



MASKAYU



**TERENGGANU'S INTERNATIONAL
TIMBER SHOWCASE 2014**

**PERUSAHAAN ZALIKRAF – FROM
THE TRADITIONAL HOUSE TO
THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE**



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Cover: The inherent artistic and aesthetic values of wood carving still attract many Malaysians who choose to adorn their homes and offices with these creative creations. Perusahaan Zalikraf specialises in wood carving and more story on the company on pages 28-29.



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TERENGGANU'S INTERNATIONAL TIMBER SHOWCASE 2014



YAB Dato' Seri Ahmad Razif Abd Rahman, Menteri Besar Terengganu (second from right) with the VIPs at the closing ceremony of TINTS.

Terengganu has been among the biggest contributors of Malaysia's export in timber products. With a total number of 53 registered timber related companies in the state, Terengganu has a potential for growth due to the cultural value in its design and availability of raw materials. Thus, to increase the use of timber in the domestic market, MTIB in collaboration with Terengganu Timber Industry Training Centre and Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin took the initiative to organise the Terengganu International Timber Showcase (TINTS) which was held on 13–16 November at Terengganu Trade Centre. The organisation of this exhibition was supported by Terengganu Entrepreneur Development Foundation and Terengganu Incorporated Sdn. Bhd.

The main objective of TINTS was to inform stakeholders of the role of the timber industry in generating economy especially in Terengganu. It was also held as a one-stop centre carnival for timber products. Some of the events held during the showcase were timber product exhibitions, wood carving demonstrations, timber products sales, a seminar and educational talks.

YB Dato' Noriah Kasnon, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities in her welcoming speech said, Terengganu is rich in wood resources, and contributed 11% of total timber production in Peninsular Malaysia. She stated that Terengganu's wood craft heritage needs to be maximised to enhance the development of the wood industry in the future. She added, that MTIB will increase collaboration with the state government to conduct more training programmes on design, marketing and carving for wood-based entrepreneurs.

Fifty companies participated of which 45 were from the private sector and five from government agencies. The booths showcased products ranging from timber garden furniture, carving products, construction products to Agarwood products. The exhibition attracted both local and international visitors during the four-day event.

The closing ceremony of TINTS was officiated by YAB Dato' Seri Ahmad Razif Abd Rahman, Menteri Besar Terengganu on 16 November. In his speech, Dato' Seri Ahmad Razif stated, the development of the wood-based industry in Terengganu will be refocused on the production of new value-added timber products. This transformation is in line with Terengganu's new Transformation Programme (TTP). According to Dato' Seri Ahmad Razif, there will be three areas of focus under the TTP, namely Economic Transformation, Government Transformation and Political Transformation. The Economic Transformation



YAB Dato' Seri Ahmad Razif Abd Rahman signing a replica of the Malaysia Book of Records certificate.



TIMBER WORLD IN BRIEF

BRAZIL

Top Plywood Producer in South America

Demand for plywood (coniferous and tropical) across South America is high and production capacity is increasing. The main plywood producers and exporters in South America are Brazil, Chile and Uruguay. In 2013, Brazil was the largest plywood producer and exporter as the country produced 2.57 million m³ and exported 1.25 million m³ earning USD429.23 million.

Between January and October this year Brazilian plywood exports (coniferous and non-coniferous) totalled USD381 million, a 7.3% increase compared to the same period of 2013. The main markets were the UK (17%) followed by Germany (14%), Belgium (13%) and the US (8%). Productivity has improved in Brazilian mills through the use of modern equipment that allows small diameter logs to be utilised.

ITTO, 1-15 November

CHINA

Imports of Plywood Increase

For the first nine months of 2014 China's imports of plywood increased by 20.7% year-on-year to 130,900 m³. Plywood imports from Russia totalled 22,900 m³. China also imported 25,800 m³ of plywood from Indonesia and 58,200 m³ more from Malaysia.

China Timber, 12 November

New World-Class Timber Distribution Centre

Within five years a new timber port for international cargoes will be built in Caofeidian, Wenfeng in Tangshan City, Hebei Province. This port will be one of three equipped for timber fumigation and will service customers in northern, northeast, northwest and inner-Mongolia.

It has been reported that a RMB1.17 billion has been invested in building a 30,000 tonne and two 50,000 tonne softwood berths, two 50,000 tonne of hardwood berths as well creating one of the biggest timber trading platforms in North China.

Currently, two 50,000 tonne berths are open to shipping and by the end of this year the terminal handling capacity is forecast to reach 5 million m³ per year.

ITTO, 1-15 November

FINLAND

Finnish Timber Output Increases

Finland's wood products and plywood production increased in the first nine months of this year compared with the same period last year. While the forest products industry's output,

which includes pulp and paper, was largely unchanged, wood products production increased by 7%, to nearly 8.2 million m³, and plywood production also by 7% to just over 850,000 m³.

During the first three quarters, Finnish Forest Industries Federation (FFIF) member companies bought 23.1 million m³ of wood from private forests – 1% more than the same period in 2013. According to the FFIF, the forest products industry plans investments worth around €1.5 billion, which could increase timber consumption by 10 million m³ a year.

tijonline.com, 12 November

GERMAN

Volkswagen Intends to Use Wood in Car Production

Volkswagen (VW) will use wood-based materials in tools for car production in the future. At its plant in Wolfsburg/DE, prototypes of skid conveyors made of Birch plywood have been produced for over a year. Skids are work piece carriers which move around body parts of 850 kg at a speed of up to 140 m/min (kilogramme-force metres/minute).

The system was developed at the Technical University of Chemnitz/DE. The frame consists of a wood veneer composite material (WVC). The test period rendered favourable results. According automobil-produktion.de, VW intends to order 75 such modules.

Timber-online.net, 4 November

Architects Views of Timber Construction

In the latest annual survey by BaulInfoConsult, more than half of the 180 architects polled would not predict the development of timber as construction material. About 17% expect the use of timber to increase, while as many expect the share to remain unchanged in the next five years. Those who expect the use of timber to increase explained this with ecological aspects.

forstpraxis.de, 11 November

Declining Quality of Veneer from German Forests

The Initiative Furnier und Natur (IFN, "initiative veneer + nature") is promoting better forestry and timber quality in Germany. The third national forest inventory has brought to light a progressive deterioration of timber quality caused by ever decreasing felling cycles. IFN calls for enhancing the share of coloured hardwoods in natural forest habitats. Only healthy and stable forests bring forth good and valuable timber in the long term.

Timber-online.net, 13 November

GHANA

First Eight Months Wood Product Exports Up

In the first eight months of this year Ghana exported 209,928 m³ of wood products earning EUR84.23 million. Export volumes in the first eight months of 2014 were 14.8% higher compared to the same period in 2013.

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The export of primary products (poles and billets) and secondary products (sawnwood, boules, veneers, blockboard and plywood), continues to rise but 2014 exports of tertiary products dropped by 29% compared to the same period in 2013. The major markets for Ghana's wood products are Africa, Europe and Asia which, together, accounted for about 92% of all exports.

ITTO, 1-15 November

GLOBAL Decorative Laminates Demand to Rise

The global decorative laminates demand will rise 5.6% per year to reach 10.7 billion m² valued at USD40.80 billion (EUR32.52 billion) in 2018, according to the new World Decorative Laminates study by Freedonia Group. Driving factors include the increase in manufacturing of products like flooring and ready-to-assemble furniture and increased market penetration at the expense of paint, wood veneer and other surfacing materials.

Furniture and cabinets made up nearly 70% of demand for decorative laminates in 2013. Asia Pacific had a market share of nearly 50% in 2013, making it the largest market. China alone made up 31% of global demand and will continue to drive market growth with continuing development and growing manufacturing capacity. India's demand will grow the fastest worldwide as its manufacturing sector sees rapid development. Western Europe and US markets are well-established, but demand in Western Europe is still significant.

Coatings World, 18 November

Market for Wood Plastic Composites to See Double Digit Growth

The global market for wood plastic composites (WPC), cellulosic plastics, plastic lumber and natural fibre composites was valued at 2.8 million metric tonnes in 2013. This market is expected to increase from nearly 3.1 million metric tonnes in 2014 to 5.6 million metric tonnes in 2019, at a compound average growth (CAGR) of 12.7% from 2014 to 2019, as BCC Research reveals in its new report, 'Wood Plastic Composites: Technologies and Global Markets'.

WPC will benefit from new approaches, such as using weather-able capstock that improves the appearance and durability of the material. Availability of plastic recycle may be a constraint to growth in the US. Applications in automotive markets will grow at a fast rate for plastics reinforced with natural fibres as automotive OEMs strive to reduce greenhouse gas emission and take advantage of the lower weight of natural fibres compared to glass fibres. Applications in automotive markets are expected to increase from 0.5 million metric tonnes in 2014 to about 1.1 million metric tonnes in 2019, at a CAGR of 15% from 2014 to 2019.

BCC Research LLC, November

JAPAN Households Cut Back on Housing and Furniture

Between January and September 2014 Japanese households have reigned in personal consumption. The

latest Family Income and Expenditure Survey reported by Japan Statistics Bureau shows average monthly income per household stood at Yen 421,809, down 6.0% in real terms from the previous year. Expenditure on housing and furniture dipped over 10%.

ITTO, 1-15 November

Timber for Mid-height Buildings to be Promoted

The Forestry Agency and Land Ministry announced a roadmap to produce an annual 500,000 m³ of cross-laminated timber (CLT) by fiscal 2024 with the aim of promoting the use of wood in buildings of medium height. CLT is a multi-layered lumber with excellent strength and heat resistance.

The government hopes to boost demand for lumber and make Japan's forestry a growing industry, officials of the agency and ministry said. Japan is expected to use the material mainly for buildings with three or four stories. CLT is already used in apartment buildings of up to nine stories in Europe and the United States.

According to the roadmap, the production capacity will be increased from the current 10,000 m³ per year to 50,000 by the beginning of the fiscal 2016. Some 500,000 m³ of CLT can be used to build some 4,000 three-storey buildings. CLT costs more than concrete. However, the government plans to reduce the cost by mass production. It will also encourage the use of the timber by developing related building standards and support model projects. Technologies to utilise the material in the flooring and walls of steel-framed housing will also be developed, according to the roadmap.

The Yomiuri Shimbun, 13 November

LAO PDR Government Enters into Agreement for FLEGT on Certifying Timber Legality

The Department of Forest Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) in Lao PDR has agreed to a Voluntary Partnership Agreement for Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) in a bid to certify timber legality to support sustainable forest management as well as ensure a sustainable raw material supply for the wood industry in the country. The FLEGT, which is an initiative by the EU, intends to offer multiple benefits to Lao PDR in particular, to bolster the wooden-based industry in the country. The exports of timber products will thus be generating employment, boost state revenues and promote fair competition between markets and companies in Lao PDR. The Forest Strategy's cover aims to reach 70% by 2020.

Vientiane Times, 12 November

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA US Hardwood Lumber Exports Up

In the first nine months of 2014, an annual 6.4% rise was recorded in US hardwood lumber exports to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to 71,761 m³. A further 19.5% growth was reported in the value of the exports to USD56.30 million (EUR44.88 million), followed by 20% in direct hardwood veneer exports to USD22.50 million on a year-on-year basis.

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SHIPPING NEWS



Several Companies Keen to Provide Port Services in Johor - LPJ

Several foreign and local companies have shown keen interest to provide port services in Johor in view of its plan to expand its cargo capacity from 40 million tonnes to 100 million tonnes in 10 years' time.

Encik Muhammad Razif Ahmad, General Manager of Johor Port Authority (LPJ), said there was a need for Johor to enlarge its port capacity due to its tremendous development, particularly to serve the Pengerang Integrated Petroleum Complex (PIC).

He said the PIC would provide ample opportunities for port operation companies to widen their services in Johor. As a whole, Johor needs to extend the length of its wharf to more than 70 km. Hence, port operators should pursue this opportunity. He also declined to name the prospective port operating companies and the sites identified.

Currently, the Tanjung Pelepas Port has 14 wharfs, the Langsat Terminal (five), Johor Port (13) and Pengerang (six). Pengerang would have two private jetties which would be operated by Dialog Berhad and Petronas, respectively.

