

Special News Bulletin

Brussels, April 30, 2015



TO: WCO MEMBERS

The 5th ICCA / WCO Global Summit took place from April 13.-17., 2015 in Taipei and Shanghai. After the internal meetings of ICCA and WCO on April 13th, the Global Summit commenced with the “World Tour of Containerboard” on the 14th.

WCO started with the World Tour of Containerboard (the former Market Committee Meeting) in 2007 in Athens/ Greece. Since then a World Tour of Containerboard has taken place every year; the last one a year ago in London, Great Britain. Seven experts from the containerboard sector gave an overview on the worldwide macro economic development and on corrugated base papers.



Tong-Ho Tsai

The first speaker was Tong-Ho Tsai, Cheng Loong Group: Tong-Ho started in his presentation with the containerboard market in Taiwan informing that 3 companies have a share of 93% of the containerboard market in Taiwan. The containerboard market in Taiwan is well balanced although some new capacities are coming on stream within the next 3 years.



Liping Li

Liping Li (PPPC Consulting Co., Ltd. - Beijing) mentioned that the growth of the Chinese containerboard sector has weakened within the last years. The average annual growth rate (AAGR) was around 7% within the period 2007 – 2014 and from 2015 onwards the AAGR will (only) reach 2.6%. The capacities will reflect this development; however, more than 5 mio. tons of new capacity have already been announced until 2017.



Ichiro Hasegawa

Ichiro Hasegawa/ Rengo Co. Ltd./ Japan informed that the Japanese economy is back on the growth path. While corrugated board shows a moderate growth, containerboard is becoming more and more light-weighted (less volume). Japan remains a big exporter of OCC especially to China but also to many other Asian countries.



Matt Spence

Matt Spence/ Sappi/ South Africa gave an overview on the African Continent and then focused his presentation on South Africa. According to the latest statistics South African mills sold 830 ktons of containerboard to the converters. 48% is based on virgin fibres; 52% on recovered based papers.



Brandon Bennett

Brandon Bennett/ Georgia Pacific reported on the Americas. After a expected GDP growth of 3% in the USA within the next years, an increasing demand for containerboard is also predicted. In North America in 2014 a demand of 30 Million Metric Tons of Containerboard (China: 74 mio. tons; Europe 32 mio. tons) was noticed. Kraftliner exports from North America to the rest of the world represent 48% of all Kraftliner exports. In Central America the corrugated consumption has grown over 3% for the last 5 years.



Florian Stockert

Florian Stockert/ Mondi Paper Sales GmbH informed about the European containerboard market. He mentioned that 27,4 mio tons of containerboard have been produced in 2014, a growth of 2.8% in relation to 2013. However, the biggest problem is new capacities of 1,5 mio. tons, which are expected to come on stream within the next 2 years. He further highlighted the development in Russia, which showed a strong growth in corrugated production in 2014.



Klaus Spielmann

Klaus Spielmann/ WCO's President highlighted the containerboard situation in Turkey, South Korea, India and Thailand. From 2015 onwards Turkey will become a net exporter of containerboard due to new capacities. In South Korea the market will remain balanced. In India the containerboard capacities are still relatively low (3,4 mio. tons) according to official statistics. Therefore a lot of potential is expected in the coming years. In Thailand new capacities are expected to come on stream.

Please note that all presentations are available for the attendees of the Global Summit on the WCO Homepage: www.wco-containerboard.org