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NATIONAL SEMINAR ON AGARWOOD

**DISCUSSION FOR THE FUTURE OF
MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY**



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MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD



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Cover : YB Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Md Akin, Deputy Minister of Primary Industries officiating the National Seminar on Agarwood. For more details, please read pages 3 and 7.



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NATIONAL SEMINAR ON AGARWOOD

news



Attendees at the event.

Agarwood, or Gaharu as it is known locally is one of the more significant non-timber forest products. It has been used for hundreds of years for medicinal purposes and as a base material in producing perfumes. Over the past 30 years, the demand for gaharu has risen significantly due to increased population and affluence in gaharu-consuming markets. In an effort to further develop the Karas and gaharu industry in Malaysia, MTIB recently organised the National Seminar on Agarwood in Bangi, Selangor from 11 to 13 December. The seminar is held every two years and this is the fifth seminar organised by MTIB.

The objective of the seminar was to disseminate knowledge and information as well as to create awareness among industry players on the importance of the Karas and gaharu industry as an economy-generating natural resource. The seminar also aimed to provide an understanding of good silviculture

techniques in Karas plantations, and an awareness of effective methods on the inoculation of the Karas tree and gaharu oil extraction methods as well as related policies and legislations on gaharu.

The seminar was officiated by YB Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Md Akin, Deputy Minister of Primary Industries. In his opening speech, he spoke on the trade of Karas and gaharu. He stated that the value of Karas and gaharu products exported in 2017 increased from RM15 million to RM16 million in 2016. In terms of quantity, the export value of Karas and gaharu products in 2017 was 117,657 kilogrammes. Out of this total, 26,845 kilogrammes of Karas and gaharu products, 23%, consisting of woodchips and woodblocks, were exported to major markets such as Taiwan, Saudi Arabia and Singapore. At the same time, 162.98 liters of gaharu oil was exported to France, Singapore and UAE. Malaysia is the fifth biggest Karas and gaharu product exporter after



VIET NAM

FSC Certification for 235,000 Hectares of Forest

The Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST) has revealed that the country currently has 235,000 hectares of forest accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Viet Nam aims to expand the number to 500,000 hectares in 2020. FSC provides its certification to forest that is managed in a sustainable manner. Also, Viet Nam's forestry product exports rose by 16.6% year on year to USD8.49 billion (EUR7.36 billion) in the first 11 months of 2018. For the entire 2018, exports are predicted to reach USD9.30 billion.

VietnamPlus (in English), 24 December



VIET NAM

Forestry Products Exports Expected Reach USD10.5 Billion

Viet Nam's forestry product exports are expected to bring home USD10.5 billion, in 2019. According to the Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the forestry export value was USD9.3 billion in 2018, up 15.9% year-on-year, accounting for over 23 % of the total export revenue of the agricultural sector. Of the number, the export of wood and wooden products reached USD8.78 billion, marking up 95% of the value. Notably, the trade surplus of the forestry sector hit USD 6.99 billion, or 85% of the agricultural sector's trade surplus. The US, Japan, the European Union (EU), China and the Republic of Korea remained key importers of Vietnamese forestry products, accounting for 87.33% of the total export turnover.

VNFOREST Deputy General Director Pham Van Dien said the sector targets a growth rate of between 5.5-6.0 % in production value in 2019, while the export value of wooden and forestry products will reach USD10.5 billion, USD1.2 billion higher than 2018.

According to Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Ha Cong Tuan, Viet Nam is likely to increase the output of material timber by 1.5 million cubic metres in 2019. Meanwhile, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Nguyen Xuan Cuong said Viet Nam and the EU officially signed the Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (VPA-FLEGT) on 19 October 2018 after six years of negotiation. This was considered as a major turning point, contributing to forming a sustainable forestry economic sector.

Vietnamplus.vn., 31 December



CHINA

Importation of Hardwood Chips Reached Record High in Third Quarter

The third quarter of 2018 brought development in East Asia, as Chinese imports of hardwood chips reached a record high and Viet Nam expanded its market share at Australia's expense, reports the Wood Resource Quarterly. While the average import price has only increased slightly in the past year, Australian prices have gone up substantially from the end of 2017.

Chinese pulp mills have continued to increase importation of hardwood chips throughout 2018, and import volumes reached a new record high of 3.5 million oven dry metric ton ODMT in the third quarter of 2018, 21% higher than in the third quarter of 2017. By far the biggest increase in chip supply this year has been in wood chips from Viet Nam, with the total volume during the first nine months of 2018 being 34% higher than during the same period in 2017, according to recent Chinese Customs data.

Hardwood chip imports to Viet Nam during the first three quarters have already surpassed the total import volume of 2017. The country's chip exports have been trending upward for over 15 years and will likely reach a new record high of almost ten million ODMT in 2018. However, the shipments this year could very well reach their peak and the long-time upward trend will be broken in 2019. The domestic forest industry lacks wood raw-material and the country has limited opportunities to enlarge its forest plantations. As a result, the Vietnamese government is likely to adhere to their long-held policy of reducing exports of raw-material in favour of further expanding the value-

added processing of forest products in the country.

Shipments from Australia, the second largest chip supplier to China, have also increased over the past year but at a much more modest pace than shipments from Viet Nam. Australian chip suppliers have lost market share, down from 35% in September 2017 to 28% in September 2018, reports the Wood Resource Quarterly. Viet Nam and Australia together account for just over 80% of Chinese imports in 2018, with the remainder being supplied by Chile, Thailand, Brazil, South Africa and Malaysia in descending order.

The average import price increased slightly in the third quarter 2018 to USD180/ODMT, three dollars higher than in the previous quarter. Year-over-year, the import price for chips from Viet Nam has remained practically unchanged, while the price for hardwood chips from Australia has gone up by 16% to reach a level last seen in 2012. Although the price for Australian chips has gone up quite substantially over the past year, the average import price to China has increased more modestly because of a shift in supply from the highest-cost suppliers to lower cost supplier during 2018.

WRQ, 21 December



EUROPEAN UNION

Calls on Ukraine to Lift Moratorium on Round Timber Export

The European Union has called on Ukraine to lift the moratorium on the export of round timber, as well as introduce administrative and institutional reforms and ensure the functioning of an efficient and transparent administrative system. The EU encouraged Ukraine to continue fighting vested interests to improve the business and investment climate and eliminate swiftly trade irritants, such as the wood export ban, according to the statement following a meeting of the Council of the Ukraine-EU Association, held in Brussels

Focus should be on effective and timely implementation of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, and to further facilitate trade and eliminate technical barriers to trade, including about customs procedures, technical regulations, sanitary and phytosanitary systems as well as food safety reform, public procurement and the protection of intellectual property rights.

The Ukrainian side reaffirmed its commitments to

technical regulation reform, notably the need to speed up adoption of sectoral and horizontal legislation, including around market surveillance.

The EU pointed out that, Ukraine shall comply with all prerequisites set out in the Association Agreement/ its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (AA/ DCFTA) including incorporating the relevant EU acquis into its legislation, making the administrative and institutional reforms and providing the efficient, effective and transparent administrative system, which are indispensable prior to starting Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products (ACAA) negotiations.

open4business.com.ua, 17 December



SWEDEN

Increasing Number of Wooden Frames in Houses

In Sweden, new figures from the Swedish Federation of Wood and Furniture Industry (Trä-och möbelföretagen), developed base on the statistics from Statistics Sweden (SCB), indicate growing numbers of houses built on wooden frames. In 2017, 3,937 multi-family residential property units were built, up 9% compared to the 3,598 in 2016. The total share of wooden-frame multi-family residential property units of the Swedish market stood at 13%. David Johansson, CEO at the Federation of Wood and Furniture Industry, expressed satisfaction at the new figures, stating that increasing the share of wooden frames in house construction is imperative to meet climate goals.

NTT Woodnet, 17 December



UNITED KINGDOM

Government Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) Ban Over 18 Metres Might Open Doors for Alternative Glulam Systems

Glulam post and beam construction may be a way for the timber construction sector to still have an

option above six storeys following the government's proposed ban on cross-laminated timber (CLT) above 18 metres.

The UK Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA) believes that the government's decision on structural timber wall construction over 18 metres as part of its post-Grenfell fire safety and building design consultation does not have to be of detriment to the structural timber market.

"The clear majority of CLT projects delivered in the UK to date are six-storeys and under which will not be impacted upon by these restrictions," TRADA said. "Important markets currently utilising the material, such as schools, will therefore remain unaffected."

TRADA said it did mean a necessity for creativity in order to continue making the best use of timber as a structural material. "We must, as an industry, determine methods by which we can build above six-storeys using structural timber but not on the outer walls. Glulam post and beam is already one potential solution to this challenge."

TRADA underlined that structural timber construction was here to stay and increase in popularity, as CLT attracts architects, contractors, clients and more for a multitude of distinct reasons. Some are aesthetic, others include cost reduction and programme savings and, for those concerned about climate change, CLT sequesters carbon and stores it for the life of the building.

TTJ, 12 December



UNITED STATES

New Rules to Export Ash Lumber to EU

Exporters of ash Lumber to the European Union, National Lumber Hardwood Association (NHLA) has received an important notice from United States Department of Agriculture and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service USDA-APHIS and the European Union.

NHLA was officially notified recently (18 December 2018) that the rules for shipping ash lumber originating from Canada and the United States has changed. Effective today, the only approved option for exporting ash lumber to the EU is the NHLA KD Certificate Program as proof of treatment to obtain a

Phyto-Sanitary Certificate.

As announced by USDA-APHIS, "Shipments of Ash lumber certified under the 2.5 cm beneath the bark lumber will be allowed a grace period for the wood already in route. The last date such a shipment can arrive and gain entry in to the EU is 10 February 2019, which should cover any shipments in route, even with delays. The 2.5 cm option for new shipments cannot be used.

All ash originating from Canada or the United States and traveling to the European Union must be in the systems approach.

