical expert from SCM Group Asian Sdn. Bhd. The participants were briefed on the general operation of the machines followed by hands-on training on how to operate the

machine in order to produce quality panel product on boring process. The course also outlined the important aspects of safety awareness, proper maintenance and troubleshooting of the CNC boring machine. He highlighted on the importance of Standard Manufacturing Practices that will help the entrepreneurs in producing good quality products, hence maximised the usage of the machine.

To gain better understanding on using the CNC boring machine, the participants were given the task at the end of the course to produce a sample of office table from various types and sizes of materials.



Hands on session.



Participants with the sample of office table produced during the course.

FURNITURE MARKET IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Introduction

According to an analyst from Statista, American consumers are replacing their furniture more frequently than in the past, largely due to increasing standard of living and a steady increase in disposable income. These are some of the factors driving the continuous growth of the furniture market. Moreover, aesthetic reasons coupled with the need for consumers to be comfortable in their apartment, as evidenced by the living room and dining room segment being the largest segment of the furniture market, as well as the adoption of online shopping are major contributing factors to the constant growth of the market.

Market Trend

An influx of imported furniture has significantly altered the US market over the past five years. The US demand for household furniture is forecasted to reach USD37.7 billion in 2022, representing an annual growth of 2.8% from USD32.8 billion in 2018. Currently China, Mexico and Viet Nam are the largest import source of furniture for the US.

Going into 2020, new tools and strategies emerge daily to engage with potential furniture shoppers in ways that integrate education and enticement with entertainment. This creates something far more interactive and better integrated into consumers' everyday lifestyles.

Furniture manufacturers are influenced by consumer's interest in green products and sustainability. Consumers seeking to minimise their environmental footprint are more likely to purchase furniture made from recycled materials. This include, furniture fabricated with sustainable structural materials, such as Acacia, bamboo, oriented strand board (OSB) and reclaimed or repurposed wood.

Future house layout are expected to include more multipurpose space, with distinction between kitchen, living and dining rooms disappearing. Media centre, exercise room, and other specialty spaces will be more prevalent. Furnishing will reflect consumer desires for increased functionality and storage spaces. Consumer want a sofa that can be converted into a bed or a bookshelf for extra storage are helping to push this market to a new height.

Furniture that integrates smart gadget and technology are becoming more popular. A stylish lamp that charge devices wirelessly, for instance, adds a double function while still looking like a design element. Coffee table and kitchen table are being installed with cell phone chargers.

Conclusion

All of these trends are contributing to the shift in the furniture industry in the US. Malaysian furniture exports to the US are expected to grow in the range of 20% annually in the next three years because of import diversion among American buyers. The Malaysian furniture industry is recognised as one of the main industries that will be driving the transformation of the manufacturing industry to champion Industry 4.0. Malaysian furniture suppliers must be willing and ready to invest in innovative and sophisticated machinery and equipment in order to be competitive and to move up the supply chain by producing mid to high-end furniture.

For more information, kindly contact Ms Nurul Huda Kamarul Baharin, huda@matrade.gov.my, Europe and Americas Section, Exports Promotion and Market Access Division.

Note : This article was contributed by MATRADE.

4th HAIKOU INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGARWOOD INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

The 4th Haikou International Conference on Agarwood Industry Development was held on 23-24 November in Hainan, China. It was hosted by the Institute of Tropical Bioscience and Biotechnology, China Academy of Tropical Agriculture Science (CATAS). The conference was fueled by various exhibitions and sales of Agarwood products that have been commercialised into consumer products such as perfumes, cosmetics, tea, toiletries and more.

The conference was an invitation from the Institute of Tropical Bioscience and Biotechnology, Haikou, Hainan China to MTIB. MTIB was given the opportunity to share on Malaysia's experience in regulating CITES for Agarwood (*Aquilaria* Spp). In Malaysia, the state of Johor has issued the highest numbers of CITES Agarwood certificate/permit since 2015 for the purpose of export/import and registration of Agarwood planters in Malaysia.

This conference highlighted that China's new Agarwood industry is growing due to high domestic demand and its ongoing research on diversifying consumer products. Chinese Agarwood industry players not only involved in the domestic market but will also expand their export market especially to the Middle East.

