



The World Vegetable Center

# Newsletter

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**Extracts from President Chen Shui-bian's speech at the unveiling ceremony on 14 April 2008**

Building partnerships across the Pacific: AVRDC hosts the latest APSA meeting and a training session in the Solomon Islands. *Page 4.*

At what cost: Around the world food prices are rising. But the worst is yet to come. *Page 3.*



"AVRDC's efforts over the past three decades have brought its operations to regions outside of Asia, and established the center's reputation and status worldwide in the field of vegetable research."

"... we are pleased to see that AVRDC has not only successfully achieved breakthroughs in agricultural production by combining traditional and cutting-edge agricultural technologies, but also has shared these advances with farmers around the world."



"Its hard work has inspired numerous international agricultural institutions to focus on the research and development of vegetables and has drawn individuals from across the world to support AVRDC."

*Read the complete speech on our intranet or download the PDF file.*

## AVRDC is *the* World Vegetable Center

It is now official: AVRDC is the World Vegetable Center. With the assumption of office of the Center's new director, Dr. Dyno Keatinge, the byname reflecting the Center's expanded role over the past five years has been confirmed at the highest level. Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian unveiled the enhanced name plaque in a ceremony at the center's headquarters in Shanhua, Taiwan on Monday 14 April 2008.

The unveiling took place in the company of Secretary General Chen, Tainan Magistrate Su, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Huang. The AVRDC Board, headed by Chairman Paul Sun, and the Center's incoming and outgoing directors, Drs. Dyno Keatinge and Thomas Lumpkin, attended the ceremony.

President Chen Shui-bian expressed his congratulations to Dr. Keatinge on assuming the position as Director General: "I am confident that, under Dr. Keatinge's leadership, the center will



successfully realize its aim to benefit nations across the globe." Words of commendation also went to the outgoing Director General Dr. Thomas Lumpkin, whose vision and indefatigable commitment guided the Center as it made the transition from a predominantly Asia-focused organization to an institute with a global reputation for excellence.

Under the new directorship, AVRDC will stick to its

- Photos (clockwise, left to right):*
- 01 Acting in concert: Unveiling of the plaque.
  - 02 Continuity and yet start of a new era: Outgoing Director General Dr. Thomas Lumpkin and new Director General Dr. Dyno Keatinge.
  - 03 Interview partner in demand: Tainan County media interview the new DG and his wife Rosi.

principles, as Dr. Keatinge emphasized: The Center will strive diligently under new management to live up to its claim, "Prosperity for the poor and health for all."

- Communications

## The LIBRARY

## New publications

## ...from Center staff

Chen, C.H., Sheu, Z.M., Wang, T.C. (2008). Host specificity and tomato-related race composition of *Phytophthora infestans* isolates in Taiwan during 2004 and 2005. *PLANT DISEASE*. v.92(5):751-755.

Green, S.K., Engle, L.M., Liu, C.A., Kuo, C.G. (2007). AVRDC's cucurbit genetic resources and prospects for their use as sources of disease resistance. In: Symposium of international workshop on the cucurbit diseases and resistance breeding. Wufeng, Taichung: The Plant Protection Society of the Republic of China. p.119-136.

## ...from the world of science

Ahn, M., Kang, W.S., Park, E.W., Yun, S.C. (2008). Validation of an anthracnose forecaster to schedule fungicide spraying for pepper. *PLANT PATHOLOGY JOURNAL*. v.24(1):46-51.

Ashutosh, Kumar, P. (2008). A novel *orf108* co-transcribed with the *atpA* gene is associated with cytoplasmic male sterility in *Brassica juncea* carrying *Moricandia arvensis* cytoplasm. *PLANT & CELL PHYSIOLOGY*. v.49(2):284-289.

Chaouach, M., Malki, R.E., Berard, A., Romaniuk, M., Laval, V., Brunel, D., Bertheau, Y. (2008). Development of a real-time PCR method for the differential detection and quantification of four Solanaceae in GMO analysis: potato (*Solanum tuberosum*), tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*), eggplant (*Solanum melongena*), and pepper (*Capsicum annuum*). *JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CHEMISTRY*. v.56(6):1818-1828.

Franks, A., Mark-Byrne, G.L., Dow, J.M., O'Gara, F. (2008). A putative RNA-binding protein has a role in virulence in *Ralstonia solanacearum* GMI1000. *MOLECULAR PLANT PATHOLOGY*. v.9(1):67-72.

Jia, H., Kurlle, J.E. (2008). Resistance and partial resistance to *Phytophthora sojae* in early maturity group soybean plant introductions. *EUPHYTICA*. v.159(1/2):27-36.

Polak, P. (2008). Out of poverty: what works when traditional approaches fail. San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc. xi, 232 pp.

Tan, M.J., Ye, J.M., Turner, N., Cordula, H.B., Ke, C.Q., Tang, C.P., Chen, T., Weiss, H.C., Gesing, E.R., Rowland, A., James, D.E., Ye, Y. (2008). Antidiabetic activities of triterpenoids isolated from

bitter melon associated with activation of the AMPK pathway. *CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY*. v.15:263-273.

