

**MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS SESSIONS AT THE XX INTERNATIONAL
GRASSLAND CONGRESS
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, DUBLIN, IRELAND, 26 JUNE-1 JULY, 2005**

OPENING BUSINESS MEETING

The opening business session of the XX International Grassland Congress was held on Sunday 26 June 2005. Jim Flanagan (President, XX IGC) introduced Dr. Vivien Allen (Chair, IGC Continuing Committee), who formally opened the XX IGC and presented the following report on behalf of the members of the IGC Continuing Committee. Continuing Committee members are: Dr. Luis Ramirez Aviles (Mexico; Region 2), Dr. Raul R. Vera (Chile; Region 3); Dr. Chaisang Phaikaew (Thiland; Region 4), Dr. Gavin Sheath (New Zealand; Region 5), Dr. Masakazu Goto (Japan; Region 6), Dr. Hossein Arzani (Iran; Region 7), Dr. Maria Ermelinda Vaz Lourenco (Portugal; Region 8), Professeur Alain Peeters (Belgium; Region 9), Dr. Geza Nagy (Hungary; Region 10), Dr. Apollo Bwonya Orodho (Kenya; Region 11), and Dr. Sila Carneiro da Silva (Brazil; Representing Previous Host Country), and Dr. Vivien Gore Allen (USA; Region 1).

**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CONTINUING COMMITTEE:
VIVIEN GORE ALLEN**

Members of the IGC, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the IGC Continuing Committee, the organizers of the 20th IGC, and grassland scientists and practitioners from around the world, I have the great privilege and pleasure of declaring the XX IGC open! This is the first time in the nearly 80-year history of the IGC that we have convened this congress on this misty green Island called Ireland and it seems particularly appropriate to celebrate our 20th congress here where forages and grazing animals are of such obvious importance and provide such an exquisitely beautiful landscape. Ireland! The very name conjures up images of lush grasses, peaceful pastoral scenes, and grazing animals. As my plane broke through the cloud layer and was on final approach into Dublin Airport the other day, it seemed that I was surrounded by a verdant green so intense that it was almost a shock to the senses – especially to one coming from the semi-arid High Plains of West Texas, the contrast was indescribable!

The world knows Ireland for many things but Shamrocks and the Luck of the Irish come quickly to mind! I did a bit of research on these subjects before coming here and learned that the Shamrock, known the world over as a symbol of Ireland, literally means ‘young, small clover’ and is usually thought to be a member of the *Trifolium* genus – most likely white clover. If true, it is likely that the Irish Shamrock is the most widely known and adapted pasture legume in the world! Thus, I submit to you that anyone who has a bit of ‘young, small clover’ in their pastures can expect to have a bit of the Luck of the Irish in their pastures as well!

I would like to express my great appreciation to the Organizing Committee and to the members of all of the committees that it has taken to bring us to this day. My special thanks to Jim Flanagan, President of the XX IGC, Frank O'Mara, Secretary, and Roger Wilkins, Chair of the Scientific Committee. Since we left Brazil, these individuals have worked tirelessly to bring us all to Ireland. Their professionalism, dedication, enthusiasm, and just plain hard work have been an inspiration and a model for us all. Always there are numerous individuals that serve crucial roles in such an undertaking. While time does not permit calling each by name, our sincere thanks and appreciate goes out to each and every one of you. Please join me in expressing our thanks to this extraordinary group.

There is one other whom I would like to recognize, however. Many of you knew Jan Crichton, a member of the Organizing Committee, whose untimely death occurred a few weeks ago. We will miss her professionalism and her friendship. Since we left Brazil four years ago, there are others known individually to us whom we have also lost from our midst. Please join me in honoring their memory and the contributions of their careers. I think that they are indeed with us here this evening.

At this time, I would like to introduce the members of the Continuing Committee. I will ask each member of the committee to stand as I call you name.

