## China's Wood Product Market – Baseline Scenarios

A Preliminary Summary of Trends and Projections for the Medium Term

# Paper and board growing 4-fold, mostly in P&W and packaging



Source: He and Barr, 2004

# Sharp increase in demand for waste paper and wood fiber



(,000 tonnes)

Source: He and Barr, 2004

# Pulp, paper, and paperboard have led imports



In 2003, total imports = 106 million m3 RWE

40 m m3 timber products
48 m m3 pulp
18 m m3 paper & board

Source: Sun et al, 2004

## Pulp and paper – key issues

- Will China meet targets for domestic wood pulp capacity?
- Can domestic wood pulp producers compete globally?
- Is there are limit on waste paper supply globally? Domestically?
- What are the implications of closing nonwood pulp mills?
  - Effects on water pollution
  - Employment losses and effects on local economies

## Plywood production > 12 m m3/yr Exports > 2 m m3/yr



Source: Jaakko Pöyry, 2004

## MDF capacity = 15.6 m m3/yr (2005)



- 5.8 million m3/yr new capacity installed during 2004-2005
- 66 % of global capacity expansion during last 2 years was in China!
- China's industry now bigger than Europe

Source: Jaakko Pöyry, 2004

## Sharp decline in plywood imports



Source: Sun et al, 2004

## Wood panels – key issues

- Driven by rapid growth of furniture, construction, and interior decoration
- Can furniture exports continue to grow at current pace?
- Considerable scope for growth in domestic furniture market
- Likely trend towards higher value-added end-uses – i.e. laminated flooring, decorative paneling
- Environmental standards, esp. in Japan, will affect exports
- Projection continued growth, supply problems, raising costs, rationalization & restructuring

# Baseline Scenario: Furniture (1)

### Current industry structure:

- 50,000 firms, 5 million employees;
- 80% of product is wood furniture;
- \$32 billion turnover, export value \$7 billion US/a (#1 in world, up from \$5 billion in 2000); 80% of export product is wood).

### Future:

Total turnover \$40 billion, export value **↑** \$10 billion by 2010 (i.e. growth slow but not stop: from 37%/a to 15%???)

# Baseline Scenario: Furniture (2)

#### • Threats/drivers/constraints:

- Wood supply (costs, quality), (solid wood and panels)
- Trade constraints (dumping tariffs, EU "legal sourcing" rqmts)
- Low profits, increasing labor costs, competition from Vietnam, etc

#### • Trends:

- Wood supply shift from low cost (illegal) to NA hardwoods and other higher cost sources
- Trade constraints slow exports down but not significantly
- Industry "rationalize, restructure" over next 5-10 years ("upheaval and adjustment")

## Baseline Scenario: Sawnwood, Flooring

#### • Sawnwood:

- Growth in imports, but nothing like panel
- New industry in NE based on RFE supply
- Trends: continued 
   imports, industry shifting to RFE???
- Flooring
  - follow "furniture" patterns; growing domestic and export market, bamboo capture some share (from other countries)

## Baseline Scenario: Primary Production: Domestic & Imports

- China not meet official target (no net imports by 2015); domestic production stable until 2010 then increase 25-40 million m3/a?? If/when policy barriers relaxed;
- Imports (now 120 million m3) ↑ to 200 by 2010????
  - Supply from current sources decline through med term, except Russia, remain stable @ 18
  - % share from Asia ♥, replaced by ↑ timber from NA (canadian beetle kill), ↑ pulp/chips from SAm, Auz/NZ
- Question: where will wood come from and at what cost?

## Some 'What If...' Questions

-- please suggest others

 What if China's GDP growth slows to 7 percent? Or 5 percent?

(1)

 What if the Chinese Yuan appreciates in value by 10 percent?

(2)

 What if the Chinese government removes the logging ban and lifts other restrictions on domestic timber production?

(3)

 What if governments in Russia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and/or PNG reduce illegal timber flows by 50 percent?

(4)

- (5)
- What if China falls short in meeting its target of 13.3 million ha of fast-growing plantations by 2015?
  - By 30 percent?
  - By 50 percent?



 What if China's access to US and European furniture markets is restricted – either due to trade barriers or competition from new producers?

 What if India's GDP continues to grow at 9-10 percent per annum?

• To what extent will China and India compete for the same resources?

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(9)

 What if oil prices stay above US\$ 50 per barrel?

- What if significant new processing capacity comes online in Russia?
- In Indonesia?
- In Malaysia?
- Elsewhere?

### Concerns

- Paul: housing market slump, how much substitution between panels and other?, who are winners and losers (between sectors, efficient and inefficient producers,
- Dequan: what if China has substantial supply shortages? Possibilities: non-wood fiber not decline, imports increase, china increase waste collection
- Gary: 1) what if China's wood supply forecast is ½ official projection; 2) what if the levels of subsidies continue to escalate globally what distortions will this add
- Steve: what is domestic fiber supply, what opportunities (at what cost) for additional supply
- Chen: will China allow competition between companies;
- Brian: what effect of the beetle infected wood from Canada into China (2.1 billion m3 over 10 years)
- Anders: what happens if major political conflict affecting Chinese economy
- Alexander: what will be the prices, what will be interior transportation, what will be interior processing? Reasonable to expect 2X increase in harvesting (if increase in p's)
- Alexey: expect more liberalization in Russia, oil prices will determine timber supply, If increase, strong ruble, (strengthening) and then decreased export; continued competition with Japan (p's increasing in Japan); so what if prices change
- Christian: if E p's remain high (or increase) how will that affect transport? Or what if China; what cost of labor (land and labor availability) in plantation sector?
- Keith: to what extent Thailand continue/expand rubberwood, pulp export to China? Cambodia/Laos can they put in place a sizable plantation sector for China and what role from Japan
- Xiufang: environmental concerns increase? (e.g.) what if certification scheme is adopted in China what affect on production; what if EU puts restrictions on imports from China?
- Bintang: what if Indo controls illegal logging?
- Achmad: what if another economic crisis in E Asia?
- Maxim: what if another flood in China extend logging ban? Think that environmental concerns will grow in China curtailing domestic production.
- Changjin: exchange rate and possible political unrest are possible, domestic housing market ???; could be changes in export policies of wood products; possible effects of a major privatization process of timberland ownership (e.g. of state land), result in higher prices (because less illegal wood – which would result in increase imports; (reverse could happen because govt could lift policy constraints)
- Doddy: change in global economic; what if substantial increase in substitution? What if global political shift affecting wood trade; what if illegal logging ban change;
- Tim: what if poverty; what if greening of markets; what if serious due diligence?
- Sten: think of positive "what if's"; e.g. ma