



BRIAN N. BROGDON
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2014 International Conferences – Fiber processing, chemicals & energy, asset management, regulations, and industry sustainability issues

Multiple paper and forest products conferences convened around the globe in 2014. Two such events were: the International Chemical Recovery Conference (ICRC), which was held in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary Conference of the Finnish Recovery Boiler Committee (FRBC) in Tampere, Finland, and co-sponsored by TAPPI; and the TAPPI Pulping, Engineering, Environmental, Recycling and Sustainability (PEERS) Conference, held in Tacoma, WA, USA. Industry professionals discussed the issues of the day, best practices and latest innovations related to chemical recovery, power and steam, fiber production from virgin and recycled lignocellulose, asset management, regulatory compliance, sustainability and biorefining.

The 2014 ICRC had twenty-six sessions from June 9-14 that covered such topics as: overviews and history of kraft chemical recovery; boiler design, operation, optimization, safety and computer modeling; operation of evaporators, recaustizers, and lime kilns; corrosion issues and mitigation; fundamentals of black liquor chemistry and combustion; and environmental emissions control and regulatory compliance. Participants celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the FRBC at a commemorative dinner held at the Tampere Hall Congress and Concert Centre, and had an opportunity to tour the UPM-Kymmene Kymi pulp mill and the Verla groundwood and board mill.

From September 14-17, the 2014 PEERS Conference had forty different sessions/panels for participants to attend, which were organized into five core program tracks that comprise the Conference's acronym. Several of the panels were conducted as tutorials or information sessions that covered: fundamentals of brownstock washers and presses; operation of pressure screens during fiber recycling; chip quality measurement and management; best practices of conducting successful mill trials; equipment corrosion; and potential international regulatory issues with kraft pulping practices. Attendees had an opportunity to network at a re-

ception held at "LeMay - America's Car Museum" on September 16.

As members of the *TAPPI Journal* (TJ) Editorial Board, we solicited papers from the 2014 ICRC and TAPPI PEERS Conference. A sampling of some of these papers is brought to you in this month's special issue of TJ. Additionally, we will bring to you several other papers accepted from these conferences later this year.

We would like to thank all the authors who offered their work for publication in this issue and returned their revised papers in a timely manner, as well as all the peer reviewers who critiqued and provided their valued comments and improvements to the authors' works. Peter, Ricardo and I acknowledge and appreciate the assistance obtained from Jana Jensen, Jeff Wells and Monica Shaw of TJ.

Planning for the technical program of the 2015 TAPPI PEERS Conference, which will be a part of TAPPI's year-long Centennial Celebration and will be in Atlanta, GA on October 25-28, is well underway. Authors wishing to contribute are strongly encouraged to visit the Conference's website www.tappipeers.org for more information about the call for papers and panelists. The extended deadline for submitting an abstract via the web portal is **March 25, 2015**; the Conference's Technical Program Committee will convene on **April 2, 2015**, to organize the sessions. This year's PEERS theme will be *Sustainable Solutions for Our Future*. **TJ**

Brian N. Brogdon, Ph.D., is a member of the TAPPI Journal Editorial Board, president for Future Bridge Consulting Services LLC, and an executive director for the Light Green Machine Institute, Marietta, GA, USA.

Ricardo B. Santos, Ph.D., is a member of the TAPPI Journal Editorial Board and an applied technology specialist for MeadWestvaco Corp., Richmond, VA, USA.

Peter W. Hart, Ph.D., is a member of the TAPPI Journal Editorial Board and serves as TJ's editor-in-chief. He is the director of Fiber Science for MeadWestvaco Corp., Atlanta, GA, USA.