

2016 APIMONDIA NEWSLETTER

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APIMONDIA NEWSLETTER

... a new space for communication

As President I send greetings to all Apimondia members across the world. Much work continues within the Apimondia family. The Heads of our seven Scientific Standing Commissions along with our five Regional Commissions are anxious to make sure that we provide leadership and guidance to all our members.

This Newsletter is a mean to start applying a new strategy. Please, refer to our website www.apimondia.com for a more comprehensive overview of Apimondia. All registered member countries can have their own password for full access to this site. Your responses and opinions on matters pertaining to you and your beekeeping community are welcomed.

As some of you may know, there is a lot of research going on in many universities, institutes and research centers around the world but a lot of this excellent work does not reach beekeepers due to the fact that researchers are reluctant to release the results of their endeavors beforehand, and of course this must be respected. However, I think it would be important if we could at least be aware of the work that is being performed, so that we could look forward to future results and perhaps get some interim reports the work done so far.

Beekeepers depend greatly on our scientists to help us solve the problems that we and our bees face so I ask the scientific community to send us their most recent work and developments. There are many important topics such as the over use of chemicals, GMO's and Honey Adulteration. The working groups (AWG), set-up by my predecessor Gilles Ratia, are doing an excellent work in these areas but we need data dissemination to be faster and continuous.

Wishing you and your communities my most sincere greetings.



Philip McCabe

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NEWS





TRANSITION WITH A VISION



By Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini

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During the past few years, Apimondia has started a process of transition with the aim of delivering services in a better way, especially regarding promotion, awareness and representation of beekeeping. In this context, a number of new initiatives have been undertaken in order to fit with a vision to bring Apimondia and the beekeeping sector to a more prominent and efficient position. In particular, the aim is to ensure that beekeeping is more visible and better understood at political level and within environmental circles so that when policies are developed, the measures taken are sustainable and respectful of the bees.

- The creation of five new Regional Commissions within the Apimondia Executive Council. These new commissions add a geographical dimension to the work carried out by the already existing seven Scientific Commissions. In this way it is ensured that the scientific dimension is complemented with the local knowledge and that it provides an understanding of each continent's beekeeping issues.
- We have gradually increased the number of symposia held during these years in order to spread the presence of Apimondia in different areas of the world as well as to address topics of more local interest. Much more topics can be developed and the Apimondia member associations are invited to bring forward new areas of interest and research that can be addressed in new symposia.
- We are working on new ways of collaboration with other organisations that operate at an international level even in sectors not necessarily restricted to beekeeping or that have no specific expertise in apiculture. In this respect, specialised agencies of the United Nations like FAO and Bioversity International have been identified and contacts are underway to explore and establish effective forms of collaboration that would in turn unfold benefits also at policy-making level for its members and the beekeepers they represent.
- In 2015 Apimondia also launched an international campaign aimed at attracting sponsorships to the beekeeping sector and in support of the activities of Apimondia in favour of its members and the beekeeping sector. The campaign is currently undergoing some refinements in some of its components and objectives in order to optimise its potential impact.
- Another initiative that has been adopted by Apimondia in this general framework with a view to improving and optimising the outcome of its international congresses is that of contracting a core professional congress organiser (PCO), a specialised agency that will assist the Federation in ensuring that its future congresses deliver better results and services and that they also meet higher quality standards of its scientific program.
- This year Apimondia is also going set to launch a volunteer programme to attract collaborators to assist the Federation in specific areas of its work. Apimondia Executive Council is already made up of volunteers, but new figures are required to complement the work of the Executive Council especially on administrative, communications and ancillary scientific activities.

Apimondia is open to any new proposals and initiatives that may be coming from its members and it is fully committed to screen them in view of their actual implementation. In this respect, a good example of this form of collaboration with its members and of the support to their proposals of new initiatives is the institution of the World Bee Day that the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association has conceived and is now in the process of submission for official endorsement by the United Nations.

