

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OPERATIVE MILLERS  
MIDEAST & AFRICA DISTRICT  
CLOSING ADDRESS BY CONFERENCE  
CHAIRPERSON: Mr Jannie de Villiers  
25 November 2010  
Cape Town, South Africa**

Ladies and Gentlemen

When we welcomed you here in Cape Town two days ago, I not only challenged you to download the latest developments in milling technology but also encouraged you to download some skills and wisdom from your colleagues. I hope the process has been a successful one and that you have installed whatever is necessary for this new information to be applied when you arrive back home.

I want to leave you with one more challenge and that is a challenge at a higher level for the leaders of this industry to become involved with the issues of Food Security.

Food Security is one of the biggest challenges the world is facing today. Not just having enough food, but also accessible, affordable and nutritious. The UN has recently confirmed that the millennium goal to halve the number of people living under US \$1 per day by 2015 has taken a huge blow at the time of high food prices in 2007/08. During this period the number of people actually increased to more than one billion. In 2010 the situation turned around again, but we are way off target here. I believe that the milling industry and the suppliers to our industry have to stand tall and engage with those taking the lead to attempt to improve the global situation. It won't be good enough to just be a provider of services with no involvement in finding solution to this global challenge. The solutions start with leaders who can visualize a picture of a better tomorrow. One of our leading agricultural economists in South Africa, Prof Mohammed Karaan quoted the following the other day:

***“The one with the bigger vision carries more responsibility!”***

I am not sure who you are, but I am pretty sure there are some of you in this room today that know that I am talking to you. Start leading in the place where you are and create new innovations to improve the food security of those that are desperately waiting on somebody to take the lead and do something. This matter can't be the responsibility of governments only!

I trust you will have a safe journey home and for those who will be visiting the African bush, the African sky and the fruit of our land: enjoy it!

Lastly, I would also like to extend a word of appreciation to the one person organising committee in South Africa for her dedication and excellent execution of her job to make this event possible. Ms Anne-Marie Barnard of the Chamber of Milling!

We will now hand over to Jordan who will act as the host for 2011.

Thanks

Jannie de Villiers  
IAOM Chairperson for Mideast & Africa 2010