



International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

CIGR

Newsletter Quarterly

**Newsletter No. 92
April 2011**

*Since 1930
81 Years of CIGR*

- 1. CIGR News 2**
- 2. News from Regional and National Societies 5**
- 3. News from Sections and Working Groups 6**
- 4. CIGR Supported Activities 10**
- 5. Other Activities 12**
- 6. Publications 14**

Commission Internationale du Génie Rural (CIGR)

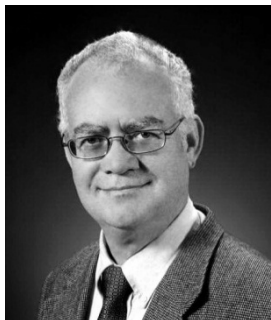
CIGR Website: <http://www.cigr.org/>

1. CIGR NEWS

Message from the President

On behalf of CIGR I would like to express to our friends in Japan our concern and solidarity. In addition, I encourage all members of CIGR to provide their support by every means possible, as to contribute to a faster recovery

Since its inception, CIGR has sought to serve on a worldwide basis to better the condition of our fellow men and women through the improvement and rationalization of biological production systems, as well as, advancing engineering and related sciences.



Prof. Fedro Zazueta

The main vehicle by which CIGR has achieved these goals is through careful analysis and focused efforts on issues that are of broad concern to the profession and the people which we serve. These are executed through the Technical Sections and the Working Groups of CIGR which address specific technical issues. These efforts lead to the organization of professional meetings, directed research, and the production of research and technical materials that are used worldwide.

The CIGR Presidium is looking to promote initiatives that encourage education, stimulate research and technology in Agricultural and Bio-Systems Engineering, and uphold the good name of the profession. For this purpose the CIGR Presidium will engage in a strategic planning effort to identify long term direction and short-term actionable items that best use our available resources to meet CIGR's goals. As this process evolves, the CIGR Presidium is asking you to participate by communicating your ideas for opportunities that will improve our profession and our society.

Best Regards,

Prof. Fedro Zazueta
President of CIGR

Call for CIGR Award Candidates 2012

Every two years CIGR awards people who have made valuable contributions to development of CIGR. Last time was at the CIGR Congress in Quebec in Canada in 2010 and the next recognitions will be given at the next CIGR International Conference to be held in cooperation with EurAgEng in Valencia, Spain 8-12 June 2012.

In accordance with the document: CIGR Awards and Prizes of 2009, the CIGR awards fall within the following categories:

Awards:

1. *CIGR Merit Award*: Candidates are nominated by Technical Section Boards and the CIGR Award and Prize Committee. The award is given to persons who

have contributed to the successful work of CIGR and to further its mission.

2. *CIGR Honor Award*: Candidates are CIGR ex-officers, presented by the CIGR Presidium.
3. *CIGR Fellow Award*: Candidates are nominated by Technical Section Boards. The title of CIGR Fellow is assigned to individuals who have made outstanding contributions.
4. *CIGR Recognition (Presidential Citation)*: Candidates are e.g. individuals who contribute with outstanding papers at a CIGR activity.
5. *CIGR National/Regional Awards*: National and regional societies may present awards to their members during the CIGR Award ceremony.

Prizes:

1. *CIGR Armand Blanc Prize*: Candidates are young researchers. The Prizes are given to increase their motivation for working with CIGR activities.
2. *CIGR Journal Prize*: Candidates are selected by the CIGR Journal Editor in cooperation with the seven CIGR Section editors.
3. *Industrial awards and prizes* in agreement with actual sponsors.

By this announcement we encourage you to send us your proposals for gratuity recipients before September 1 2011. The application form for nominees can be obtained from the chairman of the Award Committee Søren Pedersen Soeren.pedersen@agrsci.dk

Prof. Søren Pedersen
Chairman of the Award Committee
Past President of CIGR

Message from Japan

Dear CIGR Colleagues,

First of all, on behalf of Japanese members of CIGR, I sincerely thank you for your prompt and kind inquiry after us. Tens of thousands of people were killed or rendered houseless by the most disastrous earthquake and tsunamis which hit the area of Northeastern Japan on the 11th of March, 2011. And what is worse, serious damages happened to the nuclear power station.

Fortunately I can tell you that there was limited damage to most of our members and our workplaces. Although we still have some slight inconveniences regarding power and public transportation in Tokyo, the daily life is becoming better day by day.



Prof. Taichi Maki

Due to this, we confirmed in the Organizing Committee held on the 29th of March that we will definitely hold the CIGR International Symposium 2011 (WEF 2011) in Tokyo according to schedule, 19-23 September 2011. We have

continuously moved ahead with all the necessary preparations for the Symposium. For further information, please refer to our website (<http://www.cigr2011.org/>) or the website of Japan National Tourism Organization (<http://www.jnto.go.jp/>).

I am sure all CIGR members in Japan will exert all possible efforts to overcome this serious situation in close cooperation with all Japanese citizens and with friends all over the world.

Lastly, thank you again for your kind and heartwarming mails.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Tokyo in the coming September.

With best regards,

Prof. Taichi Maki
Japanese Representative for CIGR
Chair of the National Organizing Committee
of the CIGR International Symposium 2011 (WEF 2011)

Reports and Announcements from the Secretary General

Firstly, the CIGR General Secretariat would like to extend our deepest condolences to the more than ten thousand people killed and our heartfelt sympathy to the tens of thousands of people rendered houseless by the most disastrous earthquake and tsunamis which hit the area of Northeastern Japan on the 11th of March, 2011.



Prof. Toshinori Kimura

The General Secretariat is located in the City of Sapporo which is very far from the stricken area. Although we felt the vibrations of the earthquake to some extent, we luckily escaped damage. Thank you very much for your kindness to inquire after us.

1. Summary of the Presidium Meeting (PM) through Skype held at 8:00 US Eastern time on 10 February 2011

In attendance: President Fedro Zazueta, Past President Søren Pedersen, Incoming President Da-Wen Sun, and Secretary General Toshinori Kimura

- 1) CIGR Award Process for 2012
 - Nomination schedule of award candidates and composition of award Committee were discussed.
 - The 1st announcement of Call for CIGR Award Candidates 2012 is available in this news letter.
- 2) Membership proposal from India
 - Basic agreement of India's joining to CIGR as a National Member was established between CIGR PM and India.
 - The CIGR Secretary General will handle the process to propose this issue at the next Executive Board Meeting to be held in Tokyo on 19 September 2011.
- 3) Handling of CIGR Handbook

- The PM discussed the future of Handbook including possibility of an online edition.
 - The PM received requests of reprinting from India and Turkey. The decision will be made at the next PM to be held in Nantes, France on 18 April, 2011.
- 4) Chairmanship transfer of Journal Policy Board
 - The PM confirmed Incoming President Da-Wen Sun will take over the chairmanship from President Fedro Zazueta.
 - 5) Candidates nomination of next Incoming President from 2013, next Secretary General from 2014 and the XIX CIGR World Congress 2018
 - Preparatory discussions on the schedules and the processes were made.
 - 6) Next schedule of PM
 - From 2pm to 6pm, 18 April 2011 on the occasion of the 6th International Symposium organized by the Section VI in Nantes, France.

