



2010 Annual International Conference

BIODIVERSITY AND WORLD FOOD SECURITY: Nourishing the Planet and its People

BIOGRAPHIES

(In order of presentation on the program)

CONFERENCE DINNER

STEPHEN D. HOPPER

Professor Steve Hopper is a conservation biologist and the 14th Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He holds Visiting Professorships at the University of Reading, The University of Western Australia and at Kings Park and Botanic Garden in Perth and is a Fellow of the Linnean Society and a Corresponding Member of the Botanical Society of America. He was awarded the Nancy T. Burbidge Memorial Medal from the Australian Systematic Botany Society in 2008 and an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Western Australia in 2010. Steve Hopper has been involved in the collaborative description of over 300 new plant taxa and is author/co-author of over 260 scientific publications (130 peer reviewed), and 14 books and monographs. He has led the development of a forward 10 Year Breathing Planet Programme for Kew and its global partners. This collaborative Programme aims to make an urgent and necessary step change in the application of science-based plant diversity solutions towards sustainable living and a reasonable quality of life in the face of accelerating climate change and the loss of biodiversity.

JAMES INGRAM

James (Jim) Ingram is a former career Australian diplomat and international civil servant who was Chief Executive of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) for ten years from 1982, for which Jim received international recognition. WFP is the world's largest humanitarian organization, feeding over 100 million people annually. In 1992 Brown University granted him the Feinsein World Hunger Award and in 2000 WFP made him one of its two inaugural 'Food for Life' awardees. Jim was Director General of Australia's international development assistance agency (current title AusAID) from 1977–1982. He worked closely with Sir John Crawford and was instrumental in promoting science and technology in the aid program, including the establishment of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. In 1984 he was made an Officer in the Order of Australia. During Jim's diplomatic career he worked in Tel Aviv, Washington DC, Brussels, Jakarta, the United Nations mission in New York, as Ambassador to the Philippines, and High Commissioner in Canada and the Caribbean. In retirement Jim has maintained his interest in international agricultural development including membership of the Board of the International Food Policy Research Institute, chairmanship of the Crawford Fund and of the Fund's 2008 Task Force on the world food crisis. His book, *Bread and Stones: Leadership and the Struggle to Reform the United Nations World Food Programme*, was published in 2007.

PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

THE HON NEIL ANDREW AO

Neil Andrew was brought up in the South Australian Riverland, where his family and later Neil had interests in horticulture. He was an active participant in the SA Agricultural Bureau movement, and was Chairman from 1980 - 1982. In 1975, he was awarded a Nuffield Agricultural Scholarship to make an overseas study tour. In 1983, he was elected to the Australian Parliament as the member for Wakefield in the House of Representatives. With changes in the boundaries of his electorate, he later moved to Gawler. He held various positions including that of Government Whip from 1997, and from November 1998, became Speaker of the House of Representatives. Neil retired from the position and from his seat in November 2004. He now lives in Adelaide and became Chairman of the Crawford Fund on the retirement of The Hon Tim Fischer in June 2005.

THE HON STEPHEN SMITH

Stephen Smith was sworn in as Minister for Foreign Affairs on 3 December 2007. Mr Smith is a Barrister and Solicitor by profession, and completed his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws at the University of Western Australia, practised as a Barrister and Solicitor in Perth, then completed a Master of Laws at London University, and subsequently lectured and tutored in Law in London. From 1987 to 1990 he was the State Secretary of the WA Branch of the Australian Labor Party and from 1983 to 1987 he was Principal Private Secretary to the Attorney-General of WA. During 1991 and 1992, Mr Smith was Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Australia and Senior Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer of Australia, Paul Keating. Mr Smith has been the Federal Member for Perth since March 1993. Prior to his appointment as Foreign Minister, Mr Smith held a range of Shadow Ministerial positions.

CRISTIAN SAMPER

Dr. Cristián Samper is the Director of the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. Prior to joining the Smithsonian in 2001, he was the founder and first director of the Alexander von Humboldt Institute, and was awarded the National Medal of the Environment by the President of Colombia in 2001. He served as the Chairman of the scientific advisory body of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, and was one of the leaders of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. He is Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of Colombia and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World. He currently serves on the board of directors of the American Association of Museums, The Nature Conservancy, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Harvard University.

HUGH POSSINGHAM

Professor Hugh Possingham FAA is an Australian Research Council Federation Fellow, member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, Director of the Applied Environmental Decision Analysis Centre (AEDA) and Director of The Ecology Centre at the University of Queensland. He completed Applied Mathematics at The University of Adelaide before attaining a Rhodes Scholarship to undergo a DPhil at Oxford University.

An ARC QEII Fellowship at ANU followed. In 1999 he was awarded the POL Eureka Prize for Environmental Research. He went on to attain the inaugural Fenner Medal for plant and animal biology from the Australian Academy of Sciences (2000), the Australian Mathematical Society Medal (2001), ARC Professorial Fellow (2003), Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science (2005), ARC Federation Fellow (2006), Sherman Eureka Prize for Environmental Research (2009). He has a variety of broader public roles, advising policy makers and managers due to his role on the boards of several committees including The Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists; Queensland Smart State Council; Council of the Australian Academy of Science and NGO scientific advisory committees. He is also the chief editor of Conservation Letters.

