1. Welcome

This year the Commission has been, and will continue to collaborate with, other Sections and Commissions in organizing a range of different scientific sessions and workshops in 2012 and into 2014. In October/November 2011 Thailand experienced severe flooding which resulted in the postponing of the multiple international Symposia programs to February 21-24, 2012. These series of Symposia were extremely well received as well as the Train-the-Trainer Horticultural Business Workshop. "Postharvest Research, Education and Extension" is the theme of the 2nd Asia Pacific Symposium which is to be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, over the 18-20 September 2012 and where the Commission will also be involved.

Over the last decade we have seen a decline, particularly in the western world, in student numbers and academic programs in horticulture and horticultural science. Various reasons have been given for this decline, but the fact remains that horticultural commodities and services continue to contribute much to a county's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the employment market for graduates, technologists and artisans still remains strong. Recently Professor Jim Pratley, from Charles Sturt University and Secretary of the Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture, worked with an agriculture recruitment firm to track the number of employers seeking new graduates each year and estimated that "the nation needed 4,500 new agriculture graduates annually to replace those who are retiring. Universities are producing only 700 graduates a year". This statement can be substantiated in many other countries, particularly those experiencing increased urban populations and undergoing climate change.
The papers presented at the recent 6th International Symposium on Horticultural Education, Research Training and Consultancy, held in Lisbon, Portugal in 2010, indicate that academic and practical changes are underway in areas such as curriculum design, communication and marketing strategies, program delivery, and the promotion of horticulture as a career, and profession, and that we are on the vanguard of these changes.

Let's welcome in 2012 and work towards a rewarding and productive year for all of us.

Sincerely
David Aldous and Alan Hunter

2. News and Views

Horticultural Business Management Train-the-Trainer Workshops

As part of the multiple international symposia held in Thailand over February 21-24th, 2012 the ISHS Commissions; Education Research Training and Consultancy, Economics and Management and Quality and Postharvest Horticulture incorporated a successful "Horticultural Business Management Workshop". Twenty-five registrants participated in the workshop which was facilitated by Dr Peter Oppenheim (Chair, Commission Economics and Management) who introduced the participants to a variety of business management concepts and techniques. Among the topics covered were: the need for growers to develop a business strategy, techniques used to analyze on farm and off farm opportunities, horticultural production planning and financial planning and control using whole farm budgeting methods. The workshop added value to the symposia and could easily be adapted to local conditions in other countries around the world. Further information on this train-the-trainer workshop from the Chair, Commission Education, Research Training and Consultancy, Adjunct Associate Professor David Aldous on dealdous@gmail.com

The next Train-the Trainer - "Horticultural Business Management" Workshop has been planned in association with the 2nd Asia Pacific Symposium on Postharvest Research, Education and Extension in Yogyakarta, Indonesia over 18-20 September 2012.
The theme of the 29th International Horticultural Congress is ‘Horticulture - sustaining lives, livelihoods and landscapes’ and has been chosen to highlight the value of horticulture in addressing the key issues of modern society - health, wealth and the environment. Horticulture and horticultural science matters to all humankind, whether we are involved in research, extension, education, servicing horticulture in production, in an amenity or environmental horticulture capacity, or working in developed or developing countries. Look to our website on [http://www.ihc2014.org/](http://www.ihc2014.org/), get on our e-newsletter list, and plan to attend and contribute to the 29th International Horticultural Congress over 17-22 August, 2014, in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. For all enquiries please contact: Dr Russ Stephenson on Russ.Stephenson@deedi.qld.gov.au; Tel: +61 7 5453 5900; Fax: +61 7 5453 5901; PO Box 5083 SCMC, Nambour, Qld 4560, Australia or Suellen Holland, Executive Manager, ICMS Australasia Pty. Ltd., 2014IHC Congress Organizers, on suellenh@icmsaust.com.au.
Planning for the 7th International Symposium on Horticultural Education, Research Training and Consultancy.

Both the Vice-Chair Alan Hunter and Chair David Aldous of the Commission Education, Research Training and consultancy are in the early stages of preparing for the 7th International Symposium on Horticultural Education, Research Training and Consultancy which will be held over the 17-22nd August, 2014 in Brisbane, Australia as part of the 29th International Horticultural Congress. Discussion needs to centre on a theme, and the establishment of an organizing, scientific and editorial committees. Members that are interested in participating on these committees should contact Alan Hunter (alan.hunter@ucd.ie) or David Aldous (dealdous@gmail.com) over the next two months. Committee work can be very rewarding particularly for some of the younger members of the Commission.

3. Recent Reports, Articles, WebPages and Forums on Horticultural Education

This is a selection on reports and reference sources taken from the web, or contributed by members on horticultural education and sourced for your information. If there are other significant horticultural education and training resources that you wish to share with members we can include their source in this section.


