

XII. World Forestry Congress

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ABSTRACT: XII. World Forestry Congress have been held in Quebec, Canada from September 21 to 28, 2003. Forestry issues were discussed on three basic areas: Forests for People, Forests for the Planet, People and Forests in Harmony. The Czech Republic was represented by 9 contributions.

Keywords: World Forestry Congress; Canada; Quebec

Congress sessions have been held in the capital of the francophone province of Canada from September 21 to 28, 2003 under the motto *Forests, Source of Life*. The subject of the Congress reflects the reality, that mankind depends on this strategic source and highlights its multiple use in connection with many various benefits, which forests offer to all living of the Earth. It also corresponds to the global dialogue on forests, which has been continuing since the UNCED in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Forestry congress has been considered as one of the possibilities to achieve further progress in this discussion. The meeting of the representatives of governmental as well as non-governmental organisations, forestry education, research institutions and wood processing industry took place according to the prearranged programme. Part of this programme was a plenary session, working-group sessions and series of side events – working meetings of above mentioned institutions and organisations. There were prepared voluntary contributions and posters that were representing new ideas in the field of conservation, protection, silviculture and common use of the forest and providing information on practical experience, conceptual models and interesting initiatives concerning forestry.

Forestry issues were discussed on three basic areas:

- A – Forests for People,
- B – Forests for the Planet,
- C – People and Forests in Harmony.

Discussed basic areas

Main areas were divided into fifteen discussing areas: Human needs and demands; Economic aspects; Social, cultural and spiritual values; Development of human potential; Role and responsibilities; Status and trends;

Environmental functions; Conservation, protection and restoration of forests; Management and development of forest lands; Agro-forestry, trees growing outside forests, low forest cover; Sustainable management models; Forests related policies and institutions; Cross-sectoral policies; Research, technology and education; Global thinking in action – international co-operation, filling of commitments, future needs and the role of forests.

Programme of the congress included main reports, presentations of invited speakers, of chosen voluntary contributions, workshops, technical sessions and posters exhibition.

During the opening ceremony the minister of natural resources of Canada Mr Herb Dhalival pointed out the necessity of the co-operation at using of forests, because only due to the co-operation of all human beings is possible to find the best way to the protection of our forests for the future and to the provision of its permanent contribution to the quality of our life. Future vision of forests consists in knowledge and their dissemination, innovations, technologies and partnership. Hosny el Lakany (FAO) expressed the need of the achievement of harmony among people and forests.

There was also opened an exhibition on the opening day of the Congress. There were participated 137 mainly local, i.e. Canadian (73%) exhibitors – in comparison with previous two congresses there was less external participation. The Institute of Forest Ecosystem Research, IFER, Ltd. represented the Czech Republic at the exhibition only. According to the interest, its technology “Field-map” for mapping and computer aided field data collection was considered as very interesting.

During the congress there were exposed 299 posters, more than half of it was Canadian and also 8 (2.7%) of them were from the Czech Republic, particularly from

the Faculty of Forestry and Environmental of the Czech University of Agriculture in Prague.

The voluntary contributions were offered, which were sorted according to the revision into 4, resp. 5 categories. The Czech Republic was represented by 9 contributions. One of them (P. PACOUREK, J. ŘEZÁČ, K. VANČURA: *Development of Czech Forest Related Policy and Institutions on the Threshold of the Third Millennium*) was identified by organisers as a paper of great interest for deliberations (level 2). This paper was considered as interesting to many countries, or at least for the same region and for oral presentation during the theme session of the group C – Forest policy.

Except information on current forest policy and forestry institutions, the effort to draw attention to some common phenomena and issues was more important during the presentation. Those were e.g. the corruption, non-performance of settlements, clientilism etc., which indeed touch either forestry as the part of the build market environment, and that are not too much in accordance with endeavours for “life in harmony” and “quality of life”. How ensued from some discussions in Quebec, Czech Republic does not have abroad too good reputation because of it.

Relatively interesting attempt how bring into the discussion as much as possible participants was the organisation of so-called “eco-regional round tables”. It is a pity that among 1,083 discussing people (ca. 1/4 of all congress participants) there were not detected more representatives of relatively numerous represented institutions from the Czech Republic – there were effectively involved only two people there. The attendance at particular sections was according to the eco-regions as follows: boreal forests 36%, temperate forests 27%, dry tropical and subtropical 13% and rain forests 24%.

