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WORLD BAMBOO DAY 2018 CELEBRATION TOUR OF THE NORTHERN REGION WITH MEDIA REPS AND BANKERS



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MALYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD



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Chief Editor

YBhg. Dato' Dr. Jalaluddin Harun FASc
Director-General

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Publisher

LEMBAGA PERINDUSTRIAN KAYU MALAYSIA
(MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD)
Level 13 - 17, Menara PGRM, 8, Jalan Pudu Ulu, Cheras,
P.O. Box 10887, 50728 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel : 603-9282 2235 Fax : 603-9200 3769/9283 9792
E-mail : info@mtib.gov.my Website : www.mtib.gov.my

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Gemilang Press Sdn Bhd
No. 16, Jalan S.B. Jaya 12, Taman Industri S.B. Jaya,
47000 Sungai Buloh, Selangor Darul Ehsan
Tel : 603 - 6151 2285
E-mail : gemilangpress2105@gmail.com



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The WBD 2018 official launch ceremony by YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries. Details on pages 3 and 15.



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WORLD BAMBOO DAY 2018 CELEBRATION

news



YBhg Dato' Dr. Jalaluddin Harun FASc, MTIB Diector-General (left) presenting a souvenir of bamboo products to YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries.



Visitors at the exhibition in Petrosains, KLCC.

Bamboo is a plant that belongs to the family Gramineae and has about 75 genera with over 1,250 species worldwide. Bamboo is abundant in the tropics and subtropic areas as it requires a humid and hot climate for good growth. Most bamboo grows wild in the foothills of the main range, in secondary forests, in ex-logging areas and along river banks. Bamboo is also cultivated in villages or in plantations that can be found in many parts of Asia, America and Southeast Asia. Malaysia has about 70 species of bamboo of which 45 species are native species that grow naturally in natural forests or ex-logging areas.

In an effort to further develop and promote the bamboo industry in Malaysia, MTIB recently organised the World Bamboo Day (WBD) 2018 celebration. The objectives of the celebration were to increase awareness of bamboo globally and locally, to protect natural resources & the environment and to ensure the sustainable utilisation of bamboo. It also aimed to promote new cultivation of bamboo for new industries, to promote its traditional uses and for the economic development of the community. This is in line with the National Bamboo Industry Action Plan (2011-2020).

The celebration was held in two separate

programmes namely; promotional activities at Petrosains, Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) in conjunction with the Science Festival and the WBD2018 official launch ceremony at Taman Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur. The promotional activities were held from 14 to 16 September in Petrosains, KLCC. The three-day event was filled with activities such as exhibitions of a wide range of bamboo products, a bamboo perfume demonstration, a colouring contest and *batik* painting on bamboo fabric. As part of the WBD2018 celebrations, visitors to KLCC were also entertained by an Angklung musical and a solo performance by Suwara Entertainment whilst a bamboo fashion show was brought by Diana Hadirin.

The WBD2018 which was officiated by YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries was in its seventh year of being celebrated in Malaysia. In her opening speech, YB Teresa highlighted on MTIB's role in developing the Bamboo Industry in Malaysia, making special reference to the Bamboo Industry Development Action Plan for 2011-2020. The Plan, which had been developed by MTIB, has five main strategic thrusts: Bamboo Plantation Establishment; Human Resources and Capital Development; Value-added Products Development; Research and Development; and Marketing, Trade and Promotion. While stressing on the need for the Malaysian



AUSTRIA

Timber Sector Achieved a Foreign Trade Surplus of EUR4 Billion

With a foreign trade surplus of EUR4.08 billion, the Austrian wood industry in 2017 once again clearly exceeded the long-term average. Only in 2007 was the trade balance better at EUR4.18 billion.

Imports of wood products at a value of EUR6.04 billion were offset by exports of EUR10.12 billion in 2017. By comparison, in 2016, the total value of imports of timber products amounted to EUR5.73 billion, while exports during the same period amounted to EUR9.89 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of EUR4.16 billion.

Of the total exports of the Austrian woodworking industry in 2017, paper products accounted for EUR5.03 billion, wood and wood products for EUR3.22 billion, while particleboard and fibreboard exports reached EUR0.94 billion. Furniture exports amounted EUR0.59 billion.

In total, 2017 export surplus of the Austrian timber sector slightly decreased by EUR80 million (2%) compared to 2016. Exports increased in value by EUR230 million (2.3%), while imports increased by EUR310 million (5.4%). According to calculations by Statistics Austria, the total Austrian trade balance for 2017 amounted to EUR5.6 billion, which corresponds to an increase of EUR1.2 billion compared to 2016 (27%).

“The wood value chain has once again given a strong signal of vitality in 2017. Our sector is traditionally very foreign trade oriented the wood industry accounts for 70% of exports, and the paper and pulp industry accounts for as much as 85% of its production continues to be an Austrian export hit, which is closely linked to the high international reputation of the local forestry industry and the enormous know-how of our timber industry in multi-storey timber construction,” said Rudolf Rosenstatter, chairman of the Forst Holz Papier (FHP- Forest, Wood Paper) cooperation agreement.

Fordaq, 3 September



CHINA

New Zealand and Russia Main Source of Logs

New Zealand was the main log supplier to China in the first quarter of 2018 accounting for 25% of total logs import. Import from New Zealand totalled 3.66 million m³ in the first quarter of 2018, a year-on-year increase of 16%.

The second ranked supplier of logs was Russia at 2.96 million m³, accounting for about 21% of the national total. In the first quarter of 2018, a year-on-year decrease of 1% was recorded for logs import from Russia.

Average price for imported logs from New Zealand rose 12% to USD142 per m³, while average price for imported logs from Russia declined 1% to USD124 per m³ in the first quarter of 2018.

Fordaq, 25 September



EUROPEAN UNION

Another Fall in the EU Imports of Tropical Flooring

The EU imports of flooring products from tropical countries fell a further 21% to 14,500 metric tonnes in the first half of 2018, continuing a long term decline in response to tough competition from European and Chinese manufacturers and non-wood alternatives, fashion trends favouring temperate timbers, supply constraints, and challenges of EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) conformance. The value of EU imports of wood flooring declined 18% to EUR32 million in the first half of 2018.

Most of the downturn was due to a 45% fall in imports of hardwood flooring products from Brazil, to 2,900 metric tonnes. However imports also fell 6% from Malaysia, to 4,800 metric tonnes, 9% from Indonesia to 3,600 metric tonnes and 53% from Peru to only 500

metric tonnes.

In the first half of 2018, imports fell dramatically into the two largest EU markets for tropical flooring, declining 49% to 3,000 metric tonnes in France and 18% to 1,800 metric tonnes in Belgium.

However, this decline was partially offset by an 82% increase in imports in Denmark, to 1,700 metric tonnes, which was the third largest EU destination for tropical flooring during the six month period.

Fordaq, 26 September



INDONESIA

Overtakes Malaysia as Key Exporter of Plywood to Japan

Indonesia has overtaken Malaysia in selling more plywood to Japan, the key export market for both countries. June 2018 marked the first month in recent years when the volume of plywood imports by Japan from Indonesia exceeded that of Malaysia's.

Figures from the Japan Finance Ministry showed that the country imported 79,000 m³ of plywood from Indonesia against 77,500 m³ from Malaysia in June.

"There was a sharp decline in Japan's imports of Malaysian plywood in June 2018. "The average volume of imports from Malaysia between January and May 2018 was about 90,000 m³ but June imports dropped to just over 77,000 m³," according to the latest International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) tropical timber market report.

Despite the sharp drop in imports from Malaysia, Japan registered a 14% jump in its plywood imports in June 2018 compared to a year ago.

However, in the first six months, Malaysia still beat Indonesia in plywood sales to Japan as their export volumes were 526,800 m³ and 460,900 m³ respectively. In 2017, Malaysia exported about 1.16 million m³ (monthly average of 96,783 m³) worth about RM2.27 billion to Japan, which was far ahead of Indonesia's 783,900 m³ (monthly average of 65,325 m³).

The ITTO report attributed the drop to falling production as the Sarawak government was strictly enforcing felling limits for timber/logs.

Due to a drastic drop in Sarawak logs production in recent years, plywood mills are facing log shortage, particularly quality logs, and have been forced to curtail output of panel products.

This resulted in some suppliers lagging behind several months in delivering their contractual orders to the Japanese.

With higher logs cost brought about by declined harvest volume, major plywood suppliers pushed up the prices of their products to Japan by about 15% since late last year. "Malaysian and Indonesian (plywood) suppliers are preparing higher prices before rainy season (normally kicks in fourth quarter of every year) with limited offers for Japan.

"The (Japanese) importers feel future purchase is difficult with remaining order balances so they buy the minimum necessary volume only," said the ITTO report, quoting trade news from the Japan Lumber Reports (JLR).

The Star, 17 September



INDONESIA

Boosts Share of EU Tropical Joinery Imports

The EU imports of tropical joinery products (excluding flooring) increased 2% to 67,600 metric tonnes in the first half of 2018. However, import value decreased, by 7% to EUR126 million, which may imply some shift in the mix of products involved.

In quantity terms, imports from Indonesia, by far the EU's largest tropical supplier of joinery products, which mainly consist of doors and laminated window scantlings and kitchen tops, increased 6% to 38,700 metric tonnes.

There was also a 72% increase in EU imports of joinery products from Viet Nam, to 6800 metric tonnes, during the six-month period. Imports from Congo increased to 1,400 metric tonnes. These gains offset a 22% decline in imports from Malaysia to 16,600 metric tonnes.

Imports of tropical joinery products in the UK, by far the largest European destination for this product group, increased 19% to 31,300 metric tonnes in the first six months of 2018. Imports increased by 37% to

9,000 metric tonnes in Belgium and by 60% to 7,100 metric tonnes in France.

However, imports fell 36% to 12,400 metric tonnes in the Netherlands.

Fordaq, 27 September



MYANMAR

UK Suspend for Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with Myanmar

Analysts in Myanmar report that the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) has signalled its intention to suspend support for activities related to preparations for the VPA with the European Union. DFID has said it intends to reshape its programme in Myanmar to focus on inclusion, social cohesion and equality.

This announcement came just as there was to be a transition from the Interim Task Force (ITF) to a Multi Stakeholders Group (MSG) which would lead to the negotiation phase of VPA Process in Myanmar.

