

The 2022 World Wood Day- Trees for Good: Challenges, Opportunities and Sustainability

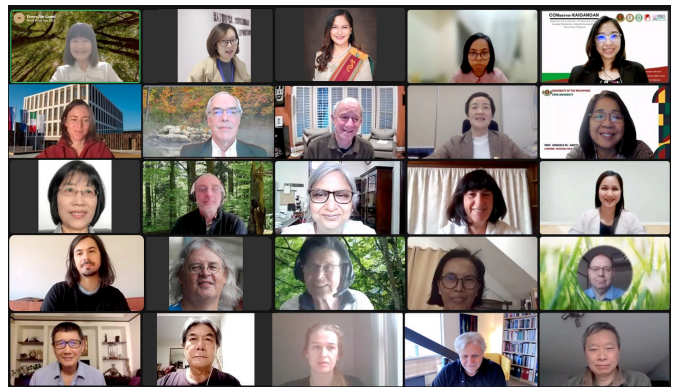
Report from the World Wood Day (WWD) 2022 Virtual Event, 2022 WWD Online Symposium and the Fourth IUFRO Forest Products Culture Colloquium, 21-22 March (<https://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-5/50000/51500/>)

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 World Wood Day celebration was held virtually for the second time with the following regional activities: Tree planting events in Beijing, China and Kermanshah, Iran, an educational activity for children in Zhejiang, China, wood culture tour and hybrid forums in Dubai, an online seminar organized by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) and a special concert organized by the Senzoku Gakuen College of Music in Tokyo, Japan.

The virtual event with two programs, a Symposium and a Collaborative Project (for creating wood art), as well as the videos of the regional activities was broadcasted on the World Wood Day YouTube Channel on 21-22 March. On 21 March, both the International Day of Forests and the World Wood Day, commenced with the opening speech addressed by the Chair of International Wood Culture Society and World Wood Day Foundation, Dr. Howard Rosen.

The 2022 World Wood Day Online Symposium and The Fourth IUFRO Forest Products Culture Colloquium, with a theme of “*Trees and Non-Wood Forest Products: Challenges, Opportunities and Sustainability*”, emphasized the importance of forests, trees, wood and non-wood forest products to the environment and climate stability. The programs also discussed efficient and sustaining cultural values of various forest products and artifacts for future generations; the involvement of rural and indigenous communities in forest management; combating illegal logging and restoration of degraded forest landscapes; and human health, wellness and spirituality via various forest recreational activities.

The symposium organizing committee included the International Wood Culture Society (IWCS), the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), the International Association of Wood Anatomists, (IAWA), the



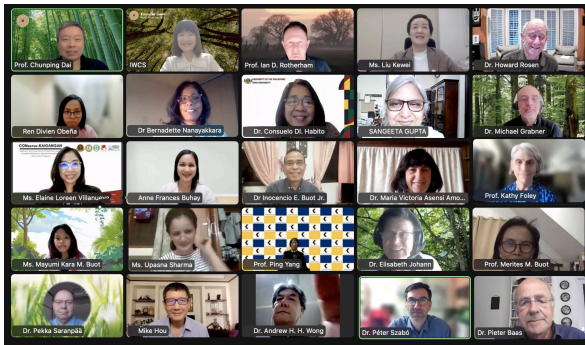
Symposium Group Photo on Zoom Webinar. Photo IWCS.

International Academy of Wood Science (IAWS), the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Division 5 Forest Products (including IUFRO Research Unit 5.15.00 Forest Products Culture), IUFRO Research Unit 9.03.02 (Forest Culture) of Division 9 (Forest Policy and Economics), and the Estonian State Forest Management Centre (RMK). This committee decided the following six different topics to explore the theme:

- 1) Historical Utilization and Cultural Values of Trees and Non-Wood Forest Products
- 2) Challenges and Opportunities for Trees and Non-Wood Forest Products
- 3) Construction and Buildings Including Wood Durability and Protection Needs
- 4) Building Components, Furniture, Musical Instruments, Artifacts and Design
- 5) Education on Forest Sustainability, Forest Products Utilization and Culture
- 6) Wood Products and Wood Biotechnology (IAWS Special Session)



