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HIGH IMPACT MARKETING PROGRAMME WITH THE INDUSTRY TO THE NETHERLANDS

- Forest Plantation Development Programme (FPDP)
- Diverse Integrated Sdn. Bhd.



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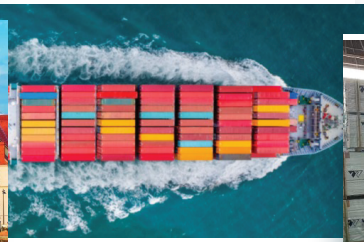


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HIGH IMPACT MARKETING PROGRAMME WITH THE INDUSTRY TO THE NETHERLANDS



YB Datuk Larry
Sng Wei Shien with
Malaysian delegates
and the Dutch presenter

The High Impact Marketing Programme (HIMP) was held from 22 to 25 April 2024 by the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC). This was a strategic collaborative programme with industry stakeholders in the Netherlands aimed at providing invaluable insights and networking channels for all participants. It also aimed to foster relation within the vibrant Dutch-based design community consisting of architects, interior designers and consultants with timber suppliers from Malaysia.

The main objective of the programme was to promote Malaysian timber and timber products. It also provided a deeper insight into the factors that influence buyer decisions and the challenges faced by decision makers in the industry. Delegates gained a deeper understanding of material specifications and the selection process, especially based on the EU Deforestation-Free Products Regulation (EUDR).

In 2023, the Netherlands continued to be a significant timber trade partner for Malaysia in Europe. Exports to the Netherlands in 2023 registered an increase of 1.4% to RM587.0 million from RM578.9 million in 2022 with mouldings garnering the largest market share of its export value. Malaysia exported mouldings worth RM206.0 million, followed by sawntimber and BJC valued at RM92.0 million and RM58.8 million respectively. The Netherlands currently ranks 8th on Malaysia's top export destination ranking.

HIMP started with seminars that provided a platform for Malaysian timber industry members and Dutch stakeholders to exchange insights on the latest market trends, developments, and the role timber can play in achieving goals in the architectural industry. The seminars, which included interactive sessions between Malaysian and Dutch architects, also highlighted potential collaborations in the timber sector. Apart from highlighting the use of Malaysian timber and timber products in construction, the seminar also featured a project on wood applications by students from the Delft University of Technology, led by their lecturer and seminar speaker, Mr. Gilbert Koskamp.

Business-to-business (B2B) roundtable sessions were conducted on the second day during which



Business to business
(B2B) session.

the delegation had the opportunity to meet and network with five Dutch timber importers and architects. The session began with presentations by the Malaysian companies. Following that, the Dutch architects gave briefings on their current projects and timber requirements.



Hotel Almere-Buiten Zuid-concept of transforming the former restaurant into a hybrid establishment featuring a hotel and dining facilities by Mr. Sander Mirck from Mirck Architecture.



Malaysian exporter present their company background and proposal during the B2B session.

In order to build networking and gain more insights on Dutch timber architecture, the delegation visited Hotel Jakarta Amsterdam, designed by SeARCH (Urbanism & Architecture). The building which stands as a testament to sustainable architecture, is made up primarily of bamboo interiors. The next visit was to Juf Nienke, which was also designed by SeARCH. Juf Nienke consists of 61 sustainable rental homes, parking spaces, and a commercial ground floor. Meanwhile the Houten Hotel Almere, designed by Mirck Architecture, extends the existing Festijn Culinaire restaurant. The design draws inspiration from an iceberg, creating a striking architectural motif that enhances the establishment's overall aesthetic appeal. The last visit was to Office Alliander, designed by Imd Raadgevende Ingenieurs. The structure features timber buildings serving as the regional headquarters of the Dutch energy company Alliander in Amsterdam. The office prioritises sustainability by predominantly using wood as a construction material and minimising the use of harmful substances such as glue, PU foam, or sealant during the building process. Both the office building and dining facilities are constructed entirely from timber, aiming to provide flexibility and a healthy working environment.

On the fourth day, the delegation visited several Dutch timber import companies in Amsterdam namely Royal Dekker Hout, Houtimport Best B.V. and LTL Woodproducts BV. The delegation was briefed on the operations of the companies and their future plans. After the briefing session, the delegates were taken to tour around the factories and their showrooms. The delegation took the opportunity to expand their network and strengthen prospects during the tour.

Overall, the programme successfully provided exposure to the participants, allowing them to explore and gain a better understanding of the latest timber developments in Europe, especially in the Netherlands. The programme also paved the way for more Malaysian timber exporters to complete in the Dutch market, especially on sawntimber, moulding and BJC products.

The HIMP mission was led by MTC Chief Executive Officer, Puan Noraihan binti Abdul Rahman. Accompanying her was Chairman of the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB), YB Datuk Larry Sng Wei Shien and Puan Siti Hawa binti Arshed, Senior Assistant Director of Trade Development Division. Also participating were five Malaysian wood-based companies namely PH Timber Sdn. Bhd., Pine Horizon Sdn. Bhd., PTC Timber Sdn. Bhd., Timbmart Sdn. Bhd. and United Woodwork & Construction (M) Sdn. Bhd.



Mr. Ingvar Kristensen, Dekker Hout's purchasing manager invited Malaysian delegates to tour Dekker Hout's manufacturing facility.



YB Datuk Larry Sng Wei Shien with the owner of Houtimport Best BV, Mr. Lucien Arends and Malaysian delegates.



INDONESIA

DATA ON FOREST COVER READIED FOR EUDR

In order to be ready for the EUDR Indonesia is making available complete data on forest cover generated by the 'Simontana' or the National Forest Monitoring System, said the KLHK Minister, Siti Nurbaya Bakar. The EU published European Union Forest Observatory (EUFO) data in December 2023 and plans to release the final version of the EUFO map in December 2024. The Minister said "From now on until the end of this year it is important to correct the EUFO map so that Indonesia's country risk assessment claim can be in the low category and the origin of commodities will not be included in the category of deforestation and land degradation areas". During a focus group 'Deepening Sectoral Legality and Sustainability in Forest Areas in the Context of a Deforestation-Free Supply Chain' the Minister emphasised the importance of utilising accurate data on Indonesian forests to deal with deforestation issues at the global level. She said the Ministry had corrected deforestation data released by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the institution eventually understood Indonesia's success in reducing the rate of deforestation.

<https://www.Fordaq.com> 29 April 2024

ANTICIPATING IMPACT OF GLOBAL GEOPOLITICAL SITUATIONS ON INDUSTRY

The Ministry of Industry is closely monitoring the volatile global geopolitical situation as it is anticipated current conflicts will have an impact on at least three things: energy prices, logistics costs and exchange rates. The government intends to continue developing policies to mitigate any impact on the local manufacturing industry. The Minister of Industry, Agus Gumiwang Kartasasmita, has indicated the Ministry is considering incentives for imported industrial raw materials due to the possibility of disruption of the supply of raw materials for domestic industry. A relaxation of imports curbs is also being considered to make it easier to secure raw materials. In an effort to reduce the

dependence on the US dollar the Ministry has called for an increase in the use of the Rupiah for bilateral transactions between Indonesian businesses and their partners in other countries. In addition, the Ministry has called for efforts to improve performance in the logistics sector to support the growth of the industrial sector. The Minister noted that during the first quarter of 2024 the world logistics cost index increased due to the various global conflicts.

www.itto.int, 30 April 2024



VIETNAM

WOOD PRODUCT EXPORTS RISE SHARPLY

According to Vietnam Customs Office, in March 2024 Vietnam's wood and wood product (W&WP) exports were worth USD1.12 billion, up 46% compared to February 2024 but down 2% compared to March 2023. In particular, exports of wood products contributed USD749 million, up 58% compared to February 2024, but down 4% compared to March 2023. Generally, over the first 3 months of 2024 W&WP exports earned USD3.4 billion, up 19% over the same period in 2023.

WP exports, in particular, accounted for USD2.3 billion, up 23% over the same period in 2023. Vietnam's W&WP imports in March 2024 stood at USD190.0 million, up 55% compared to February 2024. However, compared to March 2023 they were down 2%. In the first 3 months of 2024 W&WP imports were recorded at USD532 million, up 15% over the same period in 2022.

Vietnam's imports of wood raw materials in March 2024 amounted to 446,200 cubic metre worth USD145.0 million, up 70% in volume and 71% in value compared to February 2024. Compared to March 2023 imports increased by 19% in volume and 7% in value. In the first 3 months of 2024 imports of wood raw materials were estimated at 1.143 million cubic metre worth USD373.7 million, up 23% in volume and 10% in value over the same period in 2023.

Vietnam's Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) exports in March 2024 showed the highest level

over the past 2 years reaching USD85 million, up 80% compared to February 2024 and up 35% over the same period in 2023. Generally, in the first 3 months of 2024 NTFP exports earned USD212.07 million, up 28% over the same period in 2023. W&WP exports to the US in March 2024 were valued at USD555 million, up 50% compared to February 2024 but down 8% compared to March 2023. In the first 3 months of 2024, W&WP exports to the US earned about USD1.7 billion, up 26% over the same period in 2023. Vietnam's woodchip exports in March 2024 were recorded at USD250 million, up 38% compared to February 2024 and up 38% compared to March 2023. In the first 3 months of 2024 woodchip exports earned USD648 million, up 23% over the same period in 2023.

<https://www.Vietnam news com/>, 8 April 2024



CHINA

DEVELOPMENT TRENDS OF CHINA'S WOOD-BASED PANEL TRADE

China's wood-based panel import and export faced dual challenges from domestic and foreign markets from 2020 to 2023. Internally, because of the pandemic and the contraction of the real estate economy, the operating efficiency of the supply chain declined, and the domestic market continued to weaken. Externally, affected by exchange rate fluctuations and inflation, demand in international markets cooled significantly and the competitive pressure from the SoutheastAsian exporters increased. Overall, China's wood-based panel manufacturing industry still has a strong advantage in international markets and has made a major contribution to the global supply wood-based panels. As Covid 19 control measures took effect in China with stable growth and expanding domestic demand has become the main thrust of macro-economic policy, the issue now is how to use this opportunity for economic recovery to further break through the development bottlenecks in the wood-based panel trade, an urgent issue for China's wood-based panel industry.

The following measures have been proposed to develop China's wood-based panel trade. Emerging markets should actively be explored. It is suggested to further promote the "Belt and

Road" forestry economic and trade cooperation, take advantage of the differences in resource endowment and continuously improve the global allocation capacity of wood resources and the growth potential in emerging markets. Make full use of the institutional dividend from regional trade agreements such as Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, accelerate integration of the regional value chain for the wood-based panel sector, strengthen intra-industry trade with neighboring countries in Asia to include raw material and semi-finished products and other production bases in different regions to create new growth points for China's wood-based panel exports.

Tap the potential of the domestic market and accelerate business models in which the domestic cycle plays a major role such that the domestic and international cycles reinforce each other. Transforming the pattern of production and marketing management should be accelerated. Production lines should be adjusted and transformed in a timely manner to meet domestic standards. Product types and styles suitable for the domestic market should be developed. Sales channels that meet the purchasing habits of domestic consumers should be established. Finally, the transformation and upgrading of the wood-based panel industry will be realised by strengthening independent innovation and accelerating brand building.

China's wood-based panel industry has entered a key stage from "incremental" development to 'enhanced quality' development. In order to stimulate economic recovery in 2023 China formulated a number of preferential policies for small and medium-sized enterprises. Wood-based panel enterprises should actively use the new round of policy dividends to further enhance the overall competitive advantage of the industry, including optimising the structure of wood-based panel sector and improving the scientific and environmental credentials of products. Technological transformation in the wood-based panel industry should be strengthened. The cooperation between upstream and downstream enterprises should be strengthened to create strategic competitive alliances. Advanced technology and management methods should be introduced. Standardised management and independent brand creation in the wood-based panel industry should be strengthened, and the international market recognition of China's wood-based panel industry should be enhanced.

RISE IN FIBREBOARD EXPORTS

China Customs data shows fibreboard exports totalled 2.205 million tonnes valued at USD1.194 billion, up 10% in volume but down 0.5% in value over 2022. Mexico, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia were the top 3 destinations in 2023. Mexico was the largest destination for China's fibreboard exports in 2023, up 65% to 223,000 tonnes over 2022. China's particleboard exports to Nigeria rose 7% to 214,000 tonnes valued at USD88 million, down 1.2% over 2022. In addition, China's fibreboard exports to Vietnam and Canada in 2023 increased 17% and 37% respectively. In contrast, China's fibreboard exports to Saudi Arabia, USA and UAE in 2023 fell 10%, 23% and 32% respectively. The growth in China's fibreboard exports was due to the gradual recovery of fibreboard production capacity and price discounting support which lifted demand. Sharp decline in fibreboard imports recorded were 51,300 tonnes valued at USD48.9 million in 2023, down 45% in volume and 50% in value year on year. New Zealand and Germany were the two top suppliers in 2023. However, China's fibreboard imports from New Zealand and Germany fell 13% and 55% to 14,500 tonnes and 10,100 tonnes respectively.

In addition, China's fibreboard imports from Thailand, Belgium, Poland, Spain and Switzerland fell sharply in 2023. In contrast, China's fibreboard imports from Romania, alone among the top suppliers in 2023, rose 45% to 2,200 tonnes year on year.

