
Association News

Providing travel assistance for young WPSA members and students to participate in regional and global WPSA Conferences

It is generally agreed that enhancing the educational, research and experience opportunities of young poultry science professional and technical people is critical to the pace of development of more efficient poultry production, whether it is in an intensive technological industry or in small-scale, family production systems. It should also be stressed that any travel assistance we can provide should be independent of and in addition to that currently provided by World's Poultry Congresses, Regional Conferences or individual Branches. It should target and benefit additional students and young members, including young poultry producers from developing countries and students from developed countries. A scheme of open competition for such WPSA Travel Scholarships now is available. Applicants must be a member of WPSA for at least half a year before they can apply for a Travel Grant.

Applications must be accompanied by a short CV.

Deadlines

You must submit your application at least 3 months prior to the meeting.

Application form

Full details and application forms can be obtained from the WPSA secretariat (wpsa@xs4all.nl) or you can download the application form from the WPSA website (www.wpsa.com).

Please send the complete application form (preferably by e-mail) to the General Secretary of WPSA, Dr Roel Mulder, PO Box 31, 7360 AA Beekbergen, The Netherlands, e-mail: roel.mulder@wpsa.com or wpsa@xs4all.nl or fax to +31 207508941.

WPSA Website: www.wpsa.com

The WPSA website provides much valuable information about the organisation and activities of the Association, its regional federations and country branches. In addition there are regularly updated news reports from branch meetings, conferences and symposia organised by the specialist Working Groups, as well as a calendar of future events.

In order to keep it regularly updated, the

Association welcomes information and pictures from Branches, Regional Federations and Working Groups concerning activities of the various WPSA organisations, as well as news about appointment of officers and members.

Please send your information to Mrs D.M. Kleverwal, e-mail wpsa@xs4all.nl.

WPSA Speakers Bureau Fostering local and regional conferences in the poultry sciences

During the 34th meeting of the Board of WPSA on August 20, 2000 in Montreal, Canada it was recognised that branches in low income countries often do not have sufficient financial resources to fund overseas speakers, and furthermore, expert speakers on certain topics are not always readily available in these countries.

So the Board decided to create a Speakers' Bureau to assist branches in low income countries to cover the travel costs of expert international speakers. This measure is consistent with the key objective of WPSA to encourage and help facilitate liaison among research scientists and educators, and between those in research and education and those working in the many diverse sectors of the poultry industry. Under the Speakers' Bureau scheme, WPSA will pay only the cost of air travel (lowest economy class). Local expenses like accommodation are to be paid for by the local organizing branch. WPSA will not pay any honorarium to speakers.

The Speakers' Bureau is an expensive initiative and it is important that optimum value be obtained from the money spent on travel. This can be achieved by insisting that the visiting speaker provides more than just one paper at a conference. The visiting speaker could contribute in a variety of ways, e.g., present a second paper on a related topic, conduct a workshop for graduate students,

have small group or one-on-one interaction, especially with students, visit industry groups, visit university groups, etc.

Unless the Branch (or group of Branches) can pay all the speakers' costs itself, a speaker should NOT be invited until approval of Speakers' Bureau funds is made by the WPSA Executive Committee.

If a branch or a group of branches want to apply for Speakers Bureau assistance, there are certain application conditions as follows:

Application conditions

Application must be made using the WPSA Speakers Bureau application form.

Application must be submitted at least 2 months prior to the meeting.

The speaker must be a member of WPSA for at least 1 year at the time of application.

The speaker must contribute more to the meeting than just presenting one paper.

The speaker will be paid by the WPSA Treasurer and not by the local Branch.

The completed application form should be sent by e-mail to wpsa@xs4all.nl

or by fax to: +31 207 508 941.

If you do not have access to e-mail or fax you can send your application to:

WPSA, PO Box 31, 7360 AA Beekbergen,
THE NETHERLANDS

Foundation for Promoting Poultry Science Stichting Bevorderen Pluimveewetenschappen

The XIX World's Poultry Congress, held in September 1992 in Amsterdam, was financially successful. This outcome was, to a large extent, due to the contributions received from the 16 main sponsors and over 2500 participants. The terms of reference of the Congress Organizing Foundation required that any credit balance that resulted after all liabilities had been met should be made available to the Dutch Branch of WPSA as initiator of the organization of the Congress.