Analysts write that this decision is a heavy blow to industry as it struggles to establish its national timber legality verification framework.

FORDAQ, 4 September



NORWAY

Builds World's Tallest Timber Tower

Norway has completed the frame of the world's tallest timber building, which is being lauded for being environmentally friendly and fire resistant. The Mjos Tower, which is situated near and named after a lake located about 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Oslo, saw its last beam hoisted by a crane this week. At 85.4 metres (just over 280 feet), it has 18 floors.

Promoters say that using wood, a renewable material, makes it possible to reduce CO₂ emissions compared to concrete, which is the primary material of residential

buildings in cities.

"Building with wood is helping us breathe in a better world," said businessman Arthur Buchardt, who added he began the project after being inspired by the Paris agreement on climate change.

Constructors say the building is fire resistant as it uses glue laminated timber that will only burn when continuously exposed to flames. When it opens in March 2019, the tower will surpass its 49-metre counterpart Treet (tree in Norwegian), which previously held the record of the world's tallest wooden building and is located in the western city of Bergen.

The Mjos Tower is to hold apartments, an indoor swimming pool, a hotel, offices, a restaurant and common areas. It was originally supposed to be 81 metres high, but a roof-top pergola added another 4.4 metres. This addition makes it slightly higher than the HoHo tower (84 metres), currently being constructed in Vienna.

AFP Relax, 5 September



ROMANIA

Furniture Industry Registers Surplus

The furniture industry of Romania registered a trade surplus amounting to EUR694 million (USD802.62 million) in the first five months of 2018. Specifically, Romania exported EUR987 million worth furniture in the period 3.2% up from the same period in 2017, meanwhile imports amounted to EUR 292 million. Romania ranked fifth in the EU and 11th worldwide for the export of furniture in light of these results.

Ziarul Financiar, 11 September



UKRAINE

Fuelwood May Be Allowed for Export

The Verkhovna Rada's Committee for Industrial Policy and Entrepreneurship has approved a proposal of Ukrainian President Petr Poroshenko to rule out

fuelwood (firewood) from the list of goods prohibited for export. The total ban on export of wood from the country has been imposed since 1 January 2017.

NV Biznes, 6 September



VIET NAM

Wood Exports Hoped to Reach USD9 Billion Ahead of Schedule

With large shipments in the first eight months of the year, Viet Nam's forestry sector expects to fulfil this year's export target of USD9 billion a month ahead of schedule.

About USD696 million worth of timber and wood products were shipped abroad in August, raising the eight-month figure to USD5.6 billion – up 12.6 % year-

on-year, according to the Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (VNForest).

The US, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea were the main markets of the Vietnamese wood sector during the period. Timber and wood product exports hoped to earn USD9 billion in 2018, up USD1 billion from last year, giving the sector a good chance to achieve the target a full month early. VNForest said the biggest success in wood trading is maintaining export growth while curbing the increase of imports.

The sharp fall in wood imports from Lao PDR and Cambodia was thanks to a prohibition of exporting wood from planted forests, along with efforts by the Vietnamese Government and businesses to control wood imports from the two neighbouring countries.

Meanwhile, exports to some countries with strong wood industry laws like Brazil, Chile and the US have grown well. VNForest added that Viet Nam will press ahead with diversifying wood import sources in the short term, while in the long term, it will develop timber forests to ensure supply for domestic production.

Viet Nam News, 18 September



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Malaysia: Port Klang Authority (PKA) Defers the Second Phase of Container Tariff Revision by Six Months

Source: *Sunday (The)*, 13 August

The implementation of the second phase of container tariff revision at Port Klang has been deferred by the Port Klang Authority (PKA) for six months from 1 September 2018 to 1 March 2019. The second phase of tariff revision will result in an approximate 13% increase on average on key container tariff items from the existing tariff rates. The revised tariff includes container terminal handling charges for export, import, shifting and re-stow, transshipment, handling charge for heavy lift or uncontainerised cargo and storage charge for the container. The tariff revision will help ensure the future growth of Port Klang and the financial viability of the proposed Westports container terminal expansion.

Malaysia: Bintulu Port's Net Profit Declined to RM9.44 million in April-June 2018

Source: *Star (The)* - Malaysia, 29 August

Port operator Bintulu Port of Malaysia recorded a net profit of RM9.44million (EUR1.98 million, USD2.31

million) in the quarter between April and June 2018, a decline RM25.75 million from the previous year. The company's revenue for the quarter rose from RM154.31million a year ago to RM158.94million.

Finland: Traffic in Port of Pietarsaari up 20% in H1 of 2018

Source: *Ilkka (E-edition PDF)*, 14 August

Traffic in Port of Pietarsaari in Finland totalled 653,000 tonnes in January-June 2018, up 20% year-on-year. Pulp accounted for 45% and sawntimber for 15% of the total. According to Juha Hakala, Managing Director of Port of Pietarsaari, the outlook is positive for the rest of 2018.

New Zealand: Port of Tauranga (POT) Posts 10.9% Revenue Growth in the First Half of 2018

Source: *Scoop.co.nz*, 24 August

New Zealand-based Port of Tauranga Limited (POT) reported a revenue of NZD283.70 million (EUR162.96million, USD189.52million) in the first six months of 2018, up by 10.9% year-on-year. Earnings from subsidiaries and associate firms totalled NZD16.4million, up by 11.9%. Cargo volume totalled

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

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all Ports m ³	% Change Aug 2018/ July 2018
	m ³	% Change Aug 2018/ July 2018	m ³	% Change Aug 2018/ July 2018	m ³	% Change Aug 2018/ July 2018	m ³	% Change Aug 2018/ July 2018	m ³	% Change Aug 2018/ July 2018		
Sawntimber	71,382	-9	9,732	-39	1,108	-10	959	15	8,835	-3	92,016	-13
MDF	31,874	-6	0	-100	6,458	-6	3,366	-34	12,280	-33	53,978	-17
Mouldings	12,764	0	157	-30	1,771	8	418	-33	1,422	-12	16,531	-2
Plywood	6,630	10	1,260	50	105	100	260	-23	13,099	-15	21,354	-6
Veneer	332	23	154	-50	0	0	35	-71	4,054	3	4,574	-1
Particleboard	36,484	-13	33	-90	4,465	19	1,158	272	5,335	-25	47,474	-11
TOTAL	159,484	-8	11,335	-38	13,906	3	6,195	-16	45,024	-19	235,927	-12

Source: MTIB



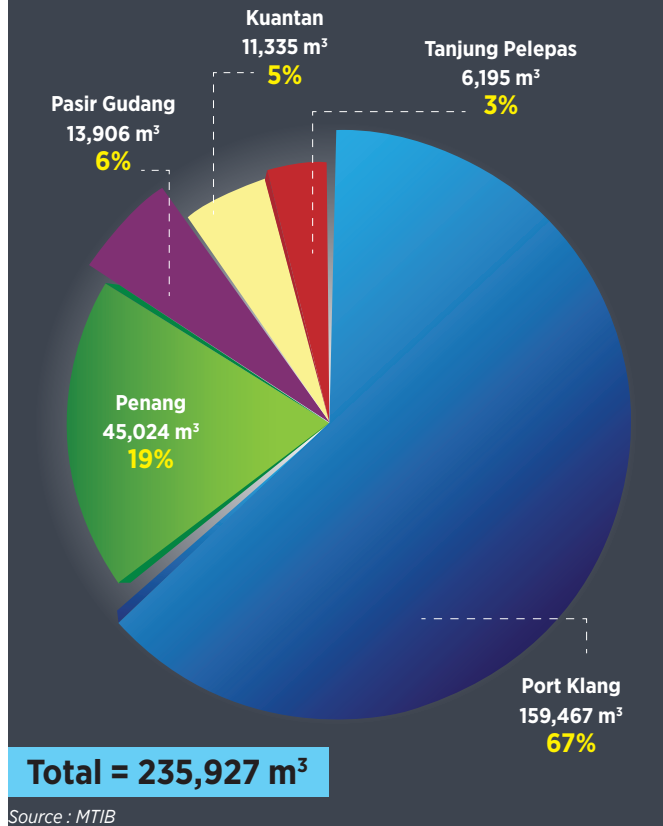
nearly 24.5million tonnes, up by 10.2%. Container throughput volume reached approximately 1.2 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), up by 8.9%. Of the container traffic, 25% were transshipment, up by 23.3%. The number of ship visits rose by 5.8%. In terms of volume, exports and imports rose by 8.2% and 13.7% to 15.4 million tonnes and 9 million tonnes respectively. Log exports volume reached 6.3 million tonnes, up by 14.3%. Net profit after tax totalled NZD94.3 million, up by 13%.

Hong Kong: Cosco Shipping Ports' Net Profit Grows by 70.1%

Source : Standard (The) - Hong Kong, 28 August

An annual growth of 70.1% was posted in Hong Kong-based Cosco Shipping Ports' net profit for the six months to June 2018 amounting to USD168.98 million (EUR145.30 million) upon adjustments for exceptional items. Planned capital expenditures for 2018 have been reduced from USD3.32 billion to USD750.9 million amid various uncertainties, as revealed by Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Zhang Wei.

Timber Shipment through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, August 2018



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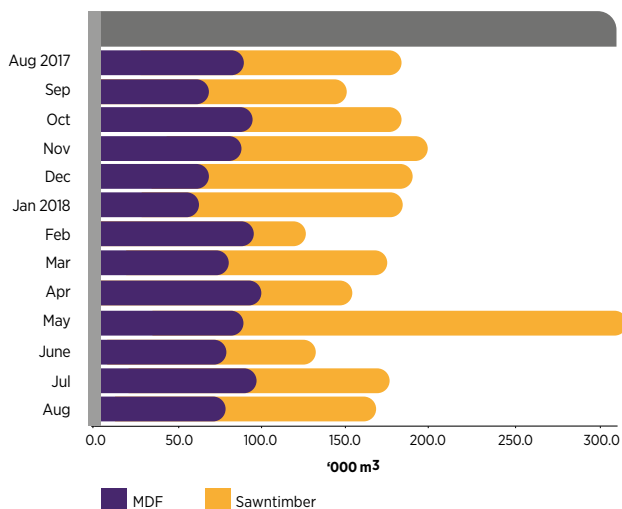
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Malaysia : Export of Sawntimber and MDF
(Aug 2017-Aug 2018/Volume ('000m³)



Total export of Malaysian timber and timber products in August 2018 increased 3% valued at RM2.0 billion over the previous month. However, cumulative export for the period of January to August 2018 decreased 6% valued at RM14.6 billion over the previous corresponding period.

