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MTIB

MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD

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BAHKOLEKTION : A WAY OF GIVING TRADITIONS NEW ENERGY

- WEBINAR - DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FOR THE TIMBER INDUSTRY
- FURNITURE INDUSTRY IN TURKEY

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WEBINAR ON POTENTIAL OF BAMBOO INDUSTRY IN MALAYSIA

Bamboo is a plant that belongs to the family Gramineae and has about 75 genera with over 1,250 species worldwide. Bamboo is abundant in the tropic and subtropic areas as it requires a humid and hot climate for good growth. Most bamboo grow wild in the foothills of the main range, in secondary forests, in ex-logging areas and along river banks. Bamboo is also cultivated in villages or as plantations that can be found in many parts of Asia, America and Southeast Asia. Malaysia has about 70 species of bamboo of which 45 species are native species that grow naturally in natural forests or ex-logging areas.

To further develop the bamboo industry in Malaysia, MTIB recently organized an online seminar: Webinar on Potential of Bamboo Industry in Malaysia on 22 and 28 April as well as on 6 and 27 May 2021. The objectives of the webinar were :

i) To disseminate information and knowledge on bamboo plantation establishment

ii) To evaluate the potential of transforming the bamboo industry in Malaysia into a new era of higher value-added products

iii) To be a platform for government and private sectors to exchange knowledge and experiences on current issues pertaining to the bamboo industry in Malaysia

This seminar was one of the initiatives by MTIB in its effort to further enhance the bamboo Industry to be a competitive and viable industry in Malaysia as outlined in the National Bamboo Industry Development Action Plan 2.0 (2021-2030).

Tuan Haji Mahpar Atan, Deputy Director General of MTIB officiated the webinar. In his opening speech, he notes MTIB's role in developing the bamboo industry in Malaysia, highlighting the National Bamboo Industry Development Action Plan 2.0 (2021-2030) which was developed by MTIB with its five main strategic thrusts - Policy Improvement and Resource Expansion; Increasing Human Capital, Expertise and Capacity; Enhancing Innovation, Technology and R&D&C; Chain Expansion and Quality Assurance; and Improving Marketing Strategy and Smart Partnership. He stressed on the need for the Malaysian bamboo industry to make the radical move to produce higher value-added products through innovation and technology. He also expressed his hope that the webina would be able to spur further growth of the bamboo industry in Malaysia through the increased awareness of the potential of the sector.

A total of 80 participants comprising individuals and representatives from both the government and private sectors attended the event where 17 papers were presented, as follows:

- National Bamboo Roadmap 2021-2030
- Bamboo Industry in Malaysia
- Policy on Bamboo Industry by Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah
- Potential of Bamboo Plantation
- Potential of Bamboo Furniture Industry
- Bamboo Treatment
- Potential of Bamboo Charcoal Industry
- Potential of Design in Bamboo Industry
- Potential of Bamboo in Construction
- Potential of Bamboo in Eco-tourism
- Potential of Bamboo Textile Industry
- Malaysian Bamboo Society (MBS) roles in Bamboo Industry
- Bamboo Industry Development in Sarawak
- Standard Development of Bamboo in Malaysia
- Bamboo Plantation Establishment via Forest Plantation Development Program
- Financial Assistance for Bamboo in 12th Malaysia Plan.

VIETNAM

THE PRICE OF WOOD RAW MATERIALS RISES

Viet Nam's Urban Economy reported on May 28 that the prices of all wood raw materials and accessories are currently rising, with an average increase of about 10%. Since the end of 2020, the prices of wood raw materials and accessories have risen, and there is still no sign of decline.

Many companies said that many reasons have caused the price of raw materials for wood production to rise. First of all, the new crown epidemic has stalled many transportation routes and caused many companies to lack production materials. Secondly, most timber companies in Vietnam have not yet found an alternative source of raw materials. Third, Vietnam's export markets such as the United States and Europe are more inclined to use wood raw materials, which have soared by about 40% year-on-year.

At the same time, the sales volume of finished wooden products fell, down by about 80% year-on-year. Currently, there is a paradox in the timber market: the input of raw and auxiliary materials has increased, but the sales have dropped sharply, and timber manufacturers have to lower the price of finished products.

Chinatimber.org, 28 May 2021

CHINA

FURNITURE SECTOR EXPERIENCES STEADY GROWTH IN FIRST QUARTER 2021

According to data from China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, China's furniture sector experienced steady growth in first quarter 2021.

During this period, the industry's operating revenue increased 39.9% year-on-year to 163.71 billion Yuan (about USD 25.31 billion), and the combined profits reached 6.73 billion Yuan, up 72.6% from the previous year. A total of 245.68 million furniture items were produced, up 40% year-on-year.

panelsfurnitureasia.com, 7 May 2021

INDIA

RELIEF TO DOMESTIC PRODUCERS FROM ANTI-DUMPING DUTY ON THIN MDF IMPORTS

The recent decision by the Indian government to impose anti-dumping duty on imports from 5 countries of MDF fiber board with thin MDF or those below 6 mm thickness has created a wave of appiness among domestic producers.

The producers say that keeping in view the interest of the domestic industry, this decision was quite necessary, and this would give them considerable relief. In fact, half a dozen companies in India now produce diluted MDF, which cater to a large number of domestic needs.

The domestic industry says that they have abundant production capacity to meet India's needs of thin MDF, and many new domestic companies are also coming into this sector, while existing companies are also expanding their production capacity.

In fact, the Commerce Ministry has recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty for five years on thin MDF imported from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand. The notification issued in this regard said that subsidized imports are adversely affecting the interests of domestic companies. This step has been taken to protect their interests.

Greenply Industries Ltd., Greenpanel Industries Ltd., Century Plyboard (India) Ltd. and Rusheel Decor ltd. The Ministry made this decision while getting the application ready for imposing duty on cheap imports.

The Directorate General Of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGTR) said in the notification that it has been recommended to levy a duty equal to the subsidy margin and the loss to domestic companies. DGTR in its investigation found that cheap imports from these countries have hurt the domestic industry and the imports have increased significantly.

plyreporter.com, 05 May 2021

GERMANY

DEMAND FOR LUMBER SOARS AND SO DO PRICES

The coronavirus crisis has hit many sectors of the economy in Germany, but the lumber industry certainly isn't one of them. Prices for wood products have gone up markedly in recent months. The fact that a lot more people have engaged in DIY projects at home during the coronavirus pandemic means order books are full.

The experts said the problem was brought to the fore as demand for lumber products soared even as the coronavirus crisis raged on. Timber hose construction has gained momentum and so have DIY projects in private households, as more and more people have been forced to stay at home. In addition, there's also been growing demand in key overseas markets.

There's a wood construction hype in the US right now, fuelling lumber demand as the economy is in catch-up mode. And the large-scale investment programs announced by the Biden administration are also contributing to higher demand and a spike in prices.

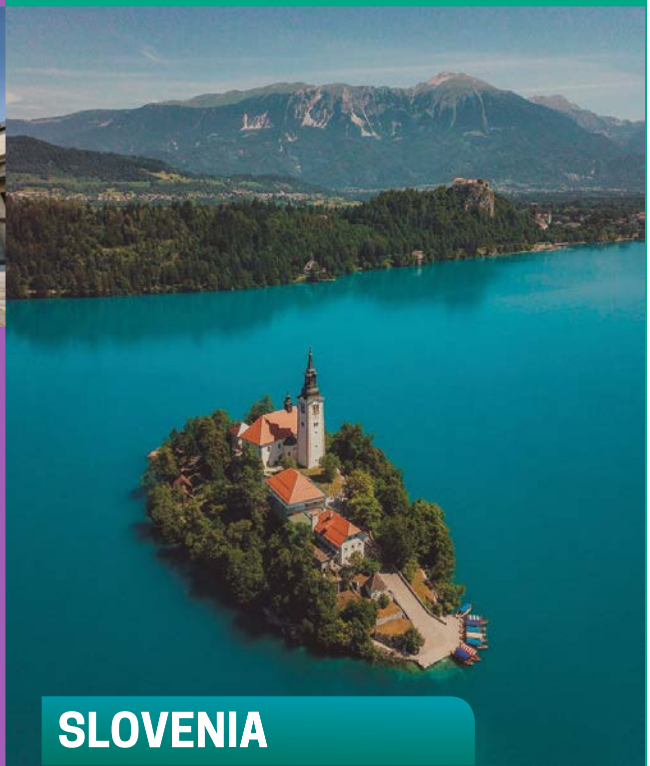
The current hype in the US has been spilling over to Germany, and some market participants are hoarding lumber, filling their storehouses beyond their own needs, speculating on further price hikes and thus making that excess wood unavailable for others.

Against the backdrop of this multifaceted situation, many German buyers and end users of lumber products feel there might not be enough left for them on the home market. There's no media reports on people failing to get their hands on enough lumber for their businesses.

Forest economics expert Holger Weimar said, he doesn't think the price rally for lumber will continue long into the future, although, he conceded, there's little experience with such extreme spikes.

The US is about to expand its own capacities again to produce more at home," Weimar said. "Timber house construction may slow down a bit in Germany, and some bigger projects here may be postponed, but that's mere speculation for the time being.

dw.com, 17/5/2021



SLOVENIA

THE VALUE OF PURCHASED ROUNDWOOD INCREASED BY 57% IN MARCH

Slovenia's roundwood purchased from private owners in March 2021 was worth Euro 8.2 million, which is almost 61% more than in February 2021, as the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia reported.

The value of purchased sawlogs and veneer logs was higher by almost 66%, of pulpwood by about 45%, of other industrial roundwood by 50% and of wood fuel by almost 69%.

The value of roundwood purchased from private owners in March 2021 was about 57% higher than in March 2020. The value of purchased sawlogs and veneer logs was higher by about 55%, of pulpwood by almost 96% and of other industrial roundwood by almost 27%, while the value of purchased wood fuel was almost the same as a year ago.

lesprom.com, 18 May 2021

SWEDEN

WOOD PRODUCTS IN HIGH DEMAND WITH LIMITED SUPPLY

According to Swedish Wood, demand for Swedish wood products remains high, but their supply is limited. Despite full production and manufacturing records in March, Swedish sawmills currently have their lowest stock levels in over 20 years, which has put pressure on sawn wood prices.