The systems approach is defined below :

Shipments must have a PHYTO with the accompanying NHLA KD Certificate with clip id numbers. The Shipments must also meet all of the following requirements:

- * 10% or less in Moisture Content
- * Dry bulb temperature must reach 160 degrees F for 20 hours minimum.
- * Lumber must be debarked; small residual pieces less than the size of a credit card are acceptable.
- * Lumber drying time of 14 days, this includes air drying time.
- * Lumber must be stencilled with KD - HT on both ends of the packs. (bottom right corner)
- * Treatment durations, dry and wet bulb temperatures, and final moisture contents will be recorded for each specific lot, and maintained for a minimum of three years

NHLA, 18 December



GLOBAL

Softwood Sawlogs Prices Dropping in Third Quarter 2018

Softwood sawlogs prices declined in the third quarter 2018. Consequently, the Global Sawlogs Price Index (GSPI) fell 3.7% from the second quarter 2018 to the third quarter 2018, the second consecutive quarter-on-quarter decline. The European Sawlogs Price Index (ESPI-€) has fallen for two consecutive quarters to €83.58 per m3 in the third quarter 2018, Wood Resource Quarterly reports.

The Global Softwood Fibre Price Index (SFPI) was practically unchanged from the second quarter 2018 to the third quarter 2018. However, there were price

adjustments of softwood chips and pulp logs around the world with quarter-on-quarter increases of over 5% in Norway, Sweden and New Zealand, and price declines of more than 4% in Brazil, Chile, Russia and Western Canada.

Hardwood fibre prices were generally lower in the third quarter in the key markets around the world, which led to the Global Hardwood Fibre Price Index (HFPI) falling 2% quarter-on-quarter in the third quarter 2018.

Global trade of wood pulp has gone up every year since 2013, and 2018 is on pace to be another year with a year-over-year increase. Brazil and Finland have increased their exports the most this year. As in previous years, China is the key destination for the expanded pulp volumes being shipped in 2018.

During the fall, prices for bleached hardwood kraft pulp (NBSK) pulp in Europe continued their rapid increase that began in early 2017. Back in January of 2017, NBSK prices in Europe averaged about USD810 per tonne, and just over a year and a half later, prices have reached USD 1,300 per tonne. Prices for BHKP initially

followed the same trend as NBSK but levelled off in early 2018 and have remained practically unchanged at USD 1,050 per tonne from March through October 2018.

Global trade of softwood lumber in 2018 was down an estimated 2.5% from January through September as compared to the same period in 2017. China, Japan, the United Kingdom and the MENA region reduced their imports the most.

The Canadian share of US lumber imports has fallen from 95% of total imports in 2016 to 91% in 2018. Lumber prices in the US plummeted during the summer and fall, with common grades falling almost 40% from June to November. A gloomier outlook by Chinese consumers and a shortage of credits for many provincial governments and state-run firms have contributed to reduced demand for forest products in 2018. Softwood lumber imports to China slowed in 2018, with volumes in the first nine months falling 11% as compared to the same period in 2017.

WRQ, 20 December

Timber News

Cont. from page 3

Thailand, Indonesia, India and Viet Nam.

A total of 15 papers were presented during the seminar, covering the topics of seedling selection, plantation techniques, harvesting and inoculation techniques, promotion, marketing and policy, and regulation on trade of gaharu products. The papers were delivered by speakers from government agencies, academicians, associations and private sectors.

In conjunction with the seminar, a forum session and a mini exhibition were held. On the last day of the seminar, two field visits were also conducted. The participants visited MTIB's Karas plantation at Empangan Jus, Jasin and R&Z Agarwood at Sungai Udang, both located in Melaka. They were given a briefing and demonstration of inoculation techniques. A total of 120 participants comprising individuals, government officials and members of the private sector attended the seminar.



YB Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Md Akin, Deputy Minister of Primary Industries (second from left) receiving several gaharu products.



Participants at the MTIB's Karas Plantation, Empangan Jus in Melaka.



Malaysia: RM300 Million uCustoms System to be Launched at 15 Ports

Source : New Straits Times, 5 November

The uCustoms system, worth RM300 million (EUR62.71 million/USD72.33 million), will be rolled out in phases at 15 ports throughout the country by Malaysia's Customs Department soon. Installation of the system will start early in 2019 for the southern and northern zones, while implementation will begin at the end of 2018 for the western zone. Use of the system will be expanded to every port throughout the country if the system is seen to be working well. The system's purpose is to detect false declarations of goods as well as smuggling attempts of cigarettes and other undeclared items.

from Batam, Thailand, Phuket and Indonesia, as well as serve as an aircraft repair hub. The government has identified two locations for the construction, which would begin in 2019 depending on the allocation by the federal government. It is still unknown how much the project would cost. Meanwhile, the new bridge will be built to ease congestion at the Johor Causeway and the Malaysia-Singapore Second Link (Linkedua). Construction would only begin once all quarters have come to an agreement. The state government will also focus on developing Segamat in 2019. Among the development plans for the district include a large-scale dairy and beef farm and the upgrading of the Segamat Inland Port.

Malaysia: Johor Government to Build New Airport Bridge in 2019

Source: New Straits Times, 13 November

In 2019, the Johor government plans to build an airport in Mersing and a new bridge linking Singapore and Johor Baru. The new airport will be built for light aircraft such as the Fokker. It will cater to tourists

Malaysia: Weaker Result Posted by Westports in January - September 2018

Source : Star (The) - Malaysia, 10 November

Westports Holdings (Westports) of Malaysia registered a 21% year-on-year decrease in its revenue from RM1.51 billion (EUR315.62 million/USD364.05 million) to RM1.19 billion for its first nine months ended 30 September 2018. The net profit reported by the port operator also decreased to RM387.93 million (down 12%) due to higher salary

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

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all Ports m ³	% Change Nov 2018/ Oct 2018
	m ³	% Change Nov 2018/ Oct 2018	m ³	% Change Nov 2018/ Oct 2018	m ³	% Change Nov 2018/ Oct 2018	m ³	% Change Nov 2018/ Oct 2018	m ³	% Change Nov 2018/ Oct 2018		
Sawntimber	71,794	-2	21,956	32	1,374	-31	1,013	40	6,533	-22	102,669	1
MDF	27,690	11	0	0	8,125	48	2,633	-27	16,033	-14	54,481	3
Mouldings	11,331	-20	248	10	1,678	9	674	-3	1,396	-21	15,327	-17
Plywood	6,299	82	114	-77	0	-100	144	-66	10,677	-21	17,233	-4
Veneer	252	-62	99	-24	72	-1	13	10	3,028	32	3,464	9
Particleboard	31,233	-22	365	1	6,462	-23	4,563	46	3,313	-42	45,936	-20
TOTAL	148,599	-5	22,783	28	17,710	1	9,039	5	40,978	-19	239,110	-5

Source : MTIB



expenses, finance cost, depreciation charges and tax bills. For July - September 2018 alone, Westports posted a revenue and net profit of RM417.55 million (down 15.10%) and RM142.32 million (down 5.60%) respectively. The company handled 6.95 million TEUs of containers during the nine months' period, while its transshipment, gateway and overall container volume grew by 12%, 19% and 14% in July - September 2018 respectively.

Sri Lanka: 23.3% Increase in Transshipment Container throughput Reported by JCT

Source : ColomboPage, 12 November

Between January 2018 and September 2018, Jaya Container Terminal (JCT) of Sri Lanka reported 1.45 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in transshipment container throughput, compared to 1.17 million TEUs in the previous year. The figures translate to a 23.3% increase year-on-year. Meanwhile, Port of Colombo in Sri Lanka reported 4.2 million TEUs in transshipment container throughput during the same nine-month period, up 19.4% year-on-year.

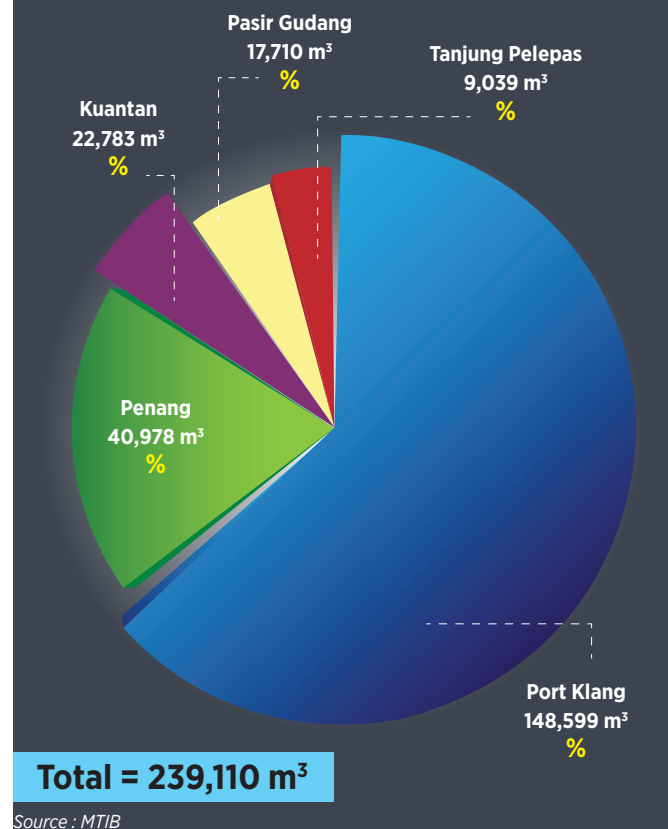
United States: Imports at Major Retail Container Ports Down 1.3% in September 2018

Source : Progressive Railroading, 12 November

According to the National Retail Federation's Global Port Tracker report, the major retail container ports in the US handled 1.87 million TEUs in September 2018, down 1.3% from August 2018 and up 4.6%

year-on-year. Imports in October 2018 increased by 5.5% year-on-year to 1.89 million TEUs. Imports in November 2018 are expected to increase by 2.8% to 1.81 million TEUs. According to Hackett Associates Founder Ben Hackett, the US-China trade dispute and the threat of higher tariffs in 2019 have led to a mini import boom. 

