

Future meetings

IAWA Fossil Wood Symposium in Prague, Czech Republic, Postponed to May 25th – 31st, 2024

The IAWA Fossil Wood Symposium, dedicated to the memories of Prof. Dr. Herbert Süß (1920-2017) and Prof. Dr. Alfred Selmeier (1923-2018), will be organized on May 25th - 31st, 2024, during the XIth IOPC (International Organization of Palaeobotany Conference) held conjunctly with the XVth International Palynological Congress. The IAWA Symposium will be organizing an IAWA Social Hour and supper in the famous Carthusian Monastery (1628) in Melnik, where IAWA has been previously hosted at a European Palaeo-botanical Conference. Detailed information is available by clicking <https://www.prague2020.cz/news.php>.

Jakub Sakala, Czech Republic

IAWA Symposium of XXVI IUFRO World Congress in Stockholm, Sweden on June 23rd - 29th, 2024

The XXVI IUFRO World Congress will be held in Stockholm, Sweden on June 23rd - 29th, 2024. The IAWA-IUFRO Symposium titled “T5.16 IAWA-IUFRO Symposium: Advancing Methods and Applications of Wood Identification” will be organized during the Congress. In total, 12 abstracts have been determined for the oral session and 16 abstracts for the poster session which includes 9 short orals by poster and 7 pure posters. This IAWA-IUFRO symposium aims to present the most recent advances in methods and applications of wood identification for promoting a sustainable supply chain of forest products. The 63rd IUFRO Enlarged Board Meeting will be organized in Uppsala on June 19th – 20th, 2024.

Please visit www.iufro2024.com/ to obtain more information.

XX IBC in Madrid, Spain on July 21st - 27th, 2024

The XX International Botanical Congress (IBC) will be held in Madrid, Spain, July 21st - 27th, 2024. Several wood anatomy-relevant scientific sessions including “IAWA Symposium - The contribution of wood in forest: from wood dynamics to trait diversity and carbon gains” proposed by Yafang Yin et al., “Morphological, anatomical, and evolutionary basis of habit transitions in plants” by Marcelo R. Pace et al., “Xylem anatomy as a central hub linking fluid transport processes from the individual plant level to ecosystems” by Steven Jansen et al., and “Bark structure: evolutionary, functional and ecological implications” by Alexei Oskolski et al., are in the collection of abstracts. As a long-term tradition, IAWA social hour will be organized during the congress.

Please get updated information via <https://ibcmadrid2024.com/>.

The 10th PRWAC in Asahikawa, Japan on September 10th – 14th, 2024

The 10th Pacific Regional Wood Anatomy Conference (10th PRWAC) will be held in Asahikawa, Japan, from September 10th - 14th, 2024. Asahikawa is located in the central part of Hokkaido island and is surrounded by fertile farmland and lush nature. The Asahikawa area is also well-known for

distributing wooden furniture and crafts. We are looking forward to your participation in this in-person meeting, which will take place in a city closely connected with wood science, technology, and industry.

Registration Period

	Early Bird	Regular
Presenters	2024.03.15.Fri - 05.17.Fri	2024.05.18.Sat - 06.15.Sat
Non-Presenters		2024.05.18.Sat - 08.09.Fri

Registration Fees

	Early Bird	Regular	On-site
General Participants	JPY 30,000	JPY 35,000	JPY 40,000
Students	JPY 20,000	JPY 25,000	JPY 30,000

*All prices are non-taxable. The registration fees include access to the conference abstract book, excursion and conference dinner on Friday, September 13, 2024.

Kindly visit our conference website for registration details and abstract submission guidelines (<https://www.prwac2024.org>).

Yuzou Sano and Hisashi Abe, Japan

Obituary

In Memoriam Professor Dr. Pieter Baas (1944 - 2024)



