

50
years



INTERNATIONAL
COFFEE
ORGANIZATION

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International Coffee Council
111th Session
9 – 12 September 2013
Belo Horizonte, Brazil

**Request for observer status in
September 2013 and future years**

Arthur Dobbs Institute Inc.

Background

1. Rule 5 of the Rules of the Organization (see the Annex) provides that any organization referred to in Article 16 of the Agreement, including private sector coffee associations and bodies, may request observer status at a session of the Council, by submitting such a request in writing to the Executive Director at least 45 days prior to the session (i.e. by 25 July 2013).

2. The Executive Director has received a request to observe the 111th Council Session from 9 to 12 September 2013 and Council Sessions in future years from Dr Vernon Thomas and Dr Peter Kevan of the Arthur Dobbs Institute Inc. (ADI) which is based in Ontario, Canada and with an administrative office in Puebla, Mexico. The ADI was established in 2012 as a not-for-profit Research, Development, Innovation and Educational organization specializing in the application of ecological principles to environmental problems. The aim of the ADI is to raise funds from both private and public sectors internationally, and where applicable nationally and to provide interdisciplinary, multisectoral teams of experts to address problems as identified by any interested parties. The second aim is to facilitate administrative encumbrances that sometimes face the assembly and operation of international and multisectoral teams in national and international projects centred in academic, government and multinational organizations. The first success of the ADI was in raising money from the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) for three years to extend the principles of applied ecology, integrated pest management, and biodiversity in coffee production and protection, in particular through the use of managed and wild pollinators. The internationally driven coffee project now in progress under the IUBS umbrella of encouraging increased biodiversity in agriculture for crop production and

protection with other projects funded nationally in Canada and the European Union (with work in Mexico, Jordan, Brazil, and Kenya in planning phases). The ADI has a formal connection with Mexico and discussions for connection in Brazil are underway.

3. Dr Kevan is a leading Canadian world expert on the use of pollinating insects to enhance crop production and the transfer of agents via bees to counter infectious diseases in crops. He is also the current Chair of the International Commission on Plant-Pollinator Relations. Dr Vergara is a leading Mexican expert on the pollination of crops. He has just completed an extension education course on the insect pollination of coffee offered to coffee producers in Central America.

4. During the 50th anniversary meetings, both representatives will offer a workshop for interested delegates on the use of pollinators in coffee production for yield boosts from pollination and protection of coffee crops from certain diseases and insect pests. The International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) has advanced a small grant to offset the cost of this workshop. The aim is to develop working relationships with coffee producers and determine where to begin field work with insect biovectoring (i.e. use of bees to transfer pollen and biological disease controlling agents to coffee plants) and with which coffee producing partners.

5. Based on the agenda for the 111th Session (see document ICC-111-0), both representatives would be interested in Items 10 (Projects Committee) and 12 (cooperation with other agencies) as well as the meeting of the Projects Committee. Further information about the activities of the Arthur Dobbs Institute can be obtained by contacting Arthurdobbsinstitute@gmail.com.

6. As provided for in Rule 5, comments and/or possible objections by Members to the above requests shall be communicated in writing to the Executive Director at least 15 days prior to the session (i.e. 24 August 2013). At least 10 days prior to the session (i.e. 29 August 2013), the Executive Director shall distribute to all Members any comments on such requests and provide information to the interested applicants on this.

Action

The Council is requested to consider this request.

RULES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION**RULE 5
Observers**

1. Any organization referred to in Article 16 of the Agreement, including private sector coffee associations and bodies, may request observer status at a session of the Council, by submitting such a request in writing to the Executive Director at least 45 days prior to the session.
2. The written request shall indicate the Agenda items of interest. If necessary, the Executive Director will request any additional information needed by the Council in considering such requests. At least 30 days prior to the session, the Executive Director shall circulate to all Members the names of organizations requesting observer status, along with additional information and a proposal for Council action on each request.
3. Comments and/or possible objections by Members to the above requests shall be communicated in writing to the Executive Director at least 15 days prior to the session. At least 10 days prior to the session, the Executive Director shall distribute to all Members any comments on such requests and provide information to the interested applicants on this. At the start of each Session, the Council shall decide on acceptance of observers and designate the items on the Agenda of the Council open to accepted observers.
4. The Council may also invite organizations and individuals to attend Council Sessions to make presentations or to make a contribution on a specific topic to be considered by the Council. Observers shall have no voice in the proceedings of the Council, its committees and subsidiary bodies, except by invitation of the respective Chairmen.