

OIP News and Views

Strengthening APS's Relations with Societies in the Developed World: Why and How?

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As an international society, APS plays an important role in promoting collaboration among foreign societies, scientists, and practitioners of plant pathology. The Caribbean Division is a good example of the success and impact of APS's international activities. The division's annual meeting is usually held outside the United States, many of those who attend the meeting are foreign nationals, several societies are usually represented, and abstracts and presentations at the meeting can be presented in Spanish. Since 1998, APS has given an award for International Service and, through OIP, APS has several activities that focus on the developing world, including the APS Group Membership, Library Assistance Program (see below), JANE Endowment Award, and International Travel Fund. (APS uses the World Bank definitions of developing and developed country, www.worldbank.org/data/countryclass/classgroups.htm). APS has a responsibility to assist individuals and societies in the developing world, and OIP devotes most of its energies to this end.

OIP, and APS in general, have focused less on interactions in the developed world than the developing world. A notable exception is APS's long-standing relationship with the Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS). We periodically hold joint annual meetings with CPS, and many individuals are members of both APS and CPS.

As of August 2003, APS had 199 members in Canada (see Table). In total, 945 (66%) of our international members resided in developed countries. About 82% (779) of these individuals were from 10 of these countries, and more than half were from only four: Australia, Canada, Germany, and Japan. Plant pathological societies are present in at least 16 developed countries (the above countries plus Denmark, Finland, France, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom). Most of these societies publish a refereed journal, and one, the British Society of Plant Pathology, publishes three. Among these societies, significant nonjournal publishers that are analogous to APS Press do not exist. Eleven of the sixteen societies are in Europe, and most are entirely in the temperate zone. None are in the tropics, but individuals in all of these societies have significant interactions with scientists in the tropics.

Plant pathological societies in the developed world face many common issues. Topics of increasing importance include federal and international funding for agricultural research; the viability and survival of societal electronic and print publications; the continued spread and impact of important plant diseases; the international exchange of scientists, students, and information after September 11, 2001; and biosecurity issues (*Phytopathology News* 39:7). Given the numbers and types of concerns that are shared by these societies, a discussion of how APS might partner with them was held during the Leadership Forum that preceded the 2004 APS Annual Meeting. Examples of the questions considered include

- What kinds of activities could be created to increase APS interactions with colleagues and other plant pathology societies in the developed world?
- In what ways could APS increase communication with international scientists and societies? A related question would be: How could communication channels between APS and sister societies, once established, be kept open and active?
- In the 2003 member survey, respondents suggested that APS needed to "be more international" and do a better job of supporting its international members. How could this be accomplished, and what strategies could be used to identify products and services that are needed by these members?
- What areas of common interest exist for cooperative ventures?

Following the 2004 meeting, OIP established an ad hoc committee to identify societies in the developed world with which APS could establish stronger ties. The challenge for this committee will be to identify specific, mutually beneficial activities that could be developed with these societies. Discussions have already begun with the Deutsche Phytomedizinische Gesellschaft

(DPG) (the German Phytomedical Society) and the Israeli Phytopathological Society (IPS).

At the annual DPG meeting in September, **Harald Scherm** discussed the possibility of establishing stronger ties between DPG and APS. DPG leadership, **Georg Backhaus** (president), **Andreas von Tiedemann** (president-elect), and **Volker Zinkernagel** (immediate past president), were very interested and indicated they would initiate discussions about such a relationship within the DPG membership. Scherm has agreed to be APS's liaison with DPG in the future. Recently, I contacted IPS to determine whether they would be interested in interacting with APS. **Yaacov Katan**, honorary president, and **Leah Tsror**, IPS president, expressed keen interest in establishing better ties with APS. Katan wrote: "...in Israel, the pioneers of agricultural research realized the need to establish strong relations with other scientific societies. We, therefore, shall be more than happy to strengthen and diversify the relationships between our two societies." Katan recognized the strong and numerous relationships that currently exist between pathologists in Israel and the United States and suggested that an area to consider for intersocietal collaboration would be joint meetings on special topics of mutual interest. He has graciously offered to liaise between APS and IPS during the development of this relationship.

