



International Union of Forest Research Organizations

Union Internationale des
Instituts de Recherches
Forestières

Unión Internacional
de Organizaciones de
Investigación Forestal

Internationaler
Verband Forstlicher
Forschungsanstalten

From:

Professor Dr. Mike Wingfield, IUFRO President
IUFRO Headquarters – Secretariat

To:

International Council Representatives 2015-2019

Subject:

Circular letter by the IUFRO President

Dear Members of the IUFRO International Council

At the start of my term as IUFRO President in October 2014, I agreed to provide you with regular updates on our key activities and particularly those that emerge from our regular Board and Management Committee meetings. I trust that these missives together with our regular issues of IUFRO News keep you well-informed of IUFRO's many activities globally, as we seek to unite our very extensive network of more than 15,000 forestry researchers and other stakeholders globally. Importantly, as members of our International Council you are IUFRO's country ambassadors and we rely on you to help us to maintain close contact with our country members.

I would specifically like to share the following news and other information with you:

- In April 2017, the IUFRO Management Committee met in Seoul, Republic of Korea. This meeting was perfectly organised by IUFRO President's Nominee Jung-Hwan Park and Ms Min-Jeong Jo (National Institute for Forest Science, NIFoS) and it was kindly hosted by NIFoS. The presence of IUFRO Board members at the meeting provided an excellent opportunity for our Korean host to organise a Symposium "Recent Development of Global Agenda on Forest Science" – including presentations by myself, Prof. Björn Hånell (IUFRO Vice-President responsible for IUFRO Divisions), Prof. Daniela Kleinschmit (Coordinator of IUFRO Division 9) and Alexander Buck (IUFRO Executive Director). The approximately 100 participants provided a highly energetic atmosphere that led to thought-provoking discussions with the IUFRO presenters.
- Another highlight of the IUFRO Management Committee meeting in Korea was the opportunity to formally renew the Memorandum of Understanding with the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS). This was done during an impressive signing ceremony at NIFoS.



Two of the key items dealt with at the IUFRO Management Committee meeting about which you should be informed included:

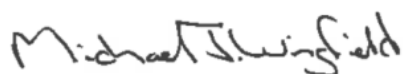
- The importance of the IUFRO nomination process. This matter was treated against the background that the call for submission of nominations for the next IUFRO Board had recently been issued (the call for nominations is available at: <http://www.iufro.org/circular-members-nominations-2019-24/>). More specifically the MC emphasised the need for improvements with regard to geographic and gender distribution in the Divisions in the next Board term.
 - The future of the current IUFRO Task Forces: After two years of busy work, the current terms of IUFRO Task Forces will end in 2017. First discussions on their evaluation will begin in July 2017. In this context, the IUFRO Board meeting to be held in Freiburg prior to the IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress in September will be decisive. At that meeting, a decision will be made whether or not various Task Forces will continue their work or whether they will be discontinued.
- Just recently (23-25 May 2017), I had the pleasure to meet the IUFRO Review Panel 2017 in Vienna, for an exciting exchange of ideas. The Review Panel 2017 included Dr. Tim Christophersen (UNEP, Chair), Dr. Horst Freiberg (German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety), Dr. Bernard de Galembert (Confederation of European Paper Industries, CEPI), Dr. Xia Jun, Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation, APFNet), Dr. Mónica Gabay (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Argentina), Ms Tatenda Mapeto (PhD candidate, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa) and Dr. Mercy Gichora (Kenya Forest Research Institute, Panel Secretary). A preliminary report from the Review Panel highlighted opportunities for IUFRO and I am very grateful to an outstanding team for conducting an energetic and impressive review. The review panel will present their results at the IUFRO Board meeting in Freiburg in September.
 - In March 2017, the call for nominations for awards was announced and widely distributed amongst the IUFRO community. These are for IUFRO's most important

awards that will be presented at the IUFRO World Congress 2019. They include the Scientific Achievement Award (SAA), Outstanding Doctoral Research Award (ODRA) and the IUFRO Student Award for Excellence in Forest Science (ISA). I would like to encourage you to identify possible candidates for these awards and to use this opportunity to recognise the accomplishments of outstanding IUFRO scientists. I should also like to remind you that there are also other IUFRO Awards for which nominations can be made at any time. They include the IUFRO Distinguished Service Award and IUFRO Honorary Membership. Please take the time and check the IUFRO website <http://www.iufro.org/discover/awards/> and learn more about the IUFRO awards and help us to recognise the outstanding work of members of the IUFRO network.

- You will recently have received an invitation to participate in a fundraising initiative linked to the commemoration of IUFRO's 125 year history known as the "Eberswalde Circle" (<http://www.iufro.org/donate/>). We hope to eventually have 125 donations to this initiative and I am very grateful to the IUFRO members that have already made contributions. If you know of IUFRO members or other people committed to the future of Forest Research who might be interested in contributing to the **"Eberswalde Circle"**, **please suggest this to them. Or alternatively let me know and I will take the matter further.**
- The IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress is rapidly drawing closer. You will be happy to know that the interest in the Congress has been overwhelmingly positive. Where we had originally expected an attendance of approximately 1,000 delegates, the current number of expected participants has risen to approximately 2,000. The two Congress venues, the Konzerthaus and the University are about 10 minutes walking distance from each other and it should be possible for delegates to move easily between them. The scientific Congress program is composed of 10 "segments", 5 of which are All-Division (3, 4, 6, 7 and 9) sessions and 5 relate to the general Congress themes. There will be 176 organized sessions and 10 "open sessions", which have been equally distributed among these segments. I hope that you are planning to attend this "milestone" event and very much look forward to meeting you in Freiburg!

As I have said in past communications, your role as a member of IUFRO's International Council is extremely important. We rely on you to engage and communicate with IUFRO Member organisations in the countries that you represent, and to seize the many opportunities that IUFRO offers to build forest and forestry research globally. You belong to an amazing and extensive network of forest researchers and I hope that you will take every opportunity to make use of this resource. And please do not hesitate to contact me directly if I can assist you in building the interests of IUFRO.

With best wishes and thank you for the service that you provide to IUFRO.



Mike Wingfield
IUFRO President