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Sell Out Crowd Attends Forestland Investment Forum

Despite a slowing global economy and increasing competition from other venues hosting timberland investment conferences, WFI's fourth "Who Will Own the Forest?" summit was better funded, better attended and more profitable than any other. It attracted an unprecedented number of sponsors and attendees. Sponsorships were up 50% from 2007, and registrations were up 25%. "Who Will Own the Forest" has become the largest single fundraising event at WFC.

Registrations were closed three weeks early due to the unexpected popularity of the event and the event was capped at 350 registrants (a new capacity-high for Miller Hall), which included 19 WFC directors. Twenty-eight speakers from various countries presented, including WFC directors Dennis Neilson, Bill Bradley, Vince Erasmus and Rick Smith. One WFI alumnus, Claudio Ortolan, of Klabin, also spoke. The event also received continuing education credit from the Oregon State Bar, Certified Public Accountants, and the Society of Forestry.

The high turnout proves that despite—or because of—growing economic un-



Attendees filled Miller Hall to the brim. Half of those attending were new to the event and this was their first introduction to the World Forestry Center.

certainty and aversion to traditional investments, investors around the world remain very interested in forestland as an asset class. Though some attendees believe that a timberland bubble exists, many others disagreed.

Sponsorship for the event was at an all-time high of 30 corporations and associations, illustrating diverse industry support. We thank our sponsors for their generosity: American AgCredit, Banc of America Securities, The Campbell Group, Forest Capital Partners, Forest Investment Associates, Forestweb, The Forestland Group, Global Forest Partners, GMO Renewable Resources, Green Diamond

Resource Company, Greenwood Resources, Hancock Timber Resource Group, Harry A. Merlo Foundation, Jeffrey M. Siegrist & Company, John Hancock Bond and Corporate Finance Group, MetLife Timberland Finance Group, Molpus Woodlands Group, Northwest Farm Credit Services, Olympic Resource Management, Port Blakely Tree Farms, Realty Marketing/Northwest, Resource Management Service, Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, Starker Forests, Stimson Lumber, Stoel Rives, Sutherland, Timberland Investment Resources, US Bank, and Verrill Dana.

Proceedings are available at :
<http://wfi.worldforestrycenter.org/wwotf4/>.

WFI Welcomes New Fellows Arriving From Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, and Zambia

Recent Events



Fellows examine management units at Hyla Woods with Peter Hayes.



Tina Aldinger, a summer intern from Germany, learns to core a tree at Port Blakely Tree Farms in Molalla.



Tillamook Forest Center staff explain how fires were spotted using traditional equipment in a fire lookout tower.



Fellows examined a full size eagle's nest at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Education Center in Portland.

Fall brought three new Fellows to WFI from a diverse group of countries, two of which are new to the Fellowship Program. WFI is pleased to introduce Lanhui Wang from Beijing, China, Dr. Milan Mataruga from Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Victor Kawanga from Lusaka, Zambia.

Ms. Lanhui Wang is a faculty member in the Department of Statistics, School of Economics and Management, at Beijing Forestry University, where she lectures on statistics and econometrics, forecasting, and decision making in economics. Her research projects have included evaluations for China's Grain for Green Project, socio-economic investigations of Giant Panda habitat in Shaanxi province, and management plans for natural reserves in China.

During her six-month Fellowship Lanhui will conduct research on forecasting for timber consumption and wood products trade in China. "I hope I can widen my vision through discussion with other colleagues," says Lanhui. "I also hope to know what foreigners are concerned about regarding China and China's forest products market." She is sponsored by the Harry Merlo Foundation and the China Scholarship Council.

Milan Mataruga is a Professor in the Faculty of Forestry, University of Banja Luka in the Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He teaches courses on forest seeds, seedling pro-



Victor Kawanga, Lanhui Wang, and Milan Mataruga in Merlo Hall.

duction, and establishing new forests and plantations. His previous research centered around seedling production, including work on seed orchards, physiological and genetic seed research, drought resistant seedlings, and reforestation. His Fellowship is sponsored by the Harry Merlo Foundation and several Bosnian groups, including the Ministry Department of Science and Technology, the Ministry Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Šume Republike Srpske, and Tamaris.

During Milan's one year Fellowship he will gain insight into the Pacific Northwest's scientific knowledge and practical experiences in genetic resources, forest seeds, nurseries and afforestation. "My research and new knowledge gained during my stay in WFI will be implemented in a new textbook for students at Faculty of Forestry in Banja Luka," says Milan.

Victor Kawanga is the National Coordinator for the Commonwealth Forestry Association's
Zambian

Branch. His work includes research, management, education, extension, and planning. Much of his time is spent negotiating between forestry, agriculture and rural development groups.

Victor will conduct an assessment of how policy influences forest distribution, conservation, preservation, utilization and management during his six-month Fellowship. "I hope to learn lessons from the different players in forestry such as the government, private sector, the public, associations and non state actors, especially how they interact and how resulting mismatches, trade offs, and synergies are developed to benefit the well being of forests and those who depend on them," he says. "From this prognosis, I see a lot of interactions with the above mentioned players to benefit my stay. I believe this will enhance my work, career goals and the country, Zambia, at large." Victor is sponsored by the Harry Merlo Foundation and several US friends, including J.J. Martin, a Washington resident whom he met while in forestry school in Cyprus, and Jason Cooper, a local teacher.

