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MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD



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RESURRECTION OF RUDINARA SALINGER TIMBER HOUSE



■ Congratulations -
Tuan Haji Mahpar bin Atan Appointed as
the Deputy Director-General of MTIB

■ Working Visit to
Bamboo Plantation in
Nami, Kedah





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RESURRECTION OF RUDINARA SALINGER TIMBER HOUSE



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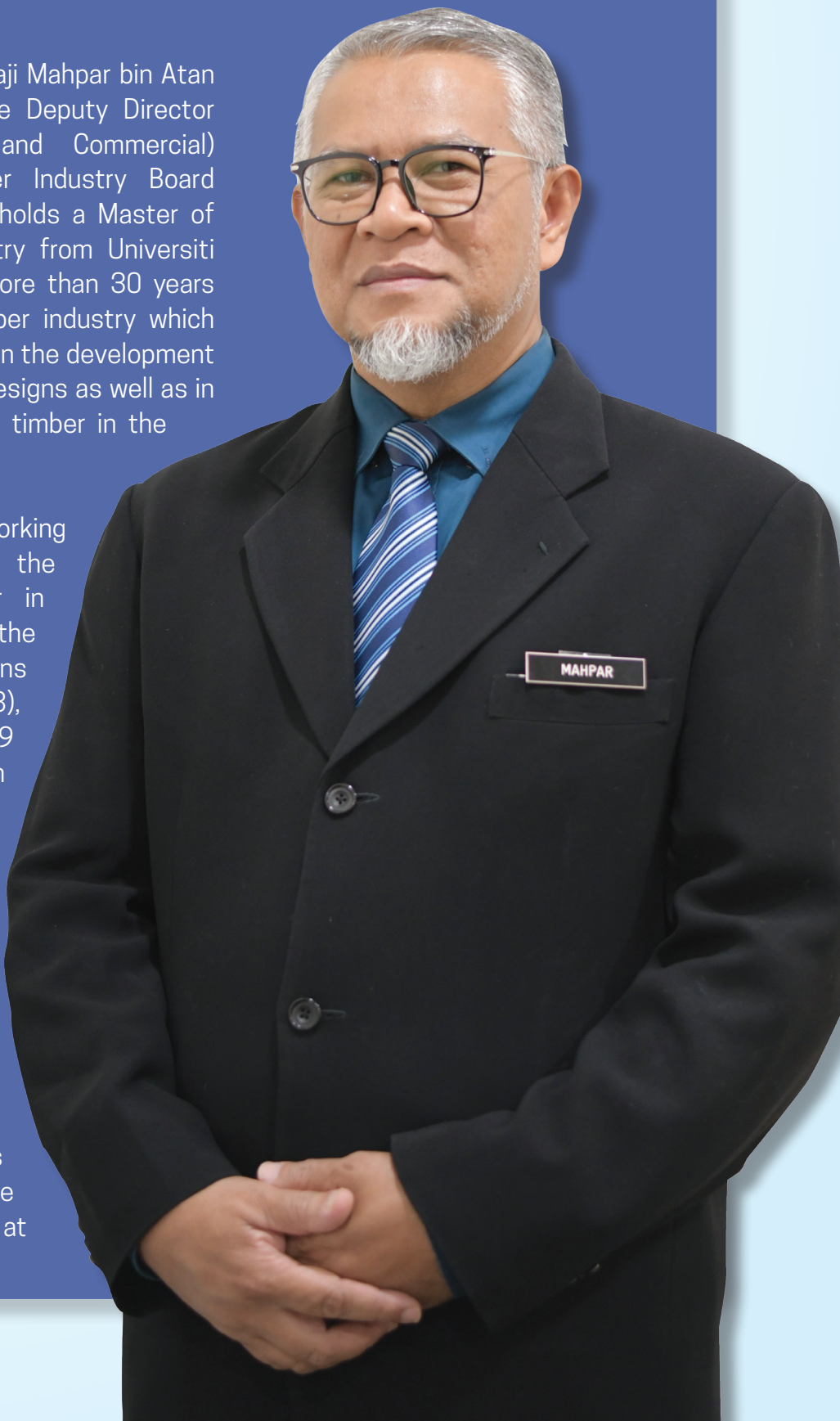
Congratulations

TUAN HAJI MAHPAR BIN ATAN APPOINTED AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MTIB

On 1 July 2020, Tuan Haji Mahpar bin Atan was appointed as the Deputy Director General (Development and Commercial) of the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB). Tuan Haji Mahpar holds a Master of Science Degree in Forestry from Universiti Putra Malaysia. He has more than 30 years of experience in the timber industry which includes his contributions in the development of timber standards and designs as well as in encouraging the usage of timber in the construction industry.

Tuan Haji Mahpar began working in MTIB in 1987. Among the highlights of his career in MTIB includes his roles as the director of several divisions such as WISDEC (1998), MTIB Sabah Branch (1999 – 2008), Forest Plantation (2009 – 2012) and Industry Development (2012 – 2020).

On behalf of all MTIB management and staff, we would like to congratulate Tuan Haji Mahpar on his appointment and look forward to his continuous leadership in MTIB and the Malaysian timber industry at large.





VIET NAM

FORESTRY EXPORTS REACH 5.3 BILLION USD IN SIX MONTHS

Export revenue of forestry products hit over USD 5.3 billion in the first six months of 2020, up 2.7 percent over the same period last year, reported the Vietnam Administration of Forestry.

The administration predicted that in the whole year, total export will reach between USD 11.75 to USD 12 billion.

In the first half of this year, Vietnam imported 1.12 billion worth of wood and wood products, down 8.8 percent year on year. The agency estimated the yearly figure at around USD 2.55 billion, the same as in 2019.

In the first six months, 106,300 hectares of forest were planted, fulfilling 48.3 percent of the yearly target of 220,000 hectares.

en.vietnamplus.vn, 13th July 2020



ASIA

HIGH DEMAND PUTS PRESSURE ON LEAD TIMES FROM ASIA PLANTS

Sustained consumer demand for furniture at retail has been one of the silver linings the industry has seen evolving out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now that demand is starting to become a challenge, particularly as overseas factories are just starting to come online after being shut down for weeks earlier this spring. Lead times have been extended so much that many importers say they can't get products shipped until sometime during the fourth quarter for orders placed now.

The situation is not unique to any one country in Asia. In fact, importers say there are shipping delays from China, Vietnam, Malaysia, India and even

Indonesia. Part of the reason has to do with the fact that many factories are struggling to rehire workers following shutdowns and furloughs earlier this past spring. That leaves some with limited capacity to produce for major markets such as the U.S., not to mention Europe and the Middle East.

In addition, there is competition for existing capacity from larger retailers and importers alike that are fueling factories' push for higher minimum order quantities aimed at boosting efficiencies as they ramp up. Up to now many importers have been in a good position due to high inventory levels that sustained their operations in May and June, particularly as retail in the U.S. opened back up. But those inventories are starting to dwindle.

That leaves many in need of new products at a time when factories are stretched to their capacity.

"A lot of the bottleneck has to do with factories conservatively ramping back up," said H. Kelly, senior vice president, case goods and outdoor furniture at Klaussner Home Furnishings, which sources nearly all of its case goods line in Viet Nam. "Some had to shut down due to COVID-19 and had furloughs.

"What happened to us is we ramped up for Chinese New Year; then COVID-19 hit, and everything sort of shut down," he added. "We still had a bubble of inventory, but now the inventory has been depleted. The demand has been very strong for us. Now we are trying to play catch up. We are bulking back up on inventory that is tried-and-true products - products that sell. We are not bulking back up on new stuff."

The challenge for Klaussner and others is competing for capacity with other manufacturers in its source factories in Viet Nam and other parts of Asia. As a result, lead times are reportedly extending from 90 to 120-plus days from the time of order till when it ships from the factory. Then there is another 30-45 days on the water, which means that orders that come in now won't likely hit retail until mid-December.

Others are saying to expect some products even later, particularly from places like Malaysia, India and even China.

"It is filling up everywhere," said Dean Banks, general manager of case goods and upholstery resource Emerald Home Furnishings. "It is supply and demand, and with business taking off the way it is ... factories are pretty much filled up for November. We are already starting our Chinese New Year forecasting."

He noted that although it depends on the factory, orders placed today for products from Viet Nam will ship in November, meaning products probably won't hit retail floors until the end of December. Goods shipped later might not arrive until even after the first quarter of the year.

For example, goods such as bedroom and dining shipped from Malaysia is not expected to ship before the end of November, meaning the products likely won't hit retail until sometime in January.

"I think everyone is in the same boat," Banks said, adding that dealers are being asked to get orders in now for product to be shipped before Chinese New Year. "We are doing everything we can to get them the products. It is feast or famine right now. Everything is getting pushed back.

"It also depends on how big you are, too. Are you going to be at the top of the list or slide to the bottom? It is a pretty tough time right now."

Banks noted Emerald is fortunate to have just added a warehouse in Lexington, N.C., which is already shipping products. Some 100 containers now on the water are targeted to hit the warehouse by late August. Another 200 are expected to land in September, which will allow retailers plenty of products on hand for the fall selling season.

Don Essenberg, president of case goods importer Legacy Classic Furniture, said the company finds itself in a strong inventory position that it expects to carry it through the fall.

"The forecast is to get us through the fall selling season, but no one knows what that means," he said of whether demand will continue amidst ongoing uncertainties with COVID-19.

"No one wants to be sitting on a bunch of inventory if the consumer can't shop or doesn't feel comfortable shopping," he added.

Essenberg said the current situation with tight shipment schedules results largely from Asian factories downsizing during the slowdown due to the cancellation of orders from the U.S. What surprised many — factories, wholesalers and retailers alike — was the way consumer demand surged once retail reopened in late April and early May.

"What we are hearing is that they are trying to ramp up; it depends on the number of workers you can get," he said of the Asian factories. "It passes the logic test. If you reduced your order intake and didn't plan for demand picking up like it did, you are scrambling. If you don't have inventory, you can't service floor placements."

While he expects the company's strong inventory position will carry it through the fall, the future beyond that is unknown.

"You have to work three weeks out to get containers and space on a ship, and if your production ends in November, you are still look at 60 days. It's July, and we are now booking orders to get before Chinese New Year."

Of course, none of this means consumers won't find any products at retail at the end of the year or early 2020. However, their choices could be limited, forcing them to settle for their second or third choice vs. their first choice of product. Thus retailers could have to work harder to land the sale, particularly due to competition from e-commerce players such as Amazon and Wayfair.

Moe Samieian Jr., president of Moe's Home Collection, said that not all factories are having trouble shipping. Some, he noted, can ship in October or roughly 45 to 50 days from the time of order. For example, he noted, sources in Viet Nam are pretty much on a normal schedule, only facing delays of roughly 10 days.

"Their production time isn't that much different than normal," he said of source factories in Viet Nam.

