



NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM THE ICA PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues

Greetings and best wishes for a successful year ahead for you and your institution!

ICA had an eventful year in 2012, with the **ICA week of Conferences and ICA General Assembly** held at the Free University of Bolzano-Bozen, Italy; our joint Conference in Banff, Canada with the Canadian Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (CFAVM) and the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) focusing on **Growing the Bioeconomy, the social, environmental and economic implications**; and the ICA Rectors and Deans Forum which discussed the **Engagement of life science universities in the knowledge society and innovation networks**. The conferences and their presentations can be accessed from the ICA website www.ica-europe.info

In 2013 ICA Board will take a major initiative to support our universities engage in the development of the Bioeconomy, particularly in focusing on the social, environmental and economic implications and the need to develop degree programmes which will deliver to the graduates with the necessary skills for a career in the Bioeconomy. Investing in the Bioeconomy is a major initiative of the European Commission who, in 2012, published a **Strategy for Innovating for Sustainable growth: a Bioeconomy for Europe**. To this end the ICA Rectors and Deans Forum 2013 will focus on how universities should innovate to fully address and support the development of the Bioeconomy. The programme for this event is currently being developed and will pick up on the outcomes of the last year's conference in Canada and the recent EU Strategy document. The Forum will be held at the Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium from 29 to 31 October 2013 – full details to follow but please put the dates in your Diary. The ICA General Assembly will in future be moved to the time of the ICA Forum.

The other main initiative to be developed in 2013 will be the ICA Network for Innovation in Higher Education in the Life Sciences. This development replaces the previous successful ICA Standing Committee – the European Conference of Higher Agricultural Education. This network is still in the initial stages of development, but does follow a successful workshop in 2012. The initiative is being led by Vice Rector Barbara Hinterstoisser from BOKU and she would welcome proposals of Vice Rectors and Vice Deans for Education to join her in developing this Network.

I know that your colleagues are members of ICA's Standing Committees which will also hold events in 2013. Full details of the Standing Committees and their activities can be found from the ICA website www.ica-europe.info. The ICA Board wishes the Standing Committees all success for these events and for further strengthening of their networks. Together we further develop the ICA-family supporting our institutions in fulfilling their various roles in education, research and innovation.

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