



WORLD
FORESTRY
CENTER

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World Forest Institute

Volume 4 | Issue 3 June 2005

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Fellows from Cameroon and China join WFI

The summer season brings new Fellows to WFI from Cameroon and China.

The first African to participate in the Fellowship program, Patrice Taah Ngalla, began his six-month Fellowship in May. Patrice will explore techniques for integrating GIS and remote sensing data with forest inventories. He has already begun meeting with organizations doing this type of work, including the Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center, where he learned about QuickBird satellite imaging. Patrice is also seeking hands-on experience in data collection and fieldwork to complement his remote sensing project. During his first



Ms. Xiaoli Wang and Mr. Patrice Ngalla are the newest Fellows at WFI.

month in Oregon, Patrice traveled throughout the state with scientists and educators, and visited such places as Crater Lake National Park, HJ Andrews Experimental Forest, and

the Tillamook State Forest. In June, Xiaoli Wang arrived from Beijing. This is her first trip to the US, and her initial weeks have been spent gathering background information on her project. She is investigating forestland tenure policies and their implications for on-the-ground forest management. The Pacific Northwest will serve as a case study for how laws, regulations, and taxes impact various forest ownership groups in the US. As a policy maker with China's State Forestry Administration, Xiaoli will take these lessons home as China develops new forestland tenure policies.

In August, additional Fellows from India and China will join Xiaoli, Patrice, and Australian Tony Scherl.



Patrice Ngalla explained his project goals to foresters from the Tillamook/Clatsop and Portland chapters of the Society of American Foresters during a recent field tour.

International Perspectives on Forestry 2



Registration Opens for International Conference

Staying competitive in the forestry industry has never been more important. Doing so requires an understanding of global trends, and what other companies are doing to meet those demands. In September the World Forest Institute will host a conference examining these major trends and the potential opportunities and threats they pose to the forest industry. The event will focus on the drivers impacting the forest industry and how various organizations are approaching these challenges.

One and a half days of sessions will bring together speakers from the world and the Pacific Northwest. Topics focus on the impacts of globalization on forestry, and how companies and organizations are responding to these impacts. Speakers include several WFI alumni, such as Claudio Ortolan (Brazil), GuanYu Wang (China), Mikkel Nielsen (Denmark), Rainer Hummel (Germany), Tony Scherl (Australia) and Jon Bingen Sande (Norway).

Registration is open and early registration ends August 22. The conference will be held at the World Forestry Center campus in Miller and Cheatham halls.

The full program agenda can be found online at <http://wfi.worldforestry.org/ipf.htm>.

Australian Fire Policy at the Crossroads

Tony Scherl, Australian Fellow, is finalizing his report describing major political, social and scientific influences on fire management in Australia. The report compares and contrasts current policies and practices regarding fire management – with a focus on fuel management and the use of prescribed burning – in the northwestern US and southeastern Australian states.

Tony believes Australian fire management is at the crossroads, and can learn lessons from the American experience. In general terms, forest and fire managers in the US have recognized the detrimental effects of long-term fire exclusion (particularly low-intensity fire) in their fire-adapted ecosystems. Fire exclusion, as part of the 'Smoky Bear' policy over the

last 75 years, has not been effective in preventing recent extensive high-intensity wildfire, and has had serious implications for forest and ecosystem health. The US has recognized this and has begun to address these issues, with varying success.

In contrast, Tony believes many areas of drier fire-adapted forest types in southeastern Australia are heading towards a fire-exclusion policy, largely by 'default' rather than by express policy. First, this is due to an increasing emphasis on fire prevention and suppression activities at the Urban/Bushland Interface at the expense of managing broader native forest areas. Second, there is increasing reliance on Australia's unique system of volunteer firefighters, whose primary



In 2002 Tony participated in the Australian-New Zealand fire fighting contingent that worked on the Biscuit Fire in southern Oregon.

work is emergency fire suppression rather than preventative fuel treatments. Last, fuel treatments such as prescribed burning are increasingly perceived to have a detrimental effect on biodiversity if conducted on a 'frequent' basis.

University Interns Give US Perspective to International Fellows

For the second year, WFI welcomed students from local universities to participate in internships. Becky Larson, Allison Birdsong, and Joanna Murphy joined WFI in June for the summer. The interns participate alongside Fellows in daily activities, such as visits to forestlands, companies, and mills. They will each complete a project, which may involve researching funding opportunities, marketing the Fellowship program, and building a contacts database.

Becky and Allison are both law students at Lewis and Clark Law School and are interested in environmental law. They hope that this internship will expand their understanding of forestry issues around the world.



The WFI group at an SAF field tour: from left Angie DiSalvo (Program Manager), SAF member Fred Fields, Joanna Murphy (intern), Allison Birdsong (intern) Xiaoli Wang (China), Becky Larson (intern), and Patrice Ngalla (Cameroon).

Joanna is a senior in International Business at Linfield College. From a Christmas tree farm family, Joanna wants to explore international policy relating to agriculture and forestry.

The internships developed from WFI's commitment to providing leadership and

mentoring to up and coming professionals, particularly those whose work will impact the forest industry. Internships allow participants to receive real experience with PNW and global forestry issues, and to work directly with international professionals.