

Journal of the
International
**FORESTRY
STUDENTS'**
ASSOCIATION



NEWS



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**

Celebrating Forests for People

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The International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) was established in 1990 and is the global network for students in forest sciences. It unites approximately 3000 students in 76 member associations (called Local Committees) in 51 countries. IFSA is a non governmental, non profit and non religious organisation entirely run by students for students. IFSA provides a platform to exchange knowledge and build understanding in order to create a sustainable future for all forests on the planet, and to provide a voice for youth in international forest policy processes.



EDITORIAL

GREETINGS IFSA WORLD

Welcome to the first IFSA NEWS in 2011! I am Kris Chigbu, your new head of the Publications and Promotion Commission. I am from Germany, and studying Forest Science and Resource Management at the Technische Universitaet Muenchen, Germany. Besides learning about forests and spending lots of time outside in nature, I enjoy writing and designing. After establishing a local IFSA newsletter at my University and helping with the establishment of another at the Federal University of Technology (Akure, Nigeria), I decided to take on this great challenge of creating interesting news for IFSA students around the globe.

IFSA NEWS is an awesome opportunity for all of us to communicate with the world, not only through our experiences at IFSA-meetings, but especially through our scientific works. Therefore I urge all of us to invest our times in carving out interesting parts of our theses to mold articles which can be published in our journal. As usual, the journals would be

printed in hard copy and distributed to all LCs and would also be published on the official IFSA homepage. This is really a great chance for everyone to show their talent in writing scientific papers. Please, do get involved! The deadline for our next issue is 30st of June 2011.

United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. We therefore call upon all LCs to join in this celebration by initiating activities which may add to this awareness campaign. IFSA NEWS will be delighted to publish articles on the biggest event initiated by an LC.

We all know that a forestless world would be devastating for mankind and all other species on this planet. Therefore we must make every effort to guard against the destruction of our forests and forest resources. The forest ecosystem is indeed the most

complex, diverse and productive of all ecosystems and provides a wealth of resources for mankind. Forests cover about 31 per cent of the earth's surface. They help in maintaining a stable climate, assist soil formation, nutrient cycling and provide species' biodiversity – just to name a few functions.

Non-wood raw materials that originate from the rain forest, usually categorized as Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), are increasingly being used in pharmaceutical and medicinal products. They presently form the majority of pharmaceutical products in Asian nations, and they are very effective. Presently, over 25 per cent of products found in drug stores contain at least one tropical forest extract. But not only medicinal products are being extracted from forests. Nearly 85 per cent of the world's population is presently depending on food products from the forest. Ironically these NTFPs continue to be regarded by many foresters as marginal goods incapable of competing with timber for economic

viability, even though majority of the global population relies on it for their food intakes and livelihood options. So you can see that there still lies a lot of educational work ahead of us, because considering NTFPs as valuable goods is a major part of sustainable forest management. As our knowledge of forests and forest plants increases, so will the proportions of useful products to mankind. Therefore it is our duty to protect the forests as much as possible.

Finally I want to thank the former Head of Publications and Promotion Commission for collecting the current list of articles published in this issue of IFSA NEWS. Enjoy reading.

Cheers!

Kris Chigbu
Germany

**IFSA Head of Publications and
Promotion Commission**

publications.promotion@ifsa.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dearest IFSA around the world,

I am very happy to introduce this edition of the IFSA News to you! Thanks goes to the former Head of Commission for the collecting of articles and the new Head of Commission taking over the job in a short notice and finalizing this issue. I wish you all a happy reading!

The IFSA years 2010 and 2011 has featured a lot of exciting success stories. A great example is the first Asian Regional Meeting which took place in Taiwan last year. This meeting has a lot of importance to IFSA and supports the development that IFSA is

experiencing in the Asian region.

Since IFSS 2010 was also organized in the Asian region IFSA students from around the world had the opportunity to go to Asia and experience the nature, culture and history of the Republic of Korea. You can read about this meeting and other successful IFSA events in other regions of the world in the following articles.

