

International ATIBT Forum

14-16 October 2015, Milan



Report of the ATIBT Forum 2015

The ATIBT Forum was held from 14 to 16 October 2015 in Milan, during the universal exposition EXPO Milan 2015.

"Tropical wood feeding the future"¹ was the theme chosen for the event in order to anchor it firmly to the theme of the universal exposition, namely "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life".

This is in line with ATIBT's vision: to ensure the promotion of a sustainable, ethical and legal industry, where tropical wood is a natural, renewable and essential material for the socio-economic development of producing countries.

During this unique event, ATIBT highlighted its major functions:

- A showcase for the tropical wood industry;
- A facilitator and catalyst of change;
- A marketing and communication tool;
- An expertise provider.

About 190 participants representing civil society, public administrations and the private sector have seized the opportunity to exchange on 14 and 15 October in a professional and friendly manner; these lively discussions culminated on 16 October in a training workshop targeting architects (a premiere in ATIBT's history), joined by 280 participants 120 of whom later visited EXPO Milan 2015². Amongst the 21 countries registered to the ATIBT Forum 2015 were Belgium, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, China, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Republic of Congo, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, Vietnam.

The participant kit included:

- A badge.
- A participant list.
- The Forum programme³ in three languages: English, French and Italian.
- The [ATIBT Directory 2015](#): a publication of 100 pages celebrating tropical wood in architecture, art, ecotourism, culture, daily life as well as in sacred and social applications. Each architectural work (in three languages: English, French and Italian) of either construction or interior design/decoration examples was accompanied by technical sheets (in two languages: English and French) detailing the characteristics of the relevant tropical wood species used. The publication featured a bonus preface

¹ The ATIBT Forum **raison d'être** may be found on the following page of the Forum web site:
<http://www.atibt.org/milan-2015-raison-d-etre-en/4588983717>

² The ATIBT Forum **participant list** is available on the following page of the Forum web site:
<http://www.atibt.org/milan-2015-programme-en/4590297849>

³ The ATIBT Forum **programme** is available on the following page of the Forum web site:
<http://www.atibt.org/milan-2015-programme-en/4590297849>

LE BOIS TROPICAL NOURRIT LE FUTUR TROPICAL WOOD FEEDING THE FUTURE IL LEGNO TROPICALE NUTRE IL FUTURO

Forum ATIBT ::: 14 - 16 octobre 2015 ::: Milan

14/10/2015 Westin Palace Hotel

15/10/2015 Westin Palace Hotel

	Salle « Verdi »
09h00 Conseil d'Administration Board meeting Consiglio d'Amministrazione	
10h30 Assemblée Générale General Assembly Assemblea Generale	
12h30 Déjeuner libre / Lunch (not included) / Pranzo libero	
	Salle « Verdi »
14h30 Ouverture Opening Apertura	
Mot de bienvenue du Président Welcome speech Discorso di benvenuto	
Forêts et biodiversité Forests and biodiversity Foreste e biodiversità	
15h50 Pause-café / Coffee break / Pausa caffè	
16h30 Forêts et territoire Forests and territory Foreste e territorio	
20h00 Cocktail de bienvenue / Welcome cocktail / Cocktail di benvenuto	

	Salle « Verdi »
09h00 Marchés africains African markets Mercati africani	
10h30 Pause-café / Coffee break / Pausa caffè	
11h15 RBUE et diligence raisonnée EUTR and due diligence EUTR e due diligence	
12h30 Déjeuner / Lunch / Pranzo	
14h30 Tendances de marché, intelligence du secteur Market trends, sector intelligence Signori, si cambia: dati, tendenze e intelligence di settore	
15h50 Pause-café / Coffee break / Pausa caffè	
16h30 Le programme marketing de l'ATIBT ATIBT's marketing programme Il progetto marketing dell'ATIBT	
20h00 Dîner de gala / Gala dinner / Cena di gala	

16/10/2015 Politecnico di Milano

BOIS TROPICAUX : PROJET DURABLE ET OPTIMISATION DES RESSOURCES TROPICAL WOOD: SUSTAINABLE PROJECT AND RESOURCE OPTIMIZATION LENGNI TROPICALI: PROGETTO SOSTENIBILE E OTTIMIZZAZIONE DELLE RISORSE



L'ATIBT et l'Association ALA AssoArchitetti invitent ici les architectes, les *designers* et les ingénieurs à échanger sur les bois tropicaux, des produits naturellement esthétiques, durables et sains qui sont aussi renouvelables et éco-responsables. Service d'interprétation vers l'anglais, le français et l'italien.

