

Press Release

Import Promotion Desk: Wide range of wood products from sustainable forestry

At interzum, the import promotion initiative will present plantation teak, Guadua bamboo and classic wood-based materials from IPD partner countries

Bonn/Berlin, April 14, 2021 - The Import Promotion Desk (IPD) will be presenting a wide range of wood products from sustainable forestry at interzum, which this year will be held virtually from May 4 to 7. The import promotion initiative will accompany producers of plantation-grown teak and Guadua bamboo from Ecuador and Colombia, as well as Ukrainian exporters of high-quality table tops made from reclaimed oak and moulded beech wood components to this year's leading international trade fair for furniture manufacturing and interior design. "The IPD's aim is to present a diverse range of high-quality wood products and, above all, special timber species to the timber trade in Europe," says Frank Maul, expert for sourcing and markets at the IPD. "In this context, the legal and sustainable origin of the woods is a basic requirement of our commitment."

Plantation teak: young hardwood with a distinctive grain

Teak is known primarily for its colour and grain, as well as its durability. While plantation teak has less heartwood than teak from natural forests due to shorter rotation times, plantation teak still has a special visual appeal. In addition to its unique grain, plantation teak from South America has other advantages that make it a viable alternative to classic woods. A comparison of IPD shows that plantation teak has lower shrinkage and excellent staying power compared to white oak. It therefore works less and is more dimensionally stable. Plantation teak from Ecuador and Colombia also rivals white oak materials in terms of other mechanical properties, such as bulk density, compressive and flexural strength, hardness to grain and in modulus of elasticity. The medium-sized companies in the IPD program specialize in the production of panels and boards, but can also manufacture customized products.

Guadua bamboo: robust and load-bearing

IPD is bringing a special feature to this year's interzum from Ecuador and Colombia, and strictly speaking it is not wood: guadua bamboo. It is strong and robust and can serve as a building material for load-bearing structures, such as garden pavilions. At the same time, producers offer garden furniture, boards and flooring made of bamboo.

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Classic materials from Ukraine

Blockboards made of reclaimed oak wood and moulded wood elements made of beech are presented by IPD companies from Ukraine at interzum. They stand out not only with good product quality, but also with short routes to the EU market.

Import Promotion Desk (IPD)

The Import Promotion Desk (IPD) is an **initiative for import promotion** in Germany.

The IPD forms a link between small and medium-sized enterprises in selected developing and emerging countries and European importers.

Its goal is to integrate the partner countries into global trade and thus contribute to sustainable economic development in these countries.

The IPD gives exporters from the partner countries access to the EU market and supports them in establishing trade relations. For European importers, the IPD opens up new sources of supply in the partner countries and supports them in the procurement process for certain products.

Currently, the IPD is active in 13 countries: Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Peru, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Ukraine.

The IPD focuses on specific product groups: fresh fruits and vegetables, natural ingredients for food, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, technical wood, cut flowers and sustainable tourism.

The global development organization sequa gGmbH is responsible for setting up and implementing the IPD in close cooperation with the German Association of Wholesale, Foreign Trade and Services (BGA). The IPD is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

For more information, visit www.importpromotiondesk.de.

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