

## REPORTS FROM MEETINGS

### 1.10.00 *Silviculture and Improvement of Beech* 7<sup>th</sup> International Beech Symposium

10-20 May 2004,  
Tehran and the Caspian Region,  
Islamic Republic of Iran

The 7th International Beech Symposium was held eight years after the last one. 100 participants from seven countries presented 32 oral papers in 10 sessions. Additionally, 26 posters were shown in the poster sessions.

The symposium was organized by the Research Institute of Forest & Rangelands, led by Dr. Khosro Sagheb-Talebi, Professor Dr. Mohammad Reza Marvie Mohadjer, and Eng. Shabaz



Yazdani, but also supported by a very well-organized, professional and cheerful team of colleagues.

**The conference proceedings will be available after 15 December 2004.**

Additionally, Dr. Ziba Jamzad provided us with a very informative excursion at the fabulous National Botanical Garden of Iran. The Research Group is not only thankful to Director Dr. Adel Jalili, Research Institute of Forest & Rangelands for his full support of the Symposium, but would also like to express its gratitude for his offer to sponsor future secretariat and web-page support as well as his offer to publish the symposium proceedings. In addition to the sponsorship of the Research Institute of Forest & Rangelands the symposium was sponsored by the Forest and Range Organization of Iran; the University of Tehran's Faculty of Natural Resources and its Department of Forest Management; the Danish Center for Forest, Landscape and Planning, KVL; the Hokkaido Forest Research Institute in Japan; and IUFRO Divisions 1, 2 and 8.

The three-day in-conference Excursion took the participants to the Caspian Forest in the Hyrcanian zone at the northern slopes of the Albourz range (elevation >4,000 m) facing the Caspian Sea. This region with its rich and abundant brown soils and 600-2000 mm annual precipitation supports broad-leaved deciduous forest from sea level to 2800 m altitude. Here the *Fagetum hyrcanum* zone hosts several *Fagetum* communities with *Fagus orientalis*. These communities date back to the tertiary period and the ice ages have not seri-

ously affected them. As such they are commonly viewed as relict ecosystems of extremely high value for the temperate zone heritage. The beauty of these forests is truly breathtaking and for foresters the 600 - > 800 m<sup>3</sup> standing volume per ha, DBH's up to 2 m and heights up to 50 m speak their own language. The symposium delegates had fruitful and challenging discussions including topics as silviculture, protection, biodiversity, socioeconomic aspects as well as past and future human intervention and management. Forest managers and staff from the Keyrood educational-experimental forest in Noshahr, and the Lesakoti forest in Tonekabon, joined the excursion and provided valuable information on forest management as well as they hosted well prepared lunches.

Research Group 1.10.00 feels revitalised after this symposium and will seek to actively co-ordinate and support networking within the group and with other IUFRO RG's and WP's. The RG. 1.10.00 will in particular encourage the interaction between researchers and practical forestry to better link the research-development-practice silviculture chain. The web page, under construction, will provide information on the RG's progress and activities. In the meantime, those interested in becoming involved in the RG should contact the coordinators to join the RG-mailing list.

*Palle Madsen*  
Coordinator, IUFRO 1.10.00

### IUFRO Distinguished Service Award (DSA)

The IUFRO DSA was presented to **Professor Hans-J. Muhs**, currently Coordinator of IUFRO 2.10.00 *Legislation of Forest Reproductive Material*, on February 19, 2004 for his long time contribution to IUFRO and, in particular, for his involvement in the establishment and coordination of the IUFRO Working Party on Genetics and Silviculture of Beech. The award was handed over to him by Ladislav Paule, IUFRO Division 2 Coordinator, in the presence of Csaba Matyas, Deputy Coordinator of Division 2, and Eric Teissier du Cros, IUFRO Vice-President Science (see photograph by G v Wühlisch), during the symposium organized on the occasion of Dr. Muhs's retirement by the Federal Research Center for Forestry and Forest Products, Institute for Genetics and Forest Tree Breeding, Hamburg University, Germany.

