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MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD



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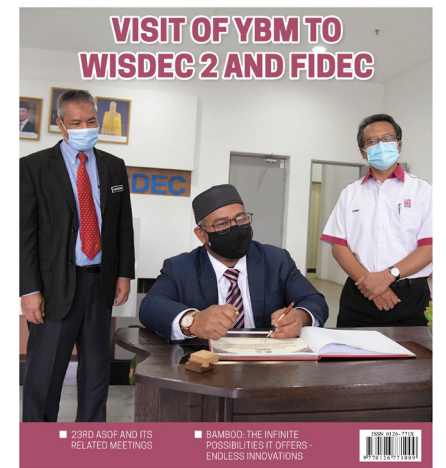
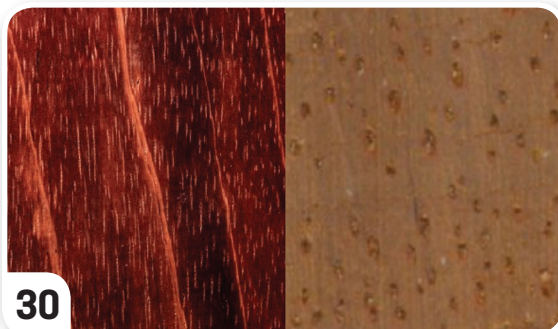
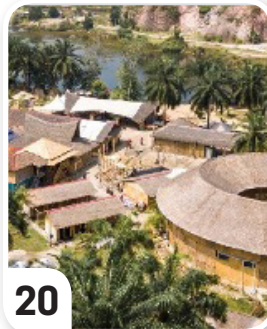
VISIT OF YBM TO WISDEC 2 AND FIDEC



■ 23RD ASOF AND ITS
RELATED MEETINGS

■ TADOM HILL RESORTS -
BAMBOO THEMED ECO
TOURISM





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23RD ASOF AND ITS RELATED MEETINGS



YBhg Dato' Hj Zahari Ibrahim, DDG of FPDM (Operations & Technical) representing Malaysia as HOD for 23rd ASOF meeting via virtual meeting

ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) meets annually to formulate and implement regional cooperation activities in support of the following strategic thrusts: ensuring sustainable forest management and conservation of natural resources; strengthening ASEAN cooperation and joint approaches in addressing international and regional forestry issues; promotion of intra and extra ASEAN trade in forest products and private sector participation; increasing productivity and efficient utilization of forest products; and capacity building and human resources development.

The 23rd Meeting of ASOF was held virtually on 7 October 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and continuous cross border restriction control in most of the ASEAN member countries. YBhg Dato' Haji Zahari Ibrahim, Deputy Director-General of Forestry Peninsular Malaysia (Operations & Technical) was Head of Delegation for Malaysia.

Some issues discussed included progress in the implementation of policy framework related to ASEAN cooperation in forestry, progress of sustainable forest management and progress of cooperation activities. Among the cooperation matters that were discussed were cooperation in timber certification initiatives, cooperation in herbal and medicinal plants and Plan of Action (POA) for ASEAN's cooperation in forest products development.

With regards to the key deliverables for ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry 2020, Malaysia stated that it has reviewed and revised the draft of ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Legality of Timber and ASEAN Guidelines for Sustainable Harvest and Resource Management Protocols for Selected Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs).



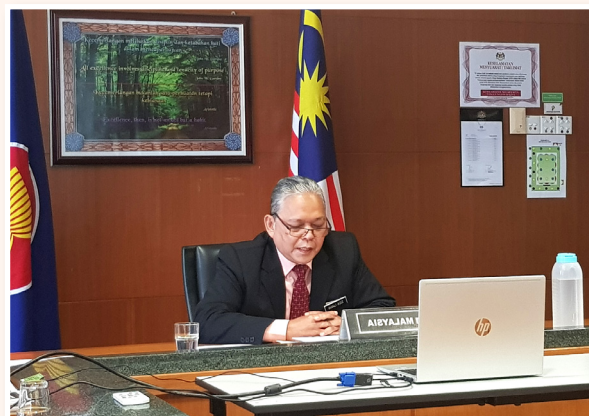
Malaysian delegation at the AWGFPD meeting

Cont. from page 3

In conjunction with the ASOF meeting, the 23rd Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Forest Products Development (AWG-FPD) was held earlier on 6 October 2020. Dr Khali Aziz bin Hamzah, Director General Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) represented Malaysia as the Head of Delegation.

The meeting discussed the decisions, progress, and follow up actions made during the last ASEAN Senior Official Meetings (ASOF), ASEAN Senior Official Meetings on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF), AMAF and Relevant ASEAN Meetings which included the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community.

Essential issues updated from Malaysia under the Update on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Development and Trade was regarding Agarwood. Malaysia's exports of agarwood products in 2019 which was RM8.8 million, representing a decrease of 11% over exports in 2018, which was valued at RM9.9 million. The bulk of exports was from the export of Agarwood products such as woodchips and woodblock while the rest was Agarwood essential oil. Currently, Malaysian Agarwood products are highly demanded by the Middle East market as well as the East Asian countries such as Taiwan, Japan and China. It was also learnt that, to date, a total of 233 companies and individuals have



Malaysian Head of Delegation for AWGFPD, Dr Khali Aziz Hamzah, DG of FRIM, presenting the intervention from Malaysia to the meeting

registered with MTIB covering a total area of 2,504 hectares of Karas plantations with a total of 2.3 million Karas trees.

Another important issue discussed was under the 'Strengthen Trade Promotion', highlighting the issue of trading activities in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic. ASEAN Member States all raised similar concerns which was that the pandemic has slowed trading activities, and given a negative impact on timber industry businesses for the first five months since March 2020, but have been slowly picking up from July onwards. Online platform has been an alternative way to run the business.



Malaysian delegation at the AWGFPD meeting

Other topics discussed were updates and information sharing on common non-tariff barriers by importing countries (particularly in the US, EU and Japan markets), updates on exchange of information and harmonising technical regulations to facilitate trade, updates on support aligning of national standards and testing protocols in line with existing internationally recognised standards, exchange of information on the latest edition of ISO and IEC standards for harmonization and alignment, updates on strengthening cooperation in human resources development in forest product development.



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

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[facebook.com/pages/Malaysian-Timber-Industry-Board](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Malaysian-Timber-Industry-Board)

Spot the difference

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

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

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

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



INDONESIA

BETTER THAN EXPECTED WOOD PRODUCT EXPORTS

Despite the ongoing global pandemic, wood product exports for the first three quarters of the year jumped to USD 8.3 billion, only just below the USD 8.5 billion earned in the same period in 2019, the International Tropical Timber Organization's (ITTO) reported.

The value of Indonesia's wood product exports in the first eight months of 2020 amounted to around USD 7.2 billion. This was almost 7% down compared to the same period last year when exports earned over USD 7.7 billion.

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) has congratulated the private sector on this performance achieved in the face of great difficulties. The Minister said the government will continue to implement measures to support the sector so it can avoid a downturn.

FORESTHINTS.NEWS quotes the Ministry Secretary General, Bambang Hendroyono, as saying "The improvement in export performance means that we remain in alignment with our efforts to avoid lay-offs, as much as possible, in the forestry business sector. This is among our minister's top priorities."

www.fordaq.com, 20 October 2020



MYANMAR

ALL TIMBER PRODUCTION CEASED

An explosive second wave of Covid-19 infections has shocked the country. Cases have now topped 10,000 with 226 confirmed deaths. The Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) imposed strict 'stay-at-home' restrictions for Yangon from 24 September.

Only businesses involved in banking and financial services, petrol stations, food and cold storage, pharmaceuticals, purified water distribution and production of daily personal items have been exempted from the order. As a result, all wood processing industries in the area covered by the lockdown have ceased production.

It is difficult to assess the impact on the industry and exports. The current lockdown will be reconsidered in early October. If the lockdown is extended for a month the impact on the manufacturing sector and wood processors may be severe.

The ban on foreign visitors and domestic travel has been extended to the end of October. The ban on domestic travel will disrupt preparations for the general election due in a few weeks. While economic growth has not been listed as one of the top three priorities in the ruling party's manifesto, politicians are paying more attention to the private sector ahead of the upcoming November elections.

www.fordaq.com, 1 October 2020



INDIA

SOUND AGRO-FORESTRY PLAN BUT LITTLE PROGRESS

Agro-forestry practices are gaining popularity in India as the mix of commercial trees and crops generates early sources of income some of which can be used for tree crop maintenance.

Agro-forestry is being promoted to supply commercial timbers such as sandalwood, agarwood and red sanders mixed with other hardwoods such as teak, laurel (*Terminalia tomentosa*), haldu (*Adina cordifolia*), kalam (*Mitragyna parviflora*), rosewood (*Dalbergia latifolia*), sissoo (*D.sissoo*) and other local species.

Interest is growing in the so-called 'five-storey' agroforestry comprising native hardwood trees, exotics between the hardwoods, fruit trees, vegetables and climbers and underground spices. In other related news, at the 10th Sustainability Summit organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Union Environment Minister, Prakash Javadekar, explained the Central government's decision to reforest degraded forests through the public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

The National Agro-forestry policy 2014, which emphasises on farm forestry and agro forestry, has not resulted in much progress on ground. Commentators in India say there is a need to scale-up already-developed agro-forestry models using indigenous species for ecological sustainability and economic expansion as over the past 10 years, timber imports have jumped to more than US\$5 billion because domestic timber resources are limited and demand has surged.

www.fordaq.com, 12 October 2020



UNITED KINGDOM

IMPORTS OF TROPICAL HARDWOOD PLYWOOD FROM CHINA SLOWLY RECOVERED

The UK imported 66,800 cu.m of tropical hardwood faced plywood from China in the first eight months of this year, 55% less than the same period last year. UK imports of plywood from China ground to halt earlier this year when China went into lockdown.

There were hardly any deliveries from February through to early April and UK importers were forced to live off inventories.

UK importers reported that through April and May this year Chinese plywood supply recovered steadily. By July, supply was back to normal and significant volumes under delayed contracts began to arrive.

It is expected that some of the lost volume from China will be made up later this year. On the other hand, rising freight rates, up in the last couple of months from USD 1,300/1,400 FEU to USD 2,000, strengthening of the CNY against the dollar, and higher raw material costs are now impacting China's competitiveness in the plywood market.

Likely due to supply problems in China, UK imports of plywood from Malaysia, which have been in a long term decline, have recovered ground in 2020. Despite significant slowing in May, imports from Malaysia were still up 20% at 42,600 cubic metres for the first eight months of the year.