Source: BERNAMA, 13 October

Major Ports Traffic in India Increased by 4%

Barring Kolkata Port and New Mangalore Port, all the 10 major ports in India posted a marginal increase in cargo traffic

for the first six months of the current financial year. All these ports put together handled 288.48 million tonnes of cargo against 276.86 million tonnes for the corresponding period last year, marking an increase of 4.2%, according to a data released by the Indian Ports Association.

Mormugao Port led the pack by posting 22.25% followed by Kamarajar Port with 15.56% and V.O. Chidambaranar Port 11.52%. Mormugao Port and Chennai Port posted impressive growth by handling iron ore, while Mumbai, Paradip, Kandla, New Mangalore and Kamarajar Ports handled large volumes of coal.

During April-September 2014, all ports, barring Kamarajar and Kandla, handled 40.6 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) of containers against 37.63 million tonnes, representing 6.46%.

Source: Daily Shipping Times, 16 October

Ports of Antwerp and Shanghai Strengthen Collaboration

The Port of Shanghai, largest in the world, and the Port of Antwerp, the second-largest in Europe, are to collaborate more closely. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to this effect during the recent trade mission to Shanghai.

Antwerp and Shanghai have maintained close relationships with each other ever since they were first twinned in 1985.

Shipments of Timber and Timber Products through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, October 2014

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all ports m ³	% Change Oct 2014/ Sept 2014
	m ³	% Change Oct 2014/ Sept 2014	m ³	% Change Oct 2014/ Sept 2014	m ³	% Change Oct 2014/ Sept 2014	m ³	% Change Oct 2014/ Sept 2014	m ³	% Change Oct 2014/ Sept 2014		
Sawntimber	52,605	1	5,430	17	2,282	27	318	2	9,562	14	70,197	5
MDF	34,581	8	225	-61	9,991	-15	13,952	34	17,866	11	76,615	8
Mouldings	13,279	3	193	-33	1,842	-18	910	41	1,959	8	18,183	2
Dressed Timber	1,888	76	18	-5	1,214	19	271	107	256	-43	3,647	35
Plywood	8,703	21	0	0	0	-100	91	90	10,813	12	19,607	15
Veneer	102	-45	37	100	8	167	0	-100	257	-34	404	-33
Particleboard	28,518	-23	273	-76	177	-48	60	54	0	-100	29,028	-25
TOTAL	139,676	-2	6,176	-7	15,514	-10	15,602	34	40,713	10	217,681	1

Source: MTIB

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The twinning agreement was subsequently confirmed during the Belgian trade mission to China headed by the then Prince Philippe of Belgium in 2004. Now, 10 years later, the two ports have undertaken to collaborate intensively with one another in a number of fields. Antwerp's maritime know-how is strongly represented in the port of Shanghai, as no fewer than 240 Chinese port professionals have been trained by one of the training subsidiary of Antwerp Port Authority.

The Port of Shanghai is the largest in the world, with a freight volume of 776 million tonnes in 2013. The number of containers handled last year was 33.61 TEU. Antwerp for its part is the largest port in Belgium and the second-largest in Europe. With a freight volume of 190 million tonnes and 8.6 million TEU, last year was a record year for the port. Both ports are absolute leaders in their respective regions. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that such world players are eager to collaborate more closely.

With the MoU that has just been signed Antwerp and Shanghai have agreed to among other things exchange information about their respective hinterlands, carry out joint promotion and set up training courses for maritime professionals. Antwerp attaches such great importance to the Shanghai region and South China that it appointed a permanent representative there in 2008.

Source: Daily Shipping Times, 16 October

Moody's Warns of Continuing Containership Supply Glut into 2016

With capacity outstripping demand, freight rates in the global shipping industry are only expected to rise moderately in the next 12-18 months, according to Moody's Investors Service's annual outlook. However, Moody's predicts the industry would be stable for the next 12-18 months. It said the supply glut limits the ability of companies to raise the rates they charge for shipping freight, which constrains their revenue and growth.

In container shipping, Moody's notes that shipping companies are continuing to order ultra-large containerships and warns of a supply glut into 2016. The vessel backlog for containerships will remain high through 2015. Over time, if the backlog eases and older ships continue to be scrapped, the gap between supply and demand will decrease.

However, Moody's says this is unlikely to take place before 2016. Supply in the dry bulk sector is problematic, as demand for dry bulk will rely on economic growth in China, which is slowing. Furthermore, deliveries this year have been delayed, with Moody's citing Drewry Maritime Research as saying deliveries of dry bulk carriers amounted to 19 million deadweight tones (dwt) in the first half of 2014. An additional 44 million dwt are scheduled to be delivered by the end of the second half.

Source: asianshippers.com, 13 October

Vessel Operating Costs Expected to Rise

Vessel operating costs are expected to rise by almost 3% in both 2014 and 2015, the latest survey by international accountant and shipping consultant Moore Stephens reveals. The survey is based on responses from key players in the international shipping industry, predominantly ship owners and managers in Europe and Asia.

Those responses revealed that vessel operating costs are expected to increase by 2.9% in both 2014 and 2015, with crew wages, repairs and maintenance the cost categories likely to increase most significantly. Crew wages are expected to increase by 2.4% in 2014 and by 2.6% in 2015, with other crew costs thought likely to go up by 1.9% and 2.1% respectively for the years under review. The cost of repairs and maintenance, meanwhile, is expected to escalate by 2.3% in 2014 and by 2.4% in 2015, according to the survey.

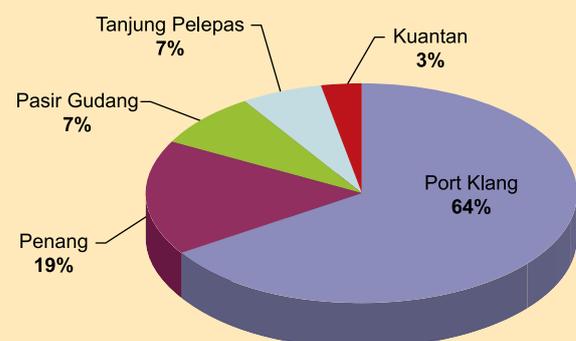
P&I insurance costs are expected to go up by 2.0% in 2014 and by 2.2% in 2015, this compared to the increases of 1.6 and 1.8% respectively predicted in respect of the cost of hull and machinery insurance. Dry-docking costs are expected to rise by 2.1% in 2014 and by 2.2% in 2015, while expenditure on spares is expected to increase by 2.1% and by 2.2% over the same period.

Meanwhile, respondents anticipate increases of 1.7% and 2.0% respectively in the cost of lubricants in the two years under review. The cost of stores is expected to increase by 1.7% and 1.9% respectively for 2014 and 2015.

Moore Stephens said that, management fees are deemed likely to produce the lowest level of increases in both 2014 and 2015, at 1.2% and 1.5% respectively.

Source: World Maritime News, 27 October

Shipments of Timber and Timber Products through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, October 2014



Total = 217,681 m³

OCTOBER 2014

Total export of Malaysian timber and timber products in October 2014 decreased 4% in value to RM1.7 billion over the previous month. However, cumulative export for the period of January to October 2014 increased 5% to RM16.9 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Sawntimber

Export of sawntimber in October 2014 decreased 5% in volume and 3% in value to 160,980 m³ with a value of RM221.1 million over the previous month. Cumulative export for the first ten months of 2014 decreased 4% in volume however increased 3% in value to 1.5 million m³ totalling RM2.1 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Exports to the EU for the month decreased 2% to 13,448 m³ from 13,735 m³ in the previous month. Export of sawntimber to the Netherlands and Germany declined 11% and 5% to 5,934 m³ and 1,423 m³ respectively. Similarly, export to France and Belgium decreased 5% and 19% to 1,059 m³ and 1,206 m³ respectively. However, export to the UK increased 42% to 2,398 m³ from 1,693 m³ in the previous month.

Total exports to West Asia decreased 18% to 21,619 m³ from 26,313 m³ recorded in the previous month due to reduced purchases by major markets in the region. Export to the UAE and Yemen decreased 31% and 41% to 4,461 m³ and 5,102 m³ respectively. Similarly, demand of sawntimber from Qatar and Oman reduced 85% and 28% to 187 m³ and 2,906 m³ in the previous month. In the meanwhile, export to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain increased 32% and 34% to 3,304 m³ and 1,422 m³ respectively. Export of sawntimber to Kuwait also increased significantly to 1,852 m³ from 663 m³ in the previous month.

Buying from ASEAN decreased 60% to 58,770 m³ due to declining demand from Thailand and Singapore, major markets of sawntimber in the region. Export to Thailand and Singapore decreased 16% and 2% to 32,547 m³ and 11,739 m³ respectively. Export of sawntimber to Viet Nam also declined 11% to 771 m³ from 864 m³ recorded in the previous month.

Shipments to East Asia decreased 4% to 43,883 m³ from 45,725 m³ in the previous month. Export to Japan and Taiwan declined 6% and 28% to 6,382 m³ and 10,159 m³ respectively. In the meanwhile, China and South Korea improved purchases by 10% and 33% to 22,276 m³ and 4,278 m³ respectively.

Elsewhere, the US bought 1,795 m³ worth of sawntimber, a decrease of 10% from the previous month. Intake by Australia and South Africa increased 14% and 29% to 1,346 m³ and 7,394 m³ respectively.

The average FOB price of sawntimber increased 2% to RM1,373 per m³ from RM1,345 per m³ in the previous month. Price of Dark Red Meranti (DRM) increased 13% to RM1,049 per m³ from RM931 per m³ in the previous month. However, price of DRM to the Netherlands increased marginally to RM2,814 per m³ from RM2,802 per m³ in the previous month. Keruing was traded at RM1,609 per m³, an increase of 4% from the previous month.

Plywood

Total export of plywood in October decreased 5% in volume and 3% in value to 233,896 m³ valued at RM392.6 million as compared to the previous month.

Total exports to the EU decreased by 15% to 13,126 m³. Similarly, shipments to Germany, the Netherlands and UK decreased 36%, 14% and 18% to 140 m³, 943 m³ and 11,160 m³ respectively. However, Belgium increased its intake by 33% to 176 m³ whilst Denmark maintained its intake at 257 m³ and Ireland resumed its intake of 429 m³. France and Italy did not make any purchases.

Exports to ASEAN region decreased as Thailand intake of plywood decreased by 8% to 5,431 m³ whilst Indonesia did not make any purchases. However, Brunei and Singapore increased their intake by 78% and 1% to 1,724 m³ and 3,409 m³ respectively. In East Asia, exports to Hong Kong and Japan increased by 112% and 14% to 6,897 m³ and 124,410 m³ respectively. On the other hand, China, South Korea and Taiwan reduced their intake by 3%, 45% and 25% to 4,307 m³, 17,876 and 16,659 m³ respectively.

Overall, exports to West Asia decreased by 31% as compared to the previous month. This is due to the decrease of intake by major markets namely Bahrain, the UAE, Kuwait and Yemen by 24%, 42%, 87% and 89% to 215 m³, 2,541 m³, 86 m³ and 1,426 m³ respectively. However, Saudi Arabia and Qatar increased their intake by 110% and 35% to 2,409 m³ and 645 m³ respectively.

Elsewhere, exports of plywood to South Africa, US, Mexico, Canada and Australia decreased by 4%, 8%, 30%, 68% and 1% to 618 m³, 6,587 m³, 2,633 m³, 126 m³ and 3,364 m³ respectively. However, New Zealand increased its intake by 686% to 165 m³ whilst Mauritius and Turkey resumed their intake. On the other hand, Algeria, Tanzania, and Norway did not make any purchases.

The FOB price of plywood increased by 2% to RM1,679 per m³ from RM1,644 per m³ in the previous month.

Veneer

Exports of veneer for October 2014 showed a decrease of 25% in volume and 21% in value to 13,211 m³ at RM18.71 million as compared to the previous month. Exports to Singapore, Viet Nam, Taiwan and South Korea decreased by 29%, 57%, 19% and 48% to 5 m³, 16 m³, 6,890 m³ and 3,587 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, China, Indonesia and Australia increased their intake by 107%, 31% and 70% to 737 m³, 17 m³ and 212 m³ respectively, whilst Canada, Sri Lanka and the UK did not make any purchases.

