

Malaysia to continue to limit wood exports

The Malaysian government announced it plans to continue to limit the amount of sawn timber exports, including rubberwood, a major component of both solid wood and veneered adult and youth furniture made in Malaysia.

According to a report in the Borneo Post, the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities said it will continue the moratorium to “further encourage sawn timber suppliers to give priority to the domestic market.”

The decision, the report said, followed a meeting that Minister Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong chaired with members of the Malaysia



Furniture Council, who communicated the importance ensuring an adequate supply of raw materials for furniture production. The supply of rubberwood and other hardwoods has been an issue as China has purchased large quantities of these materials for the construction and furniture industries. “In this regard, the ministry stressed that it will continue to be committed to ensuring adequate supply of raw materials to the furniture industry, 80 per cent of which are rubberwood,” he told the paper. ■ *Source : Furniture Today*

USA GSP benefits to Developing nations including India

The US Generalized System [GSP] programme designed to promote economic growth in the developing world was in process since 1976 and India is one of the beneficiary countries under this programme. The programme has expired on 31st December, 2017 and normal tariff duties will apply for import of GSP eligible goods. The renewal of GSP programme is a law making process that requires US Congressional approval and will be taking time to be in process in again.



Pending renewal of GSP programme, Law Makers of United States of America have recommended that exporters exporting commodities under GSP to US should clearly mention and tag appropriately GSP eligible importations with the Special Program Indicator (SPI) “A” so that if US decides to extend the GSP programme, it should facilitate ease of tracking and passing on benefit retrospectively by US authorities concerned to the exporters. ■