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President's Letter

Dear IOFI Colleague:

With our 53rd General Assembly meeting just completed in Washington, DC, I am pleased to report continued progress on behalf of the global flavor industry. Our meetings during the week of April 18, 2016 involved almost 50 volunteers from all over the world working together on your behalf. We participated in meetings for the IOFI Global Poundage Survey Committee (GPSC), the IOFI Regulatory Advisory and Advocacy Committee (RAAC), the IOFI Communications Working Group (CWG), the new IOFI Communication Board (ICB) and the IOFI Board.

In the GA story in this issue, you will learn more details about the committee meetings. For my part, I'd like to share the following highlights:

- We completed the development of the ICB during the past six months and formalized this international communication group with the appointment of initial members (see page 4). Communication needs to be as vital a part of our organization's efforts as the work of the IOFI Science Board (ISB) and the RAAC. We know communication is not always a "one size fits all" proposition and look forward to the contributions of the ICB in identifying opportunities for us to be proactive in our communication to external stakeholders.

In approving this new approach, the IOFI Board has emphasized the importance of working with the regions so that we understand fully the various challenges of communication around the globe. Enhanced by the regional communication experts, the ICB will coordinate communication with regional associations and outside partners so that we will have a consistent global message.



- We have completed our work to support the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) evaluations of the European Union List of footnoted materials. This project has been an important part of our science and advocacy efforts for many years, and we are happy to have reached this point after the dedicated work of the ISB and the RAAC. Recent efforts for the IOFI/EFSA Union List Task Force have concentrated on bringing the message about the support for our materials to customer companies and contacts in the Member States.
- IOFI science has not been solely focused on the EU; our team has also provided support in other areas such as Japan. Nevertheless, our experience with the Union List project has taught us some valuable lessons about trying to get results from scientific testing completed, interpreted and understood by governing authorities in other parts of the world as quickly as possible. We are implementing a plan to publish our scientific results proactively, showing confidence in our work and our processes, also in an attempt to prevent new initiatives on the same subjects.



President Hans Holger Gliewe (right) presented a retirement gift to Jos Stelder at a special dinner in the US Capitol building on April 20, 2016.

- IOFI advocacy efforts have reached far and wide during the past six months. One major accomplishment has been the work of the RAAC India Task Force with their successful meeting in Mumbai in March (see page 8), helping the local industry develop proposals for country regulatory structure aligned with Codex Alimentarius. This is a service that we, as a global organization, can provide. As we have seen in other parts of the world like China and LATAM, IOFI outreach like this can help attract future members for our association. Providing partners with a value proposition is a key part of engaging potential new IOFI members.
- The IOFI global poundage survey is now underway in Europe, Japan, LATAM and North America. I urge all members to provide data via their local associations as soon as possible so that the hard work of validating data can be conducted in a timely fashion this summer. Dedicated staff members of the associations along with the experts on the GPSC will work to make this project a success.

We took some time during our Washington, DC meetings to honor our retiring Executive Director Jos Stelder. Jos has played an outstanding role in the development of IOFI during the past ten years. He has given the organization structure and strength through his leadership and dedicated service. He has helped us attract new members, both companies and associations. We appreciate his many contributions, and recognize him for capping off a wonderful 40-year industry career with his time at IOFI. We wish Jos the best, and welcome Sven Ballschmiede, most recently EFFE Executive Director, as his successor.

Thanks to all IOFI members for your contributions to the success of our organization. Without your financial support and the volunteer service of your staff on IOFI's many committees and working groups, we could not be the vital representative of the global industry that we are today.

Sincerely,

Hans Holger Gliewe
IOFI President

IOFI General Assembly Report

IOFI held its 53rd General Assembly meeting on April 21, 2016 at the Capital Hilton in Washington, DC. IOFI President Hans Holger Gliewe opened the meeting of 35 industry representatives by welcoming Jason Hawkins, President-Taste for Kerry who joined the GA as a guest. Gliewe recapped highlights of the Board meeting and asked for committee reports.



The 2016 IOFI Board met in Washington, DC. Seated from left: J. Mane, Vice President H. Smith, President H. Gliewe, Treasurer M. Haeni, incoming Executive Director S. Ballschmiede. Back row: K. Somekawa, D. Wilkes, A. Figueiredo, M. Graber, C. Millington, H. Okamura, outgoing ED J. Stelder.

IOFI Treasurer Matthias Haeni reported on the 2015 year end financials, with an expected shortfall of budget against expenses of €517,581 resulting from scientific spending primarily related to the Union List project and currency fluctuations (USD versus Euro). IOFI had planned for this situation, so funds from the reserve supported the 2015 expenses. The GA approved the balance sheet while discharging the Treasurer and staff. (Note: A full picture of IOFI's 2015 performance is available in the Annual Report, available on the IOFI Member Network.)

Advocacy

IOFI **RAAC** Chair Ute Woelke provided an update on IOFI advocacy efforts. She noted that the RAAC welcomed the Board-approved new member Jacco Dekker of IFF who replaces Melanie Behringer. Lorna Hopkinson has moved to Company Ordinary member Wild.