2. CIGR business meetings schedules in 2011 and 2012

- 1) In 2011, CIGR business meetings of PM, EB, TB and SB (Section I, III and VII) will be held on 19 and 20 September on the occasion of CIGR International Symposium 2011 (WEF 2011) in Tokyo, Japan as shown in the table of room and time allocation. Other WG meetings and SB meetings except I, III and VII will be scheduled separately.
- 2) In 2012, all the CIGR business meetings including the General Assembly will be held in Valencia, Spain during the period of the 3rd CIGR International Conference in July.

Schedule of CIGR Business Meetings in WEF 2011 Tokyo

19 September (Mon)

Time	Meeting	Name of Room
9:00-12:00	Presidium meeting	Room Kensityushitsu
13:30-16:30	The 66th Executive Board meeting	Room Kensityushitsu
19:00-21:00	Section Board I meeting	Not specified yet
19:00-21:00	Section Board III meeting	Not specified yet
19:00-21:00	Section Board VII meeting	Not specified yet

20 September (Tue)

Time	Meeting	Name of Room
17:00-19:00	Technical Board meeting	Not specified yet

Tower Hall Funabori

4-1-1 Funabori, Edogawa-ku, Tokyo
134-0091, Japan
TEL : +81-3-5676-2211
FAX : +81-3-5676-2501

Prof. Toshinori Kimura
Secretary General of CIGR

CIGR World Congresses and Internatinal Conferences, 2012–2016

CIGR-AgEng2012, International Conference of Agricultural Engineering on 'Agriculture & Engineering for a Healthier Life', 8-12 July 2012, Valencia, Spain <http://cigr.ageng2012.org/>

EurAgEng and CIGR celebrate this joint International Conference on Agricultural Engineering at the Valencia Conference Centre in Valencia, Spain. The Conference covers emerging research and new engineering solutions for food production and rural activities, as a means to enhance human well-being and promote social benefits. New concerns include new methods of agricultural and forestry production, and the preservation of natural resources and landscape by applying modern engineering concepts. A Healthier production systems need to encompass higher social and economic benefits.

The CIGR-AgEng2012 Conference is addressed to academia, industry, producers, manufacturers and service providers from all over the world for discussion about novel approaches to integrate agriculture and engineering for enhancing the quality and expectance of life.

The main theme of this Congress is "Agriculture & Engineering for a Healthier Life", an ambitious idea that claims how Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering is an essential part of the solution for producing quality food while protecting the environment.

PhD students, Delegates of CIGR and EurAgEng, Representatives of Developing Countries and Industry are specially encouraged to participate in CIGR-AgEng 2012 Conference.

Main Topics:

- AP:** Animal Production Technology.
- ED:** Education and Curricula.
- EN:** Energy, biomass and biological residues.
- ES:** Ergonomics, Safety and Health.
- IT:** Information Technology, Automation and Precision Farming.
- PF:** Post Harvest, Food and Process Engineering.
- PM:** Power and Machinery.
- RD:** Rural Development.
- SE:** Structures and Environmental Technologies.
- SW:** Soil and Water Engineering.

CIGR-AgEng2012 is designed as a large umbrella for seven simultaneous thematic conferences with the goal of promoting the interaction between CIGR and EurAgEng Working Groups.

SPECIAL PARALLEL CONFERENCES

SPC-01 - EnviroWater'2012 - 15th Inter Regional ENVIRO Water: Soil Water and Environment Management (CIGR-Section I: Land and Water Engineering)
Chair Jose M^a. Tarjuelo, Co-Chair: Guanhua Huang

SPC-02 - CFD Applications on Agriculture Building(CFD). (Working group of the International Society of Horticultural Science- ISHS)
Chair: Ricardo Suay. Co-Chair: In-Bok Lee and Thomas Banhazi

SPC-03 - IV International Workshop on Computer Image Analysis in Agriculture (CIGR Working Group on Image Analysis for Agricultural Products and Processes)
Chair: José Blasco, Co-Chair: Victor Alchanatis and Manuela Zude

SPC-04 - 5th Automation Technology for Off-Road Equipment Conference
Chair: Francisco Rovira-Más, Co-Chair: Qin Zhang

SPC-05 - ILES IX - International Livestock Environment Symposium
Chairs: Richard Gates and Maria Cambra, Co-Chair: Tami Brown-Brandl and Daniela Jorge de Moura

SPC-06 - Applications of smart sensors and wireless sensor networks (WSN) in PLF (Precision Livestock Farming) and PA (Precision Agriculture)
Chairs: Pilar Barreiro Co-Chair: Esmaeil Nadimi

SPC-07 - Silos and Granular Materials (SIGMA).
Chairs: Francisco Ayuga Co-Chair: Jørgen Nielsen

Relevant Information and Contact

Deadlines:

Submission of abstracts on-line via CIGR-AgEng2012 website: **4 October 2011**

Notification of acceptance: **15 December 2011**

Submission of full papers: **15 March 2012**

Final programme: **20 May 2012**

Early Registration Price:

530 € for EurAgEng, ASABE and CIGR members

590 € for non-members

400 € for LIC-LMIC (low and low-middle income countries)

300 € for students

Web page, registration and call for papers

Further information on the conference, registration and call for papers can be found in the conference website: <http://cigr.ageng2012.org/>

CONTACT

Florentino Juste

Instituto Valenciano de Investigaciones Agrarias

Email: juste_flo@gva.es

Phone: +34 963 424 010; Fax: +34 963 424 002

**The XVIII CIGR World Congress 2014
Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering
- Upgrading Our Quality of Life
Beijing, China,
16-19 September 2014**

The XVIII World Congress of the International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (CIGR) will be held in Beijing, China from 16-19 September 2014. Preparation for the big event has been proceeding smoothly. The Preparatory Committee and the Secretariat of the Congress have been set up and appropriate staff and facilities allocated.

Theme

Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering - Upgrading Our Quality of Life

Time

16-19 September 2014

Venue

Beijing

Call for papers:

The Congress will focus on the above-mentioned areas and contributions in those and the related areas are appreciated. Scientists, professors, practicing engineers, enterprises managers and students engaged in agricultural/biosystems engineering are encouraged to participate in this big event and are invited to submit paper proposals to the Congress. Detailed instructions for submitting abstracts will be in the 2nd announcement.

Preparation Office:

The preparation office is located in CAAMS and the website of the Congress will be available soon. At present you may contact the Congress as follows:

Prof. Lanfang ZHANG

International Cooperation Department

Chinese Academy of Agricultural Mechanization Sciences (CAAMS)

NO.1 Beishatan Beshengmen Wai Beijing 100083 China

Tel: +86-10-64882358

Fax: +86-10-64883508

Email: cigrwc2014@yahoo.cn

**The 4th CIGR International
Conference - AgEng Conference-2016
Robotics, Environment and Food Safety
26 -29 June 2016, Aarhus, Denmark**

The Conference will be carried out at University of Aarhus 26-29 June 2016 as a joint event between CIGR (International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering) and EurAgEng (European Society of Agricultural Engineering) and cosponsored by NJF (Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists) and Aarhus University.

