



MASKAYU



**INDUSTRY MOVING FORWARD
THROUGH FURNITURE AND
TIMBER-BASED PRODUCTS
DESIGN ROADMAP**

**MTIB-TESCO GARDEN
WON SILVER AWARD**

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Cover: Teratak Alam Mesra garden staged by MTIB and TESCO at Floria Putrajaya 2012. See story on page 14.



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INDUSTRY MOVING FORWARD THROUGH FURNITURE AND TIMBER-BASED PRODUCTS DESIGN ROADMAP



A group photo of facilitators and participants.

The furniture and timber-based industry in Malaysia has long been an important part of the manufacturing sector. The Malaysian timber industry has successfully developed and diversified into downstream activities with strong support from the government and the implementation of the First and Second Industrial Master Plans (1986-1995 and 1996-2005). Over the past 40-50 years, the timber industry has developed from a primary processing industry to a much more sophisticated infrastructure today which consists of a significant number of downstream value-adding industries such as furniture, mouldings as well as wood-based panels.

Malaysia is considered amongst the top 10 producers of furniture in the world and in addition, the National Timber Industry Policy (NATIP) has set a target of RM53 billion in annual export earnings by 2020, with furniture export aimed at RM16 billion. However, the issue of how the industry can move forward has been debated exhaustively, with recurring subjects focusing on lack of manpower, lack of raw materials, humanskills development, stagnant technology and low end market stigma.

Therefore, as part of the Economic and Technical Mission to Italy which was led by YB Dato' Hamzah Zainudin, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Malaysia from 19-27 April 2012, MPIC has requested MTIB to prepare comprehensive roadmap to achieve an annual growth of 6.4% and reach an export value of RM53 billion in 2020. As such, being the lead government agency in the timber industry, MTIB organised a Furniture and Timber-based Design Roadmap Workshop on 16 July at Putrajaya.

The objective of the workshop was to brainstorm ideas and gather information from relevant government agencies, universities and industry associations, as input to develop the Furniture and Timber-based Design Roadmap. This roadmap focuses on the development of the furniture and timber related products industries mainly through product design and development, materials, research, education and innovation. Over 40 participants attended the workshop and it was facilitated by Mr. Ian Davies @ Hj. Iskandar Abdullah from ArcRadius Consulting Sdn. Bhd., who has vast experience in the product design industry in Malaysia and internationally. The workshop was also assisted by Prof. Dr. Rahinah, Dean of Faculty of Architecture and Built Environment from Universiti Putra Malaysia.



Mr. Ian Davies @ Hj. Iskandar Abdullah from ArcRadius Consulting Sdn. Bhd. explaining to participants on the product design industry in Malaysia.



TIMBER WORLD IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA

ABS Says Building Activity Down 2.8% in January - March 2012

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), in the first quarter 2012, building activity in Australia declined 2.8% against the previous quarter to AUD18.70 billion (USD19.40 billion) on a seasonally-adjusted basis. A 1.2% dip was recorded by residential building, while additions and alterations to residential buildings decreased 5.5% and non-residential building declined by 4.1%.

Australian Financial Review, 19 July

CHINA

Wooden Panel Production Increased by 23.34%

China's wooden panel production has increased by 23.34% to 125 million m³ during January-June 2012. The production of particleboards, fibreboards and plywood increased by 19.01%, 10.7% and 23.23% to 12.7 million m³, 25.33 million m³ and 65.04 million m³ respectively. In June 2012, the production of wooden panels increased by 15.91% to 25.25 million m³. The production of particleboards increased by 17.09% to 1.3 million m³, while the production of fibreboards increased by 7.98% to 5.17 million m³. The country's plywood production increased by 18.61% to 12.93 million m³ during the month.

Wood168, 26 July

EUROPEAN UNION

Construction Output Up By 0.1% in Euro Area in May 2012

In the construction sector, seasonally adjusted production rose by 0.1% in the Euro area (EA17) and by 1.6% in the EU27 in May 2012, compared with the previous month. In April 2012, production decreased by 3.7% and 6.9% respectively. Compared with May 2011, production in May 2012 dropped by 8.4% in the Euro area and by 6.9% in the EU27.

Monthly comparison among the Member States for which data are available for May 2012, production in construction rose in eight, fell in six and remained stable in the Czech Republic. The highest increases were registered in the United Kingdom (+6.3%), Romania (+5.0%) and Portugal (+3.6%), and the largest decreases in Slovenia (-17.5%), Hungary (-4.1%) and Spain (-3.3%). Building construction dropped by 0.2%

in the Euro area, but increased by 1.8% in the EU27, after -3.6% and -7.7% respectively in April 2012. Civil engineering rose by 0.6% in the Euro area and by 0.7% in the EU27, after -3.9% and -4.8% respectively in the previous month.

Eurostat, 18 July

FRANCE

Drop in Softwood Prices Confirm

The downward trend in standing softwood timber prices, which began in the autumn of 2011, has now fully set in France. It comes with reduced demand (less bids and less bidders in public and private tenders), and with higher rates of unsold inventories from last year. As much as 35% of the wood which was auctioned on 16 June by the National Forest Office in Méaudre (department of Isère), for instance, remained unsold.

In the Vosges and the Jura mountains, the amounts of unsold stock were similar to last May and June (up to 40% of the stock listed in the auction catalogues). Demand is still there, albeit lower than in 2011, but sawmillers believe sellers deliberately overprice in order to artificially curb the drop in prices. Meanwhile, prices for standing Fir of all diameters were down 18% over a year. Fir timber is now around EUR10 less per m³ underbark than Spruce.

Spruce is also affected by the decrease in price. 1.5 to 2 m³ roundwood pieces, which used to be negotiated at EUR70-72 per m³ in June 2011, are only worth EUR57-60 per m³ now. According to product category and Spruce dimensions, the year-on-year decline in prices varies between 15% and 18%. Many sawmillers complain that, whilst the building season should be in full swing, order books fill up only one or two weeks in advance. Given the tensions caused by falling prices on sawn wood markets, French sawmillers are looking to keep their small profit margin by adjusting the raw material purchase price.

Fordaq, 3 July

GLOBAL

INTERPOL to Combat Illegal Logging Worldwide

To mark World Environment Day, 5 June, INTERPOL announced the launch of Project Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests (LEAF), an initiative dedicated to combating all aspects of forestry crime, including illegal logging and timber trafficking. Project LEAF, a partnership between INTERPOL and the United Nations Environment Programme, with financial support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation. The criminals responsible for illegal logging are destroying biodiversity, threatening the livelihoods of those reliant on forest resources and contributing directly to climate change. With corruption, violence and even murder tied to illegal logging this type of crime can also affect a country's stability and security.

To be truly effective, actions against illegal logging must be coordinated, collaborative and transnational. Crackdowns in

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one country must be supported by others in order to prevent illegal loggers, who frequently have access to extensive international funding channels in addition to using illicit land, sea and air networks to switch countries and evade detection. In 2010, INTERPOL received at its General Assembly in Qatar a unanimous mandate from its member countries to expand its response to environmental crime worldwide. Project LEAF represents INTERPOL's commitment to this mandate and to ensuring the safety and security of communities. The world is recognising that illegal logging is neither simply a moral nor a national issue. The international legislation to protect forests and curtail illegal logging demonstrates will ensure these global laws are supported by global enforcement and that the criminals responsible are brought to justice – no matter their location, movements, or resources.

Project LEAF will conduct ground breaking, intelligence-led law enforcement operations against those involved in illegal logging and will work to further the skills, capabilities, and capacities of law enforcement agencies to aid countries in sustainably managing their forest resources and contribute to the fight against climate change.

Source: Interpol, 18 July

INDONESIA

Four Industry Plantation Forest Permits Issued

In 2012, the Forestry Ministry issued four industry plantation forest permits in East and West Kalimantan covering 116,590 ha. The holders of the four permits will be investing up to IDR821.60 billion (USD87.03 million). The permits are for Muara Sungai Landak (13,000 ha), Oceanias Timber Products (16,600 ha), Unggul Karya Inti Jaya (40,615 ha) and Boma Plantation (46,375 ha). According to Hadi Daryanto, the Secretary General of the Ministry, the granting of the permits are being tightened as many permit holders have failed to carry out reforestation following logging activities. Out of a total of 285 permit holders with assets of IDR15.8 trillion, only around 70 firms are still operating.

Oberösterreichische Nachrichten, 21 June

RUSSIA

WTO Membership Opens Opportunities for the Forest Industry

Russia's WTO membership will enter into force within 30 days, once the WTO processes and approves the accession agreement now ratified by the Russians. Membership will immediately cut timber export duties and thus lower the cost of exporting raw timber from Russia to Finland. The Euro amount of the softwood export duty will be halved and hardwood duties will be reduced to one quarter of their present amount. Pine and Spruce will in future be imported to the EU market and Finland as part of a quota totalling 9.5 million m³.

Some €190 million's worth of raw timber was imported to Finland from Russia last year. If applied to the present makeup

of imports, the revised duties would reduce the Finnish forest industry's annual wood procurement costs by about €20 million.

The Russia import duties levied on paper and paperboard products will reduce by 5% over a four-year transition period. Lower duties will improve the position of Finnish forest industry products in relation to local goods in the growing Russian market. Last year's Finnish paper and paperboard exports to Russia were valued at €490 million. Applied to the present structure of trade, the revised customs charges would reduce import duties by about €30 million after the transition period.

Forestindustries.fi, 23 July

UNITED STATES

Drop in Demand for Woody Biomass in the US Reduced Prices

Prices for woody biomass in the US, whether sawmill by-products, forest residues or urban wood waste, have been sliding for most of the past three years, but were still higher late in 2011 in most regions than they were five years ago, according to the North American Wood Fibre Review.

In the second quarter 2012, woody biomass prices were down between 2-10 % in the key biomass-consuming regions, the US South, Northeast and in the West as compared to the first quarter 2012. In the US Northwest and California there continues to be a substantial price discrepancy between mill biomass and forest biomass, but this price difference is minimal in the US South.

