

• FURNITURE • LAMINATES • BAMBOO

Indian Wood & Allied Panels

Volume 15 • Issue 3

A Quarterly Publication on Plywood / Wood & Bamboo Based Panel Products

July - September 2021



India: Timber safety is a step towards self-reliance



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Volume 15 • Issue 3 Jul-Sep 2021

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Open Up To Good-Better-Best In Residential Cabinets

by Sharon Sherman

Your client is ready to begin their home remodeling odyssey. Before the moment of truth, helping them choose their cabinets, it's important to evaluate the different levels of cabinet quality. I suggest marketing residential cabinets in three categories good, better and best.

What makes a good cabinet and what makes a better cabinet? Why is there such a difference in the cost? Television shows and designers unveil the big reveal but how did those cabinets make the cut?

Materials Make A Difference

Solid construction equals quality and longevity

Understanding what materials your client's cabinets are made of are at the heart of understanding good – better – best. In my opinion your cabinet boxes should be constructed of ¾" plywood which is the best cabinet box materials.

Equally important is that your drawer boxes are constructed of ½"-3/4" solid material as the drawer runner will be attached to them. Dovetailed drawer boxes or upgraded molded metal drawer boxes are best because they are the best for durability. Look at the finish on the interior of the cabinets. Is it a clear coated wood interior or a thin layer of plastic? Daily use can take its toll on a fragile interior finish. Next are the strong sturdy backs where the cabinets will be attached to the walls. No one wants cabinets crashing down with all their dishes and glasses inside. I would rank the top materials as:

Best: Plywood. If you have picked up a stack of dishes to put into a cabinet, you know how heavy they are. There are

other options but in my experience plywood really is the best bet. You want strong stables cabinets which will last as long as our clients and their family are in the house.

Better: This could be controversial but I do not feel that MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard) which is used in many "high end" cabinets is better but still not as good as plywood construction. You can argue forever over the debate, but I have sold both and I feel confident that Plywood is tops.

Good: A good rating will go to a cabinet that is not using one of the above named materials. Though a good option, some argue that Particleboard is not as long term as the above materials and anything less than ½" thick could show signs of wear and tear a little bit faster. Similarly, these cabinets often have ¼" backs which are not as sturdy even if the part where the screws attach the box to the wall is thicker.

Doors & Drawer Fronts

Best: Look for solid construction. Most doors are built of five pieces: the four pieces that make up the doors frame plus the centre panel. Flat panel door may be solid panels but are usually a veneer. MDF center panels are a good choice for painted finishes. The solid MDF panels will not show cracks like a pieced together wood panel will.

Better: In some cases, drawer fronts are used as part of drawer box. Some manufacturers use vinyl tape instead of real wood on the edges.

Good: Might have mismatched grain patterns and less than ¼" center panels.

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Drawer boxes

Best: Boxes made with ¾” materials in maple but metal boxes are available. Strong bottom and dovetailed sides will be standard. Walnut is becoming a luxury option in drawers and roll outs. Runners are self-closing bottom mounted.

Better: Often made with 5/8” material in maple with dovetailed construction. Most use self closing bottom mount runners

Good: Made with 3/8” to ½” material in hardwood. May or may not use dovetail construction. Runners may or may not be self closing.

In addition, always check the hardware. The internal hardware, consisting of drawer runners and hinges, are the hardest working components. They are used every time you open and close a door or drawer.

Residential Cabinet Construction: Framed and Frameless

You can have a very traditional look where the door sits inside the frame (aptly named inset) or the door can sit on top of that frame (overlay). You may see some of the frame or you might not, it depends on the cabinet. The less expensive the cabinet, the more frame will be visible. Inset is a more expensive type of construction, overlay not as costly to produce.

Frameless cabinets have been popular in Europe for many years. They started to catch on here in USA more than 30 years ago but really took off when IKEA introduced their kitchen line in 2012. In my opinion, the benefits of the frameless or 32mm system (the space between the drilling in the inside for hinges, runners and shelf pins) are that they can be more contemporary in style and allow more space in the cabinet (no front frame). However what really makes a difference is in the drawers. Without the front frame, the drawers are taller and wider giving you more storage space.

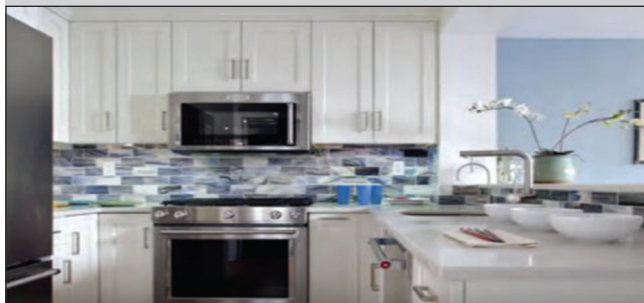
The Finishes

Best: Look for a low VOC high quality “baked-on finish” This catalyzed finish will withstand the rigors of a kitchen or bathroom. In addition, the consistency of the finish

SHARON L SHERMAN
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Award winning luxury interior designer Sharon L Sherman has been practicing luxury kitchen, bath and interior design for the past two decades in Bergen County New Jersey. She creates interior environment for her clients that combine health, wellness, function, beauty and comfort. Her company Thyme and place Design has received numerous client testimonials that attest to her ability to achieve these objectives , on time and on budget. A former past President of the American society of Interior Designers New Jersey. Ms. Sherman is well regarded by her Industry peers and is known for her ability to accomplish goals quickly and efficiently.



matters. Cabinets which are all finished together will have a consistency in the finish.. Hand applied and rubbed finishes are the most expensive and are beautiful.

Better: Sprayed-on finishes which use a catalyzed finish may be in this category. Hand-applied finishes may not be offered.

Good: Painted and stained finishes will have a clear top coat which is commonly sprayed on.

Not all cabinets are created equally. There’s a budget for every client and it is important to know what you are purchasing. Generally speaking, custom cabinets have been the gold standard. Instruct you clients to think about how they use their spaces. Today’s kitchen is used much more than just for cooking. Even if your clients are not planning on staying forever, good cabinets bring value to their home.

(Source: Surface & Panel). □

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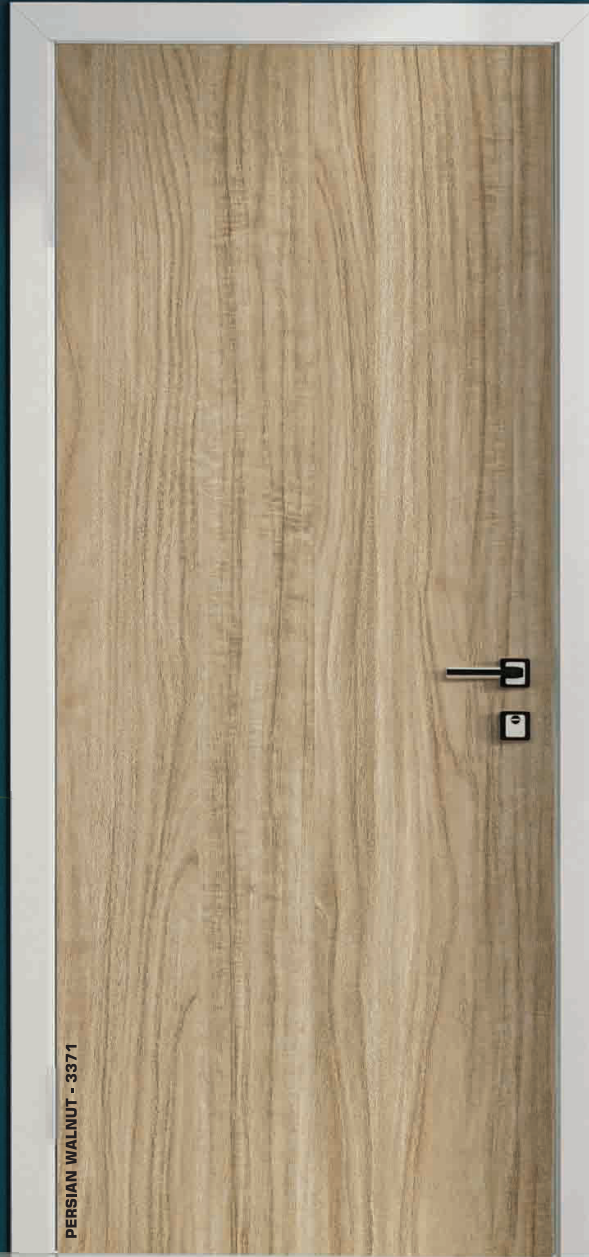
6.5, 6.75, 7 & 8

WIDTH (INCH)

27, 30, 33, 36, 39,
42 & 45

THICKNESS

30MM, 32MM & 35MM



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India: Timber safety is a step towards self-reliance

In recent years, the Indian government has begun to focus on the construction of domestic infrastructure. Huge investments are planned in the construction of electricity, roads, railways, aviation, urban infrastructure, commercial buildings, residential buildings, ports, water conservancy facilities, mining, and oil and gas. It can be seen that the next 5 to 10 years will be the peak period of infrastructure construction in India.

The huge demand for infrastructure will inevitably drive a sharp increase in India's domestic timber demand. However, India's policy towards the timber industry over the years has led to the inability to provide long-term and stable supply of timber raw materials within India to support the long-term layout of India's infrastructure plans. A stable and lasting timber industry environment can promote the timber industry to be self-reliant, increase fiscal revenue, earn foreign exchange, and improve the efficiency of the government in building the country while protecting the environment.

Although India is rich in forest resources, India's recorded forest area (RFA) and trees outside the forest (TOF) area are 76.74 million hectares and 29.38 million hectares, accounting for 23.3% and 8.9%, respectively. Among them, logs and sawn timber can be produced in large quantities. However, local production capacity cannot meet domestic demand. The Indian National Forest Policy (NFP) in 1952 envisaged that forests would meet the raw material needs of the wood industry, while the National Forest Policy in 1988 shifted its focus to forest protection. Most of the rural areas covered by green plants in India are mainly planted with mango, kiwi, eucalyptus, rubber, stone pine and poplar. As a result, the production capacity of Indian forests has been greatly restricted.



As one of the largest timber consumers, the annual logging volume of forest timber in India has dropped from 10 million cubic meters in 1970 to the current 3 million cubic meters. This figure cannot support India's annual consumption of 70 million cubic meters of industrial logs, and there is still a gap of 14 million cubic meters of wood raw materials every year. In order to meet the demand for large amounts of timber, India has opened its timber import policy since 1990. The total imports of logs and sawn timber from 2019 to 2020 will reach 6 million cubic meters. India has achieved self-sufficiency in the production of small wood, but due to the shortage of large wood in the forest, it still relies heavily on imported wood. The top four imported timber from India are teak, gulm, merlot and beech. Imported timber mainly comes from Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Gabon, Brazil, Panama and New Zealand.

