ISSN 0126-771X VOL 8 : AUGUST 2013

MASKAYU

APPOINTMENT OF MTIB AS A STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

BLUE OCEAN STRATEGY – PAVING MTIB'S DIRECTION 2014-2020

ISSN 0126-771X
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Cover: *MTIB was appointed as the first independent Standards Development Agency for timber and related industries by Standards Malaysia. See page 3 for details.*

MS ISO 9001 : 2008 REG. NO. AR3307

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APPOINTMENT OF MTIB AS A STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General (seated, second from left) and Puan Fadilah Baharin, Director-General of Standard Malaysia (seated, second from right) signing the MoA on the appointment of MTIB as a Standards Development Agency. Looking on were YB Dato' Sri Douglas Uggah Embas, Minister of MPIC (standing centre) and YB Datuk Dr. Ewon Ebin, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (standing, second from right).

The Department of Standards Malaysia (Standards Malaysia) is the national standards and accreditation body providing confidence to various stakeholders, through credible standardisation and accreditation services for global competitiveness. In line with Standard Malaysia's roles as the only standards and accreditation body in Malaysia, Standards Malaysia has appointed MTIB as the first independent Standards Development Agency (SDA) for timber and related industries effective from 1 September 2013. An Agreement signing ceremony between Standards Malaysia and MTIB to formalise and commemorate the appointment of MTIB as an SDA was held on 22 August in Putrajaya. It was witnessed by YB Dato' Sri Douglas Uggah Embas, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) and YB Datuk Dr. Ewon Ebin, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI).

Dato' Sri Douglas, Minister of MPIC in his speech, noted that MTIB was appointed as a Standards Writing Organisation (SWO) by SIRIM Berhad in 1999. Since then a total of 38 Malaysian Standards (MS) have been developed by MTIB. At present a total of 113 MS on sawntimber, sawlogs and timber structure have been developed. He added that the MS are being used by several stakeholders such as Public Work Department, Construction Industry Development Board as well as local authorities, in their procument policies. He was glad to note that based on MTIB's performance as SWO, Standards Malaysia has given a note of recognition to MTIB as the first SDA since MTIB is the fourth most active SWO out of 16 SWOs in the country. As an SDA, MTIB is responsible for carrying out several tasks to fulfil the requirements of Standards Malaysia including ensuring the development of standards in accordance with its annual plan, the promotions of standards, and the publication, circulation and selling of Malaysian standards. MTIB will continue to manage and participate actively in standards development activities at regional and international levels to protect Malaysian interest during the standardisation activities at both levels.

Dato' Douglas also highlighted that the appointment of MTIB is timely as the government was currently emphasising on the importance of quality to enable our products to compete in the global market. Therefore he urged MTIB to upgrade its capacity to enhance international standards development activities towards assisting the timber industry in Malaysia to comply with several standards required by international markets. He further added that MTIB, with support from MPIC, will work closely with relevant regulatory bodies as well as local authorities to develop law and legislation to mandate

YB Dato' Sri Douglas Uggah Embas, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities delivering his speech.

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TIMBER WORLD IN BRIEF

CHINA
China Importation of Lumber and Logs Reach New Highs

China importation of lumber and logs roars back to new high in the second quarter of 2013, with imports up 30% year-over-year, reports the Wood Resource Quarter.

Increased investments in the housing sector resulted in record imports of logs and lumber. Lumber importation has grown faster than that of logs, with Russia and Canada being the major lumber suppliers in recent years. New Zealand has become the major supplier of logs, overtaking Russia, which long dominated this market.

www.commodities-now.com, 2 August

INDONESIA
Imported Wood, Wood Products Must Have Certificate of Legality

Beginning from 1 January 2014, the government of Indonesia will require imported wood and wood products to have a certificate of legality. This measure is similar to the requirement imposed on wood and wood products exported from Indonesia. The Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade will sign the legality documents for Indonesian wood and wood products in September 2013.

Bisnis Indonesia, 16 August

UNITED STATES
CPA Awarded Funding to Help Companies Tap Export Markets

The Construction Products Association has been awarded funding from UK Trade and Investment for a two year project to identify and assist more non-exporting companies in the construction products sector to start exporting. This project builds on the Association's successful overseas exhibition and mission programme which helped more than 200 companies break into new overseas markets in the last three years.

The first stage of the export project is a short survey to assess the extent of existing and potential export activity. The project reflects the association's commitment to the recently announced Industrial Strategy for Construction, which has as one of its objectives a 50% reduction in the trade gap between total exports and total imports for construction products and materials.

Timber Trade Journal, 23 August

Cracks Starting to Appear in Housing Market Recovery

Some cracks may be appearing in the housing market recovery according Euler Hermes Economic Research. New home sales fell sharply in July, by 13.4% month to month annualised with downward revisions for the preceding two months, while median prices fell for the third consecutive month. Applications for purchase mortgages have fallen 13% since the first hint of Quantitative Easing (QE) tapering in May (-59% for re financing).

The percentage of consumers planning to buy a home in the next six months fell sharply in August to 5.1% from 6.9%. While existing home sales increased, the National Association of Realtors attributed this partly to buyers who "panicked" at the rise in mortgage rates since May. Meanwhile, minutes from the Fed's June meeting indicated broad consensus that QE tapering is likely to happen this year, but the Fed conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, gave little hint as to exactly when the tapering will begin, and exposed a divergence of opinion among Fed members.

Euler Hermes Economic Research, 28 August

VIET NAM
Forestry Projects Get Support from Norway and Japan

Viet Nam will move into the second greenhouse gas reduction phase of the National UN-REDD Programme to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD). This resulted in the nation becoming the first among 47 partner nations to move into the second phase following a deal entered on 31 July 2013 whereby the government of Norway will provide USD30 million (EUR22.71 million) for the programme's second phase which will cut greenhouse gas emissions from the rural and agricultural development sector. For 2014 and 2016, Viet Nam will get USD1.5 million from the Japanese Fund for Poverty Reduction. This will come via the Asian Development Bank.

Vietnamnet, 1 August, online

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SWEDEN
Furniture Sales Declined in June

Furniture sales on the Swedish market dropped by 0.9% in current prices in June 2013 compared with June 2012, but in terms of volume, sales rose by 0.5%. Sales of other home furnishing products dropped by 2.3% in value, but rose by 4.7% in volume. This is shown in figures from the Swedish Retail Institute and Statistics Sweden.

Ica-Nyheter, 12 August

WORLD
Climate Changing 10 Times Faster Than in Past 65 Million Years

Stanford University climate researchers warn that the likely rate of climate change over the next century will be 10 times faster than the rate of any climate shift in the past 65 million years, meaning the planet will undergo one of the largest changes in climate since the dinosaurs went extinct. If the climate change trend continues at the current pace, it will place stress on terrestrial ecosystems around the world and adaptation to a world with a new climate will be necessary for many species to survive.

Nature World News, 1 August

JULY 2013

One-third of China Shipyards Face Closure as Orders Slump

China, the world's biggest shipbuilding nation might see a third of its yards shut down in about five years as they struggle to win orders amid a global vessel glut.

According to Mr. Wang Jinlian, Secretary General of the China Association of National Shipbuilding Industry (NSI), the yards in peril of closure have failed to get any orders for a very long period of time. They might end operations in three to five years if the gloomy market persists. The nation has more than 1,600 shipyards.

Source: Bloomberg, 5 July

Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Seeks Input on Use of 'RoRo' Ships

Input would be sought from the Penang shipping and logistics community by year end on the viability of roll-on/roll-off (RoRo) ships used to boost intra-regional trade.

Datuk Faudzi Naim Noh, Chairman of The IMT-GT Joint Business Council (Malaysia) said the proposal by IMT-GT's infrastructure, transportation and energy working committee to use the vessels was also a way to curb smuggling activities within the three countries. The Asian Development Bank has commissioned the Japanese International Cooperation Agency to carry out a study on the feasibility of using the RoRo vessels. The first part of the survey would be presented to Penang shippers before year end.

Datuk Faudzi also said that the RoRo vessel proposal and its implementation in Penang for trade with ports like Phuket in Thailand and Belawan in Indonesia were also related to the proposed privatisation of Penang Port.

He further added that Seaport Terminal (Johore) Sdn. Bhd. had successfully bid for the privatisation of Penang Port a year ago, but yet nothing has moved since then. Those from the shipping and logistics industry were holding back on investments and business decisions as we continue to wait for the latest on this development and what plans Seaport Terminal has for Penang.

Although Penang Port has the basic infrastructure to accommodate RoRo vessels and additional investments would likely be ploughed in if the crafts were to be berthed in Penang, it was unlikely that such a scheme would be well-

Shipments of Timber and Timber Products through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, July 2013

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all ports m^3	% Change July 2013/ June 2013
	m^3	% Change July 2013/ June 2013	m^3	% Change July 2013/ June 2013	m^3	% Change July 2013/ June 2013	m^3	% Change July 2013/ June 2013	m^3	% Change July 2013/ June 2013		
Sawntimber	38,426	35	3,915	3,492	2,213	143	62	-65	9,267	-9	53,883	35
MDF	25,786	68	482	-100	12,893	22	14,274	23	7,284	-79	60,719	-16
Mouldings	9,643	43	394	61	1,547	21	389	-53	1,888	-51	13,861	7
Dressed Timber	-	-	-	-100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
Plywood	7,972	70	-	-	56	-100	-	-	5,785	-61	13,813	-29
Veneer	114	256	11	100	-	-	42	100	345	23	512	58
Particleboard	38,913	17	2,025	-100	192	100	282	-59	-	-	41,412	21
TOTAL	**120,854**	**34**	**6,827**	**1,620**	**16,901**	**21**	**15,049**	**10**	**24,569**	**-62**	**184,200**	**1**

Note : Indicates % change over the previous month
Source : MTIB

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received by the business community. There were currently enough flights being served by various carriers to Indonesia and Thailand from Penang and ferries take cargo, so the RoRo operations might not be feasible.

