



## **First Announcement and Call for Papers and Abstracts**

**The 23<sup>rd</sup> Session, International Poplar Commission (IPC)  
October 26-30, 2008, Beijing, P. R. China**

*Theme: Poplars, Willows and People's Wellbeing*

### **Background**

The International Poplar Commission (IPC), a technical statutory body of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations serves members through their National Poplar Commissions, Working Parties and every four years through full Sessions.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPC was successfully hosted in Beijing, P. R. China in 1988. Twenty years later in 2008, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IPC will be held in Beijing again. The area, technology and social, environmental and economic impacts of poplars and willows have been expanding, and contributing significantly to the fast-growing economy of China and to improving people's welfare.

The full Sessions of the IPC are held every 4 years for the poplar and willow community to exchange and share the progress and advances in research, silviculture, management, forest industries and markets. These Sessions bring together Government officers, researchers, producers, industry engineers, traders and users aiming to apply scientific knowledge and technology into policies, plans and practices for development and to improve ecological conditions and people's livelihoods.

Global climate change, environmental pollution unsustainable agriculture and forestry have caused deforestation, forest degradation, degraded lands (including desertification) and undermined the environmental and livelihood conditions in which people live. People need to rehabilitate forests to restore and improve the environmental functions. Poplars and willows are two of the major fast-growing and short-rotation genera cultivated world-wide and are playing critical roles in rehabilitation of degraded lands (agriculture and forestry), combating desertification, raw material supply to industries and recreation and amenity benefits, particularly in urban areas. Poplars and willows are providing wood and fibre for a wide range of forest products (lumber, panel products, pulp and paper and other products) and increasing an important source of biofuel.

China is the largest country in population and poplar plantations and agroforestry. According

to the China country progress report to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session, 2004, there were 4 million ha of poplar plantations, more than 1 million ha of agroforestry and 2.1 million ha of natural poplar forests. China is also recognized as one of the richest native poplar genetic resources and abundant poplar resources. In recent years, poplar breeding (traditional and biotechnology), poplar cultivation and industrialized fibre, timber and pulp processing and utilization, diseases and pest protection, eco-environment improvement and agroforestry, biofuels (bioenergy) and carbon sequestration and biotechnology application have achieved major advances. Along the banks of the Yellow River, the mother river of the Chinese people, extensive areas of poplars and willows are cultivated and million tons of wood, fibre and millions of cubic meters of forest products are produced. Additionally poplars are important in rehabilitating degraded lands and combating desertification in China.

Based on the poplar biodiversity, rapid development of poplar industry, scientific achievements and economic development in China, with the oriental culture-rich history and modern Olympic Games, China provides an ideal location to demonstrate the wide range of genetic resources, applications and uses of poplars and willows in meeting the needs of people and improving the environment.

We sincerely welcome the people who are interested in the application of poplars, willows in restoring landscapes and contributing to livelihoods needs of people in China. We encourage you, to participate in the activities of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IPC.

The meeting will be suitable for policy makers, forest managers, forest scientists and academics, from public and private institutions, landowners, indigenous peoples and students with an interest in growing and using poplars and willows for social, environmental and economic benefits.

## **23<sup>rd</sup> Session Theme**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Session theme is “*Poplars, Willows and People’s Well-being*” which includes but is not limited to;

- Recent status and advances of poplar and willow afforestation and reforestation for industry applications;
- Recent status, progress and advances in application of poplars and willows for ecological/environmental restoration, biofuels (bioenergy) and carbon sinks to mitigate climate change; and
- Advances in poplar breeding, biotechnology and forest health.

## **Working groups and Cross Cutting Issues**

The Session will provide opportunities for Working Groups to share their expertise and experiences on cross cutting topical issues and to define work programmes.

Anticipated cross cutting issues include, but are not limited to:

- Breeding;
- Cultivation;
- Industry and Application;
- Insects, Diseases and Pests;
- Biotechnology;
- Biofuel (Bioenergy);
- Carbon sequestration.

## **Location**

Beijing is the capital city of People’s Republic of China and has an 800 year rich history.

## **Programme**

The programme will include:

- Pre-Session Study Tours (Selective):
  - A. Northern Itinerary (3days): Tongliao City, Inner Mongolia;
  - B. Beijing (3days): Beijing;
- 44<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meetings;
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Session (plenary, concurrent and individual Working Party Sessions);
- City tour and Olympic Game Stadium;
- Post-Session Study Tours.
  - C. Southern Itinerary (5days): Puyang City, Henan Province; Siyang City, Jiangsu

## **Languages**

The 44<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting will be conducted in English

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Session (opening and closing plenary sessions on days 1 and 4) will have simultaneous interpreter services in English, French and Spanish. The concurrent and individual Working Groups meetings will be conducted in English only.

Paper, abstracts and posters are to be written in English.

## **Key Dates**

### ***January 10, 2008***

**First Announcement:** on host and IPC Websites, Paper Abstract Guidelines, Guidelines for Country Reports, Guidelines for Working Party Reports, Tentative Programme and other background information

### ***February 28, 2008***

**Second Announcement:** with reviewed programme, preliminary plan of pre-session and post-session trips deadlines for pre-registration, reminder on papers and registrations

### ***May 31, 2008***

**Third Announcement:** including Pre- and Post-Session Study Tours schedules and reviewed programme, including registration package (registration form, instructions for registration, guidelines for paper abstracts, posters and presentations, etc) send to the participants and organizations. Tentative titles of paper/poster/abstract/ and presentations.

### ***June 30, 2008***

Deadline to submit final paper abstracts, deadline of early registration

## **Registration Fees**

Fees will be set separately for:

- Pre- Session Study Tour;
- Post-Session Study Tour;
- IPC session Fee.