In contrast to Malaysian plywood, UK imports of Indonesian plywood fell 40% to 23,900 cubic metres in the first eight months of the year. In addition to supply problems during the pandemic, Indonesian plywood has come under very intense competitive pressure from Russian birch plywood this year. Russian plywood is reported to have become more competitive overall, with the rouble sliding from 77 to the euro in June to over 90 in September.

Indonesian plywood has lost share particularly in the large market for 18-21mm film-faced for construction where Russian birch now dominates. Although Indonesian supply is now reported to be back to normal, albeit with freight rates increasing costs, UK imports of Indonesian plywood are now focused more on more niche products such as thinner plywood and for overlay and 2.7 millimetres items for the caravan industry.

In recent years, the UK has been importing small volumes of tropical hardwood faced plywood from Latvia and Spain. In the first eight months of 2020,

imports increased 4% to 6,800 cubic metres from Latvia but fell 43% to 3,900 cubic metres from Spain.

www.fordaq.com, 16 October 2020



EUROPEAN UNION

EU WELCOMES VIET NAM'S TIMBER LEGALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

In a September 2020 press release, Giorgio Aliberti, Ambassador of the European Union to Vietnam commented on the completion of the Government Decree on Vietnam's Timber Legality Assurance System (VNTLAS) which aims at implementing the annex with the same title of the EU - Vietnam Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT).

The press release continued, saying "Ambassador Aliberti trusts in Vietnam's continued commitment to the VPA, which entered into force last June and its active pursuit of the VPA's objective to manage all types of forests sustainably and provide a legal framework aimed at ensuring the legality of the production of timber and timber products, irrespective of whether the timber originates from within or outside of Vietnam.

The preparation of the VNTLAS decree provided for consultation with VPA stakeholders, including the VPA multi-stakeholder core group in 2019 and the EU is grateful for the opportunities for dialogue, which continued during and beyond the VPA Joint Implementation Committee meeting in June 2020.

The VNTLAS decree addresses important elements of the VPA related to the import and export of timber and timber products. It also provides the basis for an Organisation Classification System, albeit one specific to enterprises engaged in processing and exporting timber and thus lacking some core elements foreseen in the VPA.

Such a system covering importer and domestic producer organisations alike is foreseen in the VPA as a tool to facilitate legality assurance throughout the supply chain in Viet Nam and is a core element of the VPA.

The press release continues, "The EU looks forward to seeing how Vietnam will in future extend the scope to address legality, not only at the point of import and export, but more importantly, for operators involved in harvesting, trading and processing of domestic as well as imported timber and for products destined for all markets."

www.fordaq.com, 2 October 2020



UNITED STATES

HOUSING STARTS REBOUND IN SEPTEMBER

U.S. housing starts rose to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.42 million in September, up 1.9 percent from August's activity, the U.S. Census Bureau reported.

The growth was driven by an 8.5% rise in single-family starts, particularly in the Northeast, as multi-family starts declined.

The value of building permits rose by more than five percent to a SAAR of 1.55 million. Economists predicted a rate of 1.45 million units for housing starts and 1.52 million units for permits.

www.fordaq.com, 22 October 2020



BRAZIL

EXPORTS OF WOOD-BASED PRODUCTS RISE SHARPLY

In August this year Brazil's exports of wood-based products (except pulp and paper) increased 25.6% in value compared to August 2019, from USD 233.5 million to USD 293.1 million.

The value of pine sawnwood exports increased 36% between August 2019 (USD 35.0 million) and August 2020 (USD 47.5 million). In volume terms, exports increased 56% over the same period, from 176,400 cubic metres to 275,300 cubic metres.

In contrast, the volume of tropical sawnwood exports declined 11%, from 41,300 cubic metres in August 2019 to 36,600 cubic metres in August 2020. The value of exports dropped but only by around 4% from USD 15.3 million to USD 14.7 million over the same period.

Pine plywood exports earnings increased 52% in August 2020 in comparison with August 2019, from USD 39.3 million to USD 59.9 million. There was an increase in the volume of exports but only by 38% over the same

period, from 173,900 cubic metres to 239,100 cubic metres signaling an improvement in unit prices.

Brazil's exports of tropical plywood increased around 2% in August but the value of exports dropped almost 20% from 5,800 cubic metre (USD 2.6 million) in August 2019 to 5,900 cubic metre (USD 2.1 million) in August 2020.

On a brighter note Brazil's exports of wooden furniture increased from USD 47.1 million in August 2019 to USD 52.6 million in August 2020, an almost 12% rise.

www.fordaq.com, 1 October 2020



CONGO BASIN

CONGO BASIN MEMBER STATES TO BAN LOG EXPORTS STARTING 2022

In a bid to stimulate the production of timber to the GDP of Central African States, member countries of the Congo Basin have taken the unanimous decision to end the exportation of timber logs from January 1, 2022.

In September, Ministers of Forests, Industries and Environment in the Central Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) met in an effort to stimulate domestic processing of wood products in order to raise the contribution of the forestry sector to GDP. The meeting also agreed to an effort to harmonise forestry tax systems in member states.

To support this measure, Special Economic Zones (ZES) will be created to set up the 1st, 2nd and 3rd wood processing industries. The SEZ of Nkok, in Gabon, is more than ever a reference. In addition, these ministers validated the decision establishing the Regional Committee for the Sustainable Industrialization of the Timber Sector in the Congo Basin (Crib) as well as the regulation on the development of forest plantations.

The domestic press has commented on the latest meeting and Todaynewsafrika.com has pointed out that some CEMAC member countries already have legislation to this effect. Gabon endorsed a ban in 2010 and Equatorial Guinea announced such a measure in 2019. The Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon had aimed to introduce a log export ban but this is yet to be implemented.

www.fordaq.com, 16 October 2020



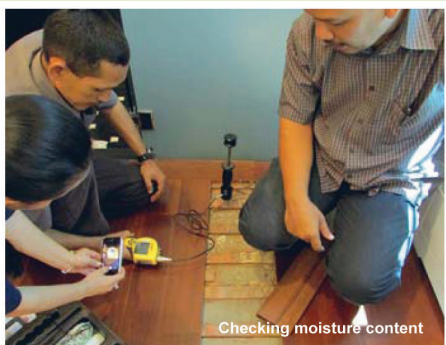
TIMBER VERIFICATION SERVICES

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

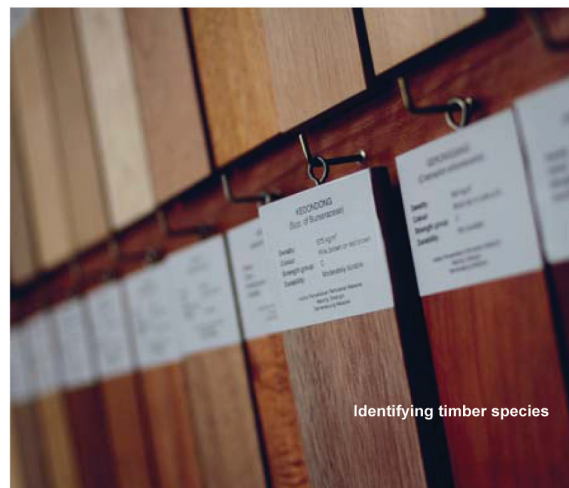
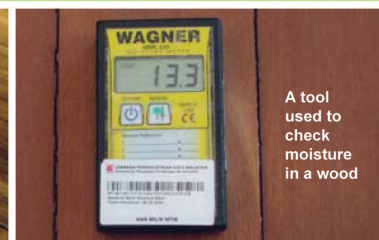
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VISIT OF YBM TO WISDEC 2 AND FIDEC



Meeting between YB Dato' Dr. Mohd Khairuddin Aman Razali and MTIB representatives

Human capital development, in addition to the research of utilizing alternative raw materials, are vital in efforts to enhance the viability of the timber industry. With emphasis on production of high value-added timber products for export, a multitude of skills in various fields of production and support services are desired. In conformance with the needs of the timber industry, MTIB has established the Wood Industry Skills Development Centre (WISDEC) to provide skills training and to assist the value-added processing sector in handling skilled manpower shortage and help increase worker productivity while FIDEC was established to spearhead the development of the fibre and biocomposite industry

in Malaysia. YB Dato' Dr. Mohd Khairuddin Aman Razali, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) visited both centres on 21 October 2020 to gain better understanding of their function and current developments.

At FIDEC, the YB Minister was briefed on the objectives and functions of the establishment as well as the facilities and services available to facilitate the industry, agencies and learning institutions. The YB Minister was also informed of the many sources of alternative raw materials that can be used for the purpose of processing and production of biocomposite and wood products such as oil palm trunk, kenaf, bamboo, agricultural waste and wood residues, and of FIDEC's role being largely focused on assisting the industry towards commercialization.



The YB Minister was shown various bio-composite materials that were used to create panelboards

During the briefing, the YB Minister urged MTIB to assist through FIDEC, the local industry on utilizing the alternative raw materials, which are available locally in abundance, to produce value-added products, such as wood plastic composite and wood-based products, from R&D findings. He added that the development of biocomposite products from these new alternative raw materials such as oil palm trunk, wood sawdust and bamboo,

have market potential and may be the future of the timber industry. The availability of the resources and the logistics need to be studied first to avoid insufficient supplies or problems during commercial production. Further, the development of the products and the processes involved in the research activities must also take into account the effectiveness of production costs in order to be competitive in the market.

The YB Minister visited the exhibition area to see the variety of biocomposite products such as wood plastic composites, oil palm plywood and furniture, developed by FIDEC with industry collaborations. The YB Minister also visited the furniture testing laboratory as well as the wood plastic composite, non-woven and woven production lines. The facilities had been developed by MTIB to facilitate and assist the industry and institutes of higher learning in products development and commercialization.

The YB Minister noted that the industry needs trained skilled workers particularly the timber industry sector. Globalisation, competition and technological advancements have intensified the demand for more skilled workers in the industry. As such, having an adequate number of skilled local workers, could clearly enhance productivity in the furniture industry.

In terms of human capital development, the YB Minister suggested that WISDEC intensify close collaborations with the industry to reduce dependence on foreign labour. Therefore, WISDEC will focus on youth training programmes, industry training, furniture design and product development.



YB Minister observing various woodworking machineries available at WISDEC 2



The YB Minister is being presented with a custom made laser engraving portrait prepared by MTIB



Among the furniture products shown at the exhibition area

WISDEC facilities will be equipped with the latest machines and equipments to facilitate all human capital development programmes and activities.

