



## **Minutes: IFNS New Board Members Meeting Fifth International Nematology Congress, Brisbane, 14 July 2008**

- The new President and Vice-President thanked the former President (David Chitwood), Vice-President (Aurelio Ciancio) and Organizer of the Congress (Mike Hodda) for their great commitment to IFNS and to the organization of the congress. They were an ideal example for the new officers. They also thanked the members of the societies for their confidence in them. Both the President and Vice-President gave their views on the future of IFNS by presenting new goals along side the main aim: the support of the organization to the Sixth International Nematology Congress.
- Haddish Melakeberhan and Julie Nicol gave a summary of the fund raising initiative that was developed for this Congress in order to sponsor nematologists from developing countries to attend the meeting. A total of 21 students and researchers were sponsored through this initiative.
- It was also agreed that the **FINC abstracts** will be posted on the website of the Federation (this has now been done).
- **New proposals/goals were discussed:**
  - **To substantiate the constitution and statutes of IFNS**
  - **To create** a sustainable financial support for researchers/students from developing countries to attend Future Nematology Congresses through a **sustaining membership of IFNS**. The sole purpose of such a membership is financial support of Developing Nations in order to increase attendance from these nations; they are not involved in the working of the Federation.
  - **Activate communication** e.g. discussion themes (electronically, via website or e-mail or snail mail via letters)
  - **Increase “Nematology” visibility via website e.g. by Nematology highlight of the month**
  - one page on a famous nematologist from your country/society OR
  - description of an important discovery/project *Nematodes, a hidden world of spectacular creatures*.
  - A competition for the most spectacular, scientifically interesting photograph, illustration or art of nematodes and nematode related aspects.
  - Series of slides/ a power point presentation on Nematology for schools etc.

- Create an open forum to incentivize new nematologists to view Nematology as a long-term career opportunity.
- **Disseminate information about the IFNS** among nematologists addressing queries such as:
  - What is IFNS?
  - What can it do for Nematology and nematologists?
  - Increase communication between members of IFNS
  - To work in close collaboration with representatives of the different organizations and societies of the Federation **to prepare a comprehensive and inclusive programme for the Sixth International Nematology Congress in 2014.**
- After highlighting the new proposals, the President presented the current status and last draft of the Constitution of IFNS.
- Sue Turner (ESN) informed the attendance that ESN has finalized its constitution as an International Association and she suggested to use it as reference/information.
- Larry Duncan suggested retaining the domicile of the Federation in Beltsville, Maryland, USA. No objection was formulated. This will probably mean that IFNS Constitution will incorporate under USA law, have an USA address (instead of this of the president) and that next to current officers/members an USA citizen/s will have to be selected who is/are authorized to execute and sign official documents. Information will be gathered on this matter.
- Under “Affiliation and Membership” the proposal to create “Sustaining membership of IFNS” was unanimously accepted after the guarantee that the only purpose is to create an additional funding source for Developing Nations to attend the future International Nematology Congresses next to the new initiative of a Developing Nations Sponsorship Committee at the 5<sup>th</sup> Congress, an initiative that will be continued.

No remarks were given on the other articles of the current draft.

Current draft of the IFNS Institution:

## **DRAFT PROPOSAL DD 14/7/2008**

### **THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF NEMATOLOGY SOCIETIES (IFNS)**

#### I. PREAMBLE:

The International Federation of Nematology Societies was organized on July 10, 1996, during the Third International Nematology Congress, in Gosier, Guadeloupe. This event was preceded by much discussion over the years that intervened between the first (1984 - Guelbch Canada) and second (1990 - Veldhoven The Netherlands)

the first (1984 - Guelph, Canada) and second (1990 - Veldhoven, The Netherlands) International Nematology Congresses. An international feasibility 'Study Group', appointed at the 1990 Congress and representing eight Nematology Societies, developed the proposal that the IFNS be organized at the Guadeloupe Congress.

Presently, 14 Nematology Societies are affiliated within this Federation:

Afro-Asian Society of Nematologists  
Australasian Association of Nematologists  
Brazilian Society of Nematology  
Chinese Society of Plant Nematologists  
Egyptian Society of Agricultural Nematology  
European Society of Nematologists  
Italian Society of Nematologists  
Japanese Nematological Society  
Nematological Society of India  
Nematological Society of Southern Africa  
Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America  
Pakistan Society of Nematologists  
Russian Society of Nematologists  
Society of Nematologists

## II. STATUTES

### **Art. 1 – Name of organization**

The name of the organization is the International Federation of Nematology Societies, referred to hereafter as the Federation. The Federation shall be established indefinitely from the date of its organization - July 10, 1996.

### **Art. 2 – Acronym**

The acronym by which the Federation is known is "IFNS".

### **Art. 3 – Domicile and address**

The domicile of the Federation is Beltsville, Maryland, USA, and its address is the address of the acting President.

