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Forest Products Society Announces Keynote Speakers for 71st International Convention

- *Global forum fosters the growth of the forest products professionals and research community*
- *Sessions tackle timely forest products issues and market opportunities facing the industry*
- *Impressive line-up of speakers covering the theme of “The Future of Global Forest Products Industry”*
- *Researchers share the latest advances in wood processing, bio-mass, nanotechnology, adhesives, and composites*

PEACHTREE CORNERS, GA – December 15, 2016 –The Forest Products Society (FPS), global network for forest products professionals, today announced its plenary program for the 71th International Convention, to be held June 26-28, 2017 in Starkville, MS, USA.

The Convention’s theme, “*The Future of the Global Forest Products Industry*,” will feature Industry leaders sharing insights in several important market areas. Topics include:

- Wood-based Bioenergy and Biofuels
- Reinventing and Reshoring Forest Products Manufacturing in America
- International Supply Chain for Wood Pellets-Drax Biomass
- Global Veneer Based Plywood and Engineered Lumber Industry
- Composite Materials: Reinventing Plywood/Veneer Markets;
- Building Green Field Plants
- Paradigm Shifts in the North American Sawmill Industry
...and many more

The convention is designed to urge the continuance of focused discussion among the global forest products community about the state of forest products research and innovations in the field. Speakers and presenters represent academia, government, nonprofit, and private industry sectors. Among the impressive list of scheduled speakers:

- **Tony Ferguson**, Director of U.S. Forest Products Lab
- **Dr. Rubin Smulsky**, Sustainable Bioproducts Department Head, Mississippi State University
- **Trevor Raymond Stuthridge**, Executive V-P, FP Innovations
- **Steve Singleton**, President, Southern Pine Inspection Bureau
- **Will Hill**, Mayor of Louisville, Winston County, Mississippi
- **Scott Poole**, Senior Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, Roy O. Martin
- **Richard Peberdy**, Vice President, Sustainability for Drax Biomass, Inc, USA
- **World Nieh**, USDA FS National Program Leader for Forest Products and Utilization
- **Richard (Dick) Baldwin**, Managing Partner, Oak Creek Investments LLC
- **Dr. Yiqiang Wu**, Vice president of Central South University of Forestry and Technology, China

In addition, this year’s program includes an Excellence Awards Luncheon in which leaders in the industry will be recognized for their achievements and contributions to the Society and the industry.

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Each year, the International Convention attracts a number of partners, sponsors and exhibitors, including this impressive list from 2016: American Wood Council, Waste to Wood Association, Hexion, Timber Products Inspection, Louisiana Forest Products Development Center/School of Renewable Natural Resources/Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau, The Engineered Wood Association, TAPPI, and the Southern Forest Products Association. To learn more about sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities for the 2017 Convention, contact Scott Springmier at scott@forestprod.org.

For more information about the 71st FPS International Convention, including registration and full program, please visit www.fpsconvention.org.

About Forest Products Society

Founded in 1947, the Forest Products Society's vision is to be the international leader for advancing the sustainable use of renewable cellulosic resources through science and technology.

www.forestprod.org

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