

2017 APIMONDIA NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

As we come to the end of 2017 may I take this opportunity to wish all beekeepers and their families good health and good honey crops for 2018. At this time of the year in some parts of the world people celebrate and in other parts people have celebrations at different times - so wherever you live and however you celebrate may we always remember that our little honeybee does not recognise, Race, Religion, Creeds or Borders, so let's all celebrate this wonderful creature that brings us altogether.

I will start off this Newsletter with a short report about the 45th Apimondia Congress held at the end of September in Istanbul, Turkey. It's fair to say that this congress will go down in history as the greatest congress ever. Just under 13,000 participants from 112 Countries left Istanbul with such great memories – the biggest beekeeping congress ever held, the largest ApiExpo, incredible symposium presentations and Istanbul lived up to its promise of being a wonderful city for such an event. At this point I must congratulate UFA, Russia winners to host the 2021 congress and my commiserations to Denmark, Serbia and Slovenia whose presentations will be long remembered by the delegates present. They must be congratulated for their hard work and the effort they made, which really enhanced the colourfulness of the congress.

The ApiExpo was just incredible, the number of stands, the quality contained therein and the enthusiasm of the exhibitors all added to give a flavour not seen before at previous congresses.

The lecture presentations, the Roundtables and the 'Continents Speaking', a new initiative at this



Philip Mc Cabe with Pekka and Kirsi's daughter

year's congress, were only outstanding. One of the problems Apimondia has suffered over many years was the non-appearance of persons who submitted papers but then did not turn up to present them. This usually meant that the paper would have been printed in the Abstract Book and the presenter could include this on their CV. This year we had the highest turnout ever of presenters and the lecture halls were full for ever presentation.

My congratulations, not only to Apimondia Scientific and Regional Commissioners but also to our Turkish Scientific colleagues who really made a such a big effort to make sure the congress was such a success.

Over the past year I have been observing the number of ladies present at seminars and meetings I attend, and I have to say I was pleasantly surprised by the numbers of lady's present. My father would often comment that, in his opinion, ladies were better beekeepers than the men – now I know this could be a touchy subject – but his argument was that in general ladies had more patience and were gentler with the bees than some men he knew. He would often quote that 'cross bees' could be created by rough handling, which, no doubt, some of you will agree is a reasonable statement. Perhaps it was the part of the world we were in as to why I expected to see fewer ladies, but it was great to see such a balance.

Finland 100 years of Beekeeping

At the end of November, I was invited to join with our Finnish colleagues to celebrate 100 years of beekeeping in Finland. What a great celebration and a great history of beekeeping. This was my second visit to this beautiful country with many landscapes, in winter long nights and in summer very long days. For some reason I was surprised to learn that there are over 54,000 bee hives shared between 3,200 beekeepers who produce an average of 1,800 tonnes of honey annually. The short single main honey-flow dictates the beekeeping in Finland where wild raspberry is a main crop.

On my last day I visited the home and business of Pekka Paajanen; Lahtisen Vahavalimo. This company was founded in 1904 when farmer Sven Lahtinen decided that he was going to take courses about beekeeping. When he finished his courses, he started to practise beekeeping in his home estate in Hausjärvi. Time passed and slowly Sven started to make beeswax sheets to other beekeepers. So that is how he started this business.

Since 1999 business has been run by Pekka Paajanen, grandson of Sven Lahtinen. With him there 3 other workers in Vahavalimo, including his wife and secretary Kirsi Paajanen.

They still make and sell traditional beeswax sheets. Additionally, they also sell their own organic honey, beekeeping and craft supplies to mainly customers here in Finland.

Pekka has 170 bee-colonies scattered around Hausjärvi and he only produces organic honey.

Pekka and Kirsi's daughter (4th generation) is now thinking about possibility to continue this business when that time comes.



