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MASKAYU



**MTIB: ACCREDITED TRAINING CENTRE
UNDER CITY & GUILDS (CARPENTRY)**



**APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF MPIC**

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Cover: A timber bridge in Marang, Terengganu:
An entry submitted to the photography
competition organised by MTIB in Mid 2013.



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MTIB: ACCREDITED TRAINING CENTRE UNDER CITY & GUILDS (CARPENTRY)



Formal meeting was held with two City & Guilds verifiers.

The City and Guilds of London Institute (City & Guilds) is a vocational education organisation in the United Kingdom. City & Guilds offers more than 500 qualifications over the whole range of industry sectors through 8,500 colleges and training providers in 81 countries worldwide. Two million people every year apply for City & Guilds qualifications, which span all levels from basic skills to the highest standards of professional achievement, equivalent to Honours, Master's and Doctorate degrees.

There are more than 10,000 training centres throughout the world under City & Guilds, recognised by employers. City & Guilds is a leader organisation in vocational training and was established in 1878 in London. The objective was to implement vocational training development activities in various sectors.

City & Guilds as a developer of learning programmes, learning technology certifications and assessments, support colleges, training providers and governments, reaching millions of people every year across five continents. As such, MTIB believes that with a City & Guilds accreditation, its wood-based programmes and training would be more marketable in Malaysia and the Asian region.

Shortage of labour and skilled manpower has been identified as one of the obstacles faced in the Malaysian wood-based industry. Currently, there are more than 200,000 of workforces working in this sector. Only a small percentage can be considered as skilled workers.

Difficulties to get the required number of workers with the skills to operate and adopt new technologies to meet production needs, can affect productivity and quality. The shortage of experienced manpower is affecting many levels - from operators and technicians to supervisory and management. Trained personnel from existing training centres are not adequate to fill the large number of vacancies in the industry and on top of that, they constantly need skills enhancement and upgrading in the manufacturing environment.

MTIB started interested to become one of the training centre under City & Guilds during the seminar which was organised

in January 2013 held in Kuala Lumpur. Several discussions were held with City & Guilds as part of the process to acquire accreditation as a training centre under City & Guilds in Carpentry. The main objectives of the endeavor was to obtain recognition as a training provider at the international level.

MTIB then submitted an application to City & Guilds to become an accredited training centre under the City & Guilds in Carpentry. On 19 to 23 May 2014, External Verifiers from City & Guilds from Sri Lanka, Mr. Gamini Gunasekera, visited MTIB to assess its training infrastructure and training officers at WISDEC Selangor and WISDEC Sabah. The visit to WISDEC Selangor was held on 19-20 May 2014 while WISDEC Sabah on 22-23 May 2014. Following the visit by the External Verifiers, on 9 July MTIB was accorded the accreditation as a training centre under the City & Guilds in Carpentry.

In future, City & Guilds hope MTIB will be able to expand programme to overseas participants and improve job opportunities among the trainees, in line with MTIB's role as an Industry Lead Body (ILB) in the wood-based industry and the National Timber Industry Policy (NATIP), to produce highly skilled workers. 



Explanation by WISDEC officer about facilities and training.



Briefing on WISDEC workshop products by Encik Kamaruddin Othman (right), Deputy Director of WISDEC.



TIMBER WORLD IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA

Indonesia Reviews Viability of Entering VPA on Timber Trade

Indonesia is looking into the feasibility of entering into a voluntary partnership agreement (VPA) on the timber trade with Australia to export more forestry products. Based on data from the Trade Ministry, Indonesia's exports of timber-based products to Australia declined by 5.84% from that in 2012 to USD188.50 million (EUR139.31 million) in 2013. Trade Minister Muhammad Lutfi estimates that with the VPA, Indonesia's exports of furniture and paper to Australia would increase.

The EU-Indonesia Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade VPA states that all timber and timber products from Indonesia are regarded as harvested in a legal manner and follow the EU's timber regulation as they have received certification by the domestic timber legality verification system.

In 2013, Indonesia earned about USD10 billion from timber and timber product delivery overseas. During the year, sales from timber and timber products to the EU reached USD1 billion in total. In 2014, the country expects its timber exports to the EU to grow by as much as 7%.

Jakarta Post, 15 July

AUSTRIA

Country is Second Highest for Wood Imports

In Austria, 8.1 million m³ of wood were imported in 2012, making Austria the second largest importer of wood worldwide. This is according to a study of wood imports throughout the world between 1995 and 2012, conducted by the University of Graz, Austria. China was the largest importer in 2012, with 38 million m³. Sweden was the third largest, importing 7.3 million m³ of wood in 2012. The main source countries of wood were Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Poland, Czech Republic and Ukraine.

In the year 2010, 17% of available wood was burned for heating purposes. There is no data available on the demand for wood in the sawmilling, paper and pulp industries, but analysis of this is planned. Austria has become steadily more reliant on imports of forestry and agricultural biomass, according to experts. The gap between domestic consumption and biomass production have doubled between 1995 and 2010, with consumption reaching 5.4 million tonnes in this period. This is over the amount produced in Austria alone.

Der Standard, 8 July

Sawmills Have Good Supply of Log Wood

The Austrian Chamber of Agriculture reported that Austrian saw mills are well stocked with softwood round timber. In parts the supply is still partly limited or there is a long waiting time for wood delivery. The prices of spruce trees agreed for the third quarter of 2014 will decline again, whereas the price of larch trees has remained good. The situation relating to coniferous industrial roundwood has not eased compared to the previous

month. The paper, pulp and panel industries still have a good supply of wood. Supplies also come from Slovakia and Slovenia.

Holz-Zentralblatt, 16 July

ARGENTINA

Anti-Dumping Probe into Chinese, Brazilian Phenolic Plywood Lifted

Argentina has terminated the anti-dumping investigation on phenolic plywood imported from Uruguay, Brazil and China. The decision was made on 3 July 2014. The Argentinian government will not impose any anti-dumping measures.

Wood168, 9 July

BELGIUM

Decline in Housing Development in Brussels

The net number of housing development permits in Brussels reached 1,500 in the period from 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2014. In 2013, the number reached 4,000. The objective of the Brussels government is 6,000 per year. Brussels is expected to receive 11,900 new inhabitants per year until 2017. In the first half of 2014, demand for office space in Brussels reached 250,000 sqm. The demand from companies declined significantly, compared to previous years. Most of the demand is now coming from the public sector. Investment into office space reached EUR1 billion (USD1.36 billion) in the first half, while investment into hotels, commercial and industrial space reached EUR500 million.

L'Echo, 9 July

EUROPE

Wood Panel Production to Grow

The European Panel Federation (EPF) forecasts particleboard production in EPF countries to grow 1.5% to just under 29 million m³ in 2014. Also the production of MDF/HDF and OSB is forecast to increase.

In 2013 the production of the three types of board rose from 43.2 million m³ to 43.3 million m³. Particleboard production was down 1.5% at 28.4 million m³, while MDF/HDF production grew 2.1% to 11.2 million m³ and OSB 6% to 3.7 million m³. The figures do not include Russia and Turkey.

Euwid Holz, 16 July

FINLAND

Forest Industry Imports and Exports

According to the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla), a total of 0.88 million m³ of roundwood with bark were imported to Finland in April 2014. In January-April, wood imports totalled 3.22 million m³, down by 13% from the previous year. Of the imports, 78% came from Russia. In April 2014, the value of forest industry product exports from Finland totalled EUR0.97 billion. Moreover, in the first four months of the year, the cumulative real value of forest industry product exports amounted to EUR3.80 billion. Forest industry exports lagged behind the average of the past ten years by 10%. In the early part of the year, the export volume of sawn goods rose by 11%. Moreover, the export volume of plywood went up by 15%, that of pulp by 7%, and that of board by 5%. The export of

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magazine and fine paper remained unchanged from the year before.

Press Release, 7 July, Finnish Forest Research Institute

GERMANY Sawntimber Production Up

In the first quarter of 2014 German sawmills' production of softwood timber grew 14% to just over 5 million m³ from a low level a year earlier. The production of unplanned soft timber grew by 14.5% and that of planed soft timber, by 8.6%, according to the Federal Statistics Office, Destatis. Sawn hardwood production declined slightly to 250,000 m³.

Fordaq, 9 July

Market for Fitted Kitchens

About 1.1 million fitted kitchens are sold in Germany per year. On average, they cost EUR6,300 (USD8,524.28), including appliances and the market is worth about EUR7 billion (USD9.47 billion). Large furniture stores account for about half of the sales and specialist retailers just over 25%.

