



Food Science & Technology: a Failing Profession or a New Opportunity

Until comparatively recently the food industry has hired its professionals from diverse scientific and non-scientific backgrounds, including many of the senior professionals attending the World Congress. Organizations and institutions recruiting staff from such backgrounds did so on the basis of their achievements in their chosen discipline, their general knowledge and education and their desire to join that organization or institution. Their lack of specific knowledge and experience in the work of their new employer was given and suitable training and opportunities to gain appropriate experience were provided. Those able and motivated quickly adapted and became useful whilst those not in tune with the job skill needs moved to other employers. More recently the growth of the industry has been matched by a proliferation of courses in Food Science/Technology designed to give students a range of subject skills and provide to employers staff more job-ready. Success over many years and in many countries has now given way to complaints from prospective employers that the graduates provided lack many essential skills and sometimes are ignorant of many basic tenets of industry. Is this a fair comment and, if so, how did it come about and can it be repaired? Industry inputs have seldom been helpful. The science abilities of incoming students has become deficient. Funding pressures on institutions have not improved the situation. A new deal of industry partnerships is needed. The concept of the Bologna Accord may assist. This professional talk explores the situation and options for action.

Speaker:
Professor Albert E. J. McGill

Monday, 5 October 2009

6:30 pm

**Tulip Room, Food Haven
Singapore Polytechnic Staff Centre
500 Dover Road, Singapore 139651**

** Enter by Gate 3, Dover Road*

REGISTRATION

Fee is charged as follows. Registration is to be received by **Thursday, 1 Oct 2009**.

Member/Spouse - \$ 14

Student Member - \$ 8

Non-Member - \$ 18

**Limited
to 40
Places
Only**

For registration and enquiries, please contact

➤ Mr Tay Seng Kiong at Tel: 65501540 or

Email: TAY_Seng_Kiong@nyp.gov.sg

➤ Mr Tong Yock Jin at Tel: 65449463 or

Email: Tong_Yock_Jin@ite.edu.sg

Professor Albert McGill is currently a Visiting Professor at the National University of Singapore. He has been the representative of the International Union for Food Science and Technology (IUFOST) to the Planning Committee of the Science for Health and Wellbeing in the Urban Environment Project of the International Council for Science (ICSU). He continues to be a Visiting Professor at the Institute of Biotechnology at the University of Fuzhou, Fujian, China, and an Associate Fellow of the James Martin Institute for Science and Civilization at Oxford University. For ten years he was the Dean of Science, Engineering and Technology; Professor of Analytical and Food Chemistry; Head of the Food Safety, Authenticity and Quality Unit; and Head of the Werribee Campus at Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia. He has postgraduate qualifications in Analytical Chemistry, Agricultural and Food Chemistry, Food Science and Education. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Forensic Science and the International Academy of Food Science and Technology. He has developed curricula, taught courses and carried out research in food science and technology at eleven universities across four continents. He has published and presented more than 200 papers in refereed journals and at conferences. His initial research training was with Unilever and Shell and he is a consultant in food security and for the food industry.