

Bunichiro Tomita

Establishment of the *Journal of Wood Science*

On behalf of the Japan Wood Research Society, I am sending this message to mark the establishment of the *Journal of Wood Science*.

The Japan Wood Research Society was founded in 1955 and has been publishing *Mokuzai Gakkaishi* (Journal of the Japan Wood Research Society) as a medium for communication of research results on forest products. This journal has been published monthly, and the 43rd volume was published last year. Papers written in Japanese or English were published, and the papers written in Japanese also contained an abstract in English. Over the years, it has become an important international scientific journal in the area of forest product research.

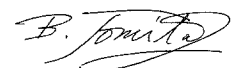
Recently, the significance of forests as a renewable resource that can substitute for limited fossil resources has been recognized. Forest development and management can be used to preserve the environment, and the need for technologies by which wood and wood products are utilized without adverse effect on the environment is being recognized all over the world. In other words, forest products are being re-emphasized as indispensable to human development, and people are now looking forward to progress in wood product research. We therefore decided to establish an English journal, the *Journal of Wood Science*, so that scientists from all over the world can know of our research activities and so that we can publish high-quality papers from scientists overseas. This journal will be published bimonthly and will accept articles in areas related to wood and wood products as well as in the areas dealing with aspects of interrelationships between the environment and wood products or forestry. Because this journal is basically a continuation (an English edition) of the Journal of the Japan Wood Research Society, the first volume will be published in 1998 as volume 44.

The *Journal of Wood Science* will be published by Springer-Verlag, a well-known publisher of scientific journals with a very good global network. We therefore hope that this new journal will be circulated in all countries in the world. The publisher will also handle English-language copy editing before publication. To ensure that the new journal is of a high standard, we have decided to establish an International Advisory Board made up of researchers of excellent scientific repute from various countries.

Papers written in Japanese will be published in *Mokuzai Gakkaishi*. This journal will be published bimonthly and will serve as a medium for publishing domestic papers and disseminating information on the activities of the Japan Wood Research Society. As of now, six volumes of the *Journal of Wood Science* and *Mokuzai Gakkaishi* will be published annually and will be distributed to all members of the Japan Wood Research Society.

In April of last year, the Japan Wood Research Society became affiliated with the International Association of Wood Products Societies. We hope that this development and the establishment of this new English journal will work synergistically for the advancement of the Japan Wood Research Society. I will do my best to ensure that the Japan Wood Research Society continues to make significant scientific contributions to wood product research globally.

This journal cannot become an important international journal without the cooperation of scientists working on wood-product-related fields throughout the world. We therefore actively solicit high-quality manuscripts from all over the world and count on your cooperation for the advancement of the Japan Wood Research Society.



Bunichiro Tomita
President, The Japan Wood Research Society