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**KUALA LUMPUR**

## Wood exports boost

IN A move to boost the export of Malaysian timber and construction products to Europe, the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (Frim) is working with the UK's Trada Technology Ltd (TTL) as an approved testing laboratory.

Frim and TTL, a construction products testing arm of the BM Trada Group, inked the agreement last week at the BM Trada Group head office in Buckinghamshire, UK, said Frim in a statement.

Frim was represented by director-general Datuk Dr Abdul Latiff Mahmood and TTL by director Andrew Abbott.

Under the agreement, which is for CE Marking

and Q-Mark schemes — a declaration that the product complies with the essential requirements of European countries — TTL will look at two areas.

They are wood durability by the Frim Wood Mycology Laboratory, in accordance with EN350, and the strength testing of structural timber by the Timber Engineering Laboratory.

In the statement, Abdul Latiff said the durability of wood used in plywood production would have to be tested, in accordance with EN350 to ensure that Malaysian durability rating would not be downgraded. — Bernama