But he added of China in particular that "we almost have no factories that will produce in less than 70 days from the time of order." With another 30 days on the water plus delivery times, some products may not hit retail until sometime in mid-autumn. This includes one of its source plants in China that can't deliver to the West Coast until late October or early November.

"Where we have the biggest swing is China," he said of the nearly 80-day lead times versus a more typical 45. "I can see November out of China... unless you have inventory that is not spoken for or not sold, you will not be able to fulfill anything new until November."

And with countries such as India, he said, "The best case we are talking about is delivering in the New Year." That projection factors in not only lead times of up to 120 days, but also an estimated 50 days transit time to the west coast. "So now you are at six months."

"India is a big struggle as some of the factories were closed 45 to 60 days," he said. "Then they took time to rehire and train. This is potentially a four- to six-month kind of issue. They are much slower getting products out. This has also happened to us in China. Due to COVID-19, they have slowed down orders for two months."

As with others, one of the big challenges at Moe's has been managing inventory throughout the pandemic. High demand in June and early July, while indeed welcome, eventually caused a drop in inventory levels.

"As COVID-19 hit, we didn't slow down our ordering," Samieian said of the push to be in a strong inventory position in the spring and beyond. "When things got back to normal, we were back to the best inventory positions we have been in. For August and September, we are forecasting it being lower than we want it to be.

up year-over-year, and that has taken a hit on our inventory, so in August we will be looking for some products. We will definitely hit a low point in August and September.”

Dan Kendrick, president of case goods resource Progressive Furniture, said that most of the factories it deals with in Malaysia and Indonesia are quoting October and November for new shipments, with some running into December.

“With the factories we deal with, we started to order heavy in April and maybe as early as March because we saw this coming and knew they were going to shut down,” he said, of the push to be in a strong inventory position in spring and beyond. “We wanted to get as much (products) as we could.

“Viet Nam may be a little better because of the capacity we have,” he added, noting that Progressive also has tried to order additional quantities to be able to service its dealers.

Kendrick noted that because they haven’t been able to get workers, some of the small to mid-size factories Progressive works with are running at 40% to 50% capacity.

In addition, some have had trouble getting raw materials ranging from hardware to cartons. “It is not all labor. Some of it is raw materials. Raw materials and supplies are difficult for factories in Malaysia and Vietnam when they are getting those materials from China.”

Rob Halsten, vice president, marketing for Chromcraft Revington Douglas, said the surge in demand affects almost every category coming from Asia, from accent pieces to upholstery.

“What I am picking up is that it is difficult right now,” he said. “The economy has really exploded, and consumers are sick and tired of looking at what is in their home. They are looking for something new, and they want to get it right away. This has taken everyone by surprise. No one can get their pipelines filled.”

He said the situation is further compounded by issues ranging from higher minimum order quantities at factories to large retailers taking up much of the capacity at those same plants. Add in worker shortages, and the situation gets even more challenging.

“It is almost unprecedented to have something like this all across the board,” he said, noting he hasn’t seen anything like it in his 38 years in the industry. “It is almost unbelievable.”

www.furnituretoday.com, 27 July 2020



TIMBER 2020 GOES ONLINE

The Wood Technology Society (WTS) has announced that timber 2020 will now be delivered via a virtual conference. This is due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak and restrictions on travel and the need for social distancing. The date of the event which is September 9-10, remains the same.

“The move to a virtual event presents some new opportunities for the way that the conference will be structured, and we are sure we can maintain full participation by delegates, with a range of styles of discussion, networking and social activity sessions,” said a spokesperson. “We have access to a great platform for this virtual event through the IOM3 conferencing facilities. We look forward to gathering for the presentations, discussions, and Q&A and networking sessions.

The conference will span all topics related to timber – from the largest structures to the smallest models of the influence of ultrastructure on performance. Topics will range from preservation to panel products and modified wood to engineered lumber.

The provisional programme includes Martin Ansell speaking on massive timber structures; Alicia Przystup, Hannah Schrempf and Giedrius Visniauskas and Thomas Reynolds speaking on CLT connection behaviour under extreme deformations and its influence on structural robustness in large timber structures.

David Trujillo will present on developing ISO standards for bamboo, while Nick Meech and George Fereday will discuss the XR beam – a trussed hardwood beam for value-added use of roundwood thinnings in the South-East of England.

Tabitha Binding, of Trada and the TTF will speak on the subject of teaching timber, while Dan Ridley-Ellis and Marlene Cramer will answer questions on density. Janet Sycamore will present on the timber decking & Cladding Association’s work to establish a quality scheme for wood-plastic composite decking.

www.ttjonline.com, 31 July 2020



GHANA

DISCUSSIONS ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY POLICY CLOSE TO COMPLETION

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MEST) has reported that the government is finalising a National Biodiversity Policy aimed at ensuring the protection, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, the sustainable management of forests and the combating of desertification.

The MEST Minister, Prof. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng, stressed the need for people to adopt positive lifestyles to reverse biodiversity loss to help preserve, protect and promote natural resources for the benefit of future generations.

Biodiversity loss is a key element under the implementation of the Forestry Development Master Plan (2016 – 2036) that will contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) to manage forests and combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

www.globalwood.org, 16-30 July 2020



AUSTRALIA

HYNE GETS WOOD ON TIMBER IMPORTS WITH NEW FACILITY

State Development Minister Kate Jones has today officially opened a new USD 23 million timber processing factory in Maryborough.

The facility belonging to Queensland company, Hyne Timber was built with support through the Palaszczuk Government's USD 175 million Jobs and Regional Growth Fund.

Ms Jones said Hyne Timber's new state-of-the-art glue laminated timber processing plant was a job generator and a game-changer for the building and construction industry.

"Major construction projects are vital to rebuilding our economy and creating local jobs into the future," Ms Jones said.

"Construction of this factory has supported around 80 jobs. Once it's fully operational, this new processing plant is tipped to create more than 40 local jobs.

"This is a Queensland company that is partnering with the government to create jobs for locals when they need them most.

"This project will help to grow their business and their capacity to create more jobs in regional Queensland."

The new plant will focus on the large-scale production of glue laminated timber that has applications in the residential and mass timber commercial construction markets.

www.miragenews.com, 6 August 2020



UNITED STATES

WOOD PRODUCTS AND FURNITURE LEAD MANUFACTURING ONCE AGAIN FOR JULY

U.S. manufacturing rose once again in July and is now the strongest it has been in 18 months.

The Institute for Supply Management's (ISM) monthly manufacturing index hit 54.2 percent for the month, the highest reading since March 2019 and beating out last month by 1.6 percentage points.

A reading above 50 percent indicates growth in manufacturing, which amounts to around 11 percent of the total U.S. economy. New orders rose substantially (up 5.1 percent to 61.5), the backlog of orders increased 6.5 percent to 51.8, and employment increased 2.2 percent to 44.3 - a softer decline.

"The growth cycle continues for the second straight month after three prior months of COVID-19 disruptions," says Timothy R. Fiore, ISM chair. "Demand and consumption continued to drive expansion growth, with inputs remaining at parity with supply and demand."

Just like in June, wood products and furniture led the charge. Following wood products were textile mills; printing, food, beverage and tobacco; and plastic and rubber products.

Of the 18 manufacturing industries, 13 reported growth in July. ISM says three industries saw contractions: Transportation Equipment, Machinery, and Fabricated Metal Products.

www.woodworkingnetwork.com, 4 August 2020





Shaping the Timber Industry of Malaysia

Spot the difference

They look similar, are made from the same type of hardwood and have similar price tags. The only difference is that one came from a rainforest and the other from a plantation.

Every year, millions of trees are felled to fulfill the demands of the timber industry. Problems arise when these trees are not replaced as fast as they are taken, causing a multitude of environmental problems.

MTIB is fully aware of the need for renewable resources. One solution is forest plantation, where trees are planted specifically for commercial purposes. Not only does it provide a steady supply of timber, it also works to the advantage of our environment.

We care about the environment as much as we care about the timber industry, which is why it is important for us to come up with solutions that benefit both – because beautiful furniture doesn't have to come with a high environmental price tag.



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

For more information, contact:

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RESURRECTION OF RUDINARA SALINGER TIMBER HOUSE

MITIB and iCARE of Universiti Teknologi Mara, Puncak Alam Campus made a special visit to the Salinger House located in Seremban on 22 July 2020. The visit was organised by its owner, Datuk Fadzil Bin Dato' Rashid and Associate Professor Abd Rahim Awang, from the Faculty of Architecture Planning and Surveying, UiTM Puncak Alam, Selangor. The purpose of the visit was to allow MTIB to study Associate Professor Abd Rahim Awan's proposal of chartering and documenting the relocation of the Salinger House to its current location.

Rudinara Salinger House, the recipient of the International Aga Khan Award, 1996-98 was built in Sungai Merab, Bangi in 1992. It took the master carpenter, the late Ibrahim Adam and his team from Kelantan, six and a half years to complete it. Today however, the house lies on top of a secluded hill at Mayang Sari Salida Sanctuary in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan.

Salinger House is a post-and-beam *cengal* timber structure raised on stilts to reduce its impact on the land and the environment. It is designed in line with the style of a traditional Malay house but is interjected with modern concepts and reflections of the client's Islamic faith. It was also designed with sustainable ecological principles in mind.



The group strikes a pose on the front balcony of the house



The entrance lobby looking from the top floor



Rudinara Salinger House, Seremban

The house was built completely by hand by traditional Malay carpenters. The only machinery used was a small cement mixer. Except for the handmade roof tiles, it was constructed throughout with a very dense timber highly resistant to water and termites.

The owner, Datuk Fadzil Bin Dato' Rashid wished for the house to be preserved. Therefore, since 2016 he had been on a journey of dismantling the house piece by piece and re-erecting it back on the new site. However, some minor work and additions are still in progress.

Datuk Fadzil and his wife Datin Rosedina Binti Dato' Shamsuddin gave a personal tour of the house and provided in depth information on the house's history. The entourage comprised MTIB's Director of Strategic Planning, Cik Hajah Robiyah Binti Husin and MTIB officials, as well as iCARE, UITM representatives, led by Profesor Dr Wan Kamil Wan Mohamad, Deputy Rector iCARE. 



Intricate details at roof developed by the master carpenter

June 2020

Malaysia

Port of Tanjung Pelepas boosts Terminal performance with arrival of 4 quay cranes

The Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP), Malaysia's largest and most advanced container terminal, welcomed four new ship to shore (STS) quay cranes in June 2020, as part of a continued drive to optimise services and capacity. PTP is a joint venture between APM Terminals (30%) and MMC's ports and logistics division, APM Terminals said in its release.

The purchase of the Super Post Panamax cranes forms part of PTP's Asset Management Strategy, which aims to improve the efficiency in the terminal, by increasing container handling capacity, capability and reliability, whilst meeting its safety standards.

