

Norman E. Looney, PhD, FASHS, FISHS

President of ISHS and Board Chair of the Global Horticulture Initiative

Dr. Norman E. Looney, Principal Scientist Emeritus with the Research Branch of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, enjoyed a productive career as a fruit crops research scientist and science manager at the Pacific Agri-Food Research Center at Summerland, British Columbia. His achievements in science have been recognized by professional bodies in Canada, USA, UK, and from the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS; www.ishs.org). He was the chief organizer of the 26th International Horticultural Congress of ISHS (Toronto; 2002) and followed that success with two terms as President of the Society. ISHS, with more than 7200 Individual Members from 142 countries, is governed by a Council of 62 Country/Region Members. ISHS Science Sections and Commissions sanction more than 40 international symposia each year. All result in a volume of *Acta Horticulturae*. The www.actahort.org database receives more than 25,000 page views per day.

Over the past 8 years Dr. Looney has realized his ambition, revealed during the Toronto Congress, to transform ISHS from a society overwhelmingly focused on 'first world' horticultural science and industry to one with an array of initiatives that both champion and address horticulture for development. He was prominently involved with the conceptualization and promotion of the Global Horticulture Initiative (GlobalHort; www.globalhort.org). GlobalHort was launched in 2006 as a consortium of actors with activities and interests aimed at optimizing the potential of high value plant agriculture (primarily horticulture) within the context of international development. The present GlobalHort Board of Directors, with Dr. Looney representing ISHS and serving as Chair, includes representatives of ISHS, the International Centers of the CGIAR, the World Vegetable Center (AVRDC), NEPAD, CIRAD, the Global Forum for Agriculture Research (GFAR), the International Seed Federation (ISF), and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP). The donor representative is Taiwan ICDF. GlobalHort also maintains strong links to FAO, USAID (through the new Horticulture CRSP), and is presently exploring common interests with the AAAPD in the realm of capacity building for horticulture in Africa.