ATIBT and ALA AssoArchitetti Association invite architects, designers and engineers to a one-day training workshop focusing on the unique characteristics of tropical wood, a durable, sustainable, renewable product. Simultaneous translation into English, French and Italian will be offered.

ATIBT e ALA AssoArchitetti hanno il piacere di invitare architetti, designer e ingegneri a un atelier di formazione che permetterà loro di guadagnare crediti per i propri curricula professionali. Sarà offerto servizio di traduzione simultanea in inglese, francese e italiano.

La séance plénière se déclinera dans la Salle Rogers de la Faculté d'Architecture de l'Ecole Polytechnique de Milan, en deux ateliers thématiques :

The plenary session will be held in the "Rogers" room at Politecnico di Milano in two thematic sessions:

La sessione plenaria si terrà nella Sala Rogers del Politecnico di Milano e sarà articolata in due momenti tematici:

09h00 **1. Architecture "verte" : bois tropicaux et green building**

Green at heart: tropical wood and green building

Legno tropicale e green building

11h00 **2. Conception architecturale et technique : les atouts des bois tropicaux**

Architectural and engineering design: discover the assets of tropical wood

Design, architettura e ingegneria: il meglio del legno tropicale

Un cocktail déjeunatoire sera offert. A suivre, visite gratuite à l'EXPO avec départ du Politecnico à 14h15.

A lunch buffet will follow. In the afternoon, free visit to the EXPO site. Depart from Politecnico at 14h15.

Seguirà buffet. Nel pomeriggio è prevista una visita gratuita all'EXPO, con partenza dal Politecnico alle ore 14h15.

15h00 **Visite aux pavillons iconiques d'EXPO Milan 2015**

...y compris aux pavillons réalisés en bois tropical : Angola, Brésil, Chine, France, Gabon, Malaisie, Népal, Etats Unis...

Tour of the iconic Pavilions of EXPO Milan 2015

...including those Pavilions where tropical wood has been the material of choice: Angola, Brazil, China, France, Gabon, Malaysia, Nepal, United States...

Tour dei Padiglioni emblematici di EXPO Milan 2015

...compresi i Padiglioni per la cui realizzazione è stato scelto il legno tropicale: Angola, Brasile, Cina, Francia, Gabon, Nepal, Malesia, Stati Uniti...

authored by architects Luisa Collina and Laura Daglio, EXPO Milan 2015 focal points for the Polytechnic school of Milan.

- A copy of « Les arbres utiles du Gabon » [*Gabon's valuable trees*], a technical manual produced by the University of Gembloux in collaboration with Nature+ (Q. Meunier, C. Moumbeou & J-L. Doucet, Les Presses Agronomiques de Gembloux, 2015)
- « [Le temps du bois](#) » [*Time for Wood*], a strategic note forecasting the future of the forestry sector on a global scale, authored by Dr. Groutel (WALE) and Dr. Alix (SEFACIL). Markets and their potential, governance and regulations or technology and ethics are just some of the topics addressed to lay the foundations of a sustainable tropical forest economy.
- A USB key containing « How to preserve tropical forests? » a video produced in English and French by FFEM in collaboration with ATIBT. The video was launched at the XIVth World Forestry Congress in Durban.

Partners & Sponsors

Member States, donors, NGOs and the press have played a major role as partners. They actively contributed to the Forum at the same time as offering support⁴.

We wish to express our thankfulness to the Republic of Gabon as well as to the Italian Federation FederlegnoArredo and EXPO Milano 2015 for making it possible to carry out the Forum under their aegis. The European Union (EU), French Development Agency (AFD) and French Fund for the World Environment (FFEM) have generously contributed to the success of the event. Thanks to their financial and technical contribution, the Programme for the promotion of certified forest trade (PPECF), University of Gembloux and Nature+ have allowed the event to take place with the extra benefit of ensuring that invited participants from Central Africa could make their voices heard during the debates. The Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition (STTC), OLAM and FSC and PEFC certification schemes have made it possible to hold a training workshop for architects, held at the prestigious Polytechnic School of Milan. As to private company ALPI, it has kindly offered a state-of-the-art meeting room in its Milan showroom; while a new partnership with logistics giant DB Schenker is being forged thanks to the Forum. Finally, the CORA' group has given life to the event through its relentless support since February 2015.

