

# IOI Palm Wood showcases innovation and sustainability at Malaysian Wood Expo 2025

Green timber solutions such as OnCore feature prominently as Malaysia's timber sector posts resilient export performance and reaffirms its long-term sustainability goals.

IOI Palm Wood participated as an exhibitor at the Malaysian Wood Expo 2025, held from 10 to 11 Nov at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC). The two-day event brought together leading players from the wood and timber industry, offering a platform for networking, product demonstrations and business matching.

Established in 2020, IOI Palm Wood is Malaysia's first manufacturing plant to commercially and sustainably convert unused oil palm trunks into eco-friendly, high-performance palm wood panels for the furniture and building industries.

## **ONCORE: A BETTER WOOD**

This year's Malaysian Wood Expo featured 127 exhibitors from 19 countries, including China, Germany, Austria, Uruguay and Thailand.

IOI Palm Wood's booth stood out for its focus on sustainable innovation. The centrepiece of the display was OnCore – a high-performance, eco-friendly alternative to tropical timber – developed to help the industry reduce environmental impact while maintaining quality. The showcase illustrated how the company is combining technology with responsible resource management to create value for both manufacturers and the wider timber sector.



Malaysia's Minister of Plantation and Commodities, Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani (left), with IOI Palm Wood CEO Peter Fitch (right)

The booth drew strong interest from industry professionals, potential partners and government representatives. A highlight of the event was the visit by Malaysia's Minister of Plantation and Commodities, Datuk Seri Johari

Abdul Ghani. He was welcomed by IOI Palm Wood CEO Peter Fitch, who introduced the minister to the company's sustainability initiatives and its role in advancing green solutions within the timber sector.

## MALAYSIA'S MARKET OUTLOOK

The event's opening ceremony was officiated by the minister, who commended the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) for convening international industry players to strengthen trade partnerships and enhance Malaysia's presence in global timber markets. He emphasised that the timber sector remains a key economic contributor under the National Agri-commodity Policy 2021-30 (DAKN 2030).

Malaysia's timber industry has demonstrated resilience amid shifting global conditions. In 2024, timber exports rose by 5% year-on-year to \$5.01bn (22.92bn ringgit). From Jan to Aug 2025, exports reached \$3.45bn (14.49bn ringgit), supported by a trade surplus of 8.60bn ringgit – reflecting sustained international demand for Malaysian wood products.

The minister also reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to sustainable forest management. He noted that 54.6% of the country's land area remains under forest cover, upholding the pledge made at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. A total of 5.85 million hectares have been certified under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS), placing Malaysia among the world's top 10 countries with the largest areas of sustainably managed forests.

## ADVANCING GREEN TIMBER SOLUTIONS

IOI Palm Wood remains committed to strengthening the industry's competitiveness through sustainable, high-performance alternatives such as OnCore. As Malaysia positions itself for long-term growth in the global timber market, the company aims to show how innovation and environmental stewardship can work in tandem to shape the next phase of the sector's development. **P**

All images courtesy of IOI Palm Wood.



### LEGEND

- 1 IOI Palm Wood's booth at the Malaysian Wood Expo features its OnCore innovation, a sustainable alternative to tropical timber
- 2 The Malaysian Wood Expo is a two-day industry event held in Kuala Lumpur



Inspiring the next "material revolution" by creating sustainable and high-performance materials from oil palm waste, **Peter Fitch**, together with IOI, have set up IOI Palm Wood to commercialise this untapped potential.