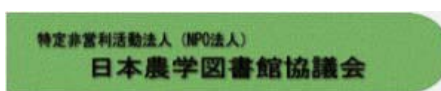




Agricultural Information and IT

Proceedings of IAALD AFITA WCCA2008



August 24 – 27, 2008 at Tokyo University of Agriculture
 Edited by Takashi Nagatsuka and Seishi Ninomiya

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IAALD AFITA WCCA2008

Proceedings of Joint Conference

The 12th World Congress of the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD)

The 6th Conference of the Asian Federation of Information Technology in Agriculture (AFITA)

The 6th World Congress on Computers in Agriculture (WCCA)

At Tokyo University of Agriculture, Atsugi, Japan, August 2008

Edited by Takashi Nagatsuka and Seishi Ninomiya

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IAALD AFITA WCCA2008

Proceedings of Joint Conference

- The 12th World Congress of the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists
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Co-organized by

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- Asian Federation of Information Technology in Agriculture (AFITA)
- International Network for Information Technology in Agriculture (INFITA)
- European Federation for Information Technology in Agriculture, Food and the Environment (EFITA)
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Preface

Though the population on the earth has not been really exploded yet, we can see clues of food crisis; that is, the lack of food in some of the developing countries is chronic and even major powers are facing the difficulties to balance the productivity and the environmental requirement. As the balance of the food supply and demand is now inevitably under the strategy of the world trading mechanism and the control of the power, it is almost meaningless to solve the crisis within a country. Only the international sharing and cooperation for sustainable food productivity on the basis of information sharing and mutual understanding could bring the solution.

The Conference provides an effective forum for agriculture related researchers and information specialists to share and discuss latest development on applications and developments in the use of information technologies in order to solve the above mentioned issues. These include new applications of well established and understood technologies to innovative and entrepreneurial applications of emerging technologies, in addition to issues related to policy and knowledge dissemination. The Conference also provides an appropriate forum for agricultural information specialists for information dissemination, exchange and knowledge sharing.

This conference is organized by the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD) and the Asian Federation of Information Technology in Agriculture (AFITA), and is the first case that two of the INFITA members (the International Network for Information Technology in Agriculture) hold their international conferences jointly. We believe that this collaboration of two international organizations along with other affiliated international organizations, bring all the participants fruitful opportunities to exchange their ideas and to develop linkages among stakeholders, and that the conference will contribute to the further advancement and development of the related fields.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to several international organizations/groups as well as the private companies for the great support for the conference.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Takashi Nagatsuka' and the signature on the right is 'Seishi Ninomiya'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Takashi Nagatsuka and Seishi Ninomiya

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