

International Conference “Wood is Good: Current Trends and Future Prospects in Wood Utilization” organized by the Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bengaluru

The Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST), Bengaluru, under the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India conducted an International Conference “**Wood is Good: Current Trends and Future Prospects in Wood Utilization**” from 21st to 23rd November 2014 at Bengaluru. This Conference was conducted as a part of year-long celebration of the IWST’s Platinum Jubilee year.

The aim of this conference was to provide a forum for academicians, researchers and wood industries across the globe to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends and challenges in the field of Wood Science and Technology. The broad themes were - Wood Trade and Policy, Advances in Wood Science and Technology and Wood in Reducing Carbon Footprint, which covered demand and supply aspects of wood, wood certification, wood variability, wood processing and protection, nanotechnology applications in wood science, wood modification, wood based composites and engineered wood, energy and chemical from wood, wood in mitigating climate change, life cycle assessment of wood products and recovery, reuse and recycling of wood products for a green future.

More than 150 delegates from various countries like USA, Canada, Malaysia, UK, New Zealand, Philippines including India participated in the conference.

Dr. V. Ramakantha, IFS, Director IWST, outlined the purpose and importance of the Conference in his welcome address.

Sh. H.N. Ananth Kumar, Honorable Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizer graced the occasion as the Chief Guest for the Inaugural Function. In his address, he applauded the efforts taken to organize this International Conference which according to him would provide a road map to develop green technology for the future. He stressed about need for protecting natural forests and meeting the demand of wood from trees outside

forest through agroforestry systems. He indicated that wood polymer composites are having a great potential; towards meeting the need of growing demand. He also urged for collaborative Research and Development work between Institute of Wood Science and Technology and Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology and assured all possible help to formulate a Memorandum of Understanding between the two premier institutes. He emphasized that the outcome of the International Conference should be taken forward. The Honourable Minister recommended collaboration between four Ministries i.e., Ministries of Environment, Forests and Climate change; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in strengthening better utilization and availability of wood for the entire country. He wished the conference a great success.

Dr. Ashwani Kumar, IFS, Director General, ICFRE, presided over the function. Shri. G.V.Sugur, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Karnataka Forest Department; Dr. Sim Heok Choh, Executive Secretary, Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions, Malaysia; Distinguished Professor Jeffrey J. Morrell, of Oregon State University, USA and Sh. Ramu Ramakrishnan, Executive Director, Leitz Tooling Systems India Pvt. Ltd. were present as the Guests of Honour.

92 research papers were presented in technical sessions of conference under different themes. Dr. Mathew Leitch, Lakehead University Canada, Professor Jeff Morrell, Oregon State University USA and Professor H.S. Mukunda, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru delivered Lead Lectures during the Conference. Dr. K.K. Pandey, the Organizing Secretary of the Conference, proposed Vote of Thanks.