CONALL O'CONNELL

Dr Conall O'Connell was appointed Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in 2007. Prior to his appointment, he was Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Environment and Water Resources (DEWR). His responsibilities in that Department included overseeing policies and programmes relating to natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, the marine environment and protected areas. From 1991 until he joined DEWR in 1997, he held various positions in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet where he handled Australian Federal-State relations, primary industries and environment policy. He has a PhD and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons 1) from the Queen's University of Belfast.

LOIS RANSOM

Lois Ransom is the Chief Plant Protection Officer (CPPO) in the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. She is a plant pathologist by training and practice and has worked in most areas of plant health spanning pesticide efficacy testing; research, development and extension for better disease management in Tasmania's vegetable and medicinal crops; and quarantine and export policy and operations with the Australian Government. She was Australia's Agriculture Counsellor in Tokyo from 2000-2003. As the CPPO she is a focal point for national and international plant health with a significant leadership role in the ongoing development of Australia's plant biosecurity system.

KENG-YEANG LUM

Keng-Yeang Lum first visited Australia as a Colombo Plan scholar to study agriculture at the University of Adelaide in 1966. He now leads a team of scientists in international development activities at CABI Southeast & East Asia. He chairs ASEANET, the Southeast Asian LOOP of BioNET International, is a member of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols, and has worked in various capacities with the AusAID-funded SPS Capacity Building Program, the ASEAN Australia Development Cooperation Program, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia and the Asian Development Bank. He continues to lead various regional plant health capacity building initiatives, including the ASEAN Regional Diagnostic Network.

SHAUN COFFEY

An agricultural scientist by training, Professor Shaun Coffey has held a number of senior positions in Australian agriculture, including Director of R&D in the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, and Foundation Chief of the CSIRO Division of Livestock Industries. Since 2006 he has been Chief Executive of Industrial Research Ltd, a Crown-Research Institute providing R&D support for the food, manufacturing and industrial sectors in New Zealand.

TJ HIGGINS

TJ Higgins is an Honorary Fellow of the CSIRO Plant Industry. He has a Bachelor and Master of Agricultural Science from the National University of Ireland and also completed a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of California. Dr TJ Higgins first came to Australia as a postdoctoral fellow with the Research School of Biological Sciences at the Australian National University. He is the recipient of a number honours and awards including: Peter Goldacre Award from the Australian Society of Plant Physiologists; Pharmacia-LKB Biotechnology Medal from the Australian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Fellow of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering; and Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. His work at the CSIRO involves protecting food legumes from insect damage and the application of gene technology for plant improvement. His current research is focused on international agriculture with particular emphasis on West Africa and India and he has a special interest in public awareness of science.

NICK AUSTIN

Dr Nick Austin is Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). Dr Austin joined ACIAR in June 2009 from the NSW Department of Primary Industries where he was Deputy Director-General and led the Agriculture, Biosecurity and Mine Safety Division. Prior to that he led the Department's Science and Research Division and undertook or managed research projects across several areas including dairy, cotton, grain, livestock and wool. He has also held senior positions in the Victorian public sector and he has participated in high-level inter-jurisdictional committees and worked collaboratively with a number of peak industry bodies. Dr Austin is a hydrologist by training and has a broad background in agricultural and natural resource research and policy. Educated at the University of Melbourne and University of Sydney, Dr Austin holds a Doctor of Philosophy, a Master of Sustainable Management and a Bachelor of Engineering (Agriculture) degree with Honours.

ALLY OKEYO MWAI

Okeyo is a Kenyan scientist who holds a PhD in Animal Breeding and Genetics from the University of Nairobi and a Master in Animal Science from the University of California. Okeyo has more than 28 years of experience in research and leadership on ruminant livestock genetic improvements in Africa and Asia. He leads livestock breeding strategies research at the International Livestock Research Institute and is a member of several international professional boards. Okeyo has contributed to 125 journal and conference articles. His main interests are: how to enable better utilization of

indigenous livestock through community-based initiatives; innovative application of genomic technologies; and facilitating pro-sustainable production policy changes.

MERYL J WILLIAMS

Meryl J. Williams holds a portfolio of non-executive leadership positions, including chair of the Commission of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Vice-Chair of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility, member of the Governing Board of ICRISAT, member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Census of Marine Life and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee of the International Sustainable Seafood Foundation. From 1994 - 2004, Dr Williams was Director General of the WorldFish Center, one of the CGIAR Centers. She concentrated the focus of the WorldFish on eradicating poverty, improving people's nutrition, and reducing pressure on the environment. Dr Williams was also previously the Director of the Australian Institute of Marine Science and Executive Director of the Bureau of Rural Sciences. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Science, Technology and Engineering and has been recognized by a number of awards, including Australian Centenary Medal, Honorary Life Member of the Asian Fisheries Society and Outstanding Alumnus of James Cook University.