Various skill sets are needed in the future, to meet the demands of the industry and to reach high levels of skills competency and knowledge. The Government wants to produce more knowledgeable workers and a highly-skilled workforce in order to expedite the development of the industry which is moving from production economy to e-economy and innovation. On top of that, MTIB should focus more on entrepreneurship in the timber industry particularly among bumiputera entrepreneurs. The development of entrepreneurs requires a longer process which involves commitment from government agencies and industry players.

The YB Minister was welcomed by Yang Berusaha Tuan Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, Director General of MTIB and the management of MTIB.

September 2020

Malaysia

Westport 2' Transshipments Based On Sound Capacity Expansion

MALAYSIA's Westport 2 expansion plan is expected to increase the port's capacity by 50 per cent to 28 million TEU per annum by 2040, say investment bank analysts, reports Kuala Lumpur's Malaysian Reserve.

MIDF Amanah Investment Bank (MIDF Research) said the expansion would allow Westports to compete more effectively for transshipment volumes against Ports of Singapore, which would raise its capacity from around 40 million TEU to 65 million TEU by 2040. The research firm downgraded its call on Westports to "neutral" from "buy" previously as it believed that Westports is trading at its fair valuation range as the price is trading at 20.6 times.

"We continue to view Westports positively due to lower transshipment tariffs among its peers such as Port of Tanjung Pelepas and Port of Singapore even after taking into account the second phase of tariff hike in March 2019," said MIDF Amanah report. "The extension of the Ocean Alliance to 10 years (initially five years) until 2027 will mitigate the effects from the reshuffling of alliances profoundly seen in the financial year 2017 (FY17)," it noted. The contribution from intra-Asia and Asia-Europe trade lanes may face temporary downward pressure from the coronavirus for FY20. Risks to our call include prolonged coronavirus outbreak and any abrupt downside revision to port tariffs.

The port operator also announced that it has received an approval letter from the Economic Planning Unit to proceed with the proposed land acquisition of Marina Land from Pembinaan Redzai Sdn for a cash consideration of MYR394 million (US\$95.4 million). The Marina Land will complement the 154.2 acres (62.4ha) of land previously acquired by Westports in 2018 for MYR116.2 million, as part of the Westports 2 expansion.

Source: Asian Shipper

Singapore

PSA and HMM launch joint venture for container terminal Operations in Singapore

PSA Corporation Ltd (PSA) and HMM Co., Ltd (HMM) have joined forces to form a joint venture in Singapore, working together for enhanced operational excellence and efficiency in container operations.

Subject to regulatory approvals, the joint venture company, HMM-PSA Singapore Terminal Pte Ltd (HPST), is scheduled to commence operations before the end of this year. PSA will hold a 58 per cent stake in HPST, while HMM will own the remaining 42 per cent, both through their respective subsidiaries. This strategic partnership will offer long-term hubbing certainty to HMM's fast expanding global vessel fleet in PSA Singapore.

Besides volume and terminal capacity assurance, PSA and HMM will also collaborate in operational technology developments and innovations. The enhanced partnership and staying ahead of the technology curve will ensure that PSA and HMM continue to deliver service excellence and exceed customers' expectations.

Mr Ong Kim Pong, Regional CEO Southeast Asia, PSA International, said, "We are honoured to join forces with HMM, one of the world's top ocean carriers and a globally integrated logistics company, to maximise operational synergies and address the rapidly changing landscape of the shipping industry. PSA and HMM have had a steadfast and longstanding working relationship and we are excited to take this partnership to the next level, achieving a strategic win-win for both parties. We look forward to working alongside HMM to unlock the potential of our combined strengths and capabilities."

Mr Jae-hoon Bae, President & CEO of HMM, said, "Both HMM and PSA have extended their reach to every corner of the globe and have maintained a strong partnership based on mutual respect. We believe this joint venture terminal in Singapore plays a significant role as a springboard for both parties to move forward to a new

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

Product	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all Ports M³	% Change Sept 2020/ Aug 2020
	M³	% Change Sept 2020/ Aug 2020	M³	% Change Sept 2020/ Aug 2020	M³	% Change Sept 2020/ Aug 2020	M³	% Change Sept 2020/ Aug 2020	M³	% Change Sept 2020/ Aug 2020		
Sawntimber	76,592	19	9,829	84	1,184	80	200	-12	5,813	-8	93,617	21
MDF	12,172	-18	0	-100	3,289	24	1,140	8	2,436	-31	19,036	-15
Mouldings	10,535	4	36	-62	1,489	-32	862	-14	1,323	42	14,245	-1
Plywood	4,491	-48	251	100	2	-91	158	305	14,397	54	19,299	7
Veneer	250	-39	15	100	0	0	52	100	4,719	69	5,037	57
Particleboard	19,316	-12	288	4	468	30	0	0	9,450	43	29,522	1
TOTAL	123,356	2	10,419	73	6,431	10	2,413	3	38,137	29	180,756	10

Source: MTIB

phase. In addition, HMM looks forward to creating greater synergy for our 24,000 TEU vessels by securing berth on arrival and providing more reliable services for our customers through the joint venture."

Source: Port News



Asia-Europe rates up US\$27 to \$1,082/TEU, USWC increase \$53 at \$3,867/FEU

SPOT rates for shipping containers from Asia to northern Europe in the week ending last Friday edged up US\$27 to \$1,082 per TEU, 69 per cent higher than in the same week of 2019.

Asia-Mediterranean rates rose \$73 to \$1,188 per TEU, a 49 per cent uplift on a year ago, according to the Shanghai Containerised Freight Index (SCFI).

Rates from Shanghai to US west coast put on another \$53 dollars to a record \$3,867 per FEU, a staggering 189 per cent above the same week of last year.

Meanwhile, China-US east coast increased a further \$100 to \$4,634 per FEU, double the rate of a year ago, reports UK's The Loadstar.

Source: Asian Shipper



ZIM launches new China-Australia Express Line

ZIM is entering the Australian market with a fast service connecting China with major ports in Australia, the company said in its release.

The new service, named China Australia Express (CAX), will offer 11-day transit time from South China to Sydney – one of the fastest in the market – along with additional advantages and superb customer service.

The new China-Australia service, planned to commence in mid-October 2020, will have the following rotation:

Ningbo – Shanghai – Yantian – Sydney – Melbourne – Brisbane – Ningbo

The service will deploy 6X2500 TEU vessels with extensive capacity and plugs for refrigerated cargo. A fleet of new, advanced reefer units fitted with ZIMonitor system for constant monitoring and damage prevention will be available to customers on the new service.

Source: Port News



China

China mulls enacting blank sailing ban to chill soaring freight rates

BEIJING is considering forbidding ocean carriers to cancel sailings from China as transpacific rates soared to an eight-year high, reported London's Loadstar. "This week, we have seen indications that rates have continued rising on routes from Shanghai to both US coasts, with east coast rates rising more than west coast rates," said BIMCO's top analyst Peter Sand. China's ministry of communications discussed refusing

to allow carriers to increase spot rates from China to the US, and that cancelled sailings must be reinstated from October 12, said Loadstar.

Said Sea Intelligence chief Lars Jensen: "This would have an unprecedented impact on the market and, more worryingly, potentially derail the carriers' ability to manage capacity in the face of extreme demand volatility. "Placing a ban on blank sailings is essentially a non-issue right now, in a tight market, but it is highly likely we will see another downturn and if carriers are barred from managing capacity, this becomes problematic," Mr Jensen said.

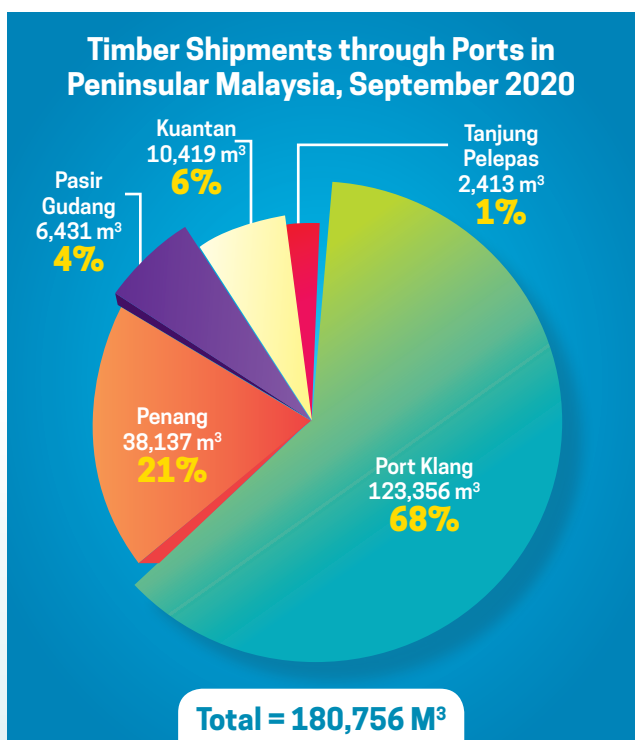
For seven weeks US west coast rates have increased. "We now also see a strong impact on the CCFI [China Containerised Freight Index] contract rate index to the USWC, where contract rate levels have increased 12 per cent in the past four weeks, and 44 per cent since the beginning of the pandemic," he said.

Flexport said rate increases were likely on the Asia-Europe route. "The market is expected to be strong and full throughout September and demand will probably remain high until end of October. Carriers have announced blank sailings for post-Golden Week, so capacity will be tight," said Flexport.

Spot rates on the Shanghai Containerised Freight Index (SCFI) jumped to its highest level since September 2012, reaching 1,263.26 August 28, and representing a 54.4 per cent increase from 24 April when the SCFI was at its lowest point this year. The Shanghai to US coasts routes are behind the biggest increase in freight rates. From late April, rates to the US West Coast are up 143.4 per cent to \$3,639 per FEU, the highest level since at least 2010.

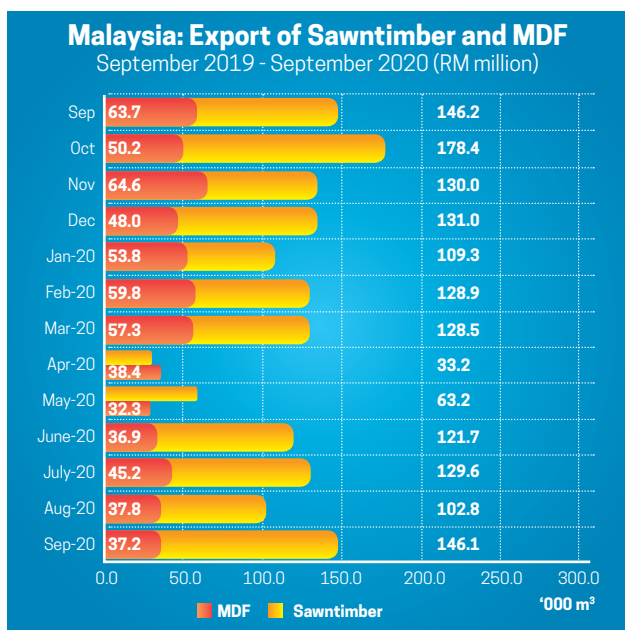
Spot rates into the US east coast were up 60.6 per cent from 24 April at \$4,207 per FEU. Freight rates into Europe have also risen, although at a lower rate: up 36.7 per cent from April to \$1,029 per TEU.