Dr. Luis Ramirez Aviles (Mexico; Region 2)
Dr. Raul R. Vera (Chile; Region 3)
Dr. Chaisang Phaikaew (Thiland; Region 4)
Dr. Gavin Sheath (New Zealand; Region 5)
Dr. Masakazu Goto (Japan; Region 6)
Dr. Hossein Arzani (Iran; Region 7)
Dr. Maria Ermelinda Vaz Lourenco (Portugal; Region 8)
Professeur Alain Peeters (Belgium; Region 9)
Dr. Geza Nagy (Hungary; Region 10)
Dr. Apollo Bwonya Orodho (Kenya; Region 11)
Dr. Sila Carneiro da Silva (Brazil; Representing Previous Host Country)

My thanks to each of you. It has been a great privilege to work with you during the past 4 years.

VENUE FOR THE XXI INTERNATIONAL GRASSLAND CONGRESS

Many of you likely remember and perhaps were involved in discussions on two separate but converging issues over the past 12 years. If you served on the Continuing Committee during this time, you were certainly aware that the Peoples Republic of China had submitted a bid to hold the 18th and then the 19th IGC. In each case, although these bids were of great interest and had much potential, it was the decision of the respective CC's to accept first the bid from Brazil, and most recently the bid that has resulted in our venue here today in Ireland. However, during the congress in Brazil, discussions were

held with the Chinese leadership and they were encouraged to submit yet a third bid for consideration by the IGC if they were indeed still interested.

The Continuing Committee left Brazil with a commitment to seek a third bid from China. In fact, at the invitation from China, I and three members of the Continuing Committee [Gaza Nagy (Hungary); Gavin Sheath (New Zealand); and Masakazu Goto (Japan)] traveled to Inner Mongolia to look at the potential venue and to hold discussions with the leadership in China. This was a very promising visit and we felt that good progress was being made toward a bid to the IGC for 2009.

The second of the issues that was soon to converge was the ongoing discussion with the International Rangeland Congress concerning closer collaboration and the possibility of holding a joint congress. These discussions went back at least as far as Canada in 1997 where delegates instructed the Continuing Committee to approach the IRC concerning a possible joint meeting. Following Canada, in 1997, Bob Clements (chair of the IGC CC) and Margaret Friedel (Chair, IRC CC) met in 1997 in Australia and drafted a 2-page document that outlined arguments in favor of and against a shared congress. This was provided to all Continuing Committee members of both congresses. There was strong support for a joint venue expressed by delegates representing Region 1 (US and Canada) through the various forage-related organizations in this region. Support from other regions was more tentative and often stimulated vigorous debate but a message was emerging to explore such a possibility.

In 1999, Bob Clements (then chair of the IGC CC and I (as the representative of Region 1) attended the IRC in Australia. Three resolutions were drafted and were presented at the final business meeting as follows:

1. To promote a more efficient and effective interchange of information on all aspects of range and grassland science, and to meet common goals and objectives, the IRC endorses the concept of closer cooperation with the IGC.
2. The Chair of the IRC Continuing Committee should explore mechanisms for meeting common goals and objectives with the Chair of the IGC Continuing Committee.
3. The IRC endorses the concept of a shared conference with the IGC by the year 2007 and requests the Continuing Committee of the IRC to develop in collaboration with the Continuing Committee of the IGC the framework for a shared conference program and procedures for selection of a host country.

Dewayne McCartney (Canada) and Len t'Mannteje (Netherlands) spoke in favor of these resolutions.

Resolutions 1 and 2 were passed but Resolution 3 failed to pass and in fact the IRC was given a mandate by the delegates at that congress not to hold a joint meeting.

Other opportunities were emerging, however, that would be better addressed by a joint effort between the two congresses than by either one alone. A prime example of this was the work beginning to provide more unity in concepts and terms used in our grazing lands science. Both congresses agreed to work together in this Terminology project that is still ongoing. By the time the IGC met in Brazil in 2003, there continued to be rising support in favor of a joint venue with the IRC. At the final business meeting of the IGC, three resolutions were passed unanimously outlining the steps to be taken to further enhance dialogue and cooperation between these two congresses.