The FOB price of veneer increased to RM1,416 per m³ from RM1,351 per m³, an increase of 5% from the previous month.

Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF)

Malaysia's exports of MDF for October 2014 showed an increase of 9% in volume and 7% in value from the previous month. Export totalled 82,383 m³ at RM83.2 million.

Exports to East Asia registered an increase of 6% to 12,598 m³ from 11,909 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Japan grew by 16% to 10,870 m³ and export to Taiwan increased by 15% to 1,130 m³. However, export to China including Hong Kong decreased by 38% to 298 m³ and export to South Korea dropped 72% to 300 m³.

Exports to West Asia market recorded positive growth with an increase of 7% in volume to 35,576 m³ from 33,183 m³ in the previous month. Export to Iran recorded 100% increased

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to 5,188 m³ followed by Kuwait at 86% to 4,350 m³, Oman at 34% to 1,735 m³, Jordan at 29% to 493 m³, Bahrain at 14% to 1,262 m³ and UAE at 5% to 15,503 m³. On the other hand, export to Syria and Saudi Arabia showed negative growth by 14% to 492 m³ and 17% to 5,431 m³ respectively from the previous month.

However, export to South Asia recorded negative growth by 24%. All destinations export to South Asia decrease their import from Malaysia. Pakistan recorded a decrease of 13% to 4,737 m³ followed by Bangladesh at 18% to 1,146 m³, Sri Lanka at 37% to 1,042 m³ and India at 70% to 340 m³.

Export to Australia showed positive growth by 58% to 2,711 m³. Nevertheless, the US, South Africa and UK showed negative growth by 25% to 1,448 m³, 43% to 629 m³ and 92% to 147 m³ respectively.

Export to ASEAN for this month showed positive growth by 45% to 20,410 m³ from 14,098 m³ in the previous month. Statistics show exports to Viet Nam and Indonesia increased

by 67% to 14,754 m³ and 23% to 4,064 m³ respectively. However, export to Philippines and Singapore decreased by 15% to 1,294 m³ and 81% to 71 m³ respectively.

Mouldings

Exports of mouldings for the month increased by 1% in volume but decreased 2% in value to 22,947 m³ and RM62.12 million respectively. However, the cumulative exports increased by 13% in volume and 14% in value to 210,607 m³ and RM586.73 million respectively as compared to the previous corresponding period in 2013.

Exports to the EU for the month recorded at 7,846 m³, a decrease of 1% compared to the previous month. Shipments to Belgium decreased by 20% to 407 m³. However, shipments to Germany, Netherlands and UK increased by 1%, 7%, and 16% to 1,494 m³, 4,338 m³ and 783 m³ respectively whilst Italy maintained its import at 47 m³.

Exports to the ASEAN region decreased as Singapore intake of mouldings decreased by 33% to 1,046 m³ whilst Indonesia did not make any purchases. However, Viet Nam resumed its intake.

Meanwhile, exports to Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong decreased 21%, 1% and 5% to 2,281 m³, 1,880 m³ and 188 m³ respectively. On the other hand, exports to Taiwan and China increased 114% and 86% to 809 m³ and 453 m³ respectively.

Elsewhere, export to Australia increased by 28% to 4,642 m³ whereas exports to US reduced by 2% to 2,285 m³ whilst Canada did not make any purchases.

FOB unit value decreased 3% from RM2,794 per m³ in the previous month to RM2,707 per m³ in October 2014.

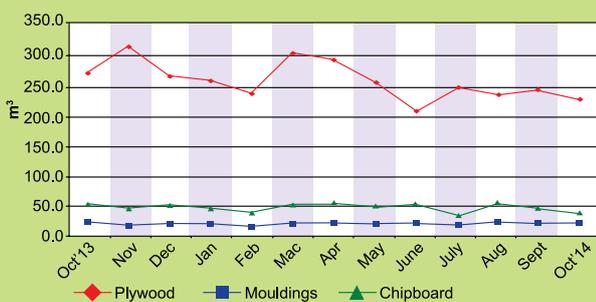
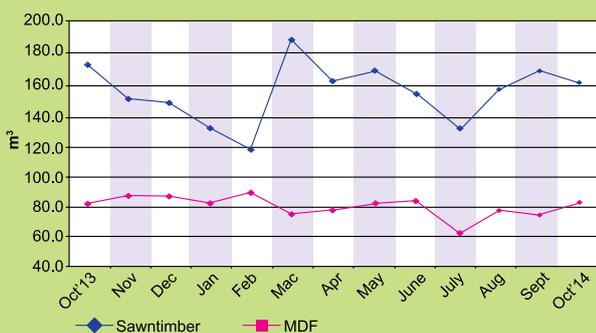
Builders Joinery and Carpentry (BJC)

Total BJC cumulative exports from January to October increased 8% to RM837.44 million as compared to RM777.8 million in the corresponding period last year. Cumulative export from January to October by EU increased 1% to RM228.8 million. Similarly, export to the UK, Belgium, Italy, Netherlands and Turkey increased by 23%, 19%, 8%, 98% and 148% to RM119.4 million, RM44.3 million, RM4.5 million, RM1.5 million and RM3.1 million respectively. Whereas, exports to France, Denmark, Norway, Germany, Sweden and Spain decreased by 40%, 29%, 88%, 35%, 36% and 15% to RM18.1 million, RM15.1 million, RM0.52 million, RM8.4 million, RM7.3 million and RM5.4 million respectively over the previous corresponding period.

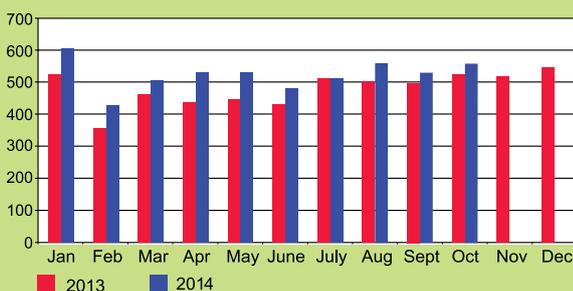
In Asia, exports to Singapore, India, Thailand, Pakistan, South Korea, Taiwan and Bahrain grew 8%, 11%, 3%, 59%, 6%, 28% and 92% valued at RM100.2 million, RM52.4 million, RM26.9 million, RM28.7 million, RM3.0 million, RM15.4 million and RM3.3 million respectively. However, exports to Iran, Japan, the UAE and Viet Nam decreased by 78%, 18%, 4% and 1% to RM0.45 million, RM64.9 million, RM9.9 million and RM20.9 million respectively.

Exports to Australia, the US and Reunion Island increased by 16%, 47% and 70% to RM113.5 million, RM67.1 million and RM2.9 million respectively. However, South Africa and Russia reduced their intake by 14% and 61% to RM10.5 million and RM5.5 million respectively whilst Maldives did not make any purchases.

Export of Selected Products from Malaysia
(October 2013 - October 2014) / Volume ('000 m³)



Malaysia: Export of Wooden Furniture
(January 2013 - October 2014) / Value (RM Million)



Source : Department of Statistics, Malaysia

OCTOBER 2014



Logs

Logging activities were reported to be affected by the rainy season in the recent months. However, the supplies of logs for domestic market remained sufficient and accessible especially in the states of Pahang and Johor. The average domestic prices reported to sustain although there were some movements of prices on some species had been seen during the period.

This month, prices for the species of Red Balau and Merbau logs stood firm at RM2,500 per tonne whilst price for Chengal charted at RM4,000 per tonne. For Balau, the price increased by 8% to be traded at RM2,660 per tonne. The prices for medium hardwood species including Keruing hovered at RM1,150 per tonne whilst Kapur fetched at RM1,700 per tonne respectively. The price of Kempas, however, dropped by 3% to RM1,140 per tonne over the previous month. On the other hand, Dark Red Meranti and Nyatoh were traded at RM1,350 per tonne and RM900 per tonne respectively. The average prices of Red Meranti and Yellow Meranti improved by 4% and 3% to RM1,390 per tonne and RM1,130 per tonne respectively. Prices for Mixed Heavy Hardwood for the month were recorded at RM980 per tonne whilst Mixed Light Hardwood at RM665 per tonne.

Sawntimber

The average sawntimber prices for most species in the domestic market continued to firm whilst for some species, it recorded significant changes in their prices. However, the demand from import markets were subdued due to unfavourable market condition.

Prices of Chengal, Red Balau and Merbau sawntimber remained at RM6,638 per m³, RM2,966 per m³ and RM3,460 per m³ respectively. However, price for Balau registered a significant increase of 13% to RM3,496 per m³. Prices of Keruing and Kapur remained at RM1,483 per m³ and RM2,472 per m³ respectively whilst Kempas sawntimber jumped by 19% to RM1,483 per m³. Prices of Dark Red Meranti and Yellow Meranti sustained at RM2,189 per m³ and RM1,412 per m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Red Meranti prices fell by

5% to RM1,342 per m³. Sawntimber prices of Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood remained at RM883 per m³ and RM777 per m³ as per the previous month.

Plywood

The supply of plywood to the domestic market continued to suffice to cater the need of the local demand. Prices of plywood remained unchanged and stabled at last month's level. Plywood of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm and 12mm of thicknesses were traded at RM14.60, RM22.00, RM34.50 and RM41.50 per piece respectively.

Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF)

With the average demand received from the domestic market and adequate supply of MDF, prices were reported still hovering at last month's level. MDF of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm and 12mm of thicknesses were recorded at RM12.10, RM15.80, RM21.70 and RM28.10 per piece respectively.

Intra-Malaysia Trade * – October 2014

Shipments of sawntimber from Sabah to Peninsular Malaysia for the month under review posted a decrease of 16% to 571 m³, valued at RM558,000. Similarly, shipments of veneer declined sharply by 32% to 73 m³ compared to 108 m³ reported in the previous month. Meanwhile, export of plywood charted a significant increase of 23% in volume from 7,233 m³ to 8,876 m³, valued at RM14.2 million.

Meanwhile, shipments of sawntimber from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia reported to drop by 22% in volume to 454 m³ worth RM382,000 over the previous month period. On the other hand, export of plywood charted positive movement of 34% in volume from 10,566 m³ in September to 14,190 m³ valued at RM17.1 million. Similarly, export of veneer increased significantly by 36% in volume to 4,868 m³ but experienced lower value by 4% to RM4.2 million.

No intra trade from Peninsular Malaysia to Sabah and Sarawak was recorded in October 2014.

* Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia 

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE – OCTOBER 2014

From	Products	SEPTEMBER 2014		OCTOBER 2014		% Change in Volume Oct 2014/Sept 2014	% Change in Value Oct 2014/Sept 2014
		Volume (m ³)	Value (RM '000)	Volume (m ³)	Value (RM '000)		
SABAH	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	680	1,113	571	558	-16	-50
	Plywood	7,233	11,440	8,876	14,194	23	24
	Veneer	108	167	73	113	-32	-32
SARAWAK	Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sawntimber	579	378	454	382	-22	1
	Plywood	10,566	12,895	14,190	17,067	34	32
	Veneer	3,592	4,416	4,868	4,235	36	-4

Source : Department of Statistics, Malaysia

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***AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWNTIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA
OCTOBER 2014 (VALUE IN RM)**

SPECIES	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m ³			
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS	
HEAVY HARDWOOD					
Chengal	4,000	6,638	2,966	8,828	
Balau	2,660	3,496	2,684	3,881	
Red Balau	2,500	2,966	1,977	3,178	
Merbau	2,500	3,460	2,825	2,790	
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	980	883	865	918	
MEDIUM HARDWOOD					
Keruing	1,150	1,483	1,045	2,203	
Kempas	1,140	1,483	1,483	1,907	
Kapur	1,700	2,472	727	2,472	
Mengkulang	1,100	1,412	925	1,575	
Tualang	1,255	2,260	2,260	2,260	
LIGHT HARDWOOD					
Dark Red Meranti	1,350	2,189	1,448	2,062	
Red Meranti	1,390	1,342	1,201	2,394	
Yellow Meranti	1,130	1,412	1,095	1,448	
White Meranti	990	1,448	565	1,695	
Mersawa	1,200	1,412	918	1,730	
Nyato	900	777	565	1,201	
Sepetir	850	1,095	918	1,165	
Jelutong	980	1,427	1,250	1,540	
Mixed Light Hardwood	665	777	614	657	
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD	LOGS/tonne	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
<i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>	160	1" X 1"	2" X 2"	3" X 3"	4" X 4"
		706	1,045	1,151	1,201
PLYWOOD 4' X 8'	4mm	6mm	9mm	12mm	
(RM per piece)	14.60	22.00	34.50	41.50	
MDF 4' X 8'	4mm	6mm	9mm	12mm	
(RM per piece)	12.10	15.80	21.70	28.10	

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

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TIMBER ROUND-UP

Furniture

Exports of wooden and rattan furniture for the period under review in 2014 increased 11% compared to the corresponding period of 2013. Total shipments recorded RM5.2 billion against RM4.7 billion in 2013.

