

WOOD AND FIBER SCIENCE

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Going Global

We hear much these days about internationalization—in industry, in politics, in economy, in literature and the arts, and certainly in science and technology. Our field of wood science and technology is clearly a global one, even though it might not be practiced, developed, and applied evenly throughout the world. Although the systematic study of wood science and technology was undertaken long before the 20th century, its application to global concerns was inspired as much as anything by two world wars. The urgencies and pressures of international conflict have done more to advance the field than any other incentive. Research in the field went global in a systematic way following World War II, an effect of the dramatic effort to establish the United Nations and its Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Parallel to that, and associated with it, was the realization by the forestry researchers who had been collaborating internationally already for half a century under the aegis of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) that they should be concerned with the science and technology guiding the utilization of the wood they were working so hard to grow. So began the Forest Products Division of IUFRO, which has broadened in scope and impact steadily since its establishment in the 1960s. I have been fortunate to participate in that effort and gratified to see and encourage the involvement of wood scientists and technologists from all corners of the world.

In my tour as Editor of *Wood and Fiber Science*, I have been pleased to see the steady increase in contribution of authors from institutions outside the United States and Canada.

This has increased from 20 percent of the papers in 1985 to currently about 50 percent. The fact that this is happening without a specific effort to solicit such papers and in face of the fact that our page charges are substantially greater than those of other journals in the field that regularly receive international attention is particularly interesting and rewarding. It shows that our journal is well known and respected on the world scene.

We are increasingly aware that internationalization is not all positive. Social and economic advances in one part of the world may come at the, at least temporary, expense of another part that had previously enjoyed such advancement. Many workers in American industry can attest to this. However, advances in science and technology typically have such negative effects only when it comes to applying the technology, with the needs for capital, social and political acceptance, infrastructure, and channels of trade to transfer materials and products to those who need them.

Wood and Fiber Science is following the trend toward “going global,” with both its positive and its negative impacts. Positive impacts come from the ability to learn of advances by scientists in China, Portugal, Sweden, New Zealand, and other nations who are working to solve problems of mutual interest. Negative impacts come from delays in passing manuscripts to and from authors and reviewers, striving to understand different standards and formats of testing and reporting, maintaining as short as possible turnaround times between receipt of manuscripts and their publication, and occasionally having to cope with less than perfect English. I must quickly add

that not all the best English comes from North American authors. Some may feel that the need to share the pages of our journal with a substantially larger body of researchers is a negative impact. I don't agree. We have been able to increase the size of the journal to accommodate more papers. In my view, the pos-

itive impacts far outweigh the negative. I'm pleased with our global involvement. I believe it is a strong incentive and reinforcement for advancing wood science and technology and the mission of SWST both here and abroad.

ROBERT L. YOUNGS, *Editor*

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Beginning with manuscripts received after January 31, 2001, the page charge for non-members of the Society of Wood Science and Technology will be \$135 per printed page. The page charge for members will remain at \$90. The member rate will apply if any author is a member of SWST.