

The 2024 World Wood Day- Diversity of Wood in Culture

Report from the World Wood Day (WWD) 2024 Event, 2024 WWD Online Symposium and the Sixth 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/>)

The 2024 World Wood Day celebration was held virtually for the fourth time with the following regional activities: a woodcarving event and tree planting in Bahrain; a tree planting and Folk Art Workshop in the Nangkang Home Furnishing Town, Jiangxi Province, China; a woodcarving event and tree planting organized by the Mehrgan Charity Organization in the Mehrgan Forest, Kermanshah Province, Iran; a Special Concert organized by the Senzoku Gakuen College of Music in Tokyo, Japan; various workshops and tours organized by the Woodcraft Museum at Vienkoči Park in Latvia; a World Wood Day Session hosted at Faculty of Forestry and Environment, Universiti Putra Malaysia; a woodcarving event in Bungamati, Nepal; and a woodcarving and exhibition event in Doha, Qatar. Regional events continue to be carried out all around the world.

Both the International Day of Forests and the World Wood Day (March 21) started with the remarks addressed by the President of International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Dr. John Parrotta, and the Chair of International Wood Culture Society (IWCS) and World Wood Day Foundation (WWDF), Dr. Howard Rosen, at the opening of the 2024 World Wood Day Online Symposium and The Sixth IUFRO Forest Products Culture Colloquium (<http://www.worldwoodday.org/2024/home>).

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) included Division 5 Forest Products, Research Unit 5.15.00 Forest Products Culture and Division 9 Forest Policy and Economics, Research Unit 9.03.02 Forest Culture; and the Estonian State Forest Management Centre (RMK).



Symposium Group Photo on Zoom Webinar. Photo IWCS.

With a theme of “Diversity of Wood in Culture,” this year’s symposium focused on the diversity of wood and non-wood forest products including six topics:

- 1) Historical Utilization and 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, and Artifacts including Design
- 4) Education in Understanding Forest Products Culture and the Challenge of Climate Change
- 5) Protection and Conservation of Historical Wooden Properties Including Related Forest Management, Craftsmanship, Traditional Wood Processing and Wood Working Experiences
- 6) Wood Products and Wood Biotechnology (IAWS Special Session)



Tree Planting Event: Thanks to the Mehrgan Charity Organization, 30 participants planted 30 oak saplings at the Mehrgan Forest, Kermanshah Province, on March 15, also Nature Day in Iran. Photo by Amirhosein Bavandpour



Exhibition at International Sculpture Culture and Art Museum, Nankang Home Furnishing Town, Jianxi Province, China. Photo by IWCS

Approximately 369 participants from 38 countries and regions attended on Zoom, YouTube and Bilibili from March 21-22. Thirty presentations including 5 keynote speeches which were moderated by 4 session chairs, explored the theme of *Diversity of Wood in Culture* covering the six topics mentioned previously in this article over a wide range of research fields related to wood and non-wood forest products. These presentations included historical utilization and trade, cultural values and craftsmanship, protection and conservation of wooden built heritage and indigenous building systems, traditional forest knowledge and sustainable management for climate change mitigation, durability and protection needs for constructions, and wood products and biotechnology for sustainable development. The discussion and interaction were carried out both orally and in written text at the online platforms.

The 2024 World Wood Day Online Symposium received strong support for its organization and promotion from the IUFRO Headquarters, the International Research Group on Wood Protection (IRGWP), the Japanese Wood Research Society (JWRS) and the International Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST).

World Wood Day (March 21), also 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 next World Wood Day celebration will continue with symposia and a variety of programs scheduled from March to October 2024 in Japan. More details will soon be

available on the official website of World Wood Day (www.worldwoodday.org). The aim will be to involve more IUFRO Divisions and members to reflect the spirit of IUFRO, which interconnects forests, science and people.



Woodcraft Workshops and Museum Tours: Organized by the Woodcraft Museum and held on March 23, at Vienkoči Park in Latvia. Photo by Rihards Vidzickis



WWD Special Concert: Organized by Senszoku Gakuen College of Music and held on March 20 at the Concert Hall of Senszoku Gakuen College of Music, Tokyo, Japan. Photo by IWCS



Woodcarving and exhibition event: Organized by League of Arab States and held on March 1-8 at Doha, Qatar. Photo by IWCS