The papers presented by Malaysian speakers during the conference were as follows :

- Malaysian Timber Industry Board Experience Management Authority (MA) on CITES Agarwood, by Encik Mohd Firdaus Md Mortar, Head of MTIB Southern Region; and
- Research and Development on Agarwood Industry in Sarawak by Encik Dawend Jiwan, Assistant Director of Sarawak Forestry Department.

CATAS effort in developing the Agarwood industry has kept their researchers constantly looking for



Encik Mohd Firdaus Md Mortar from MTIB presenting a paper during the conference.

Encik Mohd Firdaus Md Mortar from MTIB presenting a souvenir to Prof. Dai of CATAS (right).



domestically and overseas partners. As a result, several years ago CATAS began conducting their field research work in Muar, Johor. With some researchers from CATAS, it has done extensive research on Agarwood focusing on inoculation and breeding in Malaysia. As a follow up, a Malaysian company namely Tian Yuan Agarwood Ecotech Sdn. Bhd. has already signed an agreement with CATAS in June 2019.

In addition, since 2017 there were several government agencies in Malaysia namely Malaysian Agricultural Research & Development Institute, Malaysian Palm oil Board, Malaysian Rubber Board and Universiti Sains Malaysia that have formed partnerships with CATAS.

During this conference, The China Academy of Tropical Bioscience and Biotechnology, CATAS have expressed their interest to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MTIB since it is the regulatory agency in charge of CITES Agarwood trade in Malaysia.

About 200 participants attended this conference consisting of industries, representatives of the Chinese state departments and local researchers. Three representatives from Malaysia namely Encik Mohd Firdaus Md Mortar from MTIB, Encik Dawend Jiwan from Sarawak Forest Department and Encik David Cheng from Tian Yuan Agarwood Ecotech Sdn. Bhd. attended the conference.



Delegates posing for the camera.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:

DUBAI WOODSHOW GEARS UP TO LINK OPPORTUNITIES FOR TIMBER INDUSTRY



Overview

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federation of seven independent states located in the south-eastern corner of the Arabian Peninsula. It is bordered by the Persian Gulf, bordering Oman to the east and Saudi Arabia to the south and west, as well as sharing maritime borders with Qatar to the west and Iran to the north. Most of the country is desert, with an elevated plateau sloping downward to a flat coastal plain with tidal salt flats. There are hills and mountains in the eastern part of the country. Total area of the UAE is 83,600 square kilometres, which makes it slightly smaller than Maine, with a population of 9.6 million. In 2018, the GDP per capita was USD414 million and the real growth rate was at 1.4%. Industry contributed 49.8% while services contributed 49.2% to the UAE GDP.

Economy

The UAE has an open economy with a high per capita income and a sizable annual trade surplus. Successful efforts at economic diversification have reduced the portion of GDP from the oil and gas sector to 30%.

Since the discovery of oil in the UAE nearly 60 years ago, the country has undergone a profound transformation from an impoverished region of small desert principalities to a modern state with a high standard of living. The government has increased spending on job creation and infrastructure expansion and is opening up utilities to greater private sector involvement. The country's free trade zones - offering 100% foreign ownership and zero taxes - are helping to attract foreign investors.

The global financial crisis of 2008-2009, tight international credit, and deflated asset prices constricted the economy in 2009. The UAE authorities tried to blunt the crisis by increasing spending and boosting liquidity in the banking sector. The crisis hit Dubai hardest, as it was heavily exposed to depressed real estate prices. Dubai lacked sufficient cash to meet its debt obligations, prompting global concern about its solvency and ultimately a USD20 billion bailout from the UAE

Central Bank and Abu Dhabi Government that was refinanced in March 2014.

The UAE's dependence on oil is a significant long-term challenge, although the UAE is one of the most diversified countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Low oil prices have prompted the UAE to cut expenditures, including on some social programs, but the UAE has sufficient assets in its sovereign investment funds to cover its deficits. The government reduced fuel subsidies in August 2015, and introduced excise taxes (50% on sweetened carbonated beverages and 100% on energy drinks and tobacco) in October 2017. A 5% value-added tax was introduced in January 2018. The UAE's strategic plan for the next few years focuses on economic diversification, promoting the UAE as a global trade and tourism hub, developing industry, and creating more job opportunities for nationals through improved education and increased private sector employment.

