

CIEC¹

The International Scientific Centre of Fertilizers

A historical Review

Part II

1998 – 2021

by Ewald Schnug, Braunschweig

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC
CENTRE OF FERTILIZERS (CIEC)

BRAUNSCHWEIG □ SHENYANG □
2020

VER: JULY 31,2020

(pictures and documents are assembled on this website in the "Timeline of CIEC")

¹ CIEC is an acronym for many more organizations: <https://acronyms.thefreedictionary.com/CIEC>

HISTORY of CIEC Part II

Part I of CIEC's history has been written by its 4th President, Prof. Cristian Hera. Part 2 has been compiled by Prof. Ewald Schnug, 5th President of CIEC. Both parts have their very own view and diction and for the sake of authenticity the first part of "History of CIEC" has not been edited. Both parts overlap the time period 1994-2020, giving the readers a view from two different angles on CIEC's history.

Roots of "modern CIEC" go back to the 8th Symposium of CIEC in Salamanca (ESP) in September 26–29, 1994. It was the first CIEC Symposium Ewald Schnug participated in and on this occasion he became acquainted with Prof. Erwin Welte. During an IAEA/FAO Symposium on "*Nuclear techniques in soil-plant studies for sustainable agriculture and environmental preservation*" held in Vienna, October 17-20, 1994 Ewald Schnug met Cristian Hera for the first time.

After eight years without clear structure and leadership Prof. Erwin Welte, the last "veteran survivor" of the old CIEC core, called for a General Assembly on June 19, 1996 in Vienna to bootstrap a fresh start of CIEC. On his suggestion Cristian Hera (former IAE/FAO Soil Programme Director (<https://www.iaea.org/about/soil-and-water-management-and-crop-nutrition-section>)) was pronounced uncontested 4th President of CIEC. The new CIEC Presidium had 28 new members and was dedicated to revitalize CIEC to its former glory.

At that time the working structure of CIEC was as follows:

President: C. Hera, Bucarest (ROU)

Deputy President (for membership): G. Hofmann, Ghent (BEL)

Deputy President (for conferences): E. Schnug, Braunschweig (DEU)

Secretary General: T. Nemeth, Budapest (HUN)

Deputy Secretary General: P. Cepuder, Vienna (AUT)

Editor-in-Chief: I. Szabolcs (†), Budapest (HUN)

Co-Editors: I. Buzas, Budapest (HUN)

F. Timmermann, Karlsruhe (DEU)

Advisory Board:

E. Welte (†), Goettingen (DEU) Honorary President

I. Lang, Budapest (HUN) Special Meritorious Member

St. Manojlovic, Novi Sad (SRB) Honorary Member

Liaison Officers:

L. Maene, Paris (FRA) – fertilizer industry

A. R. Mosier, Fort Collins (USA) – environment

Additional members of the General Committee

B. Amar, Casablanca (MA) – A. Amberger (†), Munich (DEU), J. Baier, Praha (CZE) – C. R. Barrueco, Salamanca (ESP) – F. Basic, Zagreb (HRV) – G. Bertilsson, Landskrona (SWE) – Sr. Blagojevic, Belgrad (SRB) – A. Brohi, Tokat (TUR) – A. Finck (†), Kiel (GER), I. Garbouchev, Sofia (BG) – V. F. Ladonin, Moscow (RUS) – R. Kastori, Novi Sad (SRB) – St. Mercik, Warszawa (POL) – J. Papadopoulos, Nicosia (CYC) – T. Pardo, Madrid (ESP) – A. V. Postnikov, Moscow (RUS) – G. Siman, Uppsala (SWE) – P. F. Yanishevski, Moscow (RUS)

During the General Assembly in Vienna Wolfgang Homann, Göttingen (DEU), who as a judicial adviser drafted new statutes for CIEC was bestowed with the title *meritorious* Member of CIEC, the only person so far. Erwin Welte

became the first Honorary President of CIEC. The statutes as formulated by Homann and Welte in 1997 can be found in Part I of the CIEC History.

Talking about quota for women in executive bodies it can be stated that at that time no woman was part in the Presidium of CIEC and only one woman was member of the general committee, Mrs. T. Pardo from Madrid (ESP).

