

YB OFFICIATES NEW MTIB AND MTC SATELLITE OFFICE IN MUAR



**PHYSICAL PROPERTIES AND VISUAL IDENTIFICATION OF
PTEROCARPUS SANTALINUS WOOD**



PAULOWNIA WORKING VISIT PROGRAMME

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✓ PAULOWNIA WORKING VISIT PROGRAMME



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YB OFFICIATES NEW MTIB AND MTC SATELLITE OFFICE IN MUAR

YB Datuk Hajah Zuraidda Kamaruddin, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) officiated the opening of Malaysian Timber Industry Board's (MTIB) and Malaysian Timber Council's (MTC) satellite office on 11 October 2021 in Muar Johor. Launching this office is part of the constructive steps taken to restore and revitalize both timber and furniture industries post-pandemic COVID-19.

YB Datuk Hajah Zuraidda in her opening remarks, said that among the main functions that will be the focus of the satellite office is coordinating issues regarding the furniture industry in Muar. The establishment of the satellite office will also encourage the use of technology automation and innovation in the timber industry in line with the development of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0).



YBrs. Tuan Haji Mahpar Atan, MTIB Director General delivering his briefing to YB Datuk Hajah Zuraidda Kamaruddin, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities

In addition, the satellite office will also collaborate with University Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) on aspects of design development, product design, technical expertise, and furniture testing. Cooperation between MPIC and the Johor State Government will continue to strengthen to meet the challenges of manpower needs for compliance with the Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446) as well the construction of the Muar Furniture Park (MFP).

The great potential for the furniture and timber industry, especially in Muar, is one of the factors for the opening of this office. Muar, known as Malaysia's Furniture Hub (Bandar Perabot Malaysia), has become home to 700 furniture manufacturing companies, out of which 80% are small medium-sized factories. In 2020, exports of wooden furniture were recorded at RM10.6 billion with Johor contributing 69% and Muar contributing 46% of that amount.



Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, YB Datuk Hajah Zuraida Kamaruddin signing the plaque after officiating the opening of MTIB and MTC Satellite Office in Muar, Johor.

Muar's timber industry, especially the furniture sector, has the potential to develop more rapidly with the existence of sustainable facilities and infrastructure. In fact, MPIC plans to continue strengthening the role of the timber and furniture sector as a significant contributor to the national economy by focusing on level improvement productivity.

The Ministry hopes that the industry in Muar will take advantage of the establishment of the satellite offices by participating in related programmes on technology, innovation, automation, efficiency and productivity that will organised by MTIB and MTC.



Media conference session



Briefing by the industry during the visit



INDONESIA

TIMBER EXPORTS STILL CONSTRAINED DESPITE SVLK

The Executive Director of the Indonesian Pulp and Paper Association, Liana Bratasida, has complained that companies still need to obtain certification under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) for exports to the European Union (EU), despite also having SVLK certification.

The SVLK is Indonesia's mandatory national timber legality assurance system; under the voluntary partnership agreement (VPA) between the EU and Indonesia signed in September 2013, the SVLK should be sufficient to enable trade between the two entities said Ms Bratasida.

Ms Bratasida, quoted in an article by Iim Fathimah Timorria in *Bisnis.com*, said that most EU countries do not carry out the mandate of Article 13 in the VPA, which holds that the EU has an obligation to promote wood products in the EU market, including those with SVLK certification.

The acceptance of SVLK is also a challenge for the export of wood products and their derivatives to Japan, said Ms Bratasida, who noted that the Tokyo Metropolitan Government has implemented a green procurement policy (GPP), under which paper products that have been separated from the FSC and PEFC standards cannot be included in the GPP, even though they have SVLK certification.

www.itto.int, October 1, 2021



MYANMAR

PEFC SUSPENDS CERTIFICATION ENDORSEMENT PROCESS FOR MYANMAR

The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) has suspended the assessment and thus endorsement process of the Myanmar Forest Certification System until further notice. According to a statement, the PEFC said it had received information following the launch of its global public consultation indicating a risk of potential or actual self-censorship or self-imposed restriction by Myanmar-based stakeholders.

It cited the arrest of one civil-society representative and pending warrants for officials of the Building Woodworkers Federation of Myanmar as reasons for the suspension.

Barber Cho, Secretary of the MFCC confirmed the suspension. Cho said that it was a severe blow to the continued efforts of the MFCC to strengthen the SFM forest certification in the country. However, he understands the decision by the PEFC was inevitable as wide and meaningful public consultation must be ensured for the PEFC endorsement process.

Continuing, Cho said the MFCC will do whatever it can so the impact of this interruption can be minimised. He said ongoing activities to strengthen the MFCC will continue so as to be ready to meet PEFC endorsement requirements.

Cho stressed that safeguarding the forest should be the priority and certifying forest operations is one of the most effective ways. He admitted that, even in the past, inclusive engagement with multi-stakeholders was most challenging for MFCC and now the challenges will be even greater.

www.fordaq.com, October 1, 2021



VIET NAM

WOOD PROCESSORS SHUT DOWN TEMPORARILY

Although Viet Nam's wood and wood exports grew by more than 62% (year-on-year) in the period January-June 2021, they have been curtailed since then by a fourth wave of the COVID-19 virus, which has disrupted supply chains.

Many factories have been forced to close due to strict social distancing, and wood and wood product exports have fallen sharply. Nevertheless, factories are expected to operate at reasonable production levels from the end of September as vaccination rates increase, and trade is expected to recover.

Viet Nam's wood and wood product exports declined in September due to disruptions to domestic production. According to VIFOREST, the target of achieving export sales of USD14.0 billion in 2021 is now unlikely to be reached.

The total value of wood and wood product exports was estimated at USD 750 million in September 2021, down by 35% compared with September 2020; of this total, wood product exports were estimated at USD 420 million, down by 55%, year-on-year. Wood and wood product export turnover has grown overall by 31% in the year to date (January–September 2021), to an estimated USD 11.1 billion. Wood products accounted for USD 8.4 billion of the total (also up by 30.9%).

Wood and wood product exports were valued at USD 177.8 million in the week 14–21 September 2021, up by 2.2% compared with the previous week. Of the total, sales of wooden furniture were worth USD 98.5 million, up by 5.1% compared with the previous week.

Wood imports in September 2021 were estimated at 505,500 cubic metres, valued at USD 182 million. This was an increase of 3.2% in volume and 1.9% in value compared with August 2021 but a decrease of 2.8% in volume and 18.3% in value compared with September 2020. In the first nine months of 2021, accumulated wood imports (logs and sawnwood) were estimated at 5.15 million cubic metres, valued at USD 1.71 billion, up by 21.7% in volume, year-on-year, and by 33.6% in value.

Log and sawnwood imports into Viet Nam accounted for USD 55.2 million in the week 14–21 September 2021, down by 7.1% compared with the previous week. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to seriously affect production and enterprises. Exports of ceramics and wooden fine arts (wooden handicrafts) decreased sharply in September 2021, to an estimated USD 7 million, down by 45% compared with August 2021 and by 52% compared with September 2020.

www.fordaq.com, October 11, 2021



CHINA

TARIFF EXEMPTION EXTENDED FOR US HARDWOOD IMPORTS

The Customs Tariff Commission of China's State Council has extended the exclusion period for additional tariffs imposed on certain commodities imported from the US, which was due to end on 16 September 2021.

Among the commodities excluded from the additional tariffs are anticorrosive wood (44039100), North American hardwood logs (44039960), cherry sawnwood (44079400), ash sawnwood (44079500) and other North American hardwood sawnwood (44079930). China will now exempt these US products from additional tariffs until 16 April 2022.

www.fordaq.com, October 4, 2021



JAPAN

FURNITURE IMPORTS

Household spending fell in August as state of emergency restrictions weighed on sentiment. Private consumption has been a weak spot in the Japanese economy since the surge in Delta variant infections. Furniture and homeware retailers in Japan have opened new stores to cater for people working from home. The impact of the pandemic on furniture imports in Japan has varied. Looking at imports for the first eight months of 2019, 2020 and 2021 imports of office furniture in 2020 held up well against the value of 2019 and the value of imports in the period Jan-Aug 2021 rose significantly. There was a decline in the value of wooden kitchen furniture in 2020 compared to 2019 but the rebound in 2021 was not enough to lift the value of imports up to 2019 levels. In contrast to imports of wooden office and kitchen furniture, imports of wooden bedroom furniture have steadily increased from 2019.

www.itto.int, 16-30 October 2021



INDIA

CONTAINER SHORTAGE THREATEN INDIA'S EXPORT

A report by Lakshmi Ajay in Indian Transport & Logistics News discusses the acute global container shortage, which is having a profound impact on trade. According to Ajay, the sea freight rates from Cochin to Melbourne

was USD 650 for a 20-foot container and USD 800 for a 40-foot container in March 2020, before the pandemic hit. Now, these rates have climbed by 700% for 20-foot containers to USD 5,200, and by 1000% for 40-foot containers to USD 8800.

Similarly, freight rates from Mundra port in Gujarat to New York was USD 1,300 for 20-foot and USD 1,600 for 40-foot containers in March 2020, but have leapt by 592% for 20-foot containers to USD 9,000, and by 650% for 40-foot containers to USD 12,000.

According to Ajay, the global shipping crisis is crippling Indian exporters, who face multiple challenges from runaway sea freight rates to transit delays, congestion in leading ports, an acute shortage of containers, and policy constraints.

www.fordaq.com, October 6, 2021



FINLAND

FINNISH FOREST INDUSTRY EXPORTS UP 14%

In January-July the exports value of the Finnish forest industry products totalled in real terms EUR 7.53 billion and increased from same period previous year by 14% (deflated using wholesale price index). The exports value of forest industry products totalled EUR 1.14 billion in July 2021, the Finnish Natural Forest Institute (Luke) reported.

The exports value of Finnish wood-products industries was EUR 2.08 billion in January-July and increased by 38% in real terms compared to the same period previous year. The exports value of sawn goods increased by 52% and volume 18%. For plywood the exports value increased by 22% and volume by 27%, Luke reports.

