



GlobalHort Newsletter

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July-December, 2008

Coming Events

6th to 9th Nov 2008

3rd Indian Horticulture Congress "New R&D Initiatives in Horticulture for Accelerated Growth and Prosperity" Bhubaneswar, India. (www.hsi1942.in/congress/index.htm)

9th to 14th Nov 2008

WOCMAP IV: World Congress on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Cape Town, South Africa. (www.wocmap2008.com/home/view.php)

10th to 14th Nov 2008

7th Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for ACP Agricultural and Rural Development, Wageningen, Netherlands. Note: Dr. Norman Looney will be giving a presentation on GlobalHort (<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/Dossiers/CTA-and-S-T/CTA-S-T-programme/Advisory-Committee-on-S-T-for-ACP-Agricultural-Development>)

26th to 27th Nov 2008

GlobalHort Semi-Annual Board Meeting, Arusha, Tanzania.

30th Nov 2008

GlobalHort Awareness Raising Conference for African Development (ARCHAD) Meeting. (www.globalhort.org/news-events/news/#news-54)

1st to 5th Dec 2008

CGIAR Annual General Meeting, Maputo, Mozambique. (www.cgiar.org/meetings/agm08/agm08_index.html)

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GlobalHort's First Anniversary in Arusha, Tanzania

One year ago, GlobalHort relocated its headquarters to the World Vegetable Center's Regional Center for Africa (AVRDC-RCA) in Arusha, Tanzania. Since that time, many changes have taken place and staff has greatly expanded at GlobalHort and at AVRDC-RCA as well. As a result, there are now plans to upgrade the hosting facilities.



The GlobalHort staff has expanded to include 4 staff members in addition to Remi Kahane, our Executive Secretary. Jerry Miner, Webmaster and Communication Officer

joined the staff in January. Gladys Machange came on as a secretary in February. This was followed by Juergen Anthofer, Portfolio Manager, in June and a second Portfolio Manager, Po-Yung Lai, in July.

On August 25, 2008, GlobalHort registered its Statutes in Belgium and hence became fully independent as a not-for-profit international organization. *(continued on page 3)*

GlobalHort Holds 3rd Board Meeting

The GlobalHort Board met in Paris in late May.

In the absence of Dr. Lumpkin, Gilles Saint-Martin of CIRAD chaired this meeting held in the offices of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP).

The addition of new staff members was confirmed and approved. It was also decided that there should be a representative for agri-business on the Board. Letters of invitation for nomination

should be sent out to prospective candidates. An additional member is anticipated to attend the next Board meeting to be held in Arusha in November of this year.



Each of the other GlobalHort partners represented on the Board reaffirmed their commitment to the Initiative and informed the Board of internal developments of particular relevance to GlobalHort. TaiwanICDF affirmed

its ongoing support for GlobalHort but urged the Secretariat and the Board to intensify efforts to broaden the base of donor support.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Board elected Dr. Norman Looney (ISHS) to serve as Board Chair, Dr. Dyno Keatinge (AVRDC-WVC) as Vice Chair, Ms. Bibi Giyose (NEPAD) as Secretary, and Dr. Pai-Po Lee (TaiwanICDF) as Treasurer. *(Full article at www.globalhort.org/news-events/news/)*

Staff News

Dr. Po-Yung Lai has recently joined the Arusha staff in a temporary one-year assignment as a Portfolio Manager with GlobalHort.

Po-Yung Lai, born in Taiwan, received his Master's and Ph.D. degrees in the U.S. He comes to GlobalHort with over 30 years of teaching and administrative experience. Dr. Lai was approached by the Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (Taiwan ICDF), the major donor country of GlobalHort, to join the small, yet well experienced staff of GlobalHort. Within the capacities associated with his various positions, Dr. Lai became deeply involved in the development of solutions for a multitude of problems or issues confronting farmers and particular industries such as ornamental, vegetable, fruit, and other horticultural or field crops. When serving as the Assistant Director at the University of Hawaii (UH), Dr. Lai worked closely not only with county agents and extension specialists but also with farmers. Po-Yung is an enthusiastic problem-solver at heart and is a trusted guardian of the interests and well-being of farmers and other stakeholders.

