

## **FIFTH WORKSHOP OF IUFRO WORKING PARTY**

### **5.01.04**

### **“WOOD QUALITY MODELLING”**

The Wood Quality Modelling Working Party of the International Union of Forest Research Organisations held its fifth workshop on Waiheke Island, New Zealand, 20–27 November 2005. The workshop followed the tradition of earlier workshops (Sweden 1994, South Africa 1996, France 1999, Canada 2002) and was based on the theme “Connection between Forest Resources and Wood Quality: Modelling Approaches and Simulation Software”. The objective of this Working Party is to improve the wood resource for future use through evaluation of the current resource, and modifications to silvicultural practices, site quality, soil fertility, product differentiation, and processing pathways. To enable predictions and examine alternatives, much activity in this Working Party is based on computer modelling, simulation techniques, and, more recently, non-destructive evaluation tools and techniques. Extensions to many of the computer models have been made since the last workshop, some through pioneering work with multi-criteria optimisation of silvicultural schedules. These recent optimisation models focus on both financial and non-financial goals (biological, social, and environmental), with emphasis on environmental factors.

The opening of the workshop was heralded by Maori cultural entertainment, performed by the students of Waiheke Island High School. This provided a unique welcome to delegates who had travelled from across the globe to attend the workshop. The scientific programme began with a welcome speech from the Co-ordinator of the Working Party, Gérard Nepveu. Successive presentations followed a top-down approach, starting with an overview of the forestry conversion chain, then shifting emphasis to silvicultural schedules, forest products, and on to wood properties, quality, and value. Modelling approaches were to the forefront in many presentations. During the course of the week several demonstrations of software and of the IML electronic hammer for acoustic assessment of trees also occurred. All contributions were of a very high standard.

The following papers represent an assortment from among a wide variety of inspiring presentations that were made at the Fifth Workshop. The full workshop proceedings, and earlier issues, can be ordered from the secretary of the Working Party, Nathalie Morel ([nmorel@nancy.inra.fr](mailto:nmorel@nancy.inra.fr)), or by completing the order form found at:

<http://www.inra.fr/internet/Centres/nancy/lerfob/qualite-bois/workshop/pages/telechargement/how.pdf>

The workshop concluded with some important announcements that were subsequently discussed, and after nominations were held resulted in the following outcomes.

- The Sixth Workshop of IUFRO 5.01.04 will be held at Koli National Park, near Joensuu, Finland, 8-14 June 2008 (chair Heli Peltola).
- Office Holders for IUFRO 5.01.04 have changed from:  
G rard Nepveu (Co-ordinator, France), Thomas Th rnqvist (Deputy, Sweden), Fran ois Malan (Deputy, South Africa)

to:

Jean-Michel Leban (Co-ordinator, France), Joseph Gril (Deputy, France), Heli Peltola (Deputy, Finland), Christine Todoroki (Deputy, New Zealand).

The outgoing IUFRO Office Holders, G rard Nepveu, Thomas Th rnqvist, and Fran ois Malan, have given much time and energy to IUFRO 5.01.04 over the years, including the establishment of the international workshop series itself. Their valuable contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

I thank all participants at the Fifth Workshop for their outstanding contributions, open discussions, and camaraderie and look forward to our next opportunity when this group re-assembles.

Christine Todoroki  
Workshop Chair