“Demand is growing, and so are the prices on the global markets. The wood industry is used to handling sizeable price fluctuations, but the situation at the moment is unusual. On the other hand, looking at the price trend for wood over a longer timeframe, growth has been quite modest. We may be heading for a situation where wood reaches a fairer market value,” said Christian Nielsen, market analyst for Swedish Wood and the Swedish Forest Industries Federation.

Swedish sawmills have been able to keep production going during the pandemic. However, increasing demand for wood products globally has seen stocks at the Swedish sawmills run down, leading to the lowest stock levels for over 20 years. Production is continuing at full throttle and March became the best production month ever for the Swedish sawmill industry.

The global shortage of wood products is mainly due to lower production in other parts of the world. Several wood product manufacturers that usually have high output, temporarily scaled back their activity in 2020, leading to a major shortfall in the international market. We are continuing to see the consequences of this imbalance.

“The global shortage of wood products is an undeniable fact, but the Swedish sawmills are still working as hard as they can to meet the existing demand. Their strength shown by largely maintaining deliveries during the critical months when the pandemic struck with full force last year. I am convinced that our members are fully focused right now on delivering wood products to their customers,” said Mathias Fridholm, Director of Swedish Wood.

panelsfurnitureasia.com, 13 May 2021

RUSSIA

CONFIRMS 2022 LOG EXPORT BAN

The Russian government is not considering lifting the ban on the export of logs, which will enter into force in 2022, RIA news cited Deputy Prime Minister Yury Trutnev.

“The government of the Russian Federation has made a decision to gradually increase export duties,” said Trutnev. “This year, the duty is 80%. Next year, the ban on the export of logs comes into force. This is done in order to create jobs in the forestry industry, to build processing plants.”

He noted that the government is not considering any issues related to the abolition of protective duties. “We proceed from the assumption that the export of logs will be prohibited next year,” said Trutnev.

The state-owned company for the export of logs is being considered as one of the measures for the transition period, he added.

Russia is one of the world’s largest wood exporters. In 2020, Russian exports of softwood logs fell by 18.8% year-on-year to 6.9 million m^3, while the average price dropped 3.8% to USD76.0 per m^3.

panelsfurnitureasia.com, 14 May 2021

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS SHORTAGE, MAINLY TIMBER

As the UK continues to open up after a year of lockdowns and other restrictions, the construction industry has been at the forefront of the economic recovery with activity levels at a seven-year high.

Soaring demand has strained the availability of a number of key materials, with some experiencing double-digit inflation.

Earlier this year, the UK Government asked the Construction Leadership Council to monitor the situation, which saw it set up the Products Availability taskforce. In the months since it was founded, it has added more and more items to its list of products facing constraints.

Last month's CLC construction product availability statement said timber remained among the "worst affected product areas" for the construction industry.

In its market statement for May, the Timber Trade Federation (TTF) said stock levels were languishing due to high international demand, which had prevented UK-based buyers from rebuilding their stock since the beginning of the pandemic. Demand for timber has skyrocketed in the UK and elsewhere, as housebuilders move to catch up on the progress they missed during the lockdowns, the TTF claims. The ever-larger focus on net-zero construction has added to demand, as timber has large carbon-storage potential, it said.

The federation also said Brexit-related complications are further squeezing UK timber stocks, as 80% of the softwood used in building comes from Europe. In new-build housing, 90% of the softwood comes from the continent. Timber is the third most imported construction item according to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), with the industry spending £816m on it last year.

Prices have shot up over the past year, with the cost of sawn wood up 16.6% in March 2021 compared to 12 months ago.

Demand is not forecast to ease any time soon. TTF chief executive David Hopkins told Construction News: "There are no indications demand is about to go down, with house builders continuing to ramp up work, and enquiries for repair, maintenance and refurbishment work on the rise.

"The state of demand means that timber is being allocated as quickly as it is being produced and imported into the UK," he added. The timber market is likely to remain tight "well into 2021 and beyond, with softwood demand being forecast to increase worldwide until at least 2025".

constructionnews.co.uk, 17 May 2021

BWF FIRE DOOR ALLIANCE LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN

The British Woodworking Federation (BWF) Fire Door Alliance has launched an awareness campaign, Be Certain, Be Certified, to highlight the importance of third-party certification of fire doors in improving fire safety standards across the UK. The campaign addresses a "clear lack of understanding" over what certification is and the vital role it plays in protecting lives.

Be Certain, Be Certified calls for the adoption of third-party certification of fire doors throughout all UK buildings to raise the standards of fire door safety and help protect lives. It also provides detailed information on fire door safety ahead of upcoming legislation – the Fire Safety Bill and Building Safety Bill – which will strengthen regulation over fire safety for all building types.

An informational platform, Be Certain, Be Certified offers guidance and resources to anyone who is responsible for specifying fire doors in any UK building. The campaign also gives expert insight into the third-party certification of fire doors, detailing the testing, verification of product performance and manufacturing process controls undertaken by an independent body.

Ahead of the biggest changes to fire safety legislation in recent times, through the introduction of the Fire Safety and Building Safety Bills and the proposed technical review of Approved Document B, now is the time for all building owners, landlords and specifiers to ensure that their fire doors meet the correct standards. Only through specifying fire doors that are third-party certified can building owners, managers and occupants have peace of mind that their fire doors will be fit for purpose, in terms of fire resistance and smoke control, and perform as designed in the event of a fire.

Third-party certification of fire doors provides independent evidence of the performance of a fire door and ensures that its performance data was not a one-off result. A robust process, fire door third-party certification requires fire door manufacturers and processors to be audited by a third-party, fire door assemblies to be tested to industry standards and ongoing audits carried out to ensure all products are tested appropriately and produced to a consistent standard.

TTJ online, 13 May 2021

AUSTRALIA

TIMBER MORE EXPENSIVE AS DEMAND SURGES

As Australia continues to deal with the fallout from COVID-19, strong construction activity and supply disruptions have led to an increase in the cost of key building materials.

Low interest rates, along with government stimulus in civil infrastructure and residential projects, means less timber, steel and concrete to go around.

So far, the influence on the cost of building has been minimal, in the range of 1-2% in major cities, which also takes into account labour fluctuations and other factors.

In its first quarterly update, national construction cost consultants Rawlinsons reported that between December 2020 and March 2021, Canberra and Sydney saw the biggest jump, with an increase of 2%. Elsewhere, Adelaide saw an increase in the cost of building of 0.75%, Brisbane 1.5%, Hobart 1%, Melbourne 1% and Perth 0.60%.

While data from Melbourne and Sydney was incomplete, the below outline from Rawlinson gives an idea of national trends in terms of materials prices;

Adelaide - prices for timber supply have increased by 10-15%

Brisbane - prices for LVL and laminated beams have increased by 15%

- Timber framing – prices for timber framing have increased by 15%

Canberra - prices for timber supply have increased by 10-20%

Perth - prices for formwork have increased by 5-10%

Australian CLT manufacturer Crosslam has seen the price of their product increase by around 20%, a slightly larger jump than other materials, posing concerns over whether developers may be deterred from using the material.

However, architect James Fitzpatrick from Fitzpatrick and Partners, who specialises in timber construction, is unshaken. He wasn't particularly concerned about the price changes, describing it as a temporary fluctuation primarily caused by production disruption in Europe by COVID-19.

According to Fitzpatrick, the supply shortage should only affect projects trying to source timber for right now and not those projects planned for a year or two down the track, when supply should be more readily available.

thefifthestate.com.au, 13 May 2021

BRISBANE PREFAB TIMBER BUILDING WINS EXCELLENCE AWARD IN 2021

In a clear affirmation of the environmental benefits of prefabricated engineered timber, 25 King, Brisbane Show grounds Urban Regeneration Project by Lendlease won top honours in The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) Environmental Excellence 2021 award category.

Inspired by the environmental benefits and versatility of prefabricated engineered timber, 25 King showcases timber from roof to floor. The 9-storey plus ground superstructure utilises a combination of revolutionary engineered Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT) and glulam (glue laminated timber). The glulam is used for the structural beams and columns, and the CLT for the floors, lift shafts and escape stairs.

The prefabricated engineered timber has a lower carbon footprint than traditional building materials and is sourced from certified sustainably managed forests. It also allows for precise offsite prefabrication and safer onsite construction.

Amongst the key reasons 25 King was awarded the prize, it demonstrated the beauty, safety, sustainability benefits, practicality and cost-effectiveness of prefabricated engineered timber construction and offered a revolutionary construction methodology that has the potential to forever alter the future (and height) of sustainable building in Australia.

As Australia's tallest and largest prefabricated engineered-timber commercial building offering world class office space inside a timber building it represents the second iteration of a cross-laminated timber (CLT) building for Lendlease.

The timber used in 25 King was 100% responsibly sourced from forests with full chain-of-custody certification. Featuring exposed timber beams, a grand colonnade at ground level, and expanses of glass revealing warm timber interiors, 25 King was designed with holistic sustainability and wellbeing as a priority and features a highly sustainable model.

timberbiz.com.au, 12 May 2021

MALAYSIA

Westports Handles 2.66mil TEUs In Q1 2021

Westports Holdings Bhd's net profit increased 36% to RM208.32 million in the first quarter (Q1) ended March 31, 2021 from RM152.81 million recorded in the same quarter last year. Revenue improved 7.3% to RM508.16 million from RM473.47 million primarily due to higher earnings from the container segment as throughput volume increased by five per cent to 2.66 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs).

Westports said the more normalised container yard utilisation during the quarter allowed Westports to facilitate additional regional trade volume as the terminal's transshipment throughput grew by seven per cent to 1.69 million TEUs. Westports continued to enhance its container and conventional operational capabilities by investing RM122.8 million in the Q1 of 2021. The capital expenditures mainly were to purchase terminal operating equipment, build a new jetty for the liquid bulk terminal and construct an additional new container yard area to support higher container yard requirements, Westports noted.

Group managing director Datuk Ruben Emir Gnanalingam Abdullah said the above-average yard utilisation and yard congestion in the latter part of the previous year reaffirmed Westports' supply-driven strategy in accommodating clients' requests while also facilitating the growth of especially the Klang Valley's hinterland economy. Westports invested and completed container yard Zone Z at CT9 at the cost of RM81 million in 2020. By the end of 2021, we will complete an additional 19-acre Container Terminal Yard 8. "In addition, the company is still investing in more terminal operating equipment and a new liquid bulk terminal jetty 5 to reinforce Port Klang as one of the main transhipment hubs in South East Asia for international container shipping alliances," he said.