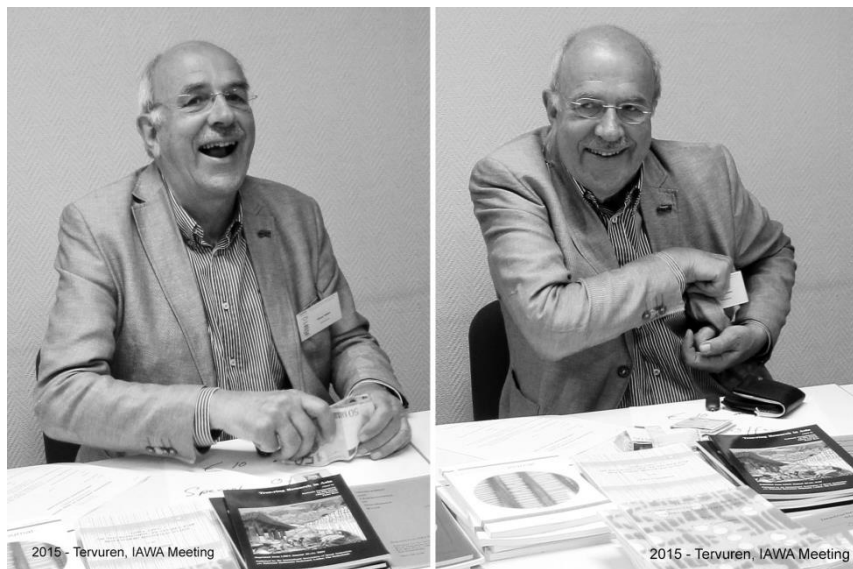
Photo of Pieter Baas in tulip bed

The IAWA mourns the recent loss of Professor Dr. Pieter Baas, one of the most distinguished scientists in plant anatomy and wood anatomy and the greatest advocate for worldwide cooperation of wood anatomists in our times. Pieter Baas passed away in Leiden, the Netherlands, on April 29th, 2024, the day after his 80th birthday. He was an emeritus professor at Leiden University, and a life and honorary member of IAWA.

He started studying biology at Leiden University in 1962. Between 1968 and 1969, he studied with Professor C.R. Metcalfe at the Jodrell Laboratory of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. In 1975 he earned his PhD in wood anatomy from Leiden University, with a thesis on the Aquifoliaceae. He became a

professor of plant systematics at Leiden University in 1987 and Director of the Rijksherbarium in 1991. Starting in 1993, he engaged in a six-year struggle to preserve the herbarium and wood collection. He was successful. In 1999 he was appointed director of the National Herbarium of the Netherlands, an institution which resulted from the combined herbaria of Leiden, Utrecht and Wageningen universities. He retired in 2005, but continued working on wood anatomical projects until a week before his death.

Dr. Baas was Executive Secretary of IAWA from 1976 to 1981. Together with Emma van Nieuwkoop, he was the driving force behind the IAWA Bulletin between 1970 and 1979 and was editor-in-chief of the IAWA Journal, the continuation of the IAWA Bulletin from 1980 to 2019. His great contributions to plant anatomy, forestry, wood science, and wood anatomy were significantly recognized by the international community. He became a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2000. He was an elected fellow of the International Academy of Wood Science and a corresponding member of the Botanical Society of America. In 2023, he won the Linnean Medal of the Linnean Society of London and he became a Knight in the Order of the Netherlands Lion in 2005.



Pieter Baas always enjoyed promoting IAWA

Taken by Elisabeth Wheeler from the 2015 IAWA meeting in Tervuren, Belgium

Elisabeth Wheeler misses Pieter very much. “It hurts to write this paragraph because I would much prefer to be writing an e-mail to Pieter. He was the best of friends and colleagues, with his enviable social skills and wealth of wood anatomical knowledge. At every IAWA scientific meeting, Pieter was the one you could count on to ask good questions of any speaker. At every IAWA social hour, he was the one making toasts and thanking organizers, and, of course, happily welcoming new IAWA members and chatting with everyone. Selling IAWA publications was one of his favorite activities as anyone who ever attended an IAWA meeting well knows. He was exceptionally generous and encouraging to young scientists and readily shared his expertise. Anyone who visited Leiden enjoyed his hospitality and oftentimes “a spin” around the Dutch countryside with Pieter at the wheel. His scientific output was prodigious, and he supervised work on many families resulting in some classic wood anatomical monographs, e.g., Sapindaceae with R. Klaassen and Rosaceae with S-Y Zhang. He was vital to obtaining support for InsideWood. Thank heavens for Zoom meetings as they made it possible to visit with Pieter on a regular basis. I am so going to miss him.”

