# INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF WOOD SCIENCE

# BULLETIN 2008-II


**www.iaws.uhp-nancy.fr/**

**December 2008**

**Executive Committee**

**President: Frank Beall, Richmond**
**Vice-President: Lennart Salmén, Stockholm**
**Secretary: Uwe Schmitt, Hamburg**
**Treasurer: Howard Rosen, Silver Spring**
**Past President: Xavier Deglise, Nancy**
**Bulletin Editor: John Barnett, Kniveton/Derbyshire**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the UK in June, the Executive committee discussed several issues that have now been resolved. One of these was to provide for electronic balloting in the election of Fellows, which will be coming up shortly. The paper ballots, which were required in the Bylaws, have been difficult for many and we hope that the change will now increase the participation of Fellows in the election process. When you have your opportunity to consider the qualifications of candidates, I hope you will look at more than just numbers of refereed publications. To remain viable, we need to not only recognize those who have made obvious contributions to wood science in their personal research, but also consider those with great promise. Our median age is quite high and our future depends on the younger generation. Also, consider giving credit to those who have moved on to administrative roles where their individual contributions may have decreased, but they may be responsible for stimulating the minds of younger researchers.

Another change made in the Bylaws is to permit the Executive Committee to add members for special or ad hoc responsibilities. As a result, we have added Past President John Barnett as the "publications editor," having a major responsibility of editing the Bulletin (starting with this one) and preparing IAWS news for Wood Science and Technology. We have also added the chair of the Academy Board as a non-voting member to help increase the communications between the Board and the Executive Committee. Katia Ruel, as the current chair, will serve in this capacity until the end of her term in two years.

Planning for future plenary meetings of IAWS is on schedule, with a considerable amount of information now available in the Bulletin and the web page on the meeting in St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia, 15-20 June 2009. Plans are also being made for a plenary meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, 23-26 June 2010. This would start immediately after the Forest Products Society Annual Convention, with the first half-day in conjunction with the dedication of a new building at the Forest Products Laboratory, which coincides with their 100th anniversary. For 2011 and 2012, we have identified Munich and Stockholm as potential sites.

We are slowly moving ahead with our planned Certification Program and have identified two Supporting Members for our first efforts. After these two assessments, we will finalize our procedures and provide more information for organizations that wish to have their research programs reviewed and potentially certified by IAWS. Hopefully, much of this will be completed by the next Bulletin.

In October, Past President Xavier Deglise and I were invited to the 50th anniversary celebration of our newest Supporting Member, the Chinese Academy of Forestry (see report on page xx). IAWS was accorded a very prominent role in the celebration.

***Frank Beall/Richmond***

**TREASURER'S REPORT - NOVEMBER 24, 2008**

Our IAWS dues will be increasing in 2009. We have not had an individual member increase since 2001 or a Supporting Member dues change since the beginning of IAWS in 1966. Inflation, costs for maintaining our IAWS web site, and expenses for technical programs at various international meetings have increased our expenses. New dues for 2009 are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Active Fellows | $ 50 US per year |
| Retired Fellows | $ 20 US per year |
| Lifetime Dues | $600 US per year |
| Supporting Members | $200 US per year |

Anyone wishing to pay dues in advance for 2009 (and beyond) prior to January 1, 2009 can pay at the old rate of US$ 30, 15, 400, and 100, respectively.

I am pleased to report that our Treasury is in good financial health and we should be able to maintain our old and new programs in the future. We have almost $16,000 US in the checking account and $40,000 US in certificate of deposits. PayPal has been an effective way of paying dues with 56 people using this credit card option so far in 2008. Also, members can mail either euros or $US in a letter. I have had no trouble with this method for 4 years and if the letter is lost in the mail, I will credit your account for the amount sent.

Those of us that are in IAWS have been recognized by our peers as outstanding scientists and leaders in our field. Our dues are a minimal contribution to advancing the excellent science that our members and other wood scientists have contributed to the betterment of the world.