Woelke reported on the successful member training webinar on flavorings with modifying properties (FMP) and noted that next steps include incorporating member feedback and working with the IOFI communication team to prepare a version for customer companies. She covered other topics including:

- Status of Material Identification Sheets (MIS) for natural complex substances (NCS). The RAAC has been aligning the MIS preparation with the FEMA GRAS NCS reaffirmation project and will make the MIS available in the IOFI Database.
- Chemically defined substances (CDS) specifications work. The WGMA has built on the work of the RAAC CDS Task Force and developed measurement requirements.
- India Task Force. Woelke provided details on the meeting.
- Middle East. IOFI has been monitoring updates of flavoring-related regulations in the Middle East through its ME Task Force. IOFI has been supporting the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) as they begin to revise regulations governing the use of flavorings. Recent developments indicate alignment with Codex, which promotes global harmonization.
- Codex. IOFI Regulatory and Advocacy Director Thierry Cachet has been active on IOFI's behalf in harmonizing regulations regarding flavoring use and labeling at Codex itself.
- United States. The RAAC FEMA representative informed the RAAC about the situation regarding US-based NGOs that are petitioning the FDA to remove several substances as approved flavorings.
- Country List. The advocacy team has completed work on the Country List that will help members sort out the varying regulatory frameworks in 241 countries around the globe. This tool will be made available on the IOFI MN.



The IOFI RAAC met on April 18-19, 2016. Seated from left: V. Nirmalchandar, G. Durand, V. Alvarez-Saavedra, Chair U. Woelke, D. Tonucci, S. Codrea (guest). Back row: L. Hopkinson, President H. Gliewe, M. Raukko, L. Liu, J. Yi., J. Stelder, K. Saito, S. Ballschmiede, F. Sekiya, H. Smith, T. Cachet, J. Verhoeven.



2016 IOFI Science Board met in Baltimore in February: Front row left to right: G. Krammer, X. Li, L. Valerio. Next row: B. Smith, P. Julkunen, Chair J. Schnabel. Back from left: H. Okamura, K. Renskers, J. Stelder, J. Demyttenaere, M. Aubanel, T. Cachet, S. Taylor, C. Harman.

Science

IOFI Science Board (ISB) Chair Jürgen Schnabel provided an update to the GA, beginning with an explanation of the ISB's protocol for prioritizing its workload. The group uses a matrix identifying those who are responsible, accountable, consulted or informed for major decision-making (RACI).

Schnabel also announced that IOFI will issue via Information Letter its testing guidance, an approach that provides rationale for IOFI funding of flavoring support or non-support and prioritizes utilization of industry-wide resources. He further explained the ISB's effort to do a data gap analysis. Schnabel informed the GA about IOFI's continuing efforts to support scientists and regulators with the New Japan program and provided a status update on the GRAS reevaluation of NCS, including the materials covered by the 2nd call for data.

As part of the ISB's proactive activities, the panel plans to publish several scholarly papers based on testing completed for EFSA; a primer on various methods to estimate intake; new approaches to estimating use levels and more.

Have a suggestion for a future article?

Please contact *IOFI Insight* at secretariat@iofi.org.

Communications

CWG Chair Donald Wilkes took the GA through an evolution of IOFI's communication efforts, from the inception of the CWG in 2011 through the launch of the **IOFI Communication Board (ICB)**. Emphasizing that the industry "has a great story to tell," Wilkes discussed the organization's move from an internal focus communicating to members to the new approach that will open IOFI up to proactive external communication.



The members of the new IOFI Communication Board met in DC. Front row from left: J. Gómez de la Flor, M. Treisbach, T. Cesario, C. Witter, J. Peppet. Back row: C. Brys, K. Babbitt, Y. Ohki.

Commenting on the "tremendously condensed timeline" to develop and finalize the ICB, Wilkes noted that this was "a testament to Board commitment but also the interest and passion of CWG members." Wilkes saluted this working group initially responsible for IOFI communication. While noting the sunsetting of the CWG, Wilkes introduced the members of the new ICB (see photo and caption above). He mentioned that an Internal Task Force comprised of CWG members and other volunteers will report in to the ICB and continue two-way communication between the membership and IOFI.

Other Groups

As mentioned in the President's Letter on page 1, the IOFI global poundage survey is underway. **GPSC** Chair Christie Harman noted that this "massive survey of 2500 to 4000 ingredients is a 'huge ask' of companies that are providing this information," and reported that data will be collected by June 2016, with validation and summarization in the months following.

In a final GA presentation, Regulatory and Advocacy Director Thierry Cachet reported on the IOFI **Working Group on Methods of Analysis (WGMA)** progress on specifications and identification projects, and reviewed its scholarly publications. He recapped plans for the group's 100th meeting to be held later in 2016.

Cachet also shared an update on two joint committees with IFRA: **SHE**, covering occupational safety, health and the environment and the **GHS** (Globally Harmonized System) TF.

The SHE has developed guidelines on fire prevention in production facilities, a document that will be released for publication in 2016. Other efforts center on respiratory health and safety; environmental and industrial hygiene aspects of sustainability and more. The GHS Task Force finalized and posted to the IOFI MN its 2016 Labeling Manual (LM) in line with the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. As a service to members, the task force has also provided references to the LM for the chemically defined substances in the IOFI Database.

Final Remarks

Prior to closing the GA, President Gliewe thanked the many volunteers and staff members who contributed to IOFI's progress during the past year. He noted the opportunities for external communication provided by several of the teams, and applauded the initiative to reach out to the ICB for publication support. He reminded the group that the next GA will be in Vienna, Austria on October 13, 2016.

