



Combois holds Annual General Meeting in historic Nara, Japan

Combois held its 2006 Annual General Meeting in Nara, the original ancient capital of Japan, hosted by member company Fuso Ltd. of Sakurai-City, Nara, Japan.

During the meeting Joseph Rosa Sr. retired as Combois president, a post he had held for the past 15 years. Mr. Rosa was honored in recognition of his tireless efforts and personal dedication to the Combois organization and its goals. At the same time he was unanimously elected Honorary Chairman of this international association by the assembled membership.

Mr. Fritz Peine of Heinrich Kuper GmbH & Co KG, Germany, was elected as the incoming president. Jann Bjørne Jr. of Falkenberg A/S, Norway, and Peter Kleinschmidt, president of Stiles Machinery Inc, Grand Rapids, Michigan, were re-confirmed as vice presidents and members of the presidium.

Combois members are leading international distribution and service companies, which are dedicated to promote technology, exchange of best practices and advance global expertise in wood processing technologies. Combois member companies represent countries like Austria, Belgium, Germany, UK, The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, China, Switzerland, Japan, South Africa and USA.

The 17 member companies jointly employ a workforce of over 1,100 highly specialized individuals and achieve a combined sales volume of over \$450 million annually. The 2007 Combois Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place near Milan, Italy, and will mark the 40th anniversary of this unique organization. For more information, send inquiries by e-mail to info@combois.com or contact Stiles at (616) 698-7500. ■

European Laminates Market Stable, Growing in the East

The international laminates trade has met from 27 to 29 September at the invitation of the International Committee of the Decorative Laminates Industry (ICDLI) in Lindau, Germany, at Lake Constance.

Approximately 50 representatives from 25 companies discussed the current market development, trends and questions on fairs under the direction of ICDLI president Frank Schouten. The results of the analysis of the European laminates market attracted all participants. The analysis is exclusively provided every year on behalf of the ICDLI by the marketing research company Poeyry Forest Industry Consulting and presented at the ICDLI plenary assembly.

The figures showed a stable laminates market in Europe in the past year with a higher-than-average development in Eastern Europe. In the opinion of the experts this trend will continue in 2007.

In addition, many lectures offered issues for discussions, which went far beyond the official part of the program, say the organizers. The meeting was supplemented with an informative panel discussion about a "central trade fair" for laminates. The discussion offered to the listeners many new ideas and made clear that a common platform for the trade is certainly useful.

Ralf Olsen, secretary general of ICDLI, summarized the meeting as follows:

"We want to develop our conference to the international meeting place of the trade and every year we come a littler closer to this goal. The reception we experience increases more and more and the fact, that companies join the ICDLI on site, shows that we convince with our activities."

The next international meeting of the trade will take place in autumn 2007 in Strasbourg. ■

Collins Pine Joins Climate Change Group

Collins Pine Company has joined the California Climate Action Registry (Registry), a distinguished group of organizations demonstrating leadership by voluntarily taking action on climate change.

Collins is the first forest products company to participate in this rigorous program. As a member, Collins Pine Company will work with the Registry to annually track, report and certify the greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) from its operations. It will also track and register the GHGs sequestered through the management of its 94,000 acres of timberland in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, creating "emission reductions" that could be sold in a future carbon trading system.

Collins has a long history of actions that have resulted in positive impacts to the environment. In 1941, it began a program of sustainably harvesting the company's California timberlands, and in 1993, those same lands (known as the Collins Almanor Forest) became the first privately-owned forest in the U.S. to be independently certified by Scientific Certification Systems in accordance with the principles and criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Soon after, Collins had its remaining two forests, totaling 298,000 acres of hardwood and softwood, FSC-certified. ■