

# Review 2011



## Review of the First WOOD-CONFERENCE Friday, February 11, 2011

«Wood – The universal material for the innovative and sustainable modern architecture»



# Review of the First WOOD-CONFERENCE 2011



Almost 100 participants took up George Kuratle's (HWZ International AG) invitation to the first WOOD CONFERENCE at Cape Town International Conventional Centre (CTICC) in Cape Town on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

The idea of establishing this first WOOD CONFERENCE originated from Creation Holz GmbH and HWZ International AG. The aim of the conference is to support local architects in promoting wood in sustainable building.

HWZ International AG can provide materials such as wood and wooden materials and additionally offer support in logistics, service and training for this purpose. As an interface for research and to many timber industry specialists, Creation Holz promotes the sustainable development of jobs and training places in the industry.

The facilitator, Dipl. Ing. Thomas Rohner, opened the WOOD CONFERENCE, after the welcome by Hannu Garny, the HWZI Managing Director in Cape Town. The Swiss Consul General, Ms Irene Flückiger emphasised the importance of sustainability within the economy, social sector and nature conservation in her speech.

The first speaker, Univ. Prof. DDipl.-Ing. Michael Flach from Austria set the tone with his speech **Timber Construction – an effective contribution to world's climate protection.**

He highlighted the correlation between climate protection and construction, the ideal use of resources, settlement policy and the possibilities of timber construction (bridges, halls and multi-storey residential structures).

Dipl. Ing. Hermann Blumer from Switzerland evidenced with his presentation **Top achievements (performance) in wooden architecture**, that timber structures once considered to be unfeasible are now realisable thanks to skillful engineering and interdisciplinary cooperation.

Hermann Blumer is a top entrepreneur, visionary and inventor of many timber construction systems and bonding technologies in the timber industry. He impressively conveyed that almost all architectural ideas and designs can be realised using wood.

# «Wood – The universal material for the innovative and sustainable modern architecture»

Siv Helene Stangeland, siv.ark.mnal and Dipl.Ing. Reinhard Kropf, owners of an architecture company in Norway closed the loop of science, engineering and architectural design with their speech **Sustainable architecture**.

For both speakers, wood is a universal material that combines technology, sustainability, resource protection, comfort, health and nature. Therefore as architects they decided to predominately work with wood. The implementation of design qual-

ity, social importance, tradition and building health in wood was highlighted in the presented projects.

The facilitator's wish at the start of the event to say goodbye to the participants with a smile on their face became just as real as the timber structures presented that can be seen all over the world. The conference is the start of an annual WOOD CONFERENCE that will take place in Cape Town every year. Preparations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> WOOD CONFERENCE have already begun.



Almost 100 participants accepted the invitation to the first WOOD CONFERENCE in Cape Town.



Thomas Rohner opened the WOOD CONFERENCE.



Hermann Blumer showed that there are no limits to timber structures.



Consul General Ms Irene Flückiger and George Kuratle

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