



EVENT REPORT

REFORESTING OUR WORLD WITH CHILDREN FOR MILLENNIA

Hybrid Brown Bag Lunch - Bonn, Germany

Date: 18 May 2023 | Time: 12:30 to 13:30 CEST

Guest speakers:



Dr. Kazue Fujiwara
Professor Emerita of
Yokohama National
University



Prof. Elgene Box,
Professor at the
University of Georgia



G20 GLOBAL
LAND INITIATIVE



50 year old
Miyawaki
forest in Oita,
Japan.
Courtesy:
Presentation
of Prof. Kazue
Fujiwara

URBAN FORESTS: A HIDDEN KEY FOR FUTURE REAL ESTATE SUCCESS

If you are buying or planning to buy a property in a city, having an urban forest close by could make the difference between a good deal and a premium deal. As the world warms due to climate change, growing forests in small urban spaces will have multiple benefits, according to scholars of urban forests.

Forests would lower the outdoor temperatures that will plague urban spaces as buildings trap heat.

Urban forests could also protect people from ultraviolet rays and act as windbreaks. Additionally, the lush green canopy provided by these urban forests acts as a natural shield, reducing the reliance on energy-consuming air conditioning units.

The advantages do not stop there. Urban forests can intercept and store rainwater, alleviating flooding and reducing the strain on stormwater drainage systems.

Well-designed urban forests are also good for mental health. With a dense and serene ambience, they are designed for people to walk through.

An exemplar is the Miyawaki Forest model invented in the late 1950s by Japanese researcher, Akira Miyawaki.

Professor Emeritus, Kazue Fujiwara, Yokohama University, and research collaborator, Professor Elgene Box, University of Georgia, presented the model and its rationale during a hybrid Brown Bag Lunch held at the United Nations Bonn Campus in Germany.

Professor Fujiwara described the model and uniqueness of Miyawaki forests. “They are faster growing. These can store more carbon dioxide than [other] forestry methods. People can restore stable forests for preventing several calamities and animal habitats.”

Best of all, she stressed, anybody can plant these forests; from children and families to the elderly and disabled. It is a fun family event.

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- Professor Fujiwara

The impact of urban forests extends far beyond city limits. But they face special challenges in many rural areas in developing countries. For instance, in Kenya, Miyawaki plantations in the Mau Forest were felled within a span of 10 years to meet local demand for firewood.

The Miyawaki Forests model was inspired by the reforestation efforts undertaken in Germany and the Netherlands after World War II, particularly the forests planted along motorways and highways.

Professor Box described the nature of a stable forest, such as Miyawaki, compared to other forest types, and highlighted their benefits and carbon storage limitations. He said the idea of storing carbon in trees, which was fashionable in the 1990s, is unrealistic because “planted forests are too small to be significant for carbon storage.”

“A well-executed plantation should become self-maintaining after about three years. It should not need weeding after that because the shade created by the saplings will prevent weeds from coming in,” said Professor Box.

He concurred with Fujiwara that the non-carbon benefits of trees are what make Miyawaki forests in any ecosystem vital as the climate changes and warms up.

They moderate urban heat, regulate micro-climates, produce Oxygen, mitigate Ozone and improve air quality.

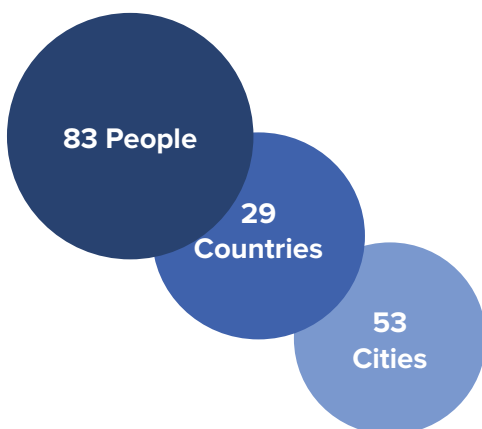
Trees reduce high temperatures, the temperature difference between day and night, the speed at which precipitation runs off and flooding. Trees also may enhance cloud formation, serve as windbreaks and maybe even serve as firebreaks, especially in the urban areas.

The Brown Bag Lunch attracted close to 300 registrants from 63 countries, with 83 people from 53 cities in 29 countries eventually joining.

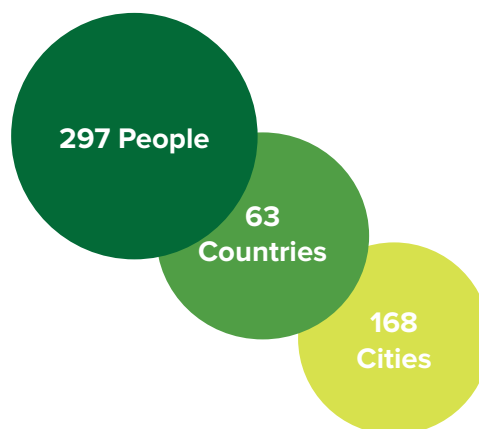
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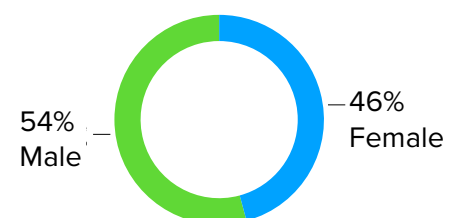
Attendees



Registrants



Gender



Replay the webinar on YouTube, [here >>](#)