Lloyd Donaldson recalls “I first met Pieter at the Botanical Congress in Sydney, Australia in 1981. Pieter travelled extensively and visited New Zealand for the Pacific Wood Anatomy meeting in Rotorua in 1994 and again for an IAWS executive meeting in 2018. I served with Pieter on the IAWS executive for the next 3 years with numerous meetings including EC meetings in Corvallis, USA and Guadalajara, Mexico, and another Pacific wood anatomy meeting in Bali. Pieter served as leader of the Academy Board, and in 2018, a small committee was formed to pursue greater representation of females and to encourage the nomination of fellows in some under-represented regions including South America and Malaysia. Pieter suggested Barb Lachenbruch, Roberta Farrell, and Ruben Ananias on the committee. [All three subsequently agreed to assist]. Pieter was asked by Rob Evans to act as chair and he agreed. Pieter was instrumental in nominating many female candidates for IAWS fellowship and strongly supported gender and regional balance in the Academy. I was able to visit with Pieter during a visit to Leiden after the IAWS meeting in Gratz, Austria just after I took over as co-editor of IAWA Journal and was treated to the famous tour around Leiden and the surrounding countryside (in search of an authentic Dutch windmill). We have to acknowledge Pieter's academic contribution with a massive 510 articles, books, editorial notes and reports, 13738 citations, and an h-index of 57 (Google Scholar). This doesn't include all of the IAWA Bulletin and IAWA Journal articles that received his editorial attention over the 40+ years he served as editor. Pieter also recently served as associate editor for the International Journal of Wood Culture.”

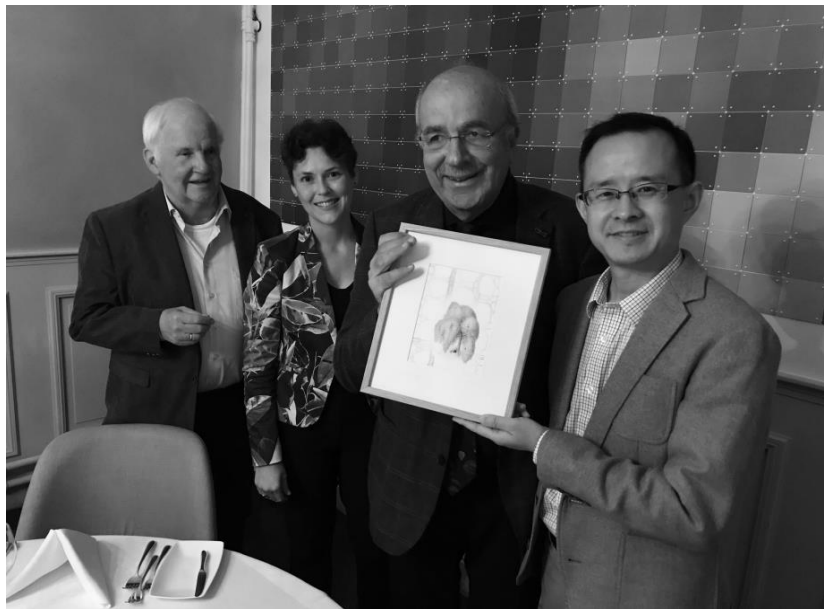


Photo of Pieter Baas (from left to right the third)
Taken by Frederic Lens during a 2019 meeting in Leiden, the Netherlands

Peter Gasson considers Pieter to be his friend, colleague and mentor since he met Pieter at Kew in the late 1970s. “I am privileged and honoured to have worked with him on the IAWA hardwood and softwood lists, collaborative efforts with many other wood anatomists which have stood the test of time and are the basis for InsideWood. He has been an incisive editor and co-author, and a major participant in all the IAWA meetings I have attended. I have particularly good memories of the PROTA wood anatomy workshops in Montpellier (2007) and Kumasi (2010) which contributed to PROTA Timbers 7(1) – (704 pages!) and 7(2) – (804 pages!), and the two wood courses he, Elisabeth Wheeler and I taught at the Arnold Arboretum in 2015 and 2017. I remember at one IAWA dinner sitting with Pieter and a couple of retired wood anatomists, one of whom commented that a young speaker had made a statement as

though he'd just discovered it, but it had been known thirty years ago, and Pieter gently responded with 'well, it's better reinventing the wheel than forgetting about it altogether!'. That sums up Pieter's generosity of spirit. I visited Pieter in late March and saw him for the last time. I will miss him enormously."

