

Headline	Capturing global marts		
MediaTitle	The Star (Kuching)		
Date	24 Nov 2011	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	293,375
Page No	L-S14	Readership	1,026,812
Language	English	ArticleSize	392 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 5,236
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 15,709



Capturing global marts

Furniture industry needs to have products of high value

By **CALVIN YEO**

yeop@thestar.com.my

KUCHING: Drastic change needs to be taken by the local furniture industry in coming up with high-value products to ensure the industry's sustainability.

Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) director-general Datuk Dr Abdul Latif Mohmod said this could be done by including local elements in the products which could attract the local and international buyers.

"Efforts are being taken to source for alternative local raw materials in Sarawak, which is the producer of the main raw material.

"Among others, this is done through the creation of acacia mangium estate as it is known to be a fast growing species which can overcome the shortage of wood supply," he said when launching the furniture industry entrepreneurs development seminar here yesterday.

On the furniture industry in the country, he said it was facing two main challenges — sustainable forest management and the compliance of the International Tropical Timber Organisation's (ITTO) guidelines on sustainable management of natural tropical forests.

"Failure to comply with the guidelines will result in the importing countries being reluctant to buy our products, and this could affect the economic development both in the country and the state," he added.

He said the state government had always encouraged the industrial development which could add value to the current forest resource.

"This policy in general has enabled the development of the downstream industry but it only confines to the secondary processing.

"Relatively, the production from the tertiary processing to the end products still cannot be developed completely although there is a high potential in the sector," he said.

He suggested that the investment focused on producing high value products in low quantity instead

Headline	Capturing global marts		
MediaTitle	The Star (Kuching)		
Date	24 Nov 2011	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	293,375
Page No	L-S14	Readership	1,026,812
Language	English	ArticleSize	392 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 5,236
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 15,709

of low value products in high quantity.

