

## **BIOCOMP 2016 SYMPOSIUM IN CONCEPCION - CHILE**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Pacific Rim Bio-Based Composite Symposium was held in November 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> in Concepcion, Chile and had the theme ***Biobased composites for a sustainable future***.

The first edition of this Symposium started in 1992 in Rotorua (New Zealand) and was hosted every two years by a Pacific Rim country, as follows: Vancouver, Canada (1994), Kyoto, Japan (1996), Bogor, Indonesia (1998), Canberra, Australia (2000), Portland, Oregon, USA (2002), Nanjing, China (2004), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2006), Rotorua, New Zealand (2008), Alberta, Canada (2010), Shizuoka Japan (2012) and Beijing, China (2014).

The 13rd edition of the Pacific Rim Bio-Based Composite Symposium was organized by The University of Concepcion and The Technological Development Unit (UDT) in collaboration with Alberta Innovates Corporation, Chinese Academy of Forestry, Australian Forest Research Company (AFRC), University Putra Malaysia (UPM), AES Corporation, Nanjing Forestry University, Shizuoka University, FPInnovations, New Zealand Crown Research Institute SCION, Chinese Research Institute of Wood Industry (CRIWI).

Scientists and experts from the relevant industries, government agencies, universities and research institutions have attended the event.

A total of 30 full-paper presentations and 30 posters have been presented by the participants from 20 countries: Australia, Canada, China, Chile, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Mexico, Slovenia, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal, Romania, and USA.

The symposium was organized in 8 scientific sessions, such as: Biocomposites in two parts, Adhesives and bonding, Bioplastics, Fiber reinforced plastics, Biocomposites research in industry, Carbon based materials, Modified wood composites.

At the event 9 plenary speakers were invited: Dr. Andreja Kutnar, Dean of the Faculty of Built Environment, University of Primorska, Slovenia; Dr. Roger M. Rowell, Professor Emeritus of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, United States; Dr. Shigehiko Suzuki, Vice-President of Shizuoka University, Japan; Dr. James Hague, Managing Director, Australian Forest Research Company, Australia; Dr. Andreas Michanickl, Professor of the University of Applied Sciences, Fachhochschule Rosenheim, Germany; Dr. John Wolodko, Professor and Strategic Chairman in Bio and Industrial Materials, Alberta Innovates-Technology Futures, AITF, University of Alberta, Canada; Dr. Warren J. Grigsby, Senior Scientist and Research Leader, SCION, New Zealand; Dr. Danny E. Garcia, Researcher, Center for Biodiversity Research and Sustainable Environments (CIBAS), UCSC, Chile; Dr. Juan Matos Lale, Researcher, Biomaterials Department, Technological Development Unit – UDT.

Transilvania University of Brasov was represented at Biocomp 2016 by Lecturer PhD, Emilia-Adela Salca from the Faculty of Wood Engineering, who has participated with two posters and one full-presentation, as a result of the cooperation work with the colleagues from the Ukrainian National Forestry University in Lviv, research work which was developed under the Transilvania University Fellowship 2016.

The Symposium, which took place at Sonesta Hotel in Concepcion, has provided a forum for discussion on bio-based composites and also has facilitated the exchange of ideas on the latest development and findings in bio-based composites.

The event was successfully organized by Dr. Alex Berg and his team from UDT. The participants have gained also specific cultural experiences apart of new contacts for their further cooperation. At the end of the Symposium, Indonesia was selected as a host for the next edition of the Pacific Rim Bio-Based Composite Symposium in 2018.



***Meeting area at Sonesta Hotel in Concepcion***

*During Session 2: Adhesives and bonding, with Dr. Warren Grigsby from SCION, New Zealand (right) as moderator*



*Biocomp 2016 Poster session with discussions*



*Cultural event at Biocomp 2016: Chilean traditional dance at the Club House Victoria*

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