WOOD ANATOMY NEWS

IAWA/IUFRO Wood Anatomy Meeting in Zürich, 1990

From 22–26 July 1990 a wood anatomy conference will be organised at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, Zürich, Switzerland by the Afro-European group of IAWA and the Wood Quality Subject Group S 5.01 of IUFRO. The organising committee is composed of Professor Dr. Hans Heinrich Bosshard, Honorary President; Dr. Ladislav Kučera, Executive Secretary and Local Host, Ben J. H. ter Welle (on behalf of IAWA), and Pieter Baas (on behalf of IUFRO S 5.01).

The programme will address the following general themes:

- Descriptive and comparative wood anatomy (including systematic, ontogenic and paleobotanical aspects).
- Wood anatomy in relation to tree biology (including ecological, physiological and pathological aspects).
- Wood anatomy and timber properties (addressing wood quality variation, timber performance, technological aspects, and wood preservation).
- New methods in wood and tree research and their applications to fundamental and applied studies.

In addition to the scientific programme, the Swiss hosts will organise various other activities, including a welcome reception, a mid-conference excursion to the beautiful alpine surroundings of Interlaken, a conference banquet and possibly a one-day post-conference excursion to selected Swiss wood industries.

It is anticipated that this conference will surpass the earlier successes of similar wood anatomy meetings in Amsterdam (1979), Hamburg (1983), Tsukuba (1984) and Curitiba (1985). The organisers believe that the conference date will enable scientists to attend the meeting in Zürich as well as the IUFRO World Congress in Montreal (August 5–11, 1990), which will have a complementary rather than a duplicating scientific pro-

gramme where wood anatomical and wood quality research is concerned.

A first circular will be mailed to all IAWA members later this year. Prospective participants who wish to contribute a paper or poster or who wish to communicate general suggestions for the scientific programme are invited to write directly to Dr. L. Kučera, Institut für Wald- und Holzforschung, ETH Zentrum, CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland.

19th IUFRO World Congress in Montréal, 1990

The 19th IUFRO World Congress is scheduled for August 5–11, 1990, at the Montréal convention centre. Notices of interest can be obtained from IUFRO Montréal 1990 Inc., Box 1990, Place d'Armes, Montréal (Québec), Canada H2Y 3L9.

10th Inter-American Conference on Materials Technology

A materials technology conference will be held from April 17–21, 1989 in San Antonio, Texas, U.S.A. at the Southwest Research Institute. The conference topics include Wood Science and Technology and Energy-Systems – Plant-Life Extension in addition to Metallurgy, Ceramics, Cements, Concrete, Corrosion Engineering and Transportation Systems. The programme will be in English and Spanish. A call for papers has been sent out by the organiser: Southwest Research Institute, attention: Dr. Shirley Heller, P.O. Drawer 28510, San Antonio, Texas 78284, U.S.A. For further information, also contact this address.

Wood Anatomy Conference in the Philippines

IAWA Members are reminded of the second Pacific Regional Wood Anatomy Conference to be held from 15–21 October 1989 at Los Baños, the Philippines and cosponsored by IAWA and IUFRO S 5.01. For further details see IAWA Bull. n.s. 9 (2): 186.

Report from the IUFRO All Division 5 Conference in São Paulo, Brazil

From 15 to 20 May the IUFRO All Division 5 Conference took place in the luxurious Maksoud Plaza Hotel in São Paulo, Brazil. This brief report only highlights those activities of the Wood Quality Subject Group (S 5.01) which were organised jointly with IAWA.

With an attendance of about 150 participants, which split up into specialised groups varying from 10–50 wood scientists for the technical sessions, conditions for active discussion and exchange of research results were ideal.

Highlights in the scientific programme included a session of the changing nature of the Latin American timber resource focussing on the constraints in efficient utilisation of the natural forest resource of the Amazon region. (A relieve for conservationists in one respect: they do not have to fight felling operations for timber but can concentrate on opposing the conversion of forest into arable land of short-term profitability.) In Southeast Asia the changing quality of Meranti exports reported by Dr. H.G. Richter may well be due to depletion of the lowland supply by ruthless logging operations, and to different growth conditions and wood quality of higher altitude provenances which are now subjected to the axe or chain-saw. The session on factors affecting wood structure offered a very diverse bouquet of wood anatomical papers, ranging from an in-depth analysis of basic density variation in juvenile conifer wood; the comparative anatomy of a rare and very beautiful Mexican *Dalbergia* species; a multi-disciplinary analysis of Calcite in the wet-wood of Japanese poplar and its significance in the tree biology of the species; and a survey of the ecological wood anatomy of the European woody flora contrasted with anatomical trends in the tropics.