The recent incident at Suez Canal brought to the forefront the reliance of global economies on a floating global supply chain. Hence, Westports is cognisant of its role and has planned to undertake and build the mega container terminal from CT10 to CT17 upon reaching a new concession agreement with the government. "This is also a reflection of our ongoing commitment in strengthening the competitiveness of Port Klang in Southeast Asia as a transshipment hub," he added.

Source: New Straits Times, 28 April

Penang Port Aims For Box Volume Transshipment Of 50,000 TEU This Year

MALAYSIA's port of Penang is expecting the North Butterworth Container Terminal (NBCT), which was gazetted as a free commercial zone (FCZ) effective February 1, 2021, will achieve transshipment throughput of 50,000 TEU this year.

Chief Executive Officer V Sasedharan said Penang Port would leverage the FCZ status to reach greater heights as it would enable the port to be one of the focal points for shipping and transshipment activities.

"The transshipment activity from the Bay of Bengal to Penang Port is one of the most lucrative opportunities identified by Penang Port. In the year 2020, the Bay of Bengal throughput volume was estimated to be around 8.1 million TEU. Soon, Penang Port plans to link up feeder operators in the Bay of Bengal with mainline operators," he told a recent press conference after witnessing NBCT receiving the first transshipment from Evergreen Marine Corp (Ever Chant).

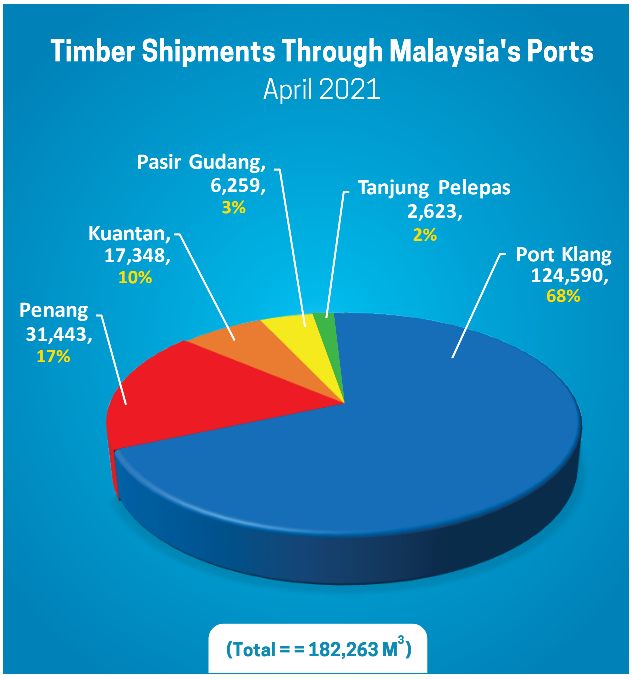
Mr Sasedharan said Penang Port's strategic location enabled transshipment activities from the Bay of Bengal before Port Klang, adding that the port had an added advantage as it would be the first port to be contacted whenever any shipping lines enter the Straits of Malacca.

He said the 223 TEU transshipment from Ever Chant marked the start of a new chapter as Penang Port would also cater for value-added activities such as high-tech warehousing, thus pearheading positive economic growth in the northern region of Malaysia.

To spur transshipment activity in the port, he said the port would offer various monetary incentives for shipping companies, including storage and special rates for handling.

Also present at the event were Penang Port Commission chairman Datuk Tan Teik Cheng and general manager Monaliza Suhaimi, reports Malaysian National News Agency, Bernama.

Source: Asian Shipper



EUROPE

European Port Hubs See Q1 Boost, But Suez Challenges Drag On

The two busiest container ports in Europe - Rotterdam and Antwerp - have reported solid volume growth in the first quarter, but the heavy import demand through April has left packed terminals with little room to handle the surge in Suez-delayed cargo.

Vessel schedule disruptions from the Suez Canal blockage in late

March are expected to extend ship delays deeper into the second quarter, while Covid-19 social distancing measures continu to affect terminal operations, reports IHS Media.

Rotterdam's container throughput in the first quarter increased 4.5 per cent year over year to 3.7 million TEU, with imports up 5.3% at 1.9 million TEU, the Dutch port reported. The port of Antwerp handled 3.1 million TEU in the first three months of 2021, up 2.3 % compared to last year. Essentially all the volume comprised imports of 3 million TEU, an increase of 2.4 per cent. But even as Europe's main gateways tick the box of first quarter growth, port executives are firmly focussed on getting over the challenges created by the Suez closure.

Allard Castelein, CEO of the Port of Rotterdam Authority, said although the first quarter growth in volume painted a positive picture, companies in trade and logistics were facing turbulent times. "At this point, the main challenge is handling the aftermath of the Suez blockage in terms of logistics," he said in a statement announcing Rotterdam's first quarter performance.

Jacques Vandermeiren, CEO of Port of Antwerp, said in a statement that the Suez Canal blockage was one of several challenges faced by the port over the last year, joining the Covid-19 pandemic and the UK's exit from the European Union. The port's statement said that the Suez Canal incident would create higher levels of traffic in Antwerp terminals in the coming weeks, with delays to container ship calls and operational challenges expected to continue throughout the second quarter.

"Some terminals have already decided not to allow the arrival of containers for export at the terminal until a few days before they can be loaded," the port said. "We are also looking at how we can optimise storage capacity inland and make even greater use of inland navigation and rail."

More than 1.9 million TEU of capacity was delayed when the Evergreen-charted Ever Given ran aground in the Suez on March 23, according to supply chain visibility company project44. When the canal was reopened on March 29, the wave of ships began to arrive at European ports in close succession, with Rotterdam the first port of call on many of the Asia-North Europe services.

Patrik Berglund, CEO of rate management platform Xeneta, said the Suez disruption created a backlog that has seen ports overwhelmed with cargo, while sailing schedules suffered a "domino effect". "We can expect to see implications stretching well into May, and even June," Mr Berglund said in a statement. "Furthermore, shippers with cargo on the affected ships have had initial delays to goods exacerbated by carriers dumping containers wherever they can in a rush to load available empty containers and get back on track.

Source: Asian Shipper

CHINA

Container volume at major Chinese ports up 15% in late April

The port of Ningbo-Zhoushan and Shenzhen posted a growth rate of over 30%. Cargo throughput at major coastal hub ports increased 10.8% year-on-year while the international trade cargo throughput increased 10.9%.

Crude oil shipments at major coastal ports slightly increased 20.8% year-on-year. The port of Yantai posted a growth rate o over 90%. Port inventory increased 25.4% year-on-year.

Metal ore shipments at major Chinese ports slightly increased 2.2% while the port inventory increased 6.1%. Cargo throughput and container volume at the three major Yangtze river ports, Nanjing, Wuhan and Chongqing, increased 29.6% and 62.1% year-on-year respectively.

In April, exports and imports of China increased 22.2% and 32.2% respectively. The cargo throughput at major coastal ports up 8.8% year-on-year while the container volume at eight major ports increased 15.1%.

Source: www.seatrade-maritime.com, 17 May

Shipments of Timber and Timber Products Through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, APRIL 2021

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		(m3)	% change Mac/Apr
	m3	% Change	m3	% Change	m3	% Change	m3	% Change	m3	% Change		
Sawntimber	66,719	-2	16,802	121	1,201	-23	481	116	5,341	-32	90,543	6
MDF	15,710	0	0	-100	3,811	-30	1,183	-24	4,866	25	25,571	-5
Mouldings	12,252	-4	112	36	1,114	-50	606	-17	1,041	-2	15,124	-11
Plywood	9,883	25	315	13	115	100	311	-53	6,947	-11	17,571	6
Veneer	839	12	20	37	1	100	41	-32	4,257	-9	5,157	-6
Particleboard	19,188	-7	99	-55	18	-97	0	0	8,992	-29	28,297	-17
TOTAL	**124,590**	**-1**	**17,348**	**103**	**6,259**	**-36**	**2,623**	**-19**	**31,443**	**-17**	**182,263**	**-2**

Note : Indicates percent change over the previous month

Source : MTIB

INDIA

India's Export Body Calls For Indigenous Shipping Line To Tackle Container Issues

The Federation of Indian Export Organisations, or FIEO, has called on the government to establish an indigenous shipping line to overcome issues faced by exporters due to the ongoing turmoil in the container industry.

Freight rates and congestion are major issues that have affected the entire industry, and the immediate concern is that India does not have its very own shipping or carrier company, FIEO President A. Sakthivel said while responding to a question posed by S&P Global Platts.

The Indian company could offer help in tackling the challenges, ranging from severe congestion at key ports to equipment shortages and sky high freight rates, among others, he said, adding that under the current setup where all carriers operating at Indian ports are foreign, the organization doesn't have the authority to control prices. "The shipping company need not not own their vessels, but just by having a local shipping company we will have the ability to control the prices and further have better availability of equipment."

The suggestion comes against the backdrop of a sharp hike in container rates in the last one year due to an acute shortage of equipment, congestion issues at major ports and firm demand from the US and the UK. However, such a proposal isn't peculiar to the export body as a few weeks ago, US retailer Home Depot announced it will be chartering its own container ship to deal with the current struggles in the sector.

The announcement sparked a debate among industry participants where some believed that this could be the new disruption for the sector while others said it is not feasible enough to be a popular practice.

"Next two years are going to witness a lot of changes, the supply chain will completely change the big forwarders like DSV Panalpina have started sailing their own vessels on the short routes for about 200-500 containers, now they are trying to establish their centralized markets," a freight forwarder working with a Germany-based company said. "We can see new shipping lines being developed in the coming days, but it will be very challenging too," the source added.

