From the president's desk

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We may use wood with intelligence only if we understand wood.

Frank Lloyd Wright
In the Cause of Architecture: Wood
The Architectural Record, May 1928

Wood utilization in India, although started on a scientific basis as early as beginning of 20th century, there was no association or organization to bring all those divergent scientists and technologists under one umbrella. It was the initiative of one of the eminent wood scientists from Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehra Dun, Dr. D. Narayanamurti, who thought that it is worthwhile to establish the “Indian Plywood and Timber Technologists Association” in 1963 to start with and later on developed it in 1968 into the “Indian Academy of Wood Science”. It has its own constitution. Its head quarters were partly in FRI, Dehra Dun and partly in IPIRTI (Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute), Bangalore.

The Academy runs a journal and earlier was bringing out news letter. During the annual meetings, one of the eminent scientists and wood technologists selected by the Governing Council used to deliver Kapur memorial lecture. Late Dr. S. N. Kapur was one of the eminent wood scientists, whose contribution in the field of timber drying was well known earlier.

The Academy has published a Handbook of Indian wood and wood panels which was well received by scientists, technocrats, industrialists and others.

The Academy had been regularly bringing out its half-yearly publication—Journal of Indian Academy of Wood

Science containing scientific and technical papers on various aspects of timber utilisation till 1996 which benefitted many industries and organisations who were interested in knowing wood and its uses. However, no publication of the journal took place from 1997 to 2003 due to variety of reasons. It was in 2004, the then Governing Council decided to revive its publication as a new series. The set up was changed and ISSN (ISSN:0972-127X) was also obtained and a full fledged honorary editorial board was constituted with a few eminent personalities from abroad also as its members. Since then, the Journal Indian Academy of Wood Science, new series is regularly publishing quality articles keeping in view of changing times and demands in Wood Science and Technology.

The Academy for the last 2 years has been regularly working out with Springer-Verlag, an internationally acclaimed publication sector for a tie up and I am happy that the first issue is coming in 2010. Dr. S. K. Nath, one of the Vice Presidents, Dr. O. K. Rema Devi, General Secretary, Dr. S. K. Sharma, Honorary Editor and Dr. R. Sundararaj, Treasurer have contributed besides other members of Governing Council, significantly to make it happen. My special thanks to all of them. Perhaps this will be one of the few journals from India in Wood Science and Technology to have an international tie up. I request all the members of the Academy to make it on a sustainable basis and bring out best research papers on wood science and technology in our journal.

The Academy congratulate Dr. K. S. Rao, former President of the Academy who recently received Rashtria

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Gourav Award (Bharat Jyothi) by the India International Friendship Society at a function held in Delhi during a conference on ‘Global Participation in Indian Economic Development’ for his scientific contribution.

A national level workshop on New Frontiers: Future of Wood Science and Technology in India is going to be conducted on 20th January 2011 at Institute of Wood Science & Technology (IWST), Bangalore by the Academy with the support of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India, New Delhi, IWST,

Bangalore and IPIRTI, Bangalore. The Academy is intended to take a leading role in promoting wood science and technology in India. The details are provided in the academy website: <http://www.iaws.org.in>.

The new venture of joining hands with Springer-Verlag is going to be a new chapter for the Academy. It is time for the members to feel proud and celebrate.

President