Preliminary announcement:

6th IUFRO 2.09.02 Conference Rotorua, New Zealand

(Tree Vegetative Propagation)

Dear Members of the IUFRO 2.09.02 Working Party and Division 2,

After a challenging few years, we are delighted to announce that Dr. Jana Krajňáková, senior researcher for tissue culture and project leader at Scion (New Zealand), has agreed again (after the 2012 conference in Brno) to organise in Rotorua the 6th International Conference of the IUFRO 2.09.02 Unit *(Somatic embryogenesis and other vegetative propagation technologies).*

We warmly thank Jana for being so involved in our 2.09.02 activities since the very beginning, and Dr. Henri Baillères, General Manager Forests to Timber Products at Scion for his strong support (see the invitation letter). As a leading research institute in forest and wood innovation, Scion has numerous and productive connections with industry and other stakeholders in the forest sector and will offer an opportunity to learn about advanced practices in New Zealand's nurseries and clonal forestry.

We would like also to express our warmest thanks on behalf of the whole 2.09.02 Unit to Pr. Hailong Shen (Northeast Forestry Univ., Harbin, China). As you remember, we collegially decided in Coimbra (2018) to hold our next conference in Harbin. The organisation was initiated in 2019 but stopped due to the pandemic. Afterwards, we never found the necessary conditions to arrange the conference on site. However, we consider that live meetings are the most productive way to achieve our networking goals (both scientific and social) within our largely fragmented community. We will re-examine later with Pr. Shen the possibility of organizing our conference in Harbin.

We remain committed to organising our conferences on different continents to encourage participation and expand our network. So, this time it will be New Zealand.

The might of vegetative propagation for healthy and productive forests to face climate challenges

CONFERENCE DATES: Sun 3 – Fri 8 March, 2024

CONFERENCE VENUE: Novotel Rotorua Lakeside

Please disseminate the information widely to your teams, colleagues and networks interested in vegetative propagation of trees (more generally woody plants).

IUFRO

IUFRO WORKING PARTY 2.09.02 SOMATIC EMBRYOGENESIS AND OTHER VEGETATIVE PROPAGATION TECHNOLOGIES

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Let us know if your institution wishes to support our IUFRO 2.09.02 conference.

Organizing Committee

Depending on your location and connections, feel free to contact any member of the organising committee during the preparation of the conference.

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General Theme

The conference general theme has been selected considering that, in the context of rapid climate change, there is an urgent need for cost-effective, efficient tree vegetative propagation (bio)technologies for supporting the development of precision forestry and delivery of forest products and services. Innovative technologies could be of importance for both deployment of adapted, healthy, commercial varieties in planted forests and preservation of natural forest areas, thus to the integrated benefit of the industry and society. In New Zealand there is a marked societal dimension in forestry through the historical strong and practical involvement of Te Ao Māori.

Programme Sessions

The programme sessions proposed will cover all fields of application of vegetative propagation to preserve, assess, improve, adapt, and deploy tree genetic resources in resilient and productive forests. We will encourage any submission on vegetative propagation of trees as a primary strategy and/or in synergy with seed technologies to cope with climate change. Oral and poster presentations should be in line with the urgent need worldwide for large numbers of seed and plant resources from species and varieties adapted to the anticipated new conditions.

Important dates

Abstract submission: **30 September (2023)**
Acceptance of abstracts: by **30 November (2023)**

Accommodation and travel

The Novotel Rotorua Lakeside is conveniently located in the city centre of Rotorua. Negotiated accommodation at the conference venue (including breakfast) is currently available from 255 NZD (150 EUR/160 USD) but a list of good hotels (and other solutions) at walking distance with the lowest rates will be prepared. Planning for an engaging conference tour and social program is underway (see the Presentation document). The weather in Rotorua is still pleasant at the end of the southern summer and it should be possible to travel by air at acceptable rate during late February/early March 2024.

Conference format

The conference format will be mainly on-site as we still think it is the most effective way for networking and to develop great collaborations. Considering, however, the current worldwide economic context, we are reviewing opportunities for remote participation. Excluding conference streaming, which has become too expensive, we will offer the possibility that accepted presentations from colleagues unable to attend for economic reasons could be posted at the conference website. In addition, the whole conference will be recorded, and presentations will be made available (upon written agreement) for interested colleagues on payment of a moderate fee.

Registration

As usual, we aim to offer the lowest registration rate for our conference by fully investing in the in-house organisation (both Organising and Conference Executive Committees). The registration rate is ca. NZ$750 NZD early bird rate (€430/US$470) and NZ$850 regular rate (€490/US$530). We will also consider offering a lower rate to encourage the participation of students. It is more important than ever to be prepared well in advance and enjoy the early registration rate.

Important dates

Early birds: **30 September (2023) - NZ$750**
Regular: **31 January (2024) - NZ$850**

Travel support

To make the travel to New Zealand easier, we have organised the conference about a year in advance so that you can fully explore possible support from your institution and/or other favourite funding bodies. In case of difficulties and depending on the available conference resources (IUFRO and other sponsorship), we would be happy to provide full or partial support as for previous conferences.

Willingness to attend Rotorua 2024

To help Jana and Henri to smoothly organise the conference, we would like to collect your intentions to participate in the conference (on-site or remotely). Please fill in the following *questionnaire* as soon as possible and preferably before the end of May 2023.

Correspondence

Correspondence related to the conference can be addressed to Jana (*Jana.Krajnakova@scionresearch.com*) and/or Kylie (*Kylie.Gunn@scionresearch.com*) for operational and practical arrangements. At the last page of the presentation document, you will also find the contact details of people who are willing to assist you in preparing longer stays to explore the beauty of New Zealand.

After four years since our last conference in Coimbra, we are looking forward to meeting you all again in Rotorua for a friendly conference.

Book 3-8 March (2024) in your calendars

Paloma Moncaleán
Yong-Wook Kim
Jean-François Trontin
Your IUFRO 2.09.02 Coordinating Team

More information soon. Please check the *2.09.02 dedicated webpages* to keep up to date.