On behalf of our founder Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, our chairman John Ruan III, and our Council of Advisors, welcome to the World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony.

The Iowa State Capitol is once again the setting for the presentation of the World Food Prize, awarded for “Nobel-like” achievements in increasing the quality, quantity and 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 magnificent setting, and we are very pleased that Iowa Lt. Governor Patty Judge will preside at this event.

It is of particular significance that, as the 2008 World Food Prize is presented to Senators Robert Dole and George McGovern, there is assembled in this chamber more lifesaving achievement than at any other event anywhere around the globe. A special theme of this gathering is the importance of encouraging young people, especially young girls, to remain in school.

Our goal is to have this ceremony and our week-long series of events be considered “the Most Significant Observance of World Food Day Anywhere Around the Globe.” In addition to this event, the World Food Prize is observing this occasion through:

- The Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium, now known as The Borlaug Dialogue, which is focusing on the role of agriculture and development in the next fifty years. In this regard, we extend our special thanks to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for providing significant support for this conference;

- Our Youth Institute and Borlaug-Ruan Internships, which will have close to 200 high-school students and teachers participating; and

- Our second annual Iowa Hunger Summit highlighting efforts of Iowans to fight hunger at home and abroad.

We are especially pleased that tonight’s ceremony is being broadcast live by Iowa Public Television. Finally, we extend our special appreciation to all of you for joining us this evening for what we are sure will be a meaningful and memorable occasion.

Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn
President
Musical Prelude
Mason Conklin and Sonja Giles

Procession of Laureates and Dignitaries
“IN ANY LANGUAGE” by IOWA POET LUCILLE WILSON
Nosa Ali

“All Growing Borlaug Wheat”
A Musical Tribute

The Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates
Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn

John Chrystal and Ahmanson Intern Awards
Julie Borlaug and Rachel McLean

“Je Veux Vivre”
Monica Yunus

Laureate Proclamation
The Honorable Patty Judge

Presentation of the 2008 World Food Prize
Dr. Norman E. Borlaug and John Ruan III

“This Little Light of Mine”
Monica Yunus, Jaela Cheeks-Lomax, Cailen Jimenez, and the Iowa Youth Chorus

Dinner will follow the Ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda
The 2008 World Food Prize Laureates

Hon. Robert Dole
Hon. George McGovern

In recognition of their monumental achievement in ensuring adequate food and nutrition for the world
The inspired, collaborative leadership of former U.S. Senators George McGovern and Robert Dole has encouraged a global commitment to school feeding and enhanced school attendance and nutrition for millions of the world’s poorest children, especially girls.

The McGovern-Dole international school-feeding program was established by the United States in 2000. Since then, it has provided meals to feed more than 22 million children in 41 countries and boosted school attendance by an estimated 14 percent overall and by 17 percent for girls.

The success of the McGovern-Dole program has also led to dramatically increased international support for expansion of school-feeding operations in developing countries around the world. As one example, the UN World Food Program’s school-feeding operations have nearly doubled since 2001.

A COMMON GOAL TO ERADICATE HUNGER

Throughout their distinguished careers, Senator George McGovern and Senator Robert Dole have dedicated themselves to the elimination of hunger at home and abroad. In the 1970s, as leaders of opposing parties, they worked together to reform the Food Stamp Program, expand the domestic school lunch program, and establish the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

During the following decades, they built a broad, non-partisan consensus for anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs. By the early twenty-first century, the national school lunch program they fostered was providing meals to approximately 30 million children.

A COMMITMENT TO SCHOOL FEEDING

In the late 1990s, building upon their successes in reinvigorating U.S. food- and poverty-assistance programs, Senators McGovern and Dole began working toward reviving and strengthening global school-feeding, nutrition, and education programs. They were committed to creating a program that would provide poor children with meals
at school in countries throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe.

President Bill Clinton supported the senators’ initiative and, in July 2000, his administration established a two-year pilot program, the Global Food for Education Initiative (GFEI), funded at $300 million. The U.S. Department of Agriculture administered the program, which initially provided nutritious meals for children in 38 countries.

