

# OSU College of Forestry International Programs Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Thursday 21 October 2010 2:30 – 4 pm

RH 115

Prepared by Susan Morré

Advisory Committee members present: Jim Johnson, Badege Bishaw, Chris Knowles, Eric Hansen, Susan Morré, John Sessions, Ashlee Tibbets, David Zahler

Advisory Committee members absent: John Bliss, Doug Maguire

## ***1. Report on International Partnership for Forestry Education (IPFE) meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia (Jim and Badege)***

IPFE meets every second year; 2008 meeting was in China; 2010 meeting was in Canada. China is investing heavily in forestry infrastructure, research, and developing outside partnerships. University of British Columbia (UBC) is the only IPFE partner that is very engaged with China. Their Chinese faculty and administration promote a Chinese undergraduate student exchange program that is structured with 2 years study in China, with UBC faculty teaching there, and 2 years study at UBC leading to a bachelor's degree. The Chinese government supports the program financially. There is an established forest products industry partnership with China and Canada, and the president of \_\_\_\_\_ University in China wants to partner with us. (Details, Jim?)

## ***2. Report on IUFRO meeting in Seoul, South Korea (Jim and Eric)***

Over 3000 people attended the August IUFRO World Congress in Seoul, including Chris Knowles, Eric Hansen, Scott Leavengood, Klaus Puettmann, Greg Latta, Jim Johnson, Ashlee Tibbets, and three other OSU students. There were numerous concurrent programs. Jim was shocked by the number of participants who had spent time at OSU as students, on sabbatical, or attending events, including the past, current, and incoming IUFRO presidents.

## ***3. UN Forum on Forests International Year of Forests 2011 – update on planned/potential OSU activities: Starker Lecture Series, etc. (Jim and Chris)***

The Oregon Forum on Forests committee, made up of members of OSU, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, USDA Forest Service, and the World Forestry Center, is planning several events to celebrate International Year of Forests 2011:

- OSU's Starker Lecture committee has five speakers lined up, including Paul Owen, President of Vanport International; Gary Hartshorn, President of the World Forestry Center; Ed Pepke from FAO; Melanie Kirk, urban forestry specialist with Texas Agrilife Extension Service; Ben Cashore, director of Yale's Forest Policy and Governance Program. There will be a field trip focused on export markets.
- The World Forestry Center is hosting an urban forestry lecture and Arbor Week tour with Mike Cloughesy and Rick Zinn.
- OFRI is creating a poster series for K-12 students called Kids to Woods.
- Corvallis-Gondar Sister Cities Association is sponsoring tree-planting projects.
- Sandie Arbogast is creating a banner to be installed at the Jefferson entrance, 30<sup>th</sup> Street entrance, and in the first floor knuckle.
- Ashlee will follow up with other student clubs and the World Forest Institute in Portland to coordinate a seminar or other gathering with several of the International Fellows. It may include a tour of trees, lunch and 5-10 minute presentations from the Fellows about their home countries and forests.

- The students taking the 1-credit Starker Lecture course will create a bulletin board display of international courses.

#### ***4. Report on Bulgarian Forestry Professors' Cochran Fellowship Forest Health, Biocontrol, and Biotechnology training visit (Susan and Jim)***

As part of a developing relationship with University of Forestry in Sofia, Bulgaria, the College has been hosting two of their Vice Rectors for a combined three weeks this month through the Cochran Fellowship program of the US: Drs. Petar Zhelev and Rumen Tomov. Susan and Jim arranged a full schedule of professional meetings and field tours around Oregon and down to Central California, including a visit to the HJ Andrews, the redwoods, University of California - Davis, and the Institute for Forest Genetics in Placerville. They met with numerous OSU, UC-Davis and Forest Service personnel and plan to continue collaboration with OSU Extension in the development of an Extension program in Bulgaria. An MOU is in progress.

#### ***5. Peace Corps Masters International Program update (David Z)***

Our first PCMI student Ramona Arechiga is in Ethiopia for November and December at the Peace Corps host site. John Bailey is her advisor. Two new PCMI students were admitted this fall, and their advisors are Jo Albers and Dave Hibbs. We have had about 25 inquiries but are finding it hard to place them with advisors without funding. Hank Cashdan (USFS International Programs office) is discussing using OSU College of Forestry to test a SCEP-like program that would provide GRA funds for PCMI students who make a three-year commitment to work for the Forest Service upon completion of the program. Their assistantship could be at the Siuslaw or Willamette National Forests or at the Forest Science Lab. They would be offered a position upon their return from the Peace Corps, and they would be required to accept it. We could create a committee to award assistantships, and would need to include all departments involved in the PCMI program.

