
Association News

Providing travel assistance for young WPSA members and students to participate in regional and global WPSA Conferences

It is generally agreed that enhancing the educational, research and experience opportunities of young poultry science professional and technical people is critical to the pace of development of more efficient poultry production, whether it is in an intensive technological industry or in small-scale, family production systems. It should also be stressed that any travel assistance we can provide should be independent of and in addition to that currently provided by World's Poultry Congresses, Regional Conferences or individual Branches. It should target and benefit additional students and young members, including young poultry producers from developing countries and students from developed countries. A scheme of open competition for such WPSA Travel Scholarships now is available. Applicants must be a member of WPSA for at least half a year before they can apply for a Travel Grant.

Applications must be accompanied by a short CV.

Deadlines

You must submit your application at least 3 months prior to the meeting.

Application form

Full details and application forms can be obtained from the WPSA secretariat (wpsa@xs4all.nl) or you can download the application form from the WPSA website (www.wpsa.com).

Please send the complete application form (preferably by e-mail) to the General Secretary of WPSA, Dr Roel Mulder, PO Box 31, 7360 AA Beekbergen, The Netherlands, e-mail: roel.mulder@wpsa.com or wpsa@xs4all.nl or fax to +31 207508941.

WPSA Website: www.wpsa.com

The WPSA website provides much valuable information about the organisation and activities of the Association, its regional federations and country branches. In addition there are regularly updated news reports from branch meetings, conferences and symposia organised by the specialist Working Groups, as well as a calendar of future events.

In order to keep it regularly updated, the

Association welcomes information and pictures from Branches, Regional Federations and Working Groups concerning activities of the various WPSA organisations, as well as news about appointment of officers and members.

Please send your information to Mrs D.M. Kleverwal, e-mail wpsa@xs4all.nl.

WPSA Speakers Bureau Fostering local and regional conferences in the poultry sciences

During the 34th meeting of the Board of WPSA on August 20, 2000 in Montreal, Canada it was recognised that branches in low income countries often do not have sufficient financial resources to fund overseas speakers, and furthermore, expert speakers on certain topics are not always readily available in these countries.

So the Board decided to create a Speakers' Bureau to assist branches in low income countries to cover the travel costs of expert international speakers. This measure is consistent with the key objective of WPSA to encourage and help facilitate liaison among research scientists and educators, and between those in research and education and those working in the many diverse sectors of the poultry industry. Under the Speakers' Bureau scheme, WPSA will pay only the cost of air travel (lowest economy class). Local expenses like accommodation are to be paid for by the local organizing branch. WPSA will not pay any honorarium to speakers.

The Speakers' Bureau is an expensive initiative and it is important that optimum value be obtained from the money spent on travel. This can be achieved by insisting that the visiting speaker provides more than just one paper at a conference. The visiting speaker could contribute in a variety of ways, e.g., present a second paper on a related topic,

conduct a workshop for graduate students, have small group or one-on-one interaction, especially with students, visit industry groups, visit university groups, etc.

Unless the Branch (or group of Branches) can pay all the speakers' costs itself, a speaker should NOT be invited until approval of Speakers' Bureau funds is made by the WPSA Executive Committee.

If a branch or a group of branches want to apply for Speakers Bureau assistance, there are certain application conditions as follows:

Application conditions

Application must be made using the WPSA Speakers Bureau application form.

Application must be submitted at least 2 months prior to the meeting.

The speaker must be a member of WPSA for at least 1 year at the time of application.

The speaker must contribute more to the meeting than just presenting one paper.

The speaker will be paid by the WPSA Treasurer and not by the local Branch.

The completed application form should be sent by e-mail to wpsa@xs4all.nl or by fax to: +31 207 508 941.

If you do not have access to e-mail or fax you can send your application to:

WPSA, PO Box 31, 7360 AA Beekbergen,
THE NETHERLANDS

Foundation for Promoting Poultry Science Stichting Bevordering Pluimveewetenschappen

The XIX World's Poultry Congress, held in September 1992 in Amsterdam, was financially successful. This outcome was, to a large extent, due to the contributions received from the 16 main sponsors and over 2500 participants. The terms of reference of the Congress Organizing Foundation required that any credit balance that resulted after all liabilities had been met should be made available to the Dutch Branch of WPSA as initiator of the organization of the Congress. As a result, a Foundation for Promoting

Poultry Science (Stichting Bevordering Pluimveewetenschappen) was founded. The general objective of this foundation are "to promote the developments and propagation of poultry science in WPSA-structures, and specifically:

1. the stimulation of international congresses and the promotion of participation in these events, and
2. the support of initiative having the objective of establishing WPSA-

branches in countries which do not yet have them”.