Timber Shipment through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, November 2018



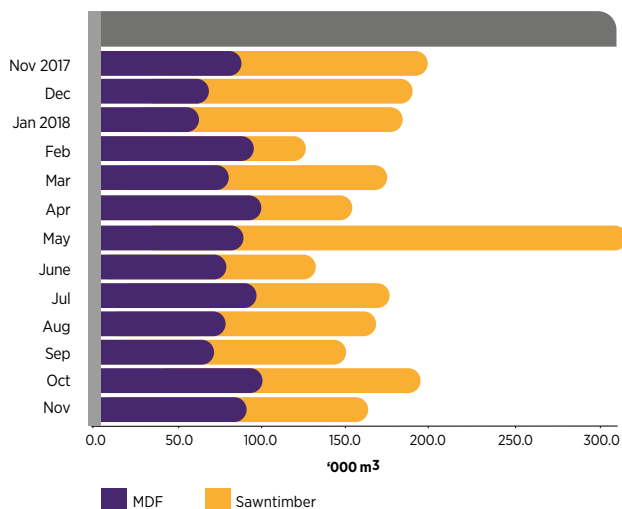
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Malaysia : Export of Sawntimber and MDF
(Nov 2017-Nov 2018/Volume ('000m³)



Total exports of Malaysia timber and timber products in November 2018 decreased by 9% valued at RM2.0 billion compared to RM2.2 billion in October 2018. Similarly, cumulative export for the period of January to November dropped by 4% valued at RM20.5 billion compared to RM21.3 billion in the previous corresponding period in 2017.

SAWNTIMBER

Export of sawntimber in November 2018 decreased 14% in volume and 15% in value to 165,833 m³ totalled RM312.9 million as compared to the previous month. Cumulative export for the first eleven months of 2018 decreased 10% in volume and 5% in value to 1.8 million m³ worth RM3.4 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Export of sawntimber to the EU for the month decreased 39% to 5,655 m³ from 9,253 m³ in the previous month due to declined purchases by major market in the region. Export to the Netherlands and UK decreased 16% to 2,580 m³ and 69% to 604 m³ respectively. Similarly, purchases made by France decreased 37% to 756 m³ followed by Germany 17% to 750 m³ and Belgium 55% to 548 m³.

Total exports to West Asia decreased 4% to 23,892 m³ from 24,958 m³ recorded in the previous month. Export to Oman decreased 16% to 6,302 m³ followed by the UAE 21% to 5,146 m³, Bahrain 32% to 867 m³ and Saudi Arabia 55% to 794 m³. In the meanwhile, export to Yemen and Qatar increased 51% to 6,418 m³ and 1,961 m³ respectively.

Buying from ASEAN increased 12% to 67,967 m³ from 60,611 m³ registered in the previous month. Export of sawntimber to Thailand, a major buyer of sawntimber from Malaysia declined 19% to 25,667 m³ from 31,567 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, export to Singapore decreased 13% to 6,566 m³. Meanwhile, export to the Philippines improved 70% to 33,395 m³ followed by Viet Nam 26% to 2,023 m³.

Shipments to East Asia decreased 40% to 35,112 m³ from

58,510 m³ in the previous month. Export to China declined 59% to 17,600 m³ followed by Japan 11% to 4,346 m³ and South Korea 20% to 3,130 m³. However, export to Taiwan increased 61% to 9,599 m³ from 5,971 m³ in the previous month.

Elsewhere, exports to the US decreased 33% to 1,344 m³ whilst Australia improved 12% to 752 m³. Meanwhile, demand from South Africa decreased 64% to 1,972 m³ from 5,451 m³ in the previous month.

The average FOB price of sawntimber decreased marginally to RM1,887 per m³ from RM1,899 per m³ in the previous month. Price of Dark Red Meranti (DRM) decreased 2% to RM2,624 per m³ from RM2,687 per m³ in the previous month. Price of DRM to the Netherlands declined 3% to RM3,616 per m³ from RM3,733 per m³ in the previous month. Keruing was traded at RM2,273 per m³, a decrease of 3% from RM2,349 per m³ in the previous month.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Malaysia's exports of MDF for November 2018 decreased 9% in volume and 11% in value compared to previous month. Export totalled 91,358 m³ at RM109.2 million.

Exports to East Asia registered a decreased of 24% to 14,906 m³ from 19,551 m³ in the previous month. Japan, China including Hong Kong and South Korea showed negative growth by 20% to 13,348 m³, 68% to 360 m³ and 71% to 250 m³ respectively. However, Taiwan increased by 3% to 948 m³.

Exports to West Asia also showed a decrease of 12% to 35,174 m³ from 39,934 m³ in the previous month. Export to the UAE, Bahrain, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, recorded negative growth of 41% to 8,181 m³, 44% to 532 m³, 59% to 163 m³ and 67% to 981 m³ respectively. In contrast, export to Qatar, Syria, Kuwait, Oman and Lebanon increased by 29% to 435 m³, 36% to 11,355 m³, 48% to 3,970 m³, 139% to 2,307 m³ and 2,301% to 2,881 m³ respectively. Furthermore, Iran resume it purchases.

In contrast, export to South Asia recorded positive growth by 13% to 11,014 m³. Export to India and Sri Lanka increased by 21% to 5,478 m³ and 816% to 760 m³ respectively. Contrarily, Pakistan decreased by 20% to 4,139 m³. Bangladesh resumes its intake by 555 m³.

Elsewhere, exports to South Africa, the UK and US decreased by 23% to 330 m³, 39% to 195 m³ and 54% to 1,175 m³ respectively. However, export to Australia showed positive growth by 18% to 2,803 m³.

In ASEAN, total export also decreased by 22% to 15,831 m³ from 20,289 m³ in the previous month. All major export destinations showed negative growth. Viet Nam, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines decreased by 20% to 8,585 m³, 21% to 3,829 m³, 24% to 41 m³ and 26% to 2,961 m³ respectively.

The FOB price of MDF also decreased to RM1,195 per m³ from RM1,230 per m³, a decrease of 3% from the previous month.

PLYWOOD

Export of plywood in November 2018 both have decreased in volume and value by 19% and 17% to 161,122 m³ totalled RM371.9 million compared to the previous month. Similarly, cumulative export for January to November 2018 showed a decrease in volume and value by 14% and 0.4% to 2.0 million m³ worth RM4.2 billion over the previous corresponding period.

EU countries have reduced their intake of plywood by 2% to 4,020 m³. Ireland decreased its imports of Malaysian plywood by 43% to 319 m³. Meanwhile, Germany, Italy and Netherlands did not make any purchases for this month. In contrast, UK, the major buyer of Malaysian plywood has increased its intake by 21% to 3,261 m³, followed by Denmark 165% to 321 m³ and France 100% to 76 m³.

Exports to ASEAN and East Asia region recorded a decrease of 19% to 118,474 m³ compared to previous month. In East Asia region, Japan as the main importer of Malaysian plywood reduced its intake by 24% to 86,234 m³. Similarly, South Korea also has reduced its intake by 10% to 12,462 m³; followed by Taiwan 13% to 6,316 m³; China 15% to 1,810 m³ and Hong Kong 25% to 960 m³. Meanwhile, Malaysia's plywood trade with its ASEAN partners showed positive trend this month. Exports to Thailand and the Philippines have increased by 80% and 13% to 5,734 m³ and 1,423 m³ respectively. Similarly, exports to Singapore and Brunei Darussalam have increased by 28% and 14% to 2,259 m³ and 610 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Indonesia does not make any purchase this month.

Exports to West Asian countries recorded a decrease of 81% to 5,101 m³ as compared to the previous month. Exports to Yemen and the UAE have decreased by 98% and 34% to 1,730 m³ and 820 m³ respectively. Similarly, exports to Bahrain and Saudi Arabia have decreased by 60% and 81% to 121 m³ and 256 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, exports to Kuwait and Qatar have increased by 132% and 41% to 354 m³ and 398 m³ respectively.

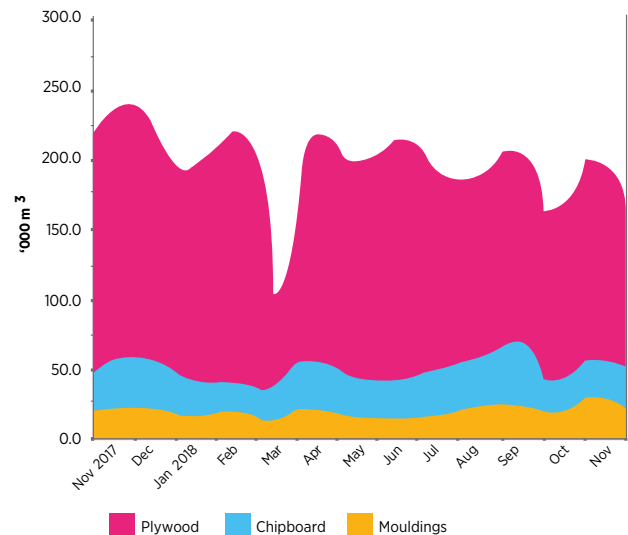
Export of plywood to the Americas region increased by 87% to 27,796 m³ as compared to the previous month. The US has increased its intake of plywood by 134% to 24,707 m³ and followed by Canada by 210% to 752 m³. Contrarily, Mexico has reduced its intake by 42% to 2,337 m³ for this month. Moving to Oceania region, both Australia and New Zealand recorded a decrease in its intake of plywood by 11% and 96% to 3,139 m³ and 21 m³ respectively.

Exports to African continent decreased by 70% to 421 m³ for this month. Export to South Africa decreased by 56% to 169 m³ meanwhile Algeria and Mauritius didn't make any purchases this month. Elsewhere, Turkey made its purchase of 168 m³ for this month.

The FOB price of plywood has increased by 3% to RM2,308 per m³ from RM2,247 per m³ in the previous month.

Malaysia : Export of Plywood, Chipboard and Mouldings

(Nov 2017-Nov 2018/Volume ('000m³)



MOULDINGS

Exports of mouldings for the month decreased by 39% in volume and 16% in value to 18,782 m³ and RM67.1 million respectively. However, cumulative exports for the period of January to November 2018 increased by 2% in volume and 3% in value to 220,560 m³ and RM796.8 million respectively as compared to the previous corresponding period in 2017.

Exports to the EU for the month recorded at 5,063 m³, a decrease of 38% compared to the previous month. Germany, the UK, Belgium and Netherlands reduced their purchases by 59%, 57%, 44% and 32% to 457 m³, 273 m³, 387 m³ and 3,255 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Italy resumed its purchases with 44 m³ this month.