Unknown to us at that time, the IRC was also holding discussions concerning a possible IRC venue in China for their 2007 congress. It remained unknown to either congress that the other was holding such discussions until a chance conversation in Washington DC between Jim O'Rourke (then president of the Society for Range Management and IRC CC member) and me. At that point, with both congresses in negotiation for a China venue, the discussions became much more interesting to say the least! Several things happened quickly at that point. In June, 2002, as directed by a resolution from our congress in Brazil, I met with Maureen Wolfson, Chair of the IRC CC, to discuss the possibility of a joint venue. As you can imagine, there were many concerns, none the least of which was the failure of the motion to pass in Australia virtually blocking the possibility of a joint congress.

In August, 2002, representatives of both the IGC and the IRC went to China and met with the leaders there. Several points emerged as follows:

1. The consensus was that a joint meeting was preferable and that two, single congress venues 2 years apart were not acceptable to either congress.
2. Neither the IGC nor the IRC had ever before met in China and both were very interested in this venue.
3. It was found that possible topics for congress sessions were of almost equal interest to both congresses.
4. A joint meeting was considered feasible by all the parties involved (China, the IGC, and the IRC)
5. Because of the staggered 4-year rotation, it was decided that each congress would need to move 1 year out of line to minimize the impact in the rotation of either congress, thus, the target date was 2008.
6. A major impediment that remained was the mandate by the IRC in Australia against a joint meeting but a major strength was the unanimous resolution in Brazil by the IGC to pursue a joint meeting.
7. Both congresses agreed that if a joint meeting was held, it would be a truly joint meeting but immediately followed by both congresses returning to their normal rotation schedules.

Much discussion and many meetings followed. I am very appreciative of the patience of all the parties involved as we worked through numerous questions and concerns. In 2003, at the IRC Congress in South Africa, the delegates voted to set aside the decision made in Australia and to accept the bid from China for a joint IRC/IGC congress in 2008.

In 2004, 1 year prior to our 2005 congress as stipulated in our constitution, we received the bid from China for the joint Congress.

I am pleased to be able to stand here today to tell you that by unanimous vote, the IGC Continuing Committee accepted the bid from China and I can, therefore, declare that the XXI IGC will be held in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia (June 29 to July 5, 2008) in a joint venue with the International Rangeland Congress.

In the audience today are Bob Clements, past Chair of the IGC CC, Jim O'Rourke, now president of the IRC CC, Gordon King, Secretary General of the IRC, Professor Yun Jinfeng, President of the Chinese Grassland Society, and Professor Nan Zhibiao, Dean, College of Pastoral Agricultural Science, Lanzhou University. These people along with many others have for a very long time played crucial roles in the development and ultimate success of this bid. I would also like to pay special recognition to Professor Hong Fuzeng, former Vice Minister of Agriculture and Honorary Professor at the Chinese Agricultural University, and Professor Ren Jizhou, Academician, the preeminent Grassland Scientist of China and Founding Director of the Gansu Grassland Institute. These two individuals, more than any others, have worked tirelessly and constantly for more than 12 years to bring this day about. They never gave up. Today their dream and their vision become a reality. Please join me in recognizing these two outstanding leaders.

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE XIX IGC IN SAO PAULO, BRAZIL, 2001.

A total of eight resolutions were past at our previous congress. It is worthy of note that all eight were pasted unanimously. It is one of the responsibilities of the Continuing Committee to see that resolutions are acted upon and I am pleased to report that the directives of the XIX Congress have indeed been carried out as follows:

Resolution 1 expressed our thanks and appreciation to our previous host country.

Resolution 2 recognized the efforts of Roger Wilkins and his working group in editing our existing Constitution to comply with previously agreed upon suggestions. A copy of the Constitution is currently posted to the website.

Resolution 3 requested the Brazilians to make available a list of participants and their addresses and this was provided to the organizers of the 20th Congress in a timely manner. Resolution 3 also stipulated that an account of the two business meetings be made available to be included in the publications from the 20th IGC and this has been done. These minutes are also available of the website. Inclusion of these minutes is critical to maintaining a history of the business of the IGC.