Source: Asian Shipper



September 2020

Total export of Malaysian timber and timber products in September 2020 increased slightly in value at RM2.0 billion from RM1.9 billion in the previous month. However, cumulative export for the period of January to September 2020 decreased 4% valued at RM15.7 billion over the previous corresponding period.



SAWNTIMBER

Total export of sawntimber in September 2020 increased by 42% in volume at 146,125 m³ and 38% in value at RM255.5 million as compared to the previous month. Cumulative exports for the period of January to September 2020 decreased by 30% in volume and 32% in value to 963,373 m³ totalling RM1.8 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Exports of sawntimber to the EU for the month increased by 4% to 6,485 m³ over the previous month as a result of higher demand from major countries in the region. The Netherlands as the main buyer decreased 8% to 3,125 m³ from 3,391 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Belgium also decreased by 7% to 788 m³ from 844 m³ recorded in the previous month followed by France decreased 18% to 545 m³. However, export to Germany and Italy increased by 72% and 21% to 1,026 m³ and 388 m³ respectively from 598 m³ and 321 m³ recorded in the previous month. Meanwhile in other European countries, exports to the UK also increased by 56% to 1,797 m³ from 1,149 m³ in the previous month.

Total export to West Asia increased by 165% to 43,690 m³ from 16,504 m³ recorded in the previous month. Yemen as the main buyer from West Asia increased significantly to 29,758 m³ from only 1,129 m³ recorded last month. Similarly, exports to Saudi Arabia also increased by 9% to 2,121 m³ from 1,938 m³ recorded in the previous month. However, exports to Iraq decreased by 58% to 893 m³ from 2,102 m³ recorded last month followed with Qatar and the UAE by 68% and 6% lower to 417 m³ and 5,456 m³. Exports to Oman also decreased by 5% to 3,281 m³ from 3,462 m³ recorded in the last month.

Elsewhere, buying from ASEAN increased by 23% to 37,600 m³ from 30,496 m³ as registered in the previous month. Thailand as the main buyer in ASEAN increase its intake by 7% to 17,406 m³ from 16,223 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Exports of sawntimber to the Philippines also increased by 63% to 13,315 m³ from 8,158 m³ last month. Similarly, exports to Singapore increased by 17% to 5,394 m³ from 4,593 m³ as recorded in the previous month followed by Viet Nam 6% to 1,434 m³ meanwhile intake by Indonesia decreased by 58% to 51 m³.

Similarly, shipments to East Asia also increased by 17% to 25,072 m³ from 21,521 m³ in August. China as the main buyer increase purchases by 6% to 12,019 m³ from 11,393 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, Taiwan also increased by 127% to 7,092 m³ and followed by South Korea rose 2% to 2,970 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, exports to Japan and Hong Kong decreased by 27% and 26% to 2,917 m³ and 74 m³ respectively from 3,997 m³ and 100 m³ as recorded last month.

Elsewhere, exports to the USA decreased 13% to 1,015 m³ while Australia increased by 22% to 914 m³ compared from the previous month. Meanwhile, demand from South Africa increased by 31% to 4,997 m³ from 3,816 m³ recorded in the previous month.

The average FOB price of sawntimber decreased slightly to 1,748 per m³ from 1,805 per m³ in the previous month. Meanwhile, price of Dark Red Meranti to the Netherlands increased 0.5% to 3,262 per m³ from 3,246 per m³ previously. Keruing was traded at 1,907 per m³, decreased slightly from 1,913 per m³ in the previous month.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Export of MDF in September 2020 decreased both in volume and value by 2% respectively to 37,194 m³ worth RM55.3 million compared to the previous month. Similarly, cumulative export for January-September 2020 based on year-on-year recorded a decrease in volume by 39% to 398,589 m³ and in value by 32% worth RM558.6 million over the previous corresponding period.

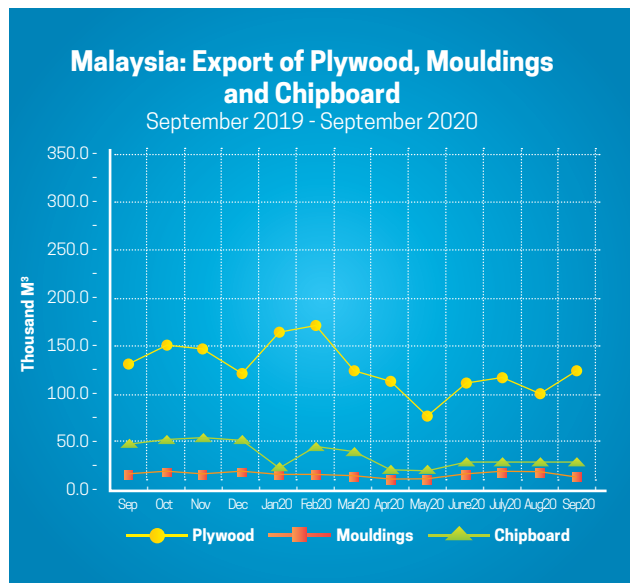
In ASEAN, total export increased by 31% to 7,327 m³ from 5,610 m³ in the previous month. Export to Indonesia increased by 1% to 2,774 m³, followed by the Philippines 21% to 2,548 m³ and Viet Nam 218% to 1,867 m³. Singapore doesn't make any purchase for this month. Moving to East Asia region, export to the region improved by 27% to 12,454 m³. Japan as the major importer of MDF increased its intake by 20% to 11,180 m³, followed by Taiwan 76% to 561 m³, South Korea 250% to 448 m³ and China including Hong Kong 657% to 265 m³.

Moving to South Asian region, export to the region decreased by 31% to 4,758 m³ for this month. Pakistan as the major buyer decreased its intake by 6% to 2,168 m³, followed by India 26% to 1,602 m³, Sri Lanka 56% to 750 m³ and Bangladesh 70% to 213 m³. In contrast, export to West Asian region increased by 79% to 7,775 m³ from 4,373 m³ in the previous month. Export to Oman improved by 336% to 1,307 m³, followed by Saudi Arabia 332% to 617 m³ and Bahrain 100% to 64 m³. Meanwhile, Kuwait and Lebanon resumed its buying to 679 m³ and 166 m³ respectively. However, exports to UAE, Qatar and Jordan have reduced by 81% to 532 m³,

26% to 158 m³ and 93% to 64 m³ respectively. Syria and Iran didn't make any purchases for the month.

Elsewhere, exports to the USA and Australia decreased by 21% to 1,446 m³ and 57% to 770 m³ respectively. Similarly, exports to the UK and Sudan also declined by 24% to 130 m³ and 55% to 400 m³ respectively. Contrarily, South Africa increased its demand by 49% to 923 m³ for the month.

The FOB price of MDF decreased by 1% to RM1,485 per m³ from RM1,495 per m³ from the previous month.



PLYWOOD

Export of plywood in September 2020 both increased in volume and value by 33% and 28% to 134,222 m³ totalled RM240.8 million compared to the previous month. However, cumulative export for January-September 2020 based on year-on-year showed a decrease in volume by 11% to 1,148,486 m³ and in value by 17% worth RM2.2 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Export of plywood to the EU decreased by 40% to 390 m³ from 651 m³ in the previous month. Export to Denmark increased by 72% to 280 m³ meanwhile the Netherlands resumed its buying to 86 m³. However, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland and Italy didn't make any purchases for this month. For Europe-Others, export to UK increased by 86% to 8,294 m³ and Turkey resumed its buying to 85 m³.

Exports to ASEAN and East Asia region recorded an increase of 23% to 76,657 m³ compared to 62,440 m³ in the previous month. In East Asia region, Japan as the main importer of Malaysian plywood increased its intake by 13% to 47,383 m³, followed by South Korea 32% to 10,838 m³ and Taiwan 32% to 6,616 m³. Similarly, exports to Hong Kong and China improved by 45% to 2,342 m³ and 56% to 1,131 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Malaysia's plywood trade with its ASEAN partners showed positive trend for the month. Thailand increased its intake by 167% to 4,067 m³, followed by the Philippines 34% to 2,039 m³, Singapore 42% to 1,284 m³ and Brunei Darussalam 17% to 570 m³. Indonesia does not make any purchase for the month.

Export to West Asian region also recorded a significant increase by 509% to 20,323 m³ from 3,337 m³ in the previous month. Export to Yemen increased significantly with intake of plywood recorded at 16,988 m³ as compared with 803 m³ in the previous month. Export to Kuwait improved by 233% to 300 m³ and Bahrain resumed its buying by 83 m³. However, exports to Saudi Arabia and UAE declined by 52% to 675 m³ and 29% to 472 m³ respectively. Qatar does not make any purchase for the month.

The African region showed growth for this month with an increase of intake by 2% to 1,021 m³ over 998 m³ in the previous month. Morocco increased its buying by 12% to 836 m³ while export to South Africa reduced by 11% to 185 m³. Mauritius and Sierra Leone didn't make any purchases for the month. However, export of plywood to the Americas region decreased by 9% to 22,581 m³ as compared to 24,672 m³ in the previous month. Our main buyer in the Americas region, the USA reduced its intake of plywood by 20% to 18,064 m³ from 22,543 m³ last month. Canada also decreased its buying by 86% to 90 m³ but export to Mexico increased by 191% to 4,300 m³. Moving to Oceania region, export to Australia decreased by 14% to 3,336 m³ and New Zealand resumed its buying by 21 m³ for the month.

The FOB price of plywood has reduced by 4% to RM1,794 per m³ from RM1,865 per m³ in the previous month.

MOULDINGS

Exports of mouldings for the month decreased by 20% in volume and 11% in value to 14,916 m³ worth at RM57.9 million. However, cumulative exports for the period of January to September 2020 decreased by 24% in volume and 23% in value to 135,968 m³ worth at RM508.5 million as compared to the previous corresponding period in 2019.

Exports to the EU for the month recorded at 6,645 m³, decreased 8% compared to the previous month. The Netherlands and Germany decreased their purchases by 36% and 3% to 4,533 m³ and 936 m³ while Belgium increase their purchases by 45% to 361 m³. However, Italy did not make any purchases for the month. Meanwhile, the UK recorded an increase of 36% to 519 m³ for the month.

