



EDITORIAL

This issue of International Forest Fire News is exclusively devoted to summarize and compile the results of the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference, which was held in Sun City, South Africa, in May 2011.

The conference was opened by a message by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon. In his message to the 500 delegates from 61 countries, which was read by the editor of IFFN, he welcomed the efforts of fire specialists from around the world to develop a spirit of global cooperation in addressing the role of fire in the global environment and its impacts on society. And he said: „*I encourage you to identify real solutions that will help communities and nations to better handle the adverse impacts of fires and to build safer, more sustainable societies for all*”.

The contributions presented in the plenary and parallel sessions reflected the advances in wildland fire science and management globally. The abstracts of the presentations and other conference materials including a large photo gallery are available on the conference website:

<http://www.wildfire2011.org/>

At the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) a special website was set up after the conference in which the contributions from the Global Wildland Fire Network are displayed, which provided the substance of the outcome of the conference: In the Conference Statement the participants had agreed on a suite of recommendations that addressed common international concerns:

<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/southafrica-2011.html>

In this issue all main conference outputs have been compiled and archived for the convenience of those who will follow-up the recommendations in the coming three years before the international community of wildland fire scientists, practitioners and policy makers will meet again – at the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference in Republic of Korea, in October 2015.