

Chairman's Message

Dear fellow members,

Let me start with very good news, please: INSCA is in good shape again, and by the end of my term as Chairman of our great association next May it will also be financially sound. Here is a brief summary of what happened since our last annual convention in Cairo this May.

In the second meeting of the INSCA Board, after the Board elections which were held during the General Session, the Directors of the INSCA Finance Committee requested our then management company FBC, represented by its President Mr. Glenn Fellman, and our Counsel Mrs. Shirley Coffield to reassess their annual fees and offer their services at a reduced fee.

As the INSCA membership fee was not sufficient any more for the fees we used to pay each year, our Treasurer Mr. Michael Mayo therefore requested Mr. Glenn Fellman to reduce the management fee from US\$ 126,000 to US\$ 60,000 per year and Mrs. Shirley Coffield was asked to recalculate her annual retainer of US\$ 42,500, both offers to be submitted within 60 days after the meeting.

At the end of August, Mrs. Shirley Coffield had submitted her proposal with an unchanged annual retainer but the promise to substantially extend her work for our association. This offer was accepted by the INSCA Board of Directors. - I can gladly report today that she is keeping her promise.

On August 2, when we received Mr. Glenn Fellman's new offer, we all were very disappointed: He had reduced his annual fee from US\$ 126,000 to US\$ 120,000 only, an amount we were still unable to bear any longer. So the



INSCA Board decided to search for an alternative, moving away from FBC once more.

After a while, INSCA Vice Chairman Mr. Mounir Shehfe found the company *Concepts Consulting* in Alexandria, Egypt. *Concepts* presented a convincing offer at an annual management fee of US\$ 30,000. After thorough consideration by our Finance Committee, the offer was presented to the entire INSCA Board of Directors and Vice Presidents and it was agreed to move the INSCA headquarters to Alexandria.

As you all know, since September 1, 2005 our new Executive Secretary is Mr. Marwan El Messiry

Today I have the great pleasure to inform you that Mr. Marwan El Messiry already proved to us that we made the right decision. From November 2 - 5 the INSCA Board of Directors and Vice Presidents met for their second annual Board meeting in Frankfurt / Main, Germany.

We held a very successful meeting, with a great deal of this success being owed to the excellent job our new Executive

Secretary Mr. Marwan El Messiry delivered. Thank you, Marwan!

Here is the main outcome of what was discussed and decided.

Within the next few months the Internet appearance of INSCA will be changed significantly. We will hire a new Webmaster with new ideas and better performance, without spending more money on this issue.

The INSCA Bylaws Committee will revise each sentence of our Bylaws to adjust them to today's reality.

Vice Chairman Mr. Mounir Shehfe who is also Chairman of the joint INSCA / ENSCA / NANCA Scientific Working Group (SWG) will present to you the restructuring of this group at some other place in this Natural Link.

Your Board discussed the next annual meeting in Beijing in May 2006 and also the issue of non-member attendance. You will hear more about this at the right time. It's a pleasure for me to announce that our Nominating Committee under its Chairman Mr. Franz Kienast already found two candidates from North and South America and four candidates from Africa and Europe for our next Board of Directors elections in May 2006. You all will be informed in due time about details of this coming elections. The whole Board and I myself wish the candidates good luck for the elections, and many thanks to Mr. Franz Kienast and his colleagues on the Committee for their good job.

By giving you this general idea of what's going on in your association, I hope that I was able to make you, too, feel that we're back to normal now and do not have to waste any more time on internal affairs. Please allow me to use this message to express my sincere thanks to those who contributed to the conquest of the obstacles in our association's recent past. First of all I would like to thank Vice

Chairman Mr. Mounir Shehfe, not only once again for the excellent annual meeting we held in Cairo but also for his involvement in finding - and training - our new Executive Secretary. Thanks to our Treasurer Mr. Michael Mayo and his great assistant Mrs. Tina Moore who will continue to be our bookkeeper. Another thank you goes to all members of our Finance Committee - Mr. Mounir Shehfe, Mr. Michael Mayo, Mr. Allen Ross, Mr. Franz Kienast, Mr. Marwan El Messiry and Mrs. Tina Moore - for constantly watching INSCA's finances and supporting the move to Alexandria.

My thank you also goes to our Counsel Mrs. Shirley Coffield who is watching not only our Government Committee affairs much more intensely than she always used to anyhow. Shirley is currently working on the FMD issue and I'm sure that her work will be a big help for our industry world-wide.