As the world becomes a smaller place, more and better cooperation is needed between APS and other societies. With some imagination and altruism, these should all be win-win relationships. With respect to stronger ties between IPS and APS Katan wrote, "We are certain that this will be to the benefit of all of us." OIP agrees wholeheartedly with this sentiment. We hope that the relationships that are developing between APS and the DPG and IPS will serve as future models for successful intersocietal relationships in both the developed and developing worlds. APS and OIP welcome your input on how and with whom these intersocietal relations could be furthered. ■

Table. Developed Countries with Significant APS Membership in August 2003

| Country | No. of Members (Ratio ^a) | Society | Journal(s) |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Canada | 199 (163,356) | Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS)/La Société Canadienne de Phytopathologie (SCP) | <i>Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology/Revue Canadienne de Phytopathologie</i> |
| Japan | 155 (821,503) | Phytopathological Society of Japan (PPSJ) | <i>Journal of General Plant Pathology</i> |
| Australia | 76 (262,015) | The Australasian Plant Pathological Society (APPS) | <i>Australasian Plant Pathology</i> |
| Germany | 60 (1,373,743) | Deutsche Phytomedizinische Gesellschaft (DPG) (The German Phytomedical Society) | <i>Zeitschrift für Pflanzenkrankheiten und Pflanzenschutz (Journal for Plant Diseases and Plant Protection)</i> |
| United Kingdom | 54 (1,116,124) | British Society of Plant Pathology (BSPP) | <i>Plant Pathology, Molecular Plant Pathology, and New Disease Reports</i> |
| France | 53 (1,140,079) | Société Française de Phytopathologie (SFP) (French Phytopathological Society) | |
| Spain | 51 (789,819) | Sociedad Española de Fitopatología (SEF) (Spanish Society of Plant Pathology) | |
| South Korea | 47 (1,034,003) | Korean Society of Plant Pathology (KSPP) | |
| Israel | 42 (147,595) | Israeli Phytopathological Society (IPS) | <i>Phytoparasitica</i> |
| Netherlands | 42 (388,528) | Koninklijke Nederlandse Planteziektenkundige Vereniging (KNPV) (Royal Netherlands Society of Plant Pathology) | <i>European Journal of Plant Pathology</i> (replaces <i>Netherlands Journal of Plant Pathology</i>) |

a Ratio is the number of citizens per unit APS member. It is an indicator of the relative presence of APS in a country (lower numbers = greater presence), and should be compared to the benchmark U.S. ratio of 90,023. For comprehensive links to these and other societies go to www.pk.uni-bonn.de/ppigb/society.htm#1.

Very Active 2004 for OIP Library Assistance Program



Mohammad Babadoost

Mohammad Babadoost, OIP board member and head of OIP's Library Assistance Program, received more than 20 requests for books, journals, slides, and CDs in 2004. In response, shipments were made or arranged to 16 institutes in 12

countries: Afghanistan (2), Bangladesh (1), Brazil (1), Cambodia (2), Ethiopia (2), Iran (2), Pakistan (1), Papua New Guinea (1), Philippines (1), Sri Lanka (1), Thailand (1), and Zambia (1). These shipments included: 36 books, 21 APS compendia, and 461 volumes of *Phytopathology*, 324 volumes of *Plant Disease*, 231 volumes of *Plant Disease Reporter*, 76 volumes of *General Virology*, 51 volumes of *Physiologia Plantarum*, 48 volumes of *Plant Physiology*, 44 volumes of *Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology*, 30 volumes of *Genetics*, 7 volumes of *American Journal of Botany*, 4 volumes of *Taxon*, and 2 volumes of *Canadian Journal of Botany*. Also shipped were many reprints and slides. Shipments in 2004 were made possible by donations from APS headquarters and the following individuals: **Paige E. Axelrood, Mohammad Babadoost, Adria C. Bordas, Mrs. C. Lee Campbell, Steve Cloyd, Stella Coakley, Thomas Creswell, Barry Cunfer, William Dowler, Jesse Dubin, William Epps, Ed French, Nabil A. Garas, Richard Hamilton, Richard T. Hanlin, James Hanson, George W. Keitt, Jr., Franklin Laemmlen, Donald Mathre, Knud Mortensen, Glenn W. Peterson, August Schmitthenner, Turner Sutton, P. E. Thomas, Mary Thompson, and Timothy Tidwell.**

OIP extends its sincerest thanks and appreciation to those who have supported the Library Assistance Program without their kindness it would simply not be possible. To help continue this outstanding program, please contact Mohammad Babadoost at: University of Illinois, N-533A Turner Hall-Crop Sciences Department, 1102 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana, IL 61801-4798; Phone: +1.217.333.1523, Fax: +1.217.333.1289, E-mail: babadoos@uiuc.edu. ■



Respected Plant Pathologist Named as New IRRI Director General



Robert Zeigler

An internationally respected plant pathologist with more than 20 years experience in agricultural research in the developing world has been named as the next director general of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

A citizen of the United States, **Robert (Bob) Zeigler**, 54, takes over from **Ronald P. Cantrell** who retired as IRRI's director general in December 2004. Zeigler worked at IRRI from 1992 to 1998 as a plant pathologist. During this period, he led the Rainfed Lowland Rice Research Program (1992-96) and the Irrigated Rice Research Program (1996-98).