During 2011, natural gas prices fell about 45% in the US and the lower prices have reduced the urgency for investing in woody biomass projects in the country. However, despite the plunging natural gas prices, plans for more facilities utilising woody biomass continued during 2011 and 2012 in both Canada and the US, with some projects nearing completion and others in start-up mode.

Wood fibre demand for all planned biomass projects in the US dropped in the first half of 2012 as compared to early 2011. Most of the decrease in wood usage the past year has been that wood used in the generation of electricity for the domestic market in the US, while the pellet industry has continuously expanded capacity to serve the growing demand in Europe.

The US had about 450 announced and operating woody bioenergy projects in the spring of 2012, including wood pellets, liquid fuel, electricity-generation and combined heat and power (CHP). The projected wood fibre use for all planned biomass projects is estimated to reach just over 30 million dry tons of fibre annually by 2020, according to Forisk. Commercial and residential energy consumers' interest in switching to more expensive green energy is likely to continue to be lukewarm as long as demand for energy is low and natural gas prices are their lowest levels in over 10 years.

WRI LLC, 23 July

JUNE 2012

SHIPPING NEWS



Syed Mokhtar Wins Bid to Privatisise Penang Port

Seaport Terminal (Johor) Sdn. Bhd. owned by Tan Sri Syed Mokhtar Al-Bukhary had won the bid to privatise the Penang Port. The Transport Ministry, in a written reply said that the company had won the bid via its equity ownership in Penang Port Sdn. Bhd. The negotiations with the company on the privatisation agreement however were still ongoing. The Ministry further said that one of the conditions to be included in the privatisation agreement was that the successful company must bear the cost of dredging Penang Port. It was reported that the RM351 million dredging scheme for the northern part of the Penang channel had yet to take off although the amount had been allocated under the 10th Malaysia Plan. The project to deepen the channel from the current 11.5 metre to 14.5 metre was vital to bring large transshipments into the port. It was reported that the cabinet on 25 November 2011 had endorsed Tan Sri Syed Mokhtar to take over the Penang Port in a privatisation exercise.

The Finance Ministry had also on 29 March 2012 confirmed that Seaport Terminal, which was a holding company for the Port of Tanjung Pelepas in Johor had initiated due diligence process on Penang Port.

Source : The Sun Daily, 13 June

MISC to Return to the Black in FY 2012

MISC Bhd. expects to return to profitability for the current financial year ending 31 December 2012 with its exit from the liner business despite reporting a net loss of RM465.08 million in the first quarter to 31 March, said its Chairman, Datuk George Ratilal. For the nine months to 31 December 2011, it posted a net loss of RM1.48 billion on lower revenue of RM8.51 billion. MISC changed its financial year-end from 31 March to 31 December from this year. Datuk Ratilal said that the shipping group was confident there would be no more provisions for the liner business from which it would exit completely by the end of the month. On the other hand, most of MISC overseas branches such as in India, New Zealand, Australia and Singapore had been closed and would eventually be sold.

Datuk Nasarudin Md Idris, President and CEO of MISC Bhd. said, after MISC exiting its loss-making liner business its would have seven distinct businesses, including petroleum, chemical, LNG and offshore which were fairly steady businesses, from which it expected to enjoy recurring income. A lot of companies were getting bigger and bigger with more efficient ships that could ply all over the world. There was no more rate stability. It had become a cut-throat business;

Shipments of Timber and Timber Products through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, June 2012

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all ports m ³	% Change June 2012/ May 2012
	m ³	% Change June 2012/ May 2012	m ³	% Change June 2012/ May 2012	m ³	% Change June 2012/ May 2012	m ³	% Change June 2012/ May 2012	m ³	% Change June 2012/ May 2012		
Sawntimber	23,464	-20	65	-39	260	-54	72	-13	2,851	-19	26,712	-20
MDF	23,745	62	-	-	8,932	59	11,371	24	36,146	19	80,194	34
Mouldings	7,352	-8	446	113	1,851	-5	725	7	2,455	5	12,829	-3
Dressed Timber	1,778	7	54	2	948	-9	261	-19	467	78	3,508	5
Plywood	4,539	673	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,562	-39	10,101	4
Veneer	50	-38	-	-	81	-	23	-12	357	19	511	26
Particleboard	28,710	-28	-	-	23	-91	2,445	-17	-	-	31,178	-27
TOTAL	89,638	-5	565	53	12,095	28	14,897	13	47,838	5	165,033	1

Note : Indicates % change over the previous month
Source : MTIB

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whoever offered cheaper rates would get the business. Datuk Nasarudin also said that the company made core operating earnings of RM500 million but this was wiped out by impairments and provisions from exiting the liner business in the first quarter. MISC's remaining operations were open to scrutiny at board level when asked to comment on whether it would shut down other businesses.

Moving forward, Datuk Nasarudin said the company would look at optimising and renewing its fleet, and be more stringent in allocating capital resources. He added that the charter rates for chemical and petroleum shipments would continue to be depressed over the next couple of years due to overcapacity. However, the company was positive on charter rates for LNG due to greater movement of the fuel due to the closure of nuclear plants in Japan after the earthquake and tsunami last year. He said LNG daily charter rates had firmed up to about USD90,000 to USD100,000.

Source : The Sun Daily, 21 June

Johor Looks to New Markets

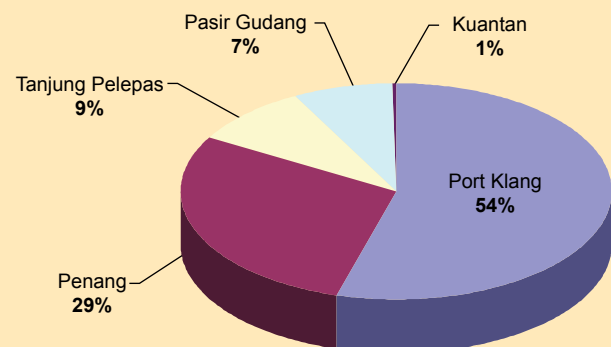
Johor Port has embarked on a five year expansion plan which would include significant redevelopment in order to retain competitive edge and cater to new markets. To date, the port has played a prominent role in catalysing the development and success of the Pasir Gudang industrial estate and its surrounding areas. It now needs to gear itself up in order to maintain its reputation as a preferred port for LME cargo and to take advantage of growing markets - namely palm oil, and oil and gas.

Datuk Mohd. Sidik Shaik Osman, Chairman of Johor Port said, industries in Pasir Gudang were growing to the extent that they had now expanded to the Tanjung Langsat industrial area. Therefore, Johor Port needs to gear itself to cater for the

growth and expansion of these industries so as to ensure that the port remains as a vibrant gateway for the southern region of Malaysia. The redevelopment would need some creative thinking though due to space constraints; there would be a need to build vertically to create extra capacity for new multi-storey warehouse storage facilities. The expansion plan would be conducted in phases and would include the acquisition of new equipment, repair of the wharves and the creation of four new additional berths dedicated to handling liquid cargo. This year alone, the port would be looking to invest around RM100 million (USD31.5 million). The port plans to cash in on Johor's and Malaysia's growing dominance in the palm oil industry and the fact that the coastline of southern Johor looks set to be developed into an oil and gas hub under the country's Economic Transformation Programme. Datuk Mohd Sidik also said that the port would continue to play a key role in facilitating the needs of the oil and gas sector.

Source: <http://www.johorport.com.my/press/johor-looks-new-markets>, 25 June

Shipments of Timber and Timber Products through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, June 2012



Total = 165,033 m³

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JUNE 2012

Total export timber and timber products from Peninsular Malaysia in June decreased 6% in volume and 3% in value to 239,206 m³ valued at RM254.7 million over the previous month. Cumulative export for the period of January to June decreased 4% and 2% in volume and value to 1.4 million m³ with a value of RM1.6 billion respectively over the corresponding period.

Sawntimber

Export of sawntimber in June decreased 14% in volume and 16% in value to 75,036 m³ with a value of RM87.3 million over the previous month. Cumulative exports for the first half of the year showed an increase of 6% in volume and 0.1% in value to 494,433 m³ worth RM597.2 million.

Exports to the EU declined by 16% to 7,582 m³ due to the Euro zone prolonged debt crisis. The Netherlands and Belgium reduced buying by 32% and 3% to 2,144 m³ and 1,056 m³ respectively. However, export to the UK and Germany improved 8% to 1,538 m³ and 29% to 1,759 m³ respectively.

Total export to West Asia decreased 13% to 9,122 m³. Export to the UAE increased 49% to 5,002 m³. Export to Oman improved more than two fold to 1,112 m³ compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, export to Saudi Arabia decreased 63% to 1,308 m³.

Buying from ASEAN declined 11% to 41,351 m³ compared to the previous corresponding period. Export of sawntimber to Thailand and Singapore fell 14% and 6% to 28,383 m³ and 11,289 m³ respectively. However, export to Indonesia increased 8% to 1,236 m³.

Demand in East Asia recorded a negative growth where export decreased 13% to 48,744 m³. China and Japan reduced buying by 14% and 26% to 4,599 m³ and 1,795 m³ respectively.

Elsewhere, exports to the US decreased 15% to 951 m³ but however, intake by Australia increased 76% to 1,275 m³. Import from South Africa fell 37% to 2,699 m³.

The average FOB price of sawntimber decreased 3% to RM1,164 per m³ from RM1,196 per m³ in the previous month. Dark Red Meranti (DRM) was traded at RM2,565 per m³, a decline of 5% from the previous month. Prices of DRM to the Netherlands also decreased 6% to RM2,822 per m³. Keruing was traded at RM1,126 per m³ while there was no trading for Redwood to the UAE for the month.

