

Multi-Purpose Poplar Plantations – Targeting at Low Carbon and Wide Economy

By Shirong LIU, IUFRO Board Member and Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Forestry

Poplar has been widely acknowledged as a fast-growing and high-yield tree species. China, being the top country in the world in terms of its planted area of poplar with up to approximately 7 million hectares, is increasingly aware of the importance of the multiple functions of poplar from the traditional wood production to the emerging hotspots of forestry development such as bio-energy and carbon sequestration.

More than 120 participants from 8 countries including Canada, Italy, USA, Korea, Japan, Germany, Switzerland and China convened in Siyang County, Jiangsu Province, the home of poplar in China, for the IUFRO International Conference on Sustainable Management of Multi-purpose Poplar Plantations, which was jointly organized by the Chinese Academy of Forestry and Ecological Society of China, and Siyang County Government on 29-30 May 2010. There were 18 presentations covering the following four thematic subjects: genetic breeding and intensive cultivation; plantation health and sustainable management; wood bio-materials and bio-energy utilization; and ecological services.

Prof. Don Koo Lee, President of IUFRO, Dr. Stefano Bisoffi, President of the International Poplar Commission, and Dr. Jim Carle, Leader of Forest Management of FAO honoured the conference with opening remarks, which provided an overview of the poplar development in the world.

In the session on **genetic breeding and intensive cultivation**, scientists from Canada, Italy, USA, China and Korea presented progress and results on the association genetics and natural genetic variation of *Populus trichocarpa*, gene controls in wood formation, bio-technology application and genetic engineering for productivity improvement, bio-energy and climatic and environmental challenges. The session on **health and sustainable management** provided a wide range for the discussions in an open way. Representatives of FAO, Germany, Italy, USA and China talked about their ideas and prospects on the management of poplar plantations from site selection, nutrient management, and silvicultural improvements to the integration of poplar and willow in agroforestry, and low impact environment practices and the farmers' livelihood improvement by ensuring a wide range of poplar products and services. Poplar **ecological services** were focused by addressing developing phyto-remediation, carbon sequestration and BVOCs emissions by using the great variety of



Photo by Aiyun Song

poplar species, genotypes and cultivars. The last session on **poplar wood, bio-materials and bio-energy utilization** combined the experience and knowledge both from circles of scientific research, education and industry. Major achievements are being made in the production process and fiber attributes identification for biomaterials utilization and bio-energy production as well as their prospects of the market tendency. Poplar wood-based bio-materials and bio-energy utilization are increasingly becoming new emerging and promising research priorities.

The conference was a great success in terms of representation and width and depth of the covered themes. Participants shared their ideas, viewpoints, research results and experience. The outcomes of the conference can be summarized as follows:

- (1) Knowledge and experiences in the proper utilization, genetic breeding and cultivation as well as management of poplar plantation were shared.
- (2) Achievements and progress after the Fourth International Poplar Symposium in 2006 which was held in Nanjing were shared.
- (3) Linkages among circles of research, education and industry and between national and international scales were established or tightened.
- (4) Conference proceedings were available and a directory of poplar experts was formed.

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Small-scale Forestry in a Changing World: Opportunities and Challenges and the Role of Extension and Technology Transfer

Joint Conference of IUFRO [3.08.00](#) Small-scale Forestry, [6.06.02](#) Extension and [6.06.01](#) Technology Transfer

By Jurij Beguš, Coordinator of Extension Working Party 6.06.01, and Mirko Medved, President of the Organizing Committee

From 6 to 12 June 2010 a joint IUFRO conference on extension and technology transfer with a focus on problems and issues in managing small-scale forest property was held in Bled, Slovenia.



Photo by Iztok Senjur. Bled, the conference venue.

Small-scale forests may not be so interesting at first glance, but when we see the area they cover, we have to confess that they need special care and attention. As one of the presenters in the conference put it, "Small-scale forests are small but large".

The three IUFRO units involved in the event deal with small-scale forestry in different ways so it was just a question of time when they would get together and discuss the problems and issues jointly from their different angles.

