

MTC Commemorates 25th Anniversary with Announcement of First Malaysian Wood Awards Winners

The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) celebrated its 25th anniversary recently as it reflected on its monumental milestones since its inception on January 10 1992. Held at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur, the anniversary celebration was officiated by the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong. Also present at the event were Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Datu Nasrun Datu Mansur, MTC Chairman Dato' Gooi Hoe Hin and MTC CEO Datuk Dr Abdul Rahim Nik as well as prominent members of the timber industry.

The event started with the launch of MTC's 25th anniversary book entitled "1992-2017: 25 Years of Growth and Sustainability", followed by the prize giving ceremony for the winners of the inaugural Malaysian Wood Awards (MWA) 2017.

The MWA is the first of its kind in the country where the best architects, owners and developers are acknowledged for building structures with timber. Apart from recognising outstanding timber based projects, MWA also aims to encourage a wider use of timber and revive the build with timber culture.



The winners of the professional section of the Residential category (Photo: MTC)

Timber and timber products is the third most important commodity and commodity-based products exported after palm oil and rubber. Despite a sluggish economy, total timber and timber products exported for 2016 amounted to RM22.1 (USD5.16) billion.

The Malaysian Wood Awards, which was an important event in MTC's anniversary calendar, had two segments - the main awards for the professionals and a students' category.

The winners of the professional section of the Residential category are B&A Family Holdings Sdn Bhd, which won the first prize for its Kuang Retreat House. The second

prizewinner is Ar Azman Zainal Md Nor for his house called Anjung Kelana while the third prizewinner is Ding Siew Ching for Bintang Residence.

The winners of the Students' Challenge's Building category are Muhammad Aizat Anuar from UTM, who won the first prize for his Taman University Cookies Community Centre while the second prize winner is Lam Yung Ni from Limkokwing University of Creative Technology for her creation of the Eco-water Edge Centre – A Timber Forest. The third prizewinner is Ooi Wei Kiat of Universiti Malaya for his design of the Rainforest Music School.