"It's probably not easy to replicate because fundamentally there aren't many vessels that are available to be chartered. If you look at the charter market, this is the tightest it has been in years with significantly, a very shallow amount of excess capacity," Alex Hersham, CEO of UK-based digital logistics company Zencargo, said. While chartering vessels can be profitable if there is a regular flow of cargo, factors like regulatory permits, port congestion and legal expertise remain crucial, a logistics sector executive based in Hong Kong said. "The chartering cost can go as high as $100,000 a day even if you charter a vessel, where are you going to find containers?" MTIB

Source: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com, 28 April

APRIL 2021

Total export of Malaysian timber and timber products in April 2021 decreased slightly, valued at RM2.2 billion from RM2.3 billion in the previous month. However, cumulative export for the period of January to April 2021 increased 29% valued at RM8.3 billion over the previous corresponding period.

SAWNTIMBER

Total export of sawntimber in April 2021 increased by 8% in volume at 140,638 m³ and 6% in value at RM271.6 million as compared to the previous month. Cumulative exports for the period of January to April 2021 increased by 12% in volume and 17% in value to 448,537 m³ totalling RM859.2 million over the previous corresponding period.

Exports of sawntimber to the EU for the month increased slightly to 9,211 m³ over the previous month as a result of the positive growth of economy from major countries in the region. Exports to Germany increased by 57% to 1,426 m³ from 908 m³ recorded in the previous month followed by France increased 36% to 708 m³. Similarly, exports to Greece and Italy also increased significantly to 438 m³ and 145 m³ respectively from only 178 m³ and 66 m³ as recorded in the previous month. However, the Netherlands as a main buyer decreased buying by 12% to 5,635 m³ from 6,389 m³ in the previous month. Exports to the UK also decreased by 94% to 313 m³ from 5,031 m³ in the previous month.

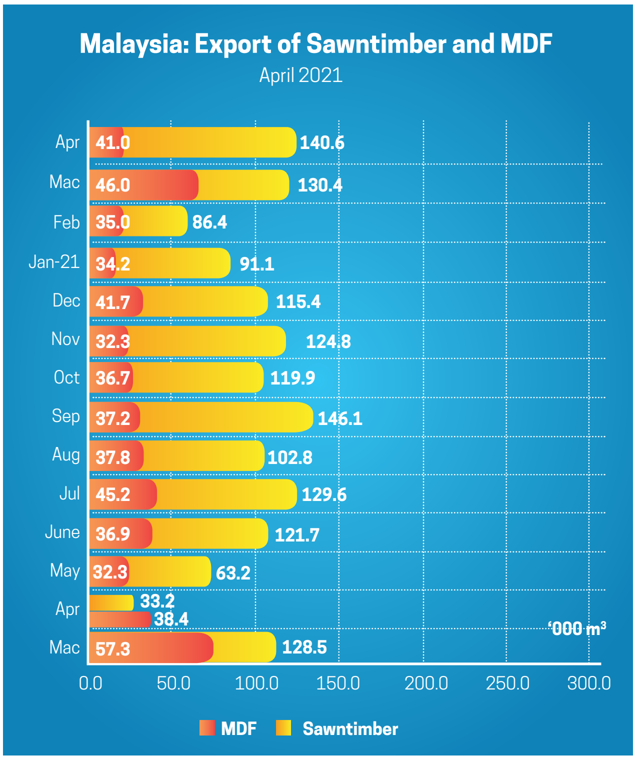
Total export to West Asia increased by 62% to 30,429 m³ from 18,770 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Yemen as the main buyer from West Asia increased intake significantly to 15,541 m³ from only 1,176 m³ recorded last month. Similarly, exports to Saudi Arabia also increased by 51% to 1,970 m³ from 1,303 m³ followed by Oman by 9% to 3,586 m³ from 3,289 m³ as recorded in the previous month. However, exports to the UAE decreased by 20% to 6,225 m³ from 7,823 m³ recorded last month followed by Iraq and Qatar by 8% and 18% lower to 2,133 m³ and 534 m³. Exports to Bahrain also decreased by 97% to 41 m³ from 1,503 m³ recorded in the last month.

Elsewhere, buying from ASEAN increased by 15% to 40,828 m³ from 35,407 m³ as registered in the previous month. Thailand as the main buyer in ASEAN decreased its intake by 18% to 12,281 m³ from 15,036 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Meanwhile, exports of sawntimber to the Philippines increased by 50% to 18,706 m³ from 12,505 m³ last month. Similarly, exports to Singapore increased by 10% to 6,902 m³ from 6,290 m³ as recorded in the previous month followed by Vietnam and Indonesia by 74% and 121% to 2,198 m³ and 651 m³ respectively from 1,265 m³ and 294 m³ recorded in the previous month.

Similarly, shipments to East Asia also increased slightly to 31,622 m³ from 31,469 m³ in March. China as the main buyer decreased purchases by 8% to 18,605 m³ from 20,253 m³ in the previous month. Likewise, South Korea also decreased by 11% to 1,694 m³ from 1,909 m³ last month. Meanwhile, exports to Taiwan and Japan increased by 25% and 18% to 6,896 m³ and 4,054 m³ respectively from 5,533 m³ and 3,445 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Buying by Hong Kong increased by 9% to 373 m³.

Elsewhere, exports to the USA increased significantly to 4,161 m³ while Australia decreased buying by 22% to 744 m³ compared from 958 m³ in the previous month. Meanwhile, demand from South Africa decreased by 40% to 3,333 m³ from 5,584 m³ as recorded in the previous month.

The average FOB price of sawntimber increased slightly to 1,931 per m³ from 1,908 per m³ in the previous month. Meanwhile, the price of Dark Red Meranti to the Netherlands increased by 5% to 3,656 per m³ from 3,472 per m³ previously. Keruing was traded at 2,317 per m³, increased by 12% from 2,068 per m³ in the previous month.



PLYWOOD

Exports of plywood in April 2021 recorded a decrease in volume by 1% to 141,895 m³ but increased in value by 3% totalled RM289.7 million compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, cumulative exports for January-April 2021 based on year-on-year reduced in volume by 14% to 501,982 m³ and in value by 9% worth RM987.2 million over the previous corresponding period.

Exports of plywood to the EU decreased by 24% to 1,185 m³ for the month from 1,557 m³ in the previous month. Ireland increased its buying by 113% to 683 m³ from 321 m³ in the previous month while Denmark resumed its intake to 502 m³ for the month. However, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands didn't make any purchase for the month. Outside the EU countries, exports to the UK decreased by 95% to 426 m³ for the month from 8,650 m³ in the previous month while Turkey resumed buying by 39 m³ for the month.

Moving to the ASEAN and East Asia regions, there was a slight decrease in volume by 1% to 94,575 m³ compared to 95,496 m³ in the previous month. Japan as the main importer of Malaysian plywood increased its stock intake by 1% to 76,556 m³ from 75,884 m³ in the previous month. China also increased its buying by 89% to 2,497 m³ for the month. However, other countries in the East Asian region recorded a negative growth for the month. Exports to South Korea reduced by 31% to 5,776 m³, followed by Taiwan by 11% to 2,660 m³, and Hong Kong 4% to 487 m³. Meanwhile, Malaysia's plywood trade with its ASEAN partners showed mixed trends for the month. Thailand decreased its intake by 3% to 2,444 m³ for the month, followed by Singapore with export down by 11% to 2,095 m³ and the Philippines by 25% to 717 m³. Brunei Darussalam resumed its buying to 770 m³ while Indonesia did not make any purchase for the month.

Plywood export performance in the West Asian region was down by 23% to 12,383 m³ for the month. Being the largest importer of Malaysian plywood in the region for the month, Yemen recorded a decrease in intake by 34% to 9,716 m³. UAE also reduced its buying by 24% to 608 m³. However, exports to Bahrain and Saudi Arabia increased by 100% and 118% to 327 m³ and 450 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Kuwait and Qatar did not make any purchase for the month.

Exports to the African region recorded an increase of intake by 376% to 2,144 m³ over 450 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Morocco increased by 540% to 2,123 m³, but exports to South Africa reduced by 82% to 21 m³ respectively. Both Mauritius and Sierra Leon did not make any purchases for the month. Moving to our main buyer in the Americas region, the USA increased its intake of plywood by 58% to 22,618 m³ from 14,277 m³ last month. Mexico also increased its intake by 161% to 4,206 m³ but Canada reduced its buying by 45% to 623 m³ for the month. In the Oceania region, exports to Australia decreased by 39% to 2,228 m³ while New Zealand did not make any purchase for the month.

The FOB price of plywood increased by 4% to RM2,042 per m³ from RM1,959 per m³ in the previous month.

VENEER

Exports of veneer for April 2021 reduced in volume by 7% to 7,151 m³ but increased in value by 10% worth RM11.8 million as compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, cumulative exports for January-April 2021 recorded a decrease both in volume by 14% to 20,646 m³ and in value by 10% to RM32.8 million over the previous corresponding period.

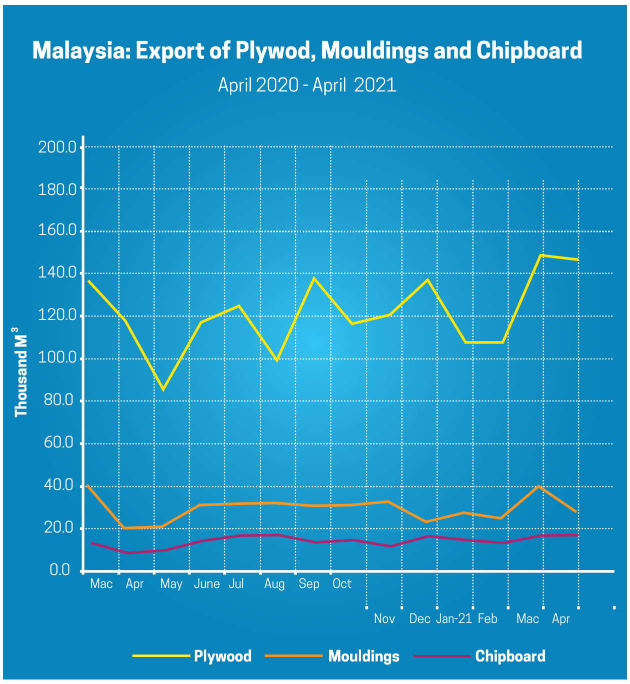
Exports to China increased by 12% to 2,082 m³, followed 46% to 738 m³, South Korea 21% to 624 m³ and Australia 33% to 149 m³. However, exports to Taiwan were down by 54% to 1,746 m³, followed by India with a decrease of 38% to 398 m³, Italy 4% to 46 m³ and Canada 42% to 22 m³. Singapore, USA and Viet Nam did not make any purchase for the month.