The cranes have a lifting capacity of 65 tons, are 55.5m high, weigh 1,900 tons and are capable of handling containers over 24-rows across ultra large container vessels (ULVC).

PTP's Chairman, Dato' Sri Che Khalib Mohamad Noh said that a series of equipment purchased by PTP is to enable the port to receive these ultra large container vessels.

PTP's Chief Executive Officer, Marco Neelsen, stated that the 4 cranes form part of a purchase agreement, signed with ZPMC, Shanghai in April 2019 for the supply of 8 ULCV STS quay cranes. The remaining 4 units are expected to be delivered in Q3 2020 to bring a total of

66 STS cranes in operation at PTP of which 24 are Triple-E compliant.

This latest addition of equipment capability is a clear demonstration that PTP is one of the best equipped and most technologically advanced terminals in the region and underlines its aspiration to meet the market demand and thereby becoming the preferred port of choice in the region.

Source: Portnews

China

Asia-Europe 1.3% to USD 886/TEU, USWC off 3.1% to USD 2,669/FEU

SPOT rates for shipping containers from Asia to northern Europe in the week ending Friday increased 1.3% to USD886 per twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs).

Asia-Mediterranean rates fell 0.5% to USD949, per TEUs, according to the Shanghai Containerised Freight Index (SCFI).

Rates from Shanghai to US west coast fell 3.1% to USD2,669 per FEUs while China-US east coast increased 1% to USD3,288 per forty-foot equivalent units (FEUs).

Source: Asean Shipper



Shipments of Timber and Timber Products Through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, June 2020

Product	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all Ports M³	% Change June 2020/ May 2020
	M³	% Change June 2020/ May 2020	M³	% Change June 2020/ May 2020	M³	% Change June 2020/ May 2020	M³	% Change June 2020/ May 2020	M³	% Change June 2020/ May 2020		
Sawntimber	51,835	49	4,007	-27	833	-26	227	32	7,064	41	63,966	37
MDF	12,571	18	321	-100	3,179	123	1,372	49	7,702	6	25,146	24
Mouldings	10,685	22	192	54	2,462	42	836	158	1,111	30	15,286	30
Plywood	3,583	128	240	-100	43	2,121	539	180	11,103	55	15,538	74
Veneer	279	23	0	-100	64	-100	24	-100	76	-56	443	11
Particleboard	21,110	-3	235	43	1,280	539	0	-100	4,918	418	27,543	20
TOTAL	100,063	29	4,995	-14	7,862	75	2,997	86	31,975	49	147,892	33

Source : MTIB

Europe

CMA CGM cancels ESS from North Europe, Scandinavia & Poland to Morocco

CMA CGM has announced that the Emergency Space Surcharge of EUR 50 per twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) applicable since March 1st, 2020 from North Europe, Scandinavia & Poland to Morocco is to be cancelled as from June 16th, 2020.

Source: Portnews

China

Shanghai tops all, S'pore No 2, Hong Kong now No 7 box port

The Port of Shanghai maintained its top ranking at the busiest container port in the world, reporting a 4.4% increase volume to 42 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs).

Coming in at No 2 was the Port of Singapore with the highest growth in the top 20, up 8.7 % to 36.6 million TEUs for the year 2018. Growth of 7.1% helped Ningbo-Zhoushan port surpass the Port of Shenzhen to take third place, while Guangzhou's 7.6% growth was enough make it No 4 and propel it ahead of Busan, which fell to No 6 despite a 5.8% volume increase.

Meanwhile, the flagging Port of Hong Kong, which held the distinction of the world's busiest container port until it was dethroned by Singapore in 2004, continued to slide down the list, dropping two spots to No 7 as its throughput dipped 5.6% to 19.6 million TEUs.

Rizhao, China, saw container volume surge 24.2% to 4 million TEUs; Piraeus, Greece, up 18.3% to 4.77 million TEUs; Barcelona, Spain, up 15.1% to 3.42 million TEUs; and Colombo, Sri Lanka, up 13.5% to 7.05 million TEUs.

Only seven of the top 50 showed negative growth from 2017, two of which were still in the top 10: Hong Kong and Dubai's Jebel Ali. The largest declines, however, took place at Salalah, Oman, which saw throughput drop 14.2% to 3.39 million TEUs and Felixstowe, United Kingdom, down 10.5% to 3.85 million TEUs. Annual Top 50 Global Container Ports ranking is assembled using throughput data from port authorities, IHS Markit, and maritime industry analyst Alphaliner.

In Vietnam, according to Bloomberg statistics, Ho Chi Minh Seaport and Cai Mep ports, ranked 25th and 50th respectively among the world's largest container ports.

Source: Asean Shipper

Europe

Hapag-Lloyd to implement GRI for Trans-Pacific trade eastbound East Asia to USA and Canada

Hapag-Lloyd will implement the following General Rate Increase (GRI) in the eastbound trade from East Asia to all USA and Canada destinations as of August 1, 2020 (date of cargo receipt at origin), the company said in its release.

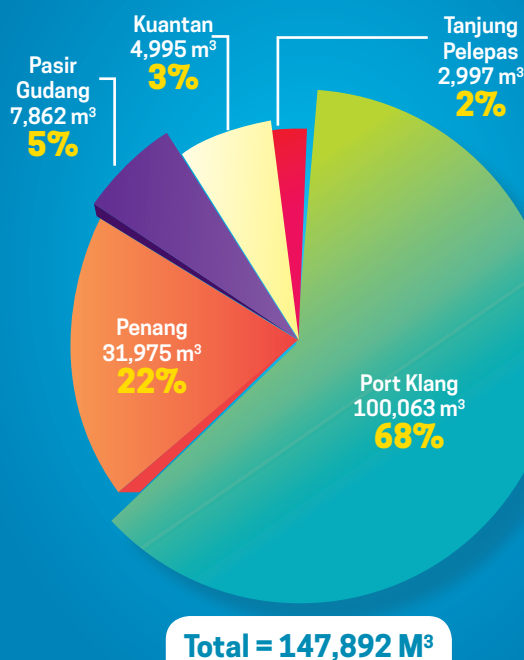
This General Rate Increase will apply for all dry, reefer, non-operating reefer, tank, flat rack and open-top containers as follows:

- East Asia to North America (USA and Canada)
- USD 1200 per all twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) container types
- USD 1500 per all forty-foot equivalent units (FEUs) container types

East Asia is defined as being the countries/districts of Japan, Republic of Korea, China/Taiwan, China/Hong Kong, China (PRC), China/Macau, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, The Philippines and Russian Pacific Coast Provinces.

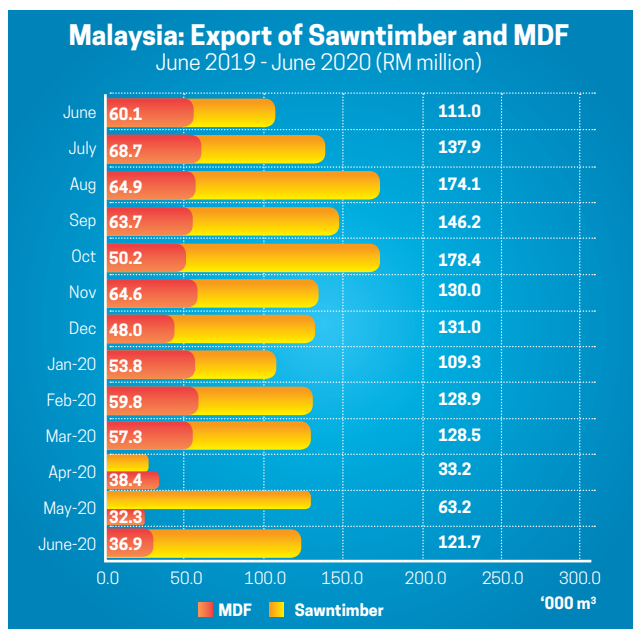
Source: Portnews

Timber Shipments through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, June 2020



June 2020

Total export of Malaysian timber and timber products in June 2020 increased 50% valued at RM1.9 billion over the previous month. However, cumulative exports for the period of January to June 2020 decreased by 9% valued at RM9.6 billion over the previous corresponding period.



SAWNTIMBER

Total export of sawntimber in June 2020 increased both in volume at 121,691 m³ and in value at RM217.4 million as compared to the previous month. Cumulative exports for the period of January - June 2020 decreased by 36% in volume and 37% in value to 584,869 m³ totalling RM1.1 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Exports of sawntimber to the EU for the month decreased to 5,648 m³ over the previous month as a result of lower demand from major countries in the region. The Netherlands as the main buyer decreased by 32% to 2,906 m³ from 4,287 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Germany also decreased by 13% to 834 m³ from 954 m³ as recorded in the previous month followed by the Greece at 24% lower to 211 m³. Exports to France also decreased by 27% to 291 m³ while exports to the UK increased by 90% to 730 m³ from 385 m³ in the previous month.

Total export to West Asia increased by 12% to 14,919 m³ from 13,352 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Yemen as the main buyer from West Asia decreased purchases by 23% to 3,235 m³ from 4,188 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Exports to Saudi Arabia also decreased by 59% to 403 m³ from 997 m³ as recorded in the previous month. However, exports to the UAE increased by 16% to 5,269 m³ from 4,554 m³ as recorded in the previous month followed by Oman at 45% higher to 3,547 m³ and Iraq which increased exports by 57% to 992 m³. Exports to Bahrain also increased by 67% to 731 m³ from 437 m³ while Qatar also improved significantly with 511 m³ from only 110 m³ as recorded in the previous month.

Similarly, buying from ASEAN increased significantly at 47,413 m³ from 8,929 m³ as registered in the previous month. Thailand as the main buyer in ASEAN increased its intake significantly with 28,805 m³ from only 3,590 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Exports of sawntimber to the Philippines also increased significantly with 13,428 m³ from only 2,498 m³ as recorded in the previous month followed by Singapore with 4,070 m³ from only 1,873 m³ and Viet Nam which increased intake by 29% to 1,013 m³. Meanwhile, exports to Indonesia decreased to 97 m³ from 183 m³ as recorded in the previous month.

Likewise, shipments to East Asia increased by 14% to 28,847 m³ from 25,406 m³ in the previous month. China as the main buyer increased purchase by 11% to 14,799 m³ from 13,346 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Exports to Taiwan also increased by 9% to 6,315 m³ followed by Japan by 22% to 4,314 m³ and South Korea by 32% to 3,246 m³ respectively.

Elsewhere, exports to the US and Australia increased by 77% and 101% to 1,170 m³ and 716 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, demand from South Africa increased to 768 m³ from only 369 m³ compared to the previous month.

The average FOB price of sawntimber decreased slightly to 1,768 per m³ from 1,988 per m³ as in the previous month. Meanwhile, the price of Dark Red Meranti to the Netherlands increased slightly to 3,247 per m³ from 3,212 per m³ as in the previous month. Keruing was traded at 2,020 per m³, a decrease of 15% from 2,383 per m³ as in the previous month.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Exports of MDF in June 2020 increased both in volume and value by 14% respectively to 36,897 m³ worth RM55.2 million compared to the previous month. Contrarily, cumulative exports for January-June 2020 based on year-on-year recorded a decrease in volume by 38% to 278,433 m³ and in value by 31% worth RM380.7 million.