Zhang, Q., Cao, J.S., Liu, H.Z., Huang, L., Xiang, X., Yu, X.L. (2008). Characterization and functional analysis of a novel PCP gene BcMF5 from Chinese cabbage (*Brassica campestris* L. ssp. *chinensis* Makino). *JOURNAL OF PLANT PHYSIOLOGY*. v.165(4):445-455.

Adato, M., Meinzen-Dick, R. (2007). Agricultural research, livelihoods, and poverty: studies of economic and social impacts in six countries. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press. xxvi, 388 pp.

Chang, C.A., Deng, T.C., Kao, C.W. (2007). Symposium of international workshop on the cucurbit diseases and resistance breeding. Wufeng, Taichung: The Plant Protection Society of the Republic of China. iii, 148 pp.

Verspohl, E.J. (2002). Recommended testing in diabetes research. *PLANTA MEDICA*. v.68:581-590.

Kessler, S., Kim, M., Pham, T., Weber, N., Sinha, N. (2001). Mutations altering leaf morphology in tomato. *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PLANT SCIENCES*. v.162(3):475-492.

## New magazines

*Business Weekly* (Chinese) – 14-20 April 2008

*Business Weekly* (Chinese) – 21-27 April 2008

*The Economist*: The great American slowdown – 12-18 April 2008

*National Geographic*: China: Inside the Dragon – May 2008

– Fang-chin Chen/Communications



## PEOPLE

## En route

Dr. Robert de la Pena, 17-23 April, to the Philippines, to participate in the CGIAR workshop on biotechnology at IRRI headquarters, Los Baños, Laguna.

a b

Dr. Jaw-fen Wang, 20-27 April, to India, to participate in the exploratory survey in Uttarakhand; 28 April-3 May, to attend the planning workshop of SRTT-funded project in Punjab and Jharkhand; 4-6 May, to visit RCSA and ICRISAT for future collaborations.

a b

Dr. Ray-yu Yang, 26 April-5 May, to India, to participate in Planning Workshops in Punjab and

Jharkhand for the Sir Ratan Tata Trust project.

a b

Dr. R. Srinivasan, 26 April-9 May, to India, to attend the Planning Workshop of the SRTT-funded project on Safer Vegetable Production in Punjab and Jharkhand; to discuss the tospovirus project at Vegetable Research Centre, Mahyco Seeds Ltd., Bangalore and arrange for thrips collection in tospo-infected fields in India.

— Yvonne Ting/ASU

## Farewell to Tom



## CORNUCOPIA

## Your new e-mail address is coming



Next week you will get a new e-mail address.

Following several weeks of pilot testing we are now ready to shift all our

e-mail addresses to [worldveg.org](http://worldveg.org). Your new e-mail address will be [firstname.lastname@worldveg.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@worldveg.org). Starting on Monday you will receive a welcome letter with a password to access your account, and then each day next week you will receive messages to help you set up and use your new account. Your old e-mail will continue to work as normal. Staff in headquarters with a netra account will have all their e-mail copied to their new worldveg account. Staff in the regions will begin with two independent e-mail addresses. The new e-mail system is a premium corporate version of Gmail and can be accessed

over the web; it also works with e-mail programs such as Outlook.

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— Communications

## In the media this week

Two reports caught our interest this week, as they provide well-written updates on an issue that is making headlines all over the world: The global food crisis.

"The Fury of the Poor" - *SpiegelOnline* (English edition), 14 April 2008

German weekly "Der Spiegel" starts its overview in Haiti, and then moves on to other areas of the developing world where the revolution in agricultural and trade sectors is causing more and more poor people to struggle. The text also highlights some consequences for India and China.

"UN addresses food production, poverty and rising prices" - *International Herald Tribune*, 16 April 2008

A panel of UN members commented last Tuesday that modern agriculture will have to change radically if the international community wants to cope with growing populations and climate change while avoiding social fragmentation and irreversible deterioration of the environment. IHT author Steve Erlanger explores the issue.

Both articles can be downloaded from the newsletter section of the AVRDC intranet.

## FOCUS

### Developing our partnership with the private seed sector



APSA members reviewing the trials. *Photos by Ming-che Chen*

The fourth annual workshop between the Center and APSA (Asia Pacific Seed Association) was held in headquarters last week. With a membership of 434 companies from 44 countries, APSA partners with the Center in commercializing our germplasm for use by poor farmers. The partnership is a model for our work with the private sector. A full one and a half days of

discussions covered our work on tomatoes, peppers and cucurbits, molecular markers, entomology, regional variety testing, training and interaction with GRSU. This was followed by field inspections. The Asia-Pacific represents 35% of the global seed industry worth about \$9 billion.

— *Communications*



### Building capacity to conduct variety trials



Participants of the workshop on Statistics and Experimental Design.

A training workshop on Statistics and Experimental Design was conducted in Honiara, Solomon Islands on 16-18 April 2008 to build the capacity of local partners in implementing the Integrated Crop Management Package for Smallholder Gardens. Fifteen

participants representing the Ministry of Agriculture, Kastom Gaden Association, Don Bosco Rural Training Center, Vois Blong Mere and Farmset, Limited attended the workshop and were trained by Dolores (Didit) Ledesma, Statistician. The project

partners are now well equipped and ready to conduct variety and crop management trials using the lessons learned from this workshop.

— *Contributed by Dr. M.C. Palada*