The concept of a revitalized CIEC involved a stronger involvement of the fertilizer industry into decision making processes of the Presidium. To foster the new statutes of CIEC called for the nomination of a liaison officer for industry. The post was first taken by Luc Maene, General Secretary of the International Fertilizer Manufacturers Association (IFA) in Paris, who was assisted by Vice Presidents from the fertilizer industry who were also responsible for guiding CIEC activities in different regions of the world. These were Adolf Kraus from International Potash Institute in Berne (CH) responsible for Europe, Donald Messick from the Sulphur Institute in Washington D.C. (USA), responsible for America and B. Amar from The World Phosphate Institute (IMPHOS) in Casablanca (MAR).

In the 1990ies environmental aspects of fertilizer use came in the focus of agricultural research: nitrate pollution of groundwater bodies, eutrophication of limnic and marine environments, loading of the atmosphere with greenhouse gases and last but not least the contamination of soils and food with heavy metals derived from fertilizers. This new challenge for fertilizer research was taken care of by adding a liaison officer for environment in the CIEC Presidium: the first was A. R. Mosier from Fort Collins (USA).



Picture 1: The members of the 1997 Vienna assembly (mainly recruited from still existing CIEC members).

From left to right: V.G. Minejev, Moscow (RUS); I. Buzas, Budapest (HUN); P. Bielek, Bratislava (SVK); N.N., M. Fotyma, Pulawy (POL); I. Szabolcs (†), Budapest (HUN); E. Schnug, Braunschweig (DEU); E. Welte (†), Göttingen (DEU); P. Cepuder, Vienna (AUT); C. Hera, Bucharest (ROU); O. van Cleemput, Ghent (BEL); T. Nemeth, Budapest (HUN).

No matter how selfless its founding ideas, running a non-profit organization even at lowest intensity generates costs

which need to be covered. Not only since the 19th General Assembly the question of funding was looming over CIEC like a Damocles sword. The new statutes of CIEC opted for a couple of potential sources of income for CIEC, which have been scrutinized in the light of history.

First there was the hope that a closer liaison with the fertilizer industry may provide funds through industry sponsoring for running the basic operations of an organisation like CIEC. One has to keep in mind that, as mentioned in the history section of this website that CIEC lost all its assets in the course of the Yugoslav war (1991-2001). CIEC's idea and hope was to become the surrogate for the more and more abandoned science departments in the fertilizer industry. To keep it short: this strategy never paid off as at that time the fertilizer industry already began to realize that science is not necessarily a sales promoter. In the prevailing contemporary company philosophy there was no longer space for an altruistic support of science, only for a strict policy which calls for a payback of any investment. In fact this strategy failed completely: the support of CIEC by the fertilizer industry never exceeded an occasional sponsoring of conference participation of selected scientists.

Building up memberships was another source targeted at that time for generating income to run CIEC. For this the CIEC statutes of 1996 held the position of a Deputy President for Membership. This post was first and only once bestowed on Georges Hofmann, Ghent (BEL). Again this strategy turned out to be a dead alley: at the time of the 19th General Assembly CIEC might have had more than several hundred members, but through the confused past (two wars, all documents and assets lost and 5 years without a functional Presidium) in 1997 only 28 persons responded to Erwin Welte's call for the 19th General Assembly of CIEC.

One outcome of the 19th General Assembly was to make all registered and paying participants of the oncoming 11th World Fertilizer Congress (WFC) of CIEC in Ghent (BEL) automatically members of CIEC with the membership fee paid through the registration fee. But also this attempt for generating income for CIEC failed: the administrative costs of handling exceeded by far the fee, despite the fact what deliverables or benefits a member would get for the fee. Another strategy implemented in the 1986 statutes was establishing so-called "National Branches of CIEC" which should collect membership fees and pay royalty to the main CIEC body. Since then "National CIEC Branches" emerged in Romania and Poland, both of them were quite active in organizing meetings and publishing in their own countries and by this helped CIEC to fulfil its statutory tasks, but never became a source of income for CIEC. Until 2001 there was surplus from conference fees plus sales from conference proceedings. Especially Erwin Welte favored the publishing of the CIEC proceedings as a sustainable source of income for the society. He found in Erich Goltze's printing and publishing company in Göttingen (DEU) a profitable partner to communicate the scientific findings presented in CIEC's events to the science community. However, with time marching on publishing became more expensive: less peers were willing to review just for the merit of scientific quality, printing cost sky-rocketed as costs of international posting did. At the same large publishing companies like for instance Springer, Wiley, Taylor & Francis bought up nearly any scientific journal in the field, harvesting the hard work of scientists, scrutinising it through the doubtful system called peer-reviewing and selling it through online clicks on their internet websites.

