Foreword

Special Issue “Multipurpose Forest Management” IUFRO Conference on Multipurpose Forest Management: Strategies for Sustainability in a Climate Change Era

Organizing Committee of the International Conference on Multipurpose Forest Management

This special issue comprises 29 papers based on presentations at the International Conference on Multipurpose Forest Management held 20 - 25 September 2009 at *Toki Messe* in Niigata, Japan. The objective of this conference was to explore strategies and techniques for sustainably managing multi-functional forests in an era of climate change. The conference was attended by 113 participants. Five keynote addresses, 25 oral presentations, and 45 poster presentations were made during the conference. Discussion tracks included state-of-the-art techniques and practices for sustainably managing forest resources, enhancing the various functions of forests, and maintaining forest ecosystems. Through reports and discussions, the following recommendations were made at the close of the meeting.

1. In multipurpose forest management, integration of various research areas including socio-economics, earth science and, environmental science is needed to overcome currently emerging issues in this era of climate change. These are carbon cycle projection through forest management; consideration of climatic, topographic and human disturbances; biodiversity preservation and forest health; reduction of insect and disease outbreaks, drought, windthrow, and wildfires; processes of participation for all stakeholders; provision of local and international indicators for multipurpose forest management; and accumulation of traditional knowledge on forest resource utilization.
 2. Recent advances in statistical and technological tools should be constantly kept in mind, especially in the fields of forest growth modeling, simulation techniques, zoning technologies, spatial analysis, and image analysis.
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