

Feeding the Future Update

Passing the leadership baton

Ruth Oniang'o becomes Chairperson of SAA and SAFE

Professor Ruth Oniang'o

from Kenya, who was elected Chairperson of the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) and the Sasakawa Africa Fund for Extension Education (SAFE) in November, follows in the footsteps of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr Norman E Borlaug, the founding President of SAA and SAFE, who died in September last year.

Often described as Africa's voice on food and nutrition issues, Professor Oniang'o epitomises what Norman Borlaug called the "integrator scientist – one who cuts across disciplines to create viable technologies and who has the courage to make the case with political leaders to bring such advances to fruition."

Professor Oniang'o has had a distinguished career as a teacher,

researcher, development leader and parliamentarian. She was Professor of Food Science and Nutrition at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture in Nairobi and currently serves as Professor of Nutrition at the Great Lakes University of Kisumu. She is founder and editor-in-chief of the African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development and founder and leader of the Rural Outreach Programme, a Kenya based non-governmental organisation that supports resource-poor farmer groups engaged in production and agro-processing at the community level.

She has served on a number of international boards, such as the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the Australian

Centre of International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). She serves on advisory committees of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Harvest Plus Initiative, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the University of Leeds Africa College Initiative. She was a member of the Kenyan parliament, from 2002 to 2007, and Shadow Minister of Education. She currently chairs the Kenyan government's thematic group for food security and nutrition.

Announcing her appointment, Vice-Chairman Masa Iwanaga commented, "We are delighted that Professor Oniang'o has agreed to chair SAA and SAFE. She will play a key role in helping to develop strategic plans for these two NGOs during 2010-2020. An especially important challenge



will be to develop programmes for resource-poor women farmers who have largely been excluded from the technical opportunities made available to their male counterparts."



Dr Norman E Borlaug, 1914 – 2009

President of SAA until his death aged 95 in September 2009, Norman Borlaug is credited with saving more lives than any person who ever lived – his research adding hundreds of millions of additional tons to world food harvests. He was one of a small select group who won the Nobel Peace Prize (in 1970) as well as America's highest civilian honours, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal.

The father of the green revolution in India and Pakistan, Norman Borlaug – with Ryoichi Sasakawa and former US President, Jimmy Carter – launched SAA's Sasakawa-Global 2000 agricultural programme in Ghana in 1986. Over the next 20 years, the programme reached thousands of frontline extension workers and millions of smallholder farmers in 14 sub-Saharan African countries. SAA and SAFE activities are now concentrated in four countries – Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda. Addis Ababa serves as their Africa headquarters.

The Nippon Foundation of Japan, whose Chairman is Yohei Sasakawa, is the major funder of SAA and SAFE activities. Recently, grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have been announced for Ethiopia to strengthen extension services that promote the scaling up of modern agricultural practices within the context of a value-chain framework for resource-poor smallholder farmers, particularly for women farmers.

SAA Board Members



Dr Masa Iwanaga (Vice Chairman) has served as the Director General of the National Institute of Crop Science since April, 2008. Located in Tsukuba, Japan, the National Institute of Crop Science is an institute of the National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NARO). He was previously Director General of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in Mexico and served as the Director of the Biological Resources Division of the Japanese International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) in Tsukuba.



Dr Gebisa Ejeta is Distinguished Professor of Plant Breeding & Genetics and International Agriculture at Purdue University, Indiana, with responsibilities in teaching, research and international engagement. He was awarded the World Food Prize in 2009 for his scientific contributions in the development of drought and parasitic weed (*Striga*) resistant sorghum cultivars and for facilitating the deployment and adoption of these crop cultivars in a number of African countries.

Continued overleaf

SAA Board Members (*continued*)



Jiro Hanyu was appointed Chairman of The Sasakawa Peace Foundation in September, 2008. Prior to this he was President, and then Chairman, of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (USA), following five years as President of the Japan International Transport Institute (JITI). He has also held posts at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Tourism.



Christopher Dowswell, Executive Director-Programmes, worked for CIMMYT, the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) and Oregon State University. For 31 years, he was aide de camp to Norman Borlaug. He served on the UN Millennium Hunger Task Force during 2002-06, the IFPRI 2020 Millions Fed Advisory Committee in 2008-09, and the World Food Program Purchase for Progress Technical Advisory Committee, 2009. He lives near Mexico City.



