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MyWood investing up to RM50m to set up pilot oil palm lumber plant

Company optimistic of export potential for the engineered lumber known as MyScrim-OPT

by FARAH SAAD

TIMBER company MyWood Resources Sdn Bhd is investing between RM30 million and RM50 million for the setting up of a pilot manufacturing plant to produce engineered lumber from oil palm trunks, known as MyScrim-OPT, for commercial use.

Its finance administrative director Vincent Yong said the plant, which will be based in Peninsular Malaysia, is targeted for completion in the first-quarter of 2011.

In line with this, the company will be collaborating with the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM), which developed the MyScrim-OPT in 2007, to commercialise the material and eventually move on to subcontracting the production of this engineered lumber.

Yong was also optimistic that the material has vast ex-

port potential and the company aims to be able to penetrate into markets such as China, Taiwan, Europe, US and Australia in the future.

"In colder countries, they are unable to use much steel in construction, so they need to use wood as a structure.

"We see potential there. We are also looking at bringing foreign investment into the country," he said after the MTC Timber Talks Series in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Meanwhile, FRIM flagship Project-MYScrim director Datuk Dr Marzalina Mansor said that FRIM requires around RM10 million for MyScrim project's research and development (R&D) works from 2011 to 2015.

The institute had already invested RM1.5 million on the project.

She said MyScrim-OPT could be engineered to best suit its application and made suitable for making furniture and building interior products such as living room set and display cabinet.

"This would create opportunities for Malaysian wood

industry players to introduce and promote green and environmentally friendly products.

"The search for uses for oil palm trunks have yielded many potential products but perhaps the one that holds the most promise is the oil palm trunk scribe, which has been recently developed by the institute," she said, adding that oil palm trunks represented a potential source simply because of the volume available in the country.



FRIM requires around RM10m for MyScrim project's R&D works from 2011 to 2015, says Marzalina