

MASKAYU



**11TH STAKEHOLDER
CONSULTATION ON FLEGT VPA**

**MALAYSIAN INTERNATIONAL
FURNITURE FAIR**

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Cover: Creativity helps SJY Furniture (M) Sdn. Bhd. to bag the first prize in the MIFF 2013 Best Presentation Award in the bare space category. Read pages 14-15 for details.



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11TH STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON FLEGT VPA

The 11th Stakeholder Consultation on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT VPA), organised by the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC), was held at MTIB, Kuala Lumpur on 28 March.

The participants of the Consultation were welcomed by Datin Paduka Nurmala Abdul Rahim, Secretary-General of MPIC. In her opening remarks, she underlined that the focus of the 11th Stakeholder Consultation on FLEGT VPA is on the Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) which underpins and provides legality to timber products under the FLEGT VPA. She assured the participants that the system will be continuously improved taking into account the capacity, resources and technologies available to the implementing agencies, and took the opportunity to thank the Forestry Department for their cooperation in shouldering the bulk of the workload. She informed the Consultation that the discussion on the TLAS for both Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah had just been finalised while the legal text is in the process of also being finalised pending decisions on a few issues.

She further announced that pending the conclusion of the VPA, MPIC has decided to commence implementation of the TLAS and issue the MYTLAS licence to ensure the legality of the timber and timber products and that they comply with the requirements of due diligence of the EU Timber Regulation, which had entered into force on 3 March 2013. She mentioned that this is solely a Malaysian initiative and is not linked to the VPA although it uses the TLAS developed for the VPA. This will enable Malaysian timber and timber products to enter the EU timber market.

She added that to enhance participation of stakeholders and transparency in the implementation of MYTLAS, a special body, called TLAS Advisory Group or TAG will be established to consider all aspects of its implementation and measures to improve it, taking into account feedback from stakeholders, market response and the need for capacity building assistance from the EU. The memberships of TAG will comprise NGOs, industry, forestry and timber experts, as well as key implementing agencies.

The one-day Consultation was moderated by Emeritus Prof. Dato' Dr. Abdul Latiff Mohmod, Director-General of Forest Research Institute Malaysia. Five presentations were made, namely:

1. 'Status of Malaysia-EU FLEGT VPA' by Encik Wan Mazlan Wan Mahmood (MPIC);
2. 'Timber Legality Assurance System - Peninsular Malaysia' by Puan Loke Sim Wah (Malaysia FLEGT Protem Secretariat);
3. 'Timber Legality Assurance System - Sabah' by Encik Roslan Junaidi (Sabah Forestry Department);
4. 'European Union Timber Regulation' by Puan Aimi Lee Abdullah (EFI-FLEGT Asia Programme); and
5. 'Due Diligence Requirement and Implementation of TLAS' by Encik S. Rajan (MTIB).

Dato' Dr. Freezailah Che Yeom, Advisor FLEGT VPA, concluded the Consultation by reiterating that the TLAS, like any other certification scheme, is not a perfect system, but it



Datin Paduka Nurmala Abdul Rahim, Secretary-General of MPIC (centre) prior to officiating the event.



TIMBER WORLD IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA

Illegal Timber Laws Passed, Banning Illegal Trade and Imports

New illegal logging laws have been approved by the parliament in Australia. According to the new laws, an individual offender will be imposed with a fine of AUD55,000 (EUR43,049.81, USD56,112.68) and AUD275,000 for firms, as well as a five-year jail term for being guilty of processing or importing illegally logged timber. In addition, due diligence provision must be carried out by importers. The new laws took five years to pass. Meanwhile, imported illegal logged timber accounts for some 10% of Australia's total timber imports each year. Globally, illegal timber activities cost AUD30 billion each year, Interpol reported.

Asian Timber, 28 February

CHINA

Chinese Log Prices Reached New Record Highs

Demand for imported softwood logs in China increased in the second half of 2012 after declining during the first six months of the year. Total import in the second half of 2012 were up 9%, but the increase was not equally distributed between supplying countries. Shipments from New Zealand and the US were up 29% and 20%, respectively, while Russian exports to China fell 9% in the second half of 2012 as compared to the first half of 2012, reports in the Wood Resource Quarterly (www.woodprices.com).

Log imports for the full year were down 15% from 2011, which was the first year-over-year decline since 2008. From 2008 to 2011, China's imports increased by as much as 70% to a record 30 million m³ in 2011. Despite the decline in 2012, the total import volume was still the second highest on record. And for the month of December, there have never been more logs unloaded in Chinese ports than in the December of 2012.

The most dramatic shift in log supply sources for China over the past few years has been the diminished exports from Russia and the sharp increase in log volume entering from New Zealand. Just five years ago, China imported as much

as 21 million m³ of softwood logs from Russia and only 1.2 million m³ from New Zealand. In the second half of 2012, the two countries shipped about 4.8 million m³ each.

The average import value of New Zealand Radiata Pine in the fourth quarter of 2012 was up a few dollars from the previous quarter, reaching the highest level seen since the third quarter of 2011, while the average value for most other species remained unchanged in the last quarter of 2012. Domestic log prices in China on the other hand, continued their upward trend with Chinese Fir log prices being up 13% from the fourth quarter of 2011 to the fourth quarter of 2012 to reach an all-time high, according to the WRQ. Prices for other commonly used species such as Mongolian Pine, Larch, Poplar and Birch were also at record high levels during the fourth quarter of 2012.

Wrii, 15 March

Wood-based Panel Output Hit 285.68 Million m³

China's wood-based panel output has reached 285.68 million m³ in 2012. The output in Guangxi, Guangdong and Hubei reached 20.99 million m³, 9.9 million m³ and 42.65 million m³ respectively. Shandong's output reached 55.95 million m³, while Jiangsu's output hit 40.06 million m³. Meanwhile, the total wood-based panel output of the country reached 26.82 million m³ in December 2012. The output in Jiangsu and Shandong hit 3.38 million m³ and 4.78 million m³ respectively. Hebei's output reached 2.29 million m³, while the output in Guangdong reached 1.75 million m³. Guangxi's output reached 2.9 million m³.

China Timber, 20 March

GLOBAL

Ebony, Rosewood is Now Protected, Illegal Logging Reaches USD30 Billion

CITES has approved to include Ebony and Rosewood into the international trade control list for forest trees. Ebony can be found in Madagascar, while Rosewoods are hailed from Southeast Asia, Madagascar and Central America. According to David Newton, an expert from wildlife trade monitoring group called Traffic, China is overtaking Europe with the highest demand for Madagascar logs, thanks to its rapid economic growth.

In another development, the United Nation Environment Programme Executive Director, Achim Steiner, disclosed that the annual value of global illicit logging activities has now exceeded USD30 billion (EUR23.03 billion). Of the total, roughly 50%-90% are discovered in Southeast Asia, Central Africa and the Amazon basin.

Bangkok Post, 13 March

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New CITES Restriction on Rosewood and Ebony

The 16th meeting of CITES ended its 12-day session at the Queen Sirikit National Conference Centre in Bangkok on Thursday. At the CITES, several issues were discussed, such as illegal logging, ivory trading, protection of sharks and polar bears and the listing of several wildlife and plant trade protection.

CITES members agreed to restrict cross-border trade in Ebony from Madagascar as well as Rosewoods from the same island, as well as Southeast Asia and Central America.

During the conference, there was a specialist training for wildlife law enforcement officials across Asia. The training focused on specialised investigative techniques including controlled deliveries, information and intelligence management and tools such as anti-money laundering and asset recovery, that can be used by wildlife law enforcement officers to combat wildlife crime more effectively, and to ensure that wildlife criminals and the organised wildlife networks that are involved in the illegal trade are brought to justice.

Xinhua/Fordaq, 15 March

INDIA Extending New Areas Under Rubber Plantations

Kerala state is the centre for latex production in India. Tripura in the north east of the country is the second Indian state to follow the example of Kerala in developing Rubberwood plantations. To-date around 57,600 ha of plantations have been established generating employment for more than 50,000. Having witnessed the benefits of investment in Rubberwood plantations, the state of Arunachal also aims to establish a commercial Rubberwood plantation sector. In collaboration with the Rubber Board of India, the state government in Arunachal aims to produce 100,000 tonnes of latex. The Rubberwood plantations will yield roundwood and also facilitate production of minor forest products such as honey.

Currently, Gujarat state has only a small area of Rubberwood plantations but that may soon change. The state has received a proposal from a tyre manufacturer to build a factory in the state. To encourage this investment, the state government plans to invest in rubberwood plantations to provide the latex raw material for this new industry. The establishment of commercial Rubberwood plantations will also provide an opportunity for growth in the wood processing sector in the state as Rubberwood logs will be available when the plantations are periodically felled and replanted.