The 1st of January 2011 we entered the International Year of Forests. It was decided by the United Nations General Assembly that 2011 would be a year with special focus on the forests. Such a declaration

increases the worldwide effort for public awareness about the importance of forests. Under the theme "Forests for People" the focus lies on the central role of people in sustainable forest management and development of the world's forests. The message is that our forests are essential to our survival and prosperity.

IFSA also works on creating awareness on forest. Various activities take place all over the world in IFSA's gatherings and in the Local Committees. I would like to call on all readers to help create awareness on forest and its value locally, nationally or internationally.

Not just because it is the International Year of Forests, but because I believe it is our duty at all times as foresters.

Best wishes,

Cathrine Steffy Pater

Denmark

IFSA President

president@ifsa.net



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS 2011

The International Forestry Students' Association is joining the rest of the world in celebrating the International Year of Forests (IYF) 2011. The IYF is a global platform to celebrate people's action to sustainably manage the world's forests.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

Some programmes for activities have also been designed to celebrate the IYF on the IFSA level. All the IFSA LCs around the world are expected to join the cause of the celebration and

share their experiences with the rest of the world on how they celebrate "forests for people" during 2011, so that we may showcase your stories and initiatives through the IFSA NEWS.

We have come up with the following steps on how to celebrate IYF on IFSA level all around the world:

1. Sensitize all LCs towards town-wide/campus-wide awareness campaigns.

During regional meetings and IFSS 2011 awareness for IYF should be integrated. Posters and souvenirs (t-shirts, caps, pins) can be made available.

2. Provide elaborate information on IYF within and outside our current network by dedicating some space on the IFSA website. There can also be made a presentation at IFISO. The IYF logo and theme can be.....continue on page 5





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Trade in forest products was estimated at \$ 327 billion in 2004.

included in official documents and e-mail signatures. All IFSA LC Newsletters can promote IYF. Picture contest, poem/prose contest and video clip contest can be initiated.

3. Demonstrate the theme of IYF during activities like tree planting, mentoring High-School students or field trips.

The use of IYF logo

IFSA has been granted waiver of liability for the use of IYF logo. The International Year of Forests 2011 logo is designed to convey the theme of “Forests for People” celebrating the central role of people in the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of our world’s forests. The iconographic elements in the design depict some of the multiple values of forests and the need for a 360-degree perspective. Forests provide shelter to people and habitats to biodiversity; they are a source of food, medicine and clean water; and play a vital role in maintaining a stable global climate and environment. All of these elements taken together reinforce the message that forests are essential to the survival and well being of people everywhere, which means to all 7 billion of us.

International Forest Film Festival

To celebrate Forests 2011, the United Nations Forum

on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) is working in collaboration with the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival to organise the International Forest Film Festival (IFFF). IFFF winning films will be presented to delegates of all 192 countries at the launch of the International Year of Forests 2011 at United Nations Headquarters, New York. The launch of the International Year of Forests will take place as part of the official programme of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). Subsequently, the winning films will also be screened around the world. The International Forest Film Festival aims to raise awareness on the importance of forests, their relationship with people and the planet we share, and consequently, to inspire a sense of personal responsibility/stewardship for a greener, more equitable, sustainable future.

The Festival welcomes films in all United Nations official languages Arabic, Chinese,

English, French, Russian and Spanish). English subtitles will be required for non-English films. To learn more about The IFFF including submission procedures and guidelines, please visit www.forestfilmfestival.org

So now it is time for you to start your own celebration of the International Year of Forest 2011. Gather your LC members together and start the celebration. We are eager to hear your story!

