



Great expectations

The year is off to a good start, with experts indicating that the global pulp and paper industry has rebounded from its 2008 bottom and can even expect significant improvements through 2012, according to a 2011 global industry outlook article coming in the January/February issue of *Paper 360°*. While these improvements will be strongest in emerging economies like Asia and Brazil, they are expected to occur across all geographic regions.

TAPPI is also starting off the new year with high expectations after adding more than 1,000 new members in 2010. As Larry N. Montague, president and CEO of TAPPI, described recently, more growth will come in 2011 as TAPPI continues to expand into areas like packaging, sustainability, biomass and biofuels, nonwovens, tissue, and more. TAPPI's 2011 conference schedule reflects this growth with new and enhanced events.

March BioPro Expo & IBBC

The bioenergy revolution is providing real solutions for pulp and paper mills to reduce energy and landfill costs, as well as capture new revenue streams. Presentations at the BioPro Expo & Marketplace and TAPPI's International Bioenergy & Bioproducts Conference (IBBC), set for **March 14-16 in Atlanta, GA**, will provide technical updates, reports on pilot studies, and implementation strategies for deploying biobased solutions. For example, the event will cover the design and startup of MeadWestvaco's project to convert paper mill sludge and foul condensate into natural gas and other products.

The biorefinery concept will be thoroughly explored at IBBC and BioPro Expo & Marketplace. Updates will be given on two commercial biorefinery projects at New-Page, Wisconsin Rapids, WI, and Flambeau River Biofuels, Park Falls, WI. A business case will be presented for extracting and converting hemicellulose from kraft pulp mills to produce n-butanol, a chemical intermediate with a global market exceeding one billion gallons. In addition, a one day pre-conference workshop will provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of hands-on issues associated with building a biorefinery.

May Tissue Forum at PaperCon

At this year's PaperCon, scheduled for **May 1-4 in**

Cincinnati, TAPPI is for the first time offering a forum designed for tissuemakers. Set for Tuesday, **May 3**, this day-long forum features market and branding insight from major tissue producers like Kimberly-Clark and Procter & Gamble.

The forum also showcases technical topics, such as an academic perspective on new polymers for wet strength, analytical measurement of towel absorptive properties, structural characterization of paper towels using sub-millimeter mapping methods, thermocompressor loop steam temperature control of yankee dryers, and more. Also, during the poster session on May 1, universities will present tissue-related research.

June Nanotechnology for Renewable Materials

Formerly known as TAPPI's International Conference on Nanotechnology for the Forest Products Industry, the 2011 TAPPI International Conference on Nanotechnology for Renewable Materials will be held **June 6-8 in Arlington, VA**. This conference's name was changed to reflect nanotechnology advances in renewable materials and their widespread application in many industries. To provide information on all nano-enabled biomaterials, the technical focus of the conference has been expanded to include other nanomaterials in addition to cellulose.

A word of congratulations

Congratulations are in order for TAPPI's newly announced 2011 class of board level association award winners, who will receive their honors during PaperCon this May. This year's Gunnar Nicholson Gold Medal Winner is Richard A. Reese of Dick Reese and Associates, and the Herman Joachim Distinguished Service Award Winner is Peter D. Wallace of Arclin.

The TAPPI Fellows class of 2011 includes Shih-Chin Chen (ABB); Ergilio Claudio-da-Silva Jr. (Fibra Celulose S.A.); Thomas J. Garland (PaperWorks Industries); Kenneth C. Hill (Kadant Johnson Systems); J. David McDonald; Vince Newberry (Mondi Akrosil); Ivan I. Pikulik (Ivan Pikulik Consulting); Nicki S. Slusser (International Paper); R. Duane Smith (Davis-Standard Converting Systems); and Thomas O. Trueb (EFI Solutions).

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