

# 48th IUFRO BOARD MEETING

Buenos Aires, Argentina; 15-17 October 2009



## IFSA Report

(from Michaël Rivoire *IUFRO LO* & Florent Kaiser *President*)

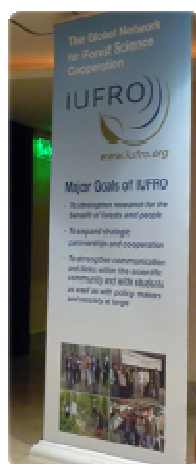
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### Introduction:



Each year, the president of IFSA and the Liaison Officer are invited to the IUFRO Board Meeting. More than attending the official discussions (which are really interesting and formative), this is a very good opportunity to meet IUFRO board members personally and strengthen our relation with IUFRO.

This year, the meeting was held in Buenos Aires one week before the World Forestry Congress 2009. We have had very good talks and this document relates our feelings about the present and the future of the relation between IFSA and IUFRO.

## What goes on:

- The **strong support** from IUFRO to IFSA activities (plane tickets, reduced fees...) and strategy (IUFRO helped creating IFSA's strategy document).
- The wish from IUFRO members to **attract and help students** in science and research activities.
- IUFRO is always interested to see how students communicate (skype, forum...). During the meeting, IUFRO provided a training on efficient communication.

## What is new:

- **IFSA is now a member of IUFRO.** Thanks to this official membership, all IFSA students get privilege in IUFRO meetings, full access to website and publications, eligibility to IUFRO awards...
- Some IFSA members are PhD students but the activities related to the research field are not so well developed by the association. IUFRO could be the umbrella for PhD students meetings organized by IFSA (e.g. small training workshops on a specific theme, attached to a bigger IUFRO meeting). The idea is to **develop activities for students interested in research.** This would be a way for IFSA to get closer to the professionals.

## Preparation for IUFRO World Congress 2010



To attend this special event, IFSA benefits from the strongest support of IUFRO.

1. A lot of officeholders are motivated to help students in **raising money** to attend the congress. For example, head of divisions can help one student from their university to travel to the congress.
2. The **fee** for the meeting itself will be lowered for IFSA students. We hope that a very low fee will be decided soon. At the moment, the student fee is 250\$.
3. **Several IFSA students won IUFRO Awards** (students and doctoral awards). **IFSA will chair the awards ceremony.**
4. IFSA is organizing a **session on forestry education** (innovative points of view about forestry education).
5. Students are involved in a lot of sessions (posters and oral presentations). We should facilitate it. As a reference, during the WFC in Argentina, there was more than 1200 students (17%) !! We have to allow as many students as possible to attend the IUFRO World Congress, to communicate their results, to get contacts, to learn innovative results or even to get interested in research.



## Some notes about communication

- A scientist spend only 2% of his/her time in media communication...
- The way an email is written is decisive for an efficient communication. Students also learn everyday how to write good emails (adapted title, keywords, short introduction...).
- A good trick to get an answer from people by email: always start a document and ask for revision/comments, rather than asking people to start a document from scratch.
- IFSA brought a point of view about the information overload (tons of emails, publications, long newsletters...) that is a problem for scientists. IUFRO LO said that it could be seen differently: instead of rubbish that clutters up our time, this could simply be available information to search in. Instead of an overdose of information, it may be just a non-structured, new kind of information that is possible to handle with appropriate searches. As an example, Google is able to “structure” the web, which is apparently the worst organized information. The overload of information may not be so bad because it just represents more availability of information.

## Some notes about fundraising

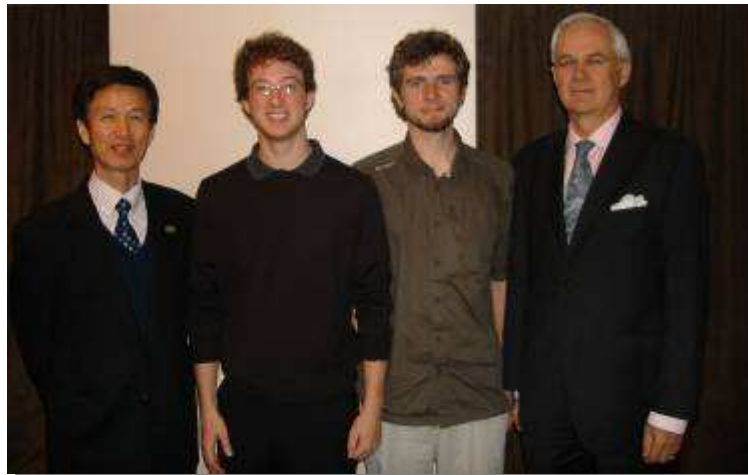
Fundraising is a difficult (but necessary) task. We picked up some very good ideas during this meeting, thanks to IUFRO.

- Try to get grants from the International Foundation for Science (<http://www.ifs.se/>).
- Some other grants could be obtained, especially in relation with science organizations (keywords : partnership, grant, education, science...).
- Perry Brown (USA) would like to help IFSA students to foster a good relation with the Society of American Foresters (SAF). This is an excellent opportunity that IFSA shouldn't miss.
- IUFRO scientists could provide small jobs related to research (e.g. proofreading). We are already in relation with Gerardo Mery for such an opportunity.

## Conclusion

The activities with IUFRO are incredibly growing, thanks to the coming World Congress in 2010. A lot of IFSA students are interested in research and our role is to make the most of the good opportunities.

IUFRO is interested in strengthening their relation with us (Global Action Plan for Forestry Education, involvement of young scientists...). Let's rise these activities !



**From left to right:**

Don K. Lee (*IUFRO President*); Florent Kaiser (*IFSA President*); Michaël Rivoire (*IFSA-IUFRO Liaison Officer*); Jan Heino (*Assistant Director-General, FAO Forestry Department*).

## Contact :

If you need more **information** about the IUFRO Board Meeting

If you would like to **participate** to the IFSA delegation during the **IUFRO World Congress** in Seoul.

If you are interested in PhD gatherings and **further developments**.

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