

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF FOREST AND PAPERS ASSOCIATIONS

Tuesday 6 May 2019, Vancouver – David Rhodes, May 2019

Meeting commences with presentation from Blue Sky Award Winners

This is the award started three years ago by ICFPA and gaining increasing recognition.

1. South African Winner.
 - Genova based model for Food engineering
2. US Georgia Institute of Technology.
 - Value addition Technology (like cellulose from trees) to create higher value packaging materials.
 - Convert low oxygen barrier materials and combine to cellulose to spray coat material and significantly reduce oxygen permeability. End product is sustainable, cheaper and renewable. Pulp mill could be the heart of the operation.
3. Finland
 - Potential replacement for EPS, using wood (or other fibre) and air instead of non- renewable packaging materials. Pilot scale plant created last year. Also investigating option in construction including insulation

2019 Sustainability Report

Tackles 7 key areas. Good Progress able to be demonstrated from the statics supplied by the OFCPA member including an increase in certified areas reduction in greenhouse, gas intensity emissions, increase in bio-energy share of fuel mix, reduced sulphur , dioxide emissions, reduced water use and a 35% reduction in global health and safety recordable incidents since 2006/07. Leadership Statement also approved.

Climate Roadmaps

A number of countries have developed Climate change related Roadmaps. Some of these Canada, Australia and Japan record an industry goal and commitment to the goal. Others , South Africa, Brazil and New Zealand record a national goal but do not refer to it as an industry goal.

I challenged those that were making industry commitments that they were in fact, government goals that Industry was not actually taking any concrete action on and had little sway over.

The Counter, which has equal validity is that what government does can be significantly influenced by industry input. The government cannot do it without industry support and industry needs to show leadership with the statements.

Country Issues/ Developments

UK	Likely to require a new election to reduce the current Brexit impasse. UK government just received a paper on climate change to 2050.
Brazil	Deliberate succession plan with the new CEO of IBA to endure beyond the current political climate. Key challenge- communicate well the public contribution of Forestry.
Sweden	Focussed on completing an Industry Roadmap. One key area -Substitution. Suffer from a coalition government over-influenced by a smaller less forestry friendly party.
France	Circular economy. Concern about parties intending to ban all single- use products, not just plastic bags.
US	2020 elections well underway. Trade policy impacting forestry (along with other industries)
South Africa	Implementing voluntary extended responsibility in the paper sector. Mainly to avoid a tax. Millions spent on Measuring, Reporting and Verification system for climate change. Elections this week.
Canada	Also heading for Federal Election. Significant shift in Provincial government from left to right.
Europe	European election in May. Climate, trade will be prominent.

Position Statements

All policy position papers (Illegal bagging, Certification, Paper Recycling, Forest Management and Carbon Neutrality) were endorsed and accepted with minor charges.

Paper on Forest Plantations held for further rewording. D. Rhodes to assist with developing the final language

ISO 287

Recently a vote was taken to determine those in favour of the proposal to Establish technical committee 287 and a submission to ISO for formal approval. Multiple countries in favour (10) some against (3) some abstained (8)

Some appear not to have been involved (NZ, US, Australia and South Africa)
Brazil supported on the basis that it could be an avenue for small holders and less expensive and complicated, for example, than FSC. This is a significant change from their previous position.

Certification

ICFPA agreed the candidates for Economic North and South that the organisation will vote for in FSC elections. FSC controlled Wood Strategy was approved in March 2019. PEFC – November 2018. FM approval of Benchmark standard.

Biotechnology

Discussion on January 2019 ICFPA Biotechnology paper advised the group that FOA NZ had developed a position paper on biotechnology that emphasised the differentiation between GMO and GE. Also, that we had released a joint press statement with Federated Farmers. Agreed to share the paper with the group.

Website

Considerable work has gone in to revamping the ICFPA website to make it more appealing and accessible www.icfpa.org

Press Releases

Agreed releases on

- I. the Chair comment on
- II. meeting release of sustainability report,
- III. announcement of the winners of the blue-sky award,
- IV. Insights from invited guest speakers at CEO'S roundtable.

Presentation from President of International Forest Student Association (IFSA)

IFSA Local Student Communities in 52 countries.

Global and Regional meetings in networking

Also partnered with a lot of other forestry groups ITTO, FAO, CIFOR, Commonwealth Forestry Association.

Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, Forestry week 17- 21 June 2019. Incheon, Korea.

And COP24.

Presentation from IUFRO

600 Member Organisations. 15,000 scientists in 125 countries.

Recommendations for the UN FAO Annual Programme of Work

A number of recommendations were put forward for inclusion with the ACSFI proposals to the UN FAO to influence its 2019 work programme. Refer to ACSFI report for further information.