IOFI GRL Updated

The IOFI Global Reference List (GRL) has recently been updated. Available on IOFI's public website, the GRL is an open ended, global, positive list of flavoring materials that are considered to be safe for their intended use by one or more internationally recognized assessment bodies. As such the GRL is a "living document" reflecting changes published by assessment bodies.

The latest GRL includes additions and deletions based on Union List updates; the removal of Flavis numbers for some materials removed from the Union List but not removed by other assessment bodies; and the addition of the interim GRAS 28 list along with 24 natural complex substances added in GRAS 26 and 27. The GRL also reflects the de-GRASing of FEMA 3527 (3-Acetyl-2,5-dimethylthiophene). The FEMA number has been removed and because the substance has also been deleted from the European Union List and by Codex Alimentarius, IOFI has removed it from the GRL.



IOFI Welcomes New ED Sven Ballschmiede

On May 1, 2016, Sven Ballschmiede became IOFI Executive Director. Ballschmiede had been Executive Director for the European Flavour Association (EFFA), while simultaneously serving as Executive Director for the German flavor and fragrance associations (DVAI & DVRH). A native of Saarbrücken Germany, Ballschmiede is a lawyer who studied both in Germany and Switzerland. During a four-year practice in a Brussels-based international law firm, he focused on international trade law. A hobbyist cook, Ballschmiede enjoys adding flavorings to his creations.

IOFI Insight: What are your thoughts about your new role with IOFI?

Sven Ballschmiede: This position takes me back to my roots before working for DVAI and DVRH. I did international trade law including dispute settlement at the World Trade Organization, trade defense and market access issues. This helped me develop an international perspective.

Q: Any thoughts on moving from EFFA to IOFI?

SB: When I arrived at EFFA some thought I'd be partial to the Germans because of my German association role – but I always advocated for all EFFA members. Now I will be global, global, global of course! We are facing global challenges and we have to find global answers. I'm looking forward to orchestrate this with my new team and in perfect harmony with the entire IOFI membership.

Q: What's on your "wish list?"

SB: There have been ongoing discussions about how to do Board and General Assembly (GA) meetings better to satisfy expectations. As a growing organization we have to identify common needs and provide appropriate and tailor made solutions. This requires constant scrutiny, adaptation and inspiration.

While we have many committed volunteers, we need to attract more people, motivate the different departments of companies to participate and continue to involve top management so that we can transmit to member organizations what IOFI does on behalf of the industry.

Q: What other challenges do you see ahead?

SB: Consumer perception requires improved communication – this is a big challenge. In recent years, we have been building step by step a more professional communication program. Now we will focus more externally with the new IOFI Communication Board.

**"To our membership and key stakeholders we are service providers. This is our core business."
- Sven Ballschmiede**

Our industry is fascinating, it provides pleasure. Food is important in our culture. Yet we are shy as an industry, often seen as suppliers miles from the end consumer. When you think of diet trends, issues like fat, salt and sugar reduction – indeed our industry is in the business of providing solutions without compromising taste.

Q: Our relationship with customers is key.

SB: Yes, we need to address how we interact with customers. We need more two-way communication, first to identify areas of common interest and then to have a workable relationship with them. We will have to find a balanced way to work together.

Q: Other challenges?

SB: In terms of "consumer protection," we are often challenged by external groups demanding transparency. Some prey on an intuitive fear of chemistry – yet nature is chemistry, chemistry is nature. We can be more open – not disclosing formulas of course, but in connecting our industry to the facts that we are one planet, we have limited resources and we need solutions.

Q: In communication, consistency is important.

SB: Yes, everybody has to tell the same story. We need to be holistic in our course of action - sales, regulatory, science, management have to work hand in hand and should execute clearly defined objectives. We need our people on the ground to share consistent messages about our industry with all relevant audiences and stakeholders.





Q: How do you envision your relationship with IOFI members?

SB: As the gatekeeper, I'll make sure I listen to all members in all regions and find the common denominator to bring us forward. This means a lot of travel in the first months, but I believe that the personal contact on the ground is key for a trustful cooperation. In understanding our members' issues, we can identify the ones appropriate for the global level versus the ones to be handled at the national or regional level.

We will have an effective "road show" to talk about IOFI, our activities and progress. Once members learn more about IOFI, they may be interested in coming to the GA and getting more people in their organizations involved with our work.

Q: How about increasing IOFI membership?

SB: We must continue to give new potential members a reason to join. Our mission is clear and we should start with the principle that we as an industry have shared interests and objectives.

Q: Any comments on the man you are replacing?

SB: Well, Jos leaves big boots to fill. With 40 years of experience, he lives our industry with each fiber of his body. Jos has been a great ambassador for the flavor industry and represents its core values. On a personal basis, it has been a pleasure working with him over the last eight years. We are different in our approaches but we always managed to work together for the best interest of the industry. He has been very helpful during the recent transition period and I wish him all the best.

IOFI and IFRA Hosted Nagoya Workshop

On February 3, 2016, more than 50 representatives from over 30 companies and stakeholder associations gathered in Brussels for a workshop called "How to ensure your company is compliant with national legislations coming from the Nagoya Protocol and the implementation of Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) regulation." The morning plenary session was comprised of several short presentations including IFRA Scientific Director Matthias Vey's perspectives on how IOFI and IFRA are helping their members with information and guidance.

