# China's impact on global forest products trade: Viewpoint from abroad

Dr. Ivan Eastin Director and Professor Center for International Trade in Forest Products University of Washington

> Presented at: Society of Wood Science and Technology 55<sup>th</sup> International Convention International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan Beijing, China August 27-31, 2012

### Agenda

- Balance of Trade in Wood Products
- China Wood Trade Trends
- China Social Factors
- Demographic Trends
- Construction Trends
- The (Considerable) Benefits of Using Wood in Construction

Concluding Observations

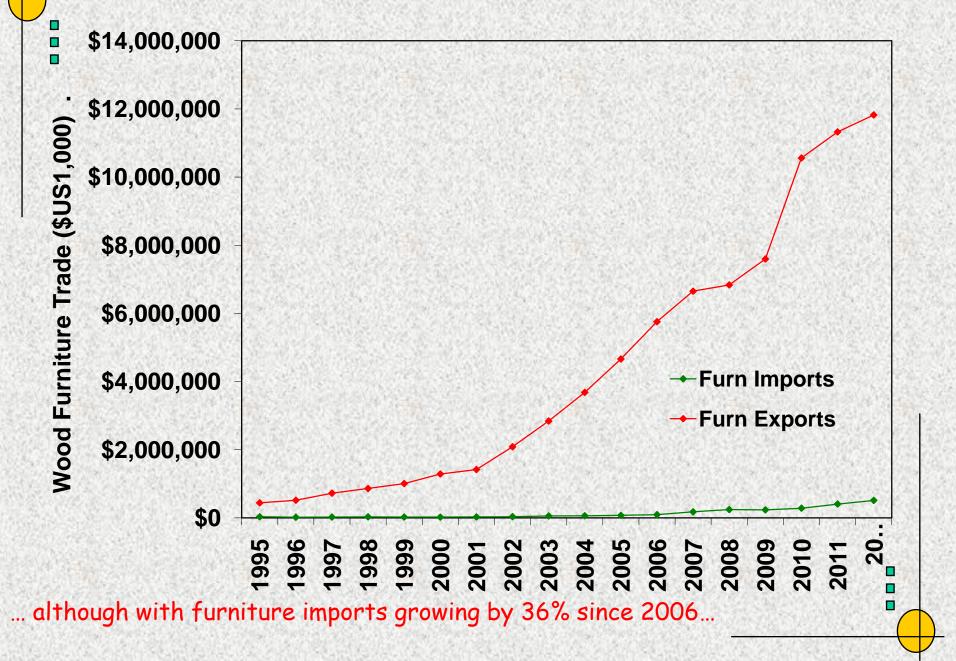
### China Balance of Trade in Wood Products

And and a second

### China Commodity Wood Trade Summary

\$18,000,000 Primary Wood Trade Value (\$US1,000) \$15,000,000 \$12,000,000 \$9,000,000 \$6,000,000 Wood Imports \$3,000,000 Wood Exports \$0 2012e 995 1996 2010 saw China move into a trade deficit with respect to the trade of commodity wood products ...

