

HISTORY

The Wood Conference celebrates its 5th anniversary on the 17 February 2015. Since starting in 2000 with 60 participants it has reached almost 400 delegates in 2014 with a CPD accreditation in the last 3 years. It was well represented by professionals from the science, economics, architecture, politics, engineering, standard commissions, and education sectors. This large forum brought together local and international speakers demonstrating the new and old trends using wood.

The objectives of the conference are to meet the customer's specific and the cultural needs of South Africans through technology, architecture, networking, knowledge-sharing, and science standards and optimum coverage. Also to motivate upcoming Architectural/ Carpentry students the uniqueness of working with wood.

A large number of carefully selected local and international speakers have been chosen who will present their topics in respect of architecture and sustainable construction in line with the trends of South Africa. Already secured are two European speakers who will present their topics on large buildings (Elephant Park) and buildings in Tourism (Hotels in wood).

An amazing program bursting with information, workshops, emotions, visions and knowledge has been put together for this upcoming event.

In previous years these conferences have been hosted free of charge and through skillful planning once again the Fifth year anniversary will also be hosted free of charge by HWZ International SA (Pty) Ltd.

The Wood Conference' spiritual father, George Kuratle, looks forward to your participation at this "*Fifth Year Anniversary*".

Furthermore, we are proud to announce that Foreign Investors are showing keen interest to invest in the technical timber to produce wooden houses and construction know-how that leads to creating jobs for the local SA's. These activities are based on the trust of the Wood Conference, giving it new impetus.

In conjunction with the Wood Conference, the Wood Student Foundation (WSF) was founded, with the aim to give young students an opportunity to study in wood or win a free internship in Switzerland, by participating in the competition and submitting the best thesis on wood.

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A look back:

First Wood Conference | 2011

The first HWZ International Wood Conference was held in 2011, with theme of wood as a universal material for innovative, sustainable and modern architecture. A group of specialists from the wood-working sector organised the event on the occasion of an invitation to Cape Town from George Kuratle, conference founder and chairman of the HWH Group.

The first Wood Conference delved into the many positive aspects of timber, including its propensity for easy processing, its load-bearing capacity, thermally efficient properties, and engineering potential. Four main speakers, experts in their respective fields, presented talks on sustainable timber architecture to an audience of 70 delegates.

Second Wood Conference | 2012

Themed, 'Cutting edge knowledge for living and building,' the second Wood Conference offered insight into sustainable building with timber, in both high- and lowend price segments, exploring pertinent architectural, human settlement-planning, technological and scientific details. With a focus on local timber and construction, social housing, and the high-tech future of designing with wood, the second Wood Conference addressed an audience of no fewer than 120 delegates, comprising of architects, engineers, builders, carpenters, planners, designers, students, investors, as well as the public sector

Third Wood Conference | 2013

The third Wood Conference saw substantial growth in attendance with a great mix of local and international speakers, and having assured CPD accreditation. Highlighting timber in various applications and settings, as well as the technical details that go into planning, the third Wood Conference reinforced the notion of timber as a vitally important, viable and sustainable material with which to build, and urged delegates to use this resource more effectively and with greater care.

Delegate feedback on the 4th Wood Conference:

“A big thank you to all for an interesting and informative wood conference last week.” Mano Kalos, Professional Architect

“May we extend our warmest thanks for a formidably organized conference which I thoroughly enjoyed, both from an information as well as organizational point. You guys rock and we certainly hope that your success will spur you on to further conferences.”

Bernhard Lembeck, Pronature Paints

“Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in the Wood Conference yesterday. We really enjoyed being there

and think that the talks were of a very high quality.”

Sally-Anne Käsner, Executive Associate, Jeffares & Green (Pty) Ltd. “Just a short thank you for yesterday’s conference. It was very interesting and I enjoyed the day very much.”

Bernadette Hunkeler Brown, Consul General of Switzerland.

“It was a great conference. I enjoyed it and learned a lot.”

Axel Zimmermann, Massclusivity cc. “Thanks to you for the well-organised fourth Wood Conference. I’m sure you did great work for it!”

Walter Brunner, BBMA - Somerset West “Thank you and your team for arranging another successful conference.”