

ANZIF Conference

Auckland, 2-5 May 2011

Delegates unite on need for sustainable forestry management recognition

Delegates to the 7th ANZIF Conference have agreed that forestry professionals in the Pacific region will work closer together on such matters as promotion and advocacy for the production and use of timber and other forest products, the sustainable management of forests and the need for greater professional forestry input into forest policies in the region.

ANZIF is the four-yearly joint conference between the New Zealand Institute of Forestry (NZIF) and the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA). The 2011 conference, held during the United Nations International Year of Forests, included participation by the Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA) and forestry professionals from the wider Pacific region.

Over 300 forestry professionals from 20 countries assembled at Sky City, Auckland for the conference "Pacific Forestry – Growing a Forestry Future". During the conference, delegates debated a wide range of issues facing forests, forestry and forestry professionals, before agreeing to a set of 20 items which have been referred to the NZIF, the IFA and the CFA for further action.

"Delegates were united in the need for greater recognition of the value of sustainably managed forests and for recognition that timber and other forest products are essential for society and have environmental benefits not found in many products used by modern society that are not derived from forests", said Dr Andrew McEwen, President of the NZIF.

The conference also called for greater support for forestry professionals in smaller Pacific countries from the NZIF, IFA and CFA. "During the conference steps were taken to initiate a network of forestry professionals

to increase engagement with our Pacific neighbours and to investigate ways in which the NZIF and IFA might facilitate exchanges of personnel and experience and promote the use of professional standards including codes of ethics" said Dr McEwen. "This is certainly something I am keen to see happen and will work with my colleagues in NZIF and with the IFA and CFA to see what we can do to help."

"It is also a concern that governments throughout the region, including Australia and New Zealand, have reduced the role of professional forestry advisers, despite the importance of forests in contributing to carbon capture and storage", said Dr Peter Volker, President of the IFA. "Our Pacific neighbours are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts as a result of our domestic forest policies," he added.



NZIF office on the move

The various forestry offices currently on the 4th floor at 85 The Terrace (Forest Owners' Association, Wood Processors Association, Far Forestry Association, Woodco and NZIF) are moving a few buildings along the road to the 9th floor of 93 The Terrace. This is on the corner of Woodward Street (the dead end street off Lambton Quay opposite Midland Park, with the pedestrian tunnel under the Terrace at the end of it) and The Terrace. Access is off the footpath leading down the hill to Woodward Street from The Terrace. The new office will be known as the ForestWood Centre. Phone numbers, postal addresses etc remain the same as currently.

