

# ICWSE 2013 AT A GLANCE

The beginning of November brings back, every two years, the event which already became a tradition for the Faculty of Wood Engineering: The International Conference of Wood Science and Engineering-ICWSE.

This year, ICWSE 2013 unfolded its 9<sup>th</sup> edition under the aegis of two prestigious groups: the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and the Forest Products Society. As in previous years, this conference has demonstrated its target of bringing together scientists and researchers from all over the world and reached this year a historic peak of 130 participants from 4 continents and 24 countries: Turkey, Czech Republic, Sweden, Austria, Germany, Latvia, UK, Greece, Serbia, USA, Slovakia, Nigeria, China, Chile, Algeria, Norway, Korea, Brazil, Switzerland, Sudan, Albania, Finland, Bulgaria and Romania.

The University Aula hosted for two days, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of November, keynote speeches and other conference works comprising 130 papers, among which 110 oral presentations and 20 posters, which have distinguished themselves either by their scientific novelty, by their potential for industrial applicability or by bringing out elaborated syntheses of some high impact subjects.

The keynote papers brought in a high level to the scientific quality of the conference offering a genuine informational periplus through the speeches of the four top invited researchers: Dr. Rupert Wimmer, professor at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Austria, member of the Institute for Natural Materials Technology; Dr. Thomas Schmidt, Research & Innovation director of TIGER Coatings GmbH, powder coating producer; Dr. Timothy Young, professor at the Tennessee University and president of the Forest Products Society - honour guest of ICWSE 2013 and Dr. Marius Cătălin Barbu, professor at the Transilvania University of Brasov and coordinator of IUFRO 5.04 Wood Processing division.

In the presentation of Dr. Rupert Wimmer, were successively evidenced next generation wood-based materials, from ideas, to research, to resource-efficient products. The voice of the industry, came through the presentation of Dr. Thomas Schmidt, who, on behalf of TIGER Coatings GmbH, made the avant-garde research and implementation in the domain of wood finishing with synthetic powders known to the public. Dr. Tim Young captured the audience by advancing some algorithms and solutions for data analysis of the production processes, in real time and with immediate impact on the reduction of the manufacturing costs, increase of products quality and improved predictability. Dr. Barbu referred in his report to the continuous reforms occurring lately in Europe in the high education institutions on wood domain as a consequence of the permanent fluctuations in the forestry and woodworking industry directly affected by the global dynamics of the economic poles involving raw material acquisition, processing and markets.



The conference papers, which benefited from a careful selection and exigency of 43 referees (30 from outside Romania), were grouped in 10 sections meant to cover a diverse range of subjects of interest for wood domain, such as: wood structure and properties, wood drying and heat treatments, mechanical wood processing and quality, wood-based materials, wood preservation, modification, gluing and coating, conservation-restoration of furniture and wooden objects, furniture design, wood constructions, management and marketing strategies, renewable energy from wooden biomass and computer-aided engineering in wood industry.

It has to be mentioned, that ICWSE 2013 received the kind support and sponsorship from some multinational companies, which are well-represented in the Romanian wood-processing sector in Romania: Becker - Gherla, Egger - Radauti, JF Furnir - Brasov Kastamonu - Reghin, Kronospan - Brasov, Losan - Brasov and Werzalit - Lugoj. Thanks to their generous involvement, this event perpetuated a continuity and has been organized every second year.

By following the same tradition, the Faculty of Wood Engineering enchanted its guests with two festive dinners organized on the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> of November at ARO Palace, respectively at the City Fortress, "Cetate" restaurant, where friendly dialogues were harmoniously combined with music and dance, thus complementing the intellectual communication with pleasant perceptions regarding the local cultural and artistic traditions.

The day of 9<sup>th</sup> of November couldn't be more perfect, warmer and sunnier as far as the weather was concerned, by exception for this season of the year, which made the perfect scenery for a post-conference event: an organized guided tour along the main historic buildings of the old city center of Brasov, ending with a visit inside the medieval walls of the Black Church and another visit to the Museum of Urban Civilization. The hunger built by this walking experience was eased off with the lunch served at "Sura Dacilor" in the Poiana Brasov resort, where guests tasted some specific winter Romanian food in an environment recalling the old times popular ambiance.



Although, the conference became in the meantime history, impressions and words of appreciation from its participants have continued to come, fulfilling to the organizers a sentiment of accomplishment for a worthy effort: "it was a great success" (Dr. Hiziroglu, Oklahoma State University, USA); "I think it is the best conference in the field of wood science. Unfortunately it is performed only once every two years" (Dr. Barboutis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece); "it was not only good, it was excellent!" (Dr. Rupert Wimmer, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria), "I cannot imagine what could have been better" (Dr. Tim Young, Tennessee University, USA), "paper peer review, more people than other years, everybody taken well care of, the program running smoothly all the way, three parallel sessions, excellent food. I always feel inspired when going to Brasov" (Dr. Gjerdrum, Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute, Norway); "it was to date the best wood conference I have attended. A great mix of presenters, a wide range of topics, great keynotes and super events" (Dr. Pitman, TRADA Technology, UK); "super...super...super!" (Prof. Sandu, "Al. I. Cuza" University of Iasi, Romania), "excellent organization, orientation and flexibility of ICWSE 2013. Not to talk about the scientific excellence and constructive approach" (Dr. Verkasalo, METLA Finnish Forest Research Institute, Finland), "it was my first visit to your country. I enjoyed it very much" (Dr. Kwon, Kangwon National University, Korea); "it must me marked down as one of the highlights and most enjoyable events of my career" (MSc. Susan Millis, Buckinghamshire New University, UK).

Meant to be open to a large audience, the ICWSE 2013 conference brought together researchers, university staff, PhD, master and undergraduate students and specialists from industry proving to be a perfect match of spirits and minds. The wisdom of such events brings the thought that success of research is not simply a destination, but a real and adventurous journey on the sinuous paths of knowledge, along which, conferences could be regarded as deliberate stops over for fuelling the thirst for novelty. Therefore, we "turn the tap on" for the forthcoming ICWSE 2015!

**SEE YOU AGAIN IN NOVEMBER 2015!**

*A report of,  
Lidia Gurau  
Conference organizer*