Plywood

Plywood exports in June 2012 were at 13,286 m³ valued at RM23 million. Cumulative exports for the period January

to June showed decreases of 25% and 20% in volume and value to 98,465 m³ valued at RM160.6 million respectively from the previous corresponding period.

Total exports to EU decreased by 27% to 8,708 m³, imports by the UK decreased 32% to 6,683 m³. Similarly, imports by Denmark and Belgium decreased to 383 m³ and 209 m³ from 1,197 m³ and 514 m³ respectively in the previous month. However, export to Netherlands increased by 210% to 1,198 m³ from the previous month.

Exports to ASEAN region was lower as Singapore and Thailand intakes of plywood decreased by 2% and 33% to 1,299 m³ and 695 m³ respectively. In East Asia, exports to Hong Kong remained at 84 m³ while Japan increased import by 112 m³ from 84m³ in the previous month. China, South Korea and Taiwan did not import any plywood in June 2012. Total exports to West Asia were lower by 35% to 490 m³ from 754 m³ in the previous month. Export to UAE decreased to 420 m³ from 540 m³ in the previous month while Saudi Arabia resumed import by 70 m³. Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait did not make any purchase in June 2012. Elsewhere, export to Australia decreased by 22% to 1,111 m³ while the US did not import any plywood. South Africa increased its intake to 493 m³ from 149 m³ in the previous month.

The FOB price of plywood increased to RM1,752 per m³ from RM1,631 per m³ in the previous month, an increase of 7% from the previous month.

Veneer

Total exports of veneer for June 2012 showed decreases of 4% in volume and 27% in value to 707 m³ at RM1.1 million compared to the previous month. Cumulative exports from January to June decreased by 3% in volume and an increase of 5% value to 3,095 m³ valued at RM5.6 million from the previous corresponding period of last year.

Exports to Taiwan decreased by 25% to 197 m³ while import by Thailand decreased 14% to 120 m³. Similarly, Canada reduced its intake to 35 m³ from 42 m³.

Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF)

Exports of MDF for June 2012 registered a positive growth of 22% in volume and 28% in value. Exported totalled 93,311 m³ valued at RM95 million respectively as compared to previous month.

In East Asia exports fell 15% in volume to 1,840 m³ from 2,173 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Taiwan increase 22% to 695 m³ whilst export to Japan and China (inclusive Hong Kong) both fell 3% to 578 m³ and 46% to 546 m³ respectively.

Meanwhile, exports to West Asia showed a positive growth with an increase of 29% in volume to 61,074 m³ from 47,333 m³ in the previous month. Export to Kuwait registered

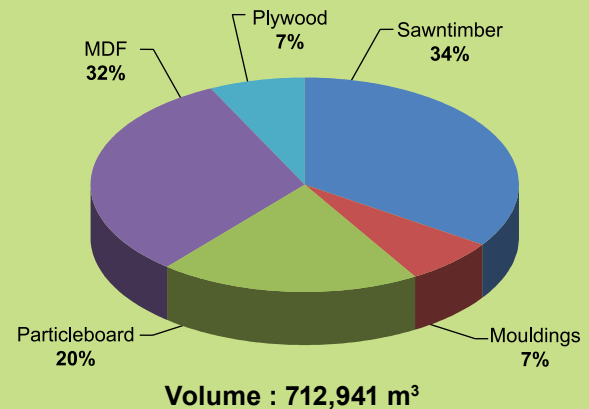
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an increased of 599% to 8,237 m³ followed by the UAE 116% to 13,423 m³, Jordan 100% to 5,068 m³, Saudi Arabia 87% to 8,437 m³ and Iran 39% to 17,552 m³. However export to Oman, Bahrain and Syria recorded a decreased of 9% to 3,442 m³, 90% to 85 m³ and 100% respectively from the previous month.

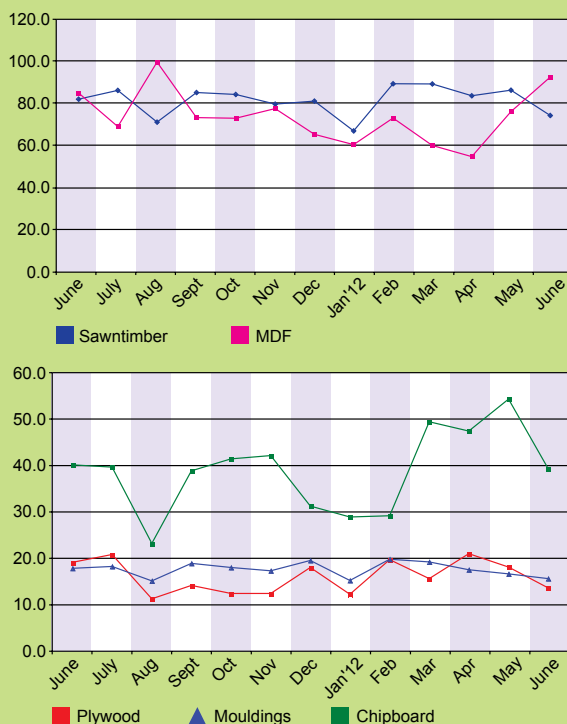
Elsewhere, exports to the South Africa, UK and Australia surged 157% to 1,587 m³, 21% to 623 m³ and 2% to 1,969 m³. Exports to the US however fell 59% to 887 m³ respectively.

Total exports to the ASEAN region registered a positive growth of 59% to 15,127 m³ from 9,509 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Singapore, Indonesia and Viet Nam increased by 148% to 1,008 m³, 79% to 6,483 m³ and 73% to 6,530 m³. However, Philippines registered a negative growth of 39% to 979 m³ respectively.

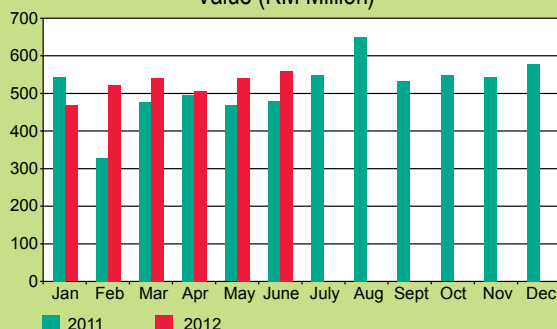
Export of Major Timber Products From Peninsular Malaysia (April - June 2012)



Export of Selected Products from Peninsular Malaysia (June 2011 - June 2012) / Volume ('000m³)



Malaysia: Export of Wooden Furniture (June 2011 - June 2012) / Value (RM Million)



Mouldings

Exports of mouldings for the month decreased 6% in volume and 4% in value to 15,279 m³ worth RM44.9 million. However, the cumulative exports for the first six months increased 5% in volume and 12% in value over the previous corresponding period to 102,105 m³ with a value of RM287.5 million.

Export to the EU decreased 19% to 5,612 m³. The Netherlands and Germany reduced purchases by 37% to 1,746 m³ and 10% to RM1,912 m³ respectively. On the other hand, exports to the UK increased 71% to 886 m³.

In Asia, shipments to Japan increased 14% to 2,055 m³. However, demand from South Korea and Singapore decreased 2% and 18% to 1,135 m³ and 948 m³ respectively.

Elsewhere, exports to the US increased 26% to 2,044 m³, while Australia reduced purchases by 7% to 2,031 m³.

FOB unit value increased 2% from RM2,871 per m³ in the previous month to RM2,939 per m³.

Builders Joinery and Carpentry (BJC)

Exports of BJC for the first half of 2012 decreased 4% to RM489.4 million compared to the previous corresponding period. Exports to the EU fell 14% to RM143.5 million. Similarly, purchases by the US and Australia reduced similarly by 6% to RM36.6 million and RM58.8 million respectively. Meanwhile, export to Singapore increased 16% to RM49.9 million.

Exports to the UK fell 31% to RM45.5 million. Likewise, purchases by France and Denmark decreased 13% and 24% to RM21.1 million and RM13.8 million respectively. On the other hand, demand from Belgium improved 72% to RM29.8 million.

In Asia, exports to India increased 23% worth RM32.2 million while export to Thailand also improved 9% to RM14.8 million. However, export to the UAE decreased 27% to RM9.8 million.

JUNE 2012



Logs

Logging activities remained subdued for the month of June. Some large suppliers in Sarawak said that log production was "slow" with some area got into the rainy season while some dry areas made towing of logs quite difficult.

Logs species of Chengal, Balau and Merbau were traded at RM7,000 per tonne, RM2,850 per tonne and RM2,400 per tonne respectively. Meanwhile, prices of Keruing and Kempas were reported to be traded at RM1,700 per tonne and RM1,410 per tonne respectively. Prices for Dark Red Meranti, Red Meranti and Mersawa were respectively quoted at RM1,790 per tonne, RM1,380 per tonne and RM1,550 per tonne. On the other hand, prices for Mixed Heavy and Mixed Light Hardwood were RM800 per tonne and RM760 per tonne respectively.

Sawntimber

Sawntimber market looks strong with increased exports recorded for the first quarter of 2012. The increase was mainly caused by the exports to Asia with a strong demand from ASEAN and South Asia countries. However, there would be a slow market in the EU for the coming month due to summer holidays.

Prices for sawntimber of Chengal, Balau and Merbau were RM8,120 per m³, RM3,250 per m³ and RM3,670 per m³ while sawntimber prices of Keruing and Kempas were quoted at RM2,190 per m³ and RM2,120 per m³ respectively. Dark Red Meranti, Red Meranti and Mersawa were traded at RM2,670 per m³, RM1,930 per m³ and RM2,825 per m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Mixed Heavy, Mixed Light Hardwood were traded at RM1,130 per m³ and RM850 per m³ respectively.

Plywood

Due to the depressed market for plywood in Japan, log prices were not high as Japanese plywood manufacturers resisted price hikes as demanded by Sarawak exporters. On the other hand, supply of plywood to the domestic market remained adequate. Plywood of 4mm, 6mm and 9mm of thicknesses were traded at RM16.10, RM25.60 and RM38.50 per piece respectively. Meanwhile, shuttering boards of 12mm of thickness were traded at RM48.50 per piece.

Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF)

Supply of MDF remained stable whilst prices remained at last month's level. MDF of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm and 12mm of thicknesses were traded at RM13.20, RM16.90, RM23.30 and RM30.10 per piece respectively.

Intra-Malaysia Trade * - June 2012

Shipments of sawntimber from Sabah to Peninsular Malaysia reported a decline of 31% to 512 m³, valued at RM0.8 million. However, shipments of plywood increased by 2% to 10,261 m³, worth at RM14.9 million. Likewise, export of veneer declined by 22% to 110 m³, valued at RM0.1 million

Meanwhile, export of sawntimber from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia declined 18% to 1,601 m³, valued at RM1.3 million. However, shipments of plywood declined by 87% to 10,793 m³, worth at RM12.8 million. Export of veneer also declined 50% to 5,254 m³, worth at RM5.3 million.

No intra trade from Peninsular Malaysia to Sabah and Sarawak were recorded in June 2012.

* Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia



INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE - JUNE 2012

From	Products	MAY 2012		JUNE 2012		% change in volume JUNE 2012/MAY 2012	% change in value JUNE 2012/MAY 2012
		Volume (m ³)	Value (RM '000)	Volume (m ³)	Value (RM '000)		
SABAH	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	745	1,232	512	806	-31	-35
	Plywood	10,025	15,246	10,261	14,957	2	-2
	Veneer	141	198	110	150	-22	-24
SARAWAK	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	1,957	1,758	1,601	1,368	-18	-22
	Plywood	80,239	14,139	10,793	12,865	-87	-9
	Veneer	10,586	8,726	5,254	5,319	-50	-39

Source : Department of Statistics, Malaysia

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JUNE 2012

***AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWNTIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA
JUNE 2012 (RM)**

SPECIES	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m ³			
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS	
HEAVY HARDWOOD					
Chengal	7,000	8,120	2,965		6,215
Balau	2,850	3,250	2,470		3,180
Red Balau	1,800	2,540	1,625		2,260
Merbau	2,400	3,670	2,895		2,685
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	800	1,130	950		1,130
MEDIUM HARDWOOD					
Keruing	1,700	2,190	1,340		2,490
Kempas	1,410	2,120	1,660		1,910
Kapur	2,200	2,260	1,975		2,400
Mengkulang	1,420	1,910	1,210		1,980
Tualang	1,460	1,745	540		2,155
LIGHT HARDWOOD					
Dark Red Meranti	1,790	2,670	1,520		2,920
Red Meranti	1,380	1,930	1,470		2,545
Yellow Meranti	1,150	2,825	1,130		2,895
White Meranti	1,060	1,520	2,260		1,695
Mersawa	1,550	2,825	2,685		2,280
Nyato	870	1,130	635		1,200
Sepetir	2,500	1,235	2,260		1,270
Jelutong	890	1,420	570		1,380
Mixed Light Hardwood	760	850	780		850
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD <i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m ³			
		1" X 1"	2" X 2"	3" X 3"	4" X 4"
	190	1,045	1,110	1,130	1,230
PLYWOOD 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm		12mm
	16.10	25.60	38.50		48.50
MDF 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm		12mm
	13.20	16.90	23.30		30.10

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

* Prices are only indicative

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TIMBER ROUND-UP

Furniture

Exports of wooden and rattan furniture for the first six months of 2012 rose 11.8% compared to the corresponding period of 2011. Total shipments recorded RM3.1 billion against RM2.8 billion in 2011.

Purchase of wooden furniture from Malaysia for the January to June 2012 duration increased 12.0% from RM2.8 billion to RM3.1 billion compared to the same period in 2011. Imports of wooden furniture by the US expanded 14.5% from RM849.3 million to RM972.7 million. Japan recorded a consumption hike of 13.6% from RM214.9 million to RM244.2 million.

The UK imports for the first six months of 2012 saw an improvement of 10.4% from RM183.2 million to RM202.3 million. Intake by Australia remained positive with a 7.7% increase to RM199.3 million in 2012.

Shipments to Singapore picked up 8.1% in 2012 to RM162.4 million. Canada's uptake of wooden furniture strengthened with an increase of 22.7% to reach RM147.1 million. The UAE posted an increase of 4.6% with an intake of RM97.7 million.

India saw an increase of 10.2% to RM73.8 million. Saudi Arabia managed to record an increase of 8.6% to RM61.5 million. Germany boosted its wooden furniture consumption by 28.1% with a purchase of RM52.0 million in 2012 from RM34.5 million in 2011. Russia's consumption of furniture more than doubled itself with a huge increase of 101.9% from RM29.6 million to RM60.0 million. Norway and Spain cut back consumption by 46.8% and 30.1% respectively.

Rattan furniture shipments slid to RM10.1 million for the January to June 2012 compared to RM12.8 million in the first six months of 2011, a drop of 21.2%.

Main buyer Singapore absorbed RM2.0 million, thus reducing its buying by 27.9 %. The UK cuts back on its consumption by 45.4%, spiralling downwards from RM1.5 million in 2011 to RM823,000. Meanwhile, both the US and Germany saw positive improvements with 3028.8% and 286.1% or RM498,000 and RM615,000 respectively. In addition, there was an increase of consumption of rattan furniture of 20.2% from RM686,000 to RM825,000 from China.

WISDEC TRAINEE WINS GOLD MEDAL IN MALAYSIA SKILLS COMPETITION 2012



Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General (third from right), Tuan Hj. Mohd Sanuri Mohd Shahid, Deputy Secretary-General (Development) of MPIC (left) posing with WISDEC officials at the event.

Congratulations to WISDEC trainee, Encik Taqiyuddin bin Bahrul for winning the gold medal in the cabinet-making category in the Malaysia Skills Competition (MSC) 2012. The event took place on 10 July in Putrajaya and the prize was presented by YB Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin Haji Mohd Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia. Encik Taqiyuddin will be representing Malaysia in the ASEAN Skills Competition which will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 11 to 19 November 2012. It is our hope that Encik Taqiyuddin will emerge victorious and move forward to ultimately represent Malaysia at the World Skills Competition scheduled for July 2013 in Leipzig, Germany.

MSC is an annual competition of skills to discover and accredit highly skilled trainees, trainers and workers. The competition is made up of two stages: pre-qualifying and final. MSC was previously organised by the Ministry of Works and the first competition was held in 1990. Since 2010, MSC has been under the Department of Skill Development (DSD), Ministry of Human Resources.

In an effort to enhance skills in the timber sector, in particular the furniture industry, MTIB, the Ministry of Works and DSD, have collaborated in organising the Malaysia Skills Competition for 'Cabinet Making'. In view of the positive growth of the furniture industry, it is thus important to upgrade the level of skills and technology to meet the demands of the export market. The industry faces a problem in attracting school leavers to take up jobs in the industry as it is viewed as not a conducive environment to work in.

The timber industry encompasses primary processing to high value-adding activities. It has developed from a primary producer of logs and sawntimber to a manufacturer of value-added quality products such as joinery, laminated products and furniture. The industry has also been a major source of foreign exchange earnings for decades and it continues to contribute significantly towards the nation's economic growth through revenue earnings and employment.

Exports of timber and timber products have reached more than RM20 billion. Currently, Malaysia's timber and timber products are exported to over 150 countries worldwide.



Encik Taqiyuddin bin Bahrul, WISDEC trainee (left) with Encik Amri Mustafa, WISDEC officer as a judge in the competition.

WORKING GROUP MEETING ON A NEW ITTO STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2013-2018

The Working Group (WG) meeting on the elaboration of a new ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018 was held in Yokohama at the ITTO office from 2 to 6 July. The WG was composed of experts from member countries as well as representatives of the Civil Society Advisory Group and Trade Advisory Group. The meeting was Co-Chaired by Dr. James Gasana from Switzerland and Dr. Agus Sarsito from Indonesia. The WG was assisted in its work by Mr. Emmanuel Ze Meka, Executive Director of the ITTO and the staff of the Secretariat.

Mr. Ze Meka opened the meeting of the WG and drew attention to the entry into force of the ITTA 2006 in December 2011 and emphasised the importance of the Action Plan in providing guidance to the organisation as it faces many challenges in the coming years. In particular, the Executive Director drew the WG's attention to the financial challenges faced by ITTO.

The WG convened the discussion by referring to a working paper and Background Document, prepared by the consultant, which provided an effective review of the Action Plan 2008-2011 and also took into consideration the views of

ITTO members and secretariat. The Background Document also provided a useful review of recent developments in international forest policy, institutions and markets, as well as issues to consider in the preparation of a new Action Plan.

Upon reviewing the Background Document and the working paper, the WG decided that the new Action Plan should concentrate on consideration of strategic priorities for the new plan, as well as the extended outcomes and indicators of progress that would be associated with those priorities. In its initial discussion of strategic priorities, the WG emphasised the need to have priorities that are balanced consistent with the core mandate of ITTO and its broad objectives of "promoting the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forest and to promote the sustainable management of tropical timber producing forest".

In the WG, Malaysia was represented by Encik Low Yew Eng, Under-Secretary for Timber, Tobacco and Kenaf Industries Development Division, MPIC and Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, MTIB Director of Trade Development. 

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Malaysia ranks amongst the top 10 producers of furniture in the world. In fact, the target of the National Timber Industry Policy (NATIP) is RM53 billion by the year 2020, with furniture export earnings aimed at RM16 billion.

The idea of a national level skills competition was mooted by Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, former Prime Minister of Malaysia in 1989. The Ministry of Works was given the mandate by the Cabinet to organise the annual competition. Previously, when the Ministry of Works was responsible for organising the Malaysia Skills Competition, it was supported by various agencies such as Construction Industry Development Board, HICOM, PROTON, TNB, MTIB, Malaysian Association of Hotels, Malaysian Association of Cosmetologist, Perbadanan Kemajuan Kraftangan Malaysia and National Information Technology Council.

