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World Forest Institute

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WFI Welcomes Nepalese and Australian

In August, WFI welcomed Deepak Dorje Tamang from Nepal and Nathan Trushell from Australia. Both of these Fellows signal new partnerships in sponsorship for the Fellowship Program.

Deepak is a senior development specialist with nearly 3 decades of experience working in rural development and environment, including extension, capacity building, planning and monitoring, in Nepal and other countries in South, Central and South-East Asia. He currently heads a non profit organization in Nepal called S e a r c h - N e p a l (www.searchnepal.org).

Nepal, with 10 of the 14 highest mountains in the

world, suffered environmental degradation, deforestation, and soil erosion from the 1950s-1970s due to poor policies. However, the government and private sector have since worked together for better laws and Nepal has seen much improvement since, especially in reforestation, environmental protection, conservation and biodiversity. Improvements have also been made to promote a variety of forest ownerships, including community, leasehold and private forests. National parks have been created, bringing in much needed eco- and heritage- tourism and mountaineering.

Deepak will spend 12 months researching com-

parative environmental legislations in the US and other Fellows' countries in forestry, environment, national parks, conservation and biological diversity. Deepak's study aims to identify good policy case studies that balance population, environment and development.

Nathan Trushell and his family arrived the same weekend from Australia. Nathan is employed as a regional manager with VicForests, overseeing business operations throughout West Gippsland, Victoria. VicForests was established in 2004 as a government owned business enterprise with responsibility for the commercial sale, harvest and regeneration of the state

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Left: Deepak Tamang at the base of the Himalayas in Nepal. Right: Alex, Megan, Helen, and Nathan Trushell.

Eastern Oregon Forest Management highlighted at MC Ranch

New Fellows continued from page 1

forest resource within the state of Victoria. Over the last three years the organization has focused on designing and implementing its fundamental business model. This has included the development of a market based sales system for timber from state forest via an electronic online sales system (the first in Australia), implementation of mill door sales and the development of a sustainable forest management system certified to the Australian Forestry Standard. VicForests sells approximately 1.6 million cubic meters of native eucalypt hardwood, mainly to domestic processors in the sawn timber and pulp and paper sectors of the forest industry.

Nathan will spend six months exploring commercial forestry promotion and branding strategies within the supply chain. Despite forest management undergoing massive change over the past two decades within Australia, there is still ongoing debate surrounding production forestry, particularly within native forests. Complexities of the economic, social and environmental aspects of forest management make it difficult for evidence or scientifically based information to be easily relayed to key stakeholders. To ensure the security of the industry into the future effective promotional and branding strategies are essential. Upon return to Australia Nathan will take on a new role with VicForests as Business Development Manager and will continue some of this work.

Nathan's wife Helen and daughters Alex and Megan join him in Portland. Helen, also a forester, is taking a break from work to enjoy the Pacific Northwest while Alex and Megan will attend school in Portland.

For the second year in a row, the WFI Fellows were invited to observe eastern forest management in La Grande, Oregon, hosted by Harry Merlo at his 13,000 acre MC Ranch, and guided by ranch manager Rex Christensen. The four-day event featured two days of equipment demonstrations led by Tom King of Super-Trak, which modifies Caterpillars into mulching machines that can process large areas of slash into mulch and woody biomass for utilization. Also on hand for the demonstrations were Rick Wagner of the Oregon Department of Forestry and several landowners and contractors.

La Grande is located in northeastern Oregon, in an area referred to as the Blue Mountains. The area is rich in forests, with the majority owned by the federal government. The MC Ranch is nestled within dense stands of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and western larch, with smaller volumes of white fir and several hardwood species. Large populations of elk and deer inhabit the land, which is used for hunting. Parts of the ranch are also used for grazing cattle.



Harry Merlo (far right) and manager Rex Christensen (center) treated WFI fellows and staff and WFC President Gary Hartshorn to life on the ranch.