The first to break the rules of traditional CIEC publishing was C.R. Barrueco, who published the proceedings of the 6th CIEC Symposium in Salamanca as volume 66 of the Springer series "Developments in Plant and Soil Sciences". This resulted in a furious dispute among the Presidium members as this was the begin of the end of sales income for CIEC. Until then CIEC used the American letter format (215.9 x 279.4 mm) which is a bit wider but at the same time a little shorter than the usual European A4 format (210 x 297 mm). This format caused a lot of pain as in Europe printing paper was traded in formats depicting a multiple of the A4 size: cutting American letter format out of this stock resulted in large amounts of costly paper waste tailings. For Erwin Welte this breaking of CIEC's rules was such an insult that he cancelled his participation in the Salamanca Symposium. During the 1997 General Assembly the task of conference organizing and publishing was bestowed on Ewald Schnug who had to vow personally to Erwin Welte to keep the CIEC-Format.

The files "CIEC Proceedings Covers" and "CIEC Archive" by Erwin Welte Part 1 & 2" contain all references to CIEC's publishing activities over the past, in addition each year-directory of the timeline of CIEC'S history may

contain some extra information: this part of the CIEC website assembles all documentary material about the CIEC events which is still available. Naturally the amount of material still available thins out the further on one goes into the past. One has to keep in mind that compared to today communicating, storing and distributing of conference materials was small and slow.

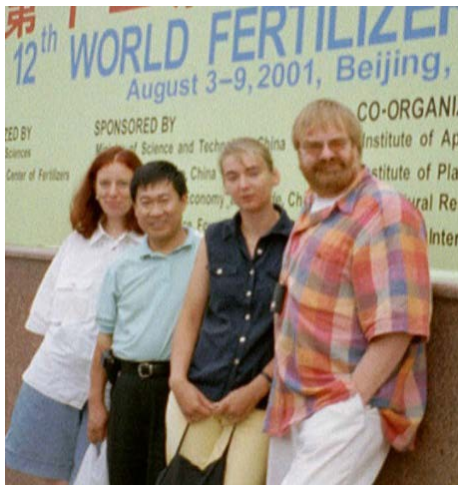
As a result of the 19th General Assembly in Vienna CIEC got finally in its main track of duties: organising every year an International Fertilizer Symposium and every 4 years a World Fertilizer Congress (WFC). Only 1999 and 2005 no event took place. The 10th Symposium, dedicated to the „Recycling of Plant Nutrients from Industrial Processes“, December 9 – 11, 1996 in Braunschweig was the debut of Silvia Haneklaus and Ewald Schnug as conference organizers on the CIEC stage.

A milestone in the revitalisation of CIEC was laid during the meeting of the Presidium on the occasion of the 11th World Fertilizer Congress in Gent in 1997. Decision for the venue of the 12th World Fertilizer Congress had to be made between an invitation from Arwin Mosier to Fort Collins in Colorado (USA) and an invitation by Chen Guanxiong and Zhenping Wang to Beijing in China. Although the preferences of Ewald Schnug at that time were clearly for America, the majority of the Presidium decided for China. A fearful Ewald Schnug (somewhat worried by the reports of his friend and Presidium member Donald Messick) as the then Deputy President for planning was ordered to meet with the Chinese hosts for negotiations in Shenyang and Beijing, which he did in July 1998. Guided by Zhenping Wang from Shenyang as his teacher on Chinese culture this was the beginning of a wonderful and enduring friendship between Chinese and Europeans. After intensive planning meetings in Shenyang between CIEC represented by Ewald Schnug, FAL-PB and CAS represented by C Guanxiong and Z Zhiming, IAE-CAS; C Zhuozhong, IB-CAS and Z Wang, SKW, both parties agreed on July 31, 1998 on the framework for the 12th World Fertilizer Congress in Beijing in 2001 (document available in the timeline of CIEC).