Philip McCabe

Philip McCabe

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By Dr. Cleofas Cervancia
President of the Regional Commission
on Asia (PHI)

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ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Date: 1 October 2017 Time: 1400-1600

Panelists:

Ahmad Al Khazim (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
Chuleui Jung (Korea)
Apik Karyana (Indonesia)
Sun Nan (China)
Anna Locsin (Philippines)

Chair/ Moderator: Cleofas R. Cervancia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The situation of beekeeping in Asia was analysed through SWOT analysis. The strengths are: diverse populations of Apis and non-Apis species, rich floral resources for bees, and institutional support (though minimal) to bee research, development and extension. The weaknesses are: limited data on pollinator diversity, no harmonized method for pollinator assessment, lack of standards for Asian honey and proliferation of adulterated and contaminated honey. The opportunities are: high demand for bee products (for food and apitherapy), new generation of beekeepers, awareness on the potential of native bees for pollination. The threats are: natural calamities, pest and diseases (virus diseases, small hive beetles and mites), habitat fragmentation, and introduction of alien species

STATEMENT OF RESOLUTION

1. The Commission will work on the pollinator conservation through the implementation of Asian Pollination Initiative using the Harmonized Protocol for Pollinator Assessment
2. The Commission will promote the conservation of native bee species by restricting the importation or entry of alien bee species
3. The Commission will adopt the Proposed Standard for Tropical Honey for submission to relevant institution to safeguard consumer's health and consumer's trust that they are purchasing quality and safe products
4. The Commission will work diligently to stop adulteration in honey and other bee products through the adoption of Best Beekeeping Practices
5. The Commission will strengthen collaboration within and across the region to enhance its capability in research on bee biology especially genetic diversity studies, systematics, pollination biology, physiology)

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By **Dr. Cristina Mateescu (ROU)**

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Apimondia Scientific Commission on Apitherapy

The 45th APIMONDIA International Congress, Istanbul, Turkey, September 29th, October 4th, 2017

A new opportunity to meet people in love with beekeeping and of course with apitherapy. In spite of the concerns related to safety before the congress, the 45th Apimondia in Istanbul, proved to be a wonderful event and one of the most attended in the history of the federation. According to the data at the end of the congress, about 13,000 participants were registered. For the apitherapy section, I would like to express my thanks to the Local Apitherapy Scientific Commission, to Prof Dr Banu Yucel – the president - who did an excellent job in evaluating and selecting the oral reports as well as the posters. A total number of about 120 abstracts were registered and evaluated. 42 were selected for oral presentation and 78 abstracts were accepted as posters. A total number of 8 symposia and a plenary session concluded the activities of the apitherapy commission.

All symposia were attended with full rooms, showing the interest of the participants for the subjects proposed by the authors.



Apitherapy plenary session attracted many participants with Prof. Dr. M. Dogaroglu, Dr. Cristina Aosan, and Prof. Dr. S. Silici, Dr. Cristina Aosan, Romania, presenting her report.

The apitherapy plenary session, attracted many people interested in the clinical aspects of apitherapy and the actual state-of-art of the use of bee products in Europe and worldwide. Dr. Cristina Aosan, keynote speaker from Romania, presented her experience in treating multiple sclerosis with apitherapy and Phyto-therapy, with sometimes, excellent results, a report that attracted the full attention of the attendance. A good session of Q & A after each presentation, made the plenary session a very debated event. Other interesting papers dealing with clinical results attracted also the attention of the participants.

The technical tour organized on the 4th of October offered a good opportunity to visit Balparmac company, number one in Turkey and with an important international ranking among honey exporters. An impressive investment in high performance equipment and new achievements in producing nutritional supplements with bee products.

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Balpamak – one of the honey quality laboratory; stand with nutritional supplements based on bee products



The 2nd Apitherapy Conference, Marmaris, Turkey, October 13-15th, 2017

Organized by Chamber of Commerce of Mugla Province, and hold in the elegant Grand Azur hotel in Marmaris, the conference of apitherapy organized quite a few days distance from the Istanbul congress, gathered together many specialists from Turkey, from Romania, Hungary and Ukraine. The main quest of the conference was Prof. Dr. Muhsin Dogaroglu – “a real beating heart of apitherapy and beekeeping” in Turkey, who spoke about the bee products and their use as food and as medicines. The Conference was honoured by the presence by her Excellency the Governor of Mugla Province and the Presidents of Mugla Chamber of Commerce. The event had several approaches: bee products in clinical treatments, nutrition and api-diet, bee products in cosmetics and apitherapy products – nutritional supplements and medicines.

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IN MEMORIAM...

