

MASKAYU

VOL 11 : NOVEMBER 2018

ISSN 0126-771X

YBM LAUNCHES WISDEC 2 AND MyHCD 2018-2025

**COLLOQUIUM FOREST PLANTATION
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**



MAJLIS PERASMIAN
BANGUNAN WISDEC 2

&
PELUNCURAN PELAN STRATEGIK PEMBANGUNAN MO
KTOR INDUSTRI PERKAYUAN (MyHCD 2018-2

oleh

Yang Berhormat Puan Teresa Kok
Pengerusi Utama

2018

pit, Banting



ISSN 0126-771X



9 770126 771009

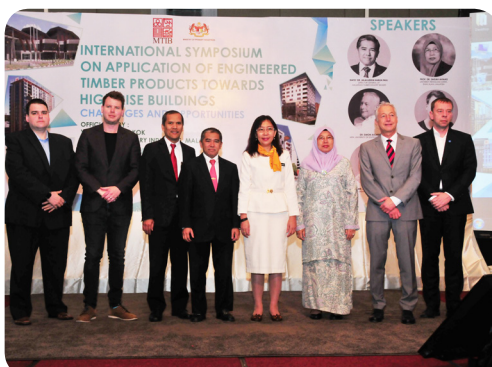


MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD



03

15



17

20



23



Contents

Highlights

03 YBM Launches WISDEC 2 and MyHCD 2018-2025

17 Colloquium Forest Plantation Development Programme

20 13th Meeting Of Task Force on Wood-Based Products and Cooperation Programmes

24 Furniture Training at FIRA, London

30 Kupang : Suitable for Furniture and Cabinet Making

15 Symposium on Application of Engineered Timber Products Towards High Rise Buildings

19 Public Comment on Malaysian Standard Draft on Laminated Bamboo for General Use - Specifications

23 Technical Committee Meeting on Timber (ISO/TC 218)

28 Impressive Transforms Sdn. Bhd.: Raw Expertise

Regular Features

04 Timber World in Brief

10 Timber Round-Up

32 MTIB Moments

08 Shipping News

12 Domestic Trade News

Chief Editor

YBhg. Dato' Dr. Jalaluddin Harun FASc
Director-General

Editorial Members

Puan Hj. Norchahaya Hashim
Puan Hj. Noor Laila Mohamed Halip
Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani
Tuan Hj. Mahpar Atan
Tuan Hj. Zulkepli Abd Rani
Cik Hj. Robiyah Hj. Husin
Tuan Hj. Kamaruzaman Othman

Encik Saiful Bahri Salleh
Dr. Mohd Nor Zamri Mat Amin
Puan Hj. Roslina Idris
Cik Farydatul Nazly Mohd Zin
Encik Mohd Amin Kadir
Puan Normazmin Che' Ad
Puan Hafsa Hasbi

Publisher

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

Printer

Gemilang Press Sdn Bhd
No. 16, Jalan S.B. Jaya 12, Taman Industri S.B. Jaya,
47000 Sungai Buloh, Selangor Darul Ehsan
Tel : 603 - 6151 2285
E-mail : gemilangpress2105@gmail.com



Cover : The launching ceremony of WISDEC 2 and MyHCD 2018-2025 by YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries. Please read pages 3 and 7.



Read eMASKAYU at
www.mtib.gov.my

YBM LAUNCHES WISDEC 2 AND MyHCD 2018-2025

news



YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries signing on a plaque after officiating WISDEC 2.

Human capital development is a vital element in enhancing the viability of all industries. As such, in producing high value-added timber products for export, a multitude of skills in various fields of production and support services is necessary. In conformance with the needs of the timber industry, MTIB has established the Wood Industry Skills Development Centre (WISDEC) to provide skills training and to assist the value-added processing sector to overcome problems of shortage in skilled manpower and help increase productivity.

YBhg. Dato' Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, Director-General of MTIB in his welcoming remarks reiterated the importance of skills and knowledge enhancement in the industry. He noted that human capital development, technology, automation, mechanisation and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) should be given priority to enhance productivity, efficiency, quality and production of

high value-added timber products from Malaysia.

MTIB was appointed Industry Lead Body – ILB by Department of Skills Development, Ministry of Human Resources in 2012. The establishment of WISDEC in 1995 marked another milestone in MTIB's efforts towards the development of the Malaysian timber industry. In addition to skills trainings, WISDEC is also involved in assisting the industry in furniture design, product development, transfer technology and in the provision of technical advisory services.

WISDEC has also been recognised as an approved centre by City and Guilds Institute of London. In addition, he added that WISDEC has successfully carried out its Furniture Processing Technology training programme under the Vocational Transformation Programme with close collaboration with Ministry of Education.



AUSTRALIA

Conditions Remain Favourable for Forestry Sector

A report released by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) highlighted continued growth in Australia's forestry sector thanks to favourable conditions in key markets, particularly housing and international trade.

ABARES Executive Director, Dr Steve Hatfield-Dodds, said Australian forest and wood products statistics reported the fourth consecutive year of growth for the value added by the forestry and forest product manufacturing industries, to USD8.8 billion.

"We are seeing strong domestic demand for wood products, with a 4.4% increase in house commencements compared to the previous year, while the number of new other residential buildings—such as units and town houses also increased," Dr Hatfield-Dodds said.

"Domestic demand for wood products remains at high levels. Following four years of consecutive growth, the estimated volume of logs harvested stabilised in 2017–2018 at 32.9 million m³.

"Exports of Australia's wood products were higher than ever in 2017–18, increasing for the fifth consecutive year to reach a record USD3.6 billion, on the back of record high exports of woodchips, paper and paperboard, and roundwood. "Overseas demand for woodchips, sourced mainly from Australia's commercial hardwood plantations, remains strong with woodchips exports reaching USD1.3 billion.

"The report finds the Chinese market accounted for the majority of total wood product export growth in 2017–2018. "In fact, 47% of Australia's wood product exports went to China, a market now worth USD1.7 billion.

"Australia's demand for overseas wood products in 2017–2018 also increased, to USD5.6 billion across all major wood product import categories, driven by growth in imports of wood-based panels and miscellaneous forest products."

mirage nEWS, 20 NOVEMBER



CHINA

Export and Import of Wooden Furniture

According to data from China Customs, in the first half of 2018 the value of China's furniture exports was USD10.3 billion, down 5% from the same period last year. China mainly exported wooden seats and wooden furniture for bedrooms which accounted for 42% and 15% respectively from the total exports. The value of wooden furniture for bedrooms fell dramatically by 30% in the first half of 2018.

In the first half of 2018 the value of China's furniture imports was USD5 billion, down 3% from the same period of last year. China mainly imported wooden seats (24%), wooden furniture for bedrooms (19%) and wooden furniture for kitchens (18%). The value of wooden seat imports declined by 10% and imports of wooden furniture for kitchens declined by 1%

Both export and import value of natural lacquered wooden furniture for bedroom rose dramatically in the first half of 2018 as chinese consumers now favour environmentally friendly wooden furniture.

Chinese government has formulated strict standards for environmental friendly furniture to protect consumers. The Code of Management for the Sales and After-sales Services of Rosewood Products (SB/T 11147-2015) came into force on 1 September 2016.

The purpose of this standard is to regulate the sales and after-sales service of rosewood products. For example, rosewood products should be accompanied by information such as tree species, grade and material inspection labels.

This standard also lays down detailed requirements on the sales personnel and sales venue for rosewood products and there are also specific requirements on the warranty period.

In addition, Technical Requirement for Environmental Labelling Products - Furniture was introduced on 1 February 2017. Compared with the previous edition, the new edition requires the classification and disposal of wastes by furniture manufacturers. The direct discharge of sawdust and dust is prohibited.

In the course of painting, enterprises must also take effective gas gathering measures and carry out standardisation treatment of the waste gas collected.

ITTO/Fordaq, 3 December



CHINA

Import Tariffs Reduced

According to China's Tariff Commission in the State Council the most-favored-nation (MFN) import tariffs for over 1,500 items have been reduced as of 1 November 2018. The average rate is now 7.8% compared to 10.5% previously.

Experts say these tariff cuts are aimed at helping domestic industries, reducing corporate costs and meeting multilevel consumer demands and also send a positive signal to the outside world of China's greater economic opening.

Import tariffs will be reduced on commodities that are required for domestic production such as textiles, wood products and building materials, base metal products and steel. Wood products included are charcoal, miscellaneous wood products, particleboard, fibreboard, plywood and paper products.

Import tariffs will be reduced on some mechanical and electrical equipment including those for textiles, light manufacturing, engineering, general use, metal processing instrumentation and related equipment parts and components.

In addition, the reduced tariffs apply to some resource commodities and primary processed products such as minerals and commodities used for export manufacturing

ITTO/Fordaq /6 December



EUROPE

EU and Guyana Join Forces to Combat Illegal Logging and Promote Timber Trade

The EU and Guyana have concluded negotiations on a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). The new agreement will give EU-based timber buyers assurance that timber products from Guyana are legal. It will help improve forest governance, tackle illegal logging and promote trade in verified legal timber products.

Through the Voluntary Partnership Agreement, Guyana will tackle trade in timber that has been illegally harvested, transported or processed. In this way, Guyana will improve market access for law-abiding businesses, as well as modernise its forestry sector, create jobs, promote sustainable development and protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, said: "This is an important step towards promoting the sustainable development of timber trade, protecting our planet and at the same time creating jobs and contributing to the competitiveness of the forestry sector. The EU is committed to supporting Guyana's efforts to implement the Voluntary Partnership Agreement in the years ahead."

Raphael Trotman, Guyana's Minister of Natural Resources, said: "The forestry sector in Guyana is an important contributor to the national economy, generating jobs and helping to reduce poverty. The Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU will help Guyana to develop the sector by improving forest management and governance. By rooting out illegality, it will boost trade and contribute to Guyana's goals on climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development."

The agreement will enter into force as soon as the EU and Guyana have completed their internal procedures for signing and ratifying it. To implement the agreement, Guyana will develop systems and procedures to verify that all timber and timber products comply with relevant laws and regulations. Among other things, this means ensuring that loggers don't fell more trees than they are allowed to harvest, factories uphold health and safety regulations, and

companies pay sufficient taxes. This process will involve identifying and addressing possible gaps in the forest allocation process and in the legal framework, upgrading systems for tracking wood through the supply chain, improving procedures for verifying legal compliance, and supporting Guyana in developing approaches for ensuring that the traditional rights of Amerindian peoples are not impeded.

It will also include establishment of independent audits, a complaints mechanism, and systems and procedures for making information on the forest sector publicly available. This process will be accompanied by a joint oversight of progress by the EU and Guyana.