APIMONDIA 2015

South Korea



By Dr. Jeff Pettis (USA)
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Commission on Bee Health

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Report from the Scientific Commission on Bee Health

The last Apimondia Congress in South Korea was well attended and one of its main attractions were the Bee Health sessions. A total of 14 sessions were held framed within the Bee Health Scientific Commission and three Round Tables. These covered a wide range of topics, from new invasive pests like the small hive beetle to bigger problems as varroa mites and pesticides.

With high participation rates from Korean researchers it was not surprising to see many talks and posters related to the sacbrood virus that has ravaged *Apis cerana* colonies over the past few years while *Apis mellifera* was shown to be able to become infested but not to the point of killing it.

There is a lot of work going on around the world with this virus and other pathogens as it is easy to extend them inside living bees inadvertently or to trade goods that might have adverse effects on other population of bees. As beekeepers and bee scientists we have the obligation to protect the bees of the entire world and this task begins with a good comprehension of the effects that the different pests, pathogens and parasites have on bees.

The roundtables were again lively discussions covering three topics: "Vespid (biology and control)", "Agrochemicals and bees" and "How to prevent hive losses".

The Vespid biology session discussed the spread of this wasp in Europe and the efforts to control, even though it recognised that nowadays there are but no 100% effective methods available to slow down its spread within Europe. Beekeepers have learned to live with this new pest and mitigate its impact by removing nests from the areas where hives are kept.

The Round Table that discussed about pesticides included the beekeepers' demands, including Henri Clement, to reduce the use of these, and look after bees, while others argued that pesticides, if used properly, were safe for bees. All

in all, this discussion will surely continue.

The Round Table addressing the prevention of hives' loss had wider discussions which included, among others, the monitoring efforts around the world and the list of factors that will surely impact the bees' colonies: pests, pathogens, parasites, pesticides and malnutrition. Dr. Francois Diaz from the International Epizootias Office (OIE in Spanish), helped chair this session and referred to the efforts the OIE made to prevent the propagation of bees' diseases to new areas.

Bees' health continues to be a significant topic that beekeepers from all around the world keep facing within the pests' and diseases' controls.

The APIMONDIA symposia related to the bees' health provide valuable and updated information that is very useful when handling bees with the aim of making them more productive.



APIMONDIA 2015

South Korea



By Cristina Mateescu (Romania)
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Commission on Apitherapy

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Report from the Scientific Commission on Apitherapy

During the Congress, the Apitherapy Scientific Commission held two plenary sessions with general topics of great interest in relation to the clinical effects. A number of remarkable persons from the apitherapy world were among the invited speakers.

The execution of eleven symposia, where sixty-six scientific reports were presented, allowed us to review important topics for both pharmaceutical and medical research:

- Honey in digestive problems within infants: pharmaceutical, antibacterial, antifungal and antioxidants preparations from different honeys of stingless bees;
- Propolis: with a special approach in the polyphenolic composition and the antioxidant and antiviral properties of various geographic types of propolis;
- The propolis' anti-diabetic effects and its attributes within dental preparations: as a natural antibiotic against oral pathogens and *Helicobacter pylori* infections in cosmetics;
- Bee venom: in arthritis, as anti-wrinkle, also as hypolipidemic and anti-diabetic agents and in cosmetics;
- Bee bread, pollen and royal jelly, together with its pharmacological and clinical effects were also widely developed.

Conclusion: bees products are increasingly becoming more objects of important studies, especially since its clinical effects. This brings hope to the extent that, from a simple popular claim about health, a clear scientific support can be achieved. This increases the credibility on apitherapy.

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South Korea



By Dr. Nicola Bradbear (UK)
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Report from the Scientific Commission on Beekeeping for Rural Development

The Scientific Commission on Beekeeping for Rural Development had a very important activity during the 44th APIMONDIA Congress in Daejeon, with one main Plenary Session and twelve symposia, which provided clear opportunities to speakers from 40 countries who presented their works.