Tropical Timber Market Report, 16-31 March

ITALY New Furniture Sector Initiative to Better Exports to China

Made-in-Italy furniture reached an 8.1% share in the Chinese market in the first seven months of 2012. To support visibility and penetration of the sector in China, FederlegnoArredo, the Italian association of furniture makers, ICE, the Italian agency for the promotion of Italy abroad, and other industry operator have sponsored La Cina Arreda Italiano initiative. It features communication campaigns, trade fairs and economic missions in a bid also to improve reception channels including specialised magazines and architect firms.

Il Sole 24 Ore, 7 March

THAILAND Siamese Rosewood Trees Trade Planned to be Regulated

Thailand is planning to list payung trees or Siamese Rosewood trees in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Exports of saplings will not be regulated, while sawnwood, logs and veneer sheets exports will be regulated. The listing is vital for international trade controls, according to the Thai National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department's Deputy Chief Theerapat Prayurasiddhi. Preparations have been made by Thailand in the ways to differentiate payung trees from other species. Commercial plantation of Siamese Rosewood will also be promoted, said Prayurasiddhi. A vote is expected for the planned regulation in the early part of the 11/17 March 2013 week. Meanwhile, a plan to develop a specific definition for Thailand's artificially propagated Agarwood has been agreed by CITES, with aims to improve Agarwood cultivation and exports.

Bangkok Post, 8 March

UNITED KINGDOM Prices of Imported Softwood Rising

In the UK, Sterling's weakness has made imports of carcassing and joinery softwood from Sweden, Finland, the Baltic states and Russia more expensive. The exporters are suffering from a weak demand in Europe. Sawmills have reduced production but they still have serious financial problems. In south Sweden, carcassing producers have made losses for many months as the log prices are high and the demand is poor. Baltic mills have raw material shortages.

The British softwood industry has increased its market share and some mills are very busy. However they have to compete with the cheap material from Irish mills. The Redwood market firmed in 2013 but supplies are tight and several end users have substituted high quality whitewood for planing and components instead.

Timber Trades Journal, 8 March



FEBRUARY 2013

SHIPPING NEWS



MISC Hit by Low Freight Rates, Dwindling Demand and Overcapacity in Tanker Operations

While commentators have been quick to question Petrolia Nasional Bhd.'s (Petronas) plan to take private its 62.7%-owned subsidiary MISC Bhd., industry experts had pointed out that the exercise may largely be driven by the turbulent times being faced by MISC's petroleum tanker business. This segment of MISC's business was parked under its wholly owned unit AET Tanker Holdings Sdn. Bhd. (formerly known as American Eagle Tankers Ltd). Like most players in this niche sector, AET continued to suffer from low freight rates due to dwindling demand and overcapacity. One key reason for this was the fact that the United States, once a major importer of crude oil, had drastically reduced its level of imports.

For the nine months ended 30 September 2012, MISC's petroleum tanker business reported a pre-tax loss of USD114.1 million or RM353.5 million. According to a Bloomberg report, seaborne trade in crude oil would decline 1.3% in 2013,

led by shrinking supplies from the Persian Gulf. It also said that imports to the US, the world's largest buyer of overseas crude, were being curbed by its rising domestic oil production. Rates for the largest tankers would not significantly recover from a slump unless there was much more scrapping.

Unlike its liner business where MISC was considered one of the many mid-sized players, AET was the third-largest owner-operator of Aframax tankers in the world, and currently occupied the leading share of the US Gulf ship-to-ship transfer of the crude oil business. MISC currently operated close to 80 petroleum tankers globally, based on a mixture of spot and period charters.

A key indicator of crude oil shipping, the "Dirty VLCC West Africa to US Gulf rate", showed that the daily charter rate was at a high of USD180,000 per day (RM558,000) in May 2008. That rate had now been reduced to just over USD8,000 per day (RM24,800). Industry experts said there was no indication of any recovery in these rates.

Source : The Star, 14 February

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

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all ports m ³	% Change February 2013/ January 2013
	m ³	% Change February 2013/ January 2013	m ³	% Change February 2013/ January 2013	m ³	% Change February 2013/ January 2013	m ³	% Change February 2013/ January 2013	m ³	% Change February 2013/ January 2013		
Sawntimber	29,302	-3	6,444	-34	265	-42	40	-83	1,911	-2	37,962	-11
MDF	2,349	-85	321	234	9,404	-6	6,237	199	26,092	0	44,403	-18
Mouldings	3,809	-49	98	-28	974	-30	854	-27	1,805	0	7,540	-37
Dressed Timber	1,631	-27	50	-38	301	-63	221	-60	176	0	2,379	-38
Plywood	4,248	-21	-	-	39	-	23	64	7,842	1	12,152	-8
Veneer	54	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	206	0	260	10
Particleboard	4,832	-78	442	-58	-	100	1,864	-85	-	-	7,138	-80
TOTAL	46,225	-44	7,355	-34	10,983	-14	9,239	-44	38,032	0	111,834	-31

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

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Cargotec Sees Higher Sales

Finland-based port equipment and services provider, Cargotec Group that has chosen Malaysia to strategically place its crane competency centre for the Asia-Pacific region, targets a high single-digit growth in sales this year banking on the vibrant intra-Asia trade.

Dr. Ken Loh, Executive Vice-President (Asia-Pacific) said the group recorded a Euro320 million or RM1.3 billion of sales from the Asia-Pacific region last year. After the slump in 2008 and 2009 due to the global economic crisis, South-East Asia, China, India and Japan are building their capacity as ports are vital to facilitate the growth of economy. Year 2013 would show growth specifically in Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia. New developed markets like Shanghai and Tianjin are also building their maritime capacity. Dr. Loh also foresees by 2015 and 2016 there would be another round of huge capacity build up by ports as they were making more rooms to accommodate the shipping line that were building bigger ships. Globally, like the Europe and the US, political issues would prime the economy but they needed some time to sort out what they were experiencing now. He further added that the demand and consumption, that was the backbone of ports's growth, would reflect a speedier climb. He said that in Asia and China, it was becoming a little bit expensive now where some industries were moving out to South-East Asia and this situation actually had benefited them.

Cargotec is a global supplier of heavy duty material handling, equipment and services to ports, intermodal traffic, terminals and industrial customers representing brand names like Kalmar, Bromma and Navis that are all present in major ports globally. Its value-added services include a range of services such as retrofits, maintenance contracts and fleet management. Listed in Finland with global net sales of Euro3 billion last year, it has manufacturing plants in Sweden, Finland, the United States, the Netherlands, Poland and Malaysia.

Encik Collin Swee, Managing Director of Cargotec Terminal Solutions (M) Sdn. Bhd. said amazingly, there were a lot of crane experts in Malaysia. In this crane competency centre in Malaysia, they would be able to do the design, project management and implementation for the Asia-Pacific. He further added that currently, from Malaysia, they could execute projects in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Their customers, besides ordering new equipment, also wanted to refurbish their old cranes to make it bigger and longer. On the new country headquarters, Encik Swee said it was equipped with all the latest communication tools to ensure that Cargotec was always in touch with its customers. It would play a key role in providing the complete sales and service support of their products in Malaysia.

Current projects handled by Cargotec Malaysia included retrofit of eight units of ship-to-shore cranes for Northport and structural analysis of seven units of ship-to-shore cranes at Westports. Elsewhere, Cargotec was also handling retrofits of four units of rubber-tyred gantry (RTG) at ESCO Terminal in Thailand, repairs of two units of ship-to-shore crane in Sri Lanka and retrofits of three units of RTG in Lampung, Indonesia.

Source : The Star, 18 February

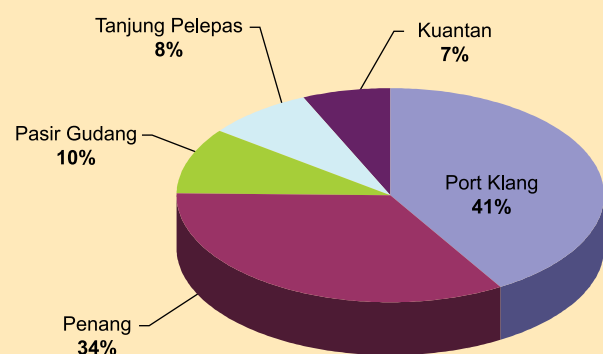
Port Klang Handled 100 Million TEUs

From its humble beginning of container operations in the early 1970s, Port Klang recently celebrated the handling of the 100 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) at Northport (M) Bhd. They also began the year 2013 with a milestone achievement of surpassing the 10 million TEUs mark.

Northport handled 1.74 million TEUs or 47% of Port Klang's indigenous volume and 1.35 million or 21% of the transshipment volume. In terms of development, Northport's new container terminal 4 (CT4) was progressing on schedule. Wharf 8A, which forms part of CT4 is expected to be fully operational by July this year. Upon completion in mid-2013 Northport would be able to handle 5.6 million TEUs. Northport is also investing in new equipment to further enhance the efficiency of its operations. Four super post-panamax quay cranes would arrive in the second quarter of 2013 to coincide with the completion of Wharf 8A. Northport acquired 13 units of electric rubber-tyred gantry for its container handling operations.

Source : The Star, 25 February

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



Total = 111,834 m³

MALAYSIAN INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE FAIR



YB Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities (centre) and other VIPs during the official opening of MIFF 2013.

