

MEMBERS' BULLETIN

September -October 2013**No 25****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 covers planned ATIF meetings, the timber industry seminar *Building stronger value chains*, and actions related to illegal logging legislation given the recent change of government.

2013 Annual General Meeting

The 2013 ATIF AGM will be held in Sydney at the Novotel Rockford Darling Harbour, 17 Little Pier Street, Darling Harbour, Sydney on Friday, 10 October commencing at 4:00 pm. Formal advice on the AGM was distributed to ATIF member companies. The AGM will follow an ATIF Board meeting.

Timber industry seminar, Sydney, 11 October 2013

The timber industry seminar *Building stronger value chains* hosted by ATIF in collaboration with Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) and the Timber and Building Materials Association (TABMA) will also be held at the Novotel Rockford Darling Harbour on Friday, 11 October.

The seminar 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 will include:

- John Gillam, Managing Director, Bunnings Group
- Professor Sue Holliday, National Housing Supply Council and Professor of Planning Practice, University of NSW
- Dr. George Goroyias, Senior Principal, Head of Wood Products Asia-Pacific Management Consulting, Pöyry Management Consulting (Australia)
- Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP, NSW Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business



- Professor Andy Buchanan, Department of Civil and Natural Resources Engineering, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand
- Scott Poynton, Executive Director, The Forest Trust, Geneva, Switzerland

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 AGM and research forum and the TABMA-hosted annual timber industry gala dinner and awards presentation. For the seminar brochure and to register to attend go to:

www.leadingedgeevents.com.au/building-stronger-value-chains.html

Illegal logging legislation

As previously advised, the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013* was tabled in both the Federal Parliament House of Representatives and Senate prior to the recent elections that resulted in a change of Government. The future of the Regulation will now be the responsibility of the new minister.

Also, as previously indicated, ATIF undertook a review of the Regulation and formed the view that difficulties with the Regulation remain. ATIF has commenced a dialogue with the new minister's office with a view to providing advice on the Regulation and illegal logging matters more generally. ATIF is also working to schedule an early meeting with the new minister to discuss illegal logging and related matters.

SVLK meeting

ATIF participated in the *Third High Level Market Dialogue 2013* in Jakarta that reviewed progress with the development and implementation of the Indonesian legality assurance system SVLK. It is anticipated that SVLK will be endorsed as meeting the requirements of the EU timber legality verification scheme. This will mean that SVLK will also become an accredited system under the Australian *Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013*.

ATIF also played a role at the timber industry business breakfast hosted by Greg Moriarty, the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia the morning following SVLK discussions. The Ambassador summarised the breakfast discussions as useful and that there was still work to be done to develop a robust trade in legal timber products. He committed the Australian Government to continuing to collaborate with the Indonesian Government and timber industry so that trading relationships between the two countries would be further strengthened in the future.

Other news

- ▶ ATIF participated in the Market Access Industry Roundtable convened by the Secretary of Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The roundtable is a new forum intended to identify and discuss issues faced by importers and exports to improve access and maintain access to markets for both imported and exported products. The roundtable was attended by about 150 key primary industries representatives. ATIF will continue to promote issues of benefit to timber importers through the roundtable, including tariff reductions and changes to phytosanitary rules.

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