The FOB price of veneer for April 2021 was at RM1,651 per m³, an increase by 19% from RM1,393 per m³ on the previous month.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Exports of MDF in April 2021 recorded a decrease in volume by 11% to 41,004 m³ and in value by 6% worth RM63.2 million compared to the previous month. Similarly, cumulative exports for January – April 2021 based on year-on-year, reduced in volume by 25% to 156,183 m³ and in value by 13% to RM240.3 million over the previous corresponding period.

Exports to ASEAN member countries decreased by 13% to 9,220 m³ from 10,538 m³ in the previous month. Exports to the Philippines decreased by 14% to 3,629 m³, followed by Indonesia down by 7% to 3,550 m³, Vietnam 18% to 1,639 m³ and Singapore 60% to 43 m³ for the month. Moving to the East Asia region, exports to the region also reduced by 18% to 8,919 m³ for the month from 10,932 m³ in the previous month. Despite being the major importer of MDF, Japan reduced its buying by 23% to 7,805 m³ for the month. South Korea also reduced its buying by 30% to 148 m³ for the month. Meanwhile, exports to China including Hong Kong and Taiwan, increased by 240% to 422 m³ and 1% to 484 m³ respectively.



Shifting to the South Asian region, exports to the region declined by 18% to 8,348 m³ for the month. Exports to Pakistan dan Sri Lanka decreased by 30% to 2,420 m³ and 58% to 1,285 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, India and Bangladesh increased its intake by 17% to 3,576 m³ and 42% to 951 m³ respectively. Likewise, exports to West Asian region recorded an increase by 19% to 6,848 m³ from 5,780 m³ in the previous month. Exports to the UAE and Saudi Arabia increased by 295% to 3,121 m³ and Saudi Arabia 79% to 770 m³ respectively. Lebanon resumed its buying to 432 m³. However, exports to Oman decreased by 3% to 1,640 m³ while Bahrain, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Syria and Qatar did not make any purchase for the month.

Elsewhere, exports to the USA, Australia and the UK decreased by 7% to 1,630 m³, 2% to 2,154 m³ and 93% to 86 m³ respectively, for the month. South Africa increased its buying by 20% to 1,055 m³ but Sudan did not make any purchase for the month.

The FOB price of MDF increased by 5% to RM1,541 per m³ from RM1,467 per m³ from the previous month.

MOULDINGS

Exports of mouldings for the month increased by 2% in volume and decreased by 6% in value to 18,870 m³ worth at RM73.0 million. However, cumulative exports for the period of January – April 2021 increased by 18% in volume and 23% in value to 68,017 m³ worth at RM270.6 million as compared to the previous corresponding period in 2020.

Exports to the EU for the month was recorded at 7,218 m³, a decrease of 6% as compared to the previous month. Belgium and the Netherlands decreased their purchases by 54% and 0.1% to 204 m³ and 4,980 m³ respectively while Germany increased by 44% to 1,145 m³ compared to the previous month. France resumed its purchases to 70 m³ while the UK recorded a decrease of 15% to 431 m³ for the month.

Exports to the ASEAN region increased as Vietnam and Singapore increased their purchases by 175% and 3% to 684 m³ and 924 m³. However, Thailand resumed its intake to 56 m³. Meanwhile, Indonesia did not make any purchase.

Japan, China and South Korea decreased intake by 26%, 16% and 0.2% to 1,104 m³, 223 m³ and 1,012 m³ respectively. However, Hong Kong increased its purchases by 87% to 238 m³ while Taiwan did not make any purchase.

Elsewhere, exports to the US and Australia increased by 23% and 3% to 3,742 m³ and 2,535 m³ respectively compared to the previous month. However, Canada decreased its intake by 32% to 106 m³.

BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

Exports of BJC for April 2021 recorded a decrease by 1% both in volume and in value to 12,615,753 kg worth RM100.5 million from last month. Total BJC cumulative exports for the same corresponding period last year increased by 45% to RM386.6 million as compared to RM267.0 million. Exports to the EU increased by 5% to RM70.8 million. Exports to the Netherlands, Sweden, Turkey, Denmark, Belgium and Germany increased by 113%, 86%, 86%, 52%, 8% and 5% to RM12.0 million, RM10.7 million, RM132,933, RM8.2 million, RM18.1 million and RM6.6 million respectively. However, exports to Italy and France decreased by 70% and 9% to RM597,818 and RM5.4 million, compared to the previous month. Exports to the UK, however increased by 53% to RM54.8 million from last year.

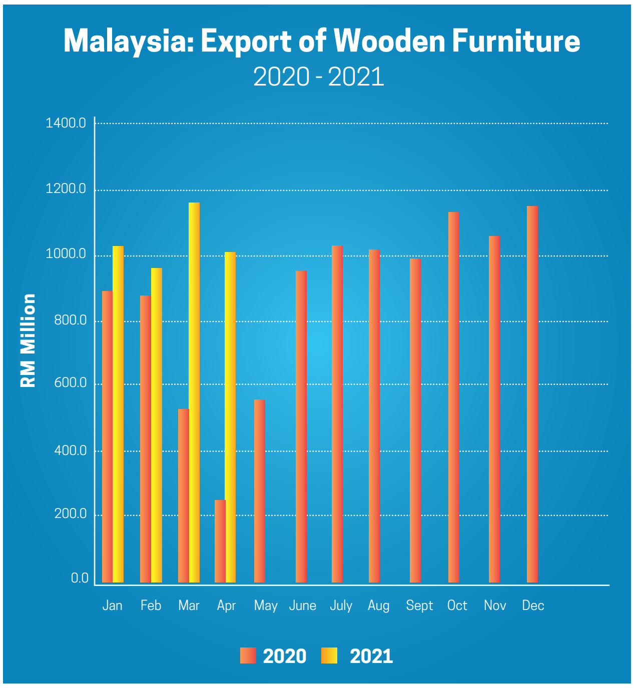
In Asia, Qatar and Bahrain, imports increased both by 100% to RM1.1 million respectively. Similarly, Pakistan, Viet Nam, UAE, Singapore, Egypt, Taiwan, Thailand and India increased buying by 143%, 85%, 46%, 46%, 44%, 13%, 3% and 9% to RM875,153, RM5.2 million, RM438,917, RM17.9 million, RM408,115, RM2.7 million, RM6.6 million and RM13.2 million respectively. However, exports to South Korea and Japan decreased by 74% and 3% to RM333,288 and RM14.4 million compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia did not make any purchase for the month.

Exports to the US, Australia and South Africa increased by 92%, 31% and 5% to RM95.8 million, RM67.0 million and RM3.0 million respectively. Meanwhile, Mauritius decreased buying by 36% to RM 241,727 compared to the previous month.

FURNITURE

Exports of wooden and rattan furniture for the period of January - April 2021 recorded an increased by 58% to RM4.2 billion from RM2.6 billion in the previous corresponding period. The USA as the main buyer of wooden furniture increased purchases by 70% to RM2.6 billion from RM1.5 billion in the same corresponding period in 2020. In Europe, shipments to Germany increased by 53% to RM21.8 million from RM14.2 million followed by the Netherlands with an increase of 81% to RM13.8 million from RM7.7 million compared to the previous corresponding period. Exports to Greece increased by 22% to RM8.9million, France 90% to RM20.9 million and Poland 59% to RM12.3 million.

Shipments to the UK also increased by 35% to RM163.0 million for the month. Similarly, purchases by Russia increased by 39% to RM4.9 million from RM3.5 million in the same period last year. Demand from Canada and Australia also increased by 49% and 52% to RM111.7 million and RM168.4 million respectively.



Similarly in East Asia, exports to Japan increased by 21% to RM183.2 million from RM151.7 million in the same period last year. South Korea increased consumption by 11% to RM33.7 million followed by China by 2% to RM31.6 million. Exports to India increased by 41% to RM68.3 million from RM48.4 million in the previous corresponding period.

In the ASEAN region, exports to the Philippines and Singapore were recorded at RM43.7 million and RM138.9 million respectively. Similarly, exports to Saudi Arabia and Qatar also increased by 33% to RM65.4 million and 87% to RM4.1 million respectively. The UAE also increased their buying by 68% to RM58.5 million followed by Kuwait with 95% higher to RM17.7 million and Oman by 132% to RM9.4 million respectively.

Rattan furniture shipments for January - April 2021 were recorded at RM33.7 million from RM25.0 million in the previous corresponding period. Exports to the USA increased by 87% to RM13.0 million from RM6.9 million in the corresponding period in 2020. Elsewhere, exports to Canada increased slightly to RM1.0 million followed by Australia by 125% to RM2.1 million compared to the previous month.

In Europe, exports to the UK increased by 55% to RM3.4 million compared to RM2.2 million in the previous corresponding period. Exports to Russia also increased by 205% to RM1.2 million followed with Spain by 64% to RM220,374 and Poland 96% to RM156,470. However, purchases by France and the Netherlands declined by 57% and 33% to RM298,980 and RM168,401 in the same period last year. Meanwhile in North Africa, Algeria also decreased purchases by 82% to RM402,225 from RM2.3 million in the previous corresponding period. Elsewhere, South Africa also decreased buying by 32% to RM115,297 from RM 168,247 in the previous corresponding period.

In East Asia, exports to Japan increased by 78% to RM408,264 from RM229,706 recorded in the same period last year. India increased intake by 124% to RM2.3 million from RM1.0 million whilst China decreased buying by 18% to RM2.1 million compared to RM2.6 million in the previous corresponding period. Meanwhile in the ASEAN region, exports to Singapore and Thailand were recorded at RM500,755 and RM200,357 respectively.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, exports to the UAE increased by 7% to RM158,255 from RM148,095 recorded in the same period 2020. Meanwhile, Vietnam, Cote D' Ivore, American Samoa, Sri Lanka and Turkey didn't make any purchase compared to the previous corresponding period in 2020. MTIB

WEBINAR – DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FOR THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

YBrs Tuan Haji Mahpar delivering the opening speech

Digital transformation is the adoption of digital technology by a company to improve business processes, increase value for customers and enhance innovation. Such transformation is currently presenting new challenges to all sectors of manufacturing and services in the country, requiring them to make changes to remain competitive. To keep up with these developments, the timber industry also needs to take steps and create new strategies to implement digital transformation so as to ensure that the industry continues to thrive, and to be competitive and efficient in both local and international markets.