As a result, a Foundation for Promoting Poultry Science (Stichting Bevorderen Pluimveewetenschappen) was founded. The general objective of this foundation are "to promote the developments and propagation of poultry science in WPSA-structures, and specifically:

1. the stimulation of international congresses and the promotion of participation in these events, and

2. the support of initiative having the objective of establishing WPSA-branches in countries which do not yet have them”.

Individuals and organizations may apply for financial support for appropriate WPSA activities such as conferences, congresses and symposia. Applications for financial support of conferences, congresses and symposia should be forwarded through the local WPSA Branch.

The Foundation has a particular interest in assisting in the process of establishing new WPSA branches and therefore supports these branches by covering for three years part of the membership fees. Individuals and organizations may apply for financial support

by contacting Ir H. Hupkes, Odijkerweg 37, NL-3972 NE Driebergen, The Netherlands, e-mail: h.hupkes@zonnet.nl. An application form will be send on request.

The Board of directors of the Foundation meets three or four times a year. In case of requests for financial assistance to attend conferences, congresses and symposia, applications should be received by the secretary at least 3 months before the meeting.

Application forms should be filled out completely and can be send through e-mail and fax. An original application form should be send by regular mail.

It is the Boards policy not to fund individual applicants more than 2 times.

Online Journal subscription for WPSA members

The World's Poultry Science Journal has been available to subscribers on-line for the past three years. As a result of a change in our publishing partners (the on-line edition will be available from Cambridge University Press instead of CABI) and the work of a small sub-committee appointed at the 2005 WPSA Board meeting, members will have the option of receiving the Journal on-line instead of the print edition.

The system will be upgraded to permit searching of references, tracing citations etc. with a full range of electronic facilities.

The print version will continue to be the normal method for receiving the Journal. **if you wish to receive the on-line version instead, you must indicate this by completing the form on the WPSA website (www.wpsa.com).**

Most of the content of the Journal will now be included in the on-line edition with the exception of the advertisements. We will be developing a new page in the on-line version where all of our Gold and Silver sponsors will be identified, and provide direct links to their company websites.

E-mail WPSA Newsletter

WPSA has introduced a new version of the WPSA Newsletter that will be e-mailed to individual members, on request. To receive

this, please subscribe to the e-mail Newsletter on the website (www.wpsa.com).

World's Poultry Science Journal – Digital Archive

Access from the first issue in 1945 until 2003 online – a total of 240 issues!

Volumes 1 – 59 of World's Poultry Science Journal are now available on Cambridge Journals Online. The archive is fully searchable by keyword and author; abstracts can be saved and e-mailed, full text articles printed and bibliographic details exported into reference management software. Perpetual

Access is available for a one-off fee of just £500/\$995*.

For further information, or to purchase the WPSJ Digital Archive, please e-mail jnlsales@cambridge.org.

*For those who do not subscribe to the current volume, there is an additional annual

maintenance fee of £45/85, payable from the second year of the deal.

www.journals.cambridge.org/WPS

8th European Symposium on Poultry Welfare

From 18-22nd May 2009, the Italian Branch of the WPSA together, with European Working Group No. 9 (Poultry Welfare and Management) hosted the 8th European Symposium on Poultry Welfare in Cervia, Italy. Approximately 160 participants attended the Symposium, the objective being to communicate the latest developments in all areas related to poultry welfare. This included new husbandry systems, genetics, nutrition, health, organic production, transport and slaughter. Over the three days of the symposium, seven main lectures and 41 oral papers were presented, and a session

regarding the 52 posters presented was held. The main lectures and oral presentations explored a wide range of issues covering the most important avian species. During the Symposium, many different housing systems and management conditions were evaluated, and new methods and indicators for welfare evaluation were discussed.

The Symposium provided an opportunity for scientists coming from 28 different countries around the world to update their knowledge in the field of poultry management and welfare as well as to address future research projects.