## **Weather**

During the early winter season in Beijing the weather becomes cold. Temperature occasionally drops below 0 C, so sweaters and coats are suggested.

## Scientific Committee

- Stefano Bisoffi (Italy);
- Jim Carle (FAO, Italy);
- Jim Richardson (Canada);
- Jud Isebrands (USA);
- Drusilla Riddle-Black (UK);
- Prof. Yin Weilun (PR China); and
- Qiwen Zhang (PR China).

## Local hosting institutions

**Chinese Forestry Society (CSF):** Founded in 1917 as the China Forest Association, Chinese Society of Forestry (CSF) whose members comprise forestry professionals is the leading forestry NGO in China. The CSF is one of the oldest academic societies in China. In 1928, its name was changed to Chinese Forestry Association and in 1951 to the present name, “Chinese Society of Forestry”. It is an academic, science popularizing and non-profit organization. With 87,225 members and 636 senior members, who are from the departments of research, teaching, industry and administration, CSF is the biggest, most important forestry NGO in China. CSF has 30 technical committees (sub-societies) and 31 provincial societies (sections). The Board of Directors is comprised of 185 leading forestry professionals. CSF has 9 working committees. The main tasks are to organize foresters to promote forestry development and professional exchanges, popularize forestry science and technology, promote the growth of forestry personnel, improve the public awareness of environmental issues and involvement in China's forestry development.

**Beijing Forestry University (BFU):** As one of the key national universities directly under the Ministry of Education in China, Beijing Forestry University (BFU) provides the advanced education in the studies of forestry and ecological environment. It was one of the first universities to be admitted into the "211 Project" (the major project sponsored and funded by the government for the construction of top 100 key universities in China in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Educational Vitalization Action Programme.

BFU, as one of the key institutions of higher education in China, is the cradle of professionals specialized in advanced technology of multi-disciplines including forestry, soil and water conservation, landscape gardening, biotechnology, construction of ecological environment and economic management.

Since its establishment 50 years ago, more than 30,000 students and a number of foreign students have graduated from the university, and among them 11 have attained to the positions of academicians. The university possesses a well-formed faculty composed of 956 full-time teachers, including 5 academicians, 496 full and associate professors.

While making an effort to enrich its discipline category and optimize the discipline structure,

the university not only possesses the traditional disciplines which are recognized for their high quality both at home and abroad, but also has established a large number of new disciplines to meet the development of the society. There are 15 schools subordinate to the university, namely Graduate School, Biological Science and Technology, Landscape Architecture, Forestry, Environmental Science and Engineering, Soil and Water Conservation, Industry, Information Science, Material Science and Technology, Science, Natural Conservation, Economic Management, Humanistic and Social Sciences, Foreign Languages, Vocational Training and Adult Education.

***Chinese Academy of Forestry(CAF)***. Located at the foot of Yuquan Hill in the northwestern suburb of Beijing, the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF) was founded on October 27, 1958. Its predecessor can be traced back to the Forest Cultivation Experimental Farm of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry established in 1912 by the Northern Government. CAF was once merged with Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences in the 1970s before its restoration to the independent status from April of 1978.

The Chinese Academy of Forestry is a multi-discipline, comprehensive and public interests research institution affiliated to the State Forestry Administration. The academy has 9 research institutes, 4 experimental centers and 3 research and development centers, which are located in 10 provinces of China. Its main tasks are set as follows: to be principally engaged in forest research of applied sciences while conducting its due research of applied basic sciences, high and new technology, developmental research and research of soft sciences; to address the scientific and technological issues that bear overall, comprehensive, crucial and fundamental magnitudes as well as to serve the needs of forestry modernization. Research interests cover all forestry-related subjects, including basic researches on seeds, seedlings and forests, forest plants, insects and animals, forest pest control, forest ecosystems, forestry inventory and management, wood industry, chemical processing of forest products, and wood pulp and papermaking, utilization of forest products, application of new and advanced technologies, such as gene engineering, biotechnology, remote sensing, geographical information system, global positioning system, system engineering and information network. Since its founding in 1958, CAF's scientific and technological level has been remarkably improved and the comprehensive strength has been increasingly enhanced. As a result, CAF has become a national forestry research institution with basically complete disciplines, numerous qualified professionals and good research conditions.

## **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

### **Chairman**

Prof. Yin Weilun

Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering, Chairman of the Chinese Poplar Committee, President of Beijing Forestry University, P. R. China

### **Vice-Chairmen**

Mr. Qu Guilin

Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, State Forestry Administration, P. R. China

Mr. Zhao Liangping

Secretary-General, Chinese Society of Forestry, P. R. China

Professor Dr. Zhang Shougong

President, Chinese Academy of Forestry, P. R. China

Professor Dr. Wu Bin

Chairman of the University Council, Beijing Forestry University, P.R.China

### **Committee Secretariat**

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- FAO;
- The State Forestry Administration(SFA);
- People's Republic of China National Poplar Commission;
- Chinese Forestry Society;
- Beijing Forestry University;
- Chinese Academy of Forestry;
- Beijing Forestry Society;
- Beijing Gardening and Greening Bureau, Beijing
- Puyang Forestry Bureau, Henan Province;
- Siyang Forestry Bureau, Jiangsu Province; and
- IUFRO.

*Websites:*

**FAO IPC website:** [www.fao.org/forestry/site/ipc2008](http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/ipc2008) - **E-mail:** [IPC-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:IPC-Secretariat@fao.org)

**China Host Website:** <http://www.ipc2008bj.com.cn> or **Email:** [ipc2008@bjfu.edu.cn](mailto:ipc2008@bjfu.edu.cn)