Once the Voluntary Partnership Agreement is fully implemented, Guyana's shipments of timber products to the EU will have to be accompanied by a Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) licence, demonstrating their legality. Such a licence would certify that the products meet the requirements of the EU Timber Regulation, which prohibits the placing of illegal timber on the EU market.

European Commission, 23 November



INDONESIA

Furniture Exports See 5% Increase

Furniture exports have reached USD1.4 billion in the first 10 months of 2018, 4.83 % higher than the USD1.33 billion earned in the same period last year, says the Industry Ministry.

The ministry's small and medium manufacturer Director-General, Gati Wibawaningsih, attributed the export increase to a number of activities organised by the ministry, including training for workers, machine upgrades and promotion. She said the ministry had helped promote events such as a furniture fair in Surakarta, Central Java. "We are committed to boosting growth and the development of the industry so that we can compete in the international market," said Gati.

Meanwhile, the ministry's wooden products and furniture Director, Sri Yuniarti, said the government had disbursed Rp868.1 million (USD60,810) this year to eight domestic furniture manufacturers to upgrade their machinery. She added that the government had disbursed Rp42.31 billion to improve the quality of products produced by 379 small and medium

manufacturers between 2014 and 2017.

In 2017, the Trade Ministry also held programmes to help improve the furniture sector as part of efforts to reduce unemployment and narrow the country's trade deficit. Gati said the furniture sector employed 480,000 workers and had booked a trade surplus of USD99.1 million as of October.

The Jakarta Post/Jakarta, 3 December



LATVIA

Port of Riga Reports Significant Increase of Timber Handling

This year the Port of Riga has experienced a significant increase of timber cargo, which has become the second largest group of cargo in terms of volume. During the first ten months of 2018 the port has handled a total of 4.4 million tonnes of various types of timber cargo, one third more than in the previous year.

"The increase in timber cargo results from the growing market. Companies which work with various timber products, such as sawn wood, pulpwood or woodchips, currently operate with great intensity. Overall, this has been a very favourable year for the industry.

The volume of timber cargo serviced at the port mainly consists of Latvian export, while some of the cargo came from Belarus. The key destinations of the timber cargo are in Europe, where the growth of cargo volume is primarily related to the rising demand in Scandinavian countries. In 2017, ships with timber deck cargo went to ports in 20 different states around the world, the majority of which went to the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Denmark.

Despite the fact that loading timber into containers requires a more sophisticated technological process compared with ships, the containerisation of cargo has become an increasingly popular trend in the global freight market. The container flow from Asia to Europe is greater than in the opposite direction. Shipment of empty containers is not beneficial to any of the parties in the logistics chain, therefore sea containers are used to transport not only consumer goods, but also the most diverse piece goods — metal, timber, cars and even goods which traditionally have been transported as bulk cargo, i.e., grain, metal ore, etc.

PortNews Steering Information News, 29 November

Cont. from page 3

WISDEC's new building is called WISDEC 2; it will focus on youth training programmes, industry training, furniture design and product development. WISDEC 2 will be equipped with machines and equipments to facilitate all human capital development programmes and activities. WISDEC 2 will not only focus on wooden furniture. It will also emphasise on other materials for furniture-making such as metal, biocomposites, glass, PVC, leather and acrylic.

Meanwhile, MyHCD 2018-2025 consists of strategies and action plans which will be used as a roadmap by all stakeholders particularly training providers, in order to address issues and challenges in the local timber industry human capital development. The strategic plan aims to raise awareness and interest among youths on the career prospects in the timber industry; increase the number of local workers as professionals, skilled and semi-skilled workers in the industry; reduce the reliance on labour or foreign workers and increase productivity.

The launching ceremony of both WISDEC's New Building (WISDEC 2) and "Pelan Strategik Pembangunan Modal Insan Sektor Industri Perkayuan 2018-2025" (MyHCD 2018-2025), was held on 13 November at Kawasan Perusahaan Olak Lempit, Banting, Selangor.

In her officiating speech, YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries, said the industry needs an adequately trained workforce or skilled workers. "Globalisation, competition and technological advancements have intensified the demand for more



Attendees at the event.

highly skilled workers in the timber industry. By having an adequate number of skilled local workers, it could enhance productivity in the industry," she said.

Various skills set are needed to meet industry demands and to reach high level of skills competency and knowledge. The government wants to produce more knowledgeable workers and a high skilled workforce, in order to expedite the development of the industry, moving from a production economy to an innovative e-economy.

The event was attended by more than 300 guests comprising representatives from the timber industry, ministries and government agencies, the private sector, universities, training institutions and schools.



YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries (centre) browsing through the book of MyHCD 2018-2025.



MTIB officer explained to YB Minister and other VIPs on technical aspect of wood working training.



Malaysia: RM500 Million Allocated by Penang Port for Expansion of North Butterworth Container Terminal (NBCT)

Source : Star (The) - Malaysia, 9 October

Penang Port of Malaysia has set aside some RM500 million (EUR104.51 million, USD 120.55 million) for expansion of NBCT in the state of Penang, disclosed CEO V Sasedharan. The project will run for five years and is aimed at upgrading NBCT's status from a feeder port to a major port that can accommodate large-sized ships. In particular, the allocation will go to purchase of two new cranes (RM120 million), extension of the existing berth from 1.50 km to 3 km and other associated works (RM150 million) and other related projects (RM230 million). Upon completion of the facility upgrading project in 2023, the port's handling capacity will increase to 7.40 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) from 1.60 million TEUs in 2018.

Malaysia: PTP Targets 9 million TEUs in 2018

Source: Sundaily (The), 12 October

Malaysia's Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP) expects a 5% year-on-year growth in total throughput

volume from 8.4 million TEUs to 9 million TEUs in 2018 following the recent wave of consolidation of international shipping lines. Its total container throughput stood at 6.6 million TEUs as at end-September 2018. PTP expects the fourth quarter to be the busiest of the year, mainly due to the movement of cargoes to Europe amid the Christmas season and is confident of achieving the targeted 9 million TEUs. Meanwhile, PTP has won approvals for the third phase development of its 1,586-acre Free Zone to cater for the growing demand. The free zone comprises warehousing and logistics facilities and export-driven light to medium manufacturing hubs. The third phase will cover 168 acres and physical works will commence in the next 2.5 years. PTP is also purchasing new equipment and system to boost its efficiency.

United Arab Emirates (UAE): DP World Container Volume Up 2.6% in January-September 2018

Source : Arabian Business (In English), 23 October

UAE-based port operator DP World handled 53.6 million TEUs of containers worldwide in the first nine months of 2018, up 2.6% on a reported basis. Like-for-like growth was 3.7% for the period but contracted 0.5% for the third quarter. UAE container handling

Shipments of Timber and Timber Products through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, October 2018

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all Ports m ³	% Change Oct 2018/ Sep 2018
	m ³	% Change Oct 2018/ Sep 2018	m ³	% Change Oct 2018/ Sep 2018	m ³	% Change Oct 2018/ Sep 2018	m ³	% Change Oct 2018/ Sep 2018	m ³	% Change Oct 2018/ Sep 2018		
Sawntimber	73,477	10	16,579	6	1,984	73	723	-4	8,421	2	101,185	9
MDF	24,935	15	0	-100	5,500	-17	3,602	-2	18,664	63	52,701	20
Mouldings	14,195	18	226	21	1,538	-3	692	35	1,774	27	18,426	17
Plywood	3,460	-31	494	-25	27	100	423	96	13,538	6	17,942	-4
Veneer	663	249	129	-58	73	100	12	-91	2,301	68	3,179	51
Particleboard	39,948	22	362	175	8,432	108	3,124	49	5,671	110	57,537	38
TOTAL	156,678	13	17,791	1	17,554	31	8,576	16	50,370	33	250,970	17

Source : MTIB



fell 2.1% in January-September 2018 and 6.7% in July-September, but the European business saw good growth, particularly at the London Gateway (UK) and in Rotterdam (Netherlands).

Chairman and CEO Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem said that growth has slowed due to the strong 2017 and the cautious shipping market. The company reduced low-margin activity in the UAE and is taking measures to maintain profitability at Jebel Ali port in Dubai.

include higher stacked capacity and better container handling equipment. Meanwhile, Port Everglades will make an infrastructure investment of almost USD1 billion (EUR 866.98 million) in the next five years to boost cargo volume.

Finland: Passenger Traffic in Port of Helsinki Down 1.6% in January-September 2018

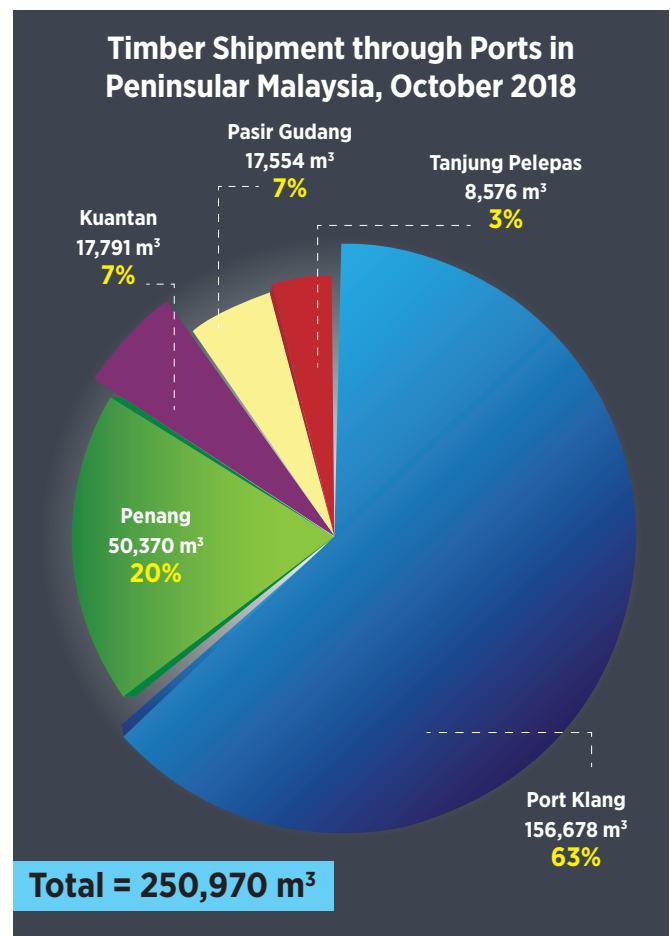
Source : Press Release Helsingin Satama, 16 October

Freight traffic in the Port of Helsinki totalled 11.4 million tonnes in January-September 2018, up 10.4% year-on-year. The volume of imports grew by 3.1% to 5.4 million tonnes. The volume of exports increased by 18.0% to 5.9 million tonnes. Container traffic increased by 3.6% to 282,000 TEUs.

