

Division 3's nomination of Coordinator of IUFRO Division 3 for the term 2019-2024

Based on the below described democratic nomination process, Div. 3 nominates Woodam Chung for a second term as Coordinator of Division 3. As second choice, Div. 3 nominates Mauricio Acuna.

Nomination procedure

According to IUFRO statutes and rules, candidates for the Division Coordinator position can be nominated independently by any individual within IUFRO's Member Organization and Associate Members. However, Division Coordinators will normally be proposed by the Divisions concerned. How this has been done has hitherto not been clear. Thus, a new nomination guideline for Division 3 (see appendix) was initiated by the current Division coordinator, Woodam Chung, and prepared by him and myself, in order to establish a transparent and democratic process of how the Division nominates candidates for Division 3 Coordinator. The reported happenings below follows the guidelines.

October 26th 2017: Invitation to nominate candidates for the Div. 3 nomination of its coordinator was sent out (see appendix) to the Div.3 email list, with deadline November 30th. The mailing list contained 660 addresses.

The invitation resulted in two eligible nominations:

Woodam Chung, current coordinator of Division 3, being nominated by one and suggested/inquired if already nominated by 6 other persons.

Mauricio Acuna, deputy coordinator of RG 3.01 Harvesting and transportation engineering, being nominated by one person.

December 5th 2017: Information about candidates, their CVs and envisage strategies were sent by emails to the 46 Div. 3 officeholders (Div. coordinator and deputies as well as RG coordinators and deputies). The candidates, both being officeholders, were also given the right to vote.

The invitation to participate in the online voting (see appendix) was sent out December 7th, with deadline December 15th. The intention was to send out both candidate information and voting invitation in the same email, but due to technical problems the online voting did not work in the first attempt. The voting was anonymous, and without info about the result. Each person could vote only once, which was granted by providing an individual code in the voting invitation. The voting was conducted by using the free version of the software Poll Maker (www.poll-maker.com).

A reminder was sent out December 12th, and 31 (67%) of the officeholders had placed their votes by December 16th. Woodam Chung was supported by 21 (68%) of the votes, whereas Mauricio Acuna, was supported by 10 (32%) of the votes. The option “None of the candidates” received no votes (see appendix).

Experiences and conclusions from the nomination process

The nomination process proved easy to conduct, and resulted in good response from the Division in terms of nominations and voting engagement. Thus, it is considered to be a good tool to increase the engagement in the Division activity, and thereby also in IUFRO at a whole. Prior to initiating the process, there were some concerns raised that the process might be causing more problems than benefits. Risk for individuals aiming to hijack the coordinator position merely for own benefits, were one concern. However, just like in any democratic process there are risks. On the other hand, there are similar risks with the previous, top-steered nomination process. The major difference is that the democratic process is transparent, and promotes engagement by the members.

The nomination process also resulted in putting forward an alternative candidate to the current coordinator. At a first glance, it could be considered problematic with competition for power within the Division. However, I would argue that it is very good to have several nominees, due to two reasons. The first is that it is a clear sign that the Division is active and appreciated, with candidates and supporting organization that consider the Division’s work important. Hence, several candidates is a good signal to the IUFRO management, as well as to the Division itself.

The second reason is that several nominees set a good stage for a coming succession. Since coordinators need to be replaced at least every second term, it is important to know who might be possible candidate(s) for coming periods. The sooner such interests can be spotted, the better it can be managed and promoted within the division.

Last but not least, the democratic and transparent nomination process gives a clear mandate to the winner in the voting. With a top-steered process, the mandate of the division coordinator might be questioned, both by the division members as well as by the coordinator.

So far the good things that was found from this process. Regarding changes and improvements, there are some few to put forward. The use of an online software proved more laborious than anticipated, when facilitating the actual voting. However, that is mainly a matter of finding the right software and skill of the person setting up the voting. Another thing to consider is the definition of eligible voters. A “two-chamber” process was used, starting with a basically open nomination invitation. The voting on nominees was, however, restricted to the considerably fewer officeholders. It could be argued that a more direct democratic system could be applied, by allowing all Div. 3 members to vote. However, there are in fact little control over who is, and is not, Div. 3 member. The closest to a member list is the Div. 3 email-list, which contains 660 email addresses. The list is, however, far from updated. Neither is there, as far as I know, any kind of requirement on those put on the list. Hence, there is no need to actually be active within forest operations, research or other things which might be put forward as requisites as participate in the engagement in IUFRO Div. 3 activities and its management. The 46 officeholders, however, are individuals well known within the division’s field of activity and

recruited based on their professional merits. Thus, under the current conditions, I strongly argue that the used “two-chamber” process is the most suitable.

