

Final Report

SNS-funding to network: *World Dendro – International Conference on Dendrochronology*

(Funding received: 11 000 E)

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Raportti SNS:lle

As planned in the application, the activities of the SNS network of dendrochronologists centered around WorldDendro2010 (The 8th international joined conference of the leading organizations of dendrochronological research). The conference (<http://www.worlddendro2010.fi>) was held at Rovaniemi, Finland, during June 13-18 2010. In addition the program included a pre-conference fieldweek for young scientists and two post-congress tours.

We originally applied support for conference fees as well as a smaller amount for supporting accomodation expenses of the persons received SNS support. The sum received (11 000 e) was substantially smaller than the applied one (14 000 e). The participation fees of the originally 20 participants (planned in our application) totalled almost the whole sum 11 000 E received from SNS. We decided to keep the number of persons unchanged. Thus, the budget cut was made by allocating the funds entirely to participation fees (in total $20 * 520 \text{ E} = 10\,400 \text{ E}$). The remaining 600 euros will be returned to SNS. Appendix 1 provides a letter from the conference organizers confirming that they have received the sum, and, in return, the listed 20 persons have received the same services as ordinary conference participants. Funds from other sources (own funding of persons involved in the network) consist of travel and accomodation expenses. In addition, the persons involved in organizing the Nordic meeting at WorldDendro2010 (Prof. Linderholm, Dr. Jalkanen, Dr. Nöjd) did not receive funding from the network.

The possibility of applying SNS-support in the form of registration fee was announced on the official internet-page of WorldDendro2010. The registration form of the conference provided additional information. In addition, two messages were sent to ITRDBFOR (<http://web.utk.edu/~grissino/forum.htm>), a worldwide discussion group for dendrochronologists. Information was also circulated by email utilizing existing communication routines of the Nordic dendrochronologists.

Prior to the conference, Prof. Hans Linderholm and Dr. Risto Jalkanen, who had been elaborating plans of enhancing cooperation between Scandinavian dendrochronologists, were contacted. One of their ideas was to revitalize Dendrokronologiska sällskapet, which used to be the traditional organ of cooperation between Scandinavian dendrochronologists, but had been inactive for more than two decades. As the plan fitted perfectly with the aims of SNS networks, it was decided that the idea would be promoted during the conference. Prof. Linderholm agreed to act as a chairman of the Scandinavian meeting, held during the conference.

Among those, who had expressed interest, 20 participants (11 male, 9 female) were selected as receivers of financial support (their names and affiliations are included in Appendix 1). They were informed by email on 23.2.2010 (shortly before the end of the

registration period of the conference). Our aim was to promote the participation of young scientists and the selected group included 10 doctoral students.

The theme of WorldDendro2010 was climate change. The number of participants was 330, 42 countries were represented. The sub-disciplines varied from dendroarchaeology and dendroclimatology to stable isotopes in tree rings as indicators of environmental changes. Thus, the conference provided an excellent over-view of applications of dendrochronology to a theme with important implications to political decision-making.

The conference covered five days and some 200 presentations, mainly in four simultaneous sessions, covering all different disciplines of dendrochronology. In addition there were two poster sessions with a total of about 150 posters. An in-congress tour was organized on 16th of June 2010, demonstrating various aspects of practical forestry in Finland. Two post-congress tours were available for participants.

The organizers of WorldDendro2010 also provided facilities for a Nordic meeting, held at the conference venue, the University of Lapland on Thursday, 17th of June (17.00 o'clock). In the meeting, chaired by prof. Hans Linderholm from the University of Gothenburg, 45 researchers interested in dendrochronological work in the Scandinavian and Baltic region met with the intention of promoting future cooperation and getting to know each other (A list of participants is included in Appendix 2).

Prof. Linderholm presented a plan for re-activating Dendrokronologiska sällskapet, a traditional platform and cooperative unit for dendrocronologists working in the Scandinavian and Baltic region. Dendrokronologiska sällskapet, originally founded in 1976, used to publish scientific journal (Meddelandet av Dendrokronologiska sällskapet), in which some widely-known papers were published. As a cooperative unit, Dendrokronologiska sällskapet will provide a forum for initiation of practical cooperation and for integration of different scientific disciplines. Meetings and workshops would be organized, providing possibilities for preparing joint project applications. A web-site will provide a forum regional exchange of information (available positions, up-coming meetings, recent publications).

In the Nordic meeting, Prof. Linderholm was selected as an interim president of the organization. A steering committee with a representative from each involved country will be selected. As a next step for continuing the activities of the network, a conference in Gothenburg is planned, possibly in spring 2011, with a provisional theme of joint analysis of stable isotopes in tree rings and wood density.

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