Planning and implementation of the congress will be carried out in close cooperation with "KongresKompagniet A/S", which is a conference organizer bureau in Aarhus.

Contact: Prof. Søren Pedersen

Email: soeren.pedersen@agrsci.dk

2. NEWS FROM REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SOCIETIES

**CIGR International Symposium 2011
Sustainable Bioproduction - Water, Energy,
and Food (WEF 2011)
19-23 September 2011, Tokyo, JAPAN
<http://www.cigr2011.org/>**

Symposium objectives

The 2011 CIGR International Symposium on "Sustainable Bioproduction - Water, Energy, and Food", 19-23 September 2011, Tower Hall Funabori, Edogawa, Tokyo, JAPAN will bring together researchers and professionals interested in new ideas, engineering, and technologies used in sustainable bioproduction systems. Attendees will be able to share ideas, theories, techniques, challenges, and concerns with peers and expand their professional networks worldwide. They will also have the opportunity to attend many joint activities. The symposium is opened to researchers and engineers from all over the world as well as general public those who are interested in the global issues with water, energy, and food.

Important Dates

- Deadline for Draft Full Paper: **1 April 2011 (to be extended)**
- Notification of Revision of Draft Paper: **1 June 2011**
- Deadline for Advance Registration Rate, Deadline for the final submission: **30 June 2011**

- Early registration due (papers can be included in the proceedings only after full payment of the registration fee): **1 July 2011**
- Final program announcement (Final decision for the inclusion of papers will be made based on the author's registration status on July 1, 2011): **30 August 2011**
- Symposium: **19-23 September 2011**

Accommodations

Accommodation search: Tokyo Convention & Visitors Bureau: <http://tcvb.or.jp/en/stay/>

Vicinity hotel: Mizue Dai-Ichi Hotel

<http://www.mizue-dh.co.jp/english.html>

Travel information of Japan

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eq/>

Secretariat office

Associate Prof. Dr. Yutaka Kitamura

(Vice Secretary of the Symposium)

Bioindustrial Sciences, Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Tsukuba

1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki ;81-305-8572

e-mail: CIGR2011@agbi.tsukuba.ac.jp

<http://www.cigr2011.org>

19 (Mon) Sept.	20 (Tue) Sept.	21 (Wed) Sept.	22 (Thu) Sept.	23 (Fri) Sept.
PRE-SYMPOSIUM EVENTS	SYMPOSIUM EXHIBITION	STUDY TOURS OPEN SESSIONS	SYMPOSIUM EXHIBITION	SYMPOSIUM EXHIBITION
From 9:00 to 12:00 (Room:Kensyushitsu) -CIGR PM Business Meeting <i>Coffee Break</i> <i>Lunch</i> From 13:00 -Registration From 13:30 to 16:30 (Room:Kensyushitsu) -CIGR EB Business Meeting <i>Coffee Break</i> From 17:00 to 19:00 -Welcome Reception From 19:00 to 21:00 -CIGR Section Board Business Meetings	From 9:00 (Room:Great Hall) -Opening Ceremony -Keynote Speech <i>Coffee Break</i> <i>Lunch & Seminar</i> From 13:00 -Guest Speech -Organized Sessions -Oral & Poster Sessions <i>Coffee Break</i> From 15:30 to 17:00 (Room:Great Hall) -Open Extensive Session From 17:30 to 19:00 -Dinner Session From 17:00 to 19:00 - CIGR TB Business Meeting	From 8:00 -Excursion A. Tsukuba Science City B. Tokyo Downtown C. Nikko & Lake Chūzenji From 18:30 -Excursion D. Tokyo Bay Cruise	From 9:00 -Open Extensive Sessions -Academic Programs <i>Coffee Break</i> <i>Lunch & Seminar</i> <i>Coffee Break</i> From 13:00 -Organized Sessions -Oral & Poster Sessions <i>Coffee Break</i> Organized Sessions -Oral & Poster Sessions -Various Meetings From 18:00 (Room: Zuiun & Heian) -Banquet	From 9:00 -EnviroWater -Organized Sessions -Oral & Poster Sessions <i>Coffee Break</i> <i>Lunch</i> From 11:30 (Room:Great Hall) -Closing Ceremony Post Congress Tour 24 (Sat) -Osaka-fu Univ. -Kyoto City 25 (Sun) -Kansai Intl. Airport

Call for Abstracts Engineering in Agriculture – Diverse Challenges, Innovative Solutions

29-30 September 2011, Queensland, Australia
<http://www.seagconference.com.au>

You are invited to submit an abstract for 'Engineering in Agriculture – Diverse Challenges, Innovative Solutions', the 2011 CIGR International Symposium of the Australian Society for Engineering in Agriculture and the 2011 Spatially Enabled Livestock Management Workshop, to be held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast of Queensland on the 29th and 30th of September, 2011.

The themes of the symposium will include

- Irrigation, water and environmental management,
- Post-harvest Technologies and processing
- Structures, equipment and Environment
- Power and machinery
- Precision agriculture and livestock management,
- Plant production and handling as well as
- Information management

The conference proceedings will be published with an Engineers Australia ISBN and will be available online via the Informit Engineering Collection. This Collection is available at the majority of Australian universities and internationally in South Africa, New Zealand, Brazil and Indonesia. The Collection exposes the metadata to Google Scholar, Trove (National Library of Australia), OCLC WorldCat, Summon (Serial Solution), Primo (ExLibris), and EBSCO.

To submit an abstract or register please visit www.seagconference.com.au

Key Dates:

- Earlybird registration closes **29 April 2011**
- Deadline for Abstracts is **15 March 2011**
- Deadline for Final Paper Submission is **15 July 2011**

Sponsorship opportunities are also available in the Symposium Prospectus available on the website.

Alternatively you may contact the symposium secretariat at the address below.

Symposium Secretariat - Engineers Australia
Email: seagconference@engineersaustralia.org.au
Tel: 02 6270 6563

3. NEWS FROM SECTIONS AND WORKING GROUPS

CIGR Section II “Structure and Environment” Activity Report

Section II had a number of important activities in the last few years and some of the activity highlights are listed below:

XVIIth CIGR World Congress, Quebec City, Canada, 13-17 June, 2010

- 96 out of 504 presentations and 30 out of 440 posters were related to Section II topics;
- Prof. Hisamitsu Takai was responsible for the successful organization of the special session on “Natural

ventilation". The outcome of the session might become a reviewed paper;

- Prof. Eberhard Hartung and Dr Eiko Thissen were responsible for the successful organization of the special session on "Aquaculture".