Other presentations from the workshop's global participants included perspectives on Nagoya implementation in Brazil, Japan, South Africa, France (and Europe as a whole) along with specific industries – flavorings, fragrance, cosmetics and more. In the afternoon session, the group participated in several roundtable discussions covering the practical application of the Protocol.

For more information on the workshop and the meeting materials, please contact secretariat@iofi.org.



Participants from far and wide met for the IOFI/IFRA Nagoya workshop in February.

Update your Address Book!

IOFI email addresses changed in April, 2016. To contact the Secretariat or staff, please use the extension @iofi.org.

Regional News

SAAFFI's 14th Annual Seminar a Massive Success

With optimism, potential and opportunity characterizing the current mood in Africa, the 2016 seminar hosted by the South African Association of the Flavour & Fragrance Industry (SAAFFI) demonstrated the aromas and tastes of the continent.

This year's seminar, which took place near Johannesburg on March 3, 2016, was the association's most successful event yet with more than 200 delegates attending. With an exceptional speaker line-up, the workshop called Phumelela Africa (meaning 'Win Africa') saw delegates enthusiastically working together on teambuilding activities centered on African concepts and challenges.

SAAFFI's chairperson, Rudy McLean, managing director of Symrise, provided the welcome address; this was followed by Paul Drawbridge, managing member of Be Forward research and marketing consultancy, who enlightened delegates on the opportunities emerging from Africa. "There are fears and challenges linked to doing business in any new place but by partnering with established business people on the continent, these can be overcome. For example, South African companies need to adapt their operations according to practices that are effective in Kenya or Nigeria. They also need to understand the cultural differences and how they vary across the continent," Drawbridge advised, recalling his experiences of living and working between Kenya and Ghana. Drawbridge also said Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria are currently the top countries in Africa favored for business and that companies or brands should not try and be all things to all Africans because "the continent requires more than one approach."

PricewaterhouseCooper's senior manager of its Africa desk, Ibikunle Olatunji, discussed whether or not it is a delight or a disaster to do business in Africa. His outlook made it seem rather delightful considering his comments on growing social, political and economic stability on the continent, and that "public-private engagement is on the increase."



SAAFFI's Executive Director Michael Gristwood (right) in conversation with one of over 200 delegates.

He added, "Africa has come a long way. In Nigeria mobile banking and Internet services are available even in rural areas. The continent is undergoing rapid urbanization with research statistics revealing that 50 percent of Africans will be urban by 2025."

However, the continent does have its issues, many of which are felt in the healthcare sector. "Inadequate infrastructure, limited access to finance and an uneducated workforce are some of the biggest challenges," he noted.



Meeting participants hear the instructions for playing "Mancala," an African game of strategy.





The seminar program also featured an array of presentations focused on food industry needs, including Firmenich's Anna Mursalo, who discussed the sensory mapping of stock cubes in west and central Africa.

Editorial Credits: *SA Pharmaceutical & Cosmetic Review*, *SA Food Review* and special thanks to Sharon Bolel, Assistant Executive Director, SAAFFI.

RAAC India Task Force Supports Harmonization

On March 2, 2016, IOFI sponsored the RAAC India Task Force "Workshop on the Harmonization of India Flavoring Regulations with Codex Alimentarius" in Mumbai. For the first time, participants from India's flavoring producers, the food and beverage industry, academia and industry organizations joined together for an information exchange and planning session.

Speakers covered topics including basic knowledge of flavorings; new developments in technology related to the Indian flavoring industry; global regulatory and safety developments including Codex food standards and guidelines and the IOFI Global Reference List; the potential for harmonization of Indian regulations with Codex Alimentarius; and regulatory challenges facing the industry in India.



More than thirty participated in the Mumbai workshop.



Local customs were an integral part of the proceedings.

"The meeting resulted in a growing understanding and appreciation for the benefits of globally harmonized regulation," reported IOFI Regulatory and Advocacy Director Thierry Cachet. An additional outcome is the development of an eWorking Group (eWG) that will continue to engage stakeholders in sharing and consolidating messages on flavoring regulations before making recommendations to government authorities.

Update from EFFA

One of the European Flavour Association's strategic priorities is communication. "The first trimester of this year we have taken several steps to communicate better with, and about, our industry," reported EFFA Communication Director Jimena Gómez de la Flor. "We have outlined a communication strategy based on three main objectives: engage, participate and communicate." As a service to its members, the association has created the "EFFA Guidance Document on the EC Regulation on Flavours," available both on the EFFA public website and in an attractive printed edition for distribution to EFFA members and main stakeholders. Added Gomez de la Flor, "EFFA is also a member of the newly created IOFI Communication Board (ICB), and on the regional side, we have established the EFFA Communication Working Group. We are confident together we will continue to improve communication about our fascinating industry."

IOFI Salutes FEMA Awardees



IOFI volunteers Joanne Ferrara (left) and Mary Raukko were singled out at the recent FEMA Annual Meeting. Ferrara received the prestigious Dr. Richard L. Hall Distinguished Service Award for "outstanding dedication to the advancement of the industry and to FEMA." Raukko was honored with the first-ever President's Excellence in Service Award created to acknowledge individuals who have provided dedicated service over many years of volunteering for FEMA.