The aim of the conference was to address the current problems in management of small-scale private forests and to gather research, pedagogic (extensional) and developmental achievements from different national, political and social backgrounds from all over the world. It focussed on the problems of management in small-scale private forests as was reflected in the conference topics: climate change; harvesting technologies and forest products; social development; information

technology; knowledge transfer; forest policy and economics; forest business in practice.

Although Slovenia is one of the smallest countries in Europe, it has a rich forestry tradition especially in the area of small-scale forest management. During the conference and especially on the excursions forestry professionals and forest owners presented the participants experiences of sustainable forest management, cooperation between forest owners and foresters, ways of extension for private forest owners, reforestation in the Karst region, biomass issues and forestry activities with local people.



Photo by Iztok Senjur.
Extension for safe work of forest owners.

The participants of all three groups (Small Scale Forestry, Extension, and Technology Transfer) positively accepted the approach of a joint conference, and they agreed that such conferences are useful and worth to continue. The proposal was that all three parties organize such a joint conference at least once during the period between two IUFRO World Congresses, which means at least every five years.

105 participants from 25 countries from all continents attended the conference organized by the Slovenian Forestry Institute and the Slovenia Forest Service. During the conference 65 papers were presented. All of them are collected in proceedings, published at the conference web page <http://www.gozdis.si/ssfett2010/>. During and after the conference four excursions were organized with the aim to show to others the Slovenian approach in the management of small-scale private forests.

Before the conference a printed book of abstracts, a printed guide of excursions and an electronic version of proceedings with 65 papers and 880 pages were issued and delivered to participants. Proceedings as well as all presented papers and posters with presentations and text versions are located on the conference web pages: http://www.gozdis.si/ssfett2010/Proceedings_IUFRO_SSCFW_Bled2010.pdf
<http://www.gozdis.si/ssfett2010/postprogram.html>

Tree-ring Science under the Midnight Sun

Margaret Devall, Coordinator [5.01.07](#), Tree Ring Analysis

The WorldDendro 2010 International Conference on Dendrochronology, 'Tree-ring science under the midnight sun' was held June 13-18, 2010 at the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi, Finland. The conference was organized and hosted by METLA (the Finnish Forest Research Institute), the Association for Tree-Ring Research, the Tree-Ring Society, IUFRO Working Parties [4.01.04](#) and [5.01.07](#), the Asian Dendrochronology Association and the University of Lapland.

The theme of the WorldDendro 2010 conference was dendrochronology and the application of tree rings as environmental sensors. The specific focus of the conference was climate change, one of the greatest challenges of our time. About 400 researchers from 40 countries reported their research on answers to questions such as:

What can tree rings tell us about forest health?
 What modifications does changing climate require for sustainable forest management?
 How large are the recent oscillations of climate compared to long-term variation?
 What possibilities do new analytical techniques provide us for detecting past, present and future trends in tree growth?

The purpose of the conference was to bring together researchers working on the reconstruction and modelling of past, present and future tree growth and analyzing the natural and human induced variation patterns in tree rings. The conference provided an opportunity to make contacts with other researchers, to enhance new collaboration, and to stimulate intellectual exchanges among researchers from all over the world.



Photo by Margaret Devall.
 Participants of the in-conference tour during a demonstration of a tree-harvesting machine.

A pre-conference field week was held at the Mekrijärvi Research Station, University of Eastern Finland, from June 6-12, 2010. Its objective was to provide instruction and practice on the various methods of efficient collection, preparation, measurement and analysis of tree-ring data and to introduce the participants to the local environment. There were an enjoyable in-conference tour and two interesting post-conference excursions, which provided participants an opportunity to learn more about the northern forests.

More information about the conference, and numerous photos, can be found at the conference website: <http://www.worlddendro2010.fi/pmwiki/pmwiki.php?n=Main.HomePage>. Papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of *Dendrochronologia*.

First International Conference of Soil and Roots Engineering Relationship- 1st ICSRER (LANDCON1005)

24-26 May 2010, Ardebil Province, NW Iran
 Meeting website: <http://www.landcon-ir.com>
 Alexander Mosseler, Research Scientist and Coordinator for [IUFRO Division 8](#)

Natural hazards and phenomena like landslides, water and wind erosion, river bank erosion etc., are frequent around the world. The aim of this meeting was to bring together scientific researchers, practitioners, geotechnical and civil engineers, biologists, ecologists, rangeland managers and foresters to discuss current problems in soil and root engineering relationship.

