

Summary of the 56th International Congress of Meat Science and Technology 15-20 August 2010

The 56th International Congress of Meat Science and Technology was held on the volcanic island of Jeju in the Republic of Korea from 15-20 August, 2010 ([http:// www.icomst2010.org/sub/gree.php](http://www.icomst2010.org/sub/gree.php)). This conference is an annual international forum for the exchange of scientific information, technology and experience among researchers in meat science.

The theme of this year's conference was "Meeting of the East and West in Meat Science and Culture". In the true spirit of ICoMST, the South Korean organisers embarked on the challenge to create a congress equally of world class science as of social events showcasing Korean culture ... and they succeeded! The ICoMST 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. The Congress is also an opportunity for scientists from different levels of expertise to network and cooperate among the scientific disciplines of the world meat industry. More than 500 delegates attended ICoMST representing 45 countries.

Twenty-seven invited speakers presented on the following topics:

- Meat Production and Consumption in the World
- Meat Consumer Science
- Meat Issues in the International Marketplace
- Advanced Technologies for Muscle Biology
- Control of Meat Quality
- Environmental and Live Animal Considerations Relevant to Meat
- Safety Issues in the Meat Industry
- Innovation in Processed Meat Products
- Managing Meat Safety
- Health and Meat Products
- Consumer Expectations

The complete papers on which most of the presentations were based are found in Meat Science, Volume 86, Issue 1, September 2010. In addition, 18 short presentations were selected from the 364 posters submitted.

Finally, a really enjoyable time was had by all during the varied and well organised social program with highlights including tasting local meats while being entertained with traditional music, dance and martial arts in the company of good friends and colleagues!

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