LUCA TACCONI

Luca Tacconi's research focuses on the economic, political, and social factors that drive environmental change, resulting in loss of biodiversity and climate change – and their implications for rural livelihoods and poverty. His current research concerns governance, social and economic aspects of deforestation and climate change, payments for environmental services, and research methods for environmental management. Prior to joining ANU, he had been a senior scientist at the Center for International Forestry Research and a Rural Development Adviser with AusAID. His latest book regarding payments for environmental services, livelihoods and deforestation, will be published later this year.

LINDSAY SLY

Emeritus Professor Lindsay Sly was Professor of Microbial Systematics and Microbial Ecology, Director of the Centre for Bacterial Diversity and Identification, and Curator of the Australian Collection of Microorganisms in the School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences at the University of Queensland where he undertook research and teaching of the biodiversity, physiology, metabolism and ecology of bacteria from natural and industrial environments. His research has made major contributions to expanding knowledge of microbial diversity, to the understanding of phylogenetic relationships amongst species in a diverse range of bacterial and archaeal divisions, and to the development of molecular tools for the identification of specific bacteria in pure culture and in microbial communities. In 2001 his contributions were recognised with the prestigious international Bergey Award. He was President of the World Federation for Culture Collections from 1996 - 2000 and is currently Chair, Council of Heads of Australian Collections of Microorganisms.

JAMES BRADFIELD MOODY

James Bradfield Moody is the Executive Director of Development at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) - one of the world's largest and most diverse scientific global research organizations. In this role he is responsible for CSIRO's future development projects and connecting the CSIRO with Australian and international government and industry partners. James is a member of the Advisory Board of the Australian Government Bureau of Statistics and a Board Member of the Brisbane Institute. He has been heavily involved with the United Nations and was Co-Facilitator and Australian Representative of the Youth Advisory Council to the UN Environment Programme and a Member and Executive Secretary of the taskforce on Science and Technology for the Millennium Development Goals. He was previously named Young Australian of the Year in Science and Technology and, more recently, one of the Australian Financial Review Boss Magazine's Young Executives of the Year. He is the author of *The Sixth Wave*, which describes the next wave of innovation and how to succeed in a resource-limited world. James is a regular panellist on the ABC TV television program *The New Inventors*.

PARLIAMENTARY BREAKFAST

KEITH PERRETT

Keith Perrett is the Chairman of the Grain Research and Development Corporation. He lives on his 1,000 hectare Gunnedah property in northern New South Wales where he farms wheat, barley, cotton, sunflower, sorghum, sheep and cattle. Keith was appointed as GRDC Chairman in October 2007. GRDC is a statutory authority established to plan and invest in R&D for the Australian grains industry. Its primary objective is to support effective competition by Australian grain growers in global markets, through enhanced profitability and sustainability. Its primary business activity is the allocation and management of investment in grains RD&E. Keith is the Chairman of the National Rural Advisory Council, which advises the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on rural issues, including Exceptional Circumstances declarations. He was President of the Grains Council of Australia between 2001 - 2005. He is a past Chairman of the New South Wales Farmers Association Grains Section, and has represented the grains industry at state and federal levels. Keith was the Chairman of the Wheat Research Foundation of New South Wales between 2000 - 2007. He was also a member of the Governing Council of the Plant Breeding Institute of the University of Sydney between 1997 - 2003.

EMILE FRISON

Emile Frison is Director General of Bioversity International, the world's largest international research organization dedicated solely to the conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity. He has spent most of his career in international agricultural research for development, starting at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nigeria in 1979. A plant pathologist by training, Dr Frison recently lead Bioversity, its stakeholders and partners in the formulation of a new strategic vision in which nutrition and agricultural biodiversity will play an important role in the overall goal of reducing hunger and poverty in a sustainable manner. He also leads the CGIAR System-Wide Genetic Resources Policy Programme and is a member of the CGIAR Genetic Resources Policy Committee, and the Board of Directors of

Ecoagriculture Partners. In September 2007, he was appointed as Extraordinary Professor in genetic resources by the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Dr Frison is a Member of the International Advisory Council of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault and Member of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust. He is author and co-author of over 150 scientific publications and is a member of several scientific societies.

MEGAN CLARK

Dr Megan Clark is the Chief Executive of the CSIRO. She has a Bachelor Science with Honours in Economic Geology from the University of Western Australia, a Doctor of Philosophy in Economic Geology from Queen's University in Canada. She is a member of the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC); St Vincent's Hospital Foundation Board Member, National Research Innovation Committee Panel Member and sits on the Automotive Industry Innovation Council. She began her career as a mine geologist and subsequently worked in mineral exploration, mine geology, research and development management, venture capital and technical strategy areas with Western Mining Corporation for fifteen years. More recently she was Vice President Technology and prior to that Vice President, Health, Safety, Environment, Community and Sustainability with BHP Billiton. In 2006 she was elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technology Science and Engineering and also awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree by the University of Western Australia.

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