Forest Resources

The UAE land area is lightly forested, with less than 1%

of forest cover. Much of the UAE interior comprises the northern extent of the Rub' Al Khali sand desert with only scattered areas of shrub characterised by species such as *Prosopis cineraria*. In the Hajar Mountains the prevalent vegetation includes *Acacia* spp. and *Zizyphus* spp. Almost all forested areas in UAE are plantations.

An extensive afforestation programme involving the planting of around 100 million trees has been carried out, particularly around Bainuna, in the north of Abu Dhabi, mainly for protection purposes. The most common plantation species are *Prosopis cineraria* and *Acacia tortilis*. Mangroves (especially *Avicennia marina*) are found around the coast and date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) occur around much of the coastal plains.

The UAE has a comprehensive greening programme encompassing the development of extensive nature reserves and municipal parks, as well as active tree and pasture establishments. The afforestation policy of the UAE aims to expand the afforestation projects, establish greenbelts to stop desert encroachment and sand dune movement and protect agriculture lands, settlements and highways.

To achieve this, the country provides assistance to afforestation projects such as the provision of equipments and construction of buildings. Usually a small nursery is established in the project area to provide the needed seedlings. The afforestation programmes using indigenous and exotic trees and shrubs and the planted area. There are no large-scale forest industries in the UAE. The country imports significant volumes of wood and paper products to meet demand.

Timber industry

The Gulf region's construction sector is tipped to see a 12% year-on-year rise in the value of new contractor project awards in 2019, powered by rising oil prices and increased government spending. The GCC's building, infrastructure and energy markets is expected to increase to USD140.5 billion in 2019, compared to USD125 billion in 2018. The total GCC construction project value across all three sectors is estimated to be currently worth USD3.6 trillion.

Buildings, comprising residential, commercial, mixed use, airports, sports facilities, hotels, healthcare, education facilities and industrial projects, will be the largest contributor to construction sector in 2019, with new contractor awards estimated to value USD69.7 billion. That's followed by energy projects (USD48.5 billion) and infrastructure (USD22.3 billion). The construction sector is among the major indicators of economic development in the Gulf, which has improved over the last two years by approximately 7%.

UAE's Export of Timber and Timber Products

UAE's export of timber and timber products in 2018 increased 30% to USD624.6 million over the previous corresponding period. UAE export mainly furniture, sawntimber and BJC totalled USD380.3 million, USD79.7 million and USD44.2 million respectively. UAE export furniture and BJC mainly to Saudi Arabia amounting USD103.5 thousand and USD20.7 thousand respectively. Meanwhile, sawntimber export mainly to Bahrain amounting USD29.0 thousand.

United Arab Emirates: Export of Timber and Timber Products, 2014-2018

(Value : '000)

PRODUCT	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Furniture	312,956	205,131	187,392	304,682	380,343
Sawntimber	61,686	74,145	47,443	46,668	79,664
Builders' Joinery and Carpentry	24,769	19,630	18,887	22,261	44,225
Plywood	39,116	50,173	42,288	35,974	25,319
Wood Charcoal	6,233	7,095	5,388	5,773	12,757
Logs	3,344	3,636	6,368	3,345	12,755
Fibreboard	41,564	19,681	16,725	17,179	11,999
Packing Cases	17,287	11,610	8,133	9,005	11,048
Other Articles of Wood, n.e.s.	52,805	32,533	15,415	7,442	10,076
Mouldings	11,287	8,380	10,359	9,716	9,275
Wood Marquetry	6,413	5,280	2,514	7,794	7,350
Veneer	4,668	2,804	2,243	2,477	6,076

Tableware and Kitchenware	2,955	3,718	1,803	1,903	3,405
Particleboard	1,325	6,129	916	2,196	3,400
Fuel Wood	2,721	1,019	1,303	686	2,069
Wooden Frames	1,906	3,537	2,110	1,315	2,027
Tool Bodies, Tool Handles	2,148	3,009	3,268	2,102	1,530
Hoopwood	579	436	466	977	694
Densified Wood	786	934	173	230	319
Wood Wool	124	78	74	333	164
Casks, Barrels & Vats	71	6	2	16	81
Sleepers	42	232	3	1	52
TOTAL	594,785	459,196	373,273	482,075	624,628

Source: UN-Comtrade

UAE's Import of Timber and Timber Products

According to the latest UN Comtrade statistics, UAE's import of timber and timber products in 2018 decreased 2% to USD2.2 billion over the

previous corresponding period. UAE imported mainly furniture, sawntimber and plywood totalled USD963.6 million (a decrease of 9%), USD418.8 million (an increase of 8%) and USD311.7 million (an increase of 14%) respectively. The major import sources for UAE is China, followed by Germany and Malaysia.