LATAM



As promised in our last issue, here is your opportunity to get to know IOFI's LATAM Consultant.

IOFI Insight: Tell us about your background and how it prepared you for your IOFI assignment.

María Teresa Sosa: I am a food chemist with a degree from the National University (UNAM) in Mexico with a specialization in verification of food quality and safety systems. I have had the opportunity to collaborate with important organizations in my country related to food quality and regulation such as OCETIF, a certification group for meat products process and the Mexican Health Authority COFEPRIS, where I was in charge of developing drafts for official guidelines and regulations for foods.

For IOFI member association ANFPA, I was the technical manager with responsibility for representing the Mexican flavor and fragrance industry before national authorities and providing information to ANFPA members related to regulatory, scientific and economic matters of interest. Often, I organized technical events such as seminars and workshops and coordinated the work of the ANFPA technical committee to review national and international regulatory projects.

Q: What parts of your IOFI work are most satisfying?

MTS: Working with the global vision IOFI represents is really satisfying because I know that the work I am doing will benefit a lot of people in terms of the better use of flavoring ingredients in foods. Working with LATAM countries where there is still a lot of work to do in flavor regulation, and being a Latin-American, makes this even more satisfying. I enjoy working with different people from different countries for a common purpose. I appreciate the opportunity that I have to collaborate with people that I admire and from whom I learn every day.

Q: What are your major priorities in the coming months?

MTS: The coming months are critical for the Global Poundage Survey (GPS) that the LATAM region will be part of for the first time. At this moment we are in the data collection phase with all company members of the six IOFI-member LATAM associations (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru). Next, data will be aggregated and anonymized to start a validation process during the second half of the year. My priorities are to ensure that all LATAM member companies understand the importance of participating in the GPS so we can collect in a timely manner as much data as possible to have robust and reliable information, comparable with other regions.

Q: What are your thoughts on the development of regulations in LATAM?

MTS: LATAM is an important growing market for the food industry with 525 million inhabitants. There is still a lot of work to do in relation to food regulation, especially food flavorings; just a few countries have specific regulations for food additives, and flavorings are not always considered. Codex is the most important reference for almost all LATAM countries. The IOFI Code of Practice plays an important role not just for the countries that have no specific regulations for flavorings, but also for those countries that have them. The IOFI Code of Practice is an essential tool because it is much more specific on issues like labeling, intellectual property, environmental protection, etc.

Q: Is the region ready for the GPS?

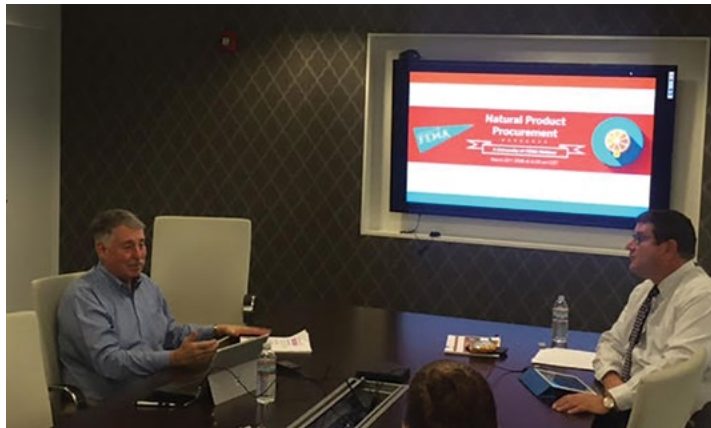
MTS: The most important challenge that the LATAM GPS faces is that companies are not used to sharing information with external organizations. This is why IOFI has established a specific methodology that guarantees the confidentiality and accuracy of the results. My commitment to IOFI and its members is to achieve this.

Q: Any other comments from your perspective in LATAM?

MTS: Projects like GPS are invaluable opportunities to have real numbers and statistics of what is being consumed in LATAM. Having this makes it much easier for everybody to understand and develop regulations to ensure the safe consumption of food flavorings. The effort IOFI is making to have a closer collaboration with Latin-American countries is an opportunity to join forces.



FEMA Hosts Webinar on Natural Product Procurement



Colin Ringleib (left) and Richard Pisano, Jr. presented the webinar.

The Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association (FEMA) of the United States held a webinar on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 to provide its members with a range of perspectives on procuring natural products of interest to the flavor industry. Citrus and Allied Essences Ltd. President Richard Pisano, Jr. and Ultra International B.V. Vice President, Business Development, Americas Colin Ringleib led the 90-minute webinar. Between the two, Pisano and Ringleib have over 70 years of experience with purchasing natural products for their companies.

Along with the history and basics of procuring natural products, the two flavor industry veterans discussed key considerations affecting the purchase of natural products, including climatic variation, seasonality, botanical varieties and geo-political factors. "In our opinion, the attributes of contract buying for natural products are different than the attributes of contract buying for other product families such as chemicals or a packaging or services," Pisano said. "Natural products should be contracted at the most advantageous time."

Ringleib noted how in addition to sharing skills and strategies for procuring natural products, he and Pisano wanted to use this webinar to emphasize the significance of developing a positive supplier/buyer relationship. "We hoped by the end of our presentation attendees would develop a keen appreciation for just how important it is for individuals responsible for purchasing natural products to have a good rapport with their suppliers," he said.