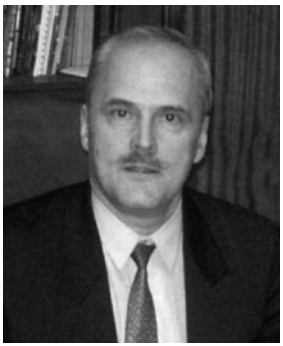
Howard N Rosen

***Howard Rosen/Silver Spring***

**NEW LIFETIME CONTRIBUTORS**

| | |
|---|---|
| JEFFREY DEAN | USA |
| JOSEPH GRIL | FRANCE |
| HYUN-JOONG KIM | KOREA |
| HOLGER MILITZ | GERMANY |
| SHIRO SAKA | JAPAN |

**NEWLY ELECTED FELLOWS 2008**



**Prof. Dr. Alexander Alekseev**
Dept. of Forest Inventory, Management and GIS of
St. Petersburg State Forest Technical Academy, Russia

Prof. Dr. Alexander Alekseev is Vice-Rector for education and international activities at Sankt-Petersburg State Forest Technical Academy. He is Head of the Dept. of Forest Inventory, Management and GIS. His main fields of his expertise are forest inventory and management, forest ecology and monitoring, as well as mathematical modelling, computer science and GIS applications in forestry and forest ecology. He is also a specialist in analysis of tree stand growth under influence of climate change. Total number of publications is 180 (61 are in reviewed journals), and four books.

**Prof. Dr. Terry Lee Amburgey**
Forest Products Department, Mississippi State University, USA

Terry Amburgey has gained an international reputation based on his research, publications, and presentations dealing with the prevention and control of wood-inhabiting fungi and insects in both primary and secondary wood products. His patents dealing with the foraging behavior of subterranean termites currently are in the process of being commercialized and promise to revolutionize methods of protecting structures from termites. The results of his long-term research on railroad crossties form the basis for new preservation techniques now in use for preventing biodeterioration of ties during both air-seasoning and in service.

**Prof. Dr. M. Naceur Belgacem**
National Polytechnic Institute of Grenoble, France

Professor Belgacem works on the use of wood for the preparation of different materials. The essential driving force behind these strategies is related to the depletion of fossil resources. The chemistry and the chemical engineering and processes are the key parameter in the development of biomass refinery, in the field of fine chemicals, materials and energy. 21st Century will be that of bio-based materials and energy.

**Dr. Jean Bouchard**
Paprican Division, FP Innovations, Quebec, Canada

Jean Bouchard's research has focused initially on the mecha-nism of cellulose depolymerization in hydrolytic and solvolytic processes during the 7 years he spent at University of Sherbrooke within the group of Prof. Esteban Chornet. When he joined Paprican in 1991, his main focus was on the effects of the chemistry of kraft pulping and ECF-TCF bleaching on fibre quality. He participate in the development of several new processes such as polysulfide pulping, the OPx delignification stage, lower cost near-neutral sodium sulfite deinking. He was the first to measure reproducible chain length distribution of cellulose and of glucomannan from softwood Kraft pulp. Also, he has developed a new analytical procedure to monitor destructive •OH radical during $O_2$ delignification. He is presently also leading a group on nanocrystalline cellulose characterization and modification.

**Prof. Dr. Joseph Buongiorno**
Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsion, Madison, USA

For major accomplishments in modelling and understanding supply/ demand relationships in forest products. Developer of the Global Forest Products Model (GFPM). The GFPM is a dynamic-spatial econometric model of the world forestry sector. Its Since its begin-ning in 1997, the GFPM has been used extensively for forecasting and policy analysis. In particular, it was used by the author and students for the timber trends studies of the Food and Agriculture Organization (1998, 1999). purpose is to make long-term predictions of the demand, supply, trade, and prices of forest products.

**Dr. Bernard S.W. Dawson**
New Zealand Forest Research Institute Ltd, trading as Scion, Rotorua, New Zealand

For major contributions to wood science and technology in the areas of reproducibility of analyses of wood preservatives in both solution and wood through inter-laboratory trials and publication; chemical modification of wood cell walls; and dominantly in the area of surface technology and coatings especially photostabilisation of radiata pine surfaces prior to clear coating and exterior exposure. In the last case, the combination of chemical and high resolution microscopic techniques applied to probe the wood-coatings interface revealed information that is novel and highly relevant to the wood processing industry.

**Prof. Dr. Jeffrey F. D. Dean**
Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, USA

Over the past decade, Dr. Dean's laboratory has played a leading role in applying state-of-the-art functional genomic approaches to understanding wood formation, as well as growth and development processes, and responses to environmental stress in conifers. Most recently, he has helped lead efforts to organize an international research consortium to sequence the first reference genome for a conifer species. Through the years, Dr. Dean's research has also provided fundamental new insights into the contributions made by multicopper oxidases to lignin deposition in woody vascular tissues, as well as the mechanisms whereby fungal laccases contribute to the degradation of lignin.

