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PEFC-Certified timber from Malaysia arrives in Belgium

One of the first PEFC-certified sawn timber consignments from Malaysia has arrived at the port of Antwerp in Belgium. The shipment of 12 tons of Dark Red Meranti (DRM) was exported by the PEFC chain of custody certified company, Low Fatt Wood Industries Sdn. Bhd. (Logo Licence no. PEFC/34-31-079) to Denderwood West Flanders, one of the major importers of Malaysian timber products in Belgium.

Belgium is an important market for Malaysian timber products in Europe besides The Netherlands and the United Kingdom. In 2009, Europe imported a total of 501,084 cubic metres of timber products from Malaysia. Of this total, 52,761 cubic metres were exported to Belgium. "Thanks to the PEFC certification in Malaysia, we have the opportunity to increase our supply of PEFC-certified wood now at reasonable prices", said Filip D'Haeseleer of Denderwood.

Since the endorsement of the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) by the PEFC Council, seven Forest Management Units (FMUs) representing 3.97 million hectares of Permanent Reserved Forests in Malaysia have been awarded the PEFC Certificate for Management, while 151 timber companies have been awarded the PEFC Certificate for Chain of Custody. At this stage, 40 of these companies have signed the PEFC Logo Usage Licence Agreement with MTCC which allows them to use the PEFC Logo on their MTCS-certified timber products.

**source: PEFC Belgium newsletter*

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Photo courtesy of Low Fatt Industries Sdn. Bhd.

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PEFC Opens *MC&I*(Forest Plantation) for Global Public Consultation

PEFC International has started the assessment of the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (Forest Plantations) or in short the *MC&I*(Forest Plantations) as an extension of scope of the PEFC endorsement of the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme to cover the certification of forest plantations. Stakeholders globally are invited to provide comments & feedback by 17 October 2010.

The *MC&I*(Forest Plantations) specifically aims at assessing forest plantation management practices and

complements the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification [*MC&I*(2002)], the standard adopted for the certification of natural forests under the MTCS, which achieved PEFC endorsement in 2009.

The *MC&I*(Forest Plantations) contains 10 Principles, 55 Criteria and 106 Indicators and was developed by the multi-stakeholder National Steering Committee (NSC) through a consultation process involving the relevant stakeholder groups in Malaysia, including the conduct of three regional and one national consultation, from

February 2006 to November 2008.

The draft standard was field tested in Sabah and in Sarawak as well as in Peninsular Malaysia in June-July 2008 and the Final Draft Standard was adopted by the NSC in November 2008. Subsequently, the *MC&I*(Forest Plantations) was adopted by MTCC as the standard for the certification of forest plantations under the MTCS in February 2009.

Comments can be submitted using PEFC's Online Consultation Tool (<http://bit.ly/bw2Ziv>) by **17 October 2010**

MTCC at SPOGA 2010, Germany

SPOGA 2010 was held in Koelnmesse, Cologne from 5-7 September 2010, where MTCC and PEFC Germany had a joint stand, the second time since the endorsement of MTCS by the PEFC Council. MTCC was represented by its Executive (Product), Premalatha Mogan.

Throughout the three-day exhibition, the MTCC booth was visited by numerous timber companies representing garden furniture retailers, DIY companies, timber traders, importers, exporters and journalists from Germany as well as other parts of

Europe, such as Denmark, France, Italy, Spain and The Netherlands.

The visitors' interest focused mainly on the upcoming availability of PEFC-certified tropical timber from Malaysia, the acceptance of PEFC-certified timber and the acceptance of tropical wood in general.

The visitors were updated on the current developments of the PEFC-endorsed MTCS, the availability of certified tropical timber and Malaysia's efforts to promote sustainable forest

management. The visitors were also informed on the implementation of the forest plantation standard under the MTCS.

A number of companies showed their interest in obtaining certified timber products from Malaysia. In general, the visitors to the stand were also interested in the forest management and certification efforts in Malaysia.

