

## **Closing Remarks of the ISBR President**

**Joachim Schiemann**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues,

We are getting old.

20 years of OECD Blue Book, 16 years of ISBGMOs.

We started our biennial series of ISBGMOs 16 years ago – when we were much younger. Most members of the old ISBGMO crew are with us today; a few are not here but may be with us again in 2008 in New Zealand. Only one highly respected colleague will never come again: Rudolf Casper, who died shortly after his 75. birthday. Rudolf Casper was a pioneer of GMO biosafety research, the organizer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISBGMO in Goslar, a great scientist, a great organizer and a wonderful human being.

It is time now to say thank you.

Thank you to the host country Korea. Our Korean colleagues spent a lot of effort, including a great financial engagement, to organize a symposium in a professional and smooth atmosphere. We will leave this country with very good feelings and memories. We are convinced that biotechnology, biosafety research and GMO safety assessment are in good hands in Korea.

Thank you to the Symposium Committee and the Programme Committee of the 9<sup>th</sup> ISBGMO. We had a great scientific programme. The decision to link biosafety research and environmental risk assessment tightly throughout the whole programme turned out to be the right decision. The 9<sup>th</sup> ISBGMO was a milestone in the field of GMO biosafety research.

Thank you to the chair of both committees: Sally McCammon. Sally, you made a great job, and the success of this symposium is mainly based on your efforts. It was a pleasure to work with you and to provide nearly 300 scientists, risk assessors and regulators the opportunity to discuss challenging topics, to exchange ideas and to learn a lot.

The 9<sup>th</sup> ISBGMO is closed.