Working Group on "Animal Housing in hot climates"

- 3 workshops were held: in

Catania organized by Prof. Giovanni Cascone, in Cairo

organized by Prof. Mohamed Hatem and in Chongqing organized by Prof. Baoming Li;

- the new focus of the Working Group will be on "application" and the next workshop will be an "extension related conference";

- Prof. Eileen Wheeler, Prof. Baoming Li and Prof. Mohamed Hatem have become the "pulling persons" of this working group and will organize themselves in the function of chair, co-chair and secretary;

- Israeli colleagues at the Volcani Institute have been asked if they are willing to organize the fourth Hot Climate workshop. As an alternative, the workshop can also be organized by Prof. El Houssine Bartali from Morocco.

Working Group on "Cattle Housing"

- Dr. Josi Flaba, after 10 years of chairing this working group, is looking for successor;

- within this year the new report on housing systems will be available on the CIGR website.

Glossary of Definition

- is available over CIGR website;
- a translation in certain languages is still in progress.

List of upcoming Conferences

EFITA – ECPA – ECPLF – ISAF Joint International Agriculture Conference 2011, 11-14 July 2011, Prague, Czech Republic;

7th International Symposium on Cement Based Materials for a Sustainable Agriculture, 18-21 September 2011, Château Bonne Entente, Quebec City, Canada;

International Conference of Agricultural Engineering CIGR-AgEng 2012, Agriculture & Engineering for a Healthier Life, 8-12 July 2012, Valencia, Spain;

XVIIIth CIGR World Congress, 16-19 September 2014, Beijing, China.



A/Prof. Thomas Banhazi

Prof. Eberhard Hartung

Prof. Giovanni Cascone

16-18 September 2013, Krakow, Poland

Topics:

- Biomass,
- Technical equipment used in conversion process (solar collectors, heat pumps, photovoltaic systems, biomass boilers),
- Biogas,
- Water and wind energy.



Prof. Janusz Piechocki

The Conference will take place in Agricultural University in Krakow (Poland).

Special program for accompanying persons is provided.

Future activities

Nearest Board Meeting of Section IV of CIGR will take place during 33 International Symposium in Bucharest (Romania) 23-25 June 2011.

The next Board Meeting of Section IV of CIGR will take place during the International Conference in Istanbul (Turkey) 21-23 September 2011.

*Prof. Janusz Piechocki
Chair of CIGR Section IV*

Summary of CIGR Working Group Activities in 2010

The CIGR Working Groups are an important component of the CIGR organisation. They have been playing an important role in the CIGR organisation. In order to further enhance the important role of the WG in CIGR, CIGR Working Groups are encouraged to

- Increase their visibility and functionality in CIGR;
- Establish more close links with CIGR Sections;
- Sponsor or co-organise relevant CIGR Section Symposiums;
- Organise WG national or international workshops;
- Publish CIGR Booklets/Handbook on WG area of interests;
- Organise Special Issue in your WG area for CIGR E-Journal; and
- Conduct actively other relevant activities.



Prof. Da-Wen Sun

Currently, there are nine Working Groups in CIGR including the new Food Safety WG which was established in 2010, and their activities in 2010 are summarised as follows.

Earth Observation for Land and Water Engineering Working Group

CIGR Section IV 34 International Conference of the Section IV of CIGR "Conversion of Renewable Energy Sources into Electricity and Heating"

The WG was involved in the organisation of the Remote Sensing and Hydrology 2010 Symposium, organised by IAHS in Jackson Hole (WY, USA) on 27-30 September 2010. However, due to very limited response from the WG components it was not possible to arrange a special session.

Animal Housing in Hot Climate Working Group

The WG members with CIGR Section II had meeting on 13 June 2010 at CIGR World Congress in Quebec, Canada. It was hoped that via the suggested student project that now can be in part supported financially due to the WG healthy financial situation, the WG can advance the further development and 'computerization' of the 'Glossary of definition' document.

The next CIGR Hot Climate Workshop will be held on 23 (Sunday) – 26 (Wednesday) October 2011 in Israel. The members of the origination committee consist of Prof. Dr. Baoming Li [libm@cau.edu.cn] and Dr. Avraham Arbel [arbel@volcani.agri.gov.il]. In this planned 3 days Workshop, two days will be for presentations and discussions and one day for professional tour, with tentative details below:

- Sunday evening – welcome at an hotel in Tel-Aviv
- Monday – presentations and discussions at the hotel in Tel-Aviv
- Tuesday – presentations and discussions at The Volcani Centre
- Wednesday – professional tour

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Hatem has replaced Prof. Vasco Fitas da Cruz as the WG Chair.

Rural Development and the Preservation of Cultural Heritages Working Group

The WG Chair Prof. Kamil Okayay Sindir has become the Mayor of Bornova, big part of Izmir, Turkey, and, as usual for politicians, he is totally inactive. A new Chair is required to replace him.

Two things are highlighted here for the WG:

- This idea of AgEng and Biosystems engineering contribution to the rural development is very important and should be somehow improved.
- In Southeast Europe, Prof. Silvio Cosutic from Turkey always includes this topic in his Symposium: <http://atae.agr.hr/>. In the symposium, one day is dedicated for the topics related to the WG.

Cattle Housing Working Group

During the XVIIth World Congress in Canada, the WG has

- presented its report on “The Design of Replacement Heifers and Dairy Cow Housing”
- met for technical discussion
- participated the technical tour especially organised by IRDA (Research and Development Institute for the Agri-Environment in Deschambault) in Québec: dairy cows and goats.

In November 2010, members of the WG met in Trenhorst-Westerau in Germany to continue the technical discussions.

In June 2011, the WG has decided to meet in Austria in Irnding-Gumpenstein.

Water Management & Information Systems Working Group

The WG met in Quebec, Canada, on the occasion of the 13th Inter-Regional Conference on Land, Water and Environment (EnviroWater 2010) in conjunction with the XVIIth World Congress of CIGR, on June 13, 2010.

It was decided that the WG would be chaired from January 2011 by José Fernando Ortega Alvarez. Therefore, discussions on further activities and relationship with and Land Use and Landscape Planning WG (chaired by Hubert van Lier) should be postponed to the next meeting.

The WG will focus on the following activities:

- To help and contribute to the EnviroWater Conferences sponsored by CIGR Section 1. It was stated that in this era of collaborative planning and design, the integrated topics of land and water use planning and supporting information systems should be a repeating theme in all future EnviroWater conferences.
- The WG members should use their networks to identify relevant scientists and practitioners working in these areas, and that should be invited to participate in the EnviroWater conferences.
- A general objective of the WG will be to identify knowledge gaps in these areas.
- Licensing was suggested as a potential tool to strengthen the position of the CIGR Section 1 board and the WG.
- To create an internet forum to discuss on these themes.
- The WG will discuss and evaluate its Mission Statement, Objectives and Scope during the next Meeting.
- The WG will organize an evaluation and discussion session at the end of each EnviroWater conference to identify interesting new research and conference themes.

Prof. Antonio Brasa Ramos has finished his 4 years term as the WG Chair and Dr. Jose Fernando Ortega Alvarez has replaced him to become the Chair from January 2011.

