

The Congress Daily



Time out for a taste of the great outdoors

Braving thick fog and rain that varied from drizzle to downpour, delegates kept their chins up yesterday as they rolled out of Seoul on dozens of buses to learn about Korea's forests and forestry from just about all angles.

Over 1,350 delegates on eight tours fanned out across three provinces, to explore a biodiversity area, an experimental forest, a tree breeding facility, a forest education center, an ancient royal forest preserve, a chestnut plantation, a recreational forest, and a once-ravaged, high-altitude area that has been successfully replanted.

"We were shocked to see such different forests from Canada," said Claire McCarthy of Canada, who toured the Sanum Recreational Forest and Mount Maehwa model forest on Tour 5, adding that their tour hosts served them honey and pine-nut juice.

In fact, one theme that cut across tours (besides the rain) was a chance to enjoy some local foods and a traditional Korean rice wine called *makgeolli*: Tour 6 participants enjoyed a few sips of the milky liquor thanks to the kindness of Chuncheon foresters, while on Tour 3 of the Eocheon chestnut research forest, chestnuts – raw, cooked, baked – ruled the day.



"It was a wonderful experience, despite the rain," opined Richard Vlosky, a forest products marketing professor at Louisiana State University, U.S.A. "I mean, the natural beauty of Korea and the nice walks in the forest."

Tour guides, many of them scientists from the Korea Forest Research Institute, led technical sessions on subjects representing a cross-section of issues touching on IUFRO and Congress themes.

Curiosity was another common theme. Hwang Hae-Jong, who guided Tour 2, which journeyed into rugged Gangwon Province, fielded many questions about the windbreaks positioned high on Daegwallyeong ridge. And on Tour 6 to the



mountainous region surrounding Lake Soyang, delegates were reportedly "very focused on the lecturer." Meanwhile, on Tour 7, the rain did not deter people from trekking through the National Arboretum for over an hour – and this came at the tail end of the day.

Several tours skirted the rain with visits to indoor production sites, including a furniture factory, a sawmill, and a chestnut processor. Tours kept to tight schedules to expose delegates to famous cultural sites like Woljeongsa, a Buddhist temple, and the Gongju National Museum. Those on the wood processing industry Tour 8 enjoyed feeding the seagulls aboard a cruise!

Campos calls for system approach



The urgency of the world's environmental problems demands a radical change in mindset, said Jose Joaquin Campos Arce, Wednesday's keynote speaker.

To successfully tackle immense challenges like climate change, environmental degradation, and forest security, the forestry community must "abandon the old way of thinking" – the reductionist approach of breaking challenges into small units and

understanding only a small part of a problem.

Instead, Campos told reporters after his keynote speech, we must think in terms of whole systems: "We need to integrate different sectors and scales in order to foster sustainable livelihoods, landscapes, and forests. "Dealing with complexity can be overwhelming... and a way to deal with those challenges is to work on complete and real systems, like a landscape."

This approach must account for what he terms the "five capitals" – natural, financial, human, social, and political capital. "We need to think of these capitals as complex systems and we need to manage them in an appropriate way," he said.

Campos's paradigm calls for more productive systems of forestry, agriculture, and agroforestry that would balance higher yields with conservation goals, such as "payment for service systems" that give farmers incentives to adopt conservation measures.

Such incentives can be created, he explained, by assigning a value to positive externalities like keeping waters clean and preserving forestland. They can also emerge by getting rid of disincentives like bureaucracy, which increases transaction costs and the cost of pursuing sustainable activities.

To bring about significant change on a global level, however, significant numbers of people must be enlisted to embrace the new paradigm.

"We need to bring millions of people in, taking care of the planet, and the only way is through collective action. Creating the platforms, creating the governance, so local people in each town, in a watershed, in a province, will take care of their own landscape."

The XXIII IUFRO World Congress marked the first visit to Korea by Campos, the director general of CATIE, a Costa Rica-based research organization. Amid his profound message, he took time to mention that he found Korea's reforestation achievement inspiring, saying it "gives us hope that we humans can make the right decisions and the right changes."



Spotlight on: forest therapy

Korea's rapid urbanization, aging population, and growing leisure time have raised the public's interest in the environment and quality of life. And with stress-induced ailments on the rise, society's demand for forest resources to alleviate these symptoms and improve health is increasing.

To tap into these rich forest resources, Korea introduced the "recreational forest" system in 1988. As of late 2008, 115 such forests had been established. Research on the connections between forests and human health has followed.

So far, research has focused on forests' effects on human health based mainly on empirical and/or psychological indicators. Recently, the focus has shifted to a more objective method using physiological indicators associated with incretion and central/autonomic nervous systems. Studies show that forests increase the alpha brain waves produced when people feel relaxed. A clinical test on mildly depressed patients revealed that forest therapy is more effective at alleviating depressive symptoms than psychiatric treatment. Meanwhile, Korean studies on forests and human health have been evolving into categories of so-called "forest healing" or "forest therapy" and are being developed into evidence-based medicine.