Hamburger Abendblatt, 18 July

INDONESIA Exports of Forestry Products Reached USD3.2 billion

Data from the Forestry Ministry showed that during the first half of 2014, the exports of forestry products reached USD3.20 billion (EUR2.35 billion). Some 74.25% of the exports or USD2.4 billion was to the Asian region. Export to the European Union (EU) was at USD340.38 million. The EU market was valued at USD6.06 billion. The World Trade Organisation has awarded appreciation for the Wood Legality Verification Certificate process implemented by Indonesia which ensures that wood exports from the country are sourced from legal source and via sustainable production process.

Bisnis Indonesia, 13 July

NORWAY Government Grants to Innovative Wood Usage

The Norwegian Government has initiated a project for the promotion of innovative usage of wood. The aim is to use as much as possible of wood resources for the construction of residences, commercial buildings and bridges, Minister of Agriculture and Food Sylvi Listhaug says.

Businesses with innovative ideas can apply for government grants through Innovasjon Norge. In Bodo, the municipality and county council have started to build a 2,500 sqm sports centre from massive wood and glued wood.

Nationen, 18 July

RUSSIA Output of Lumber, Plywood Down

According to the State Statistics Service, in the first half of 2014 Russia produced 10.50 billion m³ of lumber (-2.1%), 1.70 million m³ of plywood (+3.9%), 6.40 million m³ of door units

(-13.9%), 418,000 m³ window units (-4.8%), 1,400 wooden containers (-4.2%), 964,000 kitchen units (+6.6%), 263,000 chairs (-2.6%) and 412,000 wooden desks (+1.1%).

Lesprom, 15 July

SOUTH KOREA KOFA Wants Lower Tariffs on Import Materials

The Korea Furniture Association (KOFA) has urged local furniture companies to join forces to reduce the tariff on import materials such as hinges and particleboards, said KOFA director Lee Yong-won. He was commenting on the expected entry of IKEA into the South Korean market in 2014. According to Lee, IKEA and other European furniture companies export their products into the country free of tariff and this is impacting local furniture players. Lee even warned that some local furniture companies will perish in the coming years.

IKEA has plans to have a network of five outlets in the country by 2020. KOFA wants IKEA to sell some of the products manufactured by local firms.

The Korea Times, 16 July

TURKEY Wood and Forestry Exports Up

Turkey's wood and forestry exports grew by 9.2% in the first half of 2014 to generate USD2.30 billion (EUR1.70 billion) revenue. Wooden furniture producers created USD800 million volume to make up 35% of the overall exports. Exports to Iraq generated USD345 million revenue while exports from Istanbul (Turkey) amounted to USD642 million.

Dunya gazetesi, 19 July

UKRAINE Output of Wood-based Panels, Lumber and Parquet Down

According to the State Statistics Committee, in the first half of 2014 Ukraine produced 685,000 m³ of lumber (-4.9%), 92,000 m³ of plywood (+5.9%), 644,000 m³ of wood-based panels (-7.6%), 26,000 m³ of veneer sheets (+36.8%), 212,000 m³ of parquet (-4.3%), 1,087 m³ of wooden windows and doors (-25.5%).

Lesprom, 18 July

VIET NAM First Half Timber Product Exports to Middle East Up

Viet Nam exported USD37.30 million (EUR27.59 million) worth of timber products to the Middle East during the first half of 2014, a year-on-year growth of 37.1%, said the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Timber shipments reached USD18.6 million during the first quarter of 2014, up 38%, with the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Turkey among the major importers. The country's timber exports to the Middle East rose three times between 2009 and 2013 to USD54.6 million in 2013.

VietnamPlus, 14 July

JUNE 2014

SHIPPING NEWS



Westports Sets Another New World Record for Container Productivity

Westports Malaysia Sdn. Bhd.'s container operations team has once again set a new world record for container terminal productivity, notching an impressive 793 moves in one hour. This feat was achieved over the China Shipping container vessel, CSCL Le Havre (9572 TEU vessel), which operated on the AEX7 East service in the network linking Asia and Europe. The management team ensured meticulous planning went into the preparation, looking into all areas concerned, to achieve the remarkable feat. Though equipment reliability was vital, it was the effort of a fully committed and motivated workforce together with their vendor partners which were the driving force towards the achievement. The record was achieved on 12 June 2014, using nine twin-lift cranes between 9 am and 10 am. The vessel arrived at 6 am on 12 June and departed at 12.30 on 13 June.

With the latest achievement, Westports stands among the top five ports in the world in terms of container terminal productivity. The current terminal productivity average stood at 35 gross moves per hour. Westports has 47 quay cranes and has placed an order for another five which would be delivered within the next quarter. These new cranes would be able to cater for the next generation of container vessels of 18,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) and above.

Source : BERNAMA, 20 June

Crimea Seaports Seized by Russian Separatists, Cargo Volumes Plunge

CRIMEA's seaports are being seized by Russian separatist authorities as well as harbour and pilotage services. The seaports are now under new enterprises called "Crimean Ports" and "Pilot-Crimea". It has not been decided yet which Crimean ports would be placed under the authority of the federal authorities of Russia, and which would remain under the authority of Crimea.

On 28 March, the Federal State Unitary Enterprise "Rosmorrechflot" appointed harbour masters of sea ports in Crimea. On 31 March, the Crimean and Sevastopol branches of Rosmorport were established. Apparently, Russia would take all responsibility related to the safety of navigation in Sevastopol and other ports of Crimea. It is expected that the 15 million tonnes of cargo handled in the Crimean ports in 2013 now would henceforth be processed in other Ukrainian ports.

Crimean ports might also be closed to the rest of the world. On 15 April, the Ukrainian parliament adopted the law which declared the Crimean peninsular as temporary occupied territory. It is possible to speak in terms of a banning of the ships calling at Crimean ports, from entering the ports of Ukraine. This kind of ban had been tested in Cyprus in connection with the occupation of northern Cyprus in 1974.

Source: Asianshippers.com, 2 June

Shipments of Timber and Timber Products through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, June 2014

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all ports m ³	% Change June 2014/ May 2014
	m ³	% Change June 2014/ May 2014	m ³	% Change June 2014/ May 2014	m ³	% Change June 2014/ May 2014	m ³	% Change June 2014/ May 2014	m ³	% Change June 2014/ May 2014		
Sawntimber	38,631	-16	8,398	78	1,731	17	223	123	7,168	-23	56,151	-9
MDF	26,163	18	452	-12	8,220	-30	8,692	-7	9,346	-40	52,873	-10
Mouldings	11,638	-4	448	39	1,288	-29	806	6	1,646	24	15,826	-3
Dressed Timber	2,420	38	89	-39	862	12	122	-1	523	1,353	4,016	42
Plywood	5,451	-34	-	-	22	-	25	4	9,359	7	14,857	-13
Veneer	142	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	211	-67	353	-52
Particleboard	37,261	-10	1,892	120	-	-	105	-	-	-	39,258	-7
TOTAL	121,706	-8	11,279	72	12,123	-24	9,973	-3	28,253	-21	183,334	-8

Note : Indicates % change over the previous month

Source : MTIB

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JUNE 2014

1.34 Million TEU Extra Capacity This Year, 40% Over 12,000 TEU

Ship deliveries this year are forecast to add 1.34 million TEU capacity to the global containership fleet and 40% of the new buildings are 12,000 TEU or larger. Conversely, funds committed to containership orders so far this year are down by one fifth compared to last year. In 2013, USD17.3 billion was spent on vessel orders.

According to Clarkson Research Services, it is estimated that USD4.6 billion was invested in new box ships in the first four months of 2014, with vessels in excess of 8,000 TEU accounting for USD4 billion. The total was 20% lower year on year. The researchers said 15 containerships for a combined 123,280 TEU were ordered in April, bringing the year-to-date total to 61 ships, equivalent to 503,700 TEU.

This included contracts for 20 ships of 12,000 TEU upwards, totalling 285,800 TEU, and a further 18 ships of 8,000 TEU-11,999 TEU with combined intake of 174,300 TEU. Total deliveries next year are expected to hit a record 1.54 million TEU, ahead of the previous peak of 1.5 million TEU set in 2008.

Source: *Asianshippers.com*, 7 June

Obama Boosts US Port Development

A new plan signed into law by President Obama on 10 June will see billions pumped into US water projects, including the deepening of ports.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act 2014 has authorised USD12.3 billion to go into various water infrastructure projects. As the first water infrastructure bill since 2007, the bill authorised 34 projects that include dredging, flood control, hurricane recovery and environmental restoration. The move was quickly hailed by the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), which commended the President for signing the Act into law.