Penang Port currently welcomes barges and feeder vessels. RoRo ships or vessels could accommodate passengers, vehicles and cargo and were designed to carry wheeled cargo like cars, trucks, semi-trailer trucks and railroad cars that were driven on and off a ship on their own wheels. They have built-in ramps that allowed cargo to be efficiently "rolled on" and "rolled off" the vessel when in ports.

Source: New Straits Times,17 July

Overcapacity Remains a Concern in Shipping

As the container shipping industry recuperates from a challenging market environment, concerns still abound over the looming overcapacity as more new vessels were expected to come on stream in the next two to three years. According to Mr. Nicolas Sartini, CMA CGM Group Senior Vice-President for Asia Europe lines, the two main markets in the liner industry which were Asia-Europe and Trans-Pacific trade have entered their peak season. The volumes were strong, resulting in rate restoration programmes successfully being implemented and this should prevail until end-October. At the start of the peak season, overcapacity did not appear to be a big concern for the time being. As usual, carriers would have to deal with this when the slack season began. Then, it would make sense to suspend seasonal services and idle vessels on several trades.

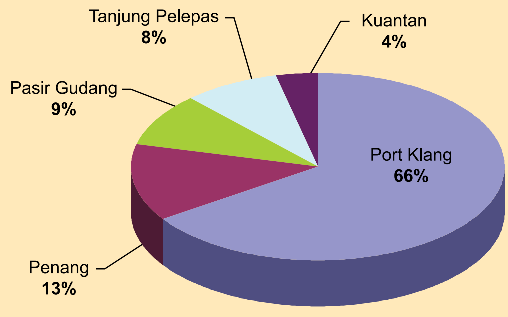
Simultaneously, Mr. Vincent Clerc, Maersk Line Chief Trade and Marketing Officer, said that the supply as of today was not significantly out of sync with demand. However, the industry would phase in a 69% increase in the fleet of vessels for 10,000 TEUs (20-ft equivalent units) over the next two to three years. This would not be matched with a corresponding increase in demand and thus, new deployment opportunities would have to be created for these vessels, or the vessels that would be made obsolete by their deployment. He added that this would put pressure on infrastructure to build facilities that could accommodate bigger vessels and on the lines to co-operate to create cargo flows that could support them. Smaller vessels would be made obsolete prematurely because their operating cost would simply not be competitive anymore.

On freight rates, Mr. Sartini said the rates especially on the Asia-Europe trade, had dipped to unnecessary low levels. No one benefits from the instability in freight rates which was prevailing as the carriers need to achieve decent returns to continue to invest on vessels and containers. On the other hand, customers were looking for stable freight rates to get visibility on costs in their supply chain.

Nevertheless, Maersk, CMA CGM and MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company SA, have recently agreed to establish a long-term operational alliance on East-West trade called the P3 network with the aim of improving and optimising operations and service offerings. The P3 network would operate on a capacity of 2.6 million TEUs, with an initial 255 vessels on 29 loops to be deployed in three main trades mainly Asia-Europe, Trans-Pacific and Trans-Atlantic. The network is expected to provide customers with more stable, frequent and flexible services. Declining volume growth and overcapacity in recent years have underlined the need to improve operations and efficiency in the industry. Using the P3 network, the lines are expected to be able to improve their efficiency via better utilisation of vessel capacity. The P3 network has a stronger share on the Asia-Europe trade than on the Trans-Pacific. The lines intends to start operations in the second quarter of next year, but it will be subject to obtaining the approval of relevant competition and other regulatory authorities.

Source : The Star, 29 July

Shipments of Timber and Timber Products through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, July 2013



Total = 184,200 m³

JULY 2013

Total export of timber and timber products from Peninsular Malaysia in July 2013 increased 15.1% in volume and 19.1% in value to 256,431 m³ valued at RM300.7 million over the previous month. However, cumulative export for the period of January to July decreased 5% in volume and 7.5% in value to 1.65 million m³ with the value of RM1.9 billion respectively over the corresponding period.

Sawntimber

Export of sawntimber in July increased 14% in volume and 18% in value to 89,173 m³ with a value of RM130.7 million over the previous month. Cumulative exports for the first seven months of the year showed a decrease of 2% in volume however there was an increase of 17% in value to 564,440 m³ worth RM810.2 million.

Exports to the EU for the month recorded an increase of 11% to 11,159 m³ contributed by improved purchases from the Netherlands. Export of sawntimber to the Netherlands increased to 4,611 m³ from 1,848 m³ recorded in the previous month due to positive acceptance of PEFC and FSC timber into the country. However, export to the UK, Germany and France decreased 24%, 26% and 29% to 2,242 m³, 1,564 m³ and 940 m³ respectively as a result of declining construction activities in the Euro area.

Total export to West Asia increased 14% to 13,650 m³. Likewise, export to the UAE and Saudi Arabia increased 22% to 6,906 m³ and 40% to 2,059 m³ respectively. This is due to increased construction activities particularly in the development of new buildings and other facilities. Export to Kuwait also improved from 999 m³ in the previous month to 1,951 m³ while export to Oman and Qatar declined 20% and 71% to 1,017 m³ and 494 m³ respectively.

Buying from ASEAN increased 11% to 38,080 m³ over the previous corresponding period. Export of sawntimber to Thailand and Singapore grew 14% and 13% to 25,655 m³ and 11,680 m³ respectively.

Similarly, shipments to East Asia recorded a positive growth where export increased 28% to 15,491 m³. China and Japan increased purchases by 40% and 43% to 11,294 m³ and 2,824 m³ respectively.

Elsewhere, exports to the US decreased 29% to 836 m³; however, intake by Australia increased 14% to 1,325 m³. Similarly, demand from South Africa increased 64% to 4,027 m³ from 2,457 m³ in the previous month.

The average FOB prices of sawntimber increased 4% to RM1,466 per m³ from RM1,410 per m³ in the previous month. Dark Red Meranti (DRM) was traded at RM2,553 per m³, increased 3% from the previous month. Likewise, prices of DRM to the Netherlands increased 3% to RM2,801 per m³ from RM2,720 per m³ in the previous month. Keruing was traded at RM1,588 per m³ while there was no trading for Redwood to the UAE for the month.

Plywood

Plywood exports in July 2013 were at 17,797 m³ and valued at RM28.79 million. Cumulative exports for the period January to July showed decreases of 5% and 7.5% in volume and value to 108,532 m³ valued at RM173.42 million respectively from the previous corresponding period.

Total export to the EU decreased by 28.5% to 6,670 m³. Similarly shipments to Belgium, and the UK decreased 89.4% and 22.2% to 87 m³ and 5,472 m³ respectively due to prolonged economic crisis resulting in decreasing construction activities. On the other hand, Denmark and the Netherlands increased their intake by 131.8% and 36% to 299 m³ and 812 m³ respectively. However, France, Germany, Ireland and Italy did not make any purchase in July 2013.

Exports to the ASEAN region increased as Singapore's intake of plywood increased by 268.4% to 7,232 m³, whilst, Indonesia resumed its import in July 2013. However, Thailand reduced its intake by 22.5% to 749 m³ and Brunei did not make any purchase in July 2013. In East Asia, exports to Hong Kong increased slightly by 0.3% to 306 m³, whereas China and Taiwan resumed their intake in July 2013. Japan reduced its intake by 29% to 386 m³ and South Korea did not make any purchase in July 2013.

Total export to West Asia increased by 181.6% to 597 m³ from 212 m³ in the previous month. This is due to the increase of intake by Kuwait and Yemen by 100% and 248.8% to 86 m³ and 150 m³ respectively and Bahrain resumed its intake in July 2013. However, UAE and Qatar reduced their intake slightly by 2% to 42 m³ each. Saudi Arabia did not make any purchase in July 2013.

Elsewhere, exports of plywood showed an increasing trend especially to South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Turkey which increased by 73.6%, 13.6%, 54.2% and 10% to 486 m³, 1,120 m³, 91 m³ and 259 m³. Similarly, Algeria resumed its intake in July 2013. However, the US, Puerto Rico and Norway did not make any purchase in July 2013.

The FOB price of plywood increased to RM1,618 per m³ from RM1,641 per m³ in the previous month, an increase of 1.9% from the previous month.

Veneer

Total export of veneer for July 2013 showed an increase of 25.4% in volume and 73.3% in value to 513 m³ at RM1.46 million compared to the previous month respectively. However, the cumulative exports from January to July decreased by 34.7% in volume and 17.5% in value to 2,416 m³ valued at RM5.52 million respectively from the corresponding period of last year.

Exports to Australia, Taiwan and Canada increased by 3,900%, 3.9% and 16.7% to 40 m³, 159 m³ and 14 m³ respectively in July 2013. However, China, Singapore, UK, Sri Lanka and Indonesia did not import any veneer in July 2013.

The FOB price of veneer increased to RM2,848 per m³ from RM2,061 per m³ in the previous month, an increase of 38.2% from the previous month.

Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF)

Peninsular Malaysia's exports of MDF for July 2013 showed an increase of 32% in volume and 29% in value from the previous month. Export totalled 89,023 m³ at RM72.9 million.

Exports to East Asia registered an increase of 83% to 3,237 m³ from 1,774 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Taiwan grew by 394% to 1,424 m³ and export to Japan increased by 17% to 792 m³. However, exports to China (including Hong Kong) recorded a negative growth with a decrease of 19% to 661 m³ due to intense competition among locally-made fibreboard and slow uptake by the local furniture manufacturing industry.

