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## **FLITCH AND PANEL DISPATCH**

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### **ASSOCIATION NEWS**

HPVA 90th ANNIVERSITY MEETING - Underline the dates of **May 1-3, 2011**, note the **Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress, Orlando, Florida** location, and access <http://www.hpva.org/> as more information becomes available. A full array of committee meetings, and expert panels are planned on quality improvements, the domestic and global economies, green building changes, market promotion, and international trade issues. *Be there to celebrate the retirement sendoff for Gail Overgard.*

PENROD'S GEERTSEN RETIRES - The PENROD Company announced that Pete Geetsen will retire on May 31, 2011. Pete has been a cornerstone of professionalism at PENROD for 23 years, exhibiting a sophisticated knowledge of forest products, and an engaging manner. Pete and Charlotte will be missed by the veneer and plywood industry.

### **FOREST PRODUCTS AND ASIA**

CHINA'S 2010 FORESTRY OUTPUT - China's forest products output rose 27% to more than to \$302 billion (2 trillion yuan) in 2010. Jia Zhibang, the head of China's State Forestry Administration (SFA) expects a 20% additional output in 2011. Jia said that SFA would reform some state-owned tree farms this year to boost forest products output. There were 4,507 state-owned tree farms with a total area of 62 million hectares nationwide. China intends to increase forest coverage to 21.66% by the end of 2015: it stood at 20.36% at the end of 2008. *English.cri.cn 1/5/11.*

B.C. LUMBER EXPORTS TO ASIA HIT NEW HIGH - According to the provincial Forest Minister Pat Bell, the value of British Columbia's lumber exports to Asia in September came close to equaling shipments to the U. S. B.C.'s lumber exports of \$113 million to China and \$55 million to Japan (\$168 million total to the two countries) were only \$10 million shy of the \$178 million shipped to the U. S. The three countries represent 82% of lumber exports. As recent as 5 years ago U. S. lumber exports accounted for 67% of the total. Bell said that 2.5 billion board feet of lumber would likely be shipped to China in 2010, an increase of more than 300% from two years ago (2008). *Derrick Penner, Vancouver Sun, 12/9/10.*

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

HOUSINGS STARTS AND NEW-HOME SALES RISE - Housing starts rose 3.9% in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 555,000 units. This rise was due entirely to a 6.9% increase on the single-family side. Sales of newly built, single-family homes increased to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 290,000 units in November. "Builders in our latest surveys have indicated that they are starting to see more buyers who are seriously considering a new-home purchase," said NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe. The inventory of new homes for sale fell to 197,000 units in November, marking the first time in 42 years that this measure has fallen below the 200,000 level. *NAHB 12/16 and 12/23/2010.*

REBOUND SUGGESTED IN OFFICE FURNITURE INDUSTRY - Economist George Erickcek, W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, believes there will be an upturn in office services, expected to be one of the sectors that will create the most jobs in Michigan. Erickcek stated in a Grand Rapids address that "Office furniture tends to be a lagging industry; its one of the industries that comes out of the recession last. We are starting to see life in office furniture." He believes it could take as much as 6 years to climb back to pre-recession economic levels. *wkzo.com, 12/9/10.*

## NEWS NUGGETS

FORMALDEHYDE 2011 - While there will likely be some opening of the curtain on EPA's plans for formaldehyde in early 2011, the full display of the stage will not likely occur until later. The testimony before the House of Representatives on April 28, 2010 of James J. Jones, Deputy Assistant Administrator of the EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, indicated that an exposure assessment would likely occur in late 2010 and that an EPA survey to characterize current industry practices, control technologies, and the extent that industry has adopted the California standards should be completed in early 2011. It is also too early to see what impact the small business owners "advocacy review panel" will have on EPA's formaldehyde rule. Self-nominations to the panel were to be received by 11/2/10.

NEW MOISTURE CONTENT TECHNOLOGY - Westmill Machine Automation of Aldergrove, BC has developed the LightSORT system that is said to help eliminate moisture content related delamination in veneered products. The system is based on the discovery that a beam of light reveals different moisture levels. Using this discovery, Forintek Canada Corp. and Westmill jointly developed a highly accurate light transmission system that measures the moisture content of any tree species over the entire length and width of each sheet of veneer. *wbpionline.com, 1/5/11.*

**THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS DECLARED 2011 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS TO RAISE AWARENESS ON SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION:**

- **FORESTS COVER 31% OF TOTAL LAND AREA**
- **30% OF FORESTS ARE USED FOR WOOD AND OTHER PRODUCTS**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**HPVA 2011 SPRING CONVENTION - MAY 1-3, 2011 - Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress, Orlando, Florida.**

*Dollars and Sense Summit 2011, Indianapolis IN March 17-18, Purdue University*

**Energy 2011 WOODWORKING MACHINERY & SUPPLY EXPO - OCTOBER 27-29, 2011, Direct Centre, Toronto, Ontario.**

