

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2010

### XXIII IUFRO World Congress Report

The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) is a non-profit, non-governmental, international network of forest scientists. IUFRO promotes global co-operation in forest-related research, and enhances the global understanding of the ecological, economic and social aspects of forests. It disseminates scientific knowledge to stakeholders and decision-makers, and contributes to international forest policy and on-the-ground forest management.

Today was the first day for registration of the XXIII IUFRO World Congress at the COEX (Convention & Exhibition Center) in Seoul, Republic of Korea. This Congress is held every four to five years in different locations around the world. This year celebrates the third time in IUFRO's history that the World Congress is being hosted in Asia.

The first session of the Congress is aimed at first-timer delegates and provided a helpful insight into how to make the most of the scientific sessions, the time between sessions and during other Congress events. Participants were familiarised with the facilities available at the COEX Congress Centre and given details about the 'best practices' for exchanging information, advice on how to make contacts with fellow researchers and were also given suggestions on what to aim for from the Congress (such as building partnerships for research projects through active involvement in IUFRO activities).

John Innes, IUFRO Vice-President Policy, and Jung –Hwan Park, IUFRO World Congress Organising Committee, both presented a welcoming address. John Parotta informed the delegates about the Scientific Program of the Congress, Seok-Woo Lee presented information about Congress facilities, and Michael Kleine explained the *Delegate's Guide* in more detail. Niels E. Koch, IUFRO Vice-President Science, gave closing remarks.

IFSA students familiarised themselves with the location of the booth stand in the enormous COEX. Students confirmed their involvement with the booth stand for the whole week ahead. At the end of the day, the IFSA delegation met with Niels E. Koch, IUFRO Vice-president Science, where we got to know each other better and he was able to inform us about the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS).

All IFSA Students are really motivated, and I am really excited to see how we will develop during the Congress.

Keep up the IFSA Spirit and get more contacts for IFSA FUTURE!!!! ☺

Yasemin ÖZTÜRK

IFSA IUFRO LO