

11 MAY 2000
TIMBER-CONVENTION
TIMBER MEET TO PROMOTE LOCAL COMMODITY

KUALA LUMPUR, May 11 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian timber industry has again closed its ranks to organise a timber marketing convention to promote the commodity.

The Malaysian Timber Marketing Convention 2000 (MTMC 2000), which is scheduled to be held on September 28-29, is the second of its kind following the successful event last year.

Eight timber-based associations are involved in organising this upcoming convention which could offer participants various networking opportunities.

"It's mainly a place for buyers and sellers, getting the people to know one and another," said the convention's committee organising chairman Tan Sri Tunku Osman Ahmad.

He, who is also chairman of the Malaysian Timber Council, said it was also an avenue for the locals to sell directly to buyers instead of doing so through a middleman.

"When we produce, we also want to sell our products. What we can do is to get the overseas people to deal directly with our people," he said at a press conference today.

Tunku Osman said this year's programme would provide more networking opportunities among the participants although the business-cum-pleasure concepts for the participants from various parts of the world would be maintained.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was scheduled to officiate at the event on September 28.

There would be a special session with Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik in which the participants could directly interact with him on various issues pertaining to the local timber industry, Tunku Osman said.

He said MTMC 2000 was premised on the overwhelming success of MTMC 1999, which attracted 325 timber industry players, locally and from abroad.

The final number of registered delegates for MTMC 1999 had surpassed the organisers' initial target of 150 people.

"As such, we can expect it (MTMC 2000) to be better and bigger than the previous one," he said.

The MTMC 2000 is jointly organised by Malaysian Wood Industries Association, Timber Exporters' Association of Malaysia, Malaysian Panel Products Manufacturers' Association, Malaysian Wood Moulding & Joinery Council.

Malaysian Furniture Industry Council, Association of Malaysian Bumiputra Timber & Furniture Entrepreneurs, Sarawak Timber Association and Sabah Timber Industries Association. -- BERNAMA

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