



Dear Members,

As leaders in the world's forestry education we have an integral role to play. It is up to us to enhance societies understanding of forests and forestry. One means to aid in this accomplishment is to focus on the tools that are currently at our disposal – using these to work towards our mission and our key priorities.

The [Global Forest Information Service](#) is a tool that can be beneficial for us as we work towards the sharing and promotion of curricula, publications, research tools, news and events. We can use GFIS to strengthen and connect regional networks in order to share knowledge and foster dialogue among diverse stakeholders of forests and forestry education.

GFIS which is an initiative of the [CPF](#) led by [IUFRO](#), has arisen as a leading destination on the internet for stakeholders interested in forests and forestry. They continuously collect information from approximately 300 providers into one gateway which can then be viewed by all in a user friendly manner – eliminating barriers to communication between information providers and information seekers.

IPFE and GFIS want to build on our partnership; we strive to bring a greater amount of educational resources onto the GFIS platform, creating an online space that is dedicated to the promotion of forestry education and all that it encompasses. GFIS has expanded its offerings to include an education information type which we can use to support our effort to carry out our mission. IPFE members are invited to freely use this platform in their promotional and collaborative endeavours. In order to become GFIS information providers we must build on our individual capacity to share information. This involves the creation of online material that can be distributed through RSS feeds, which GFIS and others can then harvest, creating a web of forestry information.

If you are unsure on what an RSS feed is and how your organization can create one, please contact the [GFIS team](#) whom will provide you with a step-by-step guide to creating an effective and functional new way to share your institutions information.

We hope to see a number of members' actively contributing information online come the 2011 fall term. Take the time this summer to work towards the future of forestry education.

Sincerely Yours,

Sari Pitkänen
Secretary General, IPFE



For further information or enquiries please contact the GFIS team.

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