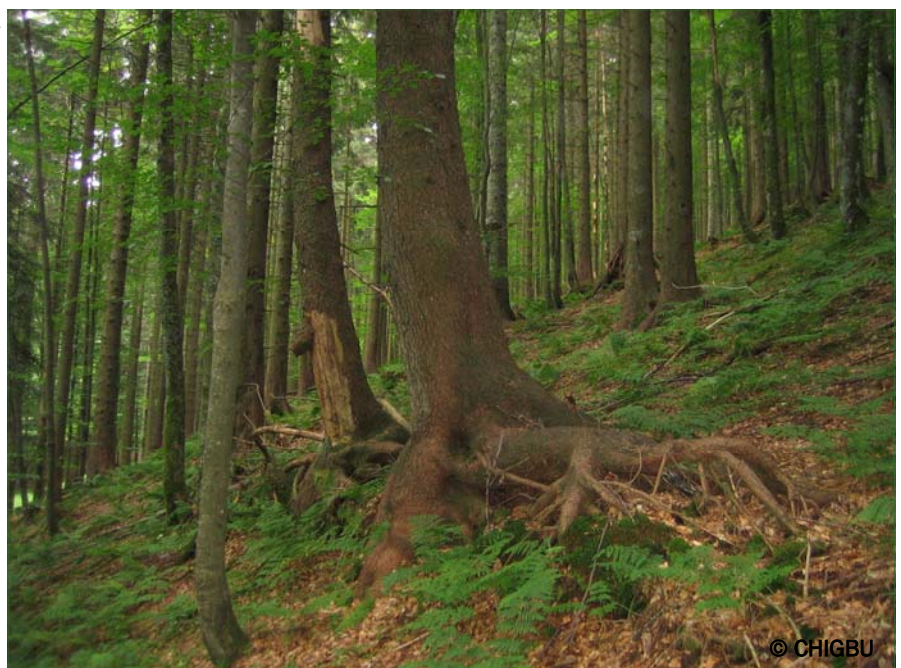
Tolulope Daramola

Nigeria

Head of UNFF Sub-Commission

t.daramola@yahoo.com

“Forests provide shelter to people and habitats to biodiversity; they are a source of food, medicine and clean water...”



© CHIGBU

Forests cover 31 % of total land area.

FIRST IFSA ASIAN REGIONAL MEETING

The first IFSA Asian Regional Meeting (IFSA ARM) was a trip to forests along altitudes from 0 meters to 3,200 meters above sea level (masl) for Asian forestry students in Taiwan, 2010 February 27th to March 4th.

We visited a broad-leaf forest (Yang-Ming-Shan National Park), a cypress forest (Mt. Ci-Lan), a high altitude vegetation (Mt. Hehuan, 3200 masl) and a Japanese Cedar plantation (Si-Tou NTU Experimental Forest) to give a brief understanding of Taiwanese forests.

The IFSA ARM Organizing Committee (OC) was the National Taiwan University Forestry Students' Association (NTUFSA). It is a young IFSA LC, which was founded at National Taiwan University in January 2008. The IFSA ARM OC members were seven students from NTUFSA together with one NTUFSA Alumni and one professional cameraman.

The program of IFSA ARM can be categorized in two major parts:

1. daily programs of sight-seeing for different forests along altitudes and
2. evening programs with workshops about Asian Youth and IFSA.

There were two differences between the first IFSA ARM and other IFSA regional meetings. The first difference were the workshops provided chances for

Asian youth to notice what we could contribute to the Asian region in the future. The second and also biggest difference was the verbal sharing of experience of all participants and ARM OCs at the last day before closing ceremony. That was an idea we learnt from the International Conference of Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES).

That was really a great opportunity for all organizing committee members to get valuable feedbacks from participants. On the other

hand it was also good for participants to refresh and strengthen the friendship between each other once again before we said goodbye to each other.

These two major differences together with enormous help from many sponsors and friends, made the first IFSA Asian Regional Meeting so successful and special.

Wu Ping-Lian

Taiwan

IFSA Vice President

vice_president@ifsa.net

“That was really a great opportunity for all organizing committee members to get valuable feedbacks...”



