Congress Report

IUFRO All-Division 5 Conference "Forest Products"
August 23–28, 1992, Nancy, France

"Better wood products through science" was the theme of the all-division 5 conference which took place in Nancy, France. It preceded the centenary celebrations of IUFRO in Eberswalde (August 31–September 1). About 500 members from 63 nations attended the conference, which was exceptionally well organized by Walter G. Kauman (Secretary), René Keller, Gérard Nepveu, and many more.

Besides the subject group S 5.01 (Wood Quality), which was co-sponsored by the International Association of Wood Anatomists (IAWA), the subject groups S 5.02 (Timber Engineering), S 5.03 (Wood Protection), and S 5.04 (Wood Processing) were involved. Teams also worked on the following topics: P 5.01 Properties and utilization of tropical woods, P 5.03 Energy and chemicals from forest biomass, P 5.04 Production and utilization of bamboo, P 5.05 Tree ring analysis, P 5.06 Forest products marketing, P 5.07 Non-wood forest products, P 5.08 Artificial intelligence applications in wood processing and manufacturing.

In two poster sessions 163 posters were shown. In Inter-Group sessions three keynote papers, an academy lecture, which was presented by the associated meeting of the International Academy of Wood Science (IAWS) and papers on the following topics were presented: relations between wood properties, marketing and user's needs; extending the useful life of structure: design, preservation and surface finishes; production and use of energy from biomass; recycling of wood based materials.

In his keynote paper, IUFRO president *M. Nor Salleh* (Malaysia) gave a lecture on the importance of wood science in developing countries. He emphasized the potential of high biomass production in tropical regions. He illustrated the possibilities of "Multiple use forestry" using Malaysia as an example, where 50-60 % of furniture production is based on rubber wood.

The second keynote paper presented by *D. Guinard* (France) pointed out the importance of wood science for the timber industry and the need for timber utilization for the maintenance of forests. The reflux of money earned by effective timber utilization into forestry is part of long-term forest protection.

The keynote paper presented by *J.F. Franklin* (U.S.A.) showed by the example of the NW United States the harmonization of forest utilization and protection of forests for ecological reasons. *J.F. Franklin* emphasized the importance of pure research regarding the discussion of these problems and the solution of conflicts.

In the reports of the subject-group leaders the following aims for the future were established:

S 5.01 – Wood Quality
– Necessity of pure research on wood formation and cell differentiation
– More research projects on tropical tree species
– Cooperation in the development of new methods
– Use of model systems and simulations to explain complex interrelationships

S 5.02 – Timber Engineering
– Setting up regional subject groups for special topics
– Extending work on neighbouring subjects (wood-polymer composites . . .)

S 5.03 – Wood Protection
– Subdividing of themes (fire, durability, biodegradation)

S. 5.04 – Wood Processing
– Integration of eastern European countries into international research projects.

In all working groups a strong focus on research projects on tropical tree species was noted. This trend could also be seen especially in the high number of younger scientists from tropical countries. Basic data on forestry and timber engineering in tropical regions were presented in various papers and posters. This shows that more information is necessary to evaluate measures in tropical forestry. The results of different studies showed that results obtained at one site are not transferable to other tropical regions in general. The interaction of growing conditions on the site and the tree species are of main importance for further studies. Because of their complexity, tropical systems offer a good opportunity for the cooperation of different research groups.

At the associated meeting of IAWA, the dates of following meetings were announced. *K. Fukazawa* (Japan) invited all those present to the Botanical Congress in Yokohama in 1993. *Vera Coradin* (Brazil) drew attention to the Latin American Botanical Congress to be held in Buenos Aires in 1994. *P. Baas* (Netherlands) announced the date for the third Pacific Regional Wood Anatomy Conference held in Rotorua in 1994. The next IUFRO All-Divsion 5 Conference will take place in Tampere, Finland, in 1995.

At the final ceremony, many speakers regretted the small number of participants from eastern European countries. Therefore, a IUFRO-sponsorship was proposed in order to provide more scientists of these countries with the opportunity of participating in the meetings. During the 5-day conference, excursions to the French Technical Centre of Wood and Furniture (Metz), the Wood Engineering School of the University of Nancy (Epinal), the Technical University of Lorraine and the Forestry School (both Nancy) were laid on. These excursions underlined the importance of the Lorraine region for the French forestry and wood science.

During the conference *Bob Youngs*, former coordinator of Division 5, was awarded the IUFRO Honorary Membership.

Abstracts of all papers and posters are published in two congress proceedings. The abstracts of session S 5.01 (Wood Quality) are also published in IAWA Bulletin, Vol. *13* (3), 1992, 251-268.

O. Dünisch (Hamburg)

Book Reviews

M. Vidaković: Conifers: Morpholoy and Variation. Translated by M. Šoljan. 754 pages, 463 illustrations (163 in colour). Hardcover. Graficki Zavod Hrvatske, Zagreb. 1992. £ 65.00. ISBN 0-85198-807-5

This volume is the English translation of the original book in Croat. The very condensed introduction deals with taxonomy, nomenclature, morphology and plant geography of conifers (pp. 9–36). It would have been helpful and desirable if the key for the included identification of embryos (16 of 58 described genera) had drawings of the embryo types (similar to Silva Tarouca and Schneider, 1923). The short characteristics of genera (pp. 36–52) are followed by the alphabetically arranged description of the genera and their species (pp. 53–702). The morphological characteristics refer mainly to bark, shoots, buds, needles, flowers, seed, cones, cotyledons, followed by chromosome numbers and short remarks on varieties and distribution. Tabular comparisons in words and drawings of the most important characteristics (for species of large genera) as completion of the keys are unfortunately only exceptions. The provenance problem which is of great relevance to foresters and wood experts remains practically uncovered (with the exception of *Larix decidua*).

An especially detailed description if given of the genera *Pinus* (pp. 372-617) and *Picea* (pp. 286-372), about 30 pages each are dedicated to *Abies*, *Chamaecyparis*, *Juniperus*, *Larix* and *Thuja*. The part relating to *Picea* is based on the fundamental work by Schmidt-Vogt (only volume 1, 1977!). One advantage is the clear division of *Picea abies* (Norway spruce) into the European *Picea abies* and the Siberian *Picea obovata* (boundaries of the area of distribution ac-