

## HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

*FPRS Industrial Wood Energy Forum 1981 Draws Record Crowd*  
MADISON, WIS, — over 750 scientists, educators, and manufacturers from all over the world in the wood products and technology field gathered at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans on March 23-25 to attend the Industrial Wood Energy Forum 1981.

The fifth annual international event, a unique Forum devoted to the latest technologies in wood energy, was sponsored by the Forest Products Research Society (FPRS), a nonprofit educational association headquartered in Madison, Wis. It was the largest and most beneficial Forum to date.

FPRS executive vice-president Arthur Brauner attributed the high attendance to the "tremendous potential in the economics of using wood for energy".

The conference was divided into five sessions: fuel preparation and firing, gasification and pyrolysis, cogeneration, hog fuel boiler systems, and emission controls.

Opening the general session with an overview of U.S. and Canadian wood energy policies were Colin MacCallum, senior supervisor, Steam and Power Department, Sandwell and Co., Ltd., Vancouver, B.C. Canada; Robin Farrow, acting branch chief, Applications and Market Development Branch of the Biomass Energy Systems Division of the U. S. Department of Energy, Washington, D. C.; and Thomas Brett, director of Renewable Energy Policy, Canadian Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources, Ottawa.

In reply to a question about the proposed \$ 35.4 million budget cuts proposed by President Reagan for the federal biomass program, Farrow said that the new administration's emphasis will be on long-terms, high-risk research and development.

"The government will rely on the free market forces to develop the markets for biomass energy systems and on oil price decontrol, solar tax credits, easing of regulatory barriers -- all of which stimulate the free market," she said.

According to Brett, the story is different in Canada. He said that process heat for Canadian forest industries alone amounts to three per cent of the primary energy generated and that federal and provincial incentives are being used to accelerate the substitution of fossil fuels through the use of commercially available biomass energy systems. The goal is to double Canadian dependence on biomass by 1990 and triple it by 2000.



As program chairman MacCallum put it, the meeting provided "a good-sized meal of meaty papers." Conference proceedings are currently being compiled and will be available through the FPRS.

The sixth international Industrial Wood Energy Forum 1982 will be held in March, 1982 in Washington, D. C. More international in scope, it will be sponsored in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, the Canadian Forestry Service, the U. S. Department of Energy, Forintek Canada Corp., the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Energy Agency Forestry Energy Program, the U. S. Agency for International Development, the Canadian International Development Agency, the World Bank, the National Forest Products Assn., and Energy, Mines, and Resources, Canada.

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