Even before we held our meetings there, my special thank you goes to our Convention Chairman in China, Mr. Li Xizhong, and Mr. Hans Hansen who are currently organizing our annual meeting 2006 at the China World Hotel in Beijing, and also to Mr. José Maria Barea, our Convention Chairman for our annual meeting in Valencia, Spain, in spring 2007. Last but not least I would like to thank my wife Beate for organizing the Board and SWG meetings in Frankfurt. On behalf of the whole Board, "Well done."

Please, mark your calendars - the next annual meeting will be held in Beijing in the last decade of May 2006. I look forward to welcoming you there!

Manfred Grundt
INSCA Chairman

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The 2005 Board Meeting was held in Frankfurt, Germany at the luxurious Kampinski Hotel. Throughout the four days of the board meeting, the weather was unseasonably warm and comfortable (no doubt only **one** of the many things that Mrs. Chairman had arranged for). The Hotel was very appropriate for the board meeting, located in one of Germany's green areas with very nice views and the hotel staff was very welcoming. Members gathered in the German restaurant for dinner and enjoyed asking about each other news. The German restaurant next to the hotel was the place where you can find INSCA members at dinner throughout the event. The welcoming reception was held by the fireplace in the lobby lending a relaxed mood. Exchanges of smiles, news, and discussions were the theme of the welcoming reception.

The board meeting was held early on the third of November in one of the Kmapinski's large meeting rooms. The board members enjoyed coffee breaks, lunch and a gala dinner at the L'ovilo restaurant where everyone enjoyed the night and exchanged jokes and smiles. As the new INSCA Executive Secretary, I would like to thank the board members and Beate for a memorable first Board Meeting. As I stepped into my first real role in the industry, I was met with patience, kindness and faith. I have learned plenty and still hope to roll up my sleeves and learn even more about casings. It was great to finally place the faces with the emails and I was impressed with how professional and thorough a meeting can be with participants from different countries speaking different languages. I am sure that this is the kind of diversity that creates opportunities for success and advancement.

I still hope to generate new ideas for INSCA to serve its members. I will work hard to make the newsletter and the INSCA website useful, informative and fresh.



I encourage all members to use various communication channels to send me information, opinions and ideas. I have requested photos from everyone to use in the newsletter and various printed information that might pertain to a specific member. I believe this will enhance my sub-goal of a stronger brotherhood. Members will soon be asked to fill out a survey so that we can make the needed changes and additions and give members what they most deem as beneficial. I ask everyone to take the time to fill in the survey and make your voices heard.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in case of any question and/or comments. I strongly encourage all members to keep an open line of communication. INSCA has plenty to offer its members and it shall continue to be enhanced and improved as members become more involved. Once again, I look forward to a long and prosperous relationship.

BOARD MEETING RESOLUTIONS

The following are highlights of the decisions and resolutions taken at the recent Board Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany.

- Mr. Franz Kienast along with other Brazilian fellows will support the supplying process for the new histology study commissioned by SWG.
- The SWG restructuring proposal was approved
- Three proposals were presented and reviewed by the board for a new website company. Offers came from Egypt, Rumania and Morocco. The Egyptian offer from **WebArchitect** to redevelop the INSCA website was approved.
- The Executive Secretary will be responsible for updating and managing the website along with a designated Website committee (Mr. Mounir Shehfe, Mr. Joop Schouten, and Mr. Christian Billon) who will review and approve the web development work.
- The election slate is still open
- In Beijing 2005, Chinese companies will be allowed to attend for the price of 750\$ with the maximum of 3 persons per company
- The bylaws committee will conduct an intensive review of the bylaws.



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NEW FMD CASES IN 2005

1. **COLOMBIA:** An outbreak involving 41 cases of cattle in a laboratory in Bogota was reported to have started since 25 Feb 2005 in the National University research unit in the urban area of Bogota. As a result of laboratory testing and the epidemiological investigations carried out around the outbreak and in in-contact farms, the likelihood of a field origin has been ruled out.
2. **HONG KONG:** On 9 Mar 2005, 16 cattle in lairage in Sheung Shui slaughterhouse, New Territories, were reported to have lesions typical of foot and mouth disease (FMD). The diagnostic tests used showed the virus involved to be of serotype Asia 1. FMD virus serotype O is endemic in Hong Kong.
3. **CHINA:** An outbreak of FMD (Asia 1) was found in cattle in Jiangsu province, Wuxi city, Huishan district (Eastern part of the country), while another one in Shandong province, Tai'an city, Daiyue district (Eastern part of the country). Estimated date of the outbreak was 24 April 2005.
4. **CHINA:** In May 2005, new outbreaks of FMD (Asia 1) were reported to be found in cattle in Hebei province, Zhangjiakou city, Sanhe city; in Xinjiang Autonomous Region, Hebukesaier county.
5. **RUSSIA:** The Russian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Moscow on 14 June 2005, issued an immediate notification announcing on 6 June 2005 the 1st occurrence of a new strain of a pathogen associated with a listed disease in a country or zone/compartiment – FMD virus serotype Asia 1 – in Busse, Svobodnenskiy, Amur region