Purchase of wooden furniture from Malaysia for the January to October 2014 duration increased 11% from RM4.7 billion to RM5.2 billion compared to the same period in 2013. Demand for wooden furniture for October 2014 was positive across most major markets.

Imports of wooden furniture by the US increased 11% from RM1.5 billion to RM1.6 billion. Japan's demand decreased by 2% from RM457.6 million to RM449.3 million due to the decrease value in Yen.

Australia slightly increased its import by 1% from RM347.3 million in 2013 to RM350.3 million in the first 10 months of 2014. Singapore had a larger increase of intake of 32% from RM218.4 million to RM288.4 million. The UK follows suit with an increase import by 19% from RM215.8 million to RM257.7 million.

Canada's ups its intake of wooden furniture by 26% to reach RM221.0 million. The UAE recorded an increase of 7% to reach RM181.0 million in 2014. Saudi Arabia wooden furniture intake increase by 21% to RM122.6 million. India's intake increased by 24% to reach RM112.3 million in 2014.

Russia's also improved its consumption by 31% from RM73.1 million to RM95.5 million. South Korea had increased its wooden furniture consumption by 20% with a purchase of RM95.0 million in for the first 10 months of 2014 from RM79.4 million in 2013.

Rattan furniture shipments increased by 37% to reach RM29.6 million for the January to October 2014 period.

Singapore remains as the top importer as its demand increased more than half to RM7.5 million in 2014. India emerges as the highest increase of intake of rattan furniture, with RM6.1 million being recorded in this year, leaped from RM330,000 in 2013.

The import by the UK almost doubled to RM2.1 million in 2014.

50TH SESSION OF ITTC, YOKOHAMA

The 50th International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) meeting was held on the 3 – 8 November at its headquarters in Yokohama, Japan. The session was officially opened by Council Chair, Mr. Robert Busink (the Netherlands), who highlighted: the recent accession of Suriname and Viet Nam to the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006. ITTO's membership now stands at 70, the largest it has ever been.

The Council Chair noted the importance of the 50th session, not only because of the significance of reaching this milestone, but also because of the evolving challenges facing forests in the international arena, including the review of the international arrangement on forests to be undertaken in 2016. Mr. Busink also stated that sustainable forest management (SFM) is not only “for people” but also needs to be “with people”, an important reason for the existence of capacity building initiatives like the ITTO Fellowship Programme.

Twenty-four items were discussed of which the key items were the election of a new Executive Director to take office in November 2015 and the approval of a new biennial work programme for the years 2015-2016. The Council also reviewed the international tropical timber situation for the 2013-2014 biennium and undertook its annual market discussion under the theme ‘Domestic and emerging international markets – a changing market landscape’.

With regards to the election of a new Executive Director, a total of 28 candidates submitted the applications to the Secretariat and the Panel Selection Committee shortlisted six candidates. The election of the new Executive Director will

be discussed during the 51st ITTC which will be held in Kuala Lumpur.

With regards to the report entitled Committee on Economics, Statistics and Markets (CEM) on “Analysis of the Economic Impact of Government Procurement Policies on Tropical Timber Market”, Malaysia proposed that the ITTO secretariat organise a workshop to disseminate the report findings to benefit ITTO member countries. Malaysia's proposal was supported by Indonesia and the European Union. The secretariat agreed to organise the workshop within the activities of the Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016.

Side events organised during the meeting included promoting payments for environmental services from tropical forests, cooperation among the three tropical forest basins of the Amazon, Congo and Southeast Asian regions; and the use of electronic tools to improve legality and traceability of timber in Guatemala.

The 51st Session of the ITTC will be held in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia on 16-22 November 2015. Malaysia looks forward to welcome all delegates to Kuala Lumpur next year. The 52nd meeting of the Council tentatively will be held in Peru.

The Malaysian delegation was led by Tuan Hj. Mohamad Sanuri Shahid, Deputy Secretary- General (Strategic Planning and Management) from Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities. MTIB was represented by Encik Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani, Director of Trade Development. 

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will focus on addressing socio-economic issues, raising household incomes, holding entrepreneurial programmes and increasing economic activities in both urban and rural areas.

TINTS created two new records in the Malaysia Book of Records: the biggest sales carnival for Agarwood and the first international timber exhibition in Terengganu. Menteri Besar of Terengganu signed a replica of the certificate, witnessed by its representative, Cik Helilia Juana Hashim, at the closing ceremony of TINTS. Also present was YB Dato' Noriah Kasnon, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities. 



Visitors at MTIB booth.

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In addition, US hardwood log exports reached 28,232 m³ in the period under review, while the volume of ash exported into the region stood at 14,360 m³. According to data from the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC), Red Oak accounted for 32% of US hardwood lumber exports to MENA.

Trade Arabia, 20 November

UNITED STATES
Plywood Imports from China
Increase by 28%

Since the beginning of 2014, international demand for Chinese plywood has risen markedly, globalwood.org reports. In the first eight months, China has stepped up plywood exports by 15% to 7.8 million m³. The main buyer is the US which imported 1 million m³ – 28% more than in the same period last year, whereas Japan imported 2% and the UK 0.7%. On the contrary, the value of China's furniture exports have fallen this year by 8.1% to USD11.3 billion in the first and by 7.6% in the second quarter amid cooling demand from the US and the EU.

In the first eight months, China's log imports rose 22% to 35.4 million m³. New Zealand shipped 8.1 million m³ which makes it China's Number one log supplying country. Also volumes from Russia, the US and Papua New Guinea rose after the log export ban in Myanmar came into effect.

Timber-online.net 18.11.2014

USD2 million Offered for Taller Timber
Building Designs

The United States Department of Agriculture is offering a USD2 million prize for new design ideas that will allow taller wood structures to be built in the country.

The Tall Wood Building Prize Competition, supported by the Softwood Lumber Board and Binational Softwood Lumber Council, invites US developers, institutions, organisations and design teams to submit entries that undertake alternative solutions like CLT to construct taller timber buildings.

Submissions must showcase the safe application, practicality and sustainability of a minimum 80-foot structure that uses mass timber, composite wood technologies and innovative building techniques. According to the organisers, the objective of the competition is to identify proponents with building project(s) in the concept, schematic or design development stage in the US that can safely and successfully demonstrate the use of wood as a viable structural material in tall buildings.

Above and beyond the safety, environmental and economic benefits of wood, the initiative will challenge developers, designers, building officials, builders and manufacturers to further develop and refine the specification and use of structural wood products – ultimately expanding the opportunity for new product and market development.

Architecture and design.com.au, 5 November

VIET NAM
Timber Exports in January-October
2014 Rose

Viet Nam's timber exports reached USD4.98 billion (EUR4.01 billion) during January to October 2014, a rise of 12.8% from the corresponding period of 2013. Timber imports from China made up 9.9% of the market share of Viet Nam, the US accounted for 10.8% while Cambodia and Lao PDR made up 12.7% and 28.4% respectively. Export turnover from China slipped by 10.19% while those from the Japanese market and US market expanded by 22.03% and 14.35% respectively.

VietnamPlus, 7 November



Resak Vatica spp.

Malaysian Wood
Standing on Excellence

Tak Lapuk Dek Hujan, Tak Lekang Dek Panas
Timeless, Enduring

www.mtib.gov.my



Jelutong Dyera spp.

Malaysian Wood
Standing on Excellence

Lukisan Seribu Makna, Kayu Eratkan Semua
A Picture Paints a Thousand Words. Wood Binds Them All

www.mtib.gov.my



MAHA 2014 – “AGROTECHNOLOGY – CATALYST FOR TRANSFORMATION”



YB Datuk Madius Tangau (second from right) being briefed on gaharu products by MTIB officer.



MTIB booth.

The Malaysian Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism International Show MAHA 2014 are the leading agricultural show of its kind in Malaysia and indeed in the region. MAHA strategically positioned to promote Malaysia as the centre of excellence in the agriculture and agro-based industries, incorporating agro-based knowledge, technology and innovation, agri-trade, agro-tourism and agri-lifestyle. Special emphasis is given in the development of young and future agriculture entrepreneurs. Themed “Agrotechnology – Catalyst for Transformation”, MAHA 2014 showcased the success of agriculture, agro-based industry and livestock from the perspective of the cutting edge technology and innovation was held on 20-30 November. The exhibition was held at the Malaysian Agro-Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS), Selangor.

MAHA International Show 2014 exhibition at the MAEPS managed to attract more than 3.5 million visitors. In conjunction with the Visit Malaysia Year 2014, a special emphasis highlighted to promote the agro tourism industry in Malaysia. In addition to the latest innovations and technologies, visitors of MAHA 2014 have the experiential process of enjoying the colours of Malaysian culture and agricultural produce, fresh and processed food as well as

agro products. Visitors witnessed several demonstrations in the field of livestock, vegetables, flowers, rice, machineries and pineapples.

MTIB also participated in the exhibition promoting forest plantation seedlings and gaharu products namely Karaz coffee products, perfumes, honey as well as Karas tea. Numerous enquiries and orders were received during the 11 days of exhibitions. A number of sales on gaharu products were also reported. The companies which displayed and sold their products under MTIB were Nature Life Resources, Grow Project Works, and Wafiqah Farm and Nurseries. 



Crowd at MTIB booth.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON AGARWOOD



Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General officiating the event.



Attendees at the seminar.

Agarwood, or gaharu as it is known locally, is one of the more significant non-timber forest products. It has been used for hundreds of years for medicinal purposes and as a basic material in producing perfumes. Over the past 30 years, the demand for gaharu has risen significantly due to population and affluence growth in gaharu-consuming markets. In an effort to further develop the Karas and gaharu industry in Malaysia, MTIB recently organised the National Seminar on Agarwood at Terengganu Trade Centre from 13 to 14 November. The seminar was held in conjunction with the Terengganu International Timber Showcase (TINTS) which was held from 12 to 16 November.

The objective of the seminar was to disseminate knowledge and information as well as to create awareness among industry players on the importance of the Karas and gaharu industry as an economy-generating natural resource. Besides that, the seminar also aimed to provide an understanding of good silviculture techniques in Karas plantation, and an awareness of effective methods of inoculation of the Karas tree and gaharu oil extraction methods as well as related policies and legislations on gaharu.

Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General officiated the seminar. In his opening speech, he spoke on the trade of gaharu. He stated that the value of gaharu products exported in 2013 increased from RM10.04 million to RM23.32 million in 2012 of which RM20.08 million was from woodchips and woodblocks and RM2.25 million was from the gaharu oil. The gaharu trade is administered under CITES regulation and the role of MTIB as a Management Authority is to monitor and facilitate the trade of gaharu products. Dr. Jalaluddin added that the trade of gaharu is subject to quota and only 200,000 kg is allowed for

export annually. As such, he stated that it is very important for the industry to get a continuous supply of gaharu from the plantation sources in the near future.

A total of 16 papers were presented during the seminar, covering the topics of seedling selection, plantation techniques, harvesting and inoculation techniques, promotion, marketing and policy and regulation on trade of gaharu products. The papers were delivered by speakers from MTIB, Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia, Universiti Putra Malaysia and Persatuan Penanaman Gaharu Negeri Selangor. MTIB also invited two speakers from Sri Lanka and Indonesia to share their experiences in managing Karas plantations and gaharu production in their respective countries.

A field visit to a Karas plantation in Marang, Terengganu was conducted on the second day of the seminar. The three-acre plantation owned by Tuan Hj. Harun Jusoh, was planted with *Aquilaria agallocha*. A total of 95 participants comprising individuals, government officials and members of the private sector attended the seminar. 