SAWNTIMBER

Export of sawntimber in August 2018 decreased 6% in volume however increased 4% in value to 167,475 m³ totalled RM324.1 million as compared to the previous month. Cumulative export for the first eight months of 2018 decreased 12% in volume and 7% in value to 1.3 million m³ worth RM2.4 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Export of sawntimber to the EU for the month increased 8% to 9,262 m³ from 8,577 m³ in the previous month. Export to the UK and Italy increased 81% to 1,963 m³ and 140% to 1,006 m³ respectively. Similarly, export to France grew 22% to 808 m³ followed by Belgium at 53% to 940 m³. In the meanwhile, purchases made by the Netherlands and Germany declined 15% to 2,976 m³ and 37% to 865 m³ respectively.

Total exports to West Asia increased slightly by 2% to 22,136 m³ from 21,810 m³ recorded in the previous month. Export to Yemen increased 15% to 4,574 m³ followed by Saudi Arabia 27% to 1,100 m³ and Qatar 74% to 1,090 m³. However, export to the UAE and Oman declined 7% to 9,280 m³ and 9% to 4,358 m³ respectively.

Buying from ASEAN decreased 23% to 56,005 m³ from 72,349 m³ registered in the previous month. Export of sawntimber to Thailand, a major buyer of sawntimber from Malaysia declined 36% to 28,245 m³ from 44,351 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, export to the Philippines decreased 3% to 18,672 m³ followed by Viet Nam 1% to 2,452 m³. However, export to Singapore increased 7% to 6,481 m³ from 6,068 m³ in the previous month.

Shipments to East Asia increased 11% to 37,978 m³

from 34,245 m³ in the previous month. Export to China improved 5% to 21,851 m³ from 20,912 m³ in the previous month. Likewise, export to Taiwan increased 16% to 7,519 m³ followed by South Korea with 161% to 3,458 m³. Meanwhile, export to Japan declined marginally to 4,987 m³ from 5,045 m³ in the previous month.

Elsewhere, exports to the US decreased 14% to 1,315 m³ whilst export to Australia increased 24% to 767 m³. Meanwhile, demand from South Africa increased 16% to 5,363 m³ from 4,606 m³ in the previous month.

The average FOB price of sawntimber increased 7% to RM1,873 per m³ from RM1,758 per m³ in the previous month. Price of Dark Red Meranti (DRM) increased slightly to RM2,667 per m³ from RM2,656 per m³ in the previous month. Price of DRM to the Netherlands declined 2% to RM3,507 per m³ from RM3,562 per m³ in the previous month. Keruing was traded at RM2,162 per m³, a decrease of 2% from RM2,204 per m³ in the previous month.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Malaysia's exports of MDF for August 2018 decreased 22% in volume and 14% in value compared to previous month. Export totalled 74,271 m³ at RM94.6 million.

Exports to East Asia registered an increase of 9% to 13,583 m³ from 12,519 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Japan show positive growth by 3% to 11,664 m³ followed by Taiwan at 226% increased to 1,121 m³. Whilst, exports to South Korea recorded negative growth with a decrease of 2% to 493 m³ followed by China including Hong Kong decreased by 22% to 305 m³.

Meanwhile, exports to West Asia decreased 26% to 25,309 m³ from 34,018 m³ in the previous month. Export to Bahrain recorded negative growth of 13% to 728 m³ followed by Qatar at 18% to 642 m³, Kuwait at 32% to 5,070 m³, the UAE at 36% to 9,237 m³ and Syria at 43% to 2,240 m³. In contrast, export to Saudi Arabia, Oman and Lebanon increased by 3% to 2,051 m³, 59% to 2,825 m³ and 61% to 1,702 m³ respectively. Furthermore, Iran did not make any purchases for the month.

In addition, export to South Asia recorded negative growth by 44%. Export to India decreased by 23% to 4,127 m³, followed by Sri Lanka 59% to 1,392 m³ and Pakistan 71% to 1,646 m³. Contrarily, Bangladesh increased by 9% to 2,169 m³.

Elsewhere, exports to the US, Mauritius and the UK increased by 51% to 1,495 m³, 338% to 429 m³ and 339% to 171 m³ respectively. However, export to South Africa and Australia showed negative growth by 2% to 786 m³ and 45% to 2,651 m³ respectively.

In ASEAN, total export increased by 4% to 15,825 m³ from 15,283 m³ in the previous month. Exports to the Philippines and Indonesia decreased by 9% to 2,936 m³ and 17% to 3,772 m³ respectively. However, Viet Nam increased by

23% to 8,830 m³. Singapore did not make any purchase for this month.

The FOB price of MDF increased to RM1,273 per m³ from RM1,161 per m³, an increase of 10% from the previous month.

PLYWOOD

Export of plywood in August 2018 increased in volume and value by 13% and 12% to 201,512 m³ at RM445.2 million compared to the previous month.

The EU countries have reduced their intake of plywood by 14% to 7,949 m³. The UK, the major buyer of Malaysian plywood has decreased its intake by 2% to 2,136 m³. Belgium, Ireland and the Netherlands also have reduced its intake by 76%, 52% and 34% to 299 m³, 166 m³ and 84 m³ respectively. In contrast, Italy made its purchase for this month at 77 m³. Meanwhile, Denmark, France and Germany didn't make any purchases for this month.

Exports to ASEAN and East Asia region recorded an increase by 6% with 141,088 m³ compared to previous month. In East Asia region, Japan increased its intake by 8% to 95,955 m³. Similarly, South Korea and China have increased their intake by 14% and 40% to 21,605 m³ and 3,287 m³ respectively. In contrast, Taiwan and Hong Kong have reduced its import of plywood by 42% and 15% to 6,561 m³ and 2,704 m³ respectively for this month.

Malaysia's plywood trade with its ASEAN partners showed mixed trend this month. Exports to Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines have increased by 16%, 6% and 13% to 4,790 m³, 2,934 m³ and 1,323 m³ respectively. Meanwhile Indonesia does not make any purchases this month.

Exports to West Asia countries recorded an increase of 138% to 24,964 m³ as compared to the previous month. Exports to Yemen, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have increased by 74%, 176% and 57% to 8,730 m³, 2,180 m³ and 1,515 m³ respectively. Similarly, exports to Bahrain and Qatar have increased by 1% and 18% to 424 m³ and 298 m³ respectively. Contrarily, Kuwait has reduced its purchase by 52% to 236 m³.

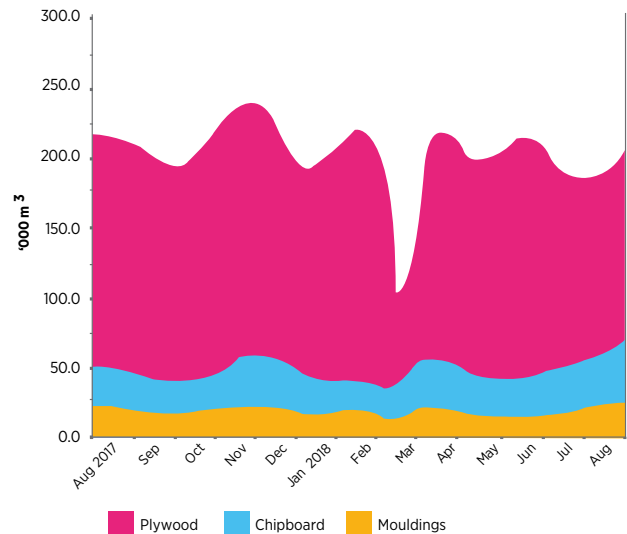
Export of plywood to the Americas region increased by 5% to 19,800 m³ as compared to the previous month. The US has increased its intake of plywood by 2% to 16,351 m³ followed by Mexico 18% to 3,155 m³. Moving to Oceania region, Australia has increased its intake by 16% to 3,600 m³ but New Zealand has reduced its intake by 68% to 41 m³.

Exports to African continent have increased by 51% to 1,815 m³ for this month. South Africa has increased its intake of plywood by 50% to 129 m³ while Mauritius reduced its intake by 26% to 49 m³. Algeria does not make any purchases this month.

The FOB price of plywood has decreased by 1% to RM2,209 per m³ from RM2,225 per m³ in the previous month.

Malaysia : Export of Plywood, Chipboard and Mouldings

(Aug 2017-Aug 2018/Volume ('000m³)



MOULDINGS

Exports of mouldings for the month increased by 6% in volume and 8% in value to 21,461 m³ and RM78.5 million respectively. However, cumulative exports for the period of January to August 2018 increased by 2% in volume and 3% in value to 161,845 m³ and RM582.5 million respectively as compared to the previous corresponding period in 2017.

Exports to the EU for the month recorded at 8,308 m³, an increase of 26.3% compared to the previous month. Germany, the UK and Netherlands increased their purchases by 45%, 32% and 25% to 1,042 m³, 658 m³ and 4,989 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Belgium decreased its intakes by 4% to 520 m³ compared to the previous month. However, Italy resumed its purchases at 48 m³.

Exports to ASEAN region increased as Viet Nam and Singapore intake of mouldings increased by 101% and 23% to 445 m³ and 1,705 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Indonesia resumed its purchases at 127 m³.

Meanwhile, China, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan increased their intake by 72%, 54%, 11% and 5% to 724 m³, 298 m³, 1,431 m³ and 2,004 m³ respectively. Taiwan decreased its intakes by 71% to 41 m³ compared to the previous month.

Elsewhere, export to Canada and Australia increased by 67% and 8% to 77 m³ and 2,852 m³ respectively. However, the US decreased its purchases by 4% to 1,835 m³ compared to the previous month.

FOB unit value decreased 1% to RM3,658 per m³ compared to the previous month.

VENEER

Export of veneer for August 2018 increased by 22% in volume and 36% in value to 18,883 m³ at RM35.2 million as compared to the previous month. Exports to South

AUGUST 2018

The average domestic prices of logs for the month continued to be firm for most of the species.

LOGS

Log prices for the species of Chengal and Balau stood firm at RM4,500 per tonne and RM3,200 per tonne respectively. Meanwhile, price of Merbau increased slightly by 1.6% to RM3,100 per tonne over previous month. Prices of Keruing and Kempas were traded at RM1,250 per tonne and RM1,870 per tonne respectively. Price of Dark Red Meranti and Red Meranti charted at RM2,100 per tonne and RM1,850 per tonne respectively. On the other hand, logs prices for Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood remained at RM900 per tonne and RM900 per tonne respectively.

