OPENING SESSION

Message from Mr Robert Antoine
Chairman of the Executive Committee

Your Excellency Minister of Industry, Honorary President, Members of the Congress Organizing Committee, Official Guests, Honorary Life Members, Councilors and Executive Members, Ladies and fellow members of the Society:

In addressing you as chairman of the Executive, it is perhaps fitting to remind you that it was 68 years ago that our Society was born. Indeed, it is at the First International Conference of Cane Sugar Men held in Hawaii in 1924 that distinguished sugar technologists, from 11 countries, assembled for the first time to discuss technological problems of mutual interest encountered in the production of cane and sugar.

It is interesting to note that from the very beginning the two fundamental objectives concerning the activities of the Society were defined as follows:

- to assemble sugar technologists in Congress every three years, in order to review progress achieved during the intervening period, and
- to entrust various studies to standing or special committees in special fields of great importance for the development of sugar production.

Concerning the first objective it is gratifying to note that, apart from the war years, our congresses have been held regularly every three years as originally defined, with the site of meetings moving like the swing of a pendulum across eastern and western hemispheres.

As for the second objective, due credit should be given to the excellent work conducted by the various standing and special committees, by cane collecting expeditions and in the maintenance of world cane collections. The written evidence of the good work of the Society can be seen in the technical communications of high calibre assembled in 32 volumes over the last 65 years during which twenty Congresses have been held.

However, during all those years, various amendments had to be brought to the original Constitution to adapt it to the ever evolving needs, until a complete revision, clarification and consolidation became an imperative need.

With the new Constitution, the fundamental structure of the Society now rests upon four bodies: A Council which functions during the time of Congress; a Technical Coordination Committee to which is entrusted the technical affairs of the Society;
a Congress Organizing Committee, responsible for the physical organization and conduct of the Congress; and the Executive Committee of Council, which is the ongoing body ensuring the effective continuity of the Society and with the main responsibility of upholding its aims and objectives.

It follows that the new structure has rendered possible the organization between Congresses of various technical workshops supported by Society funds.

But let us turn to the crowning activity of our Society, the Congress itself.

When I received, before the Brazilian Congress, as Secretary of the Executive, the application of the Thailand Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (TSSCT) to host the XXI Congress, immediately came to my mind the pleasant recollections of the very successful Study Tour of the Thailand Sugar Industry organized by the Society just before the Indonesian Congress. I am sure that all my colleagues who have been fortunate to be there will remember "the lavish entertainment combined with the generous hospitality that made the study tour an unqualified success."

Let us also bear in mind that since the Study Tour, sugar production of our host nation has increased by 50% with the result that the Thai sugar industry has developed into the third ranking world sugar exporter.

As Chairman of the Executive, I have had the opportunity with other members of the Executive and Technical Committees to meet the Congress Organizing Committee here in Thailand and discuss the preparations on two occasions during the intervening Congress period. I have been impressed by the competent approach and dedication of those responsible for the preparation of this Congress. In that connection, I acknowledge the outstanding efforts of all those engaged in its planning and organization.

Due credit for the valuable support provided should be given to:

The Ministry of Industry, the Office of the Cane and Sugar Board, the Cane and Sugar Fund and the Thai Society of Sugar Cane Technologists.

The results you can witness today.

After all, Congress, the awaited rendezvous of that great brotherhood of sugar scientists, following three years of preparation, is the event of technological prominence for our Society.

May I conclude this message in commending, more particularly to the younger members of our Society and to those attending Congress for the first time, to make the most of this Congress, your Congress, in participation in all its activities and
promoting the exchange of sugar technology. This is time for the deepening of friendships, for making new friends and, last but not least, for enjoying the generous hospitality of our hosts in this land of smiling friendship. Thank you for your attention.

