



Apimondia

International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

President

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It is both an honour and pleasure for me as President of Apimondia to offer my sincere congratulations to the Danish Beekeepers Association on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary. Apimondia, as we know it today was founded in 1897 and next year will celebrate 120 years of service and this highlights the foresight and forward thinking of the founder members of the Danish beekeepers some thirty years earlier.

Founded on the 5th July 1866 the aim of the Danish Beekeepers Association was to work for the benefit of beekeeping. Having spoken to and met with Danish beekeepers over the past twenty years I have no doubt that founder fathers would be proud of what they set-up and how their work continues to this day. Reading through the history of Danish Beekeeping I cannot but impressed by the structures in place for informing the public and educating beekeepers.

On a personal level I see an uncanny resemblance between the Danish and the Irish beekeepers, similar structures in almost every way. The Federation of Irish Beekeepers Associations holds a week long summer school, and this year will celebrate 70 years starting on the 24th July next. Why should I mention this, the reason is that it has been our pleasure to have with us over a period of almost 30 years, members of the Danish beekeepers attending every year. Not only was that, but my good friend Flemming Vejsnæs our guest lecturer a few years ago. His expertise and knowledge, which he shared with us, is still being talked about by our members. I wish to congratulate him and the DBA for his 25 years of service for the organisation.

From 1999 until 2009, Asger Soegaard Joergensen held the position I now hold, that of President of APIMONDIA. Asger led Apimondia into the 21st Century and brought a whole new way of thinking to the world of beekeeping. Again on a personal level I learned a lot from Asger and I thank him for his efforts on behalf of the world's beekeepers. In 2005, the 35th Apimondia Congress was held in Dublin. That year at our Congress, if my memory serves me correctly, one of Danish members won a Gold Medal for his mead. This was no mean fete in Ireland as the Irish pride themselves on their mead. If I may be so bold to quote an old Irish saying about good mead "the first glass, is lovely, the second glass is lovelier still, but your won't remember the third glass, you will be too busy trying to lift your head off the floor"

I should also add that at the last 2 congresses Danish Honey has been rated among the best in the world.

The contribution of the Danish Beekeepers Associations to other organisations is also well recognised, members of the Nordic-Baltic Apicultural research symposium, the COLOSS Network and of course have been long serving members at APIMONDIA Congresses. In 1954 the APIMONDIA congress was organised by the DBA in Copenhagen.

It fair to say that the aim of the Danish Beekeepers Associations today has changed very little since first set up in 1886, having an organisation for Danish Beekeepers; representing the interest of beekeeping in Denmark; and promoting beekeeping in Denmark.

Finally I offer my congratulations to the Danish Beekeepers Associations for all their efforts on behalf of honeybees and beekeepers and if I was with you I would offer a toast, with mead of course, to your continued success.

My kindest regards to you all.

Philip McCabe

Apimondia President