

The Congress Daily



Posters proving to be a feast for the eyes



More than 1,100 posters add splashes of color - and reams of scientific knowledge - to the main Congress hall after delegates hung them for viewing yesterday. They will remain up all week long.

Fantastic-looking posters - not to mention a free lunch - proved to be crowd-pleaser.

At noon yesterday, you couldn't miss the line of delegates snaking from the poster viewing area in the middle of Hall C1 out the entrance and down the hallways. A half hour later, however, the situation had quieted down somewhat as yellow lunch boxes found their way to hungry participants.

A total of 1,148 posters were registered and grouped into eight themes including "Forests and Climate Change" and "Asia's

Forests for the Future." Poster presenters stayed on their feet, busily explaining their research to interested visitors. Some posters were an eye-ful, drawing 10 or more viewers at a time.

"I think it is one of the best sessions," said Janet Ohmann of the United States. "It has the best layout, good lighting, fun rooms, and [it's] well organized."

Fitri Nurfatriani of Indonesia said: "Through this session I can see results related to my specific interest, update additional information,

methodology, objectives, et cetera. It is very fruitful for the reach of my knowledge in preparing for my next research."

Visitors who gathered in groups for lunch and chitchat later dispersed hither and yonder for the viewing. Some found a spot to sit down and eat first while others just dived headfirst into the maze of flashy posters.

The best posters in each theme will be announced on Friday by the IUFRO Board. Winning delegates will find a traditional Korean ribbon attached to their poster.

'Make the best use of this moment,' urges Frances Seymour



Frances Seymour proposes three strategies for foresters to capitalize on their profession's radically changed agenda.

Forestry stands at a critical juncture in history, says Frances Seymour. Now is a time when a whole body of research on forests and communities is reaching maturity and a new agenda focused on carbon sequestration has been thrust upon the profession.

And Seymour, the director general of the Center for International Forestry Research who was the Congress's keynote speaker Tuesday, wants the profession to make the best use of this moment. To speed up the progress of research, she proposes three key strategies. The first is to communicate what is known to policy makers and practitioners in the climate change arena. "What seems like conventional wisdom to us may be fresh insights to them," she told reporters yesterday.

She also urges fellow scientists to be more deliberate about research design by building in data collection efforts at an early stage with the people designing projects. And finally, she challenged the forestry community, saying: "Be brave and ambitious enough to

think about launching big science on forest communities and climate change across many countries and many sites." By doing so, scientists can develop the metadata sets from which to conclude what works and under what conditions.

Asked whether the REDD agenda can be effective at preserving forests, she explained that it acts as a "Rorschach test" in that some see disaster and others see huge potential. "REDD will do the research and find out."

"We're proud we were able to get Frances Seymour to come here to Seoul Korea," said Niels Elers Koch, IUFRO vice-president, noting that climate change will be one of the organization's cross-cutting themes for the 2010-2014 strategic period.



Keynote presentation

Presenter: Jose Joaquin Campos Arce **Country:** Costa Rica
Title: Integrating scales and sectors to foster sustainable livelihoods, landscapes and forests
Time & Place: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Hall D2, third floor



Jose Joaquin Campos Arce is director general of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), a Costa-Rica based international organization which oversees about 100 research and development projects across Latin America. He is also an adjunct professor at Laval University in

Canada and a member of the External Advisory Group (forestry) at the World Bank. His presentation will discuss recent advances and emerging issues in forest genetic resources.

Previously, Campos served in a variety of positions at CATIE including director general and director of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. During his 30 years of professional experience, he has published more than 100 papers. He holds a Ph.D in forest sciences from the University of Oxford, U.K.

President invites all comers

Wednesday's President's Discussion has been opened to all delegates – for the first time in IUFRO World Congress history.

As climate change and renewable energy emerge as hot-button issues, the demand for forestry education is growing. But it's certainly not a priority everywhere, and forestry education faces declining numbers in some locations.

President Don Koo Lee plans to discuss the needs and elements required for effective forestry education by answering questions like "What constitutes modern forest education?", "Is traditional forest education still relevant?", and "Should the forest sector include more specialists from outside the sector?"