Malaysian International Furniture Fair (MIFF 2013) has reached its 19th edition for 2013. This year's exhibition was held on 5-9 March at Putra World Trade Centre and MATRADE Exhibition and Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur expanding its exhibition space from 75,000 sqm last year to 80,000 sqm.

valued at RM8 billion, an increase of 4.3% compared to 2011. Furniture exports to the United States in 2012 which is the largest market, recorded an increase of 10.9% over 2011. This performance is commendable taking into account the slowdown in the global economic performance in the second

MIFF 2013 was officially opened by YB Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities. Tan Sri Bernard congratulated the organiser for the hardwork and commitment in continuing to hold the yearly event which has over the years generated tremendous support and participation from the furniture community, in particular the involvement of international buyers from more than 140 countries around the globe.

Recognising the furniture sector as one of the most dynamic sector in the timber-based industry in Malaysia, Tan Sri Bernard noted that the sector continues to be one of the major contributors towards the export earnings. In 2012, Malaysian furniture was exported to 199 countries worldwide and



YB Tan Sri Bernard Dompok and Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General (on his right) being briefed by an MTIB officer on biocomposite product at MTIB booth.

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half of 2012. Another significant development in 2012 was the growth of furniture exports to the ASEAN countries. Exports to Viet Nam in 2012 recorded the highest growth rate at 86.8% and this was followed by Indonesia at 30.2%, Brunei at 18.6% and Thailand at 16.2% and the Philippines at 14.4%. This encouraging performance reflects the competitiveness of furniture produced in Malaysia.

In addition, furniture products made in Malaysia continues to make market inroads in a number of regions, including Middle East, Central Asia and South America. Through MIFF, it is hoped that it would be able to continuously provide the platform to further strengthen exports of Malaysian furniture, particularly by showcasing the latest designs to international buyers.

MTIB participated in MIFF 2013 to mainly promote on the garden and outdoor furniture as well as oil palm trunk furniture. The companies which displayed their products at MTIB's booth include Borneo Tsang Sdn. Bhd. which displayed



Visitors at MTIB booth.

garden furniture of Acacia species, IMN of Wood company, flooring and Series Supplies Sdn. Bhd., graffiti panel board.

Numerous enquiries were also received on the *larik* products made from Malaysian Rubberwood stump and outdoor furniture. 

Cont. from page 3

has incorporated the concerns of the major stakeholders. He reminded the participants that the TLAS is a living document and efforts will be taken to further improve and strengthen it. He acknowledged the need for additional staff and resources, including capacity building, to enable the State Forestry Departments to effectively implement Peninsular Malaysia's TLAS. He also noted that with the establishment of the TAG, the NGOs, industry, forestry and timber experts, besides the

implementing agencies, will have an important role to play in the implementation of the MYTLAS.

A total of 153 participants attended the event comprising representatives from government ministries, agencies and departments; as well as members of trade and the industry, non-governmental organisations, international organisations and academia. 



One of the participants posing a question during Q&A session.



Participants attending the programme.

FEBRUARY 2013



Logs

In February, trading activities were slow in conjunction with the long Chinese New Year holiday. The weak demand resulted in the lower prices of logs in February.

The prices for logs of Merbau and Balau decreased by 6% and 5% and were traded at RM2,300 per tonne and RM2,426 per tonne respectively. Meanwhile, Chengal and Red Balau stood firm at RM6,800 per tonne and RM2,800 per tonne respectively. Prices for Keruing and Kempas fell 7% and 4% and were quoted at RM1,500 per tonne and RM1,400 per tonne respectively. Likewise, prices for Yellow Meranti and Nyatoh were traded at RM1,000 per tonne and RM900 per tonne, reduced by 12% and 31% respectively. However, prices for Red Meranti grew by 3% to RM1,332 per tonne. Prices for Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood for this month were reported to be firm at RM980 per tonne each.

Sawntimber

The average prices of sawntimber continued to record lower prices due to weaker demand from the overseas market coupled with slow activities in the domestic market.

Prices of Chengal sawntimber remained unchanged and were traded at RM6,005 per m³. Red Balau and Merbau were traded at RM2,965 per m³ and RM3,530 per m³ registering a decrease of 1% and 12% respectively. Similarly, price of Keruing and Kempas fell 14% and 12% over the previous month to be quoted at RM2,120 per m³ and RM1,590 per m³ respectively. Dark Red Meranti and Yellow Meranti remained firm at RM2,260 per m³ and RM1,555 per m³. Meanwhile, prices of White Meranti and Nyatoh grew by 44% and 57% to RM1,625 per m³ and RM1,270 per m³ respectively. Sawntimber prices of Mixed Heavy Hardwood stood firm at RM1,130 per m³ whilst Mixed Light Hardwood

prices decreased by 24% to RM810 per m³ compared to the previous month.

Plywood

The supply of plywood to the domestic market remained adequate. Plywood of 4mm and 6mm thicknesses remained firm at RM16.00 and RM25.50 per piece respectively. Meanwhile, prices of plywood with the thicknesses of 9mm and 12mm rose by 1% - 3% over the previous month were quoted at RM36.50 and RM45.00 per piece respectively.

Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF)

The supply of MDF remained stable whilst prices were quoted at last month's level. MDF of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm and 12mm of thicknesses were traded at RM14.50, RM21.50, RM28.50 and RM38.00 per piece respectively.

Intra-Malaysia Trade * - February 2013

In February 2013, the shipments of sawntimber recorded an increase of 36% to 1,229 m³, valued at RM1.2 million from 907 m³ recorded in January 2013. However, shipments of plywood declined by 41% in volume from 9,721 m³ to 5,768 m³ valued at RM8.9 million. Meanwhile, no export of logs and veneer were recorded for the month.

Export of sawntimber from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia reduced by 61% from 1,206 m³ in January to 471 m³ in February 2013. Similarly, shipments of plywood fell by 44% in volume and 38% in value to 12,217 m³ worth at RM15.7 million. Export of veneer also dropped by 21% to 3,940 m³ valued at RM4.1 million.

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

* Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia



INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE - FEBRUARY 2013

From	Products	JANUARY 2013		FEBRUARY 2013		% Change in Volume Feb 2013/Jan 2013	% Change in Value Feb 2013/Jan 2013
		Volume (m ³)	Value (RM '000)	Volume (m ³)	Value (RM '000)		
SABAH	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	907	1,103	1,229	1,246	36	13
	Plywood	9,721	14,433	5,768	8,886	-41	-38
	Veneer	0	0	0	0	0	0
SARAWAK	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	1,206	999	471	369	-61	-63
	Plywood	21,680	25,209	12,217	15,701	-44	-38
	Veneer	4,995	4,826	3,940	4,108	-21	-15

Source : Department of Statistics, Malaysia

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

SPECIES	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS		SCANTLINGS
HEAVY HARDWOOD					
Chengal	6,800	6,005	2,470		8,830
Balau	2,426	3,815	2,050		2,965
Red Balau	2,800	2,965	2,015		3,185
Merbau	2,300	3,530	2,580		3,815
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	980	1,130	920		1,130
MEDIUM HARDWOOD					
Keruing	1,500	2,120	1,570		2,260
Kempas	1,400	1,590	1,200		2,025
Kapur	1,750	1,960	1,060		1,975
Mengkulang	1,173	1,625	1,410		1,495
Tualang	1,420	1,985	2,260		2,260
LIGHT HARDWOOD					
Dark Red Meranti	1,450	2,260	1,375		2,260
Red Meranti	1,332	1,565	1,395		2,540
Yellow Meranti	1,000	1,555	1,060		1,940
White Meranti	946	1,625	1,130		1,695
Mersawa	1,260	3,110	2,190		2,685
Nyato	900	1,270	565		1,200
Sepetir	900	1,200	990		1,200
Jelutong	1,036	1,435	1,220		1,545
Mixed Light Hardwood	980	810	975		920
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD <i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
	165	1" X 1"	2" X 2"	3" X 3"	4" X 4"
		850	1,115	1,175	1,235
PLYWOOD 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm		12mm
	16.00	25.50	36.50		45.00
MDF 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm		12mm
	14.50	21.50	28.50		38.00

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

* Prices are only indicative



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MIFF AWARDS – HIGHLIGHT THE CREATIVITY OF FURNITURE PLAYERS



Winners of the Best Presentation Award.

The MIFF Prize Presentation Ceremony, the much awaited highlight of the Malaysian International Furniture Fair (MIFF 2013), was held on 7 March in Kuala Lumpur. The awards were presented by Dato' Mah Siew Keong, Chairman of MATRADE.

In his welcoming remarks, Dato' Mah stated that participation in competitions of international stature such as the awards held in conjunction with MIFF, would not only bring greater exposure for the exhibitors, but it would also raise the standard and the image of Malaysian-made furniture to the world.

"The support and guidance is there and provided by the government. The onus is now on furniture manufacturers to move up the value chain and reap greater profits through excellent design and differentiation. No longer do buyers see furniture solely as functional items, but now look at its intrinsic value such as aesthetics and design", added Dato' Mah.

