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# International Union of Forestry Research Organisations (IUFRO) XIXth World Congress

Colin O'Loughlin

More than 2300 delegates from about 80 countries attended the XIXth IUFRO World Congress. The Congress venue, the Palais des Congrès provided excellent facilities and ample space for the delegates who attended more than 70 keynote addresses and business and technical sessions during the five days of the Congress.

As the New Zealand representative on the International Council of IUFRO, I attended the International Council meetings. Each IUFRO member country was represented by one official representative. The major outcomes of the International Council meetings were:

- Recognition that Spanish would be added to the official languages recognised by IUFRO (German, French and English are the other official IUFRO languages);
- Election of Dr Salleh Mohd. Nor from Malaysia as the new President of IUFRO. Dr Salleh replaced Dr Robert Buckman, USA;
- Election of two new Vice Presidents of IUFRO – Dr Jeffrey Burley, United Kingdom and Dr James Cayford, Canada;
- Appointment of 24 new Divisional Co-ordinators and Deputy Co-ordinators for the six divisions of IUFRO;
- Appointment of nine new regional representatives for the IUFRO Executive Board. Marcia Lambert, Australia, will represent the Western Pacific region which includes New Zealand.

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## West Coast company (Continued)

form the New Zealand Forestry Corporation into a shell company from December 1.

All the Corporation's remaining activities would be conducted through its two subsidiary companies.

Mr Prebble said the decision would have only a minor effect on the Government's target for revenue from asset sales.

The Government and the company would continue to explore options for the orderly disposal of the Crown's forest interests in the West Coast.

- The XIXth World IUFRO Congress Declaration which included the following recommendations:

### Recommendations

Governments, international development agencies and forestry research organisations are encouraged to **foster international co-operation and co-ordination of research programme needs identified in the Tropical Forestry Action Plan**. Accordingly, IUFRO should strengthen linkages for the Special Programme for Developing Countries (SPDC) with other international organisations, especially the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) and the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO). Though programmes of SPDC should take closely into account the work of these and other organisations, the SPDC's method of operation should be proactive and emphasise its comparative advantages.

IUFRO, recognising the implications of air pollution and of global climate change, should **encourage initiation, expansion and redirection of basic and applied research concerning the role of forests**. Forestry research organisations in both temperate and tropical countries, as well as in the Mediterranean region, should strengthen or initiate programmes studying the effects of air pollution on forest ecosystems and expand research on the relationships of global climate change to trees and forests. IUFRO's special task force on air pollution should expand its scope accordingly. It recommends a vigorous programme of monitoring forest ecosystems for the long term, using standardised proven methods. As a worldwide, non-governmental organisation, IUFRO must play a leading role in helping to implement an international, integrated approach. In addition, studies of socio-economic implications and policy options need to be considered.

IUFRO urges that the **building, strengthening and maintaining of institutions** for forestry research, education of new scientists and the continuing education of present scientists receive urgent

attention. Development of future forest scientists and an increased capacity to conduct research, especially in developing countries, is crucial. IUFRO's special role in nurturing and extending the efforts of forest scientists through activities of its divisions and the SPDC will be encouraged and expanded.

The international forest science community is obligated to **inform others of scientific findings and their implications** for forest practice as well as to inform public opinion in the debate on forestry issues, globally and locally. Existing and new scientific findings must be made available in more effective ways, especially within the developing countries and between scientists of developing countries. IUFRO's divisions, programmes and task forces have a particular role in addressing the need. IUFRO encourages forestry scientists to participate in and support the decision process in forestry issues.

To achieve these essential objectives, **funding for forestry research must be expanded substantially**. Governments, international agencies, donors and others supporting research programmes are encouraged to take a long-term view of the growing global concerns about the sustainability of forests in meeting the environmental, economic and social needs of people. To do so will result in a strengthened commitment and support for forest sciences. Although the need exists at all levels, particularly crucial are forestry research programmes for developing countries.

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## Pharmaceutical giant enters New Zealand forestry market

The research facilities of British pharmaceutical giant Wellcome have been applied through Wellcome New Zealand to the development of timber preservatives. After four years the first of a series of timber treatment products has been produced – Lignen AS, an antisapstain treatment.

