



UN's UNFF 9th Session,
24 Jan-4 Feb 2011.
Reported by
Lennart Ackzell



New York was winter cold and we had several difficult snowfalls



Empire State Building

Carl Reuterswård "Non Violence"



UNFFs opening session and Chairman Arvids Ozolts, Latvia.

At the podium you also see UNFF's Director Jan McAlpine, USA and FAO's ADG Forestry Department Eduardo Rojas.

Locally controlled forestry;
 - Enhancing Sustainable Forest Management on the ground.

UNFF Side-Event
 Monday 24th of January
 Conf. Room C, North Lawn Building
 at 13.15-14.45h
 Light lunch will be provided

Exchange of experiences North-South in capacity building by better organized smallholders

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Already on the UNFF9 first day we had a Side-event where IFFA members activities, inspired by GFP, in Kenya, Ethiopia, Mexico and Vietnam were presented. The speakers were Janne Näräkkä (MTK), Manuel Gonzales (CONOSIL) and Lennart Ackzell (LRF) all members of IFFA. Unfortunately Dominic Walubengo could not attend as planned due to visa problems.



The audience consisted among others of FAO's ADG Eduardo Rojas and his predecessor Jan Heino,



The "Major Groups" met every day at 9h. Lambert Okrah, (Can Env Net) was the focal point as well as Alexander Buck (IUFRO) who moderated the Multi Stakeholder Dialogue. Family and Community forestry organisations belong in the UN system to "Farmers and Small Forest Land Owners" with focal point Ghan Shyam Pandey. It was decided that for the next UNFF session Peter DeMarch will be our group's focal point.





On Wednesday the 26th January the Major Stake-holder Dialogue took place. Due to successful preparation in Ghana, June 2010, the major groups had four focused PowerPoint presentations instead of reading out some 21



statements from each group on each item. This approach was highly appreciated by the audience. Ghan Shyam Pandey presented successful work with community forestry and one presentation on Social values, written mainly by Peter DeMarch, about land tenure, involvement of people and Sustainable Forest Management for better livelihoods.



A snow storm than stroked New York and UN had to close on Thursday due to that security personnel, among others, could not reach to their jobs



The second week had focus on the High Level segment, including the launching of the International Year of Forests. The Event took place in the UN General Assembly Hall.



UN General Secretary Ban-Ki Moon had a message.

The speakers list included high officials but the most colourful speaker was



the Nobel Price laureate Wangari Maathai.

Unfortunately another Nobel price laureate Ellinor Ostrom couldn't come due to the snow chaos.



The event ended by a Children appeal to plant more trees.





The logo and the spirit at the launching of IYF 2011 fits well with the human approach by the Right Holders Group and the GFP. The final Ministerial declaration underlined land tenure, local people and communities and participatory decision making.



Evidently much networking was done members of GFP for example personal discussions with Eduardo Rojas FAO, Gary Dunning TFD, Stewart Maginnis IUCN, Gerhard Dieterle WB, Francis Seymore CIFOR.

At the TFD/IUCN Side-event our friends Peter DeMarch and Morten Thoro were illustrating financial arrangements

Our second Side-event took place the very last day of UNFF9 on Friday the 4th. We got this time-slot at a very late stage and our colleagues from GACF and IAITPTF had only scheduled to participate the first week of UNFF9.



Sustainability through organized small holders and local control - including group certification

Collaboration within the Growing Forest Partnership

UNFF9 Side-Event
Friday 4th of February
Conf. Room (CR2), North Lawn Building
at 13.15-14.45h

Right Holders Group

Supported by

Flyers with our pins was widely distributed among delegates and our event but it took place in parallel with intensive negotiations on the UNFF9 Resolution



Ivar Legallais-Korsbakken and Lennart Ackzell presented while Satu Lantiainen moderated the session.

Afterwards a coffee with Lambert.

The session got a happy end as Brazil invited the Major Groups to come to Rio back-to-back with Rio+20 to prepare for UNFF10. Again it was acknowledged that this Multi Stake-holder Dialogue was the best one seen at UNFF



Visit also <http://www.familyforestry.net>

While the nights fall here in New York

Best Regards to you all

Lennart