Keiji Otsuka, chair of IRRI's Board of Trustees, said he was delighted that Zeigler had accepted the Board's offer. "We were very fortunate to have had a shortlist of world-class candidates for the director general position and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who applied and especially those who took part in the interview process," he added.

Zeigler earned his Ph.D. in plant pathology from Cornell University in 1982, his Masters in botany (forest ecology) from Oregon State University in 1978, and his B.Sc. in biological sciences from the University of Illinois in 1972.

After graduating in 1972, he joined the Peace Corps and spent two years as a science teacher in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa (formerly known as Zaire). He then returned to the U.S. to complete his studies before joining in 1980 IRRI's sister center in Colombia, the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT) as a visiting research associate working on cassava.

In 1982, Zeigler went to Burundi to work for three years as a technical adviser for the African nation's maize program at the Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi. He then returned to CIAT as the institute's senior staff plant pathologist until 1992, ultimately taking over as the head of its rice program.

It was his success at CIAT that led IRRI to offer Zeigler his first position in the Philippines as the leader of the Institute's Rainfed Lowland Rice Research Program. "We are especially pleased to be able to appoint as director general someone who has worked here so successfully for as long as Dr. Zeigler," Otsuka said.

After six years at IRRI, Zeigler left to become professor and head of the Department of Plant Pathology and director of the Plant Biotechnology Center at Kansas State University in the U.S., before briefly working as director of the Generation Challenge Program of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) based in Mexico.

Zeigler will assume his new position as IRRI's director general on April 1, 2005.

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is the world's leading rice research and training center. Based in the Philippines and with offices in 10 other Asian countries, it is an autonomous, nonprofit institution focused on improving the well-being of present and future generations of rice farmers and consumers, particularly those with low incomes, while preserving natural resources. IRRI is one of 15 centers funded through the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), an association of public and private donor agencies. Please visit the Web sites of the CGIAR (www.cgiar.org) or Future Harvest Foundation (www.futureharvest.org), a nonprofit organization that builds awareness and supports food and environmental research. ■

News from the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

From October 27 to 29, 2004, nearly 1,000 participants attended the CGIAR Annual General Meeting in Mexico City (see "**Mexico Hosts CGIAR Annual General Meeting 2004: Strong Push for Science-Based Agricultural Growth**" at www.cgiar.org/enews/december2004/.) Mexico is the birthplace of CGIAR. Its creation was celebrated in Mexico City with **Norman Borlaug** and others who were instrumental in creating it and one of the first CG centers, Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo (CIMMYT).

During the meeting, **P. Lava Kumar** of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in India

received the Young Scientist Award for identifying the agent that causes sterility mosaic disease in pigeonpea. Pigeonpea is one of the major grain legume (pulse) crops of the tropics and subtropics. It is a valuable source of protein for millions of people, and the leaves are an important source of fodder for livestock. Sterility mosaic is a widespread problem and has caused more than \$300 million in losses. Kumar's award came with a cash prize of \$5,000.



Winner of the Young Scientist Award P. Lava Kumar of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

FEDEPLATANO, a Colombian NGO, won the Outstanding Innovation Partnership Program Award for its joint research with farmers to develop control measures for Moko disease of banana. Banana is a staple food in Latin America, and Moko is a serious and lethal problem in the region. The Colombian government and mayors of two cities provided financial support for the project,



Jonathan Wadsworth, of the U.K. Department for International Development (DfID), congratulates Silverio Gonzalez, a researcher with FEDEPLATANO, on winning CGIAR's Innovation Marketplace Outstanding Innovative Partnership Program Award.

and the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT) and Colombian Institute of Agricultural Research (CORPOICA) collaborated with FEDEPLATANO on this research. The award comes with a cash prize of \$10,000.

CGIAR recently unveiled, and asks for comment on, its redesigned website, www.cgiar.org. ■

