IUFRO Meeting Report Form

12th International IUFRO Wood Drying Conference
Challenges and Opportunities Related to Tropical Lumber Drying

1) IUFRO focal person/meeting organizer:

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2) Meeting report:

The city of Belém, capital of the state of Pará in the equatorial north of Brazil, hosted the 12th International IUFRO Wood Drying Conference (WDC 2012) from July 30 to August 03, 2012. This was the first WDC in South America, as well as a great opportunity to learn about tropical rainforest species and visit the exuberant Amazon forest.

Key issues discussed/latest findings in the field:

a) Three wood drying experts that are well connected to the Brazilian forest sector where in charge of the conference keynotes:
   - Dr. Ivan Tomaseli (Brazil): Challenges and opportunities related to tropical lumber drying
   - Dr. Patrick Perré (France): Energy consumption during lumber drying
   - Dr. Marcus Vinicius Alves (Brazil): Forest concession in Brazil and the supply of tropical lumber

b) Government officials from the state of Pará, Brazil, talked about their experiences in sustainable use and conservation of natural resources through two government programs:
   - Public Forests Management program
   - Green Cities program

c) 80 participants from 14 countries had the opportunity to attend 28 oral presentations and read 31 posters covering 7 general topics:

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• Drying Quality and Wood Properties  
• Methods for Monitoring the Drying Process  
• Physics of Wood Drying and Modeling  
• Applied Wood Drying  
• Alternative Drying Methods  
• Wood Modification Related to Drying  
• Miscellaneous Drying Technologies

d) Delegates had the chance to participate of three technical visits to the local industry and learn about wood species, manufacturing processes and finished products:
• Ebata Produtos Florestais (wood flooring)  
• Pampa Exportações Ltda. (wood flooring)  
• Tramontina (furniture)

Conclusions:

There is growing concern around the world, and especially in Brazil, about the sustainable use of natural resources from tropical forest, and wood drying is an important factor for adding value to that wood. Amongst other things, drying experts at the conference proposed methods to reduce drying losses, moisture content variability, energy consumption, and emission of volatile organic compounds. Special importance was given to explain government programs that promote a sustainable use of the Brazilian rainforest.

Outlook to future activities:

During the business meeting at the end of the conference, the following issues were discussed and voted:

a) Depending upon approval from the sponsoring institutions, the following two cities were voted for holding the next to IUFRO international wood drying conferences:
• Istanbul, Turkey, 2014 (Prof. Suleyman Korkut and Prof. Öner Ünsal)  
• Vancouver, Canada, 2016 (Prof. Stavros Avramidis and Dr. Luiz Oliveira)

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b) It was proposed and approved at the meeting to create a Technical-Scientific Cooperation Network with the purpose of integrating South American drying researchers, developing standards in lumber drying, and establishing a regional meeting agenda.

c) For the first time, all conference papers will be published on-line in an open-source platform. In addition, three scientific journals invited authors to submit their papers for publication after peer review:

- Maderas: Ciencia y Tecnología
- Drying Technology
- Scientia Forestalis

d) The possibility of joining the IUFRO Division 5 conference every 5 years was also discussed. It was agreed to maintain the IUFRO Drying conference every 2 years, but without overlapping with the IUFRO Division 5 conference so that everybody has the opportunity to attend both.

**Background information:**

The WDC is an international IUFRO wood drying conference that has been regularly held every 2 years since 1987. The WDC has been proven to be an invaluable opportunity for drying researchers worldwide to gather during 4 to 5 days to share their experiences and results. Furthermore, it has been also proven to be a nice opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones.

**3) Other information:**

Participants were invited to a boat trip through the Amazon River to eyewitness the tropical forest and enjoy a folkloric show featuring traditional dances.

![Group photo](http://www.wdc2012.com/site/)

**Meeting data:**

*Full title of the meeting:* 12th International IUFRO Wood Drying Conference

*Date and venue:* July 30 to August 03, 2012, the city of Belém, State of Pará, Brazil


*Number of participants:* 80

Thank you very much for your kind cooperation!
Countries represented: Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, France, Greece, Japan, Peru, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uruguay, and USA

Organization of the meeting:

All IUFRO Units involved: Wood Drying Working Party 5.04.06

Host organization(s) and sponsor(s): University of Sao Paulo

Study tour(s) to:

Communication activities:

The WDC 2012 Proceedings will be published on-line in an open-source platform. When the publication is ready, the WDC 2012 Proceedings will be available at:


Related publications /websites:

http://www.ipef.br/publicacoes/stecnica/nr36.asp: This on-line publication contains the abstracts of 28 oral presentations and 31 posters selected from 86 submissions to the 12th International IUFRO Wood Drying Conference.

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