To conclude the experiences of the new democratic nomination process, it was found to be easy to conduct, and provided important input both to the division management and the division members. Consequently, the democratic nomination process is strongly recommended to also other divisions.

Prof. Ola Lindroos, PhD

Deputy Coordinator of Div. 3.

Appendices

IUFRO Division Coordinator (Board Member) Nomination Procedure

Invitation to nominate Div. 3 coordinator

Information about candidates and invitation to vote

Screenshot of voting site

IUFRO Division Coordinator (Board Member) Nomination Procedure (DRAFT)

Division 3

Prepared by Woodam Chung and Ola Lindroos

26 October, 2017

The purpose of this document is to establish a transparent and democratic process of nominating candidates for Division 3 Coordinator for the next IUFRO term (2019-2024).

Background

According to IUFRO statutes and rules, candidates for the Division Coordinator position can be nominated independently by any individual within IUFRO's Member Organization and Associate Members. However, Division Coordinators will normally be proposed by the Divisions concerned. The purpose of this document is to establish a transparent and democratic process of how Division 3 nominate candidates for Division 3 Coordinator.

Article XI, paragraph 9 of the IUFRO Statutes reads, "*Division Coordinators and their Deputies normally hold office from the first day after the IUFRO World Congress until the last day of the next World Congress. If they have served one full term, they are eligible for only one more term in the same post; if they were appointed between Congresses to fill a vacancy they are eligible for two full terms.*"

This Article indicates that those Division Coordinators who serve for one term are eligible to serve another term, but they will still need to be nominated again, should they be willing to serve for one more term.

At the 56th IUFRO Board Meeting held in September 2017, a consensus has been reached among the current Division Coordinators that 1) a transparent and democratic nomination procedure should be developed that may work across Divisions, and that 2) each Division may nominate multiple candidates to the IUFRO Nominating Committee in order to ensure ethnic, regional and gender balances in the IUFRO Board.

In this current term, nominations should be sent to the President of IUFRO (Mike Wingfield) and the chair of the Board's Nominating Committee (Niels-Elers Koch) by the 31st of December, 2017. The Nominating Committee will then review all nominations and provide a slate of candidates for each position during the 57th IUFRO Board Meeting in September 2018. The Board will make final recommendations to the International Council in October 2019 at the XXV IUFRO World Congress in Curitiba, Brazil.

Nomination procedure of Division 3

As part of the open general nomination procedure in which individuals independently can nominate candidates for Division Coordinators, each Division can organizing its own process in a clear, transparent and democratic manner. For Division 3, the process is organized and administered under the responsibility of one of the following individuals:

- Current Division Coordinator if the person does not run for the post for another term
- A current Division Deputy Coordinator who do not run for the Division Coordinator post
- A current Research Group Coordinator who do not run for the Division Coordinator post

Eligible Nominators (Who can nominate?)

According to IUFRO's statutes, any individual within IUFRO's Member Organization and Associate Members can nominate potential candidates. However, self-nomination is prohibited.

Eligible Nominees (Who can be nominated?)

According to the IUFRO statutes, any individual within IUFRO's Member Organization and Associate Members can potentially be nominated. However, the nominee must:

- Be willing to act as Division Coordinator and IUFRO Board member, and
- Be supported by his/her employer for the travel and coordination activities that the position requires.

In addition to these rules, the nominees should have some level of familiarity, knowledge and experience with IUFRO, and its functions and governance. Therefore, the nominees must serve or have recently served in one of the following capacities:

- Division Coordinator
- Deputy Division Coordinator
- Research Group Coordinator
- Working Party Coordinator

General procedure for the Division 3 Coordinator nomination process, with the timeline for 2017

- By October 15th a person responsible for the Nomination process is identified, and have accepted to be responsible for the execution of the following steps.
- A call for applications is sent out to all members of the Division 3 mailing list by October 31st.
- Complete nomination applications should be submitted by November 30th. Each application should be accompanied by three documents: a curriculum vitae, a candidate statement indicating main points of the candidate's envisaged strategy for the Division (max. 1 page), and a signed consent by the candidate and the candidate's employer stating that the candidate is willing to serve as Division Coordinator and that the employer is willing and able to support travel and coordination activities required to fulfil the responsibilities of Division Coordinator (see ANNEX 2 attached).
- An e-voting is conducted by the current Division 3 Officeholders (coordinators and deputy coordinators) by December 15th.
- A report is drafted and sent to the IUFRO President and the Nominating Committee by December 31st along with the names of the nominees and the results of the vote.

ANNEX 2

Agreement of Employer

I,the employer/representative of the employer
confirm that
the IUFRO nomineeemployed at our institution
is available to serve IUFRO in the position of.....
for the term 2019-2024.