Under the bill, ports would be able to pay up front the costs of deepening and subsequently seek full or partial reimbursement from federal funds. This is hoped to shave years off the construction time for projects such as in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The dredging of ports would better allow them to accommodate the bigger ships being built to pass through the expanded Panama Canal.

Boston Harbour, for example, has approval for a USD310 million plan that would deepen its navigation channels, increasing the size and number of ships that could be handled and allowing it compete with New York.

Prior to signing the law, President Obama said the bill gave a green light to 34 water infrastructure projects across the country, including projects to deepen Boston Harbour and the Port of Savannah and to restore the Everglades.

Source: *Daily Shipping Times*, 17 June

Container Shipping Moves Towards 'New Normal'

The container shipping industry is gradually moving towards a 'new normal' which would see supply growth slow as demolition of larger vessels accelerates, according to Mr. Peter Sand, Chief Shipping Analyst at Bimco.

He also said that although new-building deliveries in 2014 were running faster than previously expected the pace of demolition has been close to double that of the anticipated speed. Bimco now forecasts that some 500,000 TEU of shipping capacity would be demolished in 2014 compared to its previous estimate of 290,000 TEU.

Strikingly, the size of vessels being scrapped has also risen in 2014. Last year, 14 ships above 4,000 TEU were demolished, none larger than 5,000 TEU. So far in 2014, 35 ships above 4,000 TEU have already been scrapped including seven sister ships built in 1996-1998 offering more than 5,000 TEU.

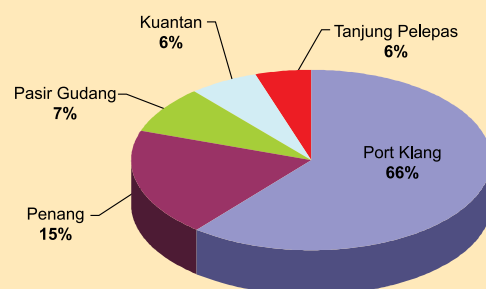
Bimco continued to expect the container shipping industry to steer itself along the lines of the 'new normal', where a demand growth of 5-6% must be matched by an equivalent supply growth. There would be no more double-digit growth figures as in the past decades. For 2014, the fleet is expected to grow by 5.2%, a low level not seen for 15 years.

Mr. Sand also said some clear patterns were now emerging on the Transpacific and Asia-Europe trades as both Europe and the US increased demand for imported containerised goods as their respective economies improved. Rates on the Transpacific lanes from Shanghai to the US West Coast were now "very stable", although average freight rates were some 16% lower over January-April of this year compared to the same period of 2013, despite demand growth of 3.8% in 2014 compared to 3% in the first four months of 2013.

By contrast, the strict focus by carriers on the supply side on the Far East to European trades has helped deliver better returns for carriers. For the first five months of 2014, the freight rate from Shanghai to Europe improved by 21% compared to last year, according to the Shanghai Shipping Exchange.

Source: *Daily Shipping Times*, 19 June

Shipments of Timber and Timber Products through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, June 2014



Total = 183,334 m³

JUNE 2014

Total export of Malaysian timber and timber products in June 2014 decreased 15% in value to RM1.55 billion over the previous month. Cumulative export for the period of January to June however increased 9% to RM10.19 billion over the corresponding period.

Sawntimber

Export of sawntimber in June 2014 decreased 7% in volume and value to 157,228 m³ with a value of RM203.50 million compared to the previous month. Cumulative export for the second quarter of 2014 decreased 3% in volume however increased 6% in value to 920,901 m³ totalled RM1.2 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Exports to the EU for the month decreased 22% to 11,069 m³ from 14,226 m³ recorded in the previous month. Similarly, export to the Netherlands and Germany decreased 40% and 5% to 4,216 m³ and 1,821 m³ respectively. Demand by Belgium declined 6% to 1,225 m³ from 1,296 m³ in the previous month. However, export to the UK and France improved 7% and 3% to 1,877 m³ and 1,044 m³ respectively.

Total exports to West Asia decreased 40% to 19,572 m³ from 32,417 m³ in the previous month due to declining demand from major market in the region. Export to the UAE and Saudi Arabia decreased 12% and 20% to 5,843 m³ and 4,057 m³ respectively. Similarly, demand of sawntimber from Yemen, Qatar and Oman decreasing by 75%, 7% and 41% to 3,201 m³, 1,418 m³ and 2,019 m³ respectively.

Buying from ASEAN increased 9% to 70,583 m³ due to increasing demand from Thailand, major market of sawntimber in the region. Export to Thailand rose 47% to 40,487 m³ from 27,607 m³ in the previous month. However, export of sawntimber to Singapore decreased 10% to 11,911 m³.

Shipments to East Asia declined 6% to 37,598 m³ from 40,104 m³ in the previous month as a result of decreasing demand from China, South Korea and Taiwan. Export to China decreased marginally to 17,962 m³ from 18,179 m³ in the previous month. In the meanwhile, export to South Korea and Taiwan declined 36% and 11% to 3,271 m³ and 8,899 m³ respectively. However, export to Japan increased 10% to 6,927 m³ from 6,308 m³ recorded in the previous month.

Elsewhere, the US did not buy sawntimber for the month whilst intake by Australia increased 23% to 1,503 m³. Demand from South Africa decreased 17% to 5,562 m³ from 6,715 m³ recorded in the previous month.

The average FOB price of sawntimber decreased 1% to RM1,294 per m³ from RM1,306 per m³ in the previous month. Price of Dark Red Meranti (DRM) decreased 22% to RM993 per m³ from RM1,275 per m³ in the previous month. Price of DRM to the Netherlands decreased 3% to RM2,705 per m³ from RM2,779 per m³ in the previous month. Keruing was traded at RM1,478 per m³, a decrease of 1% from the previous month.

Plywood

Total export of plywood in June decreased 19% in volume and 18% in value to 209,610 m³ valued at RM356.12 million as compared to the previous month.

Total exports to EU decreased by 12% to 12,373 m³. Similarly shipments to Belgium, Germany and Netherlands decreased 87%, 40% and 38% to 176 m³, 370 m³, and 857 m³

respectively, whilst France did not make any purchases. However, Denmark and UK increased their intake by 14% and 4% to 341 m³ and 10,247 m³ respectively. Ireland maintained its intake at 273 m³ and Italy resumed its intake.

Exports to ASEAN region increased as Brunei and Singapore intake of plywood increased by 8% and 18% to 1,036 m³ and 3,280 m³ respectively. However, Thailand reduced its intake by 59% to 2,697 m³ whilst Indonesia did not make any purchases. In East Asia, exports to China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan decreased by 33%, 11%, 12% and 9% to 2,865 m³, 103,023 m³, 19,483 m³ and 19,848 m³ respectively. On the other hand, Hong Kong increased its intake by 41% to 4,359 m³.

Overall, exports to West Asia reduced by 69% as compared to the previous month. This is due to reduced intake by major markets namely Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Export to UAE increased its intake by 84% to 4,930 m³ whilst Kuwait resumed its intake in June 2014. However, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Yemen reduced their intake by 33%, 8%, 28% and 93% to 263 m³, 1,240 m³, 518 m³ and 1,797 m³ respectively.

Elsewhere, exports of plywood to South Africa and Turkey increased by 270% and 100% to 744 m³ and 130 m³ respectively, whilst the US maintained its intake at 1,795 m³. However, Mexico, Canada, Australia and New Zealand reduced their intake by 1%, 30%, 14% and 23% to 3,698 m³, 364 m³, 3,126 m³ and 107 m³ respectively. On the other hand, Algeria, Tanzania and Norway did not make any purchases.

The FOB price of plywood increased by 1% to RM1,699 per m³ from RM1,691 per m³ in the previous month.

Veneer

Exports of veneer for June 2014 showed a decrease of 27% in volume and 23% in value to 16,368 m³ at RM24.46 million as compared to the previous month. Similarly, exports to China and Singapore decreased by 93% and 87% to 349 m³ and 23 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Australia, Taiwan, and Indonesia increased their intake by 16%, 5% and 143% to 238 m³, 8,840 m³ and 34 m³ respectively. Whilst, Canada resumed its intake in June 2014. On the other hand, Sri Lanka and UK did not make any purchases.

The FOB price of veneer increased to RM1,494 per m³ from RM1,417 per m³, an increase of 5% from the previous month.

Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF)

Malaysia's exports of MDF for June 2014 showed an increase of 2% in volume and in value from the previous month. Export totalled 83,284 m³ at RM 86.23 million.

Exports to East Asia registered an increase of 10% to 15,121 m³ from 13,698 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Taiwan grew by 107% to 1,037 m³ and export to China including Hong Kong increased by 15% to 346 m³. Export to Japan also increased by 8% to 13,232 m³. However, export to South Korea dropped 15% to 506 m³.

