

Business Meeting of the CMET – 20th August, IHC2014, Brisbane, Australia

ISHS-Commission on Education, Research Training and Consultancy (CMET)

Tribute paid to David Aldous (Chair of the CMET since 2008).

The CMET should think making a video on ISHS to be more up to date in the messages to carry and in the way to disseminate them:

- Social sciences are easy to incorporate to training,
- The role of extension associations needs to be visible and documented on the web with educating groups,
- The Commission supports consultancy activities, although it cannot become a consulting agency itself.

The CMET should make a good promotion of the various case studies of its members and partners. The role of the CMET should be making a more collective contribution than plenty individual ones. How to combine brains? A suggestion is to create a group on advocacy of horticulture. Advocacy and awareness rising (e.g., school gardens) is also useful to advocate for horticulture as a career opportunity. The CMET shall place credible information on the web (e.g., ISHS is placing rotating pictures on the website “What is exciting to be a horticulturist” with a story attached to each of them.

New training materials could be added to the web of ISHS. However, the model to access it needs to be defined (at least free for all ISHS members). Training workshops attached to thematic symposia could be an opportunity to attract more (young) participants in each event:

- Horticulture business management (train the trainers)
- Urban and peri-urban horticulture (raising awareness)
- IPM control in the field of horticulture (invasive species)
- Resource management (water, organic matter, soil fertility, biodiversity...)
- ...

This is to link with the requirement for up-to-date information on the needs of skills in horticulture, and the capacities to deliver. Some surveys should be carried out and followed up (analyzed and refreshed) to give a timely picture, continent by continent (review of what is going on).

- Where horticulture shows up in school curriculum?
- What are the jobs/skills/competences needed?

This activity should be in interaction with all sections and commissions of ISHS to gather consist of compare available information, collect and manage data, identify topics and experts as trainers.

From these ideas, a suggestion is to create working groups within the CMET:

- Advocacy in horticulture: the role of social media
- Distance learning: opportunities and lessons from experience
- Scientific writing assistance: Ian Warrington is already doing it.

- Assessing skill needs and training capacities

The Board of ISHS should be associated to build up the strategy requested by its CMET.

E. Geoffriau contributed on 3 items:

- The CMET has legitimacy to give examples (How to teach horticulture?) in order to influence (upgrade) the way to teach horticulture.
- The management of pedagogic resources: these resources shall be free on ISHS website, with a clear labelling/endorsement by ISHS for each module (the added value of ISHS).
- The CMET shall contribute to identify hidden resources (mixed with general agriculture or social sciences).

Present at the CMET-Business Meeting:

Full name	Country	Contact
Isaac Aiyelaagbe	Nigeria	ola_olu57@yahoo.com
Alison Anderson	Australia	alison.anderson@horticulture.com.au
Ross Cameron	UK	r.w.cameron@sheffield.ac.uk
Neeru Dukey	India	rdukey@amity.edu
Emmanuel Geoffriau	France	emmanuel.geoffriau@grocampus-ouest.fr
Remi Kahane	France	remi.kahane@cirad.fr
Leanne Kruss	Australia	rwdo.mdfvga.fng@gmail.com
John Mawson	Australia	Jmawson@csn.edu.au
Robyn McConchie	Australia	robyn.mcconchie@sydney.edu.au
Gerard McEvelly	Australia	gmcevilly@mail.com
Peter Mills	Australia	pemills@csu.edu.au
Leigh Morris	UK	lmorris@rzss.org.uk
Silvana Nicola	Italy	silvana.nicola@unito.it
Kim-Yen Phan-Thien	Australia	kim-yen.phan-thien@sydney.edu.au
Nagahami M. Raman	India	nlmraman@gmail.com

CMET-Workshop held on 21st August, IHC2014 Brisbane, Australia

Open debate moderated by Remi Kahane on the following questions:

What education and training in horticulture already exists (vocational and tertiary education)? How to capture the offer? How to check the adequacy to the needs?

- *In Europe, Erasmus Plus Life Learning Programme concentrates on mobility and recognition*
- *Do we need specialists in horticulture? At which level?*
- *Do we need new forms of education, what is the place of innovative practices among traditional ones?*

Bruce Ham: Believes in voluntary training network for communities. He organizes monthly meetings gathering about 100 persons each. The meetings are organic oriented, ecology sensitive. The network publishes newsletters and documents.