India will not only import wood products such as plywood, veneer, particleboard, fiberboard, pulp and waste paper, newsprint, cardboard and furniture as domestic commodity trade. At the same time, India will take advantage of its population advantage and use cheap labor to process imported wood into finished wood products, such as antique furniture, handicraft products, wooden toys, etc., and export them. Although India strongly supports sustainable forest management, timber and wood products can still be imported into India without certification. A study by the International Federation of Forest Research Organizations shows that India accounts for about 10% of the global illegal timber trade. At present, the import and export of timber and wood products in India is showing an increasing trend. However, the export value is much lower than the import value. During 2019-20, timber and wood products worth approximately Rs 44,119 crore were imported.



The financial burden brought by imported timber to India has caused Indian timber to be in a precarious state for a long time, and the international timber supply chain is becoming increasingly tense. The world's major powers are vying for limited timber resources, and over-reliance on external imports cannot achieve long-term effective development. India needs to make adjustments, otherwise it will definitely affect the country's development process.

In order to realize the self-reliance of the timber industry, it is necessary to increase the annual output of timber through deforestation and increase the large-scale timber production in India. India's land resources, climatic conditions, large population base and abundant labor force can all support the production of large-sized timber and realize India's "wood freedom". "The ideal. Incentives for forest planting companies and the timber industry, and attracting capital is essential for industry investment. Recently, the Indian government has increased the import tariffs on furniture to stimulate the enthusiasm of local furniture manufacturing, and the Indian toy action plan is about to be launched.

India attaches great importance to the rapid development of plantation and timber industry, which can not only meet local demand, but also help increase exports. This will be a win-win situation for India, because the expansion of the sector will increase farmers' income, create jobs for workers, create business opportunities for various stakeholders, increase government revenue, earn foreign exchange and contribute to the environment protect. □



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The world is moving, and we have to move with it

By Per Friis Knudsen, Director, Global Timber Asia



Per Friis Knudsen is the director of Global Timber Asia and is responsible for sales and trades in Asia. He has years of experience in the global wood industry, and is a qualified furniture maker with comprehensive expertise in the wood furniture business. Before joining Global Timber in 2013, Knudsen worked and travelled across countries and cultures. With Asia being his greatest interest, he decided to settle in Malaysia from where he has worked with hardwood trade ever since.



All countries around the world have been hit – some worse than others. I think we have all been under lockdown and at the time of writing, I am still under lockdown here in Malaysia. We are not allowed to cross state borders or drive more than 10km from home. Those who want to visit the office need special permit from the right authorities. My kids are under 12 years old and are not even allowed to be seen in public. It is possible for me to apply for a permit to leave Malaysia and return within 60 days, but I most likely will need to spend 14-21 days in isolation at destinations in South East Asia before another 14 days isolation in a hotel here in Malaysia once I return. It is crazy cost wise, insane businesswise, physically draining and mentally sickening. Thank goodness can work from home and am allowed to take a daily walk in the open.

I am very pleased with the number of orders Global Timber has managed to sign over the last 10 months – not just American and European lumber/timber, but also European logs. This is a sign that the world is once again moving after a slowdown as COVID-19 started to show its ugly face back in February 2020. The world slowed its pace to slower than slow. Fast forward to around August 2020 – our sales started to normalise again, and by September, the pace for new orders took off. We do, for sure, plan to move with the world’s new pace. We are satisfied with a full orderbook and aim to expand our capacity every day to better ourselves.

End user markets shifted from shopping at old-fashioned retail stores to shopping online. Consumers were simply forced to stay home, and stop travelling and going on holidays. Instead, we started to spend holiday money on home improvements projects. Without in-person shopping, wining and dining, a new hobby came up – e-commerce. Manufactures that usually sold their products via retailers suddenly struggled to ship the orders they had on hand and items that had been already produced. Some of our customers told me that they were simply told to leave ready loaded containers at factories instead of sending them to ports and get paid by buyers. Online custom manufacturers started to see a boom in orders. The world shifted from one fashion to another, and sure enough, we all began shifting the same way. The world is moving into e-commerce, and we are all moving with it.

You will seldom hear these words from a Director, but the wood industry is not normal at moment. Nothing is normal in the world. I am not sure even an industry veteran would be able to recall any similar situation from their past. It does not matter what industry one operates in; the wood industry is probably not the most affected, but we have been hit badly.

At the moment, not many manufactures are thinking about how the value of American hardwood (eg, White Oak) dropped about 60% around Q3 2019. This was not fun for the sawmillers back then and it was not sustainable pricing at all. The industry has been suffering from low prices for a long period and there were not many smiles on faces back then. There was an oversupply and less demand. For sure, there were some trade barriers that made a big impact on the slow demand. At that time, larger furniture/flooring buyers from the western world got hit

As a trading company, we see things from many angles. The incidents that have occurred over the last 18 months have moved the industry from a buyer’s market to a seller’s market. It is a natural part of all these incidents that has brought the supply chain to its knees. If there are not many products to sell and many who want to buy products, it is a natural process that prices will increase – and so they have. The situation is simple: an extremely high demand versus an extremely low supply situation. And this does not look to change in the near future.

The reason for all this came when news of the virus was announced 9 January 2020. In matter of months, the virus that emerged from Wuhan, China, had spread across the globe to about 20 million people. As of mid-June 2021, COVID-19 has infected over 170 million people and caused over three million deaths.

by higher manufacturing prices and started production locally rather than internationally and far away from home. They could not control the situation abroad but were safe domestically.

Between Q4 2020 and Q2 2021, lumber prices have increased about 80% and there are for sure more smiles on sawmillers' faces today compared to back then. However, a good number of sawmills are no longer around as they simply did not survive to experience better prices. For sure the sawmillers saw the 60% drop in price as a disaster and now manufacturers feel that the 80% increase as a disaster.

Due to the pandemic, there was and still is a lack of workers at factories and in the logistics sector in general. Ports do not operate normally. First, containers were stuck in China because production went down for a while. Then the US shut down, way too late, and COVID-19 hit with a magnitude unseen elsewhere in the world. Factories shut down and the whole world followed suit. "Stay home and be safe" was the message. That also meant that there was no one to drive the trucks and load, unload and move containers. The containers were stuck where they were.

Big ports in the US are also a culprit with delays in the last 10 months or more. There is a high volume (up 20% from 2019) of arriving cargo, mainly from Asia to the US west coast terminals, all resulting in demand for drivers and chassis that far outpace the availability of these resources. This affects all shipments and thereby also the wood industry. The only outcome from such a situation is increased logistic prices. We are not even in shipping peak season at the moment; the cost of shipping a 40' container from Vietnam to the US was about US\$3,000 two years ago and about \$15,000 today.

To keep the world moving, many countries help by stimulating local economies. For example, Denmark gave incentives for home improvements. The US offered something like \$1,000 for people to stay home and be safe instead of going

to work. However, despite how vaccinations are underway, no one wants to work as they get \$1,000 to stay home. For how long will this continue?

News now is that there is a new restriction on receiving containers in German ports – from 72 hours to earliest 48 hours prior to vessel arrival. There is also a new situation at Yantian Terminal in China, where there is up to a 12-day delay and with only 30% of manpower capacity. The bottleneck of 330,000 TEU from the Suez incident and now another 500,000 from Yantian will continue to heavily affect Asia, and could potentially cause a delay all the way up to Chinese New Year 2022 and massive disturbance to the upcoming Christmas shipments. From my understanding, this is all due to the lack of manpower caused by the new COVID-19 outbreak in the Yantian area.

At Global Timber, those in the Supply Chain division surely have the toughest job at the moment as they try to book containers and find vessel space to ship our orders. Vessels are delayed, postponed or even cancelled.

The world is still moving and it is important we move with it. We need to get the world back to a new normal. Do not think about the old normal – what was normal two years ago will never be again. We all need to adapt and not think that there will be no trauma after all this. Do not expect all these incentives to continue. Expect to pay higher taxes in the near future. Expect long delays in shipment and expect wood and raw material prices in general to stay up there for at least the rest of 2021 and very likely into Q1 2022.

Due to the upcoming herd immunization with vaccines being rolled out in a faster pace month by month, I can see light at the end of the tunnel, but I still cannot judge how long this tunnel is. We need to let the world turn and we have to continue turning with it. Otherwise, we will lose the fight. □

Greenply Forays into MDF business and sets-up plant in Gujarat



Greenply Industries Limited has announced its foray into the Medium Density Fiber (MDF) boards business. The Greenfield manufacturing plant would be setup in Vadodara District., Gujarat with an estimated cost of Rs. 548 Crore. For this purpose, the Board of Directors of the company on 4th August announced the acquisition of M/S Baahu Panels Pvt Ltd as a wholly owned subsidiary.

The plant with an installed capacity of 800 cubic meter (CBM) per day would have the revenue potential of Rs. 600-650 Crore per annum at its peak utilisation. The plant is expected to commence operations by Q4FY23. The company has plans to produce all products sub-categories of MDF including thin & thick, pre-lam and other value-added products in phased manner.

Manoj Tulsian, CEO & JMD, said, "With the change in consumers demand in the current scenario, MDF industry is expected to grow rapidly due to its versatile application and this trend is here to persist. This investment will help us to capitalize on this long-term opportunity and establish our leadership in western untapped market.

The plant is strategically located in the agricultural belt that ensures easy procurement of raw materials and has proximity to seaports and highways. With the rich experience of the management in wood panel Industry for more than 30 years, we are expanding our product portfolio to serve diverse industries". □

First Pigmented One-component UV-curing Putty for Industrial Processing



Wood is a long-lasting and robust material, and the perfect natural choice for anyone looking for durability from their furniture, flooring, windows, doors and kitchens. This material has been used generation upon generation, and offers timeless quality and charm that cannot be replicated. Being a natural resource, no two pieces of wood are alike; they are shaped by natural forces and will display a variety of colour tones, grains and character markings, such as knots. Therefore, no tree is perfect either, and can be subjected to many natural forces which may cause defects in the wood. Woodworkers or manufacturers using wood substrates are quite familiar with these imperfections in wood, such as knots, splits, ugly dark streaks or stains, worm holes, and even decay.

Competitive products such as mouldings, frames, furniture components and even flooring require cost-efficient manufacturing processes with high-speed lines. This also applies if poor wood qualities with high filling requirements are used. Conventional repair work using two-component putty will not cure in-line deeper than approximately 1mm; for full curing, the boards have to be dried for up to 24 hours, where the process is very labour intensive, time and space consuming. Also, it has a limited adhesion on glue; spots with uncovered glue surfaces are often milled out, which gives an unnatural appearance.

