



**12<sup>th</sup> World Bamboo Congress**

**Taiwan, 18-22 April, 2024**

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## **Opening Ceremony: World Bamboo Pioneer Awards 2024**

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The World Bamboo Congress (WBC) has been held every three years by the World Bamboo Organization (WBO), and represents a congregation of scientists, architects, engineers, public and private sector participants, and more, who come together to share experience, knowledge, and expertise on the ever-expanding field of bamboo.

From its reputation as a “poor man’s timber” to its current potential as a high-end product that provides structural, architectural, and aesthetic qualities over traditional alternatives, bamboo’s use globally has progressed at an unprecedented rate. Additionally, bamboo has been rediscovered as an alternative fiber, an alternative to fossil fuels, a substitute for plastic, a nutritional food supplement, and a green resource to mitigate climate change, as well as a viable tool for rural economic development.

Dedication, determination, and collaboration are required to advance any scientific endeavor, and those individuals whose lifelong commitment to bamboo science and culture deserve our attention and honored recognition. The World Bamboo Organization initiated the Bamboo Pioneer Awards at the 8th WBC held in Bangkok in September 2009 to honor the immense contribution of these people.

Since 2009, the WBO has awarded 26 great men and women of the global bamboo community with the Bamboo Pioneer Award. I hope you recognize their names, and their faces. In fact, we are fortunate to have two previous Award winners present with us today: Mr. Yves Crouzet

(Portugal) and Mr. Jorg Stamm (Colombia).

Today, as part of the Opening Ceremony of the 12<sup>th</sup> World Bamboo Congress Taiwan, we are proud to honor 4 more great Bamboo Pioneers:

**Lin Hai (People's Republic of China)**

**Lin Wei-chih (Taiwan)**

**Liu Wen-huang (Taiwan)**

**Wang Wen-chih (Taiwan)**

Let's get to know these amazing men!



**Lin Hai (People's Republic of China)**

Mr. Lin Hai - most known in the commercial world as Larry Lin - is an expert in the field of industrial processing and utilization of bamboo, a visiting professor at Nanjing Forestry University, vice president of China Forest Products Industry Association, vice president of China Bamboo Industry Association, and the Founder of the *dasso* group.

Larry's father was a German-trained physician working for the nationalist government prior to China's rebirth from Qing Dynasty to Republic of China and then to The People's Republic of China. Due to his family association working for the nationalist government, Larry was forced to quit school at an early age in his teens. Larry's father understood the devastation of a future without education for Larry, encouraging Larry to "observe meticulously" and "put your heart into what you are doing". Larry holds these words deep in his memory. He started his career in the forestry department as early as 1964 as a junior forester, managing the local county forest and worked his way up to be trusted in managing a furniture factory in the state-owned enterprises. When the Chinese government initiated a great push to encourage state-owned employees to strike out on their own, Larry led his close associates to venture into

bamboo building material production. It was not a smooth journey, the world of the entrepreneur is challenging; however, his achievement is now well-known.

Even though bamboo usage has a long history in China; bamboo history has long been associated with handicraft and small-scale production. When Larry established dasso in early 1992, Larry saw a vision for bamboo as an industrialized building material guided by standardized operating procedures to achieve stable and standardized properties. From then on, for over 3 decades, the company has blazed ahead in the development of new bamboo products under Larry's leadership.

The name "dasso" is the incorporation of the village where dasso was originally established – Da-Zhuang in Chinese characters, and superior Moso bamboo. This derives into "Da-S-So" or "dasso". Today, the village of Dazhuang and 'dasso' have become synonymous with and known worldwide for their innovative bamboo products under the 'dasso' brand.

Headquartered in Hangzhou, China, today the 'dasso Group' has 14 manufacturing facilities and over 1,100 employees, in addition to owning over 2,700 acres of productive, sustainable bamboo forest in China. The 'dasso Group' is undeniably the leader of the development and innovation of bamboo products, including bamboo flooring, decking, siding, and furnishings.

