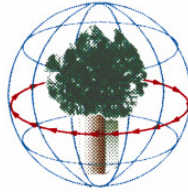




European Forestry Commission
Food and Agriculture Organization



FAO/ECE
Forest Communicators
Network



Timber Committee
Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the
Forest Communicators Network

September 6 – 8, 2006, Valsain/Spain

Invitation

Dear colleague,

You are cordially invited to participate in the meeting of the FAO-ECE Forest Communicators Network, to be held from 6 – 8 September 2006 in Spain. The meeting is hosted by the Ministry of Environment of Spain and will take place in the National Centre of Environmental Education Valsain.

Valsain is situated near Segovia. Participants should fly to Madrid, from where transportation to the meeting place will be provided at September 5. A registration form and further information concerning the venue and meeting logistics, such as travel arrangements, accommodation, weather conditions etc. will be provided by the hosts soon.

You are encouraged to pass this invitation also to other colleagues dealing with or being interested in public relations and communications regarding forests, forest management and forest based products.

The working language of the meeting will be English. The preliminary agenda of the meeting is attached. For any questions concerning the agenda please contact

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Objectives of the Meeting

The meeting will bring together forest communicators from the whole ECE region (Europe and North America) to discuss issues and to develop solutions in the context of the networks mandate.

The meeting provides a unique forum to

- share information and views on topical forest related issues,
- identify communication opportunities and challenges for the forest and forest industries sector,
- develop strategic approaches for effective forest related communications,
- present success stories and lessons learned,
- build contacts and alliances throughout the ECE region.

The Forest Communicators Network

The Forest Communicators Network (FCN) was established by the UN ECE Timber Committee (TC) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) with the overall goal to improve the ability of the forest and forest products sector to communicate effectively, within and outside the sector, and to raise the awareness of sector policy makers of the potential of effective communication strategies and tools.

The FCN is expected to carry out the following tasks till 2008:

- Elaborate a guide on best practices in forest sector communication;
- Conduct an international conference on communication in forest sector policy;
- Publish a report on consumer attitudes towards forest products;
- Provide assistance to the UNECE/FAO Secretariat in improving communication about the Integrated Programme of the TC and the EFC, and on request to its Teams of Specialists.

Participation in the FCN is open to all sharing the concern about its common objectives and tasks. Currently the contact data base of the network contains more than 120 persons from 30 countries representing both, government and private sector organisations.

The network has formed subgroups to deal with specific issues, produced a number of publications and conducted meetings in different countries of the ECE region.

So far the FCN has to build its activities entirely on voluntary contributions and inputs of individuals, countries and organisations in terms of expertise, man power and finances. These inputs together with synergies created through co-operations with

other actors, such as the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, The European Forest Institute and the Team of Specialists on Public Participation have generated a climate of remarkable productivity.

The Secretariat of the EFC/TC in Geneva hosts the internet website, and supports the networks activities through maintaining the contact data base and providing the link to the EFC, the TC and other committees and teams.

More information on the network may be found at

<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/pr/pr.htm>