Agricultural Engineering University Curricula Harmonization Working Group

In 2010 the activities of the WG were carried out through ERABEE (Education and Research in Biosystems Engineering in Europe) Thematic Network (<http://www.erabee.aua.gr>).

This network was established in 2007 by the same partners of USAEE-TN (University Studies of Agricultural Engineering in Europe) and others, in order to develop the results achieved by this network. ERABEE-TN comprises 35 institutions of 27 Erasmus Countries, of which are 33 Higher Education Area institutions and 2 Student Associations, and is co-funded by the EU, under the umbrella of Lifelong Learning Programme.

The main objectives of ERABEE-TN project are to:

- promote the critical and inevitable transition from the traditional Agricultural Engineering discipline to the emerging Biosystems Engineering one;
- enhance compatibility between the new European study programmes in Biosystems Engineering, in order to

- promote their recognition and accreditation at European and international level, in line with EUR-ACE;
- improve the image of the European study programmes in Biosystems Engineering;
- promote the mobility of skilled personnel, professors, researchers and students.

The main achievements in each partner Country during the ERABEE project are to:

- define the emerging Biosystems Engineering discipline in Europe and describe the related current situation (tasks of the 1st Workshop, held in Madrid, Spain, in April 2008);
- describe the current situation and perspectives of the development of Biosystems Engineering study programmes towards bio-fuels, bio-materials and quality of products (task of the 2nd Workshop, held in Dublin, Ireland, in October 2008);
- describe the current schemes and the possible future structured study programmes of the 3rd cycle University studies in Agricultural/Biosystems Engineering (task of the 3rd Workshop, held in Uppsala, Sweden, in May 2009);
- describe the research activities in the first two cycles of Biosystems Engineering University studies (task of the 4th Workshop, held in Valletta, Malta, in November 2009);
- describe the quality assurance and assessment frameworks of Biosystems Engineering studies (task of the 5th Workshop, held in Prague, Czech Republic, in April 2010);
- pinpoint ways of improving the image of European study programmes in Biosystems Engineering (task of the 6th Workshop, held in Clermont-Ferrand, France, in September 2010).

In order to achieve the above objectives, the Working Group 4 of ERABEE-TN also developed a web database of the European study programmes in Biosystems Engineering, established in the framework of USAEE-TN, so that it will be continuously updated (<http://sunfire.aaugr:8080/ects/Welcome.do>).

During the 3-year lifetime of the ERABEE project (01/10/2007-30/09/2010) some remarkable developments in the emerging field of Biosystems Engineering have taken place with the establishment of new study programmes in Biosystems Engineering in Europe. The contribution of ERABEE-TN was decisive in this. Most of the European study programmes were established by partner Universities of the network.

At the beginning of ERABEE project (October 2007) only two institutions offered University study programmes in Biosystems Engineering:

- 1) University College Dublin (Ireland);
- 2) Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium).

By the end of the project (September 2010) there were ten European University study programmes in Biosystems Engineering, emerging from the evolution of previous Agricultural Engineering study programmes:

- 1) University College Dublin (Ireland);
- 2) University of Leon (Spain);

- 3) Polytechnic University of Cataluna (Spain);
- 4) University de Evora (Portugal);
- 5) University of Maribor (Slovenia),
- 6) Estonian University of Life Sciences (Estonia);
- 7) Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (Romania);
- 8) Aarhus University (Denmark);
- 9) Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium);
- 10) Uludag University (Turkey).

Based on the previous experience carried out within USAEE-TN, ERABEE-TN partners have developed accreditation criteria for the Bachelor's study programmes in Biosystems or Agricultural and Biological Engineering. This document was developed as a basis for the accreditation agencies and the quality assessment schemes of Universities and EUR-ACE (European Accreditation framework for Engineering study programmes). The core curriculum of Biosystems Engineering study programmes was based on that produced in the framework of USAEE-TN, enriched with new modules related to bio-energy and bio-based materials.

This document includes a table showing the Core Curricula of Agricultural/Biosystems Engineering for the First Cycle Degrees of Integrated First and Second cycles (i.e. Pivot Point Degree) or for Long Cycle Academic Orientation Programmes of Studies. As far as the First Cycle B.S. Degrees Programmes of Studies the proposed Core Curricula of Agricultural/Biosystems Engineering allows for 18 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) units to be devoted to Applied Agricultural Engineering subjects, while most of the Agricultural Engineering specialisation subjects will be offered during the second cycle study programmes. ECTS credits are based on the workload students need in order to achieve expected learning outcomes. In this way one academic year corresponds to 60 ECTS credits, which are equivalent to 1500-1800 hours of study.

During the ERABEE project EurAgEng (European Association of Agricultural Engineers) has included, within its objectives, the promotion of the profession of "Biosystems Engineering" at the same level as that of "Agricultural Engineering", so that now it includes the following areas in the professional activity of Agricultural/Biosystems Engineers: Power Systems and Machinery; Information and Electronics; Safety and Ergonomics; Energy; Natural Resources; Greenhouse and Nursery; Structures and Physical Environment.

On the other side of the Atlantic, in the US, ASABE (American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers) includes the following areas: Biological Engineering; Natural Resources; Power Systems and Machinery Design; Structures and Environment; Food and Bioprocess; Information and Electrical Technologies; Forest Engineering; Energy; Aquacultural Engineering; Nursery & Greenhouse Engineering; Safety and Health.

However, although the concepts of Biosystems or Agricultural/Biological disciplines are very similar in Europe and US, significant differences remain. Therefore co-ordinated networking activities such as those carried out by ERABEE-TN are very important, in order to harmonise criteria and to promote the international recognition of the

study programmes in Agricultural/Biosystems Engineering and the mobility of skilled personnel, professors, researchers and students.

Currently the activities of ERABEE-TN are continuing through the ERABEE Network, established by the partner institutions of this TN.

Rural Landscape Protection and Valorisation Working Group

The WG has not yet had any international meetings but had some meetings in Japan. It has recruited Japanese members who are interested in Rural Landscape Protection and Valorisation. The WG will publish a book on Rural Landscape Protection and Valorisation this year and is planning to get international members and publicise the WG activities.

Image Analysis for Agricultural Processes and Products Working Group

The major event organized by the WG in 2010 was the 2nd International Workshop on Computer Image Analysis in Agriculture. The workshop was held in Budapest, Hungary on 26-27 August 2010. It was hosted by the Corvinus University of Budapest, Faculty of Food Science, and co-organized by the Committee on Agricultural Engineering of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The sponsors were CIGR, EurAgEng, ASABE, Instituto Valenciano de Investigaciones Agrarias (IVIA, Spain), Leibnitz Institut für Agrartechnik Potsdam Bornim (ATB, Germany) and South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI, Australia).

The local Organizing Committee, composed by Prof. József Felföldi, Dr. László Baranyai, Prof. András Fekete, Dr. Ferenc Firtha, Tímea Kaszab, György Csima, Dénes Lajos Dénes, made an important effort to organise and make it fruitful. The event was an opportunity to share knowledge with scientist from all around the world, to start new projects or to have a precise idea of the current state of the art in Image Analysis in Agriculture... and, of course, to immerse in the wonderful city of Budapest and the hospitable Hungary.