SAWNTIMBER

The average sawntimber prices for most species in the domestic market continues to firm such as the previous month.

The sawntimber prices of Chengal increased slightly by 1.0% to RM6,921 per m³ whilst Red Balau dropped by 1.1% to RM3,037 per m³ respectively. Price for Keruing increased by 7.5% to RM1,215 per m³ over the previous month. Meanwhile, prices for Dark Red Meranti and Red Meranti were traded at RM2,036 per m³ and RM2,013 per m³ respectively. On the other hand, sawntimber prices of Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood charted at RM975 per m³ and RM918 per m³ respectively.

PLYWOOD

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

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Industry reported that the supply of MDF to the domestic market continued to be sufficient whilst the prices were quoted at last month's level. The MDF of 4 mm, 6 mm, 9 mm and 12 mm of thicknesses were traded at RM13.50, RM17.15, RM23.30 and RM30.40 per piece respectively.

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE - AUGUST 2018

From	Product	JUL 2018		AUG 2018		% Change In Volume Aug 2018 / Jul 2018	% Change In Value Aug 2018 / Jul 2018
		Volume (m ³)	Value (RM '000)	Volume (m ³)	Value (RM '000)		
SABAH	Logs	2,250	138	0	0	-100	-100
	Sawntimber	359	516	794	1,305	121	153
	Plywood	4,023	8,336	8,077	17,669	101	112
	Veneer	21	81	0	0	100	100
SARAWAK	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	754	1,020	1,183	1,981	57	94
	Plywood	3,606	4,764	3,265	4,112	-9	-14
	Veneer	4,934	7,179	3,808	5,773	-23	-20

Source : Department of Statistics, Malaysia

The shipments of sawntimber from Sabah to Peninsular increased tremendously by 121% in volume from 359 m³ to 794 m³ worth at RM1.3 million. Likewise, export of plywood increased sharply by 101% in volume to 8,077 m³ worth at RM17.7 million.

Trade of sawntimber from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia increased by 57% to 1,183 m³ worth at RM1.9 million. Meanwhile, trade of plywood

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE *

- AUGUST 2018

dropped by 9% to 3,265 m³ worth at RM4.1 million. Similarly, trade of veneer dropped by 23% in volume to 3,808 m³ worth at RM5.8 million.

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

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

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

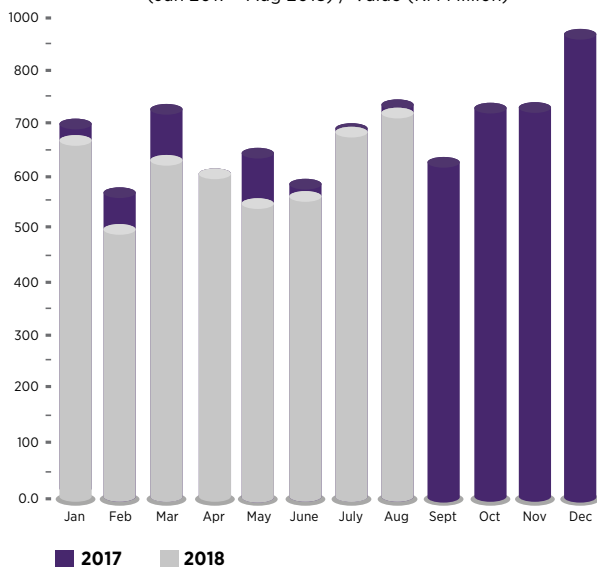
SPECIES	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS		SCANTLINGS
HEAVY HARDWOOD					
Chengal	4,500	6,921	5,487		7,486
Balau	3,200	3,390	2,825		2,743
Red Balau	2,200	3,037	2,613		3,355
Merbau	3,100	4,641	3,319		3,955
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	940	975	777		958
MEDIUM HARDWOOD					
Keruing	1,250	1,215	1,059		2,203
Kempas	1,870	2,401	2,295		2,331
Kapur	1,700	1,746	1,412		1,766
Mengkulang	1,350	2,189	1,066		2,126
Tualang	1,400	2,507	2,331		2,493
LIGHT HARDWOOD					
Dark Red Meranti	2,100	2,036	1,695		3,001
Red Meranti	1,850	2,013	1,660		2,119
Yellow Meranti	1,200	1,554	1,236		1,271
White Meranti	1,480	2,472	1,412		2,260
Mersawa	1,550	1,836	1,589		2,013
Nyato	1,300	1,518	1,059		1,130
Sepetir	1,370	1,695	1,003		1,624
Jelutong	1,100	1,780	1,215		1,730
Mixed Light Hardwood	900	918	742		1,095
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD <i>Heavea brasiliensis</i>	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
	180	1" X 1"	2" X 2"	3" X 3"	4" X 4"
		1,126	1,255	1,414	1,585
PLYWOOD 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm		12mm
	14.60	22.00	38.00		48.00
MDF 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm		12mm
	13.50	17.15	23.30		30.40

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

* Prices are only indicative

Cont. from page 11

Malaysia : Export of Wooden Furniture (Jan 2017 - Aug 2018) / Value (RM Million)



Source : Department of Statistics, Malaysia

Korea and Taiwan have increased by 38% and 117% to 6,428 m³ and 5,686 m³ respectively. Similarly, India also has increased its intake of veneer by 66 m³ to 268 m³ from the previous month.

Contrarily, China and the Philippines have reduced its intake of veneer by 27% and 19% to 3,445 m³ and 1,030 m³ respectively. Exports to Singapore and Viet Nam also have reduced by 61% and 91% to 24 m³ and 43 m³ respectively. Similarly, Australia and Canada have reduced its intake by 94% and 69% to 10 m³ and 24 m³ respectively. On the other hand, Italy and Chile did not make any purchase this month.

The FOB price of veneer for August 2018 is at RM1,863 per m³, an increase of 11% from RM1,672 per m³ in the previous month.

BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

Total BJC cumulative exports from January to August 2018 decreased 16% to RM698.0 million as compared to RM827.3 million in the corresponding period last year. Export to the EU decreased 1% to RM244.8 million. Export to the Netherlands, France and Denmark increased by 156%, 67% and 22% to RM18.2 million, RM31.0 million and RM20.0 million respectively. Meanwhile, export to Turkey, Sweden, Germany, the UK, Italy and Belgium decreased by 77%, 47%, 29%, 16%, 9% and 1% to RM1.4 million, RM2.9 million, RM17.1 million, RM95.0 million, RM5.2 million and RM35.7 million compared to the previous year.

In Asia, exports to Pakistan, South Korea, India, Taiwan and Saudi Arabia, decreased by 92%, 65%, 47%, 46% and 45% to RM2.5 million, RM580.2 thousand, RM20.3 million, RM6.5 million and RM1.2 million respectively. Similarly, exports to Thailand, the UAE, Singapore, Japan and Viet Nam also decreased by 31%, 28%, 27%, 14% and 1% to RM15.3 million, RM4.4 million, RM61.7 million, RM44.8 million and RM27.6 million respectively. However, Qatar

resumed its purchases meanwhile Bahrain did not make any purchases.

Exports to South Africa increased by 5% to RM12.1 million compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, exports to Mauritius and Australia decreased by 40% and 10% to RM70 thousand and RM129.2 million respectively. However, exports to Reunion Island also decreased by 99% to RM19.6 thousand. On the other hand, the US increased its intake by 6% to RM73.8 million from RM70.0 million in the previous corresponding period.

FURNITURE

Exports of wooden and rattan furniture for the period under review in 2018 decreased 7% compared to the corresponding period of 2017. Total shipment recorded RM5.0 billion against RM5.3 billion in 2017.

The US reduced its consumption by 10%, into RM1.8 billion in 2018 from RM2.0 billion in the previous corresponding period. Demand from Canada decreased 9% to RM168.3 million from RM185.7 million in the previous corresponding period. Australia also reduced its intake by 12% to RM344.3 million.

In East Asia, China boosted its wooden furniture consumption by 34% with a purchase of RM152.4 million in 2018 from RM113.8 million in 2017. Meanwhile, Japan and South Korea reduced its consumption by 15% and 18% to RM342.2 million and RM63.7 million.

On the other hand, shipments to ASEAN region such as Singapore improved by 2% to RM293.9 million. The Philippines also increased their intake by 17% to RM135.3 million.

Elsewhere, exports to the UAE and Saudi Arabia decreased by 30% and 20% to RM86.1 million and RM81.2 million respectively. Similarly, Kuwait and Bahrain also decreased their wooden furniture consumption by 3% and 28% to RM30.3 million and RM11.3 million respectively. On the other hand, shipments to Qatar increased 81% to RM15.4 million compared to the previous year. Shipment to India also recorded an increase of 8% to RM144.8 million.

In Europe, the UK and Belgium reduced its intake by 18% and 7% to RM247.7 million and RM24.8 million respectively. Meanwhile, France increased their import by 3% to RM44.9 million respectively. Similarly, export to South Africa increased 30% to RM47.4 million compared to the previous year.

Rattan furniture shipments for the period of January to August 2018 recorded a negative growth with a decrease of 82% to RM2.5 million from RM14.3 million in the previous corresponding period. Export to Singapore, the UK and Australia decreased by 97%, 58% and 98% to RM70 thousand, RM261 thousand and RM29 thousand respectively. Elsewhere, Belgium resumed purchases at RM49 thousand.

Cont. from page 3

bamboo industry to make the radical move to produce higher value-added products through innovation and technology, YB Puan Teresa also expressed her hope that WBD would be able to spur further growth of the bamboo industry in Malaysia through the increased awareness of the public on the importance of bamboo.

In addition, the WBD2018 official launch ceremony in Taman Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur, also included bamboo tree planting activities. Fifty bamboo trees were planted in addition to the 130 clumps of bamboo trees that were previously planted in conjunction with WBD2013 and WBD2014. The newly planted were from the bamboo species of Buluh Betong (*Dendrocalamus asper*), Buluh Semantan (*Gigantochloa scortechinii*), Buluh Hitam (*Gigantochloa atrovioleacea*) and Buluh Beting (*Gigantochloa levis*). Five Malaysian bamboo

companies participated in this year's WBD celebrations. The WBD2018 celebrations managed to attract almost 20,000 visitors. 



