
Editorial

The World's Poultry Science Association has cause to be pleased when its membership increases, as was the case in the past year, and when new branches are formed. In 1990 we particularly welcomed the formation of the Chinese Branch and look forward to members from China taking an active part in the Association. Another historic event in 1990 was the creation of a single branch representing what were formerly East and West Germany. We wish both these new branches success in the challenging years ahead.

With world production of eggs for human consumption dominated by output from the domestic fowl and poultry meat production dominated by that from broilers and turkeys, it is perhaps too easy to overlook the other avian species which make important contributions to the supply of human food. In addition to ducks and guinea fowl, the quail is becoming increasingly recognized as having a considerable potential as a source of both meat and eggs. Thus the initiative taken by the USSR National Branch of the WPSA in organizing the first International Quail Farming Conference in the ancient city of Tallin in Estonia is particularly welcomed. This will take place on 17–20 September 1991 and it is to be hoped that it will be well supported. We wish it great success. For further details see Calendar, page 70.

Sound education and training in poultry science and practice are vital if the poultry industry is to develop and play a full part in helping to feed the peoples of the world. Over the years a number of initiatives have been taken by the WPSA and by its various branches. These include youth programmes linked to conferences and congresses and, looking ahead, the XIX World's Poultry Congress in Amsterdam in 1992. In recent times the 'Outreach Project' under the leadership of Dr Wade Brant tried to identify the needs of educational institutions in developing countries (*WPSJ*, 1988, 44: 260), while the inclusion in the journal of information on training courses should help to focus more attention on the subject, as well as assisting potential students. Last year the UK Branch held a Symposium during which many aspects of education and training were addressed against the background of economic and social change. Short papers based on those presented in the Symposium are included in this issue (pages 27–45).

Computerized data bases make the search for information sources a very much easier and quicker procedure than it used to be only 10–15 years ago; however, such facilities are far from being universally available and in any case are not without cost. Furthermore the emphasis in these data bases has been on keeping up to date with new literature rather than looking back in time. With these matters in mind the meeting of the Editorial Board in Barcelona felt that it would be a justifiable use of journal space to publish a subject index covering the past 25 years (pages 72–103). While all indexes have limitations, by setting 11 subject areas in which papers have been chronologically arranged it is hoped that readers will find it easy to identify those of potential interest. Although there is no separate author index, the prominent way in which authors' names are indicated should make it possible to scan on this basis as well as by title.

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