More than 35 people from three continents attended the workshop. Fourteen oral and five posters were presented. Communications are available through the official web page of the event (<http://physics2.uni-corvinus.hu/CIGR-IP/?q=node/19>)

and WG homepage (<http://www.atb-potsdam.de/CIGR-ImageAnalysis/workshop10.htm>).

During the assembly and conclusions of the workshop it was reported that the WG has around 150 registered members from 12 countries and 4 continents, and the participation in CIGR Congress in Quebec was encouraged. It was decided to celebrate the 3rd International Workshop on Computer Image Analysis in Australia. Several improvements in the format of the workshop were agreed to be implemented in future events, one particularly important will be the inclusion of seminars on specific topics (software tools, image analysis techniques, etc.).

After the 2nd workshop in Budapest, authors of two presentations were invited by the editorial board of "Progress in Agricultural Engineering Sciences" (Akademiai Kiado, 1786-335X / 1787-0321). The complete papers are currently published, their references are:

- S. Cubero, E. Moltó, A. Gutiérrez, N. Aleixos, O. L. García-Navarrete, F. Juste and J. Blasco: Real-time inspection of fruit by computer vision on a mobile harvesting platform under field conditions. Progress in Agricultural Engineering Sciences, 2010, Vol.6, 1-16, DOI: 10.1556/Progress.6.2010.1
- Brázio, A. M. Cavaco and R. Guerra: A simplified two layer model for light diffuse reflectance in thin skin fruits. Progress in Agricultural Engineering Sciences, 2010, Vol.6, 35-72, DOI: 10.1556/Progress.6.2010.3

Anyone interested in joining the WG can register via <http://www.atb-potsdam.de/CIGR-ImageAnalysis/>.

Food Safety Working Group

The WG, linked to the Section VI (Post-Harvest Technology and Process Engineering) was formally launched in June 2010 during the CIRG Word Conference held in Quebec.

Organization of Workshops is part of the activities planned for the WG. During 2010 and part of 2011 the WG has worked in the organization of the Workshop Food Safety: Advances and Trends, which will be held in Dijon, France on the 14th and 15th April 2011.

*Professor Da-Wen Sun
CIGR Working Group Coordinator
Incoming President of CIGR*

4. CIGR SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

Report on the 39th International Symposium, 'Actual Tasks on Agricultural Engineering' 22-25 February 2011, Opatija, Croatia

The 39th International Symposium 'Actual Tasks on Agricultural Engineering' was held on 22-25 February 2011 in Grand Hotel "Adriatic" Opatija, Republic of Croatia. The principle Organiser, Agricultural Engineering Department, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb

was supported by the following frameworks: Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University J. J. Strossmayer, Osijek, Department of Bio-systems Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Maribor (Slovenia), Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, Hungarian Institute of Agricultural Engineering Gödöllő and Croatian Agricultural Engineering Society. In addition, CIGR, EurAgEng, AAEE and the Association of Agricultural Engineers of South Eastern Europe (AAESEE) bestowed their support and endorsement on the Event.



This year 75 participants from 10 countries attended the Symposium. It consisted of an Opening Session and six Topic Sessions covering all the broad subject-areas that fall under the scope of Agricultural Engineering. At the Opening Session Prof. Dr. Edi Maletic, vice-dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb, delivered his speech emphasising the importance of the Event and its long tradition. Prof. Daniele De Wrachien brought the greetings of EurAgEng and CIGR and the Convenor, Prof. Silvio Kosutic ended the Opening Session with the greetings of the Croatian Society of Agricultural Engineering to the audience. A number of lectures followed, among which are worth mentioning: **“Cab damping device evaluation on tractor vibration transmission and operator comfort using four-poster test rig”** presented by BEng Carlo Bisaglia from Italy, **“Mathematical models for flood and debris flow routing”** given by Prof. Dr. Daniele De Wrachien from Italy, **“About the noise energy conversion from agricultural tractors engine”** featured by Prof. Dr Nicolae Filip from Romania, **“Monitoring and assessing the performance of agricultural biogas plants”** delivered by Mathias Effenberger from Germany and Djordje Djatkov from Serbia, **“Sizing small wind generators according to probabilistic information on wind conditions”** proposed by Kaupo Toom from Estonia, **“Drying investigation of hull-less pumpkin kernels (Cucurbita Pepo L.) in batch driers”** introduced by Prof. Dr. Milan Martinov from Serbia, **“Development on the field of agricultural biogas plants in Slovenia”** highlighted by MSc. Tomaz Poje from Slovenia and **“Technology of post-harvest residues cutting”** presented by Dr. Sc. Viktor Jecic from Slovenia. In the Topic Sessions, each starting with a review report, 42 papers were discussed, in oral presentation. At the Closing Session the Convenor emphasised the role of EurAgEng and CIGR in the ecologically sustainable development of agriculture and in the preservation of the rural cultural heritage within the East-European countries. Participants were given printed copies of the Proceedings consisting in Volumes of 472 pages, containing 48 papers. Papers from the Proceedings have been indexed in database ISI Proceedings since 1997. Maziva Zagreb d.d.-INA group (national petrol company) presented its new palette of bio-degradable oils emphasising the progress made in keeping pace with well-known worldwide competitors. Other companies like Same-Deutz Fahr, Agco, Trimble and

Hardy highlighted their current programmes by means of video and oral presentations during afternoon Sessions. Information regarding the 40th Symposium in the year 2012 will soon be available at the web site: <http://atae.agr.gr>

Prof. Silvio Kosutic, Convenor of the Symposium
Prof. Daniele De Wrachien, Past President of EurAgEng

The 4th Asian Conference of Precision Agriculture

4-7 July 2011, Obihiro, Japan

Call for Submission

As an initiative on precision agriculture research and applications in Asia, the series of Asian Conferences on Precision Agriculture have been connecting representatives from all sectors involved in agriculture across counties and regions. The program includes industry updates, activities in organizations and communities, and social events city sponsored. All of the conference has a focus on information exchange and exploration of future needs community-based.

The first conference was organized in Toyohashi, Japan, 5-6 August 2005, the second was in Pyeongtaek, Korea, 2-4 August 2007, and the third was in Beijing, China, 14-17 October 2009. The fourth ACPA comes in Obihiro City, a north of Japan, specialized by its green-innovative city.

We would like to call all of you who combat the global crises of food and natural resources using PA technologies, and who contribute local community and industry development with agriculture, and who create agro-information technology. We are looking forward to seeing all participants in Obihiro.

Prof. Sakae SHIBUSAWA
Chair of Management Committee of Asian Conference on Precision Agriculture

Conference and venue

The Fourth Asian Conference on Precision Agriculture (ACPA) will be held at Tokachi Plaza in Obihiro, Hokkaido, JAPAN. The Tokachi Plaza is a fine convention center and is conveniently located besides the JR station of Obihiro. Obihiro is a major city of Tokachi region in Hokkaido and is located at the center of Tokachi region. Tokachi region is the biggest agricultural land in Japan. Conference participants enjoy the Japanese local country scenery and the beauty of nature.

