

### ***A Sinking Ship or Cruising Towards Bright Horizons: The Bigger Picture of Pests and Diseases in Urban Forestry***

Date/Time/Session: **TUESDAY, 4.30.2019, 8:30:00 AM, in the KEYNOTE session**

Presentation Length: **75 minutes**

Presented by: **Cecil Konijnendijk**

Co-Presenter (if scheduled): **NA**



#### **Overview of Presentation:**

Devastating pests and diseases are threatening urban forest across the world. Urban forestry has had to deal with pests and diseases for many years, but the problem seems to intensify with globalization and climate change. This presentation places the urgent problem of managing pests and diseases in a wider perspective, giving the audience the opportunity to move beyond pest and disease proliferation and control. It will elaborate, for example, on some of the links between urban forest loss and human health and wellbeing. The talk will also show that there is a risk involved with the sometimes very negative communication about urban forests pests and diseases. In some cases, more positive aspects need to be highlighted, such as the opportunity to promote important urban forest benefits, as well as the construction of more diverse and more resilient urban forests. The wider governance and management of pest and disease control are discussed as well, stressing for example the need of unconventional partnerships and alliances. Finally, the need for improvements in education and research capacity, as well as international collaboration, are highlighted.

#### **Presenter Bio:**

Cecil Konijnendijk is passionate about urban trees and urban nature. An avid writer and frequent public speaker, Cecil is presently professor of urban forestry at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. His research and teaching have taken him across the globe, including to countries as diverse as Canada, China, Malaysia, Russia, and Sweden. Cecil is particularly interested in urban forest governance and the many relations between cities and their trees and nature.