Group picture of IFSA ARM participants in Taiwan

SOUTH EUROPEAN REGIONAL MEETING 2010

2009 in Turkey we had been chosen to organize SERM 2010 in Slovenia. We immediately started with serious preparations for the event. We wanted as many participants as possible to attend the meeting and see our beautiful country.

At the end a total of 45 participants from 12 countries were present at the event.

We started the 8 day meeting in the capitol of Slovenia, Ljubljana which is a really small city with a population of only 300.000 people.

On the second day we started the meeting officially with some lectures at the faculty. We invited some professors who prepared interesting topics on forest fires and how to restrict them with construction of forest roads, the bark beetles in Slovenia, and many other interesting subjects.

At noon we started our trip to north-west of Slovenia to the *Gorenjska* region, where we were accommodated next to a glacial lake for the next two nights.

We were travelling around to learn about how the people of this region lived hundreds of years ago and also visited our biggest national park *Triglavski National Park*. Since it is allowed to harvest in this park we were guided around by local foresters and they showed us the negative effects of harvesters on forest grounds and also a stand with standing volume of 1300 m³/ha.

After two days staying in the snowy mountains we drove to a completely different region where summer had already started. There we enjoyed a typical regional dinner with home made food and wine.

Next morning we visited

Škocjan Caves, which are part of the UNESCO world heritage. All participants enjoyed the walk on a forest educational path around the caves and learnt a lot about *Pinus sylvestris* and *Pinus nigra* which adapted well to the extreme weather conditions of this region.

Next day one of our professors joined us and gave us a lecture about hunting in Slovenia. He showed us cages for capturing bears and lynx. In the afternoon we visited some special hunting grounds.

at the hotel and rest before their journey back home.

I would like to say thanks to all participants that made this event a success. Because of that you can soon expect another invitation.

Dan Burgar Kuzelicki

Slovenia

LO IFSA Alumni

alumni.lo@ifsa.net

„We invited some professors who prepared interesting topics on forest fires and how to restrict them with...“



SERM participants during an excursion

On the last day we visited the virgin forest until it was time to drive back to Ljubljana. In the evening the participants had the chance to go the city centre or stay



Group picture of IFSA SERM participants

24TH FORESTRY VERSATILITY PROGRAMME

The Forestry Versatility programme took place in April 2010 and lasted for one week. Students from the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology from Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic hosted representatives from 11 European forestry faculties.

Thirteen teams with four members per team competed in different forestry disciplines like hunting, shooting, operating a chainsaw, forest management and inventory, identification of natural objects and orientation in forests using forestry maps.

Within seven days participants measured their knowledge in contests, gained new experiences, shared ideas and established new friendships.

We had one restless week spending our days in a forest and the nights in our students club, *Club Green*.

During the international evening, which is a trademark for IFSA events, we travelled around the world and enjoyed a glass of local spirit with friends over some traditional cuisine.



Forestry Versality host students from Mendel University in Brno



The team from Poland at the international evening

The 24th Forestry Versatility Programme was a great adventure for both the organizers and competitors. The final positions of the competing teams were: first

place Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania; second place Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences, Finland and third place University of Forestry, Bulgaria. The final

order for individuals were: first Dimitar Nanchev, Bulgaria; second Hubert Prais, Poland and third Heikki Runtti, Finland. The competition took place with the support of the dean of our faculty, associate professor Petr Horacek and with the support of the Training Forest Enterprise Masaryk Forest Krtiny. We would like to extend our gratitude to all of those who made this event possible and we also would like to invite you to the next Forestry Versatility.

Martina Tekelova

Czech Republic

martina.tekelova@gmail.com

„Thirteen teams
with four
members per
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in different
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...“

NERM – GREAT WAY TO LEARN ABOUT SWEDEN

Being part of the NERM meeting that took place in Sweden from 4.10.2010 till 9.10.2010 was a really great experience. Although I have already participated in five IFSA meetings I think that the organizers of this event were especially successful and made it a memorable time for me.