Similarly, exports to West Asia market recorded negative growth with a decrease of 1% in volume to 39,301 m³ from 39,858 m³ in the previous month. Export to Jordan recorded a high increase of 1,413% to 923 m³ followed by Iran at 89% to 10,434 m³ and Oman at 38% to 3,750 m³. On the other hand, export to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and UAE showed negative growth by 7% to 6,391 m³, 17% to 2,164 m³, 39% to 429 m³ and 45% to 10,907 m³ respectively from the previous month.

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Furthermore, export to South Asia also recorded negative growth by 15%. Only export to Sri Lanka showed a sharp increase by 1,307% to 1,463 m³. On the other hand, export to Bangladesh decreased by 24% to 1,206 m³, Pakistan decreased by 31% to 3,959 m³ and export to India reduced by 46% to 491 m³.

Export to UK showed an increase by 430% to 530 m³ along with export to Australia recorded positive growth by 38% to 2,533 m³. However, export to USA fall by 4% to 1,791 m³ and South Africa also dropped by 21% to 951 m³.

Total export to ASEAN region for this month decreased by 12% to 11,272 m³ from 12,811 m³ in the previous month. Statistics showed exports to Singapore increased by 310% to 41 m³ and Viet Nam also increased by 10% to 6,003 m³. Export to Indonesia and Philippines registered negative growth by 24% to 3,040 m³ and 42% to 1,870 m³ respectively.

Mouldings

Exports of mouldings for the month increased by 1% in volume but decreased 3% in value to 21,240 m³ and RM57.27

million respectively. However, the cumulative exports increased by 14% in volume and 15% in value to 122,067 m³ and RM342.03 million respectively as compared to the previous corresponding period in 2013.

Exports to the EU for the month recorded at 7,325 m³, a reduction of 6% compared to the previous month. Similarly, shipments to Belgium, Germany and Netherlands decreased by 1%, 0.4% and 1% to 785 m³, 1,119 m³ and 4,011 m³ respectively. However, UK increased its intake by 15% to 709 m³, whilst Italy resumed its intake.

Exports to the ASEAN region also decreased as Viet Nam and Singapore intake of mouldings decreased by 53% and 2% to 26 m³ and 1,318 m³ respectively, whilst Indonesia did not make any purchases.

Meanwhile, exports to Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong increased 13%, 83% and 203% to 3,023 m³, 531 m³ and 403 m³ respectively. Exports to South Korea and China decreased 12% and 30% to 1,503 m³ and 392 m³ respectively.

Elsewhere, export to Australia, US and Canada increased by 6%, 1% and 156% to 3,254 m³, 2,193 m³ and 110 m³ respectively.

FOB unit value decreased 4% from RM2,817 per m³ in the previous month to RM2,696 per m³ in June 2014.

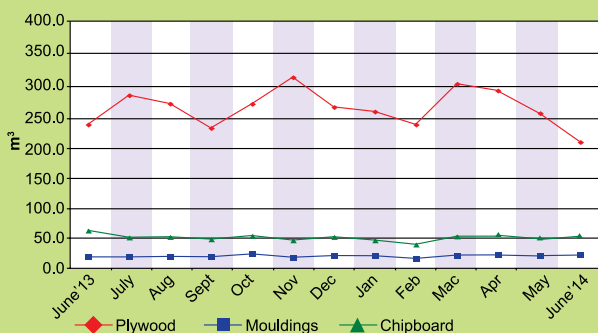
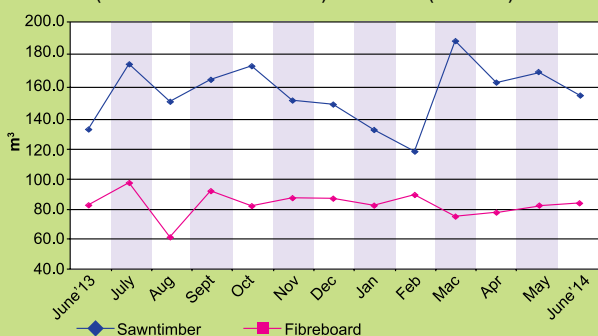
Builders Joinery and Carpentry (BJC)

Total BJC cumulative exports from January to June increased 11% to RM495.70 million as compared to RM448.43 million in the corresponding period last year. Cumulative import from January to June by EU decreased 3% to RM138.11 million. Similarly, demand by France, Italy, Denmark, Norway and Germany decreased by 44%, 14%, 21%, 91% and 46% to RM10.91 million, RM2.45 million, RM10.32 million, RM0.33 million and RM5.34 million respectively. Whereas, exports to Belgium, Netherlands, Sweden and Turkey increased by 21%, 230%, 7% and 220% to RM26.93 million, RM0.79 million, RM5.71 million and RM1.79 million respectively over the previous corresponding period.

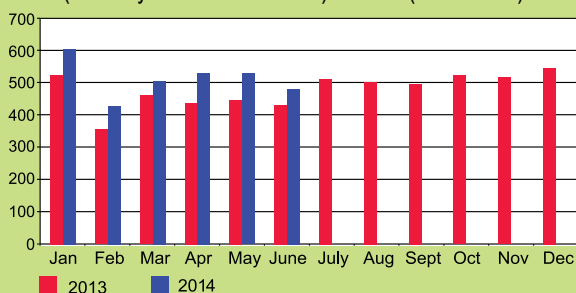
In Asia, exports to Singapore, India, Thailand, Pakistan, South Korea and Taiwan grew 9%, 18%, 14%, 91%, 4% and 20% valued at RM57.70 million, RM32.60 million, RM16.58 million, RM17.86 million, RM2.06 million and RM8.04 million respectively. However, exports to Iran, Japan, UAE and Viet Nam decreased by 92%, 2%, 15% and 20% to RM0.13 million, RM40.04 million, RM6.04 million and RM10.07 million respectively.

Exports to Australia and US increased by 17% and 49% to RM64.51 million and RM40.07 million respectively. However,

Export of Selected Products from Peninsular Malaysia
(June 2013 - June 2014) / Volume ('000 m³)

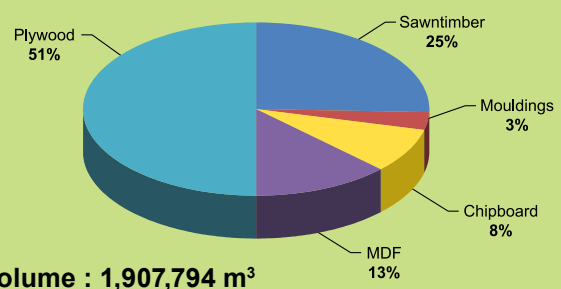


Malaysia: Export of Wooden Furniture
(January 2013 - June 2014) / Value (RM Million)



Source : Department of Statistics, Malaysia

Export of Major Timber Products from Peninsular Malaysia
(April - June 2014)



Volume : 1,907,794 m³

Cont. on page 11

JUNE 2014



Logs

The supplies of logs were sufficient and accessible for the month. The overall domestic prices of logs for most of the species remained at last month's level. However, some movements of prices were recorded for some Light Hardwood species.

Log prices for the species of Chengal, Red Balau and Merbau stood firm at RM3,600 per tonne, RM2,500 per tonne and RM2,650 per tonne respectively. Meanwhile, price of Balau logs increased 1% to RM2,683 per tonne. Similarly, log prices of Keruing and Kapur were fixed at RM1,170 per tonne and RM1,700 per tonne respectively. Prices for Kempas, however, rose by 2% to RM1,253 per tonne. Prices of Dark Red Meranti and Red Meranti increased by 6% and 7% and were traded at RM1,550 per tonne and RM1,325 per tonne respectively. On the other hand, prices for Mersawa and Jelutong declined by 8% and 3% to be quoted at RM1,183 per tonne and RM913 per tonne respectively. Prices of Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood both charted 1% lower than last month's level to RM980 per tonne and RM667 per tonne respectively.

Sawntimber

The average sawntimber prices remained firm in the domestic market but weakened in the overseas market.

Chengal, Balau, Red Balau and Merbau sawntimber continued to maintain at RM6,638 per m³, RM3,799 per m³, RM2,966 per m³ and RM3,531 per m³ respectively as compared to the previous month. Price of Kempas fell by 23% to RM1,236 per m³. Prices for Keruing and Kapur remained firm at RM1,695 per m³ and RM2,472 per m³ respectively. Likewise, prices for Dark Red Meranti and Yellow Meranti sawntimber stood at RM2,189 per m³ and RM1,448 per m³ respectively. Red Meranti sawntimber, however, posted a rise of 4% to RM1,292 per m³ as compared to last month's level. No changes were

reported for Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood species which were quoted at RM812 per m³ and RM777 per m³ respectively.

