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# Proceedings of the International Panel Products Symposium 2009



**16-18 September 2009**

**La Cité Internationale des Congrès  
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# **Proceedings of the International Panel Products Symposium 2009**

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## PREFACE

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Welcome to IPPS 2009, the 13<sup>th</sup> International Panel Products Symposium, in the beautiful French city of Nantes. I would like to say a big thank you to Ecole Supérieure du Bois for the help and assistance in hosting the conference.

This year has again seen changes. We have partnered with PIRA International to help improve how we market and organise our conference. I hope that you have all seen the benefits that this has brought. New initiatives include better use of email updates, the development of Pod Casts and new media partners.

Whilst we have changed the way we do things, maintaining the personal touch is still important. Keeping that welcoming feel to our conference is key to the unique atmosphere of IPPS, and I hope that this is still evident. As always we value your feedback and we know that you appreciate the friendly approach.

The global financial crisis is still impacting our industry, but there are now people quietly talking of glimmers of hope. With this in mind the industry should be looking to the future and thinking of how it can be improve innovation within the forest products sector. The impact our products can have by sequestering carbon and helping reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is one area where we can have a significant impact.

Governments are developing new legislation to tackle the issues of climate change, and the built environment is major area of focus. A stronger understanding of the benefits of using wood based materials in construction must be developed and this needs to be explained clearly to the key stakeholders so that our products can be easily credited for their environmental benefits. We have been able to bring together a very strong programme of speakers and presentations, and I hope that this year's conference will help to develop some new ideas on sustainable approaches in the construction sector.

Finally I would like to thank all the speakers for their hard efforts in presenting and providing papers for our proceedings. I hope that you enjoy reading the high quality output and the many new ideas and technologies presented at IPPS 2009. I would like to thank all the team at PIRA International for working hard to deliver this conference in an economically challenging time.

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