The new Uvilux Putty 1465-20 from Teknos is the first pigmented single component UV-curing putty suitable for industrial processing. Knots and other damages in timber can

now be repaired in darker colours in a fast, economic process with intermediate curing. Full deep-curing of up to 5mm can be done under UV light, while damages can be fully cured in-line across the whole depth of the top veneer. As soon as the workpiece has passed the UV lamp, processing can continue. Boards can be calibrated, sanded and finished without interrupting the in-line process and the need for temporary storing. Teknos Uvilux Putty 1465-20 can be easily used at typical line speeds of approximately 8-16m/min and with usual gallium and mercury lamps. Depending on the actual line speed, sufficient lamp power should be ensured. The putty is easy to use with excellent adhesion properties; filling wood imperfections can be done with minimal sanding requirements and, most importantly, the filling does not shrink and recesses do not form when the putty hardens. In addition, when the putty is applied, there is virtually no material left over. Teknos Uvilux Putty 1465-20 is able to optimise the production of wood that requires pigmented repair of deeper damages, particularly, flooring boards such as prefabricated parquet, mouldings, wooden frames and furniture components. These can now be repaired and finished in one continuous process, with times reduced by up to 24 hours and valuable storage space freed up. In short, the processing will become faster, simpler and more economical.



Natural defect in timber

The new pigmented Teknos Uvilux Putty 1465-20 is available in black, dark and light brown, covering most requirements of typical prefabricated parquet veneers such as oak, ash, birch or walnut. One example of typical use will be the repair of knots and other damage in oak parquet. Teknos also offers the transparent Uvilux Putty 1465-00. This clear/colourless product is a 100% UV curing one-component solution for fast machine repairing with line speeds up to 100m/min and deep curing property of maximum 12mm. Both Teknos Uvilux Putty products can be integrated in the production process, suitable for manual application or via a box, extruder



Repaired with pigmented Teknos Uvilux Putty 1465-20



Repaired with colourless Teknos Uvilux Putty 1465-00

or roller, thus meeting the requirements of both profiled or flat surfaces. Applied manually, the product can even be used in tight production environments. Processing is very fast and can be cured with gallium and mercury lamps, as well as 365 and 395nm UV LED lamps.

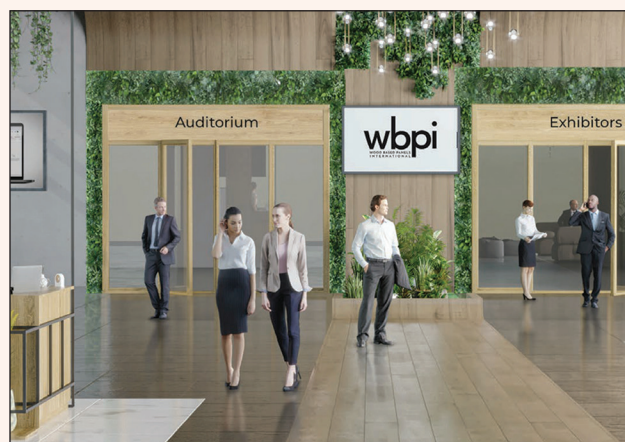
Case Study

One of Teknos' major customers, a leading flooring manufacturer in Malaysia offering stylish, green and safe floors to end customers, experienced the advantages of Teknos Uvilux Putty 1465 for both pigmented and transparent applications. By switching to this environmentally friendly single component product, the company has saved based on the process cost analysis which calculates the time and costs involved in rework and compared against their current manual work processes. UV technology provides instant drying and, thus, the possibility of further processing of the items. With the optimised workflow using Teknos Uvilux Putty 1465, results showed significant time

savings, reduction in both production and operational costs, thus, helping the customer achieve higher productivity, efficiency and increase in quality and quantity by eliminating labour intensive rework processes, nonessential steps and reduction in downtimes. Furthermore, the Teknos Uvilux Putty 1465 has 100% solid content and no volatile organic components, making the whole solution sustainable and economical.

“According to our customer, using two-component putty results in 30% waste as hardened material will be discarded due to limited pot life. With the new Teknos Uvilux Putty, there is no such waste, and with no hardener there are no added substances. The putty has a 100% solid content, no volatile organic compounds and no pot-life limitation, making the whole solution more sustainable and economical than traditional solutions,” said Benjamin Röse, Teknos Business Development Director, Flooring. (Source: *Panels & Furniture Asia*). □

Looking Beyond Covid



WBPI's first virtual conference – Beyond Covid-19 – The global wood-based panels industry adapting for the future – was held on May 11 as a forum for the sector to hear about industry developments. WBPI held its first virtual conference on May 11 as a gathering point for the international wood-based panels industry. The half-day event attracted over 200 global delegates and covered wood-based panels markets, a special focus on the furniture sector, an update on the Ligna show, two panel discussions with leading panels sector executives and a perspective from a company – Wood-Skin – using software and CNC machining to give new applications and possibilities for panel products. The encouraging news from the presenters was that though the panels sector and its customer markets were initially hit hard by the onset of the pandemic, a strong V-shape recovery followed and business prospects in the key furniture and construction sectors look strong for 2021 and beyond.

The key machinery supply sectors have seen project enquiries recover, though pandemic-related logistics and travel difficulties remain. Delegates, who were drawn from across the wood-based panels and related sectors, had the opportunity of networking together on the conference platform, including posting public forum messages, private chats and even holding one-to-one video calls with other delegates. A big thank you to our sponsors of the event – materials handling specialist Hubtex and binder/additive manufacturer Chimar. □

Siempelkamp MDF plant produces above guaranteed output for Korean wood-panel producer Dongwha



First board at Dongwha

The Korean wood-based panel producer Dongwha is “very satisfied” with its new Siempelkamp plant after a record-breaking ramp-up curve. Only 6 weeks after the first board was produced, the plant was accepted by the customer, and it is already producing with more than 20% above the output guaranteed in the contract. The plant is the first in Vietnam to process acacia, a challenging raw material in the production process.

Dongwha operates a total of 3 wood-based panel plants made by Siempelkamp in Vietnam, all designed for producing medium-density fibreboard (MDF). While 2 of them were built in the south of Vietnam, the greater Saigon area, together with the Vietnam Rubber Group (VRG), the new plant in Hanoi is the first direct investment of the Korean company in Vietnam. It is the first plant in Vietnam to be targeted at the special raw material resources in north of Vietnam. In the greater Hanoi area, the acacia tree species is widespread. It improves soil quality, filters pollutants and enriches the soil with nitrogen. The characteristics of acacia – durable, resistant, robust and yet flexible – make it attractive for the furniture industry. However, due to its demanding fibre geometry, acacia presents challenges to panel producers. High press speeds and capacities have not been possible until now due to the high dust content of the fibres.

Specialised in the processing of challenging raw materials, Siempelkamp handled this project well. After initial press

operations with pine wood, the following ramp-up phases with the raw material acacia led to results that exceeded all expectations.

Advantages with NEO press inlet

The infeed geometry of the ContiRoll press makes a difference when processing acacia – the NEO press infeed with extended, flexible heating plate facilitates the de-aeration of the mat in the press infeed, and prevents blowouts and steel belt damage even at high production speeds. This results in higher operational reliability of the line, higher line availability and significantly increased capacity of the overall line. Particularly in thin board production, this results in a significantly increased production output compared to the technical solutions available on the market to date. Thus, the economical production of thin boards, as well as the operation of very long presses with high pressing speeds with the raw material acacia, are possible.

The NEO press infeed is the result of further developing the proven, flexible infeed of the ContiRoll. Introduced in the 1990s, this technology enables stable press speeds of up to 2,000mm/sec. Today, with the new extended infeed, Siempelkamp meets the current challenges of its customers: the processing of short-fibre wood with a high dust content and of annual plants becomes just as manageable as the production based on new gluing-blending systems with low tack.

“Our team pulled through a series of holidays between Christmas and Chinese New Year to be able to stay on schedule,” said Holger Jansen, project manager at Siempelkamp. “Parts of the commissioning were also carried out in remote mode to save valuable time. In close cooperation with the highly committed customer team, we were thus able to beat the original first board deadline by several days. The subsequent ramp-up curve set a new standard in the established cooperation between Siempelkamp and Dongwha: after only 6 weeks of operation we were able to exceed the contractually guaranteed capacity by more than 20% and hand over the plant to the customer.”

The new MDF plant sets benchmarks not only as the first press for a special raw material but also with its length. The continuous press ContiRoll in the 8' x 47.1m format also secures Dongwha the title “longest MDF press in Asia” for the second time – both supplied by Siempelkamp. □

Indian Wood & Allied Panels

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Century Ply CMD meets Andhra Pradesh CM, propose to invest Rs 1000 crore plant in state



Century Plyboards India Ltd, a leading manufacturer of plywood, black board and particle board in the country, has outlined plans to invest Rs 1,000 crore in setting up a Greenfield plant at Badvel in YSR Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh. A delegation of Century Plyboards, led by its CMD Mr Sajjan Bhajanka, ED Mr Keshav Bhajanka along with the Company representative Mr Himanshu Shah met with Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at the camp office and discussed their plans, as per report.

The proposed Rs 1,000 crore three-phase plant is expected to create direct employment to over 3,000 and indirect employment for about 6,000 people. The construction work will start immediately and the first phase of operations will begin by December 2022.

Mr. Bhajanka told the Chief Minister that the total project development is expected to be completed by December 2024 in three phases. In the first phase, the company will have a



production capacity of 4,00,000 metric tons per annum and will go up to 10,00,000 metric tons by the end of the third phase.

The company plans to encourage farmers to grow eucalyptus trees and give a remunerative price, they said. Century Plyboards already has units in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Assam, Gujarat, Punjab and Uttarakhand. □

Stora Enso to join and support Build-in-Wood consortium

A leading provider of sustainable wood-based solutions for the construction industry, Stora Enso will join Build-in-Wood consortium, who helms projects covering the entire wood value chain from factory to final construction. The addition is meant to replace outgoing Norwegian partner Splitkon, who is leaving the project due to changed priorities following COVID-19.

They will support Build-in-Wood's project in the development of the building system and in the area of component optimisation. Furthermore, the project will benefit from Stora Enso's broad experience in prefabrication and wood-based building components. Stora Enso sells wood products and fibre-based materials in more than 50 countries and currently employ over 23,000 people worldwide. Their solutions offer low-carbon

New Project Partner



renewable alternatives to products based on non-renewable resources.

Sebastián Hernández Maetschl, Manager Building Concepts, Building Solutions at Stora Enso Wood Products, summed up the company's vision as such: "We believe that everything that is made from fossil-based materials today can be made from a tree tomorrow. This sets an especially tough challenge for our buildings, which should also be produced completely from renewable materials and become a corner stone of the circular economy of the future."