United States: New Containerised Cargo Terminal at Port Everglades Opened by Florida International Terminal (FIT)

Source : Progressive Railroading, 23 October

A new containerised cargo terminal has been opened by FIT at Port Everglades in Florida's Broward County. The 32-acre space now features more entry gates, as many as 350 power plugs for refrigerated containers, disaster recovery IT systems, an appointment system for refrigerated cargo, a new yard tractor fleet as well as six inbound lanes with scales and two outbound lanes. Other features





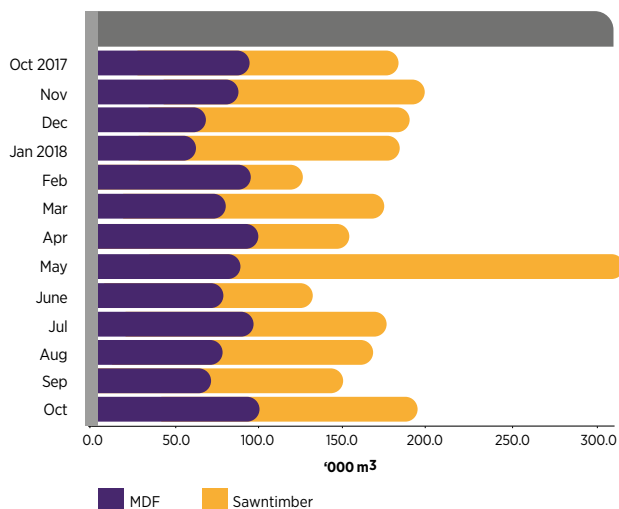


Malaysian Wood
Standing on Excellence

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

www.mtib.gov.my

Malaysia : Export of Sawntimber and MDF
(Oct 2017-Oct 2018/Volume ('000m³)



Total exports of Malaysia timber and timber products in October 2018 increased by 22% valued at RM2.2 billion over the previous month. However, cumulative export for the period of January to October dropped by 4% valued at RM 18.5 billion compared to the previous corresponding period in 2017.

SAWNTIMBER

Export of sawntimber in October 2018 increased 27% in volume and 22% in value to 193,766 m³ totalled RM368.0 million as compared to the previous month. Cumulative export for the first ten months of 2018 decreased 9% in volume and 4% in value to 1.6 million m³ worth RM3.1 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Export of sawntimber to the EU for the month increased 19% to 9,253 m³ from 7,778 m³ in the previous month due to improved purchases by major market in the region. Export to the Netherlands and UK increased 0.2% to 3,079 m³ and 44% to 1,949 m³ respectively. In addition, purchases made by France increased 10% to 1,208 m³ followed by Belgium with 76% to 1,213 m³.

Total exports to West Asia decreased slightly to 24,958 m³ from 25,013 m³ recorded in the previous month. Export to the UAE decreased 20% to 6,549 m³ followed by Yemen 42% to 4,254 m³ and Kuwait 58% to 230 m³. In the meanwhile, export to Oman and Saudi Arabia increased 54% to 7,472 m³ and 36% to 1,750 m³ respectively. Similarly, export to Bahrain and Qatar improved 71% and 130% to 1,279 m³ and 1,302 m³ respectively.

Buying from ASEAN increased 19% to 60,611 m³ from 51,150 m³ registered in the previous month. Export of sawntimber to Thailand, a major buyer of sawntimber from Malaysia improved 33% to 31,567 m³ from 23,716 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, export to Singapore increased 74% to 7,564 m³. Meanwhile, export to the Philippines declined 4% to 19,663 m³.

Shipments to East Asia increased 81% to 58,510 m³ from 32,295 m³ in the previous month. Export to China improved

147% to 43,334 m³ followed by South Korea 158% to 3,909 m³. However, export to Japan and Taiwan decreased 5% to 4,887 m³ and 24% to 5,971 m³ respectively.

Elsewhere, exports to the US increased 48% to 1,998 m³ whilst Australia declined 15% to 670 m³. Meanwhile, demand from South Africa increased 20% to 5,451 m³ from 4,556 m³ in the previous month.

The average FOB price of sawntimber decreased 4% to RM1,899 per m³ from RM 1,986 per m³ in the previous month. Price of Dark Red Meranti decreased 4% to RM2,687 per m³ from RM2,803 per m³ in the previous month. Price of Dark Red Meranti to the Netherlands declined 2% to RM3,733 per m³ from RM3,792 per m³ in the previous month. Keruing was traded at RM2,349 per m³, an increase of 8% from RM2,176 per m³ in the previous month.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Malaysia's exports of MDF for October 2018 increased 46% in volume and 39% in value compared to previous month. Export totalled 99,922 m³ at RM122.9 million.

Exports to East Asia registered an increase of 47% to 19,551 m³ from 13,343 m³ in the previous month. All destination of export showed positive growth with Japan increased by 35% to 16,662 m³, followed by South Korea with 126% to 848 m³. Exports to Taiwan and China including Hong Kong also have increased by 136% to 921 m³ and 373% to 1,120 m³ respectively.

Exports to West Asia also showed positive increased by 86% to 39,934 m³ from 21,466 m³ in the previous month. Export to the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait recorded positive growth of 19% to 13,881 m³, 98% to 338 m³, 102% to 2,999 m³ and 242% to 2,683 m³ respectively. In contrast, export to Bahrain, Oman and Jordan decreased by 30% to 953 m³, 47% to 964 m³ and 67% to 399 m³ respectively. Furthermore, Lebanon and Syria resume it purchases.

In addition, export to South Asia recorded negative growth by 11% to 9,761 m³. Export to India decreased by 17% to 4,528 m³. Contrarily, Pakistan and Sri Lanka increased by 54% to 5,150 m³ and 221% to 83 m³ respectively. Bangladesh did not make any purchase.

Elsewhere, exports to Australia, the US and UK increase by 8% to 2,375 m³, 120% to 2,567 m³ and 273% to 321 m³ respectively. However, export to South Africa and Mauritius showed negative growth by 42% to 428 m³ and 46% to 61 m³ respectively.

In ASEAN, total export increased by 27% to 20,289 m³ from 15,959 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Indonesia and Viet Nam have increased by 25% to 4,821 m³ and 59% to 10,745 m³ respectively. However, the Philippines and Singapore decreased by 18% to 3,974 m³ and 70% to 54 m³ respectively.

The FOB price of MDF decreased to RM1,230 per m³ from RM1,300 per m³, a decrease of 5% from the previous month.

PLYWOOD

Export of plywood in October 2018 increased in volume and value by 25% and 24% to 199,572 m³ at RM 448.5 million compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, cumulative export for January to October 2018 decreased 12% in volume but increased in value by 1% in value to 1.8 million m³ totalled at RM 3.9 billion over the previous corresponding period.

EU countries have reduced their intake of plywood by 48% to 4,087 m³. The UK, the major buyer of Malaysian plywood has decreased its intake by 60% to 2,698 m³. Similarly, Belgium, Italy and Denmark also have reduced its intake by 2%, 26% and 68% to 130 m³, 42 m³ and 121 m³ respectively. In contrast, Ireland and the Netherlands have increased its imports of Malaysian plywood by 130% and 57% to 555 m³ and 455 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, France and Germany did not make any purchases for this month.

Exports to ASEAN and East Asia region recorded an increase by 23% with 145,550 m³ compared to previous month. In East Asia region, Japan as the main importer of Malaysian plywood increased its intake by 34% to 113,830 m³. Similarly, South Korea, Taiwan, China and Hong Kong have increased their intake by 15%, 15%, 3% and 1% to 13,887 m³; 7,220 m³; 2,128 m³ and 1,271 m³ respectively for this month. Meanwhile, Malaysia's plywood trade with its ASEAN partners showed downward trend this month. Exports to Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam have decreased by 51%, 8%, 8% and 19% to 3,185 m³; 1,255 m³; 1,766 m³ and 537 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Indonesia does not make any purchase this month.

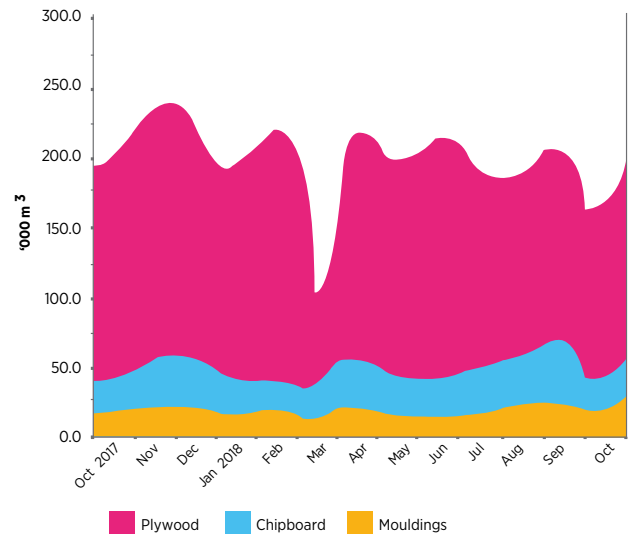
Exports to West Asia countries recorded an increase by 144% to 27,302 m³ as compared to the previous month. Exports to Yemen, the UAE and Bahrain have increased by 315%, 389% and 253% to 22,209 m³, 1,246 m³ and 300 m³ respectively. Similarly, exports to Kuwait and Qatar have increased by 207% and 100% to 354 m³ and 251 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia reduced its intake by 63% to 1,360 m³.

Export of plywood to the Americas region decreased by 3% to 14,858 m³ as compared to the previous month. The US has reduced its intake of plywood by 26% to 10,558 m³. Contrarily, Mexico and Canada have increased its intake by 366% and 22% to 4,057 m³ and 243 m³ respectively. Moving to Oceania region, Australia and New Zealand recorded an increase in its intake of plywood by 5% and 469% to 3,510 m³ and 489 m³ respectively.

Exports to African continent increased by 3% to 1,387 m³ for this month. South Africa and Mauritius have increased its intake of plywood by 12% and 100% to 384 m³ and 43 m³ respectively while Algeria does not make any purchase this month. Elsewhere, Turkey also does not made any purchase this month.

Malaysia : Export of Plywood, Chipboard and Mouldings

(Oct 2017-Oct 2018/Volume ('000m³)



MOULDINGS

Exports of mouldings for the month increased by 68% in volume and 19% in value to 30,675 m³ and RM80.0 million respectively. However, cumulative exports for the period of January to October 2018 increased by 7% in volume and 4% in value to 210,748 m³ and RM729.7 million as compared to the previous corresponding period in 2017.