In doing so, I understand the expectations of this appointment and am committed to support him/her in the travel and coordination activities that the post requires. I also understand that nomination does not guarantee election.

Signature Employer.....

Date.....

Agreement of Nominee

I, the IUFRO nominee
confirm that
I am available to serve IUFRO in the position of.....
for the term 2019-2024.

In doing so, I understand the expectations and work time implications related to this appointment and will fulfill all IUFRO activities that the post requires. I also understand that nomination does not guarantee election.

Signature Nominee.....

Date.....

Ola Lindroos

From: Ola Lindroos
Sent: den 26 oktober 2017 09:45
To: 'div3@lists.iufro.org'
Cc: 'mike.wingfield@fabi.up.ac.za'; 'nek@trap.dk'
Subject: Nominate IUFRO Div 3 Coordinator!
Attachments: Agreement of employer and nominee.doc; Nomination Procedure_Division 3_2017-10-26.pdf

Dear members of IUFRO Division 3,

It is time to think of who we want to lead our Division for the next term (2019-2024). Thus, I invite everyone that receives this mail to nominate a person for the post as Coordinator of Division 3. The Division Coordinator can serve for two terms, so our current coordinator Woodam Chung can serve for one more term if we would want him to do so. However, he still needs to be nominated in order to be able to candidate.

Div. 3's nomination procedure will be as follows:

1. Candidates are nominated by sending the required documents to me by email by November 30th.
2. I will compile the eligible candidates, and the current Div. 3 Officeholder (coordinators and deputies) will vote for their favorite by December 15th.
3. I will compile the vote results, and send it to the IUFRO President and the Nominating Committee by December 31st.

So if you have a candidate in mind, please do not hesitate to nominate that person. However, if a person already is nominated, there is no need to nominate again. Thus, you might want to consult me before initiate the work of collecting the three documents that is required to accompany each nomination:

1. A curriculum vitae,
2. A candidate statement indicating main points of the candidate's envisaged strategy for the Division (max. 1 page),
3. Signed consent by the candidate and the candidate's employer, stating that the candidate is willing to serve as Division Coordinator and that the employer is willing and able to support travel and coordination activities required to fulfil the responsibilities of Division Coordinator (please use the enclosed document).

Please note that self-nomination is not allowed. Moreover, candidates should have good knowledge of IUFRO. Thus, they have preferably served as IUFRO officeholder (deputy division coordinator, research group coordinator or working party coordinator).

I am looking forward to your nominations and any possible questions on this matter.

Kind regards,

Ola Lindroos, Deputy Coordinator of Div. 3.

PS. According to IUFRO statutes and rules, candidates for the Division Coordinator position can be nominated independently by any individual within IUFRO's Member Organization and Associate Members. However, Division Coordinators will normally be proposed by the Divisions concerned. How this has been done has hitherto not been clear. Thus, I also enclose the draft for a new nomination guideline document prepared by the current Division coordinator, Woodam Chung, and myself that guide the above described nomination process, in order to establish a transparent and democratic process of how our Division nominates candidates for Division 3 Coordinator.



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Ola Lindroos

From: Ola Lindroos
Sent: den 6 december 2017 20:59
To: Ola Lindroos
Subject: Vote for IUFRO Div. 3 coordinator!
Attachments: Dr. Mauricio Acuna - Strategy for IUFRO D3.pdf; Dr Mauricio Acuna - CV November 2017.pdf; Candidate Statement_Chung.pdf; Woodam Chung_Vitae.pdf

Importance: High

Dear office holder of IUFRO Division 3,

Here is a new try for making this voting procedure work! Hopefully, the link and the code in this mail works!

As you should have noticed already, it is time for our Division to decide who we want to lead our Division for the next term (2019-2024).

During the Division's internal nomination process, two candidates have been nominated;

Woodam Chung, current coordinator of Division 3, and
Mauricio Acuna, deputy coordinator of RG 3.01 Harvesting and transportation engineering.

Both nominations are complete, with signed consent by the candidate and the candidate's employer. The candidates' envisage strategies for our divisions as well as their CV:s are enclosed, for you to consult.

The next step is to investigate which one of the candidate that receives the strongest support within the Division.

Thus, you (as one of the office holders) are invited to place your vote [here](#), and need to insert your personal code which is:

A0DMGN7ZB

I need your vote at latest December 15th and note that you can only vote once, without possibility to change your mind.

Please note that after voting, you will come to some irrelevant pages which I cannot get rid of. So just ignore them – once you have clicked the "Vote" button you are done.

Kind regards // Ola



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Screenshot of voting site

Who do you want to be nominated as Div 3 coordinator for 2019-2024?

Code:

Mauricio Acuna

Woodam Chung

None of the candidates