

MEMBERS' BULLETIN

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Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with current ATIF activities. This edition provides a quick summary of possible amendments to illegal logging regulations; the recent of plant import conditions; a summary of the recent seminar held by the Austrian Trade Commission, and a further update on the 2017 *Insights and Outlook* Conference to be held in Melbourne on Thursday, 5 October.

Amendments to illegal logging regulations

At the recent ATIF Board meeting consideration was given to further information received from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in relation to the possible amendments to illegal logging-related regulations. The ATIF Chairman and General Manager will be meeting with Senator Anne Ruston, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources in July to discuss the Government's intention in relation to changes to regulation and associated matters, such as the termination of the 'soft start'.

Timber products import conditions review team field inspection

As a component of the review of timber import conditions by the Plant Import Operations section of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, ATIF is arranging a familiarisation 'tour' for review team members. The tour will take place in Melbourne and the itinerary will probably involve visiting three locations that will include Tilling Timber where a briefing on the manufacture of glulam products would be provided.

Austrian tall wooden buildings seminar

ATIF participated in an upbeat timber seminar held in Sydney by the Austrian Trade Commission. Austria is the powerhouse of timber product manufacturing in Europe, especially massive panel and other engineered timber products. Timber product exports from Austria to Australia rose by 35 percent in 2016.

ATIF member company Stora Enso was a leading participant at the seminar. Engineered Wood Products Australian Supply Chain Manager Erkki Valikangas, described Stora Enso as a renewable material company. "Everything that's made with fossil fuel-based materials today can be made from a tree tomorrow."



He said the CLT revolution has essentially enabled the timber industry to move beyond its former 'cottage' industry status, building detached homes, to be a central player in modern commercial construction.

"This trend will continue to gather momentum as light weight, rapid and clean building systems are increasingly applied to city infill projects in Australia and around the world," he said. Erkki added that Stora Enso has worked hard to develop technical material related to CLT design and engineering. "This includes a building systems manual that we are continuing to update and expand."

Erkki also noted that, in contrast to Europe, 99 percent of houses constructed in Australia were based on light weight timber construction systems that lent themselves to 'closed' panel building solutions. "So emerging massive panel building solutions offer great improvements in building quality, affordability and construction time."

2017 Insights and Outlook Conference

As previously advised, the 2017 *Insights and Outlook* Conference will be held in Melbourne on Thursday, 5 October. This collaborative conference will be a joint venture between DANA, Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) and ATIF. The strong, interesting international and domestic speaker line up has now been finalised.

Managing director of FWPA Ric Sinclair said the conference will provide an outstanding opportunity to be updated on industry affairs and trends. "The conference will cover new topics influenced by the current wave of enthusiasm in the Australian industry, driven by strong residential and commercial building activity, and significant changes in product demand and supply."

ATIF general manager John Halkett said the conference would be relevant and valuable for those working in the industry supply chain. "With building and construction effort broadly buoyant, and with a particular focus now on the mid-rise buildings, the conference will be this year's opportunity to be updated on building design and construction trends, product innovation and demand factors.

Managing director of DANA Dennis Neilson said the conference will address global and regional market demand and supply issues for timber products that will impact on the forest growing and wood processing industries. "We will also be examining major new industry policy settings, mega trends, domestic wood demand outlook for housing and other uses, and the importance of data in providing context for changes in markets or movements in the business cycle."

The conference will be promoted throughout Australia, and it is anticipated that the audience will include industry leaders, key decision makers and policy makers covering the forest growing and wood processing sectors. The conference is being designed, and anticipated to attract individuals from the wholesale sector, timber merchants, resellers, retailers, manufacturers, builders, technical experts, supply chain professionals and trade associations.

A range of conference-related sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, and for conference inquiries call conference organiser, Julie Bell on +64 7 349 2764 (Ext 2) or email admin@dana.co.nz. You can also get in touch with John Halkett on 0417 421 187 or email: john.halkett@bigpond.com. Detailed information about sponsorship opportunities will soon be posted in the conference website www.danaevents.co.nz/2017melbourne.

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