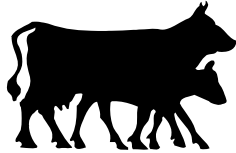




XXIV International Conference of Agricultural Economists

August 13-18, 2000, Berlin, Germany



**COWBELL**

CONFERENCE BULLETIN



**Issue # 4**

**Wednesday, August 16, 2000**

## **Today: Mid-Week Tour !!!**

When registering for a mid-week tour, you received a colored badge serving as your bus ticket. Please check the color and the bus number on this badge so you enter the correct bus.

Buses will leave between 12:30 and 13:30 in front of the conference building in the following **sequential order**:

**Green** badges (tours 1-5)

**Red** badges (tours 6-10)

**Blue** badges (tours 11-15)

**Yellow** badges (tours 16-20)

**Violet** badges (tours 21-24)

Lunch packages (either vegetarian or meat) will be provided by 12:30 in the entrance of the conference center.

Chairpersons of Discussion Groups and Mini Symposia need to end their sessions by 12:30.

In the late afternoon, all participants will converge at a central location for a Brandenburg style barbeque accompanied by a cultural program. See information about Brandenburg in pages 9-10 in this CowBell.

### **Accompanying Persons Tours**

Tours to Spreewald and Potsdam are full. There are still places available on the Friday guided museum and Saturday Berlin Sightseeing. For Friday, we are offering a tour visiting Checkpoint-Charlie-Museum, the Info-Box and Potsdamer Platz architecture including a fascinating view from the roof deck.

Please contact the "Accompanying Persons Tour Counter" for registration and further information. Also check on possible cancellations for the Berlin Tour on

Thursday. All tours will meet in the lobby of the conference center.

### **Post Conference Tours**

Post Conference Tours are full except for two places for the Czech Republic. However, check with the Information Desk for possible cancellations.

## Report of the IAAE Council

On Monday evening, the IAAE Council met to consider the business of the Association. After receiving brief reports from the Executive officers, a change to the Constitution of the IAAE was proposed and subsequently passed unanimously to provide for three instead of two members-at-large on the Executive Committee. The members will be elected to fill this function at the Thursday meeting of the Council. This should provide the opportunity for additional geographic representation.

The principal issue considered at the meeting was the proposal to substantially change the membership fee structure. The reasons for seeking change include:

- to remove the burden from future host countries of raising \$90,000 to \$100,000 for the IAAE in addition to organizing the Conference,
- to remove the implicit cross subsidy between the Conference and other services provided by the Association,
- to allow fund raising energy of the host country to be directed to supporting participants from developing and soft currency countries,
- to strengthen our Journal by lowering the cost (through increased subscription) and increasing its distribution widely among members,
- to provide the financial capacity in the IAAE to fully develop all four vehicles for member interaction and communications, i.e., Conference, Proceedings, Journal, and an expanded web site, and

- to pay the increasing costs of providing IAAE services which institutions are increasingly reluctant to fund.

The Council discussion led to general acceptance of the view that significant change is required. The real issue is how best to accomplish this in a way most favourable to our members and the health of the Association. A series of concerns and ideas were raised in the meeting:

- the proposed scaling by income category in the member fees was considered to be too modest to fully reflect the ability to pay
- since many institutions cover conference costs for members, but not membership fees, there was interest in presenting the information on member costs more favourable to recovery of some of the costs from home institutions
- there was some interest in spreading the costs of membership more equitably to those not attending the Conference.

The Executive indicated that all members of the Executive are prepared to meet with groups of members to further discuss the proposal. The Council will meet again on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. to conclude the IAAE Council meeting.

## IAAE Nominating Committee Report Presented at the Monday Council Meetings

The names of the following persons were placed in nomination for the respective officers by the Nominating Committee:

### President elect:

Prabhu Pingali

### Vice President Program:

David Colman  
Daniel Sumner

### Members At Large:

Arie Kuyvenhoven  
Zhu Ling  
Roley Piggot  
Raffael Posada  
Eugenia Serova  
Johan van Zyl

### Secretary Treasurer:

Walter Armbruster

Nominations from the floor of the Council meeting will be accepted before the election for each of the positions. Any candidate so nominated should be present, or the nominator should provide documentation that the candidate is willing to serve in the post.

