

Minutes of the panel discussion during Closing Session of ICBF-2006 held at 1530 h on 21st June 2006 at the Conference & Culture Centre, University of Patras, Patras, Greece

In the absence of Prof C Larroche, the session was chaired by Prof AA Koutinas, University of Patras, Greece

Closing Session - Summary and Conclusion of the ICBF-2006
Minutes of the panel discussion during Closing Session of ICBF-2006

Followings were panellists:

1. Prof AA Koutinas, Greece
2. Prof Ashok Pandey, India
3. Dr S Roussos, Greece
4. Prof LV Rao, India
5. Dr EM Papamichael, Greece

Prof Ashok Pandey announced that the session would be chaired by Prof Koutinas and requested him to summarise the proceedings of ICBF-2006 and also initiate discussion about ICBF Forum. Prof Koutinas briely described about the scientific program of the congress; he mentioned that there were 261 papers altogether presented in the congress, which included 50 invited papers, 50 short oral contributory papers and 161 posters. These were authored from researchers of 34 countries and delegates from 31 countries participated in the congress. As far the categorization of these papers was concerned under the themes of the ICBF Forum, these were as below:

1. Biocatalysis: 125
2. Bioprocess Engineering: 55
3. Food and raw materials characterization: 81

Prof Koutinas thanked the invitees and other participants and also to all those who supported the organization of ICBF-2006 financially or otherwise. He made the following specific proposals:

- i) Strengthen the ICBF Forum.
- ii) To plan to add common research proposals. These should be coordinated by members of ICBF Forum and its participants should be members of the Forum.
- iii) Financial aspects of ICBF Forum- some funds should be provided by the ICBF Congress organizers to the Forum.
- iv) A world congress should be organized by the Forum. For example, the third congress could be a world congress.
- v) Topics of ICBF Congresses: As such the present structure should continue with following additions- Fermentation technologies in food production, biorefinery, fermented food, pre- and probiotics, SCP and starter cultures (under 1st area), and, Development of new food stuff (under 3rd area).

Dr Roussos strongly commended the high standard of ICBF-2006, quality of papers and posters presented and made following observations:

- i) Organization of ICBF-2006 was very strong. Some other people associated with Forum should help the Convener of the ICBF Congresses.
- ii) No participant attended ICBF-2006; attempts should be made to see that in next congress there are participants from these countries.
- iii) For next meeting invite more students and young researchers.
- iv) ICBF Forum is a good platform for interaction; it should be strengthened.
- v) Topics of ICBF Congresses: As such the present structure should continue with following additions—Food safety for quality with predictive microbiology and mycology, and medicinal mushrooms, in particular their post harvest technology.

Prof L V Rao congratulated the organizers of the ICBG-2006 for holding a grand and successful scientific congress. He suggested that interactions among ICBF Forum members should continue. Regarding topics of ICBF Congresses he mentioned that present structure could continue. He also emphasised the need to invite more numbers of students and young researchers.

Dr EM Papamichael congratulated to all the participants and specifically to Prof AA Koutinas and Dr C Psarianos for their strong work for the success of the congress. Regarding topics of ICBF Congresses he also mentioned that present structure could continue.

Subsequently Prof Ashok Pandey presented his point of view and also responded to the points made by the panel members on behalf of ICBF Forum. He informed that due to some urgent need ICBF Forum Council Chairman, Prof CG Dussap could not attend the congress and that Prof C Larroche, coordinator of the ICFB Forum had to leave in the noon on 21st June due to an important business meeting at France. He congratulated the organizers of the ICBF-2006 for a very successful and high standard scientific congress, and proposed an applause by the house for Prof AA Koutinas, Dr C Psarianos and Dr EM Papamichael and the local organizing committee for their strong efforts made in last two years for the organization of ICBF-2006.

He welcomed the ideas presented by the panel members and mentioned that the suggestions would be discussed by the ICBF Forum council. He agreed that efforts should be made to include participants from African countries and students and young researchers should be encouraged in more numbers to participate in ICBF Congresses. He mentioned that those who wish to join the ICBF Forum could contact Prof C Larroche by email. He also welcomed the idea of financial matter proposed by Prof AA Koutinas.

Subsequently, Prof Koutinas told that the venue for ICBF-2008 would be announced by Prof Ashok Pandey, who declared INDIA as the host for the next congress of ICBF Forum in 2008. The house cheered with applause on this. He informed that Prof L V Rao, Department of Microbiology, Osmania University, Hyderabad-500 007, India would be its Convener. Prof Pandey invited Prof Rao to speak the house. Prof Rao thanked the ICBF Forum for giving the opportunity to conduct ICBF-2008 in India and ensured to make all efforts for a grand organization with large participation of delegates from all over the world. He invited each and all present in the audience to attend the congress. ICBF-2008 would be held during November/December 2008.

Finally, Prof Koutinas thanked the participants once again and declared the close of ICBF-2006.

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