Plywood

The supply of plywood to the domestic market continued to suffice to cater to the need of the local demand. Prices of plywood remained stable at last month's level. Plywood of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm and 12mm of thicknesses were traded at RM14.60, RM22.00, RM34.00 and RM41.00 per piece respectively.

Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF)

Prices of MDF stabled this month due to the average demand from the domestic market. MDF of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm and 12mm of thicknesses were traded at RM12.10, RM16.40, RM22.40 and RM30.10 per piece respectively.

Intra-Malaysia Trade * – June 2014

Shipment of sawntimber from Sabah to Peninsular Malaysia in June 2014 reported a tremendous increased of 113% to 1,063 m³, valued at RM1.2 million. However, shipments of plywood decreased by 33% to 7,088 m³, worth at RM11.6 million. Export of veneer charted at 189 m³ and valued at RM278,000.

Similarly, in Sarawak, export of sawntimber to Peninsular Malaysia jumped to 113% with a volume of 1,318 m³ and valued at RM0.9 million. However, shipment of plywood declined by 11% to 10,268 m³, worth at RM12.7 million. Export of veneer also dwindled by 17% to 3,832 m³ with RM4.5 million worth.

No intra trade from Peninsular Malaysia to Sabah and Sarawak was recorded in June 2014.

* Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia 

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE – JUNE 2014

From	Products	MAY 2014		JUNE 2014		% Change in Volume June 2014/May 2014	% Change in Value June 2014/May 2014
		Volume (m ³)	Value (RM '000)	Volume (m ³)	Value (RM '000)		
SABAH	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	499	425	1,063	1,196	113	181
	Plywood	10,501	16,971	7,088	11,643	-33	-31
	Veneer	0	0	189	278	100	100
SARAWAK	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	620	413	1,318	924	113	124
	Plywood	11,585	14,147	10,268	12,695	-11	-10
	Veneer	4,618	5,158	3,832	4,459	-17	-14

Source : Department of Statistics, Malaysia

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JUNE 2014

***AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWNTIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA
MAY 2014 (VALUE IN RM)**

SPECIES	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS	
HEAVY HARDWOOD					
Chengal	3,600	6,638	2,684	8,828	
Balau	2,683	3,799	1,924	2,860	
Red Balau	2,500	2,966	1,977	3,178	
Merbau	2,650	3,531	3,319	2,472	
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	980	812	748	918	
MEDIUM HARDWOOD					
Keruing	1,170	1,695	812	2,203	
Kempas	1,253	1,236	1,095	1,917	
Kapur	1,700	2,472	727	2,472	
Mengkulang	1,100	1,412	925	1,575	
Tualang	1,330	2,331	2,225	2,225	
LIGHT HARDWOOD					
Dark Red Meranti	1,550	2,189	1,412	2,062	
Red Meranti	1,325	1,292	1,017	2,408	
Yellow Meranti	1,140	1,448	1,165	1,324	
White Meranti	983	1,448	565	1,695	
Mersawa	1,183	1,554	1,342	2,648	
Nyato	900	777	565	1,201	
Sepetir	850	1,095	918	1,165	
Jelutong	913	1,448	1,215	1,554	
Mixed Light Hardwood	667	777	614	657	
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD <i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
	160	1" X 1"	2" X 2"	3" X 3"	4" X 4"
		852	1,045	1,172	1,236
PLYWOOD 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm	12mm	
	14.60	22.00	34.00	41.00	
MDF 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm	12mm	
	12.10	16.40	22.40	30.10	

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

* Prices are only indicative

Cont. from page 9

TIMBER ROUND-UP

Maldives and South Africa reduced their intake by 24% and 6% to RM2.21 million and RM5.95 million respectively.

Furniture

Exports of wooden and rattan furniture for the period under review in 2014 increased 16% compared to the corresponding period of 2013. Total shipments recorded RM3.09 billion against RM2.66 billion in 2013.

Purchase of wooden furniture from Malaysia for the January to June 2014 duration increased 16% from RM2.65 billion to RM3.07 billion compared to the same period in 2013. Demand for wooden furniture for June 2014 was positive across most major markets.

Imports of wooden furniture by the US increased by 16% from RM837.04 million to RM969.76 million. Japan also follow suit with an increase of 12% from RM210.25 million to RM236.42 million.

Intake by Australia increased by 3% from RM188.98 million in 2013 to RM194.91 million in the first half of 2014. Singapore

consumed an increase of 14% from RM148.45 million to RM169.18 million. The UK imports also increased by 32% from RM127.1 million to RM168.19 million.

Canada's ups its intake of wooden furniture by 34% to reach RM136.37 million. UAE recorded an increase of 30% to reach RM118.35 million in 2014. Saudi Arabia wooden furniture intake increased to RM73.78 million.

Russia's also improved its consumption by 43% from RM42.58 million to RM61.03 million. India's intake increased by 18% to reach RM58.32 million in 2014. South Korea had increased its wooden furniture consumption by 29% with a purchase of RM57.50 million for the first half of 2014 from RM44.75 million in 2013.

Rattan furniture shipments increased by 35% to reach RM18.0 million for January to June 2014 period. Singapore remains as the top importer as its demand jumped to RM4.98 million in 2014. India emerges as the highest increase of intake of rattan furniture with RM4.0 million being recorded, a leaped from RM87,000 in 2013. Whilst import by UK increased as well by 73% to reach RM1.92 million in 2014. 

APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW SECRETARY-GENERAL OF MPIC



*YBhg. Datuk Himmat Singh Ralla Singh
Secretary-General
Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities*

YBhg. Datuk Himmat Singh has been appointed as the new Secretary-General of Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities. He succeeds YBhg. Datuk Seri Nurmala Abd. Rahim, effective 21 July 2014.

YBhg. Datuk Himmat Singh was born in Georgetown, Penang and began his civil service career in 1981 with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment. In 1994, he was transferred to the Regional Economics and Environment Section of Economic Planning Unit (EPU) in the Prime Minister's Department. He later became the Director of the Environment and Natural Resources Section, Social Services Section and the Infrastructure Section of the EPU. In January 2010, he became the Deputy Director-General of the Economic Planning Unit and in October 2011, he

was appointed as the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Works.

Datuk Himmat Singh is a Board Member of MTIB and Land Public Transport Commission. Previously, he was the Board Member of Kuala Lumpur City Hall, the Railway Assets Corporation and the Labuan Corporation.

For his services, Datuk Himmat Singh was conferred the *Pingat Persekutuan Kesatria Mangku Negara (K.M.N.)* in 2007 and the *Pingat Mahkota Wilayah (P.M.W.)* (which carries the title 'Datuk') in 2011 by the 13th DYMM Yang Di-Pertuan Agong. He was also conferred the *Darjah Kebesaran Panglima Jasa Negara (P.J.N.)*, (which carries the title 'Datuk') by the 14th DYMM Yang Di-Pertuan Agong in 2014. 





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A Picture Paints a Thousand Words. Wood Binds Them All

Jelutong Dyers logo

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BRIEFING ON ASEAN CO-OPERATION IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR

A briefing session on ASEAN Co-operation in the Forestry Sector Towards 2020 was held on 24 July at MTIB, Kuala Lumpur. The briefing was delivered by Encik Thang Hooi Chiew, ASEAN Secretariat Consultant and Regional Coordinator-Asia for ITTO- CITES Programme.

The objective of the briefing was to disseminate updated information to all relevant government ministries, agencies and councils on the current Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Co-operation in the Forestry Sector, 2016-2020. This encompassed its vision, goals, objectives and strategic thrusts, proposed post-2015 activities and implementation, and its contribution to ASEAN Economic Integration. It was also to enhance in depth understanding on current ASEAN co-operation in the sector, focusing on policies, direction, institutional arrangements, as well as the progress and achievements of ASEAN co-operation and the way forward towards 2020.

The primary objective of ASEAN co-operation in forestry is to formulate and implement regional co-operation activities to enhance the international competitiveness of ASEAN's forestry products to meet international requirements, which is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation policies. In this regard, co-ordination and decision-making is the responsibility of ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) which is guided by ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), and supported by the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF).

The overall policy framework is set by the ASEAN Charter, the ASEAN Community Blueprints which define ASEAN's

strategy for the short to medium-term until 2015, as well as the ASEAN Vision 2020 which underscores the region's commitment for a common understanding to "promote the forestry sector as a model in forest management, conservation and sustainable development".

