

MTC tour cements presence in Europe

Senior officials from the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) in Kuala Lumpur have been visiting their key European export markets.

Meetings were held with the UK's Timber Trade Federation in London and the equivalent organisations in the Netherlands (VVNH) and Germany (GD Holz) and were an opportunity to introduce new MTC chairman Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang and to outline future developments and promotional activity.

The latter includes the marketing of next year's Global WoodMart (October 4-6) at Kuala Lumpur's Convention Centre.

The inaugural exhibition last year attracted 108 exhibitors from 19 countries and more than 2,000 visitors from 49 countries (*TTJ November 13/20, 2010 & ttjonline April 19*). "It was a huge success and beyond our expectations" said Cheah Kan Huan, MTC's chief executive officer. "We're doubling the space in 2012 and increasing the show length from two to three days."

Product development in Malaysia has increasingly focused on value-added production.

"Currently, 60% of Malaysia's

total log production is going upstream to plywood and sawn timber, while 40% goes downstream to value-added production, such as doors and door frames, windows, flooring, decking and garden furniture," said Mr Cheah. "The government's policy since 2005 [and extending to 2020] is to reverse that to 40% upstream and 60% downstream."

Value adding potentially includes glulam production for the domestic, rather than the export market.

"A glulam interest group including manufacturers, architects, engineers, academics and government was started in 2005," said Mr Cheah. "This is the future of the timber industry and adds a new business dimension. It will also allow us to build the kind of structures that are currently lacking in our own country."

The MTC delegation, along with around 20 glulam interest group stakeholders, attended Ligna (*pp30-36*) before setting off for Norway and Sweden.

"We will meet glulam and glue manufacturers and view some glulam structures," said Mr Cheah.

Not all fears allayed by sustainable increase

The area of tropical forest under sustainable management has increased by 50% in five years, according to a report on the topic just published.

However, the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) highlights that more than 90% of the global tropical forest estate continues to be poorly managed or not at all and forces favouring forest destruction could easily overwhelm those seeking conservation.

"We are, of course, happy to see the progress that has occurred in the last five years, but it still represents an incremental advance, and some countries are still lagging behind," said ITTO executive director Emmanuel Ze Meka.

"Demand for certified wood is likely to affect only a small part of the tropical forest estate and countries are embracing forest programmes related to climate change because they expect them to generate a significant amount of money, which may not materialise

to the extent hoped for."

Conflict, coupled with higher food and fuel prices, could lead to continued deforestation.

Status of Tropical Management 2011 reports that between 2005-2010 the area of natural forest under management increased to an area the size of Thailand, from 36 million ha to 53 million ha. The area of timber production forests under management, a first step toward sustainability, increased by one-third to 131 million ha.

Södra switches sawmill to pine production

Södra Timber's Kinda sawmill is to switch entirely to processing pine in order to capitalise on the higher quality of pine in its area.

The company is to rebuild and modernise the sawmill to provide capacity of about 225,000m³. The work is scheduled to be completed by summer 2012.

Kinda currently processes pine and spruce in even quantities but its bandsaws are ideally suited for high quality pine.

Södra Timber president Peter

On www.ttjonline.com

The Irish roundwood harvest was up around 9% last year to 2.7 million m³. www.ttjonline.com/harvest

SCA Timber is to rationalise its Munksund and Holmsund pine sawmills with plans to increase output at Holmsund and cut a night shift at Munksund. www.ttjonline.com/sawmills

The Norwegian group Moelven is to acquire Sweden's largest plywood manufacturer Vänerply, which has an annual capacity of 90,000m³ and sales of SKr299m. www.ttjonline.com/plywood

German wood products group Häussermann has bought Mirako group, the timber and Austrian thermally-modified timber products specialist that ceased operations in April. www.ttjonline.com/thermal

A submerged tropical forest in Ghana is being harvested more than four decades after it was flooded during construction of a hydro dam. Estimates value the timber at US\$1-2bn. www.ttjonline.com/submerged

North American softwood lumber prices will move to record highs in the next two to four years on the back of demand from China, an upturn in the US and shortages in Canada. www.ttjonline.com/prices

Stella-Jones, the Canadian treated lumber products company that specialises in railway sleepers and utility poles, has reported a 46% rise in net income for the first quarter. www.ttjonline.com/railways

RusForest AB has reported a first quarter net loss of SKr44.7m (2010: SKr28.4m) after prices and delivery volumes to North Africa suffered significantly due to political unrest. www.ttjonline.com/unrest

Egger's Brilon sawmill, Wismar OSB plant and Radauti OSB mill are being joined in one division – Egger Building Products – to combine marketing of OSB and solid wood operations. www.ttjonline.com/osb

SmartPly Europe, part of Coillte Panel Products, is one of 10 Irish companies selected to represent Ireland in the 2011 HSBC European Business Awards. www.ttjonline.com/hsbc



Kinda sawmill is to be rebuilt

Nilsson said the end objective was to maximise the purchasing power of the raw material.

Softwood production grows 9% in 2010

The European softwood sawmilling sector recovered better than hardwood in 2010, according to the European Organisation of the Sawmilling Industry (EOS).

Production of sawn softwood picked up by 9% in 2010 to reach a volume just above 75 million m³, confirming the expectations expressed earlier that 2009 had been the bottom of the market.

"However, the sector is still far off the record volumes from 2007 and it is most unlikely that these

will be reached again shortly," said the EOS. Expectations for 2011 were quite modest, with production forecast to rise by 2.2%.

Double-digit softwood production increases were recorded in Austria, Belgium, Finland, Latvia and Norway last year.

With a production of 21.1 million m³ and a share of 28.2%, Germany remained by far the largest sawn softwood producer within the EOS community.

Sweden ranked second with 16.9 million m³ (22.6%), Austria third with 9.44 million m³ (12.6%), only just before Finland (9.4 million m³ – 12.6%).

Sawn softwood consumption is believed to have increased by 10.4% in 2010 to 58 million m³. This recovery was higher than anticipated previously by the EOS.

EOS members expect a minor increase in consumption levels in 2011 (+2.6%) and 2012 (+1.5%).

Meanwhile, sawn hardwood production increased by a modest 4.3% and should continue to increase throughout 2011 by 3%.

to the extent hoped for.”

Conflict, coupled with higher food and fuel prices, could lead to continued deforestation.

Status of Tropical Management 2011 reports that between 2005-2010 the area of natural forest under management increased to an area the size of Thailand, from 36 million ha to 53 million ha. The area of timber production forests under management, a first step toward sustainability, increased by one-third to 131 million ha.

Södra switches sawmill to pine production

Södra Timber's Kinda sawmill is to switch entirely to processing pine in order to capitalise on the higher quality of pine in its area.

The company is to rebuild and modernise the sawmill to provide capacity of about 225,000m³. The work is scheduled to be completed by summer 2012.

Kinda currently processes pine and spruce in even quantities but its bandsaws are ideally suited for high quality pine.

Södra Timber president Peter



Kinda sawmill is to be rebuilt

Nilsson said the end objective was to maximise the purchasing power of the raw material.

Softwood production grows 9% in 2010

The European softwood sawmilling sector recovered better than hardwood in 2010, according to the European Organisation of the Sawmilling Industry (EOS).

Production of sawn softwood picked up by 9% in 2010 to reach a volume just above 75 million m³, confirming the expectations expressed earlier that 2009 had been the bottom of the market.

“However, the sector is still far off the record volumes from 2007 and it is most unlikely that these