Stora Enso will mainly engage in the technical work packages like materials and components or building systems. At the same time, they will collaborate in market-related work packages, such as business development, as well as communication and dissemination. □

Vidya Ply & Board Set Up New Plant for Calibrated Plywood Manufacturing



Vidya Ply & Board has come up with a new plant for manufacturing Calibrated Plywood at Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh. The company's unique manufacturing plant is dedicated to a range of Quality Plywood and Panel products. Mr Ankit Singhal, Director of the company said that now the customers' buying behaviour and requirements are changing, which leads to a change in the market scenario as well. In order to meet evolving customers' expectations the company is coming up with an advanced plywood manufacturing process. "The objective to venture into Calibrated Plywood manufacturing with a dedicated plant is to serve our customers with good quality and sustainable products," he added.

Having been in the wood panel manufacturing industry for the last 34 years, the company has successfully created a niche in the green building and Environment Friendly Market Segment. "Being a leading player in this industry we could comprehend the changing market trend and customer requirements well in advance and have thus taken the best possible step forward the same. For this purpose, we have established a new plant having installed the latest machines with automatization of various workflow systems," said Mr. Ashok Agarwal, MD, Vidya Ply & Boards Pvt Ltd.

He further said that observing the future needs, automation will be top priority in times to come and with this the demand for quality products will rise in the market. Machine based furniture manufacturing is leading the way and the demand for machine friendly smooth plywood has increased so its manufacturing is also taking a pace, the reasons for this having less availability of carpenters. "The plywood required for machine work should be smooth, calibrated and uniform. So, for this purpose we decided to venture into calibrated plywood manufacturing," he added.

According to Mr Ankit Singhal initially, they will

be manufacturing all ranges of plywood that they are manufacturing under the brand "Kanchan Ply" with a special focus on Fire-Retardant plywood as its demand is much more now as per government guidelines for the real estate and housing sector. They are having increased enquiries for it. "We have also developed E0 Grade Resin to manufacture E0 (low formaldehyde emission) plywood. We will also provide Virus Shield Technology plywood to our customers. Besides, we will be offering FR-grade doors as well. In coming times, seeing the demand of calibrated shuttering plywood we will be developing a mechanism for that as well," he added.

The investment made by the company is to reach the next level and in that way, their dealers and channel partners become partners in growth jointly. "With the support of our channel partners, we have reached this level. With market growth, I would like to have our dealers/distributors grow equally or considerably well. And, without up-gradation along with innovation in product, this was not possible. We are committed to offering quality products and we will be offering a range of products with a good market value, satisfying the customers' needs," he added. The new plant has modern machines such as Calibrators, Core Composers, Panel Composers, 8ft Glue Spreaders, Automatic DD saw machines along with other machines. This plant will produce 6 lakh NA plywood every month. □

Timber prices surged by 23%

The price of some imported timber has jumped 23 per cent in just one month, reports the AJ's sister title Construction News. The price of imported sawn or planed wood jumped by more than a fifth between June and July, according to the latest data provided by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The material is now more than 64 per cent more expensive than it was in July 2020. Imported plywood was nearly 12 per cent more expensive in July than it was in June and up 82 per cent over the past year. Timber Trade Federation (TTF) chief executive David Hopkins said: 'Both private housing and repair, maintenance and improvement need a lot of softwood, and these are the two sectors that, together with infrastructure, have led demand within a resurgent construction industry. At the same time, supply tightened in July, as sawmills and wood production facilities in Sweden and other European countries closed for essential summer maintenance.' Timber has consistently been one of the materials facing the most severe shortages and price hikes. In August architects spoke out about how the 'perfect storm' of the Covid crisis, Brexit hurdles and surging construction activity had combined to create a 'huge' timber shortage, which was in turn impacting on projects. Last month, the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) also warned timber was among a group of materials including steel, cement, and roofing products which were still being constrained by supply issues. Overall material prices were up 20.1 per cent higher in July compared to 12 months ago and had jumped 4.5 per cent since June. □

Century Laminates launches new TVC for Lucida, the super glossy range of Laminates



Century Plyboards (India) Ltd, the leading brand in interiors, is back with yet another new communication campaign for all Television, digital and radio channels, for Lucida – its super gloss range of high-gloss laminates.

CenturyPly enjoys a premium reputation and trust among its existing and prospective consumers, and the new TVC campaign reinforces the brand's commitment to provide high-end products in terms of strength, quality and aesthetic in range of its product portfolio.

Lucida, the high gloss range of laminates is most reputed for its shine and the durability of its shine over time. In kitchen, laminates gets exposed to heat, smoke, spices, oil and rough

usage – making this combination of super gloss and retaining it over time no matter what it faces, makes Lucida ideal specially for kitchen and for rest of home.

The new TVC depicts a light banter between a couple, where the husband tries to impress his wife with his culinary skills but ends up with a hilarious failure. The situation turns positive once he gets assurance that the disaster created due to his overconfidence does not harm the kitchen interiors as Lucida from Century Laminates have been used there.

Renowned actor Jisshu Sengupta has played the central character of the TVC The advertisement has been conceptualized and created by Wunderman Thompson and produced by Small Fry Productions and will be promoted across highly popular regional shows, regional and national business and general news channels and other leading digital platforms to cater to the target audience with effective impact, reach and frequency.

Speaking on the new TVC, Keshav Bhajanka, Executive Director, CenturyPly said, “Lucida is the super glossy range of surface solutions from Century Laminates. This is in high demand among customers mainly due to its quality, dazzling shine, wide range of attractive colours and its ability to retain shine with time. Kitchen is a place where furniture surfaces are subject to heat, smearing of food ingredients, finger prints etc. This advertisement campaign conveys the core benefit of shine and retention of shine in a very warm manner, no matter what rough treatments the Lucida surfaces are subject to. The attempt here is to make kitchen surfaces synonymous with Lucida from Century Laminates.” □

Action Tesa launches sustainable HDHMR boards

The engineered wood products are an example of sustainable material

Action Tesa, one of India's largest manufacturers of MDF/HDHMR & particle boards in India, has launched sustainable HDHMR boards. The boards are water resistant, termite & borer resistant, and having high density ensuring durability. The engineered wood products are a seamless example of sustainable material, as they are not prepared by depleting any natural resource and ultimately contributes towards decreasing carbon footprint.

They are suitable in making of furniture items for high public traffic areas such as hospitals, health & spa institutions, educational institutions, malls, airports and hotels etc. It is also available in pre laminated form & comes with added advantage of antiviro technology which kills 99.99% viruses, bacteria & microbes thus safeguards your interiors from the invisible enemies which can cause harm to your health.

Mr. Ajay Aggarwal, MD, says, “The boards are manufactured using eucalyptus hardwood and have density of more than 850 kg/m³. Therefore, the boards are dense and prevent moisture from entering its depth, unlike other available products in the



market. It consist of the best routing characteristics because of the maintained uniformity in density gradient and compact core, which is nonetheless accomplished by using special German technology for MAT formation, eight cylinders, and 18 daylight presses, which is a first in India.” □

BASF offers 100% bio-based raw material

BASF's acForm® enables the production of a new wood-based material for the furniture industry. Specifically, it enables the production of a thermoplastic composite, which is storage-stable and suitable for production on existing MDF production lines.

In contrast to standard thermoset boards, this new wood-based material enables a post-moldability and surface structuring of the MDF panel. This can be achieved in short cycle times by using standard furniture molders' equipment. The increased moldability of the composite enables new design options. The 3D moldable fiberboards (3MF) can be processed into traditionally molded parts such as seat shells, seat backings, and other curved or deeply structured components. As formaldehyde is not added to the binder system, the working environment is further improved.



BASF offers the possibility of producing acForm based on the biomass balance approach, using 100% bio-based raw material.



Your Advantages

- Time- and cost-efficient process.
- New design options & high surface quality for 3D wood fiber parts.
- High degree of wood utilization.
- Non-added formaldehyde and storage-stable binder technology.



Applications of acForm

- Shaped furniture (e.g. chair parts)
- Wall panels
- Furniture fronts
- Doors
- Sports equipment (e.g. Yogaboard)
- Wherever you want to realize extraordinary designs with wood-based materials.



For more information you can visit the below link.
<https://dispersions-resins-products.basf.us/acform> □

Greenply Industries expects WFH to have positive impact on branded plywood manufacturers



The new work-from-home normal is expected to have a “positive impact” on the branded plywood industry as people move towards bigger homes with more functional and well-equipped offices, said Greenply Industries. This is going to translate into a larger share of the opportunity for branded plywood manufacturers, as the unorganised players are finding it difficult to survive in the post-COVID-19 environment, said Greenply Industries in its latest annual report.

There is an increasing shift being witnessed towards the organised sector, owing to brand and quality awareness. With wider choices, product innovation and warranty being offered by organised players, customers are now more focussing on this segment, it added.

“At Greenply, we are well poised to seize the opportunity, at the back of our strong credentials, and our exciting product mix that spans price points and diversified customer needs,” said Greenply Industries Joint Managing Director and CEO Manoj Tulsian. The company, after witnessing a faster demand pick-up in the post-lockdown period in the price-sensitive as well as in towns with less than two lakh population, is strengthening its presence in those pockets with right product mix.

“We are working on the right product mix that will help us cater effectively to the price-sensitive demands of the rural consumer,” he said. As per its strategy, Greenply Industries is fine-balancing between the demand for economical and affordable mass products and the aspiration for premium and branded products.

“We are confident that our strategic approach of driving expansion into both the rural and the urban/metro markets will yield dividends going forward,” he said.

It stands to gain from the steady demand, driven by a positive market environment, including a strong rural market and increasing acceptance of furniture suited for work or study from home, it added. “Improved demand scenarios and continued initiatives towards branding and distribution network will benefit the company,” it said. It further added that the performance of the company is expected to improve once the logistics issues related to availability of trucks in India and containers in Gabon are resolved. For the financial year ended on March 31, 2021, Greenply Industries’ consolidated turnover stood at Rs 1,161.62 crore. □

SOM Explores Robotically-Fabricated Timber Construction

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) has collaborated with University of Michigan Taubman College to create the SPLAM [SPatial LAMinated timber], a robotically-fabricated timber pavilion for the 2021 Chicago Architecture Biennial.

The pavilion employs prefabricated framing panels manufactured using robotic technology, and will serve as an open-air education facility and gathering space for a school in Chicago. The pavilion was inaugurated on September 17, with the opening of the Chicago Biennial, and will remain on display until December 18th.

The team, which is led by professors Tsz Yan Ng and Wes McGee, chose to highlight timber and its benefits in construction due to its sustainable qualities. The pavilion is a single-storey prototype that uses spatial-laminated timber (SLT), a material that optimizes traditional framing systems and is often used in mid-rise fire-resistant structures. SLT is lighter in weight and can reduce timber consumption by 46% compared to the usage of conventional timber panels. The beams are joined using interlocking timber joints, which uses shorter and salvaged pieces.



