

The Congress Daily



IUFRO aims to embrace a broader range of scientists



From left, IUFRO Executive Director Peter Mayer, incumbent President Don Koo Lee, and President-elect Niels Elers Koch.

Niels Elers Koch describes the first IUFRO World Congress he attended in 1976, in Oslo, Norway, as a life-changing experience that linked him to a worldwide network of top researchers in his field, people who would later become priceless assets for his career.

As IUFRO's next president, Koch, of Copenhagen, Denmark, says he will strive to give the same opportunity to more forestry researchers, in more parts of the world. To do this, he aims to broaden the organization's network, placing special emphasis on representing more researchers in Latin America and Africa while also shoring up membership numbers in Europe.

"I shall work so that all forest researchers in the world get the same excellent opportunities that I got through IUFRO," said Koch at yesterday's International Council Meeting, after being elected to a four-year term running through 2014.

As director general of the Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning for 19 years and as IUFRO vice president for five years, Koch, 59, is well-traveled. By his estimate, he has visited 47 countries. His new post will likely see him logging even more air miles.

"It'll be a busy time," he told *The Congress Daily*. "If I'm allowed to use two words: I'm humbled and excited."

He stressed the need to strengthen IUFRO's scientific capacity where needed and raise its profile in the international policy arena, in order to establish it "as an important source of high-quality scientific information on issues of global concern."

Meanwhile, the Council also adopted a five-year strategy which sets out three institutional themes and, for the first time in history, six thematic areas based on the overarching vision of being a global forestry organization serving the needs of all forest researchers and decision makers.

Officials expect the six themes – Forests for people, Climate change and forestry, Forest biodiversity, Forest bio-energy, Forest and water interactions, and Resources for the future – to boost cooperation among scientists.

"These and other major challenges regarding forests and trees are highly cross-sectoral and require us to think outside the forest box," said Koch, who also called for diversifying the fields in IUFRO's scientific network. "Some excellent examples of interdisciplinary collaboration exist already, ranging from medical science to bioengineering. We need more such success stories in the future."

Another key decision to emerge Friday was the selection of Salt Lake City, USA, as host of the XXIV World Congress. Several cities vied for the honor, but "SLC" – the capital and largest city in Utah – prevailed.

Besides Koch, the Council elected 16 other board members: Su See Lee of Malaysia and Michael Wingfield of South Africa as vice presidents; Jose Campos of Costa Rica, Ben Chikamai of Kenya, Elena Kulikova of Russia, Shirong Liu of China, and Ulrike Probstl of Austria as President's Nominees, tasked with carrying out special assignments; and, as Division Coordinators (in ascending order 1-9) Bjorn Hanell of Sweden, Yousry El-Kassaby of Canada, Hans Heinimann of Switzerland, Margarida Tome of Portugal, Andrew Wong of Malaysia, Tuija Sievanen of Finland, Andrew Liebhold of USA, Jean-Michel Carnus of France and Daniela Kleinschmit of Sweden/Germany.

Give forest users a voice: Ostrom



Where some people see local forest users as hindrances to forest preservation, Elinor Ostrom sees opportunity.

In fact, in areas where forest users play an active role in monitoring forest lands, she says, forest density is statistically higher.

So when designing governance systems to ensure that preservation works over time, such forest users must be embraced.

"We're finding that when the users that live nearby have some rights to harvesting, frequently non-timber forests products, they have a much greater interest in the long-run preservation of a forest," Ostrom told reporters Friday after her keynote speech.

"They monitor and pay a lot of attention. Government forests, combined with very effective users, or user organizations, do appear to be far more sustainable over time."

In short, policy makers must not focus on formal ownership systems as the sole factor affecting forest

sustainability, but rather on how to ensure local participation in forest planning.

She also advocated greater mutual respect for researchers across disciplines, which involves learning and understanding the languages of other fields.

"I'm not talking about just indigenous versus formal, I'm talking about interdisciplinary.

"Can we, slowly but surely, develop a nested language that is able to address the complexity both on the ecological side and on the social side? We're slowly but surely changing it and making progress. I'm sure the young people who are taking college work now will move that ahead."

Ostrom, an Indiana University-Bloomington professor who first visited Korea in 1997, noted that while in Seoul she had many opportunities to reconnect with former Korean IU graduate students.



The inside scoop

For delegates registered for Post-Congress tours, the adventure continues. Eight post-Congress tours head for Korea's subtropical island of Jeju and neighboring countries like Japan and Mongolia. Most tours depart on August 29, but to reconfirm dates and times check with Ms. Han Jung-Mi of Grace Travel (010-3112-4581).