Dr. Lai states that he accepted the offer to join GlobalHort because "I firmly believe in GlobalHort's mission to help improve the

health and nutrition of the people of developing countries". Dr. Lai arrived in Arusha in early July.



During the past months he has adapted well to daily life at the World Vegetable Center's Regional Center for Africa. He has been particularly impressed with the friendliness and politeness of Tanzanian people. Dr. Lai feels that he will be able to help GlobalHort establish the financial and administrative systems that will enable it to work efficiently as a fully independent international organization.

Dr. Lai first served as an entomologist in 1975, then as Branch Manager and finally as Administrator of the Division of Plant Industry, Hawaii Department of Agriculture in 1984. During his tenure of 16 years at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, he managed several state-wide programs, including plant pest control, pesticide, and plant quarantine. In 1991, Dr. Lai joined the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at UH as the Assistant Director in charge of the Extension Service. In 1997, Dr. Lai took early retirement to join the faculty of National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST), Taiwan, in charge of establishing and orga-

nizing the Graduate Institute of Tropical Agriculture which was later renamed the Department of Tropical Agriculture and International Cooperation. With financial support from the Taiwan ICDF, a scholarship program was initiated that enabled recruiting students from developing countries to study in agriculture-related fields for their Master's degree. This program was started in 1998 with only 6 students from Senegal, the Gambia, Solomon Islands, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Haiti. It was later expanded to include BSc and PhD programs with a total of 78 students in 2008. There are now 78 alumni working around the world. As a result of its successes, the scholarship program has become a model of its kind in Taiwan attracting a total of 13 renowned universities in Taiwan to join the Taiwan International Cooperation Alliance organized under the Taiwan ICDF. Dr. Lai was appointed as the Director of the Office of International Affairs due to his achievements in successfully organizing a graduate institution at NPUST and then was twice appointed as the Vice President of NPUST in charge of academic affairs in 2002 and 2006. After having worked at the NPUST for over 10 years, Dr. Lai retired from the NPUST and was offered an honorary title of Professor Emeritus. He was subsequently appointed as a Visiting Professor at Dr. Lai's alma mater, National Chung Hsing University.

Bienvenue sur Hort-e: Portail de l'initiative mondiale pour l'horticulture (GlobalHort)



S'il vous plaît noter que notre site web, GlobalHort, est maintenant disponible en français. Please note that our website, GlobalHort, is now available in French. www.globalhort.org/francais

GlobalHort's First Year... (continued from page 1)

Over the last year, GlobalHort, through its GlobalHort portal, has become the horticultural platform for collaboration and knowledge sharing worldwide. It has also been instrumental in facilitating and hosting the website for the first All Africa Horticulture Congress. GlobalHort has been very active in receiving and developing proposals. Of the four grant proposals that GlobalHort has received for consideration for funding under the financial support of TaiwanICDF, the main themes proposed by AVRDC as the leading research institution pertained to the production of vegetables and nutritional assessment of underutilized crops. GlobalHort has developed a proposal on its own for EduLink. EduLink is a program funded by the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states (ACP) and European Union to improve the effectiveness and the impact of cooperation in the field of higher education.

Establishing partnerships with various institutions has also been actively pursued by GlobalHort. It has become an associate partner with the Center for Development Research (ZEF) in the development of ValueNet, which is a network of European universities to set up a common training for PhD students related to research on

certification standards. ValueNet aims at adopting quality standards for high-value fruit and vegetable crops produced by smallholders in sub-Saharan Africa to meet the requirements for European markets. GlobalHort and its partners in Africa (ACP Secretariat, FARA) and in Europe (CTA, ECART) have placed horticulture as a priority for the next call for proposals of the Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP) of EU-Directorate General for Development. FSTP is to provide innovative solutions in countries that face food security problems. GlobalHort is also a key partner in the USAID Horticulture CRSP proposal to link American universities with other players in the horticultural sectors.