<https://www.ITTO/Fordaq.com/>, 17 April 2024



EUROPEAN UNION

CERTIFICATION SCHEMES LAY OUT EUDR COMPLIANCE SUPPORT

Given the huge dependence on FSC and PEFC by suppliers into and out of the EU and for internal EU trade for provision of data on provenance and forestry practices, the extent to which these systems can adapt, or not, to the new requirements of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) will have a strong bearing on access to the EU market and on the continuing global competitiveness of European wood product manufacturers and traders in the future.

FSC webinars in recent weeks have detailed its guidance and support to help certified companies meet EUDR obligations. PEFC is also progressing alignment of its system and standards with the EUDR to aid PEFC-certified businesses' compliance. The FSC webinars, recordings of which are available on its website, covered its FSC EUDR Aligned Standard which will be launched in June this year as an added option for all FSC certified companies. Within this, its EUDR Regulatory Module will provide added components on avoiding implication in deforestation and forest degradation and take companies through EUDR alignment of due diligence processes and reports.

FSC has also been explaining how its new "FSC Blockchain" platform will work. This is designed to enable certified companies to meet the EUDR obligation for geolocation coordinates identifying the origin of timber and wood products. This obligation is imposed directly on companies that first place regulated products on the EU market, that export these products from the EU market, and companies which are not SMEs trading inside the EU. The new FSC platform aims to enable businesses to transmit product origin and harvest date data throughout the supply chain. Confidentiality of sourcing information is key, says the FSC, and only those who upload data to the system will be able to say who can access it. EU Competent Authorities are also being kept informed on how it will operate and help generate due diligence statements for submission to the EU. Ahead of the EU benchmarking supplier countries under the EUDR as low, standard or high risk of commodity production causing deforestation and forest degradation, FSC is additionally revising 20 of its 60 country risk assessments, looking at risks of illegality and unsustainable practice. Its new Risk Assessment Framework will be unveiled in June, with the 20 revised national assessments available by January 2025.

Likewise, the PEFC ran a webinar 'On the path to EUDR alignment' on 27 February delivering the latest on development of its sustainable forest management and chain of custody standards to help certified companies to satisfy the regulation. A PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Working Group has worked on 'identifying and validating gaps between its sustainable forest management standard and EUDR requirements' and revisions of the standards are out for consultation through February/March, with the final versions available in May. PEFC is also developing an EUDR-adapted due diligence system (DDS) to enable companies to implement the regulation,

which will be compatible with the existing PEFC DDS in its chain of custody standard. The new system, says PEFC, will actually go further than EUDR requirements by also covering its controversial sources definition.

By implementing the PEFC EUDR Module alongside the PEFC SFM and Chain of Custody Standards, PEFC says operators will ensure they are undertaking due diligence in line with the EUDR's requirements, including on risk assessment and definitions of controversial sources and deforestation. The organisation is also focusing on the EUDR's demand for timber geolocation data. "Certified organisations and PEFC members can expect guidance on how best to approach EUDR compliance data issues, including, where appropriate, suggested standardised methods for obtaining, storing, and presenting necessary data," it states. A proposition is that PEFC-certified forest concession owners/managers upload timber origin geolocation coordinates to a PEFC database and be assigned a PEFC identification number. PEFC-certified operators will then access the geolocation data using that number. The data will be confidential to the operator.

Those further down the supply chain will be given the number as proof that geolocation information is available if required, but they will not be able to access the data themselves. Both FSC and PEFC have also revised their deforestation/forest land conversion cut-off date, after which they cannot be certified to the end of 2020 to match the EUDR. The FSC proviso is that forest restitution and restoration has taken place between its earlier 1994 cut-off point and the new date. FSC and PEFC stress that their certification schemes will not give business a 'green lane' through the EUDR. It will be the responsibility of individual certified companies to undertake the requisite due diligence. But they claim the adaptation of their systems and standards to its requirements will go a long way in aiding and providing guidance on compliance.

www.globalwood.org, 30 April 2024



GERMANY

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION LACKED ORDERS

Cancellations in German residential construction increased in March 2024. Almost every fifth company (19.6%) reported canceled orders. In February it was still 17.7%. "The situation in housing construction remains tense," says Klaus Wohlrabe, head of ifo surveys. "Too few new orders are being added to the cancellations." In March, 56.2% of companies reported a lack of orders, after 56.1% in February. Although the business climate in residential construction rose slightly, it remains significantly negative. Expectations for the coming months are heavily influenced by pessimism. "Many companies are reducing their construction activity due to a lack of orders," says Wohlrabe. Cancellations are currently not such a big problem in civil engineering. Currently only 6.5% report this (previous month 5.3%). However, around one in four companies is lacking orders.

<https://www.globalwoodmarketsinfo.com/>, 18 April 2024



AUSTRALIA

COMMERCIAL NATIVE LOGGINGS ENDS

Western Australia has become one of the first States in Australia to end commercial logging of native forests. The State Government's historic decision to stop the unsustainable practice under the Forest Management Plan 2024-2033 will protect nearly 2 million hectares of native karri, jarrah, and wandoo forests for future generations. Following the move to end commercial native forest logging two years ago, the State Government committed to an USD80 million Native Forest Transition Plan that included significant industry restructure payments, which have now been made to all eligible sawmills. Millions of dollars have also been made available through various grants, for community development projects, business diversification, and to attract new industries.

Western Australia's largest commercial timber mills have now exited the industry and the Cook Government is committed to working with the smaller sustainable mills that will play a valuable role into the future. Under the new Forest Management Plan, native timbers will only be available by Western

Australia's largest commercial timber mills have now exited the industry and the Cook Government is committed to working with the smaller sustainable mills that will play a valuable role into the future. Under the new Forest Management Plan, native timbers will only be available by ecologically thinning, which promotes forest health and resilience from drought and bushfires. The Cook Government is also investing a record USD350 million dollars in Western Australia's softwood pine plantations, which will support thousands of South West jobs. Pine from softwood timber plantations is extensively used in the construction of WA homes. Additionally, the plantations capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helping to fight climate change.

"More than two decades after the Gallop Government ended old-growth logging, the Cook Government has delivered on its commitment to end commercial logging in Western Australia's native forests. Our State is now one of the first in Australia to end native logging, a move which will promote conservation and resilience throughout our natural environment", said the Environment Minister Reece Whitby. Meanwhile, the Forestry Minister Jackie Jarvis said, "This historic decision, reflects the changing climate and community attitudes, and will safeguard our iconic forests for years to come. This is a new era for our South West and I am proud to be part of a Government that is prioritising forest health and supporting the local industry to diversify and grow."

<https://www.miragenews.com/>, 1 April 2024



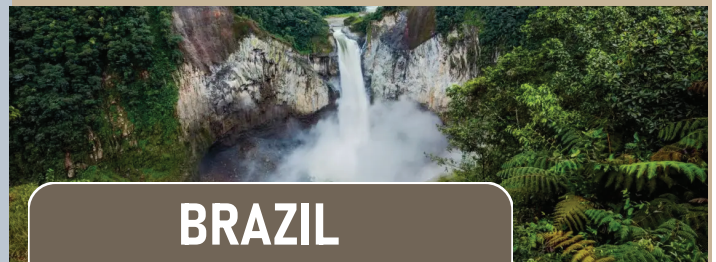
UNITED STATES

HARDWOOD EXPORTS TO INDIA

The American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) has reported the value of exports of sawn US hardwood and veneers to India in 2023 was USD8.482 million. AHEC has reported that US sawn hardwoods shipped to India increased by 3% in value to USD 7.024 million (up from USD 6.839 million in 2022) and by 21% in volume to 11,604 cubic metres (up from 9,614 cubic metres in 2022). At the same time, direct exports of American hardwood veneers to India reached USD 1.458 million while exports of logs fell to USD 3.569 million, down by 47% year on year. The top American hardwood species exported to India last year were white oak, red oak, ash, maple and walnut. The biggest increases were seen in the value and volume of exports of ash, maple and walnut.

AHEC participated at INDIWOOD with an American hardwood pavilion which included 14 US based hardwood exporters. AHEC also hosted a 'mini-convention' and trade servicing mission to Jaipur following the conclusion of INDIWOOD. Visits to some of the leading manufacturers helped American hardwood exporters better understand their needs. The AHEC convention identified new opportunities for American hardwoods particularly for the manufacture of products destined for export markets. India emerged as the biggest growth market for U.S. sawn hardwoods in the first half of 2023 and this trend continued throughout the year.

www.itto.int, 28 April 2024



BRAZIL

FORESTRY SECTOR UPS JOB CREATION

A survey carried out by the Center for Timber Producing and Exporting Industries of Mato Grosso State (CIPEM) shows that formal jobs in the state's forestry sector grew in the first two months of 2024. Currently, the forestry sector employs 12,712 people, equivalent to 9.8% of the total 128,917 workers employed in the State's manufacturing industry according to the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

CIPEM commented that in the coming months the trend is for the forest-based sector to continue creating jobs as timber industries have been expanding production from sustainable forest management areas. With the aim of expanding trade CIPEM promotes and participates in national and international events that discuss the contribution of the forest-based sector to sustainable socio-economic development. CIPEM emphasised that approximately 7 million cubic metres of timber are produced annually from Sustainable Forest Management areas demonstrating that forest-based industries have the potential to provide sustainable products with proof of origin, traceability and quality.

www.itto.int, 29 April 2024



GLOBAL

WOOD INDUSTRY OUTLOOK STILL FACES ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

The global wood industry faces economic challenges amid sluggish growth in key regions like China, the US, and Europe. Stable nominal price fluctuations characterize the European market, with tightening competition due to lower raw material supply. Weak construction activity globally dampens softwood lumber consumption, leading to decreased exports from countries like Finland. Recovery is anticipated next year, driven by expected interest rate cuts stimulating construction demand, while this year's lumber demand is predicted to remain stagnant, with a slight decrease in exports and production. The world economy is still in stagnation. The growth prospects of the global economy continue to decline – economic growth in both China and the United States is slower this year than last year. In Europe as well, economic growth continues to be sluggish like last year. The German economy shrank last year, and no significant pick-up in growth is expected this year either. Germany is currently not the same engine of the European economy that we are used to seeing it as. Next year is expected to be better both in the United States and in Europe, but growth in China will fade even further. China's growth potential has been permanently weakened due to structural problems weighing on the economy. Next year's economic development, however, involves significantly greater risks than usual due to the geopolitical situation. The slowdown in inflation and the gradual decline in interest rates pave the way for Europe to a smooth growth career, from which the significant drivers of growth are, however, exhausted. The European Central Bank will start interest rate cuts in early summer – before the United States. While the US economy is only now showing signs of cooling down, economic growth in Europe has been subdued for a long time. Although there are seasonal differences in interest rate developments in the euro area and the United States, the differences in the overall development are small to such an extent that there are no significant changes in the euro-dollar exchange rate in terms of macroeconomic development. The price

fluctuation of wood species has leveled off in Europe. The nominal price fluctuation of wood species has leveled off compared to the fluctuations of the last couple of years. In the European countries such as Austria, Sweden, Germany, the Czech Republic and Estonia, the price development of wood varied slightly between logs and pulpwood at the end of last year. In Estonia, the price of softwood logs has been falling since last autumn, while in other countries the price trend for logs was on the rise.

The increase in the price of sawlogs was most evident in Austria, the Czech Republic and Sweden. Changes in the nominal prices of softwood were more moderate at the end of last year. In Germany, the price of softwood has been falling since the second quarter of last year, while in Austria and the Czech Republic the decline stopped by autumn. In Sweden, on the other hand, the price development of softwood pulpwood was bullish throughout last year. The demand for wood remained relatively high in the European wood market last year, taking into account the general uncertainty of the economy. In the Baltic Sea region, the tightening of competition has been reflected from the Finnish wood market to other countries, which is the result of the lower supply of raw material, with the amount of wood imported being lower than usual. This has limited the availability of raw material and increased competition between wood buyers, especially in the Baltics. In Sweden, wood had to be used last year in large quantities, because due to the increase in wood prices, not enough wood was obtained for the needs of the forest industry. The situation was partly eased by the waning demand in the end product market and the decline in production in the forest industry. In Central Europe, in addition to the economic uncertainty, the wood market was also affected by the amount of destroyed wood. This has an impact on the supply of wood, especially regionally, although the amount of destroyed wood is normalizing compared to the peaks of a few years ago.

The current year will not bring a change for the better, because even if the central banks lower interest rates this year, it will take time before the demand for construction starts to recover and the stock of unsold apartments of construction companies decreases. Thus, only next year will the number of construction starts begin a cautious rise again, and at the same time the demand for lumber will pick up. In the current year, the demand for lumber will remain close to last year's figures. This year, the amount of lumber exports and production will decrease by one percent compared to last year. Next year, with the recovery of demand, the export and production of lumber will increase somewhat. The amount of production increases slightly more than exports due to the recovery of domestic demand.

MARCH 2024

The total export of Malaysian timber and timber products in March 2024 increased by 22% in value totalled at RM2.1 billion from RM1.7 billion in the previous month. Likewise, cumulative exports for the period of March 2024 increased by 17% valued at RM5.7 billion over RM4.9 billion in the previous corresponding period.

After enduring a considerable period of market downturn, timber enterprises in various countries were calling for more effective measures to reduce costs and increase efficiency. According to the Global Timber Index (GTI) Report for March 2024, the GTI indexes for China, Thailand and Brazil, all rose above the critical value of 50%. In China, the GTI index recorded a notable rise mainly because it grew from low base value in the previous month when there was a long holiday break. Not surprisingly, after timber enterprises' full resumption of production and trading in March, the index grew significantly.