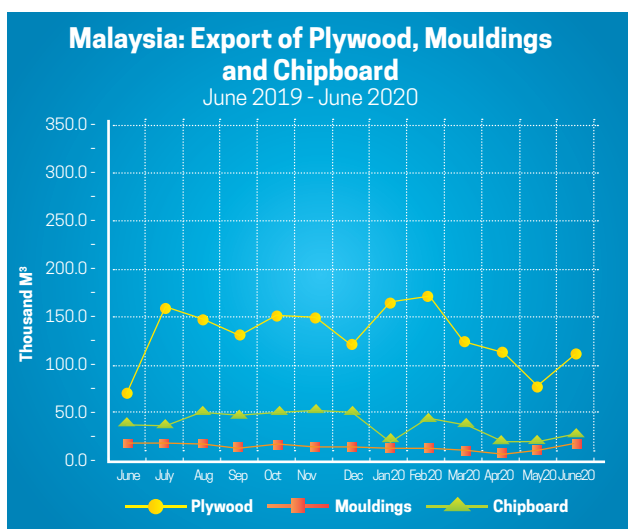
In ASEAN, total export increased by 84% to 7,334 m³ from 3,996 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Indonesia and the Philippines grew to 3,475 m³ and 1,736 m³ respectively. Similarly, Viet Nam and Singapore increased buying to 1,746 m³ and 83 m³ respectively. Moving to the East Asia region, exports rose by 21% to 13,681 m³. Japan as the major importer of MDF increased intake by 18% to 12,409 m³, followed by Taiwan at 122% to 905 m³ and China including Hong Kong at 189% to 301 m³. However, South Korea reduced imports by 75% to 66 m³.

Exports to the South Asia region increased by 55% to 4,181 m³ for this month. Exports to India increased to 1,615 m³, followed by Bangladesh with 1,046 m³ while Sri Lanka recorded 214 m³. Pakistan reduced its MDF import to 1,282 m³ for the month. Moving to the West Asia region, exports to the region decreased by 22% to 7,008 m³ from 8,935 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Kuwait reduced by 45% to 1,470 m³, followed by Oman at 36% to 1,078 m³ and Bahrain

74% to 160 m³. However, exports to the UAE grew by 24% to 3,534 m³, followed by Saudi Arabia at 122% to 472 m³ and Jordan 200% to 273 m³. Iran, Lebanon and Syria did not make any purchase in this month.

Elsewhere, exports to the USA shrunk to 2,005 m³ from 2,093 m³ in the last month. Similarly, exports to Australia and South Africa also declined by 53% to 38 m³ and 14% to 183 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, the UK and Mauritius resumed intake to 348 m³ and 129 m³ respectively.

The average FOB price of MDF decreased by 1% to RM1,497 per m³ from RM1,507 per m³ from the previous month.



PLYWOOD

Exports of plywood in June 2020 increased both in volume and value by 31% and 26% to 116,328 m³ totalling at RM223.9 million compared to the previous month. However, cumulative exports for January-June 2020 based on year-on-year showed a decrease in volume by 48% to 790,203 m³ and in value by 15% worth RM1.5 billion.

Total export of plywood to the EU increased by 33% to 5,502 m³ for the month. Exports to Denmark and Italy increased by 59% to 205 m³ and 10% to 86 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Belgium, Germany and Ireland resumed intake to 263 m³, 43 m³ and 161 m³ respectively. Other EU regular buyers such as France, Netherlands and Turkey did not make any purchase this month. Meanwhile, exports to the UK increased by 24% to 4,722 m³ from 3,816 m³ last month.

Exports to both ASEAN and East Asia regions recorded an increase of 13% to 76,100 m³ compared to the previous month. In the East Asia region, Japan as the main importer of Malaysian plywood increased its intake by 5% to 47,371 m³, followed by South Korea at 37% to 14,113 m³, Hong Kong at 28% to 1,911 m³ and China at 47% to 917 m³. Taiwan, on the other hand, decreased its buying by 3% to 5,565 m³. Meanwhile, Malaysia's plywood trade with its ASEAN partners showed mixed trends for the month. Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines increased their buying to 3,747 m³, 1,374 m³ and 567 m³ respectively. However,

Brunei Darussalam decreased intake by 72% to 391 m³. Indonesia does not make any purchase for the month.

Exports to the West Asian region recorded an increase of 103% to 9,356 m³ for the month. Yemen increased its intake to 5,336 m³ followed by Saudi Arabia to 801 m³ and Bahrain 120 m³. Kuwait and Qatar resumed buying to 172 m³ and 46 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, UAE decreased buying by 11% to 757 m³ in this month.

Exports of plywood to the Americas region increased by 87% to 20,395 m³ as compared to the previous month. Our main buyer in the Americas region, the USA increased its intake of plywood by 83% to 18,421 m³ from 10,058 m³ last month. Similarly, exports to Mexico and Canada increased to 1,692 m³ and 282 m³ respectively. Moving to the Oceania region, exports to Australia also soared by 173% to 4,191 m³ and New Zealand by 50% to 129 m³. Meanwhile, South Africa resumed its intake to 43 m³ for the month.

The average FOB price of plywood reduced by 4% to RM1,925 per m³ from RM2,004 per m³ in the previous month.

MOULDINGS

Exports of mouldings for the month increased by 48% in volume and 46% in value to 15,596 m³ worth at RM55.6 million. However, cumulative exports for the period of January to June 2020 decreased by 31% in volume and 29% in value to 83,876 m³ worth at RM313.2 million as compared to the previous corresponding period in 2019.

Exports to the EU for the month was recorded at 6,156 m³, an increase of 53% compared to the previous month. Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands increased purchases by 119%, 87% and 32% to 498 m³, 431 m³ and 3,985 m³. However, Italy did not make any purchase. Meanwhile, the UK recorded an increase of 114% to 388 m³ for the month.

Exports to the ASEAN region increased as Singapore and Viet Nam increased purchases by 122% and 1% to 702 m³ and 559 m³. Meanwhile, Indonesia resumed intake to 145 m³.

Likewise, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea increased intake by 491%, 113%, 70% and 52% to 372 m³, 98 m³, 207 m³ and 1,501 m³ respectively. However, Japan decreased intake by 16% to 1,277 m³ compared to the previous month.

Elsewhere, exports to Australia and the US increased by 86% and 26% to 2,099 m³ and 1,466 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Canada decreased intake by 21% to 69 m³ compared to the previous month.

The average FOB unit value for mouldings decreased marginally to RM3,565 per m³ compared to RM3,621 per m³ in the previous month.

June 2020

LOGS

The average domestic prices of logs for most of the species for the month under review remained unchanged. It was found that customer orders were less compared to the period before the Recovery Movement Control Order (RMC0).

Log prices for the species of Chengal and Balau stood firm at RM5,040 per ton and RM3,500 per ton. The prices for Keruing and Kempas remained at RM1,500 per ton and RM1,800 per ton respectively. Similarly, the prices for Dark Red Meranti and Red Meranti remained at RM1,900 per ton and RM1,830 per ton while logs prices of Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood stood firm at RM1,150 per ton and RM1,050 per ton respectively.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

The domestic supply of MDF remained stable as prices continued to chart at last month's levels. The MDF of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm and 12mm thicknesses were traded at RM12.80, RM16.30, RM22.00 and RM28.60 per piece respectively.

SAWNTIMBER

The average sawn timber prices for most of the species in the domestic market continued to be firm. This is because in terms of supply and demand it was more or less the same.

The sawn timber prices of Chengal and Balau stood firm at RM7,415 per m³ and RM3,453 per m³ respectively. Similarly, the prices of Keruing stood firm at RM1,250 per m³ and RM2,436 per m³. The prices for Dark Red Meranti and Red Meranti remained at RM2,036 per m³ and RM2,013 per m³ respectively while prices of Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood remained at RM1,010 per m³ and RM953 per m³ for this month.

PLYWOOD

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

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE * - JUNE 2020

Shipments of logs from Sabah to Peninsular Malaysia for the month fell by 46% in volume from 3,150 m³ to 1,687 m³ valued at RM580,000. Trade of sawn timber increased slightly by 2% in volume at 87 m³ valued at RM245,000. Trade of Plywood rose in volume from 492 m³ to 3,124 m³ valued at RM535,000.

Trade of sawn timber from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia increased tremendously in volume from 81 m³ to 1,273 m³ valued at RM2 million. Trade of plywood increased by 78% in volume from 960 m³ to 1,709 m³ valued at RM1.9 million. Similarly, trade of veneer fell by 50% in volume with 1,330 m³ valued at RM1.8 million.

No intra trade from Peninsular Malaysia to Sabah and Sarawak was recorded during the month under review.

*AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWNTIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, JUNE 2020 (RINGGIT MALAYSIA)

	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
SPECIES	18” UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS/m³	
HEAVY HARDWOOD					
Cengal	5,040	7,415	5,791	8,121	
Balau	3,500	3,453	3,178	3,213	
Red Balau	2,300	3,143	2,719	3,390	
Merbau	3,580	4,696	3,927	4,096	
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,150	1,010	869	1,130	
MEDIUM HARDWOOD					
Keruing	1,500	1,250	1,215	2,203	
Kempas	1,800	2,436	2,260	2,684	
Kapur	1,680	1,751	1,412	1,746	
Mengkulang	1,300	2,119	1,419	2,154	
Tualang	1,450	2,472	2,331	2,493	
LIGHT HARDWOOD					
Dark Red Meranti	1,900	2,036	1,695	2,825	
Red Meranti	1,830	2,013	1,645	2,133	
Yellow Meranti	1,250	1,554	1,236	1,271	
White Meranti	1,480	2,472	1,306	2,528	
Mersawa	1,700	1,801	1,660	2,013	
Nyato	1,250	1,624	1,342	1,518	
Sepetir	1,370	1,706	1,095	1,751	
Jelutong	1,110	1,815	1,215	1,871	
Mixed Light Hardwood	1,050	953	812	989	
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD					
Hevea brasilienses	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
	175	1” X 1”	2” X 2”	3” X 3”	4” X 4”
		1,038	1,104	1,356	1,557
PLYWOOD 4’ X 8’	4 mm	6 mm	9 mm		12 mm
(RM per piece)	14.60	22.00	38.00		48.00
PLYWOOD 4’ X 8’	4 mm	6mm	9 mm		12 mm
(RM per piece)	12.80	16.30	22.00		28.60

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

* Prices are only indicative

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE - JUNE 2020

From	Product	May 2020		June 2020		% Change in volume	% Change in value
		Vol (m³)	Val (RM'000)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM'000)	June2020/May 2020	June2020/May 2020
SABAH	Logs	3,150	1,040	1,687	580	-46	-44
	Sawntimber	85	107	87	245	2	129
	Plywood	492	919	3,124	4,856	535	428
	Veneer	0	0	0	0	0	0
SARAWAK	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	81	114	1,273	2,021	1,472	1,673
	Plywood	960	899	1,709	1,879	78	109
	Veneer	2,652	3,537	1,330	1,764	-50	-50

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

Cont. from page 13

VENEER

Exports of veneer for June 2020 grew by 47% in volume and 75% in value to 2,959 m³ at RM6.2 million as compared to the previous month. In contrast, cumulative exports for January-June based on year-on-year showed a decrease in volume by 48% to 28,892 m³ and in value by 47% worth RM46.1 million.

