The sights, sounds and scents of Sri Lanka provided an unforgettable backdrop for the 2015 IFEAT Annual Conference held in Colombo. A total of 1,029 delegates, along with 76 accompanying persons, enjoyed the hospitality of this beautiful island from 27th September to 1st October. All the principal companies from the world’s F & F industry were represented, with 49 different nationalities present. Delegates were provided with topical and educational presentations, market updates, two workshops, a number of field trips alongside useful discussions, networking facilities and first class entertainment throughout the week. A report and photos of this year’s IFEAT Conference can be found on pages 2 and 3, and all presentations will be available on the IFEAT website shortly.

We are most grateful to Devapriya Nugawela and the Local Organising Committee, all of whom worked so hard to ensure the success of this year’s conference. The unforgettable music and dance shows put on throughout the week hugely enhanced the enjoyment of all those present, and were a fantastic addition to the week’s activities.

Susumu Tominaga joins IFEAT Executive Committee

Susumu Tominaga was elected on to the IFEAT Executive Committee at the IFEAT Annual General Meeting held in Sri Lanka on 29th September. Susumu’s company, Tanemura & Co Ltd was established by his grandfather in 1921. Since then, it has been importing essential oils and aromatic chemicals from all over the world and distributing them to Japanese F & F companies.

“I am very pleased to join the Executive Committee of IFEAT,” Susumu told IFEATWORLD. “I have been attending IFEAT Conferences since 2003, and IFEAT has steadily increased in importance for us, both with respect to existing contacts as well as to new business. Since I am very new to the Executive Committee, I am not completely certain what I can contribute to IFEAT.

However, I pledge to do my best to cooperate with other members of the Executive Committee for the sake of every member of IFEAT.”

The AGM was the last IFEAT meeting for Jorge Miralles who has now retired from the Executive Committee to pursue other interests in the essential oils industry. The Executive Committee thanked Jorge for all his input over the last five years, especially with regard to his chairmanship of the Socio-Economic Sub-Committee. We wish him well in his next position as President of the European Federation of Essential Oils (EFEO).
The 2015 IFEAT Conference was held at the magnificent Cinnamon Grand Hotel, located right in the heart of Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. The theme for the conference was “Asia: Source of Essential Oils and Medicinal Plants” incorporating a number of important topics of interest in the flavour and fragrance industry. The programme covered a variety of subjects such as market trends in the Asian region, social and technical developments, legislative and regulatory issues and a very interesting session on the use of medicinal plants in healthcare, food and cosmetics. There were some very good presentations on biotechnology and new production techniques in the “Market Trends” session. A new session held on the Tuesday afternoon, entitled “Social Achievements in the F & F Industry” also proved to be a popular session with delegates (see page 6).

There was a change to the conference programme this year, with two sessions per day (morning and afternoon) instead of three. The new format worked well, with delegates able to arrange their meetings around the programme and attend more presentations. Networking, as ever, was an important part of the conference for many, with delegates appreciating the time to meet face-to-face with their existing trading partners and friends as well as with potential new suppliers and customers.

“The IFEAT Conference has once again proved to be the number one communication platform for the global flavour and fragrance industry”
Raul Amigo, IFEAT President

The IFEAT AGM and Business Session was held on the morning of 29th September. During this session a report was given on the successful 2015 French Study Tour and there were presentations on next year’s Study Tour to USA and the 2016 IFEAT Conference to be held in Dubai. Presentations were made by ICATS and the University of Reading on the two IFEAT sponsored education courses. Pei-Lun Lin from Taiwan, who participated in the Reading flavour course, was presented with her Best Student medal. Unfortunately the ICATS 2015 Best Student, Lisa Lam, was unable to attend. Dr R.O.B. Wijesekera then gave a fascinating Medal Lecture on “Science as the key to nature’s bounty”. His career over six decades has seen huge changes in the essential oils industry, and the possibilities opened up by scientific developments were eloquently described. Dr Wijesekera was presented with his medal by IFEAT President, Raul Amigo.