In the same period, the real exports value of pulp and paper industries was EUR 5.45 billion and increased by 6% compared to the same period previous year. At the same time the exports value of bleached sulphate pulp increased by 24% and volume by 8%. The exports value of magazine paper increased by 4% and volume by a fifth. For fine paper on the exports value decreased by 17% and volume decreased 11%. The exports value of paperboard increased by 6% and volume 14%.

In July 2021, 1.06 million cubic meters of wood was imported to Finland. In January-July wood imports totalled 7.58 million cubic meters and increased from same period previous year by 4%. Of imported wood 56% was pulpwood, 33% chips and 3% logs. Compared to the same period previous year the imports of pulpwood increased by a tenth and chips decreased by 3%.

www.luke.fi, October 4, 2021



GERMANY

WOOD PRICES ARE STABILIZING

The Bavarian State Forests are now reporting that the wood price has stabilized for the first time in more than a year.

The supply crisis in spring and summer 2021 with too little wood, especially for the local processing industry, is over, according to a press release from the Bavarian State Forests.

"The situation on the timber market has eased." The deputy head of the Bavarian Wasserburg forestry company, Sebastian Klinghardt explains, from the point of view of the German foresters, the price has now leveled off at a justified level. He calculates that the cost of production in the forest and the cost of living have increased. But the price of wood has stagnated over the past 30 years. Only now, according to Klinghardt, can one speak of a reasonable price for wood. "A product that has grown for 80 years and thus has been produced for almost a century needs a decent price."

According to the Bavarian State Forests, the current price for solid cubic meters of spruce logs is now between 120 and 140 euros. A year ago, 80 to 90 euros were paid for the same product. The high demand in the USA, which was partly due to the loss of timber harvest in Canada, had led to delays in delivery of lumber, some of which were considerable beyond the borders of Bavaria, and the construction costs for quite a few projects went up.

www.globalwoodmarketsinfo.com, October 6, 2021



TROPICAL WOOD IMPORTS STILL DOWN ON PRE-PANDEMIC LEVEL

UK import value of all tropical wood products in Chapter 44 of the Harmonised System (HS) of product codes was USD315 million in the first seven months of 2021, 36% more than the same period last year but 5% less than the same period in 2019.

Comparing UK import value in the first seven months of 2021 with the same period in 2020, tropical joinery was up 57% at USD132 million, tropical plywood was up 29% at USD94 million, tropical sawnwood was up 12% at USD46 million, and tropical mouldings/decking was up 47% at USD8 million.

While import value of tropical joinery in the first seven months of this year was also up 34% on pre-pandemic level in 2019, UK import value of all other HS 44 tropical wood products was significantly behind the 2019 level including plywood (-24%), sawnwood (-25%), and mouldings/decking (-17%).

After the sharp dip in UK imports of tropical joinery products during the first lockdown period in quarter two 2020, imports gradually built momentum until March this year and then surged in the second quarter. Imports from Indonesia, mainly consisting of doors, were USD78 million in the first seven months of 2021, 58% more than the same period last year and 31% up on the same period in 2019.

UK imports of joinery products from Malaysia and Vietnam (mainly laminated products for kitchen and window applications) also made strong gains in the first seven months of 2021. Imports from Malaysia were USD31 million between January and July this year, 50% more than the same period in 2020 and 35% up on the same period in 2019. Imports of USD9 million from Viet Nam were 76% more than in the same period in 2020 and 60% more than the same period in 2019.

In contrast to joinery products, UK imports of tropical hardwood plywood have remained at relatively low levels this year. In the first seven months of 2021, the UK imported 172,400 cubic metres of tropical hardwood plywood, which is 20% more than the same period in 2020 but still down 26% compared to the same period in 2019.

Imports from the UK's three largest suppliers of tropical hardwood plywood – China, Indonesia and Malaysia – have followed very different trajectories this year. The UK imported 66,700 cubic metres of tropical hardwood faced plywood from China in the first seven months of this year, 15% more than the same period in 2020 but down over 50% compared to the same period in 2019.

In contrast, Malaysian plywood has made gains in the UK market this year, imports of 41,100 cubic metres in the first seven months being 11% more than the same period in 2020 and 30% up on the same period in 2020. But it should be said these gains are being made against historically very low levels after a long period of decline in UK imports of Malaysia plywood in the years before 2019.

So far this year, UK imports of plywood from Indonesia have rebounded from the lows of 2020 but are still below the relatively modest levels of 2019. Imports of 33,600 cubic metres in the first seven months of this year are 48% more than the same period in 2020 but 4% less than in 2019.

As with other hardwood product groups, UK demand for tropical hardwood plywood has been strong this year, driven by high levels of construction activity and shortages of competing materials. The main market challenges have been on the supply side, notably the considerable escalation in freight rates on Asian routes to the UK.

www.itto.int, October 6, 2021



LUMBER SHORTAGES THREATEN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

After timber shortages devastated in the North American construction industry, Australia is predicted to soon follow. The next 15 years could see a deficit of 250,000 wooden house frames if more trees are not planted.

The shortage may slow the development of building projects while pushing up costs. Worldwide timber scarcity means Australia will have to rely on domestic supplies exclusively, as one quarter of timber is currently imported.

Master Builders Australia Chief Executive Officer Denita Wawn says the crisis is a "wake-up call" for Australia to act now.

"The housing construction industry is the engine room of the Australian economy and it needs a consistent, reliable domestic timber supply," she says.

The need for plantations is dire considering about 30 years is needed for forests to mature.

Recent building incentives in the country have led to spikes in construction but the shortage means projects are being delayed. This comes as Australian forests have shrunk over the last decade, largely due to the wildfires of 2019 and 2020.

www.globalwoodmarketsinfo.com, October 4, 2021



BRAZIL

WOOD PRODUCT EXPORTS UP 41.4%

Total Brazilian exports of wood-based products (except pulp and paper) increased by 41.4% in August 2021, year-on-year, to USD 413.6 million (compared with USD 292.5 million in August 2020).

Pine sawnwood exports grew by 45.3% in value between August 2020 (USD 47.5 million) and August 2021 (USD 69 million); on the other hand, they decreased by 7.2% in volume over the same period, from 275 200 m³ to 255 300 cubic metres.

Tropical sawnwood exports fell by 3.3% in volume in August 2021, year-on-year, to 35 300 cubic metres, and by 11.6% in value, to USD 13 million.

Pine plywood exports increased in value by 83% in August 2021, year-on-year, to USD 109.6 million, but decreased in volume by 17.3%, to 195 900 cubic metres.

Tropical plywood exports increased in volume by 55.9% in August 2021, year-on-year, to 9200 cubic metres, at a value of USD 5.6 million.

Wooden furniture exports increased in value by 26 in August 2021, year-on-year, to USD 66.4 million.

www.fordaq.com, October 4, 2021



UNITED STATES

ENDS VIET NAM TIMBER PROBE, TARIFFS AVOIDED

The U.S. has decided to not take any trade action on Viet Nameese timber following a 12-month investigation into alleged illegal harvesting and trade.

The two countries have come to an agreement that provides a satisfactory resolution of the matter subject to investigation and that no trade action is warranted at this time, according to a statement by the United States Trade Representative.

"I commend Viet Nam for its commitment to address our concerns regarding the importation and use of timber that is illegally harvested or traded," said USTR ambassador Katherine Tai.

With this agreement, Viet Nam will provide a model – both for the Indo-Pacific region and globally – for comprehensive enforcement against illegal timber, she added.

The agreement contains multiple commitments by Viet Nam on issues related to illegal timber, including commitments to improve its Timber Legality Assurance System and to keep confiscated timber out of the commercial supply chain.

Viet Nam will also need to verify the legality of domestically harvested timber regardless of export destination and work with high-risk source countries to improve customs enforcement at the border.

"Illegal timber in the supply chain damages the global environment and the natural resources on which we all depend, and is unfair to U.S. workers and businesses who avoid such timber," Tai said.

The USTR investigation into Viet Nam's timber exports was initiated in October 2020.

The U.S. is the biggest market for Viet Nameese wood products, representing an estimated USD7.4 billion last year, about half of the country's total.

en.vietnamplus.vn, October 2, 2021

LUMBER PRICES STAGE A LATE SEASON

The roller coaster ride for US lumber prices is still going strong. In the past month, the price of lumber futures has soared nearly 40 percent to USD 672.50 per thousand board feet, near a pre-pandemic high.

The present cost is also seeing gains, as Random Lengths reports a 27 percent increase in an index that tracks immediate sales.

Lumber futures are a tick above where they were a year ago, but well above the average from 2015 to 2019, when they hovered right below USD 400 per thousand board feet.

As supply struggles to keep pace with demand, it's not clear how rising prices will affect homebuilding, or whether the price of lumber will continue to surge through the rest of the year. Housing starts rose overall in August, but housing starts for single-property homes fell below expectations.

A number of factors have inhibited builders from matching the pandemic-fueled demand for fresh homes. Labor shortages and supply chain delays are part of the story.

So are rising supply costs: The volatility of lumber has caused all sorts of headaches for the market, which peaked with futures above USD 1,700 per thousand board feet in the spring.

Since then, there have been several intriguing developments on the lumber front. A survey revealed that nearly half of lumber dealers and manufacturers built up an excess supply of the material in July and no suppliers had "very tight" inventories.

Additionally, lumber prices seemed to be leveling off in the summer. In mid-August, lumber futures were trading about 70 percent below the May high.