- (Amurskaya oblast). As of July 2005, there were 42 cases found in Busse village, situated 20 km from the closest village in the Russian territory and 300 m from the border of the People's Republic of China.
6. **CHINA (Xinjiang):** On 20 June 2005, China reported another outbreak of FMD (Asia 1), which infected 40 heads of cattle, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The outbreak was discovered in Weili County, in central Xinjiang region, northwest China.
 7. **CHINA:** Veterinary Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Beijing reported on 20 July 2005 of new 66 cases of FMD (Asia 1) in beef cattle in Gansu province, Pingliang city, Jingning county and 99 cases in Qinghai province, Huangnan district, Tongren county.
 8. **MYANMAR:** An outbreak of FMD (Asia 1) in cattle was reported to have started on 27 July 2005 in Daw paw ka law, Pan Kan, and Kalthawdaw of Kayah State.
 9. **BOTSWANA:** On 28 July 2005, 123 cases of FMD (virus serotype SAT 2) were diagnosed in the Pandamatenga crush in Kasane district in the northwest region of Botswana. The disease affected no

other species except cattle. The population at risk was 1300 cattle (800 in communal and 500 in fenced farm areas). The suspected outbreak was in an FMD-controlled area; therefore, the occurrence of an outbreak in this area should not affect the FMD status and beef trade of Botswana.

10. **MONGOLIA:** An outbreak of FMD involving 118 bovines and 47 o/c was detected on 12 August 2005 in Domoa province, Bayantumen county in eastern part of Mongolia, according to the Mongolian Department of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ulaanbaatar (26 August 2005).

11. **CONGO:** Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, Kinshasa reported on August 26, 2005 that there were two cases of outbreaks of FMD (types SAT1, SAT2, SAT3 and A) in the villages of Ruzizi and Uvira in Congo. Source:

12. **BRAZIL:** An outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) was reported in a farm in Eldorado district, Mato Grosso do Sul. In the southern part of the country. The outbreak started on 26 September 2005 affecting 153 head of cattle with 590 susceptible animals (582 head of cattle and 8 pigs). Note: Date of previous FMD outbreak in Brazil reported to OIE is August 2004.

** For specific sources and references, please contact INSCA headquarters.*

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SWG REPORT

At the last annual meeting of INSCA in Cairo, the SWG made a strong presence by holding a special session dedicated to the projects undertaken and being currently in hand. This two hour session was relatively well attended and many of the SWG members such as Vice Chairman Shehfe, ENSCA President Van Hessen, NANCA President Negron, Mr. Roelsgaard and Dr. Wijnker gave presentations. The high profile of the speakers enhanced the session and helped in the aim of making the SWG and its work as transparent and available for all to follow.

During the ensuing months the SWG is pleased to announce that the Ozone Project is finally terminated and its report is available for all to see. The results of this project showed that ozone treatment does not treat for the FMD virus as it is inside the cells of the casings and ozonation is mainly a surface disinfecting method. Also prolonged use of ozonation is detrimental to the physical properties of the casings.

Currently the SWG is working on the TNO/HACCP Manual project that has been agreed upon and signed in Cairo from which a new industry wide and international HACCP manual will be produced following all the latest regulations.

Also the SWG has now commissioned a new project which will study the histology and effect of cleaning on beef casings, a project in line with the previous project for sheep which has proved to have been quite important in the formulation of EU policy on SRM and other such issues. This should prove quite useful in view of the developing critical situation with Brazil.



Finally the SWG has come up during this time with a proposal for the restructuring of the group to make it more international and has submitted this proposal to the respective Boards of ENSCA, NANCA and INSCA which have all voted for this new structure in which the Japanese and Chinese Associations are invited as full members of the group, renaming it the Casings Industry Scientific Working Group, or ISWG.