Conference themes

Conference themes include, but are not limited to:

- Session 1: Technology (Sensors, VRT, Robot, Plant Factory, Mechanization, etc.)
- Session 2: Natural Resources Variability (Soil, Water, Crop Growth, Canopy, Yield, Terrace, etc.)
- Session 3: Paddy Management (Irrigation, Nutrient, Farm Works, Processing, Marketing, etc.)
- Session 4: Remote Sensing (Hyper-spectral, Satellite, Airborne, Ground-base, FTIR, etc.)
- Session 5: Decision Support (GIS, Good Agricultural Practice, Hands-on Software, etc.)

- Session 6: Field to Table (Reliability, Traceability, Business Model, Marketing, HACCP, etc.)
- Session 7: Precision Livestock Farming (Instrumentation, Traceability, Waste Control, etc.)

How to submit an abstract/full paper

Abstracts and full papers will be handled by the conference web-site. The length of the abstract should not exceed 300 words. The abstract will be peer-reviewed.

Abstract submission deadline: **29 April 2011**

Full paper submission deadline: **31 May 2011**

Conference fees

	Early Bird registration fee (until 30 April)	Registration fee (after 1 May)
Regular participants	50,000 JPY	60,000 JPY
Students	30,000 JPY	40,000 JPY
Accompanying Person	20,000 JPY	30,000 JPY

Payment of the registration fee will entitle to receive:

- Conference CD-ROM
- Access to conference social program

- Conference welcome kit
- Guided Technical Tour

Other information

The conference language is English.

The conference web-site:

<http://acpa.bpe.agr.hokudai.ac.jp/>

Please access the conference web-site for the abstract and paper submission and check the updated information. The registration will also be achieved via this web-site.

The conference proceedings and its CD-ROM will be available for participants.

The web-site of Obihiro city:

<http://www.city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp/kurashiindex/e010101.jsp>

Secretariat: Assoc. Prof. Takashi KATAOKA,
Hokkaido Univ. Japan
acpa2011@bpe.agr.hokudai.ac.jp
Phone & Fax: +81-11-706-2555

5. OTHER ACTIVITIES

DEBRIS FLOW 2012

4th International Conference on Monitoring, Simulation, Prevention and Remediation

29-31 May, 2012, Dubrovnik, Croatia

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/debris2012>

Debris Flow 2012 is the fourth conference in this successful series which started in Rhodes, Greece (2006); followed by the New Forest, UK in (2008) and Milano, Italy (2010).

The conference will provide a forum for engineers, scientists and managers from laboratories, industries, governments and academia to interchange knowledge and expertise in fields such as erosion and slope instability, sediment transport, debris flow and debris flood data acquisition, debris flow phenomenology and laboratory tests, using the most advanced, state-of-the-art methodologies in monitoring, modeling, mechanics, hazard prediction and risk assessment of debris flow phenomena.

Conference Topics

- Debris flow modelling
- Debris flow triggering
- Risk assessment
- Hazard mitigation
- Sediment transport and debris flow
- Monitoring and analysis
- Landslide phenomena
- Debris flow rheology
- Active and passive disaster management
- Vulnerability studies
- Structural and non-structural controls
- Field tests

Organiser

Wessex Institute of Technology, UK
University of Milano, Italy

Conference Coordinator

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FRIAR 2012

3rd International Conference on Flood Recovery, Innovation and Response

30 May-1 June, 2012, Dubrovnik, Croatia

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/12-conferences/friar-2012.html>

FRIAR 2012 is the third conference in this successful series. The conference started at the Institution of Civil Engineers in London in 2008 and was reconvened at the Lombardy Region in Milano in 2010. Flooding is a global phenomenon that claims numerous lives worldwide each year. In addition, many more people must endure the homelessness, disease and crop failures that are left in the wake of floods.

Conference Topics

- Flood risk analysis
- Flood risk management
- Urban flood management
- Flood forecasting
- Risk assessment and decision making

- Flood case studies
- Community resilience to flooding
- Energy preparedness and response
- Critical infrastructure protection
- Flood consequence assessment

Organiser

Wessex Institute of Technology, UK
 Politecnico di Milano, Italy
 University of the West of England, UK

Conference Coordinator

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**Report on the 21st Annual Meeting of
 the Club of Bologna
 13-14 November, 2010
 EIMA 2010, Bologna, Italy**

On November 12th through 14th the Club of Bologna (CoB) met at the BolognaFiere, Bologna, Italy. The CoB is focused on improving the human condition worldwide through strategic direction of developments in agricultural mechanization. The CoB is sponsored by UNACOMA and includes experts with broad international representation. Fifty member of the club representing 15 different countries were present. CIGR was represented at the meeting by Fedro Zazueta.

Proceedings of the CoB were led by President Luigi Bodria. Strategic discussions focused on present and future developments on the use of electric power in agricultural machinery, including electric drives, hybrid systems, and challenges related to farmer acceptance, manufacturing, standards and compatibility with existing devices. In addition, advances and industry trends in automation of agricultural machinery were discussed, including the impact of advances in knowledge related fields directed towards higher levels of automation, autonomy, reliability and robustness. Finally, methodologies were discussed to improve communication amongst researchers and industry, including advancing a DB of specialists and agricultural machinery projects. Those working in this area and that are interested in participating or being included in this DB please contact Roberto Oberti (roberto.oberti@unimi.it) or Hermann Auernhammer (Hermann@Auernhammer.de).

For more information about the Club of Bologna see www.clubofbologna.org.

*Prof. Fedro Zazueta
 President of CIGR*

**Participation as CIGR representative to
 the 140th Session of the FAO Council,
 29 November - 3 December 2010, Rome, Italy**

It was a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to participate to the Hundred and Fortieth Session of the FAO Council as CIGR representative.

During the five days of the Council (Rome, 29 November - 3 December), I participated to the works having the possibility to acquire very important information and working methodologies of this fundamental Organization for the human being advance and the fight against hungry and poverty all the world.

I prefer to write this very synthetic informative, instead of making a real report because all the documents are freely available at the web url
http://www.fao.org/unfao/bodies/council/cl140/index_en.htm.

First, I would like to stress the importance of the participation of CIGR to the FAO Council.

In my opinion, this participation allows the linkage of technical organization, such as CIGR, with International Governing Bodies focusing on the general objectives with a broader world overview.

Coming to the technical points discussed in the five days, I would like to underline those that in my opinion were the most important to strengthen the FAO world actions, that are also strictly connected with CIGR aims and activities.

On Tuesday 30 November, the great initiative 1billionhungry was presented by the FAO Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf who said "People from all over the globe are demanding change, urging political leaders to take action and to tackle the root causes of hunger and food insecurity". The initiative is manifested through an online petition www.1billionhungry.org which more than 3.2 million of people signed up to put pressure on politicians and to urge governments to act on hunger. The initiative was supported by NGO's, private companies, celebrities and sports and cultural events. Due to the fundamental importance of this initiative, I think that the CIGR should support and promote it spreading this petition within all the members.