The balance between learning about Swedish culture and forestry was really good. Within only few days we learned a lot about how Sweden manages their forests, use harvesters and forwarders and even fertilize the forests to get even bigger increment of their forests. Participants from South and North Europe and also some from Asia were guided by local foresters and forest owners, which

taught us about management of forests, how they make clear-cuts and then replant the whole area. They showed us the replanted areas where the trees were up to 2 meter high and we could see the damage that was caused by moth, an insect that is responsible for most of the problems in Swedish forests.

On the third day we visited a big forestry company where all the participants were able to see harvesters and forwarders at work and even drive some. So we could get the feeling of working under such extreme conditions where daylight during winter is little.

We also visited and learned about the indigenous people called *Sami*, which spent most of their time living with

their reindeer herds. Each family owns around 2000 reindeers and moves with them from the west to east side of the country each year. They mark animals with special signs on the ears to know whom they belong to. We also learned that in winter there are a lot of car accidents, because reindeers like to be on the road to lick off the salt which was spread there to prevent ice manifestation.

The last day we enjoyed in the sauna and a great dinner afterwards.

Dan Burgar Kuželički

Slovenia

LO IFSA Alumni

alumni.lo@ifsa.net

„We also visited and learned about the indigenous people called Sami, which spent most of their time...“

OUTCOME OF THE NERM WORKSHOP

On the fourth and last day of NERM it was time go deeply into IFSA and the North European region. IFSA Vice President Ping Lian Wu and Regional Representative Aino Virtanen gave the participants of NERM a general presentation about IFSA and highlighted the upcoming IFSA events of North European Region. The presentation was followed by a workshop discussing IFSA activities on local and regional level. The workshop had 30 participants, including forestry students from 12 different nationalities. Five groups discussed the topics for one hour and came up with the following results.

The groups concluded that LCs have several possibilities to activate their members. They can organize excursions, meetings, international evenings, movie nights, hunting, chainsaw competitions and parties. Lack of active

people, knowledge, time and money were mentioned as typical challenges and that especially fundraising is problematic.

Some groups stated that the academic world and the professors of their faculty are not interested in supporting international activities. English language was also mentioned as challenge, because many students feel unconfident with their language skills.

IFSA presentations for freshmen and promotion through web sites, e-mail lists and university newspapers were discussed as good solutions to attract new members.

Even if students feel unsure with their English skills, they should be encouraged to attend the international events of IFSA – it's an easy and fun way to develop communicational skills! Pointing out the benefits of international networking is a

way to gain members and support fundraising.

Many groups discussed that there should be more meetings in their region. These meetings could be small and short, and they could be arranged for example between neighboring countries. Creating a Facebook group for the region was proposed as a tool for connect and share informations (you can now join the group "IFSA Northern Europe" on Facebook). Inactive LCs could be activated through the "International Year of Forests 2011". Creating personal contacts could take place in upcoming IFSA events. The workshop concluded that more information about IFSA is needed among members of LCs. An easy access to information about IFSA and promotion were seen as main areas for improvements. The groups proposed that an information package

a power point presentation with general information about IFSA and the IFSA 7 introduction letter. These materials would be a good source of information and definitely valuable when attracting new members and promoting IFSA.

The participants of the workshop considered that the IFSA presentation given before the workshop was very useful for them and these kinds of presentations should be a compulsory practice during regional meetings of IFSA.

Aino Virtanen

Finland

IFSA RR Northern Europe

northern.europe@ifsa.net

IFSS 2010 IN SOUTH KOREA

The opening ceremony of the 38th International Forestry Students' Symposium was held at the auditorium of Seoul National University on the 9th of August, 2010. Many participants from 21 different countries were in awe while the Korean traditional classical music was performed at the beginning of the ceremony.

