



Media Release

World Forestry Day (140306)

Australians can celebrate World Forestry Day on March 21 in the knowledge that professional foresters have laid the foundations for a vibrant forest industry as well as a world class forest conservation program.

“Australian forestry has been recognised in a number of international forums and publications for the lead it has taken in sustainable management of its forest estate” says Institute of Foresters of Australia National President, Dr Peter Volker.

“In the past year the International Union of Forest Research Organisations held a most successful World Congress in Queensland where Australian forest science, management and conservation were show cased to the world’s leading forest scientists.” Dr Volker said, “Delegates were impressed by the professional approach to forest management throughout Australia and the attention that is being paid to issues of sustainability in terms of triple bottom line goals of economic, social and environmental needs of Australia.”

“While celebrating the fact that Australia now has one of the best forest conservation programs in the world, we also need to focus on the fact that we have a huge trade deficit in forest products” he said.

“Australia is an affluent society which can afford to reserve forests that otherwise could be available for production. However, continued demand in our society for forest products shifts pressure to forests of less developed countries with poor rural communities. Australian foresters are playing a role in assisting these places improve forest management skills. As a nation we must recognise the environmental cost of our consumption and assist our neighbours to achieve sustainable forest management, as we have done.”

“Australia is truly the endowed with rich forest resources which have been and will continue to be managed for future generations. On March 21 all Australians can join with Institute members and celebrate their forest blessings” said Dr Volker.

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