

IUFRO Immediate Past President's Participation at Rio+20 Summit

In the recently concluded United Nations Convention on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) or Rio+20 Summit and related side events, which were held from 17 to 22 June 2012 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Dr. Don Koo Lee, Immediate Past President of IUFRO and current Minister of the Korea Forest Service, participated in his capacity as President of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 10).

Dr. Lee was invited in many of the events during the Summit. It includes the "World Day to Combat Desertification Global Observant Event" which was held on June 17, 2012 with the theme **Securing Healthy Soils and Stopping Land Degradation: Outcomes for Rio+20**. Under this event, he served as Chair of the High-level Round Table by Heads of Agencies on "What sustainable land and soil management can do to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)." The session basically discussed issues and solutions that have to be done to stop land degradation and contribute to MDGs. Building new alliance, introducing good practices, partnership, local level approach, empowering local people, land finance, and others were seen as part of the solutions to address the issues.

He also participated in the interactive panel session on the topic "Toward a Zero Net Land Degradation" as speaker, together with the UNCCD Chair of the tenth meetings of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 10), International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)¹ and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), where he made statements on the need for targeting towards Zero Net Land Degradation (ZNLN) and he shared the Republic of Korea's success in reversing land degradation, underscoring the importance of leadership. The evening reception highlighted the "Land for Life Award"² to recognize innovation and excellence in sustainable land management (SLM) particularly on efforts that promote natural health and productivity of the land. Dr. Lee made congratulatory remarks and introduced Ms. Universe Lelia Lopez (Drylands Ambassador) to announce the winners.

On June 18, 2012, Dr. Lee gave his message at the High-Level Opening of FAO's side event on "Forests: The Heart of a Green Economy." He shared Korea's success story on reforestation and commitment to sharing Korea's experience and technology with those countries in need of cooperation for green growth. Aside from these, on June 19, 2012, Dr. Lee gave presentation on the topic "Realizing Economic, Environmental and Social Sustainability in Forests: The Case of

¹ICRAF is now known as the World Agroforestry Centre.

²The "Land for Life Award" was launched during the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 10) held in Changwon, Gyeongnam Province, Republic of Korea in October 2011.

³Rio Conventions are the three UN conventions - Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and UN Convention to Combat Desertification - which are the results of the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992.

Managing the Baekdu-daegan Mountains in the Republic of Korea.” He presented this during the CPF High-Level side event on “The Landscape: Transformative Action through Cross-Sectoral Coordination.”

Furthermore, in a side event organized by the Korea Forest Service and UNCCD on “Let’s Go Land-Degradation Neutral: the Role of Sustainable Land and Forest Management in a Green Economy”, Dr. Lee delivered his welcoming address. It was attended by Mr. Eduardo Rojas-Briales (FAO ADG Forestry), Ms. Jan McAlpine (UNFF Director), panel presentors, and other delegates from various countries. Topics for the presentations included “From Denuded Land to Green Growth: Lessons from South Korean Success” by Prof. Seong-il Kim (Professor at SNU), “Toward Land Degradation Neutral World through Green Economy” by Mr. Luc Gnacadja (Executive Secretary of the UNCCD), and “The Role of Private Sectors to Encourage Sustainable Management of Forest and Land” by Mr. Kook Hyun Moon (President of New Paradigm Institute).

Lastly, on June 21, 2012, during the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Rio Conventions³ – High-Level Reception with Executive Secretaries and COP Presidencies, and launching of joint statement on synergies for the implementation of the Rio Conventions, Dr. Lee presented a joint statement signed by the Executive Secretaries of the Rio conventions to Mr. Francisco Gaetani, Deputy Minister of the Environment of Brazil.

As President of the UNCCD COP 10, Dr. Lee encouraged everyone to continuously work together towards achieving the global targets on soil and land as well as to bring about concrete approaches and practical measures which can be translated into actions.



Dr. Don Koo Lee (right), with Mr. Eduardo Rojas-Briales, FAO ADG Forestry (left), while delivering his welcoming address during the Korea Forest Service-UNCCD side event on *“Let’s Go Land-Degradation Neutral: the Role of Sustainable Land and Forest Management in a Green Economy.”*

UNCCD COP 10 President, Dr. Don Koo Lee (right), presented the joint statement to Mr. Francisco Gaetani, Deputy Minister of the Environment of Brazil (left).