With its own design and R&D center, the 'dasso Group' holds over 40 international and domestic patents to date and continues to develop new technologies to enhance the use of bamboo in commercial and residential indoor and outdoor applications, as well as for use in many industries. The innovations and patented technologies include fire-resistant, weather-resistant, and high-strength bamboo materials for use in flooring, outdoor decking, wall cladding, furniture board, fencing, acoustic tiles, and more recently wind turbine blades. Larry continues to work with companies around the world to produce a huge number of products.

dasso is committed to the innovative use of bamboo. Some of the more challenging projects are the fire-resistance ceiling in the Madrid International Airport, the acoustic bamboo interior design for Wuxi Grand Theatre, and the bamboo dashboard for car interiors on the new BMW and Lexus. Under Larry's leadership, dasso continue to collaborate with well-known brand as IKEA, Kohler, MUJI and WMF on the creation of bamboo household products.

Larry has won more than 20 awards, including the Lifetime Honor Award from the China Forest Products Industry, the 30th Anniversary Meritorious Person Award of China Bamboo

Industry Association, the Second Prize of National Invention Technology, the China Patent Excellence Award, the National Key New Product Award, the Contribution Award of China's Forestry Characteristic Industry, the Most Influential Person Award of China's Flooring Industry, and now today we honor him with the World Bamboo Pioneer Award.

### **Wei-Chih Lin (Taiwan, 1915-1995)**

Mr. Wei-Chih Lin was born on January 24, 1915, in Ping-Yang County, Zhejiang, China. From a young age, he experienced many hardships. Both his parents passed away before he was 7. His elder brother and sister had also died by the time he finished elementary school. Left alone, Wei-Chih started working as a child trainee to support himself. Luckily, his much older cousin, Professor Wei-An Lin, recognized his potential and took him to Nanjing to continue his studies. As a result, Mr. Lin was able to earn his bachelor's degree in forest science from National Chengchi University in Nanjing.

Mr. Lin held positions at various agricultural institutions before and after he came to Taiwan in 1948. His bamboo research started when he worked as Associate Research Fellow at Taiwan Forest Research Institute (TFRI) in 1951. Inspired by the book, "*Useful Bamboo and Shoots*", and frequent interactions with the author, Hiroichiro Ueda (the first recipient of the World Bamboo Pioneer Award in 2009), as well as the flourishing development of the bamboo industry in Taiwan, Mr. Lin dedicated his entire life to bamboo research. He was quickly promoted to Research Fellow and continued in this role until his retirement in 1984. Concurrently, Mr. Lin also served as a Director at Liou-Guie Experimental Station (1953-1964) and Liou-Guie Branch of TFRI (1965-1969).

Mr. Lin's research encompassed various aspects of bamboo, including classification, introduction, propagation, and utilization, resulting in the publication of over 50 papers. At the academic level, he made seminal contributions to the discovery of new varieties, and naming and classification of bamboo. Notably, his work such as "*Studies on Morphology of Bamboo Flowers*" and "*The Classification of Subfamily Bambusoideae Plants in Taiwan*" earned him an International Scholar recognition in Classification Bamboo Species. In terms of agricultural applications, he innovatively developed horizontal propagation techniques for bamboo. This method, which significantly increased the bamboo plantation area with reduced cultural cost, has been widely adopted by bamboo farmers. On his extensive trips to over 20 countries Mr. Lin investigated bamboo resources, and introduced high-quality foreign

varieties back to Taiwan, including “Lao-Nong Giant Bamboo” named by the late President Ching-Kuo Chiang. With the achievements above he was honored with Academic and Career Development Award from Agricultural Association of Taiwan in 1970 and the Innovative Award from Ming-Der Foundation in 1978.

Mr. Lin also led the Bamboo Handicraft and Technology Team on multiple occasions to Africa, Central and South American during 1969-1989. As a pioneer in providing foreign assistance in nurturing bamboo resources and developing bamboo handicraft, Mr. Lin has been repeatedly praised and commended by presidents of various countries. His contributions to promoting national diplomacy are significant, earning him the title of “Bamboo ambassador”. TFRI established the “Mr. Wei-Chih Lin Memorial Bamboo Garden” to commemorate him by collecting and planting the newly discovered species of bamboo in Shanpin, Liou-Guie Branch, following his passing. In addition to academic research, this Garden offers forest education to the public.

Mr. Lin married Ms. Mei-Yin Wu in 1950, and they raised one son and three daughters, all of whom have pursued successful careers domestically or abroad. Mr. Lin had always appreciated the opportunities offered to him and was committed to providing the same support to others in need.

After Mr. Lin passed away in 1995, his family established the “Wei-Chih Lin Education Fund” to give back to the local community. The fund has benefitted more than 500 financially disadvantaged high school and college students in Ping-Yang County for the past 20+ years.

