



Governor's Office of Economic Development

State of Utah

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

JASON P. PERRY
Executive Director

December 22, 2008

International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
c/o Federal Office and Research Centre for Forests
Mariabrunn (BFW)
Hauptstrasse 7
A-1140 Vienna, Austria
Email: office@iufro.org

Attn: Dr. Peter Mayer
Executive Director
E-mail: mayer@iufro.org

RE: 2014 World Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations

Dear Dr. Mayer:

On behalf of the International Trade & Diplomacy Office of the Utah Office of Economic Development of the State of Utah, I am pleased to hear you are considering Salt Lake City (Salt Lake County, Utah) as the site for the 2014 IUFRO World Congress.

Representing one of the countries with the highest membership in IUFRO and one of the largest area covered by national forests, the United States of America have hosted IUFRO World Congress only in 1971 and the last Congress in North America was held in 1990, 24 years before the 2014 event.

In particular I believe that Utah and Salt Lake City, the "crossroad" of the Intermountain West, would be an ideal destination for such event, IUFRO members, and exhibitors representing the Forestry Industry and the Sustainability and Outdoor Arena considering:

- the experience of the Salt Palace Convention Center and the Salt Lake Convention & Visitors Bureau in hosting first-ranked national meetings and events (a yearly average of 30-34 conventions/trade-shows that utilize the Salt Lake Palace, and 275-300 meetings that utilize single hotel properties or other venues);
- a pristine environment, rich of mountains, forests, vegetation, water and wildlife, with the presence in Utah of 5 National Forests under the patronage of the U.S. Forest Service, 42 State Parks (www.stateparks.utah.gov) and 5 National Parks, other 3 National Parks just across the Utah border in Colorado, Wyoming and Arizona, the scenic red rock icons of Moab and Lake Powell, various County Parks;

- the prestige of Utah academic institutions, such as the University of Utah, Utah State University, Westminster College, Brigham Young University, Weber State University and the Western Governor University, focusing, inter alia, on forest, agricultural, sustainability and environmental related sciences, conservation and sustainable management, scientific knowledge & research to enhance the understanding of the ecological, economic and social aspects of the environment, as well as international cooperation.

With extraordinary accessibility and transportation (over 750 flights in and out each day; Delta Air Lines' second largest U.S. hub with direct flights from France, Japan, Canada, Mexico and 100 domestic cities; Served by all major U.S. airlines; United States' #1 on-time arrival & departure airport; and an international airport located six miles from the downtown convention district by a free fares light rail system scheduled to start operations in 2012), Salt Lake, the Salt Palace Convention Center (a LEED certified venue and one of the nation's largest and most technologically advanced exhibition centers) and the Salt Lake Convention & Visitors Bureau represent a vibrant compact convention district, all surrounded by the majestic Rocky Mountains, and have conceptualized a proposal of outstanding economic value.

Due to its accessibility from the United States and the world, it well may be said that hosting the 2014 World Congress in Salt Lake City may offer the opportunity to reach unprecedented peak of attendance and the enhancement of the Trade Exhibition Component of the World Congress.

We trust you will give this proposal, consistent with the most recent trends of the Convention & Meeting Industry and conscious of the current economic cycle, appropriate attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



Franz Kolb
Regional Director - India, Europe, Africa, and Middle East
Utah International Trade & Diplomacy Office
E-mail: fkolb@utah.gov

FK/mdh

cc.: Judith Stoeger
IUFRO Finances and Administration
Email: stoeger(at)iufro(dot)org

cc. Renate Prüller
Project & Events Coordinator
E-mail: prueler@iufro.org