

Meetings

1,100 attend World Soya Conference

Approximately 1,100 persons participated in the World Conference on Soya Processing and Utilization held Nov. 9-14, 1980, at the Centro Aca-pulco in Acapulco, Mexico.

Most participants were technical program registrants, with approximately 100 exhibitor registrants, 250 students from institutions throughout Mexico and approximately 150 spouses' program registrants.

General Chairman William H. Tallent said he was satisfied the conference had met its objectives of sharing technology as well as establishing continuing dialog among researchers from different nations. "Certainly the quality of technical papers achieved the first aim," Dr. Tallent said, "and the lively discussions in the corridors, in the cafe area and in the hotels showed we developed the rapport we sought."

U.S. Under Secretary of Agriculture Alex Mercure, in his remarks during the opening ceremonies, said USDA seeks to promote open sharing of agricultural technology to help meet the

food requirements of a rising world population.

"Will the world heed the lessons of the energy crisis or will we continue to accord low priority to research and international collaboration until world food shortages become evident and trigger public response and pressure?" Mercure asked. "There are creative opportunities if we respond to the dilemma of the two questions posed. There are disastrous consequences if we don't."

Mercure and ASA President Frank Ray made their remarks in Spanish.

Ray said ASA members will continue to be reliable suppliers of soybeans and soybean products. Mexican manufacturers of edible fats and oils told ASA officials during the conference that by 1985, Mexico may be importing 3.5 million metric tons of U.S. soybeans annually. Current imports are about one million metric tons.

Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo, who had to cancel his participation shortly before the conference



Guerrero Gov. Ruben Figueroa Figueroa at opening ceremony

opened, was represented by Dr. E. Alvarez Luna, director of Mexico's national agricultural research institute. U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Julian Nava introduced Mercure.

The ASA and the Mexican soy processors association, the Asociacion Nacional de Industriales de Aceites y Mantecas Comestibles A.C. (ANIAME) were cosponsors for the meeting. ASA provided registrants with copies of a new monograph, *Handbook of Soy Oil Processing and Utilization*, published by AOCS in conjunction with

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Participants in opening ceremonies included (from left) AOCS Executive Director James Lyon; ASA President Frank Ray; Conference Cochairman Ernst Goebel; Conference Chairman William Tallent; Guerrero Gov. Ruben Figueroa Figueroa; Guerrero Agricultural Institute's Dr. N.M.S. Banafunzi; E. Alvarez Luna, director of Mexico's institute for agricultural research and representative of Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo; U.S. Under Secretary of Agriculture Alex Mercure; U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Julian Nava; and Local Chairman Gil Harrison of the ASA regional office in Mexico City.



U.S. Under Secretary of Agriculture Alex Mercure

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ASA. ANIAME provided the portfolios handed to registrants. An unexpected surge of 100 on-site technical program registrants outstripped supplies, unfortunately.

A proceedings of the plenary talks and most round table talks will be published in the March 1981 *JAOCS*. The proceedings will include comments by Mercure and Ray.

Conference cochairman Ernst Goebel, in his opening ceremony comments, noted a bit of serendipity that followed the selection of Acapulco, in the state of Guerrero, as the site of the conference. Unknown to conference organizers at the time of selection, the Guerrero agricultural institute in Iguala for several years has worked to increase local production of soybeans as a source of protein for human consumption. This institute, the Instituto Superior Agropecuario Autonomo del Estado de Guerrero (ISAAEG), provided usherettes for the conference, shuttle buses between Centro Acapulco and hotels, audiovisual equipment for round table discussion

rooms, and other administrative services and supplies. Most of the 250 students who attended plenary sessions were from the ISAAEG.

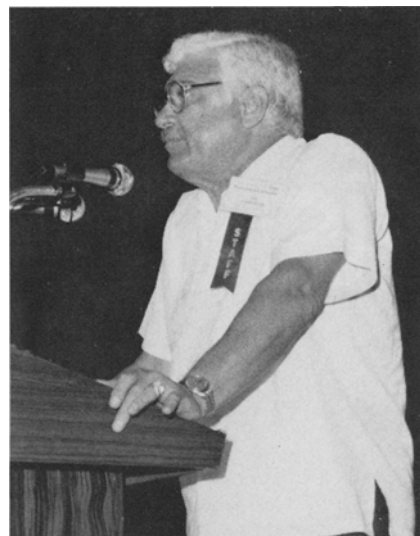
A staunch supporter of the ISAAEG soy program has been the governor of the state of Guerrero, Ruben Figueroa Figueroa. The governor not only participated in the opening ceremonies, but also attended technical sessions and other conference events during the week. On Thursday, Nov. 13, he arranged a dinner for conference registrants. The decision to hold the dinner was made at 3 p.m. in the afternoon and leaflets were distributed to round table discussion groups meeting at that time, and throughout the exhibit hall. Hotel El Cano chefs had four hours' notice to prepare a meal for approximately 400 persons. That evening, the dinner was served beneath thatch roofs on the shore of Acapulco Bay.

Approximately 35 organizations participated in the exposition accompanying the meeting. Exhibitors ranged from suppliers to the industry to producers of consumer products, as well as organizations promoting wider use of soybeans and soy products.

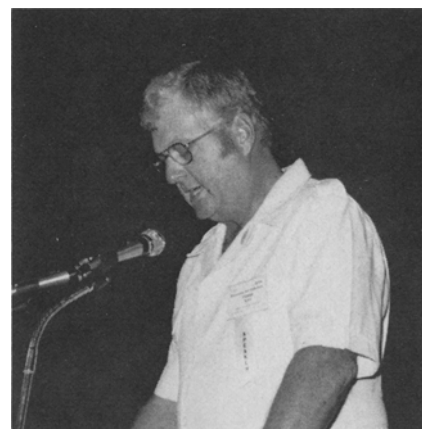
A last-minute change in the hall to be used for the exposition and for round table discussion rooms called for improvisation and adjustments by many exhibitors. Temporary walls erected between discussion rooms did not fit all the way to the ceiling, permitting sound to leak between adjacent rooms.

Social events throughout the week were well attended. A juice-biscuit-coffee buffet breakfast was held Monday morning, Nov. 10, before the opening ceremonies. That evening, several hundred registrants attended an outdoor reception at a patio of the Centro Acapulco, then had an opportunity to tour the center's entertainment, shopping and dining facilities, most of which were closed during the day when conference sessions were being held. On Friday evening, Nov. 14, a Mexican buffet was held in the gardens of the center, with spicy foods dominating the menu. The dinner was followed by a performance of the Guerrero Ballet Folklórico in an outdoor amphitheater at the center.

Spouses' program registrants, as usual, had more opportunities to see local sights than technical program



Gil Harrison speaks at opening session.



ASA President Frank Ray

registrants. Spouses' tours included a glass-bottomed boat visit to islands in Acapulco Bay, a shopping tour to the city's outdoor market and a visit to the famed Princess Hotel, including a luncheon and style show.

ANIAME, the Mexican soy processors group, used the occasion to hold the first general meeting of that organization since it was formed approximately 30 years ago. The event was held at the Princess Hotel, separate from the World Conference, and proved successful enough that the group has decided to meet annually. ANIAME officials were invited to attend portions of the conference and, in turn, invited some World Conference officials to their concluding banquet at the Princess. □



Registrants listen to simultaneous translation during opening ceremonies.