### **Art. 4 – Mission of the Federation**

The mission of the Federation is to plan, facilitate, and promote International Congresses of Nematology, to foster global awareness of nematodes and advancement of the science of Nematology, and to serve as a worldwide interface for Nematology Societies by promoting communication, education, research, and outreach. To serve this purpose, the Federation fosters exchange of information, and extend knowledge worldwide on all facets of Nematology.

### **Art. 5 – Incorporation**

The Federation is organized and operated as a non-corporate, non-for-profit organisation and has no political, religious or other affiliation. It is organized

organisation and has no political, religious or other affiliation. It is organized exclusively to advance the scientific and educational purposes described under art.

**Art. 5 – Affiliation and Membership**

The Federation is composed of affiliated Nematology Societies or Nematology-related professional Societies receiving approval to join the Federation by the Council. Affiliated Societies participate in all Federation activities, and affiliated organizations or agencies that may contribute to Federation programs as determined by the Council. Sustaining members are individuals who wish to contribute financially by a membership with the sole purpose to financially support researchers from Developing Nations and thus increase the number of participants from these nations to attend the International Nematology Congresses. Sustaining Members have no voting right and are not a member of the Governing Board or Council.

**Art. 6 – Structure of Organisation**

The Governing Board is comprised of the Societies represented by their appointed Councillors. Within 6 months of International Congresses, the Councillors nominate and elect three officers: President, Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer which are installed during the International Congress for a term of 3 years. At the end of 3 years, the same officers are re-elected or replaced by new officers in case of non-confidence voting or resignation for an additional 3 years. A quorum of Councilors from at least 5 Societies can request a vote of confidence for any officers anytime during their term. Special elections are organized to fill any vacancies of these officers. The President serves as a spokesperson for the council, presides at council meetings, and coordinates other council activities by electronic mailings sent to all Councilors simultaneously. The Vice-President coordinates the development of the scientific program of the International Congress and assists the President and Secretary-Treasurer

**Art. 7 – Committees**

The Council may appoint committees to assist in operation of the Federation.

**Art. 8 – Programs designed to achieve goals:**

International Congresses of Nematology are held every 6 years with the host Nematology Society having the responsibility for all local arrangements and finances. The Council, with coordination provided by the Vice President, develops the scientific program of the Congress. The Federation enhances communication and promotes collaboration among related scientists worldwide (through respective affiliated Societies and other channels), facilitates the exchange of journals, books and other materials, and develops and maintains a web site.

**Art. 9 – Federation Council:**

The Societies appoint their councilor(s). The number of councilors is based on Society membership: 200 or fewer members - one councilor; greater than 200 members - two councilors. The Council acts as executive committee on all matters. Agreement is obtained upon majority

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**Art. 10 – Meetings and activities:**

The Council meets at International Congresses and reports of officers are available; additional business is conducted by electronic mail.

**Art. 11 – Language**

The official language is English.

**Art. 12 – Funds:** The Federation has no direct control over funds. The Federation achieves objectives that require funding by facilitating and coordinating agreements among the Societies and other institutions outside the Federation, such as transfer of Congress seed money from one Congress host Society to the next, transfer of donations from outside the Federation to Societies who have volunteered to execute Federation objectives, and transfer of money amongst Societies to support the website.

**Art. 13 – Financial liabilities and commitment of Federation:**

The financial liabilities of the Federation are limited to its current funds. Financial commitment requiring only the signature of the Secretary-Treasurer and those that also require the signature of other officers or Council members are determined by the Council. The Council has the authority to take actions for the safe keeping of the Federation's assets, including, but not limited to, bonding of signatories on Federation's accounts or multiple signatures for withdrawals.

**Art. 14 – Legal representation:**

The officers represent the Federation in legal matters as approved by the Council.

**Art. 15 – Procedures for voting:**

Each councilor has one vote. Votes are counted to elect officers, select congress meeting sites, and make other Council decisions. All elections and decisions taken by the Council require an absolute majority, that is, positive votes from more than 50% of the entire Council. If there is no winner in the first round, a run off vote between the two choices receiving the most votes in the first round must receive an absolute majority in the second round. Voting is completely open; the vote of each Councilor is always announced when votes are counted.

**Art. 16 – Changes to the Constitution:**

The Constitution may be amended by a positive vote of a 75% majority of councilors. Councilors must be notified by mail or E-mail of such a recommendation to amend with a minimum time of 60 days prior to the deadline to return the ballot. Ballots are available for audit by the Council.

**Art. 17 – Dissolution of the Federation:**

The Federation may be dissolved upon the approval of 75% of councillors. If dissolution should occur, the officers acting for the Council settle the accounts and

dissolution should occur, the officers acting for the Council settle the accounts and dispose of the property of the Federation. Any plan for distribution of property resulting from dissolution of the Federation must be approved by 75% of the Council.

17 September 2008:  
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