Exports to ASEAN region increased as Singapore increased its purchases by 28% to 634 m³. Meanwhile, Viet Nam decreased their purchases by 22% to 416 m³. However, Indonesia did not make any purchases.

Likewise, China, Hong Kong and South Korea decreased their intakes by 88%, 58%, and 25% to 61 m³, 151 m³ and 909 m³ respectively. However, Taiwan and Japan increased its intakes by 233% and 32% to 153 m³ and 1,407 m³ compared to the previous month.

Elsewhere, export to the US decreased its purchases by 63% to 1,415 m³. Meanwhile, Canada and Australia also decreased 56% and 7% to 26 m³ and 1,819 m³ respectively.

Average FOB unit value for mouldings increased marginally to RM3,883 per m³ compared to RM3,481 per m³ in the previous month.

September 2020

LOGS

The average prices of logs reported continues to fluctuate due to uncertain demand and coming monsoon season.

Log prices for the species of Chengal stood firm at RM5,000 per ton whilst Balau increased slightly by 4.7% at RM3,350 per ton over the previous month. Similarly, the prices for Kempas and Tualang increased by 3.2% and 2.9% at RM1,600 per ton and RM1,440 per ton respectively. Meanwhile, the prices for Dark Red Meranti and Red Meranti decreased by 1.6% and 2.8% at RM1,850 per ton and RM1,750 per ton respectively. On the other hand, logs prices for Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood increased by 9.9% and 7.8% at RM1,157 per ton and RM1,100 per ton.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Domestic supply of MDF remained stable as prices continued to chart at last month's level. The MDF of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm and 12mm of thicknesses were traded at RM12.90, RM16.20, RM22.00 and RM29.10 per piece respectively.

SAWNTIMBER

The average sawntimber prices for most species in the domestic market also continues volatile due to uncertain demand from both local and overseas market.

The sawn timber prices of Chengal fell by 2.9% at RM7,274 per m³ whilst Balau remained at RM3,390 per m³. Meanwhile, the prices for Keruing and Kempas increased by 3.5% and 1.4% at RM2,083 per m³ and RM2,507 per m³. The prices for Dark Red Meranti and Red Meranti fell by 6.3% and 6.8% to RM1,907 per m³ and RM1,836 per m³ respectively. On the other hand, sawn timber prices of Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood increased slightly by 9.1% and 3.8% at RM1,059 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 of thicknesses were continued to be traded at RM14.80, RM22.20, RM38.35 and RM48.50 per piece respectively.

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE * - SEPTEMBER 2020

The shipments of sawn timber from Sabah to Peninsular Malaysia for the month fell by 77% in volume from 4,074 m³ to 924 m³ worth at RM321,000. Similarly, trade of veneer fell by 13% in volume from 124 m³ to 108 m³ worth at RM188,000.

Trade of sawn timber from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia decreased by 63% in volume from 1,640 m³ to 605 m³ worth at RM1.1 million. Meanwhile, trade of plywood increased tremendously in volume from 1,644 m³ to 3,444 m³ worth at RM3.6 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, SEPTEMBER 2020 (RINGGIT MALAYSIA)

	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
SPECIES	18” UP	GMS	STRIPS		SCANTLINGS/m³
HEAVY HARDWOOD					
Cengal	5,000	7,062	5,650		8,475
Balau	3,350	3,390	3,107		3,178
Red Balau	2,250	2,825	2,542		3,531
Merbau	3,570	4,696	3,884		4,096
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,157	1,059	1,038		1,236
MEDIUM HARDWOOD					
Keruing	1,700	2,083	1,377		2,203
Kempas	1,600	2,507	2,295		2,578
Kapur	1,680	1,746	1,412		1,816
Mengkulang	1,300	2,260	1,483		2,295
Tualang	1,440	2,507	2,331		2,542
LIGHT HARDWOOD					
Dark Red Meranti	1,850	1,907	1,554		2,648
Red Meranti	1,750	1,836	1,483		2,083
Yellow Meranti	1,250	1,554	1,236		1,660
White Meranti	1,480	2,472	1,342		2,507
Mersawa	1,700	1,977	1,624		1,977
Nyatoh	1,330	1,695	1,412		1,518
Sepetir	1,350	1,695	1,024		1,751
Jelutong	1,110	1,780	1,215		1,836
Mixed Light Hardwood	1,100	953	855		1,088
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD		LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³		
Hevea brasiliensis	185	1” X 1”	2” X 2”	3” X 3”	4” X 4”
		1,038	1,206	1,375	1,560
PLYWOOD 4’ X 8’	4 mm	6 mm	9 mm		12 mm
(RM per piece)	14.80	22.20	38.35		48.50
MDF 4’ X 8’	4 mm	6mm	9 mm		12 mm
(RM per piece)	12.90	16.20	22.00		29.10

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

* Prices are only indicative

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE - SEPTEMBER 2020

From	Product	August 2020		September 2020		% Change in volume	% Change in value
		Vol (m³)	Val (RM'000)	Vol (m³)	Val (RM'000)	Aug2020/Sep2020	Aug2020/Sep2020
SABAH	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	4,074	1,296	924	321	-77	-75
	Plywood	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Veneer	124	158	108	188	-13	19
SARAWAK	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	1,640	3,083	605	1,145	-63	-63
	Plywood	1,644	1,573	3,444	3,593	109	128
	Veneer	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Cont. from page 15

VENEER

Export of veneer for September 2020 improved both in volume by 31% to 5,429 m³ and 17% in value worth RM8.4 million as compared to the previous month. Similarly, cumulative export for January-September based on year-on-year showed a decrease in volume by 47% to 44,481 m³ and in value by 44% worth RM71.1 million over the previous corresponding period.

Export to China has improved by 68% to 2,004 m³, followed by South Korea 26% to 1,137 m³, Taiwan 17% to 910 m³ and the Philippines 10% to 457 m³. Similarly, exports to India and Australia increased by 6% to 282 m³ and 300% to 76 m³ respectively. Italy resumed its buying to 153 m³ for the month. However, USA has reduced its buying by 20% to 33 m³. Canada, Singapore and Viet Nam didn't make any purchases for this month.

The FOB price of veneer for August 2020 is at RM1,542 per m³, a decrease of 10% from RM1,718 per m³ in the previous month.

BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

Export of BJC for September 2020 recorded an increase of 7% in volume and 3% in value to 11,266,169 m³ worth RM10.6 million from last month. Total BJC cumulative exports decreased 7% to RM700.2 million as compared to RM752.0 million in the same corresponding period last year. Export to the EU decreased 2% to RM135.8 million. Export to the Germany, France, Netherlands and Italy decreased by 35%, 26%, 19% and 16% to RM14.9 million, RM13.4 million, RM14.7 million and RM4.0 million respectively. However, export to Turkey, Sweden, Denmark and Belgium increased by 394%, 142%, 26% and 6% to RM324,998, RM14.4 million, RM18.6 million and RM37.4 million respectively. Meanwhile, export to the UK increased by 3% to RM93.0 million from last month.

In Asia, exports to Qatar, the UAE and Saudi Arabia recorded a decrease of 100%, 88% and 69% to RM8,599, RM602,129 and RM412,206 respectively. Meanwhile, Egypt increase its purchases by 145% to RM958,894. Singapore, Viet Nam, Pakistan, South Korea, Japan and India decrease by 54%, 40%, 34%, 24%, 19% and 12% to RM28.8 million, RM12.3 million, RM1.1 million, RM1.8 million, RM40.7 million and RM25.6 million respectively. However, exports to Thailand and Taiwan increased by 13% and 10% to RM17.0 million and RM9.0 million compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, Bahrain did not make any purchases.

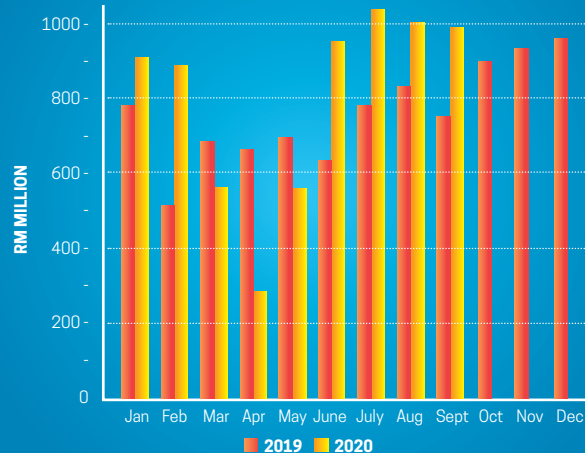
Export to South Africa and Australia decreased by 47% and 20% to RM7.4 million and RM125.0 million respectively. However, exports to the US and Mauritius increased by 26% and 22% to RM133.6 million and RM622,305 compared to the previous month.

FURNITURE

Exports of wooden and rattan furniture for the period of January to September 2020 recorded an increased by 14% to RM7.2 billion from RM6.3 billion in the previous corresponding period. The USA as the main buyer of wooden furniture has increased purchases by 65% to RM4.5 billion from RM2.7 billion in the corresponding period in 2019. In Europe, shipments to Germany decreased by 13% to RM33.7 million, while exports to the Netherlands increased by 12% to RM23.5 million from RM20.9 million compared to the previous corresponding period. Export to Greece also decreased by 15% to RM16.1 million, France 24% to RM34.7 million and Poland 7% to RM24.6 million.

Shipments to the UK also decreased by 11% to RM326.2 million for the month. Similarly, purchases by Russia declined by 20% to RM10.8 million from RM13.5 million in the same period last year.

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



Both demand from Canada and Australia also decreased by 13% and 16% to RM190.8 million and RM291.0 million respectively.

In East Asia, exports to Japan reduced by 20% to RM350.0 million from RM437.5 million in the same period last year. However, South Korea increased consumption by 9% to RM70.9 million whilst exports to China decreased by 36% to RM89.1 million. Exports to India also decreased by 50% to RM83.7 million from RM168.4 million in the previous corresponding period.

In the ASEAN region, exports to the Philippines and Singapore recorded at RM81.9 million and RM195.1 million respectively. Elsewhere, exports to Saudi Arabia and Qatar also decreased by 21% to RM108.3 million and 62% to RM4.3 million respectively. The UAE also reduced buying by 24% to RM84.4 million followed by Kuwait with 46% lower to RM19.1 million and Oman by 68% to RM8.8 million respectively.