### China Furniture Trade Summary



Center for International Trade in Forest Products

### China Total Wood Trade Summary

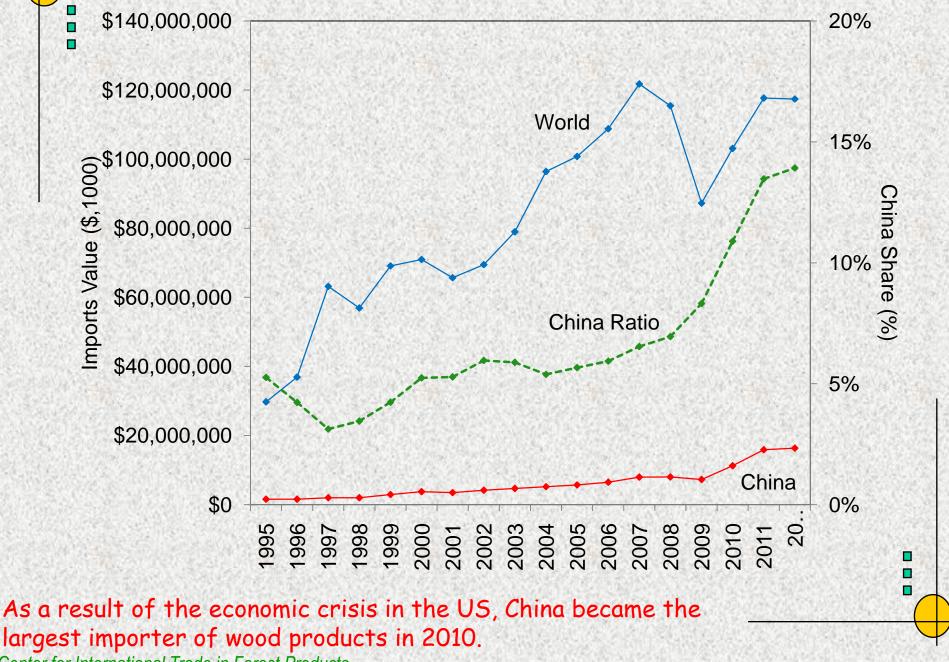


## China Wood Trade Trends

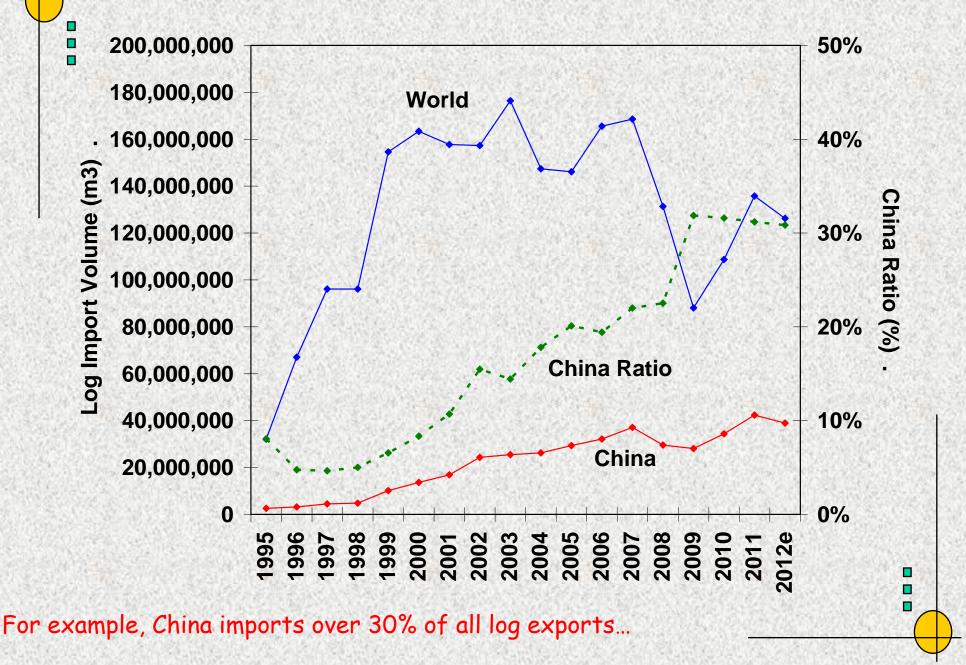
-

11.10

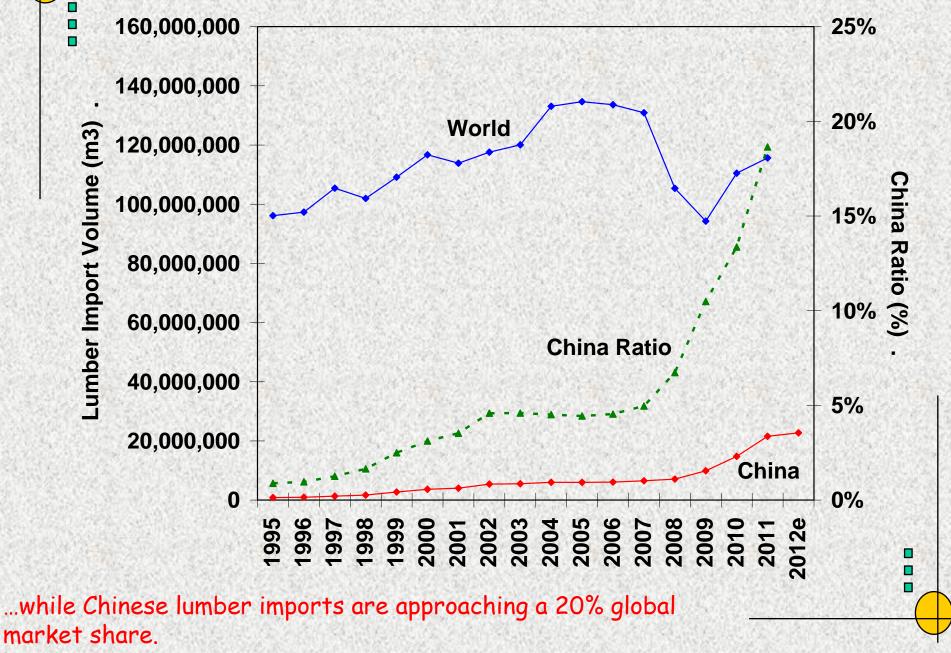
### **Global Wood Imports and China**



### **Global Log Imports