The 11th Symposium in 1998 was a first test run for a new strategy in conference organisation: joint conferences of different organisations under the same cover title: "Water resources quality in the Baltic countries" CIEC organized together with the Helsinki Commission, BALTIC21 and COST Action 829 as a joint conference on sustainability issues also addressing the significance of fertilization nutrient balances in agro-ecosystems, a concept, which turned out in future to be very successful.

In Suceava (ROU) in 2000 the Romanian branch of CIEC debuted first time with the organisation of the 12th Symposium. On March 14, 2002 Erwin Welte passed away. He will always be recognized as the real keeper of CIEC. Without his tireless struggling for a resurrection after the war times in Europe the honourable society of CIEC would for sure have vanished in history.

The 12th World Fertilizer Congress in Beijing in 2001 was the first WFC in the very heart of Asia with a tremendous backing through national politics as it was the start of China's fight against low nitrogen fertilizer efficiency and introduction of stabilized fertilizer technology lead by the Shenyang branch of CAS. With view to decreasing numbers of members and support from outside sources Ewald Schnug tried during the 12th WFC to persuade the still existing societies active in the field of plant nutrition and fertilization (International Fertilizer Society (IFS), International Plant Colloquium (IPNC), International Association for the Optimization of Plant Nutrition (IAOPN)) to merge with CIEC into one single organisation, a well-meant attempt doomed to fail because of vanity.



Picture 2: During the 12th WFC in Beijing the foundation of CIEC's future was laid by the acquaintance of Lanzhu Ji, Shenyang (PRC; second from left), and Ewald Schnug, Braunschweig (DEU, right).

The following three symposia in Tokat (TUR), Debrecen (HUN) and Pretoria (ZAF) were all proof for the efficient work of the core planning team of CIEC. Especially the bad experience with financial issues in the Pretoria Symposium underlined the high risk for an organization like CIEC getting involved with the general financial issues of other organizations and the need to have members in the Presidium who have access to emergency funds if needed.

The 14th WFC (No 13 was skipped as the number symbolizes a bad omen in almost all cultures) was initially scheduled to be organized by colleagues from the ESALQ campus of the University of Sao Paulo, but was cancelled in very late stage, because of another economical crisis in Brazil. As it happened just at this moment Silvia Haneklaus and Ewald Schnug were on an academic fact-finding mission through Thailand with the Thai ambassador to Germany, HE Cholchineepan Chiranond who got challenged by the idea to invite CIEC's WFC to her country. Within shortest time for preparation the Thai government organized in 2006 in Chiang Mai an outstanding World Fertilizer Congress. The tremendous scientific and social performance will never be forgotten by the participants.



Picture 3: During a fact-finding mission to Thai universities in June 2003, HE Cholchineepan Chiranond, Thai ambassador to Germany became spontaneously excited to host WFC 14 in Chiang Mai.

The Thai host organized one of the most impressive conferences, which was rewarded by bestowing the Thai King with the title "Doctor honoris causa" of the Romanian Academy of Agricultural Science through CIEC President Cristian Hera.

Publishing of the conference proceedings was again painful work, especially with view to the large number of papers, lack of skilled reviewers and technical editors and limited resources for publishing and shipping afterwards.

At this point the publishing policy of CIEC became a strong issue of discussion within the Presidium. The practice of scientific publishing has changed over time; from then on CIEC stepped back from publishing the conference contributions as full length peer-reviewed papers in hardcopy proceedings to just delivering pre-conference (extended) abstract books and encouraging the participants to publish in scientific journals of their own choice but with a proper presence in the internet and with mentioning that the subject published was presented on a CIEC event.

The following symposia in Ghent, Cairo and Rome went smooth, proving the high efficiency in conference organizing by a small group within the CIEC Presidium.

During the following 15th WFC in Bucharest the course of CIEC was set again when Cristian Hera against the odds from elder CIEC wingmen bestowed the CIEC Presidency to Ewald Schnug, who, together with Silvia Haneklaus had run the business of CIEC's conferences and publishing meanwhile for the past the 24 years.