These participants and the topics covered demonstrated that, nowadays, this Commission is not only concerned with beekeeping in poor countries, but it also stands as a modern profession that is part of peoples' lives in every region.

On the one side, new covered topics require the use of public funds in order to begin beekeeping projects, and, on the other side, they highlight the growing importance of BEE-TOURISM as a way to allow people add beekeeping to their technical or cultural diversity. This was our Plenary Session topic, where Mr. Gladstone Solomon, from Trinidad and Tobago, presented the experiences in beekeeping safaris in Tobago for more than twelve years. These holidays with bees provide an excellent opportunity for beekeepers to meet and learn from each other.

Nick Bishop from the UK also made reference to his experience as commercial beekeeper among London's skyscrapers. From this experience he concluded: never have bees in places higher than 26 floors.

During the Congress week, we also listened to roof-tops and garden beekeepers that work in big cities as Seoul, Kyoto (with Apis cerana), Canberra, among others.

The twelve symposia took place in what we considered, by the end of the week, as "our" environment. That is to say, a more private space where there are generally 100 people attending to each symposium and where, with this few number of attendees, there is a better chance to have an active debate among delegates and the speaker.

The different efforts going on around apiculture's sustainability are of big discussion and, of course, this also happens with the state of the species of Asian bees. Dr. Dennis Anderson presented a very challenging topic when he described his efforts on improving the United Arab Emirates' beekeeping, as nowadays they need to import bee populations every year and this is not sustainable.

During this Congress there were not so much speakers describing new approaches for beekeeping, for example looking for the highest aggregate value. However, there was a new appreciation from beekeepers as biodiversity guardians. It is quite difficult to choose among so many outstanding presentations, but I will only mention two of them, which had a very high number of attendees. One of them was Dr. Cristina Pavel's work from Romania, where she described how apitherapy is being included in some Romanian hospitals and used by professional doctors. The other one was Dr. Merel Kekeçolu, who described the long term research in Turkey which demonstrates that the inclusion of beekeeping activities in elementary schools' syllabus results in cognitive skills' improvements in children.

One of the major outcomes was a Resolution, encouraged by Dr. John Kefuss, for international collaboration in the establishment of honey bee germplasm banks for honey bees, to ensure that species and races are preserved, with identical banks in different continents.

Our Korean hosts have generously sponsored many participants from African countries. Therefore, having so many people from Africa participating in the discussions throughout the different Congress events was a very rewarding experience.

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APIMONDIA 2015

South Korea



By Etienne Bruneau (Belgium)

President of the Scientific Commission on Beekeeping Technology and Quality

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Report from the Scientific Commission on Beekeeping Technology and Quality

This Commission went through the adulteration, the monitoring and the quality of bees' products. There were different presentations that showed their opinions on this field, offering at the same time a variety of ways to improve its development.

The conferences started with a Round Table about the adulteration of bees' products. After a number of presentations where different opinions were set forth, a variety of improvement options were initiated:

- The creation of genuine honeys' data base from the different countries in the world in order to set up an "open code" data base, so that labs can identify an overlap criterion between a sample and "real honey";
- The market is gradually moving to the full production traceability from the beekeeper to the consumer. The focus given by "True Honey" in the USA is a good example to follow. Even the Chinese are developing a genuine honey chain;
- Legal aspects will also have to be studied in order to better understand the different laws;
- The creation of a Working Group in APIMONDIA (AWG) following the topic: a letter will be sent to all members in order to analyse the situation in different countries and to see if they are willing to participate in the creation of a data base about honeys.

The conference with the highest number of attendees was the one of the Australian speaker who developed the valve for automatic production hive. After all the gossip going through the network and after receiving a big amount of money, the system seems to work. This type of almost natural handling hive is appropriate for small beekeepers who want to produce their own honey.

On the other hand, there is an increasing interest in information systems as supervision softwares are becoming easier to use.