Exports to West Asia in July 2013 also recorded a positive growth with an increase of 57% in volume to 47,966 m³ from 30,606 m³ in the previous month. Export to Jordan recorded a positive growth of 367% to 3,569 m³ followed by Bahrain at 181% to 1,019 m³, Saudi Arabia at 122% to 15,324 m³, Oman

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at 119% to 1,313 m³, Syria increased by 81% to 5,497 m³, Iran up by 9% to 1,288 m³ and UAE increased by 0.3% to 12,202 m³. Only export to Kuwait dropped by 66% to 882 m³.

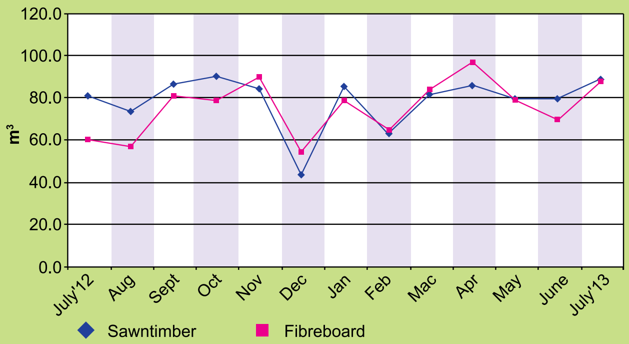
Elsewhere, exports to South Africa, Australia and the US showed a marginal increase by 91% to 471 m³, 32% to 2,357 m³ and 19% to 1,515 m³ respectively. However, export to the UK fell 56% to 148 m³ since construction activities continued to drop.

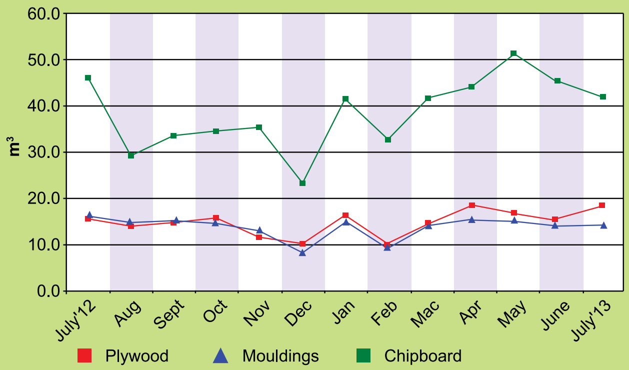
In ASEAN, total export to the ASEAN region for this month increased by 2% to 16,545 m³ from 16,251 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Viet Nam and Philippines registered positive growth by 27% to 10,128 m³ and 26% to 1,102 m³ respectively. However, exports to Indonesia and Singapore dropped by 28% to 5,055 m³ and 32% to 252 m³ respectively.

Mouldings

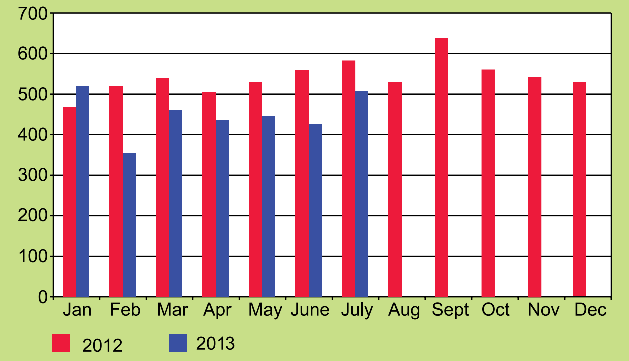
Exports of mouldings for the month increased by 14.8% in volume and 19.9% in value to 15,334 m³ and RM45.08 million

Export of Selected Products from Peninsular Malaysia
(July 2012 - July 2013) / Volume ('000 m³)





Malaysia: Export of Wooden Furniture
(January 2012 - July 2013) / Value (RM Million)



respectively. However, the cumulative exports from January to July decreased by 17.8% in volume and 16.7% in value over the previous corresponding period to 97,247 m³ with a value of RM279.61 million.

Exports to the EU for the month recorded at 6,541 m³, an increase of 14.8% compared to the previous month. Similarly, shipments to Germany, Netherlands and UK increased by 7.6%, 57.2% and 106.4% to 1,275 m³, 3,206 m³ and 842 m³, respectively. Whereas export to Belgium reduced by 31.7% to 528 m³ whilst Italy did not have any intake in July 2013.

Exports to the ASEAN region increased as Singapore's intake of mouldings increased by 13.7% to 1,096 m³ respectively due to the active construction activities in the country. However, Viet Nam intake reduced by 45.8% to 39 m³ whilst Indonesia did not import any in July 2013.

On the other hand, exports to Taiwan and China increased by 57.1% and 111.4% to 99 m³ and 370 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, exports to Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong decreased by 9.3%, 78% and 71% to 1,508 m³, 164 m³ and 18 m³ respectively.

Elsewhere, exports to Australia and Canada increased by 33.9% and 33.3% to 2,755 m³ and 48 m³ respectively. However, export to the US decreased slightly by 3.8% to 48 m³ in July 2013.

FOB unit value increased 4.5% from RM2,813 per m³ in the previous month to RM2,940 per m³ in July 2013.

Builders Joinery and Carpentry (BJC)

Total BJC cumulative exports from January to July 2013 declined slightly to RM534.74 million as compared to RM567.45 million in 2012. Similarly, demand from France, Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Turkey decreased by 6.9%, 19.9%, 68.7%, 83.1%, 6.8%, 26.6% and 86.5% to RM21.5 million, RM26.66 million, RM3.01 million, RM0.47 million, RM3.64 million, RM6.34 million and RM0.81 million respectively. The decreases were still due to the Euro zone prolong economic crisis. However, exports to the UK, Denmark and Germany increased by 30.5%, 3.5% and 15.4% to RM71.69 million, RM15.27 million and RM10.98 million respectively over the previous corresponding period.

In Asia, exports to Iran, Singapore, Viet Nam and Taiwan grew 97.6%, 5.4%, 42.4%, and 15.1% valued at RM1.59 million, RM64.03 million, RM14.22 million and RM8.25 million respectively. However, exports to Japan, India, Pakistan, South Korea and Thailand decreased by 19.9%, 6.2%, 24.7%, 54.8% and 4.8% to RM50.01 million, RM34.28 million, RM11.78 million, RM2.11 million and RM16.9 million respectively.

Exports to Australia and the US fell 3.7% and 21.5% to RM64.39 million and RM32.94 million respectively. Similarly, purchases by Maldives and South Africa decreased by 41.2% and 22.3% to RM4.26 million and RM2.38 million respectively. Intake by South Africa decreased due to the slow growth in the construction and housing starts resulting in slow demand of BJC importation. On the other hand, export to UAE decreased by 37% to RM8.4 million as compared to the previous corresponding period.

Furniture

Exports of wooden and rattan furniture for the period under review in 2013 decreased 14.8% compared to the corresponding period of 2012. Total shipments recorded RM3.17 billion against RM3.73 billion in 2012.

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JULY 2013

Logs

Prices of logs continued to be stabled and the supply for the Medium Hardwood and Light Hardwood species remained available in the market especially in Pahang, Negeri Sembilan and Johor areas. Most mills reported adequate log inventories.

Log price for Merbau increased by 2% to be traded at RM2,600 per tonne. However, price of Balau declined 15% to RM2,400 per tonne as compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, price of Chengal logs stood firm at RM6,800 per tonne while Red Balau prices increased 10% to RM2,800 per tonne. Likewise, prices for Keruing and Kempas improved 15% to RM1,580 per tonne and 3% to RM1,400 per tonne respectively. Dark Red Meranti and Red Meranti were traded at RM1,450 per tonne and RM1,540 per tonne, an increase of 5% and 1% respectively as compared to last month. For Nyatoh and Sepetir, the prices remained firm at RM900 per tonne and RM850 per tonne respectively. Prices for Mixed Heavy Hardwood stabled at RM1,006 per tonne whilst Mixed Light Hardwood increased to RM675 per tonne as the industry tried to adjust with the current supply.

Sawntimber

The sawntimber market, both local and overseas, was reported to be poor. Demand from importing market was still low due to the global economic slowdown.

Traders reported that the sawntimber market were still slow. Demands from importing market particularly in the EU were still weak. Some traders reported that the shortage of workers in the timber industry also contributed to the weak export market as they need to cut orders in order to meet deadlines.

Price of Chengal sawntimber remained firm at RM6,709 per m^3. Balau and Red Balau also maintained their prices at RM3,178 per m^3 and RM2,966 per m^3. However, Merbau prices decreased 4% to RM3,672 per m^3. Keruing and Kempas prices picked up 1% and 3% to be quoted at RM2,013 per m^3 and RM1,695 per m^3 respectively. Prices of Dark Red Meranti and White Meranti stood firm at RM2,260 per m^3 and RM1,306 per m^3 while price of Yellow Meranti grew 8% to RM1,483 per m^3. Prices of Mersawa and Jelutong both declined by 27% and 7% to RM2,225 per m^3 and RM1,577 per m^3 respectively. Sawntimber prices of Mixed Heavy Hardwood improved by 2% to RM989 per m^3 whilst Mixed Light Hardwood prices fell 3% to RM784 per m^3 as compared to the previous month.

Plywood

Prices of plywood for all sizes reported to decrease between 1-4% due to weak demand from the domestic processing mills. Prices of plywood of 4mm and 6mm of thicknesses fell by 2% and 4% to RM14.20 per piece and RM22.00 per piece respectively. Similarly, prices of plywood with the thicknesses of 9mm and 12mm dropped by 2% and 1% to RM33.50 per piece and RM43.00 per piece respectively.

Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF)

Supply of MDF was reported to be sufficient for the domestic usage. Due to continuous weak demand from the local market especially from the furniture manufacturers, the MDF prices recorded a downward trend. MDF prices of 4mm and 6mm decreased between 2-3% and were traded at RM13.50 and RM20.50 per piece respectively. Meanwhile, prices for 9mm and 12mm of thicknesses remained at RM27.80 and RM37.20 per piece respectively as per the previous month.

Intra-Malaysia Trade * – July 2013

In July, shipments of sawntimber from Sabah to Peninsular Malaysia declined sharply by 61% over the previous month to 455 m^3, valued at RM0.7 million. Shipments of veneer also fell by 41% to 47 m^3, worth RM64,000. On the other hand, shipments of plywood resumed at 10,703 m^3 valued at RM16.1 million.

On the other hand, export of sawntimber from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia increased significantly by 71% from 661 m^3 to 1,132 m^3, worth RM1 million. Similarly, shipments of plywood improved 25% to 10,936 m^3, valued at RM14.8 million. Export of veneer charted at 4,058 m^3, worth RM4.6 million. No exports of logs were recorded for the month.

No intra trade from Peninsular Malaysia to Sabah and Sarawak was recorded in July 2013.

** Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia*

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE – JULY 2013

From	Products	JUNE 2013		JULY 2013		% Change in Volume July 2013/June 2013	% Change in Value July 2013/June 2013
		Volume (m^3)	Value (RM '000)	Volume (m^3)	Value (RM '000)		
SABAH	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	1,169	1,635	455	668	-61	-59
	Plywood	7,841	11,309	10,703	16,134	37	43
	Veneer	79	104	47	64	-41	-38
SARAWAK	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	661	605	1,132	1,001	71	65
	Plywood	8,756	10,518	10,936	14,753	25	40
	Veneer	3,961	4,638	4,058	4,622	2	0

Source : Department of Statistics, Malaysia

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JULY 2013

*AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWNTIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA JULY 2013 (VALUE IN RM)

SPECIES	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³		
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS
HEAVY HARDWOOD				
Chengal	6,800	6,709	2,493	8,828
Balau	2,400	3,178	1,564	3,058
Red Balau	2,800	2,966	1,977	3,185
Merbau	2,600	3,672	3,390	3,602
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,006	989	1,095	1,130
MEDIUM HARDWOOD				
Keruing	1,580	2,013	1,165	2,225
Kempas	1,400	1,695	1,448	2,189
Kapur	1,250	1,879	883	1,695
Mengkulang	1,200	1,554	1,024	1,483
Tualang	1,350	1,766	2,260	2,225
LIGHT HARDWOOD				
Dark Red Meranti	1,450	2,260	1,306	2,119
Red Meranti	1,540	1,695	1,059	2,401
Yellow Meranti	1,100	1,483	1,073	1,819
White Meranti	1,026	1,306	812	1,695
Mersawa	1,250	2,225	2,119	2,684
Nyatoh	900	777	565	1,201
Sepetir	850	1,095	918	1,095
Jelutong	1,096	1,577	1,208	1,610
Mixed Light Hardwood	675	784	614	794

MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD *Hevea brasiliensis*	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
		1" X 1"	2" X 2"	3" X 3"	4" X 4"
	150	850	975	1,004	1,229

PLYWOOD 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	**4mm**	**6mm**	**9mm**	**12mm**
	14.20	22.00	33.50	43.00
MDF 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	**4mm**	**6mm**	**9mm**	**12mm**
	13.50	20.50	27.80	37.20

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

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TIMBER ROUND-UP

Purchase of wooden furniture from Malaysia for the January to July 2013 duration decreased 15.0% from RM3.71 billion to RM3.16 billion compared to the same period in 2012.

Furniture import from Malaysia recorded a decrease in major countries. This is mainly due to major advanced economies which are constrained by their slow pace of recovery and many emerging markets have also experienced some growth slowdown. The only exception was Saudi Arabia which had recorded a slight increased.

Imports of wooden furniture by the US, which is Malaysia's top import partner, decreased 14.2% from RM1.15 billion to RM987.4 million. Japan reduced its consumption by 11.6% from RM293.5 million to RM259.5.7 million as Malaysian wooden furniture continues to face stiff competition from countries such as South Korea, China, Taiwan and Viet Nam.

The UK imports saw a decrease of 35.6% from RM230.0 million to RM148.1 million as it was still reeling in the effects of the economic recession. Intake by Australia reduced by 5.5% from RM238.8 million in 2012 to RM225.8 million in the first seven months of 2013.

Canada reduces its intake of wooden furniture by 30.2% to reach RM120.6 million. The UAE slightly decreased its intake of wooden furniture by 3,4% to RM112.1 million. India's intake also decreased by 34.6% to RM58.9 million. Saudi Arabia slightly increased its wooden furniture intake by 2.9% to reach RM74.0 million.

Germany reduced its wooden furniture consumption by 33.0% with a purchase of RM39.1 million in for the first seven months of 2013 from RM58.4 million in 2012. Russia also reduced its consumption by 33.4% from RM72.6 million to RM48.3 million. The Philippines decreased its intake of wooden furniture by 19.1% to RM 37.0 million.

Rattan furniture shipments increased by 28.6% to RM14.8 million for the January to July of 2013 period compared to RM11.5 million in 2012.

The US is the top importer of rattan furniture with a huge increase of almost four fold to RM3.8 million compared to RM768,000 during the same period in 2012. Singapore is the second highest buyer with an increased intake of 23.9% to RM3.1 million compared to RM2.5 million in the same period. The UK came in third with an increased consumption of 34.9% to RM1.1 million. New buyers for this period include the UAE and Poland.

BLUE OCEAN STRATEGY – PAVING MTIB'S DIRECTION 2014-2020

Group discussion amongst the MTIB management and officers.

As timber products increasingly become mass commodities in an overcrowded market, profitable growth shrinks and this leads to companies competing primarily on cost. Companies in Malaysia today are competing in the global market where cost arbitration alone is not sufficient to differentiate and sustain the business. It is time for the Malaysian timber industry to look into value innovation and market driven products.

"MTIB and the industry need to go beyond competing, to seize new profits and growth opportunities. Hence, they need to create Blue Ocean," said Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, Director-General of MTIB, in an MTIB workshop session with his management team on 28–30 August. He stated that the Blue Ocean Strategy is critical in today's business climate. Blue Ocean denote the unknown market space where demand is created rather than fought over. In Blue Ocean, competition is irrelevant because the rules of the game are waiting to be set.

Applying the Blue Ocean approach, MTIB convened a workshop to craft the way forward for MTIB to position itself at a higher level of competency and capability, as well as to be the catalyst in driving the timber businesses growth, in an orderly development. Upon extensive analysis of the industry, the Blue Ocean Strategy has revealed that a 'strategic move' is an appropriate element to create blue ocean activities in MTIB. The 'move' is the root of profitable growth, and it is a set of managerial actions and decisions involved in making a major market-creating business offering.

The MTIB Blue Ocean Strategy provides an overall strategic direction to ensure it is well positioned to respond effectively to current and future business and industry operating environments. The direction of the Strategic Plan is determined by the priorities and key challenges of NATIP, government policies, global economic forces, and other operational and environmental influences. It provides guidance for the development of the annual Action Plan for all the Divisions in MTIB within 2014-2020. It is hoped that the Plan would establish how the strategic outcomes of the initiatives will be addressed and resourced over a six-year period.

One for the album – Posing with the facilitator.

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There will be a shift of focus from Industry Driven to Market Driven approach. To spearhead the industry, MTIB is required to make in-roads to ensure development of domestic and international markets, as well as ways to optimise profit, in order to achieve economy of scale. Providing greater security to the industry against barriers must be given high priority.

Another focus is to explore the possibilities of the timber industry to work hand in hand with specifiers, for instance, builders and architects, to devise new innovative products that are environmentally attractive in international market arena.

The MTIB Blue Ocean Strategic Plan marks the beginning of a process to develop a concerted and aligned effort in line with NATIP's aspirations. The Action Plan provides the framework for day-to-day operations and activities of the organisation and reflects what will be achieved with existing resources, while the priorities and outcomes of the Strategic Plan reflect a broader perspective and longer term vision.

The workshop was attended by MTIB management team and key personnel from all divisions in MTIB.

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several standards in the relevant sectors to ensure compliance to product quality as well as to enhance confidence amongst consumers, with emphasis given to health and safety aspects. With these initiatives, it is hoped that there will be an increase of quality timber and timber products in the domestic and international markets. This is also in line with an aspiration of the National Timber Industry Policy which targets an export total of RM53 billion of timber-based products by 2020.

Earlier Datuk Dr. Ewon Ebin in his speech said that the partnership under the agreement was a result of the amendments to the Standards of Malaysia (Amendment) Act 2012 [A1425] which was gazetted on 9 February last year. He noted that through the new Act, Standards Malaysia may appoint more SDAs, MTIB being the first new SDA appointed after the amendment. "MOSTI through Standards Malaysia has always supported the development and use of Malaysian Standards, which is critical in supporting the growth of the industrial sector and promoting trade and competitiveness as part of our Economic Transformation Programme (ETP)", concluded Datuk Dr. Ewon Ebin.

According to Puan Fadilah Baharin, Director-General of Standards Malaysia, MTIB was selected based on MTIB's expertise and experience as a Standards Writing Organisation in standardisation activities especially in the field of wood, wood products and timber structures under the existing system of MS development. The appointment of MTIB as an

Attendees at the event.

SDA will ensure faster and more efficient development and implementation of standardisation activities. Considering its industry experience, the standards developed by MTIB will also be more market-relevant, catering to specific needs of our local industries, as well as adhering to global best practices.