**Prof. Dr. Kazuhiko Fukushima**
Nagoya Univ. , Graduate School of Bioagricultural Sciences, Japan

Professor Fukushima has published many creative research papers and books in the field of most basic wood science as follows; biosynthetic pathway of monolignols by isotope tracer methods combined with high resolution mass spectrometry, heterogeneity in formation and structure of cell wall polymers in differentiating wood cell walls by microautoradiography, distribution of lignin structural units and various extraneous components in the wood cell walls by the technique of ToF-SIMS (Time of Flight, Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry). He renders services to the cultivation and promotion of wood science as a member of the board of director of the Japan Wood Research Society.

**Prof. Dr. Joseph Gril**
CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), Montpellier, France

A specialist of rheological modelling and structure/properties relationships in wood. Leads a research group devoted to basic and applied knowledge on wood as a material, tree biomechanics, support of research in developing countries, introduction of wood culture in the university curriculums. Contributed significantly to the progress of wood mechanics in Europe by an active networking activity through the COST system. Established many collaborations with wood scientists, in Europe, Japan, China, Morocco, Iran, etc. where he usually contributes through data analysis and modeling.

**Prof. Dr. Anatoly P. Karmanov**
Institute of Chemistry, Komi Scientific Centre, Ural Division, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia

Professor Karmanov is a recognized expert in the field of Physical Chemistry of natural polymers and ecology. He is carrying out world-wide fundamental and applied research concerning self-organization, structural organization and properties of natural and biosynthetic lignins. He has developed new lignocellulosic materials according to the principle of «*green chemistry*».

**Prof. Dr. Hyun-Joong Kim**
Seoul National University, Republic of Korea

Manufacturing and processing of bio-plastics (Bio-Composites) with natural flour (wood and bamboo flour) and natural fibers using bio-based biodegradable polymers (PLA and PBS). Pioneering works for adhesives & PSAs in the fields of wood and wood products using UV-curing technology and hot-melt adhesives. Synthesis and physico-mechanical properties of coated films for wood –based materials and related products. Development and evaluation methods of wood-based composites and indoor air chemistry (emission of formaldehyde and VOCs).

**PD Dr. Gerald Koch**
Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry, and Fisheries – Johann Heinrich von Thunen Institute – vTI) , Institute of Wood Technology and Wood Biology
(Formerly: Federal Research Centre of Forestry and Forest Products, BFH), Hamburg, Germany

For major contributions to understand discolouration processes of hardwoods due to heartwood formation and artificial colour changes, e.g. during drying or steaming. Dr. Koch also developed a special cellular UV-microspectrophotometric technique to localize lignin and aromatic compounds within woody cell walls. This is of great importance also for wood chemists to detect lignin loss in walls during pulping. Another major field is his pioneering activity in the development of a computer-assisted wood identification software. The so-called CITESwoodID is an internationally widely used and important program for wood scientists as well as for customs officials to identify CITES-protected species.

**Prof. Dr. Yuan-Zong Lai**
Department of Paper and Bioprocess Engineering, State University of New York, College of Environmental Science & Forestry (SUNY-ESF), Syracuse, USA

Professor Lai's research activities, in additional to earlier work on the thermal degradation mechanism of cellulose related substrates, are focused mainly around the chemistry of lignin in wood, lignin modification, delignification, and biorefinery pertinent to the paper industry. A key feature has been in pursuing the structural analysis of wood and pulp residual lignin *in-situ* to reveal their intrinsic characteristics. Our works have advanced a quantitative understanding on the structural variation of lignin among softwood and hardwood and its influence by the presence of syringyl units; between the phenolic and etherified components of wood lignin; and on the impact of aryl ether cleavages in alkaline and acidic delignification of softwood and hardwood.

**Prof. Dr. Holger Militz**
Institute of Wood Biology and Wood Technology, University Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany

Prof. Militz working groups, in the Netherlands as well since the year 2000 in Germany, are leading in the field of the development of new wood protection systems by wood modification. Basic research in understanding wood protection mechanisms and process development to introduce new techniques to the wood industry belong to his specialty.

**Michael Paice**
FP Innovations, Paprican Division, Quebec, Canada

Michael Paice has made major contributions to the area of enzyme applications in the forest products industry, particularly in pulp bleaching. More recently he has become a recognized authority on effluent treatment environmental issues. He was awarded PAPTAC's Douglas Jones Award (Best Environmental Paper) in 1993, and was elected Fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada in 1995. In 1998 he chaired the 7th International Conference on Biotechnology in Vancouver, and is currently Chairman of the IWA Specialist Group on Forest Industry Wastewaters. He is a Principal Scientist and Group Leader of Biotechnology and Effluent Treatment at FPInnovations, Paprican Division.