Today we remember Mr. Lin with the World Bamboo Pioneer Award. His daughter, Lin Na-Sheng is here with us to receive his award.

### **Liu Wen-huang (Taiwan)**

Liu Wen-hung was born on December 12, 1953, in Zhusan Town, Nantou County, Taiwan, a region rich in bamboo forest resources. He graduated from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Chinese Culture University in 1976, and completed his service in Penghu in 1979.

In Taiwan's small territory, the population density is high, and families have no resources to engage in animal husbandry. It was difficult to find a way to make a living. Living in a region rich in bamboo forests, he naturally saw bamboo as a material in which to make a business.

The bamboo products seen in the market at that time were all raw round-pole bamboo products. Master Liu believed the round-pole bamboo was not suitable for contemporary designs. He believed it would be easy to standardize and use flat designs. His hope was to make products from bamboo that were comparable to high-end wood furniture. So, he started this new venture in 1980.

In 1981, Larry started working on laminated bamboo. No one else was doing this in Taiwan.

Soon, many Taiwanese companies copied his designs and took products to China before the 1990s. He made the first trip to China in 1990, and he has been trading with Lin Hai since 1996.

In 2000, he established a joint venture with local people in mainland China to set up bamboo flooring and bamboo furniture plywood (Hangzhou Dahe Wood Products Co., Ltd.) Larry innovates, designs, and creates products produced in China which are shipped to Taiwan for refinement.

His outstanding work won him the brand name “*Bamboola*”. He was invited to design for the first Tang Prize Award medal and has won many awards for outstanding performance in artistic design. A magician by nature and an artist by choice, Wen-huang Liu transforms simple bamboo into unforgettable creations in his workshop in Zhushan.

The Bamboola showroom is full of beautifully finished items of original design produced in a very high-tech factory. Among his works, fine furniture, school room desks, a set of tea ware, a name card holder and reusable chopsticks are all on display. His pieces are both beautiful and useful, and they often bear his trademark, hidden surprises! Larry’s ideas are developed using specialized computer programs and the laminated bamboo sheets are cut with precision by computerized cutting machines. One of his most incredible projects took place in 2012 involved his computer program to fit 5 km of curved bookshelves into the National Taiwan University School of Social Sciences library. The project was funded by Mr. Gu Zhenfu as a donation and designed by Toyo Ito of Japan. This project used 120,000 *Moso* culms; the original design of the mortise and tenon design overcomes the qualitative difficulties of the curved surface structure.

Liu’s craftsmanship is so extraordinary that it has won him six awards from the National Taiwan Craft Research and Development Institute.

In his own words, Larry says this,

*“Bamboo’s rapid growth and ecological characteristics are undoubtedly an indispensable resource for the sustainability of the earth. I continue to design, create and develop to inject endless living water into the bamboo industry, to let the world know more about it, use and promote it to replace wood, plastic and petrochemical resources to protect the earth. Bamboo's natural texture and environmentally friendly properties have broad application prospects in various industries. At the same time, bamboo also meets the current society's needs for environmental protection and sustainable development, so it will be favored by more and more people. With the continuous advancement of science and technology and the improvement of environmental awareness, I believe that bamboo will be more widely used and developed in the future, showing it to the world, in line with the purpose of the World Environmental Protection Association.”*

Today we honor Master Liu with the World Bamboo Pioneer Award.

**Wang Wen-chih (Taiwan)**

Wang Wen-chih was born in Chiayi, Taiwan in 1959. He holds a master’s degree from the Institute of Fine Arts, Taipei National University of the Arts, Taiwan. It is said that Wen-chih is one of the first to scale what can be done with bamboo as a structural element. While other pioneers explored constructing buildings, Wen-chih embraced the impermanence of bamboo to create ephemeral space that is made possible only through the unique properties of bamboo. He was inspired by traditional Taiwanese basket weaving and scaled up these techniques to weave giant spaces. Wen-chih has been recognized globally as not only a master craftsman but also as a distinguished artist and designer.

Due to his generosity of spirit and willingness to collaborate, he has been revered as a mentor and a foundation for many others following in his lead. Around the world, we now see iterations of his work all over the world - in Australia, in Mexico, and beyond.

