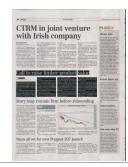
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## Call to raise timber product value

## Koi Kye Lee

dustry has been urged to introduce products of higher value as for product specifications to re- has provided employment to about the international trade is becoming more competitive and demanding.

Natural Resources and Environment Deputy Minister Tan Sri on Forestry and Forest Products Joseph Kurup urged those in the industry to respond to the global changes and to guide the industry

towards sustenance and competitiveness.

'Products of higher value should be introduced through innovations, new designs, with more efficient processing and usage of re-

THE Malaysian timber-based in- newable resources while fulfilling main competitive in the interna- 300,000 workers, tional market," he said.

Kurup was speaking after opening the International Symposium

2010 (ISFFP) yesterday.

He said besides working towards meeting the international market's demand for environmentally friendly products, there is an urgent need to increase value mate change. to the product chain in order to sustain the income and contribution of the sector to the national economy.

The timber industry is one of the stringent consumer requirements major revenue contributors and it

> In 2009, timber and its byproducts contributed RM19.5 billion in exports.

> The three-day symposium, with the theme "Addressing Global Concerns and Changing Societal Needs", is a platform for foreign delegates to discuss subjects such as forestry, forest products and cli-

> The participants are from Japan, Thailand, Zimbabwe, Iran, India, Turkey, the Philippines, Sudan, Singapore and the US.