The competition has undergone considerable transformation. Initially, it was known as the National Trade Skills Competition and it was later changed to the National Skills Competition. Currently it is known as the Malaysia Skills Competition. The event has also made its landmark at international level.

The objectives of the competition are as follows:-

- To select and recognise skilled workers
- To encourage youths to be world class skilled workers
- To create awareness on skills culture

To achieve the target of 40% skilled workers by 2020, DSD launched SkillsMalaysia 2011. SkillsMalaysia is an initiative to increase awareness and highlight opportunities in the vocational fields to Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) graduates to improve the capabilities of existing skilled workers. This initiative is also a component of the Entry Point Project outlined in the skills training requirements projection that is expected to generate RM21.1 billion gross national income and create 12,400 jobs.

SkillsMalaysia demonstrates the government's manifested commitment to offer career opportunities that can contribute towards developing a high-income nation and making skills training the first choice for school leavers. The campaign also aspires to increase the intake of skills trainees to 200,000 by 2020. 

MTIB-TESCO GARDEN WON SILVER AWARD



Teratak Alam Mesra garden staged by MTIB and TESCO at Floria Putrajaya 2012.

Imagine strolling through a garden fenced with rarely seen black bamboo, covered with an array of flowers surrounding a traditional wooden chalet amidst a serene environment. That was the setting at the *Teratak Alam Mesra* garden staged by MTIB and TESCO at Floria Putrajaya 2012, which took place from 30 June to 8 July. These attractive gardens aimed to inspire visitors to cherish and protect the environment. Besides enjoying the scenery, there were numerous educational activities carried out that had added gaiety to the garden atmosphere.

Many activities were held during the one week event which included a briefing on the Karas and the Gaharu Industry in Malaysia by Encik Mohd Zamakhsyary Mustapa from MTIB. There was also a demonstration on how to make fertiliser

for plants using the *Takakura* method by Perbadanan Pengurusan Sisa Pepejal dan Pembersihan Awam. Visitors also got a chance to test their knowledge on the environment with the Green Trivia as well as enjoy a craft demonstration using recycling items. In addition, they also got the chance to bid and buy “green” items during the auction session, the proceeds of which would go to welfare homes.

There were also some promotions and tips on bamboo usage in the garden. Bamboo Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. promoted the usage of bamboo as green products through their wide range of merchandise made of *Bamboo-Fabric*. Products such as towels, socks, soaps and shirts manufactured from bamboo were displayed to educate the public on the multifarious usage of bamboo, besides making the familiar *lemang*.

The “Greener Earth Consumer to Donate Programme” managed to obtain donations for the fund from the 450 visitors. The funds will be used to support the programme of planting more than 500,000 trees under the MTIB-TESCO collaboration. Almost 70,000 visitors visited *Teratak Alam Mesra* during the event. Amongst the VIPs who visited the garden was Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, former Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The MTIB-TESCO garden managed to bag the silver award for the corporate sector for the best booth design. The award which was received by Puan Hj. Norchahaya Hashim, Deputy Director-General of MTIB and Cik Low Lee Ann, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility of TESCO was presented by YB Dato’ Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin, Minister of Federal Territories and Urban Well-being during the closing ceremony. 🏆



Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, former Prime Minister of Malaysia (centre) strolling through the garden.

LAB FOR BUMIPUTERA ENTREPRENEURS



Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General delivering his welcoming remarks.



Discussions among members of the respective sub-labs.

MTIB held a lab for Bumiputera entrepreneurs from 16 to 17 July in Kuala Lumpur. The objective of the lab was to formulate a Bumiputera strategic plan and key performance indicator (KPI) in line with NATIP's Strategic Thrust 7 - Bumiputera participation. Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General of MTIB in his welcoming remarks gave an insight on the Bumiputera entrepreneurs' participation in the timber industry. He urged them to be more pro-active in keeping up with the trends and demands of the consumers as well as to stay competitive. He hoped that the lab would not be just another academic exercise and reiterated that action plans and key performance indicators must be clearly spelt out to meet the objectives of NATIP. He also expressed his appreciation to the members of the lab for their attendance

since most of them were key persons from the Ministries, associations and the timber fraternity.

The lab comprised three sub-labs namely entrepreneur, production and marketing. Members of the respective labs deliberated on various issues pertaining to their subject matter. Issues such as raw material supply, labour shortage, market promotion and financing were raised by the respective sub-labs. A number of initiatives were derived and members had to prioritise them according to the urgency of the issues raised.

An 'open day' for the Bumiputera entrepreneurs to view and comment on the findings of the lab would be held indefinitely. A total of 45 participants attended the lab. 

EIGHTH STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON FLEGT VPA



Mr. Vincent van den Berk from the European Forest Institute (left) and Puan Loke Sim Wah, the Protem Secretariat (right) delivering their talks.

The Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) organised the Eighth Stakeholder Consultation on Malaysia-European Union (EU) Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT VPA) with regard to the implementation of the Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS), on 31 July at MTIB, Kuala Lumpur. The Consultation aimed to update the stakeholders on the progress and developments of TLAS as well as to notify them of actions being taken to prepare for the implementation of the FLEGT licensing scheme.

Encik Wan Mazlan Wan Mahmood, Under-Secretary, Strategic Planning and International Division, Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities in his opening remark reiterated Malaysia's commitment to trade in legal timber, stating that Malaysia had initiated negotiations with the EU on the FLEGT VPA in January 2007. He further stated that the Stakeholder Consultation process is part of the FLEGT VPA negotiation process through which it seeks to solicit views, comments and feedback from Stakeholders. "However, not all the views and comments can be considered to be negotiated with the EU as there is a need to take a balanced approach in decision making without jeopardising the interest of the country", he added. Encik Wan Mazlan further informed the participants that the Consultation would also deliberate on the expanded product scope to enable Malaysian timber and timber products to be more competitive in the EU market, as well as the revised TLAS Tables being amended and with inclusion of new TLAS Tables to accommodate the additional timber products.

Four presentations were made at the Consultation. Mr. Vincent van den Berk from the European Forest Institute (EFI) presented an update on the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR). At the moment, the FLEGT VPA partner countries in the Asian

Region are Malaysia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam. The EUTR prohibits the placing of illegally harvested timber and timber products in the EU market. Countries with the VPA can export FLEGT licensed timber into the EU without their customers needing to make further legality checks.

Puan Loke Sim Wah, the Protem Secretariat, elaborated on the rationale to expand additional timber products scope to be covered under TLAS beside the existing four timber products which are logs, sawntimber, plywood and veneer. The additional timber products are mouldings, builders' joinery and carpentry (BJC), wood-based furniture (WBF), fibreboard, particleboard, wooden frames and railway sleepers.

The list of TLAS timber products are as detailed in the table:

No.	HS Codes	Timber Description
1.	4403	Wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
2.	4406	Railway or tramway sleepers (cross-ties) of wood
3.	4407	Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm
4.	4408	Sheets for veneering (including those obtained by slicing laminated wood), for plywood or for similar laminated wood and other wood, sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded, spliced or end-jointed, of a thickness or exceeding 6 mm

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No.	HS Codes	Timber Description
5.	4409	Wood (including strips and friezes for parquet flooring, not assembled) continuously shaped (tongued, grooved, rebated, chamfered, V-jointed, beaded, moulded, rounded or the like) along any of its edges, ends or faces, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed
6.	4410	Particleboard, oriented strand board (OSB) and similar board (for example, waferboard) of wood or other ligneous materials, whether or not agglomerated with resins or other organic binding substances
7.	4411	Fibreboard of wood or other ligneous materials, whether or not bonded with resins or other organic substances
8.	4412	Plywood, veneered panels and similar laminated wood
9.	4414	Wooden frames for paintings, photographs, mirrors or similar objects
10.	4418	Builders' joinery and carpentry of wood, including cellular wood panels, assembled parquet flooring panels, shingles and shakes
11.	9403	Other furniture and parts thereof
	9403 30	Wooden furniture of a kind used in offices
	9403 40	Wooden furniture of a kind used in the kitchen
	9403 50	Wooden furniture of a kind used in the bedroom
	9403 60	Other wooden furniture
	9403 90	Parts



Attendees at the event.

Encik S. Rajan, MTIB Director of Licensing and Enforcement presented on the amendments to the existing Tables as a result of the inclusion of new products as well as on the additional four Tables. The new TLAS Tables are related to the control of timber production to cater for logs sourced from Industrial Tree Plantation (ITP); consent by owner to remove logs and wood residues from rubber trees; environment management of rubber estates; and issuance of mobile sawmill licence to cover Rubberwood logs from replanting operations. With this new development and updates, there are now 24 TLAS Tables related to the control procedures for timber and timber products exported from Peninsular Malaysia.

The final presentation on information for public disclosure was given by Puan Loke Sim Wah, the Protem Secretariat. The information was to facilitate a clear understanding of the FLEGT VPA process and to generate stronger support towards achieving the objectives of the FLEGT VPA when it is implemented by Malaysia. It will be made publicly available in websites or provided upon request from the respective responsible agencies.

MPIC thanked the Moderator, Prof. Dato' Dr. Abdul Latiff Mohamad from the Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia for successfully chairing the Eighth Stakeholder Consultation.

The Consultation was attended by more than 100 participants from the Ministries, agencies and departments, non-governmental organisations, industry players and academia.



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EXPLORING CHINESE BAMBOO INDUSTRY



Delegation members.

The bamboo industry in Malaysia has a huge potential to develop and penetrate into the international market. Cultivation of the elite species and management of the natural stands of bamboo is one of the means to ensure the continued supply of raw material for the development of the wood-based industry. Bamboo, as a fibre source, represents an average of 7% of the total non-wood forest product in the country. Presently bamboo is widely utilised by the cottage industry to produce basketry, furniture and handicraft for the domestic market.