United Arab Emirates: Import of Timber and Timber Products, 2014-2018

(Value: USD'000)

PRODUCT	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Furniture	1,140,291	964,107	820,339	1,063,221	963,602
Sawntimber	451,173	315,262	265,809	388,692	418,842
Plywood	334,770	249,846	216,239	273,953	311,748
Fibreboard	229,570	148,171	135,926	182,225	179,975
Builders' Joinery and Carpentry	82,174	70,737	69,969	137,935	122,318
Particleboard	29,017	23,705	26,637	36,153	39,402
Wood Charcoal	32,899	44,166	36,653	36,700	37,485
Veneer	23,378	19,400	19,964	25,254	30,181
Other Articles of Wood, n.e.s.	38,935	30,678	31,922	28,435	24,376
Wood Marquetry	25,720	19,868	20,931	28,003	21,555
Logs	24,825	19,887	19,310	13,257	19,323
Packing Cases	25,114	41,284	24,527	10,433	14,318
Mouldings	14,318	11,615	10,124	11,488	12,347
Tableware and Kitchenware	8,298	7,099	8,729	11,708	11,401
Densified Wood	4,493	9,428	15,076	6,807	10,606
Fuel Wood	8,440	7,932	7,411	7,441	9,382
Wooden Frames	8,627	6,271	4,830	7,351	6,432
Tool Bodies, Tool Handles	4,661	4,943	3,369	3,054	2,847
Hoopwood	1,406	1,322	1,603	2,043	1,320
Wood Wool	637	436	191	119	380
Casks, Barrels & Vats	140	170	315	151	260
Sleepers	183	409	675	202	172
TOTAL	2,489,069	1,996,736	1,740,549	2,274,625	2,238,272

Source: UN-Comtrade

Malaysia's Export of Timber and Timber Products to UAE

UAE has always been an important timber trade partner for Malaysia in West Asia region. However, in 2018, export of Malaysian timber and timber

products to UAE registered a decrease of 15% to RM471.4 million from RM556.9 million in 2017. UAE ranked 12th with 2% of Malaysia's total export share. Sawntimber was the main product exported with a total value of RM161.4 million, followed by MDF at RM134.8 million and wooden furniture at RM134.5 million.

Malaysia: Export of Timber and Timber Products to UAE, 2014-2018

(Value: RM)					
PRODUCT	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sawntimber	123,670,427	152,220,765	141,362,836	168,140,846	161,358,086
MDF	5,790,783	153,008,903	161,470,195	142,327,200	134,758,108
Wooden Furniture	216,758,775	221,396,453	198,946,776	174,701,415	134,453,929
Plywood	148,815,426	40,995,351	63,652,834	51,454,818	23,797,218
Particleboard/ Chipboard	79,706	16,253,637	6,435,166	5,736,581	6,141,527
Builders Joinery and Carpentry	10,662,014	3,901,646	6,053,605	7,925,128	6,060,908
Wooden Frames	529,832	44,814	344,911	127,696	462,102
Mouldings	78,768,190	61,857	429,563	797,659	338,741
Logs	412,344	10,930,449	0	74,906	110,652
Veneer	0	105,259	0	101,654	0
Rattan Furniture	190,471	715,625	469,385	13,600	0
Others	5,558,748	4,822,251	4,190,038	5,485,914	3,918,598
TOTAL	591,236,716	604,457,010	583,355,309	556,887,417	471,399,869

Source : MTIB & DOSM

Malaysia's Import of Timber and Timber Products from UAE

In 2018, import of Malaysian timber and timber products from UAE show a tremendous increase of 169% to RM1.5 million from RM537.5 thousand

in 2017. Wooden furniture was the main product imported with a total value of RM1.3 billion followed by MDF at RM26.2 thousand and wooden frame at RM10.4 thousand.

