

## Advanced Wood-Based Panels Technology for Professionals in South-East Asia

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In a globalized world where technology at the workplace is rapidly changing, continuous professional training is gaining in importance. The wood-working industry characterized by constant technological development and product innovation and the emergence of new markets is no exception here. Against this background, a training course organized by the International Wood Academy of Hamburg, Germany, and co-sponsored by IUFRO WP 5.05.00 took place at Walailak University near Nakhon Si Thammarat in Southern Thailand from October 5 to 10, 2009. At the course 35 participants from Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Laos and Vietnam gathered specific knowledge about the manufacturing process and the applications of wood-based panels. In view of the increasing economical relevance of particle- and fibre-based composites, the course focused especially on these materials.

Recently, South Asia has developed into a leading region concerning wood-based panel manufacturing with several MDF (medium density fibreboard) and particleboard plants equipped with high technology. The IWA, in cooperation with the Walailak University, worked out an English course schedule to specifically meet the demands of employees in the middle and higher positions of the wood-based composites industry in the region. Therefore employees of several local manufacturers as well as employees of internationally operating adhesive manufacturers participated in the five-day course. Additionally, seven scholarships were awarded by the organizer to scientists mainly from the region.

While maintaining a high academic standard, this training program also offered an opportunity for professionals from companies and research institutes in South-East Asia and neighbouring regions to get easy access to a comprehensive and up-to-date knowledge on wood-based panels since the continuous expansion of staff knowledge is essential for the industries, R&D organisations and universities to remain competitive in the market.

The overall conception of the course, originally developed for courses in Germany, was adapted to the local conditions and closely linked specific basic knowledge with the transfer



Photo: Courtesy of Walailak University. Measuring the thickness of a particleboard sample after soaking it 24 hours in water



Photo: Courtesy of Walailak University. Int'l Training Course on Wood-Based Panels: Processes, Properties and Uses

of application-oriented competence. A special focus was put on the individual processes, the adhesion technology as well as on the markets, standards, ecological aspects and costs. Laboratory training lessons where the participants manufactured laboratory panels, tested their properties and applied computer based simulation techniques of the manufacturing process, rounded off the course.

### Title of the course:

International Training Course on Wood-Based Panels: Processes, Properties and Uses

### Date and venue:

5th-10th October 2009, Walailak University, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand

### Meeting website:

<http://wood.wu.ac.th/woodtraining/home.html>

### Number of participants and countries represented::

37 participants and 12 speakers

*Participants:* Thailand, Romania, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Lao

*Speakers:* Romania, Germany, Austria, Belgium and Thailand

### Hosted/organized by:

Walailak University (Thailand) <http://www.wu.ac.th/engWeb/>

International Wood Academy, University of Hamburg (Germany) <http://www.woodacademy.com>

Faculty of Wood Industry, "Transilvania" University of Brasov (Romania) <http://www.unitbv.ro>