

THE AEASA 2010 CONFERENCE: A CONFERENCE WITH A DIFFERENCE

In 2010 the Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa (AEASA) will join forces with the African Association for Agricultural Economists (AAAE) to host an international conference at the Westin Grand Hotel in Cape Town from 19 to 23 September 2010. As this joint conference will form the regular annual conference of AEASA and the tri-annual Conference of AAAE, it is expected that between 300 and 400 delegates from Africa and South Africa will attend the Conference.

Even more importantly, due to the international nature of the Conference it is expected that delegates will receive an unique international exposure on our home turf. It has already been confirmed that the whole Executive Committee of the International Association for Agricultural Economists (IAAE) will attend the Conference and some of them will also be invited to present papers. The President of the IAAE (Prof Kei Otsuka), the President-elect (Prof. Jo Swinnen) and the Past-President (Dr Prabhu Pingali) has all indicated their attendance of the Conference. From the African Continent the full Executive Committee of the AAAE will accompany the President, Dr Akin Adesina. Interest for dedicated sessions has also been received from as far as China, Europe and the USA.

Prof Karl Storchmann has been invited to present the Simon Brand Memorial Lecture. Prof Storchmann is currently associated with the New York University in the USA, Whitman College in Washington State, USA as well as the University of Bochum in Germany. He is also the Managing Editor of the Journal of Wine Economics as well as the Vice President of the American Association of Wine Economists. The AAAE will identify an appropriate candidate to present the corresponding AAAE memorial lecture.

The theme of the Conference, influenced by current realities at home and on the African Continent, will be "Food and financial crisis: the way forward". As was the case with the 2009 IAAE Conference, no specific sub themes were identified. In recognition of the wide range of research interests of the membership of both AAAE and AEASA, it was decided to rather allow prospective participants to submit their papers without trying to massage its true character into a specific framework. After selection, these papers will instead be clustered into thematic areas as well as designated for either visual or oral presentation.

Due to the international character of the Conference the number of contributed papers and participatory sessions has been increased. The programme of the Conference make provision for 7 keynote addresses, 100 contributed papers, 50 poster papers and 10 Mini Symposia / Workshops / Discussion Groups. It is important to note that the normal competitions for the best contributed paper as well as best poster paper will continue. However, this time around an added dimension will be that the winners will be able to justifiably claim that their paper will be the best on the African Continent.

As the 2010 AAAE/AEASA Conference promises to be an extremely exciting Conference, it is important for prospective participants to take note of the following dates:

EVENT	DATE
Submission of contributed papers (oral & visual)	28 May 2010
Submission of proposals for symposia, etc.	28 May 2010
Notification of acceptance of papers & proposals	30 July 2010
Closure of early bird registration	14 August 2010
Conference	19 – 23 September 2010

Registration fees for this 4-day Conference will be R3 750 to which the AEASA membership fee will be added. A special lower rate will be calculated for those individuals who will only be able to attend one or two days of the Conference.

For general enquiries and registration please contact Colleen Yeoman at:

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Submission of papers and proposals should be addressed to the chair of the Programme Committee, Prof. Nick Vink. He can be contacted at:

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