Malaysia : Import of Timber and Timber Products from from UAE, 2014-2018

(Value: RM)					
PRODUCT	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Wooden Furniture	0	164,054	15,792	410,295	1,333,757
MDF	0	0	0	0	26,238
Wooden Frame	0	0	0	0	10,425
Sawntimber	37,192	36,600	228,570	101,898	448
Logs	0	0	0	0	0
Plywood	0	0	0	0	0
Veneer	0	0	0	0	0
Mouldings	0	0	0	0	0
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	0	0	0	0	0
Rattan Furniture	110,349	5,466	0	0	0
Others	51,023	17,219	44,049	25,348	75,240
TOTAL	198,564	223,339	288,411	537,541	1,446,108

Source : MTIB & DOSM



Import Tariffs

The UAE's import duties on timber and timber products under MFN are as follows:

Products	MFN (%)
Logs	5
Sawntimber	5
Veneer	5
Mouldings	5
Chipboard/Particleboard	5
Fibreboard	5
Plywood	5
Wooden Frame	5
Builders Joinery and Carpentry	5
Wooden Furniture	5

Source:WTO

Prospects

The furniture market in UAE region is highly competitive owing to the rising demand of furniture and furnishing products. This rise in demand has led to the growing domestic demand and emergence of multiple players catering to the same target audience in the space. Manufacturers and retailers operating in the region compete on almost same grounds of quality of the product and the material used to manufacture the product. In UAE alone 55,000 homes and 40,000 new hotel rooms were constructed in 2017-2018. It has been observed that 70% of the timber and wood products are used for construction purposes while the remaining 30% is used in real estate, interiors, furniture and other industry applications.

Wood industry is an important sector all over the world and events such as Dubai WoodShow that will accelerate the growth of the global economy. As a leading event for the region, it is great to witness participation of companies from Italy, Germany, America and several others. Dubai is an economic powerhouse and a financial hub for innovative technologies, products and solutions, making it a natural fit to lead the industry. It has been observed that Middle East is increasingly recognised as the primary location for supply of wood products, considering the growth of construction, furniture manufacturing sector as well as rising domestic demand.

The UAE, along with Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Jordan and Oman are significant importer of wood products. The growth of construction and real estate are the key drivers for the increased demand of wood and wood products in the Middle

East. In addition, the manufacturing industry and a high demand for wood furniture and artifacts continue to be the dominant forces for the rising growth of the wood industry. The global wood industry has grown exponentially in the past few years and the positive momentum is set to continue even in the Middle East, given the lead-up to Expo 2020.

Malaysia, which has always been an important trading partner with the UAE in timber, is also facing strong competition from China and the US. Therefore, in order to sustain and improve trade as well as market share in the UAE, Malaysian exporters need to be competitive in terms of price and quality together with effective marketing and promotion strategies.

Malaysian manufacturers also need to enhance their presence in the UAE market through participation in major timber, furniture and construction fairs and exhibition to create demand for Malaysian value added timber products in the market. Dubai WoodShow is an excellent opportunity for Malaysian timber and furniture exporters to enhance networking and explore business opportunity among the Arabians counterpart. Through those activities, Malaysian timber exporters would be able to further develop their networking with the UAE's timber and furniture importers while at the same time undertake market research on current UAE importers' market preferences and taste. Therefore, it is envisage that with the above opportunities, timber trade for both countries especially in terms of export and import activities and investments in timber and timber products will be increased in the coming years.



UAE's antique furniture collection.



UAE's royal furniture.

References:

- International Trade Centre
- Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)
- MTIB's Statistics
- The World Bank
- <http://www.cifor.org>
- <http://www.forestlegality.org>
- <http://www.fao.org>
- <https://www.cia.gov>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates
- <https://countryeconomy.com/gdp/United-arab-emirates>
- <https://www.constructionweekonline.com>



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

For more information, contact:

Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB)

Level 13-17, Menara PGRM, No. 8, Jalan Pudu Ulu, 56100 Cheras
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel: +603-9282 2235 Fax: +603-9285 1477/1744

Email: info@mtib.gov.my URL: www.mtib.gov.my
facebook.com/pages/Malaysian-Timber-Industry-Board

TELUTO-

SUITABLE FOR PLYWOOD

INTRODUCTION

Teluto is a small sized to fairly large tree, reaching heights up to 40 to 50 m. The bole has a diameter of up to 90 cm, branchless for 30 m. It is more common on alluvial flats, also found in evergreen or deciduous or even open forests in periodically dry locations, up to 1,000 m of altitude. Not enough information available to apply the criterion.

