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Seminar on capacity building for small and medium enterprises

BY MAX ONG

KOTA SAMARAHAN: The Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) will jointly organise Sarawak Furniture Industry Development Seminar 2012 that will bring the impact of capability building to the small and medium related enterprises (SMEs) in the state.

Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation Deputy Manager Haji Hashim Haji Bojet said the seminar was the first step to boost the furniture industry capability that was currently still small that marked three per cent

of economic value only despite the state being abundant with raw jungle products, for instance timber.

Hashim further illustrated that current export volume for whole Malaysia was worth about RM8 billion.

The reason Sarawak fetched small volumes of furniture product value was because of the local operators focusing more on primary products in smaller scale that are fit for local market use instead of exporting purposes, Hashim said.

“With the seminar held which we expect to attract more than 150 turn out, we hope that it would be helpful to them by providing more useful information,” he said.

Furniture industry of Sarawak compared to the industry in West

Malaysia, has a smaller export volume as there are investors from Taiwan and Korea there which Sarawak has none.

Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) Head of Furniture Design Unit, Abdul Hamid Saleh said in industry, development of technology cannot beat west Malaysia as it was more advanced there.

He stressed that it was never too late for Sarawak to bring in advanced technology as the demand was always there.

This was revealed yesterday during the press conference in conjunction with the Sarawak Furniture Industry Development seminar in Faculty of Creativity and Applied Arts.