Resolution 4 and 5 dealt with building greater linkages and cooperation between the IGC and the International Rangeland Congress and were taken from resolutions pasted at the IRC congress in Australia in 1999. Resolution 4 endorsed the concept of closer cooperation with the IRC and Resolution 5 stated that the chair of the IGC CC should

explore mechanisms for meeting common goals and objectives with the chair of the IRC CC. Both of these were carried out in various ways and I am pleased to announce that Jim O'Rourke, President of the IRC CC and Gordon King, Secretary General of the IRC are both in attendance with us here at this congress and will be meeting with the IGC CC during this week to further discussions on collaborative opportunities.

Resolution 6 provided a mandate for the chair of the IGC CC to meet with the chair of the IRC CC to identify and promote shared activities for meeting these common goals and objectives. I am pleased to report that although it took a little longer than 12 months to accomplish, in June of 2002, I met with then IRC-CC chair Maureen Wolfson (South Africa) in Chicago, Illinois. We did indeed have much to discuss!

Resolution 7 directed us to incorporate insofar as possible specific topics dealing with contributions of grassland to a more sustainable agriculture including addressing environmental, socio-economical and political issues across diverse ecosystems and to maximize the impact of research and extension. I congratulate the organizers of the XX IGC for having indeed been sensitive to this resolution and I call your attention specifically to Monday's program with a focus on climate change and carbon sequestration, and the rising demands for meat and milk in developing countries. Tuesday's program includes sessions on greenhouse gasses and improved livelihoods from grasslands, the stakeholder's forum, and additional papers on carbon sequestration. Thursday issues of biodiversity in grasslands, industrial products from grasslands, and the role of grasslands in water resources will continue this focus. I especially call your attention to the discussion session on Friday that addresses the role of the IGC in technology interactions and influencing policy decisions. Translating our science into a language both heard and understood by the public and by policy decision makers remains one of our great challenges.

Resolution 8 recommended that we continue the very successful efforts by the 1993 Congress Organizers in New Zealand and Australia to find financial support to enable and encourage scientists from developing countries to attend and participate in the congress. I am pleased to tell you that over 100 scientists from developing countries are attending the XX IGC with either partial or full funding made possible by the Organizing Committee and the sponsorship of this congress. I congratulate the Organizing Committee for their tremendous efforts and on behalf of all of us, I thank the many sponsors who have helped to support this XX IGC.

OTHER MATTERS

Two other efforts have been underway since we met in Brazil that I would like to note. The first has been completed and is the history of the International Grassland Congress compiled by Ross Humphreys of Australia. Some of this had been published earlier but the information was not complete. Ross has given us an excellent history of this congress along with many additional details and this is now permanently retrievable in the proceedings from this XX Congress. Thank you, Ross, for a most valuable contribution.

The second matter is the effort to revise the Terminology publication. The committee chaired by Mort Kothmann (Texas) is now active again and expects to have its work completed within the next year. It would be fitting to have this unveiled at the joint IGC/IRC Congress as yet another example of the value of this global cooperative effort.

There are two committees that the Constitution directs us to establish for each congress. The first of these is the Nominating Committee. This committee is charged with nominating one candidate, in consultation with members from the appropriate region, to replacement those members of the Continuing Committee members who will rotate off this year. Nominees are required this year for Region 1 (Canada and the United States); Region 2 (Central America); Region 4 (South East Asia); and Region 9 (Europe). Region 9 excludes the Mediterranean, Near East (Region 8) and Northern Eurasia (Region 10), and the Representative of the XX IGC Host Country. The Nominations Committee is chaired by Bob Clements (Australia, and immediate Past-Chair of the Continuing Committee). Serving with him will be Tom Nolan (Ireland; and former Chair of the IGC CC), Len t'Mannetje (Netherlands), Nan Zhibiao (China) and Luis Ramirez Aviles (Mexico). Please provide this committee with any suggestions and information useful to their process of identifying these individuals who play a crucial role in representing these regions. Nominations are required to be in the hands of this committee at least 24 hours before the Final Business Meeting on Friday, July 1. The new members of the Continuing Committee will be announced at that time.

