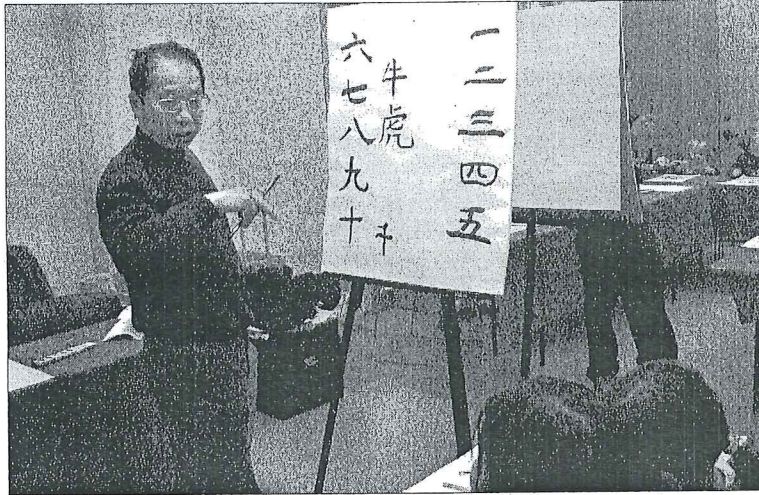


World Forest Institute hosts Asian forestry professionals

On a rainy spring day at Portland's World Forestry Center, students attended the museum's first "Asia Day," which featured cultural activities from the Far East. Shouxin Xie of Beijing and Yu-jen Lin of Taipei took a break from their professional forestry lives to teach Portland children — and some parents — the art of Chinese calligraphy. Earlier in the day, Lanhui Wang, a professor of statistics from Beijing Forestry University, and Gui Shen, a senior manager at the Chinese Society of Forestry, read Chinese zodiac personalities for the students and their parents.

Lin, Xie, Shen, and Wang are participants of the World Forest Institute's international fellowship program run by the World Forestry Center. The fellowship offers forestry professionals from around the world an opportunity to study sustainable forest management in Oregon for six to 12 months.

Fellows also participate in outreach programs. The "Asia Day"



event was part of the center's "Spring Break Around the World" week, which also featured "Europe Day," "South & Central America Day," "Australia Day," and "Africa Day." During their time in Portland, the fellows also give lectures to forestry students and the public about forest management in their home countries.

Since its inception more than a decade ago, the World Forest Institute has attracted researchers from around the world. Recently,

the number of fellows from China has surpassed Australia, making it the most-represented country in the program.

World Forest Institute fellows make sacrifices to participate in the fellowship. Shouxin Xie, whose six-month fellowship means living across the ocean from his wife and 11-year-old son, said he values the international experience he's gaining.

"I hope that this program will facilitate collaboration between the Chinese government and the

ASIA DAY. Shouxin Xie of Beijing teaches Chinese calligraphy at a World Forestry Center "Spring Break Around the World" outreach event. (Photo courtesy of the World Forest Institute)

U.S. forest sector," said Xie, who works for China's State Forestry Administration's Department of Forest Resources Management.

Dr. Lanhui Wang said he appreciates the networking opportunities such as conferences and field visits the fellowship enables. During her yearlong fellowship, she said she increased her knowledge of forestry modeling by learning from her peers in America.

"The fellowship gives us a cultural experience of getting to know the customers," said Wang, who is forecasting U.S. demand for lumber and wood products.

After only three weeks in the U.S., Yu-jen Lin, a scientist with the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute, said he was impressed with the amount of information available in the U.S.

"I think I've come to the right place," Lin said. "Oregon is a per-

fect state to see forest management."

On a recent visit to Oregon State University, Lin met with three experts in his research field of biomass technology. "America has done a lot of research in this field," he said. "I couldn't find this information in Taiwan."

Upon completion of the programs, fellows return home equipped with an expanded network, new ideas, and new forest management techniques. Dr. Min Zhao, a World Forest Institute alumnus, recently returned to China. A professor of urban ecology at Shanghai Normal University, Zhao studied carbon storage during her year in Portland. She is using what she learned to improve air quality through urban forestry in Shanghai.

"Maybe my experience will influence the next generation or maybe my friends in China," said Zhao.

To learn more, visit <www.wfi.worldforestry.org/fell-index.htm>.