



## Yami back at work

Long time SEC Japan representative Ikuo "Yami" Yamiguchi, 68, has returned to his duties in the Tokyo office after a short recovery period from his recent medical emergency suffered during a tour of southern lumber facilities in February.

After three weeks of rest at home, doctor's appointments, CAT scans, and other procedures, Yami's rehabilitation doctor suggested that he return to work, at a reduced level, as part of his therapy.

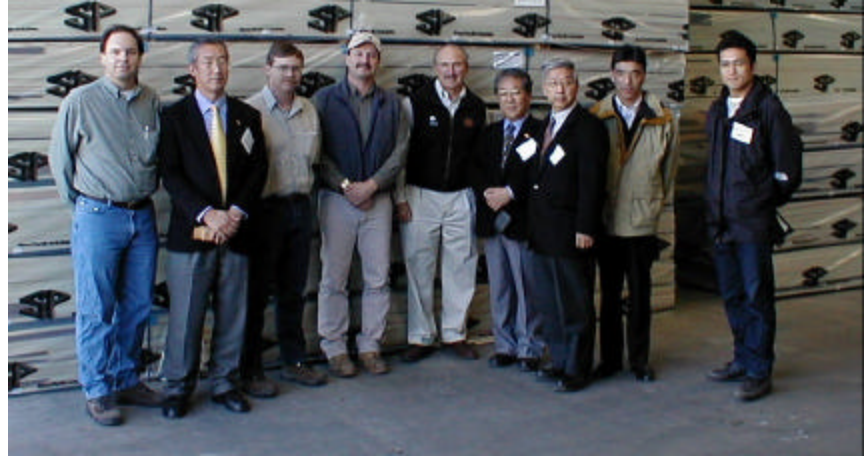
His current office hours are 10 am to 5 pm with no after hours activities. Both his Japan and overseas travel is limited by doctors' approval. Yami has assured SEC management that this is a large reduction from his previous Tokyo work schedule.

You may contact Yami directly at the Tokyo office through his email [asjo@gol.com](mailto:asjo@gol.com)

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## WMMPA hosts Japanese mission



Group members at Sierra Pacific's Red Bluff, CA mill

Representatives from the Japanese interior wood products industry and an industry journalist recently participated in a western US mill tour sponsored by the Wood Moulding and Millwork Producers Association.

The tour started at the WMMPA annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. The group attended both the export and general meetings and met with the WMMPA membership. After the meeting, the group headed to Albuquerque NM where it toured the Mount Taylor Millwork plant in Grants, and Best Moulding, and; Tewa Moulding facilities in Albuquerque.

The tour moved on to northern California and included stops at Sierra Pine in Sacramento, Medallion Millwork in Marysville, Yuba River Moulding & Millwork in Yuba City, and finished with Sierra Pacific in Red Bluff, CA and Corning, CA.

These plant tours provide the 6 Japanese visitors with the opportunity to observe high quality US production methods and to discuss the types of special products needed in Japan with the sales and production staff of these facilities. WMMPA continues to sponsor participation in Japan trade shows and technical seminars through the SEC office in Japan.

## SWPM decision

The European Commission issued a decision on softwood packaging materials on March 12, 2001. The decision is "on temporary emergency measures in respect of wood packing comprised in whole or in part of non-manufactured coniferous wood originating in Canada, China, Japan and the United State of American". See the SEC web site, [www.softwood.org](http://www.softwood.org) for the complete text.

# Markets

April 2001

## China promotional activities

*From AFPA China staff reports*

The Shanghai based developer, Yongye Group have plans to begin building wood frame housing. The builder has already converted 1000 roofs from flat to pitched under the local government roof conversion program using local green lumber. Yongye plans to do an additional 2000 buildings in the next year but hopes to use US wood products including wood trusses. The builder also believes that town houses are the best opportunity for WFC in the suburban cities in China.

The US wood products industry, lead by AF&PA china representatives, participated in the annual Woodmac trade show in February, in Shanghai. The show is one of the leading wood and construction expos in China with more than 7,500 attendees. Concurrent with the trade show, US industry sponsored a technical seminar targeting three key areas, wood frame construction, fire performance of wood products, and the performance of pressure treated wood.

