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7th World Recreational Fisheries Conference

The Conference was held in Campinas, Brazil, from 1st to 4th September 2014. I was invited as a member of the International Advisory Board. The Conference took place in Uni-camp Convention Centre (less than half an hour away from our hotel). To the agony of our extremely attentive organizers, the first day's drive took two and a half hour because of the strike that paralysed all the traffic. As if that wasn't enough, in front of the Convention Centre we were "welcomed" by the vegetarians who handed us the fliers and protested against the suffering of the fish for man's mere recreational purposes (Fig. 1).



Fig 1. The vegetarians demonstrate against angling

However, when eventually, still quite young (although legendary) Robert Arlinghaus, gave us his keynote presentation, we all felt nothing was happening without the reason (Fig. 2). Robert Arlinghaus, a master presenter, who always stirs up our gatherings with fresh ideas, differentiated ethical values in various parts of the world and explained how those values change with the higher standards of the society. Robert also added that those values are not to be opposed or ignored, but should be taken into consideration when looking for the optimal solutions. The tips he made in his presentation, fitted perfectly into the title of the Conference: „Change, transformation and adaptation in recreational fishing.“ Besides 4 keynote speeches, the Conference, divided into sections, brought out 70 presentations, 3 workshops, one round table and 23 posters, among which there was ours, too: “Co-existing of recreational and commercial fisheries in the three neighbouring countries on the Danube – Croa-



Fig 2. Robert Arlinghaus' giving his presentation

tia, Hungary and Serbia” authorized by: Treer T., Kubatov. I., Simonović P. Piria M., Nikolić V., Škraba D. The authors from English speaking countries were dominant in numbers, while the authors from all other parts of the world were single in numbers.

For the perfect organization of the conference credit goes to the Brazilian organisers, headed by always friendly oriented Ezequiel Theodoro da Silva and his sword arm secretary Ana Lucia Ferreira (Fig. 3). The International Advisory Board had also to decide who would host the next Conference in 2017.



Fig 3. In the company of vigilant organisers – Ezequiel Theodoro da Silva and Ana Lucia Ferreira

It wasn't an easy choice, as both, Canada (Victoria, British Columbia) and Australia (Perth, Western Australia) submitted excellent offers. However, the Board voted for Victoria, whose proposed title for the next conference „Balancing Values - The Future of Recreational Fishing” indicated that the use of the water for fisheries should involve all interested parties - ecologists, biologists and social science researchers, as well as anglers, indigenous peoples, NGOs and other stakeholders.

One afternoon was dedicated to the angling at the fishponds nearby. Although it was neither angling on the Amazon river nor the tilapias we angled were of South America's origin, we could commend ourselves to have angled in Brazil (Fig. 4). The overwhelming spirit of Brazil could also be felt in the campus, where groups of students in circles enjoyed themselves rhythmically drumming and playing other percussion instruments (Fig. 5).

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Fig 4. Danielle Rioux, American participant, has a go on the pond near Campinas



Fig 5. Students percussionists, enjoying themselves