Weaving together timber beams like threads in fabric, SPLAM explores the idea of using smaller pieces of wood than conventional mass timber construction systems. Doing so means that the wood can be sourced from more rapidly renewable forests, or, in theory, even from the salvaged components of deconstructed buildings. □

Amulya Mica & Amul Boards Organizes Architect Meet At Sirsa, Haryana

Amulya Mica, Amulya WPC & Amul Boards Pvt. Ltd. in association with Sirsa Haryana Dealer Mangat Rai Rishi Kumar had organized Architect Meet at Aqua Bar & Grill Hotel, Sirsa, Haryana on 20 August 2021. The function was inaugurated by lighting the lamp followed by Ganesh Vandana & National Anthem. The meet was organized to launch new catalogue “Expert’s Eye”

Pastel colour designs are included which is the first choice of young generation.

This collection is designed after consultation from prominent architects, interior-designers, channel partner & team Amulya. The selection is contemporary as per the international trends in colours. After all, this is MasterPiece Collection. Every one present in the meeting appreciated the style of Amulya Mica.



Mr. Pankaj Dhingra’s birthday was on 20-Aug. So, Sales team celebrated Mr. Pankaj Dhingra’s Birthday by cutting the cake.



The event was ended by following gala Dinner, music & gift presentation.

The company’s Punjab Regional Manager North-1 Mr. Ravi Gupta, Deputy RM North-1 Mr. Vikas Chaudhury, Deputy Branch Manager, Haryana Mr. Ashish Arora, Hissar Executive Mr. Ashutosh and company’s Sirsa dealer Mr. Rajiv Jindal of Mangat Rai Rishi Kumar welcomed more than 25 Architects on the occasion.

In the meeting new 1mm catalogue Visually Perfect 1mm Collection, Expert’s Eye was launched and discussed about the catalogue. Mr. Ravi Gupta explained, Amulya Mica’s Expert’s Eye collection is a very exclusive collection and is meant for the people who look for perfection as the company is providing a perfectly matched edge band with laminate which is rare in our panel trade. In Expert’s eye 56 pieces of match edge banding are included. It is the first time in India that Amulya Mica has been introduced. Some new designs and texture are included. 13

Mr. Vikas Chaudhury explained about other Amulya Mica’s product and its USP which differentiates with others, about Lead-free Foam PVC/WPC Board, Hygino Door, Exotic veneer, Synchronized laminates, Calibrated Plywood, flush door etc. Further he also informed Amulya Mica’s award & recognition, its CSR activities during Covid period how it helped the people and contributed 11 Lacs in PM & Gujarat CM relief fund and TREE Plantation drive. Till date the company has planted 75000 trees in the different part of India and plan to cross 1 lacs within a year or two.

Mr. Pankaj Dhingra’s birthday was on 20-Aug, so, sales team celebrated his birthday by cutting the cake. The event was ended with happy note followed by gala dinner, music & gift presentation. □

CenturyPly's latest innovation 'Firewall Technology' helps combat spread of fires

Fire plays a significant role in improving ecosystems by serving as an agent of renewal and change. But fires can be devastating and cause tangible destruction to homes, lives, wildlife habitats and pollute the air with emissions harmful to human health.

The effects of smoke from fires can range from eye and respiratory tract inflammation to more severe disorders, including reduced lung function, bronchitis, exacerbation of asthma and heart failure, and premature death. Fires also release carbon dioxide—a primary greenhouse gas, thus accelerating climate change and global warming.

CenturyPly presents India Innovate Movement season 2 in association with Republic Media Network is a campaign that fosters and promotes innovation while strengthening the idea of a self-reliant India. From Anti-Borer and Anti-Termites technology to its ground-breaking ViroKill technology, CenturyPly has always been at the forefront of innovation. This year the company has launched plyboards with revolutionary firewall technology that delays the spread of fire and does not act as a medium to spread since it doesn't rapidly burn itself. Century's Firewall Technology is an indigenously developed, innovative technology that enables plywood to resist the effects of fire much more than other regular plywood available in the market. It involves using nano-engineered particles embedded in the polymer matrix of the plywood, giving it the best in class fire-fighting properties.

CenturyPly's Firewall Technology self-extinguishes itself once the source of fire is removed. The Firewall Technology also emits less smoke protecting consumers from suffocation.

The show has an eminent guest panel with esteemed guests like Keshav Bhajanka, Executive Director, Century Plyboards (India) Ltd., Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, Amit Bose, Director, DDF Consultants Pvt. Ltd., Bipin Ganatra, Volunteer Fire-Fighter and Padma Shri Award Recipient, Dr Harish Shetty, Clinical Psychiatrist, Dr LH Hiranandani Hospital, and Dr Sulbha Arora, Gynaecologist and IVF specialist, and Kamala Mill Fire Survivor. Each of the panellists shared their perspectives and viewpoints on how CenturyPly's Firewall technology can reduce the spread of fire and save lives.

“Our mission at CenturyPly has always been ‘Sarvatha-Sarvottam’ which means to be the best always. The meaning of this is we attempt to provide our customers with best-in-class products & services. We try to address all customer concerns & attempt to provide solutions. This year one of the biggest concerns that our customers have identified is the risk of fire. The number of fire cases is increasing exponentially worldwide. To combat this, we've come up with Firewall Technology, enabling our products to withstand the effects of fires.” says Keshav Bhajanka, Executive Director, Century Plyboards (India) Ltd.

India is home to some of the brightest minds in the world, and it is time to encourage research & innovation among the youth to achieve the dream of becoming a self-reliant superpower. The history of civilizations shows stories of human beings discovering newer, more flexible, and practical ways of carrying out mundane but necessary activities. Thus, one can conclude that innovation is an indispensable factor contributing to any economy's long-term growth & development. □

Amulya Mica's MD won Greentech Leading Director Award-2021



Amulya Mica Group MD Mr. Rakesh Agarwal has been awarded with Greentech Leading Director Award 2021 from Greentech Foundation Delhi at Sonmarg J&K Award function on 27th August 2021. The Jury conferred this prestigious award on his dynamic initiatives and achievement.

The Selection process has been through virtual interactive session and Power point presentation to a jury of an eminent panel appointed by Greentech Foundation, New-Delhi to scrutinize based on initiative taken by the directors and its impact on the Company's performance. Leading Director Award recognizes the role of Directors of the companies for demonstrating the highest level of commitment to Driving organizational growth, Excellence & Innovation.

The award is presented in very high-profile networking and glittering ceremony with Greentech Leading Directors' conclave 2021 in Sonmarg J & K on 27th Aug/2021 in presence of Ex. Chief Minister of J & K Mr. Farooq Abdula. Mr. Rakesh Agarwal is very happy to receive this prestigious award and recognition. He has been also recipient of Distinguished Entrepreneurship Award from PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry in the year 2017.

Speaking on this great achievement, Mr. Agarwal assures to do continue work for the growth of the Group with innovative products and quality services and also for the social upliftment of the Society through CSR. Further he expresses his thanks & gratitude to all associates, team members & all Channel Partners without their support it would not be possible. □

U.S. hardwood lumber exports to India register remarkable 228 percent growth in the first half of 2021

Total value of American hardwood lumber and veneer exported to India was USD 3.685 million in the first six months of this year



Total exports of U.S. hardwood lumber and veneer to India for the first half of 2021 reached USD 3.685 million, according to the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC), the leading international trade association for the American hardwood industry. Statistics compiled from the latest data released by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) revealed that U.S. hardwood lumber exports to India reached USD 2.019 million whilst U.S. hardwood veneer exports were valued at USD 1.666 million.

A closer look at the numbers reveal that total hardwood lumber shipped from the United States to India increased by 228 percent in value to USD 2.019 million (up from USD 615,000) and by 218 percent in volume to 3,322 cubic meters (up from 1,044 cubic meters). The top five American hardwood species exported were hickory (USD 715,000 and 1,172m³), ash (USD 437,000 and 642m³), white oak (USD 335,000 and 589m³), red alder (USD 252,000 and 455m³), and red oak (USD 223,000 and 381m³). “Significant increases were seen in both value and volume of exports across all species, which proves that 2020 was a temporary dip in an otherwise upward trend. Despite global lumber shortages, uncertainty in freight rates and availability of containers, and generally increasing prices across all species, exports of both U.S. hardwood lumber and veneer to India were up year-on-year, whilst exports of logs continued their downward spiral, in line with the general shift seen in recent years by Indian buyers towards importing value-added kiln-dried lumber instead of logs,” said Roderick Wiles, AHEC Regional Director.

AHEC expects demand for American hardwoods in India to at least return to the record levels seen in 2019 this year. However, the market environment that developed through the pandemic and has pushed prices ever upwards worldwide is still with us, according to AHEC. It is a unique mix of increased global international demand, record transport costs, combined with restricted global production due to harvesters and mills running short of personnel because of Covid-19 infection and the implementation of pandemic safe work practices. Pointing to the sustained growth of U.S. hardwood exports to India over the past few years, Wiles said: “American hardwoods are now widely accepted and understood across India, but there is still

a lot more to be done to help the market discover the untapped potential of U.S. hardwoods. Given the tremendous potential present in India and despite the major challenges facing the wider use of American hardwoods, we firmly believe that the timing is right for American hardwoods in India and that genuine opportunities for business now exist. □



Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI)

(Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India)

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NOTIFICATION FOR CAMPUS INTERVIEW ON 08th DECEMBER 2021

IPIRTI is a premier National Research & Training Institute in the field of plywood and panel products with excellent laboratory and pilot plant facilities. The Institute has been meeting the human resource needs of the growing plywood and panel product Industries for various positions such as Production Managers, Quality Control Managers, Marketing Managers, Team Leaders and Chemists. IPIRTI’s flagship **one-year PG diploma course in WOOD AND PANEL PRODUCTS TECHNOLOGY.**

Campus interview for the successful trainees of 31st Batch is scheduled on Wednesday the 08th December, 2021. Depending upon the situation interview may be arranged online or at campus. Interested industry or organizations may send a line of confirmation for their willingness to participate in the Campus Interview by email at director@ipirti.gov.in. Any corrigendum to above notification, student’s biodata and other information will be available at www.ipirti.gov.in. For further information or clarification please contact Dr. Manoj K. Dubey, Joint Director (Tel.080-30534004; Email:manojkumar@ipirti.gov.in) and Dr.V.K. Upadhyay, Training Coordinatory & Head SORIT Division (Tel.080-30534049, E-mail:upadhyay@ipirti.gov.in).

Director
IPIRTI, Bangalore. □

Green India Mission falls 30% short of target in five years



The ambitious Green India Mission (GIM) plan for undertaking afforestation activities under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) has hit roadblock in some states, resulting in a 30% shortfall in target from 2015-16 to 2020-21. Though five of 15 states/Union Territories shortlisted for the Mission have achieved 100% of their target, three others – West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and J & K – have so far not come on board to improve the quality of green cover in the country.

Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Karnataka and Sikkim have reached 100% of their respective five-year targets while others reported shortfall in varying degrees, shows the data shared by the environment ministry in response to information sought by Kerala based RTI activist K. Govindan Nampoothiry.