The Executive Committee for the 2000-2003 period will include:

<b>Past President:</b>	Douglas Hedley
<b>President:</b>	Joachim von Braun, to be confirmed by the council
<b>President Elect:</b>	to be elected
<b>Vice President Program:</b>	to be elected
<b>Three Members at Large:</b>	to be elected
<b>Secretary Treasurer:</b>	Walter Armbruster
<b>Proceedings Editor:</b>	George Peters
<b>Journal Editor:</b>	Stephan von Cramon-Traubadel

## **IAAE Council Meeting**

The IAAE Council will meet Monday, August 14 at 5:30-7:00 p.m. in room 207 and Thursday, August 17 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in Hall 2.

See Issue #1 of the CowBell for the full Announcement.

## **AGENDA FOR IAAE-COUNCIL MEETINGS, 13 AND 17 AUGUST 2000**

### **MONDAY, 13 AUGUST 2000, 17:30 HOURS**

1. Approval of Minutes XXIII Council Meeting in Sacramento
2. Reports
  - a. President: Douglas Hedley
  - b. German Organizing Committee: Harald von Witzke
  - c. Vice President Program: Prabhu Pingali
  - d. Editor: George Peters
  - e. Editor-in-Chief, *Agricultural Economics*: Stan Johnson
  - f. President Elect: Joachim von Braun
  - g. Secretary-Treasurer: Walt Armbruster
3. Long-Term Business Plan: IAAE Executive
4. Proposed change in the IAAE-Constitution
5. Report of the Nominating Committee: Joachim von Braun
6. Preparations for the XXV Conference, 2003, Durbin, South Africa: Douglas Hedley
7. Preparations for the XXVI Conference, 2006: Joachim von Braun

### **Best Contributed Papers**

#### **Special Plenary Session, Thursday, August 17, 11:00-12:30**

The top three contending contributed papers for the best paper award will be presented in a Special Plenary Session, 11 - 12.30 a.m., Thursday, August 17, 2000.

### **THURSDAY, 17 AUGUST 2000, 17:30 Hours**

8. Election of Officers, 2001-2003
9. Confirmation of President, 2001-2003
10. Honorary Life Members
  - a. Report: Joachim von Braun
  - b. Ratification by Council
11. Date and Place of the XXVI 2006 Conference
12. Business arising from 13 August 2000
13. Other Business
14. Appreciation

**See the revised proposal of the Executive Committee to appear in the Thursday CowBell!**

### **Notice to all Members**

Please check your IAAE membership records in the loose-leaf notebook at the membership information desk, located near the place where you registered, to insure that these records are correct. This needs to be done before **noon Wednesday, August 16**. You can do this at any time each day through the coffee break in the afternoon. It is especially important to check address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses. In the future, the office may communicate with members via e-mail. If you have questions about the accuracy of the record for yourself or about your country representative, please see the IAAE membership Desk to make necessary corrections.

### **Best Poster Session**

#### **Special Plenary Session, Thursday, August 17, 5:30 – 7:00, Hall 1**

The three best posters/computer demonstrations will be presented in a special Plenary Session on Thursday, Aug. 17, 5:30 – 7:00 pm in Hall 1. These posters have been selected in a two stage process. In the first stage, from the 271 submissions for the Poster and Computer Demonstration Sessions, 20 contributions were shortlisted.

These papers had received the highest grading by two anonymous reviewers. In the second stage, a panel chaired by Alan Matthews (Ireland) will select the 3 best papers from these 20 contributions. Further members of the panel are Csaba Forgacs (Hungary), Gopal Naik (India), and Robert Thompson (USA).