The signing ceremony was attended by more than 100 invited guests comprising mainly members from the relevant government agencies and private sector in particular, stakeholders and the timber industry as well as technical experts who are actively involved in the technical committee and working groups for standards development activities for timber and timber-based products.

WORKSHOP ON BAMBOO INSPIRATION: A VALUABLE NATIONAL RESOURCE

Participants at the bamboo research plot in Lenggeng Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan.

In an effort to further develop the bamboo industry in Malaysia, MTIB organised a workshop entitled Bamboo Inspiration: A Valuable National Resource on 28-29 August in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan. The objective of the workshop was to disseminate knowledge and information as well as to create awareness among the industry players on bamboo breeding techniques and nursery management and bamboo maintenance. The two-day workshop also acted as a platform for knowledge and experience sharing between government agencies and industry players.

Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General officiated the workshop. In his opening speech, he highlighted that Malaysia's export of bamboo for the last 10 years was RM250,000 whilst import of bamboo was recorded RM1.5 – 2.0 million. The bamboo and bamboo products were imported from 11 countries mainly, China, Indonesia and Thailand. According to the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), the international bamboo industry could generate revenue of USD11 billion per year. This value is expected to increase to USD18 billion in 2018. To ensure the sustainability of the bamboo industry, MTIB launched Ten-Year Action Plan for the Development of Bamboo Industry in Malaysia in October 2012.

Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General delivering his speech.

The five main strategies emphasised in the Action Plan were to ensure the sustainability of the bamboo industry which would also contribute towards significant export earnings and higher demand in the domestic market. The five strategies outlined in the Action Plan were as follows:

- Establishment of bamboo plantation and preservation of existing natural resource management
- Human capital development
- Development of downstream activities
- Research and development
- Marketing and promotion

Dr. Jalaluddin also stated that World Bamboo Day is celebrated worldwide on the 18 September every year. Its main objective is to increase the awareness and application of bamboo and bamboo products globally. In Malaysia, it was celebrated for the first time in 2012 and was organised by MTIB. In 2013, World Bamboo Day will be celebrated on 13 -21 September in Kuala Lumpur.

A total of six papers were presented during the seminar which was conducted in three sessions, as follows:

- **Introduction of Bamboo;** Encik Mohamed Zin Yusop from Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia presented a paper on Bamboo Distribution and Forest Management.
- **Bamboo Identification and Breeding;** Prof. Madya Dr. Azmy Mohamed from Universiti Putra Malaysia presented on Introduction of Bamboo and Species Identification, and Bamboo Breeding Techniques.
- **Experiences and Challenges in Bamboo Industry;** Three speakers from government agency, higher learning institution and the private sector shared their experiences and challenges in the bamboo industry. They were Encik Ahmad Fauzi Mohd Shariff from Forest Research Institute

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ASIA DESIGN FORUM 2013: "DESIGN AND FORESIGHT"

The world is changing through design and innovation. Modern industries demand more than creative problem-solving abilities. It requires innovative solutions, thus creating and driving abilities. To increase awareness of the importance of design, a forum entitled Design and Foresight was organised by the Malaysian Design Council (MRM) on 2 July in Kuala Lumpur.

Prof. Dr. Ahmad Hj. Zainuddin, Chairman of MRM, in his opening remark stated that The Asia Design Forum 2013 was a collaboration programme with the Korea Institute of Design Promotion (KIDP) to promote the design and innovation agenda in Malaysia.

Dr. Lee Tae Yong, President of KIDP, in his speech noted some of the important roles of KIDP in transforming South Korea into leading developed country through the adaption of design thinking and practices. He was confident that the collaboration between MRM and KIDP would help Malaysia to push-forward the development of the industry through design and innovation.

The seminar was divided into two sessions and during the first session Prof. Dr. Ahmad Hj. Zainuddin, was invited to speak on the design foresight in Malaysia and the way forward in moving the industry through design. He stressed the 10-point design initiatives by the Malaysian Design Council for the innovation economy which were design foresight, design education, design talent, design industry, design research, design incubation, design community, design promotion, design affiliation and design recognition. These design initiatives would create paths and opportunities to further develop the industry.

Prof. Dr. Park Yeong Chun, Vice President of Samsung Art and Design Institute talked about Design Foresight in Education. He highlighted the importance of understanding industry needs and developing design education accordingly. In his presentation, he spoke on how to create integrative education models for design innovation through design education models that adapt and integrate industry practice and needs based on diversified and ever-expanding capabilities of design today.

Participants attending the seminar.

The second session of the seminar focused on the design foresight of the industry. Mr. Yoo Byung Chul, Director of Human-Computer Interaction Division, SK Planet, spoke on the topic of Innovation Design Methods and the Actual Practices for Understanding Customers' Future Experience. He said that a successful innovation comes from the interplay of human, business and technological factors. He elaborated the need to understand customer behaviour in designing the future user experience through deep user insights gained by face to face interviews and systematic observations.

Over 100 participants from various design sectors and related government agencies attended the seminar. MTIB was represented by Puan Nik Zuraihah Nik Muhammad and Cik Siti Aishah Abu Bakar.

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Malaysia, Cik Shazila Ghazi from Bamboo Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. and AR Haris Fadzilah Abdul Rahman from Universiti Sains Malaysia.

On the second day, a field trip to a bamboo research plot in Lenggeng Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan was conducted. The participants were briefed by the State Forestry Department on the research and development of the bamboo plot which was completed in 1999. Later, the participants had the opportunity to plant 30 bamboo saplings in the plot area led by Prof. Madya Dr. Azmy Mohamed.

The workshop was attended by more than 40 participants, mainly industry players and representatives from government agencies.

Attendees at the workshop.

MTIB

1973-2013 MTIB

Shaping the Timber Industry of Malaysia

One Man's Waste, Another Man's Wealth

To many of us, rice husks, coconut trunks, oil palm fronds and empty fruit bunches are nothing but a pile of residue. But did you know that they can be turned into furniture and building materials?

For many years now, the demand for wood far exceeds the supply. The biggest challenge has always been fulfilling demand without sacrificing our beautiful forests. Little did we know, the things we often regard as junk could actually be a solution to this problem. Possessing excellent mechanical and physical properties, wood made from agricultural by-products is not only durable, but also highly customisable in terms of weight, structure and density.

We at MTIB are committed in finding solutions to make both you and Mother Nature happy. With MTIB, your wastes are not wasted.

Malaysian Wood
Standing on Excellence

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

For more information, contact:

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BINDERLESS BOARD AND COMPRESSED LUMBER FROM OIL PALM TRUNK

Workshop participants.

MTIB organised a technology transfer workshop with collaboration from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) , supported by Japan Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute. The half-day workshop was held on 27 August at FIDEC, Banting, Selangor and was attended by 21 participants.

This workshop is one of the milestones of collaborative research between USM and JIRCAS since 1995. Their recent emphasise was on the oil palm trunk as an alternative source of lignocellulosic materials. The main focus of the research was on the production of binderless board and compressed lumber from old oil palm trunks. During the workshop, Prof. Dr. Rokiah Hashim of School of Industrial Technology, USM, presented the key paper titled Potential Use and Processing of Binderless Board and Compressed Lumber from Oil Palm Trunk. Prof. Dr. Rokiah highlighted that under the experimental condition, it is possible to make self-binding particleboard from the oil palm trunk without the addition of adhesives. The oil palm trunks were first chipped and dried to a moisture content of 7–8% and ground to a particle size of less than 1 mm. These particles were then manually formed into a homogenous single-layered board of 0.48 cm thickness by pressing at 180°C for 20 minutes. The pressure used was 5.0 MPa and the targeted board density of 0.8 g/cm^3 was achieved. The properties of the manufactured particleboard fulfil the minimum requirement of the Japanese JIS A-5908 standard.

On producing, compressed timber, the oil palm sawntimbers were first steamed at 130°C for about 120 minutes. The samples were than dried at 50°C to a moisture content of 15–20%. The final process was to hot-press the timber at 60°C and 11.04 MPa for 60 minutes. The density of the oil palm timber can be enhanced with a subsequent increase in its mechanical properties. The compressed oil palm timber has can be used in indoor as well as outdoor applications.

The particleboard and the compressed timber were successfully manufactured at the university experimental laboratory condition. It is the objective of the workshop that further commercialisation of the process be undertaken by the industry.

Dr. Iwao Noda, Director of Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences delivering his welcoming remarks during the opening of the workshop.

Dr. Tomoko Sugimoto, Senior Researcher of Japan Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute highlighting the current programmes undertaken by JIRCAS.

FEATURE

2008-2009 GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS – HEURISTIC APPROACH WITHIN NATIP VISION

Introduction

The financial crisis of 2007–2009, also known as the Global Financial Crisis is considered by many economists to be the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. It resulted in the threat of total collapse of large financial institutions, the bailout of banks by national governments, and downturns in stock markets around the world. In many areas, the housing market also suffered, resulting in evictions, foreclosures and prolonged unemployment. The crisis played a significant role in the failure of key businesses, declines in consumer wealth estimated in trillions of US dollars, and an array of financial derivatives that, inter alia, drove the sub-prime mortgage boom, exploded into housing and banking crisis with a cascading effect on consumer and investment demand.

As with most of the East and Southeast Asian economies, the impact of the global economic and financial crisis on Malaysia has been felt largely through a contraction in aggregate demand caused by a collapse in exports, either directly or indirectly, to the United States. GDP growth slowed down to 0.1% in the last quarter of 2008, and decelerated by -6.2% and -3.9% respectively in the first two quarters of 2009 as a consequence. This contraction has aggravated the already cooling Malaysian economy. Not only did manufacturing slow down substantially, but the overall GDP growth rate of Malaysia fell significantly below its targeted vision 2020 rate for 2000-2007.