Individuals and organizations may apply for financial support for appropriate WPSA activities such as conferences, congresses and symposia. Applications for financial support of conferences, congresses and symposia should be forwarded through the local WPSA Branch.

The Foundation has a particular interest in assisting in the process of establishing new WPSA branches and therefore supports these branches by covering for three years part of the membership fees. Individuals and organizations may apply for financial support by contacting Ir H. Hupkes, Odijkerweg 37,

NL-3972 NE Driebergen, The Netherlands, e-mail: h.hupkes@zonnet.nl. An application form will be sent on request.

The Board of directors of the Foundation meets three or four times a year. In case of requests for financial assistance to attend conferences, congresses and symposia, applications should be received by the secretary at least 3 months before the meeting.

Application forms should be filled out completely and can be sent through e-mail and fax. An original application form should be sent by regular mail.

It is the Board's policy not to fund individual applicants more than 2 times.

Online Journal subscription for WPSA members

The World's Poultry Science Journal has been available to subscribers on-line for the past three years. As a result of a change in our publishing partners (the on-line edition will be available from Cambridge University Press instead of CABI) and the work of a small sub-committee appointed at the 2005 WPSA Board meeting, members will have the option of receiving the Journal on-line instead of the print edition.

The system will be upgraded to permit searching of references, tracing citations etc. with a full range of electronic facilities.

The print version will continue to be the normal method for receiving the Journal. **if you wish to receive the on-line version instead, you must indicate this by completing the form on the WPSA website (www.wpsa.com).**

Most of the content of the Journal will now be included in the on-line edition with the exception of the advertisements. We will be developing a new page in the on-line version where all of our Gold and Silver sponsors will be identified, and provide direct links to their company websites.

E-mail WPSA Newsletter

WPSA has introduced a new version of the WPSA Newsletter that will be e-mailed to individual members, on request. To receive

this, please subscribe to the e-mail Newsletter on the website (www.wpsa.com).

World's Poultry Science Journal – Digital Archive

Access from the first issue in 1945 until 2003 online – a total of 240 issues!

Volumes 1 – 59 of World's Poultry Science Journal are now available on Cambridge Journals Online. The archive is fully searchable by keyword and author; abstracts can be saved and e-mailed, full text articles printed and bibliographic details exported into reference management software. Perpetual

Access is available for a one-off fee of just £500/\$995*.

For further information, or to purchase the WPSJ Digital Archive, please e-mail jnlsales@cambridge.org.

*For those who do not subscribe to the current volume, there is an additional annual

maintenance fee of £45/85, payable from the second year of the deal.

www.journals.cambridge.org/WPS

The next European Poultry Conference will take place in France!

The XIIIth European Poultry Conference will be held from the 23rd to the 27th of August 2010 in Tours (France). This event is organized by the French branch of the World's Poultry Science Association (WPSA) with support of the INRA, AFSSA and ITAVI.

This congress, which takes place every four years, addresses all participants of poultry production and attracts around of 1000 attendees from more than 70 countries. This must-attend meeting offers a great opportunity to meet experts from all over the world. It allows technical exchanges and the chance to obtain up to date information on the different aspects of poultry production, including avian biology, physiology, breeding and rearing systems, nutrition, health, hygiene and food security, pathology, environmental impact, animal welfare, product quality and industrial processes. Technico-economic domains and poultry education will be also presented. Each theme will have specific sessions organised

around overviews, oral communications, posters and plenary discussions.

In addition to the scientific programme, the WPSA will organise technical tours. A special programme for accompanying persons is also scheduled to allow them to discover Tours and its surroundings.

Full information relative to this congress is online at www.epc2010.org.

Abstracts should be submitted on EPC2010 website (www.epc2010.org: Program->call for abstract) before January 15th, 2010.