The awards honoured two categories of Furniture Excellence and Best Presentation. The Furniture Excellence Award was presented to furniture manufacturers that met the criteria such innovation which included material usage, marketability, concept, and creativity; aesthetics which included design impression; quality; and functionality which included ergonomics, safety, construction, and sustainability.

WINNERS OF FURNITURE EXCELLENCE AWARD

AWARD	HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE CATEGORY	PRIZE
PLATINUM	RESINAS OLOT SL	RM8,000 (cash rebate) + Trophy + Certificate + 1 Furniture Test at FRIM
GOLD	HIN LIM FURNITURE MANUFACTURER SDN. BHD.	RM5,000 (cash rebate) + Trophy + Certificate + 1 Furniture Test at FRIM
SILVER	SJY FURNITURE (M) SDN. BHD.	RM3,000 (cash rebate) + Trophy + Certificate + 1 Furniture Test at FRIM

AWARD	OFFICE FURNITURE CATEGORY	PRIZE
PLATINUM	OASIS FURNITURE INDUSTRIES SDN. BHD.	RM8,000 (cash rebate) + Trophy + Certificate + 1 Furniture Test at FRIM
GOLD	NCOMPAS ASIA (MALAYSIA) SDN. BHD.	RM5,000 (cash rebate) + Trophy + Certificate + 1 Furniture Test at FRIM
SILVER	TISISIT CORPORATION (M) SDN. BHD.	RM3,000 (cash rebate) + Trophy + Certificate + 1 Furniture Test at FRIM

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AWARD	JUDGES' COMMENDATION AWARD	PRIZE
PLATINUM	SIN LIAN LEE MANUFACTURING SDN. BHD.	RM4,000 (cash rebate) + Trophy + Certificate + 1 Furniture Test at FRIM
GOLD	SJY FURNITURE (M) SDN. BHD.	RM2,000 (cash rebate) + Trophy + Certificate + 1 Furniture Test at FRIM
SILVER	KOREA TECH & ART CO. LTD.	RM1,000 (cash rebate) + Trophy + Certificate + 1 Furniture Test at FRIM

For booth presentation, this aspiration technically translates into design strategy which is made of important criteria, namely the concept, visual impact and functionality. The award aimed to encourage the exhibitors to create an effective and strong image for their companies and products to attract the visitors. The award was jointly organised with Malaysian Timber Council and MIFF/UBM. 

WINNERS OF BEST PRESENTATION AWARD

AWARD	BARE SPACE BOOTH	PRIZE
FIRST	SJY FURNITURE (M) SDN. BHD.	RM8,000 (cash rebate) + Trophy + Certificate
SECOND	HIN LIM FURNITURE MANUFACTURER SDN. BHD.	RM6,000 (cash rebate) + Trophy + Certificate
THIRD	BJ CABINET ENTERPRISE SDN. BHD.	RM4,000 (cash rebate) + Trophy + Certificate

AWARD	SHELL SCHEME BOOTH	PRIZE
FIRST	GAOYA FURNITURE INDUSTRIES SDN. BHD.	RM3,000 (cash rebate) + Trophy + Certificate
SECOND	ZENITH PROJECTS TECHNOLOGY SDN. BHD.	RM2,000 (cash rebate) + Trophy + Certificate
THIRD	DELANO FURNITURE INDUSTRIES (M) SDN. BHD.	RM1,000 (cash rebate) + Trophy + Certificate

FIFTH JOINT EXPERT MEETING

The Fifth Joint Expert Meeting (JEM) was held from 12-14 March in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. The meeting was co-chaired by Dato' Dr. Freezailah Che Yeom (Malaysia) and Dr. Alexander Hinrichs (EU Expert). Dato' Dr. Freezailah welcomed the EU Experts and thanked the Forestry Department of Sabah for making the logistical arrangements for the meeting.

Malaysia informed the meeting that the Peninsular Malaysia Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) is being implemented as a Malaysian initiative pending the conclusion of the FLEGT VPA and that compliance audit on the system had commenced. Considerable time was allocated for deliberation on Sabah TLAS. Malaysia presented the Sabah TLAS which had taken into consideration the comments and suggestions of the Fourth JEM. The meeting discussed all the 23 Tables and agreed on some further revisions.

Sabah took the opportunity to highlight the need for capacity building in the implementation of the TLAS. Following this the EU Experts informed the Meeting about the current FAO call for proposals as well as the possibility for direct assistance. Sabah indicated that it will submit a number of proposals in this regard.

As a follow up to the meeting, it was agreed that the EU Experts will submit examples of "Qualitative Control of the Supply Chain" from other VPA countries for necessary improvements to Malaysia's TLAS.

Malaysia also informed the meeting of the upcoming 11th Stakeholder Consultation which is scheduled on 28 March 2013. The meeting was attended by delegates representing the EU, an officer from MTIB, Sabah Forestry Department and the Protem Secretariat. 

MIFF 2013 FURNITURE DESIGN COMPETITION

The MIFF Furniture Design Competition (MIFF FDC) was organised by UBM Malaysia in conjunction with MIFF 2013. MIFF FDC is the new name of the rebranded talent contest, formerly known as the Ideation Award. The contest does not only reward budding talents. It also helps to groom the design talent for the future of Malaysia's vibrant furniture industry. On top of that, the event served as a platform for aspiring and young designers to showcase their talent and innovativeness in furniture design.

Mr. Klaus Kummer, Chief Judge for MIFF FDC noted that the competition seemed to have developed a format that was comparable to other international competitions. "I have to commend both the designers and the supporting industry

players for their efforts and seriousness in making this competition a showcase of what can actually be achieved. The manufacturers picked up and understood the ideas and created prototypes of very high quality that are almost ready for production, marketing and sale. As judges and professional designers ourselves, we are very pleased to contribute to this development and see a new generation of young talents being taken seriously. I look forward to future competitions and more events in our field," said Mr. Kummer.

The prize presentation was held on 7 March in Kuala Lumpur. Dato' Mah Siew Keong, Chairman of MATRADE gave away the prizes to the winners.

WINNERS OF MFDC 2013

RANKING	DESIGNER NAME	DESIGN NAME	PROTOTYPED BY	PRIZE
FIRST	Emmy Kong Pek Kei	Unity Table	T&H Stainless Steel Works Sdn. Bhd.	RM10,000 + Trophy + Certificate
FIRST	Kok Wen Yee	Jemore Board	BJ Cabinet Enterprise Sdn. Bhd.	RM10,000 + Trophy + Certificate
THIRD	Priscilla Lok Ai Fang	Ketupat	Len Cheong Furniture Sdn. Bhd.	RM2,500 + Trophy + Certificate

Best Prototype Maker: Len Cheong Furniture Sdn. Bhd.



Jemore Board



Unity Table



Ketupat Design



EXPORT FURNITURE EXHIBITION

The Export Furniture Exhibition (EFE) was held at Malaysian Agro Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS) Selangor on 6-10 March, showcasing furniture from 200 participating exhibitors with 25,000 sqm of gross exhibition space. EFE attracted more than 10,000 buyers from across the globe, including 3,740 trade delegations from Africa, Middle east, Europe, Australia, Oceania and America. The exhibition was officiated by YB Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities.

In his opening remark, Tan Sri Bernard said that the event, which was being held for the ninth consecutive year, had established itself as one of the premier furniture fairs in the country. The Minister also mentioned that Malaysia is currently the eighth largest furniture exporter in the world. Apart from the US, some of the major export destinations for Malaysian furniture products in 2012 included Japan with the export value at RM0.82 billion, Singapore at RM0.61 billion, Australia at RM0.53 billion and the United Kingdom at RM0.42 billion.

Tan Sri Bernard added that the government will continue to explore measures to facilitate the development of the furniture industry. Notwithstanding this, it is also pertinent that the industry undertakes its own initiative to strengthen its own competitiveness. Among the areas that the industry needs to invest include activities related to design, automation and mechanisation. This will allow for the production of high quality and innovative furniture products. In addition, furniture products need to reflect values by being functional, price competitive and of high quality finishing.



YB Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities (fifth from left) and other VIPs at the opening ceremony.

MTIB itself has a strong presence at the government Pavilion in Hall 4, expanding its exhibition space to 600 sqm. MTIB provided an avenue for Bumiputera entrepreneurs to explore export markets and to meet new buyers as well as to gain market information. Seven local furniture manufacturers namely Hasro Furniture Gallery Sdn. Bhd., Jati Indah Mulia Enterprise, Tisisit Corporation (M) Sdn. Bhd., Maszma Marketing Sdn. Bhd., Furnitech Industries (M) Sdn. Bhd. displayed their furniture products such as garden furniture, office furniture, living room and bedroom furniture; Edu World Services Sdn. Bhd. displayed pre-school furniture while D'Reebu Sdn. Bhd. displayed their IBS house of timber.

