

Looking Forward to the 45th International Symposium FORMEC 2012

Dear readers,

I have the honor and pleasure to inform you that the 45th International Symposium FORMEC 2012 will be held in Dubrovnik/Cavtat in hotel Croatia from October 8 to 12 2012 under the title »Concern, Knowledge and Accountability in Today's Environment«.

»FOREstry MEChanization« (known under the acronym FORMEC since 1994) is an international scientific network established to investigate and promote the application of mechanization in forest operations and it gathers scientists and experts from Europe and other countries, who, within forestry, deal with wood harvesting, forest accessibility and mechanization of forest operations.

Organizers and main objectives of the Symposium

The main organizers of the 45th International Symposium FORMEC 2012 are the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Zagreb and FORMEC network, while the co-organizers are yet to be defined and until the publishing of this editorial, the agreement has been made with IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations), Croatian Chamber of Forestry and Wood Technology Engineers, »Croatian Forestry« Ltd. Zagreb, Croatian Forestry Society, Forestry Sciences Academy and CROJFE (Croatian Journal of Forest Engineering).

The main objectives and reasons for the organization of this international Symposium are:

- ⇒ Presentation of the latest results, up to date achievements and new ideas emerging in the area of forest engineering and in the area of planning forest operations;
- ⇒ Promotion of cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experience among forestry scientists, researchers and practitioners.

Topics and key dates of the Symposium

When defining and selecting the main topics of the Symposium, the aim was to cover all areas significant for the works related to wood harvesting,

forest accessibility and mechanization of forest operations. Following this idea, the Organizational Committee proposed these topics:

- ⇒ Harvesting systems and technologies,
- ⇒ Forest road network planning and management,
- ⇒ Eco-efficient technologies in forestry,
- ⇒ Biomass production and use,
- ⇒ Logistics and transport optimization,
- ⇒ Forestry and wood industry on close-to-nature principles,
- ⇒ Work design and business management in forestry,
- ⇒ Ergonomics and work safety in forest operations,
- ⇒ IT and remote sensing in forestry,
- ⇒ Sustainable forest management and silviculture.

It was also very important to define the key dates of the Symposium in order to leave enough time to the Organizational Committee to perform well and on time all their tasks (prepare the list of the submitted, accepted or rejected papers, define the schedule of oral or poster presentations, prepare digital proceedings, etc.), and on the other hand to give to the authors (Symposium participants) the schedule of all dates and deadlines associated with them directly or indirectly. Key dates of the Symposium are as follows:

- ⇒ Abstract submission deadline: Feb. 29, 2012
- ⇒ Acceptance of abstracts to be made by the Scientific Committee: March 15, 2012
- ⇒ Early registration deadline: May 31, 2012
- ⇒ Full paper submission: July 31, 2012
- ⇒ Registration deadline: Sept. 20, 2012

Committees and bodies

As a large number of applicants and hence also a large number of participants is expected at the Symposium (more than 200), it was extremely important to gather a team of professionals and hard working people ready to take over the responsibility for the whole organization of the Symposium. Here are the most important committees and their members whom we thank for their engagement and help.

Organizational Committee (in alphabetical order):

1. MSc. Ivan Ištok (President of the Committee for Scientific Research of Croatian Forest Ltd.),
2. Prof. Dubravko Horvat (Faculty of Forestry University of Zagreb, Croatia),
3. Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Jambreković (Faculty of Forestry University of Zagreb, Croatia),
4. Prof. Josip Margaletić (Faculty of Forestry University of Zagreb, Croatia),
5. Assoc. Prof. Tibor Pentek (Faculty of Forestry University of Zagreb, Croatia) – **President**,
6. Assoc. Prof. Tomislav Poršinsky (Faculty of Forestry University of Zagreb, Croatia) – **Vice President**,
7. Assist. Prof. Mario Šporčić (Faculty of Forestry University of Zagreb, Croatia),
8. Assoc. Prof. Marijan Šušnjar (Faculty of Forestry University of Zagreb, Croatia),
9. MSc. Slivija Zec (General Secretary of Croatian Chamber of Forestry and Wood Technology Engineers).