Full text for the accepted abstract must be received before May 15th, 2010.

For information, contact EPC 2010 secretariat

Email: secretariat@EPC2010.org

Tel: +41 22 5330948

Fax: +41 22 5802953

Web: www.epc2010.org

Working Group Report

Working Group 1 – Poultry Economics and Marketing

Report of the 2nd round table on poultry economics and marketing held in Antwerp, October 1 and 2, 2009

The working group for Poultry Economics and Marketing held its second round table meeting in Antwerp, Belgium on 1st and 2nd October 2009. Working group 1 organised this meeting together with the Belgium Branch of WPSA. On the first day there was a public session where, besides the working group, WPSA members in Belgium, the Netherlands and the North of France were invited. Around 50 people attended this meeting. After the opening by Peter van Horne, chairman of the working group, key note speaker Dan Cunningham of the University of Georgia gave a presentation on broiler production economics in the USA. This was followed with a presentation on competitiveness by

Peter van Horne (LEI Wageningen UR), Professor Viaene (University of Ghent) on chain management and Pascale Magdelaine (ITAVI) on trends in marketing. After the presentations, questions were taken and a good discussion was held.

On the second day the working group had a closed meeting on three main topics: poultry production in South East Europe, economics of animal welfare and marketing of poultry meat and eggs. There was special attention paid to two new members who gave an excellent presentation on the poultry industry in their countries: Vesna Rodic of the University of Novi Sad in Serbia and Halit Cinar of the Ministry of Agriculture in

Ankara, Turkey. Being a small group with only 16 members from 11 countries with a clear interest in poultry economics there was a good interaction between the members in exchanging information, research methods and ideas. Following this successful meeting, the 3rd round table was proposed for October

2011. The chairman would like to express his thanks to the Province of Antwerp and the Proefbedrijf voor Veehouderij for hosting the round table and especially Johan Zoons in making all the arrangements.

For more information contact the chairman: peter.vanhorne@wur.nl.

Working Group 3 – Breeding and Genetics

6th European Poultry Symposium on Poultry Genetics, Bedlewo, Poland, September 30 to October 2, 2009

The European Federation's Working Group 3 on Breeding and Genetics hosted the VI European Poultry Genetics Symposium on 30th September – 2nd October, 2009, in Bedlewo near Poznan, Poland. Among the 73 participants (from 17 European countries, USA and Asia), there were representatives of academia as well as the poultry breeding industry. A wide spectrum of topics was covered including the optimal use of genetic markers in selection, the analysis of genetic diversity in poultry, and the genetic background of egg quality. Invited speakers included: Prof. Dr. L. Andersson (Sweden), Dr. S. Avendano (Great Britain), Dr. H. Chapuis (France), Prof. Dr. J. Dekkers (USA), Dr. D.J. de Konning (Great Britain), Dr. I. Hoffmann (FAO representative), Prof. Dr. H. Simianer (Germany), Prof. Dr. J. Vilkki (Finland), Prof. Dr. S. Wężyk (Poland) and Dr. A. Wolc (Poland). The meeting also included a very fruitful poster session and 27 short communications grouped into four

research areas: namely, diseases (five), diversity (seven), morphology (three), QTLs (six), and the selection of eggs (six). In accordance with tradition, a workshop was held for the representatives of the poultry breeding industry chaired by Prof. Dr. R. Preisinger.

The symposium was organised by the Poznan Branch of the Polish Society for Animal Production, European WPSA Working Group 3 on Breeding and Genetics, the Polish Branch of WPSA in collaboration with Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Polish Academy of Science, and the Poznan University of Life Sciences. The next symposium will be held in 2011 in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Steffen Weigend, Chairman of WPSA's European Working Group 3 'Genetics and Breeding'

Tomasz Szwaczkowski, Local organizer of the 6-th EPGS

WPSA Branch News

Argentina

The Argentinean Branch has been invited to serve on the Scientific Committee for the 22nd Latin-American Poultry Congress that will be held in Buenos Aires City, Argentina, between September 6th and 9th of 2011. This event will be captioned 'Latin-America; world food reserve in harmony with the environment'.

