The 2004 World Food Prize

Laureate Award Ceremony

IOWA STATE CAPITOL, DES MOINES, IOWA

OCTOBER 14, 2004
The Honorable George Bush
Houston, Texas

Michael G. Gartner
Pulitzer Prize Winner
Past President, NBC News
President, Iowa Cubs
Des Moines, Iowa

Robert D. Havener
President Emeritus,
Winrock International
Sacramento, California

Dean R. Kleckner
Past President,
American Farm
Bureau Federation
Urbandale, Iowa

Pekka Linko, Ph.D.
Professor, Biotechnology
and Food Engineering
Helsinki University
of Technology
Espoo, Finland

Robert S. McNamara
Former President,
The World Bank
Washington, D.C.

Jonathan F. Taylor
Chairman of Governors
Oriental & African Studies
University of London
Chairman, Booker Prize
London, England

The Honorable Elizabeth Dole
United States Senator
North Carolina

Gregory Geoffroy, Ph.D.
President,
Iowa State University

Cynthia Milligan
Dean, College of Business
University of Nebraska

From Asia to Africa

The Eyes of the World Turn to Iowa

On behalf of the Run Family and our Council of Advisors, welcome to what we believe will be "The Most Significant Observation of United Nations World Food Day Anywhere Around the Globe."

The Iowa State Capitol is once again the setting for the presentation of The World Food Prize, awarded for "Nobel-like" achievement in increasing the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world. We are most grateful that the Iowa Legislature has granted permission for our Laureate Award Ceremony to take place in this august setting, and we are very pleased that Iowa Lt. Governor Sally Pedersen will preside at this ceremony.

It is of particular significance that, as the 2004 World Food Prize is presented, there will be assembled in this magnificent chamber more life-saving achievement than at any other place in the world. Included are Nobel and World Food Prize Laureates, government officials, research scientists, international experts, business representatives and leaders of anti-hunger advocacy organizations.

Tonight we will add two more individuals to this distinguished pantheon of heroes: Professor Yuan Longping of China, and Dr. Monty Jones of Sierra Leone. It is especially fitting that these two rice brokers are being honored during the United Nations International Year of Rice and on UN World Food Day. Previous World Food Prize Laureates have come from Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Denmark, India, Mexico, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and the United Nations.

The World Food Prize has sought to celebrate this occasion through our:

- International Symposium on Rice, Biofortification and Enhanced Nutrition;
- 10th Anniversary Global Youth Institute; and
- Harvest Festival bringing together the arts, humanities, history and education in a statewide focus on food insecurity in the world.

We are especially pleased that this ceremony will be seen across Iowa and will be available around the world. From Asia to Africa, through Iowa Public Television.

Thank you for joining us.

Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn
President
A Happy 90th Birthday Dedication

DR. NORMAN BORLAUG

MR. JOHN RUAN

Norman Borlaug and John Ruan were both born just a month apart in 1914 in small towns in Iowa. John Ruan spent his early years in Beacon, Iowa. Forced to drop out of school in the Depression, he built a one-truck hauling operation into a transportation, banking, insurance and real estate enterprise of national proportions.

At the same time, Norman Borlaug left his family’s farm near Cresco to enter the University of Minnesota, earning degrees in forestry and plant pathology. Following his extraordinary breakthrough achievement in wheat breeding which helped feed millions in Mexico, India and Pakistan, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his role as "Father of the Green Revolution."

In 1986, Dr. Borlaug envisioned an award like the Nobel Prize to honor individuals from many disciplines who heroically confront the issue of food security in the world. Thus, the World Food Prize was created. But shortly thereafter, it was nearly lost when the original sponsor withdrew. It was then that John Ruan stepped forward to rescue "The Prize." He moved it to its new home in Des Moines in 1996, and subsequently provided the endowment so it could continue to be awarded every year.

The above paintings by Iowa artist Nadine Hawbaker were commissioned by The World Food Prize as a tribute to the two men whose leadership is being honored as we celebrate their 90th birthdays as a part of The World Food Prize Harvest Festival.