The smallest labs are on their way to get the RMN (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance) system, and it has been demonstrated that nowadays this is the most sensitive method to detect false honey. Naturally, this kind of system only works with a data base with a lot of references with honey samples (many thousands) which are used to calibrate it.

Works related to new forms of hives were disappointing. Most of them resulted in too complex or too specific systems.

Even though there were few presentations about good practices of production, quality and production diversification, these topics are still vital for the beekeeping development, as the use of hive products for nutrition and apitherapy is increasing day by day.

Finally, it is hereby announced that IHC (International Hive Commission) will now work with APIMONDIA in the organization of future events. This group of international investigators who work with bees' products is considered to be an APIMONDIA specific work group since the Ukraine Congress in 2013. It is worth mentioning that the next conference on bees' products will be held in September 2016 in Antalya – Turkey.

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APIMONDIA 2015

South Korea



By Dr. Cleofas Rodriguez Cervancia (Philippines)
President of the Regional Commission for Asia

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Beekeeping situation in Asia

One of the most relevant exhibitions in the APIMONDIA Congress 2015 in South Korea, was the Asian Apicultural Association (AAA) Round Table where beekeepers from Thailand, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, China, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Japan, Nepal, Vietnam and Philippines participated.

In the above-mentioned Round Table, there were a number of different issues that surrounded beekeeping's situation in Asian countries. Among the most important items, opportunities and problems were identified with the aim of improving and solving them, respectively.

Below you will find a list of the items selected as opportunities:

- a. Universities continue investigating about the bee diversity, pests and diseases, apitherapy, bee flora and pollination, beekeeping economy and its extension;
- b. The different regions are focused on the biodiversity preservation through an ecosystem approach, as indigenous bees are of significant importance;
- c. Tropical honey is much demanded. The high content of moisture is handled through the dehumidification and proper harvesting and processing techniques;
- d. Stingless bees and non-*Apis* species are being used for pollination and hive production products;
- e. Important focus on organic honey promotion.

On the other hand, the problems identified were the following:

Honey and Bee Products

- a. Honey adulteration: this is frequently given all around the Asian region. There are different forms of adulteration: substitution by corn syrup, cooking the sugar (syrup), pure honey mixed with sugar syrup;
- b. High moisture content in the honey;
- c. Incorrect labelling;
- d. Antibiotic wastes and heavy metals;
- e. Limited supply of quality products.

Environment

- a. Natural disasters: Nepal's earthquake has destroyed bees' populations, modified the natural flora and consequently the nectar sources; the typhoon in the Philippines; the flooding in Thailand);
- b. Changes in the weather patterns;
- c. Lack of bee flowering;
- d. Poisoning from agricultural and industrial chemical products;
- e. Predation pressure (mites and birds);

Activities to be done:

1. Prepare the data base: bee species, honey adulteration and bee products that are harmonized with the APIMONDIA data;
2. Support the Asian Pollination's initiative;
3. Continue researches on basic and applied aspects of beekeeping;
4. More investigation on collaboration.

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At the end of Congress, it is announced the **APIMONDIA** Congress 2017 to be held in Istanbul (Turkey).



In 2019, the 46th **APIMONDIA** Congress will take place in Montreal (Canada).



APIMONDIA Working Group (AWG) on beekeeping products adulteration in South Korea. In the centre of the picture you can see the Coordinator, **Eng. Norberto Garcia Giruo** (Argentina) World Bee Day.



World Bee Day
APIMONDIA members with the representatives from the Beekeepers' Federation of Slovenia proposing the World Bee Day.

The **APIMONDIA Working Group (AWG)** on Bee Product Adulteration is working. As one of its first measures, we have created a Questionnaire and it requires the collaboration from all the Beekeepers' Associations that are part of **APIMONDIA**. Your answers are very important. If your Association has not yet received the Questionnaire, please contact the Group Coordinator, Norberto García Giruo (n.garcia@nexco-sa.com.ar) or the Secretary Jodie Goldsworthy (Jodie@beechworthhoney.com.au). This is a very important matter that needs your full participation!

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