Following a discussion on key issues and considerations for purchasing natural products, Pisano and Ringleib took time to answer questions from attendees before delving into case studies involving citrus greening, Crimean coriander and vanilla. "In an effort to make abstract discussion points come to life, we wanted to devote a portion of the webinar to case studies," Pisano said. "The case studies should help attendees develop strategies and tactics for those situations when problems occur."

JFFMA News

GA and New Year's Celebration

The Japan Flavor & Fragrance Materials Association (JFFMA) held its General Assembly (GA) meeting on January 26, 2016 at which time Mr. Takahiko Kondo was re-elected as JFFMA President. Following the GA, the association celebrated its annual New Year's party.

Toxicologic pathologist Dr. Robert R. Maronpot was a special guest at the event. Dr. Maronpot is former chief of the US National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and its National Toxicology Program (NTP) and Laboratory of Experimental Pathology. Dr. Maronpot has supported the safe use of perilla aldehyde as a flavoring ingredient in Japan by referring to peer-reviewed scientific data.

JFFMA thanked for Dr Maronpot for his support and JFFMA President Kondo presented him with the President's Scientific Award and a certificate of appreciation.

JFFMA Camp

From February 3-5, 2016, the JFFMA flavor committee held its annual Camp in Izu Highland. More than 20 attendees developed report summaries of government Health Science and Labor Research. Two groups worked on "Investigation on Specifications" and "Poundage Survey on Natural Complex Substances (NCS)" respectively.

Update on NJP2

A guideline for the risk assessment of food flavorings is an integral part of the New Japan Program 2. Drafted by the 151st meeting of Japan's Food Additive Expert Committee, the guideline has been reviewed and generated basic agreement in the government's Food Safety Commission. The draft guideline has been uploaded to solicit opinions from a wide range of stakeholders, with a planned final date for comments of April 7, 2016.

- Thanks to Yoshiko Ohki
T. Hasegawa CO., LTD. for this update.



JFFMA President T. Kondo (left) presented the President's Service Award to Dr. R. Maronpot (right), while JFFMA member Dr. S. Hayashi looks on.

Volunteer Spotlight: Nita Nana



Mrs. Nita Nana, manager Global Regulatory Affairs at Givaudan, is active in IOFI committee work including membership on the Communications Working Group (CWG), Global Poundage Survey Committee (GPSC) and two RAAC task forces – on India and Chemically Defined Substances (CDS). A native of South Africa, Nita earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Durban-Westville and is a 20+-year veteran of Givaudan. Nana began her career as a microbiologist and held various positions in quality control, quality management and regional regulatory before assuming her current role in the Product Safety and Regulatory Affairs department.

IOFI Insight: How did you get involved in IOFI committee and task force work?

Nita Nana: Almost 11 years ago I took the bold step of moving with my family from South Africa to The Netherlands when I got the opportunity to be involved in global flavor regulations – something that I was always interested in. What better place than Europe to get this exposure? Initially I was a member of EFFA and the IOFI Technical Experts Committee (TEC). [Editor's Note: The TEC was the predecessor group for both the IOFI Science Board and IOFI RAAC.] In 2011, I joined the Givaudan Global Regulatory and Scientific Affairs group and with this got the opportunity to become more actively involved in IOFI. Since then, there has been no turning back!

Q: What have you gained professionally and personally in your IOFI work?

NN: Professionally I have had the privilege of working with experts in the field of flavors, thereby enhancing my knowledge base and network. It's actually a cycle because as you gain more knowledge you are able to contribute more. With my involvement in the various task forces

I have gained a lot of experience on how to work in different challenging landscapes e.g., India, where there is skepticism of multinational companies and Russia where the situation requires a different way of working. On a personal front I have been exposed to many different cultures, which is an eye opening experience.

Q: What has been the most challenging aspect of IOFI work? The most rewarding?

NN: The current buzzword "effective communication" is all about delivering the message in the correct format that is appropriate for the audience. To share technical information in a simple and easy-to-understand way can be a challenge. Since its inception, the CWG has made significant progress in improvement of this via the IOFI website. For me, being involved in the CWG has played a big role in understanding this and raising awareness for finding ways and means of "effective communication."

"Now when preparing internal or external messages I am always consciously aware of presenting information in a format that is understandable for the audience."

- Nita Nana

Q: What have you found most exciting about your volunteer assignment on the IOFI RAAC India Task Force ?

NN: Previous involvement with the successful development of the South African draft flavoring guidelines inspired me to be involved in the India TF. Here we have a new opportunity to help create flavoring guidelines from the basics. I suppose having Indian heritage automatically made the connection even stronger.

Q: Did you observe anything different from a communication point of view at the Mumbai meeting?

NN: Yes, the immediacy of communication was remarkable. Participants used Whatsapp mobile messaging to talk about the meeting developments with colleagues who were not present. Also, we formed an eWorking Group to conduct follow up on tasks identified during the meeting. These are good examples of using technology to communicate more effectively.





Q: Givaudan makes a commitment to IOFI in sharing the expertise of individuals like you on key committees. How does this fit with your corporate culture?

NN: It's a perfect fit for the Givaudan culture and mission: To learn, inspire, share and take leadership. My participation helps build an effective network for Givaudan and as volunteers, we can use the knowledge from such committee work to contribute to the success of the industry as well as our own companies.