To explore the latest developments in the bamboo industry, three MTIB officers took part in the 2012 Bamboo Tour to China organised by the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) from 19 to 30 June. INBAR is an intergovernmental organisation dedicated to improving the social, economic and environmental benefits of bamboo and rattan. The bamboo study tour to China is an annual event held since 2005. This year's event attracted 23 participants from nine countries: Malaysia, Africa, Madagascar, Thailand, USA, Philippines, Ethiopia, Belgium and Australia. The objectives of the visit were to gain a better sight of the establishment of bamboo plantations and its value-added processing industry as well as on skills training activities.

The delegation first visited the bamboo plantation in the Zhejiang and Sichuan provinces. They observed that the plantations were well developed and were mostly owned by the farmers.

The delegation were also brought to a bamboo flooring manufacturer, DASSO that produced the bamboo fire-proof ceiling for Madrid International Airport. DASSO also produces bamboo veneer for BMW's car interior parts and wind turbine blades. Bamboo-flooring manufacturer companies in China mostly use Moso Bamboo, a species native to China. The



*One of the most used and commercially grown Bamboos (*Phyllostachys edulis*) in China.*

delegation members were also brought to Wenzhou Co., a major producer of high quality charcoal and bamboo vinegar. These products are highly demanded in Japan where the charcoal is used as barbeque, fuel or an odour-absorbing material while bamboo vinegar is used in bio-pesticides, soaps and medicine.

The delegation was then brought to the Zhejiang Agro-Forestry University to get a better understanding of bamboo cultivation, especially on the advanced tissue culture practices. They also visited Qingshen Yunhua Handicrafts Training Base and discussed the training programmes offered by the centre. The discussion also focused on possible initiatives that could be undertaken to spur the development of local handicrafts made of bamboo namely through cooperation with the handicraft training centre.

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MALAYSIA – KOREA DESIGN SHARING 2012

The design industry has the capability of adding high value to the products developed by other related industries. In the advent of an economy which focuses on the sensibility of its people, design has a huge impact on the manufacturing industries, the economy, culture and national competitiveness.

To propose future direction and to enable local designers, companies and industry players to delve into the subject of identity in branding, packaging and designing, a Malaysia-Korea Design Sharing seminar was held in Kuala Lumpur from 17 to 18 July. The seminar which was initiated by the Malaysia Design Council (MRM) and Korea Institute of Design Promotion aimed to uplift the standard of products which are designed and manufactured locally. Inaugurated in 2010, this year the seminar focuses on promoting awareness on the importance of branding and the packaging of products. These aspects align well with the government's effort at enhancing the visibility of Malaysian manufacturers both in the domestic and international markets.

A total of eight papers including two keynote papers were presented during the seminar session. The target groups of the seminar were Malaysian industry players, manufacturers, design service providers and design consultants. The seminar participants were informed of the potential opportunities

available to market products according to global market requirements in terms of design and production methods. To these consumers they have to offer creative and innovative products which have appeal both in terms of branding and packaging.

The seminar was launched by Dato' Prof. Dr. Ahmad Hj. Zainuddin, MRM Chairman. During the two-day seminar, the participants were given a thorough understanding on how to create, build and leverage on strong brands and their relationship to packaging. They were also taught methods used to measure and manage the most beneficial components of branding bearing in mind influences consumer perceptions.

During the discussions which followed, the focus was on efforts on how to give a breath of fresh air in order to enhance brand quality and create attractive packaging which would also highlight the creativity and innovation of Malaysian products as well as portray their unique identity. It is hoped that branding, packaging and design would become the catalyst which would bring further progress to the affected sectors.

MTIB was represented by Puan Nik Zuraiyah Nik Muhamad, Cik Siti Aishah Abu Bakar and Encik Mohider Mat Salleh. 

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From the knowledge gained, MTIB will be able to plan for greater development in the bamboo industry by promoting the production of value-added products which offer brighter export market prospects. Through the implementation of the strategy as outlined in the 10 Year Bamboo Action Plan as formulated by MTIB, Malaysia's bamboo export is expected to grow as well as provide more job opportunities particularly for rural dwellers.

MTIB was represented by Tuan Hj. Mahpar Atan, Director of Industry Development, Encik Muhamad Faizul Razilah from WISDEC and Encik Mohd Zamakhsyary Mustapa from Forest Plantation. 



Dining table made from bamboo.

PROMOTION OF MALAYSIAN TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS TO SOUTH AFRICA AND MAURITIUS



The delegates with a representative from the Mauritius Port Authority.

In tandem with the Malaysian timber industry's aspiration and objectives to further increase the market share and potential of Malaysian-made timber and timber products in the South African and Mauritius market, the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) organised a marketing and promotion mission to these two countries from 6-16 June. The 13-member industry delegation led by Dr. Eric Ng, Director of Trade Promotion, MTC involved a series of market promotion seminars, business meetings, factories and warehousing visits in each country visited.

During the mission, three seminars on the Malaysian timber industry and products exported were held in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius. Three papers were presented during the seminar namely Malaysian Timber Industry by Dr. Eric Ng of MTC, Malaysia Timber Usage and Applications by Encik George Tan and Value-Added Products by Encik Ricky Yap. Both speakers are MTC's Board of Trustee Members.

Business-to-Business meetings were also conducted to enable seminar participants and the Malaysian delegates to directly discuss and exchange information whilst at the same time seek opportunities and export potential for Malaysian timber and timber products into the growing economies of South African and Mauritian markets.

Seminar participants comprised timber importers, agents and merchants, manufacturers and end users of timber and timber products. At the Johannesburg seminar, HE High Commissioner of Malaysia to South Africa, Honourable Kennedy Jawan gave the welcoming remarks and urged

South African importers to take full advantage of the presence of the Malaysian delegates to exchange information and understand the various timber products offered by Malaysia. He hoped the mission will assist to improve and increase existing bilateral timber trade between Malaysia and South Africa. Also present at the seminar were MATRADE and MIDA representatives in Johannesburg.

The mission delegates toured the South African port facilities in Cape Town managed by Transnet National Ports Authority and the Mauritius Port Authority in Port Louis. At the Cape Town Port, the delegates were briefed by the Port Manager, Mr. Sanjay Govan and Mrs. Zurayda Christians on the operations and the various facilities available at the second largest port in South Africa, next to Durban Port which is the main port of entry for imported timber entering South Africa including Malaysian timbers.

The delegates also visited some of the largest timber importers, manufacturers and suppliers of timber products in both countries. In Cape Town delegates visited Hout Bay Timber Company (Pty) Ltd and Rare Woods (SA) Pty Ltd, whilst in Johannesburg visits were made to Merensky, Interwill Group, K. Parker Joinery and Suntups Flooring. Malaysian sawntimber imported were mainly Meranti, Balau, Melunak and Merbau. Besides sawntimber, South African companies also imported Malaysian MDF, plywood, BJC and some mouldings.

During the visit, South African timber importers expressed their interest to continue purchasing Malaysian sawntimber in the coming years. However, there were also views that Malaysian

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importers should stabilise their quality and pricing in order to compete with the local and the Uruguay plantation-based Red Grandis and New Zealand's treated Pine (Durapine brand).

In Mauritius, the delegates visited the Mauritius port facilities and warehousing facilities of the two main importers of Malaysian timbers namely Li Tung Sang & Co. Ltd and Chantier de Plaisance. Two prominent furniture and BJC operations namely La Boiserie Mauricienne and Panache were also visited.

Major imports of Malaysian sawntimber are Yellow Balau, Red Meranti, Keruing, Kempas and Nyatoh species. Other products imported from Malaysia are MDF, plywood, BJC, mouldings and furniture. Competition for Malaysian products come from African species particularly Sapele, Iroko, Wenge and Kiaat. Imports of European Beech, American Oak and Walnut, and Radiata Pine from New Zealand is also catching up in Mauritius.

In conclusion, both the countries visited by the mission delegates have bright market prospects for the expansion of Malaysian timber and timber products particularly for the value-added products such as mouldings, BJC and furniture. The South African population of 50 million, positive annual economic growth of 2.9% for 2012 and increased government spending for infrastructure and housing facilities in the next three years totalling 3.2 trillion Rands on over 40 major infrastructure projects augurs well for the increased utilisation of imported timber and timber products into the country.

Meanwhile Mauritius with its small population of 1.3 million and its tourism economy is poised for progress with the planned development of a new integrated native coastal environment tourism-based project known as the Les Salines



Cik Hjh. Robiyah Hj. Husin of MTIB (second from right) presenting a memento to HE High Commissioner of Malaysia to South Africa, Honourable Kennedy Jawan.

Integrated Project. The project which includes the development of 250 homes, an 18-hole golf club, exclusive hotels and water sport centre reputed to worth 200 million British pounds, will spur growth of additional timber utilisation in the coming years.

Besides the mission leader and the two speakers, other members of the Malaysian timber industry mission were Cik Linda Tay of Victory Enterprise Sdn. Bhd., Encik Lee Leh Yew of Bortim Export Sdn. Bhd., Encik Ken Ong of Sri Ledang Sdn. Bhd., Encik Low Ching Cheong of Eco Lumber Sdn. Bhd., Encik Lim Kim Hong of Top Forest Wood Sdn. Bhd., Encik Per Eng Lee and Encik Tee Ah Meng of Hok Lai Timber (M) Sdn. Bhd., Cik Olivia Aw of Yee Poh Timber Sdn. Bhd. and Encik Faizal Shah Zainal of MTC. Cik Hjh. Robiyah Hj. Husin, Senior Deputy Director (International) of Trade Development represented MTIB in the mission.



Posing at Panache timber yard in Mauritius. At the background is Balau timber from Malaysia.

NOSS OF FOREST PLANTATION AND HARVESTING ESTABLISHED



The moderator and participants of the workshop.

