

MEMBERS' BULLETIN

June -July 2013**No 24****IN THIS ISSUE:**

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Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with current ATIF activities. This edition provides a further update on the progress of the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* regulations and other activities, including the timber value chain seminar to be held on Friday 11 October in Sydney.

Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013

The *Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013* has now been tabled in both the Federal Parliament House of Representatives and Senate. Because the Parliament has now been prorogued ahead of the elections the future of the Regulation will rest with the responsible minister after the elections.

ATIF has undertaken a review of the Regulation and has formed the view that because of the timetable imposed on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) in relation to the tabling of the Regulation in the Parliament, the consultation, working groups and related processes were truncated towards the end of the agreed timetable and working arrangements. This meant that final submissions made by the industry do not appear to have been adequately considered in the final Regulation drafting process. As a result some difficulties with the Regulation remain.

Further, ATIF considers that the 'outreach' program planned by the DAFF, including visits to PNG, Indonesia, Malaysia and elsewhere, plus a road-show within Australia in June and July is premature and likely to be of limited value.

Value chain seminar, Sydney, 11 October 2013

The timber industry seminar event of the year will be a joint venture between three national timber industry bodies, Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA), ATIF and the Timber and Building Materials Association (TABMA). We will be hosting *Building stronger value chains* in Sydney at the Novotel Rockford Darling Harbour on Friday, 11 October.

Building stronger value chains will cover key issues in the timber industry's business environment, wood-based product marketing and matters related to company-level business success. The seminar speaking line-up is currently being finalised and will include leading international and Australian experts, product innovators, policy-makers, marketing specialists, technology providers and regulatory authorities.

The seminar will be a prominent component of a key day of the 2013 calendar year for the timber industry that will also include the FWPA annual general meeting and research forum and the TABMA-hosted annual timber industry gala dinner and awards presentation.

The seminar will reinforce industry goals of continuing to assist in growing industry capability, product and market innovation, enhancing competitiveness and commercial success. It will also provide an update on current industry issues, stimulate new ways of thinking, reinvigorate industry enthusiasm and explore ways of working more collaboratively across the industry value chain to advance industry issues and realise opportunities.

The seminar will also provide a great opportunity for some limited sponsorship. Sponsorship enquiries should be directed to John Halkett on 02 9356 3826 or to Eileen Newbury of Leading Edge Events International on 03 9570 3220.

Global Timber Forum

At the invitation of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and the European Timber Trade Federation (ETTF), ATIF participated in the inaugural meeting of the Global Timber Forum (GTF) held in Rome in late May. The two day event covered a range of topics, including legality assurance and certification, timber marketing developments, wood promotion, forest sector resource needs and investment, future wood-based product innovation and high rise wooden building construction.

The GTF should assist timber industry goals in Australia and elsewhere. Initial establishment, funding acquisition and secretariat support will be provided by the ETTF.

Other news

- ▶ FWPA is presently developing a market and imports statistical report in an easy-to-use format specifically intended to assist importing and wholesaling companies. An initial version of this report should be available shortly. It is hoped that this regular report will assist ATIF member companies to better keep abreast of market conditions and trends and therefore assist in business decision-making.
- ▶ ATIF operates on a very modest budget and membership fees are critical to its continued operation in dealing with issues relevant to the business success of member companies. This support is very much appreciated. Annual membership fees are now due. Prompt payment will assist the ongoing efforts of the Federation on your behalf.

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