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## Local timber market has potential of RM7 bln revenue annually

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The timber market in Malaysia has potential to reach about RM7 billion revenue annually, according to Forest Research Institute Malaysia's forest product division officer Dr Tan Yu Eng.

However, the figure is currently below that because of the focus on the export market, Tan said although he did not mention the current value of the domestic timber market.

He said this at the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) Timber Talk Series entitled "Timber — A Reliable Structural Material?" which was attended by about 70 participants from various organisations yesterday (Wednesday).

The talk was part of a promotion to offer timber as a reliable structural material in the local market which has been increasingly taken over by steel.

"We hope that through this kind of talk, architects and others are more aware of timber as a reliable structural material," said MTC deputy chief executive officer Tham Sing Khow.

"We want to promote the use of timber as it is more environmentally friendly compared to other materials.

It also helps to reduce global warming and carbon dioxide emission," he said.