A leading producer and exporter of pine wood furniture, Markor International Company Ltd. Is considering using US softwood in the future. The company currently produces products form Radiata Pin and Swedish fir. Based in the timber growing region of Xinjiang province The company currently has three factories with a fourth coming on line in Tianjin in the near future.

The company specializes in high quality softwood furniture, unique in style, and exported world wide. China's furniture exports in 2000 grew 35% over the same period in 1999. Furniture is one of the fastest growing light industry export products.

The AF&PA China offices are developing a contact list of development and construction companies who have expressed an general interest in wood frame construction and are looking for US suppliers. Contacts were made at seminars, trade shows, and through trade servicing activities, Contact the AF&PA Beijing office for details and assistance. Contact information is available on the SEC website.

The Chinese building code revision committee will add some North American wood species into the first draft of the new timber design code. Species were listed and relevant design values assigned based on small clear testing done by the China Forestry Research Institute

China's economic growth will decelerate in 2001 from the 8% growth forecast for 2000. The State Development Planning Commission estimates that China's GDP will expand by only 7.5% in 2001..

## Japanese housing

Annual Housing Starts in Japan for 2000 totaled 1,229,843 units, a 1.3% increase compared to 1999. Annual 2x4 housing starts for 2000 also increased 4.2% to 79,114 units and the share of 2x4 housing starts of total housing starts increased from 6.25% in 1999 to 6.43% in 2000.

Japan's monthly housing starts for December, 2000 totaled 109,607 units, a 10.6% increase compared to December, 1999. Year on year starts of single-family and multi-family dwellings and row houses increased by 2.1%, 19.0% and 7.2% respectively. 2x4 housing starts also increased by 10.9% while prefabricated housing starts declined 1.6%. The seasonally adjusted annual rate of housing starts in December increased 1.0% to 1,261,824 units.

According to a survey conducted by the Bank of Japan in September 2000, 93% of people did not have any plan to buy or build a new home although 65% of people want to have their own homes. Uncertain employment and future income and high housing prices are two of the major reasons for not buying or building a new home. This indicates that it may be difficult for housing starts to recover soon under current economic conditions in Japan.

A recent article in Shinken Housing Newspaper indicates that 2x4 housing is more popular in the greater Tokyo area and Hokkaido while traditional post-and-beam housing is more popular in Tohoku/Hokuriku and Kyushu.

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# Programs

April 2001

## Korean carpenter program set for June

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Korean carpenter training program, sponsored by the AF&PA, will take place June 11<sup>th</sup> to June 25<sup>th</sup> in Asan-city, Korea.

This year's carpenter training program will be unique in that it will be held in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity's Jimmy Carter Work Project (JCWP) which will build 120 units in five locations in Korea.

AF&PA and JCWP have agreed to jointly promote the benefits of wood frame housing through the construction of a two-story building. The

framed building will be donated to Habitat for Humanity Korea.

One of the biggest constraints to 2x4 construction in Korea is the lack of trained technicians. This program allows 30-40 Carpenters to receive a two week hand-on training course in building 2x4 style housing. Participating companies providing donated materials will receive excellent public relations coverage in Korea.

Any companies interested in the opportunity to donate materials to the program should contact Allan Czinger at the SEC.

## Member meetings

The **West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau** will hold their 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting on April 13th in Portland, OR for more information please call (503) 639-0651

The **North American Wholesale Lumber Association** will hold their 109<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting May 6-8 in "Colonial Williamsburg", Williamsburg, VA. For more information please call (847) 870-7470 or go to [www.lumber.org](http://www.lumber.org)

The **Center for International Trade in Forest Resources** (CINTRAFOR) will present the 3rd Annual Conference on International Forest Products Markets in conjunction with the Asian Housing Export Conference. The conference is scheduled to take place September 23-26, 2001 in Seattle, Washington. For more information see the conference web site at [www.cintrafor.org](http://www.cintrafor.org).