SAWNTIMBER

The total export of sawntimber in March 2024 increased by 55% in volume and 67% in value to 98,137 m³ totalling at RM213.3 million as compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, cumulative exports for the period of March 2024 decreased by 8% in volume and 9% in value to 230,090 m³ totalling at RM498.5 million over the previous corresponding period.

Exports to the EU for the month were recorded at 6,649 m³, a decrease of 43% as compared to 11,756 m³ in the previous month. The Netherlands as the main buyer increased purchases by 38% to 2,458 m³ from 1,776 m³ in the previous month. Meanwhile, export to Italy decreased by 85% to 1,099 m³ from 7,264 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Belgium also decreased buying by 4% to 1,041 m³ from 1,083 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, in other parts of Europe, exports to the UK also decreased by 16% to 622 m³ from 739 m³ in the previous month.

Total export to South Asia increased by 38% to 12,152 m³ from 8,823 m³ as recorded in the previous month. India as the main buyer from South Asia also increased imports by 19% to 6,912 m³ from 5,808 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Similarly, exports to Maldives also increased by 33% to 2,272 m³ followed by Pakistan with an increase of 57% to 1,096 m³.

Similarly, the total export to West Asia also increased by 11% to 12,118 m³ from 10,877 m³ as recorded in the previous month. The UAE also increased their exports by 10% to 3,782 m³ from 3,439 m³ as recorded last month. However, exports to Saudi Arabia decreased by 20% to 1,509 m³ compared to 1,893 m³ in the previous month followed by Yemen with a decrease of 46% to 945 m³.

Shipments to East Asia increased by 94% to 35,167 m³ from 18,161 m³ in February 2024. China as the main buyer increased purchases by 83% to 22,724 m³ from 12,390 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, exports to Taiwan also increased by 237% to 8,589 m³ from 2,553 m³ last month followed by Japan with an increase of 22% to 2,699 m³ compared to the previous month.

Buying from ASEAN also increased by 174% to 26,080 m³ from 9,534 m³ as registered in the previous month. Thailand as the main buyer in ASEAN increased its intake by 220% to 8,706 m³ from 2,722 m³ as recorded in the last month. Exports of sawntimber to the Philippines increased significantly to 10,271 m³ followed by Singapore with an increase of 28% to 5,973 m³ from 4,668 m³ last month.

Moving on to Africa, exports to the region increased by 85% to 3,482 m³ compared from 1,879 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, demand from South Africa also increased by 79% to 3,033 m³ from 1,697 m³ followed by Mauritius with an increase of 75% to 248 m³ from 142 m³ respectively in the previous month.

Export to North America also increased by 39% to 1,331 m³ from 960 m³ in the previous month. The USA as a major buyer from North America increased its intake by 42% to 968 m³ from 682 m³ followed by Canada with an increase of 31% to 363 m³ from 278 m³ in the previous month. In the Oceania/Pacific region, export to Australia also decreased by 20% to 494 m³ from 620 m³ in the previous month.

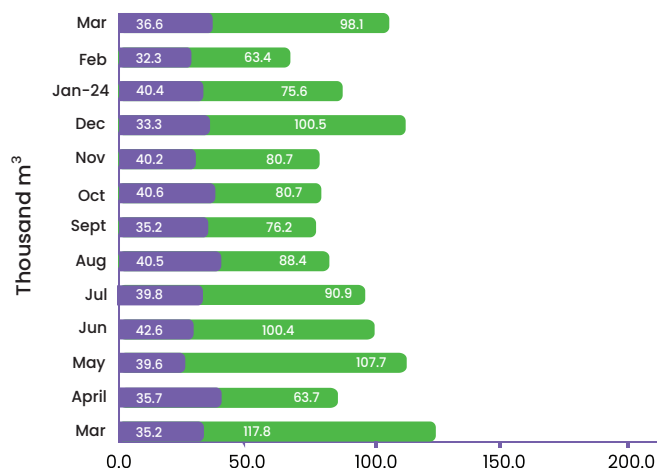
The average FOB price of sawntimber increased by 8% to 2,174 per m³ from 2,017 per m³ in the previous month. The price of Dark Red Meranti to the Netherlands decreased slightly to 4,052 per m³ from 4,068 per m³ in the previous month. Keruing was traded at 3,215 per m³, a decrease of 3% from 3,303 per m³ in the previous month.

Currently, production and deliveries of Swedish wood products decreased slightly in 2023 compared to the previous year. However, prospects in both the EU Single Market

Malaysia: Export of Sawntimber and MDF

Mar 2023 – Mar 2024

SAWNTIMBER FIBREBOARD



and in the US look good for the Swedish wood products industry. In 2023, Sweden's production of wood products amounted to 17.8 million m³, compared to 18.87 million m³ in 2022. Total wood product deliveries decreased somewhat. This decline can be attributed to reduced demand in Sweden due to weak activity in the construction sector. On the other hand, exports of wood products held up well despite tough global economic conditions with annual export growth at 1 per cent buoyed by a weak Swedish krona.

In the medium term (5-15 years), the situation looks considerably brighter for the Swedish sawmill industry. Strong demand from the US and the Single Market is set to drive expected growth. Despite global economic uncertainty, coupled with high interest rates, new production in the US is robust. At the same time, Europe is showing strong interest in wooden construction. France, for example, has decided that half of all public buildings must be built from wood or bio-based materials. In addition, the EU's requirements for climate declarations for buildings, and initiatives such as the EU Commission's measures to increase the pace of renovations with the aim of improving buildings' energy performance, will also fuel increased demand for wood products. The Swedish wood products sector also benefits from other major producing countries facing challenges. Canada is dealing with declining commodity supplies due to insect infestations such as bark beetles and stricter social and environmental requirements. Central Europe has also been hard hit by bark beetle attacks, and imports from Russia and Belarus have effectively stopped due to the war in Ukraine.

PLYWOOD

Export for plywood in March 2024 recorded an increase of 69% in volume at 107,041 m³ and 67% increase in value to RM242.9 million as compared to the previous month. Similarly, cumulative exports for the period of March 2024 shows an increase of 29% in volume to 268,506 m³ and 21% in value totalling at RM617.2 million over the previous corresponding period. The EU region recorded an increase of plywood export by 20% from 541 m³ to 647 m³ with purchases from Poland and Ireland at 228 m³ and 241 m³ each. In other parts of Europe, exports recorded a significant increase of 808% to 21,700 m³ from 2,390 m³ in the previous month. The UK and Türkiye improved their buying tremendously to 16,389 m³ and 5,213 m³ respectively.

Moving to the East Asia market, volume increased by 40% to 58,003 m³ from 41,573 m³ in February. Japan as the largest importer from the region increased its buying by 44% to 46,411 m³ from 32,136 m³, followed by Taiwan with an increase of 31% to 6,368 m³. Korea maintained import at 4,526 m³. In the ASEAN region, imports increased by 55% to 5,389 m³ from 3,474 m³. Plywood export to Thailand and Brunei recorded a positive growth of 62% to 2,781 m³ and 82% to 396 m³ each. Meanwhile, Singapore dropped its order by 12% to 1,101 m³.

In the South Asia region, the plywood purchases grew by 8% from 260 m³ to 279 m³. Maldives decreased its import by 73% to 58 m³ while Pakistan and Sri Lanka didn't make any purchase for the month. The West Asia region recorded an increase of 291% to 8,475 m³ from 2,166 m³ in the previous month. Import performance in Yemen increased by 362% to 7,431 m³. However, Oman decreased its purchase by 92% to 42 m³. Bahrain didn't make any purchase for the month.

In the Africa region, plywood export decreased by 17% from 254 m³ to 212 m³ with the purchases being from South Africa. Meanwhile in the North America region, imports showed a decrease of 7% from 11,004 m³ to 10,254 m³. The USA as the main buyer from the region reduced purchases by 5% to 7,139 m³ from 7,518 m³. This was followed by Mexico and Canada with a 9% and 26% decrease to 2,878 m³ and 237 m³ respectively. Plywood export to the Oceania/Pacific region recorded an increase of 12% to 2,082 m³ from 1,863 m³. Australia improved buying by 16% to 2,022 m³ while New Zealand reduced purchase by 67% to 21 m³.

The FOB price of plywood for March 2024 was at RM2,269 per m³, a decrease of 1% from RM2,294 per m³ from the previous month.

According to Turkish Construction Material Manufacturers Association (Turkey IMSAD) report in March 2024, the construction material industry production increased by 3.3% in January 2024 compared to the same period of the previous year. It was noted that before the local elections, promises to prepare for earthquakes and disasters with urban transformation activities and strengthening works came to the fore in all municipalities. It was stated that with the start of the process of fulfilling the promises, municipalities will increase urban transformation works as much as their resources are sufficient. It was also underlined that the central government would begin to implement new programmes for urban transformation which are expected to contribute 1.5 points of growth to the construction sector in 2024. The construction of non-residential buildings, public buildings and social facilities in the earthquake zone continues. Around 78,000 houses (flats) in the earthquake zone were completed by the end of March 2024. The construction of an additional 122,000 residences is planned to be completed by end of this year. Although the growth in public investments was limited this year, it was pointed out that public construction activities with ongoing and new priority projects will contribute 1.0 points to the growth of the construction sector. Meanwhile, the residential and non-residential construction activities of the private sector will exhibit limited growth due to tightening policies and high interest rates/costs.

veneer

The export of veneer for March 2024 increased in volume by 2% to 3,534 m³ and in value by 16% worth RM8.5 million as compared to the previous month. Cumulative exports for January – March 2024 also increased in both volume and value by 3% to 9,599 m³ by 37% to RM22.7 million over the previous corresponding period.

ASEAN recorded a decrease in veneer import by 24% from 38 m³ to 29 m³ with the sole purchase being from Viet Nam. In East Asia, exports also decreased by 6% from 3,095m³ to 2,912 m³. Taiwan and China reduced purchases by 17% to 1,586 m³ and 8% to 824 m³ respectively. Likewise, the Republic of Korea also reduced imports by 25% to 123 m³ from 163 m³. The South Asia region recorded an increase in import performance by

32% to 285 m³ from 216 m³ in the previous month. Veneer purchase by India increased by 7% to 168 m³ while Bangladesh improved purchase to 117 m³.

Moving to the North America, veneer import recorded a decrease of 20% from 75 m³ to 60 m³. The USA increased purchases by 3% to 60 m³ but Canada didn't do any buying for the month. In the Oceania/Pacific region, an increase of 464% to 241 m³ was recorded with the purchases being from Australia. Meanwhile, South Africa didn't make any purchase for the month.

The average FOB price for veneer increased by 14% from RM2,123 per m³ to RM2,415 per m³ as compared to previous month.

2024 marks a turning point in the construction and infrastructure industry in Australia, with the total construction work done being expected to fall in real terms through the year for the first time since 2020, according to Oxford Economics Australia. The long boom in transport construction is now giving way to a new wave of investment in utilities, social building and resources infrastructure which will present regional challenges. Overall, the sheer scale of activity forecast for 2024 remains a challenge. With global supply chains improving through 2023, the shortage of local skills in the industry now remains the most critical constraint to infrastructure delivery. The report said that non-oil and gas construction will be a quick way of identifying local demand-side risks to infrastructure delivery. On this measure, Australia is currently exceeding the level of work done at the peak of the resource boom and it will get much busier in the second half of this decade.

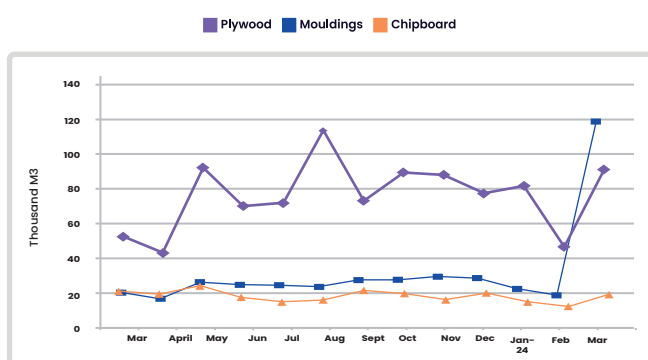
MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Export of MDF in March 2024 recorded a 13% increase in volume to 36,646 m³ and 16% in value at RM68.1 million compared to the previous month. However, cumulative exports for the period of March 2024 recorded a decrease in volume by 6% to 109,441 m³ but an increase of 1% in value totalling at RM202.9 million as compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

Export to ASEAN decreased by 17% from 4,352 m³ to 3,612 m³ in the previous month. The Philippines and Indonesia reduced imports by 23% and 27% to 2,211 m³ and 532 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Viet Nam improved buying by 2% to 653 m³ from 641 m³.

Elsewhere, East Asia increased MDF purchases by 33% from 9,966 m³ to 13,208 m³ in the previous month. MDF sales in Japan and the Republic of Korea recorded an increase of 40% and 49% to 12,743 m³ and 175 m³ each. Taiwan decreased MDF imports by 60% from 678 m³ to 269 m³. Moving to the South Asia market, export has increased by 55% from 2,095 m³ to 3,245 m³. Export performance to Pakistan and Bangladesh decreased by 22% to 1,135 m³ and 23% to 214 m³ while India increased its import by 170% to 696 m³.