The Ministry’s data show that these 15 states/UTs together have brought qualitative change in forest/tree cover over an area of 1,17,507 hectares against their collective target of 1,67,151 hectares over Rs.455 crores to states/UTs for the purpose.

The Centre has started disbursing money to 15 states/UT for undertaking different afforestation activities under GIM in 2015-

PROGRESS REPORT

Total Target*	States/UT	Target*	Achievement**
1,67,152 1,17,507	MP	23,358	19,470
	Chhattisgarh	20,191	19,128
	Mizoram	19,643	19,643
	West Bengal	18,666	0
	Manipur	16,920	11,740
	Odisha	16,634	16,634
	Kerala	12,298	9,020
	Uttarakhand	11,045	7,483
	Maharashtra	6,766	5,223
	J&K	5,680	0
	Himachal	5,480	0
	Punjab	4,304	4,304
	Andhra	2,737	1,433
	Karnataka	1,920	1,920
	Sikkim	1,509	1,509

*In hectares (Target approved from 2015-16 to 2020-21)
 **In hectares (Achievement from 2015-16 to 2020-21)
 (Source: MoEFCC in response to questions of RTI activist K Govindan Nampoothiry)

16. GIM was launched as one of the eight missions under the NAPCC for protecting, restoring and enhancing the country’s diminishing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures.

The Mission envisages a holistic view of greening and focuses on multiple ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and storage (in forests and other ecosystems), hydrological services and biodiversity along with provisioning services like fuel, fodder, and timber and non timber forest produce. The Mission has adopted an integrated cross-sectoral approach as it will be implemented on both public as well as private lands with a key role of the local communities in planning, decision making, implementation and monitoring,” said the ministry in the note on GIM. Overall the Mission has a goal to increase forest/tree cover to the extent of five million hectares and improve quality of forest/tree cover on another five million hectares of forest/non-forest lands in due course of time. □

European Door Manufacturer Pirnar Launches Operations in India

Pirnar, a 50 year old family owned company and the leading European innovator in the field of aluminum and wooden front doors, launches operations in India with the opening of its flagship store at Kalyani Nagar in Pune. Pirnar luxury exterior doors are handmade, perfectly shaped and flawlessly constructed. They are built with contemporary and smart technology. Pirnar’s One Touch is the world’s first door with an invisible pull handle, recognising the owner using a fingerprint reader. As the hidden fingerprint reader recognises the owner, a handle deploys neatly and automatically and illuminates the surrounding area while the door unlocks itself. After a while, OneTouch turns into a refined surface with no handle and the door locks.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Ajay Lalwani, Partner, Pirnar India said, “We are happy to partner with Pirnar and bring world-class doors to India. Pirnar entrances are amongst the most admired and uncompromisingly manufactured entrances in the world. The Indian market has great potential and we are

confident that with the launch of Pirnar we will be able to offer superior doors to Indian customers.”

Mr. Nilesh Sonigra, Partner, Pirnar India said, “We have an aggressive distribution plan mapped out for the Indian market. We are looking for franchise partners across the country. These partners will help us reach the length and breadth of the country and target customers across all markets.” The company has consistently received awards: a 3D multilevel door, new types of illumination for the door entrance, a hidden fingerprint reader, drop handles with an opening mechanism, an entirely flat door entrance, and new special surface processing. Their unique design has won, among others, the prestigious titles of German Design Award Winner 2019 & 2017 and German Design Award Special Mention 2015, presented by the German Design Council.

With a well-developed sales network of selected partners, Pirnar entrance doors are currently available in nearly 30 markets worldwide. It is a fast-growing family company with a highly-developed sales network across Europe. □

Making the most of wood

Global demand for wood fibre, coupled with the need to be cost-competitive and sustainable has led to increasing use of recycled wood in the wood-based panels industry. Stephen Powney looks at the topic and speaks to two different equipment suppliers in this area – PAL and Dieffenbacher.

At the last International Panel Products Symposium (IPPS) in 2019 shortly before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Marcel Vroege of consultant Indufor Asia Pacific Ltd gave an assessment of the future availability of feedstock for the global wood-based panel industry.

He warned that some key wood supply challenges would be faced in the coming years due to factors including increased competition for wood fibre from the engineered wood products industry such as LVL and cross-laminated timber (CLT), the growth of India, expansion of bio energy and threats to the forests from pests like beetles and natural disasters that are possibly linked to climate change.

The assessment by Mr Vroege then was that about 900 million m3 of roundwood equivalent was used by the global woodbased panels industry but he doubted whether there would be enough wood available if the industry doubled in size. About 2 billion m3 of fibre is used today for all forest-based products, including pulp.

“We need to do more with less,” he summarised. “We need to extend the lifecycle massively and make products that can last longer, as well as re-use products.” With high demand for wood from all sectors, talk of shortages and rising prices, there is increasing focus on recycling wood.

Pal reporting increasing demand for recycling technology

Equipment suppliers for recycling technology are currently seeing high demand for their products and services. PAL, part of the IMAL PAL Group, supplies projects worldwide for recycling

wood and other materials.

Andrea dal Ben, director of PAL, told WBPI that the market for recycling technology had been interrupted by the pandemic but predicted the focus on recycling would gather pace again in H2 2021 and beyond.

“It is the business of the future,” said Mr dal Ben. “Not only for wood but for every kind of material. There is attention on this area from politicians and interest in making new things out of old things.” He reported great interest in special board products, such as light strand board (LSB).

“These kind of products will have a big future and offer the customer something different from the standard product.”

Use of recycled wood in particleboard has been going on for many years but utilising recycled wood for making MDF is definitely also increasing.

“I think next year we will for sure do several projects for recycling wood for MDF production,” said Mr dal Ben.

PAL is also following some projects for completely new MDF factories, with clients increasingly planning to use recycled wood content at the outset of planning their new mills.

“Security of wood supply at the right cost is a main subject, everybody is trying to keep the cost down.

“We have very few quantities around the world for traditional wood sources and the prices are very high, so everybody is trying to compensate in the situation.”

The pandemic has understandably delayed some projects. For PAL, it is currently finishing the machinery on several projects and will start shipping shortly before commissioning before the end of 2021.

“At this moment we have full orders all this year with a mixture of projects.”

PAL has two projects in Europe focused on recycling wood for MDF production, with three further projects in China – also for MDF production. It also has several turnkey projects for recycling of plastic and discussions on a further project involving the treatment of wet waste for the production of biogas.

PAL is investing more than €4m on its own facilities to make sure it can service future demand. It has already completed a €3m expansion and re-equipping of its industrial buildings in Italy, including new laser cutting machinery. A majority of its production can now be done internally, helping it to be more reactive to customer demand.

It is currently also in the planning stages of a €1.5m doubling of the size of its offices – a project scheduled for 2022.

“We have a plan to increase the number of employees because we are working more and more on big turnkey projects.

“We want to be prepared to give the same level of service with the volume of orders going up.”

PAL highlights a trend of increased demand for technology that can examine more deeply the waste content of recycled material for pollutants. This includes using technologies like optical selectors, NIR (near-infrared) and X-ray selection.



Recycled wood feedstock at Rheinspan PHOTO: DIEFFENBACHER.



There is an increasing trend of looking to use recycled wood in MDF production GRAPHIC: PAL.

Dieffenbacher recycling business unit grows

Wood-based panels equipment supplier Dieffenbacher set up a Recycling Business Unit in 2019, but it has been building up its involvement in this area since 2015.

Jochen Kamm, head of the unit, said the division recorded sales of €40m in 2020, a good improvement on the previous year.

“We have started up six complete lines in these past years, integrating state-of-the-art sorting technology – optical sorting with NIR systems and X-ray scanning technology to separate impurities,” said Mr Kamm.

One of these projects was for particleboard maker Rheinspan in Gernersheim, south-western Germany, which invested €10m in a state-of-the-art urban wood cleaning line, cleaning 28 tons of recycled wood per hour in a three-shift operation. It is making use of some of the 10 million tons of recycled urban wood which are generated in Germany every year.

Rheinspan is part of the Saviola Group, which has for many years run its plants using 100% recycled wood. It says there is no quality difference between particleboard made from virgin wood fibre and that using recycled ‘urban wood’. The Rheinspan wood cleaning process comprises separation of oversized impurities; magnets for sorting metals before waste wood enters the Dieffenbacher ClassiScreen, where it is split into three fractions. A further ClassiScreen and a ClassiCleaner also feature, as does sensor-based X-ray scanning provided by Dieffenbacher partner, recycling specialist Tomra Sorting GmbH.

Mr Kamm emphasised that Dieffenbacher uses additional steps of installing cleaning lines before quality sorting so massive wood and wood-based panel material are separated.

“This is very interesting not only for particleboard lines but also MDF lines.

“We are able to take standard recycled wood and create two different qualities – one quality as a raw material for vat refining processes to increase recycled content in the MDF line.”

One ongoing project is for a new MDF line for EKH (Nile Wood) in Egypt. This involves recycling plantation citrus wood contaminated with plastic.

Dieffenbacher is also doing a modernisation at an existing particleboard and OSB plant in France, supplying sorting technology. This was postponed due to the pandemic but the installation is starting again now.

Mr Kamm explained that the business unit’s work is currently evenly divided between recycling of wood and recycling of other materials for alternative fuels, municipal solid waste (MSW) and “Waste 2 Product.”

“A wood recycling project generally ranges from €5m-20m, while a Waste 2 product complete plant can go up to €70m.”

Interesting non-wood projects being worked on at the moment include a plastic pallet production line made from 100% recycled plastic, recycled carpet fibres and reinforced with glass fibre.

“This is a turnkey project which saw development of the pallets in tandem with a university and now the machinery is being shipped to site.” Another project is for manufacturing products from 100% recycled carpet.

Mr Kamm outlined the two major reasons behind growing demand for recycled wood.

“Firstly, there is availability of fresh wood with the situation in Central Europe because of the bark beetle.

“We had to cut a lot of wood, more than expected or planned, so as soon as the beetle wood is gone we have to reduce the amount of wood taken out of the forest so it could lead to limitations on fresh wood. So, everybody is working on alternatives.”

“Second, everybody is talking about sustainability. We do a very good job on this topic.

“Each customer has sustainability goals and that includes using recycled wood.

“Everybody is learning what recycled wood means and some customers are very far ahead with the technology and want to go 100% recycled wood in particleboard.

“Others are increasing from 30 to 50% recycled content, others from 50% to 70%. These are the discussions right now.”

Mr Kamm projects growing demand from the MDF and OSB sectors for incorporating recycled wood. □

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We also invite your valuable Advertisement and Article to be published in the Journal.*

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The pandemic's impact on the furniture sector

The furniture industry is a massive customer of the wood panels industry, but how has it fared during the pandemic? In our Beyond Covid panel discussion tackling the subject, WBPI editor Stephen Powney asked questions of several key industry representatives. The panel was made up of Paolo Fantoni, president of Fantoni SpA and president of the European Panel Federation; Ulrich Bühler, head of sales and marketing at Egger Group; and Edi Snaidero, chairman of the European Furniture Industries Confederation

Stephen Powney: how has the European furniture sector fared during the pandemic?