The session in Room 401 (fourth floor) will last two hours and include statements by the IUFRO president, presentations by three panelists, and time for comments and responses by additional panelists. Those planning to attend are encouraged to find a seat by 3:30 p.m. Don't miss this opportunity!

Side Events packing a punch



At left, participants in the Forest culture conference and cultural performance and (right) forestry students whoop it up at the IFSA students' charity evening.

A rewarding, but perhaps overlooked, route to having your voice heard by the scientific community and being updated on the latest projects is to attend an evening Side Event.

"They aim to provide a slot for a diverse range of stakeholders and international partners of IUFRO to inform about their activities and interact with the forestry science community gathered at this Congress," said Alexander Buck, IUFRO's deputy executive director.

After opening on Tuesday, Side Events continue this evening, with 21 planned for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All room numbers are listed on page 44 of the program book, and include e-mail contact addresses.

The offerings are myriad. A German forestry certification body will present global strategy, and seek feedback. A sub-Saharan forestry research network will share its policy brief with the curious. The Chinese Academy of Forestry will take on law enforcement issues. And the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) will discuss the value of Ph.D student workshops.

Side Events "also provide an opportunity for some social events," explained Buck. "IUFRO and IFSA have close collaboration. IFSA has been instrumental at organizing at the Congress and many students support our local host at booths or in doing surveys."

What's going on . . .

- Today's Trade Exhibition will begin with a 15-minute *bibimbap* event at noon. What is *bibimbap*, you ask? It's a popular Korean dish consisting of boiled rice with assorted vegetables and herbs mixed in. About 15 IUFRO officers including President Don Koo Lee will mix all the ingredients together in a super-sized *bibimbap* bowl. Of course, it will be followed by an opportunity to taste this healthful dish.
- The official Poster Viewing Session runs from noon to 1:30 p.m. today. The free lunch boxes proved to be highly popular on Tuesday, so there's good news: another round of 2,000 lunch sets will also be offered today.



A spicy Seoul tour

Though Congress activity has heated up, 25 delegates and their guests couldn't refuse the chance to learn a time-honored Korean custom: making kimchi.

A pickled cabbage dish eaten at nearly every Korean meal, kimchi is normally prepared by families once a year just before winter. Tour participants first traveled to a traditional-style home near

Changdeokgung Palace in northern Seoul. They began by donning a Korean outfit called *hanbok* and being photographed in the vibrantly colored dress.

Then came the long-awaited kimchi-making moment. Seated on the floor in usual Korean fashion, the group, guided by an expert, set about stuffing a concoction of red-pepper paste, mashed garlic, and spices into the opened cabbage leaves. Because of the spicy whiff of garlic and hot peppers, some started to cry.

After an hour of tears and squeals of delight, participants had finished making their very own kimchi. They had enjoyed a uniquely Korean experience that they could eat!



Some delegates and their guests on a special cultural experience tour learned how to prepare kimchi, Korea's fiery, pickled-cabbage side dish.

The inside scoop

Attention oral presenters! Presentation materials are due at the Speaker's Room (301) four hours before a presentation.

Please note the following important room changes:

- All Plenary and Sub-Plenary Sessions have been relocated to **Hall D2**.
- The Closing Ceremony will be held in **Hall D2**.
- The Farewell Gala Event has been moved to **Hall D1**.

Several years in the making, the IUFRO-WFSE book, *Future of Forests - Responding to Global Changes* was launched yesterday here at the Seoul Congress. The project reflects the combined efforts of over 100 scientists on six continents to "identify and analyze significant drivers of change" affecting forests globally, and recommend steps forward. WFSE refers to the Special Project on World Forests, Society and Environment, one of IUFRO's two policy initiatives. Free book copies are available at the IUFRO booth.

The Poster Viewing Session officially ends at lunchtime today, but will stay open for the duration of the Congress. The best poster in each IUFRO division will be announced on Friday. To be eligible, presenters must be under age 35 and a IUFRO member.