**Malaysia: Export of Major Timber Product
Mar 2023 – Mar 2024^P**



Note : Preliminary

Export to the West Asia region recorded a decrease of 7% from 9,780 m³ to 9,103 m³ compared to the previous month. Oman improved sales performance by 19% to 1,334 m³ but the UAE and Yemen reduced imports by 63% to 1,548 m³ and 66% to 1,069 m³ respectively. In Europe, Turkey resumed its purchases with 29 m³. Export to the Oceania/Pacific region increased by 19% to 2,911 m³ from 2,454 m³. Australia and New Zealand added up their MDF purchases by 18% to 2,868 m³ and 105% to 43 m³ each.

MDF import by North America showed an increase of 29% from 2,903 m³ to 3,734 m³ compared to previous month. MDF purchases by the USA and Mexico rose by 33% and 60% to 2,941 m³ and 430 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Canada decreased buying by 13% to 362 m³. Imports from Guatemala in Central America also decreased by 91% to 45 m³ from 485 m³ in the previous month. In South Africa, MDF purchases increased by 314% to 717 m³ from 158 m³ while Algeria didn't make any purchase for the month.

The FOB price of MDF increased by 2% to RM1,859 per m³ from RM1,816 per m³ in the previous month.

MDF decorative overlays market size was USD339.0 million in 2020 and will grow at a CAGR of 5.7% from 2021 to 2027 according to the Global Market Insights report. Rising construction

activities in the emerging economies along with increasing disposable income will drive the industry development by 2027. Another key growth enabling factor is growing furniture demand around the globe. The furniture industry is expediting at a decent rate in the global MDF decorative overlays market, which can be attributed to rising consumer expenditure on aesthetically appealing housing. The commercial and residential furniture industry is rapidly growing in developed countries owing to increasing construction output in the US, the UK, China, Germany and India. The furniture segment will hold over 40% revenue shares by 2027. Rising urbanisation in emerging countries will drive product penetration in MDF decorative overlays market by 2027. Additionally, growing government investment in residential housing construction is rapidly driving the demand for furniture, which is projected to enhance product penetration in the segment.

MOULDINGS

Export of mouldings for the month increased in volume by 767% to 156,885 m³ and in value by 27% worth RM85.3 million from the previous month, February 2024. Meanwhile, for the cumulative period of January – March 2024, export of mouldings increased both in volume by 268% to 198,160 m³ and value by 8% worth RM235.7 million over the same period in 2023.

Export volume to ASEAN grew by 368% to 1,146 m³ for the month from 245 m³ in the previous month, February 2024. Singapore as the largest buyer in the region increased its intake by 286% to 823 m³. Similarly, exports to Thailand also increased by 137% to 76 m³ for the month. Likewise, exports to the East Asia region also rose by 21% to 2,371 m³ for the month. Japan decreased its buying by 4% to 971 m³. However, demand from South Korea and China increased by 20% to 798 m³ and by 141% to 494 m³ respectively.

Moving to South Asia countries, export to the region multiplied by 166% to 305 m³ with Maldives increasing its purchases by 359% to 192 m³, followed by India, with an increase of 55% to 113 m³. Meanwhile, the UAE resumed its intake for the month to 17 m³.

Export to the EU bloc for the month was recorded at 6,702 m³, an increase of 59% over 4,205 m³ in the previous month. The Netherlands and Belgium increased their demand by 61% to 4,312 m³ and 38% to 553 m³ respectively. However, France reduced its purchases by 11% to 555 m³.

BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

Moving on to other parts of Europe, the UK increased buying significantly by 3,972% to 24,601 m³ while demand from Australia also increased by 15% to 1,625 m³ for the period of March 2024.

Being the largest buyer for mouldings, exports to the USA increased by 1,223% to 119,389 m³ from 9,024 m³ in February 2024. Meanwhile, Guadeloupe and Canada resumed buying to 280 m³ and 255 m³. Elsewhere, export to the Africa region decreased by 66% to 170 m³ with exports to South Africa and Mauritius reduced by 60% to 56 m³ and 61% to 114 m³ respectively.

The average FOB unit value for mouldings decreased by 85% to RM544 per m³ compared to RM3,711 per m³ in the previous month.

ResearchAndMarkets.com's report on "Singapore Construction Market Size, Trends, and Forecasts by Sector - Commercial, Industrial, Infrastructure, Energy and Utilities, Institutional and Residential Market Analysis, 2024-2028" states that the construction industry in Singapore will expand by 3.3% in real terms in 2024, supported by an increase in the total value of contracts awarded for construction, coupled with investment in electricity, transport and housing projects. According to the latest data released by the Department of Statistics (DOS), the total value of contracts awarded for construction rose by 13.5% in 2023, following a marginal decline of 0.5% in 2022. Moreover, the Building and Construction Authority (BCA), an agency of the Ministry of National Development in Singapore, estimates that the value of the construction contracts that will be awarded in Singapore could range from SGD32-38 billion (USD23.4 - 27.7 billion) in nominal terms in 2024.

The industry is expected to record an annual average growth rate of 4.2% from 2025 and 2028, driven by investment in clean energy projects to achieve a goal of 2GW-peak of solar energy by 2030, coupled with investments in transport and public housing projects. In February 2024, the Deputy Prime Minister reported that Singapore's government will establish a 'Future Energy Fund', with an initial investment of SGD5 billion (USD3.7 billion), to support the country's transition towards cleaner fuels. The fund aims to provide confidence for strategic investment and critical infrastructure development in the clean energy sector. Further support for the construction industry's growth will be generated by works on public infrastructure projects such as the Cross Island MRT Line, improvements to road and drainage systems and the development of Housing.

Export of BJC for March 2024 increased by 7% in volume and 3% in value to 11.0 million kg worth RM104.4 million from last month, February 2024. Moreover, when compared year-on-year, export of BJC for the cumulative period of January-March 2024 also recorded an increase of 11% and 7% in value and volume to 32.9 million kg worth RM317.2 million from the previous corresponding period of January - March 2023.

Demand from the ASEAN region decreased by 16% to RM31.1 million with Singapore as the highest buyer reducing its intake to RM19.6 million, a reduction of 37% from RM31.4 million in the previous corresponding period. However, exports to Viet Nam and Thailand grew by 270% to RM5.3 million and 25% to RM3.9 million respectively.

Meanwhile, export to East Asia countries expanded by 53% to RM27.1 million over RM17.7 million in the corresponding period 2023. Japan was recorded as the highest buyer with an increase of 42% to RM20.6 million while China and Taiwan multiplied its buying by 184% to RM3.3 million and 122% worth RM2.0 million respectively.

Intake from South Asia countries increased by 23% to RM12.5 million with India as the largest buyer expanding its buying by 26% to RM7.6 million. However, Maldives reduced intake by 50% to RM1.3 million while Sri Lanka resumed purchases with RM2.8 million for the cumulative period of January - March 2024. Moving to on West Asian countries, the UAE recorded a decrease of 44% to RM0.8 million from RM1.5 million over the same cumulative period in 2023. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait resumed buying with RM77,964 and RM7,093 respectively.

Moving on to the European Union bloc, export of BJC decreased by 5% worth RM65.2 million from RM68.4 million in the same corresponding period in 2023. Exports to both the Netherlands and Belgium increased by 198% worth RM24.2 million and by 10% worth RM18.2 million while buying from Denmark dropped by 17% to RM4.6 million. Meanwhile, export to the UK increased by 32% to RM36.3 million from RM27.5 million. Similarly, export to Türkiye increased by 104% to RM0.7 million, but intake from Norway declined by 30% to RM1.1 million.

As the largest buyer of BJC for the period of January - March 2024, demand from the North

America region was worth RM78.7 million, an increase of 23% from RM63.9 million in the same period of 2023. Export to the USA increased by 37% to RM77.2 million from RM56.4 million in the same period in 2023. Export to Canada increased significantly by 250% to RM1.3 million from RM0.4 million in its corresponding period in 2023. Meanwhile, Mexico reduced its intake by 97% to RM0.2 million from RM7.1 million in the corresponding period in 2023.

Shifting to the Oceania/Pacific region, export dropped by 5% to RM61.5 million with Australia as the largest buyer recording a decrease in intake by 3% to RM56.0 million. Export to New Zealand was down by 26% to RM4.6 million, followed by Western Samoa with exports down by 46% worth RM0.3 million. Elsewhere, export to South Africa dropped by 5% to RM1.5 million while Seychelles resumed its intake with RM0.5 million for the cumulative period of January – March 2024.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RISC) / Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (CIQS) reported that the Canadian construction industry is experiencing growth, but skills and labour shortages are still a key challenge. The report found that the Construction Activity Index rose to +24 in the first quarter of 2024, up from +12 in the fourth quarter of 2023. The net balance for the private residential sector increased from -10% to 18%, while the net balance for non-residential construction rose from -3% to 7%. Although infrastructure remains the strongest performing sub-sector in terms of net balance, the recent high of 41% in the second quarter of 2023 was more modest. It said that the growth in private residential construction reflects an increase in expectations for the future, but noted that skills and labour shortages are still a key challenge to the industry.

FURNITURE

The export of wooden furniture for the month of March 2024 increased by 18% to RM810.2 million from RM686.2 million in February 2024. Similarly, when compared year-on-year, the export of wooden furniture has increased by 20% to RM2.4 billion from RM2.0 billion in its corresponding period in 2023.

The export of wooden furniture to ASEAN dropped by 8% worth RM288.8 million from RM313.5 million in its corresponding period in 2023. Exports to Singapore decreased by 6% to RM172.7 million, followed by Indonesia with exports down by 32% to RM23.6 million. However,

export to the Philippines grew by 11% to RM57.0 million for the cumulative period of January – March 2024.

Moving to the East Asia region, exports declined by 5% to RM150.7 million from RM157.8 million year-on-year in 2023. Japan remained the highest buyer with export valued at RM120.6 million despite a decrease in its buying by 2%. Conversely, exports both to Taiwan and South Korea grew by 23% to RM11.4 million and by 14% to RM9.7 million, respectively over its corresponding period in 2023.

Exports to West Asia expanded by 20% to RM120.4 million from RM100.8 million in the corresponding period in 2023. Export to the UAE, the largest buyer in the region, improved by 29% to RM59.4 million. Similarly, export to Oman increased by 92% to RM5.5 million while demand from Saudi Arabia dropped by 3% worth RM38.0 million.

Moving to the South Asia region, export of wooden furniture to the region improved by 33% to RM37.9 million for the first quarter 2024. Amongst South Asia countries, India recorded the highest intake with an export value worth RM33.8 million and an increase in intake by 30%. Similarly, exports to both Maldives and Sri Lanka grew by 67% to RM3.6 million and by 205% to RM0.3 million respectively.

Export to the Central Asia region declined by 37% to RM0.8 million despite Kazakhstan increasing its intake by 35% to RM0.6 million. Both Armenia and Uzbekistan reduced demand by 68% to RM167,565 and by 99% to RM3,907 for the cumulative period of January–March 2024.

Export to the European Union recorded an expansion by 28% to RM100.2 million from RM78.1 million over its corresponding period in 2023.

Malaysia: Export of Wooden furniture 2023-2024^P



Note: Preliminary

the economic bloc improved purchases by 26% worth RM11.6 million, followed by Spain with an increase of 79% to RM12.5 million. Similarly, export to Belgium improved by 20% to RM13.1 million for the stated period.

Amongst the other countries in Europe, the United Kingdom as the largest buyer recorded an increase of 21% to RM117.2 million from RM97.3 million over its corresponding period in 2023. Similarly, export to Georgia increased by 24% to RM3.4 million while intake from Türkiye dropped by 29% to RM4.0 million respectively.

Export to Oceania/Pacific improved by 28% to RM143.7 million from RM112.3 million over its corresponding period in 2023. Australia remained as the top buyer in the archipelago region with an export value worth RM125.4 million at an increase of 22%. Similarly, both exports to New Zealand and Papua New Guinea expanded by 57% to RM10.4 million and by 142% to RM3.8 million respectively.

Moving to the Central America region, export of wooden furniture increased by 115% to RM10.9 million from RM5.1 million year-on-year. Both Guatemala and Costa Rica recorded sales increase of 93% to RM2.1 million and 91% to RM1.9 million respectively. Similarly, export to El Salvador grew by 61% to RM1.9 million from RM1.2 million in January–March in 2023.

Meanwhile, export to the North America region advanced by 30% to RM1.3 billion from RM1.0 billion year-on-year. As Malaysia's largest wooden furniture buyer, USA improved its buying by 26% to RM1.2 billion from RM950.6 million in its corresponding period in 2023. Similarly, export to Canada multiplied by 89% to RM92.3 million while Puerto Rico reduced its demand by 6% to RM11.9 million respectively.

Similarly, export of wooden furniture to the South America region recorded an increase of 82% worth RM28.9 million from RM15.9 million over its corresponding period, January – March 2023. Export to Chile improved by 83% to RM17.9 million from RM9.8 million, followed by Peru with an increase of 41% to RM5.1 million. Venezuela resumed its buying to RM1.5 million for the cumulative period in 2024.

Moving to the Africa region, exports to the region improved by 26% to RM35.4 million with South Africa garnering the largest market share with RM9.8 million. Intake from South Africa recorded an increase of 96% from RM5.0 million in its corresponding period in 2023. This was followed

by Reunion Islands, with a recorded sale of RM4.2 million and export increased by 34% from the previous corresponding period. Export to Mauritius also multiplied by 20% to RM2.5 million for January – March 2024 from RM2.1 million in January–March 2023.

Rattan furniture shipments for March 2024 recorded a decrease of 3% valued at RM4.7 million from RM4.9 million in the previous month, February 2024. Likewise, based on year-on-year, export of rattan furniture for the cumulative period of January – March 2024 dropped by 7% to RM15.1 million from RM16.2 million in the same period in 2023.