Peter Mayer, IUFRO's executive director since 2003, has been appointed the director of the Austrian Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape. IUFRO welcomes applications to fill this important post beginning November 1. For the complete job announcement, visit the IUFRO Web site, www.iufro.org.

Oops! KFRI technical guide Hwang Jae-Hong's name was misspelled in yesterday's page 1 article about tours. Our sincere apologies.

The Forestry Research Network for Sub-Saharan Africa has just launched an online information service. FORNIS (www.fornis.net) lets users obtain scientific information about forests and trees prepared by forest research institutions across Africa. It is designed to further information exchange and dissemination to the public.

Keynote presentation

Name: Peter Shaw Ashton **Country:** Britain

Title: The disastrous trajectory of the rain forests: research imperatives

Time & Venue: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Hall D2 on the third floor



The Charles Bullard Professor Emeritus of Forestry at Harvard University, Ashton is the author of six books including *World Checklist of Myrtaceae* and numerous papers on the trees and forests of tropical Asia. He is also a faculty fellow at the Center for International Development

at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and a senior research associate for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Previously, he served as president of the International Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta and as director of The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

Among many awards received, notable ones include the Environmental Merit Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Fourth Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation by UNESCO.

Congress fun facts



Number of countries represented: 92

Number of registered participants: 2,675

Countries with the largest representation:

- Republic of Korea: 878 - United States: 164

- Japan: 272

- Indonesia: 99

- China: 214

Number of countries with one delegate: 20

Delegates who traveled the farthest: Uruguay (19,594 km)

Number of sessions: 170

Number of oral presentations (in Technical Sessions): 916

Number of mounted posters: 1,054

Number of lunch boxes distributed: 4,750 (est.)

Number of buses used in In-Congress Tours: 96

Rainfall during the Congress (Mon-Fri., in Seoul): 183.5 mm

The envelope, please

Winners of the Best Poster Awards were announced at yesterday's Division Meetings. Below are the seven awardees recognized in their respective divisions.



Division 1 (Silviculture): Pifeng Lei, University of Freiburg, Germany

Division 2 (Physiology and Genetics): Yoshihiro Hosoo, Shinshu University, Japan

Division 4 (Forest Assessment, Modelling and Management): Choi Sung-Ho, Korea University, Korea

Division 5 (Forest Products): Lee Su-Yeon, Seoul National University, Korea

Division 6 (Social Aspects of Forests and Forestry): Maija Faehnle, Finnish Forest Research Institute, Finland

Division 7 (Forest Health): Takahashi Yukiko, The University of Tokyo, Japan

Division 8 (Forest Environment): Ahn Young-Sang, Korea Forest Research Institute, Korea

A hearty round of applause goes out to all the awardees. Spectacular work!



The transcript

The future of forestry lies in the hands of today's students. And few better represent the hope and promise of the field than Cathrine Pater, the newly elected president of the International Forestry Students Association. Pater sat down with The Congress Daily for a chat.



How did you get interested in forestry?

I really enjoy spending time outdoors and doing outdoor sports, just being in nature. When choosing an education, I thought I needed an education where I can combine educational knowledge with outdoor experiences.

You're entering your senior year at the University of Copenhagen. What are you studying?

My studies are quite broad. It's called forest and landscape engineering. We focus on forests and landscapes and urban green spaces. I can focus on one of those three, which I can gain more insight in. My interest will be on urban forestry.

Why does urban forestry appeal to you?

Because many countries are facing great urbanization I think we need to approach these megacities in a green way, working on sustainable and healthy cities, focusing on bringing nature into the city.

This is your first IUFRO Congress. Has it been rewarding?

There's a lot of formal, technical learning, a lot of people with a lot of knowledge coming and sharing it with everyone else, but mostly it's been networking and communicating with different people from different parts of the world.

As IFSA's new president, have you set any priorities?

The whole basis of IFSA is local communities all over the world. This is what carries IFSA and we're all members in our local communities. Motivating and encouraging local IFSA communities is a great job that has to be done, as well as activating some local communities that have been less active over some years.

Is there any other area you plan to focus on?

The whole of forestry education has weight at IFSA this year. And this is something I will work on. As students, communicating what it is students want from forestry education and how we can contribute on forestry.

You've been in Korea for three weeks when including the IFSA symposium that ran August 7th to 21st. How are you finding it here?

I'm a vegetarian and I really enjoyed the *bibimbap*, because it's a lot of mixed vegetables and rice . . . The first two weeks we were having our symposium, organized by students from the host country. They took good care of us, knowing that some of us are vegetarians and some Muslims. We could fully rely on them.

'Green shirts' gave their all



Student staffers working at the registration desk.

