

**THE ONLINE INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE GLOBAL FOREST SCIENCE NETWORK**

## Forest Research Management in an Era of Globalization

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*The ultimate goal of research is to improve the wellbeing of society. However, globalization has changed the framework conditions and nature of forest research. Societal questions around forests and forestry are increasingly complex. At the same time budgets are declining. This condition is requiring research organizations to use their financial and human capital resources more efficiently. Consequently, the role of managers in forest research has become even more important as they will have to make sound policy choices for the future of forest research.*

Against this background, the IUFRO Directors' Forum (IUFRO Research Group **6.06.00** – Management of Forest Research) had its second meeting from 18-19 April 2007 in Washington D.C., USA. The forum serves as a global platform for directors of forest research institutes and deans of forest faculties of universities to exchange views, share experiences and discuss strategies for the future. The results of the IUFRO Directors' Forum will contribute significantly to the further development of forest research management globally.

### Setting the forest research agenda – identifying science priorities

Globalization has brought about major changes in the process of setting the forest research agenda. One major observation is that agenda development becomes an increasingly strategic process for forest research institutions. Among the most important examples for research topics are the increasing demand for stakeholder involvement and opportunities for input, the introduction of "agendas of scale" such as agendas set on the basis of global demands and national needs as well as the growing emphasis placed on long-term planning, and the consideration of temporal research scales. All these factors inevitably make research both more timely and relevant.

An increasing number of research organizations are already taking these factors into account and use clearly structured processes in order to develop research strategies for their respective institutions. In this respect, criteria such as relevance, feasibility, timelessness, scope of benefits, innovative potential, credibility, and legitimacy are



Photo: A. Buck

helpful when selecting items to be included on the research agenda.

### Quality research and efficiency are crucial

Knowledge management is becoming a more and more important element for the improvement of efficiency of forest research institutions. However, traditional research frameworks often separate researchers from the practitioners and decision makers.

A professional communication of results to beneficiaries and guidelines for researchers who work at the science/policy interface are valuable mechanisms for making research more efficient and meaningful, especially for decision makers.

Moreover, performance indicators help to determine the efficiency of

research. Such indicators are highly desirable; adequate methodologies are currently developing. In general, indicators have to take into account both the task to be evaluated and the institution concerned in terms of size and type of tasks assigned to an institution.

### Where does the money for research come from?

The financial situation of forest-related research organizations throughout the world varies significantly. As a general trend it can be stated that forest research institutions in Europe and North America have had to face declining budgets over the past few years. At the same time, especially Asian countries have experienced rising research budgets.

One major challenge is the increasing need to compete for budgets with other institutions and sectors while core budgets in general are diminishing. Nevertheless, innovative approaches, including new partnerships, could help to overcome some of these constraints and play an integral role in ensuring sustainable funding.

Finally, in order to stay in touch with reality, the business model of forestry needs to be updated. Forest research has to focus more strongly on consumer and stakeholder demands and needs. In this context, it is highly relevant to develop a coherent strategic plan and prioritize expenditures according to that plan.

## "forestknowledge.net"

### Wins Schweighofer Innovation Award for Forestry 2007

On 18 June 2007, the "forestknowledge.net" internet platform was presented the Schweighofer Innovation Award for Forestry in Vienna. The platform is run by several forest research institutes in Europe, four of which, namely BFW in Vienna, Austria; FVA in Freiburg i.Br., Germany, LWF in Freising near Munich, Germany; and WSL in Birmensdorf near Zurich, Switzerland, are in charge of the editorial tasks. Other partners in Slovenia, Italy, Switzerland and France contribute information and translations.

The "forestknowledge.net" platform is a European multilingual source of information focussing on forest practice and is visited by more than 55000 people every month.

More about "forestknowledge.net":

[http://www.forestknowledge.net/index\\_EN](http://www.forestknowledge.net/index_EN)

More about the Schweighofer Innovation Award:

<http://www.schweighofer-prize.org/index.en.html>

## Interdivisional Conference on Forest Landscape Restoration

14 to 19 May 2007, Seoul, Korea



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The meeting was held under the auspices of IUFRO Divisions 1, 6 and 8 and IUFRO-Korea in cooperation with the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration and member organizations, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and the Society for Ecological Restoration. The conference was hosted by the Korea Forest Research Institute, Korea Forest Service, Korea Forest Society, Seoul National University, and the North-east Asian Forest Forum with additional financial support from the US Forest Service and Yuan-Kimberly Corporation.

A total of 111 scientific papers were presented orally (71) or as posters (40) in three days, followed by optional one- or three-day post-conference field trips. About 300 participants attended the Conference, representing 27 countries from Asia, Australia and Oceania, the Americas, and Europe. The venue for the conference was the COEX convention center in downtown Seoul, the planned location of the 2010 IUFRO World Congress.

The objective of the Conference was to examine the scientific basis for forest landscape restoration and its linkages to practice and policy. Presentations focused on contributions from ecological and social sciences, including models to integrate the approaches and case studies to illustrate restoration practices. A special workshop on tools, organized by David Lamb and David Pullar of the University of Queensland, was well-attended and provided participants an opportunity to engage in discussion of how to actually accomplish landscape restoration on the ground. Another feature of the meeting was a blog by the US Forest Service participants, with impressions and pho-

tos, especially of the field trip:

<http://www.pisgah.org/iufro2007/>.

A proceedings was published by the Korea Forest Research Institute and distributed at the meeting; pdfs of the papers can be downloaded from the conference website:

<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/korea/>. Powerpoint presentations are also available for download. A book from the conference, tentatively titled "Forest Landscape Restoration: Integrating Ecological and Social Sciences" is in preparation. Selected papers will be published as special issues of one or more journals.

