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### New drying system breakthrough in chemical-free technology

THE high temperature drying (HTD) system for wood treatment will lead Malaysia into a new era of chemical-free technology in the furniture industry. Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Datuk Seri G Palanivel said the HTD technology, which eliminated the use of chemicals in processing rubberwood, would also reduce the processing time from 12 to two days. "I urge industry players to take this opportunity to learn more about it and subsequently, participate as a user of this innovative technology," he said at the launch of a forum to introduce HTD system for wood treatment at the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Palanivel said rubberwood furniture accounted for approximately RM5 billion of total furniture export revenue generated by wood-based sector in 2012. "Currently, there are over 2,000 Malaysian furniture companies in operation," he said. — *Bernama*