The market remains uncertain, however, as material prices linger above pre-pandemic levels. Fires also forced lumber production cuts in British Columbia, causing impacts across the industry.

www.globalwoodmarketsinfo.com, October 4, 2021



CENTRAL/WEST AFRICA

SAWNWOOD EXPORTS DISRUPTED DUE TO LACK OF CONTAINERS

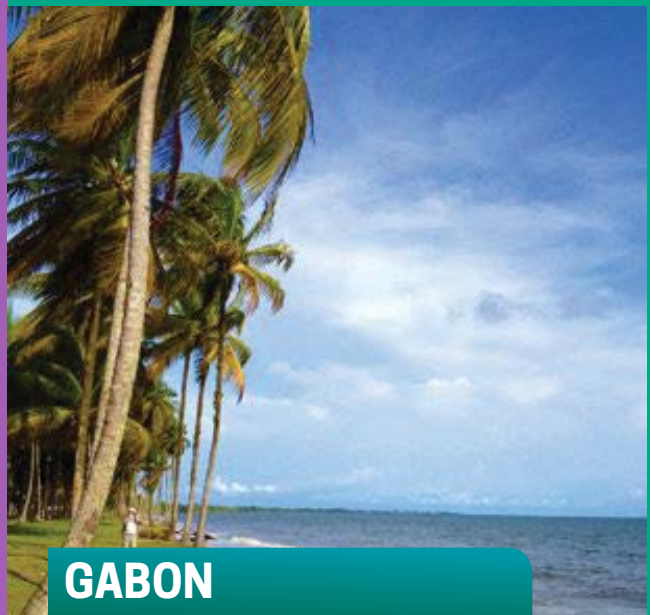
A serious issue is developing in West Africa, with sawnwood exports from sawmills in the Congo and Gabon being severely curtailed due to a lack of empty shipping containers. It is less of an issue in Cameroon, which imports considerable quantities of goods, thereby freeing up containers for exports.

Most sawnwood leaving the three countries is going to China and the Philippines. The good news is that buyers, who are short of timber, are not cancelling orders.

Nevertheless, the container shortage could last a couple more months, according to shipping lines, with containers held up in China and the US.

Prices are holding steady except in the Netherlands, where azobe prices are rising due to competition among exporters and buyers. An Italian company is reportedly becoming involved in the Dutch market, with the effect of pushing prices up.

www.fordaq.com, October 6, 2021



GABON

TESTING TIMBER TRACKING

The Gabon forest authority plans to make an effort during participation at the November COP 26 to re-establish the reputation of Gabon as a shipper of legally harvested timber. The emphasis will be on the decision that all operators in Gabon must be FSC certified next year and that the domestic tracking system will be implemented, also next year. The 'System for Certified Legal Traceability' (SCLT) is currently being tested in the field with three different operators in Gabon. When fully operational SCLT certificate holders will no longer be subject to checks along the road by the police or forestry officials.



www.itto.int, October 16, 2021

SEPTEMBER 2021

Total export of Malaysian timber and timber products in September 2021 increased by 18% in value totalled RM1.6 billion from RM1.4 billion in the previous month. Likewise, cumulative export for the period of January to September 2021 increased 2% valued at RM15.9 billion over RM15.7 billion in the previous corresponding period. According to a report by an economy market-intelligence company, ResearchAndMarkets.com, the global timber and timber-based products market size is expected to reach USD666.43 billion in 2021 and USD866.23 in 2025. The analysts also forecast that global construction industry is set to grow by 6.3% in third quarter 2021, an upward revision from 5.7% second quarter 2021. The positive revision reflects the expected fast recovery in some key markets in the first half of the year, with construction activities being ramped up to accelerate progress following delays last year, and improvements in residential construction projects.

SAWNTIMBER

Total export of sawntimber in September 2021 increased by 52% in volume at 122,538 m³ and 60% in value at RM255.4 million as compared to the previous month. However, cumulative exports for the period of January to September 2021 decreased by 8% in volume and 1% in value to 886,600 m³ totaling RM1.7 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Exports of sawntimber to the EU for the month increased by 42% to 5,419 m³ over the previous month as a result of the high demand from major countries in the region. Exports to Germany increased by 85% to 1,066 m³ from 575 m³ recorded in the previous month followed by Belgium and Greece increased buying by 148% and 87% to 1,119 m³ and 178 m³ respectively. However, the Netherlands as the main buyer decreased slightly to 1,994 m³ from 2,017 m³ in the previous month followed by Italy decreased 12% to 187 m³ from 213 m³. France recorded positive growth at 79% to 671 m³ for the month while exports to the UK decreased by 29% to 880 m³ from 1,236 m³ in the previous month.

Similarly, total export to West Asia increased by 90% to 21,637 m³ from 11,420 m³ recorded in the previous month. Yemen as the main buyer from West Asia increased by 11% to 7,017 m³ from 6,307 m³ recorded last month. Similarly, exports to Iraq also increased significantly to 2,641 m³ from only 356 m³ followed by Oman with 88% to 1,967 m³ from 1,047 m³ recorded in the previous month. Exports to the UAE also increased by 237% to 7,012 m³ from 2,084 m³ recorded last month while Saudi Arabia rose by 49% higher to 664 m³. Exports to Qatar increased significantly to 1,309 m³ from only 558 m³ recorded in the last month.

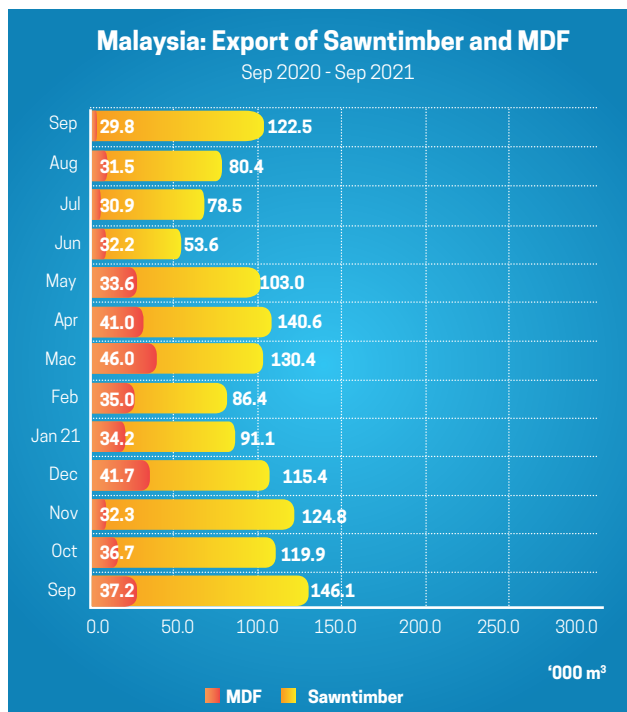
Elsewhere, buying from ASEAN increased by 29% to 38,339 m³ from 29,650 m³ as registered in the previous month. Thailand as the main buyer in ASEAN declined its intake by 19% to 13,659 m³ from 16,849 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Similarly, exports of sawntimber to

the Philippines increased by 217% to 16,333 m³ from 5,153 m³ last month. Exports to Singapore also increased by 14% to 7,494 m³ from 6,570 m³ followed with Indonesia by 91% to 352 m³ 184 m³ recorded in the previous month. Meanwhile, exports Viet Nam decreased by 42% to 501 m³ from 862 m³ recorded in the previous month.

Shipments to East Asia increased by 67% to 31,407 m³ from 18,078 m³ in August. China as the main buyer increase purchases by 48% to 14,614 m³ from 9,854 m³ in the previous month. Exports to South Korea and Japan also increased by 23% and 7% to 2,401 m³ and 3,423 m³ respectively from 1,955 m³ and 3,202 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Similarly, Taiwan's intake increased significantly to 10,753 m³ from only 3,770 m³ last month.

Exports to the USA increased significantly to 1,037 m³ followed by Australia with 46% to 1,415 m³ compared from 135 m³ and 970 m³ respectively in the previous month. Demand from South Africa also increased by 57% to 3,321 m³ from 2,122 m³ as recorded in the previous month.

The average FOB price of sawntimber increased by 5% to 2,084 per m³ from 1,990 per m³ in the previous month. Meanwhile, price of Dark Red Meranti to the Netherlands increased by 14% to 4,223 per m³ from 3,699 per m³ previously. Keruing was traded at 2,204 per m³, an increase of 4% from 2,001 per m³ in the previous month.



PLYWOOD

Exports of plywood in September 2021 recorded a decline both in volume, by 10% to 106,642 m³, and in value by 5% totalled RM254.6 million compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, cumulative export for January-September 2021 based on year-on-year reduced in volume by 6% to 1.1 million m³ but recorded an increase in value by 6% worth RM2.3 billion over the previous corresponding period

Export of plywood to the EU decreased by 23% to 582 m³ for the month from 752 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Denmark increased by 19% to 205 m³ but exports to Ireland and Italy reduced by 31% to 338 m³ and 20% to 39 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands didn't make any purchase for the month. However, export to the UK increased significantly to 421 m³ from 77 m³ in the previous month.

Moving to the ASEAN and East Asia region, exports declined by 14% to 77,540 m³ compared to 89,607 m³ in the previous month. Japan as the main importer of Malaysian plywood decreased its stock intake by 18% to 60,605 m³ from 73,505 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, exports to South Korea and China decreased by 22% to 5,390 m³ and 29% to 868 m³ respectively. However, exports to Taiwan and Hong Kong increased by 67% to 5,696 m³ and 16% to 560 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Malaysia's plywood trade with its ASEAN partners showed mixed trend for the month. Singapore decreased its intake by 19% to 1,584 m³, followed by the Philippines 32% to 503 m³ and Brunei 21% to 418 m³. However, exports to Thailand increased significantly by 124% to 1,916 m³ for the month.

Plywood export performance in West Asian region were depreciated by 37% to 6,220 m³ for the month. Although the largest importer of Malaysian plywood in the region for the month, Yemen reduced its intake by 37% to 4,978 m³. UAE also recorded a decline in export volume by 60% to 247 m³. Meanwhile, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia resumed its intake by 3 m³ and 161 m³ for the month. Kuwait and Qatar didn't make any purchase.

Exports to the African region decreased by 44% to 579 m³ over 1,024 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Morocco and South Africa decreased by 17% to 323 m³ and 28% to 85 m³ respectively. Moving to our main buyer in the Americas region, the USA increased its intake of plywood by 26% to 16,152 m³ from 12,864 m³ last month. Canada and Mexico also increased their intake by 43% to 410 m³ and 208% to 1,169 m³ respectively. Meanwhile in the Oceania region, exports to Australia increased by 8% to 2,831 m³ and New Zealand resumed its intake to 108 m³ for the month.

The FOB price of plywood has increased by 6% to RM2,387 per m³ from RM2,261 per m³ in the previous month.

VENEER

Export of veneer for September 2021 decreased both in volume by 19% to 3,473 m³ and in value by 20% worth RM6.2 million as compared to the previous month. Similarly, cumulative export for January-September 2021 recorded a decreasing trend both in volume and value, by 10% to 40,223 m³ and by 8% worth RM65.8 million over the previous corresponding period.