Exports to the EU for the month recorded at 8,129 m³, an increase of 22% compared to the previous month. Germany, Belgium, the UK and Netherlands increased their purchases by 55%, 55%, 28% and 20% to 1,113 m³, 691 m³, 637 m³ and 4,812 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Italy did not made any purchases for the month.

Exports to ASEAN region increased as Singapore and Indonesia improved its purchases by 50% and 20% to 1,542 m³ and 66 m³ respectively. However, Viet Nam intake of mouldings decreased by 72% to 769 m³ compared to the previous month.

Meanwhile, South Korea and China increased their intake by 27% and 26% to 1,556 m³ and 574 m³ respectively. Hong Kong and Japan decrease their purchases by 48% and 16% to 164 m³ and 1,783 m³ respectively. However, Taiwan resumed its purchases by 55 m³.

Elsewhere, export to Australia and the US increased by 376% and 10% to 12,404 m³ and 2,017 m³ respectively. However, Canada reduced its purchases by 23% to 61 m³ compared to the previous month.

FOB unit value decreased 29% to RM2,607 per m³ compared to RM3,688 per m³ in the previous month.

VENEER

Export of veneer for October 2018 increased both by volume and value by 25% and 35% to 17,300 m³ at RM33.6 million as compared to the previous month. Cumulative

OCTOBER 2018

The supply of logs was reported sufficiently in Peninsular Malaysia.

LOGS

Log prices for the species of Chengal and Balau stood firm at RM4,500 per tonne and RM3,200 per tonne respectively. Price of Keruing increased slightly by 4% to RM1,300 per tonne. Meanwhile, the prices of Kempas and Kapur continued to be traded at RM1,900 per tonne and RM1,700 per tonne respectively. Similarly, the prices for Dark Red Meranti and Red Meranti remained at RM2,100 per tonne and RM1,800 per tonne respectively. On the other hand, logs prices for Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood remained at RM940 per tonne and RM900 per tonne respectively.

PLYWOOD

The supply of plywood to the domestic market remained adequate for the month under review. Plywood of 4 mm, 6 mm, 9 mm and 12 mm of thicknesses were continued to be traded at RM14.60, RM22.00, RM38.00 and RM48.00 per piece respectively.

The supply of MDF was reported to suffice the need of the local market. According to the industry sources, there was an increase in competition among the newcomers. The MDF prices fell slightly by 0.9% to 1.5% on average for the month under review. MDF of 4 mm, 6 mm, 9 mm and 12 mm of thicknesses were traded at RM13.30, RM17.00, RM23.00 and RM30.00 per piece respectively.

SAWNTIMBER

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

The sawntimber prices of Chengal and Red Balau increased slightly by 0.5% and 2.3% to RM6,956 per m³ and RM3,107 per m³ over the previous month. Similarly, the prices for Keruing and Mengkulang increased slightly by 4.7% and 1.6% to RM1,271 per m³ and RM2,225 per m³ over the previous month. Prices for Dark Red Meranti and Red Meranti, however, remained at RM2,036 per m³ and RM1,977 per m³ respectively. On the other hand, sawntimber prices of Mixed Heavy Hardwood increased by 0.5% to RM980 per m³ whilst Mixed Light Hardwood continued to chart at RM918 per m³ for this month.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE - OCTOBER 2018

From	Product	SEP 2018		OCT 2018		% Change In Volume Sep 2018 / Oct 2018	% Change In Value Sep 2018 / Oct 2018
		Volume (m ³)	Value (RM '000)	Volume (m ³)	Value (RM '000)		
SABAH	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	962	824	528	1,131	-45	37
	Plywood	3,041	6,399	7,301	16,282	140	154
	Veneer	0	0	0	0	0	0
SARAWAK	Logs	612	945	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	0	0	1,093	1,644	100	100
	Plywood	3,141	4,149	4,649	6,456	48	56
	Veneer	6,336	9,246	4,774	6,868	-25	-26

Source : Department of Statistics, Malaysia

The shipments of sawntimber in October from Sabah to Peninsular Malaysia drop by double digits or 45% in volume to 528 m³ from 962 m³ in September worth at RM1.1 million. Meanwhile, trade of plywood increased by more than 100% to 7,301 m³ worth at RM16.3 million.

The trade of sawntimber from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia resumed to 1,093 m³ in volume worth at RM1.6 million. Meanwhile, shipment plywood jumped

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE *

- OCTOBER 2018

to 48% in volume from 3,141 m³ to 4,649 m³ worth at RM6.5 million. However, trade of veneer dropped by 25% in volume from 6,336 m³ to 4,774 m³ worth at RM6.9 million.

No intra trade from Peninsular Malaysia to Sabah and Sarawak was recorded in October 2018.

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

*AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWNTIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA OCTOBER 2018 (VALUE IN RM)

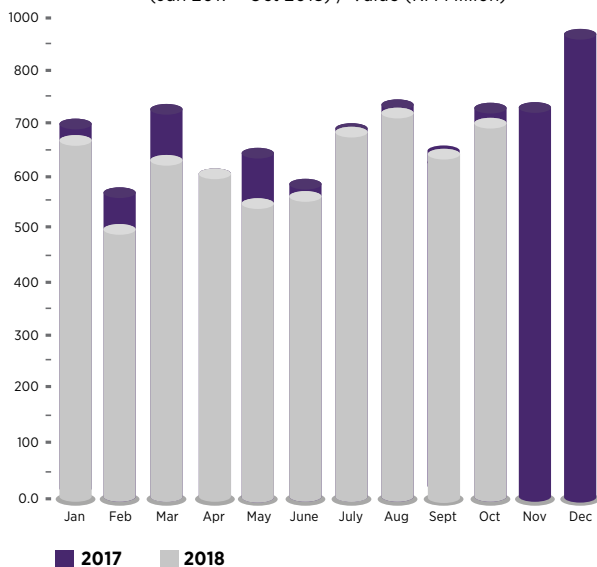
SPECIES	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS		SCANTLINGS
HEAVY HARDWOOD					
Chengal	4,500	6,956	5,508		7,521
Balau	3,200	3,390	2,825		2,743
Red Balau	2,200	3,107	2,648		3,355
Merbau	3,100	4,641	3,390		3,955
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	940	980	812		989
MEDIUM HARDWOOD					
Keruing	1,300	1,271	1,095		2,203
Kempas	1,900	2,436	2,331		2,472
Kapur	1,700	1,746	1,412		1,766
Mengkulang	1,350	2,225	1,081		2,126
Tualang	1,400	2,507	2,331		2,493
LIGHT HARDWOOD					
Dark Red Meranti	2,100	2,036	1,695		3,001
Red Meranti	1,800	1,977	1,730		2,189
Yellow Meranti	1,200	1,554	1,236		1,271
White Meranti	1,480	2,472	1,412		2,260
Mersawa	1,650	1,836	1,624		2,048
Nyato	1,300	1,518	1,059		1,130
Sepetir	1,370	1,695	1,003		1,660
Jelutong	1,140	1,780	1,215		1,730
Mixed Light Hardwood	900	918	742		975
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD <i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
	180	1" X 1"	2" X 2"	3" X 3"	4" X 4"
		1,126	1,236	1,372	1,571
PLYWOOD 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm		12mm
	14.60	22.00	38.00		48.00
MDF 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm		12mm
	13.30	17.00	23.00		30.00

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

* Prices are only indicative

Cont. from page 11

Malaysia : Export of Wooden Furniture (Jan 2017 - Oct 2018) / Value (RM Million)



Source : Department of Statistics, Malaysia

export for the first 10 months of 2018 decreased 11% in volume and 2% in value to 157,766 m³ worth RM260.5 million over the previous corresponding period.

Exports to South Korea and India have increased by 72% and 51% to 7,950 m³ and 271 m³ respectively. Similarly, Singapore, Australia and Italy have increased its intake of veneer by 1,738%, 34% and 307% to 147 m³; 222 m³ and 57 m³ respectively.

In contrast, China and Taiwan have reduced its intake of veneer by 21% and 13% to 1,758 m³ and 4,061 m³ respectively. Exports to the Philippines and Canada also have reduced by 3% and 77% to 897 m³ and 3 m³ respectively. On the other hand, Viet Nam and Chile did not make any purchase this month.

The FOB price of veneer for October 2018 is at RM1,940 per m³, an increase of 8% from RM1,797 per m³ on the previous month.

BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

Total BJC cumulative exports from January to October 2018 decreased 12% to RM890.6 million as compared to RM1.0 billion in the corresponding period last year. Export to the EU increased 1% to RM300.9 million. Export to the Netherlands, France and Denmark increased by 130%, 48% and 17% to RM21.9 million, RM34.9 million and RM22.2 million respectively. Meanwhile, export to Turkey, Sweden, Germany, the UK, Italy and Belgium decreased by 82%, 46%, 20%, 14%, 11% and 4% to RM1.4 million, RM3.2 million, RM21.7 million, RM118.8 million, RM5.7 million and RM44.5 million compared to the previous year.

In Asia, exports to Pakistan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan and India decreased by 89%, 52%, 47%, 46% and 41% to RM3.3 million, RM875.0 thousand, RM1.2 million, RM7.9 million and RM27.3 million respectively. Similarly, exports to Thailand, Singapore, the UAE, Japan and Viet Nam also decreased by 31%, 24%, 14%, 10% and 5% to RM19.0 million, RM77.8 million, RM5.5 million, RM60.4

million and RM33.2 million respectively. However, Qatar resumed its purchases meanwhile Bahrain did not make any purchases.

Exports to Mauritius and South Africa have increased by 226% and 8% to RM723.5 thousand and RM16.3 million respectively compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, exports to Reunion Island and Australia decreased by 99% and 2% to RM19.6 thousand and RM172.9 million respectively. On the other hand, the US increased its intake by 12% to RM97.7 million from RM87.1 million in the previous corresponding period.

FURNITURE

Exports of wooden and rattan furniture for the period under review in 2018 decreased 5% compared to the corresponding period of 2017. Total shipment recorded RM6.4 billion against RM6.7 billion in corresponding period of 2017.

The US reduced its wooden furniture consumption by 8%, into RM2.3 billion in 2018 from RM2.5 billion. Demand from Canada decreased 6% to RM219.6 million from RM232.9 million in the previous corresponding period. Australia also reduced its intake of wooden furniture by 10% to RM444.2 million.

In East Asia, China boosted its wooden furniture consumption by 33% to RM196.1 million in 2018 from RM147.1 million in 2017. Meanwhile, Japan and South Korea reduced its consumption by 10% and 17% to RM480.9 million and RM78.6 million respectively.