and China**



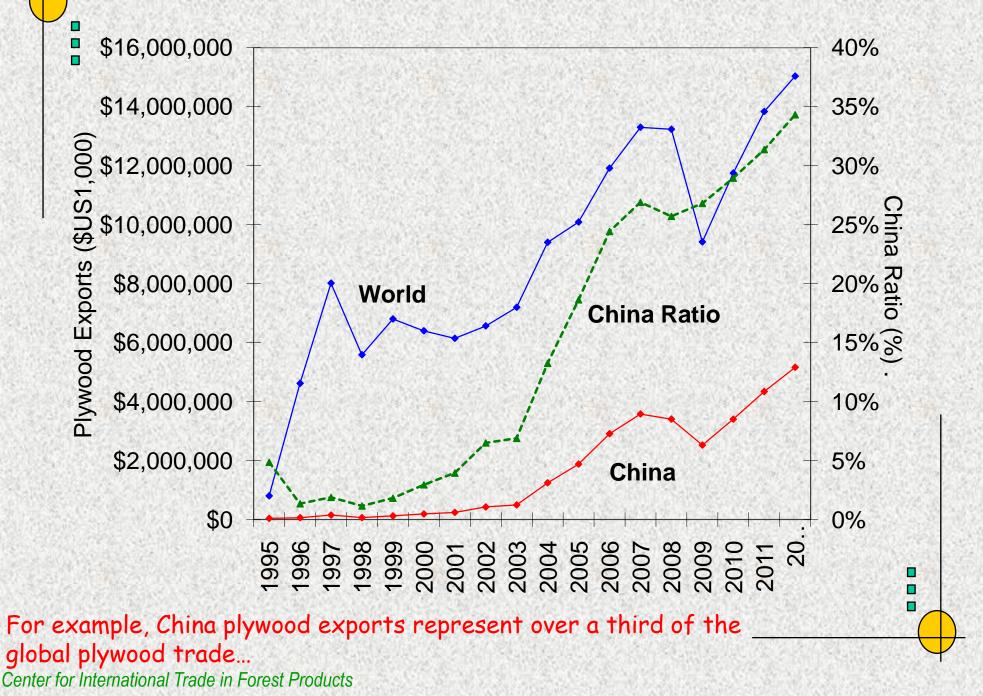
### **Global Lumber Imports and China**



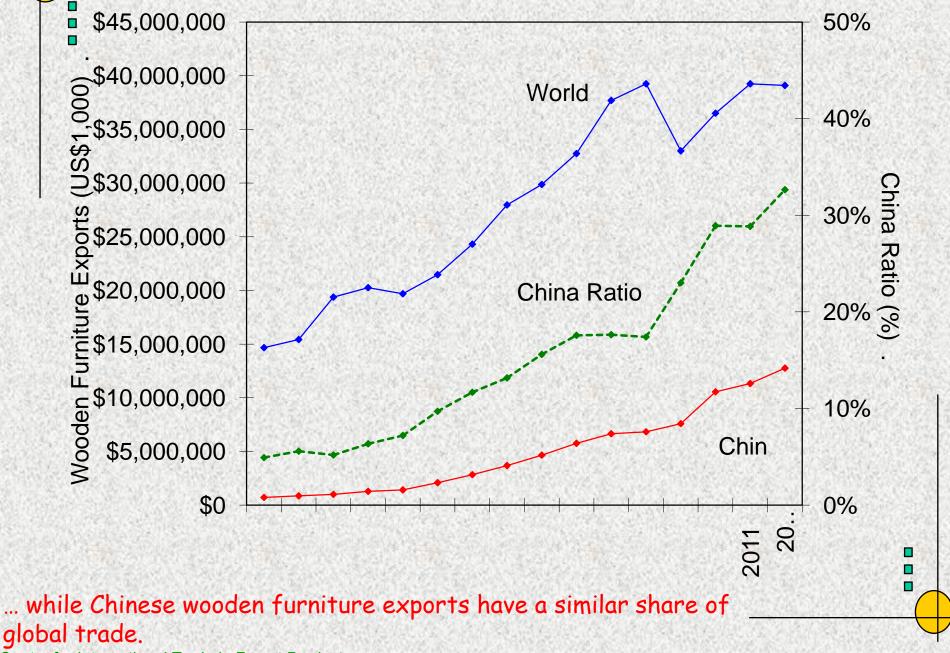
### **Global Wood Exports and China**



### **Global Plywood Exports and China**

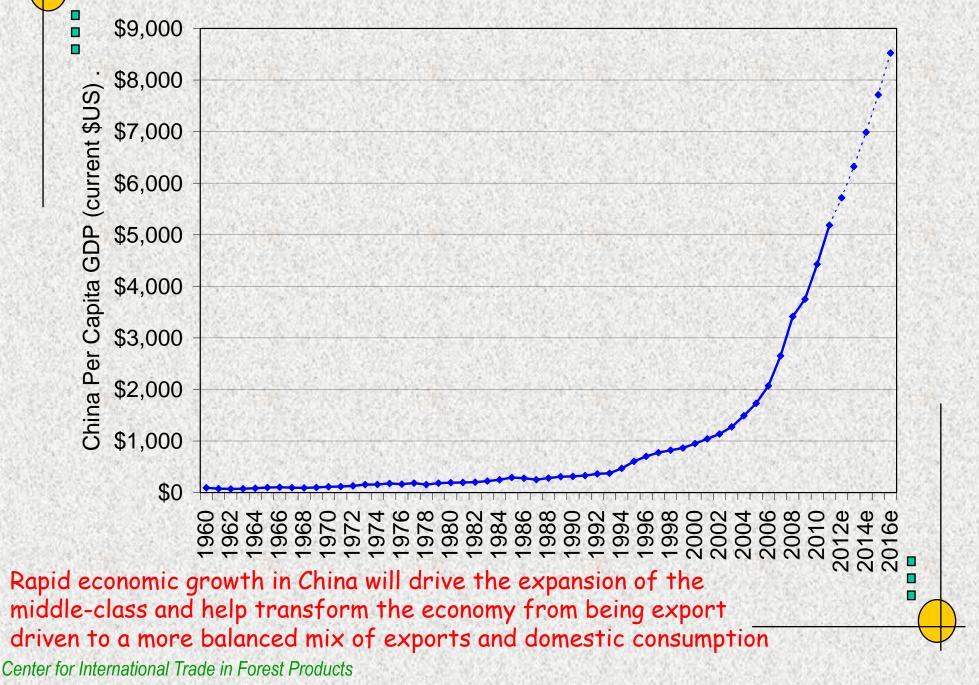


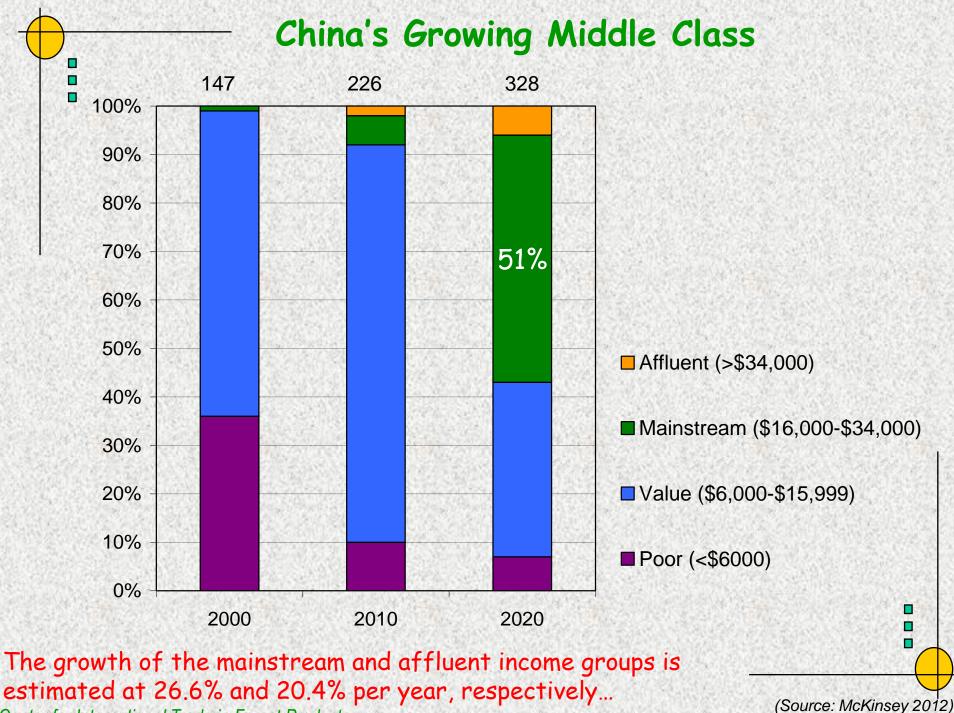
### **Global Furniture Exports and China**