Export to China decreased by 7% to 1,121 m³ followed by South Korea where exports were down by 57% to 481 m³, India by 17% to 281 m³ and Taiwan 93% to 36 m³. However, exports to Australia and the Philippines increased by 660% to 114 m³ and 3% to 326 m³ respectively.

Meanwhile, the USA, Italy and Singapore resumed buying by 396 m³, 67 m³ and 32 m³ respectively. Canada and Viet Nam did not make any purchase for the month.

The FOB price of veneer for August 2021 is at RM1,778 per m³, a decrease of 2% from RM1,806 per m³ on the previous month.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

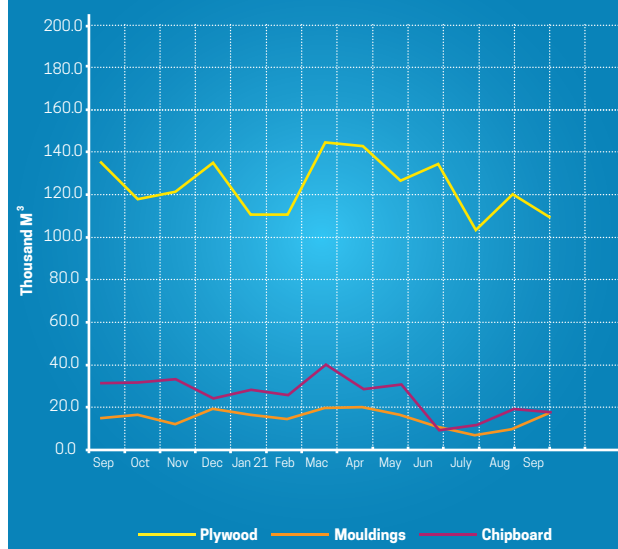
Export of MDF in September 2021 recorded a decrease in volume and value by 5% to 29,766 m³ and 9% worth RM51.1 million compared to the previous month. On the other hand, cumulative export for January-September 2021 based on year-on-year, reduced in volume by 21% to 314,083 m³ and in value by 8% to RM511.8 million over the previous corresponding period.

Export performance to ASEAN member countries decreased by 5% to 8,506 m³ from 8,957 m³ in the previous month. Exports to the Philippines, Viet Nam and Singapore declined by 13% to 4,335 m³, 3% to 1,167 m³ and by 64% to 16 m³ respectively. However, export to Indonesia rose by 6% to 2,451 m³. Moving to the East Asia region, exports to the region decreased by 22% to 9,508 m³ for the month from 12,163 m³ in the previous month. Japan as the major importer of MDF in the region has decreased its buying by 17% to 8,968 m³, followed by South Korea with exports down by 38% to 398 m³, Taiwan 87% to 91 m³ and China including Hong Kong 24% to 51 m³ for the month.

Shifting to South Asian region, exports decreased by 3% to 4,528 m³ for the month. Exports to Sri Lanka reduced by 54% to 664 m³ for the month. However, exports to Pakistan, India and Bangladesh increased by 0.4% to 2,316 m³, by 143% to 1,169 m³ and by 11% to 379 m³ respectively. However, exports to West Asian region rose by 210% to 3,449 m³ from 1,111 m³ the previous month.

Malaysia: Export of Plywood, Mouldings and Chipboard

Sep 2020 - Sep 2021



Export to UAE and Oman increased by 378% to 1,329 m³ and by 142% to 986 m³ respectively. Qatar also increased its intake by 55% to 660 m³ from 426 m³ in the previous month. Bahrain, Jordan and Lebanon resumed their buying by 93 m³, 125 m³ and 2 m³ respectively.

Elsewhere, exports to the USA and Australia were down by 43% to 248 m³ and 34% to 1,855 m³ respectively, for the month. However, exports to South Africa increased by 20% to 398 m³ for the month.

The FOB price of MDF decreased by 3% to RM1,717 per m³ from RM1,775 per m³ from the previous month.

MOULDINGS

Exports of mouldings for the month increased by 54% in volume and 44% in value to 16,710 m³ worth at RM62.0 million. However, cumulative exports for the period of January – September 2021 decreased by 3% in volume and increase 2% in value to 135,968 m³ worth at RM508.5 million as compared to the previous corresponding period in 2020.

Exports to the EU for the month recorded at 6,595 m³, increased by 85% as compared to the previous month. The Netherlands increased its purchases by 125% to 5,188 m³ while Belgium and Germany decreased their purchases by 23% and 11% to 166 m³ and 661 m³ respectively. However, Italy did not make any purchases. Meanwhile, the UK recorded an increase of 106% to 728 m³ for the month.

Exports to the ASEAN region increased as Viet Nam, Singapore and Thailand increased their purchases by 244%, 27% and 153% to 141 m³, 1,094 m³ and 76 m³ respectively.

Likewise, Hong Kong, South Korea and China increased their intakes by 143%, 66% and 21% to 425 m³, 772 m³ and 612 m³ respectively. However, Japan decreased its intakes by 4% to 911 m³ compared to the previous month. Taiwan, on the other hand, resumed its intakes to 93 m³.

Elsewhere, exports to the US increased by 59% to 3,123 m³ while Australia decreased its intakes by 1% to 1,463 m³ compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, Canada resumed its intakes to 40 m³.

Average FOB unit value for mouldings decreased marginally to RM3,711 per m³ compared to RM3,972 per m³ in the previous month.

BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

Export of BJC for September 2021 recorded an increase of 43% in volume and 41% in value to 8,063,596 kg worth RM66.9 million from last month. Total BJC cumulative exports for the same corresponding period last

year decreased by 4% to RM672.9 million as compared to RM700.2 million. Exports to the EU decreased 21% to RM116.9 million.

Export to the Netherlands increased by 26% to RM18.6 million compared to the previous month. However, export to Italy, Germany, Denmark, France, Belgium and Sweden decreased by 77%, 33%, 27%, 22%, 11% and 4% to RM924,314, RM10.1 million, RM13.6 million, RM10.5 million, RM33.4 million and RM13.8 million respectively. Exports to the UK decreased by 8% to RM85.2 million from last year while exports to Turkey recorded an increase of 97.8% to RM642,888 for the month.

In Asia, Qatar and Bahrain increased buying by 12,368% and 100% both to RM1.1 million respectively. Similarly, UAE, Pakistan and Singapore increased imports by 138%, 70% and 2%, to RM1.4 million, RM1.9 million and RM29.2 million respectively. However, exports to South Korea, Egypt, Thailand, Taiwan, India, Japan and Viet Nam decreased by 66% 10%, 30%, 22%, 22%, 16% and 21%, to RM620,545, RM861,044, RM11.9 million, RM7.0 million, RM20.0 million, RM34.3 million and RM9.7 million compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia did not make any purchase for the month.

Exports to the US and Mauritius increased by 30% and 0.2% to RM173.3 million and RM623,766 respectively. Meanwhile, South Africa and Australia decreased buying by 28% and 9% to RM5.3 million and RM113.9 million compared to the previous month.

FURNITURE

Exports of wooden furniture for the period of January to September 2021 recorded a slight decrease to RM7.20 billion from RM7.23 billion in the previous corresponding period. Similarly, there was an increase in demand for rattan furniture by 27% to RM52.6 million from RM72.0 million in the previous corresponding period. The USA as the main buyer of wooden furniture increased purchases by 2% to RM4.6 billion from RM4.5 billion in the same corresponding period in 2020. In Europe, exports to France decreased by 6% to RM32.5 million followed by Poland with 18% to RM20.2 million. Similarly, exports to the Netherlands and Greece also decreased by 16% and 21% to RM20.0 million and RM12.8 million from RM23.5 million and RM16.1 million respectively compared to the previous corresponding period. Similarly, Germany also decreased buying by 4% to RM32.4 million from RM33.7 million in the previous corresponding period.

Shipments to the UK also decreased by 16% to RM273.8 million for the month. Similarly, purchases by Russia decreased by 28% to RM7.8 million from RM10.8 million in the same period last year. Demand from Canada and Australia also decreased by 15% and 11% to RM162.3 million and RM257.7 million respectively.

Elsewhere in East Asia, exports to Japan increased slightly to RM356.3 million from RM350.0 million in the same period last year. Exports to India also increased by 21% to RM100.9 million from RM83.7 million in the previous

corresponding period. Meanwhile, South Korea decreased consumption by 27% to RM52.0 million followed by China with a decrease of 40% to RM53.2 million.

In the ASEAN region, exports to Singapore and the Philippines were recorded at RM277.6 million and RM69.5 million respectively. Exports to Saudi Arabia decreased by 3% to RM104.8 million whilst Qatar increased their purchase by 116% to RM9.3 million respectively. The UAE also increased buying by 14% to RM96.3 million followed by Kuwait with 39% higher to RM26.5 million and Oman by 62% to RM14.3 million.

Rattan furniture shipments for January to September 2021 recorded a decrease of 27% at RM52.9 million from RM72.4 million in the previous corresponding period. Exports to the USA decreased by 14% to RM21.2 million from RM24.6 million in the corresponding period in 2020.

Similarly, exports to Australia decreased slightly to RM3.5 million followed by Canada with 29% to RM1.4 million compared to the previous month.