AVRDC-The World Vegetable Center played a pivotal role in launching the establishment of GlobalHort in 2006. After the launch and till now, AVRDC assumed the leadership role in managing financial and administrative affairs for GlobalHort. Subsequently, AVRDC provided the accommodation for GlobalHort at their Regional Center for Africa in Arusha, Tanzania for which GlobalHort is deeply appreciative.

"We at GlobalHort look forward to our new role as an independent organization that can represent multi-stakeholders more effectively."

GlobalHort has plans to continue to work with AVRDC to further strengthen the complementary partnership that has been established for the good of the common stakeholders. GlobalHort is doing its part to help put Arusha, Tanzania on the global horticultural map. GlobalHort and AVRDC-RCA are taking on new life and new challenges which will lead to greater collaboration with synergistic results, not only in sub-Saharan Africa but the rest of the world as well.

It has been a very exciting year for GlobalHort. We at GlobalHort look forward to our new role as an independent organization that can represent multi-stakeholders more effectively. GlobalHort has a unique niche to fill as a champion for horticultural science for development; and also as a facilitator, coordinator and integrator for enhancing horticultural research, development and private partnership. In addition, GlobalHort serves as a platform for capacity building and knowledge management considered key activities in promoting human health and economic wellbeing in developing countries.

Horticultural Opportunity Links Now Added to GlobalHort Portal



If you would like to keep abreast of new grants and jobs in horticulture please go to the GlobalHort Portal "Opportunities" section at: www.globalhort.org.

GlobalHort has sifted through all the horticultural grants that are available and have presented them in a way that makes it easier to understand. There are many employment sites on the Internet however there are just a few that specialize in listing horticultural jobs on an international level and that also provide you with an opportunity to post your curriculum vitae.

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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. Norm Looney, President of ISHS and co-chair of The Board; Raul Montemayor, IFAP; and Jerry Miner, Communications Officer.

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Horticulture and the World Food Crisis: Biofuels vs Nutrition?

Dr. Norman Looney, President of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) and Chair, GlobalHort Board, has recently published an editorial on the GlobalHort Portal on horticulture and the world food crisis. (www.globalhort.org)



This past year has seen much media attention to the rapid increase in the price of staple food grains and oil seeds around the world and the effect that this is having on food prices. Dr. Looney attributes this state of affairs to a combination of factors, but he feels that there can be no doubt that the rapid increase in the price of petroleum is paramount. Diversion of food grains and oil seeds to biofuel production has substantially increased demand for these commodities.

He contends that support for agricultural research and education, especially in those countries most

able to afford it, has been declining for decades while poverty and under-education have long disadvantaged more people than not.

He also concludes that it is unfortunate that policy-makers within the international development bureaucracy have been slow to recognize that horticulture is often the most appropriate use of small land holdings in many parts of the world. Horticulture enterprise can provide work for whole families (even whole neighborhoods at peak periods). Horticultural industry spawns value-added opportunities that can provide employment for entire communities. Horticulture makes more efficient use of scarce or costly inputs like water and fertilizer and fruits and vegetables are needed to avoid nutrient deficiencies prevalent in many parts of the world. All of this adds up to wealth-creation potential far exceeding that of traditional staple crop agriculture.

Why is it that during a world food crisis that organizations such as FAO and GlobalHort are finding it very difficult

to get funding for research and education for the production and promotion of fruits and vegetables for the health of the poor while biofuels are getting so much attention and funding? Time and time again research shows that fruits and vegetables are the key to ending poverty, improving nutrition, and sustaining rural communities in the developing world.. The value of biofuels is questionable and there is a risk that it will not help but hinder poverty reduction.

It is a bit sobering to reflect on the fact that 350 participants from 47 countries will be attending the *3rd Annual Biofuels Markets Africa* conference to be held in South Africa in November while horticulture will be barely represented during the CGIAR Annual General Meeting to be held in Maputo, Mozambique in December.

A message we must convey to decision makers everywhere is that despite this latest food crisis now is not the time to reduce funding for research and education in support of horticulture.