## Letter received by the Executive Committee, July 9, 2000

IAAE President Dr Douglas D. Hedley  
and Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Walter J. Armbruster,

Dear Colleagues,

Professor Nils Westermarck, Finland, IAAE president 1961-1970 and past president 1970-1976 will celebrate his 90th birthday on July 14 this year. His period of work as president and past president is the longest any person has made in these positions apart from the founder president Leonard Elmhirst himself in the history of the association up till now. I know that Nils would appreciate greetings from the IAAE executive. Greetings could be conveyed via his son, professor Harri Westermarck. His E-mail is: [hwesterm@ladybird.helsinki.fi](mailto:hwesterm@ladybird.helsinki.fi)

As for myself, I will go over to Finland and take part in the celebration. Best regards

Ulf Renborg,  
Honorary member of IAAE and Vice President-Program  
1982-85 for the Malaga Conference

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Sciences  
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## Letter from Douglas Hedley July, 9, 2000

Dear Professor Westermarck:

On behalf of the Executive Committee and all our members of the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE), I want to extend to you our warmest wishes and congratulations on the event of your 90th birthday on 14 July 2000. Your service to the IAAE was one of the longest in the history of this proud and growing Association. Your efforts over so many years in the profession of agricultural economics and in the IAAE assured that those of us who follow would have a dynamic world-wide organization to carry on. You led and contributed to the IAAE during a period of considerable

change in the organization, as it moved from a permanent president to elected rotating positions on the Executive. These changes and the continuing contributions you provided over so many years are well-recognized and respected today throughout the Association.

We, who come after, can only see by standing on the shoulders of giants. You are one of the giants on whose shoulders we stand, and on whose wisdom and guidance we continue to build in the IAAE. With warm birthday wishes on your 90th birthday. May you have many more.

Sincerely, Douglas Hedley, President, IAAE

## Joachim von Braun, incoming IAAE President (2000 – 2003)

Joachim von Braun, a German citizen, completed his masters degree in agricultural economics at the University of Bonn, Germany and received his doctoral degree in agricultural economics (1978) from the University of Goettingen, Germany, where he also later (1983) was awarded professorial title in Agricultural Economics.

From 1982 to 1989 von Braun was a Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington, D.C., USA and from 1990 to 1993 Director of IFPRI's Food Consumption and Nutrition Division. His research there focused on Africa and China and on themes related to the modernization of the rural sector, poverty reduction, and employment policies.

From April 1993 until August 1997 he held the Chair for Food Economics, Food Policy and World Food Issues at the University of Kiel, Germany. His research and teaching there addressed food and agro industry issues, and the policy reforms in transforming economies, Russia in particular.

Since September of 1997 von Braun is at the University of Bonn, Germany, where he became the Director of the newly founded Center for Development Research and

Head of the Center's Department for Economics and Technological Change. He also holds a Chair at the Institute of Agricultural Policy, University of Bonn.

Von Braun serves on boards of publishers of several journals (including World Development, and the Quarterly Journal for International Agriculture), is Vice-Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, President (2000-2003) of the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE), member of the Academy of Science of the State of Northrhine Westphalia and of several academic associations, and served as an advisor to international organizations, including World Bank, UN, and TAC of CGIAR.

His research and related journal and book publications address agricultural development economics and policy topics, policy issues of transforming economies, famine prevention, and a range of agricultural economics research issues.

Joachim von Braun is married to Dr. Barbara von Braun and has three daughters.

## **Robert L. Thompson, IAAE Past President 1998 - 2000**

Robert L. Thompson is Director of Rural Development at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., USA. During 1993 to 1998, he was President and CEO of Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development.

From 1987 to 1993, he served as Dean of Agriculture at Purdue University. He was a professor of agricultural economics at Purdue from 1974 to 1993, focusing on agricultural trade policy, U.S. agricultural policy, and world agricultural development.

Thompson was Assistant Secretary for Economics at the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1985 to 1987 and was Senior Staff Economist for Food and Agriculture on the President's Council of Economic Advisers from 1983 to 1985.

He is a Bachelor of Science graduate of Cornell University and received its outstanding alumni award in 1988. Thompson earned both his MS and PhD degrees from Purdue University. In 1999, he was awarded honorary doctorates from the Pennsylvania State University and Dalhousie University.

Thompson served formerly on the boards of directors of the International Agribusiness Management Association

and of four corporations. He is a member of the International Policy Council on Agriculture, Food and Trade and of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Thompson is a fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, and of the Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Other honors include Purdue University's Agricultural Research Award, USDA's Superior Service Award, USDA's Justin Smith Morrill Award, and the National Forum for Agriculture's Agricultural Vision Award.

