



## Introducing the 60<sup>th</sup> volume of the journal with a thematic issue on drought-forest interactions

This year Lesnícky časopis - Forestry Journal completes six decades of continuous issuing since the journals establishment in 1955. On this occasion, we would like to acknowledge some key people whose influence has left a lasting impression on the development and current shape of the Journal. The first editor-in-chief, Prof. František Papánek was a famous Czechoslovak scientist and university teacher whose work underpins part of the central European forestry portfolio and continues to remain important. Further editors-in-chief are also distinguished forestry personalities; Prof. Miroslav Vyskot, Prof. Ján Halaj, Assoc. Prof. Ján Ilavský and Assoc. Prof. Jozef Konôpka. All of whom keenly supported the Journal and contributed to forestry science in the region. The foundations they established can now be utilised, with gratitude, by future generations of forest scientists and practitioners. On the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary, we would like to thank all of the previous editors, members of the editorial board, authors and reviewers for their outstanding contribution and interest in the journal.

The sixtieth anniversary is timely, not only to look back, but also to envisage the future ways in which to engage and enlarge the communities of both authors and readers. In this regard, it is worth noting that the Journals traditional publisher: The National Forest Centre, Forest Research Institute Zvolen signed an agreement with the Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague (Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences) about future joint issuing of the Journal. This step is intended to support the Journal as an international periodical publication and provide a platform for the broadening of the Journals scope and further developments. At the same time, new additions to the Editorial Board of the Journal widened the scope of the current board of represents to include numerous forestry institutions from several countries; Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Austria, Poland, Hungary and Great Britain. Such a set-up is intended to increase the amount and quality of incoming manuscripts as well as improve the peer-review process. Although the Journal currently publishes papers in English, Czech and Slovak language, within a short period of time the Journal is intended to be published in English only, with the aim of attracting a broader international readership and strengthen the Journals impact on regional forestry science. These factors along with the recent Journals acceptance in a worldwide prestigious database SCOPUS, creates the cornerstones of the Journals future development.

We are pleased to introduce the first issue of 2014 which is a thematic issue containing a collection of original research papers dealing with the effect of drought on forests in central Europe. Drought research in the region has received increased attention during the recent decade with such interest fuelled by the growing recognition of threats related to climate change such as the recent occurrence of extremely hot and dry years and general lack of knowledge of tree response to limited water availability in central Europe. Forest response to progressive drought is reported worldwide such as productivity decline, tree mortality and unprecedented pest outbreaks further underlined the need for deepening our understanding of forest-climate interactions. In response to these facts, numerous projects have been implemented with such projects creating a platform for the establishment of longterm field experiments in well-instrumented sites that collect and evaluate diverse forestry and meteorological data and gear the results towards high-quality peer-reviewed publications as well as practical forest management.

The papers contained within the current issue address a broad range of interactions between forests and climate at various scales. They for instance describe regional climate projections for central Europe; investigate options for forest adaptation to progressive drought; explore physiological response of trees to limited water availability as well as the effects of drought on tree susceptibility to biotic damage. A specific topic, which underlines the interdisciplinary character of the current forestry research, is a study on the assessment of weather effects on the timing of forest phenology and growth, which was evaluated using satellite imagery, field observations and meteorological data.

The editorial team is pleased to introduce the “thematically-specialized” issue of the journal which is dedicated very probably to one of the most serious problems in the current forestry sector. We hope that the papers presented contribute to the existing portfolio of knowledge in the topic and address a large body of researchers, lecturers and also forest practitioners not only in Slovakia and Czech Republic but also in other European countries. We hope to receive positive feedback from you!

Yours sincerely

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