

Report from the 15th World Congress of Food Science and Technology

**Daryl Lund, Honorary Croatian Reporter and
President International Academy of Food Science and Technology**

The 15th International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) Congress was held in Cape Town, South Africa from August 22-26, 2010. The theme of the meeting, organized by the South African Association of Food Science and Technology, the adhering body to IUFoST was, "Food Science Solutions in an Evolving World." The Organizing Committee chaired by Nigel Sunley reported that over 1700 delegates registered for the Congress from over 79 countries and 220 oral presentations and over 800 posters were contributed.

Keynote lectures were given by Sir David King, Director of the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, University of Oxford on Food Science and Technology in a Global Context; Professor Gebisa Ejeta, Global Food Prize winner and Professor of Agronomy, Purdue University, on Security Challenges; the SAAFoST Ernest Newbery Memorial Lecturer Werner Bauer, Chief Technology Officer, Executive Vice President Innovation, Technology and R&D, Nestle, on Food Science and Technology-Bridging Local and Global Needs; and the IUFoST Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Nina Federoff, Science and technology Advisor to the US Secretary of State, USA, on Issues of our Time: Rethinking Food Production in a Hotter, Drier World. Complementing these lectures were seven Plenary addresses, each followed by a Young Scientist presentation.

Technical Sessions and Posters

In addition to the Keynote and Plenary, 50 technical sessions covered 32 topics over the range of disciplines and commodities. In addition, five special workshops were offered during and after the Congress. Abstracts totalling 715 were shown during the Congress.

International Academy of Food Science and Technology (IAFoST)

Twenty three Fellows were inducted into the Academy including the first Croatian, Professor Tomislav Lovric. Fellows were presented with a certificate by Academy President Vish Prakash and President-Elect Daryl Lund, were treated to a luncheon, and were presented a banner and pin both of which to display when they give speeches.



IUFoST Global Food Industry Awards

The IUFoST Food Industry Global Awards were presented again this year after their inauguration at Congress 14 in Shanghai in October 2008. All products entered for the competition were nominated by IUFoST Adhering Bodies and judged by a panel of nine prominent food professionals drawn from around the globe. Awards were made in three categories to food products that must have been launched since August 2008 and best displayed the following qualities:

1. Product and/or process innovation including industrialisation of traditional foods;
2. Package innovation, with specifics on the innovative part of the package and why it is important and
3. Communicating science-related knowledge to consumers aimed at improving their lifestyle (e.g. to children, teens, adults, seniors). Marketing campaigns may be nominated in this category.

For Congress 16 some Croatian nominees need to be presented.

President's Awards

IUFoST awarded six President's Awards, a new category of the IUFoST Global Food Industry Awards. This award recognises particular and special efforts to advance global food science and technology for the benefit of all. Awards were presented to:

- **Cargill:** for the company's food safety leadership and collaboration, commitment to improving access to food, and to ensuring food safety through education;
- **JDB Group:** for applying modern process technology and modern packaging to a traditional herbal health drink and therefore making it available to a wide population of consumers;
- **Nestlé:** for providing world leadership in quality, safe, nutritious food products to people worldwide, encouragement and sponsorship of young scientists and support for food safety education;
- **Beijing Air Catering Company:** for commitment to improving food safety dissemination of information, through support of IUFoST initiatives in China in Beijing and at World Expo in Shanghai;
- **Almond Board of California:** for its leadership in encouraging young scientists and student exchange and education, and for its promotion of and support for food safety around the world;
- **Mengniu Dairy Group:** for the development of digestible yoghurt as an environmentally-friendly recyclable paper-based package. The yoghurt provides a healthy, functional dairy food, allowing increased milk consumption, alongside improved intestinal and body health, to a huge consumer group.

Exhibition

The IUFoST 2010 Trade Exhibition ran concurrently with Congress 15 and showcased South African products, suppliers and expertise, as well as international exhibitors. It was the largest exhibition ever managed by SAAFoST and included 95 exhibitors. Exhibition highlights included the Product Theatre, a "Taste of Africa" feature, and the 22 finalists in the IUFoST Global Food Awards. About 800 non-Congress delegates visited the exhibition.

Social Events

The Gala Banquet, commemorating SAAFoST's 50th Birthday, attracted 710 delegates and friends and was held at Nederberg Wine Estate in Paarl. Fine food, wine and music, and a pictorial history of the events and characters that founded and developed SAAFoST was a fitting way to celebrate its Golden Anniversary.

General Assembly and Governing Council Meetings

Governing Council

IUFoST's Governing Council (GC) received reports from Standing and Select committees and Task Forces. Importantly, the GC chose Dublin as the host site for Congress 17 in 2014.

General Assembly

The General Assembly convened on Thursday afternoon following the official closing ceremony at which the IUFoST flag was handed over by Nigel Sunley, Chair of the Organising Committee, to Professor Glauca Pastore, President of the Brazilian Society of Food Science and Technology, host of Congress 16 in 2012. The Assembly also endorsed a Cape Town Declaration which declared ways in which IUFoST as a world-wide organization and we as food scientists, technologists and engineers can work to alleviate food insecurity.

Congress 16, Brazil, 2012

Congress 16: *Technology – Challenges for the 21st Century* will be hosted by the Brazilian Society of Food Science and Technology and will be held in Salvador, Brazil on 19-23 August 2012 (see www.iufost2012.org.br).