Competent forest plantation establishment and management workers are needed in carrying out fieldwork that follows best management practices to gradually develop new skills and expertise to boost the forest plantation industry. The availability of such manpower in the industry is crucial in line with its task to supply raw materials to the timber industry. Thus, to further develop forest plantation skills standard in accordance to the National Occupational Skills Standard (NOSS), the Department of Skills Development under the Ministry of Human Resources of Malaysia organised a Workshop on Development of National Occupational Skill Standard (NOSS) in the Establishment of Forest Plantation and Harvesting from 9 to 13 July in Bintulu, Sarawak.

The objectives of the five-day workshop were to:

- plan and develop National Occupational Skills Standard (NOSS) as a set of documents which has to be obtained by skilled workers for the forest plantation sector,
- develop career paths for skilled and professional human resources,
- plan and provide facilitation services in the development of teaching and learning materials for the needs of all training institutions and plantation sector, and
- review the NOSS standard.

The NOSS of Forest Plantation document provides a structured set of activities that enables a person who aspires to achieve competency in the particular occupation to enhance his or her career path in forest plantation. Improvement in

occupational skills through hands-on training presents a way forward in effective implementation of on-ground development to acquire sound forest plantation practices. Such training and knowledge gained should effectively elevate the workers' contribution to proper nursery practices, silviculture treatments, research techniques and management especially in monitoring and decision-making. This will help to ensure the production of quality planting materials, judicious development and management of the plantation, and ultimately maximised growth and yields.

The standards were divided into three levels covering the competency standard of forest plantation that is currently a priority in the resource-based industry. The document specifically and comprehensively covers major forest plantation development activities which have been divided into three levels:

1. Level 1 (Job Analysis/Competency Analysis - Competent in performing a range of varied work activities, most of which are routine and predictable)
2. Level 2 (Competency Profile - Competent in performing a significant range of varied work activities, performed in a variety context. Some of the activities are non-routine and required individual responsibility and autonomy)
3. Level 3 (Co-curriculum - Competent in performing a broad range of varied work activities, performed in a variety of context, most of which are complex and non-routine. There is considerable responsibility and autonomy and control or guidance of others is often required).

During the workshop, Tuan Hj. Zaharuddin Abdul Latif, Senior Assistant Director, Consulting Division, Department of Skill Development, Ministry of Human Resources of Malaysia was appointed as the moderator.

The workshop was attended by 34 participants from various government agencies, IPTAs and private sector. MTIB was represented by Tuan Hj. Wan Abdul Munir Hj. Wan Tajul Ariffin, from Forest Plantation and Encik Vijender Persad a/l Ramjiwan from the Forest Plantation Development Sdn. Bhd. who were later appointed as panel for the provision of NOSS.



A section of participants.



TIMBER INDUSTRY IN UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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 to the north, Saudi Arabia to the south and west, and Oman and the Gulf of Oman to the east. 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. The total area of UAE is 83,600 sq km, which makes it slightly smaller than Maine, with a population of 5.3 million. In 2011, the GDP per capita was USD48,800 and the real growth rate was at 4.9%. Industry contributed 53.9 % while services contributed 45.3% to the UAE GDP.

Forest Resources

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 cineria* and *Acacia tortilis*. Mangroves (especially *Avicennia marina*) are found around the coast, and date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) occur around much of the coastal plains.

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.



UAE's Export of Major Timber Products

According to the statistics, in 2007, UAE's exports of major timber products valued at USD 591,092 thousand followed by USD664,874 thousand in 2008 and USD218,500 thousand in 2009. In 2010, UAE's exports of major timber products amounted to USD281,518 thousand and USD67,976 thousand in 2011 as compared to the previous year. The major products exported comprised furniture, BJC, fibreboard and plywood.

UAE's Import of Timber Products

In 2007, the total import of timber products by UAE amounted to USD2,133,741 thousand followed by USD2,634,174 thousand in 2008 while 2009 import valued was at USD2,049,230 thousand. The UAE's imports of timber products in 2010 was worth USD2,014,437 thousand and in 2011, the UAE's total import showed an increase of 16.7%, worth USD2,351,995 thousand respectively.

Malaysia-UAE Timber Trade

Malaysia's export of timber and timber products to the UAE, a major market in West Asia as well as the gateway to other markets in the region, is significant. The UAE market with a share of 1.3% of Malaysia's exports of timber and timber products to the world market. In 2007, UAE purchased RM854.5 million worth of timber products. In 2008, Malaysia's exports of timber and timber products to the UAE showed an increase of 18.7%, valued at RM1.0 billion respectively as compared to the previous year. In 2009, total export of timber and timber products amounted to RM598.6 million followed by RM608.6 million in 2010 while in 2011 the export value was worth RM525.6 million respectively. The main products imported from Malaysia were wooden furniture followed by sawntimber, fibreboard and plywood.

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UAE : Export of Major Timber Products

(Value : USD thousand)						
Code	Products	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
'4418	Builders' joinery and carpentry of wood	7,899	8,623	14,252	12,848	6,894
'4421	Articles of wood, nes	4,266	15,882	2,358	2,982	1,855
'4411	Fibreboard of wood or other ligneous materials	40,643	66,991	10,166	27,567	1,762
'4412	Plywood, veneered panels and similar laminated wood	99,156	81,207	37,539	39,223	799
'4415	Packaging materials of wood	4,930	11,371	5,952	4,799	749
'4409	Wood continuously shaped along any edges	1,639	3,676	1,156	1,654	737
'4403	Wood in the rough	1,395	1,450	612	3,100	457
'4402	Wood charcoal (including shell or nut charcoal)	906	264	1,302	2,481	355
'4407	Wood sawn/chipped lengthwise, sliced/peeled	55,386	58,635	36,065	44,881	328
'4420	Wood marquetry and inlaid wood, caskets and cases or cutlery of wood	11,826	2,686	1,572	1,704	221
'4410	Particle board and similar board of wood or other ligneous materials	364	2,185	1,825	1,238	204
'4408	Veneer sheets and sheets for plywood & other wood sawn lengthwise	3,528	3,580	2,488	2,949	173
'4419	Tableware and kitchenware of wood	3,710	3,079	931	865	165
'4401	Fuel wood, wood in chips or particles, sawdust & wood waste & scrap	372	1,137	674	483	142
'4414	Wooden frames for paintings, photographs, mirrors or similar objects	1,420	1,338	348	423	128
'4405	Wood wool, wood flour	118	26	142	13	74
'4417	Tools, tool & broom bodies and handles, shoe lasts of wood	1,472	1,975	79	75	40
'4413	Densified wood, in blocks, plates, strips or profile shapes	117	163	519	404	16
'4404	Hoopwood; split poles, piles, pickets, stakes, chipwood	350	1,497	228	682	11
'4406	Railway or tramway sleepers (cross-ties) of wood	43	56	6	10	4
'4416	Casks, barrels, vats, tubs etc. of wood	207	310	8	4	
'9403	Other furniture and parts thereof	306,091	356,400	79,174	99,323	38,295
'9401	Seat (o/t dentists' & barbers' chairs, etc) and parts thereof	40,823	37,242	18,462	31,173	13,255
'9402	Med, surg, dental furniture (e.g. dentists' & barbers' chairs)	4,431	5,101	2,642	2,637	1,312
	Total	591,092	664,874	218,500	281,518	67,976

UAE: Import of Timber Products

(Value : USD thousand)						
Code	Products	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
'4412	Plywood, veneered panels and similar laminated wood	329,479	379,446	203,021	235,950	233,883
'4407	Wood sawn/chipped lengthwise, sliced/peeled	337,294	328,303	192,988	221,979	224,502
'4411	Fibreboard of wood or other ligneous materials	130,462	141,037	130,338	137,802	172,222
'4418	Builders' joinery and carpentry of wood	109,073	157,865	99,482	59,198	71,468
'4403	Wood in the rough	40,930	46,765	15,039	23,739	21,081
'4421	Articles of wood, nes	19,629	25,742	20,997	21,710	21,031
'4410	Particle board and similar board of wood or other ligneous materials	22,030	30,343	14,426	15,752	16,258
'4408	Veneer sheets and sheets for plywood & other wood sawn lengthwise	17,432	28,113	21,011	18,363	15,490
'4420	Wood marquetry and inlaid wood, caskets & cases or cutlery of wood	17,522	20,417	10,432	18,022	10,709
'4409	Wood continuously shaped along any edges	16,950	25,793	13,488	13,384	9,771
'4414	Wooden frames for paintings, photographs, mirrors or similar objects	6,620	8,390	3,621	3,483	5,332
'4415	Packaging materials of wood	21,203	24,324	4,413	5,846	5,185
'4401	Fuel wood, wood in chips or particles, sawdust & wood waste & scrap	3,807	6,485	4,082	4,543	3,955
'4402	Wood charcoal (including shell or nut charcoal)	6,253	15,877	3,012	3,650	3,767
'4419	Tableware and kitchenware of wood	5,302	7,582	3,310	3,353	3,036
'4413	Densified wood, in blocks, plates, strips or profile shapes	6,477	8,080	28,399	23,024	2,333
'4417	Tools, tool & broom bodies and handles, shoe lasts of wood	2,568	4,829	2,095	1,377	2,057
'4404	Hoopwood, split poles, piles, pickets, stakes, chipwood	1,266	4,995	673	366	187
'4405	Wood wool, wood flour	31	276	77	576	180
'4406	Railway or tramway sleepers (cross-ties) of wood	56	32	19	341	103
'4416	Casks, barrels, vats, tubs etc. of wood	543	441	98	22	15
'9403	Other furniture and parts thereof	847,840	1,138,602	889,139	822,013	1,031,139
'9401	Seat (o/t dentists' and barbers' chairs, etc), and parts thereof	170,440	208,614	359,716	350,913	466,387
'9402	Med, surg, dental furniture (e.g. dentists' and barbers' chairs)	20,534	21,823	29,554	29,031	31,904
	Total	2,133,741	2,634,174	2,049,430	2,014,437	2,351,995

