



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### FOREST PRODUCTS EXPERTS SET JANUARY MEETING TO STUDY CHINA IMPACT

MADISON, Wis.—In an effort to understand the potential impact that China's rising investments in forestry and forest products are likely to have on global markets and on North American and other forest-based industries, scores of policy-makers, researchers and economic-development specialists are expected to join manufacturers, consultants and investors for a three-day conference early next year.

Planned topics include understanding China and Chinese business conditions, China's wood products consumption, meeting China's demand for wood fiber, China's competitive structure, and trade and investment in China's forest products markets.

The conference, titled China's Boom: Implications for Investment and Trade in Forest Products and Forestry, is scheduled for January 18-20, 2006, in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Sponsoring organizations are the Forest Products Society (an international, not-for-profit membership organization), the University of Washington's Center for International Trade in Forest Products (CINTRAFOR), Forintek Canada Corporation (Canada's wood products research institute), RISI/Paperloop (a leading provider of information about forest products industries), and the USDA Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory.

The rapid expansion of Chinese manufacturing capacity in plywood, flooring, furniture and other wood products has led to major changes in worldwide markets for wood and wood products. For example, according to published figures, China's plywood- manufacturing capacity increased nine-fold from 1993 to

2004, enabling China to become an exporter of plywood. China has become the world's largest producer of MDF (medium density fiberboard) and second-largest producer of paper and paperboard.

To feed this rapidly growing industry, China has increased imports of wood raw materials nearly 10-fold between 1996 and 2004, making it the world's largest importer of forest and wood products.

The Forest Products Society handles registration and other administrative tasks for the conference. For information about making presentations at or attending the conference, contact the Forest Products Society, 2801 Marshall Court, Madison, WI 53705-2295; phone 608-231-1361, e-mail [conference@forestprod.org](mailto:conference@forestprod.org), or visit the society's website: <http://www.forestprod.org>.

The USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory was established in 1910 in Madison, Wis., with the mission to conserve and extend the country's wood resources. Today, FPL's research scientists work with academic and industrial researchers and other government agencies in exploring ways to promote healthy forests and clean water, and improve papermaking and recycling processes. Information is available at FPL's Web site: [www.fpl.fs.fed.us](http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us). Through FPL's Advanced Housing Research Center, ([www.fpl.fs.fed.us/ahrc/](http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/ahrc/)), researchers also work to improve homebuilding technologies and materials.

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