EDI SNAIDERO (ES): It was a difficult year for the European furniture industry but not dramatic – the sector reduced 7.4% in 2019-20. Some sub-sectors were more affected, such as the office furniture sector which was down 11%. The kitchen segment was only -0.1% and was one of the better performing areas, showing the focus was on the home. The pandemic brought people home and home became more important than before. Home furniture had a reduction of 10%, but within this bedroom and kids' furniture had a wonderful performance because of e-learning. One of the main factors affecting the furniture industry was the closing of shops for specific periods in several countries. Quarter 3 and Q4, 2020 were wonderful because there was a recovery in almost all sectors and this is a very good sign for the future, despite all the difficulties with logistics and lack of material.

ULRICH BUHLER (UB): The furniture industry is a very important customer group for Egger, roughly 40% of our turnover. And 80% of our business is related to interior design, shopfitting and carpentry etc. The first phase of lockdown was a shock for everybody, especially the UK and France. Then in July 2020 we saw a sharp increase in order income from all the customer bases in all the markets. In the first lockdown we did not see any hit from the building industry, which is 10-15% of our turnover. A lot of construction sites have remained open so we have been able to supply our customers, even the DIY shops have been opened.

Shopfitting and trade fair related business was hit very hard by the Covid pandemic, but we see this recovered at the end of 2020. So, since the last quarter of 2020 all market segments are far above previous levels. Our industry is faced with order incomes of +15-20% compared to regular levels. The panel industry is working 24/7 so there is no capacity left and if demand exceeds existing capacity, then lead times will rise. Everybody is trying their best to serve the market and be stable. In the first phase of the pandemic, 30% of the panel industry stopped production or reduced production significantly. We cannot recover the volume that has been lost. I think this is one of the effects – the sharp hit followed by a fast recovery resulted in many cases in empty warehouses because there had been no stock building.

PAOLO FANTONI (PF): Unofficial data from the EPF is that the decrease in [panel product] volumes in 2020 is estimated at about 2% below 2019 levels, which is quite extraordinary and reflects the exceptional recovery since June, 2020. Companies did run through [at high business levels] the second half of the year and we took advantage of existing warehouse stock levels to satisfy the huge demand which had arisen. Unfortunately, I

have to say that in 2021 we won't have that same situation and there will probably be a bit more difficulty in meeting demand. The level of activity of Q1 2021 and Q4 of 2020 statistics show how the volumes of the furniture industry overall are around 15-20% of normal years. There is a differentiation within this – contract furniture, not only for the office but also for hotels and restaurants did suffer and is still suffering heavily, not to mention for shopfitting and for exhibitions, where we estimate reductions of volumes for 2019-20 of 85-90% in Italy.

SP: is the trend of home working going to be permanent? how does this trend affect the supply of materials to the furniture sector and the design of furniture?

UB: I believe it will get more flexible in the future but office space is still necessary. It is not a trend that was just due to the pandemic but a trend that had already started. Office space is getting more flexible which means different furniture is used, different meeting spaces and technologies. We might see people do two days home work and three days office work in the future. There will be trends of how the office will look and also individual work stations – with more flexibility to change desks so offices can reach the flexibility that is necessary.

PF: The trend of home / agile working was started before the pandemic. This does require more furniture, with homes in Italy required to be larger and families preferring to move from the city centre to outlying areas. I also strongly believe the function of the office as a place to meet and learn will remain.

The past 18 months has shown different visions – originally it looked like everybody needed flexiglass separation in the office but now that trend has slowed down. It is true offices in cities will reduce a bit and the types of furniture used at the home office will be simpler. But I think in the longer-term offices will feature more common areas, seating places and kitchens, which will make offices more modern and friendly to people working there. Companies will challenge themselves to offer a better living place in the office. This is one of the areas where our company has been expanding – the use of sound absorbent panels in the office – bringing higher level of living standards.

ES: There are a couple of multi-national companies in Milan which are moving offices in June – 2,000 people, to a different environment, a different way of working, with many fewer working places and no fixed working place for each office worker. Instead, you have to book your space there because they will be working partly from home and partly in the office. It will completely change the way of work. Of course, this does not represent the majority of offices but it is a trend being accelerated by the pandemic. So, many of the big offices will most probably disappear in the direction of having a more flexible working arrangement. The office space at home is becoming more important, as is the trend of looking for better and bigger houses. E-learning at home is a key point affecting the children's room for furniture. And the kitchen is becoming more important in the house because we learn again how to cook at home. In Germany, despite it having the weakest year for the furniture industry, the kitchen furniture sector was up 7% in 2020.

SP: what are your hopes, expectations and concerns for the next 12 months?

ES: We must not forget about the difficulties there have been in the shops, the furniture industry and with distribution. We have to pay attention to what happens in our companies and the distribution/supply chain. We need to think about the future – the next year rather than just the next two months. We have to have a common approach – furniture industry, panel industry and raw material suppliers taking care for the ongoing relaunch of the sector and taking care not to destroy it on the one hand with the lack of material and exaggerated price increases.

I think the conference/event and office furniture business will restart and people will start investing. And the green transition will be a key point for the future of our industry.

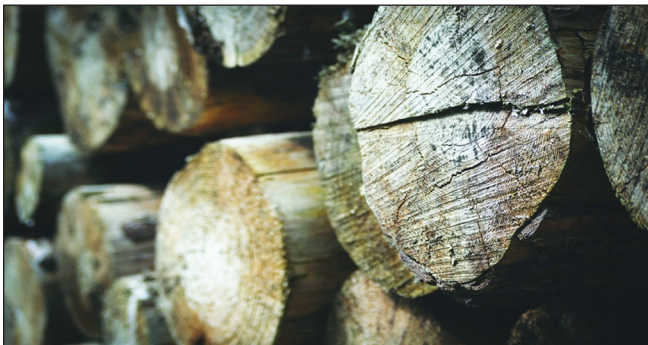
UB: It's definitely a challenging time for the customer relationship between the industries – furniture industry and panel industry. Communication has to get better from the panel sector. In the end there are market dynamics that we can't control but we need to secure raw materials. My big hope is that the sales channel gets wider for the furniture industry – we are in regular conversation with customers and see a big increase in their online sales. This channel for sales has been under-estimated by the traditional furniture industry. And this brings some opportunities to work on product assortments and IT systems. We see it as an

opportunity for all of us because it opens up new possibilities of seven days a week online sales. In Europe, consumers have the money available to spend.

PF: In many markets, the attitude of buyers has been 'cash and carry', increased by the current vulnerability of materials. The big losers in this period are companies approaching suppliers on a spot basis. Today the delivery terms are around five to seven weeks, which is creating a great inability to manage operations in the furniture industry properly. And I really hope that out of this mess there is a cultural change in people and companies arrange their relationship much more on the basis of allocation of capacity to give greater stability to the volumes and sales operations.

Green attitudes and use of recycled wood are important. Average consumption in the chipboard industry in Europe has already arrived at 54% of wood coming from recycled materials. In Italy we already have 93% of the wood in the chipboard industry coming from recycled wood. I think we will start approaching new technologies and we hope MDF and OSB will start being produced with recycled wood. The larger distribution chains are very aggressive in marketing sustainability and changing the perception of consumers. □

Increased demand for **softwood lumber** in the US and Asia will change the global trade flows



Softwood lumber has been in high demand in the United States (US) and Europe throughout 2021. The limited supply resulted in temporary price surges to record high levels during the spring, followed by substantial declines in early summer. The outlook for lumber demand is likely to be strong worldwide in the coming decade in most world regions, including North America and Asia. Both these regions are consistently dependent on imported wood. Few countries in the world can significantly expand lumber exports, and Europe will play an increasingly important role as a wood supplier in the future. Tighter lumber markets will impact not just the sawmilling industry but also forest owners, pulp companies, wood panel manufacturers and pellet producers.

The latest Focus Report, Global Lumber Markets – The Growing Role of European Lumber, from Wood Resources International (WRI) and O'Kelly Acumen examines the forces driving the tightness of global lumber markets, including the demand outlook in the US and China and the supply potential from Europe, Russia and other regions. It also analyses the possible implications of near-term changes in the lumber

markets for all players in the value chain. The US is the largest lumber market in the world and is very dependent on imported lumber. Imports have consistently accounted for about 30% of consumption over the past ten years. There is expected to be continued demand growth long-term in the US, driven mainly by new house construction and solid consumption of wood products in the repair and remodeling sector. US imports from Canada have fallen over the last five years, and European lumber has mainly filled the gap. Supply from Canada will be further restricted in the coming years due to the lasting effects of the mountain pine beetle in British Columbia. The US will therefore become increasingly reliant on European imports as demand grows and Canadian imports level off.

Asia is a rapidly growing market for softwood lumber, with China in particular driving growth. Countries in the rest of Asia (eg, India, Vietnam, Australia and South East Asia) are likely to grow from low levels, while importation of lumber to Japan trends downward. We expect Chinese lumber demand to continue growing at more than 5% per to 2025. All market segments have strong underlying demand trends, and the Chinese economy is projected to rebound quickly from the COVID-19 slow-down in late 2021 and 2022.

Europe is an important producer of softwood lumber and the source of almost half of global exports. As the new Focus Report reveals, the sawmills on this continent will play an increasingly important role on the global export market in the future. Factors such as sawlog supply and cost will determine which European countries can seize this opportunity. The excerpt above is from the just-released Focus Report "Global Lumber Markets – The Growing Role of European Lumber" published by Wood Resources International LLC and O'Kelly Acumen. □

HOMAG Asia moves into **New Singapore Office**; gears up to strengthen presence in the region



Lorenzo Marcaccioli, Sales Director, HOMAG Asia.

As of June 2021, HOMAG Asia has moved its operations to its new office at the Nordcom II building at 2 Gambas Crescent. Formerly located at Sungei Kadut Loop in northwest Singapore, HOMAG Asia now operates out of a more modern office building and shares a space with Agramkow Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, their sister company under the Dürr Group.

The 6,700sqft office houses a total of 27 HOMAG employees and seven Agramkow employees. A key figure at HOMAG Asia is Lorenzo Marcaccioli, who joined the team as Sales Director in February 2021 after over 16 years of sales and product management experience in the woodworking machines industry.

Marcaccioli gears up to strengthen HOMAG’s presence in South East Asia’s market. In light of the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, Marcaccioli has identified several key opportunities that could drive success in the months to come. “Especially in countries where business has come to a standstill with lockdowns and factory closures, it is important to take the opportunity to increase our knowledge,” shared Marcaccioli. “We invest this time by continuously organising training sessions to increase the knowledge of both sales and service team members. While it is currently not possible to visit customers and share our knowledge in-person, we aim to emerge even stronger when we are able to get back in touch with customers at their factories.”