This is the first time that the Branch has received an invitation to participate in the organization of a regional event, which shows that not only have we had great growth in the

number of branch members since 2001, but that we have gained the respect of and a better relationship with the poultry industry.

The Argentinean Branch Board has designated four members to represent it on this planning Committee: Julian Melo (Universidad de Buenos Aires), Mauricio De Franceschi (Universidad Nacional de Luján), Dante Bueno (Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria) and Hebe Barrios (Universidad Nacional de Luján).

On November, 12th of 2009 the first meeting of this Committee was held with Marcelo Schang, president of the Scientific Committee, and Honorary President of the Argentinean Branch of WPSA.

Bernardo F. Iglesias

Brazil

The Brazil Branch has just completed its last event of the year, hosting the Workshop 'Current Situation and Future of Infectious Bronchitis in the Brazilian Poultry Industry' that was held in Campinas, Brazil, on December 2-3. More than 140 selected professionals from the Brazilian poultry industry attended the event, with speakers from 5 countries - an overall big success. A summary of this event will be published in a special issue of the Brazilian Journal of Poultry Science in 2010.

The organizational work for the 2010 Annual FACTA-WPSA Brazil Conference is also ongoing alongside with the WPC 2012 planning. The FACTA-WPSA Brazil Conference is one of the most well-respected and comprehensive scientific poultry events in Latin America and will take place in May 2010 in the city of Santos, São Paulo state, Brazil.

Mariana Castrillon, Communications Assistant, FACTA/ WPSA Brazilian Branch

Germany

2009 was a very successful year for the German branch in terms of growing membership: starting with 357 at the end of 2008 and currently 376 - the ambitious target for next year is over 400.

The annual meeting was held this year on the 17th and 18th March in Vechta, the 'Silicon Valley' of the German Poultry Industry. The scientific programme covered a range of current topics around poultry welfare, egg quality and HPAI and attracted not only WPSA members, but also professionals from associated industries, several of which subsequently joined the WPSA.

Following the tradition of having an organized tour in the autumn of odd years, a group of 15 members and guests of the German Branch visited poultry facilities in Austria and Slovenia in late September to early October. Sight-seeing in and around Klagenfurt and

Ljubljana added pleasant impressions to remember. It is hoped that our visit to Slovenia will also contribute toward the establishment of a new branch in the near future.

The 2010 annual meeting is scheduled for 16th – 17th March in Düsseldorf, where we will intensify our contacts with fancy breeders and visit the research unit in Sinsteden, where students from the Medical Faculty use poultry as experimental animals for brain research.

Several of our members are actively involved in preparing the programme for the upcoming European Poultry Conference in Tours 2010, and the German branch will again support the EPC2010 by offering travel grants for young scientists with accepted contributions.

Anke Forster and Dietmar Flock

India

The India Branch of WPSA and the Centre for Advance Studies in Poultry Science, Kerala Agricultural University at Mannuthy, Kerala, India, under the auspices of the Asia-Pacific Federation of WPSA, organized and conducted the IV World Water Fowl Conference on the 11th through the 13th of November, 2009. The Conference was inaugurated by H.E. Governor of Kerala State.

About 200 individuals were in attendance, including delegates from Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Lithuania, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Taiwan, and The Netherlands. The theme for the Conference was 'Water Fowl Production for Food Security'. The main focus of the conference was on issues currently related to research on the production of water fowl. The technical programme was structured around a plenary session and concurrent symposia on a wide variety of topics with invited speakers from all over the world. Fifty-five poster presentations were also made during the Conference.

The plenary papers were presented by International as well as Indian Scientists. Six scientific sessions were arranged including: Genetic Resources and Breeding; Nutrition, Physiology and Reproduction; Production Systems; Housing and Management; Bio Security, Diseases and Welfare; and Product Processing, Quality and Safety. In addition to the opening theme paper and the six lead

papers for the different sessions, there were approximately 56 other oral presentations in the different sessions. The Conference also had a Poster Session in which about 55 Posters on different topics were presented. On the last day of the conference, a visit to a large Duck farm, where the ducks are reared in the open was available to the conference delegates.

There was also a Farmers' Seminar held in Kuttanad, the Chief Duck rearing area of Kerala, with about 150 – 200 duck farmers participating in the seminar.

