

EGYPT



by Matteo Grigolini
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Woodtech Forum is a new initiative in the wood and technology sector to take place on 26-27 November 2016 in Damietta, Egypt, an area where the woodworking and furniture industry is traditionally very strong and now still increasing.

Woodtech Forum has gained the trust of large international companies participating in the event. AHEC, EPF, EPLF, Häfele, Fantoni, Scm Group, Alfa Wood are some of the organizations and companies that have confirmed their participation in Woodtech Forum, presenting new technologies and trends in furniture design and equipment.

CSIL has been invited to present a Seminar on: 'Forecasts for the global furniture sector with a focus on product trends and fast growing markets' during the Woodtech Forum on 26th of November with speaker Mr. Matteo Grigolini.

WOODTECH FORUM:

A GATEWAY TO INVESTMENTS IN EGYPT

Woodtech Forum attracted the interest of international and local financial organizations and large investment funds, revealing their intention to finance investments in furniture machinery.

Alongside Woodtech Forum, the future projects in Egypt are big and impressive. The development of Damietta Furniture City is expected to attract many important investments in the fields of woodworking machinery and design.

A rapid technological growth is expected, giving a new breath to the local furniture industry. New products are demonstrated in Damietta Furniture City to be developed from high-class materials and to be distinguished for their outstanding quality and design.

Damietta Furniture City is expected to become a top international meeting point for the professionals of wood, furniture and machinery industry. Not to mention, that the Egyptian economy is growing again, at a rate between 3.3 and 4.3%. Mr. Ilias Angelopoulos, CEO of MEDEXPO, the organizing company of the Woodtech Forum, had extensive meetings with the Governor of Damietta, Mr. Ismail Abd Elhamid Taha and the President of the local Chamber of Commerce Mr. Mohammed Elzeny.

KEY POINTS OF THE EGYPTIAN MARKET

- Egypt market imports 700.000 m3 of beech per year
- imports of natural and artificial veneer reach 13 million sqm.;
- over 600.000 m3 of plywood imports;
- over 80% of furniture produced by the Egyptian artisans is exported to the Arabic countries;
- the real estate sector of Egypt is projected to grow by 70% by 2020.

This means further increase of the construction sector and in the field of wood and furniture.

WHY DAMIETTA?

Because it is the heart of Egypt's furniture and woodworking industry, covering more than 72% of the country's furniture production. Coming next the new 1.400.000 sqm. Damietta Furniture City, funded by the Government and local authorities, will upgrade the city of Damietta into one of the major specialized industrial zones for furniture in the Middle East region.

SPEAKERS OF THE WOODTECH FORUM IN DAMIETTA:

- Reto Scherrer, Sales Manager Export, Häfele
- Peter H. Meyer, Managing Director EPLF
- Matteo Grigolini, Researcher Industry and Country Studies, CSIL
- Roberto Vitri, Regional Manager SCM Group
- Paolo Fantoni, President of European Panel Federation
- Khaled Mehrez, CEO Mehrez+Krema
- George Ntalos, Professor of Wood Technology
- Amr Helmy, CEO Amr Helmy Designs