
Summary of Offers to Host the XV World Forestry Congress, 2021

1. The present document summarizes the offers received to host the XV World Forestry Congress, scheduled to be held in 2021.

Information on procedures for selecting host countries for World Forestry Congresses are outlined in the [COFO 2010/Inf.5](#) document.

2. The FAO Director General invited all Members of FAO, State Members of the United Nations and any of its Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to submit offers to host and organize the XV World Forestry Congress to be held in 2021. Full proposals have been received from the Government of Italy and the Government of the Republic of Korea. They are available at the COFO website. The Government of Peru has expressed interest in hosting the Congress.

3. The proposals from Italy and Korea offer substantial information for the evaluation.

4. The proposed host institutions are the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali – MIPAAF), Government of Italy, and the Korea Forest Service (KFS), Government of the Republic of Korea.

Both bids outline the broad political support of each respective country, and demonstrate the interest of each country in showcasing their work on Forestry and other land use. Both institutions have broad experience in coordinating large scale events.

5. The proposed venues are:

- Milan, Italy: [MiCo Milano Congressi](#)

MiCo, managed by Fiera Milano Congressi (FMC), has the ability to host up to 20,000 delegates, as well as its modern technical capacities and experience in hosting similar events. MiCo has 54,000 m² of exhibition space, two plenary rooms and an auditorium with seating from 1,500 to 4,000.

- Seoul, Korea: [The COEX Convention Centre](#)

The COEX has the ability to host over 10,000 people, as well as modern technical capacities, and past experience of hosting similar events. The COEX Convention Center has a gross area of 36,364 m². COEX has 12 exhibition halls, and a large convention hall that can accommodate up to 7,000 people. Four exhibition halls cover an area of 35,000 m², where 2,000 booths can be installed.

6. The proposed venues in both cases have adequate infrastructure and are equipped to provide the services to host a large event and are well-located and accessible to international participants. Milan has three airports, including an intercontinental hub in Milan, and Seoul is accessible from the Incheon International Airport, which is the hub airport in Northeast Asia.

Both bids outline safe and economical transportation options from the airport to the venue.

7. The cities of Milan and Seoul both offer a large number of hotel rooms of varying quality and price close to the venue which would be more than sufficient to accommodate the Congress participants. The offers from Italy and Korea outline a variety of study tours of importance to the forestry community available for Congress attendees.

8. Both proposals include a financial commitment of the respective governments to cover the costs associated with the organization and hosting the World Forestry Congress. Both proposals outline possible sources of additional funding to support travel for participants from developing countries through private and institutional partnerships

9. The offer from Italy notes that full support for the bid to host XV WFC has been pledged at the national and local institutional levels, offering the necessary financial, technical and human resources. The Italian government also has pledged to cover a fair part of travel and lodging costs for delegations from developing countries, and that participation costs for developing countries and their official delegations will be covered. A certain number of foreign students and researchers will be offered the possibility of student fellowship grants to help defray the costs of participation.

10. The bid from Korea outlines their commitment to funding the Congress. The Reviewing Committee for Hosting International Conventions at the Ministry of Strategy and Finance of Korea have already approved the plan and a budget of USD 13 million for the Congress. In addition the bid includes a concrete financial pledge to support accommodation and travel expenses for participants and students from least developed countries.

11. With regards to geographical rotation by region, the last five World Forestry Congresses were held in Africa (2015), South America (2009), North America (2003), Central Asia (1997) and Europe (1991). Two Congresses have been held in the Asia-Pacific region: Indonesia (1978), and India (1954). Europe has hosted five Congresses: Rome (1926), Budapest (1936) Helsinki (1949), Spain (1996), Paris (1991). South America has hosted three Congresses: Argentina (2009 and 1972) and Mexico (1985).