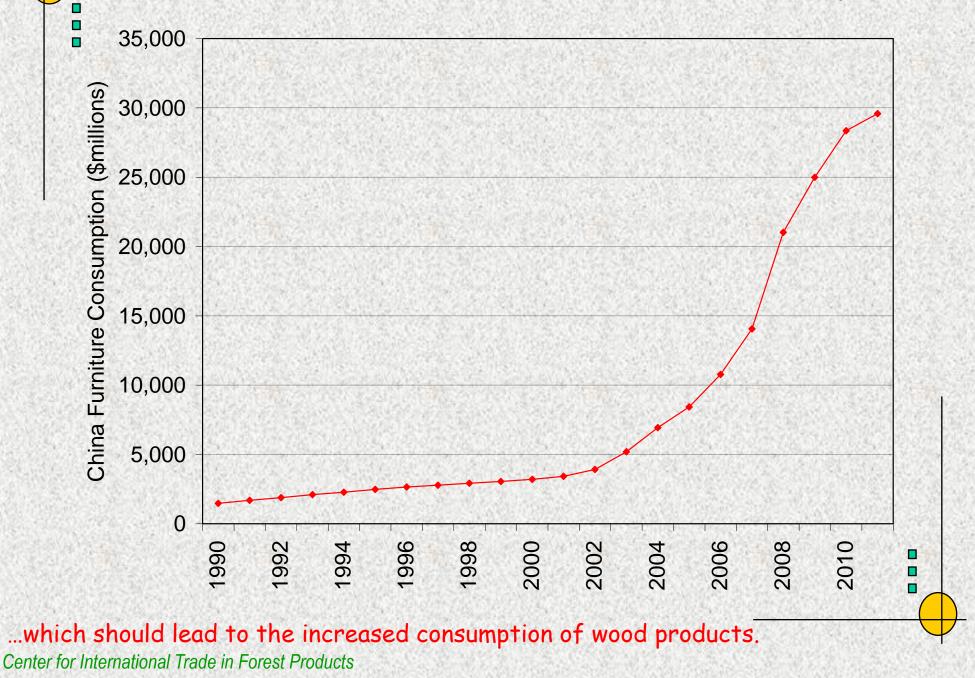
### **China Social Factors**

### China GDP per Capita Growth

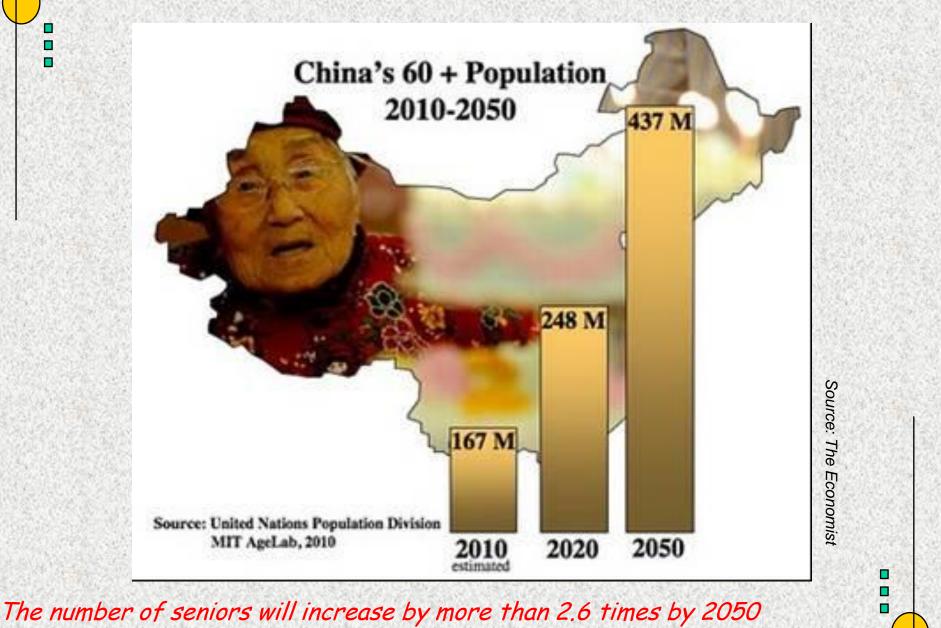




### China Domestic Furniture Consumption



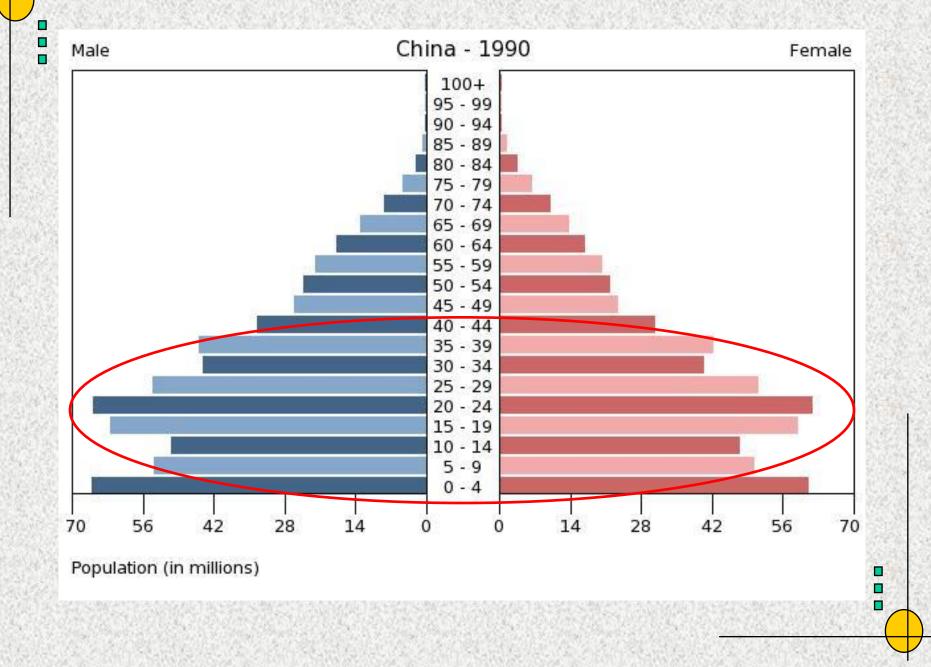
### Demographic Trends



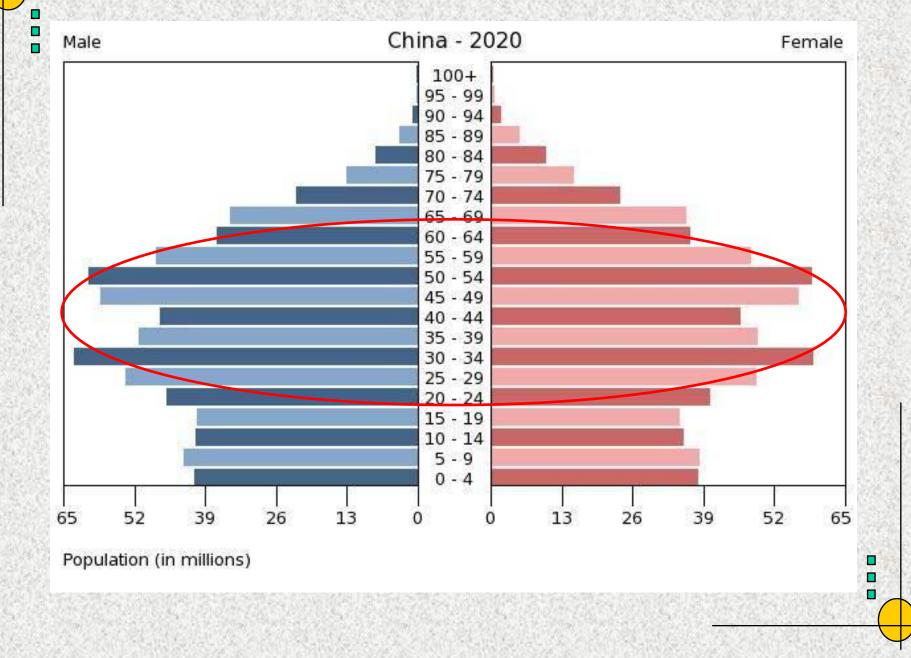
### **Demographic Trend**

Even as China per capita income continues to grow, China's population is aging at a rapid rate. China is likely to become the first country to begin graying before it becomes rich. Lack of a strong pension system, the 4-2-1 problem (the sandwich generation) and the movement of young people away from their parents to urban areas means that China is actively looking to develop a robust senior housing sector to support the rapidly growing senior population.