Exports to South Korea, the largest buyer of veneer increased by 14% to 1,072 m³ for the month. Exports to Taiwan, Australia, USA and Viet Nam grew to 461 m³, 105 m³, 74 m³ and 50 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, the Philippines, India and Singapore resumed intake to 497 m³, 217 m³ and 87 m³ respectively.

The average FOB price of veneer for June 2020 was at RM2,107 per m³, an increase of 19% from RM1,771 per m³ in the previous month.

BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

Exports of BJC for June 2020 recorded an increase of 21% in volume and 19% in value to 10,430,859 m³ worth RM85.4 million from last month. Total BJC cumulative export for the same corresponding period last year decreased 12% to RM424.3 million as compared to RM480.4 million. Exports to the EU decreased 34% to RM98.0 million. Exports to the Netherlands, Germany, France, and Denmark decreased by 36%, 32%, 25% and 5% to RM8.3 million, RM10.0 million, RM8.9 million and RM11.1 million respectively. However, exports to Sweden, Belgium, Turkey and Italy increased by 90%, 19%, 8% and 0.1% to RM9.5 million, RM25.1 million, RM71,307 and RM2.7 million respectively. Exports to the UK, however decreased by 5% to RM54.1 million from last month.

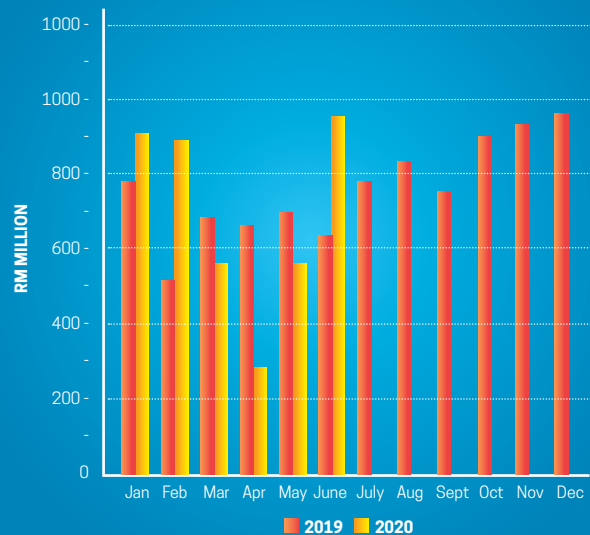
In Asia, exports to the UAE and Saudi Arabia recorded a decrease of 91% and 88% to RM376,028 and RM129,143 respectively. Singapore, Viet Nam, Japan and India decreased intake by 58%, 52%, 27% and 10% to RM15.5 million, RM6.5 million, RM25.1 million and RM16.8 million respectively. However, exports to South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand increased by 50%, 21% and 19% to RM1.3 million, RM6.0 million and RM10.6 million compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, Qatar and Kuwait did not make any purchase.

Exports to South Africa, Australia and Maldives decreased by 56%, 28% and 11% to RM4.1 million, RM76.6 million and RM3.7 million respectively. However, exports to the US, Mauritius and New Zealand increased by 35%, 27% and 11% to RM82.4 million, RM501,859 and RM3.8 million compared to the previous month.

FURNITURE

Exports of wooden and rattan furniture for the period of January to June 2020 recorded mixed trends and increase slightly to RM4.1 billion from RM4.0 billion in the previous corresponding period. The US as a main buyer of wooden furniture increased purchases by 53% to RM2.5 billion from RM1.6 billion in the corresponding period in 2019. In Europe, shipments to Germany

Malaysia: Export of Wooden Furniture
June 2019 - June 2020 (RM million)



decreased by 28% to RM20.4 million, while exports to the Netherlands increased slightly to RM15.9 million from RM15.5 million compared in the previous corresponding period. Exports to Greece also decreased by 29% to RM10.1 million, France 33% to RM21.1 million and Poland 29% to RM13.0 million.

Shipments to the UK also decreased by 28% to RM184.9 million for the month. Similarly, purchases by Russia declined by 46% to RM7.1 million from RM13.1 million in the same period last year. Demand from Canada and Australia also decreased by 27% and 24% to RM107.0 million and RM168.0 million respectively.

In East Asia, exports to Japan reduced by 24% to RM218.4 million from RM286.3 million in the same period last year. However, South Korea increased consumption by 8% to RM47.4 million whilst exports to China decreased by 31% to RM64.9 million. Exports to India also decreased by 41% to RM58.7 million from RM99.9 million in the previous corresponding period.

In the ASEAN region, exports to the Philippines and Singapore were recorded at RM49.8 million and RM110.2 million respectively. Elsewhere, exports to Saudi Arabia and Qatar also decreased by 28% to RM65.6 million and 56% to RM3.1 million respectively. The UAE also reduced buying by 33% to RM48.4 million followed by Kuwait by 52% to RM12.2 million and Oman by 75% to RM4.8 million respectively.

Rattan furniture shipments for January to June 2020 were recorded at RM939,972 from RM979,884 in the previous corresponding period. Exports to Australia and the USA decreased by 66% and 95% to RM130,492 and RM18,294 respectively whilst Singapore increased buying significantly to RM119,966 from only RM49,328 in the previous corresponding period. Meanwhile Poland, Viet Nam and the Netherlands resumed purchases at RM32,591, RM6,851 and RM6,149 respectively. Japan, American Samoa and China didn't make any purchase compared to the previous corresponding period in 2019.



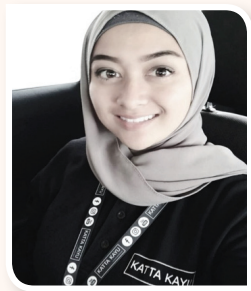
KATTA KAYU by FS DESIGN FURNITURE SDN BHD



Encik Shah Simpon and Puan Ilimi Shukri featured in The Star, 1 February 2020



Encik Fazli Shah Simpon



Puan Ilimi Shukri Khodori

Company background

FS Design Furniture Sdn Bhd (FS Design) was founded in 2002 by two young entrepreneurs who are passionate with the Go Green mission in sustaining natural environment by making furniture with salvaged woods. "Luxury, Style and Innovation", by creating beautiful design elements, comfortable and functional furniture that offer varies of choices that meet the environmentally responsible mission of Go Green. Using sustainable, organic and recycled materials, they have produced the eco-friendly exclusive Green Line of environmentally friendly Green Furniture.

Encik Fazli Shah Simpon, has been designing and inventing things from salvaged items since childhood. His passion to recycle wastes on useful products has motivated him to pursue a business that produce goods from reusable items while also inspiring the community to appreciate eco-friendly furniture.

Together with his wife, Puan Ilimi Shukri Khodori, Encik Fazli has utilised their combined expertise and commitment into moving forward and presenting their own brand, "KATTA KAYU".

Company Achievements

KATTA KAYU is a brand name that represents all the furniture produced by FS Design. KATTA KAYU are safe furniture products inspired by the western concept using reusable materials. About 70% of the materials used in creating the furniture are reclaimed wood. KATTA KAYU symbolizes furnishing ideas which are unique, non-conformist and authentic.



KATTA KAYU
Display Rack



KATTA KAYU Bedroom Frame

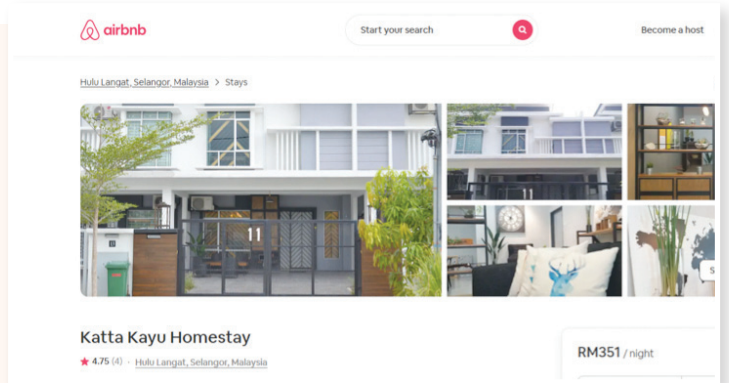


KATTA KAYU Bench

KATTA KAYU Homestay

Starting 2017, in expanding the name of KATTA KAYU, FS Design has introduced KATTA KAYU Homestay.

KATTA KAYU Homestay is located in Hulu Langat, Selangor at a strategic attraction hotspot surrounded by recreational parks and waterfalls such as Sungai Congkak, Sungai Lui, Sungai Tekali and Sungai Lepoh. KATTA KAYU Homestay is advertised in Airbnb. For more information on KATTA KAYU Homestay please refer to: www.kattakayu.com or www.airbnb.com



KATTA KAYU Homestay



MDEC Award Ceremony



Top Seller Recognition Award 2019



Top Seller Recognition Award 2019

FS Design has also attended an e-Usahawan class for budding entrepreneurs, the Usahawan Micro class in 2018. After attending the class, sales increased rapidly as they marketed company products on a digital platform. KATTA KAYU sales increased by 233% in the following month and target customers increased.

KATTA KAYU has been standing strong in both the furniture and design industries. It was proven when they received the MDEC awards, Top Seller Recognition Award year 2019 and a few more awards for successful local entrepreneurs.

FS Design also participated in MTIB's Wood & Lifestyle Fair which is a platform to encourage and help increase the participation of Bumiputera entrepreneurs in the Malaysian wood-based industry. Following the participation, sales again showed a sharp increase.



Wood & Lifestyle Fair Kuala Lumpur

KATTA KAYU x LA VOIX DU BOIS

Recently, KATTA KAYU co-launched "LA VOIX DU BOIS" a series designed by a young French designer, Radja Hanader. KATTA KAYU has opened the doors for Malaysian artisans to incorporate French elements in projects. LA VOIX DU BOIS embodies French elements finished off with recycled and local wood materials to accentuate its go green standards. It is a unique and conscious collection designed to complement authentic and unique contemporary values; from a gas tank to a side table. Wood choice is paramount in this collection and Nyatoh wood has been selected as it is easy to associate it with bright and pastel colours. More info at www.kattakayu.com



Moving Forward

The company was awarded a three-star rating for its achievements in the wood-based manufacturing sector by SME Corporation Malaysia under the SME Competitiveness Rating for Enhancement (Manufacturing and MRS). Currently, FS Design is planning to expand its brand (KATTA KAYU) in Johor Bahru and Singapore in the near future. It hopes to enhance networking and interaction to create an interest group among Malaysian artisans and consumers on the need to adopt an environmental conscience to consequently utilise materials and manufacturing operations that will sustain the environment.