Tisisit Corporation (M) Sdn. Bhd. and Jati Indah Mulia Enterprise won best competition product in the government category. Tisisit Corporation (M) Sdn. Bhd. which displayed an office system furniture won the best product presentation while Jati Indah Mulia grabbed the third place in the outdoor furniture category.



YB Tan Sri Bernard Dompok (second from left), Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General (on his left) and other visitors were briefed on the functionality of the garden sets displayed during EFE.



Products displayed at MTIB booth.

FURNITURE LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2012/2013 HONoured 14 COMPANIES

APS Media Group Sdn. Bhd.



Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General (front row, fifth from right) posing with the winners.

Furniture Leadership Awards (FLA) 2012/2013, one of the most prestigious event in the global furniture industry calendar was held successfully on 7 March in Kuala Lumpur. Organised annually by APS Media Group, a leading publishers of business-to-business magazines and the Southeast Asian member of the International Alliance of Furnishing Publications. Two editions of the awards were held concurrently. They were International Furniture Leadership Awards (FLA International) 2012/2013 which recognised outstanding international companies and Malaysian Furniture Leadership Awards (FLA Malaysia 2012/2013) which honoured great Malaysian companies.

FLA is endorsed by the Council of Asian Furniture Association, International Alliance of Furnishing Publications, Malaysian Furniture Promotion Council, Malaysian Timber Council and Malaysia Furniture Entrepreneurs Association.

The FLA initiative is aimed at recognising excellence in the global furniture trade and industry whilst honouring outstanding companies and individuals across the regional and international furniture landscape. The award programmes highlight inspiring and motivating role models for other like-minded entrepreneurs within the international furniture fraternity. Winning companies are promoted around the world markets.

The Guest-of-Honour for the gala dinner was Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General who launched the Furniture Leadership Awards 2012/2013 and delivered the keynote address.

This latest edition of FLA was witnessed by the crème de la crème of the furniture and furnishing industry comprising trade veterans and experts, business heads as well as authorities and representatives of government agencies and industry associations. There were more than 300 distinguished guests in attendance.

"The Furniture Leadership Awards programme seeks to enhance the furniture business and global trade. It has received the support and participation of many of the region and the world's best furniture companies. In addition to promoting excellence, the programme creates an effective platform for outstanding brands to shine in the global markets. This is made possible with the invaluable support of leading industry agencies, associations and media partners around the world," said Dr. Casey Loo, Founder and Programme Director, Furniture Leadership Awards. Some of this year's partners and supporters included Council of Asian Furniture Associations, International Alliance of Furnishing

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Publications, Malaysian Furniture Promotion Council, Malaysian Furniture Industry Council, Malaysian Furniture Entrepreneurs Associations, MoebelMarkt Germany, The Home Living Japan, Gagu Guide Korea, Mebelny Biznes Russia, Furniture and Furnishing Export Singapore, Furniture News UK, Furniture Today USA.

Mr. Byun Sang Joon, Chairman of the Korean Living Furniture Association and a judge on FLA's international judging panel commented: "This is my third year judging and attending the Furniture Leadership Awards. It's always a pleasure to be involved. I enjoy meeting many of the industry's biggest names in furniture and furnishing across Asia and beyond. These are outstanding companies and individuals that have made their mark as market leaders. Also, it's a gathering of worthy winners and I'm very proud that Korea had two winners this year."

The winners of FLA International 2012/2013 were:

FLA INTERNATIONAL 2012/2013 WINNERS



- 1. CHINA – Management Excellence Award**
Zhejiang Qianglong Seating Co. Ltd.
- 2. INDONESIA – Management Excellence Award**
PT. Cahaya Sakti Furintraco
- 3. JAPAN – Management Excellence Award**
Fujiei Corporation
- 4. KOREA – Management Excellence Award**
DOMO Design
- 5. KOREA – Management Excellence Award**
HBM Design
- 6. SINGAPORE – Product Excellence Award**
Lorenzo International Ltd.
- 7. THAILAND – Management Excellence Award**
Index Living Mall Co. Ltd.
- 8. GERMANY – Outstanding Global Ceo Award**
Mr. Franz Hampel, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Garant - Möbel Holding International S.A.

The winners for the FLA Malaysia 2012/2013 were:



MFLA 2012/2103 WINNERS

- 1. Product Excellence Award**
Apex Office Furniture Sdn. Bhd.
Wasaniaga Sdn. Bhd.
- 2. Rising Brand Award**
BJ Cabinet Enterprise Sdn. Bhd.
- 3. Brand Excellence Award**
Artak Design Sdn. Bhd.
- 4. Management Excellence Award**
Wasaniaga Sdn. Bhd.
- 5. Outstanding Young Leader Award**
High Value Enterprise Sdn. Bhd.
- 6. Outstanding Leader Award**
Mr. Soon Yit Siang,
President G-Orient Industries Sdn. Bhd.

"I am very honoured to receive the FLA Award. This is a very prestigious industry event and gathering. I have observed the programme for several years and noticed the programme has done very well to promote the value of excellence in the furniture business. It has been successful in gathering some of the world's best furniture companies and managers. I am pleased to be a part of the programme" said Mr. Franz Hampel, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Garant- Möbel Holding International S.A. and recipient of the FLA 2012/2013 Outstanding Global CEO Award.

With the huge success achieved at the fifth edition of the FLA, the organisers expect even more participants from around the world for its next edition. "The Furniture Leadership Awards has celebrated yet another truly successful edition. I'm very pleased that we've seen five excellent seasons thus far and look forward to the next five. Heartiest congratulations to all winners. I also thank all our valued guests who contributed to the success of this glorious event by gracing the awards show with their warmth, presence, and support," Dr. Casey Loo concluded with heartfelt gratitude.

INTERNATIONAL NATURAL FIBRE ORGANISATION IN JEC PARIS 2013



The delegation of INFO visited JEC Paris.

Journal Expo Composite (JEC) is the largest composite industry organisation in the world with a network of 250,000 professionals from 100 different countries. JEC Europe 2013 was held in Port de Versailles, Paris from 12 to 14 March. The JEC exhibitors were mainly from the composite industry that produces composite materials and products from carbon, glass and aramid fibres for aircraft, automotive and marine applications.

Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and a local composite industry Sri Jentayu Sdn. Bhd. jointly participated the JEC 2013 with International Natural Fibre Organisation (INFO). INFO is an international private-government stakeholder, based in Amsterdam and actively promoting JACKS (Jute, Abaca, Coir, Kenaf and Sisal) fibres. The members of INFO are from natural fibre producing countries such as Brazil, Bangladesh, India, Philippine, Tanzania and Malaysia. JEC 2013 was used by INFO as a platform for INFO members to foresee opportunities to promote JACKS as composites and understand the world current market of conventional composites.

INFO is very keen in promoting JACKS fibres especially for the composite application. Embarking the JACKS fibres as new material in composite materials and products is an agenda for INFO in creating high value for natural fibre. In the current composite market scenario, depletion in petroleum supply is affecting the composite industry because major fibre supply for the composite industry is derived from crude petroleum.

Natural fibre is an alternative raw material for synthetic fibre has a high potential to be developed for high composite applications due to its renewable properties.

JEC Paris 2013 was generally dominated by big players in the synthetic fibre and composite industry, namely Teijin, DuPont, Tencate, and Toray. It is well known that carbon fibre and glass fibre are major raw materials in the composite industry. The industry also exhibited various types of composite technology where many prototypes such as a super car from carbon fibre were exhibited.



Car skeleton made from carbon fibre.

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Natural fibre woven mat exhibited at a JEC's booth.



Super car made from composite.

The European Association of Fibre and Hemp (CELC-Master of Linen) had a collective stand exhibiting flax and hemp composites and products at the event. The association had also put in great effort in terms of research, development and promotion of European natural fibres which are flax and hemp. INFO, as a major player for natural fibres from developing countries was concerned with the competition and had

strategised the same efforts in promoting JACKS fibres with INFO members.

The delegation from Bangladesh and Brazil also attended the INFO during JEC Paris. MTIB was represented by Cik Noor Intan Saffinaz Anuar. 



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16TH CoP FOR CITES

The 16th Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) held its triennial conference in Bangkok from 3 to 14 March to deliberate on ways to further improve the world's wildlife trade policies.

The convention was officially opened by Her Excellency Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, Yingluck Shinawatra. Her Excellency stressed that the goals of CITES can only be achieved through cooperation across national boundaries. As such at the 13th CITES Conference of Parties (CoP) in Thailand, the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network or ASEAN WEN was initiated. It has made a lot progress in areas such as capacity building and harmonisation of regulations. As the ASEAN region contains much of the world's known plant, animal and marine species, ASEAN has a lot to contribute, and as ASEAN becomes a more connected community in 2015, it will be even more important to protect the region from illegal cross-border activities. It is hoped that the protection of wildlife and cooperation against illicit trade in endangered species will become part of ASEAN's strategy to reduce the negative impact of enhanced connectivity.

Some delegates representing over 178 governments, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organisations and businesses discussed, among other things, 70 proposals for amending the rules for specific species. Many of these proposals reflect growing international concern about the escalation of poaching and illegal trafficking of wild animals, the destruction of the world's marine and forest resources through overfishing and excessive logging and the risks that wildlife crime represents for the security of the planet.

