

REPORT BACK ON ICFPA/ACFSI INITIATIVES OF RELEVANCE

Background

ICFPA – The International Forestry Association of Forest and Papers Associations consists of 30 members representing 90% of paper production and over half the world's wood production.

ACFSI – A UN Statutory body comprising individual experts who provide feedback and advice to the Food and Agriculture Organisation on its annual programme of work and budget.

Only a limited amount can be done in the time available and we are heavily reliant on the US, Europe and Brazil to provide the core support but nonetheless there is a useful level of recognition and influence. The objective is to give high profile recognition to innovative work in the industry and to portray a modern and dynamic industry.

Both international bodies met in Sydney in July (4/5) to review work programmes and provide advice to the UN FAO Forestry Department on the 2017 work programme. A number of the initiatives are expanded on below.

1. Research Award

One exciting initiative that is being put together by ICFPA is the introduction of an international research award – the Blue Sky Young Achiever. The Sydney discussion added in some further refinement and locked in the timetable. I have been strongly supportive of this because of the profile and image that it creates for the international forest industry.

The idea:

By using the angle of innovation the ICFPA aim to stimulate competition between students and young researchers carrying out projects in a wide range of activities relevant to forest-based science projects using forest based raw material, process improvement or other innovations through the value chain. The Blue Sky Young Researchers Innovation Award will take place every two years and grant up to three awards to the most attractive submissions during the CEO Roundtable hosted by the International Council of Forests and Paper Associations (ICFPA). The first award will be awarded in May 2017 in Berlin.

The award is not only about research and development - it is about innovation and about being inspiring, interesting and green.

The International Reward:

After a transparent and objective selection process, the winning submission will have the opportunity to present their project in front of an audience of global forest product industry CEOs at the occasion of an international CEOs Roundtable. Travel expenses to Berlin and accommodation will be sponsored by the Blue Sky Researches Innovation Award. Only three students will be selected for the international reward. Each country will nominate up to three candidates to compete internationally after going through the national section. Final applicants will be requested to submit a short video describing their project.

Eligibility:

Young researchers, students or other researchers under the age of 30 years carrying out research and innovation projects relevant to forestry, forest products technologies and forest products in an academia, public or private research centre or company research and innovation department.

Theme

Game Changing Technologies for the Forest and Paper Industry – Unfolding the Potentials of Forest, Paper and Wood-Base Products” The theme includes 2 sub areas, but not limited to;

- Future generation forestry
- Forest tree breeding and biotechnology
- Precision forestry
- Measurement and inventory
- Innovation in the wood-based industry
- Analysis and properties of pulp and paper
- Facilities, instrument and process control
- Bio-products and wood chemistry
- Recycling, drinking and environment
- Timber for construction
- Material substitution with wood



Schedule

Period	Action
January - March 2017	Global pre-selection
March – April 2017	Global final Selection
May 2017	Presentations and international reward

Application

Applicants are invited to submit their application containing the following documents:

- Short CV (maximum one page)
- Statement of purpose including:
 - 550 words; double spacing; font Calibri 12
 - Objectives
 - Description of the project
 - Summary of methodology
 - Expected results
 - Why is it relevant for the forest products industries
 - What makes it innovative
 - How does it fit with the selected theme
- Additional Requirements:
 - Young adults, both researchers and students.
Candidate must be under age 30
 - One letter of Support

Applications and deadlines are defined by local/regional association. Please contact your association should you require additional information.

There is a possibility of providing some recognition to short-listed applicants who miss out or some recognition that they made it through the national selection process and FAO recognition/support.

It is now time to have a discussion about how NZ participate in this. While in Sydney I spoke with Ross Hampton and proposed the possibility of developing input and collectively submitting from the Australasian forestry sector. The advantage is that this would carry more weight than an individual nomination.

Potential candidates could come from wider than just the forest sector, certainly for those proposed/nominated from the regions who meet the ICFPA criteria.



2. Paper Recycling

Another initiative is a paper recycling document has been prepared making comparisons of the specifications for recovered fibre. This is a merit in being able to map these specifications to see if products are comparable.

[Statement on paper recycling ICFPA website](#)

The US and Australian governments do not recognise pre-consumer waste recycling and do not look as if they will change.

3. Communications and Promotions

The ICFA has established a global network of forest communicators. There is an increasing number of press releases and an increasing pickup in domestic media.

Communication Update

- Communication Committee

February 2016

International Council of Forest & Paper Associations

American Forest & Paper Association

cepi

FPAC.ca
APFC.ca

i b o d
brazilian tree industry

Japan Paper Association

FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Finnish Forest Industries

PAPER
MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (PAMSA)

- 1 launching call
- Define communication strategy together
- Remote decision making process (e-mail/ phone calls)
- Existing content produced by SC or ICFPA members

The graphic also features a sample of an ICFPA NEWS newsletter with the following text:

We are pleased to send you the first issue of ICFPA News, the new electronic bulletin of the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations, global forum for forest and paper industry members. The newsletter is aimed at all associations of the ICFPA and will bring news from the articles and members along with information and events the industry may be interested in participating in. We hope you enjoy the issue!

Discussion on Biotechnology

The global forest products industry is rightly innovative and continually makes in new technologies and processes to improve yield and tree retention, particularly addressing climate change. The industry has also actively pushed to enter new markets and explore gaining prominence and important forums have been discussing this issue at national and global levels. [Read more](#)

Neutral Platform

The platform was the first opportunity in many years to FAD to discuss the subject due to the increasing demand for information, particularly from government of some member countries. The event was held as an open and neutral platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences between representatives of FAD member countries, intergovernmental organisations, research institutions, universities, academia, civil society and the private sector. [Read more](#)

Quote:

"We have unlocked the door to discuss and analyse how agronomy and biotechnology can live as complementary options. This is an outstanding achievement."

Paul Gervais de Silva, ICFPA Director General

There is interest in the ICFPA website and through this the memberships. The ICFPA is now on social media (LinkedIn, Twitter). FOA is on the communications committee. Trevor Walton did provide some input and Don Carson is now connected to the network.

Planet Ark has been involved in Australian Promotions – Planet Ark is an ENGO that moved from being sceptical of the forest industry to one of its biggest advocates and is now working closely with industry (FWPA).



Forestry is in the top ten of bad communicators according to Planet Ark, despite being the most sustainable industry. I subsequently shared the Pure Advantage report released in NZ with Planet Ark. (paul@planetark.org)

4. Sustainability

The flagship report – the ICFPA Sustainability Report - has just been released. We are looking to expand reporting further into water. IBA (Brazil) will share infographics/data. The next report is due to be published in May 2017. This will be led by the US. It raises the question about whether NZ should have its own sustainability report in addition to Facts and Figures. A questionnaire will be circulated in November which I will share. It is always time consuming to provide input, but we need to be able to have a credible report.

5. Public Procurement Policies

A number of policies and activities are happening globally (Brazil, USA, Japan, France and Canada). For example, a carbon-first inactivate in Québec is being supported by the national railways network. Other countries have also run in to issues with a wood first policy including Canada, but a carbon first approach is much more palatable.

Through the ACSFI I have requested the FAO undertake a study on wood encouragement policies and their objectives with a view to getting this information in front of politicians and industry.

Canada reported that concrete and steel are sufficiently concerned about increased interest in wooden building that they are playing up the insurance costs after other lines of attack didn't work.

6. Health and Safety

There was universal interest in discussing health and safety challenges. The group was interested in getting more detail on IRIS.



David Rhodes
Chief Executive

24 August 2016