Besides the MTCC-PEFC Germany joint stand, another 15 Malaysian exhibitors also participated in SPOGA 2010.



Premalatha Mogan attending to a visitor during the exhibition (left) and the MTCS-certified garden furniture from Hang Tuah Furniture Sdn. Bhd. being displayed (right)

MTCC at HOUT 2010, The Netherlands

MTCC and MTC jointly set up a booth together with Stolk Internatio at the HOUT 2010 trade exhibition held on 27 September - 1 October 2010 in Rotterdam. Stolk Internatio is a subsidiary of DPW van Stolk Holding, a major importer of Malaysian timber products in The Netherlands. MTCC was represented by its Executive (Product), Sabrina Mawasi.

HOUT 2010 which is held biennially, is the trade exhibition for wood and sheet goods processing in the Benelux region. The exhibits featured joinery, furniture and building products. Over 150 companies participated in the exhibition.

Throughout the five-day exhibition, the MTCC-MTC booth was visited by numerous timber companies representing producers, traders, importers as well as exporters, interior designers and also city and municipal officials. Generally visitors were interested in the progress of the evaluation of MTCS by the Timber Procurement Assessment Committee (TPAC) and the availability of PEFC-certified timber products from Malaysia.



MTCC representative, Sabrina Mawasi, at HOUT 2010



Wouter Mayeur (right) of MTC London attending to a visitor at the joint MTCC and MTC booth

PEFC NEWS

Source: PEFC Newsletter No.47, September 2010

Pressure Mounts for USGBC to Accept Multiple Forest Certification Programmes

Forest certification programmes from twelve nations have recently called on the USGBC (United States Green Building Council) to end its discrimination against wood and accept all credible sustainable forest certification standards.

The certification programmes pointed out that wood is one of the best environmental choices for construction, as long as it is from a responsible source – and that fibre certified to the 26 national forest certification programmes recognized by PEFC International meets this demand.

Currently, the USGBC's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating tool only recognizes wood certified to the FSC standard. The USGBC recently released a fourth round of draft benchmarks for public comments.

"Less than 10 per cent of the world's forests are certified, yet LEED does not recognize the more than two thirds of the world's certified forests that meet PEFC's Sustainability Benchmarks," said Ben Gunneberg, Secretary General of PEFC International. "The United Nations has warned that by giving exclusive recognition to one forest certification brand, green building standards may help drive demand for these brands at

the expense of wider appreciation for the environmental merits of wood."

More than 6,100 people from around the world, including countries such as Australia, Austria, The Netherlands, Sweden, Italy, Malaysia, Spain and the United Kingdom, have signed an on-line petition posted by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative programme, a PEFC member that has forests across Canada and the United States certified to its forest management standard.

Mr. Gunneberg said that USGBC must recognize the benefits of building with wood if it wants to demonstrate environmental leadership. "This means encouraging the use of wood through LEED by allowing credits for wood certified to all standards recognized by PEFC and the FSC, and by increasing the number of credits builders can score for using timber," he said. "To qualify for one LEED credit, wood must comply with 81 individual benchmarks – something no other building material is required to demonstrate."

Buildings are of fundamental importance in the climate change debate as they account for almost 40 per cent of the total carbon dioxide emissions in the United States. Studies estimate that

carbon dioxide emissions of wood-based buildings are 20 to 50 per cent lower than emissions associated with comparable steel- or concrete-based buildings.

Antonio Brunori, National Secretary of PEFC Italy, told USGBC his organization has been working since 2001 to promote wood from responsibly managed sources as one of the best environmental choices for construction. "If the USGBC wants to demonstrate real leadership it will finally do the right thing and accept all credible forest certification programmes, allowing builders and architects choice when it comes to building sustainably," he said.

Some of the certification programmes noted that green building rating tools in their countries promote the use of wood by accepting all credible certification programmes. "The Green Building Council of Australia made the right decision when it determined that both FSC and PEFC satisfy the essential criteria identified as necessary to be eligible for its Green Star Timber credit," said Kayt Watts, Chief Executive Officer of the Australia Forestry Standard Ltd. "It's time for the U.S. Green Building Council to do the same."

