



EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION (EIFAC)

23rd SESSION and SYMPOSIUM ON AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT – PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND PRODUCER ASSOCIATIONS

Wierzba, Poland, 26 May – 2 June 2004

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION AND THE SYMPOSIUM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Site of the Session and the Symposium

Conference Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences

Wierzba
12-222 Wejsuny

Phone/fax + (48) 87 423-16-19, 423-66-19

E-mail: wierzba@wierzba.com.pl

The Conference Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Wierzba (**CCW**) is located on the shores of Beldany Lake in the middle of the so-called Great Mazurian Lakes area (35 thousand ha of total water area), one of the most beautiful regions in Poland. It is located northeast of Warsaw (approx. 250 km), and east of Gdansk (270 km) and Olsztyn (100 km). Wierzba is the name of the place where the Conference Centre is located - there is no town or even village, there is only the Conference Centre surrounded by vast forests and lakes. The nearest town (with railway and bus stations) is Ruciane-Nida, 15 km south of Wierzba. To get to Wierzba isn't easy, but you will be completely fascinated by the site and its wild and beauty surroundings.

How to get to Wierzba?

There are three international airports from which Wierzba can be reached; the nearest one is Szczytno-Szymany Airport (10 km south of Szczytno), but it is a small one, and has very random connections with other international airports (only airports in Germany and domestic ones). The other two are Warsaw International Airport "Okecie" and Gdansk International Airport "Rebiechowo". The nearest train and bus station is Ruciane-Nida, connected both with Warsaw and Olsztyn railway and bus lines. It is the intention of the local organizers to provide bus transfer to Wierzba from Warsaw (International Airport "Okecie"), and from Wierzba to Warsaw after Symposium and Session (see Registration Form) but this depends on the number of participants willing to use this kind of transport which might be the most convenient. It is also planned to keep an "EIFAC Symposium" mini-bus or mini-van near the bus and railway station in Ruciane-Nida for those colleagues who will get to Wierzba by other means. The detailed description of bus and railway connections with timetables from Warsaw, Gdansk and Olsztyn to Ruciane-Nida will be sent later to all the participants who will not travel from Warsaw in our bus.

Useful websites:

<http://www.airport.szczytno.pl>

<http://www.pkp.com.pl/>

<http://www.staypoland.com>

<http://www.gopoland.com>

<http://www.rozklady.com.pl/> - bus timetable (only in Polish)

Official Languages

The official languages of the 23rd Session of EIFAC are English and French. The official language of the Symposium is English only and no interpretation will be provided during the Symposium.

Draft Time-table

Tuesday, 25 May,	24 hours, Arrival
Wednesday, 26 May,	08.00 - 9.00 Registration 09.00 - 18.30 Opening; symposium: oral and poster sessions 19.30 - Regional folk welcome dinner
27-29 May,	all day Symposium sessions, EIFAC Working Parties
Sunday 30 May,	Full-day Scientific tour to Wegorzewo, Stanczyki, Hancza, Wigry and Elk
31 May – 2 June,	23 rd Session of EIFAC
Thursday 3 June,	Departure during the morning

Social Programme

Wednesday, 26 May,	20.00 - ?	Regional folk welcome dinner in the CCW (costs covered by local organizers)
Thursday,	27 May, 19.00 - 21.00	Boat sightseeing cruise on the lakes (optional)
Friday,	28 May, 19.00 - 22.00	Farewell dinner in the CCW (costs partly covered by local organizers)
Sunday,	30 May, 08.00 - 21.30	Scientific tour (optional)
Tuesday,	01 June 20.00 - 23.00	Barbecue (optional)
Wednesday, 02 June,	18.00 - 22.00	Farewell Banquet in the CCW (costs covered by local organizers)

Lunch and **dinner** will be served in the Restaurant of the Conference Centre in Wierzba for the participants of the symposium and session on May 25 – June 2 on extra payment.

