



# THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE

Sponsored by the John Ruan Foundation Trust

JULY 2000

# report



**2000 Laureate  
Presentation and  
International  
Symposium:**

**"The Safety of GMOs  
and Their Role in  
Feeding Developing  
Countries in  
the 21st Century!"**

**October 12 - 13  
Des Moines, Iowa**

*(Registration form on inside cover.)*



# THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 12 - 14, 2000



### *International Symposium*

Marriott Hotel

On the issues of:

*The Safety of GMOs & Their Role in Feeding Developing Countries in the 21st Century*



### *Youth Institute*

Pioneer Hi-Bred, Int'l

### *Laureate Ceremony*

Iowa State Capitol



For more information contact:

**THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION**

1700 Ruan Center ■ 666 Grand Avenue ■ Des Moines, Iowa 50309 USA  
Tel: 515-245-3783 ■ Fax: 515-245-3785 ■ E-mail: wfp@ruan.com ■ www.wfpf.org

**YES**, I would be interested in attending The World Food Prize Symposium – *The Safety of GMOs & Their Role in Feeding Developing Countries in the 21st Century* – on October 12-13, 2000, in Des Moines, Iowa, USA.

I am **unable to attend** the 2000 World Food Prize Symposium, but would be interested in being contacted regarding future World Food Prize events.

Name(s) of Attendee(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Register online at [www.wfpf.org](http://www.wfpf.org) or fax the completed form to The World Food Prize Foundation at 515-245-3785. Thank you.



# GMOs CONFRONT *Food Safety Issues*

## The Topic for the 2000 International Symposium and Youth Institute

**A**ddressing biotechnology at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. in May, Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack announced the topic for this year's World Food Prize Symposium which will be held in Des Moines on October 12-13. The topic – The Safety of Genetically Modified Organisms and Their Role in Feeding Developing Countries in the 21st Century – was chosen following discussions between the Governor; Mr. John Ruan, the Chairman of The World Food Prize Foundation; and Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, the Foundation's President.

At a separate gathering of a National Academy of Sciences panel, 1997 World Food Prize Laureate and Chancellor Emeritus of Texas A&M University Perry Adkisson stated, "Public acceptance of these foods ultimately depends on the credibility of the testing and regulatory process, which must be as rigorous as possible and based on the soundest of science."

In his remarks at the Press Club, Governor Vilsack urged all those concerned with this

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— Perry Adkisson  
Chancellor Emeritus of  
Texas A&M University  
1997 World Food Prize Laureate

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cutting-edge biotechnology issue to travel to Des Moines for what should be a "world-class" intellectual exchange. John Ruan noted that Nobel Prize recipient Dr. Norman Borlaug and a number of previous World Food Prize Laureates will participate in the Symposium, as will representatives of the U.S. Government. Ambassador Quinn

explained that invitations are also being sent to officials of the European Union and a number of developing countries in order to provide a stimulating and provocative exchange.

The Governor's Office and The World Food Prize Foundation are cooperating closely on both the program for the Symposium and the ceremony for the presentation of The World Food Prize to this year's Laureate which, for the first time ever, will take place in the historic Iowa State Capitol building on October 12th.

Governor Vilsack and Ambassador Quinn are also working together to encourage participation by Iowa high school students in The World Food Prize Youth Institute which is held during the same time period as the Symposium.

For further information about the Symposium or the Youth Institute, fax the registration form on the previous page to 515-245-3785 or contact The World Food Prize Foundation at 515-245-3783 or e-mail at [wfp@ruan.com](mailto:wfp@ruan.com).



# Laureate Update

## Yunus Effort Spotlighted During President Clinton's Bangladesh Trip



*Dr. Muhammad Yunus (left) and President Clinton.*

Joypura, a village in Bangladesh's lush flood plain, stands as a relatively prosperous area in a country plagued by want. Joypura features well-stocked larders, palm-shaded fish ponds, plump dairy cows, a school, and even a health clinic. At least one-third of Bangladesh's people are undernourished, but the villagers of Joypura are well fed.

President Clinton heard why during a March visit to Dhaka. While security concerns prevented a tour of the village of Joypura, he met in Dhaka with World Food Prize

Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus, a pioneer in lending programs for the poor. Yunus, the founder of Grameen Bank, is widely credited as being visionary in the development of micro-lending programs.

Dr. Yunus has a two-decade history of success in making micro-business loans primarily to village women for purchases of cows, rice husking machines, poultry and fish to set up small businesses.

Anwara Begum is a woman who took advantage of a micro-loan from Grameen

Bank. She said that before the loan, life was precarious. "We sometimes used to eat only one meal a day, sometimes not at all. But now we eat three meals every day."

Economists acknowledge that microcredit has freed millions of poor people from seasonal hunger. It has also empowered women and provided access to health care and education. But there is still much work to be done in terms of graduating the poor from poverty.