On the other hand, shipments to ASEAN countries such as Singapore improved by 2% to RM371.1 million followed by the Philippines by 16% to RM175.9 million.

Elsewhere, exports to the UAE and Saudi Arabia decreased by 30% and 17% to RM107.8 million and RM102.3 million respectively. Similarly, Kuwait and Bahrain also decreased their wooden furniture consumption by 7% and 26% to RM36.7 million and RM14.6 million respectively. On the other hand, shipments to Qatar increased 42% to RM16.7 million compared to the previous corresponding period. Meanwhile, shipment to India also recorded an increase of 16% to RM191.7million.

In Europe, the UK and Belgium reduced its intake by 13% and 7% to RM313.6 million and RM31.2 million. Meanwhile, France increased their import by 4% to RM55.8 million respectively. Similarly, export to South Africa increased 21% to RM66.5 million compared to the previous year.

Rattan furniture shipments in October 2018 recorded a negative growth of 82% from RM15.2 million to RM2.7 million.

Japan is the main importer of rattan furniture with an increase of 20% in value worth RM421 thousand. Similarly, export to Belgium increased by 100% to RM49 thousand. Meanwhile, exports to Singapore, the UK and Australia decreased by 95%, 58% and 97% to RM93 thousand, RM261 thousand and RM53 thousand respectively. Meanwhile, other major countries did not make any purchase in October 2018.

SYMPOSIUM ON APPLICATION OF ENGINEERED TIMBER PRODUCTS TOWARDS HIGH RISE BUILDINGS

news



YBhg. Dato' Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General presenting his paper.

Glued laminated timber (glulam) and cross laminated timber (CLT) are amongst the most popular engineered timber products which are widely being used in environmental friendly high rise buildings by Europe, North America, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Realising the potential of such high value-added products for the construction industry in Malaysia, MTIB in collaboration with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) organised the International Symposium on Application of Engineered Timber Products towards High Rise Buildings - Challenges and Opportunities. The symposium was held on 15 November in Kuala Lumpur. The objectives of symposium were to enhance the community's knowledge on engineered timber products, address issues and challenges on using timber in the construction industry, and enhance the use of engineered wood products as Industrial Building System (IBS) thus reducing the rate of foreign labour forces in the construction industry and improving the use of sustainable building products from certified sources.

The symposium was officiated by YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries. In her speech, YB Puan Teresa highlighted that the timber industry has provided 240,000 job opportunities with a domestic investment of RM503.7 million and FDI of RM144.5 million from a total investment of RM648.2 million in 2017. She further added that based on the statistics by Department of Statistics Malaysia structural timber represented only 10% of the total construction materials used. This was possibly due to several perceptions such as timber is expensive, it is less durable, it is susceptible to termites and fungi, it is less resistant to fire and considered to be a combustible/flammable material. It was believed that the categorization of wood as a combustible material in the Uniform Building By-Laws 1984 (UBBL) was the main reason hindering the use of wood as structure material thus making it difficult to obtain approval from the Fire and Rescue Department (BOMBA). To overcome this problem, a working Committee was established by MTIB with relevant experts from the Ministry of Housing and Local Authority (KPKT), Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), Public Works Department (JKR), Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM), Institute of Engineers Malaysia (IEM) and UiTM revise and ensure the UBBL does not discriminate timber for construction.

Four international speakers from the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia and Estonia as well as two local speakers were invited to present their papers at the event. The first paper entitled Overview on the Application of Engineered Timber Products as Load Bearing Structures in Malaysia was presented by YBhg. Dato' Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, Director-General of MTIB. In his presentation, he noted that MTIB with a strong support from JKR as well as technical experts from the UK, Australia, UPM, USM, UiTM and FRIM has taken the initiative in pioneering the construction of the first commercial glulam building in Johor, Malaysia to showcase the use of glulam as portal frames and load bearing structures using tropical timbers. He stated that the completed project had been handed over from JKR to MTIB in December 2011. As a spin-off effect from

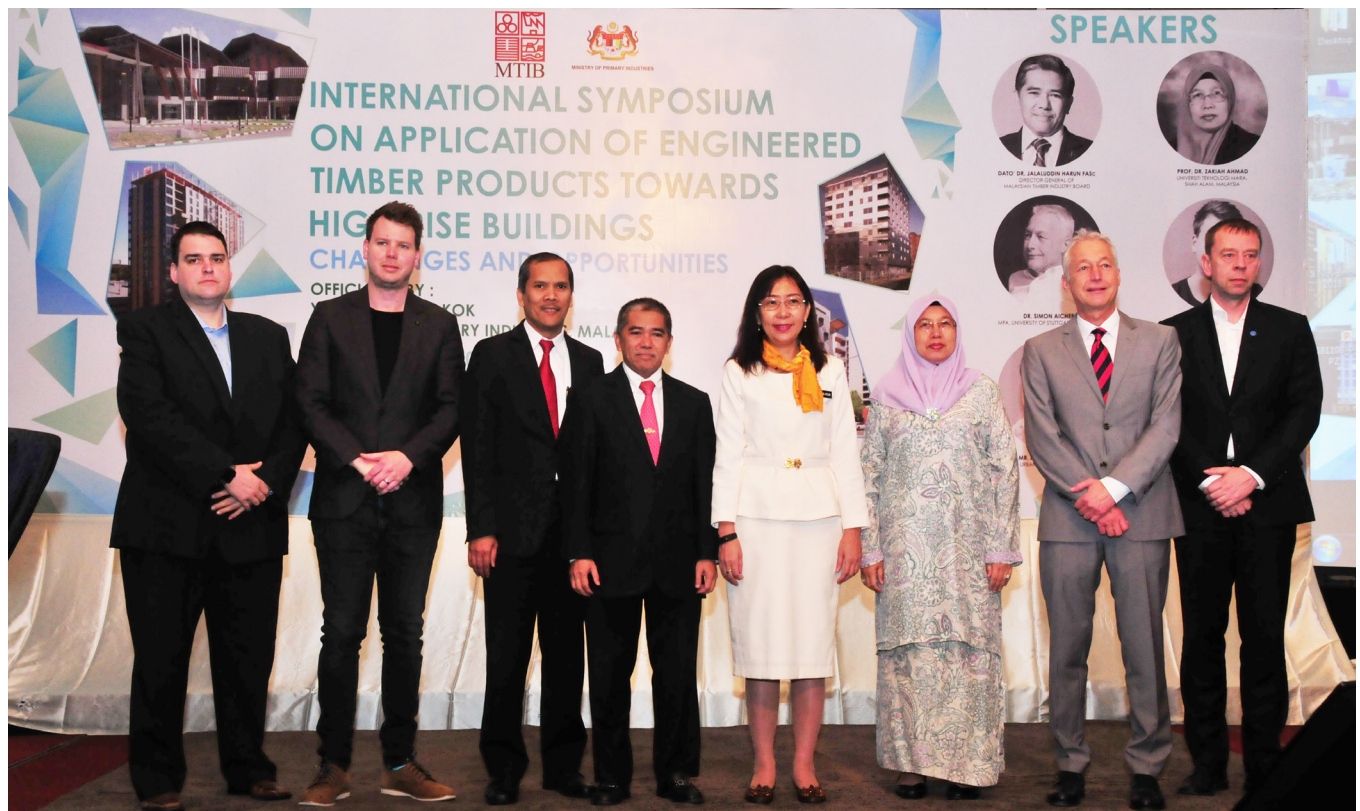
Cont. from previous page

the project, many projects using glulam have been constructed. These included the Malaysian Pavilion for International Exposition Milano 2015, Italy under MITI/MATRADE; Crops-for-Future-Research-Center (CFFRC); Ritz Carlton Hotel, Langkawi; Kukup Island National Park; and the multipurpose hall for the Malaysian Navy Base in Lumut.

Dr. Simon Aicher from MPA, University of Stuttgart, Germany, who is currently working closely with MTIB and UiTM on several R&D&C projects related to tropical hardwoods, presented a paper on the types of engineered products such as cross laminated timber (CLT), Keel web, laminated veneer lumber and glue laminated timber for mid and high rise buildings in the European market whilst Prof. Dr. Zakiah Ahmad from UiTM updated the participants on the outcome of the MTIB and UiTM R&D which involved real size specimens testing data from 10 selected timber species from Malaysia; consequently the data can be used in the classification of tropical timbers in various standards such as Malaysian Standards (MS), EN as well as ISO standards. She also stated that with the availability of testing data for tropical timbers as well as the revision of the UBBL 1984, it is hoped the applications of engineered timber products from tropical hardwoods will further heighten the

understanding of structural engineers. The data will also be used in achieving the performance and efficiency in building forms being demanded in the 21st century and will widen the application of IBS engineered timber products such as glulam and CLT in Malaysia as well as international market. Prof Dr. Alar Just shared with the participants on the latest development of Eurocode 5 as well as the testing of structural timber buildings as part of the requirements in Eurocode 5 to obtain approval by the fire and rescue department. Mr. Philipp Zumbrunnen presented a paper entitled 15 Years Experience With Modern Solid Timber Structures in UK which reflected his own experience in residence and commercial timber building constructions whilst Mr. Tim Crawshaw presented a paper related to the applications of engineered timber products in Australia. It was quite an eye opener for the participants since most of the CLT being used in Australia were imported from Austria.

The organisation of the symposium was in line with the National Timber Industry Policy's aspiration towards achieving an export value of RM25 billion in 2020 as well as the government's plan in the transformation of Malaysia's construction industry towards Quality, Safety & Professionalism;



YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries (fourth from right) posing with speakers.

COLLOQUIUM FOREST PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

news



YBhg. Dato' Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General delivering his opening speech.

Dato' Dr. Jalaluddin in his opening speech urged that PPLH borrowers to increase innovation in their respective plantation operations and monitoring especially large scale plantations in line with current global current trends leading towards the Industrial Revolution 4.0. Such innovations can enhance the growth monitoring process. He added that MTIB currently provides the services of the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)/ drone technology monitoring system to assist in optimising the various aspects of plantation operations which include planting, monitoring and harvesting.

Twelve speakers gave presentations as follows :

The Colloquium of Forest Plantation Development Program (PPLH) was officially launched by YBhg. Dato' Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, Director-General of MTIB on 12 November in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur. The seminar was jointly organised by MTIB and Forest Plantation Development Sdn Bhd (FPDSB); MTIB's wholly-own subsidiary which implements PPLH programme.