Exports to ASEAN member countries were recorded at RM2.1 million, an increase of 60% for the mentioned period, January – March 2024 from RM1.3 million in the same period in 2023. The highest buyer, the Philippines recorded sales worth RM1.4 million with an increase by 117%. Similarly, exports to Singapore grew by 56% to RM0.6 million while export to Thailand declined by 59% to RM69,428.

Meanwhile, export of the East Asia region recorded a decline of 72% worth RM0.4 million with China reducing its intake by 75% to RM0.2 million. Similarly, export to Japan decreased by 65% to RM0.2 million. However, Taiwan increased its intake by 156% to RM31,348. Moving on to South Asian countries, India was recorded as the highest buyer of rattan furniture worth RM154,993 despite a reduction in its buying by 80%.

Exports to the West Asia region drop by 39% to RM656 thousands from RM1.1 million over its corresponding period in 2023. The largest buying nation of rattan furniture in the West Asia countries, the UAE decreased its intake by 14% to RM0.3 million while intake from Saudi Arabia also reduced by 68% to RM0.2 million. Meanwhile, Iraq resumed its intake with RM105,941.

Moving to the European Union bloc, export grew by 5% to RM2.5 million with France being the largest buyer amongst EU countries. Export to France decreased by 26% to RM0.6 million from RM0.7 million over the same period in 2023. Meanwhile, exports to Spain and the Netherlands grew by 93% to RM0.4 million and by 435% to RM0.2 million respectively. Moving to other countries in Europe, demand from the group decreased by 9% to RM2.5 million with the UK being the largest buyer in the region. The UK dropped its buying by 1% to RM2.2 million, while Georgia resumed its buying to RM0.2 million. Meanwhile, intake from Russia dropped by 91% to

RM45,824 for the first quarter in 2023. Shipments to the Oceania/Pacific archipelago region dropped by 62% to RM0.7 million from RM2.0 million over the same period in 2023. Australia recorded a decline in intake by 65% to RM0.6 million, while Papua New Guinea resumed its buying with RM61,044. However, demand from Western Samoa increased by 68% worth RM35,033.

Exports to the North America region increased by 35% to RM5.9 million from RM4.3 million over the same period in 2023. The USA being the largest buyer for rattan furniture recorded a surge in intake by 7% to RM4.4 million, followed by Canada with an increase of 149% worth RM0.5 million. Meanwhile, Panama and the Dominican Republic resumed their intake by RM18,756 and RM0.5 million respectively.

Moving to the Africa region, intake from South Africa increased by 263% to RM0.2 million while Kenya and Senegal resumed their intake of rattan furniture to RM79,283 and RM10,397 respectively.

ResearchAndMarkets.com's report on "Global Wood Furniture Market by Wood Type, Distribution Channel, End User, and Region 2024-2032" states that the global wood furniture market size reached USD275.7 billion in 2023 and is projected to reach USD413.5 billion by 2032, exhibiting a growth rate (CAGR) of 4.61% during 2023-2032. The global market is primarily driven by the escalating demand for wood furniture

materials in residential applications. This can be attributed to the growing need for compact and multi-functional furniture to maximize space utilisation in smaller homes or apartments. In line with this, the increasing awareness regarding various environmental issues among the masses is resulting in an increasing demand for renewable and eco-friendly wood furniture. Moreover, an enhanced focus on interior design aesthetics is also propelling the demand for rustic, vintage or futuristic-designed wooden furniture, which is impacting the market positively.

The market is further fuelled by the proliferation of e-commerce and online sales channels, thereby offering a diverse range of wood furniture options to a larger customer base. Apart from this, the shifting consumer preference toward the adoption of natural and authentic furniture materials is also creating a positive outlook for the market. Also, the growing number of customisation and personalisation options offered by furniture manufacturers are driving the demand for wood furniture as consumers look for furniture that adds a personalised touch to their homes. Some of the other factors contributing to the market include rapid urbanisation, considerable growth in the hospitality and commercial sectors, emerging trends of do-it yourself (DIY) and no-assemble furniture, continual technological advancements in wood furniture manufacturing processes, and extensive research and development (R&D) activities.



KEMENTERIAN PERLADANGAN DAN KIRKODITI
LEMBAGA PERINDUSTRIAN KAYU MALAYSIA

KAYU MALAYSIA
Standing on Excellence

A nature's blessing that evokes memories to last.



FOREST PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (FPDP)

Prepared by:
Wan Zulhafiz Lokman Wan Idris

BACKGROUND

FPDP PHASE 1 (FPDP 1.0)

In March 2005, the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, currently known as Ministry of Plantation and Commodities (KPK) was mandated to carry out the Forest Plantation Development Programme (FPDP) with a basic allocation amounting to RM1.045 billion. The programme aimed to encourage the development of commercial forest plantations, to sustain raw materials supply for the timber industry and to increase investment in the timber industry. The initial forest plantation area target of the FPDP was 375,000 hectares within 15 years or 25,000 hectares per year. The aim is to provide 75 million cubic metres (m³) of raw material to the timber industry or 5 million m³ per year.

However, due to cost issues relating to forest plantation development, beginning June 2011, the allocation was deemed insufficient, resulting in failure to achieve the initial target of 375,000 hectares of forest plantation. In lieu of that, the government agreed on a new FPDP loan value rate. It was estimated that only 130,000 hectares of forest plantation (26 million m³ of raw material) can be developed based on the RM1.045 billion fund ceiling.

FPDP is made up of three (3) Forest Plantation Development Schemes (FPDS):

01

Large-sized FPDS (2,500 hectares and above)

02

Medium-sized FPDS (41 to 2,499 hectares)

03

Small-sized FPDS (4 to 40 hectares)

SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE (SPV)

A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) known as the Forest Plantation Development Sdn Bhd (FPDSB) was set up on 13 February 2006 acting as the implementing agency by the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB). The main function of FPDSB are as follows:

- To promote the establishment of forest plantations for future timber supply
- To provide soft loans to state agencies and private companies interested in development of forest plantations
- To update policy makers on issues pertaining to land, investment opportunities, policies and guidelines and to initiate new investment programmes

FPDP PHASE 2 (FPDP 2.0)

As a continuation of FPDP 1.0, the government in Budget 2021 has allocated RM500 million in soft loans to the programme (FPDP 2.0). Through FPDP 2.0, it is estimated that 50,000 hectares of forest plantations can be developed within the first five years with an estimate of 10 million m³ of raw material to be supplied during the 4 to 15 years of felling cycles depending on the species planted. The loan allocation of FPDP 2.0 for 2021 till 2024 amounts to RM150 million. 

FPDP LOAN VALUE

SPECIES	PENINSULAR MALAYSIA	SABAH AND SARAWAK
Rubberwood	RM10,000 / hectare	RM13,000 / hectare
Forest and Eucalyptus species	RM8,000 / hectare	RM8,000 / hectare
Bamboo and Paulownia species	RM10,000 / hectare	RM10,000 / hectare

SELECTED SPECIES UNDER FPDP

NO.	SPECIES
1.	Rubberwood (Timber Latex Clone) (RRIM 3001, RRIM 2025, RRIM 2027, RRIM 928, RRIM 929 and PB 350)
2.	Akasia spp. (<i>Acacia mangium</i> / <i>Acacia hybrid</i>)
3.	Khaya spp. (<i>Khaya ivorensis</i> / <i>Khaya senegalensis</i>)
4.	Teak (<i>Tectona grandis</i>)
5.	Sentang (<i>Azadirachta excelsa</i>)
6.	Kelempayan / Laran (<i>Neolamarckia cadamba</i>)
7.	Batai (<i>Paraserianthes falcataria</i>)
8.	Binuang (<i>Octomeles sumatrana</i>)
9.	Bamboo spp. (<i>Bambuseae</i> spp.)
10.	Paulownia spp.
11.	Eucalyptus spp.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:-

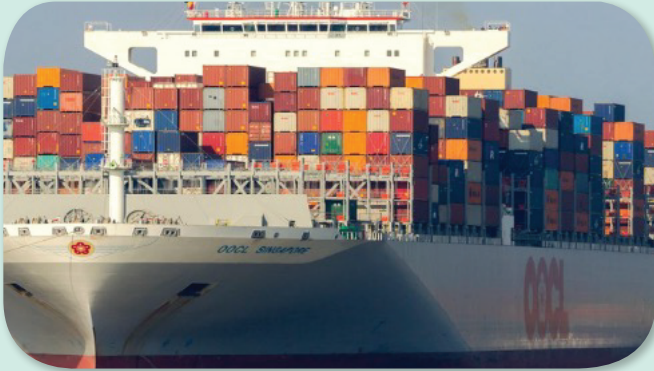
FOREST PLANTATION
DEVELOPMENT SDN BHD.

WEBSITE: WWW.FPD.COM.MY

FOREST PLANTATION AUDIT ACTIVITIES AT FPDP COMPANIES IN PERAK AND KELANTAN



Container Freight Rates Stabilizing



While container spot rates on the Asia-Europe and Asia-North America trades continued to remain elevated, year on year, due to the Red Sea crisis, collapsing rates on other trades continue to dent carriers' earnings outlook.

Cosco-owned OOCL today reported its operational update for first quarter, which showed that despite the nascent recovery in pricing since Yemen's Houthi rebels began attacking commercial shipping, trades that remain unaffected by Cape of Good Hope diversions continue to show considerable weakness. The Hong Kong-headquartered carrier said Q1 revenues decreased 9% year on year, to \$1.98bn, and average revenue per teu decreased 12%, while liftings increased 3.4% and its loadable capacity increased 2.2%.

There was a huge variation across its four main trades – transpacific, Asia-Europe, transatlantic and intra-Asia, which remains its largest trade in terms of volume. Q1 liftings were flat on the transpacific, at 450,000 teu, and down 7.5% on Asia-Europe, to 360,000 teu. However, total revenues for these trades grew 13% and 0.8% respectively, indicating the January surge in freight rates as vessel diversions and pre-Chinese New Year demand pushed rates up.

Meanwhile, despite an 11.3% increase in volumes on intra-Asia/Oceania routes, to 863,000 teu, OOCL saw a 17.4% decline in revenue, and the situation was even worse on the transatlantic, where a 2.1% growth in volumes was accompanied by a 50.6% decline in revenue. However, this week's spot freight data from May give transatlantic carriers grounds for cautious optimism: the Xeneta XSI index recording a 3% increase in westbound spot rates, to \$1,993 per 40ft; while Drewry's WCI has the trade declining by 1%, to \$2,244.

"Drewry expects a minor decrease in transpacific spot freight rates, whereas transatlantic and Asia-Europe head towards stability in the coming weeks," the UK-based analyst said in its weekly pricing report.

Source: The Loadstar _April 12, 2024

Red Sea Disruption Pushing Up Container Values And Rates



Container values have risen significantly across almost all sectors and age categories since the start of the year. Following an extended period of declines, where values fell steadily for this sector after reaching a record peak during the Container boom at the end of Q1 2022.

However, since January 2024, values have taken a turn in the opposite direction and older vessels have shown the most strength, with values for 20-year-old Handy Containers of 1,750 TEU up by as much as 43% since the new year from US\$6.99 mil to US\$8.6 mil.

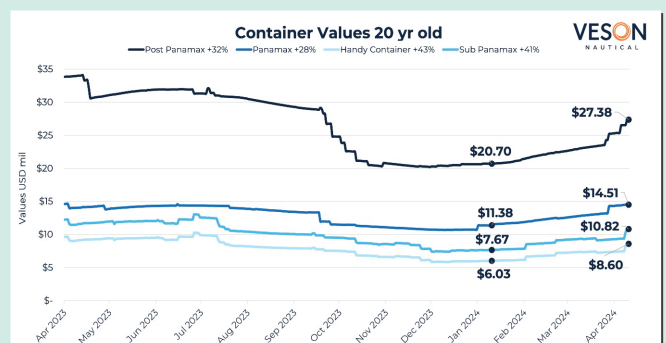


Figure 1: Increase in Container values since the start of the year by sub-sector

The increase in values has been supported by climbing earnings since the start of the year. For example, in the Handysize sector period, earnings for one year have jumped by c.39.4% from US\$9,280/Day on the first of January 2024 to US\$12,940/Day today.

This is largely due to the ongoing disruption in the Red Sea. By rerouting around the Cape of Good Hope, vessels are travelling longer distances, reducing available vessels and therefore pushing up rates. According to VesselsValue trade data, Container journeys transiting around the Cape of Good Hope have increased by nearly 200% in Q1 2024 vs. Q1 2023.

However, the latest forecast from Veson's Market Outlook predicts that, despite the ongoing conflict, as more and more Container new buildings hit the water, vessel supply will continue to outpace demand and going forward this will put pressure on rates.

MSC show no signs of slowing down with their Container buying spree of the last few years, accounting for almost a quarter of all Container sales reported so far this year. Notable benchmark sales include the Post Panamax Buxcoast (6,892 TEU, Aug 2001, Daewoo) and the Buxcliff (6,892 TEU, Jun 2001, Daewoo) which sold for US\$22.5 mil each in an en bloc deal, VV value US\$20.01 and US\$19.95 mil respectively. Also in March, the sub-Panamax Odysseus (2,824 TEU, 2006, Hyundai Mipo) was sold to MSC for US\$15.9 mil, VV value US\$13.61 mil.