Thompson has extensive international experience and has completed long-term assignments in Denmark, Laos, and Brazil. He has lectured, consulted, or conducted research in more than 80 countries worldwide. He is author of over 110 research and popular publications.

Thompson was raised on a dairy farm near Ogdensburg, New York. He is married to the former Karen Hansen of the Danish island of Bornholm. They have two grown children.

## **Prabhu Pingali, IAAE Vice President (Program)**

Prabhu Pingali is the Director of the CIMMYT Economics Program based in Mexico City, Mexico. He is also the Vice-President (Program) of the International Association of Agricultural Economists. Pingali, an Indian national, received his Ph.D from North Carolina State University in 1982. He has worked for the World Bank in Washington from 1982-87; and was the program leader at the International Rice Research Institute based in Los Baños, Philippines, from 1987-1996, and moved to Mexico in 1996.

Pingali has done extensive research on agricultural development in the third world with particular emphasis on the impact of technological change and the intensification of agriculture. His most recent research efforts have been in understanding the ecological, environmental and human health impacts of intensive agricultural systems. He has also been studying the farm level responses to globalization and commercialization of agriculture in developing countries. He has published 5 books and over 50 internationally refereed journal articles. His work has been recognized through a series of professional awards.

The following are some of awards received by him:

- 1997 NAST Outstanding Publication Award. Given by the Philippine National Academy of Sciences and Technology (shared with A. C. Rola) for the paper: Pesticides, Rice Productivity, and Farmers' Health: An Economic Assessment. (World Resources Institute, Washington D.C. and IRRI, Los Baños, Philippines, 1993.)
- 1995 Policy Article Price. Given by the Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy at the University of Minnesota (shared with John Antle) for the paper: Pesticides, Farmer Health and Productivity (AJAE, Vol. 76, #3, 1994).
- Outstanding Journal Article of the Year (Honorable Mention). Given by the American Agricultural Economics Association for the paper: Pesticides, Farmer Health and Productivity (AJAE, Vol. 76, #3, 1994).
- Recipient of the M.S. Swaminathan Award for Social Science Research and Development 1994 for the book: Pesticides, Rice Productivity and Farmers' Health: An Economic Assessment.
- Recipient of the Quality of Research Discovery Award (1998) from the American Agricultural Economics Association for the Book: Agricultural Mechanization and the Evolution of Farming Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## From Member to Member

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The last pages of the daily CowBell are the place for exchanging ideas, distributing information and communicating with members. If you want to organize an Ad-hoc discussion group or reunions or communicate other things to the conference attendants, just let us know and it will be published in the next day CowBell!!

Leave your notices for the CowBell with your name and your hotel room and phone number in the mail box in the Foyer (Midweek Tour Desk) by noon of the day before publication.

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### New IAAE Web site

Sorrel Brown is the IAAE Web site coordinator who maintains the updates the IAAE web site. She and her staff at IDEA (based at Iowa State University) have designed a new Web site for the Journal of Agricultural Economics and IAAE. The address for the new Web site is <http://www.iaae-agecon.org>.

See issue #1 of the CowBell for full information.

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### New for this Conference:

The Plenary Papers and the CowBell are available at:

<http://www.agrar.hu-berlin.de/iags/iaae>

Note that the papers will be removed from this web site by September 1!

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### Donations Requested

Dr. Amadou Sidibe, Burkina Faso IAAE country representative, requests contribution for the new Department of Sociology and Economics of the Polytechnical University of Bobo-Dioulasso. Burkina Faso is a LDC in West Africa and your contribution in terms of used equipment, like computers and copy machines, and books will be very useful. Any kind of collaboration is also welcome.