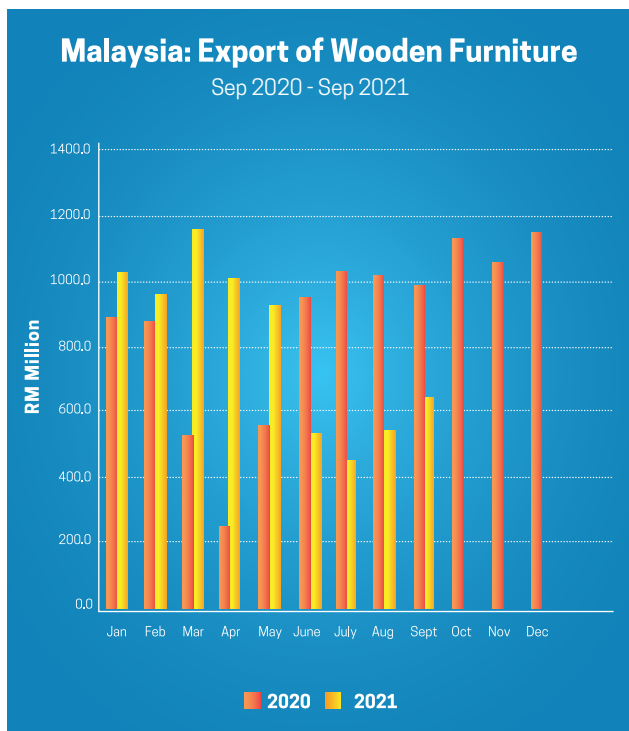
In Europe, exports to the UK decreased by 31% to RM4.2 million compared to RM6.1 million in the previous corresponding period. Exports to Russia decreased by 29% to RM1.7 million followed by Germany with 20% to RM432,862. Similarly, purchases by France and Poland also declined 70% and 52% to RM 383,366 and RM156,470 respectively, compared to the same period last year.

Meanwhile in North Africa, Algeria decreased their buying by 85% to RM402,225 from RM2.6 million in the previous corresponding period. Elsewhere, South Africa also decreased imports by 13% to RM167,033 from RM 191,649 in the previous corresponding period.

In East Asia, exports to Japan decreased by 70% to RM621,327 from RM2.1 million as recorded in the same period last year. India increased intake by 127% to RM3.7 million from RM1.6 million whilst China decreased buying by 49% to RM3.8 million compared to RM7.6 million in the previous corresponding period. In the ASEAN region, exports to Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines were recorded at RM847,438, RM415,483 and RM701,943 respectively.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, exports to the UAE increased slightly to RM337,662 from RM331,114 as recorded in the same period 2020. Meanwhile, Oman improved buying to RM62,079 for the month.

MTIB



Malaysian Wood
Standing on Excellence

Multiple Uses, Variable Styles

Incomparable
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Choice for those
with exclusive
preference.
Pushing the
Frontier of
imagination and
creativity.
Our Heritage.
Our Pride.





PAULOWNIA WORKING VISIT PROGRAMME

Working visit to Revotropix Paulownia plantation in Kundur, Negeri Sembilan by YB Datuk Jugah Anak Muyang, Guest from Sarawak and MTIB Director General on 8th October 2021

A two-day working visit programme was held on 8 to 9 October 2021 at Green Afforestation International Network Sdn Bhd in Setia Alam, Selangor and RevoTropix Paulownia Plantation in Negeri Sembilan. The visit was attended by six guests from Sarawak and was personally attended by YB Datuk Jugah Anak Muyang, Lubok Antu parliament member. The purpose of the working visit was to explore, discuss and evaluate the potential of RevoTropix Paulownia, a species of Paulownia. The visit also aimed to evaluate the possibility of having the paulownia tree developed as a community plantation through a joint venture between private companies and the rural residents.

Paulownia is a genus of angiosperm trees, and one of the fastest growing trees in the world. It grows widely in China, south to northern Laos and Viet Nam and are long cultivated elsewhere in Eastern Asia, notably in Japan and Korea where they are native. It was introduced to North America in 1844 from Europe and Asia where it was originally sought after as an exotic ornamental tree. Different species of Paulownia such as *tomentosa* can grow over 30 meters tall and has large heart shaped leaves ranging from 10 – 20 cm wide and 15 – 30 cm long with a 10 – 20 cm long petiole. This shade tree grows rapidly adding 15 feet each year to reach a mature height of 50 feet and width of 30 feet in just 10 years.

RevoTropix Paulownia is a special clone of Paulownia that is optimized to grow well in a tropical climate and in Malaysia it has been introduced by Green Afforestation International Network Sdn Bhd. RevoTropix Paulownia wood is light but has the toughness of hardwood. The species has shown the ability to grow very fast and can provide high valued materials after its 5th year. One special characteristic of RevoTropix Paulownia is that it has a very strong regeneration ability. After harvesting, new saplings will grow from the side of the stump and one of saplings will be left to grow into another big tree after 5 years. This process can be repeated for many cycles. This regeneration ability is remarkable and it will be cost saving for replanting purposes. At the same time, it increases forest conservation opportunities and creates continuous business benefits.



Delegation were taking picture in front of Revotropix Paulownia plantation

In term of strength and density, FRIM and UPM has tested and reported that the mean density of 245 kg/m³ for a 3-year-old paulownia is comparable to a 530 kg/m³ of a 22-year-old rubberwood (hevea brasiliensis tree), the average density of 495 kg/m³ of a 3-year-old eucalyptus and an average density of 190 kg/m³ of a 20-year-old balsa. The wood of the Paulownia is used for making furniture, toys, plywood, musical instruments and packaging. It can also be used in housing construction.

On the 2nd day the group visited the Paulownia plantation area in Kundur and Pulau Besar, Rembau Negeri Sembilan to see the paulownia cultivation method, the plantation management, pest and disease control systems as well as to get more information on the actual growth rate of the species in a large scale plantation. Tuan Haji Mahpar Atan the Director General of MTIB accompanied YB Datuk Jugah Anak Muyang with the guests from Sarawak for the 3-hour visit. The total area of the paulownia plantation in Kundur is approximately 80 acres with the trees ranging from 4 months to 14 months while the Pulau Besar plantation has an area of 20 acres consisting of trees with ages of up to 3 years.



Working visit to the Global Afforestation International Network showrooms in Setia Alam, Shah Alam by YB Datuk Jugah Anak Muyang and guests from Sarawak on 9th October 2021

Paulownia is one of the eleven (11) species listed under the Forest Plantation Development Programme, **Program Pembangunan Ladang Hutan (PPLH)** and the species was approved and introduced by the Ministry and MTIB/FPDSB in 2020.



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(Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities)

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MALAYSIA

World's Largest Container Vessel Ever Ace Makes Maiden Call At PTP

Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP) became the first port in Southeast Asia to welcome Evergreen Marine Corporation's latest and the world's largest container ship, Ever Ace as part of the vessel's maiden voyage in the region. PTP chairman and MMC Corporation Bhd group managing director Datuk Seri Che Khalib Mohamad Noh said the berthing of Ever Ace at PTP reflected strong confidence by vessel operators in the port's ability and commitment in serving the needs of its customers.

"Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and various challenges and issues faced by the port industry worldwide which indirectly contributes to the volatility in volume in port throughput, PTP continues to perform commendably by continuing to register organic growth, which subsequently put the port at number 15 amongst the world's top port ranking," he said in a statement.

Meanwhile, PTP chief executive officer Marco Neelsen said the port would continue to leverage through its strategic positioning as a global regional transshipment hub as well as a competitive edge in its customer segmentation to provide value-added quality services for its customers. "Over the years, PTP has progressively strengthened its position due to its investments in new equipment and efforts to improve container handling capacity and capability to further empowering our service capacities to meet the market demand and growing requirement by its customers. This would ensure the new generation of ultra-large container vessels could safely navigate to the port while at the same time guarantee minimal deviation from their sailing schedule" he said.

Ever Ace is the first of Evergreen Line's 24,000 twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) class container ships, an A-type vessel that is close to 400m in length and 61.5m wide that can cruise at a speed of up to 22.6 knots with a nominal carrying capacity of 23,992 TEUs. The vessel, which is on its maiden voyage for Evergreen Line's China-Europe-Mediterranean (CEM) Service, was previously berthed at Colombo, Sri Lanka and is scheduled next for Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Source: News Straits Times, 11 October

CHINA

China's Export Growth Slows in October, Trade Surplus Soars

CHINA's export growth slowed in October but beat forecasts, helped by booming global demand ahead of winter holiday seasons, an easing power crunch and an improvement in supply chains that had been badly disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic, reports Reuters.

However, imports missed analysts' expectations, likely pointing to the overall weakness in domestic demand. Outbound shipments jumped 27.1% in October from a year earlier, slower than September's 28.1% gain. Analysts polled by Reuters had forecast growth would ease to 24.5%.

Zhiwei Zhang, chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management, said the strong exports would help to mitigate the weakening domestic economy, and give the government greater room for manoeuvre on economic policy. Recent data has pointed to a slowdown in manufacturing. Factory activity shrank for a second month in October, an official survey showed, while growth in industrial output eased to the lowest since March 2020 - the first wave of the pandemic.

Imports jumped 20.6% in October from a year earlier, accelerating from a 17.6% gain in September but well below expectations for a rise of 25%. China posted a trade surplus of USD84.54 billion last month, the highest on record. It was also above the poll's forecast of USD65.55 billion and September's USD66.76 billion surplus.

The world's second largest economy grew 4.9% in the July-September quarter from a year earlier, the weakest reading since the third quarter of last year. China's trade surplus with the United States was USD40.75 billion in October based on customs data, down from \$42 billion in September. For the first ten months of the year, the surplus was USD320.67 billion.

Earlier in October, U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai pledged to exclude some Chinese imports from tariffs while pressing Beijing over its failure to keep some promises made in a "Phase 1" trade deal made under the Trump administration.

Source: Asian Shipper, 9 November

EUROPE

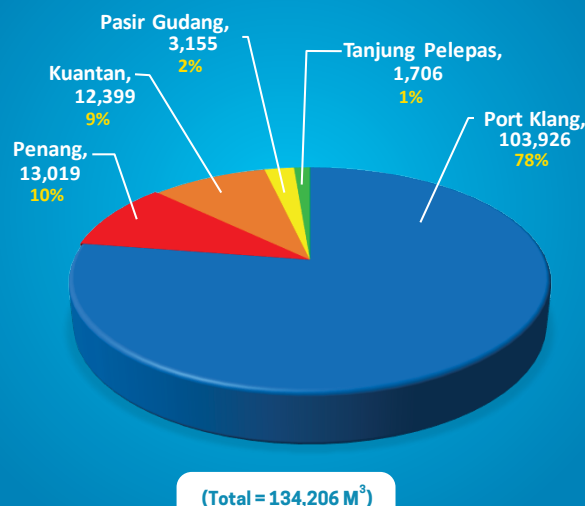
Hapag-Lloyd Q3 Net Profit Skyrockets To USD3.2 billion

GERMANY's Hamburg-headquartered global container shipping line, Hapag-Lloyd AG, has reported a strong rise in profit and revenue in the third quarter thanks to higher freight rates as disruptions in global supply chains continued to restrict transport capacity.