From Nici Long, of Cave Urban (Australia),

“Even though we did not speak the same language, our shared bamboo passion provided the perfect conduit for communication. Wen-chih's artistry combined with the wonder of bamboo as a structural material allowed us to create a work 100m long and 15m high in a country with

no bamboo culture and a team of enthusiastic but unskilled volunteers.”

Wang Wen-chi is the true form of pioneer. He is an Artist, Architect and Engineer all in one. His structures are brave! He is brave and courageous in implementing traditional culture in such a non-traditional way. It is his powerful understanding and affinity with the natural landscape that imbues his work with the kind of awe and spirit you would normally feel in a church or an ancient forest. His works ephemeral nature only adds to the wonder he creates and enhances our connection and understanding of the ethereal realms.

Another quote from Nici Long, “If we look at bamboo as an international language for connection...then Wen-chih is the Master poet of that material. He is the best kind of Master. Wise, humble, sure of his beliefs, tireless in their pursuit and passionate in their implementation.”

Today let us celebrate Wen-chih for the creative spirit he expresses through bamboo, and honor him with the World Bamboo Pioneer Award.

### **Major Exhibitions**

- 2023 Thailand Biennale 2023, Chiang Rai, Thailand  
“Love of Saihin”, Adventure World, Japan
- 2022 Setouchi Triennale 2022, Shodoshima, Japan  
“CampBoo”, Mayhowart gallery, Taiwan
- 2021 Mine Art Festival 2021, New Taipei City Gold Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2020 “House of Yuzhang”, Taoyuan Land Art Festival 2020, Taoyuan, Taiwan
- 2019 Setouchi Triennale 2019, Shodoshima, Japan  
"Sea Goddess" (public art), Taiwan Lantern Festival 2019, Pingtung, Taiwan
- 2018 “Taoyuan Air No. 1” (public art), Taoyuan Land Art Festival 2018, Taoyuan, Taiwan  
“A Streak of Red Delight” (public art), Chiayi, Taiwan
- 2018 Setouchi Triennale 2016, Shodoshima, Japan  
"Quandong Dream ", Woodford Art Festival, Woodford, Australia  
“Sky” (public art), CMP Village, Miaoli, Taiwan
- 2016 Setouchi Triennale 2016, Shodoshima, Japan



- "Quandong Dream ", Woodford Art Festival, Woodford, Australia
- "Sky" (public art), CMP Village, Miaoli, Taiwan
- 2015 Water and Land Niigata Art Festival 2015, Niigata City, Japan  
Bamboo Strokes, Chiayi County Performing Arts Center, Chiayi, Taiwan
- 2014 "Woven Cloud", Woodford Art Festival, Woodford, Australia  
"Beyond the Site II ", Taiwan Fine Arts Museum, Taichung, Taiwan.
- 2013 "Woven Sky ", Woodford Art Festival, Woodford, Australia  
Setouchi Triennale 2013, Shodoshima, Japan  
HÖHENRAUSCH.3-The Art of Towers, O.K Centre for Contemporary Art, Austria  
"The Sky Scraping Tree"(public art), Chiayi, Taiwan
- 2012 Water and Land Niigata Art Festival 2012, Niigata City, Japan  
"Song of the Forest"(public art), Alishan Forest Village, Chiayi, Taiwan  
"Rippling Moonlit Talk"(public art), Lantan Lake Tourist District, Chiayi, Taiwan  
"Star Catching Tree"(public art), Taitung City Beach Park, Taitung, Taiwan
- 2010 International Setouchi Art Festival 2010, Shodoshima, Japan  
Taiwan Garden "Sky", Taipei International Flora Exposition 2010, Taiwan  
"Tower of Light", Taiwan Lantern Festival 2010, Chiayi, Taiwan.
- 2009 Niigata Water and Land Art Festival 2009, Niigata City, Japan  
"Cloud Soaring Hand", Taipei Deaf Olympic, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2007 Prague Quadrennial 07, Industrial Palace, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2001 Taiwan Pavilion, The 49th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

### **Solo Exhibitions**

- 2017 "Sanctuary", Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 2015 Getting Together Art Festival, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
- 2014 "House of Bihu", Bihu Park, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2005 HarbourFront Centre, Toronto, Canada  
Vermont Studio Center Gallery, Johnson, USA.  
"Reunion", Hwashan Cultural Park, Taipei, Taiwan  
« Sky », Plaza of National Theater Concert Hall, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2002 Bamboo Curtain Studio, Taipei, Taiwan.