Registration

There is no registration fee for the participants. Costs of holding the symposium will be covered by FAO and by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Poland. Neither FAO nor the local host will cover the costs of travel or accommodation of the participants, and all participants are invited to secure their own funding as necessary for travel, accommodation and other expenses in Wierzba.

Registration covers: participation in the scientific programme, photo-album issued for the participants, costs of the regional folk welcome dinner on 26 May and the Farewell Banquet on 2 June, and a part of the costs of the farewell dinner on 28 May.

Accompanying persons' fees:

Regional folk welcome dinner in the CCW, Wednesday, 26 May..... 18 EUR
 Farewell dinner in the CCW, Friday, 28 May..... 18 EUR
 Farewell Banquet in the CCW, Wednesday, 02 June..... 35 EUR

Registration should be made on the enclosed Registration Form. **Please send this Registration Form to: Hanna Mioduszevska, Fax: + (48) 89 524-05-05, E-mail: hanah@infish.com.pl**

Accommodation
(to be booked before 31 March 2004)

Local Organizers from the Inland Fisheries Institute in Olsztyn are entrusted to handle the room reservation of the symposium. Your booking must be made on the enclosed *Registration Form*.

In order to prevent double bookings please send your reservation only to the Institute and **n o t** directly to the accommodation centres. Participants will be accommodated in the Conference Centre in Wierzba and other 2 centres of the same standard situated in the vicinity of Wierzba. The prices are equal for all the centres, and are understood *per person and per night* including breakfast, taxes, and transport between CCW and other accommodation centres. The rooms at CCW and other centres are suitably equipped at least with shower and phone.

See Registration Form for room prices

Costs of meals:Lunch

15 – 35 PLZ (**3 EUR** cold buffet, **5 EUR** one hot dish, **8 EUR** full course of dishes)

Dinner

65 PLZ (**14 EUR**)

Farewell dinner on 28 May

90 PLZ (**18 EUR: 14 EUR** paid by participants, **4 EUR** covered by local organizers)

Payment

We do not require any deposit (pre-payment) with Your *Registration Form*. All the payments may be done at site in the Conference Centre in Wierzba. **We confirm your registration and room reservation when we receive the Registration Form.**

You can use the following ways of payment:

- *credit card* (VISA, VISA Electron, MasterCard, Maestro, Diners Club, JCB are welcome.)
- **cash – only local currency Polish Zloty (PLZ)**

The whole amount of the **accommodation may be paid after arrival, during or just after symposium or session at the Reception Desk at the symposium site – Conference Centre in Wierzba (not in other accommodation centres)**

You will settle the total payment for **accommodation** (including room, breakfast, transport between CCW and other centres) at the **RECEPTION desk** by credit card or cash.

You will pay for the **lunch** and **dinner** directly in the CCW **RESTAURANT** by credit card or cash.

Optional Programmes

Application for the optional programmes should be made on the **Registration Form**. **The prices are equal for participants and accompanying persons**

Thursday, 27 May 2004

Boat sightseeing cruise on the lakes:

EUR 30.-

During the 3-hour-long cruise you will see the Great Mazurian lakes, including Sniardwy Lake, the biggest lake in Poland, see local fishermen from the "Sniardwy" Fisheries Enterprise Ltd. towing the nets (and maybe catching a fish), and have a tasty dinner.

Sunday, 30 May 2004

Study tour to Wegorzewo, Stanczyki, Hancza, Wigry and Elk

EUR 40. -

Departure by coaches at 8.00 a.m., first to the north part of the Great Mazurian Lakes (Wegorzewo). There you will visit a 1st War German-Russian Cemetery located at the beautiful hill upon Swiecajty Lake, and admire one of the most beautiful views in Poland. Then the coaches will turn east, and take you to Stanczyki, where a beautiful bridge is located. The bridge is not far from the deepest lake in Poland – Hancza Lake (max. depth 108 m), still oligotrophic, in contrast to the rest of Polish lakes. You have to see the lake from a beautiful sightseeing site – "Hazel Hill". Next, turning little bit south-east you will see glacial stones (nature reserve), Wigry Lake, hatchery of the Wigry National Park, and have a lunch in the restaurant of Cameldolite Monastery. At the end of excursion you will visit Elk Fishery Enterprise Ltd., where you will see the fish farm and taste some delicious smoked fish. The tour will be partly financed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Tuesday, 01 June 2004

Barbecue:

EUR 16.-

Organized in the natural forest, with delicious foods, and a special music. Two glasses of Polish beer or soft drinks are included. Of course other drinks available for extra payment.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations of registration and hotel reservation must be sent to **local organizers in the Inland Fisheries Institute in Olsztyn**.

