

## **CLOSING SESSION: ADDRESS BY CHAIR, CONTINUING COMMITTEE**

T. Nolan

Teagasc, Atheny, Ireland

Members of the XVIII International Grassland Congress we have arrived at the final day of Congress. We can now admit to the Canadian Organising Committee that we expected an excellent Congress from them and hasten to add that they surpassed all of our expectations. The scientific programme covered the range of uses of world grasslands for different human benefits in the broadest biological, environmental, social and economic contexts. One could readily conclude that there is now ample understanding of the various factors likely to be involved in improved policies for development at local, regional or even global levels. Grassland scientists must be congratulated for their achievements.

The challenge exists to integrate the components in whole predictable smooth running development programmes. The need to press on with new research, perhaps requiring more imaginative initiatives than heretofore and some alterations to traditional protocols is apparent and the Congress has pointed the way forward in many areas. Grassland scientists can take up new challenges with confidence based on previous success. Governments, planners and policy makers must take the results and views of grassland scientists into the equation when setting development strategies. The Proceedings will provide a reference for the different agencies involved.

The excellent scientific programme was balanced by a social programme enjoyed by all. It was our pleasure to interact with the social, cultural and warm hospitality of our Canadian hosts. The level of complementary comments circulating regarding the tours and accompanying person's programmes is evidence of the quality experienced.

The XVIII International Grassland Congress has been a splendid success and has set high standards for future hosts. This challenge is in the safe hands of Brazil when the XIX Congress will set the pace for the next century. In this context the Continuing Committee is satisfied that the International Grassland Congress is in a very healthy state and ready to meet the future with confidence. We hope that contact with the International Rangeland Congress will evolve to improve even further the advancement of our understanding on how best to exploit world grasslands.

It remains for me, on behalf of the Continuing Committee and all members to once more thank the Canadian Organising Committee for all of their efforts over the past six years to ensure that Congress would be of the very high quality experienced. Allow me to convey my personal thanks to the Chair of the Board of the XVIII International Grassland Congress, Dr Bert Christie, who kept the information update constantly active and handled all of the queries and requests with unreserved effort. Finally, on behalf of all members of the XVIII International Grassland Congress, I say thank you very much to all Canadians who helped to make this Congress an outstanding success.