Another CB Obtains Accreditation

Moody International Certification (M) Sdn. Bhd. has been granted accreditation by the Department of Standards Malaysia (STANDARD MALAYSIA) for chain of custody (CoC) certification under the MTCS on 10 August.

Following its accreditation, Moody International became the third local PEFC-notified Certification Body for CoC certification and obtained the PEFC Logo Usage Licence with registration no. PEFC/34-44-03 from MTCC on 20 August 2010.

As PEFC-notified CB, Moody International is now eligible to issue accredited certificates for CoC under the MTCS, which are recognized as PEFC certificates.



New Staff

MTCC has recently appointed a new staff to its forest management certification unit.

MTCC News extends a warm welcome to: **Cheah Chi Ern, Executive (Forest Management)**. Mr. Cheah will be dealing mainly with the certification of forest plantations.



You can contact **Mr. Cheah** at: chi.ern@mtcc.com.my

Export of MTCS-Certified Timber Products By Destination & Product

June 2010

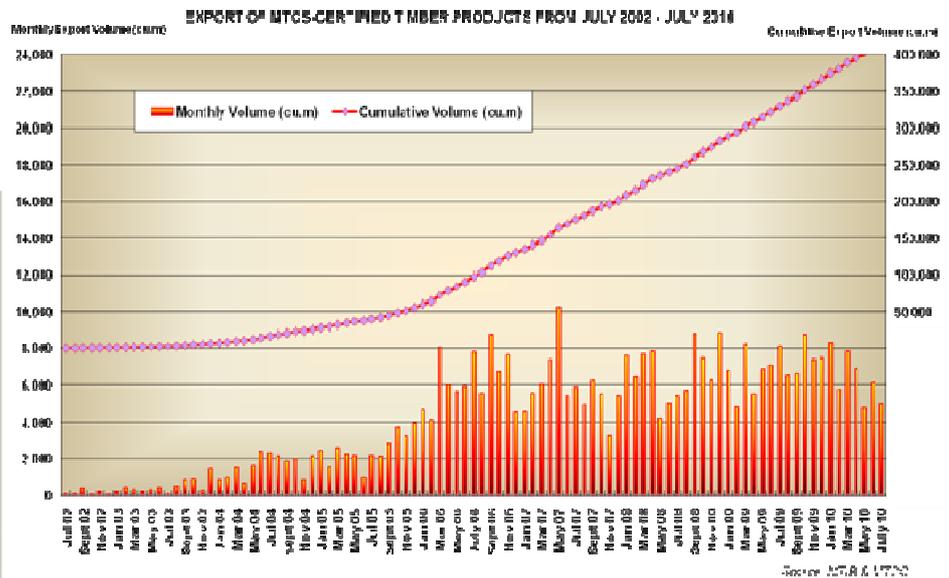
Destination	Volume (m ³)
The Netherlands	2,423.08
Belgium	1,373.72
United Kingdom	804.03
Germany	488.96
France	483.12
Denmark	466.17
Australia	20.89
Italy	72.61
Total	6,132.58

July 2010

Destination	Volume (m ³)
The Netherlands	3,380.32
United Kingdom	601.31
France	392.91
Germany	293.66
Belgium	241.27
Australia	34.76
Total	4,944.23

Product	Volume (m ³)
Plywood	3,452.80
Sawn Timber	2,482.47
Moulding	197.31
Total	6,132.58

Product	Volume (m ³)
Sawn Timber	3,521.74
Plywood	1,070.69
Moulding	351.80
Total	4,944.23



Volume exported in June 2010: 6,132.56 m³

Volume exported in July 2010: 4,944.23 m³

Total cumulative volume exported since July 2002: 411,407 m³

By September 2010, 151 timber companies are holders of PEFC certificate for CoC under the MTCS. Of these, 40 companies have signed the PEFC Logo Usage Licence agreement which will enable them to use the PEFC logo on their MTCS-certified products.