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## Timber more than a reliable structural material

Timber is not only a reliable structural material for the future, it is also eco-friendly as it helps reduce global warming and carbon dioxide emissions, according to the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) in its recent Timber Talk Series entitled "Timber – A Reliable Structural Material?".

The talk was part of a timber promotion in the local market which is being taken over by steel in the construction sector as timber's structural application is neither fully explored nor understood.

MTC deputy chief executive officer Tham Sing Khow hopes that such talks will make architects and others in the industry more aware of timber as a reliable structural material.

He said MTC has been advancing the use timber locally and is also working hard to promote the export of timber products. The main markets are Japan, the United States, Western Europe, China, Australia and the Middle East.

"At the moment, we are exporting more of the timber overseas as higher demand is coming from Japan, Australia and Canada which are using it for their buildings. In comparison, the local market prefers to use steel and concrete as



Multi-storey timber frame structures used on construction sites.

construction materials."

Meanwhile, Forest Research Institute Malaysia's forest product division officer Dr Tan Yu Eng, who conducted the talk, said the local timber market has the potential to generate RM7 billion in revenue annually but the figure is currently lower because of the focus on the export market. - Pavithar Sidhu