Besides the problem of world hunger, I would emphasize three fundamental key points that I identified in the extensive discussions of the council: climate change, food security, and economics of food prices.

These aspects were declined in many different points of view considering local and/or global perspectives, causes and effects and linkage with many other productive and socio-economics aspects.

As general term of FAO functioning and activities, a large part of discussion was the budget and FAO reform and prioritization of actions.

The global crisis and the reduction of funding, requires intervention of a strong reform of the Organization that should consider the Central Structure and regional decentralization, the activities of the Regional Conferences

and Technical Committees and, mostly important, the prioritization of activities and interventions.

For example, the reports of the four Regional Conferences held in 2010 (31st Session for Latin America and the Caribbean; 26th Session for Africa; 27th Session for Europe; 30th Session for Asia and the Pacific) and technical committees reports (like 68th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, 22nd Session of the Committee on Agriculture, 20th Session of the Committee on Forestry, 36th Session of the Committee on World Food Security), stressed many different priorities like:

- climate change: studying, acting
- global food security and nutrition
- rural and economic development
- soil conservation and sustainable use
- water resource management and sustainable use
- conservation and management of plant and animal genetic resources
- knowledge management
- volatility of food prices
- forest sustainable management
- gender
- effective involvement from civil society as well as trade and industry
- efforts to establish closer linkages between CFS (Committee on World Food Security) and the Regional Conference
- postharvest losses
- statistics and data exchange
- integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation for food security and sustainable development in regions
- experiences and policy lessons from regions in dealing with the global food and financial crises
- increasing crop productivity for sustainable food security in developing countries
- FAO's strategy and approaches to disaster preparedness, response and mitigation in the region

- implementation of REDD (United Nations Collaborative Programme On Reducing Emissions From Deforestation And Forest Degradation In Developing Countries) and what it means for forestry and agriculture in the region
- international treaty on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
- implementation of the programme of work and budget 2010-11 and areas of priority actions for the regions for the following biennium
- assistance to define national economic, social, food and nutrition policies, with focus on capacity-building for least developed countries to meet global expectations and benefit from market opportunities;
- normative role at global level, as well as capacity-building to reinforce technical and institutional capacities, especially for least developed countries;
- implementation of food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary standards including global conventions;
- animal and plant transboundary diseases;

A large number of these priorities are certainly considered in the context of the objectives and specific activities of CIGR.

The role of agricultural engineering is fundamental in studying and reducing world hungry, climate change effects, increase food security, acquire and share data statistics and technologies. In such a way, I think that more efforts should be done to stress the importance and the role of agricultural engineering inside FAO programs and activities and, on the other side, to spread among the members the relevance of the linkage between CIGR and FAO.

With my best regards,

Prof. Paolo Menesatti
Board Member of CIGR sect. VI

6. PUBLICATIONS

**Agricultural Engineering International The
CIGR Ejournal**
Dr. Wang Yingkuan, Editor-in-Chief
ISSN 1682-1130
Submit manuscripts for peer review to
www.CIGRjournal.org

Since the implementation of Open Journal System(OJS) by the CIGR Journal, the numbers of manuscript submissions and registered users continue to increase. The table below shows the statistics for the CIGR Journal from October to December 2010 after using OJS.

Note: Percentages for peer-reviewed submissions sometimes may not add up to 100% as items resubmitted are either accepted, declined or still in the process of

review.

From October to December of the year 2010, 32 manuscripts have been submitted, which is less in number than 46 from July to September and 33 submissions from April and June. The average time to conduct a review and publish a manuscript is far more than 30 days (compared with the data from the first season). As we can see many submissions (68%) were in the queue awaiting review by section editors. This is due to a number of reasons, such as unsmooth transition after the retirement of some section editors, too much workload on limited number of section editors, improficiency of online review using OJS, and some other personal reasons. Many authors complain about the too long delay. Measures should soon be taken to speed up the review process.

Up to Mar.28, 2011, the total number of registered users in CIGR Journal through OJS reached 5738 with 2070 new users, registered readers 5233 with 2030 new, however, among which 978 were registered as reviewers in the journal database. Compared with the number of registered users at the end of 2010, there was a significant increase in the past three months. Owing to the incomplete registration information, particularly without reviewing interests, it is hard to select proper reviewers according to their expertise. CIGR Journal will warmly welcome your participation and appreciate your support. If you have not registered in the CIGR Journal, please do so by going to the Website and registering as an author and reviewer.

Moreover, there are in all 225 manuscripts submitted to CIGR Journal, with 11 papers accepted, and the rest still in process--under review or revision. Thank you.

Dr. Wang Yingkuan
Editor-in-Chief of CIGR Journal

2010 Statistics for the CIGR Journal
(October – December)

Issues (Vol.12, No.1, 2, 3, 2010)	published 3 (No. 3-4 together)
Items (Research papers)	published 23 in No.1, 16 in No. 2, 15 in No.3-4
Total new submissions	32
Peer reviewed	32
Delayed at section editor's hand	24 (68%)
In review with some review comments	5 (15%)
In review without review comments	3 (9%)
Accepted	1 (3%)
Declined	0 (0%)
Resubmitted	0 (0%)
Days from submission to complete review	Over 80
Days from submission to publication	Over 150

CIGR Section Boards (for 2011)

Section I:	<i>Land and Water</i>	(Chair: Guanhua Huang [China])
Section II:	<i>Structures and Environment</i>	(Chair: Thomas Banhazi [Australia])
Section III:	<i>Plant Production</i>	(Chair: John K. Schueller [USA])
Section IV:	<i>Energy in Agriculture</i>	(Chair: Janusz Piechocki [Poland])
Section V:	<i>System Management</i>	(Chair: Claus Gron Soerensen [Denmark])
Section VI:	<i>Bioprocesses</i>	(Chair: Linus Opara [South Africa])
Section VII:	<i>Information Technology</i>	(Chair: Seishi Ninomiya [Japan])

All correspondence and information on forthcoming activities should be sent to:

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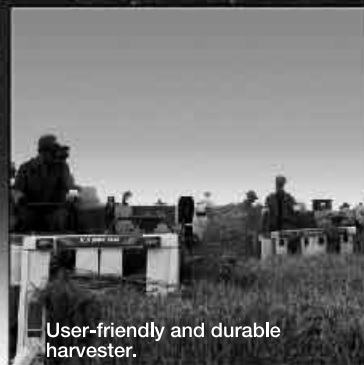
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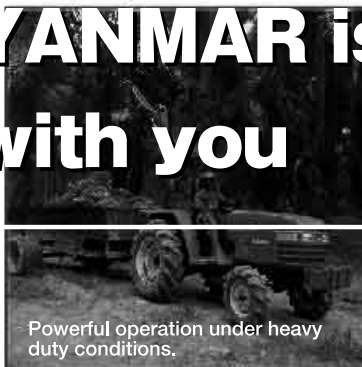
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