**Contact** address during the conference:

Hotel Pension Berolina, Room Number 105  
Tel: 32 70 90 72

Stuttgarter Platz 17

email: [hotel-pension-berolina@t-online.de](mailto:hotel-pension-berolina@t-online.de)

**Contact** address in Burkina Faso:

IDR/Univ. of Bobo-Dioulasso

BP 886

Tel: ++226-252209-973204

Fax: ++226-550509

email: [asidibe@esi.univ-ouaga.bf](mailto:asidibe@esi.univ-ouaga.bf)

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### Contributed Paper Presenters and Chairs

Please check in to the Speakers Stand in the Foyer (other Side of the Registration Desk). The Stand will not be "manned" at all times, so please don't stop trying to make contact.

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### Organizers of Discussion Groups and Mini Symposia

Before departing from the Conference, please leave your attendance sheets with Herbert Stoevener or at the DG/MS information desk.

Also, please remember that summary reports (not to exceed 1000 words) are due on September 5, 2000 to facilitate editing and publication. Please send them (electronically, if possible) to Herbert Stoevener.

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### Mini Symposia Room Assignments

For the Wednesday 11:00 – 12:00 Session, the following two Mini Symposia will meet in these Rooms:

Reform and Future of National Agricultural Statistics Systems (Glenn Rogers) in Room.3212.

Effects of Health Information on Demand for Food (Wen S. Chern and Kyrre Rickertsen) in Room 3207.

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### Attention Italian Members:

The Liaison officer for Italy, Margherita Chang, invites the Italian members of the IAAE to participate in a national meeting in order to discuss the IAAE Executive Committee proposal to increase the membership fees.

The meeting will be held Thursday, August 17 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 206.

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## **Competition!!! Wanted!!!**

**Who is the most frequent conference attendee?**

**Who is the most frequent “accompanying Person” at IAAE Conferences?**

If you feel it is you, pop in at the CowBell Office (Room 02) and tell us how many IAAE-Conferences you have been attending before Berlin!!!!





## Humboldt University: Some History by Harald von Witzke

Let me take you back in time. It is the year 1088 A.D. We are in the City of Bologna (where “Baloney” comes from). A number of young people have gathered to discuss their future, i. e. their education. They have noticed that there are a few learned people in town, and they were wondering what it would take for them to share their knowledge. After debating for a while, they arrived at a conclusion that is intuitively appealing to economists: Pay them! The local king thought this was a great idea because he - rightly - thought that more educated people would make his kingdom prosper. So he agreed to pay part of the cost of instruction. And the world’s first university was born. The Bologna model turned out to be successful. So successful, in fact, that cities all over Europe soon followed suit and Latin became the language of science and of academic instruction for many centuries.

We now skip a few centuries and we change location. We are in Berlin, at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Berlin then was the capital of Prussia. During that time Prussia’s economy was not doing so well, and the tax revenues of King Friedrich Wilhelm were declining. So, King Friedrich Wilhelm was talking to his advisors about the dire economic situation of his kingdom. Fortunately, he had some excellent advisors. They were the von Humboldt brothers – Wilhelm and Alexander. Their advice was straightforward and to the point: What Prussia needs is a world class university. It is the only sustainable way for Prussia to continue to prosper economically.

Wilhelm and Alexander von Humboldt also laid out the principles which should govern the university. At the core was (1) the tripartite mission of teaching, research and extension education, and (2) equal access for everyone with the capability and willingness to do academic work.

The King followed their advice. He made both money and a royal palace available for a new university – a university now known as Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany.

The Berlin experiment turned out to be a great success. Humboldt University became the place to be for the best and brightest in academia, such as Friedrich Hegel, Albert Einstein, Haber (as in mineral nitrogen fertilizer), Otto Hahn, Adolf von Bayer (as in Aspirin), and the Grimm Brothers - and German became the language of science.

Humboldt University claims more Nobel Prize winners than any other university in the world. The photos of 29 of them are displayed in the upstairs lobby of Humboldt University’s main building. The pictures were hung during the cold war. Just recently I found out by chance that the picture of one Nobel Prize winner is missing: Wassily Leontief. He did his PhD work at Humboldt University on what eventually made him famous, the Input-Output Analysis.

The College of Agriculture and Horticulture also claims a Nobel Prize winner. Professor Buchner received it because he developed a theory that explained, for the first time, why it is possible to brew beer – the concept that enzymes are behind fermentation processes.