Laureate Award Ceremony

October 14, 2004
The Iowa State Capitol Building

Musical Prelude
Des Moines Symphony Chamber Ensemble

Procession of Laureates and Dignitaries

"In Any Language" by Iowa Poet Lucille Wilson

African Music by Madou Dembele and Euphrasis Johoun

The World Food Prize Youth Institute
John Chrystal Award and Ahmanson Intern Award

Violin Solo by Hanna Wolle
Laureate Proclamation, Lt. Governor Sally Pederson

Presentation of the 2004 World Food Prize
The Des Moines Vocal Arts Ensemble
Directed by Carol Stewart

Dinner to Follow in the Capitol Rotunda
The Laureate Announcement Ceremony

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

MARCH 29, 2004

The announcement of Professor Yuan Longping of China and Dr. Monty Jones of Sierra Leone as the 2004 World Food Prize Laureates took place at a ceremony in the magnificent Benjamin Franklin Room at the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C.

Secretary of State Colin Powell presided at this event which included the Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Director General Dr. Jacques Diouf, Agency for International Development Administrator Andrew Natsios, Undersecretary of State Alan Lawson, and members of Congress and the Diplomatic Corps.

A highlight of the ceremony was the surprise presentation of a cake and the singing of “Happy Birthday” to Dr. Norman E. Borlaug.

“They have done great honor to their countries and great service to humankind.”

- Secretary of State Colin Powell

The 2004 World Food Prize Laureates

YUAN LONGPING • MONTY JONES

The $250,000 World Food Prize is the World’s Foremost Award Recognizing Contributions to Increasing the Quality, Quantity or Availability of Food
YUAN LONGPING
China

Born in Peking, Yuan Longping graduated from Southwest Agricultural University in China in 1953, and then was assigned to teach crop genetics and breeding in Hunan Province where he began his research into the development of hybrid rice. In 1971, while working at the Hunan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, he made his major scientific breakthrough.

Professor Yuan is widely acknowledged as the first person to discover how to achieve heterosis in rice, a phenomenon in which the progeny of two distinctly different parents grow faster, yield more, and resist stress better than either parent. Since rice is a self-pollinating crop, it was widely believed that such an achievement was not possible. However, following several years of painstaking research and testing, Professor Yuan isolated the genetic elements that overcame this impediment.

Professor Yuan and his team soon produced the first ever widely applicable commercial hybrid rice variety called Nan-ya No. 2, which was released in 1974. Planting of this new variety spread so widely, that now almost half of China’s rice production area is planted in hybrid rice. With a 20 percent higher yield over previous varieties, this translates into enough food for approximately 60 million more people per year in China alone.

Professor Yuan has built an additional legacy of combating food shortages and hunger through his efforts to spread his techniques for producing hybrid rice to scientists around the world, and through his ongoing research to develop “super hybrid” rice capable of doubling the yield of conventional rice varieties. All of these exceptional breakthrough achievements have brought global recognition to Professor Yuan and caused many to call him the “Father of Hybrid Rice.”

THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE

MONTY JONES
Sierra Leone

Born in Sierra Leone, Monty Jones began his professional career in his home country in the Mongrove Swamp Rice Research Project in Rokunp supported by the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA). WARDA is one of the 16 international research centers sponsored by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Following a variety of assignments, in 1991 Dr. Jones became the leader of the Upland Rice Breeding Program at WARDA, then located in Côte d’Ivoire. It was in this position that he made his exceptional breakthrough achievement.

Working closely with colleagues at WARDA, Monty Jones succeeded where all others before him had failed. In an achievement “unprecedented in the history of rice breeding,” he broke through the genetic barrier and became the first person ever to combine Asian and African rice varieties to produce a stable and fertile rice line with higher yields, shorter growing cycles, and more protein than either of its parents. Key to this effort was his work in the gene banks at WARDA, which held seeds from over 1500 African Rice Species that faced extinction. In recovering the genetic potential of ancient African rice which had grown on that continent for over 3000 years, Dr. Jones developed a “New Rice” for Africa (NERICA), uniquely suited to poor African farmers.

