



PRESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER, APRIL 2007
Association for European Life Science Universities (ICALS)
(formerly Interuniversity Consortium for Agricultural and Related Sciences in Europe)
c/o BOKU - University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences
Peter Jordan Strasse 82a
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Dear Colleague

This year ICALS is addressing its new remit under our new title of the Association for European Life Science Universities. I would like to update you on ICALS's forthcoming events:

- **ICALS Week of Conferences**, including a meeting for the **Academic Leaders of European Life Science Universities** and **ICALS General Assembly** from 29 August to 1 September 2007, Freiburg University, Germany
- ICALS-NASULGC Conference: **Science and Education of Land Use: A transatlantic, multidisciplinary and comparative approach** from 24 – 26 September 2007, Washington DC, USA
- **ICALS-NASULGC Bi-Annual Conference 2008** Saturday 5 to Tuesday 8 April 2008, Missouri, USA
- **Nomination of ICALS** to organise the Conference for the Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture (GCHERA) in 2011

You should have already received information about the **ICALS Week of Conferences** to be held at Freiburg University, Germany from Wednesday 29 August to Saturday 1 September 2007. The ICALS Week of Conferences brings together several of **ICALS's Standing Committees** (AGRIMBA, IROICA and SILVA) for their annual meetings. There will also be the inaugural ICALS meeting for the **Academic Leaders of European Life Science Universities** to discuss the development of traditional agricultural universities to modern life science institutions – managing the change process. The week will come to a conclusion with the ICALS Conference which will address **Enhancing the attractiveness of European life science universities for international Master students**. More details about the Conference and the registration form can be found at www.icals-europe.info

The **ICALS General Assembly** will be held on Thursday 30 August at 16.00 at the University of Freiburg during the ICALS Week of Conferences. I look forward to seeing you or your representative at the General Assembly, please put the date in your diary. At this meeting there will be a report on the feasibility of a subsidiary of ICALS becoming an Accreditation Agency for international Master degree programmes. This feasibility study is being funded by the EU Commission project QUALITY.

This event will be followed by the ICALS-NASULGC Conference: **Science and Education of Land Use: A transatlantic, multidisciplinary and comparative approach** from 24 – 26 September 2007, Washington DC, USA. The conference seeks to explore the causes and consequences of current land use trends and dynamics related to society, economy and environment. Many more papers were submitted than the organizers expected, representing authors from around the globe. An exciting conference program is being developed consisting of 90 scientific papers selected through peer-review. Tracks are being formed around drivers of land use change, land use policy evaluation, innovative land use modelling efforts, consequences of land use change including land-water interactions, and education/outreach related to land use issues. Plenary session papers are planned that will provide overviews and in-depth comparisons of land use issues across the Atlantic.



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The expected conference outcomes include:

- Synthesis of existing knowledge, identification of gaps in current knowledge and future research needs
- Explicit comparisons of land use issues and approaches to their resolution in Europe and in the US
- Increased cooperation among scientists across the Atlantic; submission of joint research proposals
- Increased sharing of curricula, student exchanges, and enhanced student experiences.

Due to hotel space limitations only a limited number of additional participants will be able to attend, a registration discount will be available to those registering early. Registration information will be posted at <http://nercrd.psu.edu/TALUC/>. Please send an email to nercrd@psu.edu if you would like to be notified when the registration opens

ICA-NASILGC Bi-Annual Conference 2008 will address issues relating to effecting change in international teaching and learning. Last year the US National Academy of Sciences held a successful meeting to address how US academic institutions' should develop their capacity to prepare graduates in agricultural, life, and related sciences to meet the developing needs of society. The ICA-NASULGC 2008 Conference will discuss the recommendations from a US and European perspective. The Conference will be held from Saturday 5 to Tuesday 8 April 2008, at University of Missouri-Columbia, USA. More details will follow.

The next **GCHERA Conference**, Conference for the Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture, will be held in 2009 at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya. Further details about GCHERA and the recent successful conference in Costa Rica can be found at www.GCHERA.org ICA has been nominated to organise the GCHERA Conference in 2011.

Enclosed with this letter is an invoice for the membership subscription for your institution to ICA for 2007. I encourage you to pay your subscription as soon as possible so that ICA can continue to develop such activities as outlined above. Your subscription supports the work of the ICA Secretariat, the Board and the Executive Committee. Please find also enclosed the KeyContactForm – please help us to keep our database up to date.

Please inform your colleagues about ICA's upcoming events.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Maerz', is written over a white background.

Professor Leopold Maerz
President of ICA