A number of the proposals submitted sought to improve the conservation and sustainable use of timber species which included over 100 Rosewoods, Ebonies from Madagascar and medicinal plants.



Her Excellency Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, Yingluck Shinawatra officiating the convention.

With regards to Agarwood producing taxa, the convention adopted that the current definition of "artificially propagated" may also apply to mono and mixed species, whilst the definition "under controlled conditions" was amended to encompass seedling cultivation only. On personal and household effects, the convention adopted that free movement of specimens of Agarwood is only allowed to the quantitative limit of 1 kg of woodchips and 24 ml of oil per person whereas specimens exceeding the allowable limit will be subjected to CITES Permit.

A total of 13 Malaysian delegates attended the convention comprising representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Forestry Department (Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak), MTIB, Department of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries, and Department of Wildlife. MTIB was represented by Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, Director of Trade Development and Encik Zahari Hamid, Enforcement Officer. 



Attendees at the convention.

INDUSTRY VISITS TO EASTERN REGION



A group photo taken with Encik Norhaiza Nordin (front row, third from left) at Syarikat Seni Ukir Bakawali, Besut, Terengganu.

An industry visit to the Eastern Region (Pahang, Terengganu and Kelantan) was held from 4 to 7 March. The visit aimed to give exposure and enhance knowledge with regards to the timber industry. Forty participants participated and the programme was led by Encik Kamaruddin Othman, Deputy Director of Wood Industry Skills Development Centre (WISDEC).

The group visited TIP Kampung Sempadan located in Lanchang, Pahang. Encik Zainudin Mohamad, representative from Syarikat Robash Corporation Sdn. Bhd. gave an overview on the present status of the company. Later, the group headed to the Mentakab Veneer and Plywood Sdn. Bhd. where they were briefed by Encik Hsu Ching Hsiang on the manufacturing and supplying all sizes of plywood. The group also visited SCK Wooden Industries Sdn. Bhd., a company that specialises in producing timber flooring where they were given a briefing on the timber flooring process by Encik Chew Sweet Houg, a representative of the company.

In Terengganu, the group was brought to Duyong Besar Boat Yachts. There they met the world-famous traditional yacht craftsman, Encik Abdullah Muda who builds row boats, deep-sea fishing boats and luxury yachts merely from memory and experience.

Then, in Kuala Berang, the group visited Warisan Pahlawan Resort, a heritage-style resort which consists of four traditional Terengganu houses filled with various kinds of

wood carvings. The traditional houses are named after the names of three Malay warriors: Mat Kilau, Tok Gajah and Tok Pauh. Following that, at Syarikat Seni Ukir Bakawali, Encik Norhaiza Nordin, the owner of the company who is also a noted traditional wood carver, briefed the visitors on his latest wood carving designs.

The final company visited was Habib Interprise and Trading, which specialises in producing Pine wood furniture. Encik Syed Mohd Kamarudin Syed Mat Nor, the owner of the company briefed the group on the present status of the company as well as their activities.



A demonstration on wood inspection given by Encik Faizani Hassan (right).

ICW 2013 : TRANSFORMATION



Group photo during the ICW Opening Ceremony - YB Dato' Yong Khoo Seng (fourth from left) flanked by Dato' Sri Ir. Dr. Judin Abdul Karim, CEO of CIDB on his left.

The International Construction Week 2013 (ICW 2013), themed *Transformation* was held from 26 to 28 March at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre was officiated by YB Dato' Yong Khoo Seng, Deputy Minister of Works. The ICW 2013 was hosted and jointly organised by the Ministry of Works and Construction Industry Development Board. This annual programme was in its 12th year and it consisted of exhibitions, conferences, seminars and signings of memorandum of understanding. ICW 2013 was the platform for local building industry players to meet overseas buyers as well as share the latest information and build long-term relationships with specifiers such as architects, engineers, contractors, developers and stakeholders. The ICW 2013 was also a platform for the expansion of knowledge of best practices in the construction industry.

Among the events held during the ICW 2013 session were the ICW Conference and Fourteenth Exhibition Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia (REAAA), Second Malaysia Eco-Building and Design, popularly known

as Eco-B, fifth Malaysian Construction Summit, Construction Research Achievement International Conference (CIRAIC) and Construction Project Managers National Symposium 2013.

The objectives of this event were to provide exposure to the construction industry players on the latest innovation, products, services, technology and best practices that can contribute towards improving the construction industry in Malaysia; to promote quality, productivity and competency of the construction industry; to provide a platform for sharing of knowledge, technology and experience in green technologies from around the world; and to provide opportunities and promote business networking between the local construction industry with potential international business strategic partners.

In line with the objective, MTIB also participated in the event as part of its role to promote the use of timber structures such as glued-laminated timber (glulam) components in the construction industry. Glulam is precisely designed as an

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engineered laminated structural load bearing component. It is manufactured by gluing together accurately planed timber laminations of usually 19-50 mm, with the grain of all laminations approximately parallel. The laminations can be finger-jointed to produce glulam members practically of any size and length.

MTIB also promoted several publications as a reference for the Malaysian construction industry such as Laminated Veneer Lumber from Malaysian Tropical Timber (Manufacturing and Design), 100 Malaysian Timbers (2010 Edition) and Timber Specifying for Building Construction. 



MTIB booth displayed glulam components made from Malaysian hardwoods such as Belian and Resak.

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The group then visited Terengganu Timber Industry Training Centre (TTITC) where they were met by Tuan Hj. Aijan Mohammad who briefed them on TTITC's role as the national timber training centre in development of human capital. They also visited the Timber Checking Station at Rantau Panjang, Kelantan where Encik Faizani Hassan gave a demonstration on wood inspection.

As part of the visit, the group also stopped over at MTIB state offices where they were briefed on respective roles and activities. At MTIB Pahang and Timber Checking Station, Kuantan Port, they were briefed by Encik Saupi Mat Nawi, Head of MTIB Pahang; at MTIB Kelantan they were met by Encik Wan Adenan Wan Hassan; while at MTIB Terengganu, they were briefed by Puan Hamidah Mansor, Head of MTIB Terengganu. 



The group being briefed by Encik Abdullah Muda on boat making.



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FOURTH DRAFTING WORKSHOP FOR AUSTRALIAN ILLEGAL LOGGING PROHIBITION ACT 2012



Mrs. Fran Freeman (leftmost), First Assistant Secretary Climate Change Division of Australia thanked the workshop participants.

The Fourth Drafting Workshop on Regulations Package for Australia Illegal Logging Prohibition Act (AILPA) 2012 was held in Canberra, Australia on 27 Mac This was the final consultation workshop being held to develop regulations for the AILPA 2012. The workshop was organised by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) of Australia as an ongoing consultation with its working group members. As with the previous three workshops, this workshop was facilitated by Ms. Julia Donohue from the User First Design Group.

The objective of the workshop were as follows:

- To outline the policy advice and proposed drafting instructions that DAFF is proposing to provide to the Australian Minister on the regulations required to support the administration of the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012.
- To obtain feedback from participants on any concerns they have regarding the proposed advice.
- To confirm next steps for ongoing consultation arrangements.

Mr. Paul McNamara, Assistant Secretary Forestry for DAFF, welcomed all participants who came for the workshop, especially to those who had traveled to Canberra, Australia. Mr. Ben Mitchell Director, International Forest Policy for DAFF, then gave an overview of the workshop discussion paper. He noted that the regulation is scheduled to be tabled by May or June 2013 and therefore the regulations packages are to

be completed by 17 April 2013. Furthermore, for the list of regulated timber products, DAFF will be recommending a threshold of AU\$1000 which is consistent with the Australian GST threshold for imports and is necessary to negate the need for all international passengers with timber products to undertake due diligence. In addition, the Australian Productivity Commission has also recommended that the GST threshold should be lowered when it is cost effective to do so.

The workshop's participants debated on whether to include complex products such as pulp, paper, particle board and furniture into the list of regulated timber products as it would be difficult to gather the information required to undertake due diligence for these products. Malaysia suggested a phased-approach to be used for complex products to provide time for the operators to adopt and implement the system as it was too complex to enforce. However, representatives of Australian NGOs did not support Malaysia's idea as if such products are excluded, then it would send a message that it is permissible to import illegally logged timber in complex products. DAFF advised that the due diligence requirements have been designed to be flexible enough to cater for complex products.

Malaysia delegates also noted that the due diligence requirement should be confined to legality components on timber harvesting. Elements of sustainability such as social issues and biodiversity conservation should be excluded. However Australian NGOs proposed to include social and human elements within due diligence requirements. Indonesia also proposed to include the element of illegal transportation

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of timber products. DAFF explained that the Act's jurisdiction covers only on the scope of harvesting and they do not have the capacity to expand to cover the above three elements. It will depend on the exporting country to define the scope of their legality requirements within the countries' laws.