Source: container-news.com_April 18,2024

European Ports Contend With Slow Economic Growth, Geopolitical Impact



The economic centre of gravity is slowly refocusing on regional developments in South America and Asia, and seeing the mature consumer markets lose out to the emerging economies, but that long-term change is slow and far from linear.

Global economic growth forecasts remain on the low side, but regionally the catch up of Asian economies persists with European stagnation seeing its ports slide down the volume table in favour of ports in the Middle East, India and the Far

East, where China remains dominant. Not only do ports and terminals in have to contend with the challenges faced in fast developing countries, but the geopolitical scene is also taking its toll, with both US and European ports affected in the short to medium term.

Eleanor Hadland, senior analyst – ports and terminals at Drewry Shipping Consultants, explains: “In 2023 we saw a wide variation in performance across the regional markets – despite North American volumes dropping steeply (albeit in context of steep rises in 2021/22), Asian markets remained more buoyant.” World Trade Organization (WTO) reports that world merchandise trade saw a steeper than expected decline of 1.2% last year but it forecasts increases by 2.6% and 3.3% in 2024 and 2025 respectively.

“Import demand in real terms was weak in 2023 in most regions, especially in Europe but also in North America and Asia. The main exceptions were the Middle East and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region, where imports surged,” said the WTO. Overall merchandise trade had increased 6.3% by the end of 2023 compared to 2019 figures.

Major US ports also suffered last year with the combined Los Angeles and Long Beach figures showing a 12/6% decline and New York and New Jersey falling 17.7% year-on-year. Although ports in consumer countries have seen a dip, in developing regions trading rules are still also in transition, as Hadland points out: “There have been major strides to improve trading relationships between Asian countries – lowering tariffs and reducing other barriers to trade. Additionally, diversification of manufacturing outside of China has generated additional intra-Asia flows as supply chains are also becoming intra-regional. Increased consumer power from these markets us also part of the story, but not the whole story.”

In the long term macro-economic growth will come from the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and later Africa, said former transport analyst Mark McVicar, but he argues, “the US economy is doing well, employment is higher and with 2.4% growth it is showing resilience”. In Europe the economy is suffering from a number of shocks, with ports having lost significant volumes bound for Russia since the start of the Ukraine war two years ago, while the effect of the Red Sea crisis has damaged Mediterranean ports, particularly in the Eastern Med.

As a result Dubai has overtaken Rotterdam, jumping to 10th in the port league table, after it showed some modest growth, 3.6%, but the main reason that Dubai has overtaken Rotterdam is that the Dutch port has seen a 9% decline in volumes since 2019. Hamburg, which was even more reliant on Russian trade has lost over 16% of its throughput in the same period, while Antwerp-Bruges has been stable largely due to the 2022 merger of the two Belgian facilities.

Drewry argues that the North European market is in recovery mode: "The decline in North European volumes was due to challenging macroeconomic conditions, with soaring inflation impacting both the European manufacturing sector and consumer demand," said Hadland. She added that the loss of Russian transshipment volumes was still being felt in Q1 2023 but said that Drewry's "rolling 12-month average growth rate was improving to -1.2% in February 2024, with a further improvement projected for March."

This has been underscored in Q1 2024 figures with Rotterdam reporting a 2% increase to 3.3 million teu and Port of Antwerp-Bruges reporting a 6% increase to 3.28 million teu compared to the first quarter of 2023. Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd's alliance, the Gemini Cooperation, may have a role to play in the shifting fortunes of European terminals. Alphaliner analyst Stefan Verberckmoes noted: "It is indeed surprising to note that Tanger Med is already a larger container port than Hamburg."

He went on to say: "Some of the largest carriers have invested there as it is a perfect hub on the crossroads of East West and North South services. This month, we saw once again a North Europe – West Africa (the EURAF 5 of CMA CGM) being shortened as calls at Antwerp and Le Havre are removed and the service now turns in Gibraltar Strait." With major carriers diverting around the Cape the Eastern Med in particular is being served by feeder vessels from transshipment hubs on the route to North Europe, at the western entrance to the Mediterranean.

Tanger Med has four container terminals and is operated by APM Terminals, Eurogate, and the Tanger Alliance, and handled 8.61 million teu last year, eclipsing Hamburg's 7.74 million teu, with the German port volumes declining 16.5% and the Moroccan port, strategically situated in the Strait of Gibraltar, increasing 79.4% since 2019.

Much of the recent growth at Tanger Med relates to the West African market, as this hub port plays a critical role in many carrier networks to service this port range. Additionally, new capacity has been added at the port which has facilitated the impressive growth figures," said Hadland.

Source: seatrade-maritime.com _ April 19, 2024

U.S. Inbound Containers Surge to Start 2024



The main US ports enjoyed another stellar month in March, according to new figures from noted analyst John McCown. His figures show imports at the country's ten largest gateways grew nearly 20% year on year.

These ports handle 86% of US import traffic and, although the growth of 19.2% in inbound containers compared with March 2023 was less marked than February's 26.5% year-on-year growth, it testifies to the continuing strength of the world's largest economy.

Mr McCown wrote: "The strong 19.2% increase in March underscores that we are seeing exceptional strength in inbound volumes, regardless of the timing impact of the Chinese New Year. "The clearest way to see this is the trailing three-month figure that has inbound volumes up 17.8% compared with last year. That is strong. "Most importantly, underlying economic activity drives it, as we are past periods where the comparisons are impacted materially by the pandemic."

Total import volumes in the US last month amounted to a shade under 1.82m teu and, for the first time in seven months, saw a turnaround in the fortunes for ports in the east and Gulf coasts, which grew 21.9%, compared with the 16.2% growth at the west coast and outperformed their Pacific coast rivals.

Los Angeles remained the country's most important import gateway, handling just under 380,000 teu, growing slightly below the market, at 18.6%. New York & New Jersey was second, with 343,000 teu and growth of 19.6%, with Long Beach third, with 302,500 teu and showing the slowest growth of the top 10 ports, at 8.4%. The fastest-growing port, however, was Oakland, which saw year-on-year volumes jump 38.4%, to 83,500 teu handled last month.

Meanwhile, US exports also continued their upward trajectory, growing 7.6% year on year to reach 930,500 teu in a month that saw Los Angeles overtake Houston as the country's leading export port. LA handled 144,718 teu in exports, a 47.3% year-on-year leap, while Houston handled 134,221 teu, a more moderate growth of 12%.

However, it was a much more mixed performance at some of the other main ports – with, for example, Long Beach down 21.3% on March 2023 and Norfolk and Charleston essentially flat in exports. And, in terms of a five-year period, comparing last month with pre-pandemic March 2019, the strongest growth was seen at Houston, with Seattle/Tacoma as the US laggard.

Mr McCown wrote: "For example, in a comparison of imports, Houston showed an annual growth rate of 8.5%, followed by Los Angeles at 5%. In contrast, Seattle/Tacoma had a negative annual rate of 4.5%. "Comparing this March to March 2019, Seattle/Tacoma had 20.7% less inbound containers and 31.1% less outbound containers," he said.



Source: gcaptain.com_April 22, 2024

Shipments of Timber and Timber Products Through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, MARCH 2024

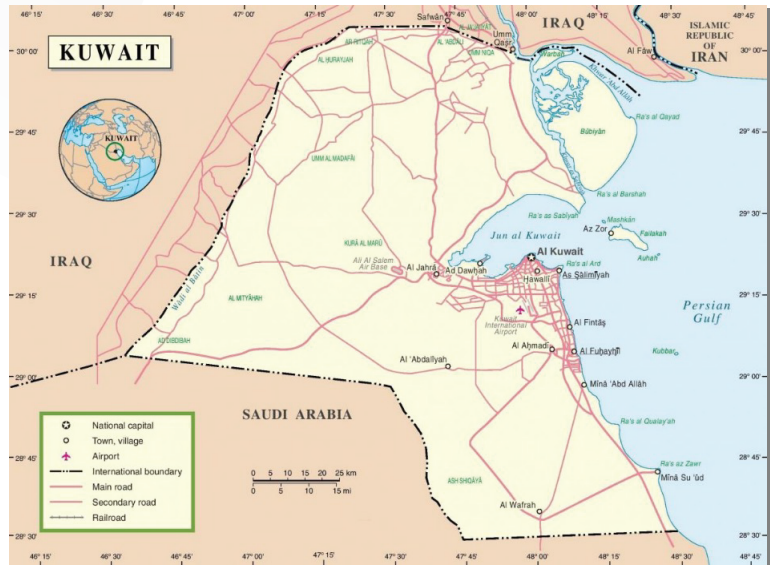
Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all ports (m³)	% change Feb'24/Mar'24
	m³	% change	m³	% change	m³	% change	m³	% change	m³	% change		
Sawntimber	38,589	42	8,254	64	817	89	248	160	5,860	36	53,769	46
MDF	11,121	8	96	100	1,729	4	1,255	56	2,259	-28	16,460	4
Mouldings	13,479	31	20	130	1,061	16	2,045	-7	185	-68	16,790	20
Plywood	3,351	28	0	0	0	0	896	52	6,164	21	10,410	25
Veneer	1,273	6	0	0	0	0	9	-4	1,547	62	1,282	6
Particleboard	9,900	28	0	0	74	-60	0	0	7,946	239	17,919	75
Total	77,713	31	8,371	66	3,680	15	4,453	20	23,959	46	118,178	35

KUWAIT

Exploring Potentials of Timber and Timber Products

Background

Kuwait, officially known as the State of Kuwait, is an oil-rich country nestling at the top of the Gulf and flanked by powerful neighbours, namely Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran. Its strategic location and massive oil reserves make Kuwait one of the world's richest countries per capita. Kuwait has a coastal length of approximately 500 km. Kuwait has a population of 4.3 million people where most of the country's population reside in the urban agglomeration of its capital and largest city Kuwait City. Kuwait is a founding member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and a member state of the League of Arab States (AL), United Nations (UN), Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC). The emir is the head of state, and the Al Sabah is the ruling family which dominates the country's political system. Kuwait's official state religion is Islam.



Economy

The Kuwaiti dinar is the highest-valued unit of currency in the world. According to the World Bank, Kuwait is the fifth richest country in the world by gross national income per capita. Its strategic geographic location allowing the entry of its merchandise and services to key global markets such as Eastern Asia, Europe and Türkiye. Kuwait's GDP was estimated at USD159.7 billion in 2023. Its small, relatively open economy is dominated by the oil industry and the government sector. Kuwait is the OPEC's fourth largest oil producer globally and its economy is dependent on the oil sector, accounting for approximately 40% of its GDP and 90% of government revenue. Kuwait has traditionally contributed a proportion of its revenue into a Future Generations Fund managed by the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA). KIA is estimated as the world's third largest sovereign wealth fund, with over USD803 billion in assets under management.

Kuwait has one of the oldest economic systems in the Middle East, with a stock exchange dating back nearly 60 years and a well-developed banking system. Kuwait has implemented reforms to allow 100% foreign ownership of inward foreign investments in most non-oil and gas sectors and is seeking to encourage foreign businesses into Kuwait. Major industries include real estate, shipping, construction, cement, water desalination, construction materials and financial services. World Bank has reported that in 2023, Kuwait's economy faced several headwinds that are largely attributed to OPEC+ oil production cuts and weak global economic activity; economy slowdown, driven by low energy prices and fiscal expansion. The economic forecast remains uncertain, clouded by geopolitical tensions, slowdowns in major economies, oil price fluctuations, and political gridlock on reforms, with the potential for political transformation from a change in government offering new prospects for reform.

Forest and Timber Industry

Located on the Arabian Peninsula, Kuwait's climate is a dry climate typical of the Sahara region adorned with its sandy landscape, mostly flat and small sand hills at some parts. The country has approximate land area of 1.78 million hectares. Kuwait has no natural river and lake. Aligning with UN SDG goals, Kuwait aims to reduce its GHG emissions of 7.4% by 2035 that covers sectors of energy, industrial processes and product use (IPPU), agriculture, forestry and other land use, where the energy sector is the primary emission source. According to FAO, between 1990 and 2000, Kuwait gained an average of 200 hectares of forest per year, to an average annual reforestation rate of 6.67%. Thus, since 2015 until 2020, Kuwait's forest area remains at 6,250 hectares. Kuwait is mainly dependant on its import of timber and timber products to satiate its local demand in household goods, renovation and construction industries.

KUWAIT: LAND AREA AND FOREST COVERAGE, 1990 – 2020

Area (1,000 hectares)

Type	1990	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Natural Forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Plantation Forest	3.45	4.85	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25
Total Forest Area	3.45	4.85	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25

Source: Global Forest Assessment 2020, FAO

Malaysia's Export Of Timber And Timber Products To Kuwait

In 2023, Malaysia exported RM40.3 million of timber and timber products to Kuwait with wooden furniture garnering the largest market share, at approximately 52%, of its export value. It is a decrease of 42% from 2022 and this is mostly contributed by the delay in construction activities, shortage of labour and rise of raw material prices. Malaysia exported wooden furniture worth RM21.0 million, followed by sawntimber valued at RM11.5 million and fibreboard that recorded a significant increase of 565% to RM7.2 million in 2023. According to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), Kuwait ranked 40th from 172 Malaysian top export destinations in 2023.

