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# More than 100 attend furniture seminar

**KUCHING:** A seminar on 'Furniture Industry Entrepreneur Development' which ended yesterday was an initiative of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry to improve the overall level of those involved in the sector, especially Bumiputera.

Organised by the ministry's Entrepreneur Development under its Vendor Development Programme, the seminar focused on increasing the ability of furniture vendor enterprises under the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC).

The strategic partnership, which focused on improving skills, business and management ability of vendors, also saw the involvement of MITI, STIDC, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and University Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas).

More than 100 participants comprising furniture vendors, government agencies and non-government bodies attended the two-day seminar which also saw a discussion workshop as a platform for entrepreneurs to exchange ideas and find solution concerning issues involving the industry.

The seminar hoped to increase the capability for state vendors to challenge furniture industry in other countries such as China and Vietnam.

It also aimed at diversifying innovation and productivity especially in terms of raw material usage, design and industrial management from training and research and development (R&D).

Miti, in a press statement, also said the furniture growth potential was brighter. This year, Malaysia has so far exported about RM8 billion worth of furniture products making it the eighth largest exporter of the items.

Among those present at the

opening of the seminar were Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Jacob Dungau Sagan and STIDC general manager Datu Sarudu Hoklai.



CREATIVE DESIGN: Sarudu (left) briefing Sagan about some wood products on display at the seminar hall.