CENTENARY

Prof Dr Eng. Veceslav Harnaj (November 7th, 1917 – October 28th, 1988).

A moment of deep emotion among all those who met him or had the unique opportunity to work with this important personality of the beekeeping world.



Cristian Constantinescu FIITEA Director General.

On November 7, 2017, FIITEA celebrated 100 years since the birth of Veceslav Harnaj (November 7, 1917 - October 28, 1988), former President of Apimondia for 25 years (1965-1985), and President of Romanian Beekeeping Association - A.C.A (1957-1982). In that capacity of A.C.A President he built up a beekeeping industrial complex, the largest in the world of that time, an Institute of apicultural research, beekeeping high school, hostel for school students. He has been considered the founder of modern beekeeping in Romania. In 1971, with his personal material resources he set up a company named "Institute of Beekeeping Technology and Economy - IITEA" which became the second largest Publishing and Printing shop in Romania.



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FIITEA organized the event on this occasion and sponsored the writing and printing of a book - author Ileana Popovici, Harnaj' grand-daughter. We intend to have an English version of the book by the time of Executive Council meeting in Bucharest. For the event we ordered and gave as souvenirs t-shirts as in attachment. There are enough t-shirts to give as presents to members of E.C. when in Bucharest. The event was covered at two radio broadcasting stations "Village Antena", "Village Life" and a TV interview with Ileana Popovich, Sabin Dragulin editor, and Cristian Constantinescu on RTV 3. Association of Romanian Beekeepers have dedicated their November issue of "Romania Apicola" to Prof Dr Eng. Veceslav Harnaj.

At this event which took place on November 9, in the FIITEA Conference room we had the pleasure of having guests from various fields that knew, worked with and benefited from Harnaj accomplishments.



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By Mr. Misael Edmundo Cuevas
Bravo (CHL)

President of the Regional Commission on
Americas

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Apimondia Regional Commission for Americas

Round table; Date: October 02, 2017

Venue: Kadikoy B2 Hall, Time: 14:00 to 16:00

Speakers: Moderator: Misael Cuevas Bravo, Chile; Rod Scarlett, Canada; Virginia Webb, USA; Adolfo Perez, Cuba; Claudia Avalos, El Salvador; Aragao Brito, Brazil; Pedro Kaufmann, Argentina

Context elements.

The continent has a wide variety of types of producers from large employers who hire hand labour down to small producers of self-employed economies linked to countryside families in agriculture, beekeeping. The economies are supported by the sale of beekeeping products and provision of services of pollination to horticultural crops. The countries of the continent have been developing a platform of services for the development of their apiculture where programs of promotion and regulation are contemplated. Nevertheless, they face increasing difficulties and challenges that make them vulnerable and that increase their costs and sustainability

Concerns. Some of them are;

1. We are concerned about the increase in the mortality rate of bees in the continent.
2. We are concerned about the increase in the use of pesticides and the risks to the lives of bees, pollinators and the environment.
3. We are concerned about the growing circulation of counterfeit honey in the markets.
4. We are concerned about the fragility of ecosystems, the increasing deforestation and changes in land use.
5. We are faced with a model of agribusiness development that favors monoculture, is aggressive in the use of pesticides and reduces the spaces for food production for citizens.
6. We are invaded by an agroindustry model controlled by large corporations that generates a growing loss of biological diversity and technological dependence.
7. We are facing a deregulated use of the territory where the winners are the big capitals.

Some proposals

1. Work to strengthen associative and union management of beekeepers, assuming the political and technical role in the defense of continental beekeeping
2. Increase the levels of information and training of beekeepers

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3. Install a traceability system by countries that guarantees the quality of apicultural products

Request APIMONDIA that:

1. Make a statement suggesting to the countries that when there are changes in legislation in the countries, pollinators are taken into account and their role in the maintenance and enrichment of biodiversity.
 2. Open to the debate with beekeepers' trade unions and play a place where scientific, political and professional activity is combined in defense of the sustainability and sustainability of beekeeping.
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By Norberto García Girou (ARG)

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Beekeeper Economy

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NOTES OF THE 2017 APIMONDIA ROUND TABLE ON HONEY ADULTERATION

On Saturday, September 30th. The Apimondia Round Table on Honey Adulteration, chaired by Prof. Norberto Garcia and Mr. Etienne Bruneau took place, framed in a magnificent frame of the world beekeeping community.