With regards to Country Specific Guidance (CSG), DAFF stated that the CSG will be drawn up based on bilateral discussions with partner countries. The CSG will be based on existing timber harvesting laws within the producer country, and be mutually agreed between two parties. DAFF have confirmed that the CSG will not be legislative instruments.

DAFF also noted that the regulations for AILPA 2012 will be tabled by May or June 2013 and will come into effect on 30 November 2014. Also, DAFF advised that there were two options in tabling the regulations:

- Option 1 – Tabled as disallowable instrument
 - If there are no objections, regulations are passed after fifteen sitting days
 - If objections are raised, vote is taken in relevant house to 'pull off the table' and if successful, regulations cannot be tabled again for another six months
 - Draft regulations may be referred to a Senate Committee
- Option 2 – Tabled as an exposure draft
 - Further period of consultation
 - Refer exposure draft to senate committee

Option 2 will reduce the amount of time between the regulations being passed and commencement. Some participants indicated their preference for Option 2 as it would provide them with an opportunity to see the actual wording of the regulations prior to tabling.

DAFF officials then invited the Malaysian delegates for a post workshop bilateral discussion. During the discussion, Malaysia deliberated about the Act in greater detail particularly pertaining to protecting the interest of the Malaysian timber industry in the Australian market, since Malaysia is one of Australia's main timber trading partners.

The next and final Working Group meeting before the tabling of the regulation is scheduled on 17 April 2013 in Canberra, Australia. The key agendas for the next meeting are outreach and education programmes for AILPA 2012. DAFF is keen to work in partnership with the industry and is in the process of determining the level of funding that will be available for the programme.

Fifty participants attended this workshop which consisted of mainly government officials and Australia timber trade representatives namely Australian Forest Growers, Australian Forest Products Association, Australian Forestry Standard, Australia Furniture Association, Australian National Retailers Association, Australian Timber Importers Federation, Carter Holt Harvey, Furnishing Industry Association of Australia, Industry Working Group on Quarantine Ltd, Timber Veneers Association of Australia, Window and Door Industry Council, and ITS Global. Furthermore, NGOs comprised Australian Greenpeace and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Besides Malaysia, Australia's other timber trading partners namely Canada, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia were also in attendance.

Malaysia was represented by Cik Nik Fairus Natakhai Rahmat from MPIC, Cik Hjh. Robiyah Husin from MTIB, Cik Alexis Chang from Malaysian Timber Council, Puan S.K. Pang who represented the Malaysian timber and furniture industry and Cik Annie Thing from the Sarawak Timber Association. 



Malaysian delegates at the workshop.



Post workshop bilateral discussion between Malaysian delegates and DAFF officials.



BOOMING OPPORTUNITIES IN QATAR



Qatar is a sovereign Arab state, located in Western Asia, occupying the small Qatar Peninsula on the northeasterly coast of the much larger Arabian Peninsula. Its sole land border is with Saudi Arabia to the south, with the rest of its territory surrounded by the Persian Gulf. A strait in the Persian Gulf separates Qatar from the nearby island state of Bahrain.

Qatar is one of the most prosperous countries in the world and has the fastest growing economy in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Qatar's real GDP compounded annual growth rate was 13.9% between 2007 and 2011. Much of the growth in the economy has been driven by an expansion in the production of oil, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and condensates, coupled with increases in hydrocarbon prices, with the oil and gas sector constituting 51.7% of Qatar's total nominal GDP in 2010. Qatar has also been diversifying its economy by allowing further development in both the real estate and construction sectors. In addition, Qatar has also witnessed a substantial increase in economic growth and returns due in part to investment in the infrastructure, tourism, financial services and petrochemicals sectors. Consequently, the non-oil and gas sector contributed 48.3% of Qatar's nominal GDP in 2010 compared with 39.6% in 2003.

The 2010 census conducted by the Qatar Statistics Authority estimated that the population of Qatar was approximately 1,699,435, which represents an approximate 128.4% increase from the 2004 census population figure of 744,029. According to the 2010 census, approximately 73.7% of the country's population resides in Doha. Like other GCC nations, non-Qatari nationals make up the majority of the population in Qatar.

More recently, Qatar has distinguished itself from other GCC nations by focusing on hosting sporting events and becoming a major hub for sports entertainment in the region. Notably, Qatar hosted the 2006 Asian Games, the 2010 International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) World Indoor Championships and the 2011 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup. In 2010, Qatar won the rights to host the FIFA 2022 World Cup which will necessitate major infrastructure works including the construction of up to 12 new stadiums as well as new roads and transportation facilities. In 2011, the Emir of Qatar issued Resolution No. (27) of 2011 establishing that the Supreme Committee for Qatar 2022 is to be the primary governmental authority responsible for planning and executing the works necessary to host the FIFA 2022 World Cup. In addition, Doha is expected to submit a bid for the rights to host the 2024 Olympics Games.

Forest Resources

According to the FAO, forested area in Qatar is negligible. However, Qatar has some 151 known species of amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles according to figures from the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. In addition, Qatar is also home to at least 355 species of vascular plants.

Import of Timber and Timber Products

In 2011, Qatar's imports of timber and timber products increased 30% to USD449.8 million. Furniture was the main product imported valued at USD284.5 million followed by plywood at USD59.5 million; sawntimber, USD38.3 million and BJC, USD33.9 million. China is the main import partner for timber and furniture products.

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Qatar : Import of Timber Products, 2007-2011
(Value : USD '000)

Product	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Furniture and Parts	129,584	214,362	164,677	217,659	284,482
Plywood	64,560	58,453	41,505	45,874	59,481
Sawntimber	47,559	39,737	28,924	29,942	38,276
BJC	17,847	25,656	16,701	23,101	33,903
Fibreboard	16,261	10,291	8,066	10,131	12,199
Others	104,358	122,224	18,844	18,277	21,447
Total	380,169	470,723	278,717	344,984	449,788

Source: UN Stats

Qatar : Export of Timber Products, 2007-2011
(Value : USD '000)

Product	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Furniture and Parts	1,430	1,275	576	539	1,180
BJC	74	246	7	262	126
Logs	28	101	7	0	122
Packaging	475	719	53	18	58
Articles of wood	260	316	21	43	54
Others	534	1147	97	558	169
Total	2,801	3,804	761	1,420	1,709

Source: UN Stats

Export of Timber and Timber Products

Qatar exports small value of timber and timber products. In 2011, exports increased 20% to USD1.7 million. Furniture and BJC were the main products exported valued USD1.2 million and USD0.13 million respectively.

Malaysia's Export of Timber and Timber Products to Qatar

In 2012, Malaysia's exports of timber and timber products to Qatar increased 17% to RM71.1 million over the previous year. Wooden furniture was the main export with a total value of RM37.6 million in 2012, followed by sawntimber at RM14.4 million and plywood RM10.3 million.

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Malaysia : Export of Timber and Timber Products to Qatar, 2008-2012
(Value : RM)

Product	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Sawntimber	23,684,911	9,947,990	9,398,815	9,764,156	14,391,831
Plywood	7,857,178	7,206,830	5,403,212	8,264,133	10,301,501
Mouldings	0	19,250	0	0	0
Particleboard	40,593	0	18,322	0	0
Fibreboard	5,784,069	3,827,451	4,360,246	8,644,569	8,264,367
Wooden frame	19,196	125,936	19,110	0	7,481
BJC	307,993	3,868,559	2,564,042	3,388,350	545,267
Wooden Furniture	36,261,641	24,152,528	30,346,663	30,880,521	37,593,696
Rattan Furniture	256,305	60,297	0	0	0
Others	34,665	1,406,323	445,180	54,309	32,094
Total	74,246,551	50,710,664	52,555,590	60,996,038	71,136,237

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia and MTIB

Malaysia : Export of Timber and Timber Products to Qatar, 2008-2012
(Volume : m³)

Product	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Sawntimber	18,864	8,694	8,589	7,821	9,708
Plywood	5,534	5,688	4,379	5,814	8,095
Mouldings	0	5	0	0	0
Particleboard	37	0	27	0	0
Fibreboard	5,149	4,027	4,925	9,797	8,047
Total	29,584	18,615	17,920	23,432	25,850

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia and MTIB

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Import Tariffs

Qatar's import duty on timber and timber products ranges from 0 – 5%. Details are as follows:

HS Code	Products	Duty (%)
4401	Fuel Wood	0-5
4402	Wood Charcoal	0
4403	Logs	5
4404	Hoop Wood	5
4405	Wood Wool & Wood Flour	5
4406	Sleepers	5
4407	Sawntimber	5
4408	Veneer	5
4409	Mouldings	5
4410	Chipboard/ Particleboard	5
4411	Fibreboard	5
4412	Plywood	5
4413	Densified Wood	5
4414	Wooden Frame	5
4415	Packing Cases	5
4416	Casks, Barrels, Vats & Tubs	5
4417	Tool Bodies and Handle	5
4418	Builders Joinery and Carpentry	5
4419	Tableware and Kitchenware	5
4420	Wood Marquetry	5
4421	Other Articles of Wood	5
9401, 9402, 9403	Wooden Furniture	5

Import Regulations

Qatar is a member of the WTO and a party to various regional free trade agreements, most notably within the GCC. As a result of its participation in the GCC Customs Union, Qatar has been applying the GCC Common External Tariff Law No. (41) of 2002 that implements the GCC unified customs tariff in Qatar, imposing a 5% tariff on the invoice value of most imported products. The GCC unified customs tariff has allowed exemptions for approximately 400 goods, including certain basic food products as well as all timber products. Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitute are subject to a customs duty of at least 100%. The Qatar Science and

Technology Park (QSTP) free zone does not impose import duties. Qatar is a member of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) pursuant to which Qatar eliminated customs duties on certain products from GAFTA member states.