With the ability to resist weeds, survive droughts and thrive on poor soils gained from its African parent, and the trait of higher productivity from its Asian ancestor, NERICA is a crop capable of increasing farmers’ harvests from 50 to 250 percent, potentially benefiting 20 million poor farmers in West Africa alone. In producing a “New Rice” for Africa in Africa and by Africans Dr. Monty Jones has fulfilled a lifelong dream and brought global recognition to himself, WARDA and the thousands of African scientists who labor so hard to uplift their people.
The World Food Prize Harvest Festival

Celebrating United Nations World Food Day and The International Year of Rice

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has declared 2004 the International Year of Rice. The Presentation of The World Food Prize to two distinguished scientists who have made "Nobel-like" achievements in rice breeding is an especially fitting culmination of this year-long celebration. Coming as it does on the occasion of United Nations World Food Day - October 16 - adds special meaning to this ceremony.

To add the power of the arts to this celebration, with the generous support of Mr. Arthur Neis, an original work of photographic art by the renowned artist Chee Weng Ng was commissioned in honor of the 2004 Laureates. Entitled "Bountiful Harvest," this work and a number of Chee's other portraits which celebrate Rice From Africa to Asia have been on display for a month in the Artium of Capital Square in Des Moines as part of The World Food Prize Harvest Festival.

The World Food Prize Global Youth Institute

Presenting the John Chrystal Award and the Ahmanson Intern Award

Rachael Collier
Ahmanson Intern Award
International Potato Center (CIP)
Lima, Peru

Megan Srinivas
John Chrystal Award
International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICPE)
Nairobi, KENYA

Addie Hall
Ahmanson Intern Award
International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
Los Baños, the Philippines

Now celebrating its 10th Anniversary, The World Food Prize Global Youth Institute provides a three-day educational opportunity and forum for high school students from Iowa and around the world. In 2006, we are pleased to welcome a group of Nigerian students to participate in our program. At the Youth Institute, our students interact with Nobel and World Food Prize Laureates and are exposed to an array of experts, facilities and organizations relating to food security.

Each Summer, the Borlaug-Ruan International Internship Program sends Youth Institute "graduates" on eight-week internships at acclaimed agricultural research centers in such countries as Malaysia, China, Brazil, Costa Rica, Trinidad, Ethiopia, Peru, Thailand, Mexico, India, Kenya, Indonesia, the Philippines and Egypt. After they return, the Borlaug-Ruan Interns write papers about their "life-changing" experiences abroad. These papers are judged and two interns are selected to receive the Ahmanson Intern and John Chrystal Awards. This year, the Ahmanson Intern Award is being shared.

The Ahmanson Interns Award is named in honor of Boberta Ahmanson for her generous support of the Youth Institute and her dedication to increasing students' awareness of the challenges of global food insecurity. The John Chrystal Award is given in recognition of Mr. Chrystal's lifelong commitment to improving international understanding and peaceful cooperation through agriculture and food security.
The World Food Prize International Symposium

The Hon. Catherine Bertini
United Nations
Under Secretary-General
Chair, U.N. Nutrition Council
2003 World Food Prize Laureate

Dr. H.W. Bonis
Director
HarvestPlus
CGIAR Biofortification Challenge Program

Dr. Joachim von Braun
Director, General
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Dr. Ron Cannell
Director General
International Rice Research Institute (Philippines)

Dr. Gordon Conway
President
The Rockefeller Foundation

Dr. Gordon Khush
1996 World Food Prize Laureate
Professor, University of California, Davis

H.E. Lan Lijun
Chargé d’Affaires
Embassy of
The People’s Republic of China

H.E. Luis P. Lorenzo
Presidential Advisor for
Jobs Creation and
Countryside Development
Philippines

Dr. Susan McCouch
Professor of Plant Breeding and Plant Biology
Cornell University

Dr. Peter McPherson
President, Michigan State University
Chair, Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD)

Dr. Richard Mkandawire
Agricultural Advisor,
New Economic Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)

H.E. Dr. Sama S. Manke
Minister of Agriculture,
Forestry, and Food Security
Sierra Leone

Rice, Biofortification and Enhanced Nutrition

Dr. Kanayo Nwanze
Director General,
West Africa Rice Development Association
Ghana

Dr. V. Prakash
Director
Central Food Technological Research Institute
India

Dr. Pedro A. Sanchez
Professor of Tropical Agriculture
Columbia University
Co-Chair, U.N. Hunger Task Force
2002 World Food Prize Laureate
2003 MacArthur Fellow

The Hon. Emmy B. Simmons
Assistant Administrator,
Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade,
United States Agency for International Development

Dr. Alfred Sommer
Dean, Johns Hopkins University
School of Public Health
Johns Hopkins University

M.S. Swaminathan
Chairman, MSSRI,
Chennai, India
Co-Chair, U.N. Hunger Task Force
1987 World Food Prize Laureate

Dr. Steven Tanksley
Professor of Plant Breeding and Plant Biology
Cornell University

Dr. Mark Walton
Vice President
RiceTec, Inc.

