

# Malaysian Timber Council launches maiden conference

The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) joined forces with multiple industry experts to provide solutions to key challenges faced by Malaysian timber-based manufacturers at its first conference.

**T**he Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) hosted the inaugural Malaysian Timber Conference on 18 October 2018 at Le Méridien Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. With about 200 participants in attendance, the conference was a resounding success.

A landmark event under MTC's calendar, the Malaysian Timber Conference – with its theme 'Towards A Better Tomorrow' – saw nine global timber industry experts provide their inputs on how Malaysian timber-based manufacturers can overcome the challenges they are facing.

Solutions to raw material shortages, needs for automation and tackling trade-related matters are some of the key areas that were discussed and deliberated at length by some of the sharpest minds in both the economic and timber sectors.

The Malaysian timber industry contributes about 1.7% to the national GDP, with export earnings of MYR23.2-billion in 2017; and as at July 2018, export of timber and timber products had reached MYR12.58-billion.

"There is no denying the contributions that the timber sector has on the economy and Malaysia needs to ensure that the timber industry maintains its relevance as a viable economic contributor. As such, we cannot lose sight of the imperatives that will sustain and enhance Malaysia's timber-based industry," said MTC CEO Richard Yu.

"The speakers from Italy, Finland, Switzerland and Malaysia provided detailed takeaways on how to stay abreast of the timber sector's changing landscapes. The global economic outlook; the timber demand and supply worldwide; the necessity for certification which proves that we are extracting our timbers in a sustainable and legal manner; and the need to embrace technology in relation to IR4.0 as well as commercialisation of research findings formed the crux of the conference presentations," added Yu.

Established in January 1992, MTC aims to promote the development and growth of the Malaysian timber industry globally. MTC's main objectives are to promote the Malaysian timber trade and develop the market for timber products globally; to promote the development of the industry by upgrading the industry's manufacturing technology base; to augment the supply of raw materials; to provide information services; and to protect and improve the Malaysian timber industry's global image. 



*Esteemed industry role players and international speakers amalgamated under one roof at the Malaysian Timber Council's first timber conference.*

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## MALAYSIAN TIMBER CONFERENCE 2018 SPEAKERS

- Alan Tan, chief economist at Affin Hwang Investment Bank Bhd.
- Dr Ed Pepke, senior timber trade and policy analyst at the European Forest Institute and associate at Dovetail Partners.
- Peter Latham, chairman of PEFC International, Switzerland.
- Sylvia Weichenberger, partner and senior expert of the Centre for Industrial Studies, Italy.
- Dr Gan Kee Seng, director of Forest Products Division, Forest Research Institute Malaysia.
- Ng Kheng Joo, technical director and co-founder of Novetec Innovation Sdn Bhd.
- Laurent Maillefer, vice-president, Robotics – ABB Malaysia.
- Dato' Nor Akharrudin Mahmud, director-general of Forestry, Peninsular Malaysia.
- Richard Yu, MTC CEO.