For further information, contact:
 Ghassem Habibi Bibalani, [habibibalani\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:habibibalani(at)gmail.com)
 Associated Professor, Islamic Azad University,
 Shabestar Branch, East Azerbaijan, Iran

FORMEC 2010 Forest Engineering: Meeting the Needs of the Society and the Environment

July 11-14, 2010, Padova, Italy
<http://www.tesaf.unipd.it/formec2010/>
 Raffaele Cavalli, Deputy Coord. of IUFRO RG [3.06.00](#)

The Symposium provided the opportunity to exchange experiences and share information on the state of knowledge for the improvement of forestry engineering. Particular emphasis was given to the analysis of the wood supply chain components, sensor technology for the wood quality assessment, laser scanning technology for forest stands assessment, and discrete event simulation of wood harvesting processes. The symposium offered a strong bridge between advanced scientific methods and modern information technologies to the practical engineering and operations. A future Symposium FORMEC will be organized in Graz (Austria) in October 2011 in conjunction with the forest fair AUSTROFOMA 2011.

GFIS (Global Forest Information Service) Launches an Upgraded Gateway to Improve Forest Information Sharing

In conjunction with the 2010 IUFRO World Congress, [GFIS](#) is introducing an updated gateway to enhance forest-related information sharing for both current and prospective users. The new and improved features will be available two weeks before the XXIII IUFRO World Congress in Seoul, Korea, giving users around the world an opportunity to share and access data. In addition to a more aesthetically engaging interface, GFIS has incorporated a variety of practical features to make forestry information sharing more effective.

With a focus on universality, GFIS has made low-tech, yet highly-efficient usability a top priority. For example, to address some of the difficulties users have had with setting up their own **RSS feeds**, the system now allows users without their own RSS feed to provide information items (e.g. an event, news item, etc.) via a web form. Information seekers can also create their own RSS feed based on their specific search priorities, and continue to follow the updated results through that same feed.

GFIS content can now be easily viewed in a variety of different **languages**, with Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian, Korean and Swedish languages recently added. The language function will now be extended to include a useful mouse-over translation tool for translating foreign headlines into English.

As the younger demographic increasingly uses **social media** to access new information, GFIS is dedicated to updating its Facebook page, Twitter account and GFIS-blog. These steps will assure that all users, especially students, have the most effective tools for sharing and accessing forest-related information. With the research needs of current and eternal students in mind, GFIS has also incorporated **new information types**: Education, Experts and Projects.

With the launch of the GFIS gateway in process, organizations and information seekers can now benefit from a **more universally accessible tool** to discover and comprehensively share the latest forest-related developments. GFIS is currently inviting new users and information providers to take advantage of the improved gateway and together, work towards strengthening our global forestry network.

All XXIII IUFRO World Congress attendees are encouraged to learn more about the new GFIS by visiting the IUFRO booth or GFIS stand in the exhibition area. We will provide more information, a voluntary questionnaire and a chance to win prizes.

We are grateful to our sponsors, the Austrian Government, ITTO, Korea Forest Research Institute, Metla, US Forest Service and Finnish Foresters Foundation, who have made this possible with their longstanding contribution.

Big Step towards Completing the Most Comprehensive Assessment to Date of the International Forest Regime

The second meeting of the Expert Panel on the International Forest Regime was held on 7-8 July 2010 at the Headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya. 30 renowned experts in political science and international law gathered at this meeting to discuss the draft manuscripts of the assessment report on the international forest regime and identify the conclusions emerging from the assessment. The overall coordination of the report is with the IUFRO-led initiative "Global Forest Expert Panels" (GFEP) of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).



Photo by Yurdi Yasmi. GFEP group.

The assessment will be completed in autumn 2010. It will *inter alia* provide concrete proposals for better coordination of the international forest regime and is expected to make a major contribution to the International Year of Forests 2011.

