

OSU College of Forestry International Programs Advisory Committee Meeting Summary
10 April 2012

Prepared by Susan Morr 

Advisory Committee members present: Jim Johnson, Badege Bishaw, John Bliss, Doug Maguire, Susan Morr , David Zahler

1. Bulgarian Extension Program (BIOREX) update (Jim Johnson)

In late March we hosted a Bulgarian extension program delegation for eight days. They met with OSU Extension program leaders, EESC, administrators, Ecampus and Extension specialists, and representatives of Associated Oregon Loggers, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, and Oregon Forest Resources Institute. They visited Benton and Deschutes County Extension offices, Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Oregon Garden Discovery Forest, and attended Tree School. They will be training 20 new extension agents from the Forestry Agency in Bulgaria. As a followup to the OSU-led Train the Trainers workshop last fall, they will be converting the training workbook into a Bulgarian extension training workbook.

2. DAI update (Jim Johnson)

Jim had lunch with Del McCluskey today to discuss the USAID REPLACE contract and collaboration. The CoF International Programs Office compiled 1-2 page descriptions of OSU international projects conducted by faculty from across campus, a table of 20 international project reviews, and a staffing matrix profiling the areas of international expertise for 10 faculty members. There may be paid summer internship opportunities for OSU students in Del's office, similar to those offered to Michigan State University and Colorado State University students in previous years.

3. Akita University / OSU collaboration update (John Bliss)

Yoshitaka Kumagai (former OSU graduate student of Steve Daniels and John Bliss and WSU postdoc) is an assistant professor, Dean of International Programs, and Head of Basic Education at Akita International University (AIU) in Japan. This undergraduate liberal arts university in northern Japan has about 800 students and teaches all classes in English. It has no departments; instead it has areas of emphasis, including Global Business and Global Studies. All students spend at least one year overseas. Following the tsunami, the Japanese Government provided \$5 million to fund a 4-5 year program at OSU, San Francisco State, Dickenson College (Pennsylvania) and other US institutions in order to increase social and human capacity. In fall 2011, Yoshi and other AIU representatives visited OSU, and in February 2012 OSU representatives visited AIU (John Bliss, College of Forestry; Kate MacTavish, College of Public Health and Human Sciences; and Nancy Rosenberger, professor of Anthropology in the College of Liberal Arts). The Oregon University System signed a Memorandum of

Understanding with AIU, and faculty from both AIU and OSU will collaboratively teach a community resilience course. Beginning in Winter 2013, AIU students will come to OSU. In Spring 2013 they will take courses with OSU students, and in summer 2013 they will join 6-8 undergraduate OSU students (nominated by their departments and selected by course instructors) in a 2-week field course in rural Oregon. Following the 2-week course, students will have a few days off and then go to Japan for 3 weeks to continue the program. (Comment: Honors College students may be very interested.) Airfare, lodging and perhaps tuition will be covered by the Japanese government. All parties hope to repeat the course in 2014 and 2015.

The second part of the program is a US faculty exchange for 3-6 month sabbaticals in Akita for faculty members from a variety of disciplines. Paul Primak (OSU International Programs) will announce the program this spring, encourage students to seek nominations, and encourage faculty to nominate students. A workshop will be held on June 25 in Akita with faculty from OSU, San Francisco State, Dickenson and other universities to brainstorm on long range goals, pedagogy, and other matters.

4. International visiting scholars updates (Doug Maguire)

Several international visiting scholars are here or will be arriving over the next few months:

- Pablo Romero (summer intern with Doug, funded by Spanish Department of Education, may stay on for MS program here)
- Andoni Urteaga (University of Valladolid, arriving September for 9 months to conduct research with Doug for senior thesis; Felipe Bravo advisor at UVa)
- Juan Pajares (Darrell Ross hosting this summer)
- Ann Laure Colin (completing a 6-month internship with Doug)
- Dar-Hsiung Wang (Taiwan Forestry Research Institute, UW alumnus; 3-month sabbatical July – September to work with ORGANON and other forest growth models)

(Note from Susan: Dan Luoma is also hosting visiting scholar Dr. Luis Gonzaga Garcia-Montero, assistant professor of Forest Engineering at Technical University of Madrid, from July to November.) Doug observed that it is more difficult to stay abreast of all the international visitors at the College since funding for CoF International Programs Office was reduced. Discussion followed concerning various impacts of this reduced funding.

Doug also mentioned that Don Lee, immediate past president of IUFRO who was here at OSU on sabbatical two years ago, is retiring from Seoul National University and has been appointed Head of the Korea Forest Service.

5. MNR/SNR program updates (Badege Bishaw)

The Sustainable Natural Resources Graduate Certificate Program has 11 students currently admitted to the program, 19 graduates to date, and 6 new applicants. There are another 10 or 12 individuals taking SNR classes who are not part of the certificate program (likely enrolled in another program or simply interested in the course offerings). Two students are international (from Geneva and Mozambique).

The MNR program has 45 currently admitted students, 3 graduates, and 26 additional applicants, several of whom are seeking an advisor to agree to work with them so they can be admitted to the program. Both programs track the OSU Graduate School admissions requirements for admission to the program (≥ 3.0 GPA, GRE, 3 letters of recommendation).