If it weren't for the 133 green-shirted Korean staffers and volunteers, the Seoul Congress wouldn't have been as smooth as beech tree bark.

Performing a range of roles, from helping presenters operate slide shows to manning information desks, setting up the Poster Viewing area – and serving in just about every other corner of COEX – the 50 volunteers and 83 young workers sweated hard to keep things moving.

Despite logging long hours, the mainly student-powered crews say they have few regrets because they gained valuable experiences.

"I was able to see a lot of foreign professors in my field of study," said Kwon So-Min, 20, a forest resources student who manned the conference halls.

Han Kyu-Ree, another forestry student who helped set up the Poster Viewing area said, "I was able to upgrade my knowledge from mere theories and book materials to real, practical knowledge."

So before you leave town, if you bump into a green-shirted Congress staffer just say, "*Kamsa-hapnida!*" (That's "Thank you" in Korean.)

Toast your achievements!

Have you caught a case of the post-Congress blues? The Farewell Gala offers a cure. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. in Hall D2 for the two-hour fest.

A beef dinner is served (or a vegetarian option for those who reserved one). A special dinner for delegates observing Ramadan will be served at 7:10 p.m.

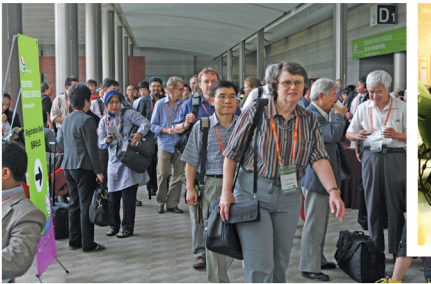
Be sure to grab a lucky draw coupon as you enter for a chance to win some classy souvenirs, including porcelain crafts, a wooden silverware set, silk pencil cases, and a Samsung net book.

Still not exciting enough? A local percussion group will crank up the energy from 7:40 p.m., and the Little Angels will delight delegates with choral music, traditional Korean puppetry, and other traditional performances.

Be there to bid farewell to old and new friends and celebrate IUFRO's accomplishments. Traditional costume is more than welcome!



Congress footprints



Delegates stream into the cavernous Hall D2 minutes before Elinor Ostrom was scheduled to deliver her Plenary speech on Friday.



The venue's Internet lounges were rarely empty as delegates far from home logged onto the Web. Pictured above, a computer bank in the Poster Viewing area.



A meeting room was not always necessary when delegates talked shop; often, the tables and chairs arranged in the hallways sufficed.



The creative shapes and designs of booths in the Trade Exhibition added to the show's appeal. Pictured above, the Korea Forest Research Institute's booth.



To work all day, Congress staffers need to fuel up! This trio was about to dig into their lunches in the COEX food court. From left, Kim Kyoung-Nam, Lee Seung-Bo, and Yi Su-Hee.



The Secretariat of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. In addition to taking care of a myriad of administrative tasks, the team operated a popular exhibition booth in the main lobby.



Each Plenary presenter held a press conference after their keynote speech.



Four delegates lunch on *bokumbap* - Korean-style fried rice - at the COEX mall's food court. The COEX mall attached to the Congress venue contains more than 80 restaurants, giving delegates many kinds of cuisine to choose from.



Members of the Congress Organizing Committee worked late into the night to ensure that programs ran smoothly. Pictured at rear, second from left, is COC Chair Park Jung-Hwan.

On the calendar

If you shudder at the thought of waiting until 2014 to attend another forestry conference, take heart: events (though much smaller ones) are nipping at the heels of the World Congress in the weeks and months ahead.

Before this Congress's halls empty out, Beijing hosts the International conference for urban forestry in challenging environments from Aug. 29-Sept. 1. From Sept. 7-10, Lugo and Santiago de Compostela, Spain host ForestSat 2010: Operational tools in forestry using remote sensing techniques, and Syktyvkar, Russia hosts Larix 2010: International symposium of the IUFRO Working Party 2.02.07

The week after, Germany hosts two forestry symposiums: IUFRO's Population dynamics, biological control, and integrated management of forest insects in Eberswalde from Sept. 12-16; and Silvilaser 2010: the 10th international conference on LiDAR applications for assessing forest ecosystems in Freiburg, from Sept. 14-17.

Moving into autumn, the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Forestry, an FAO instrument to advise the UN on forestry issues, runs from Oct. 4-8 in Rome, Italy coinciding with World Forestry Week 2.

Finally, you may return to Korea sooner than you think. The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Conference of Parties 10 comes to Korea's southern coastal city of Changwon in 2011. Have a safe and pleasant trip home!