GlobaHort Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1/2 January-June, 2009

Coming Events

9th to 13th Jun 2009

II Conference on Landscape and Urban Horticulture, Bologna, Italy (luh2009.org)

16th to 17th Jun 2009

Science Forum 2009 "Science for Development: Mobilizing Global Linkages", Wageningen, Netherlands (www.sciencecouncil.cgiar.org)

19th to 20th Jun 2009

GlobalHort 5th Annual Board Meeting, Wageningen, Netherlands

28th Jun to 3rd Jul 2009

XVI International Symposium on Horticultural Economics and Management, Chiang Mai, Thailand (agrienvi.curtin.edu.au/about/conference/ishs_xvi/)

28th Jun to 3rd Jul 2009

V International Symposium on Horticultural Research, Training and Extension, Chiang Mai, Thailand (agrienvi.curtin.edu.au/about/conferences/ishs_v/)

Inside this issue:

Excitement Mounts for the First All Africa Horticulture	1
GlobalHort Holds 4th Board	1
GlobalHort Call for Concept Notes ...Huge Success	2
GlobalHort Signs Statutes	3
Awareness Raising Conference on Horticulture for African Development	4

Excitement Mounts for the First All Africa Horticulture Congress

East African representatives were invited to a team meeting in Arusha to get involved in the Congress, from public and private sectors, in order to make this event an African affair, and not just a Kenyan issue. The representative of the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture strongly contributed in the African spirit of the organizing team and our Zambian colleague from the private sector deeply appreciated both the meeting and the visit to one horticultural company in Arusha, Multiflowers Ltd. Thanks to AVRDC, Bioversity Intl. and to ICIPE for the participation of international institutions. If the success of a congress arises from its preparation phases, we are optimistic for this summer in Kenya! Please register online and sponsor the event.

www.globalhort.org

GlobalHort Holds 4th Board Meeting in Arusha, Tz

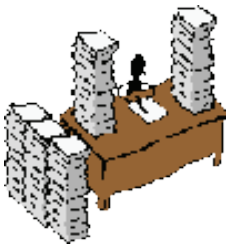
The fourth GlobalHort Board Meeting was held Nov. 26-27 in Arusha, Tanzania. Anton Van Doornmalen of the International Seed Federation (ISF) was unanimously elected to the Board representing the private sector. In his absence, Orlando De Ponti of ISF accepted the appointment on his behalf. Acknowledgements were made to AVRDC, CIRAD and ICDFTaiwan for their generous contributions.

GlobalHort had its official Statutes signed at Leuven, Belgium Nov. 12, 2008 to establish it as a not-for-profit international organization under Belgium law. In line with this new status, at Arusha the Board approved a new financial management system, and contracts for accounting and auditing services. A Personnel Regulation Manual was established and with some slight modifications will be presented for approval at the June 2009 Board meeting. *(Continued on page 3)*

GlobalHort Call for Concept Notes on Horticultural Global Issues Proves Huge Success

One of the four core activities of GlobalHort is "Promoting research for development projects through complementary grant programs". During the last Board Meeting in Arusha in November 2008, the International Cooperation and Development Funds of Taiwan confirmed the release of USD3.0 M for such activities through GlobalHort over a period of three years. It was agreed by the Board that collaborative research projects should be selected through an international competitive call. The principles which should be reflected in these projects were outlined in the project guidelines. Integral parts of these guidelines are result-based project management to ensure better impact, participatory and multi-stakeholder approaches to involve diverse partners from various sectors, i.e. research partners, development actors, the private sector and consumers and producers as final beneficiaries.

Near the end of 2008, the call for concept notes on horticultural global issues was launched. It was announced through GlobalHort website and GlobalHort Newsletter email list. Applicants were invited to address one of the following themes: (1) Nutrition and Human Health, (2) Protected Horticulture, (3) Fruit Fly Management, and (4) Linking Farmers to Markets. The budget ceiling for each project is 250,000 USD per year for a project period of three years (750,000 USD in total). If the funding ceiling is fully utilized, the available budget is sufficient to finance one project per theme. Co-funding with other ongoing or new initiatives is possible and welcome.



The deadline for submitting concept notes to this call was 27 February 2009. The overall response was overwhelming. We received a total number of 187 concept notes within the eligible time span. This was far more than expected.

To handle this call, an in-house pre-selection of concept notes, mainly for formal aspects but also on quality, was necessary. The short-listed concept notes were forwarded to reviewers, mainly part of GlobalHort's Advisory Group comprised of an expert pool of resource persons from the horticultural sector or with expertise in cross-cutting topics. The reviewers were provided with review guidelines and an evaluation sheet to assess the following aspects of each concept note based on: (1) Relevance and Harmonization, (2) Eligibility and Partnership , (3) Involvement of Beneficiaries, and (4) Project Approach and Feasibility. Finally, they were asked to provide a ranking of the list of concept notes they had received, supported by additional comments.

After receiving the evaluations of all the reviewers, the applicants of the selected concept notes were informed in April 2009 to develop a full project proposal. They were also provided with the comments of the reviewers or any additional comments to improve the quality of the proposal.

Three concept notes for theme 1, three for theme 2, two for theme 3 and five concept notes for theme 4 were selected for full proposal development. We expect receiving the full proposals by the end of May 2009 for themes 1 to 3 and by 6 June for theme 4. Thereafter, we will again forward the full proposals to our reviewers. We expect, that the final selection of projects can be announced during the next Board Meeting on 19-20 June 2009.