Delegates with a visual appetite will enjoy perusing a large online gallery of Congress photos at <http://www.iufro2010.com> (click on the "Photo Gallery" icon). Photos are organized by event.

Top doctoral researchers named in 8 IUFRO divisions

The forestry community raised a glass to the next generation of leading forestry scholars yesterday by honoring eight exemplary doctoral researchers with the IUFRO Outstanding Doctoral Research Award, and three top master's-level students with its Student Award for Excellence in Forest Sciences.

But before each winner could take home their engraved clear-glass trophy, one more task remained: to deliver a summary of their academic work for the audience in the COEX Auditorium.

They also took questions posed by moderators Su See Lee of Malaysia and Michael Rivoire of France on subjects ranging from exciting research experiences and research motivations to benefits gained through their work and their views on the future of forestry.

The opportunity to network with scientists and to travel were cited as benefits, while one downside mentioned was the possibility of being "left out" of a research project in one's field.

Mariëka Gryzenhout, a South African winner who studies the phylogeny of fungi associated with certain forestry trees, said she was "gratified and honored" by the prize but it wasn't hers alone.

"To have a best Ph.D in a division in the world is a great honor. But it would not have been possible without my supervisor."



A moment in the spotlight for Chinese-Canadian awardee Fiona Yang.



Congress footprints



The opening day of Poster Viewing was accompanied by a free lunch box, which proved very popular.



An attentive crowd at a Technical Session on climate change's effect on drought-induced forest die-off.



A sea of faces from about 100 countries filled the Congress Welcome Reception hall on Monday.



Korean traditional attire added splashes of local color to Monday's Welcome Reception.

Delegates grab a few moments to catch up during a break in their program.



Discussion moves into the hall after an urban forestry Technical Session ends Tuesday.



Zhang Sha of China does her best to imitate Udori and Usooni, the Congress mascots.



Cultural tip: Tipping

Tipping is neither customary nor expected in Korea. That's right: even if your cabbie played your favorite songs and weaved through traffic with the skill of a race car driver, he won't expect a tip. And if you leave a few bills on the restaurant table, the waiter may run after you to try and return your "forgotten" money. That said, a 10% service charge is often tacked onto bills at tourist hotels and restaurants. And certain service staff, including hotel maids, tour bus drivers, bellhops, and bartenders at Western bars normally appreciate a tip. As a rule of thumb, if you feel the service was a cut above the pack, show your appreciation.

Preparing for tours

Ready, get set, go!

Pre-registered delegates can look forward to enjoying some fresh air and recharging their batteries during Thursday's In-Congress trips, which will explore Korea's forests, forestry, and the local wood products industry.

The eight tours are headed to one of four regions: Seoul and its outskirts (IC-04, 05, 06, 07); central Korea (IC-03); the eastern mountains (IC-01, 02); and the West Sea area (IC-08). Each tour is unique but all provide delegates and their guests with a valuable chance to appreciate local forestry-related sites while also enjoying Korea's culture, nature, and beautiful landscapes (and seascapes, in the case of IC-08's Incheon harbor cruise!)

Set your alarm clock, though, because shuttle buses will transfer delegates from official Congress hotels and COEX to the central departure lot at 7 a.m. Coach buses depart for tours beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Comfortable walking shoes (not sandals), sensible clothes, and sun block are recommended. Bring an umbrella, too, because light rain is forecast. Please also wear your nametag and keep your In-Congress Tour Card on you at all times! Happy trails!

Note: Persons registered for a tour who need last-minute assistance should contact Han Jung-Mi of Grace Travel at 010-3112-4581.

Did you know?

Archaeologists have found through the study of paintings and carvings in Aztec ruins that the Aztecs associated a newborn's life with that of a newly planted tree. This belief is still carried out by the people of many nations. Koreans have a similar custom. They plant a paulownia tree when a girl is born. When she grows up and marries, her father gives a chest of drawers made from the same paulownia planted upon her birth as a wedding gift. When a boy is born the family plants a pine tree, whose wood will be used to make the coffin in which he will someday be laid to rest.