Frederic Lens remembers him as a wonderful professor and friend. "In the early 2000s, I met Pieter for the first time in Leiden when I started my PhD. I proudly presented him with my best wood anatomical slides. After looking at them for a couple of seconds, he replied to me: 'Sorry Frederic, but these are lousy sections; your knife is not sharp enough'. His Dutch directness was at that moment hard to swallow, but he was absolutely right. 'Thank you Pieter.' He liked a good glass of wine, very much enjoyed company, and remained active as a wood anatomist until his last week when he was responding via email to reviewers' comments concerning our last manuscript we worked on. Pieter, I am grateful to follow in your footsteps, and we will make sure your Leiden legacy won't be forgotten. Thank you for everything."



Photo of Pieter Baas

Taken by Peter Gasson on a conference tour for the IAWA meeting in Montpellier, France, 2004

Marcelo Pace feels privileged by knowing him. "It is very hard to lose a friend. But one realizes that the loss is not entire, as we keep parts of the beloved person with us. I met Pieter in Vienna during the IBC in 2005. I was a graduate student then, starting my MSc. I approached him and said: 'It is an enormous pleasure to meet you, I am a huge fan of your articles', to which he responded 'the pleasure is all mine'. Following I said: 'I am learning so much', and he humbly responded 'Aren't we all?' To a graduate student, a renowned Professor to say these words was unimaginable. I had the privilege to be his student, friend and colleague. He hosted me in his house more than once, we met in Brazil and Mexico several times, and we had a great time working on the Bark List in both Brotas (Brazil) and Madison Wisconsin (USA). One would walk with him, say the name of a plant, i.e., a Bignoniaceae Brazilian tree, and he would say 'Am I thinking of paratracheal axial parenchyma, all storied elements, homocellular rays?'. Every minute with him was both a joy and a learning experience. Pieter was fundamental to my career, as he made recommendation letters that led to where I am now. He also trusted me (and Lloyd) to follow him as editors-in-chief of the IAWA Journal, something huge giving his love and dedication to our Journal. I can't say how much I am thankful to him, and how much I miss

sending him an email and getting an immediate response. His absence is still hard to grasp, but I know he will be with us forever.”

As an internationally renowned wood scientist, Prof. Dr. Baas has made irreplaceable contributions to the academic progress and long-standing friendships of our IAWA family. He was enormously helpful in supporting and training young students and early-career researchers in wood anatomy around the world. He worked tirelessly and strenuously throughout his life. With Pieter’s passing, the IAWA has lost a remarkable member. All his work for IAWA and its members will long be respected and remembered. We will miss him very much.

*Elisabeth Wheeler, Lloyd Donaldson, Peter Gasson,
Frederic Lens, Marcelo Pace and Yafang Yin*

Miscellaneous News

IAWA co-sponsored 2024 World Wood Day Online Symposium and The Sixth IUFRO Forest Products Culture Colloquium, March 21st - 22nd, 2024

The Online 2024 WWD symposium and the Sixth IUFRO Forest Products Culture Colloquium co-sponsored by IAWA were held on March 21st-22nd. Please visit the web page http://www.worldwoodday.org/2024/regions_event/39 for more information.



A Hands-on Bogor Workshop on Wood Identification: A Pathway to Normalize the Implementation of Forensic Timber

On 23-25 April 2024, hands-on capacity-building was undertaken in Bogor, Indonesia, engaging fourteen APEC member economies. The Bogor Workshop is a culmination of capacity-building workshops of the EGILAT 02 2022A: Developing Integrated Timber Data to Enhance Legal Timber Trade of the APEC through Xylaria Networking Project, which were preceded by two online events, Joint Research Discussion on Developing Integrated Timber Data for Xylaria Networking on 6-7 November 2023, and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on Developing Integrated Wood Identification System through Xylaria Networking, on 16 January 2024.

The capacity-building, which was famous with the Bogor Workshop on Wood Identification Technologies, was arranged by the Indonesian National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK), with support from the APEC Secretariat and APEC EGILAT. About 80 participants attended the workshop, represented by governmental officials, customs, researchers, private sectors, and international organizations. Various researchers, with the backdrop of varied wood identification technologies, spoke about set theories and practices on forensic timber identification to fit the participants' skills.

