

## IFMA Newsletter – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Dear IFMA Newsletter Recipient,

For best results please view this newsletter in HTML. In this Newsletter:-

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Pre and Post Congress Tours  
Risk Management Workshop**

**IFMAonline.org website – new and coming soon**

### 16<sup>th</sup> IFMA Congress

Much progress towards the congress has been made in the past few months and early indications are that we will have both an excellent congress, with a record number of contributed papers, and good attendance. However we still need your assistance to make sure this happens – so please keep spreading the word and encouraging people to attend. Both the Congress Organisers and I are available to provide any help or information to help with this – please just contact us if we can be of any assistance.

### Website

The 16<sup>th</sup> Congress Website has had a revamp and has been re-designed to improve navigation. You will now find that there is a string of “buttons” across the page with drop down menus on all those with a “>” on them. As some people were having problems finding the dark green hyperlinks – these have now all been turned to an **orange** colour so that you can immediately see where the links to other pages or downloadable files (pdf) are.

Other changes have been made and further additions are due in the next few weeks – so please keep visiting the website from time to time. The organisers hope to add the full plenary paper programme shortly, also a page on sponsors - and to have updated brochures available for download once the former two items are ready.

### Plenary Papers

Good progress on the Plenary Paper Programme is being made and so far the following are scheduled to speak:

- Éamon Ó Cuív, TD, The Irish Minister for Rural Affairs talking about Irish Agriculture
- Prof. Robert Thompson, University of Illinois, USA - on the forces for change in world agriculture
- Lord Chris Haskins, former adviser to British and Irish governments - asking the question - can European farmers survive without protection?
- Prof. Vinus Zachariasse, formerly at Wageningen University, The Netherlands - on the vital driving factors for innovation in agriculture.
- Tom Kirley, Acting Director, Teagasc, Ireland - on research and education
- Tom Arnold, CEO, Concern Worldwide - on agriculture's role in making poverty history

Yet to be confirmed – the organisers hope to have a senior figure from China talking about Chinese agriculture and agricultural education programmes. A further 3 speakers are being approached to complete the 5 plenary sessions. Once the full plenary programme is confirmed it will be available on the website and in the congress brochures.

### Orderly Congress Registration – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY REGISTRATION

Congress registration has progressed very well with a few minor problems since the process opened – but **with just 19 days to go to the end of the Early Bird period** the congress organisers would greatly appreciate it if those intending to attend make their registrations as soon as possible now – and **not leave registration to the end of the Early Bird Rate period (1<sup>st</sup> May)** as they are concerned the system will not cope if a very large number wait to register then. Please read the information on the website prior to completing the form, and keep a record of your registration form details.

You are reminded that you will need to take out IFMA Full Membership to attend the congress – this can be done during the Congress Registration Process or online via the ifmaonline.org website Membership section.

**Authors** - For those of you who are awaiting confirmation that their paper has been accepted the organisers ask that you register as soon after you receive your confirmation as possible. Authors are reminded that they need to register by 1<sup>st</sup> May to get their paper / poster included in the published proceedings – any problems should be notified to the Secretariat by email. (Over 200 paper and poster abstracts were submitted for the congress - so the Scientific Committee are currently very busy processing the papers, and will do their best to get confirmations out as quickly as they can).

If you have any problems regarding registration, credit card or other payment issues – please contact the Congress Secretariat at [ifma16@ucc.ie](mailto:ifma16@ucc.ie) first as they should be able to resolve issues more quickly (and painlessly) than by other means.

### Visa Information

Those who are attending from countries where an **Irish Conference Entry Visa** is required should not delay as there is an advised 8-10 week application period – please see the **Visa Information** section on the congress website under [Registration]). Also note that a confirmation of registration and payment document is needed for a visa application. This document will be supplied on request once payment has been received.

For Congress Registration – the Cancellation Policy has been revised to accommodate anyone who for some reason is not able to attend the congress due to the refusal of a visa - a full refund, less any costs incurred, will be given.

You should also note that you will probably need a **Transit Visa**, or similar, for the airport where you make connecting flights to Cork or elsewhere in Ireland – i.e. London, Amsterdam, Paris or Frankfurt Airports.

### Pre and Post Congress Tours

The bookings for these tours have progressed very quickly – in fact the pre tour was virtually sold out in 2 days – but this has been expanded (using up the rooms that had been pre reserved). There are still a very few places left on the Pre Tour – contact [ifma16@ucc.ie](mailto:ifma16@ucc.ie) immediately if you are interested in this tour.

The Post Congress tour is 2/3rds full – so an early registration is advised to secure places – you can still register for this tour using the online registration form.

### Risk Management Workshop

The full title for this workshop is “**Capitalizing on Risk in Farm Management by Understanding and Using Simulation, Probabilistic Forecasting, and Risk-Ranking Procedures.**” The tutor is Dr. James Richardson from Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, USA and President of Simetar Inc. who provide the software for the workshop (included). This course is normally held in the USA – so this is a unique opportunity to participate in this highly acclaimed workshop. Further information is available on this link [www.simetar.com/Browser.aspx](http://www.simetar.com/Browser.aspx) - follow the links, Training > View products, Workshops > View products, July 12-14, 2007 Cork, Ireland > view product.

### IFMA website – [www.ifmaonline.org](http://www.ifmaonline.org)

**New** – 2 more associated Farm Management organisations have been added to the Links Section of the website – and so we welcome FAMAN – the Nigerian Farm Management Association, and Asociatia DEMETRA from Moldova who have a remit to provide education and training to young people. You will find more information about both of these organisations on the website under [Links].

### Coming soon

A new edition of the Journal will soon be available on the ifmaonline website – you will be notified as soon as it is.

My Best Regards,  
Tony

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**16th IFMA Congress, Ireland website** - [www.ifma16.org](http://www.ifma16.org)