- Presentation 1: Forest Plantation Development in Malaysia (Status, Issues and Challenges) by representatives from Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia (JPSM) and representatives from Sarawak Forestry Department.
- Presentation 2: Briefing on Clauses in PPLH Facility Agreement and Responsibilities of Borrower by representative from FPDSB Lawyer Panel

The event was part of effort by MTIB and FPDSB to assist in improving the implementation of the PPLH Programme, in particular in the field of plantation operations to ensure the development target of 130,000 hectares of forest plantations by year 2022 is achieved. The main objective of the colloquium is a sharing platform on latest information and networking session between PPLH borrowers throughout Malaysia. In addition, this colloquium was to act as a platform for information exchanges and networking between PPLH borrowers throughout Malaysia. In addition, the colloquium aimed to give the borrowers an opportunity to address issues pertaining to their plantation operations. At the same time, it provides the Ministry of Primary Industries with updates on the borrowers.



YBhg. Dato' Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General together with Cik Hjh Robiyah Husin (Director of Forest Plantation Division, MTIB) and Cik Hillary Chiew (Chairman of FPDSB) during the round table session with the borrowing companies.

Cont. from previous page

- Presentation 3 : Occupational Safety and Health Requirement in Forest Plantation by representative from Global Institute of Safety Management
- Presentation 4 : Recent Technologies Use in Forest Plantation Monitoring; by representatives speakers from Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia, Civil Aviation of Authority Malaysia, Malaysian Remote Sensing Agency, Geoprecision Tech Sdn. Bhd.
- Presentation 5 : Procedures and Issues Related to Application of Foreign Workers by representatives from Ministry of Home Affairs (KDN) and Department of Labour Peninsular Malaysia (JTKSM)
- Presentation 6 : Importance of Insurance and

Insurance Claims Procedure by representative from Aneka Insurance Broker Sdn. Bhd.

- Presentation 7 : Status and Prospects of Rubber Prices, by representative from Malaysian Rubber Board

Among the main issues raised by PPLH borrowers were the lack of foreign workers and foreign labour recruitment procedures to be taken. The issues raised were answered by the representatives from KDN and JTKSM.

The colloquium was attended by more than 80 participants which included the PPLH borrowers and representatives from related government departments and agencies.



Group photo with the borrowing companies and participants.



Malaysian Wood
Standing on Excellence

Dari Mata Turun ke Hati
Appealing to the Eye, Capturing the Heart

www.mtib.gov.my



PUBLIC COMMENT ON MALAYSIAN STANDARD DRAFT ON LAMINATED BAMBOO FOR GENERAL USE - SPECIFICATIONS

news

In 2013, MTIB was appointed as a Standards Development Agency (SDA) for timber, timber products and timber structures. SDA is responsible for the management as well as the development of standards at both national and international levels. As part of its efforts, MTIB is currently in the process of developing a new Malaysian Standard (MS) titled "Laminated Bamboo for General Use - Specifications". This MS establishes the specification requirements for laminated bamboo for general usage. This standard includes requirements for the bamboo strips; the dimensions and tolerances, the grades, the glue bond, the lay-up (construction), and the markings. Products specified under this standard are used indoor applications as well as semi-outdoor (under the shade), provided that they are not exposed to wet conditions for a long period of time.

In the development process of the MS, some procedures need to be followed including the public comment stage to ensure the standards developed and published are at par with international excellence and are also relevant to the specific needs of the industry. The period of public comment is two months (60 days) to allow for the submission of comments on the MS draft on laminated bamboo by interested parties. The standard is opened for public comment from 11 October to 9 December 2018. All views and comments received during this period will be deliberated by the relevant committee and further drafting will be made, if necessary.

Realising the importance of new standards in the bamboo industry and in line with MTIB's role as an SDA, MTIB organised a half-day consultation session with the industry to invite public comment on the Malaysian Standard Draft (DMS) "Laminated Bamboo for General Use - Specifications" on 29



Partial attendees during the event.

November in Putrajaya. The session was chaired by Tuan Haji Mahpar Atan, MTIB Director of Industry Development. Tuan Haji Mahpar highlighted the importance of standards to enable bamboo to be recognised and used in global market. The main key aims of the consultation were to update the timber industry and stakeholders on the deliberation progress of the new MS as well as to obtain feedback and comments on the MS draft to enhance the Standard usage among industry players.

During the session, the invited speaker were Prof. Dr. Paridah Md Tahir from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) as Chairman of Working Group on laminated bamboo, who gave a detailed description of the content of the standard. All comments received during the question and answer session will be further reviewed by a separate working group which will comprise experts from Forest Research Institute Malaysia, MTIB, UPM, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Bamboo Bio-Composite Sdn. Bhd. and One-Tech (M) Sdn. Bhd. The consultation was attended by 70 participants from the respective industries, higher learning institutions and relevant government agencies, including MTIB.

13TH MEETING OF TASK FORCE ON WOOD-BASED PRODUCTS AND COOPERATION PROGRAMMES

news



Group photo of TFWPP delegates.

As a follow up from the 40th WG1 meeting held in Singapore, the 41st Meeting of the ACCSQ WG 1 on Standards and its related events was held on 21-22 November in Bangkok, Thailand. The following events were scheduled at the same venue, in conjunction with the Meeting:

- a) Workshop on ISO New Work Item Proposal (NP) and the Roles and Responsibilities of Project Leader (PL), 19 November 2018
- b) 13th Meeting of the Task Force on Wood-based Products (TFWBP), 20 November 2018
- c) Workshop on Enhancing Harmonisation of Standards in ASEAN, 22-23 November 2018

The WG1 Meeting was officially opened by Mr. Chaivavat Tangkrock-olan, Director, International Affairs Division, Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI), Ministry of Industry, Thailand. Mr. Tangkrock-olan highlighted the important role of WG1 in reducing Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) to further enhance trade facilitation and commended its initiative in identifying new areas for harmonisation, such as digital economy, energy efficiency and sustainability, smart cities and smart manufacturing. The 13th Meeting of the Task Force on Wood-based Products was chaired by Puan Hj. Mahsuri Mat Dris, Senior Deputy Director, Malaysian Timber Industry Board, Malaysia and vice-chaired by Engr. Mario

U. Gaudiano, Division Chief, Bureau of Philippine Standards, Philippines.

HARMONISATION OF STANDARDS OF THE WOOD-BASED PRODUCTS SECTOR IN ASEAN

The revised template for harmonisation on wood-based standards based on the agreed 45 items which will be categorised into test methods, products specification and others were deliberated during the meeting. Taking into consideration the difficulties in harmonisation of standards under the TFWBP, Malaysia prepared a concept note on “Development of ASEAN

Harmonised Standard for Plywood through Adoption or Modification of ISO Standard” as proposed during the previous TFWBP Meeting.

The WG1 Meeting discussed the Concept Note at length, including the approach on the ASEAN harmonised standard for plywood or revising the ISO 12465, and advised the TFWBP as follows:

- i. Currently, under the ToR of ACCSQ and WG1 there is no provision for the development of regional standards, hence it would take some time to develop such a function within ACCSQ.
- ii. The Meeting advised TFWBP to consider



TFWBP Meeting in session.

Cont. from previous page

developing harmonised national annexes detailing the modifications to complement the adoption of relevant international standards.

- iii. To help TFWBP in this process, the Meeting advised requesting Dialogue Partners (DPs) such as EU ARISE or PTB to conduct workshops on how to develop harmonised national annexes.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR WOOD-BASED PRODUCT SECTOR

Malaysia presented the Master List of Training Needs for TFWBP, with references to the consolidated training needs on wood-based products submitted by Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Chair shared with JISC and ISO REI-Asia the Master List of Training Needs gathered from AMS. The Chair also shared with JISC and ISO REI-Asia the background of TFWBP and its works, which included the TFWBP's TOR and list of 45 potential standards for harmonisation, and its challenges, which are mainly due to the different levels of correspondence on ISO standards among AMS.

The Philippines informed the Meeting of the technical regulations on marking and labeling for plywood which has been imposed in the Philippines since 2015, with regard to limit formaldehyde emissions limits in accordance with its performance classes as follows:

1. FE****, "FE****";
2. FE***, "FE***";
3. FE**, "FE**", and
4. FE*, "FE*"

With regard to conformity assessment bodies located outside the Philippines, the country confirmed that they only recognised testing-laboratory results issued by laboratories accredited to ISO 17025 provided necessary Philippine National Standards (PNS) are included in the scope of the accreditation of the testing laboratories. PNS will also subsequently be updated to reflect the latest standards adopted by Bureau Philippines Standards (BPS) as PNS, as follows:

- a. PNS ISO 12465:2017 Plywood-Specifications
The marking and the accompanying information shall be placed on the product itself, on a label attached to it, on its packaging, or in the accompanying commercial documents.

- b. PNS 2103:2017 Plywood – Formaldehyde Emission – Specification

WORKSHOP ON ISO NEW WORK ITEM PROPOSAL (NP) AND THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROJECT LEADER (PL)

Mr. Kolin Low and Mr. Kentaro Tsunozaki shared the outcome of the *Workshop on ISO New Work Item Proposal (NP) and the Roles and Responsibilities of Project Leader (PL)* held on 19 November in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop aimed to disseminate knowledge and good practices on proposing new work items for international standardisation work. This workshop also aimed to improve the collaboration between AMS and Japan and it was facilitated by the following Experts:

- i. Kentaro Tsunozaki, Assistant Director, International Standardisation Office, JISC Secretariat
- ii. Koichi Matsumoto, Manager, Standardisation Support Unit, Japanese Standards Association (JSA)
- iii. Koichi Matsuoka, Specialist, International Standardisation Unit, Japanese Standards Association (JSA)
- iv. Takeyasu Kikuchi, CEO, WPC Corporation, Japan
- v. Prof Dr Zakiah Ahmad, Dean of Faculty of Civil Engineering, Universiti Teknologi MARA
- vi. Dr Anna Caterina Rossi, Technical Programme Manager, ISO Central Secretariat (remote presentation from Geneva)
- vii. Kolin Low, Regional Manager, ISO Regional Engagement – Asia

Mr. Kikuchi highlighted the importance of government/NSB support to ensure the success of industry-led standards, which in turn support internationalisation of new technology, close communication with peers to garner support to NP. Prof Zakiah highlighted the importance of scientific research, needs to address requirements specific to tropical countries, use of standards to convince regulators especially relating to safety.

