



## PRESS RELEASE

1<sup>st</sup> March 2009

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE IWSC

Dear Member,

The Institute of Wood Science (IWSc) and the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM<sup>3</sup>) have opened discussions concerning a future amalgamation.

Established in 1955 and with almost 800 members, the IWSc is the professional body and the leading provider of wood education services for the timber industry in the UK.

IOM<sup>3</sup> provides a global network for professionals in the materials cycle. It has 19,500 members and was founded in 1869.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 23<sup>rd</sup> January which commits both Institutes to further discussion. Before amalgamation can take place, a number of steps have to be completed including due diligence, presentations to the respective Councils plus consultation with both memberships. These actions will be progressed during the course of the next couple of months.

Both Institutes recognise the importance to their respective memberships of maintaining the identity, scope and diversity of each institution's interests and the preservation of specific traditions. The importance of a unified approach is also recognised as being necessary to develop a greater influence and relevance to their respective communities and to the visibility of their subject areas. The IWSc Council recognise the benefit to the membership of a wider range of services available from a bigger organisation.

Dr Bernard Rickinson, Chief Executive of IOM<sup>3</sup>, said: 'We are excited about the prospect of the IWSc joining us. We have thought for some time of forming a Natural Materials division and the IWSc would provide an excellent first step towards this goal. We are also looking forward to offering additional services to IWSc members such as the ability to apply for Chartered status, networking opportunities and the use of the IOM<sup>3</sup> information service.'

Geoff Taylor, President of the IWSc said: 'At this stage in its history, it is right that the IWSc should be seeking to ally itself with a well established and forward-thinking organisation such as IOM<sup>3</sup>. We are having very amicable and constructive discussions with IOM<sup>3</sup> and we are confident that, should these prove to be successful, the IWSc membership will benefit and the Institute will emerge as a stronger organisation, better able to service the interests of its members.'

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'G. B. Taylor'.

**Geoff Taylor**  
President