The aim of the MC Ranch is to improve forestland quality for commercial, recreational and wildlife purposes. Poor logging practices in the past left large volumes of slash on the ground, posing a fire risk. Traditionally, slash is piled and burned. However, fire risk and rising labor costs led the MC Ranch to experiment with a high-tech solution. Super-Trak equipment can cover 20 acres/day, grinding down dead trees, stumps, and downed logs into mulch chips, reducing the fire hazard, scarifying the soil and crushing pines and seeds to encourage germination, and leaving a layer of mulch on the ground which helps to retain moisture for seedlings. Currently the MC

Ranch is able to use the equipment to produce "dirty chips" (with bark) which are sold to utility companies. The landowner believes that co-generation will become an important source of alternative income for timber growers.

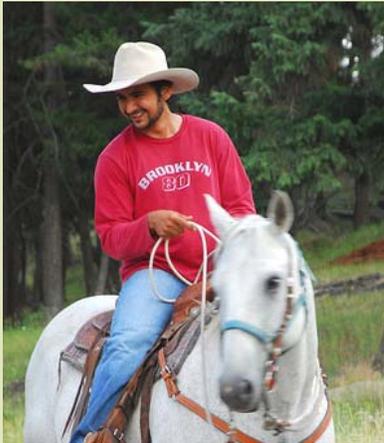
After the demonstrations, Rex Christensen took the Fellows on a tour of areas thinned last year, including a stand that was marked by last year's Fellows in a tree marking exercise. The Fellows even got in a few horse rides, shooting lessons and a chance to try their hand at driving a SuperTrak machine. Each day a traditional wagon train catered dutch oven food. It was an experience not to be forgotten.



Angie and Sara revisited plots where Fellows selected trees for thinning in 2007 (left). The SuperTrak at work (right).



WFI Bids Farewell to Mexican Fellow



Cristopher Lopez Paniagua is departing for Mexico in August after 10 months at WFI. He will continue work on his project giving ecotourism guide training in Mexico for two months at the Cerro Prieto ejido in the Monarch Butterfly Reserve. This ejido has seen many big Monarch projects come and go through their territory but few have seen tangible benefits. Cris' project focused on simple training and tourism materials that can be easily used by members in their daily work of providing guide services. Thus with a small investment in money and skills transfer, the project has directly helped locals. The Earl Chiles Foundation and US Forest Service provided funding for Cris' project.

Cristopher is sad to be leaving, but is looking forward to what life brings next. "These 10 months at WFI have been great. Certainly I have learned so much during my stay and I have enjoyed every single thing living in this country," said Cristopher. "But as we said in Mexico: there is no term that lasts 100 years and no woman who can stand it. There are many things I need to take care of back in my country. I need to finish some and start others but what is true is that I will not forget this incredible family called WFI."

Environmental Educators and Researchers Work Together at 11th Annual International Educators Institute



The 2007 International Educators Institute class. Participants came from around the world, including Palestine, Denmark, Brazil, Lithuania, Texas, Mexico, China, Georgia, Maine, Florida, Wyoming, Louisiana, and Oregon.

For the 11th year, the World Forestry Center hosted the International Educators Institute. This weeklong study tour is set against the dramatic Pacific Northwest landscape and uses local examples to explore sustainability issues.

A diverse group of participants came together from around the world, including award winning environmental educators and natural resource professionals. Each day a different theme led participants to examine topics related to the Montreal Process,

including research, protection, communities, disturbance, and management. Participants also exchanged best practices in forestry education and provided their own unique perspectives on global issues.

The group stayed overnight in the Columbia River Gorge. Long travel days were spent visiting with representatives of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, Weyerhaeuser Learning Center, the Portland urban forest, and US Forest Service lands. For many partici-

pants, this was their first experience in the Pacific Northwest, as well as with participants from far away places such as Palestine and Denmark.

One of the key components of the program is creating an international network. Participants plan to keep in touch to exchange ideas and information. There are many stories of previous participants working together beyond the week-long course. More photos and information can be found at <http://internationaleducatorsinstitute.blogspot.com/>.



