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FTP-C7 – SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN FOREST-BASED SECTOR TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM (FTP) IN WARSAW

For the first time Warsaw hosted a conference of the Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform (FTP). The seventh FTP conference entitled “Pacing Innovation for the Bioeconomy” was organised on September 26-27, 2011. The issues addressed at the conference focused on the stimulation of innovative activity in the forest-based sector; increasing the importance of research for the sector’s development, the intensification of participation in EU framework programmes, and the modernisation of a vision of the sector’s development, taking into account topics outlined in the currently-drawn EU framework programme “HORIZON 2020”.

Keywords: conference, forest, wood, bioeconomy, innovation, strategy

For the first time a plenary meeting of the European Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform (FTP) was organised in Poland in conjunction with the Polish presidency of the European Union. Patronage of the seventh conference entitled “Pacing Innovation for the Bioeconomy” was taken by the Minister of Economy, Minister of Science and Higher Education, and the Minister of the Environment. The conference was held on 26-27 September 2011 in Warsaw. The main organiser of the event, i.e. FTP, was supported by local organisers, which were the Wood Technology Institute in Poznan, coordinator of the Polish Technology Platform for the Forestry-Wood Sector (PPTSL-D) and organiser of an EU Framework Programmes Industry Contact Point “Forest-Wood”, and the Forestry Department of Warsaw University of Life Sciences. The Polish State Forests (the State Forest Holding) also marked its presence at the conference. It is worth adding that the conference title emphasised the importance attached by the EU to the necessity of stimulating and strengthening European activity and place in the area of innovation, as well as making the most of the potential of forest management, the advantages of which are natural forces and reserves.

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The conference was attended by around 120 participants from most of the EU member states. Among them were representatives of FTP executive bodies, national support groups of FTP, leading European and global companies and concerns of the forestry-wood industry and related industries, European associations and networks of entrepreneurs, R&D institutions, and institutions from the business service area.

The conference was preceded by the “Early Stage Researchers’ Forum” co-organised by FTP and COST (domain: Forests, their Products and Services (FPS)). The forum was an initiative of the scientific network InnoWood (wood technology) and its co-organisers were the European Fibre and Paper Research Organisation (EFPRO) (research on pulp and paper) and the European Forest Institute (EFI) (forestry).

The conference was opened by a representative of the Polish government – Maciej Banach, undersecretary of state in the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. On behalf of FTP the conference participants were welcomed by the president of FTP High Level Group and president of Arctic Paper SA – Michał Jarczyński. The conference subject matter was divided into five sessions that concerned developmental trends in the European forestry-wood sector, stimuli of its development, an innovation support system, future lines of research, and the role of innovation in industries of the forestry-wood sector (details of the programme can be found at www.forestplatform.org; www.itd.poznan.pl).

The first part of the conference moderated by Michał Jarczyński focused on the issues of resources of raw materials originating from the forest, the role of innovation in the Canadian forestry-wood production system, which enabled international comparisons of the future of products based on forest raw materials by 2035 as well as a possibility for multi-industry co-operation in that area.

The second session on forestry-wood sector mobilization (chair – Konstantin von Teuffel, Forest Research Institute, Baden-Württemberg, Germany) was devoted to discussion of the need for verification of the FTP Strategic Research Agenda, the place of research, innovation, and bioeconomy in EU scientific policy, and also the strategy concerning EU innovations in relation to the forestry-wood sector.

In a further part of the conference devoted to innovation support systems (chaired by Jan Lagerström, President of FTP Advisory Committee, Sweden), papers concerning the following issues were presented: FTP’s future, experience gained during the execution of the Star-COLIBRI project, activity of FTP National Support Groups in post-planned economics, and the results of ERA-Net activity, i.e. EFIMed and WoodWisdom-Net2.

The following session focused on outlining research lines in the forestry-wood sector (moderator Bartłomiej Mazela, Wood Technology Department of the Poznan University of Life Sciences, Poland). During the session the conference participants were acquainted with such issues as breakthrough results of research

on ionic liquids in new technologies for the forestry-wood sector, a vision of the future of electronic and intelligent paper, the importance of spinning of carbon fibres from lignin, and the issue of managing innovative solutions in the wood industry with the example of developmental initiatives among SMEs in the production of wooden structures.

The session on the role of innovation in industries of the forestry-wood sector (moderator Teresa Presas, General Director, CEPI, Brussels, Belgium) encompassed a broad spectrum of diverse research results and their implementation in industry. The session featured IT tools for the virtual presentation of furniture products and their customisation, innovative solutions concerning paper recycling, and the business experience of Domsjö Biorefinery.

The presentations made by two Schweighofer Prize 2011 winners attracted much interest. One of the presentations concerned innovative joints for the production of linear structures from glued wood without length limit, and the second tidal power plants with turbine blades made of layer-glued wood (Glulam).

A further interesting element of the conference consisted of the presentations of the two best speeches chosen during the “Early Stage Researchers’ Forum”. The presentations concerned “Environmental benign wood protection by means of electro osmotic pulsing technology (PLEOT)” (Erik Larnøy, the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute (NTI)) and “Can carbohydrates be used to dictate structure in native lignins? Towards a more homogeneous technical lignin” (Martin Lawoko, the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Sweden).

The presentations and discussions were dominated by issues concerning the stimulation of innovation in the forestry-wood sector and increasing the role and importance of research in the sector’s development. Much emphasis was placed on the need for intensification of participation of industry and scientists from the forestry-wood area in EU FP7 calls. The necessity of modification of the FTP Strategic Research Agenda in co-operation with representatives of particular countries was also considered an important issue. Changes in the Agenda should take into account current visions outlined in the future framework programme HORIZON-2020. The closing accent of the conference was the study tour to Białowieża Nature Reserve. It is worth adding that the next FTP conference will be organised in one and a half years, i.e. in spring 2013, in Spain.

FTP-C7 – OBRADY EUROPEJSKIEJ PLATFORMY TECHNOLOGICZNEJ SEKTORA LEŚNO-DRZEWNEGO W WARSZAWIE

Streszczenie

Po raz pierwszy Warszawa była miejscem obrad Europejskiej Platformy Technologicznej Sektora Leśno-Drzewnego (*Forest-Based Technology Platform – FTP*). Siódma konferencja FTP zatytułowana „*Pacing Innovation for the Bioeconomy*” odbyła się w dniach 26-27 września 2011 roku. Problematyka konferencji koncentrowała się na pobudzeniu działalności innowacyjnej w sektorze leśno-drzewnym, wzroście znaczenia badań w jego rozwoju, intensyfikacji uczestnictwa w programach ramowych Unii Europejskiej oraz modernizacji wizji rozwoju sektora z uwzględnieniem celów zarysowanych w tworzonym obecnie ramowym programie badawczym UE – HORYZONT 2020.

Słowa kluczowe: konferencja, las, drewno, biogospodarka, innowacje, strategia