To ensure a better understanding of digital transformation, Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) with the cooperation of Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) organised the Webinar on Digital Transformation for The Timber Industry on 7 May 2021. The webinar's objectives were to allow companies to self-check their individual digitisation readiness using the Digitisation Self-Diagnostic Tool and to assist companies to digitize targeted manufacturing processes based on proof-of-concept projects via trainings and on-site engagements.

Tuan Haji Mahpar Atan, Deputy Director General of MTIB in his opening remarks said that the purpose of the webinar was to share information and to help the timber industry to formulate company digitization actions. In addition, the webinar also would provide opportunities for timber industry entrepreneurs to learn in more detail about wha digital transformation is and how to take advantage of it.

Tuan Haji Mahpar further noted that digital technology is now the country's main medium and a factor in increasing productivity, and consequently upgrading the Malaysian economy. To achieve this vision, the focus will be on creating digitally literate businesses as well as successfully operating services from start to finish and driving innovations that can transform the industry. The ability to seize the opportunities that arise from these technologies plays an important role in driving the country's economic growth. MTIB as the government agency responsible for developing the timber industry, needs to take up this challenge and steer the industry towards digital transformation to maintain its productivity and competitiveness as a manufacturer of timber products. Tuan Haji Mahpar also urged the industry players to increase their momentum and take advantage of the webinar.

A presentation entitled An Overview of Digital Transformation was presented by Encik Kamaruzaman Jahidin from Powernode Solution Sdn. Bhd. He spoke on current scenarios of the digital journey as well as his experiences in the transformation journey. He gave an overview of the digital journey, types of digital transformation and also the benefits of digital transformation in business. Besides that, he also touched on matters related to the Internet of Things (IoT), cyber security and big data analytics in the effort towards IR4.0. He also explained in detail, the road to digital transformation, the challenges, benefits, and impacts of the implemented transformation. Encik Kamaruzaman urged the timber industry to take the opportunity to change towards digitization and increase digital transformation in the timber industry towards IR4.0.

This Seminar aims at educating the public on measures to digitally transform the Malaysian Timber Industry

Encik Kamaruzaman delivers his talk to the audience

The webinar ended with a Q&A session. The event was attended by representatives from the local timber and furniture industries as well as MTIB officials.

A WAY OF GIVING TRADITIONS NEW ENERGY.

BAHKOLEKTION

A massive flood (bah) in Temerloh back in 2014 inspired the beginning of a relationship between traditional artisans and designers. BAHKOLEKTION, a brand that aims to elevate the traditional art form and craft to a wider audience, is a collaboration between today's leading designers and creative minds in Malaysia.

Background

What started as a designer and artisan collaborative workshop, organized by MTIB, took a different turn when Adiguru Muhaimin Hasbollah shared the story of personal struggles during the east coast flood in 2014. He revealed that he had managed to save and store some of his most significant work despite being damaged by the flood.

At the end of the workshop, one of the participating designers, Muhamad Razif Nasruddin, and the lead for the workshop, En. Azrizal came together to create new energy behind these 'damaged' products.

After few weeks of discussion, the idea to elevate traditional art form and local timber-based craft into contemporary artisan products came to fruition with the addition of Langkawi carvers, Azizul and Anwar. Razif immediately went to Langkawi to document their work process and visit their studio to have a clearer picture of their work. From there on, the brand BAHKOLEKTION took off and with assistance from MTIB, was officially launched online in November 2020 and was featured in an exhibition for the first time at REX KL 2020.

Creative Collaborations

With years of experience working on cultural projects under his belt, Razif led the brand direction with the purview from CWSB, the owner of the project. Over the next few weeks and months, plenty of conversation, documentation, and traveling took place between Langkawi and Temerloh to create a new entity that would form the identity of BAHKOLEKTION as an international brand.

In the following weeks, Razif invited a young and upcoming artist by the name of Sharina Shahrin to collaborate on their first exhibition of the Temerloh project. Fresh coming off a Vans art exhibition project, they brought together both the traditional and contemporary worlds through Adiguru Muhaimin's amazing woodcarving pieces. They also formed new partnerships with a ceramic maker, En Mohamad from Kampung Temin, Jerantut to add more texture to the existing beautiful pieces.

First Official Exhibition

After months of planning and also despite MCO due to the rise of the CoVid-19 pandemic, BAHKOLEKTION had its first major exhibition at Rumah Lukis, owned by an architect, Pital. The exhibition that took place at Lembah Keramat, received overwhelming support on the opening weekend from various industries. MTIB's YBrs Tuan Hj Mahpar Atan came to the opening day of the exhibition to meet and greet the people behind the work, including the owner of the gallery himself. Art collectors, designers, architects, and even students came to see the Termerloh Series, which featured the artworks that had been damaged by the 2014 flood.

In the following days and weeks, word of mouth from key influencers within the creative industries that went to the exhibit was encouraging as more visitors came each day, despite Movement Control Order was in place. Through social media it gained traction, getting celebrities, filmmakers, and even international artists to visit the exhibition to experience BAHKOLEKTION and Adiguru Muhaimin's work firsthand.

Overwhelming Support

The exhibition that was planned only for two weeks extended for another week upon receiving requests from collectors and the public in general. The exhibition was also featured in the media, both in newspapers and online, such as The Star, and The Vibes. RTM also made a feature on it twice on TV1 for Selamat Pagi Malaysia, along with a full 20-minute magazine documentary-style on Cerita Kita, the news channel.

BAHKOLEKTION has shown great potential and with more unique ideas and collaborations along with the strong support of MTIB, this brand could be propelled into the international market in the near future.

To know more about BAHKOLEKTION, visit their website at www.bahkolektion.ctcs.my, or follow themon their social media on Instagram and Facebook at @BAHKOLEKTION.

Creative Director, Razif and Adiguru Muhaimin Hasbollah putting together traditional and contemporary pieces to commemorate the flood in Temerloh 2014

Artist, Sharina Shahrin, documenting Adiguru Muhaimin's work throughout the final selection artwork process

Langkawi Wood carvers, Azizul (Left) and Anuar (Right) aking photos during timber log selection process

The photo of Adiguru Muhaimin Temerloh's workshop hit hard by the flood in 2014

At the exhibition with Mr. Pital (Rumah Lukis Owner), Ms Zarina (Inakraf Director), Ms. Murni (Art Collector), Mr. U-wei Hj Saari (Film Producer), Adiguru Muhaimin Hasbollah & Razif (Creative Director)

Adiguru Muhaimin Hasbollah being interviewed by The Star

On the launch day with Mr. Azrizal (Marketing Manager), Mr. Mohd Adawi Ton Omar (General Manager CWSB), Adiguru Muhaimin Hasbollah Muhammad Redhuan Aris (Executive) and Razif (Creative Director)

YBrs. Tuan Haji Mahpar Atan (TKP Pembangunan & Komersil) being interviewed by RTM for "Selamat Pagi Malaysia" and magazine documentary "Cerita Kita".

Visitors at Rumah Lukis during the meet and greet session with Adiguru Muhaimin Hasbolla

FURNITURE INDUSTRY IN TURKEY

Overview

Turkey, known officially as the Republic of Turkey, is a transcontinental Eurasian country. Its location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia makes Turkey a country of significant geostrategic importance. The capital of Turkey is Ankara, and the official currency is the Turkish Lira (TRY). The official language of Turkey is Turkish.

The modern Republic of Turkey was established in 1923, with Mustafa Kemal Atatürk as its first president. Turkey is a democratic, secular, unitary, constitutional republic. It has become increasingly integrated with the West through membership in organisations such as the Council of Europe, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the G-20 major economies. Turkey began full membership negotiations with the European Union (EU) in 2005 and it has been an associate member of the European Economic Community (EEC) since 1963, having reached a customs union agreement in 1995.

Turkey has also fostered close cultural, political, economic, and industrial relations with the Eastern world, particularly with the Middle East and the Turkic states of Central Asia, through membership in organisations such as the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Economy

Turkey's economic freedom score is 64.0, making its economy the 76th freest in the 2021 Index. Its overall score has decreased by 0.4 point, primarily because of a decline in fiscal health. Turkey's economy ranked 37th among 45 countries in the Europe region, and its overall score is below the regional average but above the world economic development average.

The Turkish economy remains moderately free in 2021. Any advancement will require broad reform to improve the transparency and efficiency of the regulatory systems. More urgently, the government needs to strengthen judicial effectiveness and the fight against corruption, both of which remain damaged in the aftermath of the purging of the judicial system that followed the attempted coup in 2016.

The overall macroeconomic picture is more vulnerable and uncertain, given rising inflation and unemployment, contracting investment, elevated corporate and financial sector vulnerabilities, and patchy implementation of corrective policy actions and reforms. There are also significant external headwinds due to ongoing geopolitical tensions in the sub-region.

Forestry

According to the U.N. FAO, 14.7% or about 11,334,000 ha of Turkey is forested. Of this 8.6% (973,000) is classified as primary forest, the most biodiverse and carbon-dense form of forest. Turkey had 3,418,000 ha of planted forest.

Coniferous species make up two thirds of the growing stock volume, with the Calabrian and Crimean Pines predominating, while Firs, Juniper and Scots Pine are also common. Beech is the most frequently occurring broadleaved species, followed by Oaks (mostly as Coppice) and Poplars. The collection of a wide range of non-wood forest products is of importance for local populations. Turkey is the largest producer of nuts in Europe. Other important non-wood forest products are plant gums, aromatic and medicinal plants and mushrooms.

Production

Turkey is a significant producer of industrial roundwood and has a relatively well-developed forest product processing industry. Production of industrial logs showed an increasing trend from 10.3 million m3 in 2018 to 10.4 million m³ in 2019. Similarly, production of sawnwood increased from 8.2 million m³ in 2018 to 8.4 million m³ in 2019. In 2019, production of fibreboard and particle board stood at 4.9 million m³ and 4.4 million m³ respectively.