MTIB booth.



Crowd during colouring contest.



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TOUR OF THE NORTHERN REGION WITH MEDIA REPS AND BANKERS

news



YBhg. Dato' Dr. Jalaluddin Harun FASc, MTIB Director-General (sixth from right) with media.

A four-day Northern Region tour for media representatives and bankers was organised by MTIB from 24 to 27 September. The tour, which covered Selangor, Perak, Perlis, Pulau Langkawi and Kedah, aimed at building stronger rapport between the industry and the media and bank representatives.

Twenty-seven participants participated this tour, comprising representatives from various media organisations namely Berita Nasional Malaysia (Bernama), Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM), Utusan Malaysia, Harian Metro, Stesen Radio Nasional FM, B&I Worldwide Sdn. Bhd. and Info Pertanian. A representative from SME Corp, officers from the Ministry of Primary Industries (Communication Corporate Unit) as well as officers from MTIB were also part of the group.

Day 1 : 24 September

First stop: Crops for the Future Research Centre (CFFRC) located at Jalan Broga, Semenyih, Selangor. CFFRC was established in 2009 to develop solutions to diversify future agricultural projects using underutilised crops. A briefing session was given by Prof. Sayed Azam Ali, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CFFRC regarding their mission and achievements on the study of potential crops to be developed to accommodate future needs.



The group posing at Kilang Bidin Jasin Sdn. Bhd. in Kangar, Perlis.



At Syarikat Idea Craft and Wood Enterprise in Kuah, Langkawi.

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The highlight of the visit was its iconic Glued Laminated Timber (glulam) domes. Glulam is a versatile and innovative construction material made from multiple layers of solid-wood lumber bonded together with high-strength adhesive to form a single structural unit. The glulam domes are from Malagangai species with its span of 21.2 radius formed using steel rings.

Second stop: Bamboo Jungle Adventures (BJA) located at Kg. Talang Tengah, Sungai Siput, Perak. BJA was established by Encik Ahmad Mazlan Othman in 2013. BJA has been collaborating with MTIB in various aspects of the bamboo industry such as master-skill training programmes to establish more job opportunities for Malaysians in rural areas and also to create awareness among the public on the applications of bamboo in producing many bamboo-based products such as bicycles, musical instruments, cloth, furniture and construction materials.

Day 2 : 25 September

First stop: Syarikat Pioneer OSB Sdn. Bhd. located at Lot 1769 & 1870, Batu 10, Jalan Pokok Sena, Mukim Jabi, Alor Star, Kedah.

According to Encik Pek Woei Hyshyong, Executive Director of Syarikat Pioneer OSB Sdn. Bhd., the company is the only company in Southeast Asia to manufacture and offer Oriented Strand Boards, a revolutionary alternative to conventional wood panels for building constructions such as walls and roof sheathing, subfloors, and ideal wood panels for industrial packaging and interior furnishing for making household furniture. The OSB are engineered wood panels where rectangular wood strands are arranged in cross oriented layers and bonded together with resin. These greener options to plywood are moisture resistant, have high load capacities and are customisable to different sizes, thickness and shapes.

Second stop: Syarikat The One Gaharu Sdn. Bhd. was established in year 2014 and located at Jalan Hutan Kampung, Alor Star, Kedah. This visit provided insights regarding the noble Agarwood (*Aquilaria* spp.) tree.

According to Tuan Haji Ramli who has 18 years' experience, Agarwood created by artificial inducement is called cultivated Agarwood or

induced Agarwood. The artificial inducement technique (or Agarwood inducement) consists of two actions: to wound the tree and to pour a stimulative agent (inoculant) into this injury. The quantity and quality of cultivated Agarwood surrounding the injury depends on the composition of the inoculant and the method of transfusing the inoculant into the tree.

The participants were given the opportunity to observe the inoculation process which involves drilling of trees and keeping the wound open by placing a small piece of plastic pipe in those holes followed by a chemical injection to stimulate the tree's defence mechanism that produces resin. The participants also managed to observe the distillation process during which essential gaharu oils are obtained. When producing gaharu oils, Agarwood chips are fully submerged in water, producing a wood 'soup', followed by a boiling process in huge boilers. The steam containing the aromatic plant molecules is captured and condensed, and the oil floats to the top of the distilled water component. When the condensed material cools down, the oil and hydrosol will be separated and consequently gaharu oil is obtained.

According to Encik Wan Ahmad Firdaus, the Managing Director, the company currently has 40 boilers to carry out the refining process to produce gaharu oil. One boiler, worth RM10,000.00 has the capability to process 20kg agarwood core in the form of dust at a time. Gaharu oil has high value and demand in Middle East countries.

Third stop: Kilang Bidin Jasin Sdn. Bhd. located at Batu 2, Jalan Raja Syed Alwi, 01000 Kangar, Perlis. The company is a small and medium enterprise (SME) in Kangar, Perlis. It is a recipient of MTIB's machine beneficiary programme. The company was established in 1989 and is currently managed by Encik Zaharin Bidin. According to Encik Zaharin, machines received through MTIB's programme have increased the company's productivity in furniture manufacturing.

The company produces various furniture products such as home sets, kitchen cabinets and school furniture.

After Perlis the participants continued their journey to Langkawi by ferry.

MALAYSIAN CONTESTANTS WIN MEDALS IN CABINET MAKING AND JOINERY IN ASC 2018

news



National experts with the winners in the cabinetmaking trade.

The Malaysian contingent participated in the 12th ASEAN Skills Competition (ASC) at the IMPACT Muang Thong Thani in Bangkok, Thailand from 26 August to 5 September. More than 40 contestants from various local skills institutes in Malaysia participated in the ASC 2018. There were 26 trade areas or fields of skills in the ASC 2018, such as IT software solution for business, industrial automation, car painting, cabinetmaking and joinery.

The Malaysian contingent managed to win four gold medals, one silver and six bronze. In the cabinetmaking trade category, Malaysia won two medallion for excellence, whereby in the joinery trade, Malaysia received one medallion for excellence. The gold medal winner for the cabinetmaking and joinery trade was Indonesia. The winner of the medallion for excellence in the cabinetmaking trade from Malaysia were Joerdan Jesselly James (Wood Industry Skills Development Centre - WISDEC) and Muhammad Kamarul Afzan Nazari (MARA Skills Institute (IKM) Tan Sri Yahya Ahmad, Pekan) while Muhammad Izzul Syahmi Mohd Robi (Institut Latihan Perindustrian Kuala Terengganu) won the medallion for excellence in joinery.

In the ASC 2018, the Malaysian contingent was led by YB Dato' Mahfuz bin Omar, Deputy Minister of Human Resources. The Deputy Minister applauded the Malaysian team for their hard work and commitment during the competition. He urged future Malaysia competitors to aim for even higher success in the next WorldSkills Competition (WSC) which to be held in Kazan, Russia in 2019. According to him, Malaysia's participation in the ASC and WSC is in line with the objectives of the 11th Malaysia Plan to have more skilled workers by 2020. The 13th ASC will be hosted by Singapore in 2020.

ASC was initiated in 1993 at the ILO/APSDEP meeting in Japan. It is a biennial skills competition among ASEAN member countries. The competition aims to promote and upgrade skills standards in the region and ultimately to prepare local talents to compete in the international arena.

The objectives of the ASC are:

- To foster technical cooperation in vocational/technical education and training between member countries
- To encourage close cooperation among



Joinery contestant preparing his project.

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government, industries, employers, workers organisation and vocational training institutes

- To promote the development of quality vocational and technical and work values among the youth and skill workers.

ASC is an activity where ASEAN member countries can cooperate and work together at regional level in terms of skills development, to achieve international standard. ASC consequently, will pave the way for work excellence and the development of high skilled workers. The rules of the competition are as follows:

- The competition will be held every two years and the member countries will take turns to host through voting resolutions.
- ASEAN member countries have agreed to use the test projects of the latest WorldSkills Competition (A biennial skill competition with about 50 member countries) for the ASC test project. The WorldSkills test projects are drafted by skills area experts, leaders from different industrial sectors. The test project element must reflect the latest technology and skills, and are amended before every competition. Thus, by using a WorldSkills test project as the basis for developing the ASC test project, the youths of ASEAN member countries will be kept up to date with the world skills standard.
- Contestants or competitors must not be over 22 years old. Each country can send only two competitors for each skill area.

There has been 12 ASEAN Skills Competition:

- 1st ASC hosted by Malaysia from 12 to 23 August 1995
- 2nd ASC hosted by Philippines from 10 to 17



Contestants with their projects in the cabinetmaking trade.

December 1996

- 3rd ASC hosted by Thailand from 16 to 18 March 2001
- 4th ASC hosted by Indonesia from 1 to 10 October 2002
- 5th ASC hosted by Viet Nam from 21 to 30 September 2004
- 6th ASC hosted by Brunei Darussalam from 3 to 12 September 2006
- 7th ASC hosted by Malaysia from 10 to 19 November 2008
- 8th ASC hosted by Thailand from 14 to 24 November 2010
- 9th ASC hosted by Indonesia from 11 to 20 November 2012
- 10th ASC hosted by Viet Nam from 19 to 29 October 2014
- 11th ASC hosted by Malaysia from 19 to 29 September 2016
- 12th ASC hosted by Thailand from 26 August to 5 September 2018

MTIB through WISDEC has been involved in the skills competition since 10 years ago. To develop human capital in the timber industry, MTIB was appointed as Industry Lead Body (ILB) by the Department of Skills Development, Ministry of Human Resources



Contestants and national experts in joinery with the project.

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in 2012. As ILB, MTIB has undertaken many training programmes and activities, aimed to elevate the level of skills of human resources in the timber industry. Prior to their participation in the ASC 2018, the four contestants in the cabinetmaking and joinery trade categories (two for each trade category) had undergone intensive training at MTIB's training centre, WISDEC in Banting, Selangor.

They were trained at WISDEC under the supervision of Encik Amri Mustaffa as national expert in cabinetmaking and Encik Saifol Azri Mohamad as national expert in joinery, with Encik Mohd Azizi Razali and Encik Mohd Akmal Hassan as national coaches.