As usual there was a break in formal proceedings on the Wednesday. Two workshops were held; the Perfumery Workshop given by Joanna Norman and the Medicinal Plants Workshop given by Professor Geoffrey Cordell. Both were attended by around 30 delegates who appreciated the opportunity to look at these topics in more detail with recognised experts. Delegates also had the opportunity to join one of three field trips; a trip to Galle to explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site, a visit to Dassanayake Walauwa Plantation and HDDES Extracts (Pvt) Ltd to see the cultivation and processing of cinnamon and an industry visit to Link Natural Products (Pvt) Ltd in Dompe.

Raul Sanganeria gave a paper on market dynamics in Indonesia.
While there was a comprehensive formal programme of presentations, the important social character of IFEAT conferences was not neglected in Colombo. The Welcome Reception, held in the Kingsbury Hotel, on Sunday 27th September, provided a wonderful start to the proceedings, with guests welcomed by an elephant, representing one of the most important cultural and religious symbols of Sri Lanka. Music and dancing then followed, and guests were able to greet each other while being provided with a range of delicious local food.

The IFEAT Dinner on Tuesday, which was attended by 484 people, was hosted at one of the most wonderful sites of Sri Lanka’s west coast, the Jetwing Blue Hotel’s beach in Negombo. This region is known not only for its beaches, but also for its warm tropical weather. Guests enjoyed a charming evening right beside the shore with good music and plenty of local delicacies. The evening was livened up by amazing performances, with dancers, fire-eaters, Bollywood performances and a versatile band with a huge repertory, creating a very spirited and joyful atmosphere. The spectacular fireworks lighting up the ocean definitely left a lasting impression of a superb evening on the shores of Sri Lanka.

The Closing Banquet on Thursday evening, attended by 677 participants, was held in the Sri Lanka Exhibition & Convention Centre, near the beautiful Beira Lake. To herald the start of this last evening, the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka gave a breathtaking concert and turned the convention centre into an elegant concert hall for almost an hour. The guests were able to enjoy Sri Lankan culinary delights and the performances of about 100 artists throughout the evening. Dancing continued well into the night, bringing to an end another very successful IFEAT Conference.

Our thanks go to all the speakers who gave us such a fascinating week. Presentations made during the Conference will be available to members for downloading from the IFEAT website (www.ifeat.org). We look forward to seeing you in Dubai next year!

João Ernesto Dierberger was born in São Paulo, Brazil in 1932. Following a few years in the USA, where he was responsible for the early experiments with grafted American selections of lemons in Brazil, he became Associate Director of the family agro-industry Dierberger Óleos Essenciais SA in 1959. In 1966 he was elected Technical Director of the sister company Dierberger Agrícola SA, the pioneering nursery station in Brazil founded by his father in 1923. He headed the creation of the fragrance division of Dierberger Óleos Essenciais SA in 1968.

During the early 1970s he participated in several study tours to the Amazon region researching new essential oils, and in 1979, on the death of his father, John Dierberger Jr, he took over the presidency of the group.

João Ernesto Dierberger joined the Brazilian Association of Menthol Producers and Exporters and was co-founder of the Brazilian Association of Fragrance and Flavour Industries (ABIFRA). He has been a popular participant in many previous IFEAT international conferences. Raul Amigo expressed his pleasure in presenting the Founders Award to Mr Dierberger, “a person who has dedicated his life, with passion and determination, to our industry and the growth of IFEAT.”
INTRODUCTION

Petitgrain oil Paraguay is widely used in fragrance compositions for all kinds of perfumery products, cosmetics and household chemicals. Its sweet, woody-floral, citrus odour has many applications from “Narcisse Noir” (created by Caron in 1911) to most popular toiletries, washing products and many others. Its easily obtainable modifications (eg no bergaptene, low limonene) extend its range of applications. It is also an important therapeutic ingredient of aromatherapy mixtures. Valuable in therapy for depression, anxiety and sleeplessness petitgrain Paraguay also has antimicrobial properties and is used in pharmacy against acne and mycosis, especially in feet. It is listed in British, US and EU Pharmacopeia. ISO Standard 3064:2000.