Rattan furniture shipments for January to September 2020 recorded at RM72.0 million from RM103.4 million in the previous corresponding period. Exports to the USA has decreased by 18% to RM24.6 million from RM30.1 million in the corresponding period in 2019. Elsewhere, exports to Canada decreased by 20% to RM2.0 million while Australia increased by 12% to RM3.5 million compared to the previous month.

In Europe, exports to the UK and the Netherlands decreased by 26% and 30% to RM6.1 million and RM660,694 respectively compared to the previous corresponding period. Export to Russia also decreased by 41% to RM2.3 million followed with France by 46% to RM1.3 million and Poland 83% to RM325,196. However, purchases by Germany declined 20% to RM539,953 from RM448,760 in the same period last year. Meanwhile in North Africa, Algeria increased their purchases by 12% to RM2.6 million from RM2.4 million in the previous corresponding period.

In East Asia, exports to Japan increased by 99% to RM2.1 million from RM1.0 million recorded in the same period last year. However, China and India declined intake by 52% and 68% to RM7.6 million and RM1.6 million compared to RM15.7 million and RM5.1 million respectively in the previous corresponding period. Meanwhile in the ASEAN region, exports to Singapore and Thailand recorded at RM1.4 million and RM380,300 respectively.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, exports to the UAE decreased by 58% to RM331,114 from RM792,141 recorded in the same period 2019. Meanwhile, Viet Nam, Cote D' Ivore, Sri Lanka and Oman didn't make any purchase compared to the previous corresponding period in 2019.

WOOD GROWS ON YOU

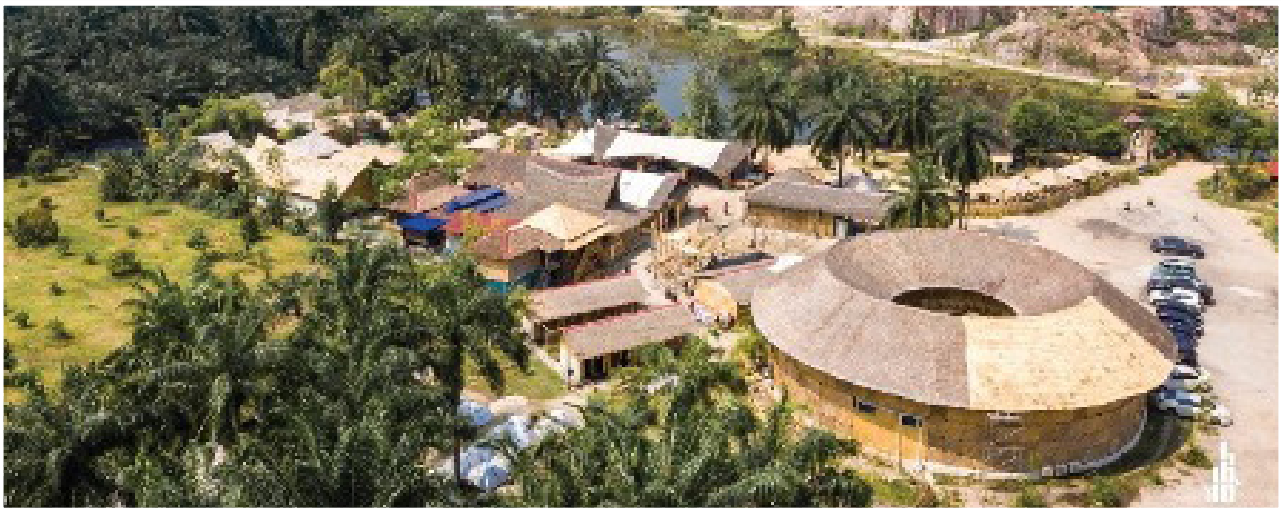
especially beautiful malaysian wood!



TADOM HILL RESORTS - BAMBOO THEMED ECO TOURISM

Set amidst 45 acres of breathtaking tropical beauty in the southern part of Klang Valley, Tadam Hill Resorts offers a unique blend of splendid experience and serenity. Located within 45-minutes' drive from the heart of Kuala Lumpur and close proximity to the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), Tadam Hill Resorts has all the elements for a magnificent getaway. Tadam Hill Resorts is built almost entirely out of bamboo materials traditionally used by the aborigines to build their homes and this will showcase the true

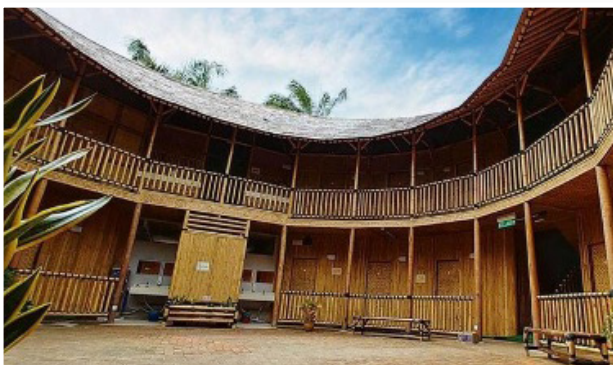
identity of bamboo in Malaysia. Besides featuring its passion for bamboo, the resorts has a wide range of accommodations which showcases its vision to blend just the right amount of outdoor experience and the traditional living culture of the aborigines with a resort-like ambiance. What started out as a village that houses the aborigines of the Temuan origin surrounded by acres of forest fronting an emerald lake has evolved into a boutique resort spanning 45 acres of lands in the southern part of Klang Valley.



Tadam Hill view

Tadam Hill Resorts is a unique bamboo garden tourism theme accommodation center and is among the latest tourist destination in the country. Located less than 15km from KLIA International Airport, it is easily accessible for international tourists. Be it a vacation, a study getaway, or just a short break, visitors can enjoy outdoor activities while being surrounded by the serenity and freshness of nature. Tadam Hill Resorts is a resort with the concept

of bamboo eco-tourism. It provides various facilities and quality services to both visitors and the public. Bamboo-themed tourism is an eco-tourism sector with a natural concept of bamboo-based design and buildings and it also involves elements of education and learning for tourists, both local and international. Bamboo-themed tourism also focuses on the importance of nature conservation while contributing to the local economy.



Main assembly hall



Tadam Hill accommodations

The objective of bamboo-themed tourism focuses on the provision of products and services that are eco-friendly to the visitors and guests that include sub-sectors such as accommodation, business, local products, culture, health well-being and healthy activities. Therefore bamboo-themed tourism was established to encourage the private sector to develop the tourism industry with the support of government bodies which provide infrastructure and fund financing facilities such as the Infrastructure Fund

Tourism and SME Tourism Fund. The purpose of the fund is to increase the demand and easy financing of new tourism projects and improvements for currently existing ones. Bamboo themed tourism aims to stimulate the tourism sector by revealing a historical perspective and the culture of the indigenous people to create indigenous tourism activities to appreciate and receive benefits from cultural assets and natural resources while promising a special holiday experience.



Near lake for recreational activities

Tadam Hill Resorts has several unique attributes and is different compared to other eco-tourism destinations. Here we can see and experience the largest bamboo-based accommodation in the country, the fascinating beauty of lake filled with pink and white lotus flowers, enjoy the beauty of the bamboo park and be further enlivened with bamboo rafting activities by paddling around the lake. Other bamboo related activities that are featured in this resort are bamboo-based art activities such as drawing on bamboo charcoal, bamboo dancing and learning to play the 'angklung'. The music of bamboo instruments such

as the bamboo flute can even be therapeutic as it is calming and melodious. Bamboo-based creativity such as local bamboo craft items and bamboo furniture can be purchased. Bamboo makers are onsite to teach guests bamboo handicraft. Visitors can also see the nursery of various species of bamboo and the actual treatment and curing processes while also enjoying the beauty of the bamboo garden which has bamboo shrubs from various bamboo species. In addition, various bamboo-based dishes are on the menu, such as bamboo rice and bamboo shoots and even a barbeque using bamboo charcoal.

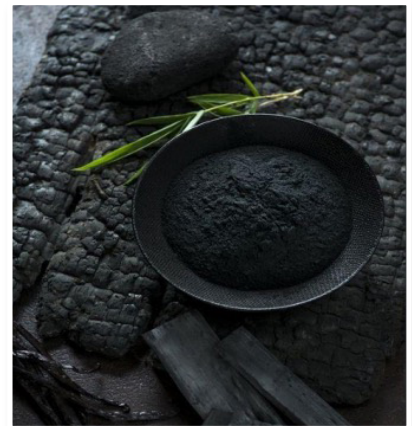
The world community is being urged to refrain from using pollutant products such as plastic. Bamboo is a possible alternative as it is a plant that can be used in construction of buildings as well as to produce furniture, floors, fabrics, crafts and bamboo laminated board. There is no part of a bamboo that cannot be used as an environmentally friendly material to produce organic products. Among the products that can be produced is activated bamboo charcoal which can be used as medicine.

Tadom Hill Resorts will continue to work hard to improve the bamboo-themed tourism as well as the bamboo industry in Malaysia. It has great potential to be developed as part of the eco-tourism industry and subsequently this will contribute to the economic growth of the country, especially in Selangor while introducing Malaysia to the international stage. Tadom



Tadom Hill Resorts Owner - Dato' Lai Yeng Fock

Hill Resorts' plans in the near future are to run a number of promotional events such as an awareness campaign of bamboo plantings, building a bamboo gallery and holding a bamboo music festival. 



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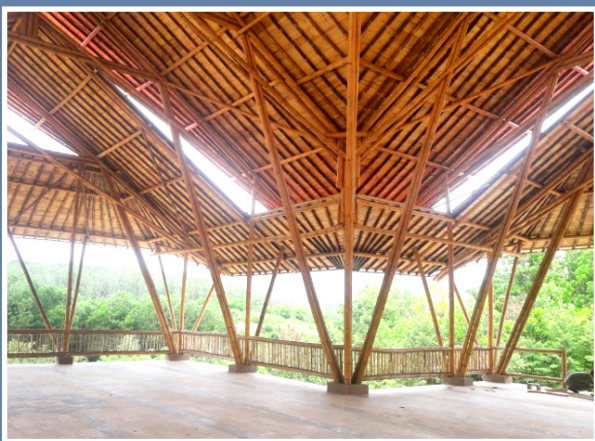


BAMBOO: THE INFINITE POSSIBILITIES IT OFFERS - ENDLESS INNOVATIONS

Bamboo is a woody grass, known to be the fastest-growing plant in the world. It can be harvested significantly faster than wood; over a period of 20 years, it can produce almost 12 times as much material as wood. It has become a popular material choice in architecture and design projects because of its sustainable qualities and hardwearing characteristics as it has a higher compressive strength than concrete or wood, and rivals the tensility of steel.

