

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ROME

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Twenty-sixth Session

Rome, 9 - 28 November 1991

PRESENTATION OF A.H. BOERMA AWARD 1990-91

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 \$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 Conference sessions".

4. The Award consists of:

- (i) A scroll describing the recipient's achievements
- (ii) A cash prize of US\$10 000
- (iii) An all-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 Chairman of the Council and with the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees, after earlier review of all nominations carried out by the Information Division, and of selected entries by the A.H. Boerma Award Review Committee.
6. Regional Representatives are encouraged to utilize 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 of the Information Committee (JUNIC) 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 is presented by the Director-General at a special ceremony held during the first week of each regular session of the Conference. The Award for the 1990-91 biennium will be presented at the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference, at a ceremony to be held on Monday, 11 November 1991.
10. On this, the seventh occasion, the Award is shared by Ms Sanitsuda Ekachai of Thailand for her articles in the daily newspaper "Bangkok Post" on the impact of industrialization on the agricultural society in Thailand and by Mr Christophe Naigeon of France for his endeavours to focus public attention on development issues in the Third World and for his exceptional contribution to promote the flow of information between North and South.
11. The work of Ms Ekachai, who has been writing for the Bangkok Post since 1981, is well known throughout Southeast Asia. She has covered a wide variety of themes on agricultural development, in particular the conditions of the rural poor. Through her articles in the Bangkok Post, she has made an important contribution to spreading greater awareness of the plight of the rural population in Thailand.
12. For the past ten years, Mr Naigeon has been concerned with development issues in Africa. His major initiative was to create an information network including a news agency "Syfia-Periscoop" and two magazines "Intertitres" and "Intertropiques" which focus on a broad spectrum of development issues in Africa, in particular agriculture, forestry conservation and fisheries. His comments and opinions, forthright and often provocative, have contributed substantially to a better understanding of the world food problem.
13. The dedicated work of the A.H. Boerma Award winners has helped to mobilize public opinion in support of the struggle against hunger and malnutrition in the world.