Stemming the brain drain - Poultry Hub wins Education, Training and Public Outreach award

An award-winning online education centre, poultryhub.org, is helping to stem the brain drain from agricultural studies at Australian schools and universities. Developed by the Poultry Cooperative Research Centre (Poultry CRC), Poultry Hub is being used by students and educators from Australia and around the world to help them learn about poultry and poultry production, stimulating interest in poultry science and hopefully dispelling some of the myths and misconceptions surrounding poultry production at the same time.

The Cooperative Research Centres Association (CRCA) recognised Poultry Hub's efforts at its annual conference in Canberra on May 26, with Poultry Hub winning an Award for Excellence in Innovation at the CRCA Pathfinders Conference. The Award for Innovation in education, training and public outreach activities was presented by Senator Kim Carr, the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, to the Poultry CRC's chief executive officer, Professor Mingan Choct, at the Gala Dinner held in the Great Hall of Parliament House. Professor Choct said enrolments in university agricultural science courses were declining at a time when the key agricultural sector needed to skill up. "Demand for graduates in

agricultural science is projected to grow explosively as Australia defends its lead in the field," he said. The poultry industries, like all the agricultural industries, are struggling to attract and retain the talented young people required for long term sustainability.

In 2007, the Poultry CRC launched a website, poultryhub.org, designed to make it easier for people to find information related to poultry education and training opportunities. In less than two years, it has developed a dedicated comprehensive, innovative online resource, with a clear emphasis on improving the availability of resources dedicated to education and training. Recent additions to the constantly expanding resource include the Family Poultry Training Course manuals, developed by David Farrell, which is useful for school-based poultry keeping. The Trainers' Manual (for instructors) and Trainees' Manual complement each other and are designed for a commercial low biosecurity farm setting.

"There are dozens of manuals on village poultry available in several formats," explained David, "but these manuals are specifically designed to back stop a training course for village poultry keepers who may already be small-scale commercial poultry

producers or those who would like to be.” David Farrell has spent several years developing and writing poultry manuals for villagers in developing countries. One other manual for South African farmers is already on the CRC website.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN has praised Poultry Hub, which has had more than 1,000,000 page views and more than 11,000 edits on over 800 articles.

www.poultryhub.org

The importance of writing in poultry trade magazines

I have had the opportunity to work in the poultry industry before starting my graduate studies at different poultry research centres. At the time of this writing, the duration of my involvement in these two sectors may not have been very long but I believe that it has been long enough to provide me with some perspectives on the topic that I want to discuss here.

There is no doubt that researchers at poultry academic centres have been making significant contributions to the advancement of poultry science and the industry. Transfer of findings of the scientific projects to the audience should always be one of the main concerns. In my opinion, the most important audience of poultry research is the industry although some of the readers may not agree with me on this.

There are many ways that researchers can reach out to their audiences. Writing papers is a good way to let others know what researchers are up to. Poultry scientists typically have a very high tendency to publish their papers in peer-reviewed journals including *Poultry Science*, *World's Poultry Science*, *British Poultry Science*, *The Journal of Applied Poultry Research*, *Avian Diseases*, and *Avian Pathology*. There is a general consensus that research studies should be published in peer-reviewed journals (after fulfilling the required qualifications).

Is just publishing in these journals good enough? My answer is no although others may think differently. It does not seem very easy for peer-reviewed journals to find their

way to different sectors of the poultry industry or at least this is what I have been observing. What can be done to get the message out more efficiently? One of the most effective approaches to increase the exposure rate of research findings is to encourage researchers to also write for trade magazines (popular press) although I am aware that there might be some limitations in this regard.

There are many trade magazines which are published in various parts of the world in different languages. World Poultry and WATT Poultry magazines are two well-known examples with international reputation. By writing in poultry trade magazines, researchers may have a better opportunity to reach out to the real world (i.e. the industry) and present their work in a more practical manner. These magazines publish articles in a wide range of areas such as poultry genetics, nutrition, health, hatchery, further processing, and housing in meat- and egg-type poultry. The industry is definitely interested to interact with poultry researchers. We should never forget that the poultry industry and research centres need to constantly support each other. This is an unquestionable reality.