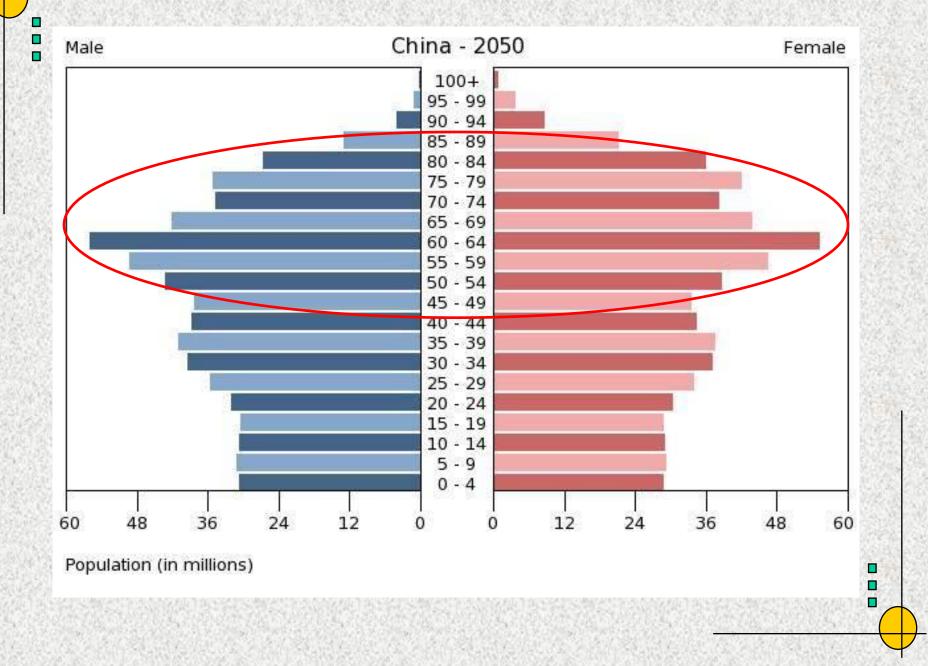
### China Population 1990

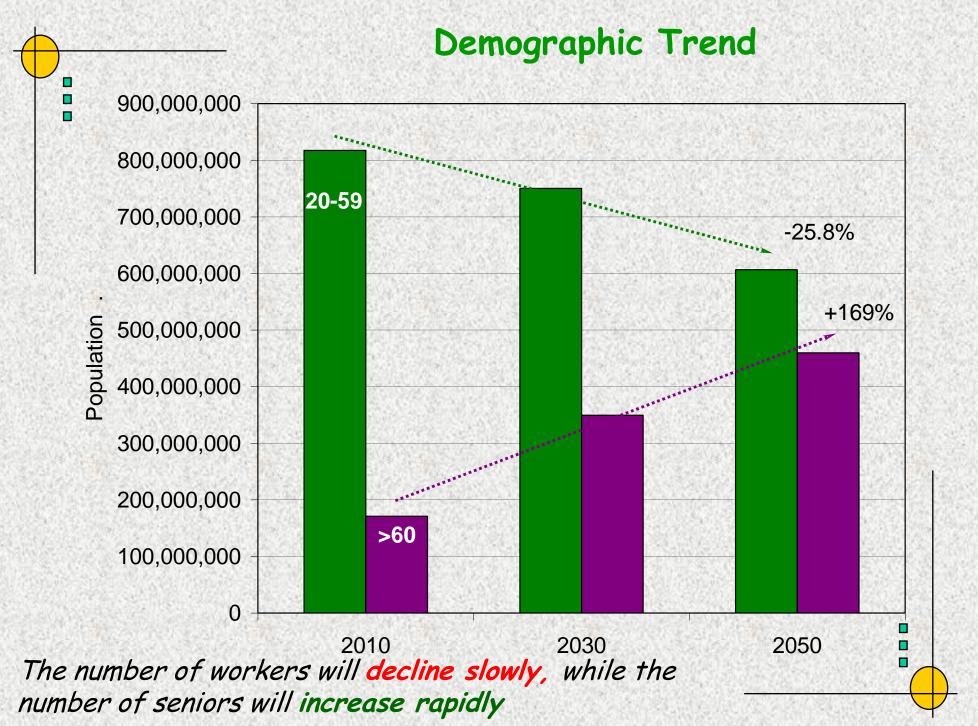


### China Population 2020

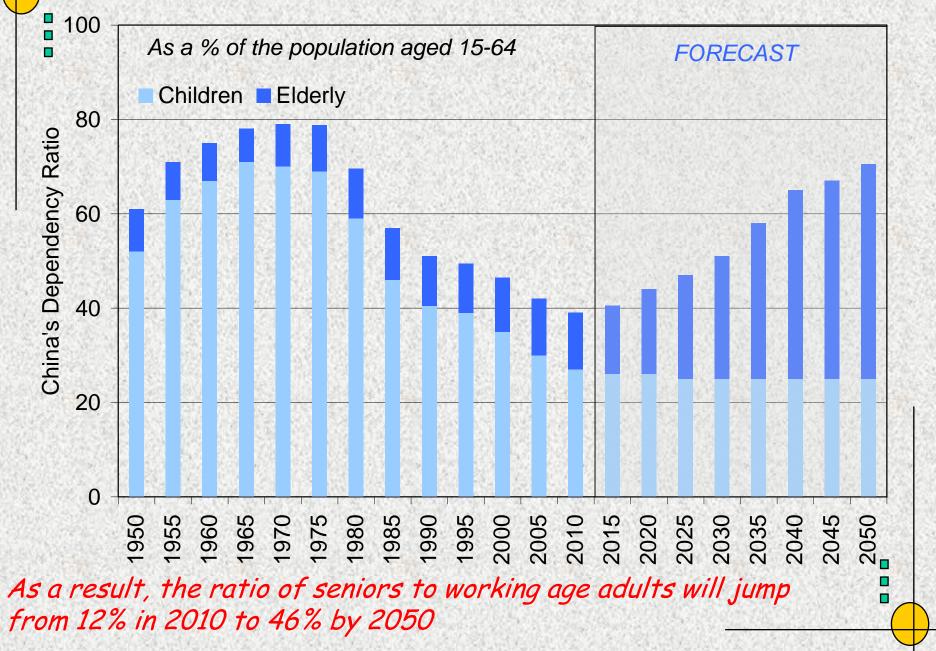


### China Population 2050





### **Demographic Trend**



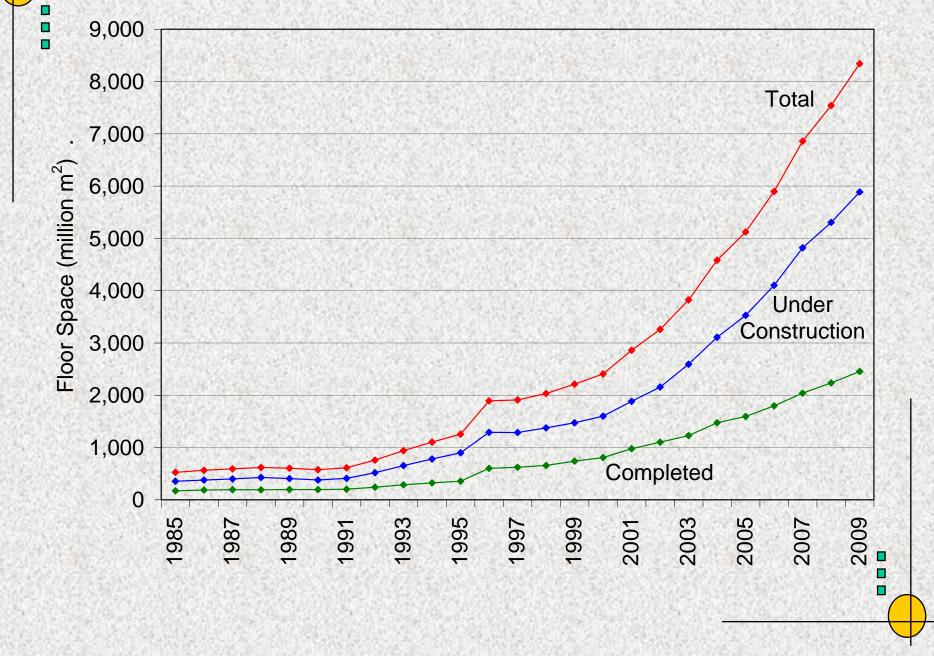
# China Construction Trends

-

### China Construction Trend (1)

China's current Five Year Plan calls for building 36 million affordable housing units between 2011 and 2016, something never before done in the history of the world. While housing units in China are generally multi story concrete and brick buildings, interior finishes (flooring, wall panels, cabinets, doors, moldings and furniture) use a substantial volume of wood. Increasing personal wealth will support the increased consumption of wood products in China.

### Residential Construction Activity in China



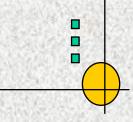
### China Construction Trend (2)

China has an inadequate senior housing infrastructure. As the senior population continues to grow and the middle to uppermiddle class segment of society continues to grow, there will be a larger number of retired people who will be able to afford senior housing (especially with the financial support of their children), thereby encouraging the development of senior communities. This represents a good opportunity for wood frame construction and wooden building materials.

### China Construction Trend (2)

Beijing Sun City is a senior retirement community located on the outskirts of Beijing





Center for International Trade in Forest Products

### China Construction Trend (3)

In addition, a growing concern about earthquake safety and energy conservation could help convince Chinese authorities to used wooden and hybrid construction technologies to build low to medium-rise public buildings (e.g., schools, senior communities and clinics) in rural and semirural areas.