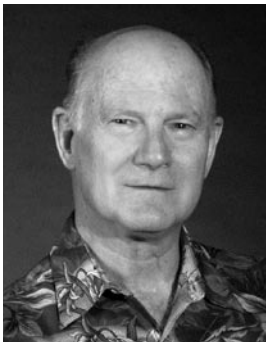
**Prof. Dr. Robert W. Rice**
University of Maine, Orono, USA

My initial work centered on heat and mass transfer during drying and mechanosorptive stresses. Federal regulations in the United States caused my interests to refocus over concerns about the potential human health and environmental effects from volatile organic compounds (VOC's) released during wood drying. I formed a team of health professionals, soil scientists and microbiologists and developed sampling methods and protocols for the research. To date, over 30 publications have been generated and, most importantly, no harmful human or environmental effects have been found at the levels commonly seen. The database of VOC release levels developed is used extensively by regulatory agencies and the work is now focused more on fundamentals. Particulate distribution studies are also a current focus.

**Prof. Dr. Shiro Saka**
Graduate School of Energy Science, Kyoto University, Japan

Shiro Saka has a BSc (1975) in wood science in Kyoto University, MSc (1977) and PhD (1980) in wood science in NC State University. He was a post-doctoral fellow at McGill University/ Paprican (1980-1983) and eventually became a Professor in the Department of Socio-Environmental Energy Science, Kyoto University. His research areas include: topochemistry of wood, functionalization of wood by chemical modification through sol-gel reactions and, thermochemical conversion of biomass to useful chemicals and biofuels by supercritical fluid science. He has won awards including: Minister's Award on the Environment, Japan on Global Warming Protection Activities (2004), Wood Award from the Forest Products Research Society (1980

**Dr. R. Sam Williams**
USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin, USA



Dr. Williams oversees a broad basic research program in surface chemistry that encompasses defining surface properties, chemical modification of surfaces and bulk, protection of lignocellulosic materials, development of adhesives, and basic science of wood adhesion. In his personal research, he is developing sophisticated protocols for understanding the chemistry of materials as they degrade during accelerated and outdoor testing and is investigating the effects of cyclic fatigue, UV radiation, and temperature and moisture changes on materials as they degrade. He has improved our understanding of the photochemical degradation of wood and defined the critical elements for achieving long-term durability of clear coatings on wood.

**Prof. Dr. Hiroyuki Yano**
Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere, Kyoto University, Japan

For chemical modifications aimed at the improvement of acoustical properties of wood for musical instruments; for the production of optically transparent nano-composites using wood pulp based nano-fibers.

**CHINESE ACADEMY OF FORESTRY – 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

On 27-28 October 2008, the Chinese Academy of Forestry sponsored an international symposium, which was organized by inviting heads of research organizations to provide presentations on "Forest Research in Response to Global Change." The overall invitees were from Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Malaysia, Sweden, and USA. There were also representatives of the following organizations: IUFRO, UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification), ITTO, FAO, IAWS, IPC (International Poplar Commission), INBAR (International Network for Bamboo and Rattan), APAFRI (Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Organizations), WFC (World Forest Center), and WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature--China). CAF received 31 letters of congratulations from these and other institutions throughout the world. The Symposium was organized with a celebration ceremony and visit to an exhibition of research achievements on the morning of 27 October, followed by an opening ceremony to begin the afternoon. This was followed by four technical sessions with 17 presentations on the general topic. The Symposium included special lunches, banquets, and visits, concluding with a special dinner and cultural performance. Among the attendees were nine IAWS


Fellows (Bao, Beall, Chen, Deglise, Hse, Jiang, Saddler, Shimizu, Zhang), and four of the IAWS representatives of Supporting Members, including CAF. A special lunch was hosted by Fellow Jiang to honor IAWS Fellows and other friends from her years as President of CAF. In addition, Director Kelin Ye sponsored a visit to the Research Institute of Wood Industry for a small group of Canadian visitors and IAWS Fellows, and held a banquet afterwards.

The IAWS official invitees were President Frank Beall and Past President Xavier Deglise. President Beall gave a presentation in the first session on "Contributions of IAWS Fellows to Climate change Information," which was the invited topic. This information was organized through email solicitations to IAWS and responses from about 20 Fellows. Obviously, since there was a very short time period to prepare, many potential contributions were not received in time for inclusion. However, we would like to thank those who provided such information to make the presentation possible.