Dr. Ren Wang
Deputy Director General
International Rice Research Institute
Philippines

Dr. Catherine Witecki
Dean, College of Agriculture
Iowa State University
Chair, Food and Nutrition Board
National Academy of Sciences

Featuring a 90th Birthday Address by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
Dr. Norman E. Borlaug
"60 Years of Fighting Hunger"
The World Food Prize Laureates

1987
Dr. M.S. Swaminathan
India

1988
Dr. Robert E. Chandler
United States

1989
Dr. Verghese Kurien
India

1990
Dr. John Niederhauser
United States

1991
Dr. Nevin S. Scrimshaw
United States

1992
Dr. Edward E. Kunzling
United States

1993
He Kang
China

1994
Dr. Muhammad Yunus
Bangladesh

1995
Dr. Hans R. Herren
Switzerland

1996
Dr. Henry Bechell
United States

1997
Dr. Gurdev Khush
India

1998
Dr. Perry Adkins
United States

1999
Dr. Walter Ploegworth
United Kingdom

2000
Dr. Evangelina Villegas
Mexico

2000
Dr. Surinder K. Vimal
India

2001
Dr. Per Pinstrup Andersen
Denmark

2002
Dr. Pedro A. Sanchez
United States / Cuba

2003
Catherine Ann Bertini
United Nations / USA

2004
Dr. Monty Jones
Sierra Leone

2004
Prof. Yuan Longping
China

Hall of Laureates

A Spectacular New Home for
The World Food Prize

In Honor of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug

The Des Moines Public Library

With a $5 million pledge from the Ruan Family, a matching contribution from Polk County through the Vision Iowa Program and over $2 million from the Federal Government, the Des Moines Public Library Building has an excellent start toward being transformed into a World Food Prize Hall of Laureates; honoring the heroes of the struggle against hunger, and serving as the convocation center for The World Food Prize International Symposium each October.
With Special Thanks To

The Governor and The State Legislature of Iowa
Ruan Transportation Management Systems • The John Ruan Trust
The Iowa Department of Economic Development

The Ahmanson Family Trust • Ruan Securities
Pioneer Hi-Bred International • Bankers Trust

Monsanto • Kemin Industries • Iowa Corn Promotion Board • Principal Financial Group
Iowa Soybean Promotion Board • Humanities Iowa • Hy-Vee • Rotary Clubs of Iowa

Wellmark • John Deere • Farm Bureau • Belin Law Firm • Essex Meadows • Avis

Mid-American Energy • Mid-America Foundation • International Traders of Iowa • Iowa Savings Bank • Wells Fargo
USA Rice • Alliant Energy • Mercy Medical Center • Bob Brown Chevrolet • W.T. Dahl • Reynolds and Reynolds
Stine Family Foundation • West Bank • BSP, Inc. • Iowa State Education Association • Iowa Export Import Co.
Barbara and G. David Hurd • Myron and Jacqueline Blank • Federal Home Loan Bank • Townsend Engineering
Wells Blue Bunny • Karen and Bill Hess • Onthank, Co. • Kruidenier Charitable Foundation • Michael Gartner
Greg and Stacey Tucker • Michael Trafton • Margaret and Tom Mehl • Gregory Aviation • Charles Edwards
Sam and Delores Kalainov • James and Sandra Windsor, III • Arnie and Diana Ripperger • Sukup Manufacturing
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Manders • Jim and Patty Cownie • Greater Des Moines Foundation • Sphinx International
Harry Bookey and Pamela Bass Bookey • Nyemaster, Goode, Voigts, West, Hansell & O’Brien, PC
Iowa Motor Truck Association • H.S. Carpenter

THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE
666 Grand Avenue, Suite 1700 Des Moines, Iowa, USA 50309
Ph: 515-245-3785 Fax: 515-245-3785 wfp@worldfoodprize.org www.worldfoodprize.org