

Best Article Award Winner Response from Dr. Yuan Li, Canada

When I received the message regarding the Japan Wood Research Society's (JWRS's) award for the best article of 2016, I was sitting inside a vehicle with my family in Inner Mongolia. It was very cold outside at minus 20 degrees Celsius.

"Thank you for the award, JWRS!" I was very happy and felt warm in my heart right away. "Finally, something positive comes up and it is right here." The award by a world-class journal is a confirmation and a recognition of my research work from the hard, difficult Ph.D. program. It is also a great relief, since I have been waiting for too long to figure out what I was waiting for, as it is in Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot".

When Dr. Makoto Kiguchi asked me for a message from the 2016 award winner to readers and JWRS members, it was almost too much for me to speak out loud. However, in this message there will be only truth with emotion, including excitement, happiness, joy, and sincere appreciation to all. Most important, I want to share the recollection of every interesting story and every true, vivid moment in my life from 2011 to 2015.

I felt excited when the eureka moment struck me as rolling shear properties caught our attention in Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT) products. I still remember the true happiness after a long, hot debate with CLT engineers and scholars from Europe. I was filled with joy after solving questions with theories using my critical arguments.

I truly appreciate my family for their love and support from every continent on the Earth, and as well I deeply appreciate Dr. Frank Lam and Dr. Ricardo Foschi for their time, energy, and space in offices, in coffee houses, and even in a concert hall enjoying string quartet performances. Memory shines vividly in past existence, with a big smile on my face, always.

There will be applause only after the success comes, which is interesting and always true in life. So, I would like to send a message to the next future unknown 2017 best article award winner hidden somewhere on the Earth. Hi, Mr./Mrs./Dr. You! Remember, be happy and stay true, believe in what you are doing in research. Although it can be difficult and painful sometimes, work hard, play hard, be critical in work but love your family in life. Be brave to speak out loud; it is never too late to say no. And finally, do not forget to be patient. Only time tries all; good luck!

Truly,

Dr. Yuan Li

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