Delegates enjoyed the conference and thanked the organizers for arranging such a wonderful event.

Dr. A.L. Bhagwat, Secretary, India Branch

Malaysia

The Malaysian Branch has hosted a number of activities during the past few months. These included the Branch's participation in the Livestock Asia 2009 conference that was held at KLCC, Malaysia on October 27th. The Branch also presented several awards to industry groups and individuals on October 27th at KLCC who have made significant contributions to the development and advancement of the poultry industry. These included an Industry Excellence Award given to the Bank Rakyat, Malaysia, and Individual Excellence Awards that were given to: Professor Dr. Zulkifli Idrus (University Putra of Malaysia), Professor Dr. Mohd. Hair Bejo (University Putra of Malaysia), and Dr. Lim Eng Soon from the private sector.

A joint dinner of the Malaysia Branch was held with the Malaysia Association of Food Animal Veterinarians (MAFAV) on October 28, 2009 at the Top Hats Restaurant, in Kuala Lumpur. The annual General Meeting of the Branch for 2009 was also held on October 28, 2009 at KLCC, Kuala Lumpur.

Dr. Teo Kim Lai, Secretary, WPSA Malaysia Branch

New Zealand

The New Zealand branch will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2010, and it is planning a special celebration at the New Zealand Poultry Conference that will take place on 12-13 October in Christchurch on the South Island of New Zealand. All visiting members will be

made most welcome. A further, more detailed announcement will be made in the June issue.

Alan Gibbins

South Africa

The South African Branch hosted its annual 28th Scientific Day, 2009, on the 8th of October 2009, at the CSIR Convention Centre, Pretoria. The conference theme was: 'Issues Concerning Leg Weakness in Broilers.'

Leg issues and bone weakness problems that have beset the Poultry Industry in South Africa for some time, have a major impact on welfare, food safety, and production costs. Theories abound as to the cause and treatment of these problems. The South African Branch of the WPSA this year put together a programme for their annual Scientific Day that addressed these issues, making use of internationally renowned poultry scientists as well as local veterinarians and researchers. Those attending the meeting were enlightened by the presentations, and were encouraged by the amount of research that has targeted this topic.

Dr Edgar Oviedo of North Carolina State University is an expert on the problem, having written an extensive review of factors responsible for weak legs in broilers, and he opened proceedings with an overview of those issues. Some investigators have suggested that the problem may be related to the use of phytases in broiler feeds, and Dr. Craig Coon of Danisco discussed this issue, addressing the misconceptions about the application of phytases in broiler nutrition. Dr. Mickael Rouault of Biomin had prepared a paper on the case for the involvement of mycotoxins in causing leg problems in broilers, which was presented by Andrew Robertson. In a presentation by Rob Gous evidence was given of the involvement of daylength in bone strength of broilers.

Three veterinarians Drs. Jean du Toit, Roger Horner and Frank Travers presented case studies of leg problems they have had to deal with in broilers in South Africa, and this was followed by a lively discussion session that helped in identifying the causative factors involved.

Two additional presentations were given at the end of the afternoon which had nothing to do with leg weakness in broilers. Dr. Oviedo presented a second talk, this time on energy efficiency in broiler production, a topical

subject in the present economic and energy climate. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Nilva Sakomura of the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil, who has been working together with Rob Gous on evaluating the efficiency of utilisation of amino acids by different genotypes used in the Poultry Industry. This is another issue of topical interest given the importance attributed to modelling in improving the efficiency of poultry production.

Over 200 delegates attended the meeting, many from the countries bordering South Africa.

Rob Gous, President, South African Branch

Tanzania

The Tanzanian Branch hosted its annual general meeting, and the 2nd WPSA Tanzania Branch Conference on 'Biosecurity and Poultry Development in Tanzania' on 30th September 2009 at the Central Veterinary Laboratory, Dar-es Salaam. In addition to receiving and discussing reports of routine branch activities during the annual meeting, the branch conducted an election of branch officers and re-elected the following in their respective positions: President; Prof. U. M. Minga; Vice President, Dr. F. Akaro; Secretary, Prof. A.P. Muhairwa; and Treasurer, Dr. H. Mrema.

