



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF NEMATOLOGY SOCIETIES

7 May 2014

Dear Councillors,

With the 6th International Nematology Congress our mandate as IFNS officers has ended. It was our pleasure and honour to serve the International Federation of Nematology Societies for a period of 6 years. We thank you for your cooperation and for your confidence in us. We have tried to serve the Federation and Nematology as best we can with the means we had at our disposal. Hereby, I would like to remind you of the goals we had at the start and what we were able to achieve.

In the minutes of the IFNS meeting in Brisbane (2008), the following aims were formulated:

1. To disseminate information about IFNS and Nematology and increase visibility by making the website more informative and attractive, activate communication between members of IFNS e.g. via introduction of discussion themes, the nematology highlight of the month, Nematologists as role model, a scientifically interesting photograph, illustration or series of slides or a presentation on nematodes for schools, a children colour book, etc.

Achievements:

In the first period in office, the website was regularly updated, the visibility increased by providing more information on the home page, extending the different topics with recent information and adding new rubrics such as an overview of new nematology books. We checked the websites of the societies in order to avoid overlap. To attract more students to the science, we introduced during the second term of the mandate the rubric on famous nematologists as role model. However, apart from Gerrit Karssen we received no input from the societies. After a 12 year commitment of Safia to IFNS, Safia was no longer able to update the website during the last three years because of computer problems and change of job. After some time, she gave me access to the website but due to lack of experience and without the programme Dreamweaver, I was only able to deal with the most urgent needs such as change of councillors/presidents of the societies or announcements of symposia. Recently, I've put in quite some time to serve as file manager and update the website and added also the minutes, year reports, outcome of the ballot, poster, etc.

In 2011, I developed a poster on IFNS to present the Federation at symposia e.g. at the 2011 symposium of NSSA in Stellenbosch and the 65 SON meeting at Corvallis (2011).

Recently, a children's colour book on nematodes was made for the exhibition of the nematology lab at Ghent University during Science day. It has been translated in English and will be on display and for sale at the congress.

Needs: For the future, we recommend that IFNS hire a **webmaster** to develop the IFNS website and make it more interactive without going into competition with the websites of the nematology societies. A **more active cooperation** is needed from the societies and IFNS should be referred to on the website of the societies.

2. To incorporate IFNS and finalize the by-laws to be accepted by all societies

At the IFNS meeting at the previous 2008 congress in Brisbane, Beltsville (Maryland, USA) was accepted as the domicile of the Federation. Consequently, the IFNS Constitution has to incorporate under USA law, have an USA address (instead of this of the president) and next to current officers/members an USA citizen will have to be selected who is authorized to execute and sign official documents. Information will be gathered on this matter.

A 1st electronic ballot on the status of IFNS (non-incorporated with or without accepted by-laws or incorporates with tax-exempt status or just go for copyright of the name IFNS under the law on trademark protection) was organized on 22 December 2010; There was only 25% response but Rod Rodríguez-Kábana as USA citizen proposed to help IFNS and deal with all official aspects. A second ballot was launched on 10 January 2011 with a reminder on 25 February; in total 13 societies responded. Five societies agreed in principle to go for a legal status but found the registrations costs too high and wanted more information on the exact amount of money required, as well as on the annual costs to maintain the status, annual costs for the bank account and other.

The original goal to make IFNS an official organization, despite the support of SON, ESN and ONTA at the IFNS meeting during the ONTA annual meeting in Coimbra, Portugal (2011) was not broadly supported by the members of the majority of the societies, largely because they didn't see the advantage (taking the high registration costs into account) and so far the federation did fulfil its main tasks i.e. organising the election of the society officers and venue for the organization of the next congress and developing the scientific program of the next congress and support the local organizers of the congress. The organizing society of the congress could manage without such a support. According to the draft of its statutes, IFNS cannot deal with financial aspects; therefore the introduction of a sustainable membership of IFNS with sole purpose to create a source for students/young researchers of Developing Nations to attend the future International Nematology Congresses was abandoned. However, the new initiative of a Developing Nations Sponsorship Committee created at the 5th Congress will be continued.

Achievement:

With the demand for proposals for new officers to the societies, I also asked for comments on the current by-laws and if any to accept. Several societies accepted them, others did not reply. Since, so far, we have followed the rules described in the by-laws and no financial commitments are included, I suppose we can all officially accept them. During the IFNS meeting at the congress in Cape Town, all councillors present accepted the current by-laws.

3. Organization of the election for the next congress

In 2010, I organized the election for the society and venue for the next congress. The election went smoothly. By 1 March 2010, five societies (CSPN, JNS, NSI, NSSA, SON) had submitted a well documented proposal. On 4 March a first voting round was launched. It resulted in an equal number of highest votes for JPN and NSSA. A second round in April had as winner: the Nematology Society of Southern Africa will organize the 6th International Nematology Congress.

4. Scientific programme and organisation of the 6th ICN.

Shortly after the election of the society and venue of the 6th ICN, we started to discuss the approach first during a visit of the local organizers to the vice-president and thereafter also with the president by skype and email. In 2011 during the NSSA congress we visited the venue and had a first meeting with the local organizers in Stellenbosh. At the SON congress in Corvallis (2011) we had another meeting with Mieke, Rosa and Driekie. At each symposium we attended we took the opportunity to discuss the congress e.g. with Mieke at the UGent symposium on Nematodes as bio-indicators and Rosa did the same at several other symposia (i.e. ONTA annual meetings, ESN meeting in Adana, African Crop Science Society Conference (Maputo 2011), AAB in London 2013). A more detailed report by the vice-president is added as an addendum to this final report. Through the period 2009-2014 there was a continuous constructive communication with the local organizers, the IFNS vice-president and president and as much as possible with the councilors. The scientific programme has been completed in time and accepted by all involved. It will cover 14 themes, a Bayer Forum, 3 workshops and 3 poster sessions. More than 430 participants are expected.

5. New members of IFNS

At the end of our term, we had the pleasure to welcome a new member for IFNS, the Federation, the Sociedad Venezolana de Nematologia (Venezuelan Society of Nematology) with Ernesto San-Blas as President and Ana Maria Cassasa as Vice-president The new society has currently 30 members.

The Nigerian Society of Nematologists (NISON) also have expressed the interest to the join the federation in a mail of Dr M. Omolara OLANIYI dd 18/7/2013. This was confirmed by Dr Dele T. Fawole from the University from Ibadan, Nigeria. During the presentation of current report on the achievements during the last 6 years in office at the IFNS meeting during the 6th INC (Cape Town), both new societies were accepted and received a warm welcome.

I also wish to thank Rosa for her commitment, support and help especially with the realization of an interesting scientific programme for current congress. Special thanks also for Safia Siddiqi who served IFNS from the start i.e. for 12 years as secretary, responsible for the website.

We hereby end our tasks as officers and transfer the mandate to the new IFNS officers. We wish them success with there mandate. They can always count on us for information or help; I was very lucky to have the support of David Chitwood. He was always there for additional explanation or advice. I hereby thank him for his help.

With best regards,

Roza Manzanilla
IFNS Vice-President

Safia Siddiqi
IFNS Secretary

Wilfrida Decraemer
IFNS