The IFEAT Socio-Economic Sub-Committee has now finalised its report on the socio-economic impact of petitgrain oil Paraguay production. This is the sixth of twelve reports due to be produced by the committee on the importance of specific naturals to the livelihoods of those involved in their production. Previous reports have covered the production, processing and marketing of patchouli, cornmint, citronella, jasmine and geranium. The twelve products chosen for analysis by the committee have been picked because of their high impact on the lives of those involved in producing them and the large number of people affected.

IFEATWORLD will continue to give updates on the work of the Socio-Economic Sub-Committee, chaired by George Paul, over forthcoming months and report on the production of the other six vital raw materials that are included in the committee’s remit. This is an important study for IFEAT, as the information gathered could help to reinforce federation views in future legislative/regulatory discussions.

Petitgrain Oil Paraguay (Citrus aurantium L. var. Paraguay) syn (Citrus aurantium var. bigaradia Hook f.)

The weather and temperature of the Oriental Region of Paraguay are very beneficial for the bitter orange tree (Citrus aurantium ssp.) from which the raw materials are picked for petitgrain oil production. In this region 80% of the species is cultivated and 20% grows wild.

Paraguay is the main producer of petitgrain oil. The main production departments are San Pedro (accounting for around 92% of production), Canindeyu, Cordillera and Caaguazu (Fretes and Martinez, 2011).

The total production of petitgrain oil in Paraguay amounts to 200 tonnes per year, accounting for over 80% of global production. Around 98% of the production in Paraguay is exported (Amigo, 2011).
**Production and Processing Characteristics**

Petitgrain oil is produced by steam distillation of harvested leaves and twigs from the bitter orange tree. This tree is sown from seed and can take up to 5 years for the first cutting and distillation, and can last up to 35/40 years. Producers let the plant grow only up to an average of 1.7 to 1.9 metres in height, in order for the plant to be filled with leaves and to make the cutting easier. The task of cutting the leaves, as well as the distillation process, requires a lot of manpower, as there is no mechanisation. The harvest normally takes place twice a year, although harvesting can be carried out all year long. Around 70-80% of the total annual harvest is carried out between October and February, with 20-30% carried out between April and June.

The distillation is still carried out onsite, at farm level. Wooden home stills, which normally have a capacity for 400 kg of leaves, are used. One still is used by several farmers located nearby. The wood used for making the stills is generally from the native tree, the yvyrard. The leaves yield around 0.30 to 0.35% of oil, and the main components of petitgrain oil are linalyl acetate and linalool.

**Social and Economic Characteristics**

Production is totally dependent upon smallholders. About 15,000 families depend to some extent on the production of petitgrain oil. The average size of a plantation is around 1 to 2 hectares. Petitgrain oil is a very important oil for farmers producing it as it is considered a saving account for farmers; when there is no income from any other alternative product they distill petitgrain oil which means cash for them all year long (Amigo, 2011; Fretes and Martinez, 2011). It is improved with time if properly stored.

**Conclusions**

The production of petitgrain oil Paraguay has been carried out for more than 100 years and is an important source of cash income for approximately 50,000 to 60,000 people (15,000 families) involved in the plantation, production, intermediation and trading of the oil. It has a turnover of about US$ 8.0 million in value. About 98% of the oil is exported. The natural oil has no synthethic substitute due to its balanced composition of terpenes, esters and sesquiterpenes; a composition which is fundamental in its use within the fragrance industry.

**References:**


A new session was introduced into the proceedings of the 2015 IFEAT Conference: “Social Achievements in the F & F Industry”. It was chaired by Dominique Roques who introduced the four speakers and managed a lively discussion following the presentations. The papers were diverse, but all of them gave a good insight into the gains that can be made for the whole value chain when social and environmental issues are addressed.

Robby Gunawan of PT Indesso Aroma, Indonesia gave the first presentation on The Journey of Sustainable Patchouli. This discussed the project initiated by Indesso and Firmenich to transform the production of essential oil into a sustainable business model. The aim of this project is to improve the livelihoods of farmers and ensure the long-term viability of the supply chain for patchouli. The model has simplified the supply chain by forming cooperatives consisting of farmers, leaf collectors and distilleries, thereby helping price premiums to reach farmers, who also, crucially, gain access to microfinance. A fair and transparent pricing mechanism has been set up, with a floor price agreed by all parties and multiple year contracts. The aim is for some of the price premiums to be used for community development and capacity building.