Participants at the Karas plantation in Marang, Terengganu.

LEAN STUDY MISSION, JAPAN



Posing at Toyota Motors (Motomachi Plant), Japan.

The Overseas Training and Collaboration Effort in Lean Management was held on 16-22 November in Nagoya and Tokyo, Japan. The programme was led by Malaysian Productivity Corporation (MPC). The main objectives of lean manufacturing are to reduce production cost, increase productivity and remove non value-added processes (waste). The programme also aimed to help the nation's mission to

reduce dependency on foreign workers in the long term.

Five companies and one civil service department were visited during the programme, to explore the culture of lean manufacturing on the Toyota Production System (TPS) which had been successfully adopted by the selected establishments.



*The group with Mr. Tanaka,
President of Tokai Shinei Electronics Industrial Col., Ltd.*

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At Toyota Motors, TPS, is used as a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) by the Toyota Motors Group Staff and their vendors to reduce consumption of energy and other resources, and to eliminate usage of hazardous substances by the consolidation of the production processes and development of efficient equipment. The usage of TPS has also resulted in a more flexible system, producing multiple vehicle models on a single production line with the aim of responding to customer needs even faster. TPS is made up of various tools and techniques which include Kanban, Andon, Just-in time (JIT), Kaizen, Storage Management, Total Quality Management and Environmental-and people-Friendly plant.

Many manufacturing companies in Japan such as Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Toyota Logistics and Forklift, and OSG Corporation are using TPS to reduce waste and increase the level of productivity in their production system.

During the visit to Tokai Shinei Electronics Industrial Co., Ltd., the participants also learned about 5S, Kaizen, Visual Management and the cleaning implementation practised by the company. These concepts have improved the company's business growth and productivity, and helped the company reduce maintenance cost and over budgeting in their stock management expenditure.

A new experience for the participants was getting involved in a cleaning activity at Shinjuku Station in Tokyo led by Mr. Hidesaburo Kagiyama, President of Yellow Hat Company and Founder of the Cleaning Activity Programme in Japan. Yellow Hat Company is one of the largest public listed companies in Japan. After the cleaning activity, a seminar on cleaning was delivered by Mr. Hidesaburo Kagiyama at Shinjuku New City Hotel. According to him, it was after implementing the cleaning activities that their company grew exponentially, ultimately becoming the large public listed company that it is right now.



5S practice
by Tokai Shinei Electronics Industrial Co., Ltd.



Cleaning activities in Shinjuku Station, Tokyo was led by Mr. Hidesaburo Kagiyama, President of Yellow Hat Company and Founder of Cleaning Activity Programme in Japan.

A total of 22 participants from various government agencies, industries and learning institutions who are involved in Malaysia's pilot project in lean management, attended this programme with the aim of enhancing their skills to reduce waste and enhance the level of industry competitiveness.

The MTIB officials present during the trip were Puan Hj. Noor Laila Mohamed Halip, Director of Strategic Planning and Corporate Affairs, and Encik Mohd Amin Kadir.



THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON WOOD-BASED PRODUCTS

In line with its roles as a Standards Development Agency (SDA), MTIB representatives participated in the WG1 Meeting, Task Force on Wood Based Products as well as Task Force on Building and Construction Meeting from 10 to 14 November in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Fifth Meeting of the Task Force on Wood-based Products was held on 11 November.

The ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the follow-up action taken on matters arising from the Fourth Meeting of the

Task Force on Wood-based Products (TFWBP) held on 26 May 2014, in Hanoi, Viet Nam. Malaysia presented the updates received from Member States on the intra-ASEAN trade figures for wood-based products along with the available relevant HS Codes based on figures that were received from six Member States, namely: Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Myanmar. Based on the available data, the Meeting concluded that the next stage of progression for harmonisation will commence with the most traded wood-based products with special focus on plywood and furniture.

a) The most traded wood-based product within ASEAN in terms of export in 2013

	Malaysia	Indonesia	Singapore	Philippines	Myanmar	Brunei Darussalam
1.	Furniture	Fibreboard	Furniture	Sawntimber	Mouldings	BJC
2.	Plywood	Plywood	Plywood	BJC	Finger Jointed	Plywood



Delegates posing for the camera.

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b) The most traded wood-based product within ASEAN in terms of import in 2013

	Malaysia	Indonesia	Singapore	Philippines	Myanmar	Brunei Darussalam
1.	Plywood	Particleboard	Furniture	Plywood	n/a	Furniture
2.	Sawntimber	Furniture	Sawntimber	Fibreboard	n/a	BJC

During the Meeting, Malaysia and the Philippines spoke on their domestic issues with regard to the low quality of imported plywood products from outside ASEAN. In order to overcome this issue, the Meeting suggested ASEAN Member States (AMS) to look into the possibility of regulating plywood products via technical regulations and/or testing labs accredited to APLAC/ILAC.

The Meeting noted Indonesia’s submission of compilation of technical requirements for wood-based sector in ASEAN, which includes reference to ISO standards, indication of acceptance from AMS on identified ISO standards and the steps taken by Member States to align its standards with international standards. In addition, Malaysia and Singapore submitted inputs on the compilation of information with regard to data analysis for convergence of requirements for standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures, which originated from the previous Wood-Based Product Working Group (WBPWG). On behalf of the ASEAN Furniture Industries Council (Viet Nam Representative from Handicraft and Wood Industry Association – HAWA), the Secretariat presented feedback from the industry on possible technical barriers in the furniture trade as well as regulations on safety in furniture. From AFIC’s presentation, the Meeting noted that AFIC members agreed to consider three criteria when importing furniture, such as:

- The origin of legal timber;
- Formaldehyde content in panel boards;
- Lead content in surface of products (should be based on US standards).

In light of the above, the Meeting concluded that the AFIC proposal on the requirements of US Standards for furniture was not in line with ASEAN Guidelines on Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures (AG-STRACAP) and ASEAN Guideline on Harmonisation of Standards, which was based on the adoption of ISO Standards as international standards. The Meeting requested AFIC to adopt ISO standards as per requirements stated in the Guidelines.

The Meeting also noted Singapore’s suggestion that a representative from the ISO Regional Office be invited to provide presentation on ISO Standards during the capacity building on *“Regional Workshop on Establishing Cross-references on Wood Products Quality Assessments and Standard Testing among ASEAN Member States”*, is a programme which was proposed by Malaysia. Singapore welcomed ASEAN Member States to use their Accredited Labs. The Meeting was informed on the possibility of arranging EU-ARISE to present the AG-STRACAP, ASEAN Harmonisation of Standards and ASEAN Guideline on MRA at the next TFWBP Meeting to ensure that AMS are well aware of the ASEAN perspective on harmonisation of standards and how it will impact trade both regionally and internationally.

The TFWBP Meeting was attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar Singapore, Philippines, Viet Nam and Thailand and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat. MTIB was represented by Puan Hjh. Mahsuri Mat Dris as the Chair for Task Force on Wood-based Products and Puan Syafinaz Abdul Rashad as the Head of Delegation. 



WOOD PLASTIC COMPOSITE CONFERENCE 2014, VIENNA



Participants from Malaysia.

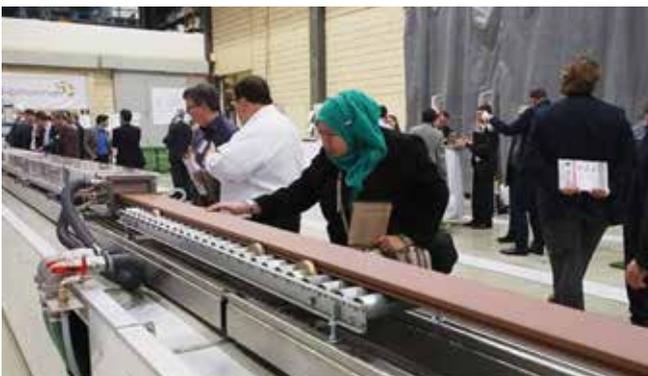
The 10th edition Wood Plastic Composite Conference 2014 was held on 3-5 November in Vienna, Austria. The conference was organised by Applied Market Information Ltd. based in United Kingdom. In an effort to assist local wood plastic composite manufacturers to keep abreast internationally, Malaysia, represented by MTIB participated in the event. Four local companies namely Perceptive Profile Sdn. Bhd., Everise Crimson Sdn. Bhd., Polycomposite Sdn. Bhd. and Greenwood Composite Sdn. Bhd. attended the conference under the MTIB banner.

The WPC Conference 2014, focused on different specialised topics in the wood plastic composite industry i.e. Market Overview and Standards, Global Perspectives, Decoration and Appearance, and also Materials and Technology Development. Sixteen papers were presented during the conference. The conference served as a platform to highlight updates, technological issues and worldwide market potential, mainly Europe and China. Fifteen subject matter experts from the industry mostly from Italy, Austria, Germany and China, spoke at the conference.

MTIB's participation in the conference were to encourage Malaysian's WPC players to establish business opportunities and networking in the composite industry internationally and to enlighten them on the global market scenario. This networking will further assist Malaysian WPC players to gauge the latest information and technological development, to foster knowledge transfer and exchange information between local manufacturers and users. On the last day, all delegates visited Cincinnati-Battenfeld in Vienna to view WPC processing.

The conference was attended by more than 150 participants from universities, entrepreneurs, WPC manufacturers, adhesives industries, machinery producers, agencies and researchers. Some of the countries that attended included the United Kingdom, Austria, Italy, Spain, China, Japan, Australia, the UAE and Malaysia.

MTIB was represented by Dr. Loh Yueh Feng, Cik Noor Intan Saffinaz Anuar and Cik Zamzarina Ahmad. 



Delegates visited Cincinnati-Battenfeld in Vienna to view WPC processing.



A section of participants at the conference.

FIRE TESTING SEMINAR

A Fire Testing Seminar was held at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore on 1 October. It was a half-day seminar attended by 20 participants from Singapore and Malaysia. The seminar was presented by Dr. Sean Gregory from Fire Testing Technology (FTT), United Kingdom and organised by Quantarad Technology Sdn. Bhd.

The participants were briefed on the current technologies of fire testing equipment by FTT. FTT develops and provides technologies related to the fire testing of materials and products. Polymer, metal, automotive, energy, aerospace and construction are among industries that require fire testing to measure the performance of the material during real application.



Dr. Sean Gregory presenting his paper.

FTT has developed various types of fire testing equipment such as Cone Calorimeter, Bomb Calorimeter, NBS Smoke Density Chamber and Mass Loss Cone. The fire testing equipment was developed with support from international testing standards namely British Standard (EN) and American

Standard (ASTM) as a method of testing and determining material specification.

MTIB was represented by Dr. Loh Yueh Feng and Cik Noor Intan Saffinaz Anuar. 




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ENVIRONMENT – DESERVES TO BE A HUGE PRIORITY

Briefly, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is an international partnership involving 183 countries working together with international institutions, civil society organisations and the private sector to address global environmental issues related to biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters, chemicals and waste in the context of development projects and programmes. The GEF serves as a financial mechanism for conventions such as Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and Minamata Convention on Mercury, adopted in October 2013 in Kumamoto/Minamata, Japan.

Countries that wish to contribute to the GEF Trust Fund pledge resources through a process called the GEF Replenishment. GEF was initiated in 1991 and since then, USD13.5 billion in grants and USD65 billion in co-financing have been provided to support 3,900 projects in more than 165 developing countries. Negotiating sessions were held to allow replenishment participants to discuss and come to an agreement on a set of policy reforms to be undertaken, a document to guide the programming of resources and the level of resources that the GEF will aim to provide to recipient countries during the replenishment period. The allocations are determined based on transparent indicators reflecting country performance, country potential to achieve global environmental benefits and the Social Economic Development Index based on each country's GDP per capital. Resources for the Fund are replenished every four years. GEF-6 is operational from 1 July 2014 till 30 June 2018.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), as the National Operational Focal Point for GEF in Malaysia

organised the Programming Workshop for the Sixth Replenishment Cycle of the Global Environment Facility on 14 November in Putrajaya. The programming workshop was conducted in a plenary and a break up session. It was attended by about 100 participants including representatives from government departments and agencies as well as other relevant institutions.