Exports to ASEAN region increased as Indonesia and Viet Nam increased its purchases by 188% and 55% to 190 m³ and 1,192 m³ respectively. However, Singapore intake of mouldings decreased by 11% to 1,379 m³ compared to the previous month.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan and China increased their intake by 112%, 22%, 16% and 3% to 347 m³, 1,898 m³, 2,072 m³ and 592 m³ respectively. In contrast, Taiwan decreased its purchases by 42% to 32 m³ compared to the previous month. Elsewhere, exports to Australia and the US have decreased by 77% and 16% to 2,859 m³ and 1,691 m³ respectively.

FOB unit value increased by 37% to RM3,570 per m³ compared to RM2,607 per m³ in the previous month.

VENEER

Export of veneer for November 2018 decreased both by volume and value by 5% and 23% to 16,451 m³ valued

NOVEMBER 2018

The supply of logs was reported sufficient to cater the demand in Peninsular Malaysia. The average domestic prices for most of the species reported being sustain at last month's level.

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 7.7% to RM1,400 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

Industry reported that the supply of MDF to the domestic market continued to be sufficient whilst the prices were quoted at last month's level. 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 reported remaining firmed with no significant changes in prices due to slow demand from domestic markets.

The sawntimber prices of Chengal and Balau maintained at RM6,956 per m³ and RM3,390 per m³ respectively. Meanwhile, the price for Keruing increased slightly by 2.8% to RM1,306 per m³ over the previous month. Prices for Kempas and Kapur were traded at RM2,436 per m³ and RM1,746 per m³ respectively.

Similarly, the price for Dark Red Meranti and Red Meranti remained at RM2,036 per m³ and RM1,977 per m³ respectively. On the other hand, sawntimber prices of Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood continued to chart at RM980 per m³ and RM918 per m³ for this month.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE - NOVEMBER 2018

From	Product	OCT 2018		NOV 2018		% Change In Volume Nov 2018 / Oct 2018	% Change In Value Nov 2018 / Oct 2018
		Volume (m ³)	Value (RM '000)	Volume (m ³)	Value (RM '000)		
SABAH	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	528	1,131	380	868	-28	-23
	Plywood	7,301	16,282	5,176	11,048	-29	-32
	Veneer	0	0	0	0	100	100
SARAWAK	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	1,093	1,644	2,052	3,697	88	125
	Plywood	4,649	6,456	3,653	4,851	-21	-25
	Veneer	4,774	6,868	6,485	9,800	36	43

Source : Department of Statistics, Malaysia

The shipments of sawntimber from Sabah to Peninsular Malaysia dropped by 28% in volume from 528 m³ to 380 m³ worth at RM868,000. Similarly, the plywood dropped by 29% to 5,176 m³ worth at RM11.0 million.

The trade of sawntimber from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia increased significantly by double digits or 88% in volume to 2,052 m³ from 1,093 m³

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE *

- NOVEMBER 2018

recorded last month with the worth at RM3.7 million. Meanwhile, shipment of plywood dropped by 21% in volume to 3,653 m³ worth at RM4.9 million. Trade of veneer however, increased by 36% in volume to 6,485 m³ worth at RM9.8 million.

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

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

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

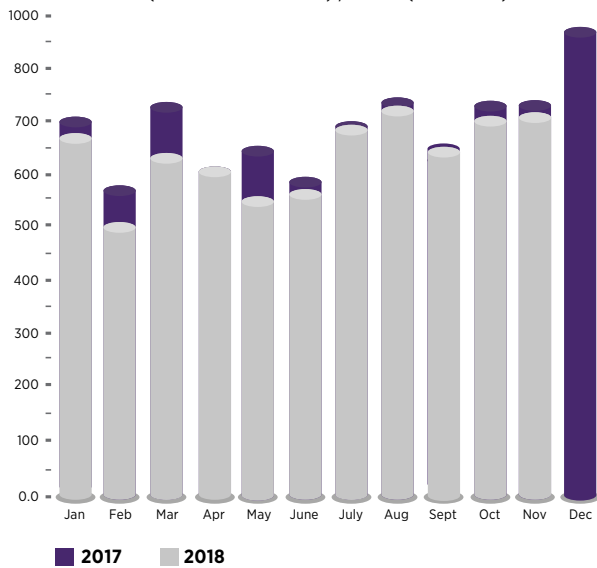
SPECIES	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m ³			
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS		SCANTLINGS
HEAVY HARDWOOD					
Chengal	4,500	6,956	5,508		7,521
Balau	3,200	3,390	2,825		2,743
Red Balau	2,200	3,107	2,648		3,355
Merbau	3,150	4,647	3,531		3,955
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	940	980	812		989
MEDIUM HARDWOOD					
Keruing	1,400	1,306	1,130		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	1,095		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/m ³			
	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 - Nov 2018) / Value (RM Million)



Source : Department of Statistics, Malaysia

at RM25.8 million as compared to the previous month. Cumulative export for January to November 2018 decreased 14% in volume and 6% in value to 174,217 m³ worth RM286.2 million over the previous corresponding period.

Exports to South Korea and India have decreased by 33% and 41% to 5,331 m³ and 161 m³ respectively. Similarly, Taiwan and Singapore have decreased its intake of veneer by 34% and 56% to 2,682 m³ and 65 m³ respectively. In contrast, China has increased its buying of veneer by 151% to 4,405 m³ followed by the Philippines 92% to 1,719 m³; and Australia 18% to 261 m³. On the other hand, Viet Nam and Chile did not make any purchases this month.

The FOB price of veneer for November 2018 has reduced by 19% to RM1,547 per m³ as compared to RM1,940 per m³ on the previous month.

BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

Total BJC cumulative exports from January to November 2018 decreased 11% to RM972.3 million as compared to RM1.1 billion in the corresponding period last year. Export to the EU decreased 1% to RM319.3 million. Exports to Turkey, Sweden, Germany, the UK, Belgium and Italy decreased by 82%, 46%, 20%, 14%, 8% and 6% to RM1.5 million, RM3.2 million, RM23.8 million, RM126.3 million, RM46.3 million and RM6.0 million respectively as compared to the previous corresponding year. Meanwhile, exports to the Netherlands, France and Denmark increased by 113%, 40% and 10% to RM23.6 million, RM36.2 million and RM22.8 million respectively.

In Asia, exports to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Taiwan and India decreased by 89%, 51%, 51%, 44% and 38% to RM3.3 million, RM1.3 million, RM908.8 thousand, RM8.7 million and RM31.4 million respectively. Similarly, exports to Thailand, Singapore, the UAE, Japan and

Viet Nam also decreased by 31%, 24%, 17%, 9% and 7% to RM20.8 million, RM85.4 million, RM5.9 million, RM67.4 million and RM36.9 million respectively. Qatar resumed its purchases meanwhile Bahrain did not make any purchases.

Exports to Mauritius and South Africa have increased by 253% and 6% to RM783 thousand and RM18.5 million respectively compared to the previous corresponding period. Meanwhile, exports to Reunion Island and Australia decreased by 99% and 1% to RM19.6 thousand and RM187.5 million respectively. On the other hand, the US increased its intake by 15% to RM111.8 million from RM97.1 million in the previous corresponding period.

FURNITURE

Exports of wooden and rattan furniture for the period under review in 2018 decreased 5% worth RM7.1 billion over RM7.4 billion in the previous corresponding period.

The US reduced its consumption of wooden furniture by 7% into RM2.6 billion in 2018 from RM2.8 billion in 2017. Demand from Canada and Australia decreased 6% to RM241.4 million and 10% to RM489.5 million respectively. In East Asia, China boosted its wooden furniture consumption by 31% with a purchase of RM224.9 million in 2018 from RM171.6 million in 2017. Meanwhile, Japan and South Korea reduced its consumption by 10% and 18% to RM547.1 million and RM85.8 million respectively.

On the other hand, shipments to ASEAN region such as Singapore and the Philippines improved by 2% to RM414.6 million and 13% to RM194.8 million respectively. Similarly, shipments to Qatar increased 27% to RM17.4 million compared to the previous year. Shipment to India also recorded an increase of 17% to RM214.4 million respectively.

Elsewhere, exports to the UAE and Saudi Arabia decreased by 28% and 15% to RM120.1 million and RM113.7 million respectively. Similarly, Kuwait and Bahrain also decreased their wooden furniture consumption by 6% and 20% to RM40.3 million and RM 16.4 million respectively. In Europe, the UK and Belgium reduced its intake by 11% and 10% to RM352.1 million and RM34.6 million. Meanwhile, France increased their import by 2% to RM60.4 million over the corresponding period of 2017. Similarly, export to South Africa increased 18% to RM71.2 million compared to the previous year.

Rattan furniture shipments from January to November 2018 recorded a negative growth with a decrease of 82% from RM15.5 million to RM2.9 million. However, export of rattan furniture to Japan increased by 17% to RM447 thousand from RM381 thousand over corresponding period in 2017. Export to Singapore, United Kingdom and Australia decreased by 94%, 58% and 98% to RM113 thousand, RM261 thousand and RM53 thousand respectively.

DISCUSSION FOR THE FUTURE OF MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY

news



Discussion on ensuring sustainable supply of raw materials.

MTIB in cooperation with Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) and Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) organised a brainstorming session which also included representatives of Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) on 13 December at MTIB, Kuala Lumpur. The brainstorming session would harmonise all current and upcoming programmes and activities for those three timber-related agencies. The session also aimed at revising and formulating better strategies to achieve NATIP's export target of RM25 billion by the year 2020.

Puan Hajah Noor Laila Mohamed Halip, Deputy Director-General (Development and Commercial), delivered a welcome speech to the participants. In her speech, she reiterated the importance of today's session and reminded that all programmes and activities conducted by three agencies must benefit the whole Malaysian timber industry. She presented an overview of the Malaysian timber industry as well as its future challenges.

Later, all participants were divided into three groups



A group photo during the programme.

Cont. from previous page

based on the following three categories: Ensuring Sustainable Supply of Raw Materials, Improving Productivity, and Improving Marketability of Malaysian Timber and Timber Products.

Each group discussed the current status and the achievements of the various programmes conducted by MTIB, MTC and MTCC. It was a fruitful and impactful discussion as the participants were allowed to directly comment on all programmes and activities related to the timber industry.

