

Outreach

The IRG49 Scientific Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, is reaching out beyond the research and industry community who attend on a regular basis, and beyond our historical scope of wood preservation.

Young scientists in particular are encouraged to participate, and 18 individuals have been selected for the IRG49 African Travel Award and the Ron Cockcroft Award (RCA).

The IRG49, IRG-WP Scientific Conference in 2018 will have the same elements as detailed during previous conferences.

It is a great pleasure to announce two of the keynote speakers at the conference:

- Professor Mike Wingfield, Dir. of FABI & President of IUFRO
- Mr. Michael Peter, Exec. Director FORESTRY SOUTH AFRICA

This year we will organise a special sessions on '**Innovation and Challenges in wood protection against Termites and Wood beetles**' will be organized jointly with IUFRO Unite 5.03.00. Please contact Dr Oortho Dhang – partho@urbanentomology.com or Dr Andrew Wong – awong.unimas@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



History

The discovery of gold in 1884, in what was then known as the Witwatersrand, transformed South Africa economically, politically, demographically and socially, and in one decade gave rise to Johannesburg from a small mining camp to the largest city in South Africa. Its sprawling Soweto township was once home to Nelson Mandela. Mandela's former residence is now the Mandela House museum and Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu still lives here in the same street.



Venue

The IRG49 conference will be held at the Sandton Hilton Hotel in Johannesburg. <http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/south-africa/hilton-sandton-JNBSATW/index.html>



Hotels

As for accommodation, there are many different flavours and prices to suit all pockets. For more information on the options go to: <http://www.irg49.co.za/accommodation>

Transportation

Johannesburg is accessible from all over the world, with more than 25 airlines flying directly into the OR Tambo International airport. Go to <http://ortambo-airport.com/flights/inter.php/> for more information. The OR Tambo airport and Sandton is directly connected via the Gautrain rapid rail (14 mins). For more details on getting to the conference venue go to: <http://irg49.co.za/getting-to-irg-conference-venue>

Tourism

If you plan to stay longer go to www.irg49.co.za/tours where information on optional tours have been added, including a specially arranged optional 1 day tour planned for May the 4th. For more information go to www.southafrica.net/za/en/travel

The logo for the IRG49 Conference features a vertical banner on the left with the words '3rd ANNOUNCEMENT' written vertically in white. To the right of the banner is a colorful graphic design. It includes a stylized sun rising over a silhouette of a city skyline. The word 'IRG49' is written in large, bold, blue and orange letters. Below this, the text 'IRG-WP Scientific Conference' is written in a large, blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the dates 'April 29th - May 3rd 2018' are listed, followed by the location 'at Sandton Hilton Hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa'. On the far right, the letters 'IRGWP' are written in a large, blue, sans-serif font, with a green swoosh graphic extending from the 'P'.

International Research Group on Wood Protection (IRG-WP)

We are pleased to announce:

The IRG49 Scientific Conference; scheduled April 29th to May 3rd, 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Venue: Sandton Hilton Hotel, Sandton.

It is going to be a great venue and a fabulous meeting, and it is the first time an IRG-WP scientific conference will be held on the African continent! Please start planning now to join us!

The International Research Group on Wood Protection (IRG-WP) is the leading global organization for the dissemination of scientific information on wood protection.

Conference registration

Registration for the Conference can be done either through the link to the online registration <http://irg49.co.za/registration> or by downloading, completing and submitting the form to the to the IRG Secretariat (irg@ri.se), together with the fee no later than April 15th, 2018.

Deadline for posters and papers

Submission of extended abstracts for poster are due to Mats Westin irg@ri.se by 15th of March 2018. Full paper submissions were closed 1st of February 2018. Durability data in papers can be directly uploaded into the IRG-WP Durability Data base.

More info

Detailed info on location, travel, accommodation related to IRG49 is available from the website: www.irg49.co.za/
Local Organizing Committee contact: sawpa@global.co.za
Chair for LOC: Bruce Breedt vbb@global.co.za

Please visit our IRG-WP website at www.irg-wp.com.

You may also friend/like the IRG-WP Facebook page or join our group on LinkedIn.



Structure – topics

Below are the objectives of each of the Sections. The Working Parties are added at the end.

Section 1: Biology

Research on natural durability and all aspects of biodegradation that affect wood performance. This includes the ecology and physiology of decay, mould and sapstain fungi, marine borers, and termites and other insects. WP's: Soft rot, bacteria, bluestain and moulds / Basidiomycetes / Insect biology and testing / Natural durability / Marine / Cultural Artefact Protection

Section 2: Test Methodology and Assessment

Study of test methods and analytical methods relating to physical, chemical and biological means of protecting wood from bio-deterioration and weathering. It also covers harmonisation of international standards. Special emphasis is given to service life prediction of wood applied in different commodities. WP's: Prediction of service life / Microbial test methodology / Chemical/physical analysis / International Standardisation

Section 3: Wood Protecting Chemicals

Research to improve the understanding of the interactions of chemical wood protection systems, both existing and under development, with wood or wood-based materials with particular emphasis on performance evaluation against fungi, bacteria and insects. WP's: Inorganic preservatives / Organic preservatives / Performance - lab & field tests / Fire retardants

Section 4: Processes and Properties

Research into processes for the preservative treatment and/or the modification of wood and wood composites and their resultant properties, remedial and repair treatments, and techniques for applying chemicals to the surface of wood. WP's: Chemical wood modification / Wood composites, WPCs and Engineered wood products / Treating processes & treatability of timber / Coatings, hydrophobic treatments and surface aspects / Thermal wood modification / Fire protection

Section 5: Sustainability and Environment

Research into all aspects of the sustainability and of wider environmental matters of wood protection. A strong focus on improving the life cycle credentials of wood in use. WP's: Environment / Sustainability

Presentations and awards

Oral presentations of full papers are given 20 minutes. Poster presenters are given 3 minutes for a short oral introductions. The organisation provides a best student presentation award (G. Williams Award - GWA) \$1500 and a best poster award (R. Ziobro Award - RZA) \$1000.

Scientific Program Committee

Chair Dr Lone Ross Gobakken, NO

President IRG-WP Dr Joris Van Acker, BE

Section 1: Biology

Dr Magdalena Kutnik, FR & Dr Nadine Amusant, FR

Section 2: Test Methodology and Assessment

Dr Christian Brischke, DE & Dr Erik Larnøy, NO

Section 3: Wood Protecting Chemicals

Dr Lehong Jin, US & Dr Jun Zhang, US

Section 4: Processes and Properties

Dr Tripti Singh, NZ & Mr Paul Merrick, US

Section 5: Sustainability and Environment

Dr Morten Klamer, DK & Mr Dallin Brooks, US

Sponsors (Pledges received by February 27th, 2018)



A special thanks to all the IRG49 sponsors. The annual IRG conferences are not possible without the support of both local and international sponsors.