## Swaminathan Urges Steps For A Hunger Free India



*Dr. M.S. Swaminathan*

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan opened a recent lecture in New Delhi with the famous words of Jawaharlal Nehru, "We are a rich nation with starving people." Swaminathan, the first World Food Prize Laureate (1987) and UNESCO Chair

in Ecotechnology, spoke at length on the ways of "Realizing Sandhiji's Vision of a Hunger-free India," the topic for a lecture at the India Habitat Centre this past February.

Swaminathan's lecture formed part of the series of lectures on "The Republic of Science – 50 Years" – organized by the Centre for Philosophy and Foundations of Science.

Highlighting the historical perspective of a hunger-free nation, Swaminathan, who was among the leaders of the Green Revolution, said, "Our independence was set against the backdrop of the Great Bengal Famine, thus the emphasis on agricultural progress."

Winner of multiple international awards, he said the problem of hunger is multi-dimensional. He cited several core areas: non-availability of food, lack of economic access and poor biological absorption due to lack of clean water and environmental hygiene.

"The future would entail developing capabilities for producing more from less land and eco-farming; precise farming will become crucial in this," said Swaminathan. He added that the goal was to enable every man, woman and child to lead a healthy and productive life.

## Knipling Dies at 91

Dr. Edward F. Knipling, internationally renowned entomologist who pioneered pesticide-free methods for controlling insect infestation, died at his home in Arlington, Virginia on March 17.

Knipling, along with his colleague Dr. Raymond C. Bushland, were awarded The World Food Prize in 1992 for their efforts in developing the sterile insect technique to

control insect parasites that threaten food security.

"Knip," as he was known to his friends, was responsible for a pest management technique that would be adopted worldwide. In addition to receiving The World Food Prize, he was awarded the Japan Prize in 1995.

*Progressive Farmer Magazine* named Drs. Knipling and Bushland among 21 scientific pioneers who had most shaped American agriculture. Dr. Knipling's other awards

included the National Medal of Science in 1966, the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service in 1971 and the USDA Distinguished Service Award.



*Dr. Edward F. Knipling*

# FORMER PRESIDENT **George Bush** Joins Council



**F**ormer President George Bush has been named to The World Food Prize Council of Advisors. The announcement was made by Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, President of The World Food Prize Foundation, during a news conference at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines on February 1, 2000.

“We are extremely pleased to have President Bush join our Council,” said Ambassador Quinn. “His knowledge of foreign policy and how that relates directly to worldwide food issues will be greatly valued as we continue to foster understanding of the importance of a nutritious and sustainable food supply throughout the world.”

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*“The World Food Prize is a vitally important link in our human obligation to help find ways to feed those in need.”*

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— George Bush

Mr. John Ruan, Chairman of The World Food Prize Foundation said, “Having former President George Bush join former President Jimmy Carter on the Council of Advisors demonstrates the broad support The World Food Prize enjoys in its mission to ensure an adequate food supply for all people in the 21st century.”

President Bush commented, “The World Food Prize is a vitally important link in our human obligation to help find ways to feed those in need. As the world population has passed six billion – and is still growing – we face continuing challenges not just as Americans, but as nations working together to ensure an adequate and secure supply of food in the world.”

During his term as President, Bush frequently acknowledged the importance of adequate food and nutrition to the world.

As the newest member of the Council of Advisors, President Bush joins thirteen current members (listed on back page).

# AMBASSADOR **Quinn** New President

**F**ormer U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia, Dr. Kenneth M. Quinn, has returned to Iowa to accept the post of President of The World Food Prize Foundation effective January 2000. “We could not be more excited for the future of The World Food Prize than we are by Ambassador Quinn’s acceptance of this important position,” said John Ruan.

Ambassador Quinn, 57, is a Dubuque, Iowa, native and a graduate of Loras College. He earned his M.A. at Marquette University and holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Maryland. His career in Foreign Service

has spanned more than 32 years. He comes to The World Food Prize following over three years of service as the U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia.

In addition to Ambassador Quinn’s highly decorated Foreign Service career, he served as Administrative Assistant to Iowa Governor Robert Ray from 1978-1982 and was Executive Director of Iowa SHARES, a unique statewide program established to aid starving Cambodian refugees and resettle “boat people” from Vietnam and ethnic Tai Dam refugees from Laos.

Among his numerous awards, Ambassador Quinn is the recipient of the Secretary of State’s Award for Valor and Heroism, the Secretary of State’s Lifetime Achievement

Award, the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, the Defense Department Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service, the State Department Superior Honor and Meritorious Honor Awards, and the Loras College Distinguished Alumnus Award.





# World Food Prize *Day* at the Iowa Capitol

**T**he State of Iowa acknowledged, recognized and applauded the efforts of The World Food Prize during World Food Prize Day at Iowa's State Capitol in Des Moines on February 1st.

Representatives of The Prize met with the Iowa House of Representatives, the Iowa Senate, and Governor Tom Vilsack to relate The World Food Prize story and thank Iowa's legislators and the Governor for their continued support of The Prize.

World Food Prize founder Dr. Norman E. Borlaug and Chairman John Ruan were specially recognized for their vision and generosity in establishing and funding The Prize. Both received standing ovations in the House and the Senate.