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Branch News

Brazil

Brazilian Poultry Science Congress and Exhibition: FACTA - the Brazilian Branch of WPSA - for the first time in association with UBA (Brazilian Union of Aviculture), ABEP (Brazilian Chicken Producers and Exporters Association) and FIERGS (Federation of Industries for the State of Rio Grande do Sul) - will hold the 21st Brazilian Poultry Congress at the FIERGS Exhibition & Convention Centre in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, on May 25, 26, 27 and 28, 2009. Held in one of the best exhibit halls, in Brazil, the Commercial Exhibition of the 21st Brazilian Poultry Congress has all chances to become the largest Brazilian poultry trade fair and one of the largest events specialized in poultry farming worldwide welcoming national and international exhibitors from all areas of the poultry industry.

Diseases of Poultry book review: The Brazilian Branch's best seller list has a brand new

edition! WPSA-BR has just released the second edition of its comprehensive textbook "Doenças das Aves" (Diseases of Poultry), originally published in 2000. This updated edition has been completely reviewed and extended. It contains 49 chapters with 1104 pages written by 78 poultry specialists from field consultants to university professors. Since the launching of the first edition, the book has served as a reference for avian medicine in Brazil and other countries in Latin America. The new edition was only possible through the support of 19 sponsors from the public and private sectors, and by the efforts of the WPSA-BR staff. According to the editors, the main objective of this book is to again demonstrate WPSA-BR's technical and scientific commitment to support Brazil's poultry industry. Sales for the second edition will begin during the 21st Brazilian Poultry Congress.

Chile

On the 5th of May 2009 the Chilean branch of the WPSA hosted their 5th Annual Symposium. The meeting was held at the Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias of the Universidad de Chile in Santiago, and was attended by over 60 people belonging to all segments of the national poultry industry. This latest event dealt exclusively with the quality of poultry products, since, as stated by the president of the branch Dr Tomás MacAuliffe in his opening speech, this constitutes a topic of high current importance particularly for countries participating in global trade. The WPSA Speakers Bureau sponsored the international speaker, Dr Sarge Bilgili of Auburn University, who gave the initial and the closing technical talks. Dr Bilgili's first talk was about ways of maximizing broiler meat yield prior to processing, while his closing address dealt specifically with the ever increasing threat posed by emerging chemical and biological contaminants of egg and meat poultry products. The attendees had

the opportunity of listening to an update on the quality status situation in the Chilean industry. Dr Andrea Kamp, a leading expert in her field, who presented the achievements as well as the future challenges regarding quality in the poultry meat industry. The situation faced by the egg industry was addressed by Dr María Soledad Villalobos, who has been a technical pioneer in the development of further processed egg products in Chile. At the roundtable following the meeting, besides the quality related questions, the crucial issue of research feedback and cooperation between industry, academia and government was addressed in depth. Concurrent to the Symposium, the initiative for organizing Working Group 5 was launched. Dr Andrea Kamp is currently heading this effort and contacting potential members of WG 5 in other Latin American Branches of WPSA.

Soledad Urrutia, Secretary

France

On 25th March 2009, the French branch of WPSA organized its annual meeting in Saint-Malo (France), regarding the 'Journées de la Recherche Avicole'. Pierre-André Geraert, the president, took this opportunity to present the different activities of the association during the year 2008. Every two years, the French branch of WPSA organizes the 'Jeudis de la WPSA' (http://www.wpsa.fr/site/Les_jeudis_de_la_WP-SA-87.html), a meeting of about 100 participants. In 2010, the topic for discussion will be the newly available tools for all those involved in poultry production. In 2008, the French branch of WPSA contributed to organising the European Symposium on Poultry Nutrition (with 4500 Euros funding) and it helped members to participate in different WPSA meetings, such as the World Poultry Congress (Brisbane, Australia), the first Mediterranean Poultry Congress (Chaldiki, Greece), and the first Egg Congress (Istanbul, Turkey); a total amount of 6000 Euros. For 2009 three new grants of 500 Euros each will

