

The 61st SWST International Convention, in cooperation with Japan Wood Research Society and Nagoya University, was held November 5-9, 2018, at the Noyori Conference Hall and Noyori Lab at Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan. The overall theme was “Era of a Sustainable World – Tradition and Innovation for Wood Science and Technology”. Co-Chairs were: Dr. Shigehiko Suzuki from Shizuoka University and JWRS and Dr. Nicole Brown from Pennsylvania University and SWST President. There were 308 attendees (88 students and 220 full members) from 31 countries and 6 of the 7 continents (Antarctica was not represented). Countries included Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, USA, Vietnam, and Zambia.

Sessions

- Wood Chemistry (Cellulose Nanofibers and Lignin Utilization)
- Composite Materials and Adhesion
- Advances in Understanding Cell Biology and Wood Structure
- Biodegradation and Preservation
- Biorefinery and the Bioeconomy
- Business and Marketing
- Wood in Health and Wellness
- Timber Engineering (Traditional and Modern Structures)
- Wood Physics
- Mass Timber in Building Design and Construction
- Poster Session with Student Poster Competition

The Convention began on November 5 with a Noh Theater Performance, Opening Session and Keynote Lectures at Nagoya Noh Theater, followed by an Evening Welcome Reception at Hotel Nagoya Castle. Keynotes were given by:

- Dr. Akira Isogai, Tokyo University, Japan, “Wood Cellulose Nanofibrils: Promising New Bio-Based Nanomaterials for Creation of a Sustainable Society”
- Dr. Hans Joachim Blaß, Karlsruhe Institut für Technologie (KIT), Germany, “Advances in Cross Laminated Timber Structures”
- Dr. Andreja Kutnar, InnoRenew CoE, Slovenia, “Unlocking the Potential of the Circular Economy with Wood Science”
- Dr. Yves Weinand, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland, “Innovative Timber Structures”

The rest of the week, technical sessions were held at Noyori Conference Hall and Noyori Lab at Nagoya University. A total of 309 abstracts were submitted. There were 121 oral presentations and 140 poster presentations. Of those 140 posters, we had 40 students who participated in the Student Poster Competition.

We featured an Early Stage Researcher Session on the first morning of technical sessions (Tuesday, November 6) where 18 students and recent graduates presented their research and participated later in the Student Poster Competition. We also held a Young Scientists’ Party where people could get to know their colleagues.

A Banquet was held Wednesday evening, November 7, at the Nagoya University Restaurant which included performances from the Student University Music Club and a special Sake barrel breaking and tasting ceremony.

The SWST Business Meeting, a Closing Ceremony/Awards Presentation, and a visit to Kōshō-ji Temple took place on November 8. Awards presented were:

George Marra Awards for Excellence in Writing

- Stan Lebow, Patricia Lebow and Kolby Hirth. “Comparison of Accelerated Methods for Evaluating Leaching from Preservative Treated Wood”, 49(1) — First Place
- Jerrold E. Winandy. “Relating Wood Chemistry and Strength: Part II. Fundamental Relationships Between Changes in Wood Chemistry and Strength of Wood”, 49(1) — First Place
- Connie S. Love, Luis Meza, Jeffrey Morrell, Stan T. Lebow and Frederick Matt. “Effect of Landfill Burial on Condition of Wood: Preliminary Tests”, 49(1) — Second Place
- Carolina Kravetz, José Otávio Brito, Daniel Saloni and David C Tilotta. “Qualitative Analysis of the Extractives of Orange Wood”, 49(4) — Third Place

Distinguished Service Award – Paul M. Smith

Fellow Award – Thomas M. Gorman

Distinguished Educator Award – Douglas Gardner and Scott Leavengood

Student Poster Competition Awards

1st Place – Subir Kumar Biswas, *Kyoto University, Japan*

2nd Place – Chihiro Kimura, *Kyoto University, Japan*

3rd Place – Han Wang, *Nagoya University, Japan*

Honorable Mention – Lili Cai, *Mississippi State University, United States*

Honorable Mention – Hideaki Kanayama, *Nagoya University, Japan*

Honorable Mention – Ayana Yamashita, *Toyama Prefectural University, Japan*

The tour took place on Friday, November 9, and required a separate fee. 69 people attended. It was an all-day tour of the sights of Nagoya and included lunch and transportation. Sites included in the tour were: Nagoya Castle, Noritake Gardens, Toyota Commemorative Museum, Atsuta Shrine, and Toganji Temple.

The Hotel we used as our conference hotel was Nagoya Tokyu Hotel. 112 guests were registered.

Secretariat office: Satoru Tsuchikawa, (JWRS Executive Board Members, Nagoya University) and Victoria L. Herian, (SWST Executive Director)

Organizing committee: Mariko Yamasaki (Nagoya University), Hikaru Kobori (Shizuoka University), Tsunehisa Miki (AIST), Satoshi Fukuta (Aichi Center for Industry and Science Technology), Yukiko Enomoto (The University of Tokyo), Tetsuya Inagaki (Nagoya University), Te Ma (Nagoya University) and Eric Hansen (Oregon State University)

Advisory Committee:

- Jack Saddler, University of British Columbia, Canada
- Jianxiong Lu, Chinese Academy of Forestry, China
- Alfred Teischinger, BOKU, Austria

- Ryo Funada, Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan
- Tran Van Chu, Vietnam National University of Forestry, Vietnam
- Sri Nugroho Marsoem, Universitas Gadjah Mada,
- Andreja Kutnar, InnoRenew CoE, Slovenia
- World Nieh, USDA, USA
- Wolfgang Glasser, Virginia Tech, USA
- Warren Grigsby, Scion, New Zealand
- Tibor Alpar, University of Sopron, Hungary
- Michael Wolcott, Washington State University, USA

SPONSORS

Platinum Sponsor:

- Norbord Inc.

Gold Sponsor:

- Interex Forest Products, Ltd.

Silver Sponsor:

- Japan Woodworking Machinery Association (JWMA)
- Daicel Corporation
- Sekisui House, Ltd
- USDA Forest Service
- North Carolina State University Department of Forest Biomaterials

Bronze Sponsor:

- Nagoya Port Lumber Warehouse
- Kikukawa Enterprise, Inc.
- Meinan Machinery Works, Inc
- Iida Kogyo Co. Ltd
- Noda Corporation
- Nice Corporation
- Bruker Japan
- Japan Wood Protection Association
- Kanefusa Corporation
- Inabata & Co., Ltd
- Oregon State University Wood Science and Engineering Department
- Virginia Tech Sustainable Biomaterials Department
- Mississippi State University Department of Sustainable Bioproducts

Non-monetary Sponsor

- IUFRO Division 5

Display Booth

- Guangzhou ESUN Biotech Co., Ltd

Financial Accounting:

Final total income: \$153,126.45	Yen: 16,164,536
Final total expenses: \$146,135.94	Yen: 16,221,089
Net income: \$6990.51	Yen: 775,947
Japan surplus \$5592.41	Yen: 620,757
SWST surplus \$1398.10	Yen: 155,189