

# MTC Acknowledges Role of SKLWIA in Timber Industry Kuala Lumpur



*Datuk Gooi Hoe Hin*

The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) has commended members of the Selangor & Kuala Lumpur Wood Industries Association (SKLWIA) have been complimented for having made tremendous progress in the manufacture of timber products over the past six decades.

Speaking at the 66th Anniversary Dinner of SKLWIA, MTC Chairman Dato' Gooi Hoe Hin said that SKLWIA had proven that the timber industry is indeed sustainable, progressive and robust, having stayed in business for over 60 years.

"These three words – sustainable, progressive and robust – are the cornerstone of MTC's mission in making the timber industry a thriving commercial enterprise," he said.

He also commended the parent body of SKLWIA, which is the Malaysian Wood Industries Association (MWIA) formerly known as Timber Trade Federation of Malaysia (TTFM), as being one of the key associations that was instrumental in the

formation of MTC.

"To know the history of MTC, one would inevitably be drawn into organisations such as SKLWIA, which was formed in 1952, before it became an affiliated member of the MWIA in 1957.

"Even in the early days, the association's members had already consolidated their businesses as they understood the strength in participatory and inclusive decision making as well as esprit de corps, that is the need to be one and the need to work as a team," he said.

On Malaysia's timber exports, Dato' Gooi said they are expected to increase 5 per cent this year from RM23.2 (RM5.9)

billion in 2017 with an export target of RM26 (USD6.6) billion by 2020.

MTC, on its part, has allocated RM7 million to its Import Assistance Programme (from RM5 million in previous year) as part of its assistance towards the augmentation of raw material supply.

MTC has also on December 22, 2017 launched its Financial Incentive For Purchase of Machinery (FIPM) programme. This programme is MTC's contribution towards complementing the government's efforts to elevate the level of mechanisation and automation in the industry, thereby potentially addressing to some extent, the labour shortage challenges.

Under the FIPM, an allocation of RM3 (USD0.76) million has been set aside where RM1 (USD0.25) million will be disbursed yearly over a period of three years to encourage industry members, particularly the SMEs, to mechanise or automate their operations.

In addition, MTC's Mechanisation & Automation (M&A) programme is also geared towards improving production efficiency by reducing dependency on labour and wastages as well as increasing output with consistent product quality.

"In terms of getting a bigger share of the economic pie, I hope SKLWIA members will continue to participate actively in all the trade fairs and missions that we have lined up for 2018," he added.

Present at the dinner were members and exco of SKLWIA led by its president, Low Chee Hock. Also present was MTC Acting CEO, Richard Yu.