### **Benefits of Wood in Construction**

Recent perceptual research has found that the aesthetic impact of using more wood in public structures can have a positive psychological impact on people's health, happiness, ability to learn and increase their feeling of relaxation. In addition, life-cycle impact research has show that wooden structures have a lower carbon footprint and are more energy efficient than either steel, concrete or brick buildings.

Center for International Trade in Forest Products

### **Benefits of Wood in Construction**

These results suggest that increasing the use of wood in public structures such as schools, health clinics and senior housing could have a positive impact on society and the environment. This information played a key role in the recent adoption of the "Law to Increase the Use of Wood in Public Structures" in Japan requiring that, whenever possible, wood be given preference over other building materials in all publicly funded buildings.

### Strategic Observations

- China has rapidly become a leading trader of wood products
  - While China runs a trade deficit in commodity wood products, it's overall balance of trade is positive
  - A rising standard of living will inevitably lead to increased domestic consumption of wood products and a growing emphasis on product brands by Chinese wood manufacturers
  - Shifting demographics will increase demand for housing and related wood products by Chinese senior citizens
     New building codes and increased interest in increasing the energy efficiency of buildings could increase interest in wood construction in China, particularly for low rise residential and public buildings (such as health clinics, senior housing and schools)



# Timber Legality Legislation

10

-----

54 00 - 37 2

0

Same

annins annins

\* A More

### **Timber Legality Verification**

- 1. Japan Public Procurement Policy (Goho Wood)
- 2. US Lacey Act

- 3. EU FLEGT Due Diligence Policy (March 2013)
- 4. Australia Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill
- (passed House and in Senate)

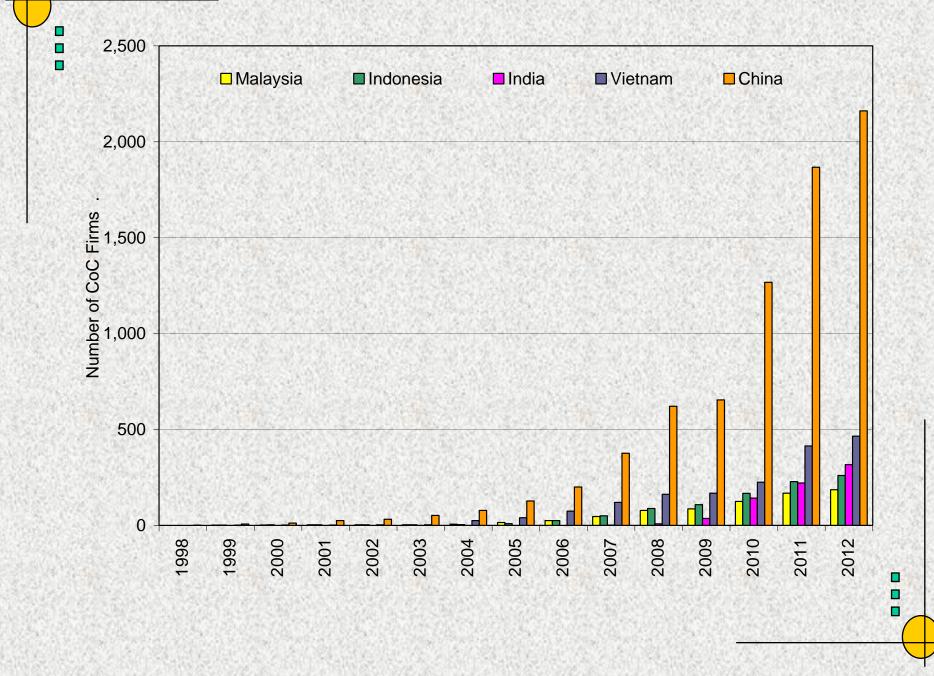
Timber legality legislation essentially requires that importers perform due diligence in documenting that they are sourcing products manufactured from legally harvested timber.