The minister of Korea Forest Service Mr. Chung wang Soo gave a welcome speech during the opening ceremony, emphasizing the importance of mutual cooperation and support among different nations and

Korea Forest Research Institute

Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI) is Korea's national agency which is conducting comprehensive research on forests and

Participants took a guided tour through seed orchards, clonal archives of plus trees, and cultivar collections of chestnut, walnut and hibiscus which provided basic information to participants in the field of tree-breeding and biotechnology. Discussion sessions held during the tour enriched the whole experience. In spite of the hot weather, the tour was interesting and informative.

South Forest Research Station, Seoul National University

The South Forest Research Station with its 16,218 ha is the biggest among 3 other research stations at Seoul National University. The forest includes 5,245 ha of the *Mount Jiri* and 10,973 ha of the *Mount Baekun*. Rare plants and wild animal species designate this area to an educational forest and offer practical researches on forest ecosystems and conservation of biodiversity. The guided tour offered by the research station took participants to 4 different sub-parks. The park with a pond for collecting and exhibiting the underwater flora with the oriental bamboo tubes for the water flow and various ...continue on page 11

„The South Forest Research Station with its 16,218 ha is the biggest among 3 other research stations at ...“



IFSS group picture of all participants

to share new knowledge and ideas for promoting excellence on forestry and other related fields. The ceremony continued with a welcome speech from the president of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Mr. Don Koo Lee who has been providing invaluable support to the ISFA. Last but not the least Mr. YOON Young-Kyoon, director general of Forest Resource Management Bureau, FSC gave a presentation on 'Strategies of Korea Forest Service to Address Climate' to the participants followed by a discussion session.

forestry in order to meet the diverse needs of public and private sectors and to develop advanced and environmental-friendly technology for forest management. The division of Genetic Resources of KFRI which is located in *Suwon*, is not only conducting the development of fundamental plant sciences but also the reservation of diverse plant genetic resources. The tour was designed to showcase KFRI's researches on exploration, evaluation and conservation of forest genetic resources to manage the forest genetic resources at national level.



IFSA officials 2010-2011 at IFSS

Continuation from page 10:
underwater species caught the interest of the participants. Another park with the ivy and rock garden reflecting the characteristics of Korean high land were well appreciated by the participants. But most of all, the one which fascinated all participants the most, was the garden of *Mugunghwa* which is the Korean national flower, with the Korean traditional pavilion. Both routes were accompanied by an experienced guide whose explanations were very interesting and easy to follow.

Korea National Arboretum

Korea National Arboretum is located in the *Gwangneung Forest* and comprises of 15 special arboreta and a forest museum. *Gwangneung* is a royal tomb where King Sejo (1417 - 1468) and his queen were buried. Korea has a tradition to protect forests attached to the royal tombs. For that reason, an area of 2,240 ha of the *Gwangneung Forest* has been well preserved for more than 500 years which also enables the forest to act as a reservoir of biological diversity. The guide took all participants on a tour inside the arboretum. At the forest museum participants learned how the government dealt with forests after the

Korean war, the process of reforestation, what kind of plants exist in Korea, how Koreans used trees in their daily lives and much more.

At the wildlife zoo, we could see boars, wolves, Siberian tigers and many more. IFSA students were especially delighted to see Siberian tigers which are called *Baekdu mt. tiger* in Korea and symbolizes the national animal.

It was a great opportunity not only to know the history of Korean forests but also to visit the great arboretum.

Participants of the paper contest were informed before the IFSS through e-mail. Main theme of the paper contest was 'Forest for sustainable society and environment' and there were 5 sub topics (1. Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of forest resource; 2. Asia's Forests for the Future; 3. Forest Products and Production Processes for a Greener Future; 4. Forests, Communities and Cultures; 5. Forests, Environmental Education).

The IFSS Organizing Committee collected abstracts until 31st of July. In total, there were 18 LCs who participated in the paper contest on 16th of August. The judges were Prof. Im Sang Jun from Seoul National Univ., Prof. Park Yung Chul from

Kangwon National Univ., Cathrine Steffy Pater from Denmark (IFSA president), Metia Febrita Putri Lembasi from Indonesia, Mikko Nivala from Finland and Mikaela Berglund from Sweden. The contestants were divided into two groups. Each group had three judges, one professor and two IFSA students.