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Malaysia: Export of Timber Products to UAE

(Value: FOB RM)					
Products	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Logs	0	0	1,673,641	5,425	0
Sawntimber	132,180,860	203,650,818	131,903,851	133,548,105	116,377,024
Plywood	194,781,629	224,084,922	92,946,563	123,181,315	60,346,597
Veneer	475,503	234,903	0	0	0
Mouldings	1,193,166	1,306,431	3,821,706	1,252,534	1,028,129
Particleboard	3,578,732	4,518,509	3,445,036	3,532,943	3,808,027
Fibreboard	230,796,202	191,604,388	116,993,814	105,271,750	111,880,288
Wooden frame	972,896	1,052,602	224,472	526,293	620,903
BJC	31,558,578	40,639,941	74,728,796	20,221,169	28,548,212
Wooden furniture	252,978,893	343,329,971	170,040,264	219,180,618	200,355,160
Rattan furniture	1,943,109	1,730,420	378,304	683,436	41,616
Others	4,089,281	2,831,355	2,487,656	1,223,533	2,616,996
Total	854,548,849	1,014,984,260	598,644,103	608,627,121	525,622,952

(Volume: m ³)					
Products	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Logs	0	0	3,012	16	0
Sawntimber	125,687	181,822	116,896	110,229	90,905
Plywood	139,811	195,193	80,322	101,351	44,365
Veneer	119	240	0	0	0
Mouldings	464	397	1,202	351	218
Particleboard	3,860	5,204	4,561	4,724	4,716
Fibreboard	203,536	178,524	108,649	118,947	122,290
Total	473,477	561,380	314,642	335,618	262,494

Custom Tariff

In accordance with the UAE Customs Ordinance, customs duty is calculated on CIF value at the rate of 5% for timber and timber products.

Shipping Facilities

The location and sophisticated transport infrastructure of the UAE has made it a transit point for the global movement of cargo, by sea, land, and air, as well as a crossroad for world trade. Recent estimates indicate that around 14% of the UAE's GDP is now being generated by the supply chain and logistics sector. Fast-forward to 2012 and the prospects for the UAE's shipping and ports industries are definitely looking more than merely promising. With the global economy finally showing signs of stabilising and the increase in globalisation and offshore sourcing, supply chain management is becoming an increasingly important segment of many businesses. The result is that global demand for seaborne containers is expected to increase by 4 to 6% in 2012; with Asia-Europe trades possibly showing lower increases, while higher increases are foreseen on north-south trades. The increasing size of vessels deployed on the Asia-Europe port calls will further strengthen the position of the UAE as a major transshipment hub in the region.

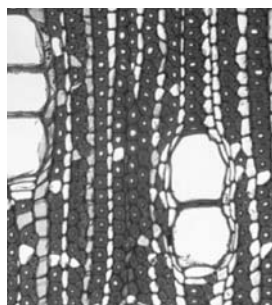
Prospects

The UAE economy has shown sustained resilience towards global and domestic challenges and is on course to record better growth prospects than the 3.5% estimate of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The UAE economy has shown sustained resilience towards global and domestic challenges. The well-diversified economies alongside the established infrastructure have enabled the UAE to maintain its position as one of the leading emerging economies in the region. The UAE's real GDP is projected to expand by around 3.1% in 2012, driven by strong performance in both the hydrocarbon and non-oil sectors.

References:

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 Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry
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 Department of Statistics, Malaysia
 DG Trade
 CSIL
 Gulf Construction 

PUNAH – SUITABLE FOR FLOORING



Cross section of Punah.



Wood colour and texture.

Botanical Name:

Tetramerista glabra

Other Common Names:

Entuyut, Punah, Punak, Tuyot.

Distribution:

The species is reported to occur in coastal swamp forests in Peninsular Malaysia, Borneo and Sumatra.

Numerical Values

Category	Green	Dry	Unit
Bending Strength	9,686		psi
Crushing Strength (Perp.)	540		psi
Max. Crushing Strength	4,570		psi
Static Bending (FSPL)	5,519		psi
Impact Strength	26		inches
Stiffness	1,863		1,000 psi
Work to Maximum Load	8		in-lbs/in3
Specific Gravity	0.63	0.77	
Weight	71	40	lbs/cu.ft
Density (Air-dry)		45	lbs/cu.ft
Radial Shrinkage (G->OD)		6	%
Tangential Shrink (G->OD)		11	%
Volumetric Shrink (G->OD)		17	%

Tree and Wood Description

Tree Data

The unbuttressed tree is reported to grow to a height of about 120 feet (36 m), with a trunk diameter of 24 to 36 inches (60 to 90 cm). It develops boles that are often fluted, and are clear of branches to 40 to 50 feet (12 to 15 m).

General Characteristics

Heartwood straw coloured or light brown, sometimes tinged with pink; sapwood lighter in colour, not clearly differentiated.

Texture moderately coarse; grain generally straight; luster low; timber has a waxy feel; has an unpleasant odour when fresh, but this does not persist.

Grain

Grain is generally straight, sometimes spiral or interlocked.

Texture

Texture is even and moderately coarse to coarse, and the wood is reported to have a waxy feel.

Natural Durability

- The untreated heartwood is reported to be only moderately resistant to decay and should not be used in ground contact without adequate chemical protection.
- Resistance to impregnation
- The heartwood is reported to be fairly resistant to impregnation. Absorption and retention in the sapwood is reported to be adequate.

Strength Properties

The species has average or medium density. It is a heavy wood and is high in density.

Working Properties

Cutting Resistance	The timber has low cutting resistance and is reported to saw fairly easily.
Planing	Planed surfaces tend to be fibrous, but planing operations are reported to be generally easy.
Turning	The timber is reported to be fairly easy to turn and work in most operations.
Mouldings	Mouldings operations are reported to be fairly easy with ordinary machine tools.
Boring	The timber is reported to bore to produce clean surfaces.
Routing and Recessing	Routing qualities are reported to be good.
Mortising	The material mortises cleanly with ordinary machine tools.
Carving	Carving characteristics are reported to be good.
Gluing	Gluing characteristics are rated as good.
Nailing	The timber is reported to split occasionally in nailing and requires pre-boring.
Screwing	Pre-boring is recommended before screwing, especially in small materials.
Sanding	The timber is reported to have good sanding properties.
Polishing	Planed surfaces are reported to often require considerable sanding and filling to yield a good polish.
Response to Hand Tools	The timber responds fairly well to hand tools in most operations.

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COMING EVENTS – NOVEMBER 2012

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	ORGANISER
1-3	IHDD-INTERNATIONAL HOME DÉCOR AND DESIGN 2012	Shanghai Exhibition Centre, China	Reed Exhibitions China-Shanghai Tel : +86 (21) 2231 7006 Fax : +98 (21) 2231 7181 E-mail : esk_sh@reedexpo.com.ch
1-11	ABIT.AR 2012 Home and Furniture Fair	Arezzo Fiere Exhibition Centre, Arezzo, Italy	Arezzo Fiere e Congressi S.r.l. Tel : +39 0575 9361 Fax : +39 0575 383028 E-mail : claudia.uberti@arezzofiere.it
3-11	AMENAGO – LILLE 2012 Home Furnishing and Decoration	Lille Grand Palais Exhibition Centre, Lille, France	GL Event Exhibitions Norexpo Tel : +33 (0) 2079 9460 Fax : +33 (0) 2005 1999 E-mail : norexpo@gl-event.com
3-11	BANGKOK FURNITURE SALE 2012 Furniture Exhibition	Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, Bangkok, Thailand	Union Pan Exhibition Co. Ltd. Tel : +66 (0) 2314 0855 Fax : +66 (0) 2319 8337 E-mail : service@unionpa.com
14-16	JAPAN HOME SHOW 2012	Tokyo International Exhibition Centre (Tokyo Big Sight), Japan	Japan Management Association (JMA) Tel : +81 (0) 3434 0093 Fax : +81 (0) 3434 8076 E-mail : convention@jma.or.jp
17-25	COCOON-SMART LIVING – DESIGN BRUSSELS 2012 Home and Interior Design Expo	Brussels Exhibition Centre, Belgium	FISA SA Tel : +32 2663 1400 Fax : +32 2660 4713 E-mail : info@fisa.be
25-29	DECOFAIR SAUDI ARABIA 2012 Furniture and Home Accessories Show (Indoor and Outdoor)	Jeddah International Exhibition and Convention Centre, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	Sunaidi Expo Tel : +966 (0) 2 660 3996 Fax : +966 (0) 2 6603682 E-mail : info@sunaidiexpo.com

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Drying and Shrinkage

The timber dries rapidly but is prone to warping and end checking. Kiln schedule T3-C2 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T3-C1 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to oven-dry: radial 6.1%, tangential 10.7% and volumetric 17.3%.

Uses

The timber is suitable for building construction, building materials, cabin construction, factory construction, form work,

heavy construction, light construction, rough construction, joinery, domestic flooring, factory flooring, parquet flooring, sub-flooring, furniture, furniture squares or stock, furniture components, flooring and construction.

References:

http://www.asianplant.net/Tetrameristaceae/Tetramerista_glabra.htm
<http://www.woodworkerssource.com/online>
<http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us>

MTIB Moments

YB Dato' Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin, Minister of Federal Territories and Urban Well-being watering a sapling after the launching of Taman Bukit Kerinchi, Kuala Lumpur on 7 July 2012. Also in the picture is Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General (third from left).



MTIB organised a Course on Effective Cost Management in the Furniture Production and Marketing on 16-17 July 2012 in Langkawi, Kedah. Twenty-seven furniture entrepreneurs attended the programme.



Encik Mohd Firdaus Md Mortar, WISDEC officer briefed students of Kolej Vokasional Alor Gajah on WISDEC's training programmes. It was held on 18 July 2012 in Melaka.



Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General (seated, fourth from left) and the management team visited MTIB Butterworth on 30 July 2012.