

Dear colleagues,

It is an honour for me to have been motivated by several ICC members to apply as next ICC President elect.

My background is Food and Biotechnology and I worked until my retirement in March 2020 as head of the Food Physics Laboratory of the Department of Food Science and Technology at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU). During all the time our department had and has continuously cooperations with ICC.



I am member of ICC-Austria and have been involved in the past in several activities of ICC, e.g. in developing the ICC dictionary and the ICC website, in the “Healthgrain” and “MONIQA” project. After my PhD on “Textural Properties of Sponge Cake” and because of other responsibilities and projects at BOKU my work got more focused on food quality and safety management and educational aspects, but my research interests covered still also textural and rheological measurements of cereal products.

During my work I had the chance to participate in many European and International projects. I could collect experiences in project management as coordinator of a knowledge alliance project “Food-STA” (Food-Study and Training Alliance, <https://www.food-sta.eu>) and a capacity building project SEA-ABT (South East Asian Academy for Beverage Technology, <https://www.sea-abt.eu>).

I served 15 years as Secretary General of the ISEKI-Food Association (<https://www.iseki-food.net>), which is registered at BOKU as non-profit international association, with members from all over the world, focused on education in the food sector. Now ISEKI-Food is well known and in good financial standing with 8 employees, due to the organization of conferences, workshops and mainly due to the participation in several projects. Currently ISEKI-Food is involved in 10 ERASMUS and H2020 projects, dealing with open science, innovative teaching methods, innovations in short supply chains, traditional foods, post harvest handling, etc.

I am still involved in other international associations like GHI (Global Harmonization Initiative, <http://www.globalharmonization.org>, founding member and member of the executive committee) and EHEDG (European Hygienic Equipment Design Group, <http://www.ehedg.org>, authorized trainer and member of the Training and Education Working Group).

During my professional career I could build a worldwide network of colleagues and friends, which I can utilize also for ICC. As deputy regional coordinator for South East Asia and as programme coordinator of an International Master programme SIFC (Safety in the Food Chain, <http://www.safetyinthefoodchain.com>) for BOKU, I was also teaching and doing research in different universities in Thailand, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, China, Turkey, France, Spain and Argentina and cooperating closely with embassies especially from Thailand and Sri Lanka and the Austrian embassy and Chamber of commerce (Advantage Austria) in Thailand and international organisations, like the headquarter of UNIDO in Vienna.

During my time as Secretary General of the ISEKI-Food Association I started again cooperations with ICC. E.g. we share the costs of a conference management tool, we cooperated in several activities, like a 1 week “hands-on training on baking technology” for University teachers in the industry (<https://www.food-sta.eu/bakingtechnology>) and a virtual student competition on “Sustainable cereals” (<https://www.food-sta.eu/foodfactory-4-us>). These are examples which could be implemented also in ICC for the benefits of the members and also as potential financial resource for ICC.

According to the mentioned experiences and best practices in other international organisations and activities I could contribute to ICC with my international contacts, especially in South East Asia and

with experiences in project management, organization of physical and virtual conferences and workshops, especially using innovative formats and teaching methods.

I would also see many opportunities to cooperate with other organizations and to implement results from different projects. E.g. in the ASKFOOD project (<https://www.askfood.eu/>) a so-called “Reversed incubator” was developed as a kind of approach for “open innovation” to connect “talented students/startups” with companies, esp. SMEs who have ideas and needs for innovations, but lack in resources.

The priorities I would see for ICC are to foster the cooperation between members, especially to engage young scientists, as they are the future of ICC. Activities could be such as building a network of engaged “National Representatives/Ambassadors”, to enhance industry-oriented professional skills in students, teachers and industry professionals, by integrating science and technology skills into industry (e.g. reversed incubator, ICC certified hands on workshops, etc.). Further I see also the need to finance all the activities of further financial support, e.g. by attracting corporate members, implementing a Certification Scheme for Training and Education and mainly by participating in funded projects (HORIZON, ERSAMUS, COST), resp. to support the members in writing proposals and build project consortia.

I am open and free for new challenges and I would highly appreciate if you could consider my application.

With kind regards

Gerhard Schleining