In the afternoon session, a representative from each group presented on the outcome of their discussions. The first group spoke on the key potential activity in ensuring the supply of raw materials to create the community forest. Other critical success factors that may contribute towards increasing the supply of raw material is land availability, awareness, collaboration between agencies and uptake and maintenance of forest certifications.

The second group highlighted on the importance of developing high valued-added products and increasing productivity through the development

of automation and mechanisation. This component includes a holistic approach throughout the supply chain; from raw material, skilled workers, automation and mechanisation, product designs, engineered timber products to Bumiputera participation. The third group presented on the marketability of timber products and stressed that the critical success factors are stability of global economy and the ability to comply with market regulations and certifications.

The outcome would be consolidated and presented to the ministry during a separate retreat session which is scheduled to be held early 2019. The Director-General of MTIB, YBhg. Dato' Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, who delivered the closing speech stated his appreciation towards the efforts shown by all participants and hoped that all discussions and decisions made would be properly executed by each agency for the sustainable development of the Malaysian timber industry.

The event was attended by over 50 participants comprised board of director members as well representatives of timber – based associations. 



The group discussing on the importance of developing high value-added products and increasing high productivity..

MOVING TOGETHER AHEAD WITH INDUSTRY4WRD

news



Participants posing at the seminar held in Muar, Johor.

The term Industrial Revolution 4.0 is often used when referring to the development process in the management of manufacturing and chain production. It is all about transforming the existing industry into automation processes which would allow a more tailored mass production technology. This is seen as the next stage in the automation and smart manufacturing industry and therefore should be considered to be adopted by the local timber industry players so as to keep up with global players in the future.

The Malaysian government had recently launched the National Policy on Industry 4.0 which was led by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). YAB Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia also launched the Policy on Industry 4.0 named 'Industry4WRD' — a tailor-made policy for Malaysia focusing on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the manufacturing sector. The Malaysian timber industry, particularly the SMEs, are encouraged to explore into the Industry4WRD transformation.

In order to enhance the knowledge of the timber

industry on the origins of IR 4.0 as well as its features and benefits, MTIB organised a series of seminars throughout Peninsular Malaysia on the subject matter. Conducting the seminars was Encik Azhar Md Nayan from the Penang Skills Development Centre (PSDC). He has over 24 years of experience and accomplishments in a Senior Management and Leadership role in multinational companies being primarily accountable for global supply chain and manufacturing management, new product/process development, plant management, virtual factory management, and workforce/industrial transformation and talent development programmes.

The seminars were conducted in Muar, Johor (28 November 2018), then in Seberang Jaya, Penang (7 December 2018) and Sungai Buloh, Selangor (12 December 2018). It was also conducted with the cooperation of the region's respective furniture associations: Muar Furniture Association (MFA), Penang Furniture Timber Industry Association (PFTIA) and Kuala Lumpur Selangor Furniture Association (KSFA).

Encik Azhar explained about the basic framework of the fourth industrial revolution versus the previous



Photo taken in Seberang Jaya, Penang.

Cont. from previous page

three phases. He also talked about the key drivers and challenges towards the transformation process in manufacturing sector. He helped the participants to understand vital new technologies which included new hardware, software and the integration of multiple systems in regards to manufacturing of products.

The participants also gave their feedback on the lack of expertise and know-how within the timber industry on implementing IR 4.0. They stated that they were very wary of allocating high investments in procuring expensive machinery while not being confident of high returns. They also expected

financial assistance from the Malaysian government to help in their transformation. Encik Azhar further explained that time was needed for the transformation and the participants need not necessarily have to invest heavily in new equipment and machineries as they had the option of retrofitting their existing ones. This was where the element of Internet of Things (IoT) comes into the picture where all equipment and information are stored in the internet and instructions can be carried out easily.

Across all three locations, the seminars were attended by over 40 participants. 



Participants during the seminar in Sungai Buloh, Selangor.

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TECHNICAL TRAINING AT BIOCOMPOSITE CENTRE, BANGOR UNIVERSITY, UK

news

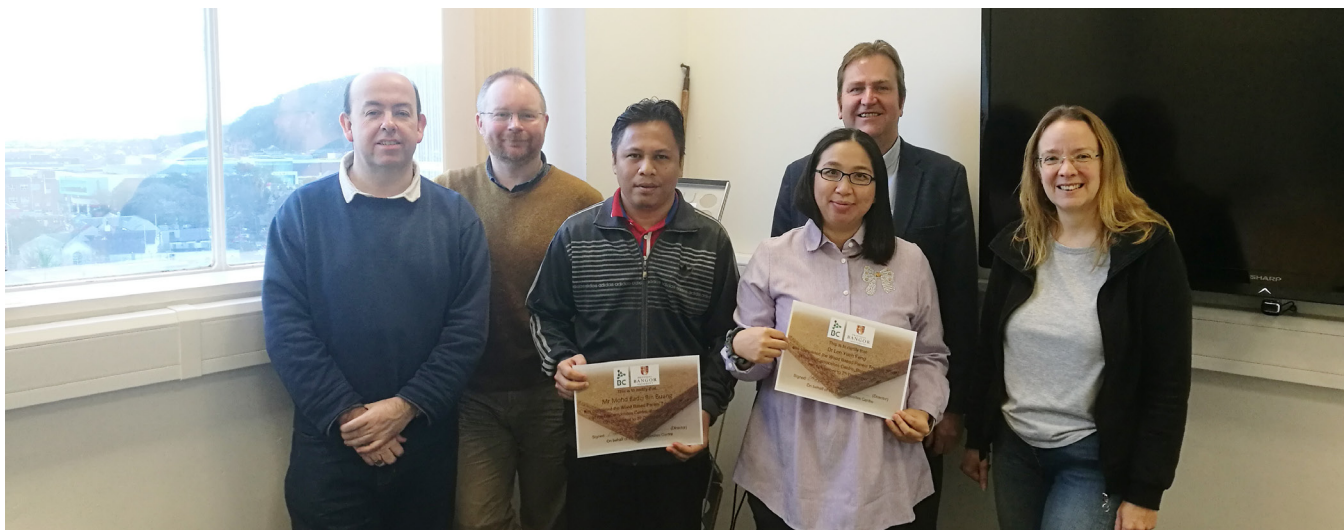


Photo with the lecturer and researchers during the certificate hand-over ceremony.

The Fibre and Biocomposite Centre (FIDEC) was established in year 2007. It is the testing unit for wood-based products. To-date several laboratories comprising different 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 (R&D) activities. On 3 November 2014, FIDEC was certified as an accredited testing laboratory under MS ISO/IEC 17025 by Standard Malaysia. In early 2018, FIDEC expanded its testing scope under the mechanical and chemical laboratories to facilitate the wood-based and biocomposite industries in Malaysia. To further improve and increase the competency of the laboratory personnel and signatory personnel according to MS ISO/IEC 17025, a training programme was held in Biocomposite Centre, University of Bangor, UK from 19 November to 7 December.

In addition to the testing work, FIDEC personnel are involved in R&D projects either in-house or in collaboration with the industry and serve institutes of higher learning in the production of panel products such as particleboard, fibreboard, wood plastic composite (WPC), oriented strand board

(OSB) and plywood. By emphasised the training, it would increase their expertise and knowledge of new technology or processing methods in order for them to provide technical services to the local industry and for FIDEC R&D activities.

The Biocomposite Centre, located at Bangor University is an established research, development and testing institute in the wood and biocomposite industry in the UK. They are actively involved in developing wood products and biocomposites based on standards, especially BS and ISO standards. The institute complete with facilities to assist the industry in the development of panel products biocomposites and also provide mechanical, formaldehyde and volatile of compound (VOC) testing services to industries.

The training and lectures were administered by Dr. Rob Elias and Dr. Graham Ormondroyd who have more than 20 years of experience in fibre and biocomposites, new product development and applications with the wood-based industry. The scope of the training included lectures, practical and factory visits. Practical hands-on activities on processing of small-scale panel and biocomposite



At Kronospan, the largest panel producer in UK.

products, performing mechanical and physical testing were also conducted. The training also included several discussions of issues or problems commonly encountered during the manufacture of small-scale products and transfer to large scale during commercialisation. Training of analysing data and writing of technical papers or technical reports were also provided. The programme ended with a presentation and conclusion by FIDEC.

The summary of training programmes in the Bangor Biocomposite Centre for the production of panel, mechanical and physical testing are listed as below:-

- Panel testing (testing standards and products specifications)
- Market and applications (quality control, carbon budget target)
- Types of wood-based panel (OSB, particleboard, MDF, WPC)
- Production of MDF (refining, mixing, blow line, dryer, forming, press factors)
- Hands on particleboard and MDF making (mystery boards making for comparison)
- Hands on panel testing (bending, internal bonding, density, thickness swelling, water absorption)
- Bio-resin for wood-based industry (lignin, tannin, protein, polysaccharides, lipids)
- Wood biodeterioration (bacteria, fungi, decay fungi, insect)
 - Chemical treatment, chemical modification, thermal treatment, resin treatment
- Life cycle analysis (environment assessment methodology, functionality, time-bond, system

boundaries (raw material, process, end of life)

- Raw materials use (wood, chemical, additives), energy consumption, service life, biogenic carbon, identify hot spots, main impacts etc.
- Timber engineering (construction material, zero energy building, passive house (air tight)
 - use of OSB, MDF, warmcel (insulation from recycle paper), solid timber frame

- WPC
 - Type of polymers-(Polypropylene, Polyethylene, Polyvinyl chloride, Nylon), process (extrusion, injection mouldings, press mouldings, pultrusion), types of additives (compatibilisers, pigments, UV stabilisers, forming additives)
- MDF Recycle (MDF recycling to produce MDF, first in world, reduce cost , more cost effective)

In addition to the training sessions, visits to the wood-based panel industry, sawmill and construction industry were also arranged to allow the participants to see the latest developments in the timber industry in the UK.

i. Kronospan

Established in 1897 as an Austrian family company, Kronospan is the world's largest wood-based panel manufacturer. Over the past 100 years, Kronospan's structures has enabled them to grow and cater for a changing world and also recognized the expansion opportunities within the new markets of east and south-east Europe.