For more information, contact: Alexander Buck, [buck\(at\)iufro.org](mailto:buck(at)iufro.org) or visit the GFEP website at: <http://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/>
You may also listen to the podcast: Interview with Alexander Buck (GFEP Coordinator) on our blogsite accessible via <http://www.iufro.org>



**Forests for the Future:
Sustaining Society and the Environment
23-28 August 2010, Seoul, Republic of Korea**

Check the IUFRO Congress website <http://www.iufro2010.com> for program details, deadlines, latest announcements, news releases, technical spotlights, e-newsletters, etc.

Announcements & News



International Year of Forests 2011

Celebrating Forests for People

<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/2011/2011.html>

EFI Seeks Procurement Expert

The European Forest Institute (EFI) is an international organization with 21 European member countries, and 126 associate member institutions. EFI headquarters are located in Joensuu, Finland. EFI seeks a procurement expert who will coordinate the procurement of services, goods and works under the EU FLEGT Facility.

Interested candidates should send an application letter and CV by 23 August 2010 to Niina Verkerk, Administrative Manager, EU FLEGT Facility, email: niina.verkerk@efi.int.

For more information, contact: Tomi Tuomasjukka, Operations Manager, EU FLEGT Facility, phone: +35810773.43.54, email: tomi.tuomasjukka@efi.int

New School of Forest Engineering and Natural Environment: EIFORNAT-UPM

The Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain, offers a new scheme of Bachelor and Master degrees at its new EIFORNAT-UPM:

<http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/#c14635>

For further information, contact:

Ramon Elena Rossello, Subdirector EIFORNAT UPM, ramon.elena.rossello@upm.es

Evidence-based Forestry

Following a successful side-event at the recent 18th Commonwealth Forestry Conference in Edinburgh (<http://www.cfc2010.org/index.html>), a Google Group entitled "Evidence-based Forestry" has been established to continue discussions.

To sign up please email:

evidence-based-forestry@googlegroups.com

or write for further information to:

gillian.petrokofsky@plants.ox.ac.uk

Collaboration for Environmental Evidence

Within the UN-REDD Programme, FAO has led a collaborative project which is systematically analysing literature on methods to measure and assess terrestrial carbon stocks using an evidence-based process.

The project has reached the stage where the revised "Draft Protocol for the Systematic Review" is ready for peer-review. The review team welcomes your comments on the document any suggestion on sources of literature which should be assessed.

Visit <http://www.environmentalevidence.org/Draftprotocols.html>

or contact: Gillian Petrokofsky

gillian.petrokofsky@plants.ox.ac.uk

Publications

Four new IUFRO World Series Publications at the IUFRO World Congress

World Series Vol. 25: Forests and Society –

Responding to Global Drivers of Change

World Series Vol. 26: *in preparation*

World Series Vol. 27: Green Technology for Climate

Change Adaptation and Mitigation - Asia and the

Pacific Forest Products Workshop in Sri Lanka 2009

World Series Vol. 9 (en): Terminology of Forest

Management Planning – reprinted

World Series Vol. 20-IV: Keep Asia Green - West

and Central Asia

UNEP Policy Series on Ecosystem Management

The 'UNEP Policy Series on Ecosystem Management' (see <http://www.unep.org/policyseries>) seeks to facilitate dialogue on policy issues related to Ecosystem Management. UNEP invites policy makers and experts to make use of the Policy Series in addressing policy matters that would be of interest to their stakeholders/ areas of work on ecosystem management.

Please send your inputs and suggestions to Ibrahim Thiaw, email: Ibrahim.Thiaw@unep.org with copy to Vijay Samnotra, Vijay.Samnotra@unep.org

Unasylva, Vol 61, 2010/1-2

This issue of FAO's international journal of forestry and forest industries includes reports on the World Forestry Congress in Argentina and a special article on the 60 years of cooperation between FAO and IUFRO.

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/unasylva/en/>

Alien Arthropods of Europe

Alain ROQUES, Marc KENIS, David LEES, Carlos LOPEZ-VAAMONDE, Wolfgang RABITSCH, Jean-Yves RASPLUS and David B. ROY (eds.). Pensoft publishers. This book presents the 1590 exotic species already established in Europe. Note: all chapters are downloadable for free at the following address:

<http://pensoftonline.net/biorisk/index.php/journal>

Die zwei Herzen der Forstwirtschaft: Forstliche Arbeit zwischen Marktorientierung und Nachhaltigkeit (in German)

By Till Westermayer, Katharina Schneijderberg, Tatjana Viaplana

(Institute of Forest Utilization and Work Science, Working Group of Prof. Dr. Siegfried Lewark, University of Freiburg, Germany). 234 pages

ISBN: 978-3-941300-28-6

<http://www.verlagkessel.de>

REDD+ in Dryland Forests: Issues and prospects for pro-poor REDD in the miombo woodlands of southern Africa

Three country case studies covering Zambia, Mozambique and Namibia.