The Korea Forest Service included the establishment of healing forests designed to enhance a forest's physical and mental benefits in its 5th National Forest Plan (2008-2017). And from 2010, the KFS will establish 3,000 hectares a year of "forest therapy complexes" for five years.

To meet the demand for forest therapy, reliable scientific data is crucial. The Korea Forest Research Institute plays a key role here by developing related sciences, technologies, and policies. KFRI is also conducting several projects on forests and human health, including the development of high-quality, high-yield fruit and nut tree species, improvement of new mushroom strains, development of pharmaceuticals from forest resources, and enhancing the recreational and environmental benefits of urban forests.

Keynote presentation

Presenter: Elinor Ostrom **Country:** USA

Title: The potential role of communities in sustainable forest resources

Time & Place: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Hall D2, third floor



Elinor Ostrom is the Arthur F. Bentley Professor of Political Science and a senior research director in the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis at Indiana University, Bloomington. She is a prolific author with more than nine titles under her name. Her notable recent publications include *Understanding Knowledge as a Commons: From Theory to Practice*, and she is currently working on *Collective Action, the Commons, and Multiple Methods in Practice* together with two colleagues.

Ostrom has been granted numerous awards, among them the 2009 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.

The transcript

Yurdi Yasmi's role as a senior program officer with the Center for People and Forests, in Bangkok, places him at the heart of forestry's conflict management/governance arena. At the Seoul Congress, he's been busy coordinating a Side Event on forest conflict in Asia. We managed to corner him for a quick interview.



How did you get interested in forestry?

I grew up in Sumatra. My grandparents had a farming area and my father was a biologist. I got interested in forestry when he took me for a camping trip and introduced a number of plants and butterfly species [to me]."

What is the focus of your work at the Center for People and Forests?

My interest is how to bring the voice of local communities, indigenous people, disadvantaged groups, on the table, because they are important elements of forests and forest management.

How does the center try to tackle this?

It's often difficult to translate this [scientific] language for laypeople in the local community so you need a bridge between science and local action and this is particularly what my group is trying to do. My organization will have to link the research findings into a more meaningful, practical application.

Can you share a success story with us?

My center, together with a local university in Sulawesi, has been working with the Ford Foundation to help local communities establish village forests. And we are proud that the second village forest was established with the support of my center.

You're serving on two IUFRO expert panels. What has that been like?

For me, it's not only contributing to IUFRO initiatives, but also a learning experience, because in these expert panels you have experts from Europe, America, Australia, Asia, and you exchange views, and for me this is very enriching.

What's going on ...

- The second International Council Meeting will be held from 4:30-6:30 p.m. today in the Grand Ballroom. Among others, the council will approve new Board members and the next World Congress host city. Attendance is by invitation.
- Nine IUFRO Division Meetings will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Please see page 41 in the program book for room locations.
- IUFRO Business Sessions will take place from 12-12:30 p.m., after the Plenary Session. These sessions cover administrative and business issues rather than research issues.



In-Congress Tours unveil Korea's forests, cultural riches

After three days of meetings and discussions at the COEX center, many delegates welcomed a break and an opportunity to see Korea's forests and forest sector with their own eyes – even if it was raining cats and dogs! Boarding 96 buses, more than 1,300 delegates and 100 staff fanned out across Korea's northern tier for carefully prepared tours that you might call “edutainment” – a perfect blend of forestry education and fun!

TOUR 1 The Landscape Restoration tour headed due east to the high-altitude ridge of Daegwallyeong (right), whose forests had been devastated by slash-and-burn agriculture and whose exposure, altitude, and strong winds made replanting difficult. As the group sliced through the fog, guides showed the tour windbreaks that enabled young firs to take root and the hardy pines that grow only 30 cm in 30 years. In the afternoon, the crew got to rest tired legs as gondolas whisked them to the summit of 1,458-m Mount Balwangsang (far right).



TOUR 3 Delegates on Tour 3 certainly had their fill of chestnuts! Korea is the world's second-largest chestnut grower, and the group witnessed the entire processing line at the Jeonganbam plant (far left). They also toured a chestnut breeding site at Eocheon. Before the day was up, they had also visited Magoksa (left), a Buddhist temple, and peered at ancient artifacts in the Gongju National Museum.

TOUR 8 The only group that headed west also was the only one to get out on the water. Tour 8 of the Wood Processing Industry first visited Sunchang Corp.'s plywood and fiberboard plant in Incheon before boarding a ship for a leisurely cruise of the harbor (right). Afterward, they squeezed in a visit to Younglim Timber (far right), a maker of furnishings and laminated timber, and enjoyed a ride up to Haneul Park (Sky Park), a former landfill converted to a park.



