

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

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<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-5/50000/50400/50406/>

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 3, 2012.

This first WDC in South America offered a great opportunity to learn about tropical rainforest species and visit the exuberant Amazon forest. 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.

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

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

Three wood drying experts that are well connected to the Brazilian forest sector delivered the conference keynotes:

Ivan Tomaseli (Brazil): *Challenges and opportunities related to tropical lumber drying*; Patrick Perré (France): *Energy consumption during lumber drying*

Marcus Vinícius Alves (Brazil): *Forest concession in Brazil and the supply of tropical lumber*

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.

Delegates had the chance to participate in 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).

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

Visit: <http://www.wdc2012.com/site/>