Q: If someone were to come to you and ask if they should become more active with IOFI, what would you say?

NN: I would definitely say get involved and do your bit! It's enriching and beneficial for you, your company as well as the industry.

IOFI Office Expansion



When she arrived at Avenue des Arts, 6 to cover for a maternity leave, little did Niamh Whiteley know that within the year, she would be managing a major office renovation project for three associations: IOFI, IFRA and EFFA. A native of Ireland, Whiteley moved to Belgium a few years ago and started a temporary assignment for IFRA. IOFI Executive

Director Jos Stelder asked Whiteley to help when the space for the three associations was expanded. Through lease negotiations with the building owner who paid for part of the renovation, "We acquired the remaining 25% on the floor that we occupy," noted Stelder. "Moving IFRA into this area turned up additional space we could use for meeting capacity for the three associations. IOFI and EFFA remained in their existing floor capacity. We improved the common areas that the three groups share. The last time the office had a facelift was when we arrived ten years ago in this office, leaving beautiful Square Marie Louise behind."

Whiteley noted, "The renovation enabled us to add a conference room, dubbed the "Magritte" for the Belgian artist, with a capacity of 30 people, along with smaller room called the "Horta" for the Belgian architect." The aim was to make office space available instead of using hotel facilities for some working group meetings and seminars. "It's fit for purpose," Whiteley said, "We have modern presentation equipment along with space for breakout sessions and room for catering as well."

Security was another consideration; the layout of the IOFI offices allows for the handling of sensitive information in a confidential fashion. Plus, the office was fitted with additional security cameras and an up-to-date security system.

She added, "Previously, the kitchen area was small and dark; with this renovation, we now we have a much larger, airy space with windows where staff can sit and have lunch." Artwork rented for a small fee also brightens the surroundings. "Having art on the walls makes a big difference," said Whiteley. She noted the physical changes have promoted a sense of community, and "we are all proud of our working environment."



Fresh design characterizes the office re-do. In the bottom photo, IOFI staff pose in the kitchen, post renovation. From left: N. Vantricht, M. Marchant, J. Yi, J. Stelder, T. Cachet, S. Varlet.



Exit Interview: ED Jos Stelder Retires from IOFI



On April 28, Jos Stelder retired as IOFI Executive Director, having served the organization for ten years. He joined the industry in 1978 as a commercial account executive for IFF in Benelux. Stelder spent time at customer company General Mills/Frito Lay. Subsequently returning to IFF, he replaced industry veteran Peter Van Berge as Flavor Manager in Holland, and then became Managing Director for IFF Netherlands. During his time with IFF, Stelder became deeply involved in association work, serving as a board member for the Dutch flavor association NEA, for EFFA and IFRA, and as a board member and treasurer for IOFI. After a brief stint with Sensient, he moved to IOFI as Interim Executive Director in 2005 and was formally appointed on July 1, 2006.

IOFI Insight: What were your early days as ED like?

Jos Stelder: When I joined IOFI, the global association was nearly bankrupt. I can remember meetings in the basement of the old Berlaymont hotel with Firmenich's Don Hartman asking companies to commit a percentage based on market share to address the greatest need – science funding. The nine largest companies stepped in with serious money.

Q: How has IOFI changed?

JS: IOFI has developed in line with our mission – we started to structure the organization with committees and task forces to provide accountability. Over time, individual sections became more visible. We worked on science first, then advocacy, organizational sustainability and growth and now (external) communication has a great need to be treated seriously.

In ten years, I've seen many changes. By far, my greatest satisfaction is that I was able to help build and structure IOFI for the future.

Q: Talk about the relationship with the associations.

JS: We have taken the best ideas from our association members and made them work globally. Cooperation with FEMA has been critical, because it has always been an organization that demonstrated qualities of capability and proven value for the industry. More than once, we have looked at FEMA to get ideas about how to organize the industry in a global way in IOFI. In a similar way, we have found good ideas from the other major associations EFFA and JFFMA.

The beauty of our structure is that we have the best of both worlds. Through cooperation with members, we get a homogeneous organization where each member recognizes its own reflection.

Q: You've talked about internal changes. How about external ones?

JS: There are many examples where the Secretariat has responded to requests from governments and changed regulations have resulted. IOFI is being taken seriously among regulatory bodies. We have a cherished position in the Codex world. More and more, IOFI has been asked for guidance. The organization is seen as being extremely relevant; the IOFI GRL has become a guideline for implementation of national regulation in countries in different parts of the world.

Q: How would you characterize your work style?

JS: I see myself as a facilitator. To make something develop, you need to have optimal conditions to grow. When you create the right conditions in a stadium, the pitch is right, and you have good players, you get to see a good game. IOFI staff and volunteers are our players – quality people who do an awful lot of good for the industry.

Q: What challenges do you see ahead?

JS: One is to develop communication tools to contribute further to the success of the organization. Sustainability will continue to be a focus. We would like to see healthy, steady growth in the number of company members. We have identified a handful based on their size and will focus on communicating the benefits of membership. By joining IOFI and contributing, they would reduce the pain of others. With more members, everyone pays less.

With association development, it will be very important to see increases in associations joining IOFI. This increases and facilitates the level of contact with national authorities.