#### ***6. Updates from Badege on:***

##### ***a. World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) institutional and research collaboration trip to East Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia)***

Badege was invited to go to Kenya in December and take one Ph.D. student as part of a USAID, World Bank, and other donor-funded student/faculty exchange program. The focus is on Eastern Africa, and faculty and students from there would come to OSU to use our research facilities.

##### ***b. MNR program status***

The MNR was (finally) approved in September by the Oregon University System and Board of Higher Education. Over 40 students have expressed interest in the program, and four have been admitted so far for winter term.

##### ***c. European/US/Ethiopian University Consortium for Sustainable Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Ph.D. Program in Ethiopia –curriculum, OSU faculty participation (progress since last meeting)***

The program may begin in fall 2011. Badege will spend one week there after his Kenya visit to receive updated information on progress of the partners (SIDA, Bangor, Helsinki, Hawassa, Swedish university).

#### ***7. IFSA planned activities and report on IFSA/IUFRO experience in Seoul (Ashlee)***

A membership drive is planned, and IFSA had a booth at the Study Abroad fair, and six new members joined. International Education Week is coming up soon and Ashlee will get in touch with the OSU International Degree and Education Abroad (IDEA) office.

Don Lee helped pay for four OSU IFSA members to attend the IFSA international student annual meeting and the subsequent IUFRO meeting in Seoul. Ashlee said it was an awesome

experience, and the students learned a lot about how people in other countries use and value forests. Natalie and Ashlee received Starker funds, College of Forestry funds, and Chris and the students paid the balance of the cost themselves. They got to experience two weeks of Korean culture and environment, and meet forestry students from many other countries.

#### **8. Upcoming study tours:**

##### **a. Scandinavia (Eric and Chris)**

University of Oregon has a six or seven-week Helsinki Study tour planned. We are trying to coordinate with them to join OSU students for a one week tour of Sweden and one week tour of Finland as part of their overall tour. We anticipate a total of 25-30 students would participate for the two-week period. Dates are August 26 – September 10, and the cost is \$4500 (including tuition for six credits).

##### **b. Spain – University of Valladolid, Palencia (Susan for Doug)**

Doug is coordinating with Drs. Jose Reque and Felipe Bravo at University of Valladolid to host 10-15 OSU students for a ten-day study tour (excluding two travel days). His proposal and budget are awaiting approval by the Study Abroad Advisory Committee.

#### **9. Grant opportunities:**

##### **a. OSU International Council Small Grants Program**

Two years ago the College submitted three proposals but none were funded. Four CAS proposals were funded. Charlotte Moats-Gallagher advised focusing on partnerships with colleagues in other countries to be more successful next time. John Bailey may apply to visit Ramona (PCMI student). Nicole Strong may submit one to build on the TIES project. We need matching funds from the College.

##### **b. American-Scandinavian Foundation (Jim)**

It seems more likely that Scandinavian students would come here rather than our students going there. Specific faculty areas are wanted there, and it may not work for us.

#### **10. Other items: Study Abroad Advisor Search, etc. (Susan and Jim)**

- The search is on for a new Study Abroad Advisor position. Susan is on the search committee, which is chaired by Michele Justice.
- DAI update: Del McCluskey, an OSU graduate, met with Jim and others at OSU several months ago to discuss our participation in the “PLACE” USAID indefinite quantity contract. Two Washington, DC DAI representatives made a recent follow-up visit to OSU and met with Jim, Stella Coakley, and two Agricultural Sciences faculty. They are seeking a long-term relationship with us that would include an internship program that would provide the opportunity to work on international projects and enter into an international development career. Faculty with different areas of expertise would be used as a resource person for DAI. Funds would be provided for graduate student assistantships. There is a new “REPLACE” program starting in fall 2011, and an RFP will come out in the first quarter of 2011 that will set up five-year partnerships. Current players and their respective university partners include DAI (Michigan State), Chemonix International (Colorado State), IRG (none), and ARD (Virginia Tech). DAI wants OSU to replace Michigan State in “REPLACE.”
- Andriy Polovskyy, Fulbright scholar from Ukraine, is here to work with John Sessions through April 2011. John is expecting a student from \_\_\_\_\_ in Brazil to come next year. Three of John’s six graduate students are international (from Tanzania, Chile, and Guatemala) and he is getting his other student an assistantship in Colombia.