Delegates on the Odaesan tour faced downpours at times, but found ways to cope with the elements, as seen here at the Soopchewon forest education center.



Tastings of Korean rice wine called *makgeolli* and pine nuts were fit into the itinerary of Tour 6 to the Soyang Lake region of Gangwon Province.

Wear 'em proudly!

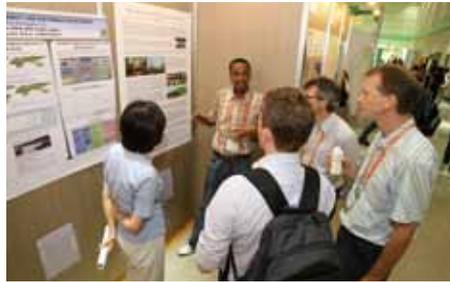
An assortment of IUFRO souvenirs are for sale at their booth in the main hall. The navy-blue Slazenger polo shirt has sold out in some smaller sizes, but plenty of baseball caps (8,000 won), belts, and cotton tote bags (a bargain at 1,000 won!) remain. Beach sandals are another hot item whose incised soles let you leave your imprint in the sand. What's more, all profits are returned to IUFRO, and a free flash memory drive is included with every purchase.



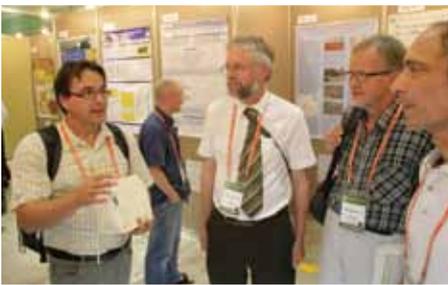
Congress footprints



Hall D2 was packed to the gills Wednesday for the morning's keynote speech by Jose Joaquin Campos Arce. At bottom left, the previous day's keynote speaker, Frances Seymour.



A rapt audience listens to Demissew Sertsew Desta of Ethiopia discuss his poster, "Woody invader in a wood deficit country," on Wednesday, the final day of the Poster Viewing period.



The Poster-Viewing area provided plenty of food for thought on Wednesday. From left, Matthias Dobbertin of Switzerland, E.H. "Ted" Hogg of Canada, and Kari Mielikainen of Finland.



That's not any old stamp on those letters being mailed at the COEX post office by IUFRO staffer Judith Stoeger-Goiser of Austria! The green stamps at left were issued Monday to commemorate the Seoul Congress.



Ben Chikamei of the Kenya Forestry Research Institute, one of six panelists at Wednesday's IUFRO Director's Forum on forest monitoring in times of climate change.



Time for a question in the Q&A portion of Wednesday's President's Discussion. From left, Kim Yoon-Soo of Korea, Hosny El-Lakany of Canada, IUFRO President Don Koo Lee, Peter Mayer of Austria, and Emmanuel Ze Meka of Japan.



The Internet can't compete with a column in the main hall as a channel for sharing information on Congress happenings: upcoming Side Events, new publications, and even attempts to reconnect with old friends and colleagues.



Mmm, mmm... delicious! Delegates, volunteers, mascots, and KFRI Director General Choi Wan-Yong (4th from left) pose holding oversized spatulas before a gigantic bowl of *bibimbap*. The Korean dish was prepared Wednesday in the Trade Exhibition hall.

The inside scoop

Attention poster presenters: All posters should remain displayed until Saturday but be removed by 5 p.m.

And the winner is... Best Poster Award winners are announced today. The winner in each division will find a blue *norigae* – a traditional Korean ornament – attached to their poster. Awardees will also be honored at their respective Division Meeting, held at 6:30 p.m. tonight.

Delegates are reminded not to pack it in right after the Closing Ceremony, because a spectacular Farewell Gala is lined up for Saturday night. A wide selection of foods, drinks, and entertainment will be on offer to close out the Congress in high style. All delegates are invited to wear their traditional national dress, but a smart-casual outfit will also do the trick. Doors swing open at 6:30 p.m. for the two-hour extravaganza in Hall D1.

At tomorrow's Closing Ceremony, IUFRO will issue The Seoul Resolution outlining its six key research areas and leading commitments in line with the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity and the 2011 International Year of Forests.

Did you know?

In the past, Koreans believed that denuded forests had an adverse effect on the Earth's energy. Earth energy was considered critical to the maintenance of social stability and prosperity. During the Joseon period (1392-1910), the government designated some pine tree stands (*Pinus densiflora*) as protected forests known as Bongsan to manage them in a sustainable way. In Bongsan, illegal cutting, slash-and-burn farming, and burials were prohibited by law. For example, a person who illegally cut 10 mature pine trees was sent to the gallows. In such forests, the government planted pine seedlings and cultivated them to support sustainable forests.