Scientific Committee (in alphabetical order):

1. Prof. Antti Asikainen (The Finnish Forest Research Institute, Finland),
2. Prof. Raffaele Cavalli (University of Padua, Italy),
3. Prof. Hans Rudolf Heinimann (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich, Switzerland),
4. Prof. Tadeusz Moskalik (Warsaw Agricultural University, Poland),
5. Assoc. Prof. Tibor Pentek (Faculty of Forestry University of Zagreb, Croatia),
6. Assoc. Prof. Tomislav Poršinsky (Faculty of Forestry University of Zagreb, Croatia),
7. Prof. Karl Stampfer (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Austria),
8. Assoc. Prof. Rien Visser (University of Canterbury, New Zealand),
9. Prof. Igor Potočnik (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia).

Honorary Committee:

1. Prof. Karl Stampfer (FORMEC President),
2. Prof. Milan Oršanić (Dean of Faculty of Forestry University of Zagreb),
3. Prof. Hans Rudolf Heinimann (IUFRO Coordinator Division 3),
4. MSc. Damir Felak (President of Croatian Chamber of Forestry and Wood Technology Engineers),
5. Academic Slavko Matić (President of the Forestry Sciences Academy),
6. Mr. sc. Petar Jurjević (President of Croatian Forestry Society).

Schedule of events and further activities of the Organizational Committee

In the months to come, the Organizational Committee will develop the network website that should be completed by the end of 2011, and the defined domain of the official network website of FORMEC 2012 will be www.formec2012.hr.

All eminent experts, who are directly or indirectly connected with the international scientific FORMEC network, will be contacted through the Symposium first announcements, which will be sent by standard and/or electronic mail.

More than 200 participants from the country and abroad are expected to attend the Symposium FORMEC 2012 and more than 90 scientific papers and more than 50 posters from different forestry fields will be presented. At this Conference, after the opening ceremony and plenary session, at which the invitation (introductory) papers will be presented,

Table 1 Program of the international Symposium FORMEC 2012

Time	Event	Event location
Monday, Oct. 8, 2012		
16:00-19:00	Symposium registration	Reception, hotel lobby
19:00	Welcome party	
Tuesday, Oct. 09, 2012		
7:30-9:00	Symposium registration	Reception, hotel lobby
9:00-10:00	Opening ceremony	Ragusa hall
10:00-10:30	Coffee break	Hotel terrace
10:30-12:45	Plenary session	Ragusa hall
12:45-14:15	Lunch	Restaurant Cavtat
14:15-16:15	Work in sessions (3)	Bobara, Orlando and Šipun halls
16:15-16:45	Coffee break	Hotel lobby
16:45-18:45	Poster section + discussion	Silent salon
20:00	VIP Dinner	Steak House
Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012		
8:00-10:00	Work in sessions (3)	Bobara, Orlando and Šipun halls
10:00-10:30	Coffee break	Hotel lobby
10:30-12:30	Work in sessions (3)	Bobara, Orlando and Šipun halls
12:30-14:30	Lunch	Restaurant Cavtat
14:30-16:30	Work in sessions (3)	Bobara, Orlando and Šipun halls
17:00-19:00	Field trip 1 (Cavtat or free afternoon)	Cavtat
Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012		
8:00-10:00	Work in sessions (3)	Bobara, Orlando and Šipun halls
10:00-10:30	Coffee break	Hotel lobby
10:30-12:15	Plenary session	Ragusa hall
12:15-13:00	Conclusions and closing ceremony	Ragusa hall
13:00-15:00	Lunch	Restaurant Cavtat
15:00-19:00	Field trip 2 (Dubrovnik - Old Town)	Dubrovnik
20:00	Farewell party	Restaurant in Dubrovnik (Old Town)
Friday, Oct. 12, 2012		
7:00	Departure of the participants	

the activities will be carried out in three, or four sessions (depending on the number of registered and accepted papers). The event schedule will be organized in accordance with the preliminary program.

Due to the importance of this Conference for the forestry science and forestry practice, and due to a large number of leading scientists and experts who will present the latest results of their research and

professional work, most of which is applicable in practice, we would like to thank, in the name of the Organizational Committee and personally, all who have already, or will, make the Symposium FORMEC 2012 still better by their engagement, knowledge or presence.

Tibor Pentek, Tomislav Poršinsky, Ivica Papa

