

Summary of the 54th International Congress of Meat Science and Technology August 10-15, 2008

The 54th International Congress of Meat Science and Technology was held in Cape Town, South Africa from 10-15 August, 2008. This conference is an annual international forum for the exchange of scientific information, technology and experience among researchers in meat science (<http://icomst2008.co.za/>).

Eloquently described by the South African committee, with the ever increasing demand for improved quality in production and processing, and the resulting impact thereof on human consumption this event is an ideal platform for participants not only to focus on research priorities, but also to gain insight into the challenges of the meat industry and how these are addressed through innovations developed by scientists. It is also an opportunity for scientists from different levels of expertise to network and cooperate between the scientific disciplines of the world meat industry. More than 250 delegates attended ICoMST representing 45 countries.

The theme of this year's conference was "The Role of Science in the Growing Demand for Red Meat". Twenty-four invited speakers presented on the following topics:

- Animal welfare and animal stress challenges
- Food safety and human nutrition challenges
- Meat packaging, processing and value adding
- Challenges in the practical use of genetics
- Challenges in exploiting nonconventional animal products
- Manipulation of muscle structure and biochemistry to produce quality meat
- Techniques and models to predict and manipulate meat quality
- Meat research challenges and project up-dates
- Challenges in meeting consumer and industry demands

The complete papers on which most of the presentations were based are found in Meat Science, Volume 80, Issue 1, September 2008. In addition, 40 short presentations were made selected from the 261 posters submitted.

Finally, a very enjoyable time was had by all during the varied and well organised social program, in particular, sampling the local meats and wines!

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(Left to Right) Monica Price, Mick Price, Peter Purslow, Tania Ngapo & Noelia Aldai