Opening

In his welcome speech, ATIBT President Robert HUNINK spurred the participants to tackle « *innovative ideas for private companies and organizations* ». Stefano CORA' welcomed the participants on behalf of FederlegnoArredo, reminding them how Italy, host country of the Forum as well as of the universal exposition, achieved transforming wood in art, history and culture, from the Renaissance on. Gabon's Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Forest and Sea Flore Joséphine MISTOUL YAME, underlined Gabon's willingness to revise its Forestry Code: « *The revision will be associated to a tax reform meant to make sustainable forest management attractive to economic operators, with a view to enhancing the production of value-added forest products at the same time as ensuring Gabon's biodiversity protection* ». Grégoire NKEOUA, Advisor of the Republic of Congo's Ministry of Forest Economy and

⁴ For the **complete list of the ATIBT Forum sponsors and donors**, please refer to the following page of the Forum web site: <http://www.atibt.org/milan-2015-sponsor/4590710538>

Sustainable Development (MEFDD) and Vincent KONGO, Directeur de Cabinet of the Central African Republic's Ministry of Waters, Forests, Hunting and Fishing delivered the speeches prepared by Minister Henri DJOMBO and Minister Isabelle GAUDUILLE, respectively, who had to cancel their participation in the Forum owing to in-country impediments.

Programme & Sessions⁵

The Forum provided a major occasion of B2B networking and business contacts. Mr. Jean-Marie Noiraud's smooth facilitation ensured that the topics addressed followed a common thread at the same time as inviting debate and further reflection. A friendly atmosphere, debates carried out professionally and open sharing – all of this was on the Forum menu. Highlights of each session follow below.

Wednesday 14 October 2015



- **Forests and biodiversity** or, how to combine wood production with biodiversity conservation. The video produced with FFEM prompted the discussion. IUCN, CIRAD, FSC and the University of Gembloux presented their work.
- **Cartography and landscape:** the most sophisticated tools at the service of forest concessions and their evolution. Airbus Industrie, thanks to support from AFD, presented an advanced mapping tool. ONFI and FRM explained how satellite images might be used.
- In the evening, a **welcome cocktail** sponsored by **DB Schenker** was offered to all participants; about 120 gathered in the Bar Hall of the Westin Palace Hotel (Milan), which was reserved for the occasion.

⁵ For the **presentations and slides punctuating the debates**, please refer to the following page of the ATIBT Forum web site: <http://www.atibt.org/milan-2015-programme-en/4590297849>

Thursday 15 October 2015



- World logistics giant **DB Schenker** presented all the solutions it has to offer to ensure transport and delivery of goods, including in contexts where infrastructures are not smoothly contributing to the task.
- **African markets:** rising demography, larger cities, a middle class, new ways of using the land. How to strike a balance between rising wood demand and forest sustainability? The representatives of producer companies operating in Africa have given their answer to these complex questions. UFIGA, UFIAG and SIAG, namely Gabon's private companies associations, were present for the first time, all three of them at an international forum.
- Mr. **Baboucar BEN SALAH** (Cote d'Ivoire) highlighted how the rising demand of the domestic and sub-regional market could best be met by forest plantations.
- Ms. **Sophie BOURCIER** from OLAM/GSEZ illustrated a breakthrough initiative in Gabon, aiming to train local workers in the production of high-value furniture pieces made of local wood species.



- **EUTR and due diligence:** Importer federations (ETTF, Fedecomlegno, LCB), and STTC, have shared their respective experiences on the first EUTR checks. Les importateurs se trouvent souvent confrontés aux contradictions dérivant de l'application non homogène du RBUE, a rappelé Stefano Corà du Groupe Corà. European Forest Institute (EFI), représenté par M. A. Pénélon et WWF Italie par M. M. Rocco ont complété le propos en expliquant les positions des institutions et des ONG.



- Mr. Grégoire Nkéoua, Advisor to Minister Henri Djombo, delivered in his speech the Republic of Congo's **vision of certification as the foundation of a legal system**.
- Then, Ms. **Carla Tavares** introduced « Forests For All For Ever », the new marketing branding (B to C) of the FSC certification scheme.
- As to Mr. **Rupert Oliver**, his presentation focused on tropical wood trends and patterns as influenced by FLEGT.
- Finally, **an approach to the marketing programme** (sponsored by AFD and KfW/PPECF) was presented by the Ecom-Epub/Stratemark consortium. One by one, the financial partners (Mr. Tadoum for COMIFAC ; Mr. Lorent for PPECF and Mr. Fourmann for AFD) shared their expectations. The commercial directors of several private companies (ALPI, OLAM, PALLISCO, PRECIOUS WOODS, ROUGIER) explained their involvement in the project. The «**RARE & PRECIOUS** » slogan that the consortium had conceived was rejected by the audience, as it was found to be inappropriate. A British importer explained how the term “rare” would be a deterrent for any buyer, let alone wood consumer. The audience counter-proposed « **FAIR & PRECIOUS** ». It was agreed that the consortium would then have to re-elaborate the new concept.