The shipping company said that quarterly net profit soared to EUR2.83 billion (USD3.24 billion) from EUR250.9 million in the third quarter last year, reports New York's Market Watch. Revenue surged to EUR6.24 billion from EUR3 billion, a boost Hapag-Lloyd attributed to higher average freight rates, due to persistently high demand for container transports at a time of scarce capacity. "Global supply chains are under enormous pressure, which further intensified during the peak season in the third quarter," CEO Rolf Habben Jansen said.

The company said last month that results up to the end of September would be strong, citing "unabated" demand for containers and supply-chain disruptions. Earnings before interest and taxes

Timber Shipments Through Malaysia's Ports September 2021



for the latest quarter climbed to EUR2.91 billion from EUR347 million, while earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization rose to EUR3.30 billion from EUR649.1 million.

Hapag-Lloyd had expected EBIT of EUR2.9 billion and Ebitda of EUR3.3 billion, according to preliminary figures. For the year, Hapag-Lloyd forecasts EBIT between EUR8.7 billion and EUR9.5 billion, and Ebitda between EUR10.1 billion and EUR10.9 billion.

Source: Asian Shipper, 16 November



Ocean Network Express (ONE) Posts USD4.2 Billion Q2 Profit As Sales soar 125%

Singapore-based ocean carrier Ocean Network Express (ONE) posted a profit of USD4.2 billion, drawn on quarterly revenues of USD7.6 billion, up 125% year on year.

While there was only a four per cent increase in second quarter liftings to 3.2 million twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU), rates came in at USD2,375 per TEU against USD1,032 per TEU last year, reports London's Loadstar. Apart from a quarter-to-quarter 65% hike in bunker costs, to USD509 per ton, ONE said its operational costs had increased "due to faster vessel speeds".

In its second quarter, ONE carried 649,000 TEU on Asia-North America headhaul, 15% less than in the previous year, which it attributed to port congestion at Los Angeles and Long Beach. In contrast, on its Asia-Europe headhaul trade, the carrier increased liftings 6% to 443,000 TEU.

"Like our competitors, we could have carried even more freight had we not been forced to blank so many Asia sailings, due to gaps in the schedule resulting from heavily delayed vessels returning from overseas," said ONE chief executive Jeremy Nixon. "As things stand, we see no major improvement in the current situation, particularly in North America," he said.

ONE's fleet stands at 217 ships, for a total capacity of 1.6 million TEU, of which 55% is chartered-in, ranking the line sixth in the carrier league table, just ahead of Evergreen, which however has a far bigger orderbook, of 81 vessels for 661,000 TEU compared with ONE's 24 ships for 322,000 TEU. And the dearth of open containerships on the charter market is inhibiting the Japanese line's growth potential, it said.

Source: Asian Shipper, 2 November



Wan Hai Reassigns Ships From Congested US West Coast To Intra-Asia Routes

Wan Hai Lines has begun diverting ships from its Asia-US west coast service to its core intra-Asia services after severe congestion in Californian ports affected its sailing schedules.

Announcing Wan Hai's financial results for the nine months to September, general manager Tommy Hsieh said that, with the end of the year being the peak season for intra-Asia shipments, earnings could be maximised by moving capacity to this segment from the US west coast.

"Ships were waiting 28 days to berth in Los Angeles and Long Beach – a situation unlikely to improve even by early next year. The congestion is so serious that we're no longer able to provide reliable shipping schedules, so we are gradually withdrawing some ships and putting these into our intra-Asia trades, to capture peak shipments to India and Vietnam" he said.

He added that even when ships did berth in the US, slow port operations meant it took days to move containers and get them to consignees.

Primarily an intra-Asia carrier, Wan Hai introduced standalone transpacific services to the US west coast in August 2020, encouraged by firming rates in the long-haul trades. In contrast, the company this month upped capacity on its US east coast services, due to rising cargo volumes and reducing port congestion.

In the third quarter this year, Wan Hai's net profit swelled 1,830% year on year, to \$2.49bn.

Mr Hsieh said: "India and Vietnam are gradually recovering from the Covid-19 onslaught and, recently, the cargo volumes from these countries have increased significantly. By redirecting our ships to areas with rapid increases in cargo volume, we can be more flexible with our sailing schedules."

Source: The Loadstar, 10 November



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

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all ports (m3)	% change Aug/Sep
	m3	% Change	m3	% Change	m3	% Change	m3	% Change	m3	% Change		
Sawntimber	58,057	55	12,069	2,061	970	12	144	79	4,281	-4	75,521	74
MDF	7,702	0	0	-100	392	36	708	484	2,131	159	10,933	18
Mouldings	12,152	82	78	-47	1,673	93	441	24	642	19	14,988	75
Plywood	4,468	-21	0	-100	50	100	294	170	5,347	25	10,160	-1
Veneer	1,562	11	0	-100	0	0	119	1,219	525	35	2,206	22
Particleboard	19,985	29	251	100	70	-72	0	0	92	-54	20,398	28
TOTAL	103,926	40	12,399	905	3,155	39	1,706	153	13,019	22	134,206	50

Note : Indicates percent change over the previous month

Source : MTIB

MTIB PARTICIPATE AT MINGGU AGRIKOMODITI 2021

Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) held Minggu Agrikomoditi 2021 @ #KeluargaMalaysia MyKomoditi 2021 virtually from 25 – 29 October 2021. The event was launched by Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, YB Datuk Hajah Zuraida Kamaruddin on 27 October 2021 at The Everly Hotel, Putrajaya and it was also attended by Deputy Ministers of Plantation Industries and Commodities, YB Datuk Willie Mongin and YB Dato' Sri Dr Wee Jeck Seng.

#KeluargaMalaysia MyKomoditi 2021 is a part of the Ministry's effort to recognize contributions made by the agri commodity industry to the Malaysian economy as well as to provide information to the public on the initiatives, innovations and technologies related to the plantation and commodity sectors. All agencies and councils under the MPIC which includes MTIB, had worked together to make this programme a success. MTIB had set up a mini booth during the event that showcased the latest publications as well as products made from bamboo and gaharu. MTIB organised 8 webinar sessions which was conducted by its various divisions throughout the week. The sessions were as follows:

1 Presentation on Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) by WISDEC

3 Webinar on Lean Management for Timber Industry by Strategic Planning Division

5 Regulatory Requirement in Timber Industry by Licensing and Inspectorate Division

7 Virtual Do-It-Yourself (DIY) on Wood Craft by WISDEC

2 T-Talk on Tiny House: Realising Your Dream House by Trade Development Division

4 Webinar on Wood Carving and Interior Design by Bumiputera Economic Empowerment Division

6 Development of Gaharu Industry in Malaysia by Industry Development and Licensing and Inspectorate Division

8 Webinar on Testing services and Processing Facilities for Wood and Bio composites offered by FIDEC.

Overall, the event was well received by the public, as more than 100 participants had joined each session. MPIC and MTIB hopes to organise more programmes such as these to promote interest towards the agri commodity industry among the Malaysian public.



25 OKTOBER - 29 OKTOBER

AGENDA

HARI PERTAMA :
25 OKTOBER 2021 (ISNIN)

3.00 - 5.00 PETANG

Pembentangan Berkenaan
Recognition Of Prior Experiential
Learning (RPEL)

HARI KEDUA :
26 OKTOBER 2021 (SELASA)

10.00 - 11.30 PAGI

T-Talk Hiasan Dalam Tiny
House: Realisasikan Kediaman
Impian Anda

2.30 - 4.15 PETANG

Taklimat Pengenalan
Pengurusan Lean Untuk Industri
Perkayuan

HARI KETIGA :
27 OKTOBER 2021 (RABU)

8.30 PAGI - 12.30 TENGAH HARI

Webinar Ukiran Kayu & Seni
Hiasan Dalam

HARI KEEMPAT :
28 OKTOBER 2021 (KHAMIS)

9.30 PAGI - 12.30 TENGAH HARI

Keperluan Regulatori Dalam Perniagaan
Industri Kayu

2.30 - 5.00 PETANG

Pembangunan Industri Gaharu Malaysia

HARI KELIMA :
29 OKTOBER 2021 (JUMAAT)

10.00 PAGI - 12.00 TENGAH HARI

Projek DIY Untuk Memberi Pengetahuan
Dan Kemahiran Berkaitan Kayu (Video DIY
Secara Maya)

3.00 - 5.00 PETANG

Pengenalan Perkhidmatan Pengujian Dan
Kemudahan Pemprosesan Produk Kayu
Dan Biokomposit Daripada Bahan
Mentah Alternatif



Tn Hj Mahpar, Director General of MTIB delivering his opening remarks for one of the sessions.



Webinar in progress



MTIB
Malaysian Timber Industry Board
(Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities)



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MOROCCO - NEW SOURCES OF TIMBER BY 2030 THROUGH 600,000-HECTARE FOREST PROGRAMME



Overview

Morocco, situated on Northern Africa is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean in west, by the Mediterranean Sea in north, by Algeria in east and in south by Western Sahara. Morocco shares small borders with Spain by the Spanish exclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, it has borders with Mauritania in the Moroccan-controlled part of Western Sahara, and it shares maritime borders with Portugal. Morocco covers an area of 446,550 square meters (excluding Western Sahara) making it slightly smaller than Sweden or slightly larger than California. The country has a population of 36 million, capital city is Rabat, largest city is Casablanca.

Economy

Morocco's economy is considered a relatively liberal economy governed by the law of supply and demand. Since 1993, the country has followed a policy of privatisation of certain economic sectors which used to be in the hands of the government. Morocco has become a major player in African economic affairs and is the fifth largest economy in Africa by GDP. Morocco was ranked as the first African country by the Economist Intelligence Unit's quality-of-life index, ahead of South Africa. However, in the years since that first-place ranking was given, Morocco has slipped into fourth place behind Egypt.