FS Design has also set up a website to promote and market its products. For those who are interested to know more about FS Design's products, please contact -

Company details:

FS Design Furniture Sdn Bhd

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Email: fs.designfurniture@gmail.com

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Instagram: @fs_designfurniture

KATTA KAYU Showroom

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Malaysian Wood
Standing on Excellence

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

RATTAN PRODUCTS BY TITI CANE SDN BHD

Rattan is a naturally renewable palm that grows in the tropical regions of Africa, Asia and Australasia, and is used for furniture, handicrafts, and building material among others. Rattan continues to be an invaluable part of rural people's livelihoods in South and Southeast Asia.

Hence, on 15 July 2020, MTIB organised a visit to Perniagaan Titicane Sdn Bhd at Kuala Klawang, Jekebu, Negeri Sembilan. Perniagaan Titicane Sdn Bhd (known as Titicane) sells raw rattan as well as rattan furniture and handicraft products. The visit aimed to obtain information regarding rattan processing for export purposes and identify common issues pertaining to the local rattan industry.

During the visit, the company's director, Encik Chia Yung Hung stated that Titicane was established in 1974 and that they process high quality rattan. They have entrenched themselves as a major player in the global arena. Encik Chia further briefed the MTIB delegation on the manufacturing operations in their six acre factory as well as the selection process of rattans for export. Among the species of the rattan that they process are rattan mantang (*Plectocomia*



Air dried rattan

Spp), rattan semambu (*Calamus Scipionum Lour*), and rattan manau (*Calamus Manan*). They get their rattan supply from forests in Perak, Negeri Sembilan and Pahang. The company workforce consists of about 40 workers.

Rattan is a long stem of certain trailing or climbing palms. The internodes vary in length and thickness in different species and even in different plants of the same species. The core of the stem, which is soft and spongy, is made up of coarse fibers. Rattan is classified under minor forest products.

The delegation also visited the Titicane showroom at Seremban, Negeri Sembilan. The three-floor showroom exhibited various products made from rattan. There were sofa sets, chairs, swing baskets, stools, racks, and handicraft products. Encik Chia added that their products are also available online via shopping platforms such as Lazada and Shopee.

The group was led by YBhg. Dato' Dr. Haji Mohd Puat Dahalan, MTIB Deputy Director General (Management and Operation).



MTIB visited Titicane's showroom



Rattan product



Rattan stock ready for export

TIMBER VERIFICATION SERVICES

Timber has always been a preferred material in homes and other buildings as it creates warmth and coziness, and also highlighting elegance. While it is widely used in developed countries, Malaysian consumers tend to avoid timber based on perceived quality and maintenance problems.

Defects such as splitting, delamination, decay and insect attacks can be easily avoided if the right quality and correct specification of timber is selected and used from the outset.

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) offers timber verification services that can assist you to ensure the timber you choose is of the right quality and correct specification for its intended usage and application. The services include timber grading, identification of species, determination of moisture content, determination of preservatives and other services.

You can be rest assured that your products meet quality standards and hence extend the lifespan with minimal maintenance cost if it is verified to specification.



Services

1. Timber Grading
2. Identification of Species
3. Determination of Moisture Content
4. Determination of Preservative

For more information and enquiries:

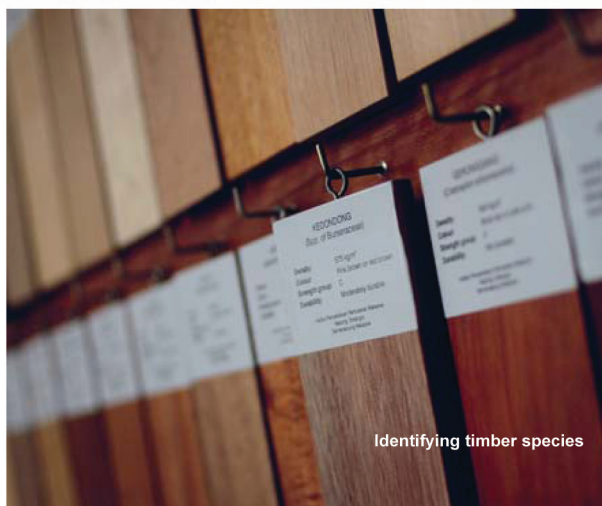
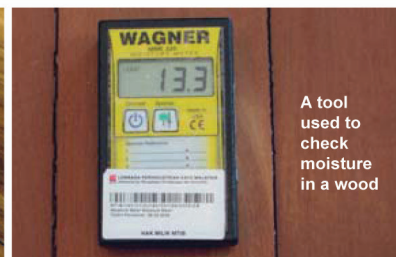


MTIB

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Working Visit to Bamboo Plantation in Nami, Kedah



Director General of MTIB, Director of FPDSB and Encik Rohaizad Mat Nawi, Executive Director of New Generation Bamboo

A working visit to the bamboo plantation in Nami, Sik Kedah was led by Tuan Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, Director General of the Malaysian Timber Industry Board on 20 July. The objective of this working visit was to observe the development of commercial bamboo plantations in Malaysia and discuss issues and challenges that exist in the implementation of bamboo plantations and find the best alternative to address this problem. MTIB hopes to utilise the plantations as a source for the production of high quality bamboo seedlings for entrepreneurs and smallholders interested in bamboo cultivation in Malaysia.

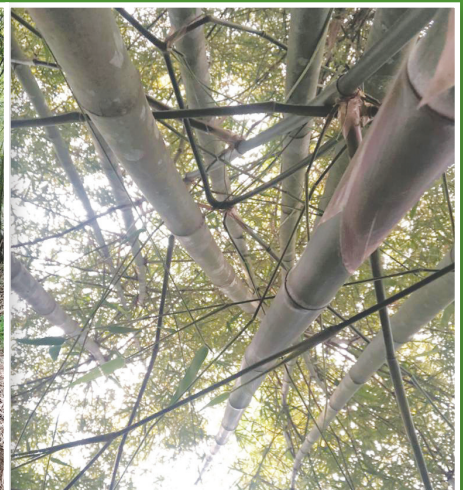
representatives from the Kedah Menteri Besar's Office and Menteri Besar Incorporated Kedah.



A discussion was held among Tuan Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani and Tuan Haji Muhamad Sobri Bin Osman

The bamboo plantation is managed and maintained by New Generation Bamboo Sdn Bhd, a company based in Alor Setar, Kedah. The company has been operating since 2016 and manages bamboo plantations with an area of 1,284 acres. The species grown here are buluh semantan and buluh betong.

The group also comprised Tuan Haji Muhamad Sobri bin Osman, Chairman of Forest Plantation Development Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of MTIB,



New Generation Bamboo plantation



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.

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

We committed:

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



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

AUSTRALIA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR MALAYSIAN TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS



Overview

Australia is the largest country in Oceania and the world's sixth-largest country by total area with a landmass of 7,617,930 square kilometres. The population of 25.5 million is highly urbanised and heavily concentrated on the eastern seaboard. Being a megadiverse country, its size gives it a wide variety of landscapes, with deserts in the centre, tropical rainforests in the north-east, and mountain ranges in the south-east. Australia generates its income from various sources, including mining-related exports, telecommunications, banking, manufacturing, and international education. In recent decades, Australia has become an internationally competitive, advanced market economy due in large part to economic reforms adopted in the 1980s and its location in one of the fastest growing regions of the world economy. The country is also home to 10% of the world's biodiversity, and a great number of its flora and fauna exist nowhere else in the world. However, the country is faced with various long-term concerns such as an aging population, pressure on infrastructure, and environmental issues such as floods, droughts, and bushfires.

Having the third-highest human development index and the eighth-highest ranked democracy globally, the country ranks highly in quality of life, health, education, economic freedom, civil liberties, and political rights. Australia is a member of the United Nations, G20, Commonwealth of Nations, ANZUS, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), World Trade Organization, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Pacific Islands Forum, and the ASEAN Plus Six Mechanism. The country also signed free-trade agreements with various countries such as the USA, China, Japan, South Korea, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Negotiations on similar agreements are ongoing with the European Union and are expected to begin with the United Kingdom following Britain's exit from the European Union.

Economy

Australia is one of the wealthiest Asia-Pacific nations and has enjoyed more than two decades of economic expansion. It is a highly developed market economy with the world's 14th-largest

economy. The country's nominal GDP is estimated at USD1.5 trillion (AUD1.89 trillion) and accounts for 1.7% per cent of the global economy. Being the world's tenth-highest per capita income, Australia is internationally competitive in financial and insurance services, technologies, and high-value-added manufactured goods. The economy's robustness is sustained by solid policy frameworks, strong institutions, an attractive investment environment and deep trade ties with the Asian region.

In late 2019 and continuing into 2020, the world was challenged with the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact has caused a severe blow to many economies around the world. Global GDP is expected to fall sharply in the first half of 2020. The declines in the first quarter 2020 were driven by a contraction in Chinese and euro area activity as well as the rollout of containment measures elsewhere late in the quarter. A further fall in global GDP is expected in the second quarter of 2020, with many countries expected to record quarterly declines in GDP. Likewise, the Australian economy is expected to record a contraction in GDP of around 10% over the first half of 2020; and the unemployment rate is forecast to rise to around 10% in the second quarter. Beyond the first half of 2020, the outlook for the domestic economy depends on how long social distancing remains in place and its effects on economic activity. Other factors include how long uncertainty and diminished confidence weigh on households' and businesses' spending, hiring and investment plans. International border closures are likely to be in place for an extended period. However, a second wave of infections could hamper the recovery. Economists forecast that GDP would contract 3.5% in 2020 while in 2021, the economy is seen expanding 3.4%.

Following the gloomy economic outlook, the Australian government states that it has provide AUD289 billion in fiscal and balance sheet measures to the economy, which is equivalent to around 14.6% of GDP. Various economic initiatives have been introduced such as the JobKeeper wage subsidy, the JobSeeker Bonus Payment, the Cash Flow Boost and the SME bank loan guarantee scheme. This large spending will have a significant impact on the nation's finances, with the underlying deficit expected to be AUD85.8 billion in 2019-2020 or 4.3% of GDP. In 2020-2021, the deficit is expected to grow to AUD184.5 billion or 9.7% of GDP. The OECD stated that Australia's ample fiscal space permits a strong response to a second outbreak. Economists suggested that expanded loan

guarantees, coupled with accelerated insolvency processes, could reduce scarring for entrepreneurs and facilitate a more dynamic recovery.