A cabinet maker produces furniture, cabinetry and architectural millwork from a variety of natural and manufactured materials for both the commercial and residential markets. In the cabinetmaking trade, cabinet makers specialise in working with wood and other construction materials to fabricate useful and decorative items. They must master a combination of traditional and contemporary techniques using hand tools such as chisels and mallets and modern tools such as electronic and even computerised woodworking equipment. A cabinet maker should be able to:

- identify various types of wood and composite materials
- safely operate hand and power tools
- use woodworking machines and perform detailed milling
- perform material breakouts, case work assembly, gluing and laminating
- construct staircases, sashes, doors, mouldings, furniture and cabinets
- execute specialty work involving bends and curves.

The joinery trade, on the other hand, involves the process of connecting or joining two or more pieces of wood together through the use of various forms of wood joints. In fine woodworking, common forms of joinery include dovetail joints, mortise-and-tenon joints, biscuit joints, lap joints, and spline joints. Joiners should be able to construct doors, windows, stairs and other architectural objects. Joinery involves work both by hand and machine.

ASC 2018 attracted 331 contestants from 10 ASEAN member countries and thousands of international guests, experts, observers and students. The ASEAN countries comprised Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The 13th ASC will be hosted by Singapore in 2020. 



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Jelutong Dyera spp.

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REPORT ON ISO/TC 165: TIMBER STRUCTURE



news

The ISO/TC 165:Timber Structures encompasses standardisation concerning structural applications of timber, wood-based panels, other wood-based products, and related lignocellulosic fibrous materials including: requirements for design; structural properties, performance, and design value of materials, products, components, and assemblies and; test methods and requirements to establish related structural, mechanical and physical properties and performance. At present six working groups (WG) are actively involved in the deliberation which includes:

- WG 2 : Requirements for structural glued laminated elements
- WG 6 : Glued joints for timber structures
- WG 7 : Connections and assemblies
- WG 10 : Evaluation of characteristic values for structural timber products
- WG 11 : Classification for solid timber
- WG 12 : Structural use of bamboo

Since ISO/TC 165 is an important meeting for updating any new research and development related to timber structures, it is pertinent for Malaysia to continuously send experts to ensure all information regarding tropical hardwoods could be further considered by the meeting and any inputs will be part of relevant Working Group/s (WG) for EN/ISO Standards. It is also in line with MTIB's role as a Standards Development Agency (SDA), having been appointed by the Department of Standards Malaysia in August 2013. Currently under ISO/TC 165, a total of 32 countries are under the Participative (P) category whilst 31 countries are under the Observer (O) category. Ethiopia and Denmark were upgraded from O to P whilst Nigeria and Ukraine were downgraded from P to O. Malaysia is an active P member, providing



Malaysian delegates with Dr. Erol and Paul Jaerlich and Convenor of WG12 from China.

continuous technical inputs via balloting processes as required under the ISO Directives and during ISO standards deliberations. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Erol Karacabeyli as it marked the end of his nine-year term of excellent Chairmanship for ISO/TC 165. The ISO/TC 165 Technical Committee meeting concluded 20 resolutions as a follow-up for the next meeting. Amongst the follow up actions that involved Malaysia as well as some of the latest development that were shared during the meeting are as follows:

- 1.1 WG10, ISO TC165 requested that Eric Jones submit a document summarising the potential for the inclusion of the determination of characteristic values of sawntimber from Small Clear Wood Specimen tests in ISO TC165 standards for circulation by March 2019. In this respect, Malaysia shared with the meeting on the testing of selected timber species based on structural size specimens and small size specimens under the Engineered Timber Project (ETP) by MTIB with cooperation with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and University of Stuttgarts, Germany. Malaysia was then requested to send a complete report on the

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Group photo of ISO TC 165 meeting delegates.

testing data on Malaysian Hardwood to enable the chair of the respective WG to table the report in the CEN TC 124 in considering the data as an Annex in relevant EN Standards as well as ISO Standards.

- 1.2 WG12 ISO TC 165 requested that Huang Dongsheng and Li Haitao as co-project leaders prepare a scope and table of contents for a product standard focusing on glued laminated bamboo and parallel strand bamboo, titled "Bamboo Structures – Engineered bamboo products – Component performance and production requirements" for circulation within the Working Group by April 2019. Malaysia also nominated an expert for the new project i.e Dr. Wan Tarmeze Wan Ariffin from Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM).
- 1.3 Regarding the comments from Malaysia on Visual Strength Grading for Structural Timber, the meeting was informed that Malaysian inputs for tropical timber has already been added in Annex D of the ISO 8709 and the standard is already under FDIS.
- 1.4 The meeting was also informed on the changes of the CE Marking for Structural Construction Products Directives to Construction Products Regulations which had become more stringent for structural requirements for products such as glulam and cross laminated timber (CLT).
- 1.5 ISO TC 165 requested that committee members seek experts for potential New Work Items (NWIs) on design methods for self-drilling screws and glued-in rods for participation in a

potential project on this subject to be discussed at the 33rd meeting. An expert from Malaysia is one of the potential experts for the project in relation to tropical timbers for structural application.

- 1.6 Noting that there were no new work items put forward by SC1 and TC 165 members, it was decided that a revision of ISO 21887 was not required. ISO TC 165 decided to disband SC1 and maintain ISO 21887 under ISO TC 165. If a future revision is required, ISO TC 165 would form a new WG to undertake the work required.
- 1.7 ISO TC 165 requested that the ISO central secretariat consider revising directives to accept non-vector file types with editable text external to the picture for complex illustrations, in drafts, standards and reports.

The ISO TC 165 delegates thanked Dr. Erol Karacabeyli for his chairmanship over the past nine years and were introduced to his successor, Dr. Chui from Canada. The meeting was hosted by the Turkish Standards Institution UAB-Torid at TOBB Meeting Centre (TOBB: The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey). Malaysia was represented by two delegates which comprised Puan Hj. Mahsuri Mat Dris from MTIB (Head of Delegation) and Prof Dr. Zakiah Ahmad from UiTM, Shah Alam. Other international delegates who took part in the meeting were from Australia, Austria, Canada, Columbia, PR China, France, Japan, Kenya, Korea, New Zealand, Sweden, Turkey, the United States of America and from International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) as well as Ms Barbara Sorgota an observer from the European Consortium of Anchor Producers (ECAP). The 33rd meeting of ISO TC 165 will be held in Bogota, Colombia during the week of 23-27 September 2019 whilst the 34th meeting of ISO TC 165 will be held in China in September 2020. Besides the meeting, a technical visit was made to KOCATAŞ and SAİT PAŞA YALILARI a historic mansion being renovated using glulam and cross laminated timber by SISK. The glulam and CLT were imported from Austria.

SEMINAR ON TIMBER STRUCTURE

In addition to the meeting, some of the delegates including those from Malaysia, attended a one-day Symposium on Timber Structure fully sponsored by the Turkey Standard Organisation which was organised by University of Bosphorus, Turkey, one

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of the top Universities in Istanbul. A total of seven papers were presented, including four papers by experts, from ISO/TC 165:

- a) Dr. Erol Karacabeyli from FPInnovation Canada: Renaissance in Timber Construction (TC 165 experts)
- b) Dr. Boris Iskara from National Codes & Standards Manager, Australia: Tall Timber Buildings - The Australian Way (TC 165 experts)
- c) Kenan Akyuz D., Head of Business and Marketing from Forest Management Department: Our Country Forest and Wood Production
- d) Dr. Kevin Cheung from Western Wood Product

Association: US Wood Construction Movements (TC 165 experts)

- e) Dr. Frédéric Rouger from FCBA, Technological Institute Forest Cellulose Wood-building Furnishing: Timber Construction in France: Current Trends and Challenges for the Future (TC 165 experts)
- f) Ario Ceccotti Civil Engineer invited Professor at Boğaziçi University: Seismic Safety of Timber Structures - From Past to Future.
- g) Nuri Özbağdatlı, an architect from UNDP TÜRKİYE

Timber News

Cont. from page 17

Day 3: 26 September

First stop: Syarikat Idea Craft and Wood Enterprise, Kuah, Langkawi.

The owner of the company, Encik Azizul Ahmad has been involved in wood carving for 20 years. He mainly receives orders from hotels around the island of Langkawi. Many of his carved patterns are based on contemporary and natural phenomena such as plants and sea waves. Wood carving has been an important craft in the dialect architecture practised by Malay craftsmen in Peninsular Malaysia.

According to Encik Azizul, it is rather difficult nowadays to train young local wood carvers since patience and a high level of concentration are needed to carve wood. The art of wood carving is synonymous with traditional ornamentation practised by local Malay wood carvers. It should be preserved, especially during this period of urbanisation which is currently taking place in Malaysia.

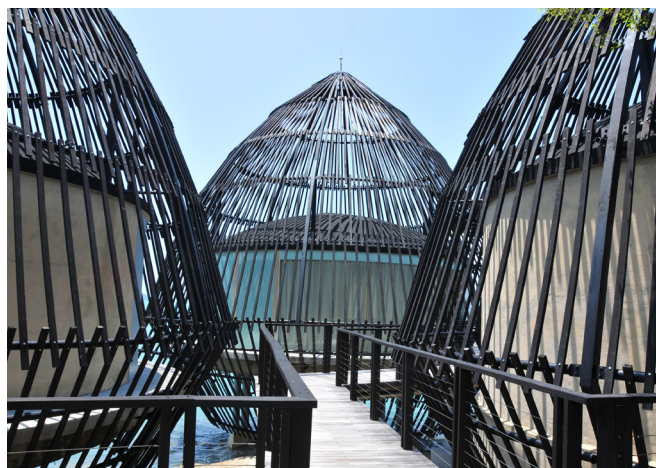
Second stop: The Ritz Carlton Hotel Langkawi.

The participants were greeted by Miss Ellen Franke, General Manager; Encik Zaidi Jamian, Director of Engineering; and Encik Amirrolshah Idris, Events Manager. The participants were apprised on the wood architectures in the hotel which were made of glulam timber. Glulam timber was widely used in constructing the hotel. Various types of woods were used, including Red and Yellow Balau.

The most iconic wood structure is the Hotel Spa which is home to five cocoon-shaped spa pavilions

which float above the sea and have been designed to resemble Malay Bubus - intricately woven fish traps used for centuries by local fishermen. Connected by over-water walkways, each pavilion is surrounded by a circular platform with breathtaking ocean views. The structure was made from Belian species with a span height of 13 metre.