Besides increasing knowledge transfer among its employees, the company constantly engages existing and potential customers, albeit remotely. From 10 May-10 Jun 2021, flagship digital event Live.HOMAG presented over 200 live online events ranging from product demonstrations, Q&A sessions, to even 3D showroom tours. They have been advancing their infrastructures with new technologies to keep in touch with their

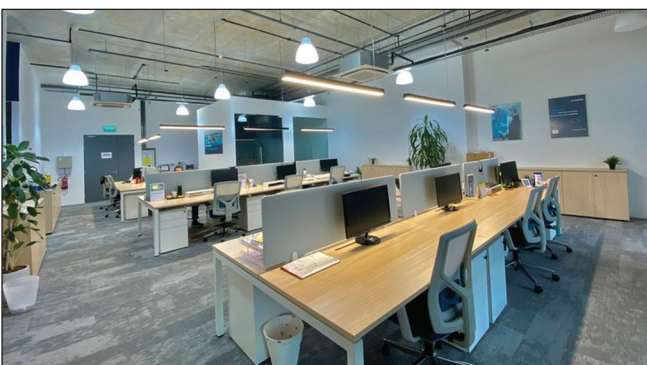
customers. They can now quickly arrange live demonstrations in all of their showrooms around the world showing details of the machines with high resolution cameras that give superb audio and video quality in their remote presentations.

HOMAG’s globalisation strategy – even from pre-pandemic times – has helped transcend language barriers and border restrictions. “HOMAG, even before COVID-19, has invested a lot in the direct presence of our company in South East Asia, and we have branch offices in almost every South East Asian country,” said Marcaccioli. “Each branch office has qualified sales and after-sales teams, as we believe that it is important to be closer to our customers and listen directly to their needs speaking the same language. This strategy has proven helpful during the pandemic, as local qualified technicians are able to immediately assist with on-site machine installation and troubleshooting.”

Additionally, HOMAG aims to not just provide machinery but a suite of full solutions – from factory analysis to factory design and software. In terms of software, Marcaccioli was pleased to introduce Intelligent Virtual Platform (iVP) – a new 3D software developed by HOMAG to simulate factory revamps and allow customers to visualise their “dream factory” without having to travel to a physical one. Using virtual reality, a mock-up of the floorplan and complete machine lines can be generated according to customer requirements, desired productivity and output.

The HOMAG team recognised that amid the opportunities, several industry challenges are taking the spotlight. Firstly, especially due to the pandemic, many customers are currently unable to work in full capacity. Their focus has then shifted from mass production to increasing efficiency and flexibility, and reducing direct and indirect costs. Another important point is the shift towards Industry 4.0 – not just the implementation of automation in machinery, but also utilising software and the Internet of Things to analyse and use data to automatically improve efficiency of machines and workflows.

As part of the Dürr Group, HOMAG upholds “sustainability” as one of the guiding principles for the company strategy. HOMAG specifically develops low-consumption and low-emission products and constantly updates processes to reduce the ecological footprint of factories. The EcoPlus function is



a standard feature of its machines, as they do not make any compromises between the cost and environmental benefit.

As part of its “sustainability” duties, HOMAG is expanding into business areas that help their customers manufacture sustainable products. This includes production technology for wooden house and timber construction elements. HOMAG Group has recently acquired a few companies already in this industry, System TM and Kallesoe as complementary products to Weinmann’s range to form the new Solid Wood Processing business unit.

Hence, leveraging over 60 years of experience in the woodworking industry, and 40 years of setting foot deep into the Asia market, HOMAG continually invests in new product

development especially within the region to get closer to their Asian customers. There is much to look forward to in the coming months, concluded Marcaccioli, hinting that several products that are under development and will be launching specially for the Asian market.

“Many people think that European companies have factories in Asia – especially China and India – just to produce cheap solutions or low-cost solutions of European products. This is completely wrong for us at HOMAG,” clarified Marcaccioli. “Our factories in Asia do not just produce existing products from Germany; we really develop new products and software for the Asia market by marrying German design with the efficiency of Asian manufacturing.” □

Increasing legality and transparency in the timber trade



A new FAO online portal, TimberLex, is to contribute to sustainable forest management. Wood processing at the Compagnie Forestière et de Transformation in the DR Congo.

A new online portal “TimberLex”, launched by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization FAO in July, contributes to sustainable forest-management. The user-friendly nature of the portal allows easy access to national legislation in three languages.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has launched a new online portal providing information on forest-related laws around the world in order to help promote legal forest management, timber production and trade, and contribute to efforts to make forest resource use sustainable.

The first such portal of its kind, developed with support from the Japanese Government, TimberLex provides information on legislation relating to forest management, timber production and trade from 46 timber consumer, processing and producer countries.

Illegal logging and related trade are estimated to account for ten to 30 per cent of the global timber trade – or 30 to 100 billion US dollars annually – and impair poverty alleviation, food security and climate change mitigation while undermining efforts to manage forests sustainably. In an effort to address this issue, major wood-consuming countries are increasingly imposing requirements for timber imports to document their legal status.

“One of the challenges to promoting legality and transparency in the timber trade is knowing what regulations are in place that may impact actions along the value chain, as each country’s legal system is, of course, unique,” stated Daphne Hewitt, Manager of the FAO-European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme.

“It can be very challenging for timber producers, exporters, importers and regulators in timber exporting and importing countries to find reliable information on national legal requirements around timber legality,” Hewitt added.

Legislation from major timber producing and consuming countries

“By making information on national legislation related to forest management, production and associated trade easily available, TimberLex will help verification and due diligence efforts world-wide,” said Blaise Kuemlangan, Chief of the Development Law Service of the FAO Legal Office.

“The unique selling point of the portal is the user-friendly nature which allows easy access to national legislation in three languages,” Kuemlangan added.

The TimberLex portal points users to specific measures and verbatim citations within legal texts and allows easy and direct comparison between legal frameworks. Country profiles catalogue legislation around four clusters encompassing the different stages of the timber value chain considered critical to the legality of timber: land tenure and forest management, timber harvesting activities, processing, transport and trade, and taxes and fees.

The portal aims to enable more effective law enforcement and contribute to improving forest governance, curbing illegal deforestation and associated forest degradation, and promoting global production and trade in legal timber.

The database is aimed at legislators, policy-makers, forestry departments and law enforcement officers, private sector producers, processors and traders, civil society and non-government organizations.

TimberLex is a branch of FAOLEX, administered by the Development Law Service of the FAO Legal Office. According to FAO, FAOLEX is the world’s largest electronic collection of national laws and regulations on food, agriculture and renewable natural resources. □

PHDCCI identifies 75 potential products, markets to take exports to \$750 bn by 2027

Sanjay Aggarwal, President, PHDCCI, said that the US, Canada, Germany, France, UK, Japan, UAE, China, Mexico, Australia, among others would be the major focused markets in the next 75 months to achieve the goods export target of \$750 billion by 2027.



Industry chamber PHDCCI on Sunday said it has identified as many as 75 potential products from nine sectors, including agriculture and minerals, and as many markets like the US and Europe, which can help take India's exports to \$750 billion by 2027.

Sanjay Aggarwal, President, PHDCCI, said that the US, Canada, Germany, France, UK, Japan, UAE, China, Mexico, Australia, among others would be the major focused markets in the next 75 months to achieve the goods export target of \$750 billion by 2027.

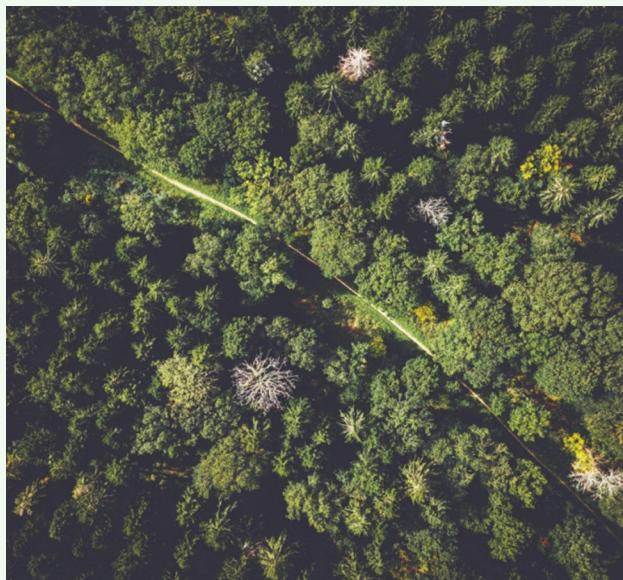
According to the report of the chamber, the 75 potential products include fish, meat, cotton, ores, mineral fuels, chemicals, rubber, textiles, footwear, iron and steel, boilers, electrical machinery, vehicles, aircrafts, furniture, mattresses, toys, and sports items.

Currently, these 75 potential products contribute around \$127 billion, which is around 46 per cent of the total exports from India, Aggarwal said.

"At the global level, these 75 products also have significant 21 per cent presence in the total global exports, whereas India's share of these 75 products currently is only 3.6 per cent," he added. The 75 markets include Russia, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Nepal, Brazil, Poland, Italy and Thailand.

He added that going ahead, policy reforms such as flexible labour laws, improved ease of doing business, and reduced cost of doing business, would go a long way to enhance and increase the export growth trajectory and to achieve \$750 billion goods export target by 2027. □

ITTO: Demand for wood to surge in India by 2030



According to a recent report by International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), there will be a substantial increase in wood consumption in India by 2030, exacerbating an existing shortfall between wood production and demand and increasing the country's reliance on wood imports.

Authored by Promode Kant and Raman Nautiyal, the report, India Timber Supply and Demand 2010–2030, analyses India's timber market dynamics by reviewing historical trends for 2010–2019 and forecasting the likely situation to 2030. The report shows that although India's forest cover has increased steadily for nearly two decades, timber production is still substantially less than consumption, and an increasingly large proportion of demand is being met by imports.

The report covers three main sections. The first reviews the development of the Indian forest sector over the last decade, including changes in forest cover and timber growing stock.

The second section analyses trends in India's wood-based industry, including the international trade of roundwood, sawnwood, plywood, fibreboard, hoopwood, pulp and veneer.

The third section of the report provides projections of demand for 2021–2030, based on likely increases in population and income, wood consumption trends, and growth in important wood-based industries. The report concludes with a discussion on how to improve the accuracy of future reports.

The study forecasts a jump of nearly 70% in demand for roundwood in India in the next decade, from 57 million m³ in 2020 to 98 million m³ in 2030, driven largely by the construction sector.

According to the authors, without policy change, India will need to rely heavily on imports to meet this surge in demand because domestic production is restricted by the country's conservation-oriented forest policy. □

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