Forestry And Timber And Timber-Based Production

Australia's forest area has increased progressively since 2008. The country has approximately 134 million hectares of forest, covering 17% of Australia's land area, consisting of 132 million hectares of native forests, 1.95 million hectares of commercial plantations and 0.47 million hectares of other forest. Australia also has approximately 3% of the world's forests, and globally is the country with the seventh largest forest area. Native forests are dominated by eucalypt forests (101 million hectares) and acacia forests (11 million hectares). Most native forests are woodland forests, which have a canopy cover between 20% and

50%. A total of 46 million hectares (35%) of Australia's native forest is on land protected for biodiversity conservation, or where biodiversity conservation is a specified management intent.

Meanwhile, Australia's total commercial plantation area in 2018-2019 was 1,933,400 hectares. A total of 2,800 hectares of new plantations were established in 2018-2019, comprising 2,750 hectares of softwood plantations and 50 hectares of hardwood plantations. In 2018 and 2019, around 92% of new plantations were publicly owned, while 8% were privately owned. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) estimated that the total commercial plantation estate may decrease by around 80,000 to 100,000 hectares over the next 10 to 15 years as new plantation establishments will not be sufficient to offset removals of low commerciality plantations unless there are new drivers to expand or maintain the current plantation estates.

Australia: Forest Area, 1990-2020

Area (1,000 ha)

PRODUCT	1990	1992	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Forest area	1,776	1,770	1,746	1,716	1,701	1,698	1,695	1,692	1,689	1,686
Other wooded land	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Other Land	604	610	614	664	679	685	688	691	691	694
Total Land Area	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400

Source: Global Forest Resources Assessments 2020

According to the FAO, Australia produced around 39.2 million m³ of major timber and timber products, an increase of 23% in 2018 from 2014. This has emphasised the fact that Australia are increasingly harvesting timber from their commercial

plantations. Australia produced around 17.8 million m³ of woodchips followed by logs with 10.8 million m³, sawntimber 4.6 million m³ and fuelwood 4.1 million m³.

Australia: Production of Timber and Timber Products, 2014-2018

PRODUCT	UNIT	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Wood fuel, non-coniferous	m ³	29,000	24,614	24,304	24,828	24,582
Wood fuel, coniferous	m ³	4,716,000	4,071,670	4,020,288	4,106,987	4,066,315
Sawlogs and veneer coniferous	m ³	9,281,000	9,708,613	10,155,178	10,858,276	10,840,456
Wood chips and particles	m ³	11,248,000	13,962,281	16,122,563	17,963,522	17,813,027
Sawnwood, coniferous	m ³	4,220,000	4,457,653	4,429,250	3,970,909	3,923,998
Sawnwood, non-coniferous all	m ³	668,000	627,311	674,795	756,223	710,969
Veneer sheets	m ³	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000
Plywood	m ³	153,000	171,000	151,000	150,569	156,100
Particle board	m ³	877,000	955,000	968,000	967,675	967,675
MDF/HDF	m ³	500,000	574,000	593,000	593,333	593,333
TOTAL		31,817,000	34,677,142	37,263,378	39,517,322	39,221,455

Source: FAOSTAT DATA

Timber and timber-based products make a substantial contribution to the Australian economy and provide significant job opportunities in rural and regional Australia. Their timber and timber products comprise of four sub-sectors, namely sawmilling and processing, timber manufactured products, wood panel and board production and timber merchandising. Between 2017-2018, 32.9 million m3 of logs were harvested in Australia and generated AUD4.9 billion in sales and service income across the forestry and logging industries. Meanwhile, the forest and timber product manufacturing industries are estimated to have added AUD9.2 billion (0.5%) to the national economy in 2017-2018.

Australia has a well-established framework for forest management, guided by a National Forest Policy Statement, including policy and legislative instruments, and codes of forest practice. All states and territories have legislations that support the conservation and sustainable management of Australia's forests on public and private lands. The Responsible Wood Certification Scheme and the Forest Stewardship Council scheme certify forest management and provide chain-of-custody certificates for tracking timber products. As of June 2018, approximately 8.9 million hectares of native forests and plantations were certified for forest management under either scheme, with some forests and plantations certified under both schemes. A total of 189 chain-of-custody certificates for tracking timber from the forest to the final product were issued under the Responsible Wood Certification Scheme, while 258 chain-of-custody certificates were issued under the Forest Stewardship Council scheme.

Australia's Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 (the Act) restricts the movement of illegally logged timber into Australia at the border for imported timber and timber products, and at timber processing mills for domestically grown raw logs. The Act defines 'illegally logged' as: 'in relation to timber, means harvested in contravention of laws in force in the place

(whether or not in Australia) where the timber was harvested.' The Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013 (the Regulation) prescribes due diligence for the regulated community, that is, businesses importing regulated timber and timber products for the purposes of the Act a regulated timber product is a product listed in Schedule 1 to the Regulation and Australian processors of domestic raw logs. Under the Regulation the regulated community must undertake a due diligence process to minimise the risk of sourcing illegal logged timber.

Malaysia and Australia has developed the Malaysia Country Specific Guideline (MCSG) and it was first released in February 2015. The guideline was intended to assist both countries timber industry players on the requirements to import regulated timber products from Malaysia into Australia and to create a better understanding on the regulatory framework in Malaysia in order for them to carry out their due diligence obligations under the Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013, which supports the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012. This third revision of the Country Specific Guideline for Malaysia was co-endorsed by both governments on 12 May 2020.

Malaysia's Export of Timber and Timber Products to Australia

Australia has been one of longest trading partners with Malaysia's. In 2019, Malaysia exported RM1.02 billion of timber and timber products, a decrease by 7.4% from RM1.10 billion in 2018. The country mainly imported wooden furniture worth RM478.91 million followed by BJC RM203 million, mouldings RM109.67 million and plywood RM100.72 million. Slowdown of economic growth, softening of consumer demand and increasing competition from other timber and timber products producers such as New Zealand and Viet Nam have reduced our export of timber and timber products to Australia.

Malaysia: Exports of Timber and Timber Products to Australia, 2015-2019

Value: RM '000

PRODUCT	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Qty	RM	Qty	RM	Qty	RM	Qty	RM	Qty	RM
Logs		0		0		0		0		0
Sawntimber	14,645	48,120,516	13,015	45,676,268	8,361	30,350,668	8,054	30,026,796	8,208	28,973,442
Plywood	41,026	99,653,398	46,913	118,803,907	40,356	114,116,431	38,009	118,476,464	31,971	100,718,668
Veneer	2,233	9,339,095	2,594	9,854,841	1,800	9,224,276	1,352	5,864,312	1,719	6,136,770
Mouldings	36,812	119,968,001	37,096	128,682,615	36,328	124,075,657	33,759	118,696,536	38,593	109,666,373
Chipboard	1,024	1,014,482	727	1,069,486	1,807	2,178,820	3,761	3,436,097	2,837	2,620,800
Fibreboard	28,364	48,313,832	30,077	52,903,089	30,233	52,647,197	33,116	62,391,980	30,188	57,988,808
Wooden Frame	976,855	14,233,350	864,570	12,900,365	905,666	13,083,237	999,732	13,388,021	1,043,498	13,813,387
BJC	24,736,930	171,944,834	28,035,704	204,773,171	27,040,106	205,130,618	27,763,724	203,157,906	26,219,702	203,004,042
Wooden Furniture	n.a	534,319,145	n.a	621,747,562	n.a	588,604,806	n.a	531,216,201	n.a	478,906,962
Rattan Furniture	n.a	2,460,047	n.a	4,536,078	n.a	2,923,837	n.a	53,217	n.a	408,420
Other Products	n.a	7,945,907	n.a	14,679,779	n.a	17,512,131	n.a	16,696,255	n.a	19,311,718
TOTAL	n.a	1,057,312,607	n.a	1,215,627,161	n.a	1,159,847,678	n.a	1,103,403,785	n.a	1,021,549,390

Source: MTIB & DOSM

Malaysia's Import of Timber and Timber Products from Australia

Malaysia's import of timber and timber products from Australia showed a fluctuating trend. Total import in 2015 amounted to

RM144.06 million, in 2016, imports increased to RM164.10 million and continued to increase in 2017 amounting to RM208.23 million. Imports to Australia increased to RM288.43 million in 2018. However, it was reduced to RM228.44 million in 2019. Major products imported from Australia in 2019 were veneer worth RM102.50 million, followed by sawntimber at RM65.97 million and logs at RM54.78 million.

Malaysia: Imports of Timber and Timber Products from Australia, 2015-2019

Value: RM '000

PRODUCT	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Qty	RM	Qty	RM	Qty	RM	Qty	RM	Qty	RM
Logs	761	1,069,043	1,328	1,250,728	1,099	976,563	209,585	117,522,018	103,293	54,778,623
Sawntimber	23,761	42,482,604	25,388	45,368,874	29,801	59,275,568	39,917	61,288,897	32,742	65,969,591
Plywood	0	0	13	26,417	77	93,824	51	78,136	0	0
Veneer	62,256	94,619,637	73,733	111,919,172	95,245	144,096,210	72,373	105,806,578	63,116	102,496,391
Mouldings	0	0	11	0	10	41,533	31	149,528	40	196,064
Chipboard/ Particleboard	718		979	47,086	684	720,983	0	0		
Fibreboard	1,389	1,329,260	5,400	1,748,493	380	986,404	289	815,809	375	728,710
Wooden Frame	121,536	18,703	90,378	11,100	240	10,179	1,424	43,953	0	0
BJC	n.a	540,670	n.a	409,853	35,683	155,897	120,320	861,383	174,445	700,231
Wooden Furniture	n.a	769,144	n.a	261,303	n.a	404,483	n.a	351,262	n.a	143,825
Rattan Furniture	n.a	93,259	n.a	57,446	n.a	12,778	n.a	8,492	n.a	0
Other Products	n.a	3,134,902	n.a	2,999,712	n.a	1,459,993	n.a	1,506,880	n.a	3,425,065
TOTAL	n.a	144,057,222	n.a	164,100,184	n.a	208,234,415	n.a	288,432,936	n.a	228,438,500

Source: MTIB & DOSM

Australia's Export of Timber and Timber Products

Australia's timber export has been booming on the back of robust demand from Asian countries such as China, Japan,

Taiwan, Malaysia and New Zealand especially for its logs, sawntimber and furniture and parts. In 2015, exports were recorded at USD1.3 billion and increased by 12% to USD1.46 billion in 2016. In 2017, exports increased further by 17% to USD1.72 billion and continued to increase to USD1.87 billion in 2018. However, in 2019, total export fell 5% to USD1.77 billion.