John Hardman, President and Chief Executive Officer at The Carter Center, Atlanta, Georgia, provides leadership to achieve The Carter Center's commitment to prevent and resolve conflicts, enhance freedom and democracy, and improve health. He is an active participant in The Carter Center's programme initiatives, including election monitoring in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, Ethiopian public health training, global development strategies and conflict resolution efforts, and agriculture programmes aimed at improving food production in Africa and North Korea.



Masaaki Miyamoto has held the position of Executive Director-Management and Finance for SAA and SAFE since 2007 having previously been Director General. A trained economist, he was previously General Manager of The Sasakawa Peace Foundation. He has also worked for the Japan Ship Machinery Export Association as well as serving as Division Chief for The Space Exposition, run by The Nippon Foundation.



Katsumi Hirano is Director General of IDE-JETRO (The Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization), a position he has held since 2008. He has had long experience of Sub-Saharan Africa in both the diplomatic and academic fields. From 2004 to 2007 he was Executive Director of JETRO Johannesburg Center. In the academic field, he was awarded the Okita Memorial Prize 2003 for his work entitled 'Illustrated Africa's Economy.'



Jean Freymond, Secretary to the Board, founded and directed the Geneva-based Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations (CASIN). In 2007, he established GE&D, with the objective of simultaneously fostering entrepreneurship and creating the conditions for enhancing the capacity of doing business; and Geneva Dialogues, which aims to rethink governance and create the conditions for stakeholders to address complex societal issues such as global health.



Shuichi Ohno, Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation, was appointed to this position in 2004. He joined the Foundation in 2001 as Director of International affairs. Under his leadership, the International Programme Department of The Nippon Foundation has developed and supported a wide range of programmes aimed at alleviating poverty and promoting human development around the world.



SAA Managing Director, Juliana Rwealamira, was appointed in June 2009. An agricultural economist with over 31 years of experience in agricultural and agribusiness development in Sub-Saharan Africa, she was previously a senior manager in the Marketing and Economic and Research division of the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC). She has trained rural women leaders in Southern Africa and helped to establish income generating activities among women and children in Lesotho.



Nicéphore Soglo has had a long and distinguished career in the service of his country, Benin. He was elected President in Benin's first multiparty presidential election in March 1991 having first helped to guide his country to multiparty democracy. Before becoming President, he held senior positions at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. In 2003, he was overwhelmingly elected as Mayor of his country's capital city, Cotonou, and was re-elected in June 2008.

Sasakawa Africa Association
Feeding the Future

Borlaug
Symposium
2010



Addis Ababa
13-14 July

Taking it to the farmer

Quotes from the Borlaug Symposium 2010 – held in Addis Ababa last July to honour the extraordinary life and achievements of Norman Borlaug.

“ Norman Borlaug's moral fortitude, his strength, his dedication to the world's poorest people, and his scientific brilliance were just a few of the reasons why he has been a hero of mine.

Former US President
Jimmy Carter



One of Dr Borlaug's greatest gifts was his ability to refuse to be constrained in his approach to problems by emotional wisdom. He was a true visionary as well as a man grounded in science and evidence-based thinking.

Akin Adesina
Vice President,
AGRA
(Alliance for a
Green Revolution
in Africa)



Dr Borlaug always had a positive attitude. No matter how difficult the predicament, he never gave up. The well-being of African farmers was always his first priority.

Yohei Sasakawa
Chairman,
The Nippon
Foundation



Let us all remember Dr Borlaug's deepest conviction that '*peace in Africa – indeed peace in the world – will not be built on ignorance, empty stomachs and human misery.*'

Joachim Chissano,
former President
of Mozambique



”

For further information, please contact:

Patrick Orr
Raitt Orr and Associates
Patrick@raittorr.co.uk
Tel: +44 (0)207 836 4644
Mob: +44 (0)7909 534 430

Chris Dowswell
Sasakawa Africa Association
Executive Director, Programmes
cdowswell@cgiar.org