Currently, ASOF has established four experts groups namely ASEAN Experts Group on Forest Products Development (AEG-FPD), ASEAN Experts Group on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (AEG-CITES), ASEAN Experts Group on Herbal and Medical Plants (AEG-HMP) and ASEAN Experts Group on International Forest Policy Processes (AEG-IFPP); one working group and two networks to implement programmes and activities as encapsulated in the relevant sections of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprints, which are fully reflected in the Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) of ASEAN Co-operation in Forestry (2011-2015).

The briefing then continued with a Q&A session with the speaker. The session was moderated by Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, MTIB Director of Trade Development. Numerous enquiries were recorded during the session.

The briefing session drew a participation of more than 30 people from related ministries namely Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, and Ministry of National Resources and Environment, and government agencies and councils which comprised Malaysian Timber Council, Malaysian Timber Certification Council and Malaysian Furniture Promotion Council.



Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, MTIB Director of Trade Development (right) and Encik Thang Hooi Chiew, ASEAN Secretariat Consultant and Regional Coordinator-Asia for ITTO-CITES Programme.



Participants at the briefing.



This building will change the way you look at wood

Think all wooden buildings are made the same way? Think again.

Certainly not the extraordinary Galeri Glulam, Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB)'s iconic building in Johor Bahru. What sets it apart from the rest is that it's made from Glue Laminated Timber (Glulam), which has been tested and proven to be more flexible, durable and fire-resistant. The Galeri Glulam is also listed in The Malaysia Book of Records as the first building completed using Glulam in the country.

The Galeri Glulam is primarily an exhibition centre showcasing various innovations relating to the timber industry and their applications, such as the application of structural timber-engineered products for specifiers and builders. It also serves as a centre to promote the use of locally-produced timber products in construction and homes, which include furniture, builders' carpentry and joinery, and mouldings. The gallery also functions as a convention centre and an exhibition hall, as well as provides an ideal space for seminars, courses and workshops.

Want to learn more about Glulam's unlimited potential, or simply admire the unconventional beauty of this innovative structure? Come pay us a visit. Someday, all wooden buildings will be made this way.

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)

(Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities)

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

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REFINING DESIGNS FOR GREATER IMPACT



Brainstorming in session.

Following from the participation of eight young designers under the “TANGGAM by MTIB” label in Salone-Satellite Exhibition 2014 which showcased prototypes described by the media as “hot and exciting designs”, the Founder and Curator for the Salone-Satellite events have confirmed that these designers would be invited back for the 2015 exhibition. However, even with that recognition and commendation, it was observed that the number of visitors who visited the “TANGGAM” booth registered a lower figure when compared to the same visits recorded during the inaugural participation in 2013. One of the reasons identified is that while many of the designs displayed at the “TANGGAM” booth managed to attract interest and attention, there was no individual piece that stood out from the range of prototypes shown. It has also been revealed that the pastel colours for all the designs used also lacked impact.

Hence, in preparing these designers to participate again in the 2015 exhibition, MTIB organised a “Brainstorming Retreat” for the “TANGGAM fraternity”, held in Putrajaya from 16 to 18 July. The main objective of this retreat was to develop designs with

the potential of capturing the attention of visitors, carried-out through intensive focus in defining idea generation targets. Idea generation is the systematic search in developing product ideas. During these brainstorming exercises, internal idea sources were collated from the various presentations of the designers, who were coordinated by Encik Erwin Rezasyah, an industrial design lecturer from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Shah Alam.

The ideas of the designers in the “TANGGAM” fraternity were further developed throughout the sessions. The design sketches by these young designers could be summarised as follows:

- Stephen Tin Eng Poh, architectural designer – keen to venture and refine designs of furniture having sturdy aesthetic support.
- Abdullah Al Rahid Ab Hamid, academician of Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK), Kota Bharu – showcases designs which feature vibrant colours of Malaysian culture.
- Mohamad Hazmi Zakaria, freelance designer – hopes to bring versatility of furniture images.
- Sim Chai Yi, industrial designer – creates visual styles through the variations of material usages.
- Shahril Faisal, product designer – practices the approach of creating aesthetic form utilising a block of furniture material.
- Mohd Sujak Hasbollah, industrial designer – emphasises on furniture capable of inducing essential work-space friendliness.
- Addy Putra Zulkifli, lecturer at Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UNiZA), Kuala Terengganu – designs creations which conjure the various images of societal behaviours.
- Shahrul Anuwar Yusof, self-described “emotional designer” – designs creations which epitomises the coquettishness inherent of little children.



One of the participants posed a question.



PUNCAK BUMI UTAMA SDN. BHD. – BUMIPUTERA FURNITURE SUPPLIER

Puncak Bumi Utama Sdn. Bhd. was incorporated on 15 October 2001 specialising in trading and manufacturing of wood-based and metal furniture. Located in Seberang Perai Selatan, Penang; northern of Peninsular Malaysia, it is one of the few Bumiputera companies that has persevered and prospered over the years to become one of the more renowned Bumiputera companies in the country.



Encik Ahmad Kamal Chik,
CEO of Puncak Bumi
Utama Sdn. Bhd.

Background

Since its establishment in October 2001, Puncak Bumi has strived to be the preferred furniture supplier in the country. This is evidenced through its commitments in meeting buyer needs through exemplifying its vision to inculcate absolute integrity of work ethics,

uncompromising quality, on-time delivery and competitive pricing.

Company Vision

The company will be the preferred furniture supplier and commit in meeting their business needs with absolute integrity of work ethics, uncompromising quality, competitive pricing, on-time delivery and good after sales services.

Core Business

As the CEO of the company, Encik Ahmad Kamal Chik leads the company's branding and marketing strategies supported by the business development team.

The company strongly emphasises on innovation and creativity in its products and services offered. By employing a design team to concentrate on the new product development for retail market, Puncak Bumi also produces a practical customised design that meet clients various choices of furniture to its clients.

By listening to customers' feedback, the company's improves its strengths in particular on practical design, good product quality, competitive pricing, reliable delivery and good after sales services.

In addition to the manufacturing, trading and supply of products, Puncak Bumi provides supply and facilities management services for the furniture supplied for certain projects.

The company is a pioneer in introducing furniture rental and facilities maintenance services (FMS) for all higher education institutes (IPTA/IPTS) in Malaysia. The furniture supplied by the company includes bed mattresses, wardrobes, study desks and chairs, dining sets, book racks, soft boards and shoe racks.

IPTA and IPTS are increasingly opting for furniture rental and FMS arrangement instead of outright purchase. This method reduces upfront cash payment, fast track project implementation and increasing the furniture usage lifespan. In addition, the furniture is regularly maintained by a third party and thus allowing the institutions to deploy their resources for other productive activities.

The company is currently the market leader for furniture rental and FMS to the following IPTA and IPTS, serving more than 15,000 students:

- Universiti Teknologi MARA
- Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia
- Universiti Malaysia Kelantan
- Universiti Malaysia Perlis
- Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia
- Universiti Utara Malaysia
- Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
- Alliance University College of Medical Sciences
- International Education College, Malaysia

The company also actively supplies furniture such as bed, wardrobe, tables and chairs, canteen furniture set, dining set, book rack, soft board and shoe rack, mirrors, dresser to the government agencies namely Ministry of Education for school and laboratory projects, Ministry of Defence, Malaysian National Service Programme, Majlis Amanah Rakyat and Prison Department, Malaysia.

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Briefing on the products.

International Market

Puncak Bumi has entered the second phase of export development in which it provides the opportunity to other companies to jointly develop Bumiputera products to be marketed by Puncak Bumi in the international market aimed particularly to existing Puncak Bumi buyers. Among the companies that has benefitted from the collaboration are Design Principles Sdn. Bhd. and Three Plus One Trading Sdn. Bhd.

Puncak Bumi has been supplying its products to the wholesalers or retailers throughout the country who will sell them to the end users. It has also expanded its market by exporting its products to importers from Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, United Kingdom and Tanzania.

MTIB Protégé

Puncak Bumi has been under the guidance of MTIB since 2005. In that year, the company was given the opportunity to participate in an exhibition in Dubai known as INDEX Dubai. Throughout the years, the company has received training and assistance from MTIB in order to transform the company to become a successful industry player. The company has been given a variety of incentives in several programmes such as the Economic Stimulus Package I in 2006 and Economic Stimulus Package II in 2009 in raw material assistance which contributed in its growth. Apart from these, the company also

received financing for its participation in international furniture fairs and for human capital development.

