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## IGTC Newsletter 29 November 2018

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## Events

### December 4: International Grains Council (IGC) 48th Session, Paris, France

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation between IGC and IGTC will be tabled for the IGC's 53 government members to consider.

### January 30: ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG), Geneva, Switzerland

IGTC will join trade flow representatives from other sectors such as cotton, wood products, flowers, seeds and horticulture. Top of the agenda will be reporting on industry case studies of ePhyto exchange. The current IAG Chair is Alejandra Danielson Castillo on behalf of IGTC.

### General Assembly 2018: Officer elections

This year's General Assembly took place on 28 November and was hosted by IGTC member association China National Association of Grain Sector (CNAGS [www.chinagrains.org.cn](http://www.chinagrains.org.cn)) in Beijing, China. Over 35 IGTC members and Corporate Stakeholders attended the Assembly, representing 18 companies and organisations, and travelling from 11 countries.



2018 is an "election year" for IGTC according to the Business Plan and Operating Guidelines. We congratulate the following representatives on their successful election as IGTC Officers for a two-year term:

- President: Gary C. Martin, President and CEO, North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA) Bio [here](#)
- Vice President: Iliana Axiotiades, Secretary General, COCERAL Bio [here](#)
- Treasurer: Gerald Masila, Executive Director, Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) Bio [here](#)
- Secretary: Pat O'Shannassy, CEO, Grain Trade Australia (GTA) Bio [here](#)

### World Grain Trade Forum in Beijing - photos available!

On November 27, the China National Association of Grain Sector (CNAGS) and the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) co-hosted the World Grain Trade Forum in Beijing. The opening ceremony was led by CNAGS President Patrick Yu, IGTC President Gary C. Martin, and China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.



Expert presentations were provided by the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Grains Council (IGC), the China National Grain and Oils Information Center, and Dalian Commodity Exchange.

Over 200 thought and decision leaders with interest in the global supply of grains, oilseeds and other agri-bulk food, feed and energy commodities enjoyed and participated in the ground breaking Forum.

## March 5-7: Canadian Crops Convention, Montreal, Canada

The event will include a gala dinner, a port tour, and presentations from international speakers. More information [here](#).

## March 14: International Grains Council Market Conditions Committee, London, UK

53 member governments, observers and industry partners such as IGTC will join this information-sharing event.

## Links

[IGTC Website](#)

[IGTC list of members](#)



A robust exchange of information and ideas took place with the aim of maintaining and strengthening the capable and effective global trade that provides safe, timely, predictable, responsible, resilient and competitive supply, thereby enhancing global food security.

- An IGTC photo album is available for members and Corporate Stakeholders at the following address: <http://lifebox.mobi/s67WJYP>
- The official handbook of the event is [here](#)

### IGTC Notice to Trade on agricultural applications of precision biotechnology



IGTC has issued a Notice to Trade ([here](#)) in response to the international statement on agricultural applications of precision biotechnology that was presented at the November 2018 WTO SPS Committee.

In its Notice to Trade, IGTC welcomes the emphasis on transparency, regulation based on sound-science, and the avoidance of trade disruptions in the statement which has been signed by governments including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan, Paraguay, Uruguay, USA, Vietnam, and the Secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

### November 17-29: COP 14 and COP-MOP 9, UN Biodiversity Conference, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

COP14 will conclude today, Friday 29 November, with expected conclusions on synthetic biology, risk assessment, and on “unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures”, delegates should agree to finalize a manual on detection and definition of LMOs “in the context of Article 17” (for IGTC’s talking points on the manual, click [here](#)).



Active governments on IGTC grain trade issues include Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, EU, Honduras, Malawi (African Regional Group), New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, South Africa, Thailand and Venezuela.

For more information, visit the COP14 website [here](#).

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