



MONICA SHAW | EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
mshaw@tappi.org

PEERS and IBBC: TAPPI fall conferences address current and evolving challenges

On November 5-8, TAPPI will host its 2023 Pulping, Engineering, Environmental, Recycling and Sustainability (PEERS) Conference. This year's conference will be held in Atlanta and is co-located with TAPPI's International Bioenergy & Bioproducts Conference (IBBC). Below are some highlights about what is in store for attendees.

PEERS focuses on connectivity between people, process, and products

PEERS offers CEOs, mill managers, superintendents, scientists, process engineers, and suppliers a comprehensive technical program with 24 sessions focused on key operational issues. According to E.V. Mathias Lindström, Ph.D., senior staff engineer for International Paper and this year's PEERS conference chair, the 2023 conference theme is anchored in the connectivity between people, process and forest products – all with a focus on sustainability.

"TAPPI volunteers and staff have worked hard to develop a technical program that reflects the challenges and opportunities we face as an industry – both now and through the years to come," said Lindström. "Our sessions range from fundamental chemistry and raw materials characterization to application of novel materials, technical solutions in equipment, process optimization, and training of our current and future work force."

Lindström prefers to focus on the program as a whole,

"Our sessions range from fundamental chemistry and raw materials characterization to application of novel materials, technical solutions in equipment, process optimization, and training of our current and future work force."

— E.V. MATHIAS LINDSTRÖM, PH.D., PEERS CONFERENCE CHAIR

rather than individual sessions, because "all of them present value, albeit at different levels to different people." However, he does note several sessions of particular interest around current industry challenges and opportunities.

"In particular, we have sessions related to implications from severe weather, as well as value creation in byproducts and management of our waste streams," said Lindström. "All of these focus on how to improve sustainability and value as the world around us changes. These are indeed exciting and challenging times."

Lindström also encourages attendees to participate in the many PEERS workshops, committee activities, and hot topic breakfasts. This in-person networking and knowledge sharing is especially appreciated in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic when many conferences were switched to a remote format.

"We invite our conference participants to explore these opportunities and help us improve as a community and industry today and in the future," Lindström said. "As is customary, it is also possible to earn credits for continuing education to select sessions and workshops for those interested. In addition, the New Technology Showcase is a very good opportunity to see what may be new and just around the corner in terms of commercialized technical developments."

IBBC features expertise and technology from around the world

Co-located with PEERS, IBBC begins on Tuesday, November 7, with an opening session led by Sudhagar Mani, professor in the College of Engineering at the University of Georgia. There will be three technical sessions on Tuesday, followed by another two on Wednesday.

Attendees will hear speakers from several universities, including Karlstad in Sweden, IPB in Indonesia, Purdue in the United States, and Stellenbosch in South

“This year, presentations have emphasized biobased material preprocessing and pretreatments, and process understanding and modeling for advancing biofuels and bio-based product development”

— JAYA TUMULURU, PH.D., IBBC TECHNICAL PROGRAM CHAIR

Africa. Research organizations presenting include Oak Ridge and Los Alamos National Laboratories, as well as Instytut Maszyn Przepływowych from Poland. Bioproducts LLC, Clextral, and Nigerian National Petroleum are some of the commercial companies that will present on a range of developments.

The five technical sessions include Biofuels and Bioproducts Research, Biomass Processing and Pretreatment, Processing and Conversion, Sustainable Bio-economy Waste Processing, and Big Data Analysis and Reliability.

“This year, presentations have emphasized biobased

material preprocessing and pretreatments, and process understanding and modeling for advancing biofuels and bio-based product development,” said Jaya Tumuluru, Ph.D., research engineer at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and technical program chair for IBBC. “Another emerging area in IBBC presentations is the use of big data to improve processes and reliability in bioproducts production.”

Additional highlights and registration information

In addition to the many technical sessions at PEERS and IBBC, other highlights at the events are the combined PEERS/IBBC student poster session, conference dinners, and the exhibit hall.

Early discounted [registration](#) for PEERS and IBBC is open through October 6. For additional information, visit [here](#) or contact [Natasha Bush-Postell](#), TAPPI division manager for Nanotechnology, Pulping, and Engineering. **TJ**

TAPPI
IBBC International
2023 Bioenergy &
Conference
tappi-ibbc.org

Experience High-Level Discussions on:

- ▶ Advances in Biofuels and Bioproducts Research
- ▶ Biomass Processing and Pretreatment
- ▶ Biomass Preprocessing and Conversion
- ▶ Sustainable Bio-economy-Waste Processing
- ▶ Big Data Analysis and Reliability

Also Attend:

- ▶ State of the Industry
- ▶ New Technology Showcase
- ▶ Exhibits
- ▶ Networking Opportunities
- ▶ Poster Competition



Early Bird ends October 6th

Co-located with TAPPI's PEERS 2023

Platinum Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



TWO Powerful Technical Conferences • ONE Location • ONE Registration Fee
November 5-8, 2023 • Atlanta, GA