Puncak Bumi began to improve its business after joining Malaysian International Furniture Fair (MIFF) on a constant basis since 2006. Buyers could easily spot the display location as it always remains at the same location which is in Hall 2C. Participation in MIFF provided the avenue for the company to penetrate the global market. The company has been awarded with a number of projects and recently, they were selected by Syarikat Perumahan Negara to be under the Bumiputera Vendor Development Programme.

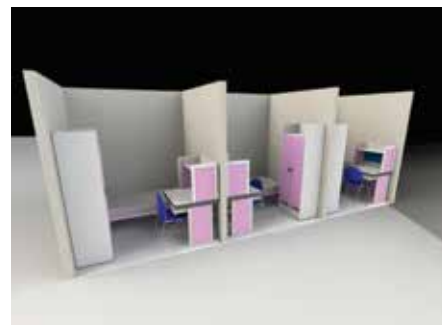
Awards and Recognition

Puncak Bumi has received a lot of attention from several organisations and bodies. Some of the awards and recognition received by the company are as follows:

- Awards of Bumiputera entrepreneurs Penang's manufacturing sector 2006
- Certified by Furniture Testing Lab, Forest Research Institute Malaysia for selected furniture
- Recipient of product and process improvement grant by SME Corp
- Recipient of grant by MATRADE for Bumiputera Exporters Development

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Various products manufactured by Puncak Bumi Utama Sdn. Bhd.

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Visitors at the Puncak Bumi Utama Sdn. Bhd. booth during MIFF 2014, Kuala Lumpur.

- Recipient of grant by MTIB for the participation and promotion of the company's products in the International Furniture Fair
- The company's competitive level was measured by SME Competitiveness Rating for Enhancement (SCORE) in which the company received 4 stars. 



Products of Puncak Bumi Utama Sdn. Bhd. displayed at the exhibition.



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For more information, contact:

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E-mail: info@mtib.gov.my URL: www.mtib.gov.my

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

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.

COMING EVENTS – JANUARY 2015

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	ORGANISER
15-18	DOOR FAIR TURKEY 2015 Decoration, Home and Office Design Furniture	World Trade Centre Istanbul, Turkey	Demos Fuarcilik Ltd. Sti Tel : + 90 212 288 0206 Fax : + 90 212 288 0210 E-mail : expo@demosfuvar.com.tr
16-18	OKLAHOMA CITY HOME AND GARDEN SHOW 2015 International Gardening, Decoration, Home and Office Design, Furniture	State Fair Park Oklahoma City, USA	Marketplace Event, LLC Tel : + 1 (888) 248 9751 Fax : + 1 (440) 264 2981 E-mail : rosannah@marketplaceevents.com
19-21	IMM COLOGNE International Exhibition of Interior Design, Furniture and Accessories	Cologne International Exhibition Centre, Germany	Koelnmesse GmbH Tel : + 49 221 8210 Fax : + 49 221 821 2574 E-mail : info@koelnmesse.de
23-27	MEUBLE PARIS 2015 International Exhibition of Interior Design, Furniture and Accessories	Paris Nord Villepinte Exhibition Centre, France	Reed Exposition France Tel : + 33 (0) 147 5650 00 Fax : + 33 (0) 147 5651 00 E-mail : info@reedexpo.fr
27-29	URBEST METZ 2015 International Exhibition Building and Construction, Furniture	Metz- International Congres Foires Exposition Centre, France	Metz Expo Evenements Tel : + 33 (0) 3875566 00 Fax : + 33 (0) 3875566 18 E-mail : info@metz-expo.com
27-30	ISMOB 2015 International Istanbul Furniture Fair	Istanbul Expo Centre/ CNR Expo, Istanbul, Turkey	CNR Expo Tel : + 90 (212) 4657 474 Fax : + 90 (212) 4657 476 E-mail : info@cnrexpo.com



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YEMEN EMERGING MARKET FOR TIMBER INDUSTRY

Yemen officially known as the Republic of Yemen is an Arab country in Western Asia, occupying the southwestern to southern end of the Arabian Peninsula. Yemen is the second largest country in the peninsula, occupying 527,970 sqm. The coastline stretches for about 2,000 km. It is bordered by Saudi Arabia to the north, the Red Sea to the west, the Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea to the south, and Oman to the east. Its capital and largest city is Sana'a. Yemen's territory includes more than 200 islands. The largest of these is Socotra, which is about 354 km to the south of mainland Yemen. Geographically, Yemen stretches from the desert sands of the Rub' al Khali to mountain peaks 3,660 metres above sea levels, and drops back down to the coast of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The nation is separated from the Horn of Africa by the strait of Bab-el-Mandeb.

The population of Yemen was about 24 million according to June 2011 estimates, with 46% of the population being under 15 years old and 2.7% above 65 years. By 2050, the population is estimated to increase to about 60 million. Yemeni ethnic groups are predominantly Arab, as well as some Afro-Arabs, South Asians and Europeans.

Economy

Agriculture is the mainstay of Yemen's economy, generating more than 20% of the gross domestic product (GDP) since 1990 and employing more than half of the working population. Yemen is a small oil producer and does not belong to the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Unlike many regional oil producers, Yemen relies heavily on foreign oil companies that have production-sharing agreements with the government. Income from oil production constitutes 70 to 75% of government revenue and about 90% of export. Yemen contains proven crude oil reserves of more than 4 billion barrels, although these reserves are not expected to last more than nine years, and output from the country's older fields is falling, a concern since oil provides around 90% of the country's exports.

The US government estimates that Yemen's industrial sector constitutes 47.2% of GDP. Together with services, construction and commerce, industry accounts for less than 25% of the labour force. The largest contributor to the manufacturing sector's output is oil refining, which generates roughly 40%



of total revenue. The remainder of this sector consists of the production of consumer goods and construction materials. Manufacturing constituted approximately 9.5% of Yemen's GDP. Almost half of all industrial establishments are involved in processing food products and beverages; the production of flour and cooking oil has increased in recent years. Approximately 10% of the establishments are classified as manufacturing mixed metal products such as water-storage tanks, doors and windows.

Shipping Facilities

Yemen's major cargo seaport is located in Aden. Another cargo port exists at Hodeidah. Major ports in Yemen are Hodeidah Port, Salee Port, Mokha Port, Aden Port and Mukalla Port. Shipping hub for timber and timber products are Hodeidah and Aden ports.

Forest Resources

Forest area in Yemen is about 1% or 549,000 hectares. Yemen has some 566 known species of amphibians, birds, mammals and reptile, of these, 7.2% are endemic, meaning they exist in no other country, and 4.1% are threatened. Yemen is home to at least 1,650 species of vascular plants, of which 8.2% are endemic.

Timber Production

According to the FAO latest forest statistics on Yemen (2012), the country produced quantity of logs around 472,000 m³ in 2012 increased 15.3% from 2008. Apart from logs production, Yemen produces 15,500 m³ of chips and particles. Details of production are:

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Yemen: Production of Timber Products, 2008-2012

(Volume: m³)

Products	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Logs	409,500	424,823	440,785	456,134	472,047
Chips and Particles	15,500	15,500	15,500	15,500	15,500
Total	425,000	440,323	456,285	471,634	487,547

Source: FAO

Yemen : Import of Timber and Timber Products, 2008-2012

(Value: USD '000)

Products	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Furniture	21,800	19,196	24,220	23,269	65,553
Sawntimber	44,522	55,370	56,314	47,748	50,750
Plywood	35,267	45,008	32,926	31,866	49,137
Veneer	33,357	36,802	30,337	15,363	28,407
Fibreboard	550	2,712	1,464	2,329	4,439
Logs	8,493	5,096	2,977	11,098	4,075
Builders Joinery and Carpentry	1,194	1,580	2,524	1,534	2,009
Others	1,544	1,369	967	63	857
Total	151,260	168,839	153,256	133,983	207,239

Source: UN Stats

Yemen : Export of Timber and Timber Products, 2008-2012

(Value: USD '000)

Products	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Furniture	339	1,020	103	68	22
Veneer	0	1	5	1	58
Plywood	0	11	3	3	52
Tableware and Kitchenware	1	18	15	13	23
Articles of Wood	4	5	9	12	15
Builders Joinery and Carpentry	3	9	36	2	13
Tools and Handles	0	0	9	0	10
Others	41	133	64	106	15
Total	388	1,197	244	205	208

Source: UN Stats

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Import of Timber and Timber Products

According to the United Nations latest statistics, Yemen imports of timber and timber products increased 54.7% to USD207.2 million. Furniture was the main product imported valued at USD65.6 million followed by sawntimber USD50.8 million, plywood USD49.1 million and veneer USD28.4 million.

Malaysia is the major import partner for timber products with 62.8% of Yemen market share while China is the major import partner for furniture products. Malaysia market share for furniture products is only 2.2%.

