

Cristian Hera´s 90th Anniversary

Congratulation address on behalf of the CIEC presidium
by
Secretary General of CIEC, Prof. Dr. Silvia Haneklaus, Goslar,
Germany

All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree. All these aspirations are directed toward ennobling man's life, lifting it from the sphere of mere physical existence and leading the individual towards freedom.

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Prof. Dr. mult. Cristian Hera and CIEC (International Scientific Centre for Fertilizers) have many things in common, and on the occasion of their 90th anniversary a retrospect seems more than appropriate to honor the invaluable merits of Cristian Hera who celebrates in fact two jubilees.



Photo 1. Happy birthday, dearest Cristian!

With Cristian Hera as President of CIEC a seminal era of entire and sedulous commitment to research in fertilizers and fertilization started in 1996. Before, Cristian Hera was inflamed by fertilizer research as a young scientist so that it was natural to become a member of CIEC. His idols and predecessors in office of President of CIEC were *E. Feisst*, *R. Montjardino*, *Dj. B.*

Jelenić and *C. S. Serghiu*. They had set impressive benchmarks which can be followed up in the tradition of the proceedings published in the line of each Symposium and World Fertilizer Congress organized by CIEC. It has been Cristian Hera's will to continue with traditions and to outperform achievements made so far. He decided just that way. He did so. And he succeeded. Cristian Hera left a unique heritage to his successor Ewald Schnug in a professional and personal way (Photo 1).



Photo 2. Two governors – one voice!
(left: Prof. Ewald Schnug; right: Prof. Cristian Hera, Braunschweig 2008)

Meanwhile both scientists look back to a throughout successful scientific co-operation since 1996 when they met together with Prof. Erwin Welte in Braunschweig (Photo 3).



Photo 3. A triumvirate of its own.
(from left to right: Prof. Erwin Welte, Prof. Cristian Hera and Prof. Ewald Schnug)

Since then CIEC affiliates scientists with ambition and foresight as agricultural research demands innovation to master the stewardship for food security and food safety.

Whatever Cristian Hera touched turned to gold as did King Midas in Greek mythology. Nine patents are best evidence for his brilliant and advanced thinking. His scientific career was marked with the position of President of the Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences (AFAS), his political dedication among others with the position of Vice-President of the National Council of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development (MAFRD) and Vice-President of the National College for Research-Development-Innovation of the Ministry of Education and Research (MER). His unfailing commitment was marked with the granting of 11 *honoris causa* doctorates. His personal dedication to fertilizer research he unfolded as President of CIEC from 1996 to 2010. This way he contributed to rural development and implementation of latest research in agriculture in Romania and many other countries worldwide. There is no doubt about the enormous tasks, challenges and adversities lying ahead, whilst trusting the invaluable experience of Cristian Hera is still at hand and is still needed to live up to the expectation of the science community towards CIEC activities and standards.

Those who might think that Cristian Hera is supernatural and must miss friendship, laughing and a glass of good wine is proven utterly wrong as the photos from the 14th World Fertilizer Congress in Chiang Mai show.



Photo 4. The person and friend (Chiang Mai, 2006).

This leaves us to say simply thanks that you are, dear friend!

Silvia Haneklaus, Goslar, December 18, 2023