The 1st winner of the contest were Ashlee Tibbets and Natalie Macias from Oregon State University, USA. They presented 'Comparison study between USA and Australia based on building material selection'.

The awards were handed over during the closing ceremony on 20th of August by the vice president of the Korean Forest Society, Kim Chun.

Compared to previous contests we've noticed a big improvement on the quality of the papers as well as a higher motivation and passion amongst the students.

The winner of best picture was Torben Lenhart from Germany.

OC IFSS 2010
South Korea



IFSA students enjoying South Korean food

„It was a great opportunity not only to know the history of Korean forests but also to visit the great...“

FORESTRY EDUCATION COMMISSION

The forestry education commission was founded at the 38th International Forestry Students' Symposium in South Korea, 2010. Its role will be determined in the SAPFE (Students Plan for Forestry Education). The creation of the SAPFE is one of the first big tasks of the Forestry Education Commission. Further goals are the finding and establishing of a training system for IFSA and to work on a database for

study courses in forestry education. The commission offers the great opportunity of pointing out problems in forestry education as well as providing possible solutions. Beyond that, the Forestry Education Commission can, on its own, play a role in the improvement of forestry education. The FE commission stands for the voice of students in forestry education topics and can also act as the connecting link between organisations,

universities and students. As forestry education is a topic that concerns all of us, everybody is welcome to contribute to the commission as a commissioner or even by sending an e-mail with something you have on your mind regarding forestry education.

Florian Georg
Germany

IFSA Head of the Forestry Education Commission

forestry.education@ifsa.net



Florian Georg

XXIII IUFRO WORLD CONGRESS 2010

The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), is a non-profit, non-governmental international network of forest scientists. IUFRO promotes global cooperation in forest related research and enhances the understanding of the ecological, economical and social aspects of forests and trees.



IFSA booth stand

It disseminates scientific knowledge to stakeholders and decision-makers and contributes to forest policy and on-the-ground forest management. The XXIII IUFRO World Congress took place at the COEX (Convention & Exhibition Center) in Seoul, Republic of South Korea. For the third time in a row the IUFRO World Congress, which is held every four to five years in locations around the world, was convened in Asia.

It unites more than 15,000 scientists in almost 700 member organizations in over 110 countries. The 2006-2010 IUFRO strategy was oriented toward three main goals: (1) to strengthen research for the benefit of forests and people (2) to expand

strategic partnerships and cooperation (3) to strengthen communication and links within the scientific community and with students as well as with policy makers and society at large.

IUFRO is divided into eight Divisions which are Silviculture; Physiology and Genetics; Forest Operations Engineering and Management; Forest Assessment Modelling and Management; Forest Products; Social, Economic, Information and Policy Science; Forest Health; Forest Environment. Each division had reports from the last four years and they also decided on the 2010-2014 IUFRO strategy goals. IFSA had sub-plenary sessions, side events and poster sessions during the congress. One of the events was about 'Improving forestry education: innovative views of students and teaching staff'. Session coordinators were Michaël Rivoire & Siegfried Lewark.

Knowledgeable and competent graduates are crucial for professional success in forestry and related fields as well as for successful research. Therefore quality of learning and teaching is of high importance.

This session was used to consider the results of an enquiry of forestry students and teaching staff carried out by IFSA on the status

and means of improvement of forest sciences education. The key questions were: How are sustainable development and education linked? Is forestry education willing to follow the development of new technologies? Is it desirable, and how can it be achieved? Is the scope of education global or local? What are the geographical and topical limits of forestry education?

All IFSA Students were highly motivated during the congress.

