

WCTE 2014 AND THE 68TH FPS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION JOINED IN QUEBEC

More than 900 delegates and 100 partners were registered for the joined meetings of the 2014 biennial World Conference on Timber Engineering (WCTE), held in Quebec City from 10th to 14th August 2014, concurrently with the 68th annual Forest Products Society (FPS) International Convention. The venue was the Centre des Congres de Quebec.

As well as keynote lectures, there were nine parallel sessions to choose from. The main topics at WCTE 2014 consisted on tall timber buildings, cross-laminated timber and innovative connection systems. Other sessions included composite systems, serviceability, architectural achievements, seismic loading, grading and quality control, fire safety, design codes, timber bridges, environmental impact, bamboo structures, rehabilitation and teaching wood design. The scientific host of the main American event in this field was the University Laval and Forest Products Innovation of Quebec.

The annual Forest Products Society International Convention brought together scientists, design professionals, managers, decision makers and others from academia, government, nonprofit and private industry sectors to discuss the state of forest products research and learn about innovations in the field. The FPS presentations covered fire retardants, historical buildings, wood chemistry, new species, the wood cell wall, life cycle assessment and carbon mitigation, timber supply, timber testing, wood anatomy, bio-deterioration, durability, adhesives, marketing, laminates and coatings, biofuels, wood processing and mechanical properties.

In addition to the lectures, there was a very large poster exhibition, a design and build student competition which took place the weekend before the conference and a trade exhibition.

The Faculty for Wood Engineering was represented by many former graduates, specialists from Canadian companies (i.e. FP Innovations): Dr. Cătălin Ristea, Dr. Ciprian Pârvu and others, who shared during the sessions for adhesives, their experience as speakers and keynote speakers but also the connection to their home university in Brasov.

The Convention Planning Committee summed up the Convention as an "outstanding event," applauding the caliber of the attendees to the event and the learning opportunities at both events offered through the combined sessions, which provided attendees with practical and actionable knowledge, exploring the state of forest products research and innovations in the field. The keynote speakers shared valuable lessons-learned regarding the importance of wood products and other renewable materials and how the industry can derive sustainable and environmentally responsible products from the forests of the world.

The FPS 2014 Annual Excellence Awards were also presented during an awards ceremony on Wednesday, which recognized several professionals for their achievements and innovations in the field as well as their outstanding service to the Society.

The FPS 69th International Convention will be held on 10th to 12th of June, 2015 at Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. The event will be hosted in conjunction with the 33rd *Forest Products Machinery & Equipment Exposition – Expo 2015* (www.fpsconvention.org) and will feature educational sessions, keynote presentations, industry exhibits, and networking opportunities. The next WCTE will take place between 22nd and 26th of August 2016 and will be hosted by Technical University of Vienna (wcte2016.conf.tuwien.ac.at).

The FPS is an international not-for-profit technical association founded in 1947 to provide an information network for all segments of the forest products industry - from standing tree to finished product. The FPS fosters innovation and research in the environmentally sound processing and use of wood and fiber resources by disseminating information and providing forums for networking and the exchange of knowledge.



Prof. T. Young - FPS president (from right), Dr. M. Pütemann – FPS vice president of FPS, Prof. W. Winter – Host of WCTE 2016 in Vienna, Prof. P. Niemz – ETH-Zürich, and the author – FPS Europe vice-president.



Graduates meeting of the Faculty of Wood Engineering (Brasov) at WCTE 2014 and 68th FPS Convention: Dr. C. Pârvu (from right), M. Ștefănescu, Dr. C. Ristea and the author.

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