

The 2023 World Wood Day- Wood in Cultural Heritage

Report from the World Wood Day (WWD) 2023 Event, 2023 WWD Online Symposium and the Fifth IUFRO Forest Products Culture Colloquium, 21-22 March

(<https://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-5/50000/51500/>)

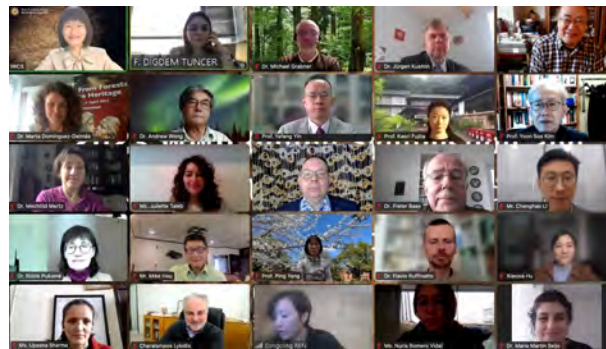
(<https://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-9/90000/90300/90302/>)

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2023 World Wood Day celebration was held virtually for the third time with the following regional activities: Tree planting organized by the Mehrgan Charity Organization in the Mehrgan Forest, Kermanshah Province, Iran; various workshops organized by the Woodcraft Museum at Vienkoči Park in Latvia; announcement of the winners of the 2023-2024 WWDF Research Grant; announcement of the winners of the 2nd WWD International Competitions of Creating Wooden Musical Instruments or Sound Apparatuses and Children's Writing Competition; and a Special Concert organized by the Senzoku Gakuen College of Music in Tokyo, Japan.

Both the International Day of Forests and the World Wood Day (March 21) commenced with the remarks addressed by the Chair of International Wood Culture Society and World Wood Day Foundation, Dr. Howard Rosen at the opening of the 2023 World Wood Day Online Symposium and The Fifth IUFRO Forest Products Culture Colloquium (www.worldwoodday.org/2023/symposium).

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

With a theme of "Wood in Cultural Heritage", this year's symposium focused on the understanding and the importance of wood and non-wood forest products as cultural heritage from ten different topics:

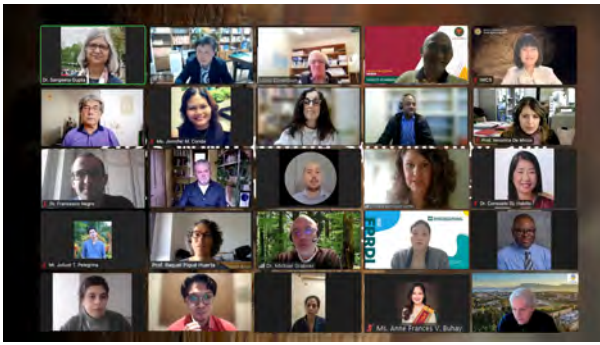


Symposium Group Photo on Zoom Webinar. Photo IWCS.

- 1) Historical Utilization/Trade and Cultural Values of Wood and Non-Wood Forest Products
- 2) Construction and Buildings, Including Wood Durability and Protection Needs
- 3) Moveable Building Components, Furniture, Musical Instruments, Artefacts including Design
- 4) Education in Understanding Forest Products Culture
- 5) Challenges and Opportunities for Historical, Contemporary and Future Wood and Non-Wood Forest Products Culture
- 6) Relationship Between the Humanities, Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences and Wood Cultural Heritage
- 7) Related Forest Management, Craftsmanship, Traditional Wood Processing/Wood Working Experiences
- 8) Forest History and Ancient Forests
- 9) Archaeological Wood as a (Pre)Historical Archive
- 10) Wood Products and Wood Biotechnology (IAWS Special Session)



Tree Planting Event: Thanks to the Mehrgan Charity Organization, 30 participants including 17 artists and 13 volunteers planted 40 seedlings at the Mehrgan Forest, Kermanshah Province, on March 21, also the Nowruz (Iranian New Year) in Iran. Photo by Amirhosein Samimi



Symposium Group Photo on Zoom Webinar. Photo by IWCS

Approximately 536 participants and audiences from 32 countries and regions attended on Zoom, YouTube and Bilibili (Mainland China) from March 21-22. Forty four presentations including 3 keynote speeches, which were moderated by 7 session chairs, have well explored the theme *Wood in Culture Heritage* in ten topics covering a wide range of research fields related to wood and non-wood forest products; including historical and prehistorical utilization, art and humanities, wood durability and protection needs for constructions and furniture, craftsmanship and woodcrafts, SWST student chapters for education on wood culture, wood archaeology, dendrochronology and wood anatomy, wood products and biotechnology. The discussion and interaction were carried out both orally and in written text at the online platforms.

The 2023 World Wood Day Online Symposium 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).

World Wood Day (March 21, 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 2023 (<http://www.worldwoodday.org/2023>).

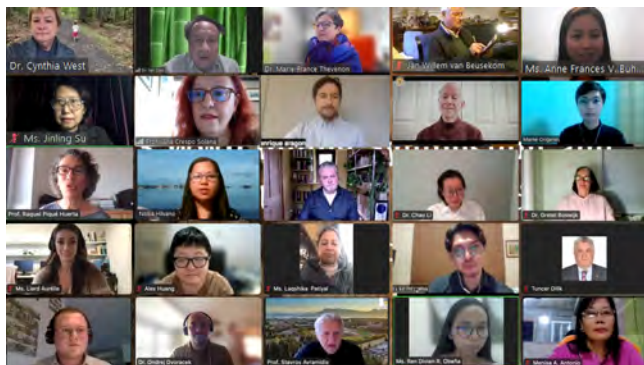
The next World Wood Day event and symposium in 2024 will aim to involve more IUFRO Divisions and to reflect the spirit of IUFRO- interconnecting forests, science and people.



WWD Special Concert: Organized by Senszoku Gakuen College of Music and held on March 19 at the Concert Hall of Senszoku Gakuen College of Music, Tokyo, Japan. Photo by IWCS



Woodcraft Workshops: Organized by the Woodcraft Museum and held on March 25, at Vienkoči Park in Latvia. Photo by Roberts Vidzidskis and Rihards Vidzickis



Symposium Group Photo on Zoom Webinar. Photo by IWCS