Others in The World Food Prize delegation included Vice Chairman John Ruan III, and President Kenneth Quinn. Council of Advisors included A.S. Clausi, Robert Havener, and

Michael Gartner. Six of The World Food Prize Youth Institute International Interns also attended and were introduced to the legislators. The official appointment of former President Bush to the Council of Advisors was also on the agenda for the day.

The 1999 International Interns were introduced and relayed the significance of their eight-week overseas experiences at a special news conference and in a meeting with Governor Vilsack. One of the key purposes for this special day was to encourage legislators to take information about the Youth Institute back home to encourage even greater participation in the upcoming 2000 Youth Institute which will be held this fall on October 12 – 14 in Des Moines.

"Through the Youth Institute, young people are offered a unique opportunity to shape their own futures, and potentially to help shape the world," said former President Jimmy Carter, member of The World Food Prize Council of Advisors.

## Special Commendation Awards were presented to the following people for their support of The Prize:

Governor Tom Vilsack  
Lt. Governor Sally Pederson  
Secretary of Agriculture Patty Judge

### Senate:

Mary Kramer, Senate President  
Stewart Iverson, Senate Majority Leader  
Michael Gronstal, Senate Minority Leader  
Elaine Szymoniak, State Senator

### House:

Brent Siegrist, Speaker of the House  
Christopher Rants, House Majority Leader  
David Schrader, House Minority Leader



*Pictured from left: Meredith Nelson, Bettendorf; Zachary Vosberg, Hampton, attending Wartburg College; A.S. Clausi; Martha Pope, Mason City, attending Iowa State University; Dr. Norman E. Borlaug; Robert Havener; Governor Tom Vilsack; Amanda James, Creston, attending Grinnell College; Kenneth Quinn; Aysha Chowdhry, Independence; John Ruan; Matthew Feldmann, Cedar Rapids, attending Northwestern University. (Not Pictured: Jessica Heikkila, Lamoni.)*

# SHARES HUMANITARIAN AWARDS



Presented at U.S. Department of State Town Meeting

*From left to right: John Ruan III, Michael Gartner, John Ruan, former Governor Robert Ray, Kenneth Quinn.*

One of 60 U.S. Department of State Town Meetings scheduled throughout the United States was held in Des Moines on April 25th. Co-sponsored by The World Food Prize Foundation, the meeting topic was “Refugees and Immigration: Humanitarian Response and Workforce Implications.”

The Town Meeting provided a forum for reviewing Iowa’s response to the humanitarian refugee effort of the past 25 years. Dialogue with national decision makers and state policy leaders focused on critical issues facing Iowa – namely workforce needs and how our immigrant population is related to Iowa’s future growth.

In addition to hearing from an impressive roster of speakers, a number of people were specially recognized. Foundation officers John Ruan, John Ruan III, and Ambassador Kenneth Quinn presented special “Iowa SHARES Humanitarian Awards” to former Iowa Governor Robert Ray; Michael Gartner, member of The World Food Prize Council of Advisors; and Assistant Secretary of State Julia Taft in recognition of their exceptional efforts in alleviating human suffering and assisting Cambodian refugees to end starvation. Special Appreciation Awards were also given to Deputy Assistant Secretary Ralph Boyce and Janice Jacobs, Director of the

U.S. State Department’s Field Support and Visa Services.

The Foundation co-sponsored the event along with Drake University, Iowa Council for International Understanding, and the Bureau of Refugee Services – Iowa Department of Human Services. In addition, there were over 25 organizations involved in the Town Meeting.

The purpose of this and other Town Meetings is to strengthen communication between U.S. citizens and the Department decision makers about U.S. foreign policy. Town Meetings increase public awareness of major issues important to the future of U.S. foreign policy and communicate issues to Department officers who formulate and implement policy to public views on these issues.



*From left to right: Ambassador Kenneth Quinn; Assistant Secretary of State Julia Taft; former Governor Robert Ray; Pulitzer Prize winner Michael Gartner; Deputy Assistant Secretary “Skip” Boyce; Sone Lovan representing Tai Dam refugees; and Wayne Johnson, Director of the Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services.*

FOUNDATION

**John Ruan**  
*Chairman*

**John Ruan III**  
*Vice Chairman*

**Kenneth M. Quinn, Ph.D.**  
*Ambassador (Ret.)*  
*President*

COUNCIL OF  
ADVISORS

**Norman E. Borlaug, Ph.D.**  
*Nobel Peace Prize Laureate*

**The Honorable  
George Bush**

**The Honorable  
Jimmy Carter**

**A.S. Clausi**

**Elizabeth Dole**

**Gordon P. Eaton, Ph.D.**

**Michael G. Gartner**

**Robert D. Havener, Ph.D.**

**Dean R. Kleckner**

**Pekka Linko, Ph.D.**

**Robert S. McNamara**

**Jonathan F. Taylor**

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# THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION

*takes great pleasure in announcing that*



**John Ruan**

*has received the*

**American Farm Bureau Federation's Highest Honor**

**“The Distinguished Service Award”**

*for his role as Chairman of The World Food Prize Foundation  
in addressing the urgent needs of world food security in the 21st Century*

**Note New Address:**



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