- 2000 Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 1999 Alternative Space, Chiayi, Taiwan.
- 1995 1999 Alternative Space, Chiayi, Taiwan.

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2020 House of Yuzhang, Taoyuan Land Art Festival 2020, Taoyuan, Taiwan
- 2017 Negotiating the Future- 2017 Asian Art Biennial, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan  
Taoyuan International Drift-Wood Art Festival 2017, Taoyuan, Taiwan
- 2016 Extraordinary Relationship 3.0- The Tung Ho Steel International Artists Residency Exhibition, Miaoli, Taiwan
- 2014 The Pioneers of Taiwanese Artists, 1951-1960, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan
- 2007 Convergence of Mountain and Sea Exhibition, Plaza of Chiayi County Hall, Taiwan.
- 2006 Vivacious State Exhibition, Taiwan Orchid Park, Tainan, Taiwan
- 2005 Guandu Flower Arts Festival 2005, Taipei National University of Arts, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2004 18 Solo Exhibitions, Kin-Men County, Taiwan.  
The Multiform Nineties : Taiwan's Art Branches Out, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan.  
Guandu Flower Arts Festival 2004, Taipei National University of Arts, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2003 Chin-shan International Landscape Sculpture Exhibition, Juming Museum, Taipei County, Taiwan.  
Guandu Flower Arts Festival 2003, Taipei National University of Arts, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 2002 Public Art Festival : Water Charter, Taipei City Hall, Taipei, Taiwan.  
Homecoming : Reviving the Venice Experience in Taiwan, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan.  
Kaohsiung International container arts Festival 2001, Kaohsiung Fine Arts Museum Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
- 2000 An Urban Archeology: Digging, Linking & Making, Huashan Arts District,

- Taipei, Taiwan.
- 1999 “Art in March: Legend 99”, Council for Cultural Planning & Development of Executive Yuan, Nantau, Taiwan.
- 1997 “Installation Art in Taiwan”, Chiayi, Taiwan  
 “River: New Asian art-A dialogue in Taipei”, Taipei County Cultural Center, Taipei County, Taiwan
- 1994 Eslite Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 1993 Salon de la Jeune Peinture, Paris, France
- 1990 World Triennial Exhibition of Small Ceramics, Zagreb, Yugoslavia.  
 Contemporary Art Trends of the Republic of China 1990, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 1989 Contemporary Art Trends of the Republic of China 1988, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan.

## **Awards**

- 2023 “Chiayi Culture Award”, Chiayi County Government 2023 MUSE CREATIVE AWARDS
- 2020 Best Public Landscape, Yuan-yin Award, " A Streak of Red Delight", Association of Kaohsiung Building Operations
- 2013 Best Public Landscape, Yuan-yin Award, " Song of the Forest ", Association of Kaohsiung Building Operations
- 2012 Best Public Landscape, Yuan-yin Award, "Rippling Moonlit Talk", Association of Kaohsiung Building Operations
- 2010 First prize, Taipei Flower Exposition 2010- the most popular garden of the world, and the first AIPH prize, Taipei International Flora Exposition 2010
- 2007 Gold Medal for Best Use of Technology, Prague Quadrennial 07, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2003 Top 8, TaiShing Arts Visual Arts Awards, TaiShing Bank Arts Fondation, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 1997 Excellence Award, “River: New Asian art-A dialogue in Taipei”, Taipei County Cultural Center, Taipei County, Taiwan.
- 1993 Selected, Salon de la Jeune Peinture, Paris, France.
- 1990 Selected, Contemporary Art Trends of the Republic of China, Taipei Fine Arts

- Museum, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 1990 Selected, Contemporary Art Trends of the Republic of China, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 1988 Excellence Award, Contemporary Art Trends of the Republic of China Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan.

### **Acknowledgements**

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Thanks go to WBO Ambassador Mei-wen Tsai and Nici Long of Cave Urban (Australia) for assistance in biographical information about Pioneer Wang Wen-chih, to WBO Ambassador Avery Chua for assistance in biographical information about Pioneer Lin Hai, and to WBO Ambassador Tang Lifang for her extensive help with information about Pioneer Liu Wen-huang. A very, very special thanks to Master Liu for designing and creating this year's Bamboo Pioneer Medals in his Bamboola studio in Zhusan, Taiwan. We are very happy Lin Wei-Chih's daughters could be present today for the ceremony to accept the award in honor of their late father.