The German university system was dealt a serious blow during National Socialism. Many of the best and the brightest died in concentration camps, fell in the war, or left the country. German universities never really recovered from this. In addition, Germany embarked on a university reform about 30 years ago which failed –and which is only now beginning to be corrected.

Today, the American public universities represent the model for the rest of the world, and English has become the language of science. Clearly, the Land Grant University is a uniquely American institution. But it continues to be rooted in the tradition of the principles established by Wilhelm and Alexander von Humboldt. At Humboldt University we have begun to remember our tradition and have initiated reforms setting us the road to being a world class university again.

## **Berlin-Bummel (Berliner Cuisine)**

Prepared by Elizabeth Birmingham for Wednesday, August 15

Today most of us will be heading to Schmachtenhagen in Brandenburg for a mid-week picnic. After a summer of rain and cool temperatures, the weather looks as though it will be cooperating! The following article has been prepared to give you a bit of history about some of the dishes available Wednesday night!

In the mid 1750's, Friederich the Great was casting about for ways to finance his large Prussian army. Having established state monopolies in tobacco, coffee and salt, he imposed taxes on those commodities. Citizens were required to buy large quantities of salt and every household was required to keep a "salt book". Berliners, known for humor and inventiveness under duress ( they have had plenty of opportunity to hone these skills ), developed ways of using the salt. The famous Berlin dish "Kasseler" ( pork cured in a salt solution) was named after the butcher Kasseler who invented the dish during the salt tax years. Pickled cucumbers and sauerkraut were also born of necessity. The dish Eisbein und Sauerkraut ( pork hocks in brine and sauerkraut ) is also a legacy of Friederich salt tax.

It was "The Great Elector" Friedrich Wilhelm who, in the mid 1600's, began the development of what is called "Modern" Berlin – establishing the city that Friedrich the Great was later to finance through salt, tobacco and coffee. The city of Berlin had been all but destroyed during the Thirty Years' War and Friedrich Wilhelm was faced with the task of rebuilding the capital. Impressed by the Dutch cities of his university time, he imported many specialists from the Netherlands, at that time one of the most advanced nations in the world in planning, construction and the agricultural techniques of dairy farming, cattle breeding and vegetable growing. Indeed, Friederich Wilhelm returned to Berlin with a Dutch wife, Princess Louise of Orange. It was Princess Louise who introduced the first potato to Berlin. Grown in her own palace lot, Berliners were, for a long time, quite suspicious of the new vegetable. It wasn't until more than one hundred years later that it became a staple of Berliner cuisine. Nowadays, no visit to Berlin is complete without authentic Berlin potato salad or a delicious potato soup!

## **A Day in Brandenburg**

Today most of you will be setting out from the City of Berlin into the State of Brandenburg. Interestingly enough, Berlin has never been incorporated into the larger state surrounding it. A referendum about three years ago put the question of political unification to a vote. The referendum was defeated. Although Berlin and Brandenburg maintain a close and, at times, seamless relationship, they each maintain their separate political identity.

Many reciprocal agreements exist between the two. One such agreement stipulates that Berlin provide medical and agricultural university training for Brandenburg.

The following address, given by Prof. Dr. Joachim Pfeiffer, from the Ministry of Agriculture, Environmental Protection and Regional Planning of the State of Brandenburg, was delivered at the opening reception on Sunday night. It gives an interesting overview, as you head out for a day in Brandenburg!

(See next page)

A more recent addition to Berlin cuisine, Currywurst, is a food with revenge in it's background. A vendor with a Wurst stand had been suffering what she considered to be the indignities of a rude customer. When said customer next arrived for his daily Wurst, the vendor cut up the sausage and put ketchup liberally doused with paprika, pepper and curry over the top. Anticipating a yelp and the sweet satisfaction of having the last word, the vendor was rewarded with a satisfied customer of the first rank. He loved it. Currywurst became a rage. Today there is a guide to the best Currywurst in town. The long-time hands-down winner is the biker Imbiss off the freeway by Wannsee, a great place to see the latest in motorcycles and motorcycle gear and have a fabulous Currywurst. And while we are on sausages, there is the long-standing misunderstanding that wieners come from Wien (Vienna). Rather, wieners were invented by a butcher who lived on Wiener Street in Berlin!

