

INTERVIEW ABOUT EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

The first Forest Refine conference took place at the Plaza Hotel in Umeå in October 2012 and served as the starting point for the public presentation of this Finnish -Swedish cooperation. Scientists from both countries are working together to analyse and improve the raw material supply to biorefineries. How can we reduce the dependence on finite resources, such as petroleum?

Here is an interview with the youngest participants lecturing at the conference. They are answering questions about the personal development opportunities that their studies have rewarded them with.



EDUCATION

- My education provides opportunities for me to work in many different fields, both in the private and the public sector. This field provides a variety of choices for the future.

This is a common response I get from both Daniel Regemar and Hanna Lappi when interviewing them after they have finished lecturing at the Project Refine conference.

DANIEL

Daniel Regemar has studied at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Umeå for four years, Master of Science in Forestry, and will write his Master's degree about Soil Management. Daniel looks forward to a career as an ecologist or biologist and has found that his prospects look good. He can work for forests companies, municipalities, or the County Board. His job prospects are enhanced by the large interest in nature and nature conservation.

HANNA

Hanna Lappi is from Finland and she is looking forward to defending her doctoral thesis in November. She has a M.SC (tech) degree in chemical technology and Licentiate of Philosophy in applied chemistry. The title of her doctoral thesis is "Production of Hydrocarbon-rich BioFuels from Extractives-derived Materials".

In the Forest Refine project Hanna is studying chemical requirements of forest biomass to biorefineries and preparation of biochemicals.



OPPORTUNITIES

Hanna is determined to continue research in this field. She has already done research in the steel industry. She would like to emphasize that chemistry is a great area for young people to invest in because it gives you the opportunity to do research in many different fields.



The employment opportunities for chemists are very good in Finland at the moment. Research can be done in both the private and public sector. It never gets boring because the choices are endless.

PERSPECTIVES

The idea of these interviews was that they would give different perspectives on how they see the future in this area that is still relatively unknown. To get two different perspectives, I have deliberately chosen our two interviewees from two different research disciplines; forest and chemistry and from both countries working together in this transnational project; Forest Refine. Continuously I am struck by how similar their responses are when they take turns answering my questions.

GOOD TEACHERS

Our young speakers appear to have even more common responses during the interview. When asked why they have chosen their respective fields, the answer is the same again: It was a science teacher who did biology and chemistry so interesting in school. Hanna added that her teachers at the high school explained chemistry using examples from real life. These inspiring teachers led to that they soon knew what they wanted to focus on.

ABOUT FOREST REFINE

- What's interesting about Forest Refine? The immediate response is; the driving forces behind the project; global challenges.

- That you are trying to influence business into working toward a sustainable future and how to communicate it towards consumers, says Daniel.

- We have no oil wells in Finland but we have a lot of forest. We could free ourselves from dependency of oil producing countries, answers Hanna.



AN INVESTMENT

- Are you satisfied with your personal investment in this area? The answer is as jointly as it is positive. This investment will allow them to pick and choose what they would like to do in the future within this field. A field that is important to us as well as to future generations.

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