Sheetal Desai and Kamna Mago of CPL Aroma India (Pvt) Ltd, India followed with a presentation on Fragrant Vision. This discussed the work being done by the F & F industry collectively in order to empower the visually impaired and to tap the hidden potential of their gifted senses. India has the largest visually impaired population, 70% of which is unemployed and with a literacy rate of less than 1%. With the aim of training and placing visually impaired individuals in the fragrance, flavour and cosmetics industry, the College of Fragrance for the Visually Impaired (COFVI) is a unique educational initiative in Mumbai. COFVI is funded by the fragrance industry and provides free education and 100% placement to visually impaired students. It has improved the lives of many, and the speakers shared their own experiences of the project and plans for its future development.

Nikunj Harlalka of GC Herbals, India gave the third presentation on Community Based Production and Organic Certification of Aromatic and Medicinal Crops in India. This outlined a number of programmes put into place in selected regions of India to aid the wellbeing of marginalised farming and tribal communities. These are helping producers to meet changing consumer preferences and new regulatory requirements while encouraging sustainable and commercial production. Some of these provide for coordinated research into the development of India’s wide range of medicinal and aromatic plants, and Nikunj, through his presentation, highlighted the important social impact of the global essential oil industry.

The final presentation was by Elisa Aragon of Nelixia SA, Guatemala on Implementing an Effective and Meaningful Sustainable Project: Cardamom Oil Case Study. She discussed Nelixia’s methodology of establishing an effective value chain which meets specified economic, social and environmental objectives. This methodology has been adopted for cardamom oil in Guatemala, where there are 350,000 small growers. She showed how a project in the remote area of Cerro San Gil, in collaboration with the NGO Fundaleco, has helped to improve and stabilise yields, increase farmer incomes and establish a sustainable source of traceable raw materials for processing and exporting. The long term objective for Nelixia is to impact 800 families and procure 100% sustainable sourcing for the F & F industry.
NEW IFEAT MEMBERS

Below is a list of new IFEAT members who had joined by 23rd October, 2015

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USA Study Tour
Texas, Pacific Northwest and Midwest Regions, 13 - 21 August 2016

Registration is now open for the 2016 IFEAT Study Tour, which will visit the US states of Texas, Washington, Michigan and Indiana. Participants will visit essential oil and oleoresin producers, processors, distributors and users of the major aromatic botanicals in the region. These include peppermint, spearmint, cedar wood and dill oils, hops and oleoresins. The timing of the tour has been selected to match the major harvesting and processing seasons; it is the peak period for peppermint and spearmint, of which USA is one of the most important suppliers to the global market.

As well as being one of the most important suppliers of mint-flavoured ingredients to the global market, the USA is also a large import and consumer market. This is a unique opportunity to see US production and to visit some of the country’s producers, users and importers of essential oils and oleoresins. It also offers a great opportunity for participants to meet and get to know other individuals involved in the global F & F industry. Discussions on the coach on previous study tours have been very illuminating on a range of issues related to the industry.

More information on the programme is available in the Study Tour brochure and Alan Brown’s presentation at the Colombo Conference, both of which are available on the IFEAT website. It should be noted that participants will be limited to a maximum of 45 so IFEAT members are advised to book their places early.

Farewell to…Luc Vossen

We are very sorry to report that Luc Vossen passed away on 31st August 2015, aged 77. He was the founder of Vossen & Co, producer and trader of essential oils, and member of IFEAT.

Luc had a career in garment production, which he wound down when he was 60. It left him with a deep love and a social commitment towards the countries he had worked in: India, Nepal and Vietnam. At an age when other people quietly retire, he applied his energy and creativity towards a new venture; the production and sales of essential oils, which he developed together with his daughter Elisabeth.

In the remotest areas and among the most destitute tribes, their business provides a brighter perspective and livelihood for many people. The emphasis was put on organic agriculture and wild collection, thus opening a niche market that proved to be totally in tune with the spirit of the times. He will be sorely missed by his wife and family, and his many business partners and collaborators.