

International Committee Meeting Notes
August 18, 2004

I. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 11:00 AM by John Preissing. Present: Marty Havlovic; Dave Muench; Arlen Albrecht; Aliesha Crowe; Mary Crave; Karen Early; Otto Weigand; Dan Kuzlik; ; and John Preissing. Also participating for a portion was Vickie Limbird, WINROCK International.

II. Recent International Work

- Arlen Albrecht informed the group of his recent work with UW Stevens Point and Marquette University in Kenya. He accompanied four other Wisconsin professionals who explored the potential to expand small gardens as a way to improve nutrition, particularly for HIV/AIDS victims. He said that a number of local NGOs might be great partners in this project. In the future phases of this project Arlen believes that UWEX staff might be recruited to assist.
- Mary Crave told the group about her recent trip, as a 4H Chaperone, to Mexico in July. An interesting connection was made with a language institute which may be resumed with future groups.
- Dan Kuzlik shared his recent work in Peru where he visited agriculture production areas of Chimbote and Chiclayo. He also assisted Rotary International with a project to distribute school supplies, for communities that included girls in the schools. Stateside, Dan will be assisting a group of Japanese university professionals who wish to examine non-traditional educational outreach and university entrepreneurial activities.
- Marty Havlovic recently traveled to Nicaragua as a member of the Wisconsin Partners of the Americas team to strengthen disaster relief training and networking. He reported that 12 Nicaraguans will be coming to Wisconsin soon to participate in Disaster preparedness training.

III. WINROCK International

Vickie Limbird provided the group with an excellent overview of the Winrock Program, particularly with a focus on their work in Central America. The organization is leading the Farmer to Farmer project in the region and since beginning in January, they have posted 46 volunteers in assignments. They are focusing on trade enhancing development initiatives including agriculture production, marketing, post-harvest, and value adding activities. The volunteers arrive in country with an assignment, a host organization, lodging, and support from an in country Winrock manager. Interpreters are also provided. Vickie noted that they are hoping to fill another 18 assignments soon. She urged our staff to do two things – visit the Winrock International website to learn more about the assignments and to register and second, to send her a copy of your resume now, as an attachment.

Arlen Albrecht noted that Winrock has an excellent reputation for taking care of the volunteers on assignment. Winrock is also working with many of the community and national organizations that Farmer to Farmer worked with in the

past. As Vickie said, “we are seeking to build upon and utilize the Partners of the America’s Farmer to Farmer work.”

IV. Internationalizing Extension Conference

Mary Crave reported that approximately 55 people were registered, with a nice range of backgrounds and experiences. There is still time to register should someone wish to. Contact JoAnn Hinz.

V. Website Plans

John reviewed the website plans and received feedback. In addition to the items presented in the handout two other resources were mentioned – Aliesha Crowe’s resource listing and Language resources (both translation and training institutes). These will be added. John is still soliciting pictures from people. Arlen recommended using photos of our staff from the Wisconsin Partners site. It is hoped that the site will be live by the September 17 conference or sooner. Some conference reading materials may be added to the site.

VI. Demise of Costa Rica Study Tour

John reported that Iowa State University, the lead for this project, has decided not to run a program in conjunction with Costa Rica. Instead they have recommended combining this with their ongoing study tour program to Mexico. North Central leaders will be invited too.

VII. Future International Planning Retreat

After much discussion it was decided to hold this session on a date between January 11 and 13, 2005, depending on the best date to be determined by examining Extension calendars. We recommend using a Wisconsin Dells site. Aliesha Crowe, Marty Havlovic, Dan Kuzlik, and Dave Muench agreed to assist (this might not be completely accurate listing).

VIII. Other Updates and News

- Aliesha Crowe reported that she found some of the recent materials from the International Agriculture Extension Association conference to be quite useful. One topic dealt with Women in Universities and agricultural development. She wanted to point out that these connections are great opportunities.
- Mary Crave informed the group that October 16-17, 2004 the 4H Youth Development staff would be holding a Latino Culture Get Away Camp. If interested check the 4H website.

IX. Next meeting date

The next meeting date was set for Wednesday October 27, 2004 at 11:00 AM via audio conference call.

Respectfully submitted

John Preissing