On phase 2 training to be collaborated between JISC and ISO REI-Asia and TFWBP. The Meeting agreed on the following identified activities for future collaboration:

- i. Stakeholder engagement
- ii. Hands-on practice of NP
- iii. Study visit to Japan

Cont. next page

Cont. from previous page

- iv. Project management and monitoring
- v. National adoption
- vi. Inspecting and testing of wood products
- vii. Green building

Combining the 7 activities identified above, JISC and ISO REI-Asia may prioritise the training programme for TFWBP. JISC and ISO REI-Asia will study the list with the identified activities and propose the training activities, including the training to be liaised with WTO, or funding by other bodies such as Japan ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

JISC and ISO REI-Asia presented information on status regarding the development of ISO standards of the following items:

- Wood Plastic Composite (WPC)
- Bamboo and Rattan
- Chain of Custody in wood-based products
- Timber structure

The Meeting agreed to explore future cooperation between TFWBP members and JISC and ISO REI-Asia to develop above ISO standards.

NEW AREAS FOR HARMONISATION

Besides the existing areas, the WG1 Meeting also updated the participating member states of each study group in new areas for harmonisation as per

the table below:

New Areas	Member States
Digital trade	Singapore (Lead) Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand
Energy efficiency/ renewable energy	Malaysia (Lead TBC) Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei Darussalam (TBC)
Smart cities	Indonesia (Lead) Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Philippines Singapore, Viet Nam
Smart manufacturing	Philippines (Lead) Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam (TBC)

The WG 1 Meeting was attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat. Representatives from Physikalische-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) Germany, ISO Regional Engagement Initiative - Asia (ISO REI - Asia) and Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC), and ASEAN Regional Integration Support by EU (ARISE Plus) also attended the Meeting under the specific agenda items.

The Meeting expressed its appreciation to Viet Nam for confirming the hosting of the 42nd WG 1 Meeting, tentatively scheduled for early May 2019. 

Timber News

Cont. from page 16

Productivity; Environmental Sustainability and Internationalisation as outlined in the Construction Industry Transformation Plan (CITP 2016-2020), National IBS Roadmap (2011-2015) and IBS Roadmap for Timber (2013-2023). This was also in line with the government's policy to use 70% of IBS content in government projects and 50% for private projects. As a follow up from the symposium, a dialogue was held on 16 November involving MTIB, invited speakers, Ministry of Housing and Local Authorities, BOMBA as well as the working committee on the revision of the UBBL in identifying further relevant steps to obtain support from the authorities in using

timber in high buildings in Malaysia and how the contents of the proposed revision of UBBL could be used by the BOMBA in approving the applications for the use of timber in multistorey constructions in Malaysia.

The symposium was attended by approximately 300 participants comprising representatives from relevant stakeholders such as timber industry players, engineers, architects, developers and builders as well as government agencies, academia, associations and policy makers including BOMBA. 

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON TIMBER (ISO/TC 218)

news



Attendees during the meeting.

The committee of ISO TC 218: Timber that was established 20 years ago, is responsible for the development of standards for round, sawn and processed timber, and timber materials used in all aspects of applications including terminology, specifications and test methods. As of October 2018, a total of 63 ISO Standards have been published and seven ISO standards are at different stages of development.

ISO Standards under ISO/TC 218	
63 ISO Standard published	7 ISO Standards under development

The 17th Meeting of the ISO/TC 218: Timber was convened from 15 to 20 October 2018 in Hangzhou, China and hosted by the Standardisation Administration of the People's Republic of China. The meeting was chaired by Professor Oleksii Tsytsyliano from Ukraine and officially opened by Mr. Huang Faqiang, Vice Director of Science and Technology Department of National Forestry and Grassland Administration of the People's Republic of China. In his speech, Mr. Huang highlighted the crucial role of International Standards as an acceleration tool for the fourth industrial revolution which is part of the standardisation strategy in the China Revolution Plan.

During the 17th plenary meeting, each convener

of working groups (WGs) reported on the development of the respective WG activities and the status of the ISO standards that are being developed. The comments and amendments on the ISO standards were further deliberated in respective WG meetings. The Convenor of WG 4: Test Method, Prof. Dr. Paridah Md Tahir from Malaysia chaired the meeting on Standardisation of Test Methods for Physical and Mechanical Characteristics of Timber.

The ISO/TC 218 meeting concluded 20 resolutions as follow-up actions. At present, seven WGs are actively involved

in deliberations which includes:

- WG 1: Terminology
- WG 2: Round timber
- WG 3: Sawn and processed timber
- WG 4: Test method
- WG 5: Parquet flooring
- WG 6: Wooden products
- WG 7: Wood residue and post-consumer wood

Apart from the meeting, the delegation had the opportunity to visit Zhejiang Shiyong Timber Co., Ltd. one of the leading manufacturers of floorings and wall panels in China. The factory is located in Nanxun, Huzhou, Zhejiang province. The product range covers from engineered wood floorings, laminate floorings, vinyl floorings as well as wall panels.

A total of 53 international delegates attended the meeting from 11 countries namely, Belarus, Canada, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Sweden, Ukraine and United Republic of Tanzania. Malaysia was represented by four delegates comprising Prof. Dr. Paridah Md Tahir (Head of delegation) from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Assoc. Prof. Dr. H'ng Paik San from UPM, Encik Awang Mentali Awang Mohd Sulaiman from Sarawak Timber Industry Development Cooperation and Puan Nor Shahira Mat Nasir from MTIB. The next meeting tentatively will be held in October 2019.

FURNITURE TRAINING AT FIRA, LONDON

news



Discussion with Ergonomist on the children furniture.

The Fibre and Biocomposite Centre (FIDEC) was founded in 2007. It is the testing unit under MTIB, for wood-based products. To date several laboratories covering various fields such as mechanical, chemical, anatomy, polymer, and analytical have been developed and established. These laboratories mainly focus on wood-based-product testing and research & development activities. On 3 November 2014, FIDEC was certified as an accredited testing laboratory under the scope of ISO 17025 by Standard Malaysia. In early 2018, a furniture-testing laboratory was set-up to provide testing facilities for the furniture industry in Malaysia.

In conjunction with the establishment of the furniture-testing laboratory, a comprehensive training programme was held at the Furniture Industry Research Association (FIRA) International Limited, Stevenage, London, United Kingdom from 17 September to 5 October (Technical Personnel) and 15 October to 26 October (Quality Personnel). FIRA is one of the world's leading furniture technology centres. It was founded in 1949 to provide support the entire furniture supply chain, across all sectors in the United Kingdom.

The objectives of the technical training on furniture testing and laboratory quality management system training were to gain a better understanding of furniture testing procedures, documentations by providing “know-how” knowledge, experience sharing, case studies and enhancing laboratory personnel competency.

The programme was carried out in two parts: Technical and Laboratory Quality Management System. The Technical session was conducted by Mr. Lee Haines, the senior technical officer at the furniture testing laboratory. The hands-on training focused on mechanical and physical tests. The Laboratory Quality Management System session was led by Mr. Darren Hones, FIRA Quality Manager.

The technical training covered areas of principle, sample preparation, testing procedures, evaluation, sample measurement, analysis of result, calculation and reporting. The participants ran the tests according to British Standard such as below:



At the fabric testing laboratory.

Item	Standard
1	Bed and Bunk Bed : BS EN 747-1: 2012 + A1: 2015 – Furniture – Bunk Beds and High Beds Part 1 : Safety, Strength, Durability Requirements BS EN 747-2: 2012 + A1: 2015 – Furniture – Bunk Beds and High Beds Part 2 : Test Methods BS EN 1725: 1998 – Domestic Furniture – Beds and Mattresses – Safety Requirements and Test Methods
2	Seating – Introduction to Standard Office Chair, Domestic & Contract Use Seating BS EN 12520: 2015 – Furniture – Strength, Durability and Safety – Requirements for Domestic Seating BS EN 1022: 2005 Domestic Furniture - Seating - Determination of Stability BS EN 16139: 2013 Furniture - Strength, Durability and Safety - Requirements for Non-domestic Seating BS EN 1728: 2012 Furniture - Seating - Test Methods for the Determination of Strength and Durability BS 5459-2:2000 + A2:2008 Specification for Performance Requirements and Tests for Office Furniture. Office pedestal seating for use by persons weighing up to 150 kg and for use up to 24 hours a day, including type-approval tests for individual components
3	Seating – Educational Institutional Chair BS EN 1729-1: 2006 Furniture. Chairs and Tables for Educational Institutions. Functional Dimensions BS EN 1729-2: 2012 + A1: 2015 Furniture. Chairs and Tables for Educational Institutions. Safety Requirements and Test Methods
4	Cabinets/Storage BS 4875-7: 2006 Domestic and Contract Storage Furniture. Performance Requirements BS EN 14749: 2016 Furniture. Domestic and Kitchen Storage Units and Kitchen-worktops. Safety Requirements and Test Methods BS 6222-2: 2009 + A1: 2017 – Domestic Kitchen Equipment Part 2 : Fitted Kit BS EN 16121: 2013 Non-domestic Storage Furniture – Requirements for Safety, Strength, Durability and Stability BS EN 16122: 2012 Domestic and Non-domestic Storage Furniture – Test Methods for the Determination of Strength, Durability and Stability ISO 7170: 2005 Furniture – Storage Units – Determination of Strength and Durability
5	Tables BS EN 12521: 2015 Furniture. Strength, Durability and Safety Requirements for Domestic Tables BS EN 15372: 2015 Furniture. Strength, Durability and Safety Requirements for Non-domestic Tables BS EN 1730: 2012 Furniture. Tables. Test Methods for the Determination of Stability, Strength and Durability
6	Children's Furniture BS EN 8509: 2008 + A1: 2011 Children's Beds for Domestic Use. Safety Requirements and Test Methods BS EN 716 Parts 1: 2017 Furniture. Children's Cots and Folding Cots for Domestic Use. Safety Requirements BS EN 716 Parts 2: 2017 Furniture. Children's Cots and Folding Cots for Domestic Use. Test Methods FIRA-FRQG C001, C002, C003 and C004: 2016
7	Outdoor Furniture BS EN 581 Part 1: 2017 Outdoor Furniture. Seating and Tables for Camping, Domestic and Contract Use. General Safety Requirements BS EN 581 Part 2: 2015 Outdoor Furniture. Seating and Tables for Camping, Domestic and Contract Use. Mechanical Safety Requirements and Test Methods for Seating BS EN 581 Part 3: 2017 Outdoor Furniture. Seating and Tables for Camping, Domestic and Contract Use. Mechanical Safety Requirements for Tables.
8	Machine Calibration and Verification

The Laboratory Quality Management System training covers documentation, risk analysis, calibration planning and the auditing system. The training was conducted according to ISO 17025:2017 (referred as F93) such as below:

Scope of training

1	Laboratory Structure and the Roles of the Quality Manager and Technical Manager. Organisation Chart Job Descriptions
2	Laboratory Facilities Services and Supplies Approved Suppliers and Sub-contractors Equipment and Reference Materials
3	Calibration Programme Calibration and Equipment Records
4	Personnel Training and Training Records
5	Request, Tenders, Contracts, and Sub-contracting Documentation and Document Control

6	Non-conforming Work, Corrective, Preventative and improvement Actions Customer Complaints
7	Test and Calibration Methods Handling of Samples and Items
8	Management Controls- QC and Internal Audit Auditing Schedule Planning
9	Internal Audits Carrying Out an Internal Audit Audit Reports and Findings
10	Records and Reporting (Including Opinions and Interpretations)

Dr. Yeoh Beng Hoong, Encik Mohd Rozemy Bin Mohammad Ghazali and Encik Mohd Ridzuan Samsury attended the Technical session while Cik Zamzarina Ahmad and Puan Noridah Tahir attended the Laboratory Quality Management System session.