be attributed to young students aiming to attend International WPSA Congresses. In 2009, the French branch of WPSA sponsored the simultaneous translation (French/English) of debates during the 'Journées de la Recherche Avicole' (<http://www.journees-de-la-recherche.org/>) contributing to the success of this meeting, which will be held in France every two years in Tours or Saint-Malo. We observed an increase in the total number of participants (425 versus 385 in 2007), the number of foreign participants (45 delegates from 15 different countries versus 27 delegates representing 8 countries in 2007), and the percentage of participants from the industry (67% versus 61% in 2007). Out of 177 propositions, a total of 126 papers were accepted in 2009 compared to 117 propositions and 108 papers in 2007. Many French members are actively implicated in the organization of the next European Poultry Conference (Tours, France, <http://www.epc2010.org>).

Germany

Several symposia of WPSA Working Groups are planned in 2009, and the German Branch will again support the participation of young scientists with travel grants. After the highly

appreciated tour to the Baltic States in 2007, the German Branch is planning a 4-day-tour in the autumn of 2009 to Austria and Slovenia.

Israel

During 2009, the Israeli Branch is hosting three one-day seminars on current issues. The first one was held in February, in memory of Dr Nisan Rand, who passed away in December 2008. Dr Rand was a prominent nutritionist who contributed to the Israeli poultry industry as well as to WPSA for many years. During his career he was honoured as a distinguished member of the WPSA Hall of Fame for his International and National contribution to the poultry industry. During this meeting lectures healthy meat on production, feed additives and

the effect of probiotics fibres on the GIT development will be given.

The Israeli Branch is represented in most of the European working groups. This year the Branch will give its support to members who will attend the Nutrition, Genetics, Turkey production, Physiology, Egg and Meat quality working groups.

Prof Shlomo Yahav, Chairman
Mr Yitzhak Malka, Secretary

Japan

The Japan Poultry Science Association (JPSA) has organized two semi-annual meetings for 2009. The spring meeting was held on the Shonan Campus, Nihon University, Kanagawa Pref. on March 28th, and the autumn meeting will be held in Okinawa Pref. on September 26-27. The JPSA publishes the Journal of Poultry Science (JPS) quarterly. Issues are available online at <http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/jpsa>. The JPS has been selected for coverage in the Science Citation Index Expanded from 2008 issues and this journal will acquire an Impact Factor in 2010. Submission of review and original papers are invited. The JPS is now

receiving and processing ~140 manuscripts a year of which 80% are submitted from outside of Japan. The countries of the corresponding authors are distributed all over the world. The percentages of the submitted manuscripts by the continents are: Japan (21%), Asia (excluding Japan) 44%, Africa 17%, Europe 9%, North America 6%, South America 2%, and Oceania 1%.

Dr Kiyoshi Shimada, President of JPSA

Dr Tamao Ono, Secretary of Japanese Branch WPSA

Netherlands

Last year the board of the Dutch Branch of the World's Poultry Science Association had meetings with the board of "De Veetelers", the study association of the animal husbandry students at Wageningen University and with VVCF "De Uithof", the study association of the students of the Veterinary Faculty at Utrecht University. The main item of discussion at these meetings was: why is membership in the World's Poultry Science Association important for students. One of the issues discussed was the organisation of social meetings for students and companies operating in the poultry industry, so that the students can learn how those companies operate and why it is important to know each other.

The first social meeting was held on the 28th of April 2009 in Boxmeer, 'The Poultry capital of the World'. About 40 students from

Wageningen University and from the Veterinary Faculty of Utrecht University participated in the meeting. Excellent presentations were given by four companies who are domiciled in Boxmeer: Intervet/Schering Plough, Nutreco, Hendrix Genetics/ISA and Stork Food Systems. There was a lively discussion between the students and the speakers. In line with one of the major objectives of the WPSA, valuable information was exchanged.

After a tour of the premises of Intervet/Schering Plough, the meeting was closed with a dinner in the company restaurant. The meeting was very much appreciated by both the students and the representatives of the four companies that presented the overview of the worldwide activities of the four companies.