***Frank Beall and Xavier Deglise***

## IAWS PLENARY MEETING IN SAINT PETERSBURG/MOSCOW 2009


Saint Petersburg –
Moscow, Russia 2009

**INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF WOOD SCIENCE**
**ANNUAL PLENARY MEETING AND CONFERENCE**
**2009**
**IAWS-2009**
**Saint Petersburg – Moscow, 2009, June,15th -21st**
**«Wood as a Renewable Source of Vital Values for Changing World»**

You are invited to submit papers for presentation and/or posters for display at the upcoming Annual Plenary Meeting and Conference IAWS-2009 in Saint Petersburg State Forestry Technical Academy (SPb FTA), Saint Peterburg, Russia, and in Moscow State Forestry University (MSFU), Moscow, Russia, with support of International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO), Regional Coordinating Council of Wood Science, Main Botanical Garden of Russian Academy of Science and EFI Project Center in SPb PROCES.

### PLENARY MEETING AND CONFERENCE
### IAWS 2009
### PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

**SAINT-PETERSBURG PART (2009, JUNE 15 – 17th):**
**Sunday, June, 14th** Arrival of participants.
Option: 19.30 - 22.00 City sightseeing tour.

**Monday, June, 15th**

10.00 - 18.00 Opening of the meeting, welcoming words. Plenary session.
12.00 - 14.00 Lunch and visit to the botanical gardens of the Academy.
19.00 - Conference Dinner at the Saint Petersburg State Forest Technical Academy.
*For accompanying persons: 10.00 - 17.00 Boat tour along channels, lunch, St. Isaac's Cathedral & Yusupovsky palace. Possibility to take part in the Conference Dinner.*

**Tuesday, June, 16th**

10.00 - 17.30 Section sessions. Closing the Saint Petersburg's part of Conference & group photo.
12.00 – 14.00 Lunch and visit to the museums of the Academy (museum of hunting and museum of entomology).
Option: 19.00 – 22.00 Visit to the theater (ballet) or folk show & dinner.
*For accompanying persons: 10.00 – 17.00 The Hermitage; lunch; Peter & Paul Fortress.*

**Wednesday, June, 17th**

10.00 - 16.00 Field trip (lunch).
*For accompanying persons: 10.00 - 17.30 Petrodvorets (lunch).*

**MOSCOW PART (2009, JUNE 18 – 21st):**

**Thursday, June, 18th**

07-00 - Arrival to Moscow.
09-00 - Accommodation in the Hotel.
11-00 - Transfer Hotel - Main Botanical Gardens (MBG).
12-30 - Welcome by Alexander Demidov, director of MBG.
12-40 - 4 contributed papers.
14-00 - Conference lunch and poster session.
15-00 - 6 contributed papers.
17-00 - Excursion to MBG.
18-00 - Arrival to the Hotel.
*For accompanying persons: 10.00 – 18.00 City sightseeing tour (lunch).*

**Friday, June, 19th**

08.30 - Transfer Hotel - MSFU.
09.30 - Welcome by Victor Sanaev - rector of MSFU.
10.00 - Academy lecture by professor Boris Ugolev — «Wood as a natural smart material».
11.15 - 7 contributed papers.
14.00 - Conference lunch and poster session.

15.00 - 3 contributed papers.
16.00 - Closing the Conference & group photo.
16.15 - Visit to faculties.
17.00 - Conference dinner at Moscow State Forestry University.
18.00 - Transfer MSFU – Hotel.
*For accompanying persons: 10.00 – 18.00 Excursion to Tretiakov Picture gallery (lunch). Possibility to take part in the Conference Dinner.*

**Saturday, June 20th , visits**

For participants and accompanying persons:
10.00 - Transfer Hotel - Furniture Plant
12.30 - Transfer Furniture Plant – Hotel
13.00 - Lunch
14.00 - For participants – visit to Institute of Solid State Physics RAS
*For accompanying persons – 14.00-17.00 visit to Moscow centre and excursion to Moscow Kremlin*

**Sunday , June, 21th**

Participants leaving back

**REGISTRATION**

To register for the conference, please complete the registration form at http://ftacademy.ru/academy/conference/events/registration.php?id=8&lang=eng not later than April, 15th, 2009.