Its strength comes from the way the grass evolved, adapting to natural forces. In contrast to wood, the bamboo culm or haulm – botanical terms for the stem of a grass – is thin and hollow. This allows it to move with the wind, unlike a tree, which tries to simply withstand any natural forces it is exposed to. This adaptation for flexible movement resulted in a very light but tension-resistant fibre in the bamboo culm which is able to bend in extreme ways without breaking. Besides that, bamboo also captures higher amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) than most other plants. As such, it is a promising substitute for wood (products).

Realising that bamboo gives more benefits nowadays, Janssen (2000) shows that when comparing strength and stiffness of traditional building materials such as wood, concrete and steel, bamboo overall performs best as a building material as it has very good mechanical properties and a very efficient natural design. In fact, in developing countries bamboo is considered as one of the oldest and most versatile building materials with many applications in the field of construction. With that in mind, MTIB is currently pursuing more bamboo applications in the local construction industry.



Masjid Kuala Kangsar, Perak



31 meter, Arch + Cable Stade Bridge, Cucuta - Colombia 2006

Bamboo can be used to make all the components of small buildings, both structural and non-structural and preserved properly, bamboo can last a long time making it a sustainable building material. Bamboo culms are known for their durability and strength and in some cases bamboo is used as temporary structure like scaffolding for tall buildings. The most extensive use of bamboo in construction is as walls and partitions, as major elements for the structural framework as they are required to carry the building self-weight, withstand harsh weather and earthquake. The bamboo is ideal as roofing materials as it is strong, resilient and light-weight. It can also be used as roof covering and ceiling.

However, bamboo is non-durable in its natural state. It provides a ready food source for insects and fungi. Protection is therefore essential to ensure its durability especially when applied in constructions. Protection here does not mean chemical treatment only. More importantly is good design. Protection by design involves 4 basic principles: i) keeping the bamboo dry, ii) keeping the bamboo out of the ground contact, iii) ensuring good air circulation and iv) ensuring good visibility (Yan Xiao, 2008). Protection by preservation depends on the type of chemical treatment used, based on end product used. A wide range of preservatives which include oil based, oil soluble and water soluble ones, are available.

Bamboo could play an important role as a major contributor in building construction. The application of bamboo in mass housing clearly has tremendous potential. As such, more intensive research and development should be conducted to further extend the use of this sustainable material. 



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SAUDI ARABIA: FURNITURE INDUSTRY HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST VIBRANT AND FASTEST-GROWING INDUSTRIES



Overview

Saudi Arabia, officially known as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is a desert country and an Arab Muslim State situated in Southwest Asia. Saudi Arabia occupies most of the Arabian Peninsula, bordering the Red Sea in the west and the Persian Gulf in the east. It is bordered by Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The country shares maritime borders with Bahrain, Egypt, Eritrea, Iran and Sudan. Saudi Arabia contains the world's largest continuous sand desert, the Rub Al-Khali, or Empty Quarter. Its oil region lies primarily in the eastern province along the Persian Gulf.

The country has a population of 33.7 million inhabitants (2018), capital and largest city is Riyadh and the spoken language is Arabic. Saudi Arabia is a country with a predominantly Muslim population, its state religion is Wahhabism, an ultraconservative form of Sunni Islam. 85–95% of Saudi Arabian citizens are Sunni Muslims, 10–15% are Shia. The country is home to Mecca, Islam's holiest city and the birthplace of the Prophet Muhammad.

The Kingdom is ruled by the house of Saud along traditional Islamic lines. Saudi Arabia is the largest oil producer in the Middle East. The proven oil reserves in Saudi Arabia are the second largest in the world, estimated to be 268 billion barrels.

Economy

The economy of Saudi Arabia is one of the top twenty economies in the world and the largest economy in the Arab world and the Middle East. Saudi Arabia is ranked 9th among 14 countries in the Middle East and the North African region and its overall score is approximately equal to the regional and world averages. Saudi Arabia is part of the G20 group of countries.

With a total worth of USD33.2 trillion, Saudi Arabia has the second most valuable natural resources in the world. The country has the second-largest proven petroleum reserves and is the largest exporter of petroleum in the world. It also has the fifth-largest proven natural gas reserves and is considered an "Energy

Superpower". The Saudi economy has been moderately free for most of the past two decades. GDP growth has been modest over the past five years, partly because of OPEC-coordinated production cuts.

The economy of Saudi Arabia is heavily dependent on oil and it's a member of OPEC. In 2016 the Saudi Government launched its Saudi Vision 2030 to reduce the country's dependency on oil and diversify its economic resources. In the first quarter of 2019, Saudi Arabia's budget has accomplished its first surplus since 2014. This surplus that is accounted for USD10.40 billion has been achieved due to the increase of the oil and non-oil revenues. The government is continuing its efforts to diversify the economy away from dependence on oil, but the momentum of its ambitious Vision 2030 program has been diminished.

Forest Resources

According to the U.N. FAO, 0.5% or about 977,000 hectares of Saudi Arabia is forested. Saudi Arabia's forests contain 6 million metric tons of carbon in living forest biomass. In terms of biodiversity and protected areas, Saudi Arabia has some 636 known species of amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles according to figures from the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Of these, 1.4% is endemic, meaning they exist in no other country and 4.4% are threatened. Saudi Arabia is home to at least 2028 species of vascular plants with 2.0% is protected under IUCN categories I-V.

The forests of Saudi Arabia are threatened by a harsh environment, which is characterized by low fluctuating rainfall, overwhelming drought, high temperatures and anthropogenic factors including urban and agricultural expansion as well as fuelwood cutting. The interaction of natural and anthropogenic factors is compounded by the lack of qualified forestry personnel in comparison to the optimum required to implement the activities necessary to sustainably manage the resources.

The Government of Saudi Arabia has undertaken a number of institutional and legislative measures and fostered a number of projects to reduce the degradation of forests and also conserve, expand and develop existing forests.

Timber Industry

Saudi Arabia, which currently imports USD1.2 billion worth of timber and timber products each year has always had to look abroad for timber supply in the country. Organizing exhibitions currently focus on the growing potential of Saudi's timber sector. The demand for timber products, with supporting tools and machinery that can speed production and improve efficiency, add up to significant opportunities across all parts of the wood sector's value chain. Saudi Arabia's timber sector is on the rise whether tackling the 70% of demand that comes from the construction sector or grabbing a share of the furniture market's annual growth.

Saudi Arabia's Export of Timber and Timber Products

Saudi Arabia's export of timber and timber products in 2019 decreased 78% to USD28.8 million over the previous corresponding period. Saudi Arabia's exports are mainly plywood, furniture and particleboard which amounted to USD11.8 million, USD7.0 million and USD2.6 million respectively. Saudi Arabia exports plywood mainly to UAE amounting to USD4.3 million, furniture mainly to Bahrain amounting to USD4.4 million and particleboard mainly to Germany amounting to USD777 thousand.

Saudi Arabia: Exports of Timber & Timber Products, 2015-2019

(Value USD'000)

PRODUCT	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Plywood	14,003	17,545	15,544	17,502	11,797
Furniture	42,276	37,954	47,124	56,188	6,980
Particle board / Chipboard	7,607	2,489	3,927	3,264	2,550
Builders' joinery and carpentry	9,092	3,363	4,497	3,458	1,165
Fibreboard	2,893	1,264	840	794	793
Sawntimber	2,035	3,116	8,998	36,823	742
Wooden frames	59	65	50	38	211
Veneer	2,374	50	56	199	14
Logs	105	237	34	27	0
Others	13,637	13,167	11,201	11,546	4,596
TOTAL	94,081	79,250	92,271	129,839	28,848

Source: ITC Statistic

Saudi Arabia's Import of Timber and Timber Products

According to the latest ITC statistics, Saudi Arabia's imports of timber and timber products in 2019 increased 9% to USD2.14 billion over the previous corresponding period. UAE imported mainly furniture, sawntimber and fibreboard totalling

USD976.1 million (an increase of 11%), USD457.0 million (an increase of 13%) and USD239.0 million (an increase of 20%) respectively. Major import sources for Saudi are China, followed by Thailand and Indonesia.

Saudi Arabia: Imports of Timber & Timber Products, 2015-2019

(Value USD'000)

PRODUCT	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Furniture and parts thereof	1,287,738	913,426	877,696	877,103	976,085
Sawntimber	589,584	423,917	374,200	402,860	457,040
Fibreboard	273,382	196,494	199,491	199,121	239,006
Plywood	442,521	239,542	202,392	183,485	206,215

Cont. from page 26

PRODUCT	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Builders' joinery and carpentry	105,875	72,009	70,275	80,175	48,756
Particle board / Chipboard	25,101	17,234	17,670	16,516	19,161
Mouldings	26,887	21,155	18,073	20,198	16,252
Veneer	19,811	18,151	9,878	6,099	4,648
Wooden frames	5,128	4,877	5,748	2,898	3,889
Logs	19,522	6,304	2,503	16,735	2,573
Others	136,405	130,257	138,748	150,693	167,616
TOTAL	2,931,954	2,043,366	1,916,674	1,955,883	2,141,241

Source: ITC Statistic

Malaysia's Export of Timber and Timber Products to Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has always been an important timber trade partner for Malaysia in the West Asia region. In 2019, exports of Malaysian timber and timber products to Saudi Arabia registered an increase of 40% to RM307.8 million from RM219.2 million in

2018. Saudi Arabia ranked 16th with 1.4% of Malaysia's total export share. Wooden furniture was the main product exported with a total value of RM179.5 million, followed by sawntimber at RM44.6 million and MDF at RM19.8 million.

Malaysia: Exports of Timber & Timber Products to Saudi Arabia, 2015-2019

(Value RM '000)

PRODUCT	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Wooden Furniture	207,088,077	158,221,015	140,919,506	126,005,218	179,529,037
Sawntimber	61,636,223	51,141,700	55,260,545	36,124,365	44,594,635
MDF	77,220,676	96,837,134	59,464,445	31,466,217	19,791,515
Plywood	50,577,190	31,350,256	32,268,611	23,909,408	14,058,800
BJC	6,604,895	3,414,421	2,687,015	1,268,327	1,651,975
Particleboard	2,971,227	0	35,958	296,734	0
Wooden Frame	0	0	0	79,972	0
Rattan Furniture	127,292	48,680	5,101	0	0
Veneer	0	0	0	0	0
Mouldings	0	0	0	0	0
Others	36,796,755	43,240,802	49,519,649	49,158,029	48,151,444
TOTAL	443,022,335	384,254,008	290,641,181	219,150,241	307,777,406

Source: MTIB & DOSM

Malaysia's Import of Timber and Timber Products from Saudi Arabia

In 2019, imports of Malaysian timber and timber products from Saudi Arabia showed an increase of 1281% to RM360,948 from RM26,140 in 2018. Wooden furniture was

the main product imported with a total value of RM364,175 and followed by chipboard at RM14,773.

