

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SUGAR CANE TECHNOLOGISTS
SECRETARIAT
CIRCULAR TO ALL ISSCT MEMBERS**

December 2016

Dear ISSCT Members

As 2016 comes to a close, we would like to update on the projects and activities of the Society.

ISSCT XXIX Congress

The ISSCT XXIX Congress was held in Chiang Mai, Northern Thailand, from 5 to 8 December 2016. It was preceded by the Pre-Congress Tour on 2 and 3 December in Khon Kaen and followed by the Post-Congress from 9-11 December in Sukhothai and Nakhon Sawan provinces.

The Congress was held at Chiang Mai International Exhibition and Convention Centre (CMECC) where the Trade Exhibition was housed. The facilities of the Convention Centre were impressive and well-equipped for the event.

Some 950 delegates from 40 countries attended the event. The number of oral and poster presentations numbered 267 across the six Commissions of ISSCT including eight Plenary Sessions papers and six Workshops reports. The largest number of papers and posters were in the Biology Commission (Germplasm & Breeding, Entomology, Pathology and Molecular Biology). An innovation at the Congress was the holding of the Workshop of the Management Commission which met its objectives and will be pursued at future congresses. The four Plenary Sessions dealt with sustainability of the producers with special emphasis on small growers and their environment, as well as the production of sugar cane under changing environmental conditions, under changing economic conditions, and under changing policy and management regimes.

Some 200 delegates attended the Pre-Congress Tour where the industry at field and industrial levels was showcased to them. During the Post-Congress Tour some 90 delegates were exposed to the rich cultural aspects of Thailand and visited the largest sugar factory in the world at Kaset Thai International Sugar (KTIS Group) with a capacity of 56 000 tonnes of cane per day.

The Trade Exhibition proved popular with service providers and equipment manufacturers to the point that the space was sold out weeks before Congress and requests had to be turned down.

The Congress also included social events like the Gala and Farewell Banquets

which comprised in addition to the delicacies of the Thai Cuisine, cultural shows to the delight of delegates. Programmes for Accompanying Persons were available both during Pre-Congress and during Congress.

Based on the feedback received, the Congress and related activities were a huge success, just like the XXI Congress held in 1992 in Bangkok. This is in line with the tradition of Thailand of mobilising all necessary resources to ensure that all aspects were meticulously looked after, both at management and organisational levels. Beyond these, it was especially the welcome received from the hosts who did not spare any effort to cater for the needs and wishes of the delegates that contributed to the success of the Congress.

Proceedings of the XXIX Congress are available in the Members' Corner of the ISSCT website.

Council and Executive Committee held three and four meetings at Congress, respectively. Many decisions were taken at these meetings and some are given below.

ISSCT Executive Committee

The term of office of five members (Timothy Murray, Chair, Freddie Martin, Past-Chair, Vinay Kumar Gupta, Raul Reissner and Jorge Scandaliaris) ended at Congress. Following elections at Council level, the following five members joined Executive Committee for two terms: Sanjay Awasthi (India), Frederick Botha (Australia), Juan Carlos Mirande (Argentina), Salem Saumtally (Mauritius) and Sapon Uraichuen (Thailand). The Office Bearers of the new Executive were elected as follows:

Chair: Prof. Philippe Rott (France)

Vice-Chair: Dr. Raul Castillo (Ecuador)

Chair Technical Programme Committee (TPC): Prof. Robert Gilbert (USA)

The Standing Committees were appointed as follows:

Compliance Committee: Chair – Prof. Philippe Rott and two Councillors to be designated at first meeting of Council at XXX Congress in Argentina

Finance Committee: Chair – Dr. Raul Castillo, Members: Sanjay Awasthi and Sapon Uraichuen

Constitution and Resolution Committee: Chair – Dr. Nicolas Javier Gil Zapata, Members: Frederick Botha and Salem Saumtally

The General Secretary is an ex-officio member of Council and Executive Committee.

Honorary Life Membership

Honorary Life Membership was awarded to three members who had served ISSCT and their respective sugar industries for more than 40 years. The awardees were: Dr. Jack Comstock (USA), Dr. Paul Moore (USA) and Dr. Roderick Steindl (Australia). Tribute was paid to them for this well-deserved award at the Farewell Banquet at Congress. A certificate and a commemorative plaque were handed to them.

