

SWST/ICBR International Convention

Opening Ceremony, August 27, 2012

Dear Friends of SWST,

Welcome to the 55th Annual Convention of the Society of Wood Science and Technology and welcome to Beijing, China! We are excited and very pleased this year to hold our meeting “Sustainable Development of Wood and Biomass in our New Global Economy” with our co-hosts, the International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan (ICBR). We are indebted to Professor Benhua Fei and his colleagues at ICBR for their hospitality and enthusiastic assistance at all stages of planning this meeting. We are expecting approximately 200 attendees from 19 countries and 5 continents. Thank you in advance for your contribution whether a poster, oral presentation, or simply your attendance. Your participation is what will make this meeting a success!

SWST continues with our goal of expanding our service as the premier professional society for wood scientists, technologists and engineers to you, our international colleagues in wood science and

renewable materials in a broader sense. After the success of the convention in Concepción, Chile in 2008, and in Geneva, Switzerland in 2010 with returns to North America in 2009 and 2011 for our meetings in Boise Idaho and Portland Oregon with our good friends at the Forest Products Society, we focus now on an Asian venue for the first time and a program with global significance.

The forest products sector is facing new challenges around the world. SWST is determined to adapt to these changes and continue to provide services relevant to its members. The theme of the current meeting “Sustainable Development of Wood and Biomass in our New Global Economy” is an illustration of this. We are confident that you will find valuable information to your work in the program of this meeting which includes 55 oral presentations and 64 poster presentations. Seven sessions focused on specific issues will be presented: Global Trade – China’s Impact on Global Forest Products Trade, Energy and Carbon Issues, Development and Research in Bamboo and Other Agri Fibers, Sustainable Resources for the Future, Advanced Wood Processing I, Advanced Wood Processing II, and Wood and Agri Fiber Culture. Students are very important to us. Do not miss the Student Poster

Competition on Wednesday, August 29 from 14:30 to 16:00. We have 18 students in the competition this year.

The theme of this year's convention "Sustainable Development of Wood and Biomass in our New Global Economy" is more relevant than ever. In a context of globalization, worldwide population growth and increasing pressure on forest and agricultural resources, it becomes fundamental to extract the maximum benefits from every cubic meter of wood or other renewable crop we grow. This is the focus of this convention.

I wish you a very fruitful meeting here in Beijing and invite you to continue your journey with us in Austin Texas in June, 2013 and in Zvolen Slovakia in 2014. I thank again the ICBR organization for their outstanding collaboration in the planning of this meeting.

Alain Cloutier
SWST President