Twenty-seven participants participated this tour, comprising representatives from various media organisations namely Berita Nasional Malaysia (Bernama), Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM), Utusan Malaysia, Harian Metro, Stesen Radio Nasional FM, B&I Worldwide Sdn. Bhd. and Info Pertanian. A representative from SME Corp, officers from the Ministry of Primary Industries (Communication Corporate Unit) as well as officers from MTIB were also part of the group.



Hotel Spa, Ritz Carlton in Langkawi. The structure was made from Belian species.

KARAS AND GAHARU: TECHNICAL VISIT TO CAMBODIA

news



The group at O.H. Osmaniah Oud Co. Ltd.

Karas is a gaharu-producing tree from the species *Aquilaria*. There are 22 *Aquilaria* species worldwide, out of which five species are found in Malaysia. These are: *Aquilaria malacensis*, *beccariana*, *hirta*, *rostrata* and *microcarpa*. Locally known as gaharu, Agarwood is now considered an important non-timber forest product. It has been used since hundreds of years ago for medicine and as a basic material to produce perfumes. Today, Agarwood is traded in more than 18 countries with trade worth millions of US dollars annually. Indeed, due to the population growth and affluence of gaharu-consuming markets, the demand for gaharu has been rising significantly over the past 30 years.

The Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) has listed the Gaharu-producing species, *Aquilaria*, under Appendix II of CITES due to the threat posed by trade to the survivability of the species. These resources are currently under threat because of unsustainable production of Agarwood – common methods include direct harvesting and indiscriminate felling of trees from natural forests. To lift the pressure from natural resources and to meet market demands, domestication efforts are currently on-going. Selected species are being planted in mass plantations. In many producer

countries, Agarwood is moving from a simple forest-dependent livelihood source for the local people, into an industrial-scale operation. In the coming years, the Agarwood source will clearly shift from wild forests to plantations.

Therefore, to further develop the Karas and gaharu industry in Malaysia, MTIB together with the Melaka Economic Planning Unit (EPU) and Melaka Forestry Department recently organised a technical visit on the Agarwood industry in Koh Kong, Cambodia. The visit was held from 27 to 30 August and the objective of the visit was to gain the latest information

regarding Karas plantations and Agarwood production in Cambodia. At the same time, the visit also aimed towards knowledge exchange with Cambodian entrepreneurs on the Agarwood industry.

During their visit to a plantation owned by a Malaysian entrepreneur who owned 100,000 Karas trees in Koh Kong, Cambodia, they were briefed on the inoculation used by the company to produce Agarwood and the harvesting of their Karas trees. In addition, the delegation also visited an Agarwood essential oil distillation factory. They were informed on the various steps taken to produce Agarwood essential oil namely from the chipping, grinding to the soaking of the Agarwood chips in the water and finally the distillation process which lasts five days. The delegation were also briefed on the grading of different grades of Agarwood and Agarwood essential oil.

The delegation comprised Encik Mohd Zamakhsyary Mustapa and Tuan Haji Wan Abdul Munir Wan Tajul Ariffin, both of whom representing MTIB, along with two representatives from Melaka EPU, one from Melaka Forestry Department and six local industry players.

THAILAND: UNLOCKING POSSIBILITIES FOR A RESPONSIBLE FUTURE



Overview

Thailand or in official name, Kingdom of Thailand is known as the land of smiles for many people. Thailand is one of the few developing countries never to have been colonised. It is located centrally in Southeast Asia with both extensive Pacific coasts (Gulf of Thailand) and Indian Ocean (Andaman Sea). It shares borders with Myanmar (Burma) to the west and northwest, the Lao PDR to the north and northeast, Cambodia to the south and east and Malaysia to the south. Thailand occupies an area of 514,000 square kilometers (319,194 square miles).

Thailand was ranked 51st largest country in the world. In terms of population, Thailand was ranked in 21st most populous country. There are approximately 66 million people in the country. Bangkok is a capital and largest city of Thailand. Thai people normally use Thai language as an official language and English is the second language.

Thailand is informally known as Siam. Most Thai people like to share their own culture to each other, so the characteristic of Thai people was seen through literature, drama, architecture, music, painting, sculpture, folk dances and so on. The Thai cuisine and ways of lives in people are seen as popular cultures of Thais. Some cultures are fusion or influenced from China and India. There are many kinds of natural resources seen in Thailand. Tin, rubber, natural gas, tantalum, timber, lead, gypsum, fish, and arable land are examples of them. For agriculture products, rice, rubber, corn, coconuts are some agriculture products of Thailand.

Economy

With a relatively well-developed infrastructure, a free-enterprise economy, and generally pro-investment policies, Thailand is highly dependent on international trade, with exports accounting for about two-thirds of GDP. Thailand's exports include electronics, agricultural commodities, automobiles and parts, and processed foods. The industry and service sectors produce about 90% of GDP. The agricultural sector, comprised mostly of small-scale farms, contributes only 10% of GDP but employs

about one-third of the labor force. Thailand has attracted an estimated 3.0 - 4.5 million migrant workers, mostly from neighbouring countries.

Thailand's economic fundamentals are sound, with low inflation, low unemployment and reasonable public and external debt levels. Tourism and government spending are mostly on infrastructure and short-term stimulus measures that have helped to boost the economy and The Bank of Thailand has been supportive, with several interest rate reductions.

Forest Resources

Thailand is blessed with various forest habitat types which cover 32% of the country. Thailand has a total land area of 513,115 square kilometres or about 51 million hectares. Thailand's forests range from mangroves to pine forests from coastal to mountain top. However, most forest lands in Thailand are the property of the State. The government agency responsible for forests is the Royal Forest Department (RFD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC).

Timber Production

According to the latest FAO forest statistics on

Thailand, the country produced around 2.5 million m³ of major timber products in 2017. Details of production are as follows:

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

(Volume : m ³)					
Product	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Fibreboard	2,170,000	2,170,000	2,170,000	2,170,000	2,170,000
Veneer	185,000	185,000	185,000	185,000	185,000
Plywood	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000
Sawntimber	0	0	0	0	0
Logs	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2,475,000	2,475,000	2,475,000	2,475,000	2,475,000

Source: FAO Stats

Timber Industry

The present and future generations of the Thai people require wood products to satisfy a variety of needs. In 1990 consumption of industrial wood products (poles, sawnwood, wood-based panels and paper products) was equivalent to about 20 million m³ of wood raw material. As both the population and the economy of the country continue to grow and even allowing for substitution by other materials, the demand for wood products is expected to grow even more.

The domestic wood-based industry is trying to meet the country's needs, but it is faced with a shortage of raw material. The logging ban, which is necessary to protect the rapidly diminishing forests, has drastically cut wood supplies. The industry has to rely to a great extent on imported wood, as well as on rubber and other plantation-grown wood. The insecure raw material base has stifled any move to modernise the industry and make it competitive. Large and increasing quantities of processed wood products are imported, placing a heavy burden on the trade balance, instead of the forestry sector bringing sector bringing in foreign exchange as in the past.

Despite the obvious disadvantage of utterly limited domestic raw materials, Thailand has managed to develop a vibrant and diverse wood processing industry ranging from sawmills and wood products industry to a pulp and paper industry. The number of sawmills in volume terms by far the most important wood industry in Thailand has increased.

The increase has taken place only in the Southern region where the rubber plantations are located. In the other regions where other logs are processed growth has been slow reflecting the insecure future of sawmill industry in Thailand. All sawmills require a license and one cannot be obtained without a reliable raw material supply plan, thus new capacity in natural forest log sawmilling is scarce.

Thailand's Export of Timber and Timber Products

Thailand's export of timber and timber products in 2017 increased 50% to USD2.9 billion over the previous corresponding period. Thailand export mainly sawntimber, fibreboard and furniture totalled USD1.5 billion, USD542.2 million and USD402.0 million respectively. Thailand export sawntimber mainly to China amounting USD1.5 billion compared to the previous years. Meanwhile, fibreboard is mainly exported to the UAE which amounted USD121.2 million and its furniture is mainly exported to the US amounted USD126.0 million respectively.



Carved dining set.

Thailand : Export of Timber and Timber Products, 2013 - 2017

(Value: USD '000)

Product	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Sawntimber	900,522	940,330	845,960	1,148,843	1,502,096
Fibreboard	438,049	492,172	496,220	481,439	542,185
Furniture	221,874	235,593	233,361	243,960	401,994
Particleboard / Chipboard	272,127	322,490	281,907	323,748	387,422
BJC	32,740	34,999	41,498	47,270	41,346
Wooden Frames	44,252	40,221	28,215	27,268	23,592
Plywood	15,667	19,511	18,253	15,643	17,752
Mouldings	11,689	10,490	7,874	7,115	6,943
Veneer	3,288	11,578	2,316	1,804	2,865
Logs	1,194	543	215	315	205
Total	1,941,402	1,941,402	2,107,927	1,955,819	2,926,400

Source: UN Stats.

Thailand's Import of Timber and Timber Products

According to the latest UN Comtrade statistics, Thailand's import of timber and timber products in 2017 decreased 4% to USD873.7 million over the previous corresponding period. Thailand imported

mainly furniture, sawntimber and plywood totalled USD274.0 million (a decrease of 38%), USD250.8 million (an increase of 9%) and USD141.1 million (a decrease of 9%) respectively. Malaysia is the major import sources for Thailand's import of timber and timber products followed by China and New Zealand.

Thailand : Import of Timber and Timber Products, 2013 - 2017

(Value: USD '000)

Product	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Furniture	544,601	519,697	458,496	444,658	273,994
Sawntimber	318,890	280,819	248,704	230,168	250,841
Plywood	154,817	147,724	145,911	154,305	141,120
Veneer	22,464	24,517	19,533	24,492	25,864
Builders Joinery and Carpentry	15,882	14,162	14,788	15,153	20,854
Fibreboard	18,813	22,172	17,315	14,600	11,645
Logs	80,449	70,410	12,751	10,274	7,094
Particleboard / Chipboard	5,731	5,765	8,494	6,978	6,887
Mouldings	7,347	6,638	5,952	6,296	6,009
Wooden frames	1,926	2,294	1,988	1,413	1,387
Railways	200	368	273	100	8
Total	1,171,120	1,094,566	934,205	908,437	873,703

Source: UN Stats

Malaysia's Export of Timber and Timber Products to Thailand

Thailand has always been a significant timber trade partner for Malaysia. Thailand ranked ninth with 3% of Malaysia's total market share. In 2017, export of

Malaysian timber and timber products to Thailand registered an increase of 11% to RM785.5 million from RM709.1 million in 2016. Sawntimber was the main product exported with a total value of RM550.8 million, followed by plywood at RM113.3 million and wooden furniture at RM53.7 million.

