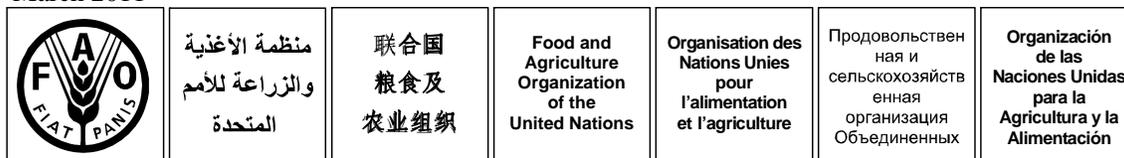


March 2011



CONFERENCE

Thirty-seventh Session

Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011

Presentation of the A.H. Boerma Award 2010-2011

Executive Summary

The A.H. Boerma Award pays tribute to Addeke H. Boerma, FAO Director-General from 1968 to 1975. The Award is presented biennially to a journalist, or other individuals, whose writing on development questions has helped focus public attention at the international or regional levels on important aspects of world food issues, in particular those related to agricultural and rural development in developing countries, thereby building up public support for solutions to these questions. The winner of the Award for 2010-2011 is Mr Javier Blas of the Financial Times.

1. The Award was established under Resolution 1/75 of the Conference in 1975. In June 1977 the Council recommended that the Award need not be confined to the written word, but could be extended to all the information media, including television and radio.
2. The Conference in 1977 noted that the decision of the Council "that the A.H. Boerma Award should consist of one biennial USD10 000 prize for one or more writers whose work was likely to have increased international public awareness of the world food problem and of measures leading to its solution. The recipient or recipients would be selected by the Director-General, bearing in mind the relevant recommendations made by the Council, and the presentation would take place during the Conference sessions".
3. The Award consists of:
 - (i) A scroll describing the recipient's achievements
 - (ii) An engraved FAO medal
 - (iii) A cash prize of USD 10 000
 - (iv) An expenses-paid visit to Rome to receive the Award for the Award winner and spouse.

Selection of Award winners

4. The Award winners are selected by the Director-General in consultation with the Independent Chairperson of the Council and the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees, after earlier review of all nominations carried out by the Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations, and of selected entries by the A.H. Boerma Award Review Committee. The materials upon which nominations are based must have been published or publicly presented during the four-year period ending on 30 November 2010.
5. The Award for 2010-2011 is being granted to Mr Javier Blas, journalist for the Financial Times (United Kingdom), in acknowledgement of his substantial contribution to informing the general public about issues related to food and agricultural production.
6. Javier Blas is a top commodities writer for the Financial Times. His reporting not only focuses on market analysis but also on the implications of food price volatility on food insecurity in developing countries. Publishing for the Financial Times has allowed him to reach out to a global audience, including market participants and key international policy makers. His continuous coverage has contributed to keep the world food problem high on the political agenda. He has also promoted FAO market monitoring activities, e.g. the Food Price Index <http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/foodpricesindex/en/>
7. His reporting since 2007 has frequently addressed issues of core concern to FAO, such as hunger and food security, the impact of food prices in the developing countries, the role of speculation and bioenergy production in the food price matrix, and overseas investment in agricultural land. He was instrumental in establishing the Financial Times' online Food Crisis Portal, and regularly features FAO information and interviews in his reporting.
8. The dedicated work of the Award winner has contributed greatly to substantially enhancing public awareness and understanding of key aspects of the world food problem, of agricultural and rural development issues through the print and online media.