Nigeria

The Nigerian Branch instituted a bi-annual international poultry meeting in 2005, named 'Nigeria International Poultry Summit or NIPS'. The third edition of NIPS was held from 22nd to 26th February 2009 at Dheb Michael Events and Halls, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria. The event, with the theme 'Poultry Production in West Africa: Towards Millennium Development Goals', was attended by over 250 registered delegates and

several other unregistered participants from 12 countries - Australia, Belgium, Iran, India, Israel, Mali, The Netherlands, Nigeria, South Africa, Senegal, UK and USA. They included local and international experts, and other stakeholders from the poultry industry who were present to exchange up-to-date information on the state of worldwide poultry industry with special emphasis on Nigeria and Africa.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. P.C. Njoku, the President of the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science. Apart from the Proceedings that contain all papers, the following seven papers were also published in the *Nigerian Poultry Science Journal*, Vol. 5 No. 4, available at: www.wpsa-nb.org.ng/npsj.php?year=2008&number=4. These were entitled:

- *The Role of WPSA towards the Millennium Development Goals* by R.A.E. Pym
- *Opportunities and Challenges In The Use Of Alternative Feedstuffs In Poultry Production* by O. Adeola and O.A. Olukosi.
- *Breeding Broilers for Hot Conditions* by A. Cahaner, Hebrew University, Israel
- *The FAO Contributions Towards the Millennium Development Goals Through Poultry Production In Western and Central Africa* by E.F. Guèye, FAO, West Africa
- *Breeding Broilers for Production Systems in Africa* by V.E. Olori, Aviagen, UK
- *International Cooperation in Science and Technology in West Africa: A Response to*

Challenges in the Poultry Sector by E.B. Sonaiya.

- *Prospects and Challenges of Unconventional Poultry Feedstuffs* by Eustace A. Iyayt.

The website of the *Nigerian Poultry Science Journal* can be found at www.wpsa-nb.org.ng/npsj. The Summit included representatives from the Federal Minister of Agriculture, the governor of Ogun State, Agricultural Research Council, and the Federal Livestock Department. A special session on the control of the Avian Flu was organized with Prof. Johan Byse from the Catholic University, Belgium, with his co-researchers as speakers. This session was well attended by delegates and government officials. The summit was rounded off with a dinner for all delegates and a tour to the college of Animal Science and Livestock Production, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria and White Plain Farms Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria.

The 4th edition of the NIPS will be held in February, 2011.

Fafiolu, Adeboye Olusesan (PhD)

Romania

Planning for the next Poultry Industry Show, that will be held in November, 2009, is currently underway. During 2009, the Branch will also organize quarterly symposia on poultry health involving experts from research, education, and poultry health specialists from poultry farms and from animal veterinary services.

During June - July 2009, the Branch will hold a poultry nutrition symposium, in

cooperation with The National Institute for Animal Nutrition and Biology. Researchers and experts from research, education and production will take part.

The Branch also publishes a quarterly poultry magazine "Avicultorul" for poultry production experts. It also publishes a monthly bulletin "Buletinul Informativ Avicol" for commercial poultry farmers.

Singapore

The Singapore Branch highlighted the future role of antibiotics in a seminar entitled 'Looking at the trend of AGPs and probiotics'. The seminar highlighted the perennial role of antibiotics, the market's growing attention to probiotics and the trend these products are taking, through a seminar on April 28, 2009 at the Mandai Orchid Garden.

Dr Robert Swick, managing director of Linden Nutrition Pte. Ltd., presented the topic 'AGPs: Alive or Dead?' In his discussion, Swick pointed out that AGPs use in animal production can be categorized into two main types: therapeutic and growth promotion. Antibiotics have been added to feed since 1946 and that currently, 50% of these antibiotics already go into feed use. Swick

noted that response for antibiotics was best combined with modern genetics and commercial production practices, and now it has a global market of US\$1 billion.