In his welcoming remarks, Datuk Dr. Abdul Rahim bin Haji Nik, Deputy Secretary-General (Environmental) of NRE acknowledged GEF for the assistance provided and the success the nation had achieved in the betterment of the environment. NRE is tasked with programming the activities under the System of Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) of GEF-6 from 2015 to 2018 which has a total replenishment level of USD4.433 billion. In this context, Malaysia has been allocated USD27.27 million, of which USD11.04 million is for climate change, USD14.92 million for biodiversity and USD1.31 million for land degradation. The allocation of this budget aims to be effectively utilised by all agencies to programme national projects to address global environmental problems and most importantly, to promote sustainable development and conservation of natural resources in Malaysia. Datuk Dr. Abdul Rahim also hoped participants would exchange views and hold discussions on potential project proposals with the GEF and its representative agencies, specifically the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

Ms. Nicole Glineur of GEF Secretariat based in Washington DC, USA gave a brief introduction to the GEF6 and the local area strategic priorities. She acknowledged Malaysia being a strategic partner for the GEF and playing a pivotal role in addressing global environmental issues. Malaysia has implemented many activities that cut across multiple focal areas and sectors, and promoted an integrated approach in achieving the national development objectives.

Dr. Daneswar Poonyth from FAO briefed the participants on their strategic objectives when FAO started executing GEF projects with indirect access in 1992. In 2000, FAO was granted direct access for projects in the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Focal Area. Subsequently in 2006, FAO had direct access in all Focal Areas. In 2007, FAO was the lead GEF Agency in collaboration with UNEP for developing strategic programmes on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). Amongst the projects undertaken by FAO in International Waters in Asia Regional (including Malaysia) were Sustainable Management of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem



NRE

Datuk Dr. Abdul Rahim bin Haji Nik, Deputy Secretary-General (Environmental) of NRE delivering his welcoming remarks.

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NRE

Participants at the workshop.

(BOBLME) and Strategies for Fisheries Bycatch Management (REBYC).

Ms. Sunae Kim from The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) revealed that for the five-year project (2015-2019) on the implementation of National Action Plan on Peatlands of Malaysia requires an investment of at least USD70 million. The benefit of this programmatic approach is also in tandem with ASEAN's regional action on the implementation of ASEAN's programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems (SMPE).

Malaysia's Proposal of 10 Action Items under SMPE

- i. Enhancing implementation of National Action Plan on Peatlands
- ii. Enhancing Prevention and Control of Peatland Fires
- iii. Implementing Integrated Management Plan for North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest and Buffer Zone
- iv. Support Development and Implementation of Integrated Management Plans for Peatlands
- v. Promoting Best Management Practices for Existing Oil Palm Plantations on Peat
- vi. Increasing Community Engagement in Peatland Management

Mrs. Sooksiri Chamsuk from UNIDO updated participants on the status of the Industrial Energy Efficiency for the Malaysian Manufacturing Sector (IEEMMS) project coordinated by the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water that was implemented in June 2011 and is to end in June 2016. The GEF UNIDO Cleantech Programme for SMEs in Malaysia project jointly undertaken by the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water and Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MiGHT) is also being implemented from April 2013–April 2016. Other new GEF projects by UNIDO are the GHG Emissions Reductions in Targeted Industrial Sub-Sectors through EE and Application of Solar Thermal Systems in Malaysia is to be coordinated

by Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM) for the period May 2014–April 2019 and Energy Efficient Low-Carbon Transport in Malaysia (2015–2018) with the cooperation of Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water and Malaysia Green Technology Corporation.

Ms. Rakhsya Tapha from UNDP listed the on-going Biodiversity and Climate Change projects in Malaysia:

Biodiversity Projects

- i. Enhancing the Effectiveness and Financial Sustainability of Protected Areas Undertaken by NRE and Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) Peninsular Malaysia
- ii. Biodiversity Conservation in Multiple Use Forest Landscapes in Sabah by Sabah State Government and Sabah Forestry Department
- iii. Developing Implementing a National Access and Benefits Sharing Framework by NRE
- iv. National Biodiversity Planning to Support the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 2011-2020 Strategic Plan in Malaysia by NRE
- v. Improving Connectivity in the Central Forest Spine (CFS) Landscape – IC – CFS by NRE and Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia

Climate Change Projects

- i. Building Sector Energy Efficiency Project (BSEEP) by Public Works Department
- ii. Third National Communication (TNC) to the UNFCCC and Biennial Update Reporting (BUR) by NRE

In closing, Ms. Nicole Glineur of GEF Secretariat and Dr. Gary William Theseira from NRE thanked the participants who have actively continued to engage in the plenary discussion on GEF project ideas, project proposals, project proponents, synergies and strategic priorities as well as the funding with GEF Agencies. 

FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT AND GOVERNANCE SEMINAR FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



Delegates at the checking station, Shaanxi Province.



Seminar participants in front of State Academy of Forestry Administration (STAFA).

The Seminar on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance for Officials from Developing Countries was held from 16 October to 5 November in Beijing, China. The seminar was sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce, People's Republic of China and was organised by State Academy of Forestry Administration (STAFA). STAFA is a training institution that provides training opportunities for government officials and other employees of the State Forest Administration, leaders from the countries where the key forestry programmes are implemented, local forestry leaders and technicians, leaders of large and medium sized forest enterprises, international trainees and key foresters. STAFA also has developed close collaboration with German Technical Cooperation, Japan International Cooperation Agency, University of British Columbia, British Columbia Institute of Technology in Canada, Korea Forest Research Institute and Japan Forest Training Institute.

The Seminar for Officials from Developing Countries has been held since 2009. The seminar focused on how to improve the participants' capability on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in global scenario and also in China. Speakers from STAFA, the local forestry university, Forestry Bureau and also from European Forest Institute gave lectures on relevant topics such as Forest Law Enforcement and Governance, promotion of Sustainable Forest Management by market approach, forest resource management, international cooperation process of FLEG, the introduction of policies and practice of Green Wood Procurement, international timber trade, the tracing of the timber supply chain and the guarantee of legal timber trading. The participants also discussed joints action by the international community in combating illegal logging.

The seminar organiser also arranged for field trips and information sharing on case studies in the Shaanxi Province. The participants visited Shaanxi Yangling Demonstration Zone, Foping County, Zhouzhi County and Ningshaan County to view National Nature Reserve. They then visited the Local Forestry Bureau, a timber processing factory and Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University where the participants visited five university museums and a wood industry laboratory.

In the seminar, the participants explored new ideas, exchanged experience, improved and strengthened understanding of FLEG and SFM. The seminar was attended by 31 participants from 17 countries mainly from African region. Six government officers from Malaysia participated in the seminar namely MTIB, Forest Department Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak Forestry Department and Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation. MTIB was represented by Encik Zulhelmi Mohd Ali from Licensing and Enforcement.



Malaysian delegates at the seminar.

MAPCVCC 2014 – TREASURE THE MANGROVES



At the official opening of the conference.



A section of participants.

The International Conference on Mangroves of Asia-Pacific Countries In View of Climate Change (MAPCVCC) 2014 was held in Kuala Lumpur from 11 to 13 November. The conference was jointly organised by Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Universiti Putra Malaysia, Forest Department Peninsular Malaysia, National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions.

The aim of the conference were :

- to build local and regional capacity in mangrove restoration and management;
- to raise public profile of the values of mangroves in the Asia-Pacific countries;
- to bring together researchers from all over the world, forest managers and NGO's to share experiences and knowledge of the sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems in view of current and future climate change effects.

The conference was officially opened by Datuk Dr. Abd. Rahim bin Haji Nik, Deputy Secretary-General of Ministry of

Natural Resources and Environment. In his speech, he said that the conference was aimed at developing the conversation capacity and management of mangrove areas throughout the world, particularly in the Asia Pacific region.

Thirty papers were presented by various speakers from government agencies, research institutes and NGOs from Asia Pacific countries namely Thailand, the Philippines, Japan, India and Malaysia. Forty posters with mangrove themes were put on display to raise awareness on the levels of mangrove management during the conference.

On the final day, a post-conference tour was organised for the participants. The participants visited Sungai Hj. Dorani, a mangrove research plot where they were briefed on the success of FRIM in developing the mangrove area. Later, they were taken to Bagan Nakhoda Omar by Selangor Forest Department and were briefed on the agency's efforts in conserving the mangrove forest and practising good mangrove forest management.

The conference was attended by more than 200 participants and MTIB was represented by Puan Norhazaedawati Baharuddin from Forest Plantation. 



A group photo at a mangrove research plot, Sungai Hj. Dorani.

COMING EVENTS – MAY 2015

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	ORGANISER
5-8	INTERZUM 2015 International Furniture Production and Wood Interiors Exhibition	Cologne International Exhibition Centre, Germany	Koelnmesse GmbH Tel : +49 221 821 0 Fax : +49 221 821 2574 E-mail : info@koelnmesse.de
18-21	INDEX DUBAI 2015 International Furniture, Interiors and Retail Design Fair	Dubai World Trade Centre, UAE	dmg Events Middle East Tel : + 971 44380 355 Fax : + 971 44380 361 E-mail : dmgdubai@dmgeventsme.com
19-22	MOVEXPO 2015 Barzil Furniture Fair	Centro de Convencos de Pernambuco, Brazil	Red Exhibition Alcantra Machado Tel : + 55 11 3060 5000 Fax : + 55 11 3060 5001 E-mail : info@alcantara.com .bz
19-23	MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE SHOW (MIFS) 2015 International Furniture Fair	Crocus International Exhibition Centre, Russia	Media Globe Tel : + 7 (495) 961 2262 Fax : + 7 (495) 961 2262 E-mail : info@mediaglobe.ru
26-28	EXPO AMPIMM 2015 International Supplies Fair for Furniture and Wood Industry	Centro Banamex, Mexico	A.M.P.I.M.M. Tel : + 52 55 5578 7820 Fax : + 52 55 5761 7182 E-mail : ventas@ampimm.com
29-31	GRAND DESIGN LIVE 2015 The Home Decor and Design Show	The Coco Cola Dome, Johannesburg, South Africa	Montgomery Africa Tel : + 27 (0) 11835 1565 Fax : + 27 (0) 11496 1161 E-mail : specialised@specialised.com



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TECHNICAL COURSE FOR BUMIPUTERA ENTREPRENEUR



Participants of the course.



Prototype produced by participants.

MTIB, through its Bumiputera Economy Empowerment Division, in collaboration with WISDEC Sabah, organised a technical course on Furniture Making for Bumiputera entrepreneurs on 28-30 October at WISDEC Sabah, Kota Kinabalu.

The objective of the course was to develop technical skills for entrepreneurs through the application of various methods and material to build a modern kitchen cabinet. Hands-on training constituted a major part of the course. The three-day course was attended by Bumiputera furniture companies and its workers, mainly from Kota Kinabalu.

Furniture making entrepreneurs are facing tough challenges in competing with other bigger companies in terms of capital

power and marketing partnerships. Thus, the government is committed towards helping the small-and-medium industry (SMI) grow as they play a very important role in the economy. Entrepreneurs who are diligent have a bright future as there are growth opportunities everywhere, even in rural areas and one of the most impactful strategies to compete in the industry is by developing a modern furniture concept.

Two instructors involved during the programme were Encik Rofin Dusip and Encik Ryldislee Madawat. The instructors were selected due to their experience and skills knowledge. On the first day, the participants learned about material preparation and product drawing. They learned that it is crucial to plan a project and to estimate accurate cost to make a single product. 



Presenting certificate to one of the participants.



Work planning process.



Assembly work being done.

PERUSAHAAN ZALIKRAF – FROM THE TRADITIONAL HOUSE TO THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Development of Skilled Craftsmen

Even though times have changed and modernisation has given birth to a multitude of contemporary devices and accessories, the art of traditional wood carving remains relevant and is deeply appreciated. The abundance of suitable species of timbers suitable for carving provides the convenience of a wide selection of timbers to fulfill the discriminating tastes and requirements of customers. The inherent artistic and aesthetic values of wood carving still attract many Malaysians who choose to adorn their homes and offices with these creative creations.