- The gala dinner was held in the « Giardino » and « Colonne » rooms of the Westin Palace Hotel (Milan) gathering 120 participants who were able to network in a friendly atmosphere. Just before dessert was served, a video presenting the initiative promoted by the Olam group in Gabon, namely to promote high-value wood furniture production, was shown. Then, the participants celebrated the birthday of one of the invitees as well as the birthday of Gabon's Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Forest and Sea. A music band composed of a Gabonese singer and two musicians from Congo and Togo played during the gala dinner.

Friday 16 October 2015

Training workshop for architects

ATIBT and ALA AssoArchitetti, an Italian association gathering more than 12,000 architects in Italy alone and more than 33,000 abroad, joined forces to organize a training workshop for architects, designers and engineers. The meeting, chaired by moderator Giovanni Pietro Ferrari, Director of the editorial group "Web and Magazine", was held in two thematic sessions: green building and tropical wood in construction. Attracting an audience of 280 participants, 140 of whom being architects, the international expert panel delved into the mechanical and technical characteristics of tropical wood, for a truly environmentally conscious design.

Opening the first session, Luisa COLLINA of the Polytechnic School of Milan proposed a historical-architectural *excursus* of the previous universal expositions and the way wood had been used in innovative buildings. Sophie BOURCIER showed the willingness of multinational company Olam to associate development and social responsibility in Gabon, with the production of high-value wooden pieces of

furniture. Diego FLORIAN (FSC) and Ana NORIEGA (PEFC) highlighted the environmental, social and economic impacts of choosing tropical wood and the consequences for producing countries and their inhabitants. Peter WILSON provoked the audience showing architects as crucially important clients who need to be made aware of the characteristics of tropical wood, in light of the challenges our planet is facing but also given the innovation they can bring to construction – as is the case in EXPO Milan 2015. Tropical wood cladding and its breath-taking variations according to Dutch architect Boris ZEISSER came just before ALPI Director General Ettore BANDIERI's presentation of interior decoration attaining remarkably imaginative heights thanks to engineered wood.



Stefano CORA' of Corà Woods Group introduced an app for smart phones and tablets, transforming any common looking floor into a high-end floor, clad with the set of wood parquet designs by the Corà Group. A useful tool allowing clients to look at the real thing in real time, hence a way of making wood come alive and instantly “dress” any surface thanks to an app incorporating augmented reality features.

Bruno GABBIANI opened the second session, introducing ALA AssoArchitetti and its « Dedalo Minosse » prize, awarded to the constituents requesting wooden architectural works to be built all over the world. James BIBER followed, guiding the audience on an in-depth journey into the living organism that was the USA Pavilion he had devised for the EXPO: one opening and « breathing » thanks to a vertical seasonal vegetable garden. Hideyuki YAMASHITA showed his students how to abandon the straight line in their drawings, to attain winding lines in buildings that follow the rhythm of nature and Japanese landscapes. Wood turned into the custodian of Earth's precious juices as well as « agent provocateur » and defiant/deviant material in Gianni ARNAUDO's buildings and interiors. In Gabon, construction deals primarily with modern life-styles and wood has to accommodate trends as in Jean Joël MEBALEY's projects.

Finally, architect Fritz AUER provoked the audience, asking which kind of wood would best contribute to protecting the forest, in light of the current deforestation rate.

Visit to the universal exposition EXPO Milan 2015

120 participants chose to visit the universal exposition EXPO Milan 2015, where wood has proved as never before to be a genuinely living material, at the same time source and matter of creative energy. Once on the EXPO premises, accessed thanks to a « fast track » entrance especially reserved for the group, the participants were led to the Gabon Pavilion, where Stefano CORA', Honorary Consul of Gabon, gave them a warm welcome. They were thus able to admire the overarching concept of the Pavilion, namely, tropical forest rich in biodiversity as a source of oxygen and life for the planet. A meter visibly measured the oxygen produced by Gabon's forests in real time, dating from the EXPO opening on 1st May 2015. The invitees enjoyed a cocktail offered by ATIBT and the Republic of Gabon, once again united to promote a sustainable forest management and the sustainable production of wood, a truly renewable resource.

Then, the participants made the most of their time by walking along the main axe crossing the EXPO, called *Decumanus*, in order to visit other sights, such as the France or USA Pavilion ; or even to enjoy the glaring light shows and music of the Tree of Life, possibly EXPO's signature construction, designed after one of Michelangelo's works and inviting reflection on the challenges and opportunities mentioned over the course of the Forum.

