



SOCIETY OF WOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

From Knowledge to Innovation – International Student Group discusses the Innovation Potential of their Master and PhD Theses in Vienna, Austria

In the course of the Schweighofer Prize Award Ceremony in June 2015, 27 Master- and PhD students from various universities in North America and Europe were invited to a students programme in Vienna. The programme, organised by Prof. Alfred Teischinger (BOKU Vienna), included a workshop with the topic "From Knowledge to Innovation", an excursion to selected wood industries in the vicinity of Vienna and the participation in the glamorous Schweighofer Prize Award Ceremony (<http://www.schweighofer-prize.org/>) in the Vienna City Hall.



Figure: The student group in the impressive wooden cupola hall of the University of Technology (TU), Vienna with Mr. Gerald Schweighofer (Schweighofer Group) and CANFOR CEO Don Kayne as sponsors of the meeting and the Dean of TU Vienna, Prof. Josef Eberhardsteiner, as the host (from the right). Foto H. Plackner, Holzkurier

In the innovation workshop, moderated by Doz. Dr. Ulrich Müller, the students had to present their theses in short and then evaluate the innovation potential of their topic as fundamental, applied or close to the market. The basic quest was, "What is the new knowledge and contribution of your work to the field of wood science and technology".

The research topics covered a broad spectrum from wood as a (nano)material, construction material, source for chemicals and biofuels to wood technology and wood manufacturing.

Conclusion: Wood is one of the most important materials from nanoapplication to timber engineering and the students look forward to contributing to the sector and to shaping it for the future.

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You tube video clips from the workshop can be downloaded by the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbisH54H6BUln0helrqbNUA>

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[September 2014](#)
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