



Center for Paper Business and Industry Studies

Newsletter of the Center for Paper Business and Industry Studies

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Technobusiness Forum Slated

The first two CPBIS/IPST Technobusiness forums, held in 2004 and 2005, brought together players from industry and academe who shared a belief that a deeper understanding of issues residing at the intersection of business and technology is critical to the future well-being of the forest products industries. The success of these meetings has led to a decision to follow them with a third Technobusiness Forum. It will take place at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center on September 25 and 26, 2007.

The program will include panels examining enterprise transformation from several different perspectives: from an overarching management perspective, key differences between dominant and dying companies; from an essential core systems perspective, how enterprise transformation, driven by value deficiencies that result in new work processes, is determined by management's decision making abilities in the context of social networks; from an applications perspective, how to know your enterprise is ready, transformation risks, options that have worked and why, and optimal business conditions for success.

In addition to the above, CEO panels will afford opportunities for CEOs from different industries to share experiences and insights that are related to or drive enterprise transformation and that have applicability that is not limited to a single industry. Finally, forest products industry CEOs will address issues that impact their industry in particular.

Details and registration information will appear in future issues of this newsletter.

Problem Prevention

As described in the February issue, PIMA and CPBIS will offer a series of three interactive skill development webcasts on "Problem Solving or Problem Prevention – Best

Practices on Solving Problems before They Occur," beginning March 28. Here is some further information.

In Session I participants will learn the steps of Problem Prevention – Risk Analysis, while in Session II the discussion will focus on Opportunity-Benefit Analysis. In each session the necessary analytical steps will be discussed and a case study will be presented to illustrate the success of an organization experienced with integrating these processes into their standard work routines. Session III will describe the need for a knowledge management system to capture the thought processes of problem prevention, opportunity management, problem solving, decision making and project management.

Considering that one-fifth of the industry will retire in the next five years, the "brain-drain" across the industry today is a real issue. It is essential for an organization to deploy a knowledge management process to document best practices and capture historical reference records that will help improve efficiency by reducing the need for problem resolution and as issues arise increasing the speed of resolution.

For information on how to register, contact Bob Patterson (bob.patterson@cpbis.gatech.edu or call 770-855-0232)

Upcoming Events

PIMA and CPBIS webcasts on "Problem Solving or Problem Prevention – Best Practices on Solving Problems Before They Occur." March 28, April 11, and April 25. Each session will begin at 11:00 a.m. (EST). See article above.

CPBIS-PIMA Management Development Program, "Management Development for Enhanced Performance," Global Learning Center, Georgia Tech, June 4-8, 2007. ■