Impact of the Financial Crisis Towards the Development of the Timber Industry

The export of timber and timber products from 2004 to 2006 showed an increment trend of 9% annually **(Graph 1)**.

Graph 1: Malaysia: Export of Timber and Timber Products Trend (2004-2012)

Eventually, beginning 2007, the export of timber and timber products has show a slight drop due to the financial crisis. The crisis reached its depth in 2009 as the exports of timber and timber products dropped to RM19.5 billion, a decrease of 14.5% compared to the previous year. These were due to the continuous reduction of export to major export destinations namely Japan, the United States and United Kingdom by 2.4%, 8.4% and 17.4% respectively. The reduction of the export value of timber products was experienced by major products such as furniture, plywood and chipboard.

Graph 2: Malaysia: Export of Furniture Trend (2004-2012)

Workers operating in one of the furniture factories.

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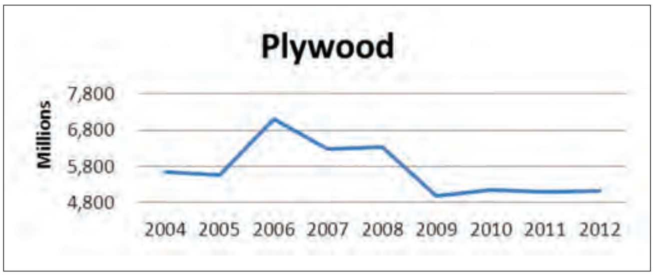
The furniture industry is the star performer in the timber industry. From 2005 till 2008 furniture recorded an average increase of 6% annually. Even during the financial crisis, Malaysia's furniture export still managed to sustain with a nominal increment. However, in 2009, its export dropped by 9.7% compared to the previous year. Then, in 2010, furniture export increased by 4.4% to RM6.5 billion against the previous corresponding year.

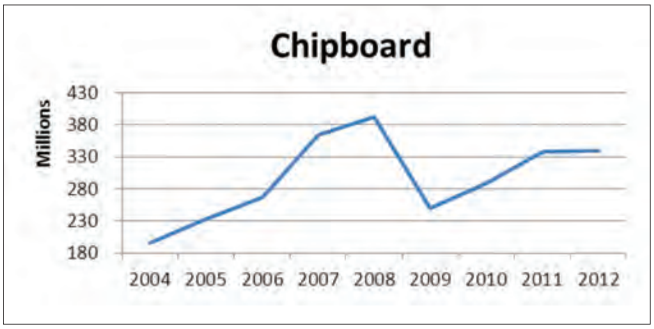
Meanwhile, chipboard and plywood have been recording an average increase of 19% and 4% annually respectively.

Graph 3: Malaysia: Export of Plywood Trend (2004-2012)



For plywood, export dropped by 21% in 2009 as a result of the financial crisis. But in 2010 its export registered a total of RM5.15 billion, an increase of 3.2% compared to the previous year proving that plywood export has started to recover.

Graph 4: Malaysia: Export of Chipboard Trend (2004-2012)



The same scenario can also be seen in the chipboard export trend. The export of chipboard recorded an increase of 15.4% (RM288.6 million) in 2010 compared to the previous corresponding year after a drop by 36% in 2009. The export value continued to increase to RM339.2 million in 2012 to reflect the recovery activities for chipboard exports.

National Timber Industry Policy (NATIP)

The timber industry is an important resource-based industry in Malaysia and continues to play an important role in the socio-economic development of the country. The performance and contribution of the wood-based industry to the Malaysian economy is commendable. In 2012, the export of timber and timber products totalled RM20.2 billion, registering an increase of 0.89 % over the previous year.

NATIP was launched in 2009 to enhance the growth of the timber industry till 2020. It also seeks to expand the timber industry, which has traditionally been dominated by the primary processing sector, producing sawn timber, plywood and veneer, towards the manufacture of high value-added products such as mouldings, joinery and furniture in tandem with global demand.

The objectives of NATIP are to:

- Provide the policy direction for the timber industry in Malaysia
- Ensure synergistic development of the upstream and downstream activities in the timber industry
- Enhance the industry's competitiveness to meet the challenges of globalisation and liberalisation

The current industry structure will be re-aligned to achieve the target of RM53 billion by 2020, through an average annual growth rate of 6.4%. NATIP also promotes industrial development within the timber industry. Technology and innovation will assume an important role in gearing the industry towards achieving greater productivity and profitability. Together with enhanced human capital development and

Furniture showroom.

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WORKSHOP ON MASONRY STRUCTURAL DESIGN BASED ON EUROCODE 6

Participants posing with the facilitator.

As part of MTIB's role to enhance the use of timber in building and construction and to assist in the developing of the Malaysian Standards, MTIB sent two officers to attend a Workshop on Masonry Structural Design Based on Eurocode 6. The workshop was organised on 17 July in Shah Alam, Selangor by the Institute for Infrastructure Engineering and Sustainable Management from Universiti Teknologi MARA. The workshop expounded on designing optimum masonry structures that are exposed to vertical and horizontal loads, with and without reinforcement. The participants were also given theoretical knowledge on designing standard masonry structures as stated in Eurocode 6 which is widely used in the construction sector in developed countries; EN 1996, Eurocode 6: Design of masonry structures is used as a guideline for engineers. Masonry should be designed based on limit state principles, durability and resistance/reaction to fire.

Theory session.

Masonry is the building of structures from individual units laid in and bound together by mortar. Masonry is generally a highly durable form of construction. However, the materials used can affect the quality of the mortar and workmanship as well as the pattern in which the units are assembled. They can also significantly affect the stability and durability of the overall masonry structure. In Malaysia, Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad, a local historical building, is an example of a building constructed from masonry.

Masonry is readily available and assembled on site material to minimise temporary work. It has an excellent sound insulation properties, fire resistance properties and aesthetic value. Masonry units to be used in construction should comply with the BS EN 771 – Specification for masonry units. Masonry can be classified into two categories: probability of not reaching declared compressive strength <5% and not intended to comply with category 1 level of confidence. Masonry can also be grouped based on the percentage of holes, the orientation of the holes either vertical or horizontal, and the thickness of webs and shells. United Kingdom classifies masonry into two groups: holes <25% and holes >25%<55%. Mortar is the main component used in masonry as building materials. Components of mortar are cement, lime, sand and water. Mortar is used for water retention, development of early strength, resistance to cracking and rain penetration, and resistance to frost and chemical attack.

The properties of masonry are similar to concrete since it is comparatively strong in compression and weak in tension. Therefore, it is not surprising that reinforcing and pre-stressing

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successful R&D commercialisation efforts, the timber industry will be well poised to develop its potential and embark on greater industrialisation transformations.

To ensure the dynamism of the industry, seven thrusts are outlined in NATIP. They are:

- **Thrust 1 :** Industry structure
- **Thrust 2 :** Supply of raw materials
- **Thrust 3 :** Innovation and technology
- **Thrust 4 :** Marketing and promotion
- **Thrust 5 :** Human capital development
- **Thrust 6 :** Funding and incentives
- **Thrust 7 :** Bumiputera participation

NATIP: The Way Forward

NATIP, which was launched in 2009, has appraised the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats which affect the structure of timber industry. Hence, a holistic measures to sustain the industry's growth and directions were formulated to recover from the impact. Among other strategies laid in NATIP are such as:-

1. Supplementing the requirement of timber-based industries through imports of timber and maximising the use of available timber resources
2. Prioritising the supply of logs to the domestic market in order to ensure that there is adequate supply for the local manufacturers producing timber products
3. Giving emphasis to downstream activities that are located in the various economic development corridors to increase and accelerate the promotion of such activities
4. Enhancing the competitiveness of Malaysian timber products through the expansion of its markets and value creation
5. Increasing Malaysia's market share in the international market for timber and timber products and being a leading global supplier of quality timber products
6. Identifying marketing strategies that would promote the strengths of the Malaysian timber industry

MTIB as the lead body for the development of the timber industry has worked hand-in-hand with the industry in implementing these strategies.

The ministry, though its agency MTIB, continues to pursue its development activities to develop the timber industry such as through the development of the Roadmap on Insurance, Financing and Incentives for Timber Industry 2020. The roadmap outlines strategic action plans which involve all relevant stakeholders. The plan aims to help the industry in the financing and development of their operations that could contribute to increased growth of the local timber industry.

Conclusion

As the timber industry has been one of the main contributors to the Malaysian economy for more than a decade, sustainable development of the industry is critical to ensure that it continues to assume a key role in the nation's economy. A concerted and structured plan is thus necessary to guide industry players to where the timber industry is heading and what actions are to be taken to ensure its sustainable development in the long term. As such, the implementation of NATIP is very timely to address the concerns regarding the market, technology, raw materials, human capital and other key factors that are crucial for the continued viability of a resource-based industry such as the wood-based sector.

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techniques are applied to masonry as it was developed before reinforced and pre-stressed concrete. In fact the behaviour of reinforced masonry (RM) is ultimately similar to reinforced concrete (RC). Under-reinforced masonry sections in flexure fail by yielding of the steel reinforcement in tension followed by compression failure of the masonry.

In terms of masonry application, in the past 30 years, there have been numbers of research and an increasing number of applications of RM and pre-stressed masonry (PM) in the United Kingdom. However they are still not used extensively in Malaysia compared to the extensive usage in the California (USA) and New Zealand.

During the workshop, 20 participants were in attendance whilst MTIB was represented by Puan Syafinaz Abdul Rashad and Encik Muhammad Shaiful Nordin from Industry Development.