Special mention should be made of the session of the new working party within IUFRO entitled 'Tree Ring Analysis' (some members wish to call it Dendrochronology, but that might alienate all those pioneering on the difficult subjects of growth rate and age determination in tropical trees – one of the major priorities of the working party). Dr.

Roland Vetter from Manaus had arranged a very attractive programme on the potential of anatomical and experimental approaches to age and growth rate determination in tropical to subtropical environments. It is intended to publish the proceedings of this session in a special issue of the IAWA Bulletin next year.

The social scene at the IUFRO conference also had its highlights. Apart from the opening reception and conference banquet (with a stunning performance by the winners of the São Paulo Carnaval contest), IAWA assembled about 60 kindred spirits (at least as many non-members as members) in the friendly Japanese 'Tora' restaurant opposite the imposing Maksoud Plaza hotel for one of its legendary social hours. IAWA colleagues from IAPT (São Paulo) had mediated in the negotiations with the proprietor of the 'Tora' and enlivened the party with some bottles brought from home. Thus the IAWA could not only provide a very congenial atmosphere with plenty of snacks and drinks for this function but also enjoy considerable savings thanks to much lower prices than across the street. Thank you, Jao Chimelo and Veronica Angyalossy!! An improvised IAWA banquet followed this social hour, with a menu expertly selected by Prof. Fukazawa (Sapporo).

During the S 5.01 business meeting a number of recommendations for wood quality research of the immediate future were unanimously agreed. Since all five recommendations have a direct or indirect bearing on wood anatomical research they are reproduced here:

1. In view of the increasing role of contract research for industry in most forest products institutes in the world, funding of fundamental research is endangered. Recognising the vital importance of fundamental studies for all present and future applications of wood science, we recommend that research institutions reinvest part of their income from projects for industry into fundamental wood quality research.
2. In view of the alarming destruction of tropical natural forests, we recommend greater efforts to utilise timber from fast growth plantation forests for the widest possible range of end uses.

3. In order to avoid unnecessary waste of timber from tropical natural forests we reiterate the necessity of further wood quality research of lesser known species in order to arrive at satisfactory and marketable species groupings. Anatomical studies to facilitate the identification and quality prediction of the component species groups should be an essential part of these studies.
4. In view of the increasing volume of timber from fast growing plantation forests on the market, we reiterate the necessity of studies on the extent and properties of juvenile wood from species to species.
5. In view of the changing nature of the tropical timber resource, buyers should adjust their requirements; at the same time supplier countries should adopt stricter rules of quality control in order to safeguard confidence by the international market.

At the 'post-mortem' discussion by IUFRO officers involved in organising this conference there was virtual unanimity that IUFRO should provide more opportunity for exposure of young and 'lesser known' wood scientists by offering more technical sessions at the cost of plenary sessions where well-known speakers often state the obvious. Some criticisms of the luxurious and costly venue (hardly conducive to attract graduates and low-income colleagues) aside, all delegates agreed that the local host Dr. Arman-tino de Freitas and the Division 5 coordinator Dr. Bob Youngs had done a marvellous job in organising this conference. For IAWA it remains a privilege to actively participate

in these meetings, because they are a focal attraction for all our members who study wood structure from an applied perspective.

Pieter Baas

Where are all the bark anatomists?

Although the name of our Association suggests an exclusive interest in secondary xylem, study of the anatomy of barks has always been incorporated in its objectives. However, in recent years we seem to have lost track of who among our membership are actively interested in the development and structure of secondary phloem and more peripheral stem tissues on a comparative basis.

In order to remedy this condition, Mr. Michael Trockenbrodt from the Institut für Holzbiologie und Holzschutz, Leuschnerstrasse 91, 2050 Hamburg 80, F.R.G. has suggested to promote the exchange of information between bark anatomists. This notice is therefore a call to all interested IAWA members to identify themselves by writing directly to Mr. Trockenbrodt or to the editor of this Bulletin. It is hoped that in a future IAWA Bulletin issue a list of members involved in bark anatomical research can be published in order to facilitate exchange of data and ideas. As in wood anatomy, bark anatomical terminology is a moot point and Mr. Trockenbrodt is currently engaged in a critical review of descriptive terms used in bark anatomy. Feed-back from other colleagues could be a welcome outcome of the establishment of an informal 'bark club' within IAWA.

Index Xylariorum 3 presentation and Workshop on curating wood collections

Following the workshop in Raleigh (*see page 202*), the same group of wood anatomists will gather in the Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin on October 11 & 12, to take part in an IAWA workshop on curating wood collections. This opportunity will also be used to present Professor Wil-

liam L. Stern with the first copy of the trade edition of Index Xylariorum 3. Copies of that edition, in a special cover, can be ordered from the office of the Executive Secretary in Utrecht at the price of US\$ 15.00. A report of these events will be published in the IAWA Bulletin.