Technical Programme Committee (TPC)

The TPC which will be chaired by Prof. Robert Gilbert for a second term and is composed of Prof. Bernard Schroeder (Australia) for Agriculture, Dr. Asha Dookun-Saumtally (Mauritius) for Biology, Dr. Roderick Steindl (Australia) for Factory, Prof. Manoel Regis Lima Verde Leal (Brazil) for Co-Products, Dr. Carolyn Baker (South Africa) for Management, the General Secretary and the Editor, Dr. Peter Allsopp.

Technical Panel

The Technical Panel was reconstituted. In addition to Members of TPC, it comprised the Chairs of the various Sections as follows:

Agronomy: Prof. Bernard Schroeder (Australia), **Agricultural Engineering:** Dr. Neil L. Lecler (Zimbabwe), **Germplasm & Breeding:** Dr. Goolam Badaloo (Mauritius), **Entomology:** Dr. Regis Goebel (France), **Molecular Biology:** Dr. Angélique D'Hont (France), **Pathology:** Dr. Freddy F. Garces Obando (Colombia), **Factory:** Dr. Roderick Steindl (Australia), **Processing:** Dr. Michael Saska (Argentina), **Co-Products:** Prof. Manoel Regis Lima Verde Leal (Brazil) and **Management:** Dr. Carolyn Baker (South Africa)

Best Papers

The Best Papers at Congress were designated as follows:

Commission	Authors	Title
Agriculture <i>James E. Irvine Award</i>	C. Thongponkaew, N. Chittamart, S. Tawornpruek and P. Pinjai	Screening of phosphate-solubilizing bacteria from sugarcane rhizospheric soil and their abilities to improve growth and yield of sugarcane
Biology <i>Robert Antoine Award</i>	K. S. Braithwaite, C. Ngo, B. Croft, R. Magarey and A. Young	Progress in understanding and managing chlorotic streak of sugarcane
Factory <i>Emile Hugot Award</i>	D. W. Rackemann and R. Broadfoot	Evaluation of sucrose loss in evaporators for different processing configurations
Co-Products <i>Maurice Paturau Award</i>	I. O'Hara, D. Rackemann, D. Moller, Z. Zhang, F. Plaza, K. Kitai, S. Ohara and T. Yasuhara	Pilot-scale demonstration and economics of the inversion process for sugar and ethanol production
Management <i>H. William Kerr Award</i>	M. O'Shea and L. Clement	Sugar Research Australia – an evolution in the delivery of RD&E activities to the Australian sugar industry

Best Posters

The awards for the Best Posters were as follows:

Commission	Authors	Title
Agriculture <i>Norman Joseph King Award</i>	V. Veerachitt, S. Rethinum and U. Pliansinchai	Monitoring sugarcane growth using high resolution imagery from a UAV
Biology <i>Ernest Victor Abbott Award</i>	V. Jarnkoon, M. Tintarasaranaratchaseema, U. Pliansinchai. A. Rana, J. Moonrinta, S. Neelsawat and M. M. Dailey	Diagnosing sugarcane insect pests and diseases using mobile applications
Factory <i>John Clayton Award</i>	P. Saothong, K. Sriroth, B. Ninchan, S. Khotavivattana and W. Vanichsiratana	Applications of dextranase in Thai Sugar factories
Co-Products <i>August John Vltos Award</i>	B. Chitprasert and W. Juttuporn M. Rodprapakorn	Ultrasonic-assisted extraction of antioxidants and antimicrobials from sugarcane bagasse

Young Scientist Award at Workshops

The overall winner of the Young Scientist Award at Workshops was Cecilia Easdale from Ledesma SAAI, Argentina in the Entomology Section. As a reward she will have her participation paid for to the next Entomology Workshop scheduled in December 2018 in Florida, USA.

WORKSHOPS 2013-2016

The list of delegates, Workshops' Programmes and the Presentations have already been uploaded in the Members' Corner of the ISSCT website.

The following Workshops took place during the inter-congress period 2013-2016:

Section	Venue	Date	Number of participants	Number of countries
<i>Agricultural Commission</i>				
Agricultural Engineering	South Africa	24-28 August, 2015	124	24
Agronomy				
<i>Biology Commission</i>				
Breeding/Germplasm	Réunion	1-5 June, 2015	69	17
Molecular Biology				
Entomology	Ecuador	14-18 September, 2015	57	15
Pathology				
<i>Factory Commission</i>				
Engineering	South Africa	24-28 August, 2014	82	16
Processing				
<i>Co-Products Commission</i>				
Co-Products	Mauritius	30 November – 4 December, 2015	69	15
<i>Management Commission</i>				
Management	Thailand	5-8 December, 2016	40	12

There were 441 participants at the six workshops with the highest geographical representation from 24 countries at the Agricultural Engineering/Agronomy Workshop.