Kronospan manufactures and distributes wood-based panels. Globally they are the leading manufacturer of:

- Particleboard (PB)
- MDF
- Laminate flooring
- Urea Formaldehyde (UF), Melamine Urea Formaldehyde (MUF) and Melamine Formaldehyde (MF) resins for wood-based panels
- The number one manufacturer of OSB in Europe

Kronospan also produces speciality and decorative paper as well as other associated value-added products, such as melamine-faced panels, worktops, wall panels, window sills, lacquered HDF, compact boards, high pressure laminates (HPL) and plywood. Kronospan manufactures wood-based panels at more than 40 sites and is local in many countries.

ii. Clifford Jones Timber (CJT)

As an FSC® certified company CJT prides in creating timbers which exceed their customers' expectations for innovation, performance and quality. Their products range from machine rounds and peeled for fencing, to landscape grade for creating the perfect retaining wall. CJT can also supply laminate for playgrounds. All are manufactured at their site in Wales.

Their timber products are sourced from well-managed, sustainable sources and are pressure-treated to UC4 (timber preservative) with Tanalith® "E8000 with added BARamine™ technology."

CJT is the largest machine-round timber fence post and timber fencing manufacturer and supplier in the UK. They are now producing their own Ecolam, laminate timbers for use in applications such as play areas and construction. CJT offer a full range of fencing products, which are sourced from sustainable forests in the UK.

iii. PYC Construction

Specialising in low energy, high performance buildings, PYC timber frame houses began life in a house building factory in Wales. Their fully

engineered, insulated and air-tight closed panels are transported to site. A weather protected structure can be assembled in only a few days by the construction team. Their experienced construction team specialises in bringing designs to life, manufacturing timber frame buildings in their factory and finishing projects on site.

From Passive House timber frame construction to high quality joinery finishes, they pride themselves in creating beautiful homes. Simple, well thought out finish details create buildings that age well and are a pleasure to live and look at.

Through this comprehensive technical training, MTIB will continue to improve the quality of accredited testing services to the industry. It is important to increase the role of MTIB in the wood and biocomposite industry. Competency aspects are the most important under the accreditation programme and these can only be improved through technical practice.

Beside that, the relationships and collaboration between FIDEC and Biocomposite Centre, Bangor University were established to exchange informations and ideas from experienced foreign researchers in the development of fibre and biocomposite products. This will improve the performance and quality of future FIDEC's services and research projects.

The training was attended by Dr. Loh Yueh Feng and Encik Mohd Radzi Buang from FIDEC. 



The logo for Malaysian Wood, featuring the words 'Malaysian Wood' in a stylized, flowing script font. Above the word 'Wood' is a small green leaf icon. Below the main text is the tagline 'Standing on Excellence' in a smaller, sans-serif font.

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

NSC MEETING – STRENGTHENING NON-STATE ACTORS IN FOREST GOVERNANCE IN INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, PHILIPPINES AND PNG

news



Mr. Balu Perumal (MNS) presenting updates on Malaysia's forest.

Malaysia has been blessed with a treasure of natural biodiversity. Its forests feature many landscapes recognised as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), besides supporting the livelihood of its people. However, sustaining the forests has always been a great challenge due to agricultural expansion, infrastructure development, deforestation and degradation activities.

The national as well as state governments have implemented measures to reduce forest loss, including such initiatives such as Central Forest Spine (CFS), Heart of Borneo (HoB), Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) and the participation in Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT-VPA). Nevertheless, weak governance may sound the death knell for these green spaces, unless members of the population can be empowered to play a larger part in forest governance.

Realising that these critical stakeholders in forest conservation activities, made up of local communities, indigenous people, non-governmental organisations and the public are constraint by lack of technical knowledge, experience and political influence, the National Stakeholder Committee

(NSC) aims to equip non-state actors with necessary technical knowledge, platforms and skills to establish forest monitoring programmes and to have a stronger voice in forest management advocacy.

This five-year project (2017-2021) is funded by the European Union and led by BirdLife International. The partners are national civil society organisations which are Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), Burung Indonesia (Indonesia), Haribon Foundation (the Philippines) and Tenkile Conservation Alliance (Papua

New Guinea), the University of Wolverhampton (UK) Centre for International Development Training (CIDT) and the University of Papua New Guinea.

The objective of the NSC Meeting was to update NSC members on activities, financial standing and Malaysia forest-funded projects to chart the way forward for 2019. The Meeting agenda were as follows:

- Project updates by BirdLife International
- Malaysia (MY) forest update by MNS
- Sharing session by recipients of MY forest project funding
- Briefing on MY forest technical report 2018
- Briefing on MY forest financial report 2018



Emphasising that ecology is being part of the film industry.

Cont. from previous page

• National Stakeholder Committee meeting

Dr. Hum Bahadur Gurung of BirdLife International as the Regional Project Manager for this project stressed that to strengthen the effective engagement of non-state actors in forest governance involves forest monitoring, planning and policy processes. The targeted outcomes are to increase capacity of local, provincial and national non-state actors to monitor forest resource use, forest condition and forest carbon stocks. It is to increase transparency, access to information and accountability in relation to conservation and management of forests. It aims to sustain networking and cooperation within the related non-state actors as well as informed and effective participation in forest policies and processes making.

Mr. Balu Perumal of MNS in his presentation emphasised that, Malaysian's Non-State Actors will be empowered to engage in forest/forestry-related policies and monitoring which will then give support to the implementation of Malaysia's national biodiversity & forest policies. It is meant to foster closer working relationship with government agencies and related forest/ timber-stakeholders in forestry agendas.

The Meeting was informed that the Malaysian forestry was showcased through the 'The 11th

International Kuala Lumpur Eco Film Fest 2018' (KLEFF 2018). The film festival was held on 22-28 October 2018 in Kuala Lumpur. According to Ms. Yasmin Rashid, KLEFF is a platform pertaining to the latest information, knowledge and experiences on various ecological issues and solutions. It also functions to educate and increase awareness of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to Malaysian at large.

This project will continue to work on the issues related to forestry and the environment such as logging in water catchment areas (Kedah), development in forest reserves, de-gazettement of forest reserves for agriculture expansion, public infrastructure (ECRL & TNB lines) cutting through forested areas and unsustainable developments in Cameron Highlands through articles and main stream media. A workshop will be conducted in 2019. The public can access activity updates at www.myforestwatch.weebly.com or its Facebook page at MY Forest Watch@MNSForest.

With updates on programmes which have been carried out and future plans, MNS seeks to work closely with MNS State Branches, local communities, non-governmental organisations, public and government departments to ensure the success of the project to foster strong and effective governance of Malaysia's forests. MTIB was, represented by Puan Emie Syarina Norizan. 



Resak Vatica spp.

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COMPOSITE WOOD PRODUCTS FOR IMPORT INTO THE US MARKET MUST BE TSCA COMPLIANT AS OF MARCH 2019

news

Introduction

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in its December 2016 final ruling established the national formaldehyde emission standards and a third-party certification system for regulated composite wood products (i.e. panels). Related products affected by the ruling include plywood, particleboard and medium-density fibreboard. This EPA ruling serves to ensure that the specified products are compliant before being sold to end-users or fabricated into either component parts or finished goods such as furniture, cabinets, picture frames and toys.

The Rules

Between 1 June 2018 and 22 March 2019, such goods that are imported into or manufactured in the United States must be:

- i. certified as compliant with either Title VI of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) or the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Airborne Toxic Control Measures Phase II emission standards by a third-party certifier approved by CARB and recognised by EPA
- ii. labelled as compliant with the relevant standard

Nevertheless, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is now advising interested parties that after 22 March 2019, such goods may only be certified and labelled as compliant with TSCA Title VI. As such, labelling them as compliant with the CARB ATCM Phase II standards will not be sufficient. Also beginning on that date, importers will be responsible for providing a TSCA Section 13 import certification for articles containing regulated composite wood products, component parts or finished goods imported into the US customs territory. This import certification will be in the form of a positive certification for applicable shipments through the CBP's Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) system. CBP adds that upon request from the EPA, importers must make available within 30 calendar days certain records that document compliance.

Additionally, the EPA recently published a proposed rule that would, among other things, clarify that regulated composite wood products and finished goods containing such materials must be labelled at the point of manufacture or fabrication. If the product is imported, the label would have to be affixed to the product by the date of importation.

Observation

Throughout October 2018, the USA imported USD21.88 billion worth of wood and wood products worldwide, 9.32% more than throughout October 2017. During this same time, Malaysia exported USD622.71 million worth of wood and wood products to the USA, 13.99% greater than January – October of 2017.

Malaysia's leading wood and wood products to the USA throughout October 2018 were wooden bedroom furniture (except seats) at USD369.13 million, 8.06% greater than the same time in 2017; plywood, veneered panels and similar laminated wood at USD97.95 million, 79.11% ahead of last year value; upholstered wooden seats at USD55.24 million, 0.11% growth; wooden seats not upholstered worth USD30.73 million, down 8.06%; and wooden office furniture (except seats) at USD24.83 million, 28.51% up from 2017.

Conclusion

The effects of these new regulations on Malaysian exporters could include expenses related to third-party certification as well as related documentation and record keeping costs. In order to remain competitive, Malaysian suppliers must find methods to reduce cost. They also need to ensure that they comply with the ruling so that they would not bear the cost of rejection at the point of entry into the USA.

For more information, please contact MATRADE Los Angeles at losangeles@matrade.gov.my

Note : The article was contributed by MATRADE. 

GERMANY: FURNITURE INDUSTRY OUTLOOK



Germany, officially Federal Republic of Germany, German Deutschland or Bundesrepublik Deutschland, country of north-central Europe, traversing the continent's main physical divisions, from the outer ranges of the Alps northward across the varied landscape of the Central German Uplands and then across the North German Plain. As one of Europe's largest countries, Germany encompasses a wide variety of landscapes: the tall, sheer mountains of the south; the sandy, rolling plains of the north; the forested hills of the urbanized west; and the plains of the agricultural east. At the spiritual heart of the country is the magnificent east-central city of Berlin, which rose phoenix like from the ashes of World War II and now, after decades of partition, is the capital of a reunified Germany, and the Rhine River, which flows northward from Switzerland and is celebrated in visual art, literature, folklore, and song.