WELCOMING ADDRESS
by
Mr Sivavong Changkasiri

Honorary President
The XXI Congress of the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists

Distinguished Delegates and Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Ministry of Industry of Thailand, the Cane and Sugar Board, the Cane and Sugar Fund, and the Thailand Society of Sugar Cane Technologists, who are the hosts of this XXI ISSCT Congress, let me extend a warm welcome to all of you to our get-together this evening.

After an absence of three years, there seems to be so much to talk about among us, sugar technologists on topics like families, jobs, hobbies, sports, to mention just a few. But for the moment, more than anything else, I wish we all would just relax, renew old acquaintances, and make new friends. On our part, the host of this event, we feel so proud to have everyone here and will do our best to make you feel most at home.

For the past two days most of you have had an opportunity to participate in the field and factory tours; as well as to gain first-hand knowledge about our country and our people's way of life. I just hope Thailand, our beloved country, has not let you down. I wish to also extend my warm welcome to all the spouses - the ladies - who have not only taken part in our scheduled tours, but will also join more programs in store for them during the next few days. While we, the hosts of this congress, are honored with your presence here with your husbands, it never fails to amaze me why spouses always get the better deal of shopping, traveling, and sightseeing while we end up toiling away at the Congress. Some of us must be in the wrong job.

At any rate, I am sure that for tonight we have all resolved to have nothing but a good time. Thank you, and once again, a very warm welcome to all of you.
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WELCOMING ADDRESS
by
Mr Manu Leopairote
General Secretary-Treasurer
The XXI ISSCT Congress Organizing Committee

Your Excellency Minister of Industry, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies, and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Ministry of Industry, the office of the Cane and Sugar Board, the Office of Cane and Sugar Fund and the Thailand Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (TSSCT), the hosts of this event, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to His Excellency Dr Sippanondha Ketudat, Minister of Industry, for agreeing to preside over this opening ceremony of the XXI Congress of the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ISSCT). I wish to also welcome all of you, the distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen to our beloved country.

At every earlier Congresses during the past decade, Thailand has been bidding to host an ISSCT Congress. It was heartening that in 1989 the ISSCT Council meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil agreed that Thailand should host the XXI ISSCT Congress in 1992. We felt honored when Thailand was ratified as a host country at the final Plenary Session.

Distinguished delegates, all of you who are gathering here today, you are representing 61 countries. During the next four and a half days it is anticipated that you will be deliberating 108 technical papers and 26 posters to be presented at this Congress. You have come together to fulfill the objectives of the Society which are:

  *to bring together sugar technologists to promote the technical discussion of field and factory problems of the sugar industry by means of congresses, held as far as practicable every three years, and other appropriate activities which are freely accessible to members;

  *to provide facilities for the observation of sugar production methods and related activities in the host country during the period of a congress and, under certain circumstances, in neighboring countries;

  *to foster the free and frank interchange of technical information;

  *to form technical commissions and working groups to deal with the common problems of sugar cane technology;

  *to promote cooperative research and development between the region on
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I would like to draw your attention to the following points:

1. Topics to be specified by the membership or commissions, and to report regularly on these topics at congress or through the appropriate media;

2. "to support worthy projects, designed for the affiliation of national or local societies for sugar cane technologists with the Society."

I do hope you succeed in attaining these lofty goals.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, we the hosts have given our full support and encouragement to the Congress Organizing Committee so it could fulfill its duty in the preparations which made this Congress possible.

It is our hope that your brief stay in Thailand will be fruitful, memorable and pleasant. Finally, I would like to say that we greatly appreciate your attendance at the Congress held here in Bangkok.

Thank you.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honor to present to you His Excellency Dr. Sippanondha Ketudat, Minister of Industry, who will officially open the XXI ISSCT Congress.

Your Excellency,

[Speech from the Minister]

Thank you, Minister.

And now, I would like to introduce the Congress Organizing Committee:

[Introduction of Committee Members]

Thank you all for your participation.

May this Congress be fruitful and beneficial for all.

Thank you.