The theme of 2nd WPSA Tanzania Branch Conference was 'Biosecurity and Poultry Development in Tanzania'. Over 30 delegates were invited including private entrepreneurs who are with the hatchery and feed industries. The delegates learned about the risk of poor biosecurity and how it is affecting poultry development in Tanzania. Discussions on the challenges of disease outbreaks in poultry production and practical solutions needed by the industry, were held with the state personnel and researchers in attendance.

The conference was chaired by branch president, Prof. U.M. Minga. Four speakers drawn from both academia and research were on hand to deliver the main conference lectures, and they highlighted biosecurity and other possible challenges for the industry, including poultry production systems and biosecurity in East Africa (U. M. Minga); transmission and control of poultry diseases hatchery-borne & vertically transmitted diseases (A. Benigni); A retrospective study of poultry diseases

occurring at Central Veterinary Laboratory Tanzania (H. Msami) and poultry improvement programme of USDA: what lessons does it provide to Tanzania? (A.P. Muhairwa).

The delegates also deliberated and agreed that the WPSA Tanzania Branch should steer the formation of affiliated associations such as that of poultry producers, which can form a platform for the dissemination of information on the role of biosecurity role in poultry production, and on the development of the poultry industry in Tanzania. Mass education on biosecurity and poultry keeping is needed in Tanzania. The Branch will search for and assess information that is relevant to poultry production in Tanzania. Additional information is also needed by the industry regarding disease control, vaccination and biosecurity. WPSA should play a significant role in advising both producers and Government officials on recommended measures for disease control.

U.M. Minga, President; and A.P. Muhairwa, Secretary, Tanzania Branch

Togo

The Togolese branch of World's Poultry Science Association (WPSA-Togo) organized its first symposium entitled 'Promoting of poultry industry in Sub-Saharan African countries' This symposium took place at Campus of University of Lome, Togo on August 21, 2009. Almost, 90 delegates from Ghana, Benin and Togo attended the seminar. These participants included poultry farmers, feed millers, hatchery managers, academics and researchers. Also, Professor E. Decuyper from Belgium and Dr. P. Simons were present at this symposium as important poultry scientists. Prior to and after the symposium day, Dr. Simons and Prof. Decuyper toured several poultry farms in Togo in order to become familiar with local poultry production systems.

The opening ceremony had several important individuals present including the Minister of 'Enseignement Supérieur et la Recherche'. Five presentations were made during the opening session including one by: Professor Gbeassor (WPSA-Togo President), one by, Professor Decuyper as promoter of inter-university project between University of

Lome and Catholic University of Leuven and as the president of WPSA-Belgium, one by Dr. Piet Simons as representative of WPSA, one by a representative of the General Director of the 'Institut de Conseil et Appui Techniques,' and one by the Minister of 'Enseignement Supérieur et la Recherche'.

The second part of the symposium involved communications and discussions. Besides country reports (Benin, Ghana and Togo), four experienced speakers from both international and national academia and poultry industry highlighted bottlenecks involved in the African poultry industry with regard to several aspects of management practices (feeding and nutrition, moulting, incubation and chick quality, implications for the African poultry industry. The scientific programme focused on 6 main communications, and the session was chaired by Prof. Gbeassor.

In his talk on the Evolution of poultry production in the world and implications for the African continent, Dr. Simons discussed that poultry meat and meat and eggs are a world-wide food source. He provided relevant statistics about poultry meat and eggs production and consumption in different parts of the world, and especially in African countries. His talk pointed out to the participants the relative lack of progress for the poultry industry in Africa.

A paper on dual-purpose chickens, longevity in laying hens and the possibilities for improving poultry production was presented by Prof. E. Decuyper: His communication focused on two important aspects of poultry production. He first talked about the use of cockerels for poultry meat production in an African context. Second, he pointed out that induced moulting of old layers should be considered as a way of extending the layers lifespan, and thereby reducing day-old chick supply problems. He described two different moulting processes and their advantages and disadvantages. The participants, especially poultry farmers showed high interest to this talk by asking several questions for clarifications.

In his paper entitled 'Incubation aspects and chick quality', Dr Tona discussed the characteristics of good chick quality and the relationship between chick quality and post-hatch performance. He also focused on different factors than can affect chick quality. Especially, how to assess chick quality, and the

effects that pre-incubation and incubation factors have on chick quality.