Under the GFEI, the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided surplus agricultural commodities to school-feeding programs operated by international organizations including the World Food Program, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Mercy Corps, World Vision, and the American Red Cross, as well as to the governments of countries that had made commitments to providing universal education.

**ENDING THE CYCLE OF HUNGER & POVERTY**

Hungry children have difficulty learning, and malnutrition often leads to permanently stunted physical and cognitive development. By exerting tireless and creative leadership, Senators McGovern and Dole took significant steps toward ending the cycle of hunger and poverty that affects as many as 300 million chronically malnourished children.

School enrollment increased as a result of the GFEI, particularly for girls. More broadly, the benefits of school-feeding programs have been shown to include: improved cognition and better all-round academic performance; increases in local employment and parental involvement in school activities; and participation by local governments in supporting school-feeding efforts.

With the strong support and urging of Senator McGovern and Senator Dole, Congress passed legislation establishing a permanent international school-feeding program. In May of 2002, President George W. Bush officially signed into law the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (known as the McGovern-Dole program). This hallmark effort has fed children in schools across the globe every year since then.

**TRANSFORMING LIVES ACROSS THE GLOBE**

Since its inception as a pilot program, the McGovern-Dole Program has provided meals to 22 million children in 41 countries, including Afghanistan, Cambodia, Eritrea, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Malawi, Moldova, Nicaragua, Niger, and Pakistan. The program has boosted school attendance by an estimated 14 percent overall, and by 17 percent for girls.
The McGovern-Dole program has had an even wider impact by reigniting global interest in supporting school feeding, which had become a relatively low international priority by the 1990s. Leaders of various international organizations cited the McGovern-Dole program as the key factor that allowed organizations to increase their school-feeding operations and also assess the impact of those programs. The proven success encouraged increased commitments from various donor countries for school feeding.

With increased funding, the World Food Program’s global school-feeding initiative – the world’s largest such program – was able to double its operations between 2000 and 2005. By 2006, its efforts reached more than 20 million children in 74 countries. Eleven million of these were in Africa, and just over 50 percent of them were girls.

**Benefiting School-Age Girls**

The McGovern-Dole program emphasizes benefiting girls and young women and overcoming gender inequalities in literacy and access to education. Traditionally, young girls in many developing countries are often kept out of school to work in the home performing child care, elder care, and other domestic chores, or are sent out to earn a living.

More families encourage their daughters to attend schools when meals are available.

The McGovern-Dole program has boosted school attendance by an estimated 14 percent overall and by 17 percent for girls. Overcoming gender inequalities in literacy and access to education is one of the primary goals of the program.
However, when meals are available at school, and/or take-home rations are available to the families of students attending school, girls and young women are much more likely to be allowed—even encouraged—to enroll, with numerous benefits. For example, studies in Mexico have shown that school-feeding programs there have led to girls finishing school at higher rates, and also marrying later in life and having fewer children.

**A Variety of Aid through Commodities**

Thousands of tons of wheat, soybeans, corn, wheat flour, cornmeal, corn-soy blend, rice, lentils, dry beans and vegetable oil have been shipped to participant countries through the auspices of the McGovern-Dole program. These resources are used by local officials to provide school meals and snacks to children. The McGovern-Dole program is moving toward increasing the amount of cash awarded while also implementing a new bartering system to diversify the commodities the program provides. Organizations and governments often combine school-feeding resources and programs with interventions that include: construction or upkeep of school kitchens and sanitation facilities; teacher and staff training; HIV/AIDS education; de-worming and inoculations; and local purchase of foods to strengthen markets. These efforts in turn have a multiplier effect of enhancing education, community development, health, and gender equity.

**Eliminating Hunger in the 21st Century**

The path-breaking accomplishments of the 2008 World Food Prize Laureates – Senator George McGovern and Senator Robert Dole – continue to inspire leaders in the United States and other countries to move their efforts forward to ever greater heights, with the goal to end world hunger.

