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EDITOR'S NOTE

The increasing interest in cross-laminated timber and mass timber construction has resulted in several publications covering manufacturing, use, and code/standard regulations. This special issue of **Wood and Fiber Science** highlights the differences and similarities in engineering code specifics between several geographic regions, namely Canada, Europe, New Zealand/Australia, and the United States and to a very limited degree Japan. This issue focuses on critical engineering design factors such as seismic performance, connection details, and fire performance, all critical engineering design elements. To a lesser extent, this issue touches on some of the biodegradation issues that must be examined, and the economic and environmental concerns, particularly of Europe and New Zealand/Australia. When we started this project, we hoped to have a full matrix such that we had articles from every region dealing with seismic, connection, fire, economics, and environmental issues. Unfortunately busy schedules and prior commitments have limited us to this partial matrix.

However, as the reader explores this issue, there is a very good sense of the similarities and differences between the codes of the various regions and what future issues need to be studied and researched. We put together a team of experts, with each expert representing a different geographic location and asked them to develop an article (or articles—we left that up to each team) that explained the codes and standards for their particular region. This special issue is a result of those teams' hard work. There is an outstanding article on the seismic details and code requirements for six geographic regions, namely Europe, Canada, Japan, USA, New Zealand/Australia, China and Chile. We have three articles on connection details—one article dealing with the similarities and differences in code requirements and two connection papers (Part 1 and Part 2) that highlight new connection methods to increase stiffness and load carrying capacities, particularly for high seismic loads. The fire team decided to submit individual fire papers so there are four papers that address fire codes and standards in Europe, Canada, New Zealand/Australia, and the USA. There is a paper on the biological degradation issues that must be observed when building and using Cross-Laminated Timber Construction (CLT), an excellent article on evaluating the life cycle of CLTs in Europe and finally a review of some of the economic and environmental issues of concern in New Zealand/Australia.

I want to thank our Guest Editors, Dr. James Dan Doland from Washington State University, Pullman, WA; Dr. Lech Muszynski and Dr. Arijit Sinha (also my associate editor of **Wood and Fiber Science**) from Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR; and Dr. Andreas Falk from KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. Their diligence and expertise helped to pull together a wide range of experts in the field to accomplish this monumental task.

I also want to thank our contributing authors and their perseverance in working with me to put this issue together. They put up with my repeated requests for articles, edits, and the final approvals of proofs. The authors are listed, along with email addresses in each article. I must also thank the numerous reviewers who must remain anonymous because of **Wood and Fiber Sciences** policy of blind peer reviews, but you know who you are when you read the articles.

The Society of Wood Science and Technology decided to publish this article as an open access issue to allow everyone to download any articles free of charge because CLT and mass timber is of such critical importance today. I thank the Executive Board for approving this special issue.

Susan LeVan-Green

Editor
Wood and Fiber Science