Morocco's real GDP growth is projected to rebound to 5.3% in 2021, sustained on by the extraordinary performance of the agricultural sector. The services sector accounts for just over half of the GDP while the industrial sector, made up of mining, construction and manufacturing is an additional quarter. The industries that recorded the highest growth are tourism, telecoms, information technology, and textile.

Forest Resources

Morocco's forests, which cover about one-tenth of its total land area (excluding Western Sahara), have substantial commercial value. Morocco satisfies much of its timber needs by harvesting the high-elevation forests in the Middle and High Atlas. Its eucalyptus plantations enable it to be self-sufficient in charcoal, which is used extensively for cooking fuel. Eucalyptus also provides the raw material needed for the country's paper and cellulose industries. Paper pulp is a valuable export as it harvest from the country's plentiful cork oak forests.

Forests play an important social and economic role in Morocco, with an estimated contribution of 5 percent to the gross national agricultural product and 1 percent to the total gross national product. Moreover, the rural populations way of life depends to a large extent on material benefits drawn from forests, 17 percent of national fodder production and nearly 6 million tonnes of fuelwood (equivalent to about 4 million tonnes of petroleum) and timber.

The most important contribution of Moroccan forests to the national economy is certainly protection of the environment, especially the protection of soil from erosion, the preservation of water resources in catchment areas, the reduction of siltation in dams and the protection of infrastructures downstream. Morocco has a wide variety of climatic conditions because of its geographical situation and its very varied landforms, 70 percent of the country is mountainous, while 30 percent is composed of plains.

Forests cover 5,814,000 hectares, made up of 63 percent deciduous species (holm oak [*Quercus ilex*], cork oak [*Quercus suber*], argan [*Argania spinosa*] and Saharan acacias [*Acacia* spp.] and 20 percent conifers (cedar [*Cedrus* spp.], thuya [*Tetraclinis articulata*], juniper [*Juniperus* spp.], pine [*Pinus* spp.],

Atlas cypress [*Cupressus atlantica*] and fir [*Abies* spp.], while the remaining 17percent are low formations (scrub and secondary species), often resulting from forest degradation.

Planted forests cover nearly 500,000 hectares and are expanding at an average annual rate of 8 percent, well below the optimal rate (15 to 20 percent) needed to maintain the ecological and environmental balance.

Timber Production

According to the latest FAO forest statistics on Morocco, the country produced around 1.4 million cubic metres of major timber products in 2020. Details of production are as follows:

Morocco: Production Quantity 2016-2020

Product	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Wood fuel, coniferous	1,059,535	1,056,214	1,052,906	1,049,609	1,049,609
Sawlogs and veneer logs, coniferous	91,000	83,000	83,000	83,000	83,000
Wood charcoal	114,661	115,887	117,114	118,340	118,340
Sawnwood, coniferous	43,000	43,000	43,000	43,000	43,000
Veneer sheets	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Plywood	84,000	100,000	100,000	110,000	100,000
Particleboard	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400
TOTAL	1,402,596	1,408,501	1,406,420	1,414,349	1,404,349

Volume: m³

Source : FAO STATS

Morocco's Exports of Timber and Timber Products

Morocco's export of timber and timber products in 2020 decreased 7% to USD46.6 million over the previous corresponding period. Morocco export mainly furniture, plywood and BJC totalled USD45.6 million, USD15.0 million and USD12.6 million respectively.

Morocco exported furniture and BJC mainly to France amounting USD34.9 million and USD10.8 million while plywood was exported mainly to the Netherlands amounting to USD8.1 million.

Morocco: Exports Of Timber & Timber Products To World, 2016-2020

Product	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Furniture	55,825	63,816	72,868	70,619	45,570
Plywood	10,591	14,349	14,280	16,781	15,010
Builders' joinery and carpentry	4,145	6,641	11,072	10,015	12,633
Wooden frames	1,032	1,195	1,331	1,439	1,501
Sawntimber	86	41	53	52	39
Fibreboard	92	5	12	114	26
Particle board	115	40	86	27	23
Mouldings	6	74	204	1	20
Logs	83	121	55	119	15
Others	3,134	4,286	4,620	3,398	2,963
TOTAL	35,972	44,940	53,489	50,048	46,416

USD'000

Source: ITC Stats

Morocco: Exports Of Timber & Timber Products By Countries To World, 2016-2020

Rank	Importers	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	World	19,283	26,754	31,712	31,946	32,231
1	France	4,013	7,087	8,847	10,443	12,704
2	Netherlands	4,212	6,016	7,021	8,109	8,187
3	Italy	4,178	7,678	6,566	7,815	5,637
4	Spain	353	479	2,280	486	956
5	Senegal	186	130	538	413	502
6	Belgium	1,787	581	765	489	417
7	United Kingdom	159	102	113	173	414
8	United States of America	304	578	935	581	404
9	Mauritania	450	295	207	322	325
10	Côte d'Ivoire	333	818	198	240	288
36	Malaysia	0	5	0	1	9
	Others	3,309	2,984	4,239	2,875	2,388

USD'000

Morocco's Imports of Timber and Timber Products

According to the latest ITC statistics, Morocco's import of timber and timber products in 2020 decreased 14% to USD1.0 billion over the previous corresponding period. Morocco imported mainly sawntimber, furniture and fibreboard totalled USD233.3 million (a decrease of 17%), USD167.3 million (a decrease of 11%) and USD56.9 million (an increase of 5%) respectively. The major import sources for Morocco were Sweden, followed by Spain and Finland.

Morocco: Exports Of Timber & Timber Products To World, 2016-2020

Product	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sawntimber	263,492	264,106	309,686	281,422	233,284
Furniture	168,444	186,202	188,070	187,788	167,286
Fibreboard	35,019	41,319	46,815	54,332	56,917
Builders' joinery and carpentry	36,767	33,067	35,378	34,119	33,137
Veneer	29,605	35,335	29,786	35,713	29,543
Plywood	38,085	35,460	36,808	38,571	27,846
Particle board	25,364	30,195	37,015	35,506	27,597
Logs	9,520	10,865	8,833	11,240	7,683
Mouldings	2,450	2,663	2,939	3,564	3,359
Wooden frames	309	526	598	515	529
Others	15,231	16,596	23,008	26,084	24,341
TOTAL	1,073,976	1,122,413	1,228,000	1,203,151	1,040,920

USD'000

Source: ITC Stats

Morocco: Imports Of Timber & Timber Products By Countries From World, 2016-2020

Rank	Importers	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	World	455,845	470,131	530,867	521,065	444,235
1	Sweden	88,949	92,548	103,521	92,167	76,521
2	Spain	70,029	75,654	79,227	81,327	66,048
3	Finland	55,600	55,829	62,450	51,947	44,232
4	Turkey	9,833	12,894	22,913	31,452	30,206
5	France	41,648	36,903	35,504	35,731	27,432
6	Portugal	39,148	36,707	39,902	36,423	25,399
7	Austria	24,686	27,898	36,181	34,506	24,164
8	China	10,616	14,090	16,711	18,373	17,992
9	Germany	17,873	19,685	25,135	22,611	17,786
10	Italy	16,635	18,990	21,297	17,601	15,386
27	Malaysia	29	52	0	494	2,096
	Others	80,805	78,879	88,026	98,434	96,973

USD'000

Source: ITC Stats

Malaysia's Exports of Timber and Timber Products to Morocco

Morocco has always been an important timber trade partner for Malaysia in North Africa region. However, in 2020, export of Malaysian timber and timber products to Morocco registered an increase of 11% to RM15.7 million from RM14.1 million in 2019. Morocco ranked 51st with 0.07% of Malaysia's total export share. Wooden furniture was the main product exported with a total value of RM11.0 million, followed by plywood at RM4.5 million and other products at RM68,894.

Malaysia: Exports Of Timber & Timber Products To Morocco, 2016-2020

Product	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Wooden Furniture	14,628,268	264,106	13,502,309	10,519,203	11,044,990
Plywood	0	0	0	3,594,904	4,494,856
Others	0	0	0	16,938	68,894
BJC	0	0	0	0	50,856
Wooden Frame	0	30,781	42,121	0	0
TOTAL	14,628,268	14,732,954	13,544,430	14,131,045	15,659,596

Value: RM

Source: MTIB & DOSM

Malaysia's Imports of Timber and Timber Products from Morocco

In 2020, import of Malaysian timber and timber products from Morocco value at RM51,910 from RM5,965 in 2018. There were no import activities in 2019. Wooden furniture was the main product imported with a total value of RM43,146 and followed by BJC at RM8,764.

Malaysia: Imports Of Timber & Timber Products From Morocco, 2016-2020

Product	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Wooden Furniture	196,922	25,481	5,965	0	43,146
BJC	0	0	0	0	8,764
Others	6,882	11,805	0	0	0
TOTAL	203,804	37,286	5,965	0	51,910

Value: RM

Source: MTIB & DOSM

Import Tariffs

The Morocco's import duties on timber and timber products under MFN are as follows:

Product	MFN Tariff Duty %
Logs	2.5
Sawntimber	10
Veneer	2.5
Mouldings	25
Particleboard/Chipboard	17.5
Fibreboard	17.5
Plywood	17.5
Wooden Frames	25
BJC	25
Furniture	25

Source: WTO

Prospects

As part of the new national agriculture program "Forests of Morocco 2020-2030," Morocco's Department of Water and Forests plans to plant 600,000 hectares of forests across Morocco by 2030. King Mohammed VI launched "Forests of Morocco" as a new development strategy for the agricultural sector under the umbrella of "Green Generation 2020-2030."

The "Green Generation 2020-2030" aims to create new income-generating activities that mainly target young people in rural areas and seeks to encourage the development of the agricultural sector. Initially the strategy is by planting 50,000 hectares per year and will reach 100,000 hectares per year by 2030. Various forests across Morocco will see the plantation of Argan, cork oak, holm oak, thuja, cedar, carob, eucalyptus, and pine trees, among other forest species.

From stakeholders in the forestry chain to the industrial and traditional transformation of timber, construction and wood products, Morocwood will be a platform for promotion

and business around the prospects of local and international development of the wooden domain in Morocco.

