



COMMUNIQUÉ

Rio Conventions Pavilion helps raise awareness

Montreal, 26 October 2011 – Over the two weeks of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), held in Changwon, Republic of Korea, from 10 to 21 October 2011, more than one thousand partners and Parties discussed themes relevant to the three Rio Conventions, showcasing implementation of the Conventions at both local and national levels in the Rio Conventions Pavilion. This was the first convening of the Pavilion at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Desertification.

Twenty-nine sessions were held on themes such as:

- Food security and combating hunger through sustainable land management;
- The role of gender in the implementation of the Rio conventions;
- Poverty reduction;
- Ecosystem-based approaches to climate change – addressing adaptation and mitigation;
- Opportunities and challenges in sustainable forest management and REDD+;
- Several sessions under sustainable land management, including:
 - Case-studies and partnerships from around the world;
 - Engaging indigenous peoples and local communities in sustainable land management;
 - Decision-support tools for sustainable land management and food security and combating hunger through sustainable land management.

The closing session of the Pavilion was co-hosted in partnership with the Korea Forest Research Institute. Luc Gnacadja, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, welcomed participants and thanked the Korean Forest Service for hosting the Pavilion over the two weeks and for giving partners and Parties an opportunity for knowledge-sharing and finding common ground in the work of the three conventions. He also noted with appreciation the 20 or more partners that had financially and substantively supported the organization of the Pavilion during the meeting.

Mr. Gnacadja closed the Pavilion by adding: “We are looking forward to building on the outcomes at the next meeting of the Pavilion, which will take place at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Durban, South Africa.”

In closing the Pavilion on 20 October 2011, Mr. Don Koo Lee, President of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Desertification, and Minister, Korea Forest Service, said: “The Rio Conventions Pavilion successfully attracted a large number of visitors from home and abroad and raised awareness of interlinkages between sustainable land management, biodiversity and climate change. This interactive event once again sent a strong signal and a common message to all stakeholders around the world on the need for synergistic implementation of the three sister conventions.”

He added, “With the success of the Rio Conventions Pavilion and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification, let us all join hands in extending the momentum of these collaborative initiatives to the future.”

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said that: “This third iteration of the Rio Conventions Pavilion demonstrates the importance of having such a common platform for joining the efforts of the convention secretariats to further the goals of combating desertification and land degradation, preserving and conserving biodiversity, and tackling climate change mitigation and adaptation.”

It is envisaged that for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change over 40 sessions will be held in the Rio Conventions Pavilion, at the climate-change-and-response exposition to be hosted by the South Africa Department of Environmental Affairs. Planning is also under way for Pavilion activities at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.