# **Timber Legality Verification**

The Lacey Act, which requires documentation of legality for all wood products exported to the US, is a big concern for wood manufacturers in China, Thailand and Vietnam and could help to boost exports of US wood products to these countries. It has already caused many Asian firms to acquire chain-ofcustody certification in order to track their wood materials through the supply chain.

# Certification of Chain-of-Custody Trends



Center for International Trade in Forest Products

Gibson Guitar and Illegally Harvested Wood

Gibsur

### Gibson Guitar Accepts Responsibility for Importing Illegally Harvested Wood



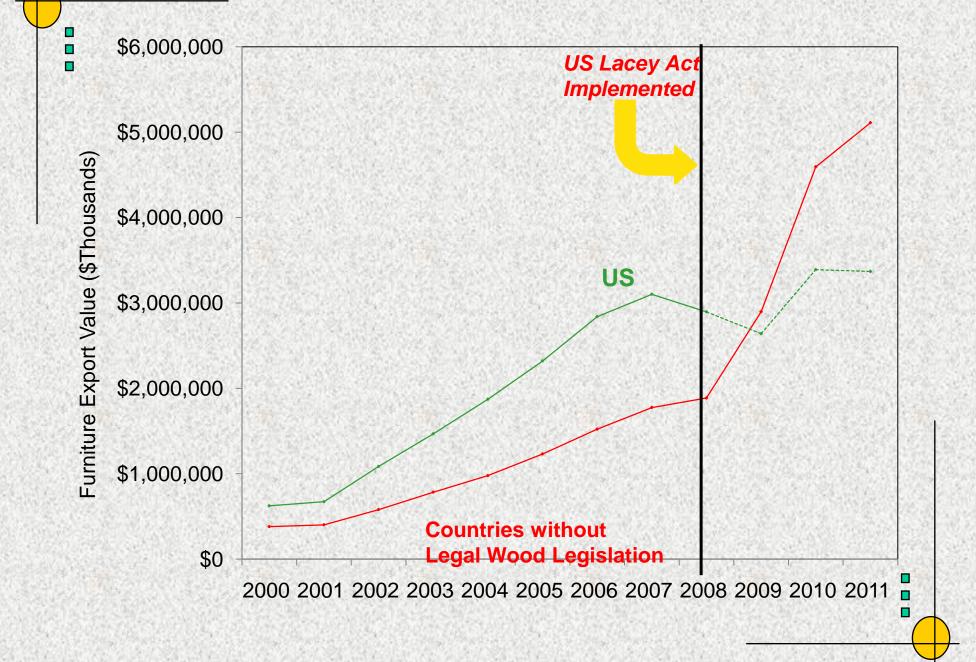
Complying with Lacey Act requirements is going to become increasingly important as a result of the Gibson Guitar case

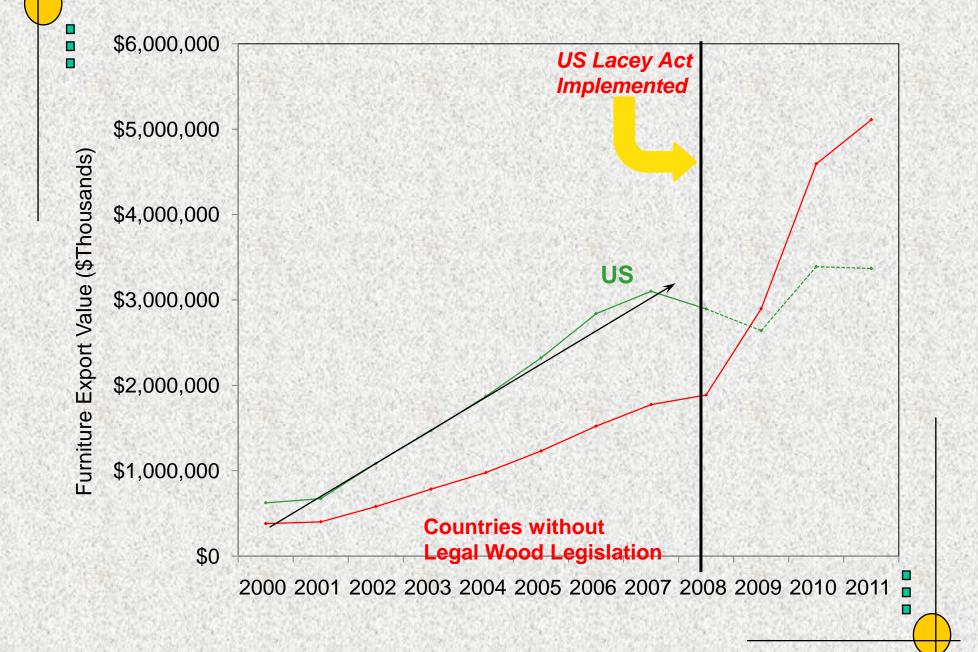
Federal agents seize illegally harvested wood from a Gibson plant