A selected group of participants took part of this unique event:

Zhejiang Willing (President of the Council of Bee Products Chamber – CHINA)

Anne Cestone, and Lynne Yedinak (Specialty Crops Inspection Division, AMS, United States Department of Agriculture)

Dr. Michael Roberts (Executive Director Resnick Program for Food Law & Policy UCLA School of Law)

Dr. Ron Phipps (President, CPNA International Ltd. Co-Chairman, Committee for the Promotion of Honey and Health)

Alain Maquet (Joint Research Centre - European Commission).

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Zehiang Willing divided his presentation in two main parts: the attitude of the Chinese government, and the action of the Council of the Bee Products Chamber.

The attitude of the Chinese government has included:

New People's Republic of China Food Safety Law promulgated and implemented since October 1, 2015. This law states a very strict regulatory system, sets penalties to ensure severe punishment, includes regulation for social inclusion in food safety, strengthens supervision on Internet food trading, puts the main responsibility on enterprises, and emphasizes local government territorial management responsibility

Notification to the WTO of the Import and Export Food Safety Supervision and Administration Measures (Draft), which will be reviewed until November 11, 2017.

Revision of the Honey Safety Standard GB Revised. In 2015, the SMX method was approved as the most advanced method of detecting the authenticity of honey in China

Local Regulatory Authorities will carry out Special Supervision and Inspection of Bee Products. The Chinese National Sanitary Authority, AQSIQ, currently conducts unannounced inspections to the exporting companies of bee products.

of the Chinese authority was requested for a greater access to Chinese public statistics on honey and syrups trade. A greater exchange of information between the private laboratories and the Chinese national authorities was also claimed in order to identify the adulterators and the buyers of that honey.

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By **Jodie Goldsworthy**, President of the Regional Commission on Oceania and
Maureen Conquer, Vice president of the Regional Commission on Oceania.

ISTANBUL TURKEY – REPORT FOR APIMONDIA REGIONAL COMMISSION OF OCEANIA

Turkey is charming, exotic, beautiful and intriguing and this year's Apimondia Congress held in September in its capital Istanbul certainly lived up to its theme as "bee-ing where the continents meet". Istanbul is a city that is separated by two continents; Asia and Europe. Turkey has over 60,000 beekeepers and produces about 90% of the world's pine honey. The congress attracted a record 13,000 delegates and the smooth logistics and seamless behind the scenes planning delivered one of the most successful Apimondia congresses ever.

This year Apimondia introduced for the first-time regional round tables, designed to connect countries from the same region through a range of speakers from within the region that encouraged shared discussions around issues faced within the various countries. The Oceania Round Table was chaired by Oceania President, Jodie Goldsworthy and speakers from New Zealand included Maureen Conquer, Oceania

Vice President, Young Mee Yoon, Honey NZ, Dr Jonathon Stephens, University of Auckland, John Rawcliffe, AMHA and Tony Wright Comvita.GM Technical, Lindsay Bourke, Chairman of AHBIC and Stuart Anderson of Flow Hive along with Jodie Goldsworthy represented Australia.

The round table was an opportunity for Oceania region to explore the success factors that have positioned New Zealand as the nation that commands the world's highest honey prices. The New Zealand speakers told of a twenty-year journey that saw them examine scientifically the qualities of their unique Manuka honey, then build a strong story around this. New Zealand offered strong advice to Australia that with the diversity of Australian eucalypt honey and broad range of species of leptospermum species that there is a good opportunity for Australian honey to be differentiated and supported by its own unique story. New Zealand cautioned Australia that rather than trying to copy the New Zealand Manuka story it would be wise to think creatively and build its own unique story off the back of the different and unique Australian floral resource.

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By Diego Pagani

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ISTANBUL TURKEY – REPORT FOR APIMONDIA EUROPE REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Istanbul Congress revealed an impressive organisational capability, which avoided all the criticalities which affected the previous editions.

The congress included several opportunities for discussion of the regional commission's work: a round table for each continent and one joint one at which the chairs of the regional commissions were asked to open a discussion of each geographical area's problems and opportunities.