Teluto is the Standard Malaysian name as well as the ASEAN Standard name for the timber of *Pterocymbium* spp. (*Sterculiaceae*). Vernacular names applied include Mata Lembu (Peninsular Malaysia) and Melembu (Peninsular Malaysia). Only one species is of importance, viz. *P. tinctorium*. The sapwood is not differentiated from the heartwood, which is pale straw-coloured with a pink tinge.

It is also known as Amberoid (Australia); Papita (India); Kelumbuk (Indonesia); Papita and Sawbya (Myanmar); Amberoid (Papua New Guinea); Taluto (Philippines); and Oi-chang, Po-ikeng and Po-kradang (Thailand).



Wood micro photo of transversal section.



Wood macro photo of tangential plane.

The heartwood is not clearly demarcated from the sapwood. The wood is white yellow to pale brown. The fresh wood has a strong unpleasant odour. It has straight grain and has a somewhat coarse texture.

General Properties

Density	The timber is soft and light, with an average density of 465 kg/m ³ air dry.
Natural Durability	The timber is non-durable, being extremely perishable.
Texture	Texture is moderately coarse and uneven due to the presence of the extremely large rays. Grain is straight.
Air Drying	The timber seasons rapidly without much degrade except for staining by sapstain fungi.

Physical Properties

Basic Density or Specific Gravity	0.55 g/cm ³
Air-Dry Density	0.60 g/cm ³
Recommended Dry Kiln Schedule	P-21; US-52-53

Mechanical Properties

Bending Strength	511 kgf/cm ²
Stiffness	42,000 kgf/cm ²
Compression Parallel to Fibre	213 kgf/cm ²

Machining Properties

The timber is reported to be easy to saw and work.

Sawing	The wood has good sawing characteristics, provided it is well seasoned. It requires sharp tools to make a smooth cut, especially across the grain.
Rotary Veneer Cutting	The wood is used for the production of veneer.
Sliced Veneer	The wood is used for the production of veneer.
Machining	Machining of this species is reported to be easy.
Nailing	The nail holding properties are moderate.
Gluing	This wood glues fairly well.
Finishing	A good finishing can be obtained with both machine and hand tools.
Steam Bending	The steam bending properties are satisfactory.

Uses

The timber is suitable for temporary construction, shuttering, packing boxes and crates, matches and match boxes, wooden clogs, fish-net floats, plywood, veneer, mouldings, faces, cores, light packing, naval construction, musical instruments, handicrafts and papers.

References:

- [http://www.mtc.com.my/wizards/mtc_tud/items/report \(165\).php](http://www.mtc.com.my/wizards/mtc_tud/items/report (165).php)
- <http://www.tropicaltimber.info/specie/amberoi-pterocymbium-tinctorium/#lower-content>





Malaysian Wood
Standing on Excellence

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

www.mtib.gov.my



Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, MTIB Director-General (left) posing with Dato' Dr. Mohd Puat Dahalan, MTIB Deputy Director-General, Management and Operation (second from right) and MTIB officials at the bowling alley, during the MTIB Friendly Sports event between MTIB HQ and Penang. (20-22 December 2019, Butterworth)



MTIB personnel during the MTIB Friendly Sports. (20-22 December 2019, Butterworth).



Briefing on Bamboo Industry : The New Economic Source. (12-13 December 2019 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah).



Course on Timber Product Classification and HS Code Harmonisation, on 9-11 December 2019 and Course on Compliance Rules for Export & Import Procedure, on 11-13 December 2019, both organised by MTIB in Kajang, Selangor



Audit on ISMS MS ISO/IEC 27001:2013 for myRisk by representatives from Jalinan Ilmu Sdn. Bhd. (18-19 December 2019 at MTIB, Kuala Lumpur).



Workshop on the Implementation of the Technical Regulation on Formaldehyde Emission Limit from Wood-based Panel Product. (20 December 2019 in Bangi, Selangor).