INSCA AND YOU

In light of the fresh start and the New Year, it is important we all remember what INSCA is and what it can mean to its members. It is also important to remind ourselves what our roles are as members in order to get the most out of the organization. So what is the role of INSCA and what is the role of its members?

Role of INSCA

- To provide access to all the local, national and regional associations having to do with the Natural Casings Business.
- To receive and disseminate industry related information and scientific research results to the members and to the outside world as well.
- Represent the association worldwide contributing to global public relations and awareness.
- Work proactively on scientific issues to prove that our products are safe and hygienic.
- To develop new techniques and anything having to do with the development of our products and processes and trade.
- Provide a forum of members to interact and exchange ideas, solutions and opportunities for business by way of a yearly conference and / or other electronic or conventional means.
- Represent and promote the industry on an international level thus enhancing awareness among the political and corporate arena.
- Give members a sense of pride and community.

Role of Member

- To supply INSCA with valuable information concerning laws, regulations, events, and anything pertaining to the trade.
- To attend and participate in the annual convention.
- Represent the association worldwide contributing to public relations and awareness worldwide.
- Supply advice and ideas on improving services and processes.
- Participate with opinion and suggestions
- Reflect different point of views of the industry worldwide

If both sides follow this simple equation, we will have a successful organization working with its members in providing useful services to the industry

MEMBER'S NEWS

INSCA would like to express its deepest condolences for the loss of our fellow members. They shall not be forgotten:

Mr. John Anderson passed away on August 12, 2005. Mr. Anderson was a long time INSCA member.

Our former INSCA Executive Secretary, **Mr. Joe Risko** from Omaha, Nebraska passed away. Joe followed Mrs. Lucille Lampman and was Executive Secretary from 1990 until 1994.

Our Treasurer, **Michael Mayo** of Oversea casings co. has proudly given birth to Joey Parker Mayo on October 12, 2005. Joey is a bouncing baby GIRL!

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INSCA Staff

Mr. Marwan El Messiry, Executive Secretary

Mrs. Shirley Coffield, Legal Counsel

INSCA 41st Annual Meeting

May 22-28, 2006 - China World Hotel - Beijing, China

CHINA

A land of contrasts, China is a country of timeless mysticism and beauty undergoing dynamic developments. The unspoiled countryside, which time seems to have left behind somewhere along the way during 5,000 years of civilization, is juxtaposed against the towering skylines of some of the most modern cities in Asia. With approximately one fifth of the world's population in an area slightly larger than the United States, China is the world's most populous nation.

Everything in China seems larger than life, and perceptions of the country must be adjusted to its enormous scale. China is the most populous nation on earth with 1,300,000,000 (1.3 billion) residents, 22% of the earth's population, two-thirds of which are younger than 35. Its vast area of more than 3,690,000 square miles is the third largest in the world, after Russia and Canada, and extends 3,400 miles from North to South and 3,100 miles from East to West.



BEIJING

Beijing, the capital of China formerly known as Peking, is the political, cultural and economical center of the world's most populous country. It is China's second largest city in terms of population and the largest in administrative territory. The total area incorporated within its boundaries is 6,490 square miles, including a number of outlying rural counties. Famous points of interest include Tiananmen Square, the Great Hall of People, Qianmen Gate, the Monument to the People's Heroes, Chairman Mao's Memorial Hall, the Forbidden City, Museum of the Chinese Revolution, Museum of Chinese History, Temple of Heaven, Beihai Park, the Summer Palace and the Great Wall.

The Great Wall, which runs along the Yan Mountains about 40 miles to the north and west of Beijing, was an effort to stabilize the frontier between the Han Chinese and the barbarian peoples during the 3rd century BC. Yet it remained for a later Mongol leader from beyond the wall, Kublai Khan, to build the city Ta-tu or "Great Capital", at the site of Beijing in AD 1264 and to establish it as the political center for all of China. Except for a few brief interruptions, Beijing has served as China's capital ever since.



Beijing sits between two rivers that flow out of the hills and onto the North China Plain, which at this location is a larger alluvial fan. The city is located some 100 miles from the 55N. latitude on the °gulf of Bo Hai, an arm of the Yellow Sea. Located at 39 eastern flank of Eurasia, the world's largest landmass, Beijing has a climate that is largely continental with warm summers and long, cold, dry winters. Most of the rainfall occurs in the months of June, July and August.

The temperature in Beijing in May is around 80 degrees Fahrenheit during the day and in the low 50s at night. The humidity averages 70%. The sunrise time is around 04:50-05:15 and sunset is around 19:09-19:36.



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