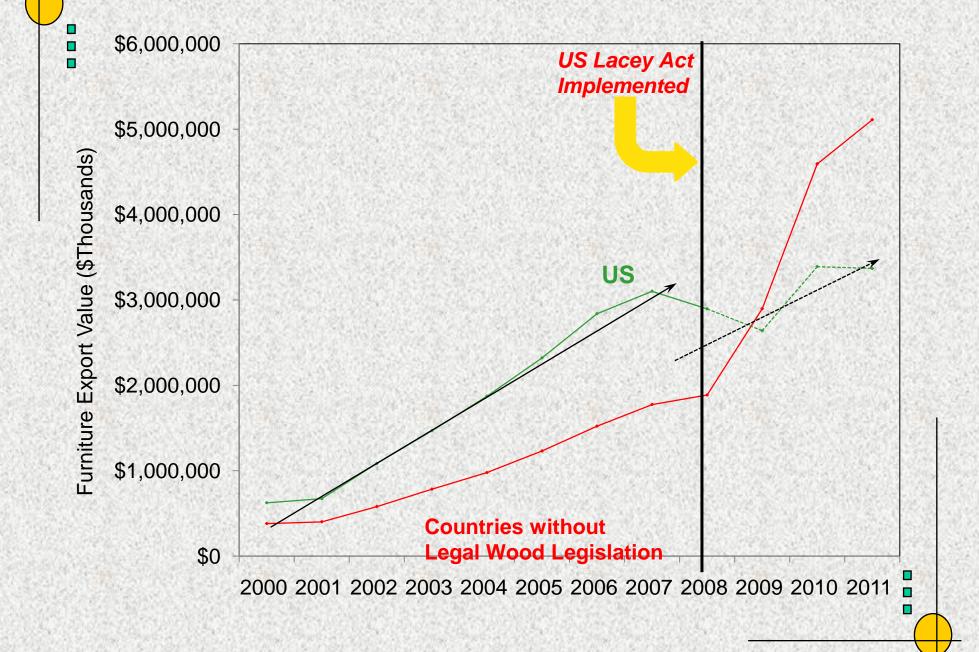


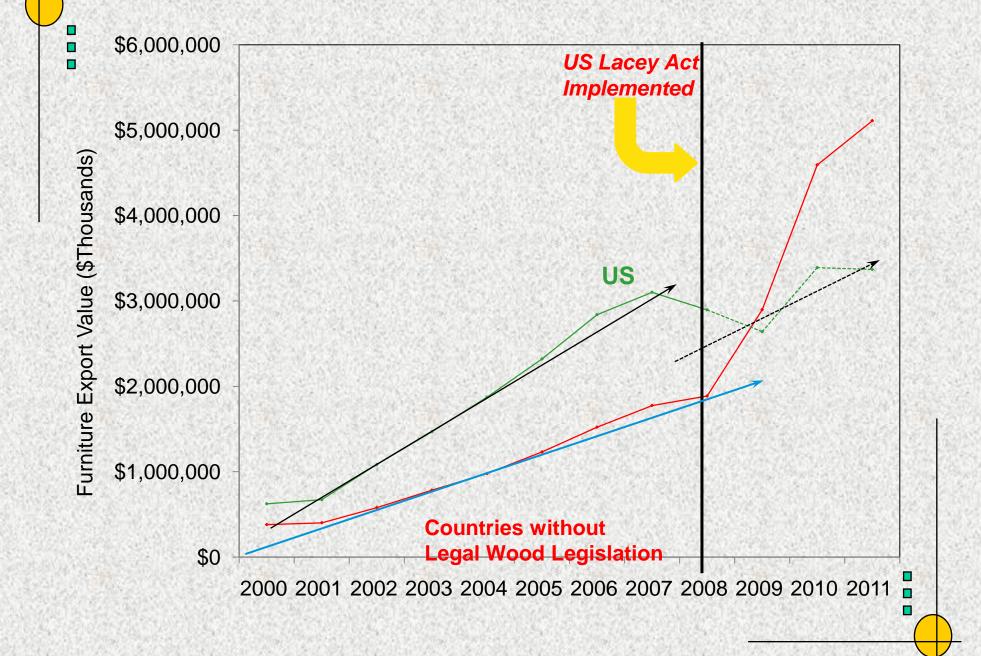
### **Timber Legality Implications**

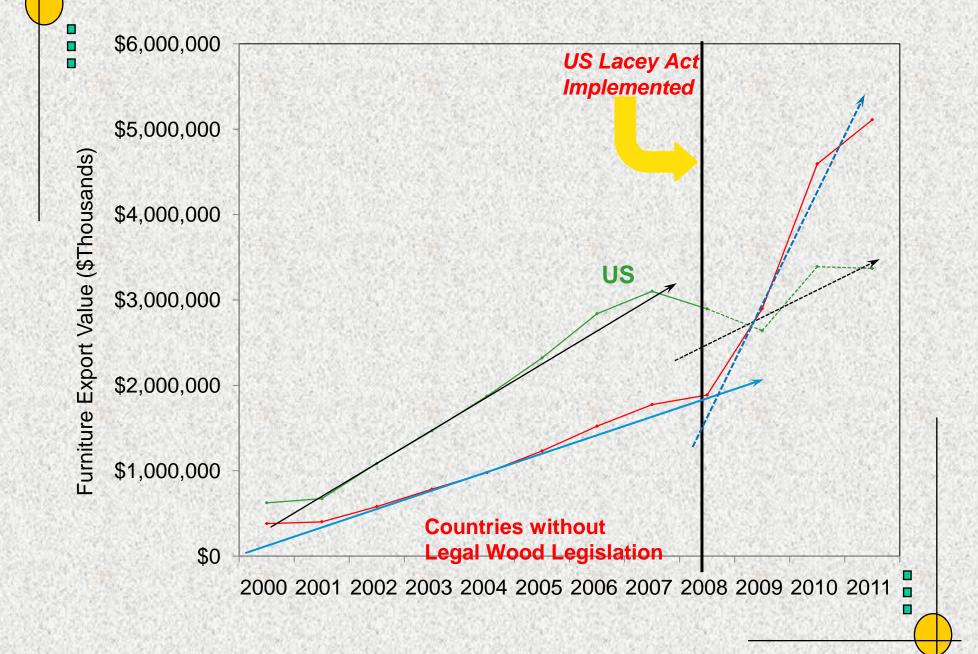
Since many Asian firms are heavily dependent on western markets for their wood product exports, legality legislation could encourage some manufacturers to either source wood materials from western countries in order to more easily show compliance with timber legality legislation and reduce the risk of having a product shipment seized and help at the port. Alternatively, manufacturers could expand exports to countries that have not adopted timber legality legislation.











# Timber Legality Legislation New Developments



Center for International Trade in Forest Products

# New Developments in Enforcing Timber Legality

- · DNA testing of wood to ID illegally harvested wood
- Map of tree genetics for 20 tropical species completed
- Increasingly being used by large US and European retailers to track logs to sawmill and lumber to market
- Cost of testing down to about .5% of the wood's value
- Using DNA database, ENGO's currently conducting undercover spot testing in retailers across the US and Europe to identify illegally harvested wood

# DNA sequencing of merbau from four locations Singapore Vanimo Sabah Fak-Fak

#### Center for International Trade in Forest Products

# Timber Legality Legislation New Developments

- Global Forest Watch
  - web-based service using NASA satellite
  - 500m x 500m resolution
  - images updated every 16 days
  - opportunity for crowd-sourcing to ID illegal logging