**DATES AND DEADLINES**

| | |
|---|---|
| February 1 2009 | Abstract Submission |
| March 1 2009 | Notification of Acceptance |
| April 15 2009 | Registration |
| May 1 2009 | Manuscripts |
| June 15-17 2009 | Plenary Meeting in SPSFTA |
| June 18-21 2009 | Plenary Meeting in MSFU |

**ACCOMMODATION**

**In Saint-Petersburg (15 – 17 of June 2009)**

A room in the hotel **"Dostoevsky"** will be reserved for you when you note a room preference on your form for room reservation (which has room categories and prices, http://www.dostoevsky-hotel.ru/price.en.html. The deadline for hotel reservation through the organizers is April, 15th , 2009.

**In Moscow (18 – 21 of June 2009)**
A room in the hotel complex **"Izmailovo"** will be reserved for you when you note a room preference on your form for room reservation (which has room categories and prices, http://www.izmailovo.ru/eng/rooms.php). The deadline for hotel reservation through the organizers is April, 15th , 2009.

**CONTACTS**

| In Saint-Petersburg: | In Moscow: |
|---|---|
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**WOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY JOURNAL – IAWS NEWS**

The following items first appeared on the News from IAWS pages in the Academy Journal, Wood Science and Technology:

***Wood Sci Technol (2008) 42:437–438***
***IAWS NEWS***

**Changes to the Academy Board**

**New Chair**
Professor Katia Ruel has been elected as Chair of the Academy Board from 2 June 2008. Professor Ruel is based at CERMAV, Grenoble and specialises in research into cell wall structure using antibody techniques and electron microscopy.

**New members**

Four Fellows have been elected to the Academy Board to replace the four members who have completed their 6-year term of office (Fellows Hou-Min Chang, Mitsuo Higuchi, Alan Petty, and Adrian Wallis). They are:

**Frederick A. Kamke**
Professor Frederick A. Kamke, PhD, holds an endowed professorship as the JELD-WEN Professor of Wood-Based Composite Science, Department of Wood Science and Engineering, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, USA. Dr. Kamke's research specialization is heat and mass transfer in wood and wood-based products, with emphasis on adhesion science, modeling, and the manufacture and performance of wood-based composite materials.

**Fumiaki Nakatsubo**
Professor Fumiaki Nakatsubo is a Professor at the Division of Forest and Biomaterials Science in the Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University. His current research interests are in the chemical synthesis of natural polysaccharides and their function; the chemical structure of natural polyphenols and their properties; the chemical structure of the extractives found in tropical wood species and their utilization, and the chemical surface-treatment of the regenerated cellulose fiber.

**Pekka Saranpää**
Dr. Saranpää works at the Finnish Forest Research Institute (METLA). His main current research interests are juvenile wood formation and heartwood formation in conifers, wood raw material properties, and the effect of climate change and environmental factors on wood structure and chemistry.

**Adya Singh**
Dr. Adya Singh has worked for 28 years at the New Zealand Forest Research Institute (now SCION) in Rotorua, where he is presently a senior scientist. Dr. Singh has a wide background in wood science, with recognized expertise in wood and fiber ultrastructure.

John Barnett
Past President of IAWS

***Wood Sci Technol (2008) 42:519–520***
***IAWS NEWS***

New Fellows for 2008 were listed in this issue of the journal. This information has already been presented in this issue of the Bulletin.

***Wood Sci Technol (2008) 42:609***
***IAWS NEWS***

**Annual Plenary Meetings**

**London 2008**

The meeting in 2008 was held jointly with the Linnean Society of London and the International Association of Wood Anatomists and took place at Burlington House, the headquarters of the Linenan Society. The meeting was highly successful with more than 65 scientists representing 25 countries attending. Of these, 25 were Fellows of the Academy. The Academy thanks the President of the Linnean Society, Professor David Cutler, and Professor Pieter Baas on behalf of IAWA for organising the excellent programme, and the Linnean Society of London for inviting IAWS join them in the meeting to celebrate the work of John Barnett.
Saint-Petersburg/Moscow 2009

**Russia 2009**

The 2009 meeting will be held in Russia from 15–21 June. The meeting is divided between Saint-Petersburg (15–16 June) and Moscow (18–19 June). A programme of excursions is being organised for the 17 June at Saint-Petersburg and 20 June in Moscow. Further details will appear on the Academy website in due course
http://www.iaws.uhp-nancy.fr/.

**WOOD SCIENCE AND THE EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION (ESF)**

European Fellows will probably be aware of "COST" already. Founded in 1971, COST is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research, allowing the co-ordination of nationally funded research on a European level. COST Actions cover basic and pre-competitive research as well as activities of public utility.