The antisapstain process prevents fungal growth which leads very quickly

to staining and incipient rot on newly-sawn radiata pine timber.

The Forest Research Institute, Rotorua, and the DSIR Plant Protection Division, Auckland, were involved at an early stage of development of the formulation, providing information on the nature of the fungal challenge. After looking at several different formulations, Wellcome has Lignen AS.



Lignen AS – a new antisapstain emulsion for lumber, developed in New Zealand by Wellcome Environmental Health.

"The team has developed a timber treatment product which relies on the application of its active chemicals at very low levels, so it can be described as environmentally kindly as well as effective," said Arthur O'Leary, head of Wellcome's quality control laboratory. "Both halves of the product contain an active ingredient, with solvents that in combination create a true emulsion. So it is easy to apply, has good penetration, and does not lose strength through the working day."

The FRI assisted with evaluation in New Zealand of the product, and Wellcome also organised trials in Queensland and South East Asia.

The New Zealand formulation will be offered to the Australasian market, and through Wellcome's international network, world-wide.

## LETTERS

### Misleading information?

Sir,

As the ink dries on the Crown Forestry Licences and management rights pass from public to private hands, I guess we should be glad that established New Zealand forest owners have been to the fore in winning tenders. At least we can be confident that these forests will be managed by socially responsible and thoroughly trustworthy agencies. Or can we?

Since the Hon. Roger Douglas announced the sale in his 1988 Budget, the New Zealand industry has courted the politicians and the public to gain their favour. Some of their public statements, in retrospect, are worthy of re-examination.

In December 1988 the New Zealand Forest Industries Council released the following statement:

"The New Zealand Forest Industries Council has expressed concern over recent misleading publicity regarding the future employment prospects for staff of the Forestry Corporation, describing it as unsoundly based and at odds with undertakings given by the industry to the Government.

"Opposition MP for Tarawera Ian McLean has reportedly stated that staff at the Forestry Corporation's Kaingaroa office and Prolog mill should be fearful over their future employment prospects as a result of the Government's decision to sell the State forests. This is simply not true as New Zealand industry has collectively undertaken to take over all Corporation employees involved at district level, including the contracting work force, in any change in ownership as a result of privatisation of State forests. It is clear that following the corporatisation process the New Zealand Forestry Corporation carried out a rigorous review of staffing levels in State forests and the industry is confident that as a result of the steps taken, all staff remaining will be needed and will continue to make important contributions to future growth within the industry.

"It was expected that this

important reassurance to staff would have been made public following the Forestry Working Committee's report to Government, but it appears it has not been generally released and is not appreciated by those affected. The Council is concerned to ensure that those families whose livelihood depends on the forest industries are not caused unnecessary anxiety, and are reassured about their future."

Strong and responsible words indeed, and I wish I could have confidence in them. However, the New Zealand industry's 1988 Christmas message to Timberlands' staff and their actions in 1990 give every hint of being in serious conflict. Will public access for recreation be the next issue to suffer a similar fate at the hands of the New Zealand industry?

John Novis  
Christchurch

### Replanting and forest policy

Sir,

I see in your last issue that my old mate Dennys Guild has put pen to paper in support of Government's laissez-faire approach to conditions on Crown forestry licences.

Dennys has always been a free spirit, never afraid of questioning Government policy. Nor does it appear that he has any difficulty in supporting it! His opinion deserves the very closest attention. He is one of those elite band of foresters possessing skills honed in Tane Mahuta's garden with ideas refined over the pool table in the Kaikohe RSA and with a reputation for cracking the problem of successfully establishing radiata on Northland's impoverished gumland soils.

Dennys does appear, however, to have been seduced, which I'm sure wouldn't have happened if he had stayed in Taitokerau! The current fashion is for thinking that growing trees is exactly like tending a crop of carrots or spuds – grain and root crops are the examples Dennys uses. Captured, he seems to have been, by those adverts commissioned by a certain forestry enterprise – good, weren't they? – even though the Auditor-General expressed some reservations. But Dennys and every other forester