

Prof. Dr. Leon Oblak received the WoodEMA International Association Annual Award

**Prof. dr. Leon Oblak – prejemnik priznanja
mednarodne asociacije WoodEMA**

Denis Jelačić



The Association for Economics and Management in Wood Processing and Furniture Manufacturing, WoodEMA, i.a., is an international, non-political, non-profit and open scientific association. The aim of the association is to promote science and the results of the scientific and professional work of its members, mutual scientific cooperation, as well as to support science and professional development in the areas of work of the association. WoodEMA, i.a. was founded in 2007, and nowadays it has members whose fields of interest cover a wide range of economic and management aspects in relation to forestry, wood processing and furniture manufacturing. The association has members on three continents, from the USA to India and Malaysia, and in Europe from Spain to Russia and from Finland to North Macedonia.

Each year, WoodEMA, i.a. awards a "Roy Damary Scholarship" to young scientists and, in accor-

dance with the statutes of the association, may also give special recognition to outstanding members who have contributed to the scientific and professional development of the association. In the fourteen years since WoodEMA's inception, this recognition has only been given once. This year, however, the second recipient was named as Prof. Dr. Leon Oblak.

Prof. Dr. Oblak is a distinguished member of WoodEMA, i.a., he is one of the founders of the association and he has been a very active member from the very beginning, starting in 2007. The Executive Board and the General Assembly of the association unanimously elected him as the first president of the association for a two-year term (2007-2009) due to his outstanding scientific and professional work, due to many highly recognized articles in journals and at many scientific conferences worldwide, and due to his pedagogical work

in the subject areas of the association at the Department of Wood Science and Technology of the Biotechnical Faculty at the University of Ljubljana. His outstanding work in the association was recognized by the members, who elected him as a member of WoodEMA Executive Board for four consecutive mandates (2009-2015). Since January 1, 2020 he has been one of the three members of the newly established Supervisory Board of WoodEMA i.a., a post he gained by election.

Prof. Dr. Oblak has actively participated in every kind of activity engaged in by WoodEMA, i.a. (conferences, general assembly meetings, executive board meetings, supervisory board meetings, informal meetings, promotional activities of the association, recruitment of new members for the association), and is one of the few members who has attended all fourteen WoodEMA conferences. He was one of the first members of the association from Slovenia, and he attracted other scientists from the Biotechnical Faculty to become full members. In addition to actively participating with articles and presentations in every WoodEMA annual international scientific conference, Prof. Dr. Oblak has also contributed chapters to scientific books published by WoodEMA, i.a.

Prof. Dr. Oblak suggested on two occasions that the scientific conference WoodEMA should be organized in Slovenia, and the association's general assembly accepted his proposals both times. Thus he was the head of the organizing committees for the WoodEMA conference in 2011, which was held in Kozina under the title "Wood processing and furniture manufacturing: present conditions, opportunities and new challenges", and the WoodEMA conference in 2021, which was held in Koper under the title "The response of the forest-based sector to changes in the global economy". Prof. Dr. Oblak and his team from the Department of Wood Science and Technology of the Biotechnical Faculty received high marks for their work on both occasions.

For all the above reasons and many others, for all his efforts and dedicated work for the benefit of the association, the International Association for Economics and Management in Wood Processing and Furniture Manufacturing presented the WoodEMA, i.a. Annual Award for significant contributions to the development of the association to Prof. Dr. Leon Oblak.

Združenje za ekonomiko in management v predelavi lesa in pohištvu WoodEMA, je mednarodna, nepolitična, neprofitna in odprta znanstvena asociacija. Cilj združenja je promocija znanosti in rezultatov znanstvenega in strokovnega dela svojih članov, medsebojno znanstveno sodelovanje ter podpora znanosti in strokovnemu razvoju na področju dela asociacije. Združenje WoodEMA je bilo ustanovljeno leta 2007, danes pa ima člane, ki delujejo na širokem spektru ekonomskih in managerskih področij v gozdarstvu, predelavi lesa in proizvodnji pohištva. Združenje ima člane na treh celinah, od ZDA do Indije in Malezije ter v Evropi od Španije do Rusije ter od Finske do Severne Makedonije.

Vsako leto združenje WoodEMA podeli "štipendijo Roy Damary" za mlajše raziskovalce, v skladu s svojim statutom pa lahko podeli tudi posebno priznanje asociacije uglednim članom, ki so pomembno prispevali k znanstvenemu in strokovnemu razvoju združenja. V štirinajstih letih, odkar je bilo združenje WoodEMA ustanovljeno, je bilo to priznanje podeljeno samo enkrat. Letos pa je drugi prejemnik tega priznanja postal prof. dr. Leon Oblak.

Prof. dr. Leon Oblak je ugleden član združenja WoodEMA, je eden od ustanoviteljev združenja in zelo aktiven član od samega začetka, od leta 2007. Člani Upravnega odbora in Generalne skupščine združenja so ga leta 2007, ob ustanovitvi, soglasno izvolili za prvega predsednika za dveletni mandat (2007-2009), zaradi izjemnega znanstvenega in strokovnega dela, zaradi številnih člankov v uglednih revijah in sodelovanja na mnogih znanstvenih konferencah po vsem svetu ter zaradi pedagoškega dela na tem področju, ki ga opravlja na Oddelku za lesarstvo Biotehniške fakultete Univerze v Ljubljani. Njegovo izjemno delo v združenju so člani prepoznali in ga po izteku te funkcije trikrat zapovrstjo izvolili za člana Upravnega odbora združenja WoodEMA (2009-2015). Od 1. januarja 2020 je eden od treh članov novoustanovljenega Nadzornega sveta združenja WoodEMA.

Prof. dr. Leon Oblak aktivno sodeluje pri vseh dejavnostih združenja (konferencah, sejah Generalne skupščine, sejah Upravnega odbora, sejah Nadzornega sveta, neformalnih sejah, promocijskih dejavnostih društva, novačenju novih članov za združenje) in je eden redkih članov, ki so se udeležili vseh štirinajstih dosedanjih konferenc WoodEMA. Bil je eden prvih članov združenja iz Slovenije in

nagovoril je še druge znanstvenike iz Biotehniške fakultete, da so postali polnopravni člani združenja WoodEMA. Poleg aktivnega sodelovanja s članki in predstavitvami na vseh znanstvenih mednarodnih konferencah združenja je prof. dr. Leon Oblak sodeloval tudi s poglavji v znanstvenih knjigah, ki jih izdaja združenje.

Prof. dr. Leon Oblak je dvakrat predlagal, da bi v Sloveniji organizirati znanstveno konferenco WoodEMA. Generalna skupščina je oba predloga sprejela. Tako je bil vodja organizacijskega odbora konference WoodEMA leta 2011, ki je bila v Kozini pod naslovom "Predelava lesa in proizvodnja pohištva:

sedanji pogoji, priložnosti in novi izzivi" in konference WoodEMA leta 2021, ki je bila v Kopru pod naslovom "Odziv lesnega sektorja na spremembe v svetovnem gospodarstvu". Prof. dr. Leon Oblak je s svojo ekipo z Oddelka za lesarstvo Biotehniške fakultete obakrat prejel visoko oceno za svoje delo.

Zaradi vseh zgoraj navedenih in številnih drugih razlogov, zaradi vseh njegovih prizadevanj in predanega dela v korist združenja je mednarodno Združenje za ekonomiko in management v predelavi lesa in pohištvu prof. dr. Leonu Oblaku podelilo priznanje asociacije WoodEMA za pomemben prispevek k razvoju združenja.

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