

**RIO+20 SIDE EVENT OF FAO, ICFPA, BRACELPA AND PARTNERS**

***FORESTS: THE HEART OF A GREEN ECONOMY***

***- Concept Paper -***

**VENUE:** RIBALTA EVENTOS

**TIME:** FULL DAY EVENT 18 JUNE 2012

**TARGET:** 500 PERSONS FROM PRIVATE SECTOR, GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS AND NEGOTIATORS, CIVIL SOCIETY (NGOS/INGOS), ACADEMIA, MEDIA, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

**CONTEXT**

Trees and forests are important providers of economic value from a multitude of physical products, energy streams as well as through environmental services on protecting watersheds, soils, biodiversity and mitigation against the adverse impacts of climate change. Forests avail these benefits on local, regional and global scales for the benefit of the 7 billion people on Earth.

Sustainable production and consumption of forest-based bio-products will be a potential game-changer in moving towards a greener economy. This is due to their high sustainability performance, which can be measured and validated in terms of renewability energy efficiency, substitution benefits and carbon neutrality and storage. The contributions of forests and enterprises to local livelihoods in remote, disadvantaged areas help eradicating poverty and creating positive linkages between rural development and international markets.

**PURPOSE**

FAO and other international organizations have joined forces with the private sector to make the forest sector more visible in Rio+20 by holding a forward-looking event. The purpose is to highlight the role of forests and forest industries in building the green economy and fostering rural development at the resource base – the two key themes of Rio+20. Participants will learn more profoundly how the forest sector can actively and concretely contribute to a more sustainable future for society. Increasingly the climate-smart management of forests and the wise use of trees are seen as a collaborative effort between the public and private holders of forests, large and small private enterprises and local communities. Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) play an important role in encouraging appropriate levels of conservation and environmental protection.

**EVENT AND VENUE**

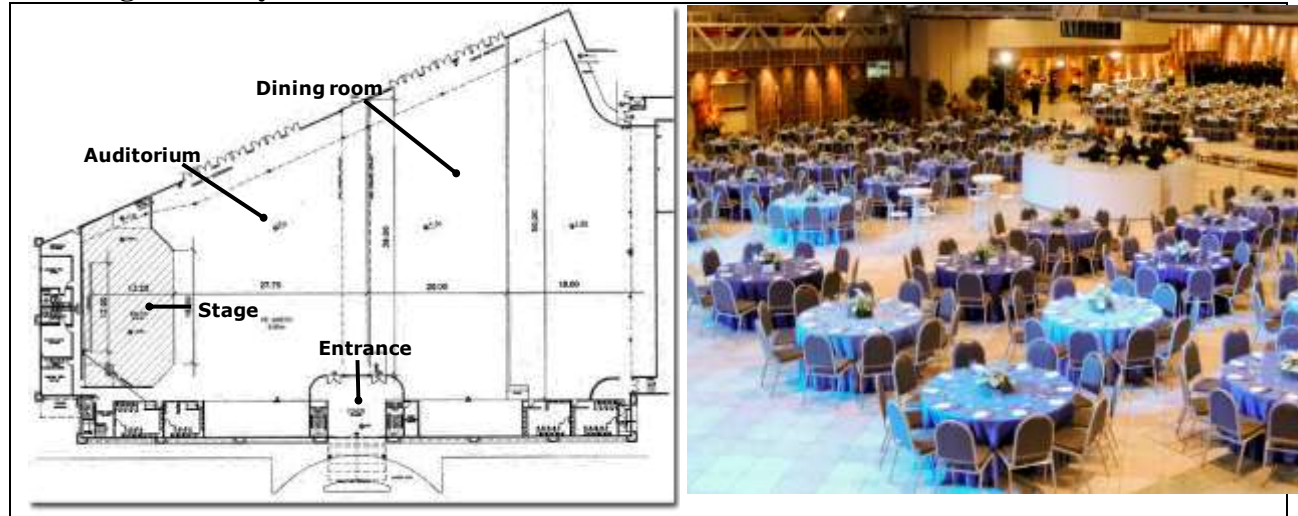
The event will be held on 18 June 2012 in the Ribalta Eventos Center (see layout and photo) from 09:00 – 17:30. The event format includes a high-level opening, press conference and a video news release for the media, keynote speakers, the launch of two thematic videos, three panel discussions, coffee and lunch breaks and a cocktail reception. There is no registration fee.

**PROGRAMME**

The programme will illustrate examples of sustainable low-carbon forest products into new applications, lessons learned from countries on deploying forest supply chains in the bio-economy, and associated benefits to local livelihoods and rural development. The changing demands on forest certification in the green economy will also be debated. The tentative programme is attached (see table enclosed).

## LAYOUT, PHOTO AND MAP OF THE VENUE

### Meeting Room layout



Distances: Riocentro  $\Rightarrow$  Ribalta – 8,5 km (about 15min)

Ribalta  $\Rightarrow$  Barra Hotels 13,4 km (about 21min)