Malaysia: Imports of Timber & Timber Products from Saudi Arabia, 2015-2019

(Value RM '000)

PRODUCT	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Wooden Furniture	5,066	320,512	131,888	26,140	346,175
Chipboard	0	0	0	0	14,773
Wooden Frame	0	0	0	0	0
BJC	0	0	0	0	0
Sawntimber	0	90,513	0	0	0
Rattan Furniture	0	18,780	0	0	0
Other Articles of Wood	0	63,374	0	0	0
TOTAL	5,066	493,179	131,888	26,140	360,948

Source: MTIB & DOSM

Import Tariffs

Saudi Arabia's import duties on timber and timber products under MFN are as follows:

PRODUCT	MFN TARIFF DUTY %	PRODUCT	MFN TARIFF DUTY %
Logs	5	Fibreboard	5
Sawntimber	5	Plywood	5
Veneer	5	Wooden Frames	20
Mouldings	20	BJC	12
Particleboard/Chipboard	5	Furniture	15

Source: WTO

Prospects

The furniture industry in Saudi Arabia is a fast growing, highly untapped industry. With the entry of a number of real estate developers and increasing demand for residential property, the housing industry has witnessed tremendous growth in the past years. This has infused growth in the household furniture market growth. A booming economy, government support and a young population base, coupled with other secondary factors have created a strong platform for the furniture industry to grow to new horizons.

Construction activities in Saudi Arabia also have grown remarkably. This growth of construction industry will further enhance the Saudi furniture market. Taste and needs in furniture have changed to multi-functional and space-efficient items, including furniture for home entertainment,

relaxation, socialization and work. Demand for upholstered seating and other furniture has increased. Eco-design furniture is becoming a trend now, where it is becoming a main requirement in B2B project submittals and requirements.

To succeed as an importer into the Saudi market, Malaysian manufacturers need to enhance their products and marketing efforts by focusing on helping wholesale buyers reach targets and achieve policies. Demand is always for great quality products at low prices for customers, while maintaining the ethical standards they require. Participation in major timber, furniture and construction fairs and exhibition also helps to create demand for Malaysian value added timber products in the market.

Through those activities, it is an excellent opportunity for Malaysian timber and furniture exporters to enhance networking and explore business opportunities among Arabian counterparts. It will also enable Malaysian timber exporters

to be able to further develop their networking with the Saudi Arabia's timber and furniture importers while at the same time undertake market research on current Saudi Arabia importers' market preferences and taste. Therefore, it is projected that

with the above opportunities, timber trade for both countries especially in terms of export and import activities, and investments in timber and timber products will be increased in the coming years.



Saudi X Design - Local Designer Talent



Furniture designer Ayah Al Bitat - Y Collection

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- <https://www.worldfurnitureonline.com>



Jelutong Dyera spp.

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RENGAS / GLUTA RENGHAS

INTRODUCTION

The Standard Malaysian Name for the timber of *Gluta* spp. and *Melanochyla* spp. (Anacardiaceae) is Rengas. The vernacular names applied are usually rengas (Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak) with various epithets. The major species contributing to the timber include *Gluta aptera*, *G. elegans*, *G. malayana*, *G. renghas*, *G. torquata*, *G. wallichii*, *G. wrayi*; and *Melanochyla auriculata*, *M. bracteata*, *M. caesia* and *M. fulvinervis*. The sapwood is light pink-brown or light brown and is sharply differentiated from the heartwood, which is dark red-brown or deep blood-red, with bands of darker, almost black streaks.

It is a large evergreen tree, up to 45 m tall and 90 cm in diameter. Buttresses up to 4 m high are reported. This species yields a latex which is made into black lacquer, it is also poisonous and causes severe skin irritation. It is also known as Rengas (Brunei); Kroeul (Cambodia); *Gluta* (India); Anga, Poei and Rengas (Indonesia); Mai nam kiang (Laos); Burma *Gluta*, Chay, Thayet-thitsi and Thitsi (Myanmar); Hekakoro (Papua New Guinea); Lingas (Philippines); and Rak and Rak-ban (Thailand). It is widely distributed in mixed dipterocarp forests and swamp forests, in up to 1,000 m of altitude. In Malaysia it is common on hillsides while in Sumatra it is co-dominant in peat swamp forests.

DENSITY

The timber is a Medium Hardwood with a density of 640-960 kg/m³ air dry.

NATURAL DURABILITY

The timber is moderately durable, being susceptible to termite attacks.

PRESERVATIVE TREATMENT

The heartwood is extremely difficult to treat with preservatives, while the sapwood is amenable.

TEXTURE

The texture is moderately coarse to fairly fine and even, with interlocked or occasionally straight grain.

ANATOMIC DESCRIPTION OF WOOD

The wood is diffuse porous. The tangential diameter of its vessel lumina is 200 micras or more (large). Tyloses are common. Vessels per mm² are less than 6 (rare). There are simple perforation plates. Vessel-ray pits are similar to intervessel pits in size and shape. The axial parenchyma

is in marginal or in seemingly marginal bands. Paratracheal axial parenchyma is scanty and/or vasicentric. The axial parenchyma is aliform. The axial parenchyma is confluent. Rays are less than 4 per mm (rare). Body ray cells are procumbent with one row of upright and/or square marginal cells (Kribs-III). Septate fibres are present while fibres are with distinctly bordered pits.

The grain is interlocked and occasionally straight. The texture is moderately coarse to fairly fine and even. Vessels are of a simple perforations type with medium to moderately large sizes and are generally few in number. Tyloses are common. The parenchyma type is both of the apotracheal and paratracheal. The apotracheal type is in irregularly spaced bands, visible to the naked eye while the paratracheal type occurs as narrow borders to the pores. Rays are found or moderately found distinct to the naked eye especially on the tangential surface.

Intercellular canals of the horizontal type are the characteristics of the spp. The canals exude colourless sap which darkens on exposure.



Rengas fruit



Rengas seedling

STRENGTH PROPERTIES

The timber falls into Strength Group B (Engku, 1988b) or SG4 (MS 544: Part 2: 2001).

STRENGTH PROPERTIES OF RENGAS (*G. TORQUATA*)

Test Condition	Green	Air dry
Modulus of Elasticity (MPa)	14,000	14,900
Modulus of Rupture (MPa)	81	111
Compression parallel to grain (MPa)	41.4	59.4
Compression perpendicular to grain (MPa)	5.31	7.65
Shear Strength (MPa)	10.6	13.2

MACHINING PROPERTIES

It is slightly difficult to resaw and cross cut and the planed surface is only moderately smooth.

MACHINING PROPERTIES OF RENGAS (G. TORQUATA)

Test Condition		Green	Air dry
Sawing	Rip-sawing	easy to slightly difficult	slightly difficult
	Cross-cutting	easy	slightly difficult
Planing	Ease of planing	easy	difficult
	Quality of finish	moderately smooth	moderately smooth
Boring	Ease of boring	slightly difficult	slightly difficult
	Quality of finish	slightly rough	slightly rough
Turning	Ease of turning	-	slightly difficult
	Quality of finish	-	rough

NAILING PROPERTY

The nailing property is rated as excellent.

AIR DRYING

The timber seasons moderately slowly, with slight twisting and insect attacks as the main sources of degrade. 13 mm thick boards take approximately 2 months to air dry, while 38 mm thick boards take 5 months.

KILN-DRYING

Kiln Schedule E is recommended.

Moisture Content (%)	Temperature (Dry Bulb)		Temperature (Wet Bulb)		Relative Humidity (%)
	°F	°C	°F	°C	
Green	120	48.5	115	46.0	85
60	120	48.5	113	45.0	80
40	125	51.5	116	46.5	75
30	130	54.5	117	47.0	65
25	140	60.0	120	49.0	55
20	155	68.0	127	53.0	45
15	170	76.5	136	58.0	40

SHRINKAGE

Shrinkage is fairly low, radial shrinkage averages 1.0% while tangential shrinkage averages 1.8%.

DEFECTS

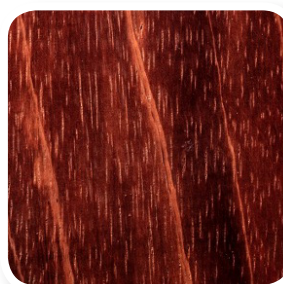
The logs of rengas are generally free from defects except for a few heart shakes.

USES

Due to the poisonous nature of the sap, the timber is not very often exploited. The seasoned timber, however, is quite safe to handle and is highly prized as cabinet wood due to its streaky figure and blood-red colour. The timber is also suitable for decorative works, panelling, mouldings, superior joinery, picture frames, flooring, plywood, furniture, railway sleepers, posts, beams, joists, rafters, pallets (permanent light duty), door and window frames and sills (internal use), tool handles (impact), ornamental items and walking sticks. The timber is strong enough for medium construction provided it is protected from termites.

The rubber liquid from this plant contains small protein molecule (glutathione) which is formed from the amino acid cysteine, glycine, and glutamic acid, and it is used in the cosmetic and medicine industry for producing soap, supplement and whitening compounds. Glutathione whitens skin, acts as anti-ageing and anti-wrinkle as well as helps remove pimples and pimple marks.

Despite its beautiful figure and colour, the timber was not fully exploited before due to the presence of the sap as well as pin holes commonly present on the sapwood. The presence of an excess of pinholes often downgrades the timber and reduces recovery. However the allergy effect of the sap is removed once the timber is seasoned.



Wood Macro Photo Radial Plane



Wood Micro Photo of Transversal Section

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YB Dato' Dr. Mohd Khairuddin, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities observing the wood carving skills of En Norhaiza Noordin and En Mohd Salizan Abd Rahman at Kg. Raja, Besut, Terengganu, 18 October 2020



The opening and closing meeting for MS ISO 9001:2015 audit surveillance which was conducted online, as part of the new norm, MTIB Kuala Lumpur, 23 October 2020



MS ISO 9001:2005 audit session was conducted by SIRIM QAS International Sdn. Bhd. at MTIB office in Kompleks Sultan Abu Bakar, Gelang Patah, Johor, 22 October 2020



YB Dato' Dr. Mohd Khairuddin, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities visited the Ladang Gaharu Pak Megat, RAL Plantations, Kuala Kangsar, 16 October 2020