

# **BTMA On Business Visit To Sarawak**

India is the second largest export market for Sarawak particularly in terms of timber and timber products. Logs are the main export items of Sarawak to India. Concerted efforts were made by STIDC to tap the potential of the Indian market in order to boost the export of plywood, sawn timber and other value-added products. This was evident by the market expansion initiatives which saw five timber selling missions to India since 1980s.

Sarawak earned RM970 million from the export of timber and timber products to India in 2016 compared with RM1.25 billion in 2015. The main export products were logs and followed by plywood and sawn timber.

To strengthen bilateral trade of timber and timber products between India and Sarawak, a delegation of seven timber merchants from Mumbai, India was on business visit to Sarawak from 20-25 February 2017. The visit was led by the Chairman of Bombay Timber Merchants Associations (BTMA) Limited, Mohd. Iqbal S Chapra.

The visit was a follow-up to the Sarawak Timber Selling Mission to India last December, organised by STIDC and led by Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Second Minister of Resource Planning and Environment, Minister of Industrial and Entrepreneur Development, Trade and Investment cum Chairman of STIDC Board of Management.

While in Sarawak, the delegation was enlightened on the status of timber industry and forestry sector by STIDC and Forest Department respectively. This was followed by a meeting with Sarawak Timber Association and visits to prominent wood-based companies in the state.

It is hoped that the visit would boost demand and export of sawn timber and other timber products from Sarawak.