Poultry breeds and their various nutritional requirements for optimum production in the hot humid topics were discussed by G.G. Anku: This speaker provided an overview of the chickens nutritional requirements with regard to levels of crude protein, metabolizable energy, fibre, calcium, salt, methionine, lysine, and total and available phosphorus. He then discussed the importance of differential nutritional requirements according to genotype.

Dr. Tona presented research results on the effect of delayed feed access to layer chicks on performance and blood parameters from the Laboratory of Poultry Science, University of Lome (VLIR project). He pointed out the negative effects of long delays for access to feed on chick weight loss during holding time, chick juvenile growth rate and plasma concentrations in glucose, total protein and triglyceride. He recommended that poultry farmers have access to a supply of day-old chicks from a hatchery close to their farms, and encouraged the establishment of more hatcheries in African countries.

Prof. Decuyper talked about the effects of nutritional managements on the growth of layer-type chickens, and their expected body weights and age and sexual maturity. Also, he focused his talk on energy and protein evaluation and utilisation and nutritional predictability of feeds and feed ingredients. Environmental conditions such as temperature and lighting programme effects on layer chicken performances were also discussed. He also pointed out the importance of anti-nutritional factors from some feed ingredients.

Debates after the communications were very rich and instructive showing the interest of the participants for the topic developed by the speakers.

The following day, there was a short but very instructive meeting between Dr. Simons, Prof. Decuyper and the staffs of the branches of WPSA of Benin, Ghana and Togo. During this meeting Dr. Simons focused on how different branches have to work hard for WPSA promotion, and the opportunities by which the branches can profit from being a part of the world-wide association.

At the end, we all recognized that the symposium was fruitful and we agreed to repeat this on a yearly basis with hosting alternating between countries.

It is important to acknowledge WPSA, VLIR project and PFID/ICAT for supporting financially the organization of this symposium.

Tona Kokou

Turkey

The Second Mediterranean Summit of WPSA was hosted by the WPSA Turkish branch and the Mediterranean Network of WPSA of Working Group 11 (Education and Information) of the European Federation of WPSA in Antalya, Turkey from 4-7 October 2009. The conference was opened with remarks from Professor Dr. Rüveyde Akbay (President of the WPSA Turkish Branch and Past President of WPSA), Professor Dr. Achille Franchini (President of the WPSA European Federation and President of the WPSA Italian Branch), Professor Dr. Robert Pym (President of the worldwide WPSA) and Professor Dr. H.M. Hafez (President of the World Veterinary Poultry Science Association) who focused on the establishment of the Mediterranean Network of WPSA under Working Group 11. During the symposium, nine main topics were discussed with a total of nine invited speakers, 26 oral presentations, 21 short oral poster presentations, and 62 poster presentations. The proceedings of the summit contains the full texts of all of the presentations, and is available from the organisers.

We hope that the 'Mediterranean Summit of WPSA' will mark the beginning of further collaboration among Mediterranean countries and will contribute enormously to the development of new WPSA branches in the Mediterranean region.

Prof. Dr. Servet Yalçın, Secretary of the WPSA Turkish Branch

Ukraine

The Ukrainian Branch of the World's Poultry Science Association with support of Poultry Institute of Ukrainian Academy of Agrarian Sciences, the Union of Poultry Farmers of the Ukraine, and the Kharkov National University by V.N. Karazin, hosted the III Ukrainian Youth Poultry Conference in honour of the 50th anniversary of the Poultry Institute. The conference was held on August 4-6, 2009 at the Biological Station of the Kharkov National

University by V.N. Karazin (Gaydari, Zmiiv district, Kharkov region). The main purpose of the conference was to provide an opportunity for friendly communication and effective collaboration of young scientists, research workers, and graduate students with specialists from poultry farming and with representatives of poultry industry firms.

During the Conference young scientists and specialists from various scientific establishments and production enterprises of the Ukraine, namely from the Sumy National Agrarian University, the Lviv National Agrarian University, the Lviv National University of Veterinary Medicine and Biotechnology by Ggitskiy, the Institute of Agroecology UAAS, the Kharkov National University by V.N. Karazin, the Kharkov State Zooveterinary Academy, the LTD 'AgroVet,' research organization 'Bread of Ukraine,' and research organization 'Agrofirma 'Shakhtar' took part.

