

## **Introduction –**

**Mrs. Karin Emilsson, Member of the Prize Selection Committee**

God Morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to make a brief introduction to this seminar, arranged in the honor of this year's Marcus Wallenberg prize winner, Mika Viljanmaa.

One of the reasons for awarding him this year's prize is as we have already heard that his innovation "Metal Belt Calendering" will save a lot of resources when used. Saving Resources that can be used for other purposes.

Another reason is that this technology can be used also in other applications, leading to a totally new technology platform.

The theme of this seminar is "Efficient Fibre Utilization – A Response to the Global Wood Supply Situation".

Why have the committee chosen this theme?

The answer is that Mika Viljanmaa's technology will support efficient fibre utilization but also that we know that this is an essential question for the future, for our business within the forest industry as well as for the climate changes and for the welfare in the world.

Already today the global population is consuming more resources than is produced.

This year the Earth Overshoot day took place 22 August. The Overshoot day is the estimated date, calculated by a group of scientists, when humanity has exhausted nature's budget for the year and this date comes earlier and earlier every year.

I can't judge the correctness of those calculations but I'm sure that they carry some relevance. If this should be true, it implies stiff competition for raw materials in the future, which also means that the raw materials will become more expensive.

We will learn much more about the resource situation during the first session this morning, from both a Canadian perspective and from a Global one.

From the forest industry perspective it is, if the wood raw material becomes more expensive, not only a need

to develop new technologies that can produce more from less. It's also important to develop and produce new and more added value products based on wood as raw material.

If successful, it will open new markets, give new customers and in some cases also new suppliers for our industry. This is a hard and tricky work but we have to do it. And when doing this it is important that we already in the research and development phase are working in the value chain. The second session this morning will deal with these questions.

With this I hope that the intention of this seminar has been put into a clearer context. The intention is of course to honor the prize winner and also to incorporate his innovation into a bigger picture.

Thank you!