Australia: Exports of Timber and Timber Products, 2015-2019

(Value USD'000)

PRODUCT	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Furniture & Parts	50,689	55,804	57,992	62,459	65,676
Logs	297,041	400,481	513,493	550,420	532,463
Sawntimber	80,145	77,577	84,020	68,112	66,301
BJC	10,776	14,251	13,824	12,706	12,393
Veneer	20,083	24,943	30,036	20,165	17,418
Plywood	2,474	3,508	4,592	4,243	5,167
MDF	28,460	21,840	18,309	17,125	20,333
Particle Board	1,495	1,478	2,120	2,124	1,914
Wooden Frame	942	1,268	1,427	1,163	953
Others Product	814,825	863,221	990,233	1,129,153	1,045,429
TOTAL	1,306,930	1,464,371	1,716,046	1,867,670	1,768,047

Source: UN-Comtrade Statistics

Australia's Import of Timber and Timber Products

Import of timber and timber products by Australia has been substantial due to its high consumption from the growing demand of urbanisation and domestic consumption, rising population and the growth of the construction sector. In 2015,

imports were recorded at USD3.64 billion while in 2016, imports reduced by 2% to USD3.56 billion. In 2017, imports increased by 6% to USD3.78 billion and continued to increase by 12% to USD4.26 billion in 2018. However, imports fell by 12% to USD3.74 billion in 2019. Australia imported mainly furniture parts, BJC, plywood, mouldings and sawntimber and its main suppliers were China, Indonesia, New Zealand, Malaysia and the USA.

Australia: Imports of Timber and Timber Products, 2015-2019

(Value USD'000)

PRODUCT	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
BJC	342,761	337,808	351,711	380,600	339,020
Plywood	200,405	248,867	307,156	352,825	311,336
Mouldings	326,292	308,606	328,919	352,088	289,667
MDF	92,495	91,662	101,575	114,722	95,929
Veneer	20,158	15,672	16,148	13,805	10,556
Particle board	31,345	34,865	43,117	52,232	33,298
Sawntimber	324,742	284,756	291,821	402,480	249,357
Wooden Frame	22,016	21,757	21,754	25,645	23,352
Furniture Parts	1,594,635	1,565,844	1,625,226	1,813,869	1,736,677
Others Product	685,955	650,540	696,616	753,171	651,396
TOTAL	3,640,804	3,560,377	3,784,043	4,261,437	3,740,588

Source: UN-Comtrade Statistics

Australia Tariff Rates Under Malaysia-Australia Free Trade Agreement (MAFTA)

Malaysia and Australia concluded negotiations on the Malaysia-Australia Free Trade Agreement (MAFTA) on 30 March 2012. MAFTA entered into force on 1 January 2013.

PRODUCT	DESCRIPTION	MFN RATE	MAFTA
4401	Fuel wood	0 - 5	0
4402	Wood Charcoal, coniferous	0	0
4403	Logs	0	0
4404	Hoopwood; split poles; piles	5	0
4405	Wood wool; wood flour	0	0
4406	Railway or tramway sleepers	5	0
4407	Sawntimber	0 - 5	0
4408	Veneer	0 - 5	0
4409	Mouldings	5	0
4410	Particleboard/ Chipboard	5	0
4411	Fibreboard	5	2.5
4412	Plywood	0 - 5	0
4413	Metallised wood and other densified wood	5	0

PRODUCT	DESCRIPTION	MFN RATE	MAFTA
4414	Wooden frames	5	0
4415	Packing cases, boxes	5	0
4416	Casks, barrels, vats, tubs	5	0
4417	Tools, tool bodies, tool handles	0	0
4418	Builders' joinery and carpentry	5	0
4419	Tableware and kitchenware, of wood	5	0
4420	Wood marquetry and inlaid wood	5	0
4421	Other articles of wood, n.e.s.	0 - 5	0
9401	Furniture Seats	0 - 5	0
9403	Furniture and parts thereof, n.e.s.	5	0

Source: WTO and MITI

Outlook and Prospects

For the Australian forest and wood processing sectors, 2019-2020 has been a tumultuous year. Domestic and international recessions resulting from COVID-19 lock-down measures are expected to reduce residential construction activity, significantly reducing demand for sawntimber and wood-based panel products. The restrictions put in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 will have significant impacts on the Australian and international economies. The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA 2020) has predicted a 3% decline in Australian GDP in 2020-2021. In May 2020, the Housing Industry Association (HIA) updated their medium-term forecasts of new dwelling commencements in light of the recent developments around COVID-19. The expected number of total commencements for the 2020-2021 financial year are 37% lower than previously expected, with forecasts of units and detached house commencements reduced by 53% and 25%, respectively. Many of these reductions can be attributed to COVID-19 related restrictions. The expected decline in residential dwelling commencements has fuelled concerns that demand for sawntimber could decline by almost 50% over the next 6 months. Demand for wood-based panels for interior use is also likely to decline. However, sawntimber is not only used in the construction of new houses and units but also used in renovations, landscaping and furniture manufacturing. Wood-based panels are also used in renovations. The extent to which demand for sawntimber and wood-based panels decline will, therefore, also depend on the degree to which these activities may be affected.

The Australian Government is confident that Australia can be self-sufficient for its timber demand in 10 to 15 years, when its plantation base is expected to be able to supply sufficient timber in a sustainable way. Their forest industry has the potential to develop more with dynamic expansion of manufacturing capacities, backed by the encouraging

government policies, dynamic economic growth, high demand for forest products, increased domestic timber supply as a result of plantation investment, strengthened domestic manufacturing capacities and improved product quality that leads industry expansion and market drive. It is expected to result in decreased annual growth rate of forest products imports after 2015. Nevertheless, in the long term, even when Australia may be self-sufficient in forest products, it will still import selected products, such as large-diameter tropical hardwood for high-quality furniture, plywood, mouldings and BJC that are mainly used for residential construction and home renovation.

Despite the gloomy outlook, Malaysian timber players should take advantage of existing innovations and explore new markets within Australia itself. There are still vast opportunities for Malaysian value-added timber products such as furniture, mouldings and BJC in Australia markets. It is necessary to enhance cooperation in the construction industry, fulfil market requirements in supplying legal timber, venture into e-commerce and adapt to Australia's market environment to further increase market share in Australia and the global timber trade.

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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.



SUNTANG PUTEH :

A HIGH-CLASS CABINET WOOD

INTRODUCTION

The Standard Malaysian Name for the timber of *Chukrasia tabularis* (Meliaceae) is Suntang Puteh. Its vernacular names include *cherana puteh* (Peninsular Malaysia), *repoh* (Peninsular Malaysia), *suntang* (Peninsular Malaysia) and *suntang puteh* (Peninsular Malaysia). It is a monotypic timber. The sapwood is light yellow-brown or pink-brown and is moderately sharply or sharply defined from the heartwood, which is light red-brown or red, darkening to dark walnut-brown on exposure.

It is also known as Voryong (Cambodia); Chickrassy and Chittagong wood (India); Mai nyom hin, Nhom, Nhom hin and Nhom khao (Laos); Chickrassy, Chikrasy, Tawyinma and Yinma (Myanmar); Chickrassy (Pakistan); Hulanhik (Sri Lanka); and Siet-Ka and Yom-Hin (Thailand).

DENSITY

The timber is moderately hard and moderately heavy to heavy with a density of 625-880 kg/m³ air dry.



Suntang Puteh Wood Colour and Texture

NATURAL DURABILITY

The timber is moderately durable.

TEXTURE

Texture is moderately fine and uneven, due to the conspicuous layers of parenchyma. Grain is interlocked and sometimes wavy.

STRENGTH PROPERTIES

The timber falls into Strength Group (SG) 3 (MS 544:Part 2:2001).

Locality of Growth	Moisture Content (%)	Density g/cm ³		Bending Strength (MPa)		Maximum Crushing Strength (MPa)	
		Basic Density	Air Dry Density				
Malaysia	15.9	0.75	0.880	94	101	56.1	63.7

Hardness				Shear Parallel To Grain (MPa)		Strees At Limit Proportionality (MPa)		Modulus Of Elasticity (GPa)	
Side Grain		End Grain		R	T				
8990	9233			15.3	17.8	11.2	11.7	14.3	14.1

Table of Physical And Mechanical Properties

MACHINING PROPERTIES

It is difficult to very difficult to resaw and cross-cut but planes easily and produces a moderately smooth finish.

AIR DRYING

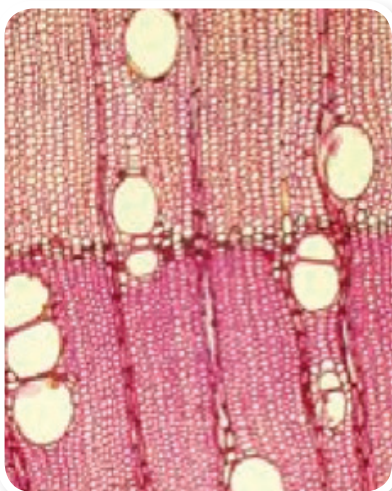
The timber seasons fairly rapidly without any form of degrade. 13 mm thick boards take approximately 1.5 months to air dry, while 38 mm thick boards take 2.5 months.

SHRINKAGE

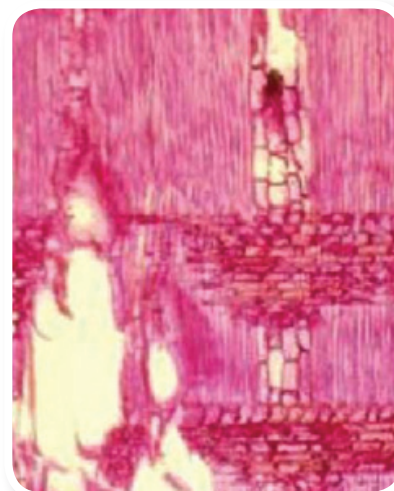
Shrinkage is rather low, with radial shrinkage averaging 1.3% and tangential shrinkage averaging 1.7%.



Wood in transverse section



Wood in tangential section



Wood in radial section



Suntang Puteh tree



Suntang Puteh bark

REFERENCES

- Menon, P. K. B. 1986. Uses of Some Malaysian Timbers. Revised by Lim, S. C. Timber Trade Leaflet No. 31. The Malaysian Timber Industry Board and Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur. 48 pp.
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- Wong, T.M. 1982. A Dictionary of Malaysian Timbers. Revised by Lim, S. C. & Chung, R. C. K. Malayan Forest Record No. 30. Forest Research Institute Malaysia Kuala Lumpur. 201 pp.



Malaysian Wood
Standing on Excellence

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



Official visit by Mr. Sven Schneider, CEO and delegates from Eurocham Malaysia - 24 July



Workshop on Developing Guidelines for Compliance with Technical Regulations on the Level of Formaldehyde Released from Wood Based Panel Products, 21 - 22 July 2020, Putrajaya



Puan Siti Hajar Mohar, a MTIB staff officially retiring on 3 July



English Speaking Day co-organised by Management Services and Strategic Planning Division, 8 July



Workshop on the Preparation of the Malaysian Bamboo Industry Development Action Plan, held on 16 July at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah