

ALFA E-NEWS

31 MARCH 2004

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2003-2004

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

- During 2003-2004, ALFA launched the ALFA Orator Award Lecture as a part of its Annual General Body Meeting Program
- Dates for AGB and special get together fixed as 24 April and 2 February every year
- Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Department of Leather Technology scheduled for 23-25 April 2005
- 2004 ALFA Orator Award Lecture to be presented by Shri OK Kaul on 24 April 2004 at 5.00 PM

The period April 2003 to March 2004 was special for ALFA. ALFA launched several new initiatives during this period. Significant of them being the ALFA Orator Award Lecture. The first ALFA lecture was delivered on 24 April 2003 by Dr T Ramasami, who also received the first ALFA Orator Award. For the year 2004, a duly constituted committee decided to honor Shri OK Kaul, President, Leather & Leather Products, M/s. Tata International Ltd., Dewas. Shri Kaul would deliver the ALFA lecture on 24 April 2004 on the topic "Journey towards excellence". He would also receive the Second ALFA Orator Award on that day. The ALFA during the year, decided to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Department of Leather Technology, in a manner that would befit the department and the ALFA. A three day program has been planned for April 2005. During April 2003 to April 2004, the enrolment into ALFA increased by

30 members, significant being the induction of the first batch of the Part-time B.Tech program in leather technology. Thanks to some important contributions from the fellow members, the special get together of ALFA was organized at the Madras Race Course Club on 2nd February 2004. About 130 members participated in the get-together.

LERIG 2004 was special for ALFA. LERIG, this year, focused on paradigm shifts in leather processing and the strength of the leather alumni of the department was visible with all sessions having an important participation from the members of ALFA. This once again proved the role of the alumni in technology trend setting and practice in leather.

The commitment of ALFA to communicate to its members, keep them updated with the three electronic newsletters and an email

update drive. As on date, about 200 of the 647 members are reachable through email. 6 of the batches are reachable through their group identities on the internet. It is my request to all the members to enable us with addresses and email ids of fellow members so that we can reach the target of 50% before the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. In the coming year, the newsletter would be made available to the members every 3 months. The issues dated 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December would reach the members at their email addresses. The newsletter can also be downloaded from the ALFA website - <http://actechalfa.com>. A web page is being set to enable members to communicate their feelings about the 60th year of the department. It is an important year ahead for ALFA and a concerted effort from members can make the celebrations a success.

AGB Schedule-24.04.04

- ALFA co-sponsored Innovations in Leather Science seminar during CLRI foundation day—2.00 PM
- ALFA orator award lecture—5.00 PM
- ALFA AGB—6.00 PM
- Dinner—7.30 PM

SPECIAL GET -TOGETHER IS SPECIAL!

The annual special get-together of ALFA was held on 2nd February 2004 at the Madras Race Course Club. This enabled the members who had come from far and wide for the India International Leather Fair to meet at a common point and share their thoughts. The informal meeting saw lively debates on



the way leather business and research was progressing and

also took up for discussions, the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Department of Leather Technology. Amongst the alumni was a special guest from Iran, Dr J Zaikheri, Director, Bureau of Iranian standards who had come to India to participate in the ISO meeting.

Photo Feature— Special Get Together 2004

The Sponsors



New Members with Dr Kedlaya

Dr T Ramasami talks of Diamond Jubilee



It is all fun when old friends meet



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Sri PT Mallesam welcomes the gathering



Members introduce themselves

LEATHER SCIENCE

The American Chemical Society (ACS) in its Environmental Science and Technology journal, vol. 38, p.1901 reports an investigation by Rivela et al., on the life cycle assessment as a tool for the environmental improvement of the tannery industry in developing countries. The paper suggests that control and reduction of chromium and ammonia emissions is crucial and exercising of newer technologies available in these areas could result in a saving of US\$8.63 to US\$22.5 per ton of wet salted hides. More-

over, primary treatment of effluents was significant as this offered the largest reduction in environmental impact. This study is crucial as it has provided a scientific assessment of various technologies developed to combat pollution. The work carried out at Chilean tannery highlights the significance of some of the developments made in cleaner processing at CLRI, including the Alutan - BCS closed loop system.

CLRI received a major boost to its efforts on bioprocessing of leathers, with the US Pat-

ent Office granting a patent to P.Thanikaivelan, J.R.Rao, B.U.Nair and T.Ramasami (all of CLRI). The patent on ecofriendly bio-process for leather processing (US 6,708, 531) focuses on a three step tanning process over a narrow pH range of 7.5-8.5 and using enzymes for de-hairing and also obviating the use of lime in leather processing.

Design and Win

Design the Diamond Jubilee Logo and win a Special Prize. Send in your designs to Secretary, ALFA by 30 September 2004



Prosperity of Leather

Issue Courtesy

M/s. Trimurthi Chemicals

M/s. C Kalyanam & Co.

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Web edition—Sateya—

<http://actechalfa.com>