



Technical Conference Management
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PRESS RELEASE

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First Congress for the Asian and Australian Laminates Industry:

Asia Pacific Laminates Conference and Workshop 27-28 February 2003

Subtitle: The first Asia Pacific Laminates Conference was another successful step in the new series of conferences for the laminates industry. 186 delegates from 21 countries in 4 continents attended the two-day event.

Vienna, 20 March 2003 – The first Asia Pacific Laminates Conference was held at the Renaissance Shanghai Hotel in Shanghai, China from 27-28 February 2003. Following the first conference of this kind in Vienna, Austria, 2002, it was the second event of this series. The general sponsor of this meeting was Dynea, one of the world's leading manufacturers of impregnation resins. Additional sponsors, were Arjo Wiggins, DSM Melamine, Hymmen, StoraEnso and Technocell Dekor. The meeting was held simultaneously with the Woodmac China and organized by Technical Conference Management of Vienna, Austria.

In their welcoming addresses, Mrs. Birgit Murr, Austrian Consulate General, Commercial Section, Mr. Michael Pan, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Mr. Robert Wei Han, General Manager of Dynea China, and Mr. Kurt Fischer, Managing Director of Technical Conference Management, welcomed 186 delegates from 21 countries on 4 continents. About two thirds of the participants were from the Asia Pacific region, most of them from the Peoples Republic of China.

The event was divided into two parts, one and a half day of workshop and one half day of conference.

The workshop was a series of presentations covering the production process of the laminates from the raw materials, the impregnation process, printing to the press step testing of the final product properties. After an introduction by Mr. Harald Steindl of Dynea a total of 16 presentations of different length were given by experts from leading suppliers to the laminates industry: Mr. Josef Binder and Mr. Juergen Lang (Dynea) for the impregnation resins, Mr. Volker Hauser (Technocell Dekor) for the decorative paper, Mr. Mathias Rump (Technocell Dekor) for the printing process, Mr. Risto Laitinen (StoraEnso Laminating Papers) for the saturating base paper, Mr. Daniel James and Mr. Walter Mueller (Vits Systems) for the paper impregnation, and Mr. Volker Marahrens (Hymmen) on the press stage and the product properties.

A total of 8 papers were presented at the conference:

DSM's View on the Chinese Melamine Market in a Global Perspective

by Mr. Marcel van Berkel, DSM Melamine

China can be seen as the key driver for growth in the Asia Pacific Region, and sustainable growth for the coming years is predicted, with furniture production being the most important driver. LPL consumption is predicted to grow by 15 % annually, and in contrast to the rest of the Asia Pacific also the HPL market will grow in China. An even larger growth of 30% annually is expected for LPL flooring.

Decor Paper Market – A Worldwide Overview with Main Focus on China

by Matthias Krull, Sales Director, Smurfit Munksjö Paper

The worldwide production of decor paper for 2002 is estimated to be 600 000 tons, which is an increase of 6 % over the previous year. Most of the paper is used in interior architecture and decoration, the growth is mainly a result from the increase in manufacture of laminate flooring. China offers a wide range of important driving factors for future growth: WTO-membership, Olympic games 2008, Expo 2010, National Housing Plan, etc. Today's volume of decorative surfacing materials in China is approximately 50 000 tons per year, out of which 23 000 tons are imported. Two-digit growth rates will result in a market volume of 70-90 000 tons in a few years.

Dimension Stability of Print Base Paper for Laminate Flooring

by Erich Rathgeb, Director Technology, Smurfit Munksjö Paper

The dimension stability of print base paper is related to its potential in wet expansion. The common test method is the so-called Müttek test. Printers usually calculate with 1.2 to 1.6% expected paper expansion during impregnation. The expansion is influenced by the paper manufacturing process (such as raw materials, dewatering properties, fiber orientation, drying section) as well as by the impregnation process (speed, web tension, length of impregnation line, coating system) and the storage conditions.

Quality Developments of Absorbex Kraft Paper and Their Effect on Phenolic Impregnation and HPL Properties

by Risto Hovi, Vice President, StoraEnso

StoraEnso has an annual production capacity of 160 000 tons of saturating base paper and 30 000 tons of phenolic resin impregnated papers for CPL and HPL production. PM1 in Kotka, Finland, was recently rebuilt to cope with the market growth, to obtain higher productivity, and to improve quality. The EUR 30 million investment results in quality improvements, such as improved cross- and Z-directional profiles, formation, paper impurities, reduced dusting and improved quality of rolls.

On-line Colour Correlation between Wet Paper Sheet and Laminate

by Marietta Vallari, Laboratory Manager, Arjo Wiggins

Over the last three years Arjo Wiggins has conducted thorough research and developed a new production system to predict the laminate colour by colour measurements at the wet end of the paper machine. A series of experiments in our laboratory showed that the colour of a laminate can be related to the colour of the paper in the wet state. This effect is commonly observed, and

is easily explained by the fact that the refractive index of water is close to the refractive index of melamine. A mathematical model independent of colour was developed in the laboratory relating the reflectance values of wet and laminated paper. This model allows the colour prediction of any laminate by measurements on the wet paper.

Applications of Modern Industrial Overlays

by Rob Haupt, Global Technical Manager Paper Overlays, Dynea Overlays

Modern industrial overlays are used in a variety of industries, such as concrete formwork, transportation, building construction, furniture components, and speciality industrial applications. By this wide variety of industrial overlay applications, the design possibilities for treated paper are nearly limitless. There are many design possibilities, such as paper type, resin chemistry, additives, saturation mix, treating process, drying process, coating process.

Press Plates and Endless Press Belts – the Tool to Create the Character of Laminate Surfaces

by Wilfried Drilling, President, Hindrichs-Auffermann

Textures for laminate surfaces can be created in a variety of designs: smooth, aluminium, pearl, stipple, wood, stone and graphic. The design of the laminates is printed onto the surface of the decor paper and has to be matched by the texture of the surface which is created by the press plates. The press plates have to be adjusted to the type of laminate produced: HPL, LPL, CPL. Required properties of the press tools include steel grades, steel purity, hardness, flatness, thickness and thickness tolerance.

State of the Art Short Cycle Presses

by Juergen Schmidt, Area Sales Manager, Wemhoener Presses

The melamine short cycle direct lamination was introduced in the late sixties and has replaced complicated re-cooling procedures. Today, Wemhoener produces short cycle presses with dimensions up to 13 000 mm in length and up to 2650 mm in width.

Outlook

The next European Laminates Conference and Workshop, featuring a completely new workshop will be held in Berlin, Germany, from 19 to 22 April 2004. Updated information on this event can be found on the organizer's website www.tcman.at.

Further Information:

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