Malaysia : Export of Timber and Timber Products to Thailand, 2013 - 2017

(Value: RM)

Product	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Sawntimber	449,638,371	405,740,517	493,681,928	504,511,023	550,845,596
Plywood	72,478,365	81,882,308	96,830,010	92,334,906	113,269,323
Wooden Furniture	42,483,623	41,727,906	43,039,462	50,178,855	53,730,094
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	30,504,497	32,427,358	36,253,732	33,683,561	33,282,808
Chipboard/Particleboard	1,027,026	2,160,411	3,471,696	5,628,467	8,291,354
Mouldings	2,273,478	1,831,253	1,690,662	4,579,263	3,355,566
Fibreboard	1,972,093	1,977,453	742,742	230,306	2,323,489
Wooden Frame	1,156,937	650,285	952,638	796,808	887,075
Logs	12,821,376	14,987,010	2,147,697	476,577	392,300
Rattan Furniture	1,634,441	1,684,990	1,358,821	673,237	128,041
Veneer	206,172	153,892	354,041	0	0
Other Products	17,711,895	17,849,384	15,113,945	15,969,355	18,989,382
Total	633,908,274	603,072,767	695,637,374	709,062,358	785,495,028

Source: MTIB & DOSM

Malaysia's Import of Timber and Timber Products from Thailand

In 2017, import of Malaysian timber and timber products from Thailand show an increase of 22% to RM471.1 million from RM386.1 million in 2016.

Thailand ranked 3rd with 10% of Malaysia's total market share. Chipboard/particleboard was the main product imported with a total value of RM316.5 million followed by fibreboard at RM53.7 million and wooden furniture at RM36.8 million.

Malaysia : Import of Timber and Timber Products from Thailand, 2013 - 2017

(Value: USD '000)

Product	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Chipboard/Particleboard	1,027,026	2,160,411	221,484,795	260,083,455	316,467,674
Fibreboard	1,997,626	1,977,453	45,260,096	33,743,668	53,719,487
Wooden Furniture	42,648,365	41,727,906	28,240,167	32,247,517	36,774,572
Sawntimber	450,693,991	405,740,517	15,905,653	16,022,380	30,518,823
Mouldings	2,273,478	1,831,253	8,584,130	8,560,575	12,195,865
Builders Joinery and Carpentry	30,558,089	32,427,358	20,588,406	19,282,521	11,676,569
Plywood	72,478,365	81,882,308	7,063,512	3,879,711	2,513,996
Wooden Frame	1,170,708	650,285	15,122	430,992	1,010,229
Rattan Furniture	1,703,442	1,684,990	492,777	1,576,186	362,143
Veneer	206,172	153,892	114,953	110,844	27,000
Logs	12,821,376	14,987,010	284,244	0	0
Other Products	17,739,933	17,849,384	11,532,897	10,137,210	5,829,895
Total	635,318,571	603,072,767	359,566,752	386,075,059	471,096,253

Source: MTIB & DOSM

Import Tariffs

Thailand's import duty on timber and timber products ranges around 0 - 20%. Details are as follows:

Product	MFN Tariff (%)	ATIGA (%)
Logs	1	0
Sawntimber	1	0
Veneer	5	0
Mouldings	5	0
Particleboard	5	0
Fibreboard	5	0
Plywood	5	0
Builders Joinery and Carpentry	20	0
Seat	10 - 20	0
Furniture	20	0

Source: WTO/ASEAN

Prospects

The rate of economic recovery and reigniting growth will depend on how fast Thailand can address structural constraints to growth, while promoting inclusion. After average growth slowed to 3.5% over 2005-2015, with a dip to 2.3% in 2014-2016, Thailand is now on the path to recovery. Economic growth reached 3.9% in 2017, the best growth performance since 2012 and is expected to expand further to 4.1% in 2018.

Thailand has laid out its long-term economic goals in its 20-Year National Strategy (2017 - 2036) for attaining developed country status through broad reforms. The reforms address economic stability, human capital, equal economic opportunities, environmental sustainability, competitiveness, and effective government bureaucracies. Recent reforms include the implementation of large multi-year public infrastructure projects related to dual tracking of railways, regulatory reforms aimed at improving ease of doing business, setting up the State Enterprise Policy Committee to improve state-owned enterprise governance, the transfer of supervisory oversight of specialised financial institutions to the Bank of Thailand, the approval of progressive inheritance and property taxes and the launch of the National Savings Fund, a retirement safety net for informal workers.

The construction market in Thailand is expected to grow at a CAGR of 7.99% during the period 2018-2022. Construction is expected to have high growth rates over the next five years, mainly due to large infrastructure projects driven by the government. Construction accounts for about 8% of Thailand's GDP, with the public sector accounting for about 60% of activity.

However, Thailand is currently facing challenges due to the shortage of manual labour and supply of construction materials, which may hinder the future growth in the construction market. Thailand's construction market is heavily dependent on foreign labor and material imports to run the industry. In all subsectors Thailand are more selective with small and medium-sized construction businesses, as many of them are highly geared and dependent on bank financing.

Malaysia, which has always been an important trading partner with Thailand in timber, is also facing strong competition from Japan and US. Therefore, in order to sustain and improve trade as well as market share in Thailand, Malaysian exporters need to be competitive in terms of price and quality together with effective marketing and promotion strategies.

Malaysian manufacturers also need to enhance their presence in the Thailand market through participation in major timber, furniture and construction fairs and exhibition to create demand for Malaysian value-added timber products in the market. Through those activities, Malaysian timber exporters would be able to further develop their networking with Thailand's timber and furniture importers while at the same time undertake market research on current Thailand importers' market preferences and taste. Therefore, it is envisage that with the above opportunities, timber trade for both countries especially in terms of export and import activities and investments in timber and timber products will be increased in the coming years.

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Young tree of Magas (*Duabanga moluccana*).

INTRODUCTION

Duabanga moluccana is a tree species native to Indonesia and surrounding areas. Its common names include Kalanggo (Indonesia), Loktob (Philippines) and Magas (Malaysia).

Duabanga moluccana is an evergreen canopy or sub-canopy tree growing 20 - 40 m tall with a bole that can be up to 100 cm in diameter. The plant is harvested from the wild for its bark, which is used as dye, and for its timber.

It is usually found on alluvial sites and along rivers and streams, in disturbed (open sites) in mixed dipterocarp, swamp and sub-montane forests at elevations up to 1,500 m. It stretches from the Philippines and Sabah to the Malay Archipelago, Sulawesi, Moluccas and New Guinea.



Close-up of flower buds.

M A G A S

SUITABLE FOR FURNITURE

General Characteristics

It is a medium-sized to fairly large tree of up to 35 m tall, sometimes reaching 45 m, with columnar bole up to 100 cm in diameter, not buttressed but slightly fluted at base. It can be found in forests along streams at low altitudes up to 1,200 m and frequently present in regrowth and riverside cultivation areas.

The sapwood varies from light gray to yellowish. The heartwood is light yellow-brown. It has no taste or odor.

It has interlocked grain. The texture is moderately porous. It is perishable and blue stain rapidly develops in green timber with insect infestation in the log.

The sapwood is permeable, the heartwood is moderately resistant to impregnation.

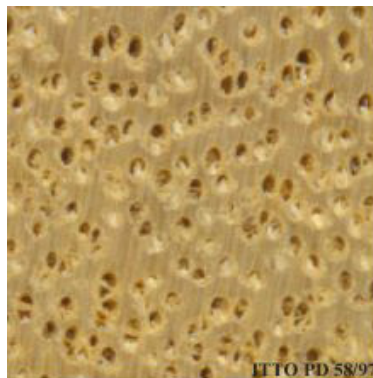
Wood Anatomy

It is diffuse porous wood. The tangential diameter of its vessel lumina is 200 micras or more (large). Tyloses are common. There are vestured pits. Vessels are per mm² five

to 20. Vessel-ray pits reticulate and/or foraminate. There are simple perforation plates. Intervessel pits are large at 10 micras or more. Axial parenchyma is lozenge-aliform. There are over nine cells per parenchyma strand and four to 10 rays per mm (medium). Ray height is more than 1 mm. Rays are exclusively uniseriate. Body ray cells are procumbent with one row of upright and/or square marginal cells (Kribs-III). Fibres are with simple to minutely bordered pits.



Flower buds and leaves.



Wood micro photo of transversal section.



Wood colour and texture.

The timber is suitable for general housing, boards, frames, furniture, cabinets, plywood and veneer, cores, packing, naval construction, musical instruments, matches and paper. A decoction of the chopped bark, combined with the chopped bark of *Mallotus moluccana*, is used as a black dye to stain basketry made from *Pandanus* spp.

Uses

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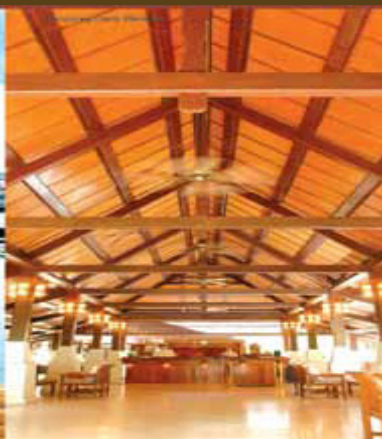
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Fax : 603 - 9285 1477/ 9200 3769
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From which publications have you received our information?

MTIB officials and Muar Furniture Association Exco visiting MIDF Berhad, Kuala Lumpur on 5 September 2018.



Courtesy visit by YB Dato' Kamaruzzaman Abu Kassim, President & Chief Executive of Johor Corporation and his officials to MTIB, Kuala Lumpur on 12 September 2018.



Courtesy visit by YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries (in yellow dress), MTIB Chairman, MTIB Director-General to MTIB Kota Kinabalu and WISDEC Sabah on 17 September 2018.

Officials from MTIB, UKM Pakarunding Sdn. Bhd. and enumerators posing during the National Timber Industry Census Study conducted in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah from 5 to 8 September 2018.



Workshop on Plywood Certification Standard Revision held on 27-28 September 2018 in Kuala Lumpur.