The European regional commission round table was constructed to provide a full overview of the situation of beekeeping in Europe; intentionally, rather than scientific issues, the majority of speakers dealt with production issues and the vision of those who make their livings from beekeeping and are paying the (very high) price of decisions which are seriously affecting their work.

Mr Ziya Sahin opened the round table, providing a survey of Turkish beekeeping, examining many different points of view, from the truly impressive figures to the opportunities for young people, the network of associations and the problems arising from the fight against Varroa destructor and the use of pesticides in farming.

Etienne Bruneau then described the general situation in Europe by means of beautifully presented, very clear visuals covering a variety of aspects: climate change, the areas covered by pollination services, the problems of bee diseases and the areas most at risk of depopulation episodes caused by pesticide use.

He focused in particular on this last topic in order also to illustrate the state of the art with regard to EU agricultural policies. Mr Bruneau concluded by discussing honey fraud, the problem of triangulation for the entry into the market of adulterated products or honey of Asian origin, and the investigations carried out in Europe which have revealed that a large proportion of the product on the market does not comply with the regulations.

A final suggestion for the Montreal congress: I attended round tables in which speakers participated by Skype. I am aware of the difficulties and cost of having a large number of qualified experts present, but we ask beekeepers, researchers and enthusiasts to travel and spend money to allow knowledge, experience, opinions and points of view to be shared. I believe it is a matter of respect for those who have to make sacrifices to be with us to ensure that we are looking at people and not a PC screen.

I would like to thank the organisers who supported my working sessions by acting quickly to resolve the problems we encountered.

My thanks, also, to the executive committee members who accompanied me to my first congress in the role that has been assigned to me.

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By **David Mukomana**

President of the Regional Commission on Africa (ZWE)

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The 45th Apimondia Congress in Istanbul saw the conclusion of the term of the 1st African Region President, Mr Ashagrie Mulufird and welcoming in of the new President. The outgoing President did a lot in laying a solid foundation for the African Continent and the recognition offered to him to be an Honorary Member is most appreciated. He has been instrumental in creating relationships with a number of institutions within and outside the continent. He is still actively involved in the Apiculture Sector allowing the continent to continue benefiting from his experience and wisdom.

The general preparations and organisation of the congress was very impressive. We learnt a lot in terms of events organisation in view of the Api- Expos we hold at continental level. The Nigerian team who are our next host in September 2018 in Abuja had a lot to learn from the organisation and made good contacts in order to ensure the Api-Expo Africa Edition is world class.

There were reports of major challenges with regards to visas for delegates who wanted to participate during the Congress. The major ones were for the team from Uganda, Togo and Nigeria.

It is for this reason that the Nigerian Delegation made a mark with their promotion for the upcoming Api-Expo Africa Edition 2018 to be hosted in Abuja, Nigeria from 25th to 29th September 2018. The African Continent is inviting the Beekeeping world to this exciting Api-Expo in Nigeria.

Africa's Round Table was well attended especially from African Delegates who wanted to share their experiences as well as understand the initiatives from other regions within Africa. There were 3 presentations that were done during the Round Table discussion.



President Philip Mc Cabe with some of the African delegates.

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Based on the 45th Apimondia Congress, there are a number of issues that need to be looked at with the view of ensuring full participation of Africa on future international congresses. Some of the issues to be reviewed and or planned on include:

- Early mobilisation of teams from across Africa by engaging government and Development Partners to ensure the apiculture sector in the respective countries benefit from information exchange.
- Establishing a formal relationship between the African Commission and Apitrade Africa to draw synergies from their experience and network that has grown wide in Africa.
- Coming up with a Plan of Action that will grow Apimondia membership in Africa.
- Need to create Regional hubs from where commission activities and information exchange can be coordinated to ensure a wider coverage within the continent

With increased participation in Apimondia Congresses by Africa, there is a steady increase in awareness of the massive potential Africa has in the beekeeping and honey industry. It is now a challenge for the African Commission to convert such potential into tangible benefits from where many lives will be transformed, especially the rural communities which accounts for more than 62% of Africa. The potential has been identified, the will power has been generated, the human resources are ready, and Africa is ready to rise. All that is needed is the support to see this come to fruition.