

IUFoST 2010

15TH WORLD CONGRESS UPDATE

Only one year to go until the 15th World Congress of Food Science and Technology is held in Cape Town. Just to remind you, the dates are 22 - 26 August and the venue is the Cape Town International Convention Centre. The Scientific Programme is taking shape and will be truly representative of the Congress Theme "Food Science Solutions in our Evolving World". The call for papers commenced in June and abstracts for presentation as Oral Papers and Posters are pouring in. If you are still intending to submit an abstract, you have plenty of time as the closing date is 31 January 2010 but it may be a good idea not to leave it to the last minute.

As usual, there will be a number of keynote speakers and the Scientific Programme committee is busy compiling the final short list and has already issued some invites. Two keynote speakers have already been confirmed and these are Sir David King and Professor Gebisa Ejeta. A few notes on the careers of these two esteemed gentlemen is given hereunder by way of introduction.

Professor Sir David King was born in South Africa in 1939, and after an early career at the University of Witwatersrand, Imperial College and the University of East Anglia, King became the Brunner Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Liverpool in 1974. In 1988 he was appointed Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Cambridge and subsequently Head of the University Chemistry Department (1993 – 2000). He was then appointed Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government under both Tony Blair and Gordon Brown and was Head of the Government Office for Science from October 2000 to 31 December 2007. He was awarded a knighthood in 2003. He is now the Director of the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment at the University of Oxford, Director of Research in Physical Chemistry at the University of Cambridge and President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Professor Gebisa Ejeta grew up in a one roomed thatched hut with a mud floor, in a

rural village in West-Central Ethiopia. Driven by his mother's deep belief in education and his own determination, Ejeta managed to rise out of poverty and hardship and received his bachelor's degree in plant science in 1973. Ejeta entered Purdue in 1974 earning his Ph.D in plant breeding and genetics. The 2009 World Food Prize will be awarded to Dr Gebisa Ejeta whose sorghum hybrids have dramatically increased the production and availability of one of the world's five principal grains and enhanced the food supply of hundreds of millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa.

In order to make the trip to Cape Town even more worthwhile, particularly for delegates attending from afar, Turners, our Professional Conference Organisers, are arranging some excursions and Pre and Post Leisure Tour options. Even if you are from South Africa you may want to build a holiday around the attendance of IUFoST 2010. Some of the half day excursions already planned include Cape Town City & Table Mountain; Cultural Township Tours; a visit to the Winelands; and a Cape Point Tour. The full day excursions consist of expanded versions of the above as well as a tour to Hermanus; a cultural tour including Robben Island; and a visit to the Aquilla Private Game Reserve. The excursions are absolutely ideal for accompanying persons.

South Africa is one of the most diverse and enchanting countries in the world. Its wonderful beaches, superb wildlife parks such as the famous Kruger National Park, Eight World Heritage Sites, beautiful natural scenery and a great infrastructure, make South Africa a great holiday destination. The Pre and Post Leisure Tours include the Kruger National Park; a Garden Route tour; Victoria Falls and Zambia; and an Eastern Cape private game reserve tour.

All in all with social events, excursions and tours built around what will be a tremendous Scientific Programme, the 15th World Congress is an event not to be missed. Look forward to seeing you there a year from now.