

JOINT MEETING IN SEOUL LINKS TAPPI AND KOREA TAPPI

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 1997 KOREAN RECYCLING SYMPOSIUM

THE 1997 KOREA RECYCLING SYMPOSIUM WAS AN historic step — the first English language symposium on Recycling to take place in Asia. TAPPI and Korea TAPPI worked together to bring together nearly 200 professionals in the field to the Korea Federation of Science and Technology Societies Conference Center in Seoul for this Symposium, which took place October 16-17, 1997. The multinational group of presenters included representatives from the United States, Korea, and Japan.

The program had grown out of the Recycling Symposium held annually in the United States and was designed to examine the nature of recycling in Asia. The strength of the Asian industry, specifically the Korean paper industry, in recycling was the core knowledge base for the technical program.

The highlight of the opening ceremonies was the presence and the speech by Yeo-Joon Yoon, Korean Minister of Environment, followed by welcoming speeches by Korea TAPPI's President Dong-So Shin and Richard Spangenberg, chairman.

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

The Technical program was developed jointly by TAPPI and Korea TAPPI. Shin developed the Asian portion of the program and Spangenberg, program chairman, was also the developer of the TAPPI portion of the program.

The first day focused on deinking technologies and developments. The first paper was by Prof. Hou Min

Chang and was a study of ink detachment using 1-Octadecanol in photocopy paper. The first day's sessions included four other presentations related to deinking, as well as a survey of new research and development. Jim Thompson, of Thompson Avant International, reported

on wastepaper collection trends in North America. The day concluded with two different proposals for pulping of wastepaper.

Friday began with a presentation from the Korean Minister for the Environment, Yeo-Joon Yoon, who expressed the Korean Government's support of our collective activity in pursuit of environmental protection. This was followed by a second view of wastepaper, this time

outlining collection, transport, and distribution methods used in the United States. The text of his speech is presented as a part of this writeup in a sidebar. The Japanese panelists were next, addressing deinking systems. The afternoons sessions were led by an introduction of Korea's paper industry and wastepaper in Korea, followed by recent Korean research on deinking.

In a program of excellent papers, there were some specific highlights, (and these are strictly the items of note to the editors), to bring to the readers attention. Anil K. Dewan's paper on the issues of producing uniform de-inked pulp was a milestone paper in that it covered the issues that have been with recycled paper since it's "rebirth" in the late 1980s — namely the difficulty in producing a uniform pulp from a highly variable fiber source. The paper by Jong-Min Park of Miryang National



The speakers dias at the opening of the Technical Program



The trade fair was well received, with attendees exchanging technical information across cultures

University and Man-Soo Kim of Chungnam National University on the Cushioning Characteristics Analysis for Flute Type of Corrugated Fiberboard, gave some unique insight into the successful use of recycled fiber in Asian corrugated containers. Several excellent papers on deinking chemicals were presented.

LOCAL PARTICIPATION

The conference was fairly well attended, with approximately 200 representatives, primarily from the Korean industry. Strong corporate support came from more than a dozen Korean companies, who provided blanket support for their engineers and development staff to attend. In addition, exhibitors from Finland, Sweden, USA, and Korea sent representatives from their home countries or Asian representative offices. Other individuals from Taiwan, India, Singapore and Indonesia were found among the audience.

EXHIBIT

The small but effective exhibit gave exhibitors an opportunity to meet in close contact with Korean counterparts. The exhibitors had the opportunity to discuss their technology directly with the mill engineers and enjoyed the opportunity. Several attendees mentioned that they had expected a larger turnout of exhibitors, and hoped to see more in future.

Yuhan Kimberly Company and Sesil Trading Corporation were kind sponsors of the events opening and closing receptions, providing a splendid opportunity for all to meet. The two companies sent senior representatives to represent them throughout the conference, and their visible presence and support was greatly appreciated by all. **TJ**

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TEXT OF ADDRESS TO THE CONFERENCE BY YEO-JOON YOON, KOREAN MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT

Speakers presenting papers on waste paper recycling at this symposium, distinguished guests, and ladies and gentlemen!

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of the experts on waste paper recycling from the U.S., Sweden, and many other countries in Asia for coming to Korea to participate in this symposium.

It is my great privilege to have an opportunity to deliver a congratulatory address at the 1997 Korea Recycling Symposium and Exhibit organized by Korea TAPPI.

Paper has played an important role in our cultural development from ancient times as a information carrier.

Paper is still being used today and it is one of the most indispensable necessities in our daily lives.

Although the increase in the rate of paper consumption has slowed down a bit due to the wide acceptance of electronic information media, its consumption still increases by 2.7% every year.

An increase in paper consumption means, however, a decrease in the forests that are the lungs of the earth.

According to a report from an International Organization, a forest area equal to four times the size of Switzerland is being destroyed every year because of deforestation and soil devastation.



The appearance of Korea's Minister of the Environment at the Symposium attracted a polite, but noisy, environmental demonstration by representatives of the Korean fishing industry



Industry leaders who took part in the presentations included, from left, Richard Spangenberg, chairman, then of Weyerhaeuser; Yeo-Joon Yoon, Korean Minister of Environment; and Dong-So Shin, president of Korea TAPPI

In the production of paper, diverse environmental resources are being used. Especially a great deal of water and energy are needed in paper production.

Furthermore, if we do not recycle the waste paper properly, the waste paper will turn out to be simple waste material and cause environmental damage.

Therefore, we cannot emphasize too much the importance of the recycling of waste paper.

Korea maintains a high recovery rate of waste papers, however, there are many things to be done to improve the quality of recovered waste paper.

Inefficiency of the waste paper collection system of this country degrades the quality of recovered waste paper and its economic value.

Also we experience difficulties in promoting the use of recycled paper products because product diversification has not been achieved yet.

Now the Korean Government makes an effort to rationalize the waste paper collection and distribution system to improve the quality of domestically recovered waste paper.

The Government will also extend its support for the expansion of waste paper storage facilities, and will expand the support to stabilize the waste paper supply and to minimize its distribution cost.

The Korean Government will also increase the amount of the loans needed for establishing new waste paper recycling facilities, and will promote a preferential purchase plan of the recycled paper products by both the Government and private business sectors.

However, it should be remembered that the paper industry should play the key role in recycling the waste paper through its technological excellence.

Especially, we should concentrate in producing high value added products from domestic waste papers, and we should keep working to reduce the environmental impact of papermaking by developing new processes. These should be addressed by our paper industry as we face the 21st century.

If the paper industry, the universities and the Government work hand in hand to achieve these goals we can reach the target with a great success.

In this respect I think that the 1997 Korea Recycling Symposium and Exhibit is a very meaningful event since many experts and paper engineers are gathered in one place to discuss the key technologies required in waste paper recycling.

Since this symposium is jointly organized by Korea TAPPI and TAPPI, and supported by Japan TAPPI and Taiwan TAPPI, it is a momentous event that can improve international cooperation spirit in this area, and this symposium can contribute to enhance the exchange of current recycling technologies.

I sincerely hope that many new ideas on the waste paper recycling technologies as well as steps for establishing new policies and measures will be developed during this symposium.

Finally I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to President Dong-So Shin of Korea TAPPI and all of the Korea TAPPI members who have worked so hard to make this symposium a great success.

Thank you.