Peter Mills: Has fruitful experience of exchange programs between universities (Australia-Africa) including short study tours.

Michelle Smith: Would like to promote continuous education through short courses and online publications, as an open window to international education. She mentioned the knowledge of Chinese markets as training needs for (Australian) horticulturists.

Gerard McEvilly: Mentioned that only one specialist in horticulture is left in the whole Australia (Peter Mills).

Leigh Morris: Was in favor of blended learning (distance and in situ) as long as going virtual is relevant for some key elements, and going to education centers remain essential to get the degrees.

Peter Mills: Noted that all Australian students are already distance learning, and the issue is to get students back to the course! Why is it so? Just because a career in horticulture in Australia is not sexy! In his opinion, the situation is opposite in developing countries: in China, students attend management degrees, in India and Africa, they attend horticulture. Australia collaborates with these students to have enough students and maintain their programs.

Alexis Rendell-Dunn: His experience would encourage start with student exchange. He doubts whether there is still a need for a horticulture specific curriculum.

Wolfgang Bokelmann: Acknowledged that the number of students in horticulture has gone down for many years, but observed a recent improvement, certainly due to a renewed interest in the environment. He noted more attractiveness since the programs are getting more international.

Emmanuel Geoffriau: Observed that the European Master program in horticulture IMASH struggles to find European students, and also to have joined diploma among the European institutions. Double diploma is easier to get. This is the present trends with institutions in African or Asian countries, in order to keep the contact. He also mentioned that initial education is mainly developed, and not lifelong education, although probably better adapted to the professional status.

Peter Batt: Confirmed the need for an education system where you “pick up what you need, when you need”. However, the education modules need to be somewhere. He promoted the Open University System where you access the courses for free and pay just for graduation. As an example, he mentioned a course on food safety, a program accessible by anyone and funded by the World Bank.

Where are the capacities to teach and train, then? The answer is: in the online modules, where ISHS should become a world leader. The way to teach is not only a learning issue.

How to define the area of horticulture? Promote horticulture to better analyze the whole range of knowledge it covers. There is anyway a strong need for advocacy for horticulture, because the industry is not associated in the university management (at least in Australia and in the UK as well).

Alexis Rendell-Dunn: Reason why it is important to produce a compendium of horticulture, based on large resources.

Kae Miyazawa: English speaking is the first problem for the students in Japan. Then come the possibilities for exchange. Anyway, at the University of Tokyo, there is no specialization in horticulture.

Lung-Hsien Chang: Mentioned exchanges of undergraduate students at his university, and short courses on horticulture.

Norman Looney: Cited at least two areas where education and training are crucial: urban horticulture and organic horticulture.

Silvana Nicola: Intended to wrap up the ideas and suggested a road map based on:

- Stimulating international exchanges,
- Making horticulture something important,
- Suggest how ISHS can be useful: promote horticulture, and collect information (experiences, case studies, data, resources etc.)

These ideas are in line with a strategy for ISHS (to be disseminated through booklet and video): Jens Wünsche is the Board member associated with this duty.

Present at the CMET workshop:

Full name	Country	Contact
Peter Batt	Australia	peterjbatt@gmail.com
Wolfgang Bokelmann	Germany	wbokelmann@agrar.hu-berlin.de
Lung-Hsien Chang	Taiwan	lhchang@faculty.nctu.edu.tw
Emmanuel Geoffriau	France	emmanuel.geoffriau@grocampus-ouest.fr
Bruce Ham	Australia	bruceham@optusnet.com.au
Remi Kahane	France	remi.kahane@cirad.fr
Norman Looney	Canada	-
Gerard McEvilly	Australia	gmcevilly@mail.com
Peter Mills	Australia	pemills@csu.edu.au
Kae Miyazawa	Japan	akae@ecc.u-tokyo.ac.jp
Leigh Morris	UK	lmorris@rzss.org.uk
Silvana Nicola	Italy	silvana.nicola@unito.it
Alexis Rendell-Dunn	Cabi	a.rendell-dunn@cabi.org
Nebabst Sari	Turkey	nesari@cu.edu.tr
Babita Singh	India	drbabita9@gmail.com
Bimala Singh	India	hamitsinghfoundation@gmail.com
Michelle Smith	Australia	michelle.smith@dpi.nsw.gov.au
Ilknur Solmaz	Turkey	isolmaz@cu.edu.tr
France Velvin	New Zealand	frances.velvin@mpi.govt.nz