Abstract. In recent years horticulture has been a rapidly expanding industry in Australia and New Zealand, with an increase in the value of both the production and lifestyle sectors. In contrast, the last 25 years has seen a significant decline in student numbers, graduates, course titles and descriptions of horticulture offered as applied science or horticultural science in Australia and New Zealand. A 2008-09 study evaluated the opportunities for horticultural education, training and careers in Australia and New Zealand. A survey was conducted in association with 20 Universities that offered agricultural/horticultural/environmental science programs both in Australia and New Zealand. Results show that horticulture has become marginalized within Australian and New Zealand academia and universities. Of the 47 recognized universities in Australia and New Zealand only 10 percent offered horticulture as a standalone degree program.

Less than 20 percent offered horticulture either as a major, as a core discipline area, or as an individual subject. This trend is less apparent in vocational education and training. Some initiatives are in place to address these challenges. These promote horticulture and/or science and improve program delivery (specializations, dual degrees, industry-based degrees). Other initiatives include the adoption of new methods of learning (e-learning, web-based systems) and approaches to promote horticulture as a career and profession. These and similar initiatives may help to improve the image of horticulture as a profession and ensure courses remain relevant in a changing world. To meet industry needs, future horticultural research, teaching and training may need to encompass technical, marketing and leadership skills.


Abstract. While the calm waters metaphor might explain the changes navigated by Australian agricultural education though most of its history, the last 20 or so years have been very turbulent. Now, the new millennium sees agricultural education in Australia and the Western World facing a different and less certain future. This paper analyses some of the structural changes to occur in the provision of higher agricultural education and revisits some of the key themes in the McColl Report, the last substantive review of Australian agricultural and related education. While this report foreshadowed
a weakening demand for educational places, it did not foresee the extent of
the decline in agricultural enrolments or the profound changes to the
provider landscape, particularly in the State of Victoria. Curriculum trends
are also having an impact on upon the visibility of agriculture within higher
education and this has implications for education-to-career transparency

4. Current Activities scheduled for 2012

The following meetings are where your Commission will be working in
a joint collaborative capacity with other Commissions or will have a
presence at a particular International Conference/Symposium.

21-24 February 2012 - QMSCO2011, SEAsia2011, APS2011 and
PPDM2011, Bangkok, Thailand. Recent floods that occurred in Thailand
over late October/ early November 2011 resulted in a postponement of the
Further information from Prof. Dr. Sirichai Kanlayanarat on
sirichai.kan@kmutt.ac.th.

27-28 August 2012 - Joint Executive Committee and Council Meeting -
Executive Committee, Fortaleza, Brazil.

6-8 September 2012 - 11th International People Plant Symposium,
Venlo, The Netherlands. Conveners: Dr Annette Beerens & Dr Konrad
Neuberger. A collaborative Symposium co-sponsored by the International
Plant People Symposium, & the Commissions on Landscape & Urban
Horticulture & Education, Research Training & Consultancy. Further
information on http://www.hozhq.com/home/7

18-20 September 2012. - II Asia Pacific Symposium on Postharvest
Research Education & Extension, Yogyakatai, Indonesia. Convener: Dr
Hadi Purwadaria. A collaborative Symposium co-sponsored by Postharvest
Horticulture Management & Quality, Economics & Management, &
Education, Research Training & Consultancy. A Train-the-Trainer
Workshop on "Horticultural Business Management" has been organise in
association with the Symposium. Further information on APS2012 can be
obtained from Dr Sutrisno Mardjan, Department of Mechanical and
Biosystem Engineering, Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) on email:
aps2012@ipb.ac.id or http://aps2012.ipb.ac.id
5. Future Activities

October-November 2013 - ISHS Joint Symposium on Horticulture and Human Wellness (Tentative) in collaboration with the Commissions Fruits and Vegetables and Health, Economics and Management, Quality and Post-harvest Technology and Education, Research Training and Consultancy, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA.


17-22 August 2014 - Horticulture and Urban Communities: People, Plants and Places (in collaboration with the 12th International People Plant Symposium), IHC2014, Brisbane, Australia. Conveners: Prof. Dr Candice Shoemaker, Prof. Dr. Gert Groening & Prof. Dr David Aldous. Collaborative Symposium co-sponsored by the Commissions of Landscape & Urban Horticulture & Education, Research Training & Consultancy.


6. Establishing Working Groups

Working Groups can be formed within the Commission on specific areas such as horticultural consultancy, horticultural extension, the impact of e-Resource learning in horticulture, and the use of bio and nano technology in horticulture. To get the groups off the ground we need an active leader from the membership to initiate the area of study. If you are interested in
forming a working group and taking on a leadership role please see http://www.ishs.org/science/workinggroups.php and contact either the Chair or Vice-chair.

7. Future Newsletters

Please remember, this is your e-newsletter. Forward your comments, suggestions, articles, or attendance at a function or Symposium that has relevance to other members to the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Commission for inclusion.

Sincerely,

David Aldous  
Chairman, Commission Education, Research Training and Consultancy  
International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS). Email: dealdous@gmail.com

and

Alan Hunter  
Vice-Chairman, Commission Education, Research Training and Consultancy  
International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS). Email: alan.hunter@ucd.ie