Contact: Hanna Mioduszevska, Fax: + (48) 89 524-05-05, E-mail: hanah@infish.com.pl

USEFUL HINTS

How to get to Poland

Poland lies in the middle of Europe. Many airline companies operate regular flights to Warsaw and Gdansk International Airports, only a few to Szymany International Airport. Railway connections are available from most of the European countries.

Visa

Entry visas are not required for citizens of the countries that are Members of the European Union. Citizens of other countries, including Belarus, Russia and Ukraine, can obtain a visa at the Polish Embassy or Consulate in their country. A valid passport is necessary.

Transportation

If you arrive by plane or train in Warsaw or Gdansk, you may use means of public transportation (city buses, trams or in Warsaw underground, in Gdansk City Railways) or a taxi. However taxis, especially in Warsaw are very expensive.

The cost of travel by taxi from Ruciane-Nida to Wierzba is about 50 PLZ (10-12 EUR)

Public transportation is reliable and cheap. In some of the cities (Warsaw, Gdansk, Olsztyn) fares can be paid on board. Tickets can be purchased at kiosks, tobacco, and some food shops.

For more information please see also the links to websites on the first page.

Currency, exchange, credit cards

The official currency in Poland is the Polish Zloty (PLZ). When leaving the country, you can re-exchange PLZ in banks or the so-called contours. Exchange facilities are offered to participants at the airport, at the exchange desk of the banks, in bigger hotels, and the so-called "Kantor wymiany walut" (Money Exchange Contour). These facilities do **not** exist at the venue.

A variety of cards e.g. Visa, Diner, Eurocard, MasterCard, are accepted in the hotels, first class restaurants and city stores but you should ask before ordering a service.

Shopping hours

The usual shopping hours are 10.00 to 18.00 or 11.00-19.00.

Most of food shops are open 7 days a week from 06-07.00 till 20-22.00

On Saturday shops are open till 13-14.00. On Sunday most of the shops are closed but bigger shopping centres (super-, hypermarkets) are usually open every day between 9-10.00 and 20-22.00.

Insurance

The Organizing Committee does not assume responsibility for injuries or losses occurring to persons or personal belongings during the Symposium. Participants are therefore advised to carry the proper travel and health insurance.

Taxis

It is possible to take taxis in all cities and bigger towns, including Ruciane-Nida. The cost of travel from Ruciane-Nida to Wierzba is about 50 PLZ (10-12 EUR)

Electricity

In Poland electricity is supplied at 230 V, 50 Hz. The 2-pin connecting plug is different form that used in some other countries, e.g. UK.

Weather

The climate in the end of May and beginning of June is very pleasant, the average daytime temperature is around 20°C, but can also reach over 30°C. However a jacket, sweater and umbrella might be useful.

Security

Usual precautions against theft: Please consider that most international cities or places which attract many tourists also attract those people who steal from tourists. Consequently, please carry your valuables safely, keep luggage close to you at all time while on the train, subways and air terminals.

As in many countries, there may be pickpockets (including children) on the street, the underground, buses, trams and trains. Once you have checked into your hotel, you can leave your passport in a safe area. A good alternative is to carry a photocopy of your passport with you. Identity cards, keepsakes and anything else not needed in the city or countryside are best left at the hotel while you are sightseeing, shopping or dining out. Keep photocopies of all these documents in a safe place in case you need to have them replaced.

CONTACT ADDRESSES

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