The second committee that I have appointed is the Resolutions Committee. This committee is chaired by Matt Sanderson (United States). Serving with him is Linda Bennison (Australia), Sila da Silva (Brazil) and Sujatha Premaratne (Sri Lanka). Please contact one of these individuals if you wish to propose a resolution for consideration at the Final Business Meeting. There will also be a box located at the Registration Area in O'Reilly Hall where you can leave your suggested resolution if you wish to do so.

FINAL THOUGHTS

It is at this point that tradition has allowed the chair of the Continuing Committee to make a few remarks and observations. Mine will be brief because of the length of this report but I feel compelled to share with you a few observations. My career has given me an extraordinary opportunity to travel and to see a great deal of the worlds grazing lands. It has also been an opportunity to get outside and look back at the grazing lands I call home. When you look back from outside, it often gives you a different perspective – you see things differently – but what I see are more commonalities of issues and challenges than differences around our world and what I see concerns me. When I speak of grazing lands I use the term as defined in Terminology to be the all inclusive term that includes extensive rangeland, intensive pastureland and our grazable forestlands and croplands.

History teaches us that civilizations began in the grazing lands and it is intuitive to think that this should be so. History also teaches that civilizations have ceased to exist

when the grazing lands were destroyed and again, this outcome should have been predictable given the dependence of these societies on the goods and services that the grazing lands provided. Why then is there not a great global outcry of alarm over the current and likely future impact on our grazing lands of today's societies? We are probably more dependant today on the goods and services provided by our global grazing lands than at any point in history. These services of course include not only food and fiber from grazing animals but clean air, clean water, stable and fertile soil, biodiversity of plants and animals, a magnificent collector of solar energy, open space, and many other values both tangible and esthetic. The worlds growing urgencies of water quantity and quality, energy, global warming, food quality and safety, soil erosion and nutrient management, desertification and many other of today's challenges can all find solutions, at least in part, within our grazing lands. Global populations are projected to increase by 30% by the year 2020 and to double by the end of this century. The demand for more grain, meat, and milk production to meet this growing population along with urban expansion, artificial inflation of land values, political and social mandates, conflicting agendas by private groups, political entities, and individuals, and comparative economic advantage of the land for other enterprises will continue to put pressure on grazing lands and to convert them to other uses.

Our grazing lands can not be replaced. We have no viable substitutes. Our grazing lands must be used but used within the context of management that insures the functioning and productivity of these ecosystems for generations yet to come. We are doing a pretty good job at learning how to manage these ecosystems. It is their irrevocable loss to other objectives that troubles me deeply. Key perhaps to our challenge is our lack of ability to communicate to the public and to politicians and decision makers in a language that they understand, just how much depends upon our grazing lands. A reflection of this lack of communication is the difficulty in securing the long-term funding at levels necessary to support the grazing land research and education needed across our ecosystems. Of no less concern are legal and economic constraints that can impede and prevent land from passing from one generation to the next and the social and economic challenges that cause our youth from all backgrounds to look away toward more attractive careers in other disciplines. From where will the next generation of scientists and practitioners come?

Let the word go forth from this XX International Congress that the world's grazing lands, whether extensive rangeland or planted pastures, must be protected, conserved, and valued as an irreplaceable resource and ranked among our most endangered ecosystems. The future of our human existence depends upon it.

CLOSING BUSINESS SESSION

The closing business session of the XX International Grassland Congress was held on 1 July 2005. Jim Flanagan, President XX International Grassland Congress, and Vivien Allen, Chair of the Continuing Committee, jointly chaired this business meeting.

Appreciation and thanks were expressed to the organizers of the XX IGC for a successful congress.

