

IUNS 2006 summary report

We as IUNS President and Secretary General stated, during the closing of the ICN Durban 2005, our commitment to enhancing the communications with the membership comprised by the Adhering Bodies (AB) and to increase our dialogue with the broad international nutrition community. Thus, are using the Food and Nutrition Bulletin, an IUNS sponsored journal, as a vehicle for this communication.

The year 2006 brought the IUNS a new Council elected in Durban for the (2006-2010). The first formal council meeting occurred in Geneva early March at the time of the 33rd Standing Committee on Nutrition session. There was ample electronic interaction between council members prior to the meeting, and critical issues were discussed *in persona*. The IUNS website www.iuns.org provides detailed information on what is presented in this report, and minutes from the Geneva meeting. The main outcomes of the meeting were:

Council approved the IUNS strategic plan and the regional action plans based on the proposal of council members from the respective regions. The priorities for action in the next 4 years approved by council are:

1. Increase communication with adhering bodies, promote regional collaboration and network development. *We will be investing in updating and enhancing the content of the website. We look forward to your constructive criticism and suggestions in this area.*
2. Review and assess the scientific quality of ongoing taskforces, establish new ones based on needs. *Report of the existing IUNS Task Forces and their plans for the next 4 years are on the website. Two new task forces (Prevention and Control of Severe Malnutrition and Redefining Quality of Diets for Life Long Health) were approved and have initiated activities during 2006*
3. Strengthen and consolidate leadership training efforts. *The IUNS supported the Building leadership skills in food and nutrition essential for national development held in June 06, Mysore, India. It also contributed to the Latin American Nutrition Leadership Meeting held in November 06, Florianopolis Brazil and to the African Nutrition Epidemiology Meeting held in Ghana August 06. A special initiative launched by the European NLP alumni consisting of a Food and Nutrition Communication Channel is being sponsored by the IUNS in partnership with others, funds are being sought to materialize a business plan for this initiative.*
4. Develop fund raising efforts with clear objectives and strategy. Increase visibility of IUNS at all levels. *We in partnership with the INF (International*

Nutrition Foundation) and others are developing fund raising efforts to support Leadership Training in Nutrition to strengthen institutions in Developing Countries, an MOU (memorandum of understanding) was signed to increase the synergies between the IUNS and the INF. We have also signed an MOU with the WHO Nutrition Division, the work plan for the next 2 years includes working together in technical issues, such as a re examination of the role of carbohydrates and of fats in health and disease. The support of dissemination efforts of major WHO reports related to Nutrition (i.e. the new growth standards). We have expanded the IUNS guidelines on relationship with the private sector and have specified that IUNS officers may collaborate as technical advisors to industry but will not receive personal payment for this. Funds generated from consultancies to industry by IUNS officers will go to a special fund for capacity development to be disbursed after the term of the present council has been completed.

5. Ensure scientific quality and integrity of the program for the next ICN and other IUNS sponsored meetings. *The President of the next ICN Dr. Kraissid Tontisirin has returned to Thailand after completing his tenure at FAO nutrition division, a website providing detailed information on the scientific and social program has been set. We will continue to work closely with him and the local organizing committee so that the Bangkok October 2009 meeting will be a great success and an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences. During 2006 IUNS sponsored meetings in virtually all continents and participated in joint session of the IUFOST and other ICSU related bodies. We have worked closely with UNU on both the scientific aspects of nutrition work as well as in capacity development efforts. The issue relationship of science with the private sector has recently resurfaced in open discussions. The IUNS has contributed to the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition statement on this issue and is examining its own policies to better define the limits of conflict of interests introducing greater transparency and disclosure. In addition, the IUNS on the topic of scientific integrity has requested Prof. Barrie Margetts to examine present policies and practices, and suggest ways to assure zero tolerance. A proposal to introduce sessions on conflict of interest and on scientific integrity at all major international meetings sponsored by IUNS has been made.*

6. Review and strengthen governance and participation systems. *The last IUNS General Assembly in Durban exemplified the need to better define the timing/staging of the nomination process and selection of the slate of candidates for IUNS officers and council to assure that the norms conform with the by laws and are clear to all before the Assembly meets. The present IUNS council approved norms and procedures to be followed in the future, these were prepared by the Vice Presidents and Secretary General, approved by council and sent to the national adhering bodies for ratification. These*

norms will secure due process and prevent confusion within the limited time of the IUNS General Assembly at the time of the ICN.

An important development during 2006 to strengthen national participation was the establishment of a new nutrition regional association; namely the Middle East and North Africa Nutrition Association (MENANA). The IUNS jointly with 12 Adhering Bodies in the Middle East (MENANA) held the first General Assembly in December 06 at the Nutrition Institute, Cairo. Dr. Azza Gohar, Director of National Nutrition Institute, Cairo, was elected as President of MENANA. The by-laws were approved. Details of the meeting are in the IUNS web site. The IUNS has an active affiliated body in the Middle East that together with FANUS, FENS, FANS, and SLAN constitute the regional expression of the international nutrition community.

Finally we would like inform that after examining the organizational aspects of the ICN bids and selection process of sites, in close consultation with the Spanish Nutrition Society (Granada, Spain was the winner of for the 2013 ICN bid), we will review the present agreement between the IUNS and the national organizing committees, so that starting in 2013 the IUNS will receive 50 % and of the total earnings from the meeting and not 10 % of the registration. Furthermore the ICN 2013 organizers are contemplating working with a professional congress organizing (PCO) selected through competitive bidding to optimize the administrative process and financial outcome, leaving the organizers more time to concentrate in the program. We are working closely with the 2013 organizers to learn from this process and invite the regional nutrition societies to work closely in partnership with the IUNS in establishing a global congress organization that would serve as a clearing house for nutrition meetings with a global scope and enhance the efforts being made. To exemplify the lack of coordination the year 2007 has FANUS meeting in Morocco in May, the FENS meeting in France in July and the FANS meeting in Taipei in September. I think we can do better than that, at the very least a global coordination of meetings will permit better participation and greater impact of our meetings. It is time for the IUNS and the adhering bodies to think of a well structured global organization, we need to act jointly in order to have a greater impact. This is a challenge we need to address as soon as possible.

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