Picture 4: The members of the CIEC Presidium at the 15th WFC 2010 in Bucharest. From left to right: M. Dumitru, Bucharest (ROU), A. Dorneanu, Bucharest (ROU), O.v. Cleemput, Ghent (BEL), E. Schnug, Braunschweig (DEU), C. Hera, Bucharest (ROU), G. Hofmann, Ghent (BEL), L. Maene, Paris (FRA), T. Nemeth, Budapest (HUN) (picture in the background: C. Hera and E. Schnug enjoy sailing on the Nile in Cairo during the 17th Symposium in 2008).

On the occasion of 15th WFC all remaining financial assets of CIEC were spent for the congress organization. From then on CIEC was operating exclusively on the resources made available by its active members. This set also an end to the endless discussions of how much of a conference fee and also of the financial surplus of an event could be claimed as royalty for CIEC: it took quite a time for some Presidium members to realize, that if CIEC wants to participate in any surplus, it has also to be prepared to participate in any financial losses of an event budget. From that time on each CIEC event had his own financial budget completely under control of the local organizing committee.

During the 19th Symposium in 2011 a generation shift took place and the Presidium of CIEC was completely re-organized to the structure close to the one it has today: the Vice-Presidents from fertilizer industry near NGO's were dismissed, also the liaison-officer for the fertilizer industry. Fishing for members by a vice-President for membership was no longer on CIEC's to do list.



Picture 5: The members of the CIEC Presidium at a meeting 2011 in Goslar. From left to right: F. Montemurro, Bari (ITA), M. Yli-Halla, Helsinki (FIN), P. Lombnaes, Aas (NOR), C. Hera, Bucharest (ROU), G. Rahmann, Trenthorst (DEU), S. Haneklaus, Braunschweig (DEU), B. Eichler-Löbermann, Rostock (DEU), Z. Hu, Beijing (PRC), E. Schnug, Braunschweig (DEU), E. Jimenez, Santa Clara (CUB).

The secretary general (S. Haneklaus, Braunschweig (DEU)) was from now on supported by a deputy secretary general (B. Eichler-Löbermann, Rostock (DEU)) and issues of fertilization in organic farming became a focus with G. Rahmann, Trenthorst (DEU) as responsible Vice-President.



Picture 6: In 2013 L.J. De Kok, Groningen (NLD) joined CIEC's Presidium as expert on publishing. He received his certificate of appointment from the Secretary General S. Haneklaus on April 19, 2013.

The 19th Symposium of CIEC was originally planned to be held in Mexico, but the plan had to be aborted because of unforeseeable financial problems in the host institution. Instead it was held in Goslar and was mainly dedicated to CIEC internal issues. During the 2011 Goslar meeting the issue of CIEC's statutes was raised again and a new draft prepared by Francesco Montemurro (ITA) was ratified by the participants of the assembly. According to this draft CIEC finally became a think tank with membership on invitation only and without operative financial action. The 2011 Goslar meeting decided also to revise these statutes after another 10 years. Two years later Luit J. De Kok from Groningen (NLD) became the first new member in the CIEC Presidium, with duties in publication and internet presence of CIEC.

The 20th Symposium was held in 2012 in St. Clara (CUB). It was one more event challenging CIEC's core mission which is promoting the vital role of knowledge in fertilizers and fertilization for the welfare of mankind: in a country where as a reason of multiple and inhuman trade embargos the knowledge on how to feed people through feeding plants and closing nutrient cycles is a key issue of community survival and humanity.

CIEC's key task was defined to promote networking in fertilizer research through the World Fertilizer Congresses and the Fertilizer Symposia. But as CIEC has no own financial resources, the performance to fulfil this task is completely dependent on the resources provided by the Presidium members and the goodwill of persons and organisations to host CIEC events. In 2013, CIEC presented 2 Symposia, one in Bari (ITA) organized by Francesco Montemurro to address the growing interest in bio-char technologies and products and their relation to mineral and organic fertilization and one in Helsinki (FIN), 15 years after the first joint conference with HELCOM and BALTIC21 in Pulawy (POL) the Symposium reviewed the impact of research on progress in tackling nutrient discharges from agriculture into marine environments.