MALAYSIA: EXPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS TO KUWAIT, 2019 – 2023

(in RM)

Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Wooden Furniture	49,083,452	32,784,354	40,208,690	36,062,249	20,997,252
Sawntimber	12,234,893	8,997,480	14,799,574	7,686,388	11,452,915
Fibreboard	25,636,072	14,418,707	794,875	1,083,072	7,199,216
Plywood	4,125,616	3,670,097	1,296,316	686,835	487,401
BJC	505,561	0	479,576	549,334	29,251
Logs	67,440	0	0	6,873	0
Others	55,713	64,867	58,944	227,791	162,086
TOTAL	91,708,747	59,935,505	57,637,975	46,302,542	40,328,121

Source: MTIB & DOSM

Malaysia's Import of Timber and Timber Products From Kuwait

Since 2022, Malaysia has purchased wooden furniture from Kuwait and shown improvement in purchases from 2021 to 2022. However, due to lowered demand and economic slowdown in Malaysia, import of wooden furniture reduced by 93% from RM46,205 in 2022 to RM3,116 in 2023. In the period of January – April 2024, Malaysia imported RM2,598 worth of wooden furniture. Malaysian only imported sawntimber from Kuwait in 2015 and has not imported sawntimber since then. As for other products, Malaysia mostly imported packing cases and other articles of wood from Kuwait with combined purchases worth RM4,079 in 2023.

MALAYSIA: IMPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS FROM KUWAIT, 2019-2022

(in RM)

Products	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Wooden Furniture	0	0	0	46,205	3,116
Sawntimber	0	0	0	0	0
Other Products	0	0	22,533	0	4,079
TOTAL	0	0	22,533	46,205	7,195

Source: MTIB & DOSM

Kuwait's Export of Timber and Timber Products

Kuwait's timber export showed steady trends from 2018 to 2022. In 2022, Kuwait exported USD28.4 million worth of timber and timber products, increased by 4% from USD27.4 million in 2021. Furniture, BJC and fibreboard are the top three major timber and timber products exported by Kuwait. As for the furniture segment, Kuwait mainly exported wooden and metal furniture, bedroom furniture and furniture parts. According to the International Trade Centre (ITC), Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, Iraq and UAE are amongst the major buyers of Kuwait's timber products and furniture in 2022.

KUWAIT: EXPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS TO THE WORLD, 2018 - 2022

(Value USD '000)

Products	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Furniture	32,330	28,459	23,200	24,296	24,282
BJC	1,506	792	730	861	1,008
Fibreboard	118	95	118	257	626
Mouldings	122	22	34	204	34
Logs	35	0	0	0	24
Particleboard	19	100	13	9	18
Plywood	605	310	170	263	18
Sawntimber	37	152	316	232	16
Veneer	4	1	0	75	9
Wooden frames	3	45	72	38	1
Others	1,691	2,453	1,320	1,201	2,394
TOTAL	36,470	32,429	25,973	27,436	28,430

Source: UN-Comtrade Statistics

Note: Malaysia ranked 56th from 75 countries of Kuwait's export destinations

Kuwait's Import of Timber and Timber Products

Import of timber and timber products by Kuwait has been substantial due to its high consumption from construction activities and local demand for household goods. In 2022, import of timber and timber products into Kuwait were worth USD574.7 million, a decrease of 8% from 2021. Kuwait imported mainly furniture worth USD299.0 million, followed by sawntimber valued at USD89.6 million and fibreboard worth USD57.0 million in 2022. Under the furniture segment, Kuwait mainly imported wooden and metal furniture, bedroom furniture and furniture parts. Malaysia is ranked 5th largest furniture supplier after China, Italy, Türkiye and Poland. Meanwhile for timber and timber products excluding furniture, China, Thailand, Austria, Indonesia and Romania are major supplying countries to Kuwait in 2022. Malaysia ranked 15th supplying country for timber and timber products in 2022 based on a report by ITC.

KUWAIT: IMPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS FROM THE WORLD, 2018-2022

(Value USD '000)

Products	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Furniture	333,163	298,611	246,796	352,541	299,006
Sawntimber	70,805	72,944	35,925	68,903	89,581
Fibreboard	40,977	37,181	32,468	74,087	57,006
Plywood	56,117	46,257	31,091	50,185	46,567
BJC	22,863	22,015	11,586	9,944	13,317
Particleboard	5,747	7,604	20,132	11,219	12,242
Mouldings	4,889	3,016	1,733	1,618	3,866
Logs	1,335	2,606	1,317	1,769	1,184
Wooden frames	1,599	791	938	997	767
Veneer	1,288	776	495	1,052	717
Others	49,288	45,761	42,596	52,029	50,479
TOTAL	588,071	537,562	425,077	624,344	574,732

Source: UN-Comtrade Statistics

Kuwait Tariff Rates and Trade Agreements

Kuwait is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) along with Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, and Oman. People from these countries can travel freely throughout the GCC. There is a 5% duty for goods at the first point of entry to the GCC and then the goods can travel freely throughout the GCC. Singapore and the GCC signed a free trade agreement (FTA), the GCC's first FTA in December 2008. In June 2009, GCC countries concluded an FTA with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which includes the countries of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

Malaysia and the GCC also signed the Framework Agreement on Economic, Commercial, Investment and Technical Cooperation (FAECITC) in 2011 to enhance economic, commercial, investment and technical cooperation and to initiate the FTA negotiations. The framework is viewed as a step to further strengthen economic relations, improve business environment, increase bilateral trade through the removal or reduction of import duties and legal commitment expected from a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the GCC. However, it has been in the back burner since the region was impacted by events like the Arab Spring, followed by the global financial crisis and the plunge in crude oil prices.

Kuwait also signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) with the USA in February 2004. The TIFA was the first step in developing economic reform and trade liberalisation criteria to strengthen the US-Kuwait economic relations. Several areas in particular stood out as needing further attention: intellectual property rights (IPR), standards-related issues, taxation, and service and investment requirements.

Import tariffs for timber and timber products including furniture in Kuwait are ranged between 0% to 5% and the table below displays its details.

KUWAIT: TARIFF DUTY (2023)

HS Code	Product	MFN Duty Rates (%) (Import)
4401	Fuel Wood	0 – 5
4402	Wood Charcoal	0
4403	Logs	5
4404	Hoopwood, Split polis, Piles	5
4405	Wood wool; Wood flour	5
4406	Railway sleepers	5
4407	Sawntimber	5
4408	Veneer	5
4409	Mouldings	5
4410	Chipboard/Particleboard	5
4411	Fibreboard	5
4412	Plywood	5
4413	Metalised wood or other densified wood	5
4414	Wooden Frame	5
4415	Packing cases	5
4416	Casks, barrels, vats, tubs	5
4417	Tools, tool bodies, tool handles	5
4418	Builders Joinery & Carpentry	5
4419	Tableware and kitchenware, of wood	5
4420	Wood marquetry and inlaid wood	5
4421	Other articles of wood, n.e.s.	5
9401	Seat and parts thereof	5
9403	Wooden Furniture	5

Source: World Trade Organization

Outlook and Prospects

Currently, the construction market in Kuwait is valued at USD13.94 billion. It is anticipated to reach USD18.59 billion by 2029. This growth is likely to occur at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.93% over the forecast period from 2024 to 2029. According to a report by GlobalData, Kuwait's construction sector's output is expected to expand by 6.6% in real terms in 2024, attributed to investments in renewable energy, transport, electricity, housing, and sports facilities, as part of the New Kuwait 2035 National Development Plan (KNDP). According to the Kuwait Vision 2035 plan, Kuwaiti government is focusing on accelerating economic reforms and diversifying the economy away from hydrocarbons. Kuwait intends to invest over KWD350 million (USD1.1 billion) in the construction of several sports projects across the country as part of the KNDP. In addition, the government approved a budget of KWD26.3 billion (USD85.9 billion) for fiscal year (FY) 2023–2024, which is 11.7% higher than the spending plans for 2022–23. KNDP also outlines several major infrastructure projects, including the Gulf Railway project and the new Kuwait Airport Terminal 2, and increasing the number of flights in and out of Kuwait from 240,000 to 650,000 by building three new runways by 2027. The construction of the Al-Zour petrochemical project of the Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) with a cost of KWD2.9 billion (USD9.8 billion) will further support construction activity.

In 2024, Kuwait's Public Authority for Housing Welfare has floated two tenders for the construction of new housing schemes, signaling a significant push in the country's housing development efforts. In the construction market, data from the regional project tracker, MEED Projects, indicates robust activity with projects worth USD7.8 billion currently under implementation, positioning the construction sector as the second largest after transportation in Kuwait. The mixed-use subsector leads in work in progress, followed by residential projects. Ecocities are integral crosscutting components of Program VI of the Kuwait National Development Plan (2021 – 2025) to advance sustainable development of the country. KNDP aims to bring the country's ranking of the Climate and Energy Indicator to 63rd in the world by 2035, compared to 161st among 180 countries measured in 2018. Building eco-cities using green building and green infrastructure principles, and smart technology is at the heart of Program 6 of KNDP. Furthermore, the KNDP considers adopting Singapore's Index on Cities' Biodiversity, while promoting the use of innovative ways of creating green space, residential gardens, green corridors and space for vegetation. With several mega construction projects in line for 2024-2025 and the government's commitment towards sustainable development and climate change, it will provide wider access for Malaysian timber and timber products especially construction materials, into the Kuwait construction industry.

Therefore, to attract as well as expanding market share in Kuwait, Malaysia's exporters need to be competitive in terms of price, product quality and excellence in services, combined with strong and effective marketing and promotion strategies. Malaysian timber exporters should capitalise on providing sustainable and certified timber products in order to meet with Kuwait consumers' green objectives and the global climate change mitigation agenda. With its various initiatives outlined under the KNDP, Kuwait is focusing to diversify away from petrochemical and oil markets and exploring new sustainable niches. The country has not fully embraced the open commercialisation of a few other Gulf states and presents more of a unique destination for business and international arrivals. A blend of old and new, the towers of Kuwait City and its obvious wealth contrasting with the sights and smells of ancient souks, Kuwait is venturing to a new future, albeit at its own pace.

The furniture market in Kuwait is projected to generate a revenue of USD1.26 billion in 2024 and expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 3.96% from 2024 to 2029. Living room furniture dominates Kuwait consumer preferences with a market share worth USD0.35 billion in 2024. The furniture market in Kuwait is experiencing a surge in demand for luxury, imported pieces due to the country's high disposable income. Meanwhile, the home décor industry generated a revenue of USD204.60 million in 2024 with the market experiencing a surge in demand for luxurious Arabian-inspired furniture and traditional Middle Eastern decorative accents. Fitch Solutions reported the home and furniture goods market in Kuwait is booming and expects the share of household goods and furnishings to constitute about 17% of the total household spending in Kuwait in 2022 with an increase in spending on household goods and furnishings from about KWD2 billion in 2022 and forecast to KWD2.9 billion in 2026. Kuwait, like the rest of the Gulf countries, enjoys the highest rates of income available to citizens, which makes it an ideal market for luxury brands, indicating that the average disposable income for a citizen may reach KWD2,100 in 2022, and is expected to grow by 7.5% over the next four years to reach KWD2,300 in 2026. It also predicted the growth of the proportion of Kuwaiti families with high incomes (KWD50,000) from 13% of the total Kuwaiti population to 15% by 2026, noting that the Kuwaiti consumer base, the young and wealthy, is increasingly interested in luxury brands.

The luxury furniture industry has become one of the most vibrant and fast-growing industries in the Kuwait due to the rising population and increased construction activity. The growing number of real estate developments, the increasing demand for residential properties, and governmental initiatives to develop socio-economic infrastructure are some of the major factors fuelling the demand for luxury furniture products in the region. Kuwait is heavily reliant on imports of furniture that are mainly sourced from countries like China, Italy, Turkey, Germany, USA, Poland, and Malaysia. Major foreign luxury furniture manufacturers have been providing their products in the country either through their showrooms or multi-brand retail stores. Following the current consumer preferences in Kuwait, there is an opportunity for furniture retailers to capture market share by paying close attention to their buying behaviours and preferences.

Source:

- Wikipedia
- World Bank
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- World Atlas Bank
- FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020
- US' Department of Commerce (the International Trade Administration)
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14644252>
- Map of Kuwait; www.map-kuwait-city.com
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia
- <https://www.statista.com>
- The Malaysian Reserve
- <https://www.meed.com>
- <https://www.mordorintelligence.com>




KEMENTERIAN PERLADANGAN
DAN KOMODITI


LEMBAGA PERINDUSTRIAN
KAYU MALAYSIA


**KAYU
MALAYSIA**
Standing on Excellence

**A nature's blessing
that evokes
memories to last.**

Diverse Integrated Sdn. Bhd.

Prepared by : Shamsul Azman Abdul Aziz



Founded on 1 April 2002, Diverse Integrated Sdn. Bhd. has swiftly risen to prominence as a leading innovator in wooden frame moulding. Their specialisation lies in crafting distinctive and thematic frame designs, alongside top-tier building materials. At the helm of the enterprise is a visionary entrepreneur S.G. Tan, whose profound passion for art and framing design has been instrumental in shaping the company's journey.

From a modest beginning with just 30 employees and a half-acre plot, Diverse Integrated has undergone a remarkable growth and transformation. Today, boasting a workforce of over 200 employees and expanding its facilities to an impressive 10 acres, the company has positioned itself as a global entity. This expansion has empowered them with enhanced production capabilities and a broader array of product offerings.

Diverse Integrated has cultivated partnerships with over 15 companies globally. These strategic alliances serve as catalysts for innovation, amalgamating diverse perspectives, technologies, and market insights to drive the evolution of the art market.

