

Seminar on 'Building a Sustainable Future Through Timber Construction'

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Seminar on 'Building A Sustainable Future Through Timber Construction'

Ucapan Perasmian

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Timbalan Menteri Perusahaan Perladangan Dan Komoditi

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Kuala Lumpur

Saudari pengacara majlis

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Ahli-ahli Jemaah Lembaga MTIB

Wakil-wakil Kementerian

Para pembentang kertaskerja

Para peserta seminar

Tetamu jemputan yang dihormati sekalian

Selamat Pagi dan Salam Sejahtera

Terlebih dahulu saya ingin mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada pihak penganjur Seminar iaitu Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia kerana sudi menjemput saya untuk menyampaikan ucapan dan seterusnya merasmikan Seminar 'Building A Sustainable Future Through Timber Construction' pada pagi ini.

Saya juga ingin mengucapkan tahniah dan syabas kepada jawatankuasa penganjur kerana telah mengambil inisiatif untuk terus mengadakan seminar seumpama ini yang akan membincangkan aspek berkaitan penggunaan kayu di dalam sektor pembinaan, di samping mempromosikan produk baru berkejuruteraan tinggi seperti Glued Laminated Timber (Glulam) yang berpotensi untuk dipeluaskan penggunaannya di dalam sektor pembinaan.

Saya juga berasa bangga dengan penyertaan Seminar yang menggalakkan ini, khususnya penyertaan dari kalangan 'specifiers' seperti arkitek dan jurutera, para penyelidik serta pegawai-pegawai dari Jabatan Kerja Raya dan pihak berkuasa tempatan dan juga para pelajar dari institusi pengajian tinggi.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, I wish to express my appreciation to the organizer, Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB), for giving me the opportunity and honour to officiate this Seminar on 'Building A Sustainable Future through Timber Construction'. I would also like to wish special welcome to all invited guests, speakers and participants to the opening ceremony of this Seminar.

The timber industry plays an important role in the country's export earnings. In 2010 the industry exported timber and timber products worth RM 20.52 billion. However, the export performance in 2011 so far has not been quite encouraging. Up to Jun 2011 the export was 9.79 billion which is a decline of about 4.9% compared to the same period in previous year. This performance does not auger well with the aspiration of the National Timber Industry Policy (NATIP) which has targetted to reach RM53 billion by 2020. As it stands our export performance is already lagging behind the expected target of NATIP. According to NATIP's projection we should be hitting RM30.42 billion in 2011. But based on the current performance I am not overly optimistic whether we can reach this target.

Concerted and structured plan is thus necessary to guide the industry players to ensure its continued development.

In this regard, I would like to urge agencies under my Ministry to work together with the relevant stakeholders in overcoming issues and challenges facing the timber industry for the betterment of the industry and country. The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) should be working together with the industry to re-strategise our marketing efforts to address the multiple and simultaneous challenges faced by the industry.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

Exports aside, the timber industry should also place greater emphasis on the domestic market, which has tremendous potentials for growth. Recent study shows that the domestic market consumption of timber is estimated at more than RM 20 billion. The largest consumer of timber in the domestic market is the housing and the construction sector which accounts for more than 50% of the total value of the domestic market. Sawn timber is the major product used in this sector. Apart from this, plywood, door and window frames and other wood-based panels are also used as formwork and interior components.

Estimated potential market share for timber used in domestic by product are sawntimber RM 10.8 billion (54 %); furniture RM 4.0 billion (20 %); plywood and other panels RM 4.0 billion (20 %); door/window frames RM 1.0 billion (5%); and others RM 1.0 billion (5%).

Towards this end, the effort by the Government to promote Industrialized Building System (IBS) as a concept for construction should be fully tapped by the timber industry. With the formulation of the Construction Industrial Master Plan (CIMP) 2006-2015 and the move by the Treasury in issuing a circular letter on IBS in October 2008 which requires all new Government building projects to have at least 70% IBS content, I am confident that timber will be a promising material for any applications if the right grades, species and properties of timber are used.

The use of engineered timber products in construction, for example, allows walls and building components to be made in the factory through mechanization process as well as automation, and the ready-made components are then installed on site. This has resulted in cleaner and safer work sites and more efficient construction schedule with fewer workforce needed. With the use of such new systems and technologies, reliance on low-skilled workers is further reduced. The challenge is whether the timber industry is ready to adopt these methodologies to optimise the use of labour, thereby reducing its reliance on foreign contract workers.

In our effort to promote the use of timber in construction, I would also like to reiterate on the need for the industry to comply with the requirements of the Malaysian Green Building Index (GBI). The GBI is a rating system that provides a comprehensive framework to evaluate the environmental impact and performance of buildings. Buildings are awarded the GBI Malaysia rating based on six key criteria namely energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, sustainable site planning, material and resources, water efficiency as well as

innovation. I would like to urge the timber industry to view these developments as opportunities for greater utilization of timber.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen With the availability of new technology, the timber industry has successfully introduced into the building industry a whole range of engineered materials and components. These materials and components have proven to be highly competitive building materials. I am encouraged to know that engineered timber products such Glue-Laminated Timber (glulam) and Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL) are excellent materials for structural applications. The success of this technology has been so spectacular, especially in western countries, that it is predicted that the market for these products will grow by several folds within the next decade.

Glulam is an extremely strong material and possesses architecturally pleasing features for prestigious projects in developed markets. It offers several benefits and flexibilities for innovative timber designs such as for curved beam, portal frames bridges, pillars, trusses, marine decking as well as other structural applications.

In this regard I am pleased to announce that MTIB with the assistance of JKR is now constructing a timber building to showcase the use of glulam in Tebrau, Johor. This will be an iconic timber building, pioneering the use of glulam. I was informed that the building will be ready by the end of next month. This building will mark a major milestone in the application of structural timber in the domestic market. I am also delighted to know that JKR as well as MTIB will be delivering papers in this Seminar to share their experiences in the construction of this iconic timber building.

In a bid to encourage and educate the specifiers as well as students to understand the application of timber, MTIB has been conducting two (2) specialised activities namely 'Program Pembudayaan Kepenggunaan Kayu Kepada JKR' and 'Program Mesra Kayu Kepada Pelajar IPTA/IPTS'. I wish to laud MTIB for this effort as it would certainly enhance the knowledge of specifiers as well as potential specifiers on the application of timber.

The Seminar today should augment the above mentioned activities of MTIB. I understand that another issue of concern among specifiers is the question of sustainability of the timber resources. I can assure the participants that the government is fully committed to sustainable management of our forest. In this regard we have the necessary legal as well as institutional framework to safeguard our forest and exploit it on a sustainable basis.

With that note I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizer of this Seminar for inviting me to grace this event. I am confident that this Seminar will provide an interesting forum for all participants to be updated on some of the latest developments, challenges as well as opportunities in the domestic market construction industry.

Before I end my speech, I wish to take this opportunity once again to express my heartiest appreciation to the organizers, Malaysian Timber Industry Board as well as other supporting organizations such as CIDB, JKR, UiTM, public and private sectors and all those who have supported and contributed towards the promotion of timber for construction.

I would also like to thank all the speakers for sharing their expertise in this Seminar.

Finally, I wish all the participants, a fruitful Seminar, and on this note, I have great pleasure in officially declaring this Seminar open.

Thank you.

Timbalan Menteri Perusahaan Perladangan & Komoditi Malaysia