For the millions of children it has touched in the past, and the millions who will benefit in the future, the McGovern-Dole program and other collaborative school-feeding initiatives can break the cycle of hunger and poverty and provide life-altering opportunities through education and improved health.
As a special tribute to Dr. Norman Borlaug, and to provide an enduring foundation for all of the programs he created, the World Food Prize has embarked on a $29.8 million capital project to restore the century-old Des Moines Public Library Building as the Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates.

Open to the public, the Hall of Laureates will serve as a museum to recognize great achievements in agriculture; a convocation center at which to hold the World Food Prize International Symposium - the Borlaug Dialogue; a home for the expanded Global Youth Institute; an educational facility featuring interactive displays on hunger and food security; and a conference center and community hall available to other groups and organizations for their meetings and events.

This magnificently restored Beaux Arts space will celebrate the spirit of giving, emphasizing the importance of global food security. Dr. Borlaug will be honored for his role as the Father of the Green Revolution and the man who has saved more than a billion lives. The building will also pay tribute to the World Food Prize Laureates and Iowa's agricultural and humanitarian pioneers for their significant contributions to the global fight against hunger and helping feed the world.
Nearing Fundraising Goals

Plans to transform the former Des Moines Public Library into the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates received a significant boost in 2008.

In early February, the World Food Prize Foundation received a $5 million pledge from Monsanto to ensure that the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates will become the permanent home of “The Borlaug Dialogue,” the World Food Prize’s annual symposium on cutting-edge topics of global food security.

At that same time, Pioneer Hi-Bred, a DuPont company, announced a $1 million contingent donation in support of this project to honor Dr. Borlaug.

In June, the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation announced a $250,000 grant - the largest in the foundation’s history - to fund a signature element of the Hall’s public gardens.

With these contributions and other generous commitments, the World Food Prize has now secured over $20 million of the total $29.8 million needed to complete the project.
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Year in Review

Top International Leaders Added to Council of Advisors

The World Food Prize Foundation is honored to welcome former President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique and former Minister of Agriculture Roberto Rodrigues of Brazil to our Council of Advisors.

Chissano, who served as president of Mozambique from 1986 - 2005 and was the first recipient of the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership, is now the fifth former head of state to have served on the Council.

Rodrigues, a well-known international agribusiness leader, served as Brazil’s minister of agriculture from 2003 - 2006. Among his various current positions, he serves as co-chair of the International Biofuels Commission.

Laureate Announcement Ceremony

For the fifth consecutive year, the World Food Prize held its Laureate Announcement Ceremony at the U.S. Department of State.

Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte used the occasion to address the global food crisis.

“This occasion provides an important opportunity to reflect on the magnitude of the crisis at hand, its causes, our responses, and our goals,” said Negroponte.

The event was hosted by Under Secretary for Economic, Energy, and Agricultural Affairs Reuben Jeffery III. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer also participated.
Dr. Borlaug’s dream – that one day the Youth Institute will be a national organization bringing high-school students from across America to Iowa every October to interact with World Food Prize Laureates and international experts – is becoming a reality. Clay Mathile, the chairman of the Mathile Institute and longtime supporter of Dr. Borlaug’s efforts to spread the Green Revolution around the globe, has donated $750,000 to begin expanding the youth program into a national Youth Institute, and has committed up to $2 million over the next ten years.

With this generous support, the World Food Prize Foundation has begun expanding the youth programs. The Foundation has worked to build collaborative relationships with the University of Minnesota, Ohio State University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Texas A&M University, and Purdue University in order to begin establishing a national platform for selection and involvement of high school students from across the country.

Efforts are underway to strengthen existing partnerships, as well as to begin developing relationships with new institutional partners throughout the United States to establish a truly national Youth Institute. Although there is much to be done, great progress has already been made in realizing Dr. Borlaug’s dream. This year, over one hundred high-school students from 13 states as well as Mexico, Tanzania, and Nigeria are participating in the Youth Institute.
The World Food Prize Youth Institute provides a three-day educational opportunity and forum for high-school students and teachers from Iowa and beyond. Students are given the opportunity to interact with Nobel and World Food Prize Laureates and are exposed to an array of experts in the fields of agriculture and food security.