Berlin and Brandenburg sit on glacial sand with a high water table. The many canals, rivers and lakes in the area attest to this. It is, therefore, a wonderful place for mushrooms. Pfifferlinge, Steinpilze and Champignons grow in abundance. Each mushroom has it's season and restaurants announce when the first dishes prepared with each variety are on the menu. The sandy soil also provides a wonderful climate for the growing of white asparagus. White asparagus is white because it never sees the sun. It is grown in long, built-up mounds of soil and hand harvested with long knives. White asparagus season is late spring, early summer and every person in Berlin and Brandenburg has their favorite preparation. Our favorite is lightly cooked asparagus with olive oil, paper thin slices of the best cured ham and freshly grated parmesan cheese. The traditional chicken fricasse of Berlin is characterized by the addition of carrots, peas and white asparagus tips.

We wish you a lovely evening at Schmachtenhagen and Guten Appetit!

## **Brandenburg Greetings – Opening Reception; Humboldt University by Professor Joachim Pfeiffer**

Professor Uwe Nagel has explained to you the history and the structure of “our Faculty.” I intentionally say, “Our Faculty”! Most of my colleagues in the agricultural and rural development administration of Brandenburg have received their professional skills and knowledge in these buildings and refer to the Agricultural and Horticultural Faculty of the Humboldt University as “their” faculty. And since Brandenburg does not have an agricultural university or college, it is understandable that within our Ministry, we regard this Faculty as ours and we try to make use of the output of this Faculty as much as possible.

According to our experience in the last ten years, agricultural enterprises are successful if they:

- organize and apply know-how; and
- invest capital rationally in order to strengthen their competitiveness.

Our unfavourable natural conditions can be tackled only by the application of know-how. Albrecht Thaer, the great agricultural economist of Brandenburg, called intelligence one of the essential production factors. He is watching us here! We should respect his wisdom.

During the last ten years, the agriculture sector in the so-called “New Bundesländer” has undergone an unprecedented structural and institutional change. Some figures may illustrate the dimension of this change.

Ten years ago, 180,000 employees were working in collective agriculture in Brandenburg, which was comprised of 1,100 agricultural production cooperatives and 110 state-owned enterprises with an average size of 3,000 to 5,000 ha.

Today, we have approximately 8,500 private agricultural enterprises employing only 34,000 people. Capital has replaced the labour force. The manpower per 100 ha. of cultivated land varies from one to two labour units per 100 ha. The average size of family farms is around 250 ha., the size of corporations around 1,000 ha., and the size of new style production cooperatives around 2,000 ha.

Ten years ago, many agricultural economists predicted a general return to family farming. This very unexpected

result of the transformation process derives, in my opinion, mainly from:

- the readiness and capacity of the farm managers to learn and to introduce new management techniques;
- the legal and financial conditions enabling investment on the basis of state guarantees for existing enterprises without land property; and
- an agricultural development policy based on the vision of equal opportunities for all types of enterprises.

This policy in Brandenburg has been developed in discussions with engaged faculty members and supported by solid agricultural economic models.

This transformation process, however, has been accompanied by an extremely high unemployment rate, in rural areas 20% and more, thus endangering social stability and even social well-being in the villages. Particularly in the villages at the periphery of Brandenburg, there is a significant rural emigration, especially of younger people. The remaining population depends highly on transfer income and often shows little social dynamics.

This leads to an important question for future policy: In the past did we focus too much on agricultural production and not enough on rural development? It may be!

Brandenburg’s and East Germany’s agricultural development during the last ten years offers interesting elements to be analyzed and discussed by the international agricultural economics community present in this hall. Therefore, together with our Agricultural and Horticultural Faculty of the Humboldt University, we are happy to have you with us and would like to offer you an inspiring background for your conference. Mr. Wolfgang Birthler, The Minister of Agriculture, Environmental Protection and Regional Planning of the State of Brandenburg could not be here this evening but also sends his warmest greetings to the opening reception of this Congress.

I wish you a very good time in Berlin and Brandenburg and much success in your discussions.

Thank you!