“We need companies for funding and associations for contact points for authorities. And both give structure to the organization.”

- Jos Stelder

Q: Any comments on IOFI volunteers?

JS: IOFI has great volunteers who contribute to the industry. Because companies pay them, they serve the interests of the companies while helping IOFI. Their knowledge and experience helps their own companies perform better in the industry.

My only concern is that the staff at member companies available as IOFI volunteers is not growing. It's becoming more of a stretch for companies to “lend” IOFI their experts.

Q: IOFI staff size has grown as well.

JS: The requirements have become more intense and IOFI now gets more and more questions from members, prospective members and regulatory authorities. Can you imagine the time when it was just Thierry (Cachet, then-Science, Advocacy and Regulatory Director), a secretary and accounting support? Now we have Sean Taylor as Scientific Director; Melanie Marchant and Jing Yi with Thierry providing great advocacy and technical support; and Natalie Vantricht for logistical and Member Network responsibilities. We have María Teresa Sosa working in LATAM, and Christie Harman and the local Verto Staff assisting Sean Taylor at Verto Solutions. All are a great help and benefit the industry, and our outstretched contact points help with the globalization of IOFI.

I wish my successor Sven Ballschmiede well. He has great support; he knows the challenges and will work for the benefit of the organization.

Q: What will you miss?

JS: The people, my contacts throughout the industry – some I've known for many years, others more recently.



Names like Skip Roskam, Don Hartman, Pete Lombardo, Ken Schrankel, Glenn Roberts and Dan Dils come to mind. I think of these people and then look at the organization today – they and others were catalysts for IOFI's changes. Jean Mane has always been there. He was there when I came, and he is there when I go, with all my appreciation.

● Jean M. Mane:

Jos is the emblem of Dutch accuracy and persistence. He relentlessly seeks to supply timely reports and minutes of the IOFI Board or other meetings he records and summarizes. He is always prompt to thank those who participate in the improvement of the same...within the set time frame. Not to mention his many “thank you” messages when you report your dues basis and of course when he receives payment for the same! As many of his compatriots, he speaks four languages. So beware...he can understand your “side chats” and does not appreciate the disturbance when it occurs (even in French).

Thank you Jos for your contribution to IOFI management over all these years.



Peter Lombardo (left) and Jean Mane

● Peter Lombardo:

During my career in the flavor industry I was fortunate to work with many incredibly gifted people. Jos Stelder stands tall amongst these professionals.

I worked closely with Jos for many years during several terms as Treasurer of IOFI. We had many challenges during these years. I relied heavily on Jos's skills, dedication, knowledge and professionalism. He never failed me or IOFI. The flavor industry is in a better place today thanks to our colleague Jos Stelder. We all owe him a great deal. I take this opportunity to wish my friend a well deserved great retirement.



● **Ken Schrankel, PhD:**

Ten plus years at the helm of IOFI is quite an achievement. Much like his Dutch forebears who established a global trading network with the West Indies in the 1600s, Jos applied a similar approach in further developing and extending the IOFI's global reach during his tenure as Executive Director.

Utilizing his knowledge of the food, beverage and flavor industries, Jos' leadership was essential and successful in further expanding and strengthening IOFI's membership, scientific integrity/respect and regulatory advocacy around the globe. Like a Dutch sailor with a steady hand on the wheel, Jos conducted his management of IOFI staff and interactions with member companies, flavor associations and regulatory bodies. His efforts further solidified the global status of IOFI. Congratulations, Jos and best wishes in your future endeavors.



● **Jürgen Schnabel:**

I had the pleasure of working with Jos since he joined IOFI as executive director in 2006. We worked together on many important projects like the IOFI re-organization and the revision of the IOFI Code of Practice but also in IOFI committees like the ISB and the RAAC and many task forces. Over all these years Jos acted as a great

mentor sharing his long lasting experience in this industry and working in close collaboration as a partner and friend. Sometimes he asked critical questions and even when we were not always of the same opinion, by the end we always found common ground in the best interest of our industry. I wish him all the best for his well deserved retirement.



● **Howard Smith, Jr.:**

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Jos for the past ten years. He joined IOFI at a time of great change and provided the leadership required to develop the strong and stable organization IOFI is today. Jos led the strategic planning initiative a few years ago that positioned IOFI

and the greater flavor industry to meet the challenges ahead. IOFI is held in high regard for its leadership role in science, regulatory and now in the ever so important area of communications. Jos has devoted his entire career to the flavor industry and the industry owes him a debt of gratitude. My best wishes to Jos, his wife and his family on his well deserved retirement. Thank you Jos for all you have done for us and our industry.



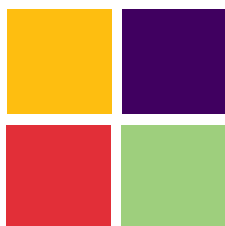
● **Mauricio Graber:**

Jos must be one of the longest serving individuals in the flavor industry. I was always surprised by his ability to be receptive to feedback and adjust based on the evolving needs of the industry and its members.

For all of us involved in association work, we know it requires great passion, determination and ability to reconcile different opinions to move forward in one direction as an industry. We have made substantial change and progress during the tenure and stewardship from Jos.



Jos Stelder wishes his successor Sven Ballschmiede all the best.



More Faces from the World of IOFI