Turkey : Production of Timber

Product	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Sawlogs and veneer logs	9,714,000	10,000,000	10,145,000	10,253,000	10,400,000
Sawnwood	7,772,000	8,499,000	8,116,000	8,205,000	8,350,000
Veneer sheets	87,000	270,000	74,000	74,000	74,000
Plywood	116,000	120,000	105,000	112,000	115,000
Particle board	4,361,000	4,202,000	4,286,000	4,355,000	4,370,000
Fibreboard	4,792,000	5,084,000	4,806,000	4,970,000	4,900,000
Total	**26,842,000**	**28,175,000**	**27,532,000**	**27,969,000**	**28,209,000**

Volume: M³ *source: FAO Forest statistics*

Turkey: Imports of Timber and Timber Products, 2016 - 2020

Despite its own productions, Turkey is still a net importer of forest products. In 2020, Turkey imported a significant amount of furniture worth USD124.8 million followed by sawntimber and plywood at USD111.2 million and USD59.2 million respectively.

Turkey : Imports of Timber and Timber Products, 2016 - 2020

Code	Product	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
9403	Furniture & parts	212,003	207,106	185,214	147,027	124,826
4407	Sawntimber	236,491	240,147	183,254	102,488	111,173
4412	Plywood	310,815	269,012	99,750	31,390	59,244
4411	Fibreboard	128,583	89,142	44,172	22,608	38,362
4408	Veneer	41,430	48,752	42,926	33,359	38,227
4421	Other articles of wood	24,846	24,437	23,780	24,498	30,797
4401	Fuel wood	234,983	198,288	208,845	35,744	29,851
4410	Particleboard	55,759	61,430	57,250	42,488	27,120
4402	Wood charcoal	39,262	39,486	36,469	33,262	26,900
4418	Builders' joinery and carpentry	67,026	65,653	41,314	18,813	22,450
4403	Logs	62,218	33,431	30,894	22,721	21,021
4419	Tableware and kitchenware	17,156	11,479	12,276	7,310	9,336
4415	Packing cases	6,930	8,206	8,730	7,257	7,634
4409	Moulding	16,205	17,899	16,630	9,624	7,289

Value: USD '000

4413	Densified wood	8,259	11,173	9,093	5,088	5,732
4420	Wood marquetry .	5,585	5,360	4,824	3,111	2,833
4416	Casks, barrels, vats and tubs	1,543	1,577	1,167	1,212	1,685
4414	Wooden frames	3,030	3,001	2,967	2,398	1,628
4417	Tools, bodies and handles	2,829	2,300	1,817	1,412	1,151
4404	Hoopwood	1,941	1,762	1,183	743	1,081
4405	Wood wool & flour	44	96	340	328	232
4406	Railway sleepers	119	154	212	59	106
Total		**1,477,057**	**1,339,891**	**1,013,107**	**552,940**	**568,678**

Sources: ITC /Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT)

Exports of Timber and Timber Products

In 2020, Turkey's exports of timber products increased 5% to USD2.7 billion from USD2.6 million in 2019. Furniture was the main product exported valued at USD1.7 billion in 2020 followed by fibreboard valued USD489.6 million compared to USD377.9 million the previous corresponding period. Particleboard and BJC were recorded at USD158.8 million and USD156.4 million in 2020. Total export in 2020 recorded in increasing trend despite the COVID-19 pandemic which showed the ability of the Turkish buying power especially in fibreboard, sawntimber and veneer as well as the furniture industries.

Turkey : Exports of Timber and Timber Products, 2016 - 2020

Code	Product	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
9403	Furniture & parts	1,281,477	1,305,119	1,488,049	1,704,557	1,747,734
4411	Fibreboard	263,524	346,959	353,122	377,909	489,573
4410	Particleboard	107,996	138,397	179,843	169,585	158,799
4418	Builders' joinery and carpentry	148,788	143,525	149,816	156,320	156,351
4407	Sawntimber	10,461	11,316	15,928	35,621	46,066
4408	Veneer	25,915	29,372	30,592	28,635	29,029
4412	Plywood	13,538	15,488	12,812	25,766	20,673
4415	Packing cases	29,710	28,572	30,809	28,513	17,538
4421	Other articles of wood	15,868	18,141	19,021	19,050	15,203
4409	Moulding	8,256	9,940	8,431	12,500	10,591
4403	Logs	2,610	3,068	7,227	9,163	8,271
4402	Wood charcoal	819	2,727	3,097	5,184	7,444
4419	Tableware and kitchenware	3,734	5,216	5,504	7,005	6,720
4417	Tools, bodies and handles	1,274	1,391	1,635	2,521	2,807
4401	Fuel wood	671	880	2,143	2,675	2,634
4420	Wood marquetry	1,808	4,322	2,924	2,042	1,777
4413	Densified wood	39,274	1,895	1,816	1,397	1,639
4414	Wooden frames	1,372	1,516	1,553	1,378	1,286
4406	Railway sleepers	117	2	142	42	198
4404	Hoopwood	53	63	100	42	103
4416	Casks, barrels, vats and tubs	117	100	120	108	90
4405	Wood wool & flour	18	0	0	0	2
Total		**1,957,400**	**2,068,009**	**2,314,684**	**2,590,013**	**2,724,528**

Value: USD '000

Sources: ITC /Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT)

Furniture industry in Turkey

The wood industry is developing rapidly in the Bursa-Inegol area, the third most important furniture production region, which is surrounded by forest areas. The furniture industry of the Inegol area is small sized but has great potential to improve. Another important furniture region is Kayseri, which has a large capacity for the production of sofa beds, couch beds and ranked 7 of the 22 largest manufacturers which are established in Turkey. Izmir also has furniture production districts called "Karabaglar and Kisikkoy" which supply furniture to the Aegean Region.

Furniture production in Turkey is concentrated mainly in Istanbul, Ankara, Bursa (Inegol), Kayseri, Izmir and Adana. The most important furniture production districts are İstanbul and the region of Bolu-Duzce, which is famous for its production of wood products. The well-known furniture-manufacturing district in Turkey, called "Siteler", is located in Ankara. The number of registered small and medium sized enterprises in "Siteler" is over 10,000. In Ankara, there are many labour–intensive small enterprises manufacturing classical-handmade furniture and there are about 10 major furniture manufacturers who have mass-production capabilities.

The main markets for furniture exports are Iraq, Libya, Azerbaijan, Germany, and France. In recent years, Turkish furniture companies have been establishing showrooms and depots in increasing numbers in most of these countries. The Turkish contraction sector is one of the major sectors exporting services. Turkish contractor companies who have undertaken construction work abroad have completed many housing complexes, tourism projects, hospitals and health center projects, most of which were decorated with Turkish furniture.

Turkish furniture is designed and made from the highest quality materials to ensure comfort, performance and attractive appearance for a very long lifespan. Different styles are produced such as classical, traditional and contemporary. With its designers and architects combined with its flexible production capacity, the Turkish furniture industry is able to satisfy the requirements of all individual markets all over the world.

Malaysia's Exports of Timber and Timber Products to Turkey

In 2020, exports of Malaysian timber and timber products to Turkey decreased 49% to RM20.0 million from RM39.3 million in the previous corresponding period. The main products exported to the Turkey market were wooden furniture. Exports of wooden furniture to Turkey for the year 2020 were recorded at RM7.9 million, a decrease of 56% from RM17.8 million in 2019.

Malaysia: Exports of Timber and Timber Products to Turkey, 2016-2020

Product	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	6,903,225	8,989,217	1,569,071	290,138	324,998
Chipboard/Particleboard	-	-	1,578,297	2,112,999	428,336
Fibreboard	1,247,257	206,339	2,994,933	387,953	498,564
Mouldings	1,502,351	1,160,536	1,306,455	574,206	603,615
Other Products	29,763,321	29,771,140	16,600,483	16,238,095	9,538,960
Plywood	5,731,938	5,974,620	476,345	744,276	292,677
Sawntimber	499,212	436,691	814,428	1,167,526	485,688
Wooden Furniture	23,904,157	26,915,328	17,963,306	17,770,220	7,876,001
Total	**69,551,461**	**73,453,871**	**43,303,318**	**39,285,413**	**20,048,839**

Value: RM *Source: DOSM/MTIB*

Malaysia's Imports of Timber and Timber Products from Turkey

Imports of timber and timber products from Turkey in 2020 totalled RM1.2 million, an increase of 10% over the previous corresponding period. Major products imported from Turkey were veneer, sawntimber and wooden furniture. In 2020, Malaysia imported RM487,953 worth of veneer from Turkey, a decrease of 20% over the previous corresponding period. Meanwhile, sawntimber, wooden furniture and fibreboard valued at RM198,078, RM174,944 and RM154,197 respectively.

Malaysia: Imports of Timber and Timber Products from Turkey, 2016-2020

Product	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	-	30,527	-	6,007	107,057
Chipboard/Particleboard	-	146,187	263,691	94,815	-
Fibreboard	-	-	-	-	154,197
Logs	367,044	-	-	-	-
Mouldings	-	12,408	-	-	11,043
Other Products	6,632	14,400	125,691	141,067	103,724
Sawntimber	-	28,379	47,677	-	198,078
Veneer	298,534	257,601	305,001	606,919	487,953
Wooden Furniture	178,905	497,110	145,314	274,578	174,944
Total	**851,115**	**986,612**	**887,374**	**1,123,386**	**1,236,996**

Value: RM *Source: DOSM/MTIB*

Import Tariffs

The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Malaysia and Turkey was signed in 2015. Turkey's import duty on timber and timber products is 0%. Details are as follows:

TURKEY IMPORT TARIFF, under Malaysia-Turkey Free Trade Agreement (MTFTA)

Code	Product	MTFTA Rate
4401	Fuel wood	0
4402	Wood charcoal	0
4403	Logs	0
4404	Hoopwood	0
4405	Wood wool & flour	0
4406	Railway sleepers	0
4407	Sawntimber	0
4408	Veneer	0
4409	Moulding	0
4410	Particleboard	0
4411	Fibreboard	0
4412	Plywood	0
4413	Densified wood	0
4414	Wooden frames	0
4415	Packing cases	0
4416	Casks, barrels, vats and tubs	0
4417	Tools, bodies and handles	0
4418	Builders' joinery and carpentry	0
4419	Tableware and kitchenware	0
4420	Wood marquetry	0
4421	Other articles of wood	0
9403	Furniture & parts	0

Source: FTA, Malaysia-Turkey (MTFTA) enforced since 2015 since 2015

Prospects

As Turkey's population grows and its economy develops further, it is envisaged that the demand for timber products will increase. There are various opportunities to promote Malaysian mixed hardwood and Red Meranti species for use in the Turkish furniture industry. There is also potential for the export of Merbau and Kempas in the Turkish flooring manufacturing. In addition, Malaysian companies are also encouraged to enter into joint-ventures with Turkish companies to take advantage of the relatively cheap and abundant labour which could be exported duty-free to EU countries.