THE NETHERLANDS – GROWING CONCERN ON SUSTAINABLE TIMBER PROCUREMENT

The Netherlands borders the North Sea to the north and west, Belgium to the south, and Germany to the east, and shares maritime borders with Belgium, Germany and the United Kingdom. The Netherlands is a geographically low-lying country, with about 20% of its area and 21% of its population located below sea level, and 50% of its land lying less than one metre above sea level. This distinct feature contributes to the country's name: in Dutch (Nederland), English, and in many other European languages, its name literally means "(The) Low Countries" or "Low Country".

Forest Resources

Total forest area in the Netherlands is 365,000 hectares, representing 10.8% from its land area. Its forest mainly grows the coniferous species. The dominant species are broadleaved, including beech and oak. Only 365,000 hectares of forest area in the Netherlands is considered as plantation forest.

Malaysia – The Netherlands Bilateral Trade

Malaysia has always had a favourable trade balance with the Netherlands. In 2008, Malaysia recorded a trade surplus of RM19.8 billion with the Netherlands. Total trade in 2010 amounted to RM23.6 billion, decreased 13% than 2008. In 2011, exports from Malaysia dropped to RM19.3 billion whilst imports totalled RM3.6 billion. However, in 2012 total trade rose to RM23.6 billion from RM22.9 billion in the previous year.

Generally, Malaysia's exports to the Netherlands comprised mainly of machinery and transport equipment, animal and vegetables oils and miscellaneous manufactured articles. Imports from the Netherlands are machinery and transport equipment, chemicals and food.

Malaysia – The Netherlands Bilateral Trade (RM million)

Year	Export (FOB)	Import (CIF)	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2008	23,443.4	3,687.9	27,131.3	19,755.5
2009	18,420.6	3,520.0	21,940.6	14,900.6
2010	20,218.5	3,398.0	23,616.5	16,820.5
2011	19,281.0	3,611.0	22,892.0	15,670.0
2012	18,590.0	5,011.0	23,601.0	13,579.0

Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia

Export of Malaysian Timber and Timber Products to the United Kingdom

The Netherlands is one of Malaysia's main importing countries for high grade tropical sawntimber. Dark Red Meranti, predominantly and Merbau are the most sought after species by the Dutch for mouldings and joinery sectors. In 2012, export of timber and timber products to the Netherlands were worth RM327.2 million, a decrease of 30% over the previous year. For the period between January to June 2013, exports of timber and timber products to the Netherlands declined 19% and stood at RM141.4 million over the previous corresponding period.

Among the various timber products, sawntimber is the largest export item. Exports of sawntimber in 2012 made up 42% or RM137.5 million of the total export to the Netherlands. The second largest export item is mouldings. However in 2012, export of mouldings decreased 23% to RM111.6 million from RM144.4 million in 2011.

Similarly, export of plywood and wooden furniture in 2012, declined 15% to RM23.2 million and 14% to RM45.8 million respectively. Other products exported to the Netherlands are fibreboard, BJC, rattan furniture and wooden frame.

Import of Timber and Timber Products From the Netherlands

Import of timber and timber products from the Netherlands are small. Major timber products imported are sawntimber, veneer, mouldings and wooden furniture. In 2012, import decreased 14% and totalled at RM11.5 million from RM13.4 million in the previous year. Import of sawntimber increased 22% to RM752 million and accounted for 7% of the total import. For the period

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Malaysia : Export of Timber and Timber Products to the Netherlands (Value : RM'000)

Products	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 (Jan-June)	% Change 2013/2012
Sawntimber	411,970	255,043	239,940	226,773	137,465	65,242	-6.3
Plywood	31,534	28,343	30,198	27,378	23,163	6,889	-39.3
Mouldings	165,573	114,550	137,896	144,360	111,620	53,607	-12.8
Fibreboard	1,101	306	1,569	2,264	2,058	316	-71.6
Wooden Frame	158	40	141	215	0	37	0.0
BJC	16,999	13,469	12,773	6,625	3,566	239	-90.0
Wooden Furniture	98,600	98,949	79,109	53,177	45,771	13,682	-51.4
Rattan Furniture	189	187	154	188	235	38	0.0
Other Products	884	1,645	1,726	3,332	3,276	1,362	15.9
TOTAL	**727,008**	**512,532**	**503,506**	**464,312**	**327,154**	**141,412**	**-19.3**

Source: MTIB and DOSM

Malaysia : Import of Timber and Timber Products from Netherlands (Value : RM'000)

Products	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 (Jan-June)	% Change 2013/2012
Sawntimber	712	2,729	1,110	614	752	481	31.65
Plywood	866	0	0	97	0	13	0
Veneer	488	393	2,700	5,814	3,923	155	-94.2
Particleboard	369	5,719	710	245	0	0	0
Fibreboard	10	49	176	214	178	143	78.95
Mouldings	1,541	665	543	814	100	351	0
Wooden Furniture	1,454	814	173	194	284	85	-55.2
Rattan Furniture	0	7	63	37	9	17	100.09
BJC	17	0	5	5	77	0	0
Wooden Frame	0	0	0	0	92	5	-92.63
Other Products	3,277	3,687	3,686	5,333	6,060	2,510	-17.79
TOTAL	**8,734**	**14,063**	**9,166**	**13,367**	**11,475**	**3,760**	**-34.37**

Source: MTIB and DOSM

of January to June 2013, Malaysia imported timber and timber products totaled RM3.8 million, a decrease of 34% over the previous corresponding period. Other products imported from the Netherlands were veneer, mouldings and BJC.

Production of Timber in the Netherlands

Production of timber and timber products is not significant and the trend is decreasing over the years. The production of industrial roundwood decreased from 827,000 m^3 in 2008 and to just 665,000 m^3 in 2012. Production of sawnwood totalled to 238,000 m^3 in 2011 and in 2012 production fell to 198,000 m^3. Production of panel products such as fibreboard is insignificant.

The Netherlands : Production of Timber and Timber Products, 2008-2012 (Volume : '000 m^3)

Product	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Industrial Roundwood	827	726	791	688	665
Sawnwood	243	210	231	238	198
Plywood	0	0	0	0	0
Veneer	0	0	0	0	0
Fibreboard	33	46	51	46	58

Source: FAO

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Imports of Timber by the Netherlands

Sawntimber

Sweden, Germany and Malaysia are major suppliers of sawntimber to the Netherlands. In 2012, the Netherlands imported USD988.5 million worth of sawntimber. Sweden contributed about USD206.7 million or 21% of the market share. Germany exported sawntimber worth USD180.7 million, followed by Malaysia with USD95.1 million or 10% of the market share.

Plywood

France and Finland are the two top suppliers of plywood to the Netherlands. In 2012, import of plywood into the Netherlands decreased 16% to USD344.5 million from USD411.9 million in 2011. At the same time, Malaysia exported plywood worth USD8.2 million to the Netherlands.

The Netherlands : Import of Sawntimber by Major Suppliers (Value : USD' 000)

Country	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
World	**1,290,253**	**856,995**	**933,286**	**1,209,354**	**988,463**
Sweden	215,446	188,413	192,744	267,342	206,677
Germany	188,799	129,289	146,740	218,784	180,743
Malaysia	**206,832**	**122,558**	**122,570**	**138,795**	**95,083**
Belgium	97,453	59,523	71,098	91,371	91,529
Russia	73,222	44,876	64,749	67,587	58,624
Finland	74,355	51,641	53,491	73,795	57,640
Latvia	34,821	24,791	37,200	64,270	52,509
Brazil	57,229	28,172	30,525	34,689	29,067
Estonia	18,797	12,172	15,029	22,897	23,384
Cameroon	58,674	44,038	43,363	26,148	19,981

Source: UN Comtrade

The Netherlands : Import of Plywood by Major Suppliers (Value : USD' 000)

Country	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
World	**493,845**	**298,958**	**321,203**	**411,893**	**344,537**
Finland	115,396	53,855	55,868	67,641	56,175
France	90,917	61,533	48,290	63,779	51,480
Belgium	46,036	24,650	27,182	33,354	32,807
Spain	11,526	10,759	18,284	25,342	25,082
Latvia	8,648	5,393	13,024	25,386	23,345
Chile	30,545	26,464	27,192	39,758	20,192
Russia	25,342	13,608	21,092	24,117	16,867
Gabon	16,235	14,830	13,751	16,316	13,888
Italy	10,005	3,947	6,974	11,333	13,247
China	35,582	19,489	17,991	13,358	9,550
Morocco	14,723	247	8,413	9,676	9,399
Indonesia	15,645	15,250	8,583	9,926	9,147
Malaysia	**9,650**	**9,383**	**11,329**	**9,766**	**8,168**

Source: UN Comtrade

Builders Joinery and Carpentry

In 2012, the Netherlands imported USD304.0 million worth of BJC. China and Germany were the two top suppliers of BJC to the Netherlands. Import of BJC from China and Germany, totalling USD54.4 million and USD52.8 million respectively. Meanwhile, Malaysia exported BJC worth USD11.1 million to the Netherlands.

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The Netherlands : Import of Builders Joinery and Carpentry by Major Suppliers (Value : USD' 000)

Country	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
World	**351,864**	**257,715**	**264,385**	**365,237**	**304,001**
China	74,194	51,167	59,026	64,371	54,393
Germany	46,500	39,034	40,283	75,246	52,770
Belgium	37,116	26,716	27,942	42,861	39,018
Indonesia	57,033	37,267	38,260	42,213	36,422
Czech Republic	24,301	20,273	21,957	38,347	31,818
Denmark	47,823	30,546	23,467	26,435	21,613
Poland	8,624	7,025	11,208	17,030	14,697
Malaysia	**11,953**	**4,603**	**7,305**	**12,071**	**11,091**
France	10,969	10,051	7,740	11,649	10,491
Portugal	1,951	1,279	1,375	3,516	3,199

Source: UN Comtrade

Public Procurement in the Netherlands

There is increasing demand for timber from sustainable sources with increased awareness and concern for environment preservation. As a result, the global market is increasingly demanding for timber to be certified and originating from sustainable managed forest.

