

The Annual International Convention of the Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST) was held this year in Beijing, China, jointly cosponsored by the International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan (ICBR) and held at their facilities. The Convention theme was "Sustainable Development of Wood and Biomass in our New Global Economy." There were 144 attendees from 17 countries: Canada, Chile, China, France, Ghana, Iran, Nigeria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, and USA.



The Convention opened on August 27 with remarks by distinguished speakers Prof. Zehui Jiang, Director General of ICBR, as well as remarks by Jianlong Zhang, Vice Minister of the State Forestry Administration, Scott Sindelar, U.S. Embassy Agricultural Minister Counselor, Alain Cloutier, SWST President, and Victoria Herian, SWST Executive Director.



Evening festivities began with a Welcome Dinner hosted by the Chinese cosponsors: Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing Forestry University, Nanjing Forestry University, Northeast Forestry University, and the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan. Attendees were joined by representatives from the State Forestry Administration as well as the United States Embassy.

After dinner attendees were treated to a Chinese cultural performance by Beijing Opera performers as well as by ICBR Beijing Opera students. The highlight of the night was to hear Prof. Zehui Jiang singing an Opera performance!



During the week the program consisted of 55 presentations, 57 posters and 16 student posters, who also participated in the Student Poster Competition. Topics covered were China's Impact on Global Forest Products Trade, Energy and Carbon Issues, Development and Research in Bamboo and Other Agri Fibers, Advanced Wood Processing, Sustainable Resources for the Future, and Wood and Agri Fiber Culture.



A closing banquet was held at the Lao She Tea House near Tiananmen Square where attendees enjoyed traditional Chinese foods as well as cultural performances from jugglers, a magician, musicians, dancers, and tea performances.

The final day of the convention included an industry tour to the Chinese Academy of Forestry, Tata Wood Doors Company, and Tiantan Furniture Company.