However, in 2013 there was yet another event of highest significance for the future of CIEC: 20 years after their first contact Lanzhu Ji, together with Yuanling Shi and Jie Li visited Silvia Haneklaus and Ewald Schnug at JKI in Braunschweig in order to evaluate possibilities of co-operation in the field of stabilized nitrogen fertilizers and the possibility of having CIEC activities in China. Two years later a delegation lead by Lanzhu Ji met Ewald Schnug in Germany again. During this meeting the idea of founding a new national Branch of CIEC was born: CIEC-ASIA.



Picture 7: Celebrating the foundation of CIEC-ASIA at Früh's brewing house in Cologne (DEU) (from left: S. Haneklaus (DEU) and J. Li, Y. Shi and L. Ji (PRC). (November 12, 2015)

In 2014, CIEC struck luck again in finding a partner organization willing to host the 16th WFC: Vinicius Benites from EMBRAPA (Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation) organized the first WFC under the presidency of Ewald Schnug, 21 years after being vice president in charge for CIEC's conferences.



Picture 8: The 16th World Fertilizer Conference in Rio: (left to right): Z. Hu (PRC), V. Benites (BRA), E. Schnug (DEU)

CIEC continued the following three years with conducting Fertilizer Symposia in Son (NOR), Coimbra (PRT) and Groningen (NLD), each of them dedicated to local issues of fertilization. In addition to the 24th Symposium in Coimbra the newly founded national branch CIEC-ASIA celebrated its inauguration with a spectacular conference in Linyi (PRC).



Picture 9: The members of the inauguration Presidium of CIEC-ASIA in Linyi on August 5, 2016: (from left to right). Qi Rong Shen (PRC), Ivan Vassenev (RUS), Xu Dong Zhang (PRC), Ren Fang Shen (PRC) Xiao Zhao Han (PRC), Tan Sa. (KOR), Ewald Schnug (GER), Lanzhu Ji (PRC), Yuanliang Shi (PRC), Yon Jun Xie (PRC), Nanthi Bolan (AUS), Mohammed Hanafi (MYS), Zhou Wei (PRC)

The main and only task of this first Presidium of CIEC-ASIA was to prepare and organize the next WFC which was scheduled for 2018 in Shenyang (PRC). Contemporaneous Ewald Schnug began to ponder how to fulfil the vow he once promised Erwin Welte shortly before he deceased in 2002 which was to take care of a sustainable future of CIEC. As the past of CIEC painfully revealed there is virtually no way to generate a substantial and continuous influx of cash for its operations, the survival of CIEC could only be guaranteed if it keeps itself attached to resourceful research organisations with influential and internationally recognized personalities at the helm.

CIEC-ASIA under the presidency of Lanzhu Ji had its splendid debut with the very successful 17th World Fertilizer Congress in Shenyang. During this WFC the CIEC Presidium decided to merge the old CIEC with CIEC-ASIA into one CIEC with Lanzhu Ji as President-elect until Ewald Schnug finally retired in 2019.



Picture 10 (left): President-elect Lanzhu Ji and President Ewald Schnug unveiled the The CIEC memorial Crinoid donated to CIEC by Silvia Haneklaus and Ewald Schnug during the closing ceremony of the 17th World Fertilizer Congress.

Picture11 (right): Z. Wang meets Ewald Schnug 21 years after she set aflame his everlasting love for Chinese culture, science, people and food. Xièxiè!



The first international debut of President-elect Lanzhu Ji was on September 17, 2018 when he delivered a CIEC certificate of excellence to the President of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov, on the occasion of the opening of the Gazabogaz carbamide manufacturing facility in Balkan velayat in the far west of the country.



Picture 12: CIEC reaches out for new territories: President-elect Lanzhu Ji delivers a CIEC certificate of excellence to President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov (in the back, right side) on the occasion of the opening of the Gazabogaz carbamide manufacturing facility in Balkan velayat in the far west of Turkmenistan.

During the 26th Symposium and on the occasion of his 65th birthday together with his retirement from the post as director of the Institute of Crop and Soil Science at JKI in Braunschweig Ewald Schnug finally transferred the presidency of CIEC to Lanzhu Ji. He is now the 6th President of CIEC and Ewald Schnug became its 3rd Honorary President.



