

November
2011

INFORMATION

Students at the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011

Cooperation between the *International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)* and the *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)* of the United Nations made it become true: **a student delegation of 24 students** attended the second **Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW)** in Beijing, China, November 7-11, 2011.

Long and challenging preparations

The event was presumed by a long and challenging preparation period which included a five month internship placement at the FAO Regional Office for the Asia-Pacific (FAORAP) in Bangkok, Thailand. Fundraising efforts, design and planning of activities, understanding and dealing with requirements of FAO and PRC's policies were the most important tasks. Finally, **24 students from 8 countries and 10 universities** were able to join the delegation and make their way to Beijing.

The touch of a diversified conference

With around 1 000 participants from UN- and state agencies, NGOs, private companies, education institutions, general public and the youth and students from all over the Asia-Pacific and beyond, the conference was a melting pot of professions, backgrounds and cultures. The conference program reflected this diversity in a colourful way. Between the three big plenary sessions with capturing themes and the 24th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC); approximately 50 partner events and a multitude of surrounding activities; each participant found remarkable insights throughout the week.

"Make it young strategy"

The FAO, with the help of several student interns, aimed to facilitate youth and student participation at APFW 2011. It was anticipated that the **youth would give valuable inputs through different interests, perceptions and expectations and enhance dynamism and creativity**. Various sessions partly focussed on education or were organized in a way that would make it attractive to the younger generations. Great examples were Wednesday's plenary session on *New Media – New Messages: Forestry Commu-*

nication in Asia and the Pacific; various networking activities such as the IFSA student organized *Student Career Orientation Fair - Youth meets Forestry Professionals* and the Student Green Forum organized by APFnet. Furthermore, accompanying events such as the *Forest Cinema* and the informal atmosphere in the *Canopy Room* naturally attracted youth's attention. Both the pre-conference *Essay Writing* and *Photo Contest* were a further efficient mean to bring students to APFW 2011.

The make it young strategy was a success and should serve as an example for every event of this kind!

A highly educative event

The one-week intense exposure to the international forestry sector and its actors is a **highly educative experience**.

Many students are unaware of the diversity of the forestry sector in their region and beyond and the potential future professions that come with it. Getting to know these often awakens personal motivation to better orientate and excel in work and studies towards a clearer goal. Furthermore, the conveyed forestry related knowledge in studies or at the event as such is put into a broader framework at the conference and becomes more understandable and liveable.

Through meetings and discussion with other participants a conference like APFW 2011 is an efficient playground for students to improve various important abilities such as effective communication: Languages, at first English, but also appearance, expression and self-confidence are intensively trained. In special occasions some students may even have the chance to speak during a session - these opportunities are often given to IFSA student due to the recognition the association has among its partners.

Last but not least, during such an event students are given the opportunity to compare and critically look over aspects of their education to define its values and limitations. Properly assessed, this has the potential to make a valuable contribution to the development of worldwide forestry education.



Delegation - facts and numbs'

# students	24
# countries	8
# universities	10

Total costs ~	USD 25 000
Individual fundraising	USD 17 500
General fundraising	USD 7 500



Altogether, sending students to conferences is an effective way to enrich forestry education and results to better educated future forestry professionals!

More than a conference

To balance the five days of official sessions at the conference centre, the delegation gathered in the evening to jointly explore the magic capital of PRC, its cultural sights and architectural wonders, culinary treasures and the nightlife of young Beijing. A joint post-conference trip to the Great Wall, accompanied by Chinese students, was one of the highlights of the week.

Unforgettable experiences in and outside of the conference will remain as the base for long-lasting friendships!

IFSA at APFW 2011

Although IFSA was not officially allowed at the conference due to PRC's political restrictions, the conference can be seen as a great success for the participating students and in general for the aims of the association! Many partners of IFSA were present and ideas for cooperation and joint projects were discussed. A pleasant fact was that many participants already had heard about IFSA and actively inquired about cooperation or joining the network.

IFSA in the Asia-Pacific: Outlook

IFSA is well established in some parts of the Asia-Pacific and is constantly and effectively expanding its network. **Events like APFW 2011 are a very efficient mean to achieve this and IFSA looks forward to be widely involved at the next APFW!**

By Florent Kaiser, Freiburg, Germany

STUDENT RANKING

At the conference

Most prominent plenaries:

1. Plenary Session on Communication
2. Journey to 2020

Most prominent partner events:

1. FSC
2. Kids to Forest
3. Bio-Energy

Most prominent surrounding events:

1. Student Career Orientation Session
2. Private Sector Networking Session
3. Forest Cinema

Best memories at CNCC:

1. Lunches and refreshments at sessions
2. Canopy Room
3. Meeting many students and professionals

Outside the conference

Most challenging tasks in preparations:

1. Fundraising
2. Convince universities to free students from classes
3. PRC's political restrictions

Most challenging occurrences in Beijing:

1. Language barrier
2. Traffic and transportation

Best memories of PRC and Beijing:

1. Joint trip to the Great Wall
2. Visit the Forbidden City
3. Beijing Food

DELEGATION MEMBERS

Indonesia

UNLAM

Yusuf Bahtimi
Muhammad Irpan
Muhammad A. Wahyu
Thomas Akuarin Tanjung
Vinsensia Andra Sylvianti

UGM

Adi Gangga
Lina Farida Jihadah
Metia Lembasi
Binsar Liem Sihotang

IPB

Susi Susanti

Philippines

UPLB

Janelle Fernandez
Julius Ceasar,
Iaine Alcantara
Paula Sarigumba
Dennis D. Rosales
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Australia

ANU

Thomas O'Reilly
Ellen Cheney
Viet Van Train

Japan

Kyoto University
Takayuki Yamashita

Republic of Korea

SNU

Hyeonju Ryu

Netherlands

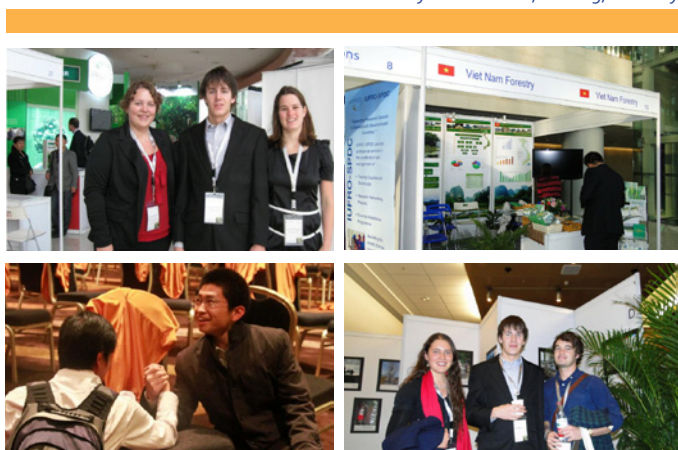
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