As such, the Dutch government took the initiative in 2002 to set up a guideline for the assessment of certified wood product based on the Dutch standards for sustainable forest management. After an extra round of consultations and meetings with relevant stakeholders in May 2008, the Timber Procurement Assessment System (TPAS) was finalised and sent to Parliament on 24 June 2008. The Timber Procurement Assessment Committee (TPAC) is responsible for the assessment of certification systems to TPAS. The Procurement Criteria is structured into three categories namely Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), Chain-of-Custody and Logo Use (CoC) and Development, Application and Management of Certification Systems (DAM).

The TPAS criteria was adopted into the Dutch public procurement policy on wood based products. The policy addresses the purchasing of all wood based products for the Dutch government in order to secure the procurement of products that come from sustainable managed and legally harvested forests. As from 2010, all timber procured by the central government should come from a sustainable source. If sustainable produced timber is unavailable, timber from legal sources will be accepted.

EU Timber Regulation (EUTR)

Since the European Council and parliament adopted the EU Timber Regulation in October 2010, entering into force in March 2013, much attention has been paid to the implementation aspects of the regulation. In the Netherlands, a consultation meeting was organised for all stakeholders to discuss the regulation. Environmental groups and timber

Wood sourced from sustainable forest management.

The construction industry is the largest buyer of timber products thus the sector has a huge influence on the type of timber in demand and can help increase the level of sustainable products utilised.

sector welcomed the regulation. The regulation can contribute to creating a level playing field by excluding illegally harvested timber from the market. However, timber operators plead for a simple due diligence system in which existing certification schemes such as FSC and PEFC play important roles to ensure legality and sustainability.

Conclusion

In 2005, the market share of certified primary wood products on the Dutch market was 13% and it increased to 34% in 2008. This is corresponding to the market volume of 2.2 million m^3 of roundwood. FSC Netherlands has for instance entered into new agreements with different public and private organisations to only purchase FSC certified wood products. The Green Public Procurement Policy of the Dutch government has resulted in a large increase in the imported volume of certified wood products by its members. The most recent results of a monitoring of their policy aims performed by the Dutch Royal Timber Trade Federation indicated that the market share of certified wood products on the Dutch market has further increased to 50% in 2011.

References:
MTIB's Statistics
FAO's Statistics
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Mongabay.com
Timber Trade Journal Online

COMING EVENTS – DECEMBER 2013

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	ORGANISER
6-7	**WOODWORKING, MACHINERY, TECHNOLOGY TOOLS EXHIBITION**	Riga International Exhibitions Centre, Latvia	International Exhibition Company Bt 1 Tel : + 371 6706 5000 Fax : + 371 6706 5001 E-mail : info@bt1.lv
5-8	**CONSTRUMAR 2013** (Building, Construction, Decoration, Furniture Home and Office Design)	Office des Foires Exposition de Casablanca, Morocco	Urbancom Tel : + 212 22 7583 Fax : + 212 22 2077 E-mail : urbancom@urbancom.com.net
9-11	**THE HOME SHOW** (International Home and Interior Exhibition)	Oman International Centre, Muscat, Oman	Gec-Global Exhibitions and Conferences LCC Tel : + 968 2478 3800 Fax : + 968 2478 3500 E-mail : gec@globalexhibitionsoman.com
11-14	**ERBIC HOUSEHOLD AND HOTEL EQUIPMENT** (International Household, Furniture Decoration Exhibition)	Erbil International Fairground Sami Abdulrahman Park, Iraq	Pyramid Group Tel : + 20 2 2455 1177 Fax : + 20 2 2455 1188 E-mail : info@pyramidsfair.com
13-22	**SALON DE LAMEUBLEMENT ET DE LA DECORATION** (International Furniture and Furnishing, and Luminary Exhibition)	Parc des expositions du Kram, Tunisia	Societe des Foires Internationales de Tunis Tel : + 216 71 973 111 Fax : + 216 71 971 666 E-mail : ift.com@fkram.com.tn
20-29	**MOBILIA 2013** (Furniture Exhibition)	Parc des expositions de Sfax, Tunisia	Foire Internationale de Sfax Tel : + 216 74 22 8780 Fax : + 216 74 29 6527 E-mail : contact@foire-sfax.com.tn

JONGKONG – SUITABLE FOR FURNITURE


Transverse section


Tangential section

Jongkong is the Standard Malaysian Name for the timber of Dactylocladus stenostachys (Crypteroniaceae). *Vernacular names applied include Gatal (Sarawak), Medang Jongkong (Sarawak), Medang Tabak (Sabah), Merebong (Sarawak) and Tanjiong Awam (Sabah). This is a monotypic timber which is absent in Peninsular Malaysia. It is also known as Medang tabak (Brunei); and Mentibu, Merebung, Pardu, Sampinur and Turit (Indonesia). The wood of this tree is said to produce irritant effects in woodworkers (Orsler 1973).*

According to Woods & Calnan (1976) the colloquial name "tabak", which is used in Sarawak for the wood, suggests that it is known there as a nasal irritant. They refer to the toxic wood, ipé tabaco (Tabebuia ipe Standley, fam. *Bignoniaceae*) by analogy.

The genus *Dactylocladus Oliver* is monotypic and was previously classified in the *Melastomataceae*. It is found in fresh-water peat swamps in Borneo.

General Characteristics

The timber is moderately hard and moderately heavy with a density of 495-610 kg/m^3 air dry. The sapwood is not differentiated from the heartwood, which is light brown when fresh and darkens to pink-brown or red-brown. The timber is reported to be non-durable. Texture is fine and even, with straight or slightly interlocked grain.

Wood Anatomy

The vessels are arranged in no specific pattern – in multiple, commonly short (two-three vessels) radial rows. Vessels outline angular. Two distinct vessel diameter classes are absent. The vessels are mostly solitary. Vessel-ray pits with distinct borders, similar to intervessel pits and different from intervessel pits, of two distinct sizes or types in the same ray cell, of the same type in adjacent elements, located throughout the ray. Tyloses in vessels are absent. Other deposits in heartwood vessels are not observed.

Axial parenchyma is present and is not banded. Axial parenchyma is paratracheal. Paratracheal axial parenchyma is vasicentric, aliform, and confluent. Aliform parenchyma is winged. Axial parenchyma appears as strands and unlignified parenchyma absent.

Rays are of one size. Rays are composed of a single cell type (homocellular); homocellular ray cells procumbent.

Physical and Chemical Tests

The heartwood is not fluorescent. Water extract is not fluorescent; basically colourless to brown or shades of brown. The heartwood extractives are not leachable by water. The ethanol extract is not fluorescent while the colour of ethanol extract is colourless to brown or shades of brown. Chrome azurol-S test is negative. Froth test is negative. Splinter burns to partial ash and the ash is white to grey.

Mechanical/Strength Properties

The timber falls into Strength Group D (Burgess, 1958) or SG 6 (MS 544: Part 2:2001).

Machining Properties

It is reputed to work very well and produces a smooth and lustrous surface but nailing property is rated as poor.

Air Drying and Shrinkage

The timber seasons fairly slowly with a moderate amount of bowing and end-checking and a slight amount of cupping and splitting as the main sources of degrade. Thick boards of 13 mm take three months to air dry, while 38 mm thick boards take five months. Shrinkage is reported to be fairly high to very high. The data obtained by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia showed that radial shrinkage is 1.1% while tangential shrinkage is 1.8%. Work done in Sarawak showed that this timber has very high shrinkage with radial shrinkage averaging 3.1% and tangential shrinkage averaging 5.5%.

Uses

The timber is suitable for concrete shuttering, flooring, partitioning, furniture and possibly for plywood manufacture.

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4. *Wong T.M. 1982. A Dictionary of Malaysian Timbers. Revised by Lim S.C. & Chung R.C.K. Malayan Forest Records No. 30. FRIM, Kuala Lumpur. 201 pp.*
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MTIB Moments

A Briefing on the Findings of the MTIB–Timber Exporters Association Malaysia (TEAM) Mission to EU was held on 1 August 2013 at MTIB, Kuala Lumpur. Puan Hjh. Norchahaya Hashim, MTIB Deputy Director-General (third from left) chaired the panel session comprising TEAM and MTIB officials who participated in the mission.

Mr. Ian Davies from Arcradius Consulting Sdn. Bhd. explaining the rules and criteria on Mobili 2013/14 Design Competition to the panel of judges on 18 August 2013 in Kuala Lumpur. The prototype of the winning entry will be displayed at Milan Furniture Fair, Italy to be held in April 2014.

A Course on Finishing was organised by MTIB from 19 to 30 August 2013 at WISDEC in Banting, Selangor. Seen here is the demonstration on the usage of water based coating by the resource person from Unaxol Improlinks Marketing Sdn. Bhd.

MTIB organised a Course on Effective Techniques and Strategies on Debt Collection on 21-22 August 2013 at its premise. Twenty-four MTIB personnel attended the course.

YB Dato' Noriah Kasnon, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities presenting a mock cheque and trophy to representatives of MTIB Johor as the winner of the Audit and Control Self Assessment (ACSA) Star Rating 2011. The event took place on 27 August 2013 at MTIB, Kuala Lumpur.

YB Dato' Noriah Kasnon, Deputy Minister of MPIC; Datin Paduka Nurmala Abdul Rahim, Secretary-General of MPIC; YB Datuk Madius Tangau, MTIB Chairman; Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General posing with MTIB personnel who received their Excellent Service Awards for 2012. The event was held on 27 August 2013 at MTIB, Kuala Lumpur.