WORKSHOPS 2017-2019

The tentative programme for the forthcoming inter-congress period is as follows:

Section(s)	Location	Proposed Theme	Tentative Dates
Agronomy/ Ag. Engineering	Réunion	Sustainable agriculture and extension	September 2018
Breeding/ Molecular Biology	Okinawa, Japan	Essential improvement of sugarcane to overcome severe natural environment	May-November 2018
Entomology	Belle Glade, Florida USA	Solving regional arthropod management challenges in a global world	December 2018
Pathology	Coimbatore, India	Challenges and advances in sugarcane pathology	September 2018
Factory	Cali, Colombia	The competitive factory from an engineering point of view	September 2018
Co-Products	Campinas, Brazil	To be announced	Early 2018
Management	Tucuman, Argentina	To be announced	June 2019

XXX ISSCT CONGRESS

The hosting of the XXX ISSCT Congress was awarded to Sociedad Argentina de Técnicos de la Caña de Azúcar (SATCA) following the usual bidding process. The Congress will be held in Tucuman in June 2019 with Pre-Congress Tour in the Tucuman area and the Post-Congress Tour in the Jujuy area, further north from Tucuman. Although Argentina has been a member of ISSCT for a long time and has organised workshops, it is the first time that an ISSCT Congress will be held in this country. It is to be noted that Argentina is the third largest sugar cane producer in Latin America after Brazil and Colombia.

Mid-Term Meeting 2017-2019

The Mid-Term Meeting of the Executive Committee and TPC will be held at Tucuman in April 2018. At this meeting all matters related to the XXX Congress will be reviewed in addition to the usual business of ISSCT.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Membership

For the period 2013-2016 there were 1165 members from 75 countries as follows: Individual 1039, Corporate 75, Affiliated 21, Institutional 6 and Honorary Life Members 24.

Membership dues

The ISSCT Council has decided that dues for the period 2017-2019 will remain unchanged as follows: Corporate: USD 2000, Affiliated/Association/Institutional: USD 300 and Individual: USD 140.

Council has further decided that membership cards and receipts will no longer be sent by airmail because this procedure is costly, most often delivery takes weeks and at times the cards and receipts get lost during shipment. From now on, scanned copies of membership cards and receipts for dues will be emailed to all members.

Members will have to quote their membership card number when they register for workshops and congress.

Constitution

No amendment was made to the Constitution at the XXIX Congress. The Constitution is available in the open area of the ISSCT website.

Final and Interim Accounts

The Final Accounts for 2010-2013 as well as the Interim Accounts 2013-2016 which had been audited by the international firm BDO & Co were approved by Council at the XXIX Congress. All budget lines had been spent accordingly to plans and no significant over expenditure was found.

Broadening of membership

Two new Affiliated Societies joined at Congress, making a total of 25 members at Council. They are Sugarcane Technologists Society of Nigeria (STSN) and Association Ivoirienne de Canne à Sucre (AICS). Council has decided to broaden its membership with a special focus on Africa where many sugar cane technologists' associations are active and not yet member of ISSCT.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

International Sugar Cane Biomass Utilisation Consortium (ISBUC)

Strategic actions and initiatives

International Sugar Cane Biomass Utilization Consortium (ISBUC)

A meeting of ISBUC was held at Congress on 8 December 2016 with presentations from the working groups on:

- Trash recovery, trash quantification, storage of biomass
- Cane cleaning, impact of trash on cane processing (extraction/process)
- High fiber cane
- Conversion of biomass (impact on boilers/gasification)

A report is being prepared especially on the Way Forward and it will be circulated to ISBUC Members.

IN MEMORIAM

At the end of the inter-congress 2013-2016 the number of Honorary Life Members stood at 21. This follows the passing away of four Honorary Life Members after Congress in 2013, John Ronald Allen, Douglas Macdonald Hogarth, Gerald David Thompson and Silverio Flores Cáceres. All four had served the Society for a large number of years with dedication and commitment. Dr. Mac Hogarth had been the Editor for the five last congresses. Their death is a great loss to ISSCT. Obituaries and testimonials have been put on the ISSCT website to honour these four distinguished personalities. Other members also passed away including Dr. Jim Miller of Canal Point, Florida and Dr. Ian Walker of Barbados both inspirational sugar cane breeders.

Expressions of sympathy have been conveyed by the Secretariat to their respective families.