Tree Planting in Kermanshah, Iran. Photo: IWCS



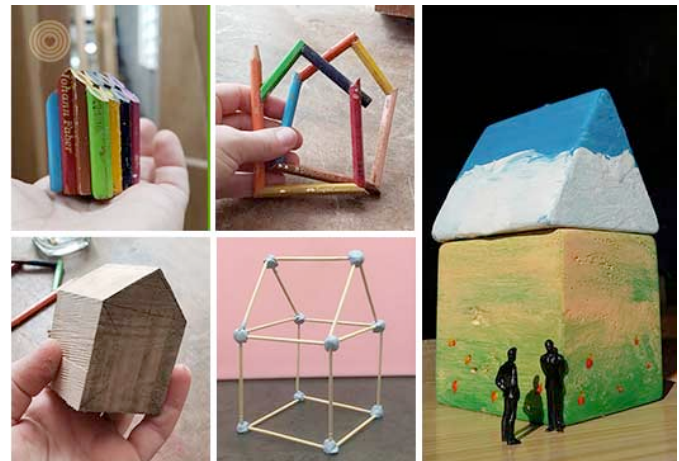
Symposium Group Photo on Zoom Webinar. Photo IWCS

The next World Wood Day event and symposium in 2023 will aim to involve more IUFRO Divisions and to reflect the spirit of IUFRO- interconnecting forests, science and people.



Special Music Concert, Senzoku Gakuen College of Music, Tokyo, Japan. Photo IWCS

Over 950 participants from 31 countries joined on Zoom, YouTube, and Bilibili (Mainland China) from March 21-22. Starting with the keynote presentation, *“Bridging the Gap between Public and Professional Perceptions of Forests and Trees: Enhancing Social and Cultural Literacy in Education and Research”* delivered by the IUFRO President, Dr. John Parrotta, 54 presentations including 6 keynote speeches were delivered by 63 presenters and moderated by 6 session chairs. A wide range of research topics related to the historical and modern utilization of wood and non-wood forest products in artifacts, sport equipment, furniture, buildings, design, musical instruments, cultural and folklore events; the cultural values and significances of trees, wood and non-wood forest products; the roles of crafts persons, artists, designers and performers; forest protection for climate change mitigation, education and communication for the conservation and management of forests, wood and non-wood forest products; wood durability and protection needs in construction and buildings; and the latest developments and methods in wood products and wood biotechnology. The discussion and interaction were carried out both orally and in writing at the online platforms.



Collaborative Project “GeoVillage”. Photo IWCS

The 2022 World Wood Day Online Symposium has received strong support for the organization and promotion of the sessions from the IUFRO Headquarters, IUFRO Division 5 Forest Products and IUFRO Unit 9.03.02 Forest Culture, the International Research Group on Wood Protection (IRGWP), the Japan Wood Research Society (JWRS) and the International Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST).

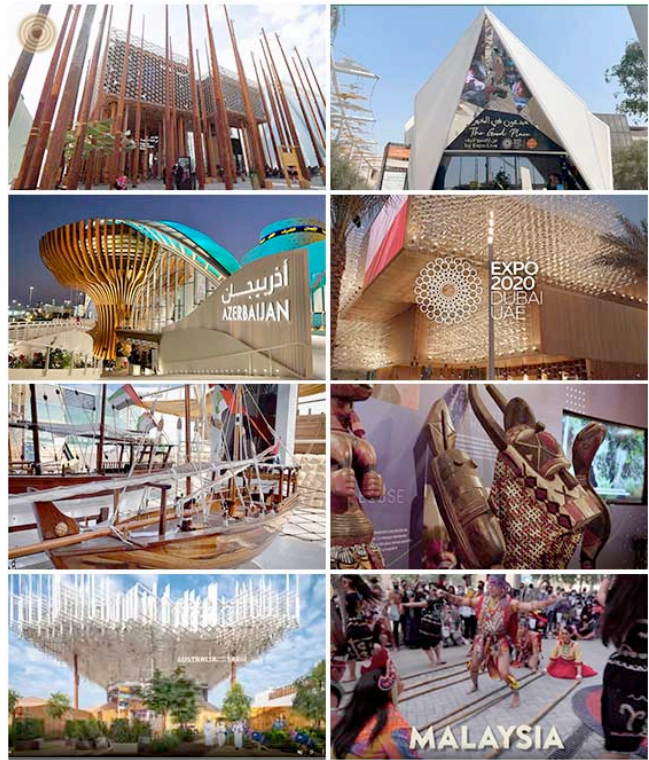


Children’s Activity: Students of Yunhe Experimental Primary School enjoyed one-day visit to the exhibition of wooden totems, which were made during the 2019 World Wood Day event in Austria, at the Children’s Discovery Museum of Zhejiang Province. Photo IWCS

World Wood Day (21 March, the International Day of Forests) is a cultural event aimed to raise awareness on the importance and value of wood and its responsible uses. The 10th World Wood Day celebration will continue with various programs scheduled for the weekend of the 21st of every month throughout the year. More details are available on the official website of World Wood Day 2022 (<http://www.worldwoodday.org/2022>).



Wood Culture Forums in Dubai World Expo 2020. Photo IWCS



Wood Culture Tour in Dubai World Expo 2020. Photo IWCS