

# Ucapan YBM Majlis Perasmian International Seminar On Bamboo – 19 Mei 2015

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## - ENGLISH VERSION ONLY -

TEKS UCAPAN PERASMIAN OLEH  
YB DATUK DOUGLAS UGGAH EMBAS  
MENTERI PERUSAHAAN PERLADANGAN DAN KOMODITI MALAYSIA  
SEMPENA MAJLIS PERASMIAN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON BAMBOO  
PADA 19 MEI 2015 (SELASA)  
DI HOTEL QUALITY CITY CENTRE KUALA LUMPUR  
(DIBACAKAN OLEH DATUK HIMMAT SINGH)

YBhg. Datuk Himmat Singh  
Secretary General  
Ministry of Plantation, Industries and Commodities Malaysia (MPIC)

YBrs. Dr. Jalaluddin Harun  
Director General  
Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB)

Heads and Representatives of the Ministries and Government Agencies.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Salam 1Malaysia dan A Very Good Morning

1. First of all, on behalf of the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities Malaysia (MPIC) i would like to congratulate MTIB, for taking the initiative to organize the International Seminar on Bamboo in collaboration with the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) and the International Centre For Bamboo Research (ICBR). I was informed that this is the first Seminar organized in Malaysia, involving collaboration from the three (3) organizations. I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to the organisers for inviting me to officiate this morning's Seminar. I am delighted upon the involvement and contribution of other government agencies in the organization of this seminar. It reflects the commitment and effort towards development of Bamboo Industry in Malaysia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Malaysia is one of the leading exporters of timber and timber products in the world. In 2014, Malaysia exported RM 20.5 billion worth of timber and timber products, an increase of 5% from the value registered in 2013. Furniture, plywood and sawn timber continues to be the three main products being exported, accounting for 69% of total timber exports. These products were exported to more than 150 countries including Japan, the United States and the European Union. At the domestic front, timber and timber products plays an important role in generating revenue too, and the annual market size is estimated at RM13 billion. Major contributors are the construction sectors, followed by interior decoration and furniture industry.

2. The National Timber Industry Policy (NATIP) provides a framework for steering the growth and development of the timber industry in Malaysia. NATIP envisages to leverage the export performance timber products which is targeted to reach RM53 billion by 2020 with the composition of 60% value-added downstream products and 40% of primary products. Timber industry however needs to overcome several challenges such as raw materials supply, shortage of skilled labour, competition from other producing countries and innovation in processing technology.

2. One of the key factors in the development of the timber industry in Malaysia is the adequate and reliable supply of raw materials at competitive price. As raw material from the natural forest is fast depleting, there is a need to source alternative raw materials from sources that is available in abundance in the country. Bamboo is one of the raw materials that has been identified to have the potential to be widely used in the timber industry. At the present moment, bamboo industry in Malaysia is still considered as a small industry catering for products such as handcraft items for the local market. Export of bamboo products over the last 10 years hovers around RM250,000 annually compared to the importation of the product into Malaysia which is recorded within the range of RM1.5 - 2 million a year. The main bamboo products exported are still in the form of basic products such as basketry, satay skewers, sticks, joss sticks and etc. The global market for bamboo is currently dominated by China, Thailand and Indonesia. According to the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), the global bamboo industry generated revenue of USD 11 billion per year and is expected to reach between USD 15-18 billion in 2018.

YBhg. Dato'-Dato', Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. The Malaysian government is currently emphasising on bamboo, as this material is seen as one of the important non-timber forest products, that has the potential to be the new source of growth for the economy. Besides being an alternative raw material for the timber industry, it can also be used in the food, transportation, textile and many other industries. Bamboo has the added advantage of being a green material that is environmental friendly and could easily meet the demand of today's green consumerism. In Malaysia there are about 70 species of bamboo of which 45 species (in 7 genera) are native species that grow naturally in the area of natural forest or ex-logging area as well as along the rivers of Malaysia. Based on the data obtained from the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM), it is estimated that 31% of the bamboo population could be found in Peninsular Malaysia, 45% in Sarawak and 24% in Sabah. In Peninsular Malaysia, about 329,000 ha of the area is covered with bamboo.

4. Bamboo is also suitable to be cultivated as a plantation because of its short maturity period, that is between 3-5 years, compared to trees, and even of the fast-growing species, which takes at least 10-15 years to mature. If it is well planned and managed with the best silvicultural methods, sustainable raw material from the bamboo plantations can be obtained. As the country is facing challenges, for instance, the shrinking forest due to the harvesting and other developmental activities, bamboo plantation could be an alternative source to supplement the raw material supply for the timber industry, and hence to help preserve more forest areas.

5. However, in order to establish a successful bamboo plantation, some important aspects should be taken into consideration such as the right selection of bamboo species and seedlings preparation; management of bamboo plantations as well as its maintenance. I believe those aspects will be covered in today's seminar and I really hope that all participants will be able to gain as much knowledge as possible from the Seminar.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. Before I conclude, let me once again thank the INBAR and ICBR for their willingness to fly all the way from China to share some knowledge on the Bamboo Industry and to our respective local speakers from JPSM, FRIM, UPM and the industry.

7. Lastly but not least, I would like to once convey my gratitude to the organisers, for inviting me this morning and on that note, it gives me great pleasure to declare the International Seminar on Bamboo, open.

Thank You

MINISTRY OF PLANTATION INDUSTRIES AND COMMODITIES

Putrajaya

19 May 2015