

National Conference On Timber Engineering

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UCAPAN ALUAN OLEH
DR. JALALUDDIN HARUN
KETUA PENGARAH,
LEMBAGA PERINDUSTRIAN KAYU MALAYSIA
SEMPENA NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TIMBER ENGINEERING
7 JULAI 2009
HOTEL SERI PASIFIC, KUALA LUMPUR

Yang Berusaha Saudara/i Pengacara Majlis

YB Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Menteri Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi Malaysia

Your Excellencies Ambassadors and Trade Commissioners

Yang dihormati Puan Nurmala Abdul Rahim, Timbalan Ketua Setiausaha I, KPPK

Ketua-ketua Pengarah serta Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif serta agensi di bawah KPPK

Para pembentang kertaskerja dan peserta persidangan

Dif-dif kehormat

Dato'-dato/Datin-datin/Tuan-tuan, Puan-puan yang dihormati sekalian

Assalamualaikum wbh dan selamat Sejahtera

Terlebih dahulu saya bagi pihak MTIB ingin mengucapkan terima kasih di atas kesudian Y. B. Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Menteri Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi (KPPK) kerana sudi meluangkan masa untuk menghadiri serta merasmikan 'National Conference on Timber Engineering - Challenges and Opportunities' anjuran Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia. Sempena majlis ini juga akan diadakan Pelancaran Malaysian Grading Rules(MGR) Edisi 2009 serta sambutan 10 tahun MTIB sebagai Standards Writing Organisation(SWO) pada pagi ini.

Your Excellencies/Ladies and Gentlemen

First and foremost, on behalf of the Malaysian Timber Industry Board I wish to express our gratitude to YB Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Minister of Primary Industries and Commodities, Malaysia for his presence here today to officiate the National Conference on Timber Engineering with the theme Challenges and Opportunities organized by MTIB. I would also like to wish a warm welcome to Your Excellencies Ambassadors, trade commissioners as well as special invited guests for gracing this morning's event.

The timber industry has traditionally been an export oriented industry. However the country had depended far too long on exports that are produced cheaply. As a result, the country became vulnerable to global market collapses. Malaysia is also midway to becoming a high cost country. Therefore, it is timely for us to build a new economy based on domestic growth and less depending on export market.

In this context, the construction industry is one of the potential markets to be expanded domestically since it is significant and constitutes an important element of Malaysia's economy. Timber is one of the superior

materials used in the construction industry due to its aesthetic, pleasant, warm and environmentally friendly effects as well as other advantages.

However, in Malaysia, of late, there are several challenges faced by the timber sector as a result of inroads made by alternative materials such as steel, concrete and PVC into some applications which had been the domain of timber. Despite these challenges, with new inventions and technology, there are vast opportunities for Malaysian construction industry to spur by using this environmental-friendly material in the construction sector either for structural or non structural purposes.

With the organisation of today's conference, I really hope we could achieve our objectives to enlighten and reaffirm among the specifiers the versatility and advantages of timber and engineered timber products as well to heighten awareness on the potentials of using engineered timber product such as Glue-laminated timber(glulam) as well as timber for Industrialised Building Systems(IFS) application in construction. MTIB will continue to organize regular programmes to further promote timbers to specifiers such as architects, engineers as well to relevant government and private organizations.

I was informed that eight papers will be presented by eight prominent speakers in this conference which covering aspects such as timber in architecture, potentials of timber as outlined in the Construction Industry Master Plan(CIMP), challenges and opportunities for timber in construction, potentials of new engineered products such as glue laminated timber products as well as potentials of Industrialised Building Systems(IFS) in construction. The conference will also discuss about Malaysian Green Building Index(GBI), i.e a profession driven initiative to lead the Malaysian property industry towards becoming more environment friendly, which was recently launched by the Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia(PAM) in April.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Today, it is a fact of life that the ability to comply swiftly with changes to standards, regulations and other codes are important to ensure continued market access particularly in certain sensitive markets. Competition among timber producing countries is mounting as more countries move towards industrialisation to achieve national goals. Most of the producing countries are competing in a more or less same market segment engaging in similar products. As such, market dominance will largely depend not only on pricing but quality. In this respect, MTIB is gearing itself to continue the efforts towards enhancing greater market access by participating in regional and international fora in related standards development activities. MTIB's participation is to ensure that standards developed particularly by the importing countries do not form any technical barriers to the trade of Malaysian timber products. For your information MTIB has been appointed as one of the Standards Writing Organisations(SWO) in 1999 by SIRIM Berhad and I am glad to announce that this year we are commemorating our 10th. Anniversary as the SWO.

I am also pleased to note that Malaysian manufacturers are recognised internationally as producers of high quality products and this is evident through an encouraging exports statistics annually whereby our timber products are exported to over 150 countries. One of the important products is sawn timber which is being exported to more that 80 countries and majority of these timber are graded in accordance with the Malaysian Grading Rules for Sawn Hardwood Timber(MGR). In this context, I would like to inform that MTIB has revised the MGR after taking into accounts several development occurred within the industry. After the last revision which was held in 1984(25 years back) we have revised and published MGR 2009 Edition which include several major changes. This document will also be launched today by the YB Minister.

Before I end my speech, once again I would like to thank YB Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Minister of Plantation of Industries and Commodities for his presence to grace our event. I would also like to thank all the Ambassadors and invited guests for your presence to this important and memorable event.

Last but not least my sincere thanks goes to all speakers, companies/individuals as well as secreteriat members in making this event a successful.

Thank you.

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