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WELCOME TO BRISBANE ISSCT CONGRESS

The Australian Sugar Industry and the Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists welcome you to Brisbane and the Congress. We are proud to be the first sugar industry and city to host an ISSCT Congress on three occasions: in 1935, 1950 and now. It is particularly pleasing for us that this occurs in 2001, the start of a new millennium and 100 years after the six British colonies in our continent federated to form the new nation of Australia.

The Congress Organising Committee has tried to set a high standard for ISSCT as it moves into the 21st century. The papers have been peer refereed, and the Proceedings have been published and are available to all at Congress. Two Workshops have been integrated into Congress to increase its technical value. The Convention and Exhibition Centre facilities are world class, and there is fast and easy access from good, economical hotel accommodation.

We hope you find that Congress provides good value for the money you and your organisation have invested in attendance.

We're particularly pleased by the attendance of so many wives and partners of delegates. Please enjoy your stay with us, as well as the interesting program developed for you by our Australian ladies.

Brisbane is a great place to live—green and clean in the city, with National Parks and State Forests on our outskirts, the aquatic playground of Moreton Bay to our east, and magnificent surfing beaches an hour's drive to our south and north. The Arts and Cultural Precinct is adjacent to the Congress venue, and you'll probably try some of our many restaurants during the week. Sport? Brisbane has just hosted the elite Goodwill Games, held outside USA and Russia for the first time. We hope you've kept some time to be a tourist, either before or after Congress.

We look forward to meeting you at Congress, whether you be an old friend or a new one. We want to make this "the friendly Congress"—make the most of the many opportunities for personal contact with other delegates, both within and outside of the Congress.

Brian Egan
Congress Secretary/Treasurer
PREFACE

Only once before have the ISSCT Proceedings been produced prior to the Congress—in 1986, in Indonesia. John Clayton, a former Editor of the Queensland SSCT Proceedings, carried out this marathon job for IKAGI without the aid of email or referees. Most of the editorial work was carried out in Brisbane with help from BSES staff, before John went to Jakarta to work with the printer. COC, ASSCT, BSES and I are proud to once again bring you the Proceedings at Congress.

Publication of the Proceedings prior to the Congress requires the cooperation of many people—Chairman of TCC, ISSCT Commissioners, Section Chairmen, referees, French and Spanish Deputy Commissioners (for translating abstracts) and, above all, the authors. I would like to thank all those people who made it possible for me to produce these Proceedings in time for the Congress. In particular, I would like to thank Jean Claude Autrey, Chairman of TCC, who has been a tower of strength in many ways such as cajoling various people to perform their allotted tasks and in arranging the French translation of many abstracts. Unlike most people, he could be relied on to respond to my many emails in a very timely way, and his support has kept me going when frustration threatened to get the better of me. I would also like to thank Brian Egan, Congress Secretary/Treasurer, who was always available to give me support and advice. Finally, I have to thank my sub-editor, Peter Knight, who has done a sterling job in preparing the papers for photo-typesetting and organising the printing of the Proceedings.

The response to the call for papers was excellent. For the first time, authors were requested to submit paper titles several months before they submitted their papers so that the organisers could be sure that there would be sufficient good papers. This procedure may have helped to focus authors on the urgency to prepare papers but, in any case, we had more than enough good papers in all Commissions. In Agriculture, the response was overwhelming, and many acceptable papers could not be chosen, as there were insufficient time slots available for them in the program. There was also an excess of posters for this Commission.

Extensive use was made of email for transmission of papers from authors to Commissioners and Section Chairmen, to referees, back to authors, and finally to me. Overall, this worked well, but there were some unfortunate problems, most of which were caused by a particularly inconvenient virus in the computer system of one Commissioner. Several good papers were lost for some months, and this prevented them being chosen for presentation. Communication between Commissioners, Section Chairmen and the Editor was not always satisfactory, but can be improved in future. I would suggest that all papers be sent to a central person (probably the Editor) who would then distribute the papers to the relevant Commissioners and Section Chairmen. All emails from authors should be acknowledged, so authors know that their paper has been received.

A system of peer refereeing was introduced for this Congress to improve the overall standard of the papers. Referees were also asked to assist authors whose first language is not English. In my opinion, the referees and Section Chairmen did an excellent job in raising the standard of papers for these Proceedings, and they certainly made my task a much simpler one. On a few occasions, I had to edit a paper that had not been refereed, and I was able to appreciate the amount of effort required to bring some papers up to an acceptable standard of English. On behalf of the non-English speaking authors, I would like to acknowledge the great assistance they received from the referees and Section Chairmen. From comments I received, I know they really appreciated all that was done for them.

For the first time, Workshops are being held in conjunction with the Congress, in Molecular Biology and Factory Processing, and the paper presentations have been included in the Proceedings. The first paper in the Process Workshop, by Vic Mason, gives an excellent account of the advantages of holding Workshops in conjunction with the Congress. In particular, it enables people registered for the Congress to attend sessions of the Workshops, which would not normally be possible because they could not justify attendance at a Workshop in addition to attendance at the Congress. The other advantage is that the papers are published and are readily available to all sugar technologists. In a rapidly advancing field such as Molecular Biology, the Proceedings will prove to be an invaluable reference for students and practitioners.

I would like to thank the Congress Organising Committee and ISSCT for entrusting me with the role of Editor. It has been a challenging, at times frustrating, but very rewarding task.

D.M. Hogarth
Editor
Brisbane