Parties wishing to import goods into Qatar must generally be registered in the Importers' Register and must be approved by the Chamber of Commerce. Projects funded by the Qatar Development Bank or designated by the Ministry of Energy and Industry (generally those in the construction, oil, gas, water and electricity sectors) can be granted a customs duty waiver for the import of machinery, raw materials and industry equipment.

Free Zone

The Qatar Financial Centre and QSTP are the only two free zones in Qatar. Qatar plans to have at least three free trade zones to be located near the New Doha International Airport, the Doha Industrial Area and the Mesaieed Industrial City. Qatar offers business and tax incentives as well as the ultimate location in terms of geographical proximity to Asia, North America, Europe and other regions in the Middle East. By becoming a major hub, Qatar would be an ideal place to invest or set up a business.

Prospects

The construction industry in Qatar is among the biggest in GCC countries. 'Build it and they'll come'. That's the vision of Qatar. In 2020, Qatar will be hosting the 2022 soccer World Cup and the government will be relocating USD130 billion for infrastructure and the building of hotels and apartments, thereby providing increased opportunities for the application of timber and timber products in these future mega projects. To do business in Qatar, Malaysian entrepreneurs must have resilient and focus only on what they can do well, pitching a realistic level and then teaming up with the right local partners.

Taking advantage of this positive economy and building construction industry prospects, the Malaysian government, through MATRADE, will be establishing the Malaysian Trade Centre in Doha schedule to be in operation by September 2013. With the opening of this trade centre, it will open the doors for Malaysian businesses to connect and network with their counterparts there. They are highly encouraged to promote their products, including timber and timber products as well as furniture, in this trade centre in order to maximise promotions both in Qatar and the Middle East.

References:

- *Encyclopedia of the Nations*
- *Department of Statistics Malaysia*
- *WTO*
- *Qatar Customs*
- *Living In Qatar, p 140*
- *Doing Business in Qatar, p1, 9*
- *Country Report: Qatar, p 33,35*

PELAWAN SUITABLE FOR HEAVY CONSTRUCTION



Wood colour and texture.

Pelawan is the Standard Malaysian Name for the timber of Tristania spp. (family Myrtaceae) (Desh, 1957). There are six species of Tristania in Peninsular Malaysia. The major species that are commonly found in Peninsular Malaysia are T. merguensis Griff, T. whitiana Griff and T. obovata R. Br.

The trees are small or medium- sized without buttresses and the colour of bark ranges from orange-brown to pinkish grey (Ng, 1978).

The timber is also known as Pelawan-pelawan in Sabah, Selunsur in Sarawak, Pelawan in Indonesia and Malabayabas in the Philippines.

General Characteristics

Pelawan is hard or very hard and heavy or very heavy timber with air dry density ranging from 915 to 1,250 kg/m³ (57-78 lb/ft³) with an average of 1,010 kg/m³ (63 lb/ft³).

The sapwood is pink-brown or red-brown and is lighter in

colour than the heart-wood, which is pink-brown, red-brown or purple brown, sometimes with a grey tinge (Wong, 1982).

The texture of the timber is rather fine and even. The grain is interlocked and sometimes wavy.

Wood Anatomy

Growth rings are absent. The vessels are moderately numerous to numerous and small to medium-sized. They are exclusively solitary with a strong tendency towards arrangement in tangential groups. Tyloses are common and white deposits abundant.

Wood parenchyma are sparse and visible only with a hand lens. The paratracheal occurs as incomplete or narrow borders around vessels with a tendency towards the aliform type.

Rays are very fine, not visible to the naked eye and not conspicuous on the radial surface.

Sawing and Woodworking

The sawing and woodworking properties of Pelawan were assessed in the FRIM, Kepong using standard testing procedures. Only one species, *T. obovata*, was tested and the results are summarised in **Table 1** (Anon, 1982).

Table 1 : Sawing and Woodworking Properties of Pelawan

Species		Test Condition	Sawing		Working	
Local Name	Botanical Name		Ease of Sawing	Surface Finish	Ease of Working	Surface Finish
Pelawan	<i>Tristania obovata</i>	Air-dry	Slightly difficult	Smooth	Slightly difficult	Smooth

Seasoning

Pelawan is considered as a moderately slow drying timber. Tests have shown that it takes about five months to air-dry 40 mm thick boards from green to air-dry condition (in this case, 15% moisture content). The timber shrinks about 2.6% radially and 3.8% tangentially from green to air-dry condition. Drying defects are not particularly serious and only minor defects such as slight end-checking, and splitting, have been

recorded. **Table 2** gives the drying characteristics of Pelawan (*T. obovata*). (Rashid, 1985).

Kiln-drying

Kiln-drying Schedule D (**Table 3**) is recommended for the drying of Pelawan because the timber is liable to cup and end-checking. Using this schedule, Pelawan boards of 25 mm thickness take approximately nine days to dry. (Rashid, 1985).

Table 2 : Air Seasoning Characteristics of Pelawan

Air-dry moisture content (%)	Shrinkage (%) green to air-dry		Time to air-dry 40 mm boards (months)	Cupping	Bowing	Twisting	Spring	End-checking	Splitting	Surface-checking	Insect attack during seasoning	Fungal stain during seasoning
	Radial	Tangential										
15	2.6	3.8	5	B	B	B	A	B	B	A	A	A

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Table 3 : Kiln-drying Schedule D

Moisture Content %	Temperature (Dry-bulb)		Temperature (Wet-bulb)		Relative Humidity % (approx.)
	°F	°C	°F	°C	
Green	105	40.5	101	38	85
60	105	40.5	99	37	80
40	105	40.5	96	35.5	70
35	110	43.5	97	36	60
30	115	46	97	36	50
25	125	51.5	101	38	40
20	140	60	105	40.5	30
15	150	65.5	112	44.5	30

Mechanical Properties

Standard mechanical test were conducted on both green and air dry small specimens of *T. obovata* (Anon, 1982). The results obtained are summarised in **Table 4** and show that the timber has good strength properties. Pelawan is therefore classified under Strength Group A.

Durability

The timber is reputed to be a very durable wood but no recent test results are available. Related species have been tested in other countries and found to be very durable under all conditions and even resistant to termite and marine borer attacks (Wong, 1976).

Table 4 : Mechanical Properties

Species	Test Condition	Modulus of Elasticity (Megapascals)	Modulus of Rupture (Megapascals)	Compression Parallel to Grain (Megapascals)	Compression Perpendicular to Grain (Megapascals)	Shear Strength (Megapascals)
<i>T. obovata</i>	Green	14, 167	111.0	51.7	-	12.4
	Air-dry	20, 732	170.0	72.6	-	18.4



Pelawan leaves.

Preservative Treatment

This species has not been tested for its amenability to preservative treatment.

Uses

This timber is suitable for all heavy construction, piling, posts, tools and handle manufacture, columns, boat framing and other marine construction. It is also suitable for heavy duty flooring and power transmission poles (Wong, 1982)

References:

- <http://www.asianplant.net/>
- Malaysian Forest Service Trade Leaflet No. 100 

MTIB Moments



Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General (right) presenting a mock cheque to Encik Fairuz Mohamad Mahidi, the winner for MTIB 40 years anniversary logo competition. It was given during the monthly Assembly held on 18 March 2013 at MTIB, Kuala Lumpur.



MTIB organised a Basic Course on Vehicle Maintenance for its personnel from 22 to 24 March 2013 in Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan.



Encik Nasrullah Ahmad, MTIB officer briefed the visitors on turned products at the Jelajah Janji Ditepati programme held on 23 March 2013 in Kuantan, Pahang.



Tuan Hj. Ramli Hj. Harun of Oud Wangi Enterprise (left) enlightens Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General (second from left) and MTIB officials on gaharu oil processing at his factory in Langkawi, Kedah. They visited the factory on 27 March 2013.



Officials from MTIB, Dassault Aviation, Seri Jentayu Sdn. Bhd. at Rafale booth during LIMA 2013 held in March 2013, Langkawi, Kedah. The three agencies will collaborate in the development of value-added biocomposite products.



Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General (right), Encik Khairulasmah Abd. Rahman, Operation Manager of Boustead Langkawi Shipyard Sdn. Bhd. (BLS) and MTIB officials at the main entrance of BLS building. Photo taken on 28 March 2013 in Langkawi, Kedah.