The Presidents of CIEC	
I	1932 - 1964 Erns Feisst (CHE)
II	1964 - 1968 Rafael Montjardino (PRT)
III	1969 - 1991 Dj Jelenic (SRB)
interim	1991 - 1997 Erwin Welte (DEU)
IV	1997 - 2010 Cristian Hera (ROU)
V	2010 - 2019 Ewald Schnug (DEU)

In October 2019, the 27th CIEC Symposium took place in Guilin (PRC). In Guilin CIEC merged officially with CIEC-ASIA (founded in 2016). During this symposium the entire CIEC Presidium was structured anew. CIEC defines itself as a non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) and is actually organized as a task force with membership on invitation only.

The Presidium of the CIEC task force consists of the President Lanzhu Ji (PRC), Deputy President Xiaoyu Shi (PRC) + 4 Vice Presidents: Dimitris Bouranis (GRC), Luit de Kok (NLD), Zhengyi Hu (PRC), Margit Olle (EST), the Secretary General, Silvia Haneklaus (GER), the Deputy Secretary General, Jie Li (PRC), a Liaison Officer for Environment, Liankai Zhang (PRC), a Liaison Officer for Industry, Yuanliang Shi (PRC) and the Honorary Presidents Cristian Hera (RO) and Ewald Schnug (GER). (see CIEC_TEAM 11072020.pdf)



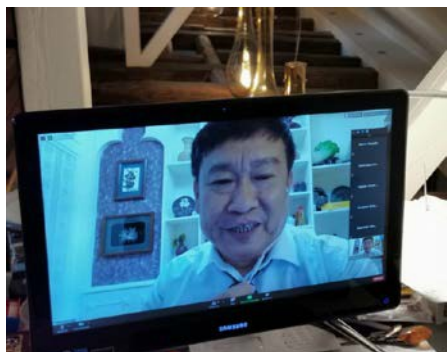
Picture 14: On October 16, 2019 Prof. Lanzhu Ji opens the 27th fertilizer Symposium in Guilin (PRC) as new president of CIEC and proclaims the new structure of the CIEC Presidium. (see: CIEC_TEAM 11072020.pdf)



A Chinese proverb says: when the wind of change blows, some build walls, but some build windmills. In 2020 Corona blew a strong wind to life in academia for which communication and exchange of ideas is an essential backbone. The wind of change caught also CIEC, the International Scientific Center for Fertilizers (CIEC). In its 88th year of existence CIEC conducted its 28th Symposium on "Fertilization and Nutrient Use Efficiency

Picture 15: CIEC's Honorary President, Prof. Ewald Schnug, ex JKI, Germany, opens the 28th symposium in Athens via internet.

in Mediterranean Environments" first time ever online. The symposium was organized by the Agricultural University of Athens (AUA), here its Institute for Plant Nutrition and Soil Quality "Planterra" (Greece), CIEC, the Hellenic Fertilizers Organization, the Institute of Crop and Soil Science at JKI in Braunschweig (Germany) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Shenyang (China) under the lead of CIEC's Vice-President Prof. Dimitris Bouranis from



AUA in Athens as the first event in CIEC's history in form of a virtual conference in the internet. Scientists from 13 countries presented their research and discussed on November 3-4, 2020 on fertilizer technology, nutrient management, soil quality and amelioration, soil fertility, plant microbe interaction and special aspects of sulfur nutrition and foliar fertilization.

Photo 16: CIEC's acting President, Prof. Lanzhu Ji, CAS, China, addressing the international auditorium of the 28th symposium via internet.

Today CIEC is an international organisation which can show an impressive performance over now 88 years:

Until 2021 CIEC organized 17 World Fertilizer Congresses in : Rome (3), Heidelberg, Opatija, Zurich, Lisbon, Vienna, Moscow, Budapest, Nicosia, Ghent, Beijing, Chiang Mai, Bucharest, Rio de Janeiro and Shenyang with a total estimated 12.000 participants;
and 28 Fertilizer Symposia in : Vienna (2), Benghazi, Brauschweig (3), Balatonfured, Nicosia, Berlin, Salamanca, Kusadasi, Pulawy, Suceava, Tokat, Debrecen, Pretoria, Ghent, Cairo, Rome (2), Goslar, Santa Clara, Bari, Helsinki, Son, Coimbra, Groningen, Guilin and Athens with a total of estimated 13.000 participants.