WOOD ANATOMY NEWS

Message from the outgoing Executive Secretary

With this farewell message, I want to officially announce that I have ended my Executive Secretary activities from 2017 onwards. In a period of six years, our association accomplished significant progress in various aspects. It would lead me too far to list everything here, but I want to sum up some examples: (1) the establishment of the China group that boosted the number of IAWA members and initiated several meetings, (2) the higher visibility of IAWA in the fight against illegal logging where we emphasized the vital role of wood anatomy in identifying timber species in an official United Nations report (*Best Practice Guide for Forensic Timber Identification*, downloadable at http://www.iawa-website.org/downloads.html), (3) the publication of the IAWA List of Microscopic Bark Features including standardized and illustrated bark anatomical terminology (see IAWA Journal 37 (4): 517–615), (4) the Index Xylariorum update (downloadable at http://www.iawa-website.org/downloads.html), (5) the publication of several special issues in IAWA Journal, and (6) the never-ending organization of vibrant IAWA meetings in the Americas, Europe and Asia. I want to thank everyone who has invested so much time and efforts to make all these achievements possible. It is always dangerous to name people, but the following persons have had a great input in the above-mentioned achievements: Pieter Baas, Elisabeth Wheeler, Emma van Nieuwkoop, Cees Lut, Zhai Shengcheng, Veronica De Micco, Marcelo Pace, Veronica Angyalossy, and all the members of the IAWA Council and Regional IAWA Groups. It is with great confidence that I pass the ES activities on to Yafang Yin, and I wish him the very best.

I hope to meet you soon at one of the future IAWA meetings.

With my best regards,

Frederic Lens

Message from the incoming Executive Secretary

Moving into the New Year 2017, it is a great honour for me to begin to fulfill the responsibilities of IAWA Executive Secretary, as well as a new starting point for my research career to meet the challenges of this position. First of all, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the former Executive Secretary Dr. Frederic Lens for his distinguished work during the last six years, and to all earlier IAWA Executive Secretaries and IAWA members for their continuous contributions. Without their efforts, it would be impossible for us to have the current excellent IAWA stage for wood anatomy and wood anatomists worldwide.

I hope that, over the next five years, with the support of the Deputy ES and all Council Members, I will continue to work towards progress of IAWA in most aspects. Main focuses will aim to attract more young researchers from related forestry, agriculture and botany research communities and industries to strengthen the IAWA membership, to improve the IAWA official website and establish targeted social media presence to remain relevant in different regions and to improve the international impact of the IAWA Journal.
In 2017, the IAWA will begin to promote the following important items: 1) the organization or co-organization of several important meetings: IAWA Symposium at XIX IBC 2017, Shenzhen, China; IX PRWAC in Bali Indonesia; IUFRO Division-5, Vancouver, 2017; the 4th Annual Meeting of the IAWA-China Group, Zhangjiagang, China. More young researchers and students are encouraged to participate in IAWA conferences and symposia; 2) the transfer of the IAWA website to China; 3) the adoption of wide-spread international and local social media to distribute the IAWA News-letter and related information. The latter practice will start within the IAWA-China group and be suggested to extend to different regions. 4) The invitation to authoritative researchers to submit reviews and position papers for the IAWA journal.

We hope that through our enthusiastic efforts, more people, and not just researchers, will join us and understand what IAWA is doing and how IAWA is related to our social development. We believe that through our active communications, more young people, and not just young researchers, will join us to experience the impact of our work on the world’s future.

I wish you a fruitful harvest in the year of 2017!

Yafang Yin (IAWA Executive Secretary)

Report of the Annual Meeting IAWA-China Group

On 26 & 27 November 2016, the 3rd Annual Meeting of the International Association of Wood Anatomists (IAWA) China Group was held at Southwest Forestry University, Kunming, China. The theme of this annual meeting was “Promoting wood anatomy related to wood science and technology, and preservation of natural resources”. Over 100 researchers and students from around 40 different institutes, universities, and companies joined this meeting. At this time, professors from Japan, Korea, India, and Thailand also attended and gave presentations on their wood anatomical studies.