IEI highlighted research and technology at the Wind River Canopy Crane (left) and disturbance at Mt. St. Helens (right).

**Updates from our Alumni
Around the Globe**

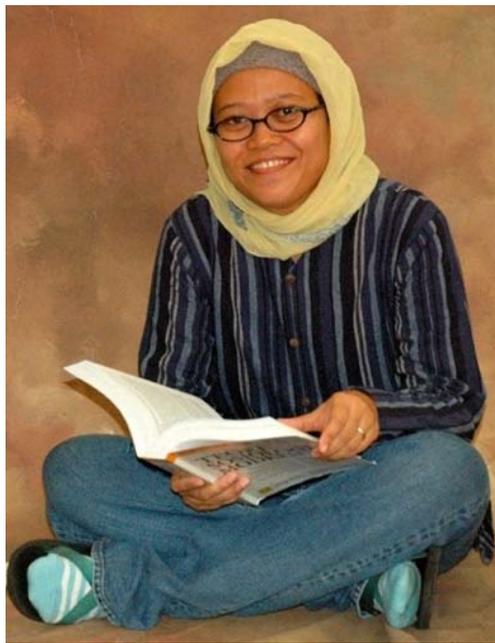


Jaakko Rantanen (Finland) has been working in the sales of wood products, plywood, and lumber for the last 7 years. For the last 2 years he has been working for UPM-Kymmene Corporation and is now the Export Sales Manager and is responsible for marketing sawn goods worldwide. Jaakko is located in western Finland in the city of Pori (200 miles north-west from Helsinki) where UPM-Kymmene has one of their sales offices. Jaakko reports that life is good and he is living together with his fiancée and dachshund.



Rainer Hummel (Germany) is returning to his native Germany for a stint at the University of Freiburg. He is joined by his wife Susan, who will continue her work with the USDA Forest Service PNW Research Station.

Send us your updates and photos for the next issue!



Rita Mustikasari (Indonesia) finished her one year WFI Fellowship in 1995. The past twelve years have seen Rita progress through a variety of natural resource positions. After her Fellowship, Rita joined CIFOR (Center for International Forestry Research) and worked on several projects, including being the IUFRO (International Union of Forestry Research Organizations) Liaison Officer and the Research Assistant for the Non-Timber Forest Products issue. She resigned from CIFOR when she had her second son. She returned to school for a Master's Degree in Rural Sociology from Bogor Agricultural University and graduated in 2005. Now, Rita is the Coordinator for Integrated River Basin Management in TELAPAK, an advocacy NGO in Bogor, Indonesia. She uses her forestry research background to guide research projects and strengthen and organize local non-governmental organizations. More on TELEPAK can be found at www.telepak.org.



Alex Battistella (Brazil) is now the Operations Director for Modo Battistella Reflorestamento SA – Mobasa, which is the forestry arm of the Battistella group. After spending a couple of years traveling around the world selling wood products, he spent the last 12 months working in the forest (logging and selling and buying timber). In his new position as Operations Director Alex works trading logs domestically, helps supply Battistella industries, and is in charge of acquisitions. Alex reports that he has now been happily married for six years and his 2 boys (Lucas, 4 years old and Pedro, 9 months old) are doing well. Alex wrote that the WFI Fellowship “provided me with chances to acquire a broader view of the global wood industry and market. Besides, this unique opportunity to exchange experiences among different cultures of fellows has contributed to an easier relationship with customers from different countries.”

Free Conference Registration for WFI Alumni!

Did you know that as a WFI alumnus you receive free registration at WFI conferences? Our next event is part of the *Who Will Own the Forest: Global Series* titled “Investing Globally in Forestland.” The event will be held at WFC September 10-12, 2007 and this conference will examine the potential benefits and challenges to investing in timberland in the US and abroad. More information is available on the conference website at: <http://wfi.worldforestrycenter.org/invest/>. If you are interested in attending, contact Sara or Angie—we hope to see you there!

