

NORTH AMERICA CONTINUED

Harmac purchased a complete Anthony-Ross primary automatic port cleaning (APC) system for its Nanaimo, BC, facility.

Kimberly-Clark Corp. selected Environmental Elements Corp. to upgrade a recovery boiler electrostatic precipitator at its Pictou, NS, pulp mill. Completion is scheduled for next month.

LATIN AMERICA

MILLS AND CONVERTERS

ARGENTINA

Alto Parana purchased an Anthony-Ross Autoport™ cleaner/damper system for the secondary and tertiary levels of its Gotaverken recovery boiler at Esparanza. The purchase was part of Ahlstrom's air system rebuild.

MEXICO

Crisoba Industrial, S.A. de C.V. selected Valmet to rebuild PM No. 1 at Morelia. The rebuild, to be supplied in late 1999, will concentrate on the wet end of the machine and comprises a SymFormer MB former, SymFlo headbox, and Damatic XD control system as well as steam and condensate systems and various auxiliary equipment.

BRAZIL

NEWS FROM CELSO FOELKEL CLEANER PRODUCTION PROGRAM FOR SOUTH AMERICA

Environmental control, pollution prevention, and sustainable development are issues in the forefront of the pulp and paper industry. Associated with these issues, there are many activities oriented to minimum-impact mills and environmental management systems. In most cases, environmental compliance is seen as an additional effort and an additional cost to the industry.

Cleaner production means producing more and better, using less raw materials, less chemicals, and less energy, while discarding less waste and effluents. The cleaner production program is a UNEP/UNIDO initiative (UNEP is the United Nations Environmental Programme from the U.N. Industrial Development Organization). This program is being spread throughout the industrial world. Several branches exist in different countries to serve this purpose; each branch is typically operated by local R & D or industrial organizations.

The objective of the program is to disseminate the methodology, train people, and implement the program in certain mills. Various centers have experts in different segments of the industry, e.g., pharmaceuticals, food manufacturing, petrochemical, and pulp and paper. In general, all types of environment-impacting companies can participate in the program. Environmental issues are no longer seen as cost additions but as an approach to boost a company's bottom line.

Cleaner production methods for the pulp and paper industry depend on people getting involved and being creative. Many mills have sophisticated technologies and may be ISO 14001 certified, but they often lack environmental improvements. Wastes are raw materials that have value, yet

they are often discarded. Many such valuable wastes are found in pulp and paper mills, e.g., sawdust, bark, high-temperature effluents and stack gases, sludge, and fibers. This is a paradise for a cleaner production expert.

Until recently, the pulp and paper industry has been reluctant to take advantage of this methodology. Although many mills are only concerned with legislative permits, ISO 14001, and other regulatory issues, cleaner production may be implemented in concert with these issues.

In South America, the cleaner production program is being brought to the industry by CNTL—the Brazilian Center for Clean Technologies, located in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The center is available to assist the industry in the Mercosul area. Carlos Adilio Nascimento, the center manager, is very involved in creating a Brazilian National Programme for Cleaner Production, working together with the Brazilian Industry Confederation (CNI). Nascimento shows his enthusiasm by promoting this philosophy in all states of Brazil and in several other Latin America countries.

In Brazil and Bolivia, the CNTL has contacted tissue paper mills that are interested in participating in the program. Riocell, a pulp mill in Guaiba, Brazil, has already obtained good results by participating in the cleaner production program. The company has always been an environmental reference for the industry. For this reason, the cleaner production program is easily understood and embraced by the production management team. Since September 1998, the mill has used program concepts to evaluate the different production areas. The results are enthusiastic and promising. Rosane Escobar, Riocell's environmental manager, is quite convinced of the merits of the program.

For additional information about the cleaner production program, contact the CNTL. Phone +55 51-364-4682, fax +55 51-364-4581, or e-mail ncpc@nutecnet.com.br or ncpc@zaz.com.br.

ABTCP 98: GREAT CHALLENGES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN DIFFICULT TIMES

As has been the case for the past 31 years, ABTCP (the Brazilian Technical Association of Pulp and Paper) hosted about 7000 guests that attended the congress speeches and visited the expo. The 31st Annual Congress was a challenge to ABTCP, first because of the worldwide pulp and paper crisis, with excess capacity, depressed markets, mergers, acquisitions, and downsizing. Second, ABTCP decided to move the location of the congress and expo.

The new conference hall was the Textile Center, located in Sao Paulo, the center of events connected to a shopping mall. ABTCP was convinced that a larger and more accommodating place was required, mainly considering the possibility, in near future, of enlarging the expo in

INDUSTRY NEWS

LATIN AMERICA CONTINUED

association with its sister association, TAPPI. Both ABTCP and TAPPI are convinced that a combined expo would be appropriate. For this reason, a TAPPI delegation attended ABTCP 98, having a booth to introduce TAPPI services and products to the congress participants. Wayne Gross, TAPPI executive director; Susan Rawlins; and Karl Kirsch were in Brazil participating in ABTCP 98. They also had worthwhile meetings with the ABTCP board of directors. The intent is to establish closer links between the two associations.

ABTCP 98 was divided into three main events: conferences, supplier workshops, and the expo. The registered participants had an opportunity to attend all offered activities and to receive a book of technical papers, with everything included in the congress fees. The workshops and technical expo could also be attended by invited guests, without the need to register with the congress. The expo had 3608 visitors and 2013 exhibitor personnel. The workshops received 958 participants, and the speeches in the conference rooms were attended by 306. Over 50% of the visitors/participants are direct employees of the pulp and paper industry. The remaining individuals were consultants, students, teachers, suppliers, and government personnel.

During four days in October 1998, a total of 74 technical papers were presented; 91 companies had booths to showcase their products, services, and technologies; and 12

workshops were presented by key suppliers to the Brazilian pulp and paper market. The workshops received record attendance, proving the correct decision of including this type of event in the congress. These workshops provided good interaction among users and producers of technologies. Workshops were responsibility of the following suppliers: Ahlstrom, Asea Brown Boveri, BASF, Beloit, Bechtel, Brown and Root, Buckman, CBTI, EHMS, Eka Chemicals, Elof Hansson, and Voith.

The outstanding technical papers received awards based on their quality and audience approval. The awarded papers were related to the following topics: pulping, bleaching, environment, maintenance, and mill cases. One of the congress highlights was the Art Paper Exhibit. Several Latin American artisans showed their works on craft paper, and the public enjoyed them.

According to Gastao Companaro, ABTCP president, the year 1998 could be an important warning to all pulp and paper business executives: "We have the need to be innovative, to modernize our mills, and to help the country's development." Technical expertise is a key point in achieving these goals. ABTCP may feel proud to be fulfilling its role in this direction.

—Foelkel is a consultant at
Celstus Degree, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

ASIA PACIFIC

MILLS AND CONVERTERS

INDONESIA

PT Inti Indorayon Utama in February was again forced to close its pulp mill in North Sumatra in the wake of renewed public protests. The mill in Porsea was down for about 2 weeks as demonstrators blocked a main road leading to the complex.

JAPAN

Daishowa purchased an Anthony-Ross primary automatic port cleaning (APC) system for its No. 4 MHI recovery boiler at Shiraol.

Oji Paper purchased an Anthony-Ross automatic port cleaning (APC) system and port damper assembly (PDA) for the secondary level of its MHI recovery boiler at Nichinan.

NEW ZEALAND

Tasman Pulp & Paper purchased a new Anthony-Ross interlaced tertiary air system for its CE recovery boiler at Kawerau. The system includes the Autoport™ cleaner/damper system plus fan, belt duct, and tube openings.

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND

NEWS FROM HUNTLY G. HIGGINS

BLUE GUM PLANTATIONS

A Japanese consortium consisting of Oji, Nissho Iwai, Shougakukan, and Japan Pulp and Paper is to establish 10,000 hectares (ha) of hardwood plantations in the northeast of Victoria. Parcels of land will be leased from farmers, and blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) will be planted, to be harvested after 10 years. Leases will be for 20 years, allowing two rotations. Separate titles for the timber and the land will be provided as will be titles for trees as global carbon credits. Export of chips would probably take place through the Port of Melbourne, and plantations would preferably be within 200 km. These plans fit well with the 2020 Vision strategy announced last year.

AMCOR'S FINE PAPERS PROGRAM

The new fine papers machine (No. 5) at Amcor's Maryvale mill was formally launched in February. It is producing high-quality copy paper. The company's fine papers program has involved spending A\$ 378 million (US\$ 241 million)—mostly at Maryvale—but with A\$ 48 million (US\$ 31