However, since AGPs were banned in the EU in 2006 there has been a decline in feed antibiotic use due to public concern about drug-resistant bacteria. Yet Swick points out that, despite questions on the long-term benefits of AGPs, there has been no record of efficacy decline in over 47 years. In fact, one of its strongest points is still the improvement of FCR (feed conversion ratio) from -2 to 20%. With this, Swick asked the question whether antibiotics have been given a 'bad rap'. He says that at the end of the day, the question whether AGPs are alive or dead would have to be decided by the end-users or the public's perception on the matter. This in turn will dictate how feed-to-livestock production in relation to AGPs will take shape in the long run.

In another presentation, Mathieu Cortyl, general manager of Norel & Nature - Asia Pacific, posed the question on 'Probiotics: Alternative for antibiotics?' Cortyl said that the growing concerns on antibiotics, particularly the heavy reliance on it, are based on a couple of reasons like: possible presence of antibiotic residues in meat, milk, eggs, which can lead to toxicity (e.g. nitrofurans, chloramphenicol) or allergenicity (e.g. penicillin); the possibility to contribute to antibiotic resistance in bacteria in humans; residue concerns in water or soil; and general trend for 'greener' agriculture especially in EU after the previous cases of BSE, FMD or dioxin contamination.

With these issues on antibiotics, there have been several candidate ingredients put forward

to replace antibiotics, which includes probiotics. Cortyl defined what probiotics mean in this particular industry as 'beneficial microorganisms that improve animal production'. Cortyl acknowledged that the efficacy of antibiotics is known and proven, yet more and more data shows benefits of probiotics (both technical and economic). Since probiotics participate in a natural way to promote the right balance of the GIT flora, improve digestibility of feed, and contribute positively to the immune system, probiotics can be more than an alternative, especially because they are more acceptable to the consumer, he adds.

Leaving the discussion with a few thoughts to ponder on, Cortyl quoted Dr Margaret Mellon, director of food and environmental programmes (US), saying 'Antibiotics are a precious resource and should only be used when necessary'.

With key figures attending the seminar, the discussion led to a single point and that is to prioritize the interests of the consumers first and foremost. This, the experts say, will dictate the general trend of how AGPs and probiotics will be seen and patronized in the markets.

After the interesting debate, Dr Chin Sou Fei, President of WPSA's Singapore Branch, opened the Annual General Meeting. The meeting reviewed the past year's activities, allowed for the planning of future meetings and further elaborated course of actions. The evening ended with a dinner.

If you want to know more about WPSA Singapore Branch, feel free to contact Elaine Chia (Secretary) at elainechia@efeedlink.com. This article was first published on [eFeedLink.com](http://efeedlink.com).

Togo

The Togolese branch is organising a two-day symposium to be held on the 21st and 22nd August 2009. The subject matter will cover the 'Promotion of the Poultry Industry in Sub-Saharan African Countries'. At the present time, over 100 participants from Ghana, Benin, Nigeria and Togo are expected to attend the symposium. This symposium will be held at the Campus of University of Lome, Lome, Togo.

Several speakers have been invited from both international and national universities, and from the poultry industry. They will be on hand to discuss a number of topics related to bottlenecks that are present for the African poultry industry, and the importance of the African industry in the world. The speakers will include: Prof. E. Decuypere from Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, who will speak on '*double purpose chickens and*

longevity in laying hens: possibilities for improving poultry production and *aspects of nutrition in laying hen*. Dr P. Simons, Former Secretary of WPSA based in The Netherlands, will speak on the *evolution of poultry*

production in the world and implications for the African continent; and Dr J. Tona, Togo, who will speak on *aspects of incubation and chick quality*.

USA

The USA Branch will again sponsor its WPSA Lecture during the annual Poultry Science Association Meetings, to be held at the new Raleigh Convention Center in Raleigh, North Carolina on July 20-23, 2009. The PSA Meetings are being hosted by the Association and by the Department of Poultry Science at North Carolina State University. The WPSA Lecture is being chaired by Dr R.E. Buresh,

and will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2009, in Room 301 A & B. Dr G.C. Weigel, BASF, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, will present the lecture entitled 'The Private Sector and GMO's: Current Realities and Near Term Objectives'. Registration and programme information for the 2009 PSA Meetings can be found on the Association's website: www.poultryscience.org.