



3rd NORDIC WOOD BIOREFINERY CONFERENCE

March 22-24, 2011

It is a pleasure for us to introduce this special issue featuring selected papers from the *3rd Nordic Wood Biorefinery Conference*, which was held in Stockholm, Sweden, on March 22-24, 2011.

There is a steady worldwide trend towards developing bio-based alternatives for fuels, materials and chemicals, replacing fossil-based production. Wood-based biorefineries represent probably the most realistic way to realise this on a large scale. There is huge existing infrastructure in pulp mills, which handle enormous amounts of biomass and are the ideal basis for a biorefinery. Refining of by-products can be integrated with pulp production with respect to energy, wastewater treatment etc.

The present issue of *Cellulose Chemistry and Technology* contains a selection of papers presented at NWBC 2011. The conference attracted a record number of 350 participants this year and 60 industry companies were represented – a sign of the increasing interest in wood-based biorefineries. The presentations focused on new and emerging biorefinery products, as well as inventions regarding process solutions. Although only a fraction of the more than 150 oral and poster presentations are published here, they give glimpses of the fast development in the research on wood biorefinery challenges.

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