

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**WOOD WASTE, NEW WORTH**  
**THREEFOLD GROWTH FOR MTC SUSTAINABLE WOOD DIY CONTEST**  
**149 entries received, 20 finalists compete in the final stage at IOI City Mall**

**PUTRAJAYA (4 OCTOBER 2026):** The Prize-Giving Ceremony for the Sustainable Wood DIY Contest 2026, organised by the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC), takes place today at IOI City Mall, Putrajaya, with YB Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini Ahmad, Minister of Plantation and Commodities, in attendance as the Guest of Honour.

Twenty finalist products were showcased over three days at IOI City Mall, giving visitors a closer look at the creativity and ideas behind this year's entries. The showcase featured ten finalists from the Public Category and ten from the Student Category, with visitors also invited to cast their votes for their preferred entries.

Participation in this year's contest increased more than threefold, with 149 entries received compared with 48 entries in the inaugural edition in 2024. Of the total, 88 entries, or 59%, were received under the Student Category, while the remaining 61 entries were submitted under the Public Category.

Held under the theme "From Waste to Wonders", the contest encourages participants to utilise the potential of wood waste, recycled wood, reclaimed wood and wood offcuts as resources that can be transformed into functional, creative and value-added products.

The contest forms part of MTC's efforts to build greater understanding of wood as a renewable material while encouraging the creative and responsible use of wood resources. The finalists translated the concept into a diverse range of product creations, including an eco-craft desk lamp, wooden guitar, a dual-purpose frame that can also be used as a seat, a foldable chessboard, a creative workbench set and innovative lighting pieces.

MTC Chairman Datu Haji Zainal Abidin Haji Abdullah said the increase in entries reflected the contest's growing reach and its effectiveness in bringing the public closer to wood and the timber industry.

"The increase from 48 entries in 2024 to 149 this year is very encouraging. It is more than just a rise in numbers. It shows that the contest is gaining wider interest among the public and attracting more people to explore the potential of wood creatively.

"For MTC, the contest also provides a platform to bring the industry and the public closer together. When people are able to see for themselves how wood can be



transformed into useful, creative and valuable products, it helps build greater appreciation for the material."

Finalists are assessed based on creativity, sustainability, functionality and craftsmanship, with final scores comprising 60% judges' evaluation and 40% public voting.

In each category, the first, second and third-place winners will receive RM1,500, RM1,000 and RM500 respectively, while participants placed fourth to tenth will receive RM100 each together with a certificate.

MTC Chief Executive Officer Puan Noraihan Abdul Rahman said the contest also emphasises the value of wood as a renewable resource and the importance of using it responsibly.

"Wood is a renewable resource that continues to hold value when it is used responsibly. Through this contest, we want people to see that wood waste, reclaimed wood and offcuts are not simply materials to be discarded, but resources that can be given new life and purpose through creativity, design and craftsmanship."

Rekayu Penang, a Penang-based creative space and woodworking workshop, together with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), also supports the programme as Strategic Partners, combining expertise in woodworking and academia to strengthen engagement with students, creative practitioners and the wider public.

Malaysia's timber industry continues to play an important role in the national economy, with timber and timber product exports reaching RM21.51 billion in 2025. As global markets place increasing emphasis on sustainable and responsible resource use, efforts to optimise material use and produce value-added products will become increasingly important in strengthening the industry's long-term competitiveness.

**– END –**

## **NOTE TO EDITORS**

The winners of the Public and Student categories will be announced during the Prize-Giving Ceremony on 4 October 2026. A separate winners' fact sheet containing the names of the winners, winning entries and prize details will be issued following the announcement.

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## **About the Malaysian Timber Council**



The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) was established in January 1992 to promote the development and growth of Malaysia's timber industry. Its key objectives include promoting trade and developing global markets for Malaysian timber products; empowering the industry through the expansion of manufacturing technology and increased value-added production; strengthening the supply of raw materials for the timber-processing sector; providing relevant information-sharing and advisory services to the industry; and enhancing the global credibility and reputation of Malaysia's timber industry. Further information on the Council's activities can be obtained from [www.mtc.com.my](http://www.mtc.com.my).

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### Issued by the Malaysian Timber Council

For details, contact:

**Ms. Sharmila Velappu**  
**Corporate Communications Division**  
**(CCD)**

Tel: 03-9286 9971

E-mail: [sharm@mtc.com.my](mailto:sharm@mtc.com.my)

**Nur Amira Faezah Mohd Shaofi**  
**Corporate Communications Division**  
**(CCD)**

Tel: 03-9286 9978

Email: [amirafaezah@mtc.com.my](mailto:amirafaezah@mtc.com.my)

