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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Jim Moir

Andrew Hansen and I had a meeting this week with representatives from the Levies Management Unit. The main point of discussion was the current levy rate. At present, with the government in caretaker mode, no decisions can be made. Solange will be contacting all people on the levy data base in the near future so that we will be ready as soon as the new Minister is ensconced.

The 5th World Deer Congress was a great success with approximately 250 delegates from 16 countries attending. An interesting contrast to the Melbourne Congress was the opening ceremony. For the Australian Conference, we had a couple of representatives from RIRDC as our government representation. In China, attendees included the Minister for Agriculture, Chairman of the Jilin Communist Party, down to the Mayor of the city and Dean of the University. All the dignitaries gave speeches and toasts throughout the opening banquet.

Reports at the congress were interesting and varied: farming in Europe, Russia, Kazakhstan to sex sorted sperm and the construction of velvet tip tissue to name a few.

Overseas delegates stayed at a 5 star hotel. We were bussed to the university for morning and afternoon sessions complete with a police escort through some crazy traffic. I now wonder why the Chinese bother to put horns or indicators in cars since no one takes any notice of them.

The tour before the congress was great fun and we visited interesting deer farms, processing plants and saw some 13+kg sticks of velvet with no calcification. The

sika lectures on the Yangtze cruise were most informative. Also, a major processor/distributor in China has expressed some interest in the possibility of developing some type of alliance with ADH&CP.

ADH&CP has been trying for many years to get a system that would deliver benefits and returns to velvet farmers and remove the huge price swings that we have experienced in the past. Prior to the first pool this year, we will be reviewing the selling method we tried last year and pursuing any other opportunities that present themselves.

As this will be my last report as President, I would like to thank all of those people who have made the job a pleasure over the last 10 years, especially Solange who has put in so much work keeping me on the straight and narrow. She has made my job much easier.

I will be remaining as DIAA Director for a short period of time so that there will be adequate crossover between Andrew Hansen and me. I take this opportunity to wish Andrew all the best in his new role as President and ask you all to support him at every opportunity.

My very best wishes and thanks to you all.

Jim Moir
President DIAA.