MNR Students must have an advisor in order to be admitted to the program, and there is a high demand for both mentors and advisors. There needs to be an incentive for faculty to serve as advisors. Currently they receive about \$2000 for advising the students in their capstone project in MNR. Each department has its own pay arrangements for faculty and instructors. For example, Fisheries and Wildlife takes in about \$1 million per year from Ecampus courses, and uses some of this revenue as an incentive to advise online students. One idea is to pay faculty to advise a cohort of students as they move through the program.

OSU Ecampus received an invitation from the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to be the North American university representative to an international Master of Science program. Other participating institutions include Charles Sturt University (Australia), University of Edinburgh (United Kingdom), and University of Stellenbosch (Africa). The Forestry Executive committee supports our participation.

6. International Seminars (Susan Morr )

OSU College of Forestry International Programs Office is facilitating several upcoming events:

- a. 20 April: Mike Jones - workshop and seminar "Resilience Science: Thinking and Assessment for Community Sustainability." Cohosts are Nils Christoffersen (Executive Director of Willowa Resources and new Oregon Board of Forestry member) and Tony Cheng (OSU College of Forestry graduate). Nils and Tony are planning a series of seminars and discussions around the theme of Resilience Thinking and Assessment. As part of that they are hosting a visit by Mike Jones of the Resilience Alliance of Stockholm, Sweden during the period April 11 - 20. A seminar and discussion by Mr. Jones in Corvallis on April 20 could be of considerable interest to COF students and faculty, as well as to the greater Corvallis community which is engaged in an ongoing discussion of sustainability. They

contacted John Bliss, who contacted Hal requesting \$500 to help defray transportation costs, and Hal has agreed to do so. A morning worksession in RH 107 for representatives of various community sustainability-focused organizations from around Oregon, will occur from 10 am to 1 pm, followed by a lunch break, and then the afternoon OSU-wide/Corvallis-wide seminar and discussion session.

b. 3 May: Dr. Elsa Arias Ninán (Peru) will present “Forestry in Peru: Difficult challenges in a land of great contrasts” and invite CoF faculty and students to discuss areas of collaboration between OSU and the US and Peruvian forest services. The director of the Peruvian Forest Service is her colleague and close friend, and is in negotiation with the USDA Forest Service on potential research collaboration. Dr. Ninán believes that OSU would be an important collaborator and is interested in working together. She will continue to work with Jim Johnson to pursue opportunities.

c. World Forest Institute International Fellows:

Current Fellows conducting research at the WFI: Ali Malekghasemi (forestry assistant professor at Azad University in Iran – using GIS and remote sensing to monitor urban forests); Kwangho Baek (Korea Forest Service – forest biomass); Richard O’Hanlon (mycologist, University of Limerick, Ireland – macrofungal communities of Sitka spruce); Cristhian Gutierrez (Bolivian agronomist and environmental training facilitator – wood products marketing strategies); Tendayi Mhlanga (timber company general manager for business development, Zimbabwe – business development models and management strategies).

Suggestions for increasing attendance at international seminars: provide food; invite lunch partners; get CRN and offer international seminar series for credit, with International Fellows, visiting scholars and returned Peace Corps volunteers. WFI agreed to provide \$40 for snacks for each upcoming seminar.

7. Recent and upcoming International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) activities (Will Hollamon)

Will was unable to attend the IPAC meeting but sent this information:

OSU-IFSA is sending two representatives to the IFSA international symposium in Turkey this August: James Bulger and Camille Chow Moyer.

OSU-IFSA will not be hosting the North American Regional Meeting this summer, due to constraints in time and funding. I absorb the fault for this happening as I may have bit off more than I could chew, so to speak. We have a great deal of the planning done up to this point but after extensive discussion by the organizing committee we have decided that the following summer is a far more realistic goal for hosting the meeting if the other LC's will allow. This would allow us more time to raise funds and have a higher capacity for participants.

8. Input from committee on several topics (Jim Johnson)

a. New COF dean: desired international experience/interest in IP

International Programs is one of 6 strategic plan items for the university: investing in international education, research and outreach. However, Ed Ray's idea of internationalization so far has involved increased tuition monies from accepting more international students to the university. A group led by Rich Holdren and Sunil Khanna, including Charlotte Moats-Gallagher, Jim Johnson, and Michael Campana, began to explore opportunities for OSU to submit a proposal for USAID funding. However, the effort faltered for lack of OSU leadership at the campus level. The University International Council has apparently also been disbanded.

The CoF international commitment runs deeper, and we would like to have our new dean be an advocate for stronger support for international programs in the College. Michigan State, Virginia Tech, and Washington State University all have strong international programs with multimillion dollar international research projects and activities. They use international tuition revenue to fund their international programs.

Suggestions: Ask the candidates about their experience in and approach to international programs, and how they view the role of a top college in international research, education, and activities of its international programs.

b. Best methods to promote COF Study Tours to students at other institutions (discussion from Washington, DC meeting of National Association of University Forest Research Programs (NAUFRP)).

Need additional discussion at next meeting.

c. Any objections to terminating University of Pretoria student exchange?

None