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Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with ATIF activities. This issue reports on the recent ATIF AGM, notably changes in the composition of the Board. There is also a brief update on progress with the development of the Federal Government's illegal logging policy following a recent meeting of the Forest and Wood Products Council (FWPC). Your attention is again drawn to the timber supply chain seminar being jointly held by the ATIF and the Timber Merchants Association (TMA) to be held in Melbourne in May.

Annual General Meeting

Nils Koren, Managing Director, Gunnersens was elected Chairman at the AGM held in Sydney on 25 March 2010. New faces to join the Board are Michael Swan, Managing Director, Swan Le Messurier, Sydney; Robert Cairns, State Manager, Tasman KB, Melbourne, and Lou Boffo, National Sales Manager, Le Messurier, Adelaide.

Past Chairman Norm Long, Managing Director, Oceania (Aust) will continue on the Board as Deputy Chairman. Respected industry identity Bob Frost, Chairman, Tasman KB and long-serving Board member David Eldridge, Managing Director, Ridgewood Timber retired from the Board.

In accepting the Chairmanship Mr Koren thanked past Chairman and Messrs Frost and Eldridge for their service to the Board and to the timber importing sector generally. He also remarked at the presence on the Board of representatives of a "new generation of timber importers and wholesalers". He stressed the need for the Federation to continue to be seen as relevant and important for the business success of timber importing and wholesaling companies.



Illegal logging policy process

The FWPC, Chaired by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke MP meet again on 19 April 2010. Illegal logging policy was discussed. The Council confirmed that the four projects (as previously reported) being undertaken in support of the Government's illegal logging election commitment have been completed, and subject to further consideration by the Minister, are likely to be publicly released soon.

The Council was advised that the project reports, as well as stakeholder feedback and the initiatives being pursued by the US and European Union, will be used by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to prepare the final illegal logging Regulation Impact Statement (RIS). The final RIS will recommend a preferred option to the Government for identifying illegally-logged timber products and restricting their import into Australia, and providing disclosure of country of origin (harvest), species and certification needs.

Joint timber supply chain seminar

As previously advised, the ATIF and the TMA have joined forces to stage a special one-day industry supply chain seminar in Melbourne. The seminar: *Connecting the Pieces for Business Success* will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Melbourne on Tuesday, 18 May. The seminar will be free of charge to company members of the ATIF.

Seminar flyers have already been circulated. Additional copies are enclosed with this issue of the *Members' Bulletin*.

Malaysia Free Trade Agreement documentation

Through Matthew Short and Associates ATIF is arranging assistance to members in relation to the Malaysian Free Trade Agreement. Some members have been experiencing difficulties with the changes to the documentation requirements.

We will shortly provide advice related to onsite (Consignee site and Shipper site) document review to ensure that all documents exchanged with statutory bodies comply and fit in with the free trade agreement requirements. Options for electronic lodgement for in-country documents to ensure speed of transfer of information together with Customs clearance and tariff advice related to items imported will be able to be provided to maximise free trade entitlements and reduce duties/taxes and costs. Further details will be circulated shortly.

Other news

- ▶ The Malaysian Timber Council is holding the first ever international wood exhibition: *MTC Global Wood Mart 2100*, to be held in Malaysia on 19-20 October 2010. A brochure is enclosed with this issue of the *Members' Bulletin*
- ▶ ATIF is finalising a set of ATIF and linked *Wood - Naturally Better* logos for use by members across a number of applications. They will be forwarded to members shortly along with instructions for use on company hard and soft copy material.