



# IFSA7 Newsletter

## November 2009

Hello great IFSA world,

I hope you are all bright and sparky this time of year. It is nearing holidays, Interim and exams for lots of people; so, indeed a very busy time of year. IFSA7 have been quite busy, easing into their roles and eager to tell you everything.

During the last month your president has fully immersed himself in the IFSA Presidential role, having attended four conferences abroad in one month, being home for only 2 days in October! Flo has written a great summary of these conferences below; reflecting that it has been a lot of work and only a little time of rest but it was definitely worth it. We improved and reinforced our partnerships and created opportunities for more in the future.

### Forest Based Sector Conference:

The first conference was the Forest Based Sector Conference in Brno, Czech Republic. It was a great opportunity to meet several representatives of European universities, companies and a bigger numbers of forest scientists during nice days . Jennifer Schuchmann (FAO Liaison Officer) and I met for the first time Jan Heino, the General Director of the forestry department of the FAO, and best prepared the following 2 weeks on the World Forestry Congress.

### IUFRO Board Meeting

Two days later I was already sitting in the plane to Buenos Aires, the beautiful capital of Argentina. I attended the IUFRO Board Meeting with Michael Rivoire (IUFRO Liaison Officer). Honestly it was one of the best meetings I ever attended. Sitting among the more or less 30 Board members being able to gather lots of new ideas and valuable knowledge for IFSA and furthermore contribute in a productive way to the discussed topics was a unique experience. It showed, once again, the partnership with IUFRO is one of the most fruitful. Herewith, I take the opportunity to thank Don K. Lee, IUFRO President and Peter Mayer, IUFRO Executive Director as representatives of all the other board members for their great support and significant affirmations towards IFSA. The report of the Board Meeting with the concrete contents and outcomes including the new IFSA-IUFRO joint projects will be available soon.



### World Forestry Congress 2009

The WFC 2009 started on the next day in the same city. Over 7000 participants (scientist, politicians, and NGO representatives) with a record students' attendance of 1200 gathered in the conference area in the center of Buenos Aires. The IFSA delegation with its 25 students spent one week of gathering knowledge, making new contacts and broadening their horizon. My main aims, as usual, were making new contacts and improving and refreshing existing ones and to let become our contribution to the forestry education session a great success. I presented IFSA's "Global Action Plan for Forestry Education" in the session chaired by 3 IFSA students, August Temu and Hosny El Lakany. Professional response has been gathered and will allow IFSA to improve the document. (you can have a look at it following this [link](#).) All in all, the WFC has been, as predicted an unforgettable experience for all IFSA participants. Once more, the report and the pictures will be published as soon as ready.

### Silva Network Conference



This year's Silva Network Conference (<http://www.silva-network.eu/>) was held in the remarkable city of Thessaloniki, Greece, in the beginning of November. In the two conference days there have been lots of discussions about European Forestry Education topics, mainly about the advantages and the occurring challenges after the [Bologna Process](#). How are the challenges addressed in the different parts of Europe? What response do the students give? And a lot more of concrete questions were raised. I have gathered different advises for the creation of the forestry education commission and once more promoted IFSA and concretely asked for more support of the IFSA in every represented university. The last 2 days consisted of fieldtrips to approach Greek forestry matters and live the cultural remaining of the time of Alexander the Great in the Macedonian area.

### FTA-Conference

While this letter is sent around to you I am in St. Petersburg for the FTA-conference. The purpose of the conference is the presentation of the new FORPEC Master Program "Forest Policy and Economics" at Saint-Petersburg State Forest Technical Academy. My task will be to give a presentation on the role and importance of networks using IFSA as an example. With that I also clearly aim to reach students and hopefully welcome some Russian students in IFSA activities.

One advice for fundraising when you are using your contacts at your university: **Whenever you want to get financial support for attending any kind of event, don't forget to promise a report or and presentation about your stay and hence, even more important, never forget to do it once you come back!** Several universities, after the students didn't report on their activities after having got the support, just closed the planned financial mean flow for IFSA students.

Fantastic work Flo! We are very proud of your enthusiasm and consistent representation of IFSA.

The IFSA7 team have had five Skype meetings to date, which have been great.

IFSA7 would like to welcome our newest members: Palermo as an Ordinary Member and Tehran University, Iran as an Associate member. We are really excited to have you on board and look forward to working with you and partying in the future!

## What the IFSA7 team are working on:

- EU grant, particularly the LC activities, so hopefully the LC's are filling these in and are ready to return them.
- Assisting the UNFCCC team, getting ready for Copenhagen in December.
- Preparing for Interim. Hopefully lots of people will be able to come to the Hut in Freiburg in late December.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Progress Report is being compiled, so you will soon know what all officials have been up to, keep a look out.
- Assisting the next IFSS OC with preparations for Seoul.

## Events to keep in mind:

- UNFCCC
- Interim
- ARM
- SERM

Remember to use the forum! It's a great place for IFSA discussions. Anyone can register; you don't have to be an official. Please encourage all of your friends to jump on board the forum, so it is a livelier place.

IFSA7 would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous IFSA7 crew. Your support has been amazing, and without it, half the work we have been able to do would not have been possible. Thanks again, and as always, be ready for our emails!

And any LC's can host meetings within the IFSA community. Please contact your Regional Representative and councillor who are always willing to assist.

Good luck with exams everyone!

With warm regards,

Your IFSA7