

**SAW MILLING OF RUBBERWOOD (*Hevea brasiliensis*): IN PENINSULAR
MALAYSIA**

By

MOHD KHUSAINI BIN AB RAHMAN

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Industries, Faculty Applied Science, University Technology MARA**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
APPROVAL SHEET	i
DEDICATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF PLATES	ix
LIST OF DIAGRAM	x
ABSTRACT	xii
ABSTRAK	xii
CHAPTER	
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Objective.....	3
2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW	4
2.1 About Rubberwood.....	4
2.2 Availability and production of rubberwood.....	8
2.3 Exports.....	11
2.4 Wood properties	12
2.5 Three principles ways or approaches to cutting...	15

3.0 MILL RECOVERY STUDY.....	18
3.1 Site for the study.....	18
3.2 Rubberwood Milling Process.....	19
3.3 Rubberwood waste.....	29
3.4 Result and Discussion.....	32
4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ...	35
4.1 Conclusion.....	35
4.2 Recommended.....	35
REFERENCES.....	36
VITA.....	38

ABSTRACT

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The rubber tree which is native to Brazil is widely planted for the rubber production of latex in South Asia, mainly in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. The total rubber plantations in these three countries consisting of 6.65 million hectares amounts to 75% of the world total. Between 25 to 30 years of age when the production of latex is uneconomical the trees are felled for replanting. Previously the felled trees were of low commercial value and were mainly used as fluewood, but since the mid 1980s rubberwood is one of the most popular timber for making furniture and the other wood based products and is an important resources for the Malaysian timber industry and has now become one of the major money earners for this industry. The success of using rubberwood in Malaysia has lead to the development of similar industries in the neighboring countries of Thailand, Indonesia and now India and Sri Lanka with China, Vietnam and Cambodia.