On 23 April 2024, Dr. Agus Justianto inaugurated the workshop, and subsequently, Dr. Krisdianto welcomed hospitably all the participants, tinged with Indonesian poems. Dr. Ratih Damayanti, the APEC EGILAT Project's overseer, updated the Project's status, spotlighting interventions and their milestones accomplished. On the updates, a research paper was successfully produced underscoring the demand of APEC members on forensic technologies for wood and its readiness level for the technologies implementation. APEC members also observed their interest in benefiting from wood identification in testing illegal wood and its products across the timber supply chain.



On the same day, three different wood identification tools were taught and practiced in the session of wood anatomy, machine vision, DNA-based approach and DNA's standard operating procedures. The experts from the Chinese Academy of Forestry, China and the University of Melbourne, Australia, presented the theories of learning and practices on wood anatomy identification. Wood specimens from Indonesia were used for the participants' macroscopic anatomy examination whereas Xylorix app, a machine vision wood identification, was introduced by Agritic representatives from Malaysia to the participants as one of the ways to digitalize the wood database for timber tracking. An expert from the University of Adelaide, Australia presented the DNA-based solutions, and it was continued by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Malaysia expert with the standardized SOP on DNA forensic testing for timber tracking. The participants were inquisitive about these various set theories and practices of wood identification, indicated by many questions from the floor.

The Bogor Workshop agenda continued on the second day, which detailed other wood identification techniques, including near-infrared spectroscopy, mass spectrometry, stable isotope, and Xylotron. The most appealing discussions on the second day were about the usage of these advanced technologies in the realm of forensic timber. These technologies can be applied to profile not only species but also origin, and Xylotron can be deployable in the field for screening tests.



Besides the session, experts from Canada, Papua New Guinea, and Vietnam presented forensic wood identification application states. For instance, Canada and Vietnam have many options for forensic analysis, such as wood anatomy, mass- spectroscopy, machine vision, and DNA. In contrast, Papua New Guinea has utilized wood anatomy and herbarium identification for forensics. Honourable speakers from international organizations, such as ITTO and WorldForest ID, were also present, elucidating global timber trade and standards on wood identification.



On the last day of the Bogor Workshop, the participants visited the Bogor's Botanical Garden and the Xylarium Bogoriense to learn about the preservation of trees and wood for being a living repository of wood identification database. The participants were enthusiastic to learn and deep dive into tropical plant species. The Bogor Workshop continued at Bogor Agricultural University where the participants applied mass spectrometry and DNA instruments for their practices. At the end of the Bogor Workshop, Dr. Ratih Damayanti closed the Bogor Workshop with very touching remarks at the D'Sawah Resort Bogor and looked forward to the participants to contribute in normalizing the forensic timber application in their respective economies.

Ratih Damayanti, Indonesia

Proceeding of APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade: Advancing the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products: Navigating to Legal Timber, April, 2024

This Final Summary Report outlines project work conducted for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) in line with

the group's two-year policy theme, "Advancing the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products: Navigating to Legal Timber." Project EGILAT 01 2022A sought to 1) outline the different approaches to promoting timber legality in APEC economies (including timber legality frameworks, measures and other requirements) and 2) consider future opportunities to enhance timber legality measures by exploring available and emerging data, tools, and technologies to help navigate to legal timber globally. The report covers project outputs including two stakeholder workshops, an updated compendium of resources to facilitate the trade in legal timber, and results of a "Stocktaking Survey" on timber legality frameworks across the APEC region.

Detailed information is available by clicking

<https://www.apec.org/publications/2024/04/advancing-the-trade-and-distribution-of-legally-harvested-for-est-products-navigating-to-legal-timber>.

The new address of the IAWA website

The address of the IAWA website has been recently changed, please visit the website via the new web link <https://iawa-website1.org/>.

Call for Newsletter Items

The IAWA Newsletter keeps the IAWA community actively informed and stimulates members to visit the IAWA website for the latest and detailed news. Please send any news items you wish to share with the whole IAWA community to the newsletter editors Dr. Shan Li (lishan.ecology@hotmail.com) and Dr. Yang Lu (yang.lu@caf.ac.cn) of the IAWA Office, Beijing.

Call for Manuscripts of IAWA Journal 2025

The editors of the IAWA Journal would like to encourage new manuscript submissions for volume 46, 2025. A reminder that subscribers/IAWA members can register for 'table of contents alerts on the IAWA Journal homepage. Vol. 45(1), and 45(2) are now published and printed copies are currently being sent to subscribers.

*Lloyd Donaldson & Veronica De Micco
Editors in Chief – IAWA Journal*