The goal of COST is to ensure that Europe holds a strong position in the field of scientific and technical research for peaceful purposes, by increasing European cooperation and interaction in this field.

COST does not fund research; rather it provides funding "Actions" organising workshops, training courses and short term scientific missions in which young scientist from one country receive training in specialist techniques in the laboratory of another country. Experts from non-EC countries may also be funded to attend workshops to give invited presentations and it is likely that several academy fellows have done this. Actions typically last for four years. The system supports researchers in a number of domains, one of which is "Forests, their products and services" (FPS). Included in this are all aspects of wood science of interest to IAWS Fellows. So far 62 Actions have been supported in this domain; 45 have been completed and

17 are still running. Recently ESF opened the possibility of scientists from non-EU countries becoming affiliated to a COST Action. For example, COST E50 (Cell Wall Macromolecules and Reaction Wood) recently agreed to participation in the Action by scientists from Australia and New Zealand. The governments of those countries have agreed to provide funding for the attendance of approved delegates from those countries at COST workshops, and for visits to Laboratories of European members of the Action. ESF reciprocally provides funding for scientists from European countries to visit the laboratories of the non_EU partners.
Among current Actions likely to be of interest to fellows are:

- E48 The Limits of Paper Recycling (End Date: Mar' 09)
- E49 Processes and Performance of Wood-based Panels (End Date: Jul' 09)
- E50 Cell wall macromolecules and reaction wood (CEMARE) (End Date: Jul' 09)
- E53 Quality control for wood and wood products (End Date: Mar' 10)
- E54 Characterisation of the fine structure and properties of papermaking fibres using new technologies (End Date: Dec' 10)
- E55 Modelling of the performance of timber structures (End Date: Dec' 10)
- FP0602 Biotechnology for lignocellulose biorefineries (BIOBIO) (End Date: Jun' 11)
- FP0702 Net-Acoustics for Timber based Lightweight Buildings end Elements (End Date: Aug' 12)
- FP0802 Experimental and Computational Micro-Characterisation Techniques in Wood Mechanics (End Date: Nov 12)

Details of the first workshop of Action FP802 are presented in the forthcoming meetings section in this Bulletin. Fellows interested should refer to http://cost-fp0802.tuwien.ac.at/ where more information is available. Details about COST and the other Actions in the FPS Domain can be found on the website at http://www.cost.esf.org/.

***John Barnett/Kniveton, Derbyshire***

**UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST TO FELLOWS**

**March 22-26, 2009: 237th ACS National Meeting. Salt Lake City, USA.**
Web page: http://membership.acs.org/C/CELLspringprogram.htm.

**May 11-13, 2009: 16th International Nondestructive Testing and Evaluation of Wood Symposium (16th NDT/NDE). Beijing, China.** E-Mail: NDT2009@bjfu.edu.cn

**May 24-27: Fourth International Symposium on Veneer Processing and Products (ISVPP) Espoo, Finland**
Following the success of the International Symposium on Veneer Processing and Products in France in 2004, Canada in 2006 and China in 2007, Helsinki University of Technology and Finnish Forest Industries Federation are pleased to host the 4th symposium in Espoo, Finland, in May 2009.

The aim of this symposium and exhibition is to bring together representatives from products, and equipment and resin suppliers, as well as researchers from around the world, to discuss key issues and opportunities for the plywood industry. Web page: http://isvpp.tkk.fi/. E-mail: isvpp@tkk.fi

**June 15-18, 2009: 15th International Symposium on Wood, Fibre and Pulping Chemistry – ISWFPC 2009. Oslo, Norway.** E-Mail: iswfpc2009@congrex.no

**June 29 – July 3, 2009: III International conference "Physical chemistry of lignin", Arkhangelsk, Russia.**
This meeting will be organized by the Russian Academy of Science, Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, Administration of the Arkhangelsk Region, and Arkhangelsk State Technical University. The meeting is dedicated to the 300-th anniversary of M. V. Lomonosov – the first Russian Academician.
The conference will be committed to analysis of the results of fundamental research into the chemistry of lignin. The conference topics include:

1. Structural organization of lignocellulosic matrix as nano-composite.
2. Topological, chemical and sub-molecular structure of lignin.
3. Current methods of wood delignification.
4. Modification of lignin.
5. New methods in research of lignin.

The programme includes plenary session, workshops, and poster presentations. The conference proceedings will be published by the Organizing Committee. The School for young researches will take place within the framework of the conference.