Export of Timber and Timber Products

Yemen exports small value of timber and timber products. In 2012, exports increased 1.5% to USD208,000. Veneer was the main products exported valued at USD58,000.

Malaysia's Export of Timber and Timber Products to Yemen

In 2013, Malaysia's exports of timber and timber products to Yemen increased 0.2% to RM273.2 million over the previous year. Yemen as a market ranked 15th with 1.4% of Malaysia's total market share. Plywood was the main exports with a total value of RM155.4 million and 122.6 thousand m³, followed by sawntimber at RM105.3 million in value and 87,000 m³ and MDF, RM8.9 million.

Malaysia : Export of Timber and Timber Products by Value to Yemen, 2009-2013

(Value: RM)

Products	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Logs	0	790446	0	0	0
Particleboard	0	0	0	251,742	0
BJC	15,156	0	143,615	0	144,191
Wooden Furniture	4,803,571	3,558,090	1,813,551	4,227,653	3,441,294
MDF	2,869,486	5,174,507	3,702,949	5,825,480	8,935,951
Sawntimber	117,844,717	80,662,738	50,200,088	113,604,769	105,265,250
Plywood	152,359,463	123,202,318	83,619,835	148,675,924	155,418,994
Others	10,710	0	22,920	100,766	0
Total	277,903,103	213,388,099	139,502,958	272,686,334	273,205,680

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia and MTIB

Malaysia : Export of Timber and Timber Products by Volume to Yemen, 2009-2013

(Volume: m³)

Products	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Logs	0	395	0	0	0
MDF	3,534	6,989	4,753	6,012	10,917
Sawntimber	112,646	76,410	40,556	95,241	86,968
Plywood	123,408	103,860	63,939	116,792	122,567
Others	0	0	0	305	0
Total	239,588	187,654	109,248	218,350	220,452

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia and MTIB

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Import Tariffs

Yemen's import duty on timber and timber products ranges from 5–10%. Details are as follows:

HS Code	Products	Duty (%)
4401	Fuel Wood	5
4402	Wood Charcoal	5
4403	Logs	5
4404	Hoop Wood	5
4405	Wood Wool and Wood Flour	5
4406	Sleepers	5
4407	Sawntimber	5
4408	Veneer	5
4409	Mouldings	5
4410	Chipboard/Particleboard	5
4411	Fibreboard	5
4412	Plywood	5

HS Code	Products	Duty (%)
4413	Densified Wood	5
4414	Wooden Frames	10
4415	Packing Cases	10
4416	Casks, Barrels, Vats and Tubs	10
4417	Tool Bodies and Handle	5 – 10
4418	Builders Joinery and Carpentry	10
4419	Tableware and Kitchenware	10
4420	Wood Marquetry	10
4421	Other Articles of Wood	5 – 10
9401, 9402, 9403	Wooden Furniture	5 – 10

Source: Trademap

Prospects and Challenges

With a large, young and fast-growing population, as well as its government strategy to revive its construction industry by providing better incentive for investors in this sector as well as providing attractive aid for large construction project, Yemen seems to be a growing market for Malaysian timber exporters to penetrate. As Yemen does not produce its own timber and construction materials, therefore Malaysian exporters should take full advantage to further promote their timber products especially value-added products such as furniture, MDF

and BJC, in addition to promoting building materials namely plywood and sawntimber.

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- Encyclopedia of the Nations
- Department of Statistics Malaysia
- WTO
- CIA Factbook
- International Policy Digest: Yemen's Prospects for Membership in the Gulf Cooperation Council
- Yemen's Economic Prospects and Challenges 





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

For more information, contact:

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From which publications have you received our information?

MERANSI – SUITABLE FOR MEDIUM AND HEAVY CONSTRUCTION



Wood colour and texture

Meransi is the Standard Malaysian name for the timber of *Carallia* spp. (family Rhizophoraceae). The timber is classified under Medium Hardwood with an air dry density of 670-930 kg/m³. Common vernacular names include Kemuning Hutan (Sabah), Merawai (Sabah), Kerakas Payau (Sarawak), Radipah (Sarawak), Tikolod (Sabah) and Perepat Hutan (Sabah).

It is also known as Ringgit Dareh (Indonesia), Bakauan-gubat (Philippines), Chiang Phra (Thailand) and Maniawga (Myanmar).

General Characteristics

The colour of the heartwood is red-brown with an orange hue. The sapwood is lighter in colour than the heartwood and is only distinct moderately. Meransi is moderately hard and moderately heavy. The grain is straight to shallowly interlocked or slightly wavy. Texture is coarse and uneven due to the presence of the extremely large rays.

Wood Anatomy

Vessels are few to moderately numerous, medium-sized; solitary, in radial groups and tangential multiples of two to three usually blocked by tyloses; white deposits are common.

Mechanical Properties

Test Condition	Modulus of Elasticity (MPa)	Modulus of Rupture (MPa)	Compression Parallel to Grain (MPa)	Compression Perpendicular to Grain (MPa)	Shear Strength (MPa)
Green	13,200 - 13,400	104 - 105	54.6 - 55.5	10.28 - 10.44	10.8 - 11

Note: MPa – Megapascals

Machining Properties

It is easy to fairly easy resaw and cross-cut. Meransi timber can be planed and sanded easily with smooth surface. The wood is easy to slice for veneer and is expected to glue well.

Uses

The Oak-like figure makes it an attractive timber suitable for furniture manufacture (decorative and high class), interior finishing, paneling, joinery, cabinet making, parquet flooring, flooring (medium traffic), pallets, and veneer (structural, decorative and general utility purposes). It is also suitable for heavy and medium construction, railway sleepers, transmission posts, cross arms, vehicle bodies (frame work and floor

Wood Parenchyma

Wood parenchyma is abundant, paratracheally aliform to confluent and apotracheally in broad wavy bands which often branch and diffuse but not conspicuously; also in short apotracheal lines bridging rays.

Rays

Rays are of two distinct sizes, the larger rays are extremely broad while the finer rays are hard to discern, even with a hand lens, producing a silver figure on the radial surface.

Seasoning

The timber seasons fairly slowly, with only slight insect attacks and sapstaining as the main sources of defects. Shrinkage upon air drying is low and the wood seasons well, but end splitting and surface checking should be prevented by protecting the ends from rapid drying out; it takes respectively two and five months to air dry 13 mm and 38 mm thick boards.

Durability

The timber is moderately durable. However, when used indoor, above ground or under cover, the durability of the timber will be very much extended. The sapwood is susceptible to *Lyctus*. The timber is prone to termite and marine borer attacks and is amenable to preservative treatment.

Strength Properties

The timber falls into Strength Group 4 (SG 4) - (MS 544: Part 2:2001)

boards), fancy boxes, walking sticks, musical instruments and tool handles. The timber can also be used for door and window frames and sills, boxes and crates, packing material and even suitable indoor work such as staircases, handrails and all kinds of novelty items.

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- 100 Malaysian Timbers, MTIB
- Plant Resources of South East Asia 5 (3) PROSEA: Timber Trees: Lesser Known Timbers Commercial Timbers, Editors by M.SM Sosel, LT. Hong and S Prawirohatmodjo
- Wong T.M. 1982. A Dictionary of Malaysian Timbers. Revised by Lim, S.C. & Chung, R.C.K. Malaysian Forest Record No. 30. FRIM, Kuala Lumpur
- Menon, P.K.B. 1986 Uses of Some Malaysian Timbers. Revised by Lim, S.C. Timber Trade Leaflet No. 31. MTIB and FRIM, Kuala Lumpur

MTIB Moments



WISDEC organised a Workshop on the Development of Portfolio for Vocational Training Officer (VTO), Vocational Training Executive (VTE) and Vocational Training Manager (VTM) on 7-9 July 2014 at WISDEC, Banting.



MTIB participated in the Malaysian Furniture & Furnishing Fair held on 11-13 July 2014 at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.



Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General (right) presenting a Hari Raya hamper to one of the under-privileged children during the breaking of fast (iftar) organised by MTIB at its premise on 18 July 2014.



Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General chairing a meeting with MTIB personnel in Kuantan, Pahang on 21 July 2014.



Members of the AKRAB MTIB posing with the old folks of Pertubuhan Kebajikan Rose in Kajang, Selangor on 21 July 2014.



Encik Mohammad Ghazali Mohd Daud from MTIB (left) presenting a donation to Dr. Abdullah Noel of Pusat Jagaan Orang-Orang Tua Siti Noraini, Kajang, Selangor. The photo was taken during the visit by AKRAB members of MTIB on 21 July 2014.