The selection process of this call is still on-going but it can already be regarded as a great success. Through this call, the visibility of GlobalHort has tremendously increased. Existing linkages between partners have been revitalized and new alliances within and across sectors have been formed. Based on the quality of the concept notes, many more projects could be supported. However, due to our restricted funding capacity we even had to reject some high-quality concept notes. We hope that after the final selection of projects we can attract other donors to provide additional funding.

The message from this call is clear: there is a perceived need and strong interest to invest in the horticultural sector and in approaches for joint collaborations between research, development and the private sector.

GlobalHort's Holds Fourth Board Meeting… *(continued from page 1)*

The administrative and financial systems now in place for GlobalHort will ensure equity, fairness and transparency in its management of the existing funds entrusted by the Taiwan Government and the future donations or grants received from other sources. A hosting agreement was approved with AVRDC whereby the GlobalHort Secretariat will remain at the Regional Center for Africa in Arusha, Tanzania.

The budget and employee contracts for the Executive Secretary and Secretariat Staff were approved. Po-Yung Lai will represent GlobalHort Asian interests by being located in Bangkok, Thailand. The Webmaster and Communication Officer position held by Jerry Miner was turned into a consultancy service which was to be continued by Mr. Miner in Canada for 2009. The Executive Secretary announced that he would allocate $20,000US towards the All Africa Horticulture Congress to be held in Nairobi, Kenya in August, 2009.

There was much discussion regarding project proposals. For the First Call, two projects were approved for funding. Juergen Anthofer, Portfolio Manager, presented Guidelines for Project Proposals which were approved. There was also approval to launch a Second Call for Proposals as soon as possible, on a competitive basis **(**see article on page 2**).** The Executive Secretary proposal to strengthen the Advisory Group also met with Board approval.

During the meeting Board members were interviewed and videotaped for the creation of a promotional video on GlobalHort to be shown at the All Africa Horticulture Congress in Nairobi, Kenya, in August, 2009. Jerry Miner is director and Michel Irlinger, a professional video producer residing in Arusha, has been retained for his services for its production.

The Board was very happy to have Geoffrey Kirenga, Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, as an observer. A special thank you is extended to Harald Peters, Manager, Q-Sem Company, branch of Rijk Zwaan Seeds for the tour of Q-sem (photo) and Afri-sem seed production plants.

Preparations are now being made for holding the fifth GlobalHort Board meeting in Wageningen, Netherlands, June 19-20, 2009. It will follow the meeting of the CGIAR Science Council's Science Forum 2009 "Science for Development: Mobilizing Global Linkages" June 16-17. It should prove to be an interesting meeting which will consolidate the discussions and decisions from the Arusha meeting of 2008, the first one following GlobalHort becoming an independent organization.

GlobalHort Signs Statutes in Leuven, Belgium Nov. 12, 2008

GlobalHort had its official Statutes signed at a GlobalHort registration ceremony held at Katholic University of Leuven, Belgium . This established GlobalHort as a not-for-profit international organization under Belgium law. GlobalHort seat is officially hosted by the Flemish Ministry of Agriculture represented by Mr. Hector Willocx, also present during the ceremony.

Dr. Norman Looney, GlobalHort Chair (right) and the Notary, Mtr. Henri Van Eeckhoudt, sign the Statutes, surrounded by numerous European and African officials and Taiwanese Ambassador Michael Kau and His Excellency, Deputy Director Jeffery Hsiao invited for this occasion

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GlobalHort Portal is a dynamic website that is constantly refreshed with the latest in horticultural information worldwide.

For current events, news and knowledge please come visit us often.

The Global Horticulture Initiative acts as a global facility for coordinated horticultural research that provides solutions towards increasing health, productivity and safety in sustainable environments, to uplift the quality of life of the poorest populations in the world.

It will contribute to improve interest, support and resources to the horticultural sector, public and private, from donors, research and development agencies, and decision makers.

Its four key activities are:

- *Promoting horticultural research for development*
- *A program of grants for horticultural research*
- *A knowledge hub for dispersed cooperating horticultural communities*
- *Facilitating horticultural training, education and capacity building*

The GlobalHort Newsletter's Editorial Board is made up of Dr. Norman Looney, President of ISHS and co-chair of The Board; Raul Montemayor, IFAP; and Jerry Miner, Communications Officer.

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Global Horticulture Initiative Awareness Raising Conference on Horticulture for African Development (ARCHAD), Maputo, Mozambique, Nov. 30, 2008

GlobalHort hosted an ARCHAD side event at the CGIAR AGM in Maputo, Mozambique November 30, 2008 at the Joaquim Chissano International Conference Centre.

One of the highlights of the ARCHAD was the presentation of a plaque to Tom Lumpkin for his vision that eventually led to the creation of the Global Horticulture Initiative

After the ARCH for Development in Brussels, June 2007, The Africa Union (AU) had requested that GlobalHort organize, in Africa, an Awareness Raising Conference on Horticulture for Africa Development. ARCHAD that would further complement and advance the discussions of the series of conferences organized by FAO in Rome and NEPAD in Johannesburg in May-June, 2008. As a result of the ARCH for Development in Brussels, the European Union DG-Development placed horticulture and underutilized high value crops in the priorities of its Food Security Thematic Program (FSTP) and of the Platform of African-European Partnership on Agriculture for Development (PAEPARD). However, the AU argued that there was a need for a conference to advocate specifically for African horticulture to be placed and considered in the agenda of all continental initiatives, and in the budget of all regional programs.

Tom Lumpkin and Norm Looney

FAO-Horticulture, FARA, AVRDC, NEPAD and ISHS argued for more support for horticulture as it is knowledge intensive and innovation dependent. GlobalHort believes that Africans can benefit greatly from their human and other natural resources, with strengthened capacities and appropriate investments in both public and private horticultural sectors.