Each summer, the Borlaug-Ruan International Internship Program sends 13 Youth Institute “graduates” on eight-week internships at acclaimed agricultural research centers in Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, and Taiwan. After they return, the Borlaug-Ruan interns write papers about their “life-changing” experiences abroad. These papers are judged for excellence, and two interns are selected annually to receive the Ahmanson Intern and John Chrystal awards. This year’s recipients are Hemali Batra of Clive, IA, who is attending the University of Iowa, and Zachary Stewart of Harlan, IA, who is enrolled at Creighton University.

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 Ahmanson Intern Award is named in honor of Roberta Ahmanson for her generous support of the Youth Institute and her dedication to increasing students’ awareness of the challenges of global food security.
Tonight’s Performers

All Growing Borlaug Wheat

Composers/arrangers Paul Samuel Johnson and Allen Levine and lyricist Andrea Gilats tonight present a musical tribute to Dr. Norman Borlaug. All Growing Borlaug Wheat reflects Dr. Borlaug’s work and moral character by embracing the agronomist and the humanitarian as one and the same. The performers hope to reinforce the lesson of Dr. Borlaug’s life and those of the World Food Prize Laureates - that we must always strive to live and work according to our deepest values and beliefs.

Paul Samuel Johnson is a composer of choral and instrumental music whose works have been performed by the Mississippi Valley Chamber Orchestra, the Minnesota Mormon Chorale, the University of Minnesota Men’s Chorus, and In the Heart of the Beast Puppet Theater.

Allen Levine is dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences at the University of Minnesota and also serves as director of the Minnesota Obesity Center. He is also a pianist/accordionist who has composed music throughout his career.

Andrea Gilats is a painter, essayist, and poet who currently serves as director of LearningLife, the University of Minnesota’s lifelong learning community. For 25 years, she was director of the University’s Split Rock Arts Program of visual arts and creative writing workshops.

Mary Foss

Since 2003, the World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony has featured the beautiful harp playing of Mary Foss. Mary is the principal harpist with the Des Moines Symphony. She has toured in Europe with the International Advent Concert Tours in Vienna, Austria, and Frankfurt, Germany. Mary has been a featured soloist with the Des Moines, Fort Dodge, and Jamaica Plains (Mass.) symphonies, the American Harp Society, and the University College of Cork, Ireland.

She is a professor of harp at Iowa State University, Drake University, Central College, and the Des Moines Symphony Academy. Mary holds a Bachelor of Music and a graduate diploma in harp performance from the New England Conservatory of Music and has studied at the famed St. Louis Conservatory of Music.
Equally at home on the concert, recital, or opera stage, Monica Yunus is quickly establishing herself as one of America’s most promising young sopranos. This daughter of 1994 Laureate Muhammad Yunus has a special connection to the World Food Prize.

Ms. Yunus made her critically acclaimed Metropolitan Opera debut in Le nozze di Figaro and has since joined the company in many other productions. This season, she returns to the Met for performances including their 125th Anniversary Gala.

Ms. Yunus’ many concert and recital appearances include recitals in Dhaka, Bangladesh, at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Spain’s Manuel De Falla Hall, the Los Angeles Da Camera Society, and Madrid’s Auditorio Nacional, with her majesty Queen Sofia in attendance.

Ms. Yunus, who earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Juilliard School, has won many competitions, among them the Palm Beach Opera Competition, and the Lee Schaenen Foundation Award. Born in Chittagong, Bangladesh, to Russian and Bangladeshi parents, Ms. Yunus was raised in New Jersey.

Tonight, she represents Sing for Hope, the charitable organization which she co-directs. Founded by opera singers with a desire to lift their voices for social change, Sing for Hope mobilizes a corps of more than 500 professional performing artists in volunteer service programs. Each Sing for Hope project is defined by the volunteerism of professional artists and the belief in the transformative power of the performing arts.

“What Sing for Hope does is wonderfully simple,” said Muhammad Yunus. “It maintains a roster of compassionate, world-class artists who donate time and talent to the humanitarian causes that inspire them.”

To learn more about Sing for Hope, please visit www.singforhope.org.
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