Yasemin ÖZTÜRK

Turkey

IFSA LO of IUFRO

iufro.lo@ifsa.net

„Knowledgeable and competent graduates are crucial for professional success in forestry and related fields as well as for successful research...“



IFSA delegation at IUFRO

IFISO AUTUMN MEETING IN ISTANBUL

IFISO is the Informal Forum of International Student Organisations, which is a network of currently 28 NGO's. Even as an informal entity is IFISO quite influential because it creates the necessary environment for international student organisations to collaborate and strengthen their capacities through knowledge transfer and identification of synergies.

Every year there are two meetings, one in spring and one in autumn. This year's autumn meeting was organised by ESTIEM (European Students of Industrial Engineering and Management) in Istanbul, Turkey from 7th to 12th October 2010.

16 participants from 8 European countries

Federation of Medical Students' Associations).

Many co-operations between student organisations already exist in terms of joint events, joint training courses and exchange of articles. These co-operations must be promoted more intense. One of the ideas was to have a joint event on "International Year of the Forest".

Most organisations are depending on grants, membership fees and fundraising. The main grant we could apply for is the EU "Youth in Action". AEGEE (European Students' Forum) has lots of experience with it and is willing to help us. IFSA should also use the training courses provided by "Youth in Action" to get more knowledge about it.

each other and a draft for an IFISO webpage was presented and discussed. The only example of successful IFISO cooperation on local level is Ljubljana, Slovenia. IFSA LC Ljubljana is a member of that cooperation. More local groups should be encouraged to form such co-operations, therefore all representatives shared their lists of local groups.

Organisations with a well established training system like AEGEE, BEST, IFMSA and ESTIEM opened up their trainings for external participants. IFSA can now send its members for such trainings.

It was decided to send an official letter to EU commission to ease the procedure on visa applications for non

European countries.

We agreed that on the local level it is important to give members positions, projects and responsibilities. On the international level most organisations felt that officials should meet

each other more often to strengthen their relationships. Two successful Leadership Summer Schools (LSS) have already taken place. Up to now the difficulty is that this event is depending on individual motivation. Zero Generation is a foundation that will be soon officially established to create a pool of trainers and training possibilities. Most of the members are the

founders of LSS, therefore they proposed to be responsible for future LSS events.

After evaluating all the gained knowledge from this meeting I suggest that we try to organize a small joint event on "International Year of the Forest 2011" on local level where students from different studies could have a look how they are connected to forests.

The first step would be to get the officials trained and to find motivated students within IFSA who also want to become a trainer.

Within the next weeks I want to discuss with IFSA 7 and officials the improvements

we could work on within IFSA. Main priority is to promote the training courses offered by other student organizations.

At this meeting I had the great chance to connect with other motivated students and to get to know their organisations. It was interesting to see how similar the structures are but at the same time we can learn from each other by looking at our differences.

Unfortunately most organisations operate on European level only. I would have wished to discuss more on a global level.

In general I think the event gave lots of input and new ideas for improvements within IFSA, but I have to say that I missed our IFSA spirit a lot during that meeting.

Jennifer Schuchmann

Germany

IFSA LO IFISO

ifiso.lo@ifsa.net



Group picture of the IFISO participants in Istanbul

represented 12 student organisations. Seven of these organisations are functioning on European level like EPSA (European Pharmacy Students Association) or BEST (Board of European Students of Technology), and five are globally active like IAAS (International Association of Agriculture Students) or IFMSA (International

Two founders of the study portals company also attended the meeting. They want to have a collaboration with IFSA, by sharing space on each others website and also by having a writing contest about study experiences in Europe.

Every organisation presented their system of board election and change over in order to learn from

International
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ASSOCIATION



Tennenbacherstrasse 4
79106 Freiburg im Breisgau
Germany
Phone: + 49 761 203 3801
E-Mail: secretariat@ifsa.net

www.ifsa.net

IFSA e. V.
Bank: POSTBANK Stuttgart
Bank Code: 600 100 70
SWIFT: PBNKDEFF
IBAN: DE2860 0100 7000 0299 4703
Accountnumber: 2 99 47 03

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