Economy

After averaging 2.1% over the period 2014-2017 Germany's GDP growth slowed to 1.5% in 2018. The slowdown was caused mainly by weakening export growth and growing consumer restraint, particularly in the second half of the year. In addition, shortage of labor is weighing on growth, while risks include trade conflicts, a disorderly Brexit and a potential Italian debt crisis.

Overall, real GDP growth is expected to cool further to 1.1% in 2019. In 2020, a strong calendar effect should help annual growth to rebound somewhat to 1.7%, though the quarterly dynamics would remain relatively subdued due to further moderation of demand and tightening of labour supply.

Forest Resources

Germany ranks among the densely wooded countries in Europe. Around 11 million hectares corresponding to one third of the national territory are covered with forests. German forests composed

of 60% coniferous forests and around 40% deciduous forests. Approximately 73% of German forests consist of mixed stands. Spruce accounts for the largest share among the tree species (28%), followed by Pine (23%), Beech (15%) and Oak (10%). The tree species proportions vary and depend on the specific natural features and site conditions as well as on different historic developments. The majority of German forest areas have been certified according to leading international system such as PEFC or FSC.

Timber Production

According to the FAO latest forest statistics, Germany produced around 29 million m³ of logs in 2017. The country also produced 23 million m³ of sawntimber, 5 million m³ of particleboard and fibreboard.



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

(Volume: m³)

Product/Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Fibreboard	5,119,259	5,212,550	5,287,649	5,399,411	5,744,575
Logs	26,841,046	28,113,903	30,381,489	28,183,300	29,833,700
Particleboard	5,552,995	5,665,080	5,530,587	5,617,619	5,759,450
Sawntimber	21,478,169	21,771,800	21,489,849	22,197,245	23,167,680
Plywood	134,590	147,900	107,674	114,486	99,845
Veneer	103,575	97,690	89,599	86,906	88,850

Source: FAO

Germany Import of Timber and Timber Products

Germany's import of timber and timber products in 2018 increased 8.3% to USD14.6 billion from USD13.5 billion in 2017. Germany import mainly furniture, sawntimber, BJC and plywood. Import of furniture and sawntimber totaled USD6.0 billion and USD1.5

billion, an increase of 6% and 13% respectively. Similarly, import of BJC and plywood improved by 12% to USD1.3 billion and 13% to USD0.98 million respectively. Poland, Austria and Czech Republic are main importers of timber to Germany whilst China and Italy were main supplier of furniture to the country.

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

(Value : USD'000)

Product	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Logs	816,545	666,190	621,615	633,612	599,590
Sawntimber	1,464,440	1,257,294	1,297,250	1,361,223	1,537,748
Veneer	167,564	162,528	174,798	174,379	177,403
Mouldings	284,669	254,181	248,920	267,999	277,766
Particleboard/Chipboard	895,347	754,256	729,862	757,376	865,246
Fibreboard	454,488	410,498	420,202	429,960	474,549
Plywood	902,770	790,222	761,208	871,779	982,023
BJC	1,203,071	1,016,922	1,064,774	1,164,081	1,304,600
Furniture	5,985,994	5,438,823	5,537,561	5,727,907	6,044,981
Others	2,331,138	2,043,977	1,956,382	2,078,235	2,322,630
Total	14,506,026	12,794,891	12,812,572	13,466,551	14,586,536

Source: International Trade Centre

Germany Export of Timber and Timber Products

Germany's export of timber and timber products in 2018 increased 9% to USD17.3 billion from USD16.0 billion last year. Germany export mainly furniture, fibreboard, sawntimber and BJC. Export of furniture

totalled USD7.9 billion, an increase of 6% from USD7.5 billion in the previous year. In the meanwhile, export of fibreboard totalled USD1.9 billion followed by sawntimber at USD2.5 billion and BJC at USD1.3 billion. Austria, France and Switzerland are main market for German export of timber and furniture.



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

(Value : USD'000)

Product	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Logs	409,481	364,895	365,850	408,142	526,223
Sawntimber	2,159,211	1,748,621	1,857,034	2,137,793	2,486,761
Veneer	182,657	165,292	159,705	165,401	160,824
Mouldings	227,457	187,524	194,293	233,170	259,061
Particleboard/Chipboard	778,261	644,125	637,552	673,771	757,126
Fibreboard	1,950,447	1,767,991	1,803,400	1,922,396	1,989,062
Plywood	286,641	254,365	276,836	305,438	328,654
BJC	1,422,034	1,207,227	1,206,325	1,325,024	1,344,047
Furniture	7,912,098	6,984,465	7,228,267	7,462,489	7,931,680
Others	1,402,718	1,182,962	1,181,982	1,322,346	1,558,714
Total	16,731,005	14,507,467	14,911,244	15,955,970	17,342,152

Source: International Trade Centre

Malaysia Export of Timber and Timber Products to Germany

In 2018, export of Malaysian timber and timber products to Germany registered a decrease of 7% to RM168.2 million from RM181.3 million in 2017. Germany ranked 22nd from total export of

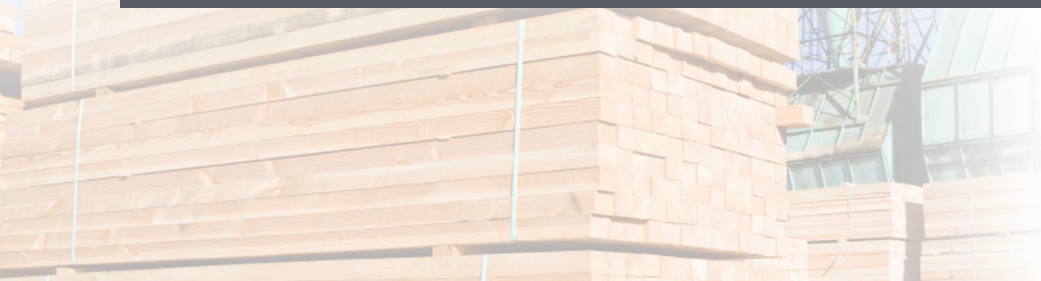
Malaysian timber and timber products accounted for 0.75% market share. Wooden furniture was the main product exported with a total value of RM50.6 million, followed by mouldings at RM42.5 million, sawntimber at RM46.4 million and BJC at RM26.3 million.

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

(Value: RM)

Product	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2018/2017
Logs	0	0	0	73,920	0	0.0
Sawntimber	47,006,026	46,406,008	41,296,182	41,877,981	46,406,090	10.8
Plywood	4,541,979	1,391,292	227,871	334,918	183,315	-45.3
Veneer	38,171	23,374	0	232,084	179,587	-22.6
Mouldings	57,004,372	63,057,246	48,638,232	45,001,059	42,493,362	-5.6
Fibreboard	0	0	0	0	60,226	100.0
Chipboard/Particleboard	109,169	0	0	0	0	0.0
Wooden Frame	195,325	13,130	0	0	0	0.0
BJC	10,357,297	9,607,952	28,845,420	31,604,630	26,346,823	-16.6
Wooden Furniture	89,107,505	76,902,747	58,400,319	59,303,247	50,613,011	-14.7
Rattan Furniture	1,575,243	112,360	200,406	0	0	0.0
Other Products	916,332	1,110,607	5,506,030	2,864,989	1,952,400	-31.9
Total	210,851,419	198,624,716	183,114,460	181,292,828	168,234,814	-7.2

Source: MTIB & DOSM



Malaysia Import of Timber and Timber Products from Germany

In 2018, import of Malaysian timber and timber products from Germany declined 26% to RM59.2

million from RM79.7 million in 2017. Sawntimber was the main product imported with a total value of RM34.2 million, followed by wooden furniture at RM7.7 million and veneer at RM3.8 million.

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

(Value: RM)

Product	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 18/17
Logs	2,090,297	1,546,019	1,547,985	1,216,482	1,314,295	8.0
Sawntimber	20,436,957	30,107,258	29,624,728	43,747,952	34,200,894	-21.8
Plywood	588,095	587,018	1,201,949	243,885	388,447	59.3
Veneer	1,854,725	3,590,512	3,319,705	8,720,594	3,789,970	-56.5
Mouldings	22,019	278,463	0	245,890	83,818	-65.9
Chipboard/Particleboard	560,041	587,430	1,658,960	790,831	302,815	-61.7
Fibreboard	269,439	562,981	331,391	193,206	73,138	-62.1
BJC	98,276	86,518	1,492,720	3,323,873	2,143,313	-35.5
Wooden Furniture	12,405,381	29,526,823	11,902,663	13,011,874	7,680,025	-41.0
Rattan Furniture	2,211,164	906,004	238,410	118,034	10,100	-91.4
Wooden Frame	0	0	0	0	5,614	100.0
Other Products	6,469,760	10,535,850	8,288,190	8,129,866	9,179,777	12.9
Total	47,006,154	78,314,876	59,606,701	79,742,487	59,172,206	-25.8

Source: MTIB & DOSM

Import Tariff

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

Hs Code	Product	Duty (%)
4401	Fuel Wood	0
4402	Wood Charcoal	0
4403	Logs	0
4404	Hoop Wood	0
4405	Wood Wool and Wood Flour	0
4406	Sleepers	0
4407	Sawntimber	0 - 2.5
4408	Veneer	0 - 6
4409	Mouldings	0
4410	Particleboard	7
4411	Fibreboard	7
4412	Plywood	6 - 10
4413	Densified Wood	0
4414	Wooden Frames	0 - 2.5
4415	Packing Cases	3 - 4

4416	Cask, Barrels, Vats and Tubs	0
4417	Tools Bodies and Handle	0
4418	BJC	0 - 3
4419	Tableware and Kitchenware	0
4420	Wood Marquetry	0 - 4
4421	Other Articles of Wood	0 - 4
9104-9403	Wooden Furniture	0 - 5.6

Source: WTO

Furniture Industry Outlook

The furniture industry in Germany generates total annual sales of EUR19.4 billion as of December 2015. Over 1,130 employees are working in about 1,000 companies that mostly are medium sized, yet there are a few large producers in the country. Production of furniture is labour intensive, noticeably in the salaries expenses that amounted to 19% of total sales generated. Nonetheless modern technology and skilled labour is used in every production processes. Big chunk of the production is sold locally and 29%

is exported mainly to other European countries. Furniture imports rose considerably during the past years. Most of the imports come from Poland, China, Italy and Czech Republic.

