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ABTCP 2012 - 45TH INTERNATIONAL PULP AND PAPER CONGRESS & EXHIBITION VII CIADICYP INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

The technological sector of pulp and paper production is experiencing a unique moment on a global level. The financial crisis that magnified problems in industrial production chains, including pulp and paper, has contributed to accelerate changes in technological routes and redesign business in the sector. Biorefineries integrated with kraft pulp and paper production have been leveraging vectors for an infinite number of research activities aimed at modernizing and redesigning the sector, as well as gain new dimensions in the use of forestry biomass. Therefore, expectations today are practically all centered on new opportunities that lignocellulosic materials can come to offer. In view of this scenario, nothing more opportune than for one of the main themes of the ABTCP 2012 - 45th International Pulp and Paper Congress and Exhibition to be the challenges and technological advancements related to lignocellulosic materials combined with the joint production of pulp and paper. Bioenergy, biomaterials, nanocellulose, power generation, among other themes, are now perceived as new dimensions of this forestry base industrial sector. The opportunities are known, but many of them still depend on considerable technological development and huge innovative efforts to be mastered and converted into successful technologies. Many of these opportunities are still at the academic bench level, while others already show signs of vitality for full application and growing scales of industrialization. The challenges are huge - nothing better than this to stimulate the sector to pursue new routes.

ABTCP bet big on the international partnership with TECNICELPA - Portuguese Association for Technicians of the Pulp & Paper Industry and with RIADICYP – Iberoamerican Network of Teaching and Research on Pulp and Paper in organizing its 2012 Congress, which occurred simultaneously with the VII CIADICYP – Iberoamerican Congress on Pulp and Paper Research. This event has stood out as a technical and scientific meeting venue for many academic researchers from various American and European countries. Therefore, nothing better than joining academia, researchers and technicians from pulp and paper mills, as well as suppliers of machinery and raw materials for the sector. These partnerships allowed achieving historical records at the Congress in terms of generating and disseminating knowledge to the sector. Dozens of oral presentations and posters brought together youngsters in the sector with international celebrities who alternated as keynote speakers. Since a number of years ago, this technical amplitude

and dimension didn't come close to the level achieved in 2012. This was accomplished not by chance, but rather through the hard work of the ABTCP/RIADICYP team and effort of many volunteer professionals who participated in the executive/organizing and scientific committees of this joint event. These multidisciplinary and international committees encompassed a large number of technicians from countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Portugal, Spain, Columbia, Finland, Sweden, France, Mexico and many others.

With such a varied and qualified number of collaborators, it was not difficult to achieve the goal of high technological quality, obtained through the numerous technical session presentations, roundtables, forums and debates. The lectures focused on technologies, optimizations, efficiencies, sustainability, environmental quality, maintenance, engineering, forestry themes, etc. A mixture well distributed between sessions that complemented one another throughout the event.

I would particularly like to highlight the *occult work* provided by the committee that evaluated the papers submitted, which represented a huge effort coupled with a large number of volunteers who encouraged people to submit and also read, rendered opinions and selected the best papers and speakers for the event. To me, it is clear that the success was due to the combination of qualification, dedication and volunteer effort, as well as the efficient organization by ABTCP and representatives from RIADICYP and TECNICELPA, who were many, such as the two chairmen of the Congress (myself and Maria Luiza Otero D'Almeida) wearing the shirt of more than one entity. The amalgam of this Congress was effectively the pursuit of technological innovation and qualification, which was very well tapped by the dozens of presenters.

I must also manifest my sincerest gratitude and ABTCP's recognition to all those who helped build this international Congress. We were able to attract roughly 620 participants distributed among the technical sessions, roundtables and the Industry Overview event. I believe that the formula used this year was the exact recipe for success: anything you do with quality about current themes, with the participation and involvement of a wide variety of qualified people, with determination and passion, can only be a hit. This said, ABTCP 2013 should also be a success, but for this to happen we depend on you, friends and volunteers. We count on your effort and dedication to achieve a common benefit, which is the increasing technological advancement of this sector to which we dedicate a large part of our lives. ■