

IFMA17 Congress – **Contributed Paper Submission Deadline Extended to January 31st, 2009**

**Em. Prof. Harold Guither (University of Illinois) appointed to oversee Contributed Papers
IFMA Member Subscription Rates Adjusted**

Everyone will be acutely aware of the financial and economic turmoil that has taken place over the last 2-3 months around the world, which inevitably has meant a lack of confidence in what the future months hold for our country economies, our specific areas of work, the world and national agricultural economies and currency exchange rates. In the agricultural economy many commodities along with inputs have moved from low prices to high prices and then back to low prices all within a year; giving a level of volatility that is difficult to deal with, let alone plan for.

IFMA17 Congress – Contributed Paper Submission Deadline Extended to January 31st, 2009

In view of the current turmoil and its affect on confidence at this time, the organisers of the 17th Congress have decided to extend the period for the submission of papers from December 15th, 2008 to January 31st, 2009. The changes to the schedule for contributed papers are included in the attached "Call for Papers 2nd Issue" document. Please distribute this to all those you think will be affected / interested.

To those of you who have been working "all hours" to submit your paper by next Monday (15th) they apologize for the stress – but the organisers ask that you go ahead and **submit your papers as soon as possible** so that the review process can proceed in good order. Early submissions receive priority in their placement in the program.

Given the difficult circumstances, the organisers also need your help by renewing your efforts to encourage others to submit papers and participate in the congress. To date there have not been many Case Study (non peer review) type papers submitted – these maybe "in the pipeline" – but they are very keen to encourage many more papers in this category. Practical "from the farm" farm management papers are an essential ingredient of a good IFMA Congress.

Em. Prof. Harold Guither (University of Illinois) appointed to oversee Contributed Papers

The Congress Organisers are pleased to announce that **Harold Guither**, Emeritus Professor of agricultural economics at the University of Illinois, has agreed to oversee the Contributed Paper and Poster processes and program. Harold is a veteran of IFMA Congresses having participated in four – New Zealand, Hungary, UK and Canada – so many members will know him, and we thank him for taking on this important role.

Member Subscription Rates Adjusted

The financial turmoil has also involved rapid changes to currency exchange rates – with the US Dollar increasing in value sharply. There is still considerable volatility in day to day rates – but in the hopes that the "worst" (depending on where you are) has now happened – we have adjusted the Membership Fee Rates to try to bring them into approximate line with the current exchange rates and fees.

Online Membership 1 year subscription rates (on www.ifmaonline.org) - for the three currencies available to pay membership in - have been adjusted as follows:

Full Member – now US\$ 40, or Euro 32, or GB£25

Corporate Member (inc. 3 Full Memberships) – now US\$105, or Euro 80, or GB£67.50

Website Subscriber – now US\$22, or Euro 17.50, or GB£14.50.

Congress Membership payment –

The "2 year – between congresses" Full Member fee available for payment by delegates at the same time as registering for the congress has been reduced twice now - from an initial US\$110 down to US\$85.

(Please note that delegates must be IFMA Full Members to attend a congress. You can join either via secure credit card payment online from our website – or by paying for the "2 year – between congresses" membership when registering for the Congress)

My Seasonal Greetings to You and Your Families, and best wishes for 2009,

Tony.

Tony King

Hon. Secretary