The address of the Organizing Committee of the conference:
Arkhangelsk State Technical University (ASTU),
17 Severnaya Dvina Emb.
163002, Arkhangelsk,
Russia,
Tel.: +7 (8182) 21-89-48,
Fax: + 7 (8182) 21-89-48,
E-mail: t.skrebets@agtu.ru, http://www.agtu.ru
Contact persons: Natalia Gorbova, Tatiana Skrebets.

**August 3-5, 2009: 7th Pacific Regional Wood Anatomy Conference (PRWAC). Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.** Web page: http://www.prwac2009.com/

**November 16-19, 2009: 6th Plant Biomechanics Conference. Kourou, French Guyana.** Web page: http://www.ecofog.gf/pbm-2009

**OBITUARY**

***Helmut Gottwald (1918-2008)***

Helmut Gottwald was born in Cosel/Upper Silesia on 5 November 1918 and died in Reinbek near Hamburg on 7 October 2008 after a prolonged illness, shortly before celebrating his 90th birthday on November 5th, and 25 years after retiring from official duties. Surviving World War II, Helmut Gottwald first worked as an apprenticed carpenter from 1945-1947 and then studied at the University of Hamburg. From 1951-1956 he taught at a vocational school in Hamburg before he joined the staff of the Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products (now Johann Heinrich von Thünen – Institute, vTI) in 1957 and started his remarkable career as a scientist in the field of systematic and applied wood anatomy with emphasis on wood properties and utilization. One year later he succeeded Eberhard Schmidt as head of the wood anatomy department. Besides the daily routine work in wood identification, Helmut Gottwald's main scientific interest focused on applied wood science, systematic studies of important woody plant families, and the expansion of the Hamburg wood collection. Under his responsibility, the collection developed into an internationally recognised, highly valuable scientific collection with 18,000 specimens backed by some 40,000 microscopic slides. Numerous publications and technical leaflets about the most important trade timbers as well as an innumerable expert opinions document his activities. He also developed a keen interest in the anatomy and identification of fossil woods, a topic he never really found the time to follow until his retirement in 1983.

Helmut Gottwald was a well-known wood scientist in Germany and achieved an international reputation through his comprehensive publications and study visits to subtropical and tropical countries. Along with various short-term missions, he visited for longer periods Myanmar, Thailand, Zaire, Papua New Guinea and the Amazon region of Bolivia and Brazil. He joined the International Association of Wood Anatomists (IAWA) in 1963 and served as member on the Committee which produced the IAWA list of Microscopic Features for Hardwood Identification, published in 1987.

For more than 25 years, Helmut Gottwald served as an inspiring lecturer at the University of Hamburg, introducing many generations of Wood Science and Technology students to the

art of macroscopic wood identification and wood quality assessment, taking much pride in the ‘high grades’ he was awarded by his students. He also took responsibility in supervising MSc and PhD wood science students with great success. In 1958, he published his book on commercial timbers, a standard textbook which sold out completely within one year of publication. The book is still heavily used by wood science students and the wood industry and trade community.

The Academy elected Helmut Gottwald as Fellow in 1983, the year in which he retired from his duties at the Hamburg Research Centre, and which was also the starting point for his second career as a paleobotanist dedicating most of his time to the study of fossil woods. This work resulted in the publication of more then 20 highly regarded papers and made him one of the foremost scientists in this field.

Helmut Gottwald was a stimulating and loyal colleague who always shared his knowledge and vast experience with all who wanted to learn from him. The international wood science community has lost one of its prominent members and we have lost a good friend.

***Uwe Schmitt, Gerald Koch & Hans-Georg Richter / Hamburg***

**GUIDELINE FOR HIGHLIGHTS**

The purpose of the Highlights, published in the Bulletin, is to promote the integration of the fields of wood science. Fellows are encouraged to submit Highlights to any of the Officers!

Highlights should:

* be free of jargon and highly technical language and (unexplained) acronyms, and be readily understood by wood scientists in other fields

* be no more than 1000 words (roughly 4 pages in the Bulletin)

* begin by providing a brief background or framework to put the report in perspective

* give due credit to the work of others in the field, not just summarize the author's work

* contain important references to the literature for further reading

* finish with a statement of future directions in the area

**Nomination for Fellowship of the International Academy of Wood Science**

**Name of Candidate:**

**Name of Proposer:**
**E-mail:**
**Date:**

**Contact Data:**
**(Current E-mail is a strict minimum!)**

**Candidate's Background (maximum 100 words):**

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