Furniture made of natural materials in combination with innovative design is one of the upcoming trends in Germany. Foreign premium producers could find big margins in this specific market section. Generally, there is a significant trend towards natural material although these materials are getting more expensive. Producers of furniture have best opportunities to succeed on the German market by providing good quality, natural materials and low prices. However, there products have to fulfil the requirement of a modern and appealing design.

Based on the positive outlook and opportunities in the furniture industry, Malaysian exporters

should take full advantage of the rising trend in the residential and non-residential construction activities along with the increased preference for wood in construction projects to further promote Malaysian timber and timber products especially value-added products such as furniture, BJC and mouldings, in addition to only promoting building materials namely sawntimber and plywood. Malaysian timber exporters need to take this chance to enhance their presence in the market and continue to improve networking with Germany's timber importers through various promotion activities.

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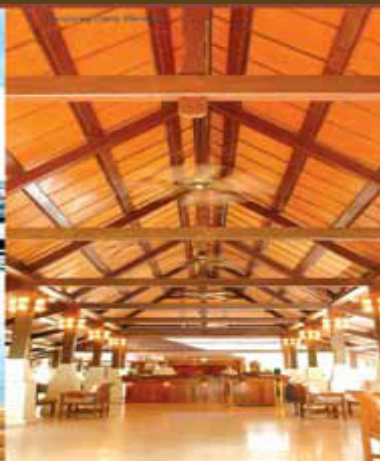
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COLLABORATION BETWEEN MTIB AND UNIVERSITY OF STUTTGART, GERMANY FOR PRODUCT CONFORMITY ASSESSMENTS

news

Wood has always been popular due to natural properties. Malaysia is a major exporter of wood for a wide range of applications. Wood can in fact, be made into a luxury material if its properties are enhanced. As such, the promotion of Cross-Laminated Timber and Glue-Laminated Timber Products could enhance the economy of the Malaysian timber industry. The introduction of Engineered Timber Products from tropical species known for its good physical and mechanical properties will also have an effect on the European market. Nevertheless, evidence of products performance should first be carried out by means of tests before any policy can be enforced. MTIB with the help of Universiti Teknologi MARA and University of Stuttgart aims to develop products from Malaysian trees (Light Red Meranti and Keruing) for this purpose. A mission has been carried out to discuss with project bodies (Materials Testing Institute of Stuttgart, University of Stuttgart, Germany), responsible for product conformity assessments in the EU market as in **Figure 1**.



Figure 1: Discussion with MPA Stuttgart and (b) UiTM.

Consequently, the performance of both mechanical and physical properties of Light Red Meranti and Keruing was recorded. Based on the discussion during the meeting, it was clear that there was a growing demand for CE marking or a certification mark for products to be sold within European Economic Area (EEA). The CE mark represents a conformity to the health, safety, and environmental protection standards for products sold within the European Economic Area (EEA). The CE marking is also found on products sold outside the EEA that are manufactured in, or designed to be sold in,

the EEA. The required documents namely European Assessment Documents (EAD) will be inspected by the European Organisational Technical Assessment (EOTA) if products are covered by the harmonised technical specification and if there are no documents described, EOTA will issue to provide the documents.

The European Assessment Document (EAD) is the documentation of the methods and criteria accepted in EOTA as being applicable for the assessment of the performance of a construction product in relation to its essential characteristics. The bending and compression type mechanical tests are a part of tests involved in preparing EAD document (**Figure 2**). The EAD is developed in all cases where the assessment of a construction product is not or not fully covered by a harmonised technical specification (Regulation (EU) No 305/2011).

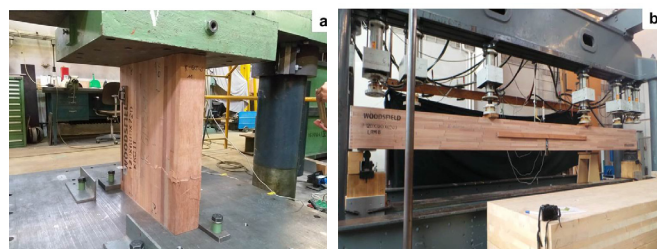


Figure 2: Compression and (b) bending type mechanical tests.

For the documentation, Technical Assessment Bodies (TABs) use an EAD-format which had been agreed upon by the European Commission in March 2015. The purpose of this format are: simplification, consistency, and comparability of the information provided. EADs were adopted in cooperation with the manufacturer, the TABs acting jointly in EOTA, and the European Commissions. Adopted EADs are used by Technical Assessment Bodies to issue European Technical Assessments (ETA). References to adopt EADs according to Annex II.7 in the above Regulation are announced on this website under "Publications/EADs" once an ETA is issued.

The EAD is a harmonised technical specification (hTS) for the Construction Products Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 (CPR). Reference of final EADs is published by the European Commission in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) and provided

in NANDO, once an ETA has been issued. Once the EAD reference is published in the OJEU, EOTA provides final EADs for download on this website. Member States or the European Commission may raise formal objections against EADs.

The development of an EAD follows the definition of a work and assessment programme in cases a manufacturer requests for an ETA for a construction product and there is no appropriate basis for the technical assessment of such a product. The TAB which has received the ETA request will define the work and assessment programme (**Figure 3**) taking into account the essential characteristics, relevant for the intended use and based on the agreement between the manufacturer and the TAB.

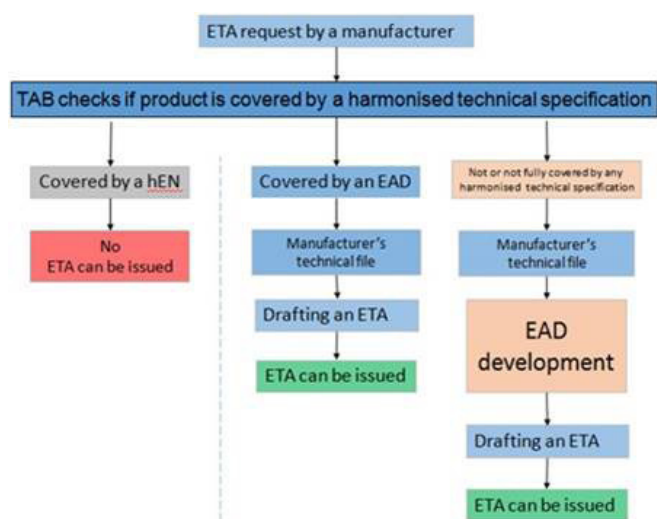


Figure 3: Work and assessment programme by Technical Assessment Body.

If no appropriate basis for the technical assessment of a product exists, the subject of the ETA's request and the work and assessment programme will be discussed in EOTA. When the work and assessment programme is executed, in parallel and beside to the ETA process the EAD will be drafted by the TAB which has received the request for an ETA (so called RTAB). The draft EAD will be discussed within EOTA. The Bodies designated for the relevant product area(s) and/or horizontal or ad hoc working groups will participate in the development process as well. The development procedure is managed by the RTAB.

EOTA will inform the European Commission (EC) about the work programme. In most case, this information also contains information on the assessment programme. From that moment on, the development process of an EAD in general should not exceed six months. The EC is involved in the

development from the moment of the 1st draft EAD, which also initiates the adoption phase. The final draft EAD is agreed upon consensus of the Technical Assessment Bodies (TABs), adopted in the EOTA Technical Board and submitted for observations to the EC. Consultation periods are defined in the Regulation (EU) 305/2011 and are further detailed in the Consistency System Manual of the EOTA Internal Regulations.

CE markings have to be applied from ETA which will be monitored by TABs. This involves many areas such as the verification of test results, products performance, production procedure, sources and standard use.

In terms of mechanical strength for Keruing type glulam products, the results clearly showed that the failure of the medium beam size was due to the wood (**Figure 4a**). Similar behaviour was also observed on large size glulam products (**Figure 4b**) and this proves that the polymer could improve on the strength properties of wood products. The polymers form a solid structure when it is cured thus increasing on adhesive and adhesion between the lamella.

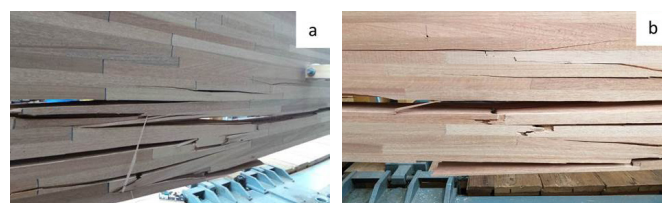


Figure 4 : Failure of medium and (b) large beam size

In terms of compression test, the failure was due to the wood and the reason as similar as stated earlier. The type of failure was shear (**Figure 5a-b**).



Figure 5 : Wood failure

The programme took place from 9 to 20 December and MTIB was represented by Tuan Hj. Mahpar Atan and Encik Nabil Fikri Leemon from Industry Development.

Course on Furniture Finishing Technology organised by MTIB for 'Persatuan Pengusaha Perabot, Wakaf dan Ukiran Bumiputera Wilayah Utara' (PERWAKIR) members, held on 3-6 December 2018 at WISDEC, Banting, Selangor.



Advanced Course on Automatic Edge Bending Machine Operation at Syarikat Teras Jaya Sdn. Bhd. in Alor Setar, Kedah on 10 December 2018.



YBhg. Dato' Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General (front row, fifth from left) posing with MTIB officials, lecturers and students from Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) after giving a briefing during the Adjunct Professor Talk organised by UTHM on 4 December 2018 at UTHM, Batu Pahat, Johor.



YBhg. Dato' Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General (fourth from right), flanked by Puan Hjh. Norchahaya Hashim, Deputy Director-General (Management and Operation) and Puan Hjh. Noor Laila Mohamed Halip, Deputy Director-General (Development and Commercial) posing with MTIB officials during their visit to Level 12, Menara PGRM 2 on 31 December 2018.



KL Wood and Lifestyle Fair organised by MTIB from 13 to 16 December 2018 at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.



MTIB Strategic Planning Retreat held on 20 December 2018 at Menara PGRM 2, Kuala Lumpur.