



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
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des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE

Thirty-fourth Session

Rome, 17 - 24 November 2007

PRESENTATION OF A.H. BOERMA AWARD 2006-2007

1. The Eighteenth Session of the FAO Conference in November 1975 adopted Resolution 1/75 as a “vote of thanks” to former Director-General Addeke H. Boerma, and decided to institute a new permanent activity in FAO as a continuing tribute to Dr. Boerma for his services to the Organization, in various capacities, for nearly three decades. The Conference requested the Council to choose and initiate such an activity.
2. At its Seventy-first Session in June 1977, the Council welcomed the proposal of the Director-General that an A.H. Boerma Award be presented biennially to a journalist, or other persons, whose writing on development questions had helped to focus public attention at the international or regional levels on important aspects of the world food problem, particularly related to agricultural and rural development in developing countries, with the likely result of having increased public support of measures leading to its solution. The Council recommended that a prize of US\$10 000 be awarded to one person, or shared between several winners. It further recommended that the Award need not necessarily be confined to the written word, but within constraints of a practical nature, could be extended to productions in all the information media, including particularly television and radio.
3. The Nineteenth Session of the Conference in 1977 adopted the following paragraph in its Report:

“The Conference noted the decision of the Council at its Seventy-first Session that the A.H. Boerma Award should consist of one biennial US\$10 000 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”.

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4. The Award consists of:
 - (i) A scroll describing the recipient's achievements
 - (ii) An engraved FAO medal
 - (iii) A cash prize of US\$ 10 000
 - (iv) An expenses-paid visit to Rome to receive the Award for the Award winner and spouse.

Selection of Award winners

5. The Award winner (or winners) is 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 Communication Division, and of selected entries by the A.H. Boerma Award Review Committee.
6. Regional Representatives are encouraged to make use of their Regional Information Officers in the search for and evaluation of potential nominees. FAO Representatives in member countries are asked to keep watch for potential entries of sufficient merit and, where appropriate, may obtain suggestions from the United Nations Information Centres in their respective countries of assignment. The Assistant Director-General, Knowledge Exchange and Communication Department, acting through the Chair of the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) may, as appropriate, seek suggestions from other organizations of the United Nations system..
7. The materials upon which nominations are based must have been published or publicly presented during the four-year period ending on 31 March of the Conference year in which the Award is presented.
8. The deadline for submission of nominations to FAO Headquarters is 30 April of the Conference year in which the Award is presented.
9. The Award for the 2006-2007 biennium will be presented at the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference, at a ceremony to be held on Saturday, 17 November 2007.
10. This year the Award is being granted jointly to Ms. Elizabeth Rosenthal, journalist for the International Herald Tribune and New York Times newspapers for her contribution towards increasing public awareness concerning avian influenza and other animal and human disease related issues, and to Mr Hany El Banna Chief Editor of the agricultural publication entitled The Agricultural Magazine which frequently draws on FAO sources to examine issues relating to food and agriculture in the Near East region.
11. Ms Rosenthal has covered the avian influenza crisis for both the International Herald Tribune and the New York Times from the onset of the disease in 2003. Unlike many other journalists who have covered this topic, Ms Rosenthal highlighted the human and animal health issues at the same time as well as the potential economic effects of the disease, including the effect on local and national food security. Through her writing, she has presented the main FAO and the International Office of Epizootics message that tackling avian influenza at its origin, in animals, is the best way to protect humans and to reduce the risk of an influenza pandemic. Elizabeth Rosenthal has undertaken extensive analysis on almost all issues related to animal health and the H5N1 virus. This included regular updates on the virus situation in affected countries. Several of her articles on the subject have featured on the front page of the International Herald Tribune quoting senior FAO staff. In making the award to Ms Rosenthal, FAO acknowledges the substantial contribution that this journalist has made to a global awareness about avian influenza and other issues related to human and animal health and food security.
12. Mr. Hany El Banna is an Egyptian journalist and publisher specialized in agricultural development. Mr El Banna represents an authoritative and dynamic force for agricultural information and data in the Near East region and his stories frequently draw on FAO as source material. Through his writing and the dissemination of his monthly publication entitled, The

Agricultural Magazine, Mr Banna has helped to focus public attention in the Arabic speaking countries of the Near East on food problems as they relate to agricultural and rural development. In recent years, Mr Banna has also covered the avian influenza crisis and has been an important and informed source of reporting in this area in the Near East region. The award is made to Mr Banna in recognition of his commitment to and regular in-depth reporting on local as well as global agricultural issues which have been instrumental in influencing public opinion.

13. In a wider sense, the dedicated work of both of the A.H. Boerma winners has contributed greatly to enhancing public awareness and understanding of important aspects of the world food problem influencing a wide readership both at the regional and the international level.