

International Wildland Fire Summit Briefing Notes as at 21 August 2003

Background

This is the inaugural International Wildland Fire Summit. It was proposed and is being supported by the International Liaison Committee that was established to arrange the 3rd International Wildland Fire Conference and Exhibition to be held in Sydney from 3rd to 6th October. This conference follows successful conferences in Boston, USA in 1989 and Vancouver, Canada in 1997. The drive to hold a Summit comes from a widely held concern that more can be done to improve cooperation at an international level in the prevention and suppression of wildland fires. Many of the key players will be in Sydney for the Conference, so it made sense to organise the Summit immediately following.

Venue and Date

Sydney Convention Centre, Wednesday 8th October 2003 from 0830 to 1800 hrs.

Purpose

The purpose of the Summit is to identify immediate and pragmatic measures by which to improve international cooperation in wildland fire management.

Host:

The Hon Tony Kelly MLC, NSW Minister for Emergency Services will host the Summit.

Chair

The Hon Neville Wran QC, former Premier of NSW, will chair the Summit.

Scope Statement

A comprehensive Scope Statement has been developed and distributed to invitees. The Scope Statement gives details of the objectives, position papers, program, invitation process and membership of the International Liaison Committee (ILC).

Invitees

The Summit is for invited participants only, although provision has been made for non-speaking advisors and observers to be included. Six invitees were nominated from each of the ten regions of the world as described in the scope statement. In addition, all members of the ILC were invited, along with representative of international agencies with a key interest in the outcome. Invitees were selected for their expertise in wildland fire management and their capacity to influence the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit within their own domestic jurisdiction.

To date, 133 invitations have been sent out and 63 acceptances from 31 countries have been received. 18 invitees have declined. Efforts are now being directed towards following up with those who have yet to reply.

Anticipated Outputs

The Scope Statement proposes the discussion of four position papers that will have been distributed to invitees before the meeting. It is anticipated that participants will debate the four papers and decide on a form of words for each one acceptable to the meeting. The agreed position papers will then form the substance of a communiqué that will be distributed following the meeting. Copies of the four position papers are available from the Executive Officer.

Design and Organisational Issues

The Summit floor layout will be a horseshoe shape to facilitate easy debate and discussion. The flags of each country will be displayed, as will the name of each invited country or agency. Only one person from each country or agency will be designated to speak. Each invitee will be provided with a folder containing the position papers and guided response pages to facilitate response to each of the papers. Souvenir pens are also being provided.

A photographer will be on hand to take a group photo of Summit invitees. It is intended that the photo will be available before the close of the meeting.

Lunch will be provided in a nearby reception room. This will include a two course sit-down meal with platters of starters and tea/coffee.

Summit Dinner

A dinner cruise on the harbour for Summit participants is being arranged. The dinner cruise will be hosted by the Minister and funded by GFMC.

Media Coverage

Media coverage for the Summit is being coordinated by the Corporate Communications Unit of NSW Rural Fire Service.

Funding Support

Funding support for the Summit has been provided by The International Liaison Committee (ILC), Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia (AFFA) and The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC). Dra Liana Bratasida's expenses have been met by Emergency Management Australia (EMA).

Summit Program

- 0830hrs Welcome by Host (The Hon Tony Kelly MLC, Minister for Emergency Services, NSW, Australia)
- 0845 hrs A Message from Mr Jan Egeland, the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, read by the Mr Juan Carlos Brandt, Director of the UN Information Centre in Sydney, in honour of the International Wildland Fire Summit and the UN International Day of Disaster Reduction
- 0900 hrs Overview of business by Chairperson The Hon Neville Wran QC
- 0915 hrs Presentation on Principles for International Fire Management Projects including group discussion: Gary Morgan.
- 0950 hrs Presentation on Template Arrangement for international assistance including group discussion: Ricardo Velez-Munoz
- 1025 hrs Presentation on ICS as the International Protocol for Emergency Management including group discussion: Murray Dudfield
- 1100 hrs Morning tea
- 1130 hrs Presentation on current global and regional networks: Johann Goldammer
- 1140 hrs Strategy for Future Development of International Cooperation in Wildfire Management: Denny Truesdale
- 1220 hrs Discussion on the presentations.
- 1245 hrs Lunch
- 1345 hrs Regional presentation: South East Asia (Ibu Liana Bratasida, Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation, Indonesia)
- 1415 hrs Regional presentation: Latin America (Patricio Sanhueza, Chile and Roberto Martínez, Mexico)
- 1445 hrs Afternoon Tea
- 1515 hrs Discussion of Strategy for Future Development
- 1545 hrs Consideration of final versions of position papers.
- 1630 hrs Consideration of draft communiqué
- 1800 hrs Close
- 1830 hrs Dinner Cruise

Further Information

The Scope Statement and the four Summit position papers are now on the Wildland Fire Conference Website (see www.wildlandfire03.com).

Further information about the International Wildland Fire Summit is available from the Executive Officer on (02) 8845 3514 or by email Duncan.Sutherland@rfs.nsw.gov.au.

Countries attending the Summit

Australia

Brazil

Cambodia

Cameroun

Canada

Chile

China

Colombia

Ethiopia

Finland

Germany

Ghana

Honduras

Indonesia

Italy

Malaysia

Mexico

Mongolia

New Zealand.

Panama

Papua New Guinea

Peru

Philippines

Russian Federation

Scotland

South Africa

Spain

Sudan

Switzerland

Thailand

USA