John Stanturf

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*Photo 1:* Breakfast meeting hosted by IUFRO President Prof. Don Koo Lee of Seoul National University. (Left to right: Drs. Yeong Dae Park (Visiting Scientist, US Forest Service), Joon Hwan Shin (Deputy Director General, Korea Forest Research Institute), Don K. Lee, Jim Reaves (Associate Deputy Chief, US Forest Service), John Stanturf (Project Leader, US Forest Service) (Photo: John Stanturf)

*Photo 2:* Model erosion control works and post-fire reforestation at the Erosion Control Works Park at Oudori near Pohang on the east coast of Korea. (Photo: John Stanturf)

*Photo 3:* Post-conference field trip stop to view efforts to restore a harsh ridge-top site, Dae-Gwall-Yeong Special Plantation Site. Participants view windbreak fence and planting of *Pinus koraiensis* container stock. (Photo: Kas Dumroese)

## IUFRO Meetings

**NOTE: The following list of meetings is just a selection!**

For a full list of IUFRO events, please visit our online [calendar](#), or the [homepages](#) of IUFRO Units involved. Non-IUFRO meetings are also announced on the IUFRO [Noticeboard](#) on our web site.

28 July 2007

### Sustainable Forestry for Water Resources Management and Flood Mitigation in Mountainous Regions

Nagoya, Japan

International Symposium organized by JST/CREST, JSPS [IUFRO Task Force](#) on Forests and Water Interactions

**Contact:** Kuraji Koichiro, kuraji(at)uf.a.u-tokyo.ac.jp

<http://www.iufro.org/auth/science/task-forces/water/activities-and-events/>

28 July – 1 August 2007

### Methods of Assessing Urban Forest Structure

Honolulu, Hawaii, United States

Joint session of ISA and [IUFRO 6.14.00](#) Urban Forestry at the 83rd Annual Conference of the International Society of Arboriculture

**Contact:** David Nowak, dnowak(at)fs.fed.us

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/conference/default.aspx?ID=Attend> ; <http://www.unri.org/iufro>

August 7-10, 2007

### Forest Growth and Timber Quality: Crown Models and Simulation Methods for Sustainable Forest Management

Portland, Oregon, United States

IUFRO, Div 3, Div 4, WP 4.01.05, RG 5.12.00

**Contact:** Dennis Dykstra, ddykstra(at)fs.fed.us

<http://www.westernforestry.org/crownmodels/crownmodels.htm>

15 August 2007

### Kick-off Meeting of the IUFRO Task Force on Forests and Human Health

Saariselkä, Finland

In connection with the IUFRO Division VI Symposium

**Contact:** Eeva Karjalainen, eeva.karjalainen(at)metla.fi

<http://www.metla.fi/tapahtumat/2007/iufro-tf-07/Kick-off-programme.htm>

17 August 2007

### Urban Forestry session "Integrating Social and Cultural Information in Urban Forest Planning and Management"

at IUFRO Division 6 Symposium, 14-20 August 2007

Saariselkä, Finland

[IUFRO 6.14.00](#)

**Contact:** Cecil Konijnendijk,

cecil(at)woodscape-consult.com

<http://www.metla.fi/tapahtumat/2007/iufro-d6/abstracts/konijnendijk-schedule.html>

28 August – 1 September 2007

### VI Congreso Latinoamericano de Derecho Forestal

Quito, Ecuador

IUFRO [6.13.01](#)

**Contact:** María Fernanda Escudero,

congresodf(at)sur.iucn.org

6-7 September 2007

### IUFRO European Congress: Forests and Forestry in the Context of Rural Development

Warsaw, Poland

**Contact:** Piotr Paschalis-Jakubowicz,

paschalis(at)delta.sggw.waw.pl

Web site: <http://conference2007.wl.sggw.pl/>

29 October – 2 November 2007

### IUFRO All-Division 5 Forest Products Conference

Taipei, China-Taipei

**Contact:** Chris Risbrudt, crisbrudt(at)fs.fed.us,

Conference Secretariat: iufro2007(at)gmail.com

Web site: <http://www.alldiv5iufro2007.org.tw/index.htm>

22-23 November 2007

### International Regime, Avoided Deforestation and the Evolution of Public and Private Forest Policies in the South

Paris, France

[IUFRO 6.12.05](#), CIRAD, IDDRI, CIF ETRN

**Contact:** Doris Capistrano, d.capistrano(at)cgjar.org

28 May – 1 June 2008

### Eurodendro 2008 Meeting:

#### The Long History of Wood Utilization

Hallstatt, Austria

[IUFRO 5.01.07](#), [6.07.00](#)

**Contact:** Margaret Devall, mdevall(at)fs.fed.us

## Non-IUFRO Meetings

10 October 2007

### Opportunities and Impacts of Bioenergy Policies and Targets on the Forest and Other Sectors

Geneva, Switzerland

Policy Forum of the UNECE Timber Committee in conjunction with the FAO European Forestry Commission

<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/docs/tc-sessions/tc-65/policyforum/welcome.htm>

17-18 October 2007

### Enjoy and Protect our Forests

Fontainebleau, France

The Progress-project, financed under Interreg IIIB, has looked at how to reconcile recreation and conservation in forest management: <http://www.progress-eu.info/>

26-30 November 2007

### International course: "Communication for Urbanized Forestry and Green-space Management"

Noedebo, Denmark

This is the second edition of this course, meant for urban woodland and green space planners and managers. Innovative approaches within media relations, marketing, lobbying and public involvement will be discussed. For further information, visit

<http://en.sl.life.ku.dk/kurserogefteruddannelse/kurser/communicationinurbanisedforestry.aspx>