The president of the Ukraine Branch, Dr. O. V. Tereschenko, welcomed the participants and pointed out that the branch is now 53 years old, having been established in 1966 during the XIII World's Poultry Congress, and that the Branch is one of the oldest branches from the former Soviet republics. Dr. O.O. Katerinich, a member of the Branch's Council, told about the history of the Poultry Institute, its modern structure, and he provided a basic summary of its activities.

Taking into account the main subject lines of the Conference, the participants lectures were distributed among the following sections: breeding, selection and genetics; biochemistry, physiology and feeding; technology of keeping and reproduction; veterinary and sanitary science; and economy, management and marketing.

During the conference a competition was conducted with regard to the research presented. Winners of the competition were given valuable presents, and all other participants of the Conference received certificates. The presentation of awards and certificates was made on the last day of the conference.

In his closing address, Dr. Tereschenko thanked the main organizers of the Conference, i.e. Dr. N. Shomina and her co-workers for the excellent preparation of the meeting, and especially for the publication of the conference proceedings that includes more than 30 publications by young scientists.

The Ukraine Branch also hosted the tenth Ukrainian Poultry Conference. The poultry industry is now the most prosperous and swiftly developing industry in the Ukraine. Innovations in the areas of poultry keeping, feeding, and prophylaxis and medical treatment of avian diseases were discussed at conference that was held on September, 15-18, 2009. A number of internationals were in attendance. The conference was held on the hospitable Crimean land, and 352 delegate from 10 countries took part. Most of the attendees were managers and specialists from Ukrainian poultry farms. The other attendees included veterinarians, technology specialists, specialists on poultry feeding and the incubation of eggs, specialists on the supply and sale of poultry related products, and equipment engineers. Attendees were provided with the latest information from both Ukrainian and international scientists, as well as from the hands-on experiences of leading poultry farming enterprises, and from suppliers of genetic stocks, equipment, mixed foders, feed additives, vitamins, premixes, veterinary and biological preparations to the Ukrainian market

A number of leading Ukrainian and foreign scientists from different institutes and higher educational establishments were invited to participate in the Conference. Seminars held during the conference were devoted to the most relevant questions related to current poultry farming. Other science based lectures were divided into the following sections: i.e. 1) the physiology, biochemistry and feeding of poultry; 2) avian health; 3) the technology of poultry growing, and on 4) genetics and selection.

During the Physiology, biochemistry and feeding section, the topic of feeding amino acids to different kinds of poultry, the setting of requirements for vitamins in the rations of poultry, and methods for improving the availability of various nutrients through the addition of different enzymes to diets and

their dependence on the set of ingredients used were considered and discussed. Special attention was also given to questions related to poultry product quality.

Questions on the etiology, epizootology, diagnostics, medical treatment and prophylaxis of avian diseases, caused by helminthes, protozoa, fungi, bacteria and viruses, as well as questions on the development of and applications for new disinfectants were considered and also information about new methods for diagnosing diseases were presented in the Avian Health section. Most of the Avian Health lectures concerned the development and application of vaccines, and also the use of chemotherapeutical preparations.

The Genetics section included lectures on avian reproduction, genetics and selection, new principles of selection-pedigree work and questions of further progress in selection.

The Technology of Poultry Growing section was devoted to questions of reproduction, technology of production and processing of poultry products. A great deal of interest was shown in lectures, devoted to the modern resource-saving technologies in poultry keeping, incubation of eggs and processing of eggs, meat and litter.

An exhibition 'Poultry-2009' was also organized which included some of the most modern achievements in areas such as poultry feeding, poultry keeping and medical treatment. Four days of intense work at the conference also included a vast entertainment programme that was arranged by the organizers and sponsors of the Conference. Lively debates were held among specialists from poultry farms, and the representatives of science and other companies working with the poultry market, which shows that such meetings are very important for the development of a healthy viable poultry industry.

Dr Oleg Trufanov, Secretary, and Dr Alexander Tereschenko, President, Ukrainian Branch