<http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=17506IIED>

IUFRO Meetings

Search our [online calendar](#) for a full list of meetings.
Find non-IUFRO meetings on the IUFRO [Noticeboard](#).

Also search for forest-related events at:
<http://www.gfis.net>

6-9 September 2010

Wood Structure and Properties 2010

Podbanske, High Tatras, Slovakia

IUFRO [5.01.00](#)

Contact: Rastislav Lagana, lagana(at)vsld.tuzvo.sk
http://www.tuzvo.sk/wsp_2010

8 September 2010

Symposium: Systematics & Ecophysiology of Mycorrhizas: Climate Change Challenges

Ciudad de Tlaxcala, México

IUFRO [7.01.06](#)

Contact: Luis Villarreal-Ruiz, luisvirl(at)colpos.mx

5-7 October 2010

Emerging Economic Mechanisms: Implications for Forest-Related Policies and Sector Governance

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

IUFRO [6.12.00](#)

An event of the World Forest Week

Contact: Gerard Buttoud, gerard.buttoud(at)unitus.it
<http://forest-conf-fao.unitus.it/>

12-13 October 2010

4° Simposio Nacional Forestal: Energías Alternativas, Bosques y Cambio Climático

Medellín, Colombia

IUFRO [1.01.10](#)

Contact: Felipe Bravo, fbravo(at)pvs.uva.es
<http://www.unalmed.edu.co/~poboyca/simposio/>

27-29 October 2010

1st International Patagonian Agroforestry Congress

Coyhaique, Chile

IUFRO [1.00.00](#), [1.04.00](#)

Organized by INFOR, INTA and INIA

Contact: Santiago Barros, sbarros(at)infor.cl
<http://www.infor.cl>

Other Meetings

14 September 2010

Multi-Stakeholder Processes in Natural Resource Management: Learning from Experience

Oxford Conference Centre, Oxford, UK

ProForest, the University of Oxford (ECI Forest Governance Group) and the Rainforest Alliance

<http://www.proforest.net/conference>

21-22 September 2010

European Forestry - Fit for Climate Change? Nancy, France

ForeStClim (2008-2012) is a European INTERREG IVB project concerned with forests and climate change.

Contact: Thomas Caspari, caspari(at)forestclim.eu
http://www.pepss.com/gti/0144/GTI_144_NANCYPC/132/

26-29 September 2010

7th International Conference on Phytotechnologies

Parma, Italy

Organized by International Phytotechnology Society

<http://www.phytosociety.org/civcrm/event/info?reset=1&id=2>

8-9 October 2010

Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change: Social dimensions of environmental change and governance

Berlin, Germany

Environmental Policy Research Centre, Free

University of Berlin; Deutsches Institut für

Entwicklungspolitik (DIE / German Development

Institute)

<http://www.berlinconference.org/2010/>

12-13 October 2010

7th International Woodcoatings Congress

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

<http://www.pra-world.com/nandl/conferences/woodcoatings7>

21-22nd October 2010

5th European Forest Pedagogy Congress: Forest Pedagogics – Beneficial Impacts on Education and Society

Lahti, Finland

Contact: Sirpa Kärkkäinen,

sirpa.karkkainen(at)smy.fi.

<http://www.forestpedagogics.eu>

25-29 October 2010

3rd Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference Beyond Fire Behavior and Fuels: Learning from the Past to Help Guide Us in the Future

Spokane, Washington, USA

International Association of Wildland Fire

<http://www.iawfonline.org/spokane2010/>

registration.php

5 December 2010

Forest Day 4

Cancún, Mexico

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Government of Mexico, through the National Forestry Commission, announces that registration for Forest

Day 4 is open.

<http://www.forestsclimatechange.org/ForestDay-4.html>