Intense passion for the art is what drove Encik Tuzelan Ahmad to participate in various wooden art workshops, where he underwent handicraft training for several years and subsequently opened his own wooden art design company in 1990 called Perusahaan Zalikraf in Kampong Serom Empat, Muar, 17 km from Tangkak in Johor. Among the courses attended by this wood carver and entrepreneur, include those organised by the Muar Welfare Department Skills Training Centre, Kobena Sambu Training Centre in Pontian, Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation's Course in Pahang and various traditional wood carving programmes such as "Bengkel Ukiran Bimbingan Haji Sulaiman" in Kelantan. These experiences have firmly entrenched his appreciation of the local wood carving and wood processing industry.

Encik Tuzelan Launching His Trade

Starting with an initial capital of RM400, Encik Tuzelan's career took off by producing home and souvenir items. From the decorative pieces which he created from "driftwood" or timber off-cuts, utilising designs inspired by fauna and flora, Encik Tuzelan went on to make windows and door frames, wall panels, tables, partitions, dividers, pergolas, balustrades, jewellery cases, holy manuscript boxes and "mimbars" for mosques. Apart from these items, he also churned-out Islamic calligraphy as well as door-gifts such as pencil cases, tissue boxes, cardholders and even kitchen cabinets.

Encik Tuzelan said that contrary to their counterparts in the neighbouring countries, local Malay woodcarvers opt to exclusively carve motifs which depict plants, flowers and geometrical shapes as well as verses from the Quran. The popular motifs of plant origin include tendrils of long beans, eggplants, brinjal and cucumber. Most of his designs depict natural elements like interlaced leaves, flowers and fruits. His showroom displayed products carved from locally-sourced



Carving products manufactured by Perusahaan Zalikraf.

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Another product produced by the factory.

Mersawa and Nyatoh. Other types of wood included several other popular carving timbers such as Chengal, Kempas Kapor, Jelutong, Rengas and Kembang Semangkok.

Incorporation of Islamic Art and Contemporary Designs

As he discussed the art of making the “mimbar” for mosques to officers from the Industry Development Division of MTIB, he explained that each “mimbar” has a motif that identifies it

as his creation. “Quranic verses may be carved at the top of the structure but whether verses are used or not depends on where it would be located. If the mosque is a double-storey building and the “mimbar” is placed downstairs, verses will not be inscribed on the “mimbar”, he said. For Encik Tuzelan, making “mimbar” is a commitment. Today his personal touch has adorned several “mimbars” in mosques in Pulau Tioman, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Johor and Singapore.

Diversifying Markets for His Products

His marketing strategies include good rapport with local wood designers and handicraft makers, interior designers, established showrooms such as Karyaneka, Public Works Department at both district and state levels, and participation in government and private tenders. Encik Tuzelan also forged alliances with local entrepreneurs and cooperatives to bolster local and export markets. Demonstrations and exhibitions are also held to promote his products to the general public. Perusahaan Zalikraf’s future plans include product promotions nationwide and subsequently breaking into the international market by 2016.

For Encik Tuzelan, his business is very much about the versatility of Malaysian timbers, and the ability to produce wood products, both big and small. He could not think of any other material which can be used to create such an eclectic mix of products and render each one beautiful and unique and he aims to make his hometown, Muar synonymous with Malay wood products. 



Encik Tuzelan Ahmad, owner of Perusahaan Zalikraf (left) during an interview at his factory.



PROSPECTS OF ALGERIAN TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS

Algeria officially known as People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, is a country in the Maghreb region of North Africa on the Mediterranean coast. Its capital and most populous city is Algiers. With a total land area of 2,381,741 km², 90% of which is desert, Algeria is the 10th largest country in the world, and the largest in Africa and in the Mediterranean. The country is bordered in the northeast by Tunisia, in the east by Libya, in the west by Morocco, in the southwest by Western Sahara, Mauritania, and Mali, in the southeast by Niger, and in the north by the Mediterranean Sea. In 2013, Algeria's population was an estimated at 37.9 million, who are mainly Arab-Berber ethnically. About 90% of Algerians live in the northern, coastal area. The inhabitants of the Sahara desert are mainly concentrated in oases, although some 1.5 million remain nomadic or partly nomadic. 28.1% of Algerians are under the age of 15.

Algeria's economy is largely based on hydrocarbons which the country supplies large amounts of natural gas to Europe, and exports in energy are the backbone of the economy. According to OPEC, Algeria has the 17th largest reserves of oil in the world, and the second largest in Africa, while it has the ninth of natural gas. Sonatrach, the national oil company, is the largest company in Africa.

Algeria has the second largest military in North Africa with the largest defence budget in Africa. In addition, Algeria has had a peaceful nuclear programme since the 1990s. Algeria is a member of the African Union, the Arab League, OPEC, and the United Nations, and is a founding member of the Arab Maghreb Union.

Economy

In recent years the Algerian government has halted the privatisation of state-owned industries and imposed restrictions on imports and foreign involvement in its economy. Hydrocarbons have long been the backbone of the economy, accounting for roughly 60% of its budget revenues, 30% of GDP, and over 95% of its export earnings. Strong revenues from hydrocarbon exports have brought Algeria relative macroeconomic stability, with foreign currency reserves approaching USD200 billion and a large budget stabilisation fund available for tapping. In addition, Algeria's external debt is extremely low at about 2% of its GDP. However, Algeria has struggled to develop non-hydrocarbon industries because of heavy regulation and an emphasis on state-driven growth.

The government's efforts have done little to reduce high youth unemployment rates or to address housing shortages. A wave of economic protests in February and March 2011 prompted



the Algerian government to offer more than USD23 billion in public grants and retroactive salary and benefit increases, moves which continue to weigh on public finances. Long-term economic challenges include diversifying the economy away from its reliance on hydrocarbon exports, bolstering the private sector, attracting foreign investment, and providing adequate jobs for younger Algerians.

Shipping Facilities

Algeria has 18 ports along the Mediterranean Sea capable of handling cargo including major ports such as Algiers, Annaba, Oran, Beni Saf, Cherchell, Dellys, Djen Djen, Ghazaout, Mostaganem, Skikda and Tenes. Shipping hub for timber and timber products are Bejaja and Djen Djen ports.

Forest Resources

According to the Ministry of Agriculture (Statistiques Agricoles 1999) Algeria's 2,380,000 km² are distributed as shown in **Table 1**.

The land used by the agricultural sector is 40,000,000 hectares, 17% of the country: 31,000,000 hectares are grazing, the home of Algerian pastoralism. Eight million hectares are farm land of which 94% are arable and 6% under perennial crops. Farm land corresponds to 0.28 hectares per inhabitant.

Table 1: Land Use

Land Use Type	Farm Land	Grazing	Alfa Steppe	Forest Land	Barren Land	Total
Area (km ²)	82,270	310,540	29,160	46,460	1,913,310	2,381,740

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Algeria

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Forest land covers are divided as follows:

- Natural forest: 1 329 000 hectares (32.4%)
- Maquis and scrub: 1 844 400 hectares (44.0%)
- Grassland: 800 hectares (0.1%)
- Plantations: 972 800 hectares (23.5%)

The main forest trees are:

- Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*): 800 000 hectares (35.4%)
- Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*): 463 000 hectares (20.5%)

- Holm Oak (*Quercus rotundifolia*): 354 000 hectares (15.7%)
- Junipers (*Juniperus spp.*): 217 000 hectares (9.0%)

Timber Production

According to the FAO latest forest statistics on Algeria (2013), the country produced quantity of logs around 8.5 million m³ in 2013 increased 4.3% from 2009. Apart from logs production, Algeria also produces 22,900 m³ of particleboard, 23,000 m³ of plywood, 2,300 m³ of veneer and 12,800 m³ of sawntimber. Details of production are as below:

Algeria: Production of Timber Products, 2009 – 2013

(Volume : m³)

Product	2009	2010	2011	2012	*2013
Particleboard	22,900	22,900	22,900	22,900	22,900
Plywood	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000
Veneer	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300
Logs	8,174,209	8,321,080	8,384,777	8,455,290	8,526,630
Sawntimber	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,800
Total	8,235,209	8,382,080	8,445,777	8,516,290	8,516,290

Note : * Preliminary Data

Source : FAO Forest Stats

Import of Timber and Timber Products

According to the International Trade Centre latest statistics, Algeria imports of timber and timber products increased 7.0% to USD1.04 billion. Sawntimber was the main product imported valued at USD644.0 million followed by furniture (USD202.9 million), plywood (USD79.7 million) and fibreboard (USD53.7 million).

Sweden and Finland is the major import partner for timber products while China their major import partner for furniture. Malaysia rank 15th of their import partner for timber and timber products with only 0.8% of market share while furniture ranked second for with 17.7% of market share.

Algeria: Import of Timber and Timber Products, 2009 – 2013

(Value : USD'000)

Product	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Sawntimber	444,901	529,454	571,911	589,743	643,953
Furniture	104,765	157,726	178,582	192,961	202,867
Plywood	69,148	76,486	66,898	97,542	79,655
Fibreboard	12,883	21,196	27,632	31,167	53,714
Builders Joinery and Carpentry	22,164	31,358	25,796	17,642	23,507
Particleboard	20,520	22,786	19,781	29,527	18,610
Tools, Bodies and Handles	1,038	2,471	2,917	1,689	5,444
Articles of Wood	1,594	1,746	1,703	2,381	3,532
Wood Marquetry	547	1,517	1,515	1,629	1,905
Tableware and Kitchenware	1,003	1,181	1,167	2,109	1,745
Packaging	746	1,145	1,219	1,656	1,604
Densified Wood	1,297	295	228	1,675	1,233
Others	9,568	6,335	4,743	3,223	2,938
TOTAL	690,174	853,696	904,092	972,944	1,040,707

Source: International Trade Centre

Export of Timber and Timber Products

Algeria exports small value of timber and timber products valued only at USD54,000. Fuel wood was the main products exported.

Malaysia's Export of Timber and Timber Products to Algeria

In 2013, Malaysia's exports of timber and timber products to Algeria increased 7.0% to RM93.5 million over the previous

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Algeria: Export of Timber and Timber Products, 2009 – 2013

(Value: USD '000)

Product	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Fuel Wood	0	0	0	15	30
Other Furniture and Parts	25	15	11	39	11
Tools, Bodies and Handles	0	0	0	0	8
Sawntimber	4	0	0	0	5
Fibreboard	0	0	0	1	0
Packaging	0	0	1	0	0
Wood Marquetry	1	0	0	0	0
Articles of Wood	8	1	0	0	0
Logs	9	0	0	4	0
Hoopwood	13	0	0	0	0
Total	60	16	12	59	54

Source: International Trade Centre

year. Algeria as a market ranked 30th with 0.5% of Malaysia's total market share. Wooden furniture was the main product exports with a total value of RM77.9 million, followed by plywood at RM15.2 million.

Malaysia: Export of Timber and Timber Products by Volume to Algeria, 2009 – 2013

(Volume : m³)

Product	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Plywood	40,965	8,221	13,645	8,315	10,215
Fibreboard	1,066	246	0	0	0
Total	42,031	8,467	13,645	8,315	10,215

Source: MTIB and Department of Statistics Malaysia

Malaysia: Export of Timber and Timber Products by Value to Algeria, 2009 – 2013

(Value : RM)

Product	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Wooden Furniture	61,890,613	50,059,352	80,531,149	87,568,181	77,884,198
Plywood	51,447,521	10,571,922	17,832,523	12,566,970	15,208,192
BJC	66,669	575,841	453,884	213,166	392,905
Rattan Furniture	96,044	45,176	0	0	31,502
Fiberboard	781,190	250,714	0	0	0
Other Products	139,991	0	0	219,245	0
Total	52,531,415	11,443,653	18,286,407	12,999,381	15,632,599

Source: MTIB and Department of Statistics Malaysia

Import Tariffs

Algeria's import duty on timber and timber products ranges from 5–30%. Details are as follows:

HS Code	Product	Duty (%)
4401	Fuel Wood	15
4402	Wood Charcoal	15
4403	Logs	5
4404	Hoop Wood	15
4405	Wood Wool and Wood Flour	15
4406	Sleepers	5
4407	Sawntimber	15
4408	Veneer	15
4409	Mouldings	15
4410	Chipboard/Particleboard	15
4411	Fibreboard	15
4412	Plywood	15
4413	Densified Wood	15
4414	Wooden Frames	30
4415	Packing Cases	30
4416	Casks, Barrels, Vats and Tubs	30
4417	Tool Bodies and Handle	30
4418	Builders Joinery and Carpentry	30
4419	Tableware and Kitchenware	30
4420	Wood Marquetry	30
4421	Other Articles of Wood	15 - 30
9401, 9402, 9403	Wooden Furniture	15 - 30

Source: WTO

Prospects and Challenges

The market for solid timber products in Algeria is growing, in terms both of price and volume and this growth has continued for several years now. A great deal of new housing is being built by the public sector as well as the private sectors. This led to constantly rising in demand for timber in standard dimensions, intended for furniture, doors and windows.