The vision for participants was to imagine the ideal state of forests in the year 2021 in relation to three fundamental congressional topics. They have to choose the most numerous or the most acceptable version of 12 participants of one table and then formulate methods how to get the achievement of this ideal situation until next congress, i.e. during the next six years. Organisers then have summarised the results into the following syntheses:

Basic elements of 2021 vision:

- in the year 2021 there are healthy forests in all eco-regions conserving biological diversity and there is 50% degraded soil and forests of tropical forests restored into a good state,
- people have an access to the education and information networks exists,
- there are funds for applying of traditional local knowledge, for applied research,
- and a stable law, financial and political frame exists,
- decision making on forests is decentralised, responsibility is taking-over by local communities and users,
- owners manage their forests in a sound way in the frame of transparent politics and regulation,

- forests are managed in a sustainable way and used in multiple manner and produce corresponding benefits to everyone,
- it is everything under the proactive and adaptive access to existing legislative, financial and institutional frames, which this everything make possible.

Strategy/action of implementation by the year 2009:

- introduction of educational and training programmes, tools and methods intended for support of local social, cultural, environmental and economic values, oriented to sustainable forest management,
- generation of the active partnerships in local level and decentralisation of decision-making suit by means of reallocation of resources, possession lend and institutional reform,
- creation of occasion for rise of cooperation among various stakeholders through participation on benefits as well as on responsibility,
- creation of certification models and monitoring mechanisms,
- implementation of forestry planning into all silvicultural activities, transparent, sound and responsible management of forests,
- creation of synergy between traditional and new knowledge, creation of forum for sharing information to improve economic, social, cultural and environmental values resulting to the sustainable forest management,
- harmonisation of institutional (law, financial) and cross-sectoral frames for creation of co-operative approach of stakeholders by means of investments, tools and programmes oriented to sustainable forest management.

Key partners at the implementation of these strategy and activities would be governmental and non-governmental organisations, private sector, universities and research institutes, local inhabitants, pedagogic and skilled field forestry personnel – that would had start act immediately!

Closing recommendations are as follows:

- ecological conditions and social fairness may be improved, if forests and people become a subject of political negotiations,
- the cooperation, institutional reforms and cross-sectoral approach in solving of silvicultural problems is required because of the appropriate reaction need to requirements of society on forests,
- sustainable forest management must push ahead interrogation of timber production, has to be trick in thinking of such issues as poverty, health, maintenance of biological diversity, traditional native culture, water management, climatic changes, education and improvement of living conditions of people on the whole Earth,
- communities call for checks of decision making about social, ecological, economic, cultural and institutional sphere affecting their live.

Education and quality of life: It was interesting, that the issue of education has been found as the linkage issue and, in connection with main motto of the congress, it was also the question of quality of life. Not only schools were mentioned in conjunctions with education, but also the role of families and the necessary changes of life priority values. In this connection we had an opportunity to hear one participant's quotation from New Yorker Magazine: "It is good to know something about trees. But it is truth, that never anybody made some big money on knowing something about trees!"

There were series of side meetings in the frame of the congress. During those sessions there was possible listen to not only interesting facts concerning current policy and practice and research results, but also to meet old friends and establish new partnership.

During the XII. World Forestry Congress there was also Enlarged Board of IUFRO in session. The Board i. a. said farewell to the Executive Secretary Heinrich Schmutzenhofer. Former chief of the Liaison Unit of the Pan-European process (MCPFE), Dr. Peter Mayer became a new Secretary since December 2004.

Final statement of the Congress states that all communities depend on forests and trees and be in charge of biological diversity, regulation of climate, clear air and water, soil conservation, food safety, lasting availability of all forest products, energy supply, medical products and cultural values related to forests.

Congress has been convinced, that needs of our Planet and human beings can be in balance and that forests have a great potential to contribute to environmentally safeness,

ablation of poverty, social fairness, enhancement of mankind welfare both in present and also in the future.

Congress considered the following issues as an important condition for positive development of forests and consequently of the whole society:

- lasting political engagement and adequate funding,
- strong, responsible forestry sector,
- relations with other participants and sectors,
- long lasting and more efficient international cooperation,
- forest policy (and other policies) based on the best research results of science and information,
- recognition of considerable capital constituted by culture, knowledge and local technologies of local inhabitants,
- sound forest management on regional level, agro-forestry systems, other non-wood goods.

Will follow practical steps?

In fine

In closing perhaps to remind words, which in the name of developing countries communicated representative of Sudan during the final discussion: "I am delighted. Is it beautiful, how we were able to prove everything on the paper. But now – what we really shall do?" This is also a question for forestry public in the Central Europe. Fulfilment of the National Forestry Programme, which has been adopted in the year of the World Forestry Congress and Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe, by the concrete content would have reverberate also the basic ideas of both important meetings.

XII. světový lesnický kongres

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ABSTRAKT: XII. světový lesnický kongres proběhl v kanadském Quebecu ve dnech 21.–28. 9. 2003. Lesníci na něm diskutovali o třech základních okruzích: Lesy pro lidi, Lesy pro Zemi, Lidé a lesy v harmonii. Českou republiku reprezentovalo devět příspěvků.

Klíčová slova: světový lesnický kongres; Kanada; Quebec

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