

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION ON ART AND JOY OF WOOD

*Rediscovering Wood: The Key to a Sustainable Future*

An International Conference and Exhibition on the Art and Joy of Wood  
19-22 October 2011, Bangalore, India



**ORGANISED BY**

**INSTITUTE OF WOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,  
BANGALORE**

**October 19-22, 2011**

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India, organized an International conference and exhibition on Art and Joy of Wood-Rediscovering Wood: The key to a sustainable future during 19-22<sup>nd</sup> Oct, 2011 at J.N Tata Auditorium Complex of Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bangalore and IPIRTI Bangalore were the local hosts for the conference and exhibition respectively. The other sponsors of the conference were International Wood Culture Society and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. The event was one of the global events to celebrate International year of Forests with an aim to emphasize the need for greater use of wood for a sustainable future.

The Conference was organized with an aim to explore socioeconomic trends affecting use of wood products, challenges and opportunities arising due to immense wood use. The Conference brought together over 273 delegates from 31 different countries that deliberated on social, aesthetic cultural and traditional aspects of wood use focusing on how linkage between wood and society could be used for future development of wood sector.



The Conference was inaugurated by Sh. S. Suresh Kumar, Hon'ble Law, Urban Development, Parliamentary Affairs & BWSSB Minister, Govt. of Karnataka. Sh. Jitendra Choudhury, Hon'ble, Forest and industry Minister, Govt. of Tripura presided over the function. Dr. P.J. Dilip Kumar, DG&SS, MoEF, Govt. of India, Dr. V.K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE, Dr. R. Michael Martin, Director, FAO, Rome and Dr Howard Rosen IWCS, China, Sh S.C. Joshi, Director IWST and Dr C.N. Pandey, Director IPIRTI were the other dignitaries. Host of senior policy makers, researchers, representatives of wood industry from India and world over participated in the conference. A total of 273 delegates from India and abroad participated in the conference. The main attraction of the conference and exhibition

was live demonstration from Artisans and participation of students in the conference. While welcoming the dignitaries and delegates Shri S.C. Joshi, Director IWST Bangalore hoped that detailed deliberation between policy makers, technical experts and industrial associations will be the highlight of the conference with an aim to arrive at ways and means by which wood products sector can balance between wood use and sustainable development.

Dr. V.K. Bahuguna, Director General ICFRE, while appreciating the efforts of FAO to organized this conference in India emphasized that this conference will be helpful for the wood sector especially the artisans and toy maker. He elaborated upon the work being carried out by research institute of the country and ICFRE in this regard.



Dr. V.K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE



Dr. R. Michael Martin, Director, FAO

Dr. Howard Rosen, gave a brief about the IWCS and finally emphasized that wood is good. Dr. Martin Director FAO strongly elaborated about the importance of wood and concluded in his speech that wood is really good and is the only material which can be used in future. Dr. P.J. Dilip Kumar, DG Forest and special secretary to Govt of India was of the opinion that wood is the most versatile material and highlighted its importance.. He elaborated his personal experience with musical instrument made of wood. He said that conservation of forest is possible if we work with the community way. Mr. Jitendra Chaudhary Hon'ble, Forest and industry Minister, Govt. of Tripura, in his presidential address highlighted the contribution of Tripura in conservation of forests. He said that celebrating the international year of forest, there is opportunity to look into evolving relationship between the mankind and forest ecosystem.

Mr. S. Suresh Kumar Hon'ble Minister Law, Urban Development, Parliamentary Affairs & BWSSB Minister, Govt. of Karnataka termed this conference as a rarest occasion where science, culture and art and joy have come together at the same platform to facilitate and recognizing legacy of wood. He opined that it is a joyous occasion to celebrate wood as art and joy.



Mr. Jitendra Chaudhary Hon'ble,  
Forest and industry Minister, Govt. of Tripura,



Mr. S. Suresh Kumar Hon'ble Minister  
Govt of Karnataka



Shri S.C.Joshi, Director IWST



Dr. P.J.Dilip Kumar, DGF and SSS GOI



Dr. C.N.Pandey, Director, IPIRTI



Delegates during the conference



Interaction amongst the delegates



## Plenary Session:

The panel consisted of S. C. Joshi, R. Michael Martin, Pascal Kamdam, Dr. Saara Taalas, Dr. M. P. Ranjan, Dr. M Hakki Alma, Dr. J. Ratnasingam, Mr. N. C. Thang for the plenary session. The session was moderated by Dr. R. Michael Martin and he initiated interactive discussion urging delegates to share their experiences and learning during the conference. The chairman emphasized about the lack of awareness among the users and he insisted that negativity about wood use should be stopped. It was felt that the concept of "Art and Joy" is the best example to promote use of wood. It was suggested that India and China can be a good ambassador for promoting wood based business. The question was raised that how to encourage people to use more wood in the future. It was recommended that strategies should be developed to demonstrate the concept "Wood is Good" among students and general public. Dr. Ranjan suggested that the perception of people need to be changed and product prototypes should be developed and demonstrated to people to encourage use of wood.

The wood knowledge which was forgotten need to be revived which may lead to many new creative things and ideas. It was suggested that people should be encouraged to grow more wood and use more wood since wood is the only renewable natural material. For this purpose forest should be managed scientifically and efforts should be focused on sustainable development.



Illegal cutting is a major issue in Africa and Asia therefore there should be a mechanism of wood certification. It was also suggested that young people should be educated about the positive impacts of wood use as wood is the least energy intensive materials among currently used ones.

An idea of wood credit card and encouragement to plantation growers from government was floated by one of the delegates. Involvement of social scientists is recommended in effectively propagating the idea of more use of wood. A need was felt to have an effective mechanism of facilitating the transfer of wood based technologies to the end-users.

## **EXHIBITION:**

A commercial exhibition was also held for four days of the conference. The exhibition was opened to all including the public as well as conference participants. The exhibition focused on companies and organizations involved in forestry and the production, use and sale of wood products (including handicrafts). It was very successful as variety of exhibitors like architects, builders and interior designers working with wood, wooden furniture and wooden gift items and toys manufacturers, handicraft manufacturers and retailers, sports goods manufacturers and many others participated. It was a common platform for many exhibitors of various categories of wood science and technology and 28 exhibitors belonging to Associations, institutions and organizations, Forest products, Consumer goods and services, Equipment suppliers and service providers participated in the exhibition. In all, over 1500 visitors including the participants, wood industry people and students interacted with the artisans in various exhibition stalls over the period of four days. As a part of the conference, various activities like painting competition, photo competition and Artistic displays were also organized in which school students and traditional artisans participated.

