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AFPA adds voice to global calls for better recognition of sustainable forestry

The Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) Mr Ross Hampton will be in Washington, United States for a series of high-level meetings and international forest industries events between 4-8 May, 2015.

The International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA), the worldwide network of forest and paper industry associations, is hosting its general meeting of the ICFPA Steering Committee with representatives from across the world. Mr Hampton will be participating in this on behalf of Australia. ICFPA serves as a forum for global dialogue, coordination and cooperation among forest and paper associations, and functions as the industry's advocate at the international level.

ICFPA and FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, are also co-hosting the 56th session of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSFI). Mr Hampton is representing the Australian forest, wood and paper products industry. The yearly ACSFI meetings provide guidance on the activities and work programme of the FAO Forestry Department on issues relevant to the paper and forest products industries.

Mr Hampton said, "The Australian forest industry is sustainable and managed to world-class standards. I'm looking forward to showcasing our industries on an international stage, and providing a voice in the global discourse on sustainable forest and forest product industries world-wide."

Whilst in Washington, Mr Hampton will meet with senior executives from the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA) to research the highly successful 'Grow the Vote' website interface, which has been used as an effective advocacy tool in United States Congress by AF&PA and its members.

Mr Hampton will also be meeting with The Conservation Fund, which has recently announced its partnership with Apple to protect working forests in the USA. The initiative will conserve more than 36,000 hectares of working forests and ensure the timber from this land is sustainably harvested. Mr Hampton said, "This is a very interesting and exciting corporate initiative and I am eager to explore the scope and possibilities for similar initiatives here in Australia."

In addition, Mr Hampton will also participate in discussions with Hancock Natural Resource Group (HNRG), the world's largest timberland investment manager.

AFPA represents forest growers, harvesters, and manufacturers of timber and paper products.

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