## World forestry perspectives forum

The [World Forest Institute](http://www.wfi.org) is sponsoring a forum titled International Perspectives on Forestry. The date is May 4, 2001 the World Forestry Center in Portland Oregon. This special forum will offer a variety of perspectives on forestry in today's global economy. Speakers from seven countries will present a series of discussions on issues affecting the international forestry sector. topics include:

*Sustainable Forest Management in an International Context.*  
*Globalization of the Forest Industry from a Scandinavian Perspective.*  
*WTO: World Trade & Environment.*  
*The Emergence of South America.*  
*Going Green in Europe -- The Pan-European Certification System and the Finnish Case.*  
*The Russian Fiber Basket.*  
*Carbon Offset Initiatives in Australian Forestry.*

The speaker session will be followed by a U.S. panel discussion on "Globalization's impact on the U.S. forestry sector," featuring leaders in the forest industry, government, education and consulting fields.

This event is being sponsored by:  
 ☒ *Oregon Forest Resources Institute*  
 ☒ *Temperate Forest Foundation*  
 ☒ *Society of American Foresters - Oregon and Washington state chapters*  
 ☒ *Pacific Northwest Research Station, U.S.D.A. Forest Service*

This single-day event is open free to registered students. Pre-registration is required. To register you can acquire a form at: [www.vpm.com/wfi/Forum2001.htm#RegistrationForm](http://www.vpm.com/wfi/Forum2001.htm#RegistrationForm) or link through the SEC website home page.

## Emerging markets

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has launched a world wide "AgLink" program with the goal of promoting U.S. trade and investment activities with emerging market countries while enhancing the entrepreneurial skills of foreign managers.

The program provides financial and administrative support for U.S. managers to visit these markets, identify potential partners for joint activities and offer practical on-the-job training to their foreign counterparts. For more information contact Allan Czinger

# Events

April 2001

## SEC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Manufacturers Association

American Institute of Timber Construction

California Redwood Association

Center for International Trade in Forest Products

Evergreen Building Products Association

North American Wholesale Lumber Association

Northwest Wood Products Association

Oregon Economic and Community Development Department

OSU Forest Products Department

Pacific Lumber Exporters Association

Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau

Washington State Office of Trade and Economic Development

West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau

Western Wood Preservers Institute

Western Wood Products Association

Wood Moulding and Millwork Producers Association

## SEC member marketing activities

SEC members WMMPA, NAWLA, and NWPA will join in manning the American Softwood booth at Interzum in Köln, Germany in May. WMMPA members will also attend the Ligna-Interholz show in Hannover during the same time period.

WWPA will represent the SEC at the Provimeuble furniture show in Monterrey Mexico in May. SEC activities are also being

scheduled for the Tencomeuble furniture show in Guadalajara in July 2001. Both shows have a strong softwood component.

SEC will be exhibiting at the Osaka Total Construction Materials Fair in May, and the Sapporo American Products Fair in June. Wood cooperators will be sponsoring a product information seminar at the Sapporo in conjunction with the show.

## Upcoming Events

**China Wood**; Exhibition; Beijing, China; April 10-13, 2001  
**Construmat**; Trade Show; Barcelona, Spain; April 23-28, 2001  
**NAWLA**; 109th Annual Meeting; Williamsburg, VA; May 6-8, 2001  
**Total Construction Materials Fair**; Osaka, Japan; May 15-18, 2001  
**Interzum**; Trade Show; Koln, Germany; May 18-22, 2001  
**Ligna-Interholtz**; Trade Show; Hanover, Germany; May 21-25, 2001  
**Provimeuble**; Trade Show; Monterrey, Mexico; May 24-26, 2001  
**SEC** Board of Directors Meeting; June 2001, Portland  
**Gardner's World Live**; Exhibition; Birmingham, UK; June 13-18, 2001  
**Tecnomueble**; Trade Show; Guadalajara, Mexico; July 5-7, 2001  
**Sapporo**; Trade Show; Sapporo, Japan; June 21-24, 2001  
**CINTRAFOR**; Annual Conference; Seattle, WA; September 24-26, 2001  
**Taipei Construction Show**; Taipei, Taiwan; October 2001  
**NAWLA**; Traders Market; Dallas, TX; October 11-13, 2001

For links to information on these events please check [www.softwood.org](http://www.softwood.org)

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