Morocco's wood product trade could be improved and be made more efficient when complemented with market information intelligence that facilitate regular market information on current timber situation, supply of only well-seasoned wood products, privatization of publicly owned firms in the industry to improve management for better results, improvement of infrastructures such as electricity, telephone, roads and internet services for facilitating marketing and distribution of forest products.

Malaysia, which has always been an important trading partner with Morocco in timber, is also facing strong competition from France and the Netherlands. Therefore, to sustain and improve trade as well as market share in Morocco, Malaysian exporters need to be competitive in terms of price and product quality together with effective marketing and promotion strategies.

Malaysian manufacturers also need to enhance their presence in Morocco market to create demand for Malaysian value added timber products. Malaysian engineered timber products also can be further promoted since there are opportunities to fulfill future demand in Morocco's construction industry. It is an excellent opportunity for Malaysian timber and furniture exporters to enhance networking and explore business opportunity among the Morocco's counterpart by participating in trade fairs such as Morocco Furniture & Decoration Fair.

Through these activities, Malaysian timber exporters would be able to further develop their networking with the Morocco's timber and furniture importers while at the same time undertake market research on current Moroccans importers' market preferences and taste. Therefore, it is envisage that with the above opportunities, timber trade for both countries especially in terms of export and import activities and investments in timber and timber products will be increased in the coming years.



Moroccan Wood Table Handcrafted



Moroccan Furniture

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SEPTEMBER 2021

LOGS

The logging activities during the month under review remained unchanged with most mills reported that they have an adequate log for current usage.

Log prices for Chengal species continued to be traded at RM5,040 per ton. Meanwhile, the prices for Balau and Merbau dropped by 7.4% and 8.1% at RM3,150 per ton and RM3,300 per ton respectively. The prices for Keruing grew by 7.1% at RM1,800 per ton whilst Kempas fell by 1.2% at RM1,710 per ton. On the other hand, the prices for Dark Red Meranti and Red Meranti rose by 9.2% and 2.7% respectively and valued at RM2,130 per ton and RM1,900 per ton. However, logs prices for Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood remained stable with the price RM1,250 per ton and RM1,150 per ton for this month.

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, RM16.65, RM22.50 and RM29.60 per piece, respectively.

SAWN TIMBER

The average sawn timber prices for most species in the domestic market continued to be stable.

The prices of Chengal stood firm at RM7,274 per m³ whilst Balau fell by 4.0% at RM3,390 per m³. Meanwhile, for Keruing and Kempas rose by 8.1% and 9.7% at RM2,366 per m³ and RM2,790 per m³ respectively. On the other hand, the prices of Dark Red Meranti recorded at RM2,189 per m³ whilst Red Meranti rose by 3.7% at RM1,977 per m³. The sawn timber prices of Mixed Heavy Hardwood and Mixed Light Hardwood stayed at RM1,130 per m³ and RM1,003 per m³ for this month.

PLYWOOD

In September, Demand for plywood during the month under review remained strong whilst prices hovering at last month's level. The prices of plywood for 4mm, 6mm, 9mm and 12mm of thicknesses were continued to be traded at RM14.85, RM22.30, RM38.50 and RM48.70 per piece, respectively.

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE * - SEPTEMBER 2021

The shipments of logs from Sabah to Peninsular Malaysia for the current month under review decreased sharply by 72% in volume, recorded from 3,570 m³ to 1,008 m³ worth at RM384,000. Meanwhile, trade of sawn timber rose by 13% in volume from 47 m³ to 53 m³ valued at RM87,000. Trade of plywood fell by 27% in volume from 1,261 m³ to 915 m³ worth at RM1.9 million whilst shipment of veneer grew in volume from 228 m³ to 35 m³ totalled at RM518,000.

However, the trade of sawn timber from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia has shown a volume of 304 m³ valued at RM387,000. Meanwhile, shipment of plywood recorded a fell by 43% in volume from 1,268 m³ to 722 m³ with a totaled valued RM722,000. 

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

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

SPECIES	LOGS/ton	SAWNTIMBER/m ³		
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS

HEAVY HARDWOOD

Chengal	5,040	7,274	5,650	8,475
Balau	3,150	3,390	3,143	3,672
Red Balau	2,270	2,966	2,754	3,319
Merbau	3,300	4,590	4,237	4,379
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,250	1,130	1,052	1,257

MEDIUM HARDWOOD

Keruing	1,800	2,366	1,271	2,203
Kempas	1,710	2,790	2,260	2,535
Kapur	1,900	1,746	1,483	1,871
Mengkulang	1,400	2,331	1,801	2,380
Tualang	1,500	2,542	2,331	2,542

LIGHT HARDWOOD

Dark Red Meranti	2,130	2,189	1,695	2,719
Red Meranti	1,900	1,977	1,518	2,097
Yellow Meranti	1,310	1,589	1,306	1,695
White Meranti	1,500	2,472	1,321	2,507
Mersawa	1,710	2,013	1,624	2,048
Nyato	1,430	1,713	1,476	1,744
Sepetir	1,350	1,695	1,165	1,758
Jelutong	1,130	1,815	1,236	1,836
Mixed Light Hardwood	1,150	1,003	911	1,123

MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD

Hevea brasiliensis

	LOGS/ton	SAWNTIMBER/m ³			
	205	1" X 1"	2" X 2"	3" X 3"	4" X 4"
		1,262	1,356	1,409	1,590
PLYWOOD 4' X 8'	4 mm	6 mm	9 mm	12 mm	
(RM per piece)	14.85	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

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE- SEP 2021

	Sep-21		Sep-21		% change in volume	% change in value
	Vol(m3)	Val(' 000 RM)	Vol(m3)	Val(' 000 RM)	Aug/Sep	Aug/Sep
Sabah						
Logs	3,570	1,271	1,008	384	-72	-70
Sawn Timber	47	47	53	87	13	85
Plywood	1,261	3,114	915	1,912	-27	-39
Veneer	228	454	235	518	3	14
Sarawak						
Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sawn Timber	0	0	304	387	100	100
Plywood	1,268	1,123	722	733	-43	-35
Veneer	0	0	0	0	0	0

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



KELEMPAYAN

(*Neolamarckia cadamba*)

Introduction

Neolamarckia cadamba is locally known as Kelempayan comes from the Rubiaceae family. Vernacular names used include entipong (Sarawak), limpoh (Sabah) and sempayan (Sarawak). In this region, only one species is of significance. Also known as Thkoow (Cambodia); Anthocephalus (Fiji); Kadam (India); Emajang, Jabon, Laran and Semama (Indonesia); Koo-somz and Sako (Laos); Maukadon, Mau-lettan-she and Yemau (Myanmar); Kadam (Pakistan); Kaatoan bangkal (Philippines); and Ka Thum, Krathum-bok and Taku (Thailand).



General Characteristics



Kelempayan is a fast-growing species with a tall, straight bole. The wood is smooth and light with a creamy yellow wood color. The sapwood is not distinct from the heartwood, which is white with a yellow tinge and darkens to creamy yellow when exposed. The wood is known to be non-sustainable and vulnerable to rotting fungi and blue stain.

Density

The timber is soft and light with a density of 370-465 kg/m³ air dry. It is categorized as Light Hardwood in Malaysia.

Natural Durability

The timber is non-durable but easy to treat with preservative.

Texture

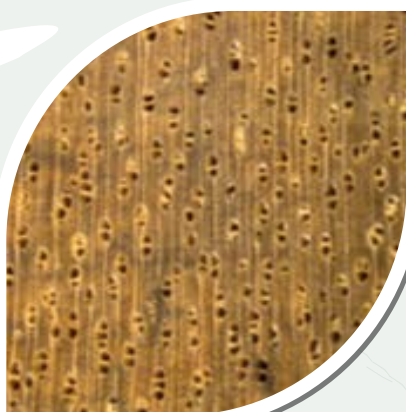
The texture is moderately fine, even, with a straight grain.

Strength Properties

The timber falls into Strength Group 7 (MS 544:Part 2:2001).

Wood Working Properties

It is easy to work, with hand and machine tools, cuts cleanly and gives a very good surface. It's easy to resaw and cross-cut. Planing is easy and the surface is smooth.



Nailing Properties

It is easy to nail.

Air Drying

The timber air dries rapidly with little or no degrade, slight end checks, splitting, and insect attack being the main causes of deterioration. The timber is also moderately resistant to sapstaining. 13 mm thick boards take about 2.5 months to dry air, while 38 mm thick boards take about 3.5 months.

Shrinkage

Shrinkage is rather low with radial shrinkage averaging 0.8% and tangential shrinkage averaging 2.1%.

Uses

The timber is suitable for face and core veneer in plywood, particleboard, cement-bonded board, hardboard, packing cases, wooden sandals, disposable chopsticks, source of short fibre pulp, it is also suitable for canoes and less expensive furniture if properly seasoned.

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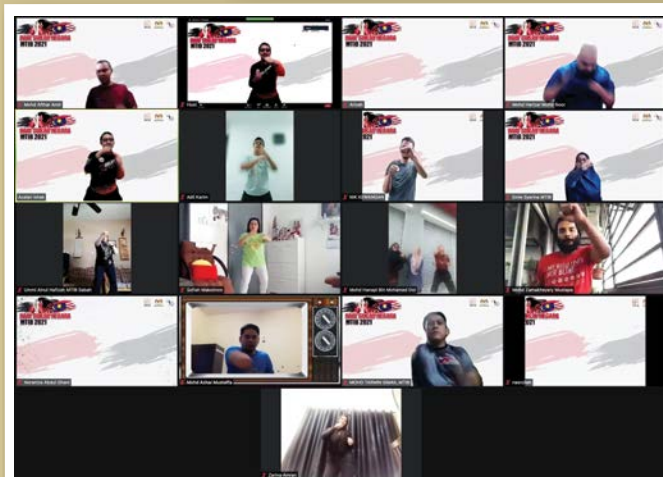




YB Datuk Zuraida Kamaruddin is witnessing the Malaysian Kenaf Standing Grading Kenaf Handing Over Ceremony, Kota Bharu, 3 October 2021



Work visit to TTITC for discussion session on design process and development plans of bamboo farm model project model, TTITC, Kampung Teris, Kuala Berang, Terengganu, 19 October 2021



Various activities were conducted by MTIB throughout the month in conjunction with National Sport's Day