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Flour Millers from around the world attend short course

Six participants from Taiwan, three from the Philippines, two from South Africa, one from Senegal and one from Argentina attended the Flour Milling Short Course held at the International Grains Program Executive Conference Center from June 5-16. The participants listened to many presentations by various speakers and visited the Kansas City Board of Trade and several Kansas farms.

“The course was great because it covered the whole flour milling spectrum from farming all the way through the milling process,” said Lukas Swartz, from South Africa.



Participants get hands-on experience in bakery labs.

Swartz, as well as eleven other participants, was invited by the U.S. Wheat Associates to attend the course.

“I was immediately interested in the short course as a good way to begin to make my knowledge applicable and broad,” Swartz said.

Caroline Hsien-Yi Cheng, a project manager from Taiwan, said she learned a great deal about flour milling and had fun while at the short course.

“I benefited greatly from getting to work in the laboratory because of the hands-on experience,” Cheng said.

Annual short course teaches grain purchasing techniques

The annual Grain Purchasing short course was held April 24-May 5 at the International Grains Program Executive Conference Center. Fifteen participants from Brazil, Ethiopia, Colombia, Japan, Kenya, Egypt, Mexico, Uganda, Yemen, United Arab Emirates and the United States were in attendance. Participants had the opportunity to listen to many experienced presenters on topics such as U.S. grain production, extrusion principles, grain storage and marketing signals. They also took field trips to Strouts’ farm in Wilsey, Kan., and the Kansas City Board of Trade.

Mozambique officials visit IGP

The Minister of Foreign Affairs for Mozambique, Venancio Simao Massingue, and the Ambassador to the United States from Mozambique, Armando Alexandre Panguene, visited IGP June 20. They had briefings on potential projects between Kansas State University and their country. Dr. Virgil Smail, head of the department of grain science and industry, plans a follow up trip in the fall to discuss further plans with Mozambique. Mozambique is in the transition to be a market-lead democracy.



Left to right: Venancio Simao Massingue, Armando Alexandre Panguene, Provost Duane Nellis, Joao M. Mussamatua, Marcelino E. Sales Lucas

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Jay O'Neil joins team at IGP, Harvey Kiser retires

The International Grains Program welcomed Jay O'Neil of Overland Park, Kan., to the staff June 18 as its senior agricultural economist. He succeeds Dr. Harvey Kiser who retired in June. O'Neil has 33 years in domestic and international commodity markets-related work experience. Since August 2003, he has been the commercial consultant for the U.S. Grains Council in Washington, D.C. Harvey Kiser worked as the senior agricultural economist at IGP for 27 years.

IGP visitors and trips

Latin American Wheat Buyers Conference

On June 27, Kendall McFall traveled to Los Cabos, Mexico, to speak at the Latin American and Caribbean Wheat Buyers Conference sponsored by the U.S. Wheat Associates. More than 100 people attended from North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean. McFall spoke on the quality aspects of hard red wheat and soft red wheat and invited participants to the International Grains Program's short courses. The conference is held every two years.

Nigerian Trade Team visits IGP

On May 8 and 9, the Nigerian Trade Team visited IGP. This event was held to recognize and express appreciation to the Nigerian flour millers and other officials for being the largest purchaser of U.S. wheat. More than 50 people attended the event at IGP where guests had lunch and listened to presentations by F.B. Odunayo, the director of Honeywell flour mills in Lagos, Nigeria, and the new KSU football coach, Ron Prince.

Carl Reed visits Guatemala

Carl Reed, grain storage specialist, traveled to Guatemala May 1, to provide information and recommendations to feed manufacturing plants and grain handling facilities. Reed presented seminars on grain quality maintenance for humid tropical conditions. The trip was sponsored by U.S. Grains Council.