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MALAYSIA - GOOD TIMES AHEAD FOR FURNITURE MAKERS

Local furniture manufacturers and exporters can look forward to better times ahead as demand is picking up after almost a year of slowdown due to the global economic recession. SHH Resources Holdings Bhd managing director Datuk Teo Wee Cheng said orders for made-in-Malaysia furniture were coming back from international buyers. Manufacturers have started to receive more orders, albeit at a gradual rate but we still perceive this as a good sign, he told StarBiz after the company AGM recently. Teo said the local furniture industry was starting to stabilise and more international buyers were returning to source furniture from local manufacturers. He said the high quality of local furniture and the ability to deliver in time were among the main reasons why more international buyers had come back. Teo said previously, many of them sourced their furniture from Chinese manufacturers but after sometime they decided to turn back to Malaysian furniture producers. He said apart from the ability of the local producers to supply quality goods on time, many of the international buyers wanted to decrease their dependency on the Chinese furniture suppliers and reduce their business risks.