Resolutions

The Resolutions Committee brought forward eight resolutions as follows:

Resolution 1 (unanimously passed)

The members of the XX IGC express their sincere thanks to the government of Ireland and to all sponsoring organizations who enabled this congress to be held. The congress congratulates the organizing committee who has been outstandingly successful in putting together an excellent program and in handling the logistics of the congress.

Special thanks and deep appreciation to Mr. Jim Flanagan, President of the XX IGC, Dr. Frank O'Mara, Secretary, Dr. Roger Wilkins, Chair of the Scientific Committee, and to all of those involved in making the congress a success.

Resolution 2 (unanimously passed)

The members of the XX IGC would like to recognize the excellent contribution of the scientific committee and all of the editors in producing the congress proceedings.

Resolution 3 (unanimously passed)

The members ask that the organizing committee of the XXI IGC continue with the practices established at the 1993 IGC aimed at stimulating a strong attendance of grassland scientists from all developing countries.

Resolution 4 (unanimously passed)

The members ask that the continuing committee consider establishing a permanent website to facilitate links between grassland and rangeland scientists from across the globe; to house IGC archives, and to provide a link to current and future IGC websites specific to each venue.

Resolution 5 (unanimously passed)

The members ask that the first revision of the Terminology for Grazing Lands and Grazing Animals which is a joint effort between the IGC and the IRC be completed and presented at the joint IGC/IRC congress in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia in 2008.

Resolution 6 (unanimously passed)

The members commend the Continuing Committee and the delegates from the IGC and the IRC for the decision to hold a joint IGC/IRC congress in China in 2008 to be followed by a return of each congress to its normal rotation schedule.

Resolution 7 (unanimously passed)

The members request that the Continuing Committee develop and implement innovative ways to encourage student and young scientist participation and to recognize outstanding students.

Resolution 8 (unanimously passed)

The members have discussed global issues of grassland production and management related to food production, environmental, and social issues. The members request that the Continuing Committee express its concern regarding decreased funding of research and development in developing countries to FAO in Rome about the FAO's activities to foster research and development towards sustainable grassland productivity in developing countries. Grassland production in developing countries is vital to producing food and increasing livelihoods in relation to abating poverty and hunger.

Membership of the Continuing Committee, 2005-2008

The chair of the Nominating Committee, Dr. Bob Clements, announced the nomination of the following members to represent the various regions defined in the IGC Constitution:

Region 1 (North America) Dr. Guy Allard (Canada)
Region 2 (Central America) Dr. Maria Felicia Diaz Sánchez (Cuba)
Region 3 (South America) Dr. Raul Vera (Chile)
Region 4 (South and South-East Asia) Dr. Sujatha Premaratne (Sri Lanka)
Region 5 (Oceania) Dr. Gavin Sheath (New Zealand)
Region 6 (East Asia) Dr. Masakazu Goto (Japan)
Region 7 (Middle East) Dr. Hossein Arzani (Iran)
Region 8 (Mediterranean) Dr. Maria E. V. Lourenço (Portugal)
Region 9 (Europe) Dr. Johannes Isselstein (Germany)
Region 10 (North Eurasia) Dr. Geza Naga (Hungary)
Region 11 (Africa other than Regions 7 and 8) Dr. Apollo Bwonya Orodho (Kenya)
Immediate past host country: Dr. Frank O'Mara

The members of the new committee retired briefly to elect a new Chair. Dr. Gavin Sheath was nominated by Dr. Geza Nagy. Gavin Sheath was elected by unanimous vote.

Presentation by the host country of the next Congress

Professor Yun Jinfeng, President of the Chinese Grassland Society, and Dr. Lei Erdeni, Vice Governor of Inner Mongolia presented a brief overview of the next (XXI)

International Grassland Congress and formerly invited the delegates present in Dublin to attend.

Closure

Dr. Flanagan expressed appreciation to the congress organizers and to the Continuing Committee and thanked the delegates for attending the XX IGC. Dr. Sheath expressed thanks to former Continuing Committee chair Vivien Allen and then adjourned the final business meeting of the XX IGC.