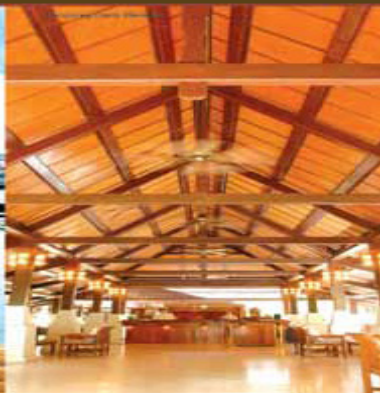
Malaysian Wood

Standing on Excellence



Multiple Uses, Variable Styles

Incomparable Malaysian Wood. Choice for those with exclusive preference. Pushing the frontier of imagination and creativity. Our Heritage, Our Pride.



Malaysian Timber Industry Board

Level 13 - 17, Menara PGRM
No. 8, Jalan Pudu Ulu, Cheras
P.O. Box 10887, 50728 Kuala Lumpur.
Tel : 603 - 9282 2235 (12 lines)
Fax : 603 - 9285 1477/ 9200 3769
E-mail : info@mtib.gov.my
Website : www.mtib.gov.my

Yes! I would like to know more of your services.

Please mail or fax back to us at:

Name : _____

Address : _____

Tel / Fax : _____

From which publications have you received our information?

NATIONAL CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR PLYWOOD

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

We committed:

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

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

Further enquiries or information kindly contact:

Product Certification Unit

Director-General Office

Malaysian Timber Industry Board

Level 13-17, Menara PGRM, No.8, Jalan Pudu Ulu, Cheras

P.O Box 10887, 50728 Kuala Lumpur

Tel: 603-9282 2235

Fax: 603-92003769/ 92846214

website: www.mtib.gov.my



MS ISO/IEC 17065:2012
PC 03042012 CB/06

IMPRESSIVE TRANSFORMS SDN. BHD. : RAW EXPERTISE

BACKGROUND

Impressive Transforms Sdn. Bhd. (ITSB) is a thriving, locally owned company operating as a critical component of the timber industry since its establishment in the Bukit Rambai Industrial Estate of Melaka in 2014, where the company has been producing sawntimber in untreated and kiln-dried varieties for sale directly from their factory. While they have supplied dried wood to furniture manufacturers in the past, ITSB is now stepping up their involvement in the timber industry by offering furniture manufacturing services in Melaka, supported by MTIB.

Experienced in the field of timber harvesting and processing for over 13 years, ITSB can be considered to have been extensively involved in the local timber industry—from the early stages of cultivation to the supply of Malaysian Rubberwood (*Hevea brasiliensis*). Starting with harvesting, selling timber, replanting, before moving on to sawntimber planks, finger joint boards, and whole pieces of furniture, ITSB has rapidly expanded its scope of expertise while increasing the value of wood products further down the supply chain.

ITSB is now stepping up their involvement in the timber industry by offering furniture manufacturing services in Melaka, supported by MTIB

PRODUCTION

Having reached lofty milestones that prove a robust manufacturing capability, with a handling capacity of about 7,000 tonnes of freshly cut logs per month and a production capacity of about 2,400 tonnes of sawed planks per year, ITSB is one of the first companies that can claim a complete production cycle under one roof, starting from the harvesting of biomass and through to the final manufacture of furniture.



MARKETING and PROMOTION

As with many other local entities involved in Malaysia's furniture industry, ITSB is one of the companies which have been supported by MTIB in terms of facilities, machinery and training - in a programme designed to develop and increase production capacities. ITSB also takes part in technical missions and timber entrepreneur development programmes in order to increase their market potential in the global market.

In an effort to generate commercial interest in both local and international levels, MTIB provided ITSB with the opportunity to participate in the Export Furniture Exhibition (EFE) which was held from 9 to 12 March 2018 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. Competing with over 270 local and international brands participating in the exhibition, ITSB won third place for Best Booth Design.



ASPIRATIONS

ITSB has ambitions of becoming a competitive furniture provider in the future, while still being able to supply sawntimber to furniture manufacturers as one of the most sought-after sawmills in the country. In addition to their continuing mission of supplying dried timber in custom specifications to local furniture factories and manufacturers of DIY furniture products, ITSB is constantly on the lookout for export opportunities in East Asia and Europe.



Company Details

Impressive Transforms Sdn. Bhd.

No. 26, Jalan Bayan, Taman Bukit Katil,
Bukit Katil, 75450 Melaka, Malaysia

Tel : +606 267 1180/+606 268 7203
Fax : +606 268 2479
E-mail : admin@ifwatgroup.com
Website : <http://www.ifwatgroup.com>





The Kupang sapwood is white to yellow-brown and is extremely wide. The heartwood is seldom developed but if found is dark brown in colour.

INTRODUCTION

Kupang is vernacular names applied in Sabah which the scientific name is *Parkia* spp. (*Leguminosae*). The tree can grow to about 30 metres. It bears flowers in a light bulb-shaped mass at the end of long stalks.

The flowers secrete a nectar that attracts bats and other pollinators. The fruits emerge as long, twisted, translucent pods in a cluster of seven or eight pods. When those pods are mature, within them will reside the beans or seeds.



Transverse section

KUPANG

SUITABLE FOR FURNITURE AND CABINET MAKING

Biology

P. speciosa is pollinated by bats, and birds disperse the seed pods. The peak flowering and fruiting season coincides with the period between August and October in its native range each year. Domesticated trees take up to seven years to mature.

Ecology

Parkia occurs in scattered lowland rainforests and sometimes also in tall secondary forest, on sandy, loamy and podzolic soils, also in waterlogged locations, in freshwater swamp forest and on riverbanks. The tropical lowland tree requires some shade when young.

Density

The timber is soft to moderately hard and is light to moderately heavy with a density of 415-815 kg/m³ air dry. The timber is classified under Light Hardwood in Malaysia.

Documented Species Distribution

Native: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand

Natural Durability

Durability tests of *P. speciosa* have been carried out at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) in Kepong, Selangor. The results shows that the natural durability was one year and it is thus classified as non-durable. From the graveyard test of treated Kupang using creosote, it was found that the timber was still sound after 15 years (Tam, 1983).

Preservative Treatment

The timber has been found to be extremely easy to treat.

Texture

Texture is rather coarse and uneven, with straight or shallowly interlocked grain.



Tangential section



Radial section

Strength Properties

The timber falls into Strength Group D (Burgess, 1958) or SG 5 (MS 544:Part 2:2001).

Test Condition	Modulus of Elasticity(MPa)	Modulus of Rupture(MPa)	Compression Parallel to Grain (MPa)	Compression Perpendicular to Grain (MPa)	Shear Strength (MPa)
Green	9,600	49	24.3	-	8.3
Air dry	10,700	55	30.8	-	7.4

Table 1: Strength Properties of Kupang (*P. speciosa*)

Machining Properties

It is easy to saw and work and produces a smooth planed surface.

Test Condition	Sawing		Planing		Boring		Turning	
	Re-sawing	Cross Cutting	Ease of Planing	Quality of Finish	Ease of Boring	Quality of Finish	Ease of Turning	Quality of Finish
Green	easy	easy	easy	smooth	easy	rough	-	-
Air dry	easy	easy	easy	smooth	easy	rough	easy	rough

Table 2: Machining Properties of Kupang (*P. speciosa*)

Air Drying

The timber seasons fairly slowly with moderate amount of end-checking, insect and fungal attacks, slight amount of cupping, bowing, twisting and splitting. Boards of 13 mm thick take approximately 3.5 months to air dry, while 38 mm thick boards take five months.

Nailing Property

The nailing property is rated as excellent.

Shrinkage

Shrinkage is rather low with radial shrinkage averaging 1.1% and tangential shrinkage averaging 1.9%.

Defects

The logs of Kupang are free from the more usual defects, like 'spongy heart' and borer damage, but are very knotty near the pith. Desch (1941) stated that all samples in the Kepong wood collection were infected by blue-stain fungi and some had been attacked by powder-post beetles. Schneider as quoted by Desch (1941) added that the timber of *P. javanica* is rarely attacked by borers.

Timber: The wood of *Parkia* is used locally for temporary light construction, carpentry, furniture and cabinet making, mouldings, interior finish, cladding, concrete shuttering, boxes and crates, matches, clogs, disposable chopsticks and fishnet floats. General utility plywood has been manufactured from the wood.

Essential oil: Seeds of *P. speciosa* contain cystine.

Uses

References :

• http://www.worldagroforestry.org/treedb/AFTPDFS/Parkia_speciosa.PDF

• [http://mtc.com.my/wizards/mtc_tud/items/report\(84\).php](http://mtc.com.my/wizards/mtc_tud/items/report(84).php)
 • <http://www.delta-intkey.com/wood/en/www/fabmipar.htm>

Puan Fadilah Omar from Director-General's Office (right) receiving a lucky draw gift during MTIB's PUSPANITA High-Tea held on 23 November 2018 at MTIB, Kuala Lumpur.



YBhg. Dato' Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General (centre) posing with the winners of MTIB Photography Competition 2018. The prize presentation was held on 22 November 2018 during MTIB's Monthly Assembly.



Courtesy visit by YBhg. Dato' Azman Mahmud, CEO of MIDA and his officials to MTIB, Kuala Lumpur on 2 November 2018.



Course entitled "Rejuvenation and Excellent Teambuilding for MTIB Drivers" held on 15-17 November 2018 in Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan.



Workshop on the Development of Vocational College SOP, held on 15 November 2018 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.



MTIB organised a course on Motivation specially for 'Persatuan Pengusaha Perabot, Wakaf dan Ukiran Bumiputera Wilayah Utara' (PERWAKIR) members. It was held on 27-29 November 2018 in Langkawi, Kedah.