Malaysian exporters should get to know the needs of the market so we can become a better supplier to Algerian importers. Malaysian exporters should take full advantage such as by participating in prominent exhibition or trade fairs to further promote their timber products especially value-added products such as furniture, MDF and BJC, in addition to promoting timber-based building materials namely plywood and sawntimber.

References:

- Encyclopedia of the nations
- Department of Statistics Malaysia
- WTO
- CIA Factbook
- International Trade Centre
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- Algeria's Economic Prospects and Challenges 

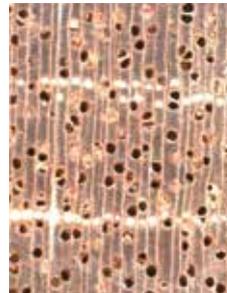
LIGHT RED MERANTI – SUITABLE FOR JOINERY AND PANELING

Presently there are some 12 species of trees as in **Table 1** belonging to the Red Meranti group which are classified as Light Red Meranti (Desch, 1957, Symington, 1974). The timbers that have equivalent names as in other ASEAN member countries are as follows:-

- i) Meranti Merah (Indonesia)
- ii) Light Red Philippine Mahogany / Red Lauan (Phillipines)
- iii) Saya (Thailand)

The trees of this *Shorea* spp. are widely distributed throughout Peninsula Malaysia. *Shorea platcarpa* and *S. teysmanniana* are generally found in deep peat swamps, while *S. palembanica* is essentially a riparian species inhabiting the banks of jungle streams at low attitudes of over 450 m. *S. acuminata*, *S. leprosula*, *S. dasyphylla* and *S. parvifolia* are common on well-drained soils in the lowland and hill dipterocarp forests of up to 760 m. *S. hemsleyana* and *S. macrantha* have very restricted distribution in low lying swamps jungles.

For the purpose of trade the lighter coloured varieties of *S. acuminata*, *S. hemsleyana*, *S. leprosula*, *S. macrantha*, *S. palembanica* and *S. platycarpa* are classified as Light Red Meranti while the dark coloured timbers of these species are classed as Dark Red Meranti (DRM) (Choco & Lim, 1982).



Light Red Meranti wood anatomy.



Wood colour and texture.

General Characteristics

The timber is classified as light hardwood with an average air dry density of about 545 kg/m³ (34 lb/ft³). The sapwood is lighter coloured and distinct from the heartwood which is light red or pink brown. The grain is interlocked and wavy with rather coarse but even texture. The quarter sawn surface often displays a stripe figure and has an attractive speckle.

Wood Anatomy

Growth rings are absent. The vessels, with simple perforations, are moderately large in size and few to moderately few in number. They are mainly solitary. The rest are either in oblique or radial pairs and radial multiples of up to four in a series. These vessels have the tendency to align in short oblique lines. Tyloses are present but generally not abundant. Both apotracheal and paratracheal wood parenchymas are found in the wood. The apotracheal parenchyma appears as irregularly spaced bands enclosing resin canals and as diffused strands forming short, narrow lines from ray to ray. The corresponding paratracheal type appears as incomplete borders to the vessels, narrow vasisentric types as well as aliform and sometimes even locally confluent.

Rays are medium sized and visible to the naked eye on the cross section and conspicuous on a radial surface. Intercellular canals of the vertical type are present in concentric series and are usually plugged with white coloured resin. The canals are distinct to the naked eye on the cross section but less pronounced on the longitudinal surfaces. Horizontal canals are found in *S. leprosula* and *S. teysmanniana*.

Durability

Light Red Meranti (LRM) is not durable when in contact with the ground or when it is used to exposed conditions. The heartwood is resistant to fungal attack but not resistant to termite attack. However the sapwood is liable to attack by dry wood termites which may subsequently spread to the heartwood. Almost all the species of LRM are resistant to powder post beetle attack (Menon, 1952)

The standards graveyard tests conducted in FRIM, Kepong have indicated that the average service life of this timber is

Table 1: Species of Light Red Meranti

Botanical Names	Vernacular Names	Vernacular Synonyms	Density Range (kg/m ³)
<i>S. acuminata</i> (part)	Meeranti rambai daun	–	485-690
<i>S. dasyphylla</i>	Meranti batu	Meranti sabut	425-690
<i>S. hemsleyana</i> (part)	Meranti daun besar	Chengal pasir daun besar, Chengal pasir (Kinta), Meranti bakau (Dindings)	540-590
<i>S. johorensis</i>	Meranti pepijat	–	380-615
<i>S. lepidota</i>	Meranti langgang	Damar siput (Bentong)	–
<i>S. leprosula</i> (part)	Meranti tembaga	–	415-685
<i>S. macrantha</i> (part)	Meranti kepong hantu	–	665-885
<i>S. ovalis</i>	Meranti kepong	–	415-685
<i>S. palembanica</i> (part)	Meranti tengkawang ayer	Sengkawang, Meranti rengkawan, Merpak (Ulu Rompin)	–
<i>S. parvifolia</i>	Meranti sarang punai	–	385-705
<i>S. platycarpa</i> (part)	Meranti paya	–	525-790
<i>S. teysmanniana</i>	Meranti bunga	–	550-760

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less than two years and is therefore classified as not durable (Jackson, 1965) ; Dahlan & Tam, in press). However, this classification applies to the less durable species like *S. ovalis*, *S. leprosula* and *S. teysmanniana*. For *S. acuminata*, *S. parvifolia* and *S. hemsleyana* the average service life is more than two years and it is classified as moderately durable. Similar tests at Princes Risborough (UK) have shown that it is moderately durable with a service life of 15-25 years when in contact with the ground (Anon), 1975.

It was reported by Burgess (1966) that the timber is highly susceptible to attack by marine borers.

Machining Properties

The sawing and woodworking properties of five species of LRM have been investigated (Lee & Lopez, 1980) and the results obtained are summarised in **Table 2**. Generally, the

timber can be worked easily, either by machine or hand. Owing to the presence of interlocking grains, picking up of grain may occur when machine planing quarter sawn material. Otherwise, the timber can be worked to a relatively smooth surface except during boring which may produce a slightly rough surface.

The LRM timber sand to a smooth finish and receive stains and polished well. Resin exudation is not a problem in most cases except for *S. hemsleyana* and *S. macrantha* which have been reported to be quite resinous (Symington,1974) and may pose some difficulties during conversion and finishing .

The species *S. hemsleyana* is reported to have poor resistance to splitting when nailed while other species tested namely *S. leprosula*, *S. acuminata* and *S. parvifolia* are rated as good (Lopez, 1978).

Table 2: Sawing and Woodworking Properties

Spices	Test Condition	Sawing		Planing		Boring		Turning	
		Resawing	Cross Cutting	Ease of Planing	Quality of Finish	Ease of Boring	Quality of Finish	Ease of Turning	Quality of Finish
<i>Shorea acuminata</i>	Green	Easy	Easy	Easy	Smooth	Easy	Smooth	–	–
	Air dry	Easy	Easy	Easy	Smooth	Easy	Smooth	Easy	Moderately easy
<i>S. hemsleyana</i>	Green	Easy	Easy	Easy	Smooth	Easy	Smooth	–	–
	Air dry	Easy	Easy	Easy	Smooth	Easy	Rough	Easy	Smooth
<i>S. leprosula</i>	Green	Easy	Easy	Easy	Smooth	Easy	Smooth	–	–
	Air dry	Easy	Easy	Easy	Smooth	Easy	Moderately smooth	Easy	Moderately smooth
<i>S. parvifolia</i>	Green	Easy	Easy	Easy	Smooth	Easy	Rough	–	–
	Air dry	Easy	Easy	Easy	Smooth	Easy	Rough	Easy	Moderately smooth
<i>S. teysmanniana</i>	Green	Easy	Easy	Easy	Moderately smooth	Easy	Smooth	–	–
		Easy	Easy	Easy	Smooth	Easy	Smooth	Easy	Smooth

Air Drying

Results of air seasoning tests carried out with timbers from four species of LRM are summarised in **Table 3** (Grewal, 1979a).

The timber seasons fairly rapidly with little degrade under Malaysian climatic conditions. For thin dimension stocks, however, weighting is required to prevent possible occurrence of warping. All the species are also likely to be attacked by

insects before seasoning. The air seasoning of 15 mm boards take about 2½ months whereas 40 mm boards take about 4½ months.

Both *S. acuminata* and *S. parvifolia* tend to have lower shrinkage values than *S. hemsleyana* and *S. leprosula*. The tangential shrinkage can also be as high as 5.4% in *S. hemsleyana*.

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Table 3: Air Seasoning Characteristics of Some Light Red Meranti Species

Species	Air Dry Moisture	Shrinkage (%) Green to Air Dry		Time to Air Dry (months)		Cuping	Bowing	Twist or Spring	End Checking	Splitting
		Radial	Tangential	15 mm	40 mm					
<i>S. hemsleyana</i>	15.3	1.9	5.4	2 ½	5	A	A	A	A	A
<i>S. acuminata</i>	19.4	1.9	3.8	3	5	A	A	A	A	A
<i>S. parvifolia</i>	15.0	1.5	4.8	2	4	A	A	A	A	A
<i>S. leprosula</i>	15.3	2.6	5.3	2	4	A	A	A	A	A

Note :

1) Air drying characteristics are classified as follow :-

- A= Sound
- B= Slight
- C=Moderate
- D=Severe

2) All species are likely to be attacked before seasoning.

Strength Group

Strength Group of LRM according to grade stresses are shown in **Table 4**.

Table 4 : Strength Group of Light Red Meranti According to Grade Stresses

Species	Strength
<i>S. acuminata</i>	C
<i>S. hemsleyana</i>	D
<i>S. leprosula</i>	C
<i>S. parvifolia</i>	C
<i>S. teysmanniana</i>	C

for joinery, utility furniture, shop and office fittings, show cases, counter tops, paneling, ceiling, shelving, cabin fittings, fancy boxes, fabricated coffins, light duty flooring (as in domestic buildings) and interior partitions. It has also been used in the production of sliced and rotary cut veneers for plywood manufacture.

The timber is generally not used for outdoor heavy construction. If the timber is properly selected and seasoned before use, and provided it is adequately ventilated and protected against termite attack, preservative treatment is seldom required.

References :

- Choo, K. T. & Lim, S. C 1986. *Malaysian Timbers – Light Red Meranti*. Timber Trade leaflet No. 75. MTIB and FRIM, Kuala Lumpur.
- <http://www.wood-database.com/lumber-identification/hardwoods/light-red-meranti/>

Uses

LRM together with DRM are among the most commonly utilised timber species in this country. The timber is suitable

Malaysian Wood
Standing on Excellence

Dari Mata Turun ke Hati
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MTIB Moments



MTIB participated in the Hello Komoditi organised by the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities. It was held from 7 to 9 November 2014 in Betong, Sarawak.



A course entitled 'Towards High Performance of Work Culture' was organised by MTIB for its personnel on 25-27 November 2014 at MTIB, Kuala Lumpur.



Dr. Jalaluddin Harun, MTIB Director-General (in red) during a tree planting programme held at SMK Jerlun, Kedah on 29 November 2014. It was part of the CSR programme coordinated by AKRAB MTIB.



Pn. Hj. Norchahaya Hashim, MTIB Deputy Director-General (centre, in purple) posing with MTIB personnel at the Herbal Park in Perlis. The visit was one of the retreat itinerary from 27 to 30 November 2014 organised by AKRAB MTIB.