



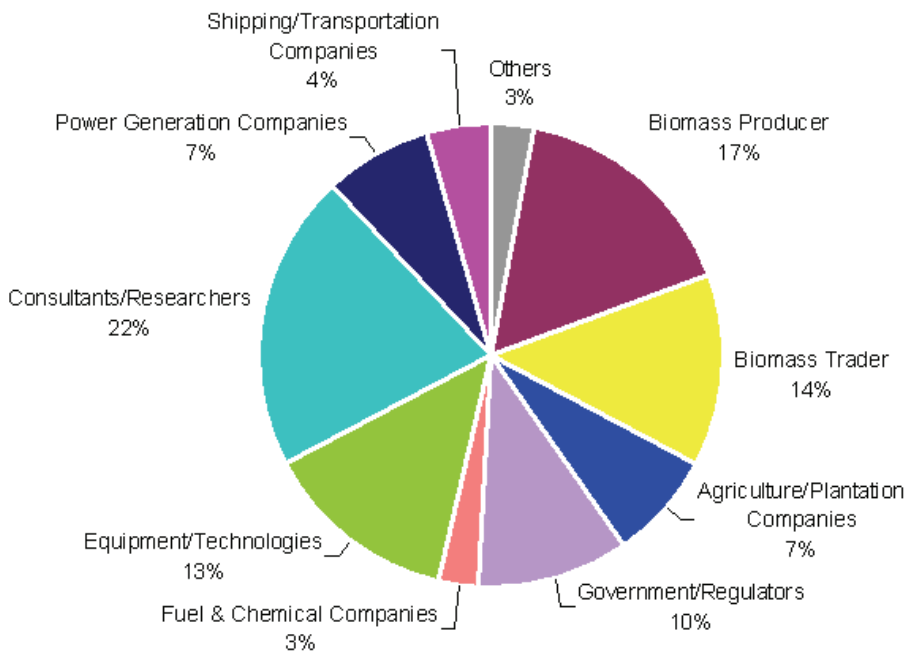
Supporting Organisations



## Biomass power & trade – conference summary

**Biomass power & trade conference, Golden Tulip Hotel, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, March 11-12 2010**

The first two day Biomass Power & Trade conference was organized by CMT Singapore with support from IEA Bioenergy Task 40 and the Port of Rotterdam. At this conference, decision-makers of biomass industry, regulators, traders and researchers from over 30 countries convened in Rotterdam to obtain industry updates and to exchange ideas and explore collaborations with key stakeholders in the global biomass industry. An overview of the 160 participants is shown in figure 1:



*Figure 1 Overview of participants at the Rotterdam Biopower & Trade conference,*

Electricity produced by firing solid biomass is anticipated to play a vital role in achieving a 20% share of renewable energy in the EU by 2020. Despite the huge growth potential, the industry is not without its own set of challenges, key amongst them feedstock supply. The success depends, to a large degree, on the quantity and quality of biomass available, and on the industry's ability to cost-effectively trade, transport, handle and utilize biomass for energy production. The conference had invited a panel of Biomass Power producers, Biomass producers, Traders, Key European regulators and technology experts to discuss the EU's pending bioenergy mandates, sustainability issues, certification, global biomass trade, and upcoming technologies.

In a first session, large European electricity producers currently cofiring biomass (Essent, Electrabel and E.On) presented their past experiences and their ambitions for the future. Both Essent and Electrabel are already co-firing (largely-imported) biomass for a number of years, and presented ambitious scenarios for future increase of biomass co-firing for power generation. In a second session, global supply of solid biomass was discussed with speakers from five continents, providing an overview of biomass use and export potential in Australia, the Baltic States, Brazil, China and Canada. Especially in Australia, the Baltics, and Brazil, the large future potential of dedicated energy crops for exports was highlighted. Based on both demand projections and possible future supply, the Port of Rotterdam displayed scenarios regarding a future market in which the European wood pellet demand increased to 130 -200 million tonnes. Roughly 30% of this volume could be traded and trans-shipped internationally. Other topics discussed during both days included the role of pretreatment technologies such as pyrolysis and torrefaction (and how they could facilitate long-distance trade), the financing requirements for international biopower value chains (and how a biotrade equity fund could bring about such investments), and the interaction of biomass and CO<sub>2</sub>-markets. On both days the ongoing development of sustainability criteria for solid and liquid biomass was heavily discussed, with two speakers from the European Commission and several experts from Germany, the Netherlands and the UK. So far, the European Commission has only defined mandatory sustainability requirements for liquid biomass, and only recommends that individual member countries develop similar voluntary criteria for solid biomass. One of the remarkable outcomes of the discussions was that the major users and traders of solid biomass would support the introduction of EU-wide mandatory sustainability criteria for solid biomass in order to avoid mushrooming of different national systems.



*Figure 2 Roundtable on sustainability criteria and certification systems for solid and liquid biomass*

The conference was finalized by a session on bio char, including an overview of the current developments of biochar soil sequestration (as an alternative to energy use), the concomitant environmental challenges in biochar production and soil/water applications, and the possibilities to develop new materials from biomass through hydrothermal carbonization.

A two hour cruise on the Maas river through the port of Rotterdam provided ample opportunity for networking for the participants. Apart from that, the conference proved a suitable place for business contacts..



*Figure 3 Networking whilst cruising through the Port of Rotterdam*

In summary, the Biomass Trade & Power conference provided an excellent overview of ongoing developments and future trends in trade and use of solid biomass for electricity production, and highlighted the issues that the industry will have to face in order to further develop this market.