Another area of cooperation for Malaysian companies is through Turkish furniture companies as agents to promote and penetrate exports of Malaysian furniture into Russia, Ukraine and the Central Asian Republics like Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. Long business history between Turkish companies and those countries could provide opportunities for Malaysian companies with joint venture arrangements.

However, Malaysian timber and furniture companies interested to enter the Turkish market should be prepared to adopt a long-term strategy and to invest time and money in promoting and marketing their products to the Turkish market. They should also keep their presence in Turkish premier construction and furniture fairs such as Turkeybuilds and Midex International Furniture and Interior Design Exhibition. Through these fairs, familiarity of Malaysian timber products in the Turkish market can be enhanced. MTIB

One of the sofa set from Istikbal Furniture.

Turkey custom made furniture factory.

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APRIL 2021

LOGS

The average domestic prices of logs for the month stood firm although some species recorded some changes. The supply of logs was reported as sufficient to cater to the demands of the local markets.

Log prices for the species of Chengal and Balau stood firm at RM5,000 per ton and RM3,400 per ton. Likewise, the prices for Keruing and Kempas remained at RM1,700 per ton and RM1,750 per ton. On the other hand, the prices for Dark Red Meranti and Red meranti increased by 2.6% and 2.7% at RM1,950 per ton and RM1,900 per ton. Meanwhile, logs prices for Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood remained stable at RM1,200 per ton and RM1,120 per ton respectively.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Domestic supply of MDF remained stable as prices continued to chart at last month's level. The MDF of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm and 12mm of thicknesses were traded at RM12.90, RM16.20, RM22.00 and RM29.10 per piece, respectively.

SAWN TIMBER

The average sawn timber prices reported to be firm with no significant changes in prices due to moderate demand from both domestic and overseas market.

The sawn timber prices of Chengal and Balau remained stable at RM7,062 per m^3 and RM3,390 per m^3. respectively. However, the price for Keruing increased by 1.0% at RM2,119 per m^3 whilst Tualang dropped by 1.4% at RM 2,507 m^3. The prices of Dark Red Meranti recorded at RM2,154 per m^3 whilst Red Meranti increased slightly by 1.9% at RM1,907 per m^3. On the other hand, sawn timber prices of Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood stood firm to RM1,109 per m^3 and RM989 per m^3 for this month.

PLYWOOD

In April, the supply of plywood reported to remain adequate to serve the demand of the domestic market. The prices of plywood for 4mm, 6mm, 9mm and 12mm of thicknesses were continued to be traded at RM14.80, RM22.20, RM38.35 and RM48.50 per piece respectively.

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE * - MARCH 2021

The shipments of logs from Sabah to Peninsular Malaysia for the month under review dropped by 37% in volume to 924 m^3 worth at RM321,000. Trade of sawn timber fell sharply by 88% in volume from 272 m^3 to 34 m^3 worth at RM168,000. Likewise, the trade of plywood dropped by 31% in volume to 2,486 m^3 valued at RM5.3 million.

Trade of sawn timber from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia rose in volume by 373% from 116 m^3 to 549 m^3 worth at RM933,000. The shipment of plywood decreased by 15% in volume to 2,093 m^3 worth at RM2.7 million. Meanwhile, trade of veneer recorded in volume to 159 m^3 worth RM481,000 for this month.

No intra trade from Peninsular Malaysia to Sabah and Sarawak was recorded in April 2021.

*** Source: Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and Department of Statistics, Malaysia**

*AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWN TIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, APRIL 2021 (RINGGIT MALAYSIA)

	LOGS/ton	SAWNTIMBER/m³		
SPECIES	**18" UP**	**GMS**	**STRIPS**	**SCANTLINGS**
HEAVY HARDWOOD				
Chengal	5,000	7,062	5,650	8,475
Balau	3,400	3,390	3,107	3,602
Red Balau	2,250	2,966	2,754	3,390
Merbau	3,500	4,696	3,948	4,343
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,200	1,109	1,045	1,236
MEDIUM HARDWOOD				
Keruing	1,700	2,119	1,377	2,203
Kempas	1,750	2,472	2,260	2,542
Kapur	1,680	1,746	1,412	1,836
Mengkulang	1,300	2,260	1,766	2,295
Tualang	1,550	2,507	2,331	2,542
LIGHT HARDWOOD				
Dark Red Meranti	1,950	2,154	1,660	2,684
Red Meranti	1,900	1,907	1,518	2,097
Yellow Meranti	1,250	1,554	1,236	1,716
White Meranti	1,500	2,472	1,321	2,507
Mersawa	1,700	1,907	1,624	1,977
Nyatoh	1,430	1,716	1,448	1,624
Sepetir	1,250	1,695	1,165	1,758
Jelutong	1,100	1,780	1,215	1,836
Mixed Light Hardwood	1,120	989	862	1,088

MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD *Hevea brasilienses*	LOGS/ton	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
		1" X 1"	**2" X 2"**	**3" X 3"**	**4" X 4"**
	205	1,262	1,356	1,409	1,590
PLYWOOD 4' X 8'	**4 mm**	**6 mm**	**9 mm**		**12 mm**
(RM per piece)	14.80	22.20	38.35		48.50
MDF 4' X 8'	**4 mm**	**6mm**	**9 mm**		**12 mm**
(RM per piece)	12.90	16.20	22.00		29.10

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

LUDAI (Sapium Baccatum)

INTRODUCTION

Ludai (S. baccatum) is found scattered in well drained primary and secondary evergreen to deciduous rain forests, up to 800 m of altitude. The monoecious trees shed their leaves at the end of a growing season and regrow them at the beginning of the next growing season.

They are small to medium-sized trees of up to 30-39 m tall. The bole is columnar to sinuous, up to 60-95 cm in diameter and sometimes fluted at the base or with steep buttresses. The bark surface is smooth to finely-cracked. The greyish color in S. baccatum becomes coarsely fissured and turns dark brown with age. The inner bark's fine fibrous are often yellowish-brown and are sometimes with or without the white latex.

The tree leaves are arranged spirally, simple, entire to serrate; petiole with 2 glands at apex, red; stipules minute. The flowers are in an axillary or terminal simple spike or raceme of spikes, the male or female ones are in different inflorescences or with a few female flowers at the base of the otherwise male spike; the calyx is small, 2-3-lobed; the petals are absent; the disk is absent. Male flowers are fascicled; stamens are 2-3, free or shortly connate; pistillode is absent. Female flowers are solitary and ovary superior, 2-3-locular with 1 ovule in each cell, the styles are basally connate and the stigmas are on the entire. The fruit is small, woody or leathery capsule dehiscing into 4-6 parts often leaving the central column. The seed is black, with a thin, fleshy sarcotesta. The seedling has epigeal germination; cotyledons are emergent; hypocotyl is elongated; the first pair of leaves are opposites, the subsequent ones are arranged spirally.

In Peninsular Malaysia the average trees diameter increment of 1.2-1.6 cm has been recorded for S. baccatum. An annual production of 22-26 m3/ha in a 4-year rotation has been recorded for firewood plantations in Texas, United States. In Peninsular Malaysia S. baccatum flowered in April-May though not in every year of observation, but fruits never developed. It produced new leaves in February-April and sometimes also in July-September.

PROPERTIES

The heartwood when cut is coloured pale yellow-brown and is not clearly differentiated from the sapwood. The wood texture is moderately coarse and even, with a straight grain to deeply interlocked and occasionally wavy grains.

The wood is non-durable under exposed conditions. It is a permeable wood, with good preservative retention. The wood has a radial shrinkage rate of 2.1% and a tangential shrinkage rate of tangential 4.9%. The timber dries easily and it can be performed without any problem. There are no particular risks of drying defects, subject to normal drying conditions. The wood is light and has easy working characteristics. It is easy to plane and produces a smooth timber surface. Nailing, sawing and slicing for veneer are easy. The timber is suitable for making plywood as well as packing boxes and crates. The timber is most likely suitable for the pulp and paper and particle-boards manufacturing.

CHARACTERISTICS

COLOR	The heartwood is pale yellow -brown, not clearly differentiated from the sapwood
GRAIN	The grain is straight to deeply interlocked, occasionally wavy.
TEXTURE	The texture is moderately coarse and even.
NATURAL DURABILITY	It is non-durable under exposed conditions.
NATURAL DURABILITY INDEX (1= Very high durability, 7=Vey low durability)	5
RESISTANCE TO IMPREGNATION	It is a permeable wood, with good preservatives retention.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

BASIC DENSITY OR SPECIFIC GRAVITY	0.36 G/CM³
AIR-DRY DENSITY	0.38 G/CM³
TOTAL SHRINKAGE TANGENTIAL (SATURATED TO 0%MC)	4.9 %
TOTAL SHRINKAGE RADIAL (SATURATED TO 0%MC)²	2.1 %
DRYING DEFECTS	Ease of Drying: Air seasoning is reported to be easy. Drying Defects: No particular risks of drying defects.
DIMENSIONAL STABILITY RATIO (TOTAL TANGENTIAL SHRINKAGE %/ TOTAL RADIAL SHRINKAGE %)	2.3 %

MACHINING PROPERTIES

SAWING	Sawmilling of this species is reportedly easy.
ROTARY VENEER CUTTING	Good veneer can be made. It is used for cores in veneer or plywood.
SLICED VENEER	Good veneer can be made. It is used for cores in veneer or plywood.
BLUNTING EFFECT	It blunts saw-teeth fairly rapidly, owing to its hardness. The teeth should be cleaned regularly from oily deposits.
PLANING	Planing is easy and reported to give a smooth surface.
BORING	It is easy to bore.
MORTISING	It is easy to mortise.
NAILING	This species is reported to be easy to nail.
SANDING	This species is reported to be easy to sand.

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