



Press Release

IUFRO - International Union of
Forest Research Organizations

Vienna, May 24, 2007

Forest Research in Policy Making

IUFRO discusses opportunities and challenges

IUFRO, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, focuses on the benefits of research for people. Forests and water, climate change and nature conservation are some of the issues that will be discussed at the international symposium on “Challenges and Opportunities of Forest Research in the Policy Making Process” organized jointly by the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF) and IUFRO on 29 May 2007 in Beijing.

The symposium, which will be followed by a two-day IUFRO Enlarged Board Meeting, will be opened by Mdme. Zehui Jiang, President, Chinese Society of Forestry, Mr. Qu Guilin, Director-General, SFA Department of International Cooperation, and Mr. Don K. Lee, IUFRO President.

Information demands of society as a focus of research

Forests and water, forest and climate change, the use of genetically modified trees, nature conservation, as well as traditional forest knowledge are among those issues that affect our society today. These issues are reflected in the work of IUFRO. The symposium will present the current state of knowledge on these topics and how this knowledge can help policy and decision makers to effectively address them. Furthermore, international forest policy priorities will be highlighted by the Assistant Director General of FAO Mr. Jan Heino. Priorities and goals of forest science and technology development in China will be addressed by Mr. Shirong Liu, Vice-President of the Chinese Academy of Forestry.

IUFRO has formulated strategic goals for the future

IUFRO's international forest policy priorities, which will be outlined during the symposium, focus on the three goals of the IUFRO Strategy 2006-2010, namely to strengthen research for the benefit of forests and people, to expand strategic partnerships, and to strengthen communication and links within the scientific community and with students as well as with policy makers and society at large.

IUFRO is active in Asia

IUFRO is not only led by a President coming from the Republic of Korea, but is very active in the Asian region. Several meetings of IUFRO research groups and working parties were convened in China during the last years, and the 2010 IUFRO World Congress will be held in Seoul. Moreover, the Global Information Service (GFIS) had a major training workshop for Asian partners in Beijing recently. The IUFRO Special Programme for Developing Countries (SPDC) will also hold a Training Workshop on “Working Effectively at the Interface of Forest Science and Forest Policy” in Malaysia this June.

About IUFRO

The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) is the only world-wide organization devoted to forest research and related sciences. Its members are research institutions, universities, and individual scientists as well as decision-making authorities and other stakeholders with a focus on forests and trees. In China, IUFRO is represented by eleven member institutions and is particularly proud to have the Chinese Academy of Forestry as one of its largest members. In addition, a total of twenty-one Chinese scientists hold offices in IUFRO.

The IUFRO Board, which will meet for two days after the symposium, is the executive organ of the organization and comprises currently twenty-six high-ranking forest scientists from all over the world, one of whom is from China. It is headed by IUFRO President Don Koo Lee from Korea and the Vice-Presidents for Science and Policy, Niels Elers Koch from Denmark and John Innes from Canada.

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