Forestry Sites with an Educator's Perspective



In August, Fellows spent three days visiting environmental education and forestry sites with Educator Director Rick Zenn and Education Forester Rob Pierce. The group tours also included US, Brazilian, and German interns and Mount Hood Community College volunteers from Haiti.

On the Oregon coast near Tillamook, the group visited Cape Meares State Park where they visited a historic lighthouse and learned the park's natural history, which includes bird habitat and old growth forest. Discussion about managing state parks found many different opinions. "It was very interesting to see how many different ideas the group brought to the discussion about forest management," said Carolina Cavedon, an intern from Brazil. "Some fellows want to keep the forest in the way it was. Others suggested to plant new seedlings. And a few opted for cutting trees to generate money with the wood."

The group also visited Hyla Woods, an FSC certified tree farm owned by the Hayes family. Peter Hayes, who sits on the Oregon Board of Forestry, toured Fellows around his managed forest and solar kiln, discussing a variety of topics from small woodland owners to markets for niche products.

Other stops included the Tillamook Forest Center, Port Blakely Tree Farms, and Jackson Bottom Wetlands.

Nepalese Deepak Tamang returns to Kathmandu

In August WFI bid farewell to Deepak Tamang from Nepal. During his twelve-month Fellowship Deepak researched comparative environmental legislations in order to identify good policy case studies that balance population, environment and development. He visited with a wide variety of forestry players in the private sector, government, and non-profits, and his Fellowship culminated with a trip to Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks to visit with managers. His son Dipanker, a junior at Oregon State University, accompanied him on the road trip.

Upon returning to his post as Director at Search-Nepal, a non-governmental organization, Deepak has been overwhelmed with projects and travel. He recently traveled to Rasuwa, Nepal, where he oversees



Deepak and Dipanker arrived at Yellowstone National Park after a long drive.

education, poverty reduction and community forestry initiatives. Later this month he will be in Bangladesh for another project evaluation.

Deepak is adjusting back to life in the Himalayas, with travel by motorbike and on foot through the mountains. "En route to Rasuwa the monsoon washed away the dirt roads in many places and in two places we had to wade through rockslides and landslides," said Deepak. "Instead of the motor-

bikes carrying us, at some points on the road we have to carry the motorbike!"

Nepal is still in the midst of political change with the dissolution of the monarchy and election of a new president, but Deepak says "life goes on despite the political troubles...I am very happy to be home with all the trees, fruits, animals, birds and bees surrounding me." WFI wishes him the best as he is certainly missed.

Program Manager Speaks at VicForests Symposium

In September, WFI Program Manager Angie DiSalvo was invited to speak in Melbourne, Australia at a conference on workforce training needs, organized by Nathan Trushell of VicForests. Nathan recently completed a six-month Fellowship this winter. Angie's presentation to Australia's forestry sector—entitled "Embracing Change: Preparing for the Future of Forestry"—highlighted the trends impacting forestry and how this affects the skills needed in today's generation of forestry professionals.

The too-short trip was a great opportunity to meet with WFI's Australian network, including Forest and Wood Products Australia, which co-sponsors Fellows with the Gottstein Trust, new board member Vince Erasmus of ITC, WFI alumnus Blair Freeman, and International Educators alumnus Kathy Overton. Angie had only one weekend to be a tourist, and the Trushell family were wonderful hosts and took her on a variety of adventures including visits to the Twelve Apostles, Mornington Peninsula, Lochard Gorge and the Otway Fly, a canopy walk.



Nathan Trushell and Angie DiSalvo at the VicForests Symposium. Heartfelt thanks go to all the Aussies, especially Nathan and his family, for arranging Angie's trip.

Updates from our Alumni Around the Globe



Matt Pope (Australia 2007-2008) reports that the late winter skiing is great down under.



Nerijus Miskinis (Lithuania 2007) sent in these photos from a recent trip with girlfriend Katia. The couple visited his mother's country home (above) and the Lithuanian coast (below).



Cristopher Lopez Paniagua (Mexico 2007) is now working for an ecotourism outfitter in Cancun, Mexico, combining his favorite interests of touring, talking, and of course, entertaining.

Images from Melbourne and Australian Alums



Left: **Blair Freeman** (Australia 1997-1998) and his daughters Harriet and Mia gave Program Manager Angie DiSalvo the lowdown on how Australian Rules Football works at a game in Melbourne. Right: International Educators Institute alumnus **Kathy Overton** toured Angie around downtown Melbourne.



Left: **Nathan Trushell** (Australia 2007-2008) with wife Helen and daughters Alex and Megan at the Twelve Apostles National Park in Victoria. Apparently only nine of the Apostles are left, as a few of these natural limestone stacks have lost their battle with the Tasman Sea. Middle and right: The Trushells toured Angie around the Otway Fly Tree Top Walk in Victoria, which winds through temperate Mountain Ash rainforest.

WFI Alumni Gather at "Who Will Own the Forest?"



Left: WFI Fellows and alumni gathered for a photo with Board Member Harry Merlo at "Who Will Own the Forest?" From top left: **Lanhui Wang** (China), Harry Merlo, **John Turland** (Australia 2006-2007), **Tony Scherl** (Australia 2004-2005), **Jason Guanyu Wang** (China 1997-1998), **Min Zhao** (China), **Claudio Ortolan** (Brazil 1996-1997). Right: **Sabrina and Claudio Ortolan** at the opening reception. Claudio gave an excellent presentation at the summit on investment issues in the Brazilian forestry sector.