Diverse Integrated's mission is to become a globally recognised wood manufacturer, distinguished for the unwavering commitment to excellence, sustainability, innovation, and customer-centricity. They are steadfast in their dedication to crafting a robust brand identity that fortifies their presence in the wood manufacturing domain while propelling them toward new frontiers in the industry.



Milestones Towards Environmental Stewardship

Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Diverse Integrated is steadfast in their commitment to promoting sustainable forest management, embracing renewable energy sources, and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions in the manufacturing operations. Through innovative initiatives and steadfast dedication, they have achieved significant milestones in their journey towards environmental stewardship.

1. Solar Installation:

One of their greatest achievements is the successful implementation of solar installations across their facilities. By harnessing renewable solar energy, they are not only reducing carbon footprint but also contributing to the global transition towards clean energy. Their solar panels efficiently convert sunlight into usable electricity, powering the operations with renewable resources.

2. Transition to EV Forklifts:

In their quest to minimise carbon emissions, Diverse Integrated has undertaken a bold initiative to transition from diesel forklifts to electric (EV) forklifts. This strategic move not only reduces their reliance on fossil fuels but also significantly decreases CO2 emissions. By utilising electric vehicles, they are actively contributing to the fight against climate change and creating a cleaner, healthier environment for future generations.

3. Scheduled Waste Practices and Recycling Initiatives:

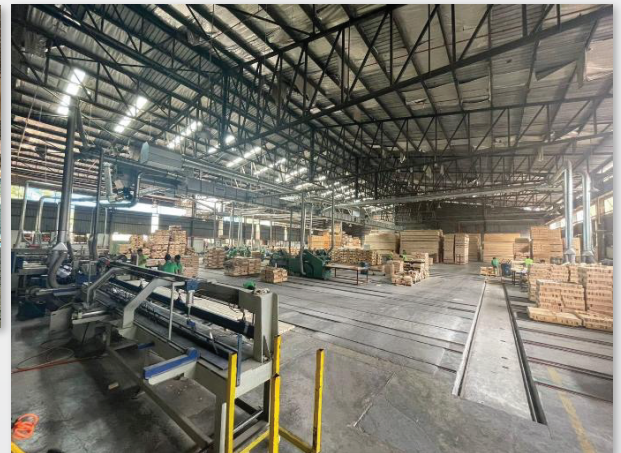
At Diverse Integrated, they understand the importance of responsible waste management. Through their scheduled waste practices and recycling initiatives, they are committed to fostering a circular economy. By promoting reuse and recycling, they minimise waste generation and maximise resource efficiency. Their dedication to sustainable practices extends beyond the operations, positively impacting the communities and environments in which they operate.

4. IoT Technologies

IoT (Internet of Things) technology has played a significant role in driving the transformation of industries towards Industry 4.0 which represents the integration of advanced digital technologies. Diverse Integrated has taken steps to integrate IoT technology into processes that enable the collection, analysis, and utilisation of vast amounts of real-time data from sensors, devices and machines.

5. Factory Transformation Programme

Recognition from Standard & Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM) on Lean Management implementation is a commendable accomplishment for Diverse Integrated. Their commitment towards eliminating waste, quality control, streamlining operations, inventory optimisation, and effective communication exemplifies their dedication to excellence. By embracing Lean principles, they deliver enhanced value to their customers in a competitive market. Diverse Integrated's dedication to sustainability propels them to the vanguard of innovation in developing wood products with minimal ecological footprint. They aspire to set a benchmark for industry best practices by championing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles, with a particular emphasis on responsible plantation management.



6. ESG Recognition

As a socially responsible company, Diverse Integrated recognise the importance of ESG principles in driving long-term value creation and fostering sustainable growth. In the coming years, they aim to enhance their ESG performance and by aligning with ESG best practices, they strive to create positive impacts on the environment, society, and economy while delivering value to their stakeholders.

Way Forward

As a fundamental aspect of their growth strategy, Diverse Integrated is resolute in expanding their distribution network into novel regions and markets. Through strategic alliances and collaborative endeavours, they are dedicated towards extending the accessibility of the wood products and services to customers worldwide, fostering seamless engagement and satisfaction. Moreover, Diverse Integrated is also committed towards establishing a formidable presence within the US market through the establishment of wholesale operations. This strategic initiative will enable them to address the unique demands of the US market while solidifying their stature as a global frontrunner in the wood industry.



Diverse Integrated Sdn.Bhd

Address :

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LOGS

In March 2024, the average price of timber in the local market for most of the species provided as a price reference was reported to be stable, with 75%, or 15 out of 20 species, trading at the same price as the previous month. Only two species were reported to have gained in price between 1.4% and 10.8%, or RM16 to RM378 per tonne, while the remaining three species saw price drops ranging from 1.0% to 9.7%, or RM16 to RM150 per tonne.

Balau and Mix Heavy Hardwood were the two species whose prices have reportedly increased. Based on the percent rise in pricing, these two species were traded in the market at an average price of RM3,875 and RM1,151 per tonne, respectively. Resak, Kempas, and Sepetir were the three species reported to have seen price decreases. These three species were traded in the market at prices of RM1,550, RM1,703 and RM1,478 per tonne. For comparison, in the previous month, all of the species that were reported to have undergone price rises and drops were traded at RM3,498 and RM1,135 respectively for Balau and Mix Heavy Hardwood, and RM1,400, RM1,687 and RM1,453 per tonne for Resak, Kempas and Sepetir.

The timber market price is still low in demand and is heavily influenced by current market performance, particularly in the export market, where most timber products, particularly sawn timber products, are seen to continue to affect timber prices as most species maintain their selling prices, with only a small number of species recording a decrease or increase in the average price of the timber industry's main raw material.

PLYWOOD

In March 2024, the average price of plywood in the local market for the four primary sizes was estimated to have remained stable. With the price remaining steady, plywood with thicknesses of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm, and 12mm was selling at an average price of RM19.40, RM26.00, RM38.25 and RM48.85, respectively per piece. For the record, the highest selling price of plywood in the local market this month for its four major sizes was roughly RM19.40, RM27.00, RM38.50 and RM49.00 per piece.

SAWNTIMBER

The current average price of sawntimber products in the local market for most species under the three production classes, namely the General Market Specification (GMS), STRIPS, and Scantling for March 2024, was also similar and indirectly influenced by the current log market price. According to reports, at least 90% or 18 of the 20 species from the three production classes of sawntimber products, remained unchanged in price and were offered at the previous month's selling price.

Under the GMS production class, the average price for 18 of the 20 species was found to have remained constant. Only two species, Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Keruing, had price declines of 1.1% and 7.8 percent, corresponding to RM14 and RM247 per m³. These two species were offered in the local market at an average price of RM1,294 and RM2,931 per m³. In comparison to the previous month, these two species were currently priced at RM1,308 and RM3,178 per m³, respectively.

MARCH 2024

Under the STRIPS production class as well as under the GMS category, the average price for 90% or 18 of the 20 species, was reported to be the same as the previous month. The remaining two species, Kapur and Nyatoh had price increases of 2.1% and 2.8% respectively, equal to RM24 and RM35 per m³. The average selling price for these two species in the local market was around RM1,142 and RM1,306 per m³, following the stated price rise. In comparison to the previous month, the average price for these two species was RM1,118 and RM1,271 per m³. However, in total, the 20 species that became price reference species in the Scantling production class maintained the same average price as the previous month.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBERBOARD (MDF)

The average price of MDF in the local market was expected to be unchanged in March 2024 compared to the previous month. As a result, MDF with thicknesses of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm and 12mm was available on the market at average prices of RM12.90, RM23.66, RM31.49, and RM37.59 per piece, respectively. Meanwhile, the maximum pricing for MDF in the four primary sizes remained at RM12.90, RM26.00, RM37.00, and RM42.00 per piece.

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE*
- MARCH 2024

In March 2024, the trade value of timber products from Sabah to Peninsular Malaysia was RM3.45 million, with a volume of 10,909 m³ including four items namely logs, sawntimber, plywood and veneer. The overall transaction value recorded for the current month fell by 49% from the previous month's RM6.79 million. In March, plywood products contributed the most to trade value, accounting for RM2.29 million and a volume of 1,303 m³. Although plywood products are one of the largest contributors to trade value, they have decreased by 31%, while overall volume has decreased by 41% compared to the previous month. Sawntimber and veneer products are said to have increased in trade value, rising from RM199 thousand to RM452 thousand for sawntimber and RM365 thousand to RM486 thousand for veneer. However, the trade value of logs decreased by 91% in the current month, from RM2.38 million to RM219 thousand.

In March 2024, the trade value of timber products from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia was RM2.32 million, with a total trade volume of 1,715 m³. The items included sawntimber, plywood, and veneer. Plywood products were the largest contributor to trade between the two regions, with a trade value of RM1.55 million, up more than 400% from the previous month. The total volume traded also increased by more than 400%, from 233 m³ to 1,324 m³. Sawntimber products, on the other hand, had a 67% reduction in trade value and a 63% decrease in total volume. Trade in veneer products increased by 100%, reaching RM428 thousand with a volume of 154 m³. To be clear, no veneer trades were documented in the prior month.



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

*** AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWN TIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF
IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA**

RINGGIT MALAYSIA

MARCH 2024

SPECIES	LOGS/ton	SAWN TIMBER/M ³			
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS	
HEAVY HARDWOOD					
Chengal	6,000	9,887	4,590	9,887	
Balau	3,875	3,055	2,059	3,857	
Red Balau	2,425	2,754	2,472	2,419	
Merbau	2,950	3,754	3,107	3,725	
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,151	1,294	1,234	1,246	
MEDIUM HARDWOOD					
Keruing	2,333	2,931	2,295	2,495	
Kempas	1,687	2,213	2,048	2,542	
Kapur	1,875	1,746	1,142	1,877	
Mengkulang	1,978	1,434	1,354	2,013	
Tualang	1,433	2,048	1,448	2,105	
LIGHT HARDWOOD					
Dark Red Meranti	2,210	2,278	1,942	3,566	
Red Meranti	1,917	1,777	1,801	2,319	
Yellow Meranti	1,683	1,799	1,412	1,695	
White Meranti	1,650	2,172	1,801	1,624	
Mersawa	1,833	2,013	1,330	2,154	
Nyato	1,625	1,601	1,306	1,412	
Sepetir	1,453	1,819	1,660	1,530	
Jelutong	1,325	2,048	1,585	1,819	
Mixed Light Hardwood	1,157	1,396	1,118	1,201	
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD Heavy brasiliensis	LOGS/ton	SAWN TIMBER/M ³			
	195	1" X 1"	2" X 2"	3" X 3"	4" X 4"
		1,160	1,305	1,400	1,500
PLYWOOD 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm	12mm	
	19.40	26.00	38.25	48.85	
MDF 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm	12mm	
	12.90	23.66	31.49	37.59	

Note: log prices ex-matau, Sawn timber, plywood, MDF and Malaysian Rubberwood (Hevea brasiliensis) prices ex-mill

*Prices are only indicative

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE

	Feb-23		Mar-24		% change in volume	% change in value
	Vol (m ³)	Val(' 000 RM)	Vol (m ³)	Val(' 000 RM)	FEB/MAR	FEB/MAR
Sabah	8,840	2,378	7,306	219	-17	-91
Logs	63	199	2,129	452	3,305	127
Sawn Timber	1,883	3,855	1,303	2,292	-31	-41
Plywood	129	365	171	486	33	33
Veneer						
Sarawak						
Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sawn Timber	632	1,054	237	343	-63	-67
Plywood	233	264	1,324	1,551	468	488
Veneer	0	0	154	428	100	100

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia

Tabulated: Malaysian Timber Industry Board

16 - 18 APRIL 2024



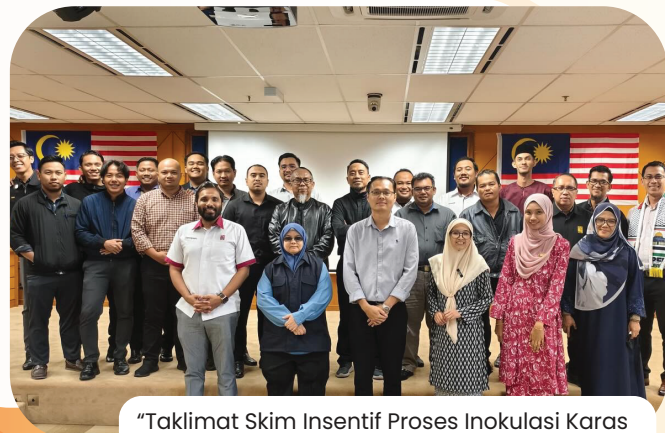
"Kursus Suaikhas Aplikasi dan Pengendalian Mesin Laser" at WISDEC Selangor.



Courtesy visit by Director General of MTIB to Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC)

23 APRIL 2024

19 APRIL 2024



"Taklimat Skim Insentif Proses Inokulasi Karas bagi Pengeluaran Gaharu kepada Juruaudit Karas MTIB" conducted by MTIB at Menara PGRM, Kuala Lumpur



"Anugerah Perkhidmatan Cemerlang (APC) 2023 MTIB" at Menara PGRM

25 APRIL 2024

22-26 APRIL 2024



"Bengkel Pembangunan Modul Dan Nota Pengajar Bagi Kursus KayuTech- Jaminan Kualiti Kayu" at Dorsett, Putrajaya.



International Symposium on Industrial Design, Technology and Manufacturing (InDTem) themed "Bridging Industry-Relevant Intelligence towards Product Development and Design Knowledge", organised by MTIB and local universities

30 APRIL 2024