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The Early History of AUSUDIAP – the Precursor to AIARD  
By Hugh Popenoe

It is indeed an honor to be here tonight to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our organization and to recount activities of 40 years ago of which we were a part. As one phases out of academic life as I have one has the opportunity and privilege to serve as the corporate memory of events that happened before many of you were born or still going through the formal education process.

AUSUDIAP, the acronym for the Association of U.S. University Directors of International Agricultural Programs, and the predecessor of our organization was formally organized at a June meeting in Washington, D.C. in 1968 and the Constitution and Bylaws were officially adopted at a meeting at the University of Florida in June of the following year. The organization of the group actually started in June, 1965 when a group of international agricultural directors and other agricultural administrators met at Cornell, at the invitation of Dean Charles Palm and Ken Turk to discuss the necessity for a formal group to act on topics of mutual interest. Cornell had a long history of international involvement, mainly in China and the Philippines, and Dean Charles Palm had just convinced the New York legislature to fund eight international positions in agriculture; thus it was an ideal venue for such a meeting. The timing was also appropriate because interest was growing in increased participation of the Land Grant Colleges in agricultural development activities in the developing countries. Interestingly, the legacy of annual meetings in June has been a tradition of this group ever since.

The Cornell conference was followed by two other annual reunions at universities before the Washington meeting when the name AUSUDIAP was first formally used. Many of us had trouble with such an awkward name. Speakers would often complain that they couldn't tell their colleagues where they were going to talk because they couldn't pronounce the name. We never really did agree on how to pronounce it. Many members and non-members also felt the name was too exclusive and eliminated many other potential participants in international agricultural development from membership in the Association. Although the latter point was not intentional the group had to make a special effort to include other institutions. Perhaps both of these points hastened the evolution of AUSUDIAP to AIARD (the Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development), a name easier to pronounce and much more inclusive.

At the meeting in Florida in 1969, and over which I was privileged to preside, we accepted the following functions for the new organization in addition to a constitution and bylaws:

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- (a) Provide a medium for exchange of ideas and information relating to university Programs in international agriculture and to encourage further development of Scientific and educational programs directed at modernization of world agriculture.
- (b) Provide liaison on international agricultural education, research, and public

service among U.S. Colleges of Agriculture and government agencies, the U.S. Congress, private industry groups, foundations and international agencies.

After that meeting we encouraged members of the non-university community to join us but our name always caused some reluctance on their part. Represented at the Florida meeting were thirty universities, AID, USDA, FAO, Peace Corps, agribusiness and several other organizations.

AUSUDIAP'S emergence as an important player in the U.S. role in international development soon became obvious. The 1968 meeting of directors in Washington had highlighted some of the problems contributing to the lack of interest in international development such as problems within AID, pessimism about increases in foreign assistance, and the lack of a visible constituency. Several directors at that meeting had suggested that a potential was inherent in the Land Grant institutions to influence international agricultural policy just as they had influenced the course and policy of national agriculture. Involvement of U.S. universities it was suggested could provide more continuity in projects, help with institution building, and provide a constituency for international efforts. However, before that, the universities needed to do a better job of integrating an international dimension into their own activities.

About this same time NASULGC (the National Association of State Colleges and Land Grant Universities) had established a task force to study the U.S. international developmental assistance programs including technical assistance. Among the charges to the task force were:

- (a) To restate the philosophy, purposes and objectives which justify and obligate our Nation's commitment to the assistance of developing peoples.
- (b) To identify the functions our universities are peculiarly fitted to perform and must be expected to perform if the programs of development assistance are to be effective.

In November, 1970 at a joint meeting of the Executive Committee of AUSUDIAP and the Executive Committee of the Administrative Heads, Division of Agriculture, NASULGC in Washington, NASULGC agreed to establish a Commission on International Agriculture to be composed of the Executive Committee of AUSUDIAP. Ken Turk wrote: "This action will give official status in the NASULGC to our Association which we feel will be very helpful to us and to the international dimension of our Colleges of Agriculture and in our role with national and international agencies." AUSUDIAP was thus able to avail itself of NASULGC's considerable experience and staffing to work with Congress on promoting the universities role in international development.

The next few years were busy ones for AUSUDIAP. The USDA and NASULGC had established ISEC (International Science and Education Council) in which

AUSUDIAP members participated. The purpose of the Council was to promote university and USDA cooperation on international activities.

In 1975 Congress passed Title 12 -- The Famine Prevention and Freedom from Hunger Act, otherwise known as the Humphrey-Findley Bill. The original idea of Title XII was to use American comparative advantage in institution building for teaching, research and extension, for the development of human capital; and for collaborative research involving the American universities and the agricultural institutions of the developing countries. Needless to say, the Bill incorporated much of the AUSUDIAP philosophy and many of the AUSUDIAP members were very much involved in the early implementation. The Act had widespread support in Congress because many Democrats supported the idea of direct assistance to the rural poor (thus eliminating the trickle-down approach) and many Republicans were pleased to see that this would decrease investments in massive infrastructural projects..

The legislation called for a Board of International Food and Education (BIFAD). Two subcommittees reported to the Board – the Joint Research Committee (JRC) and the Joint Committee on Agricultural Development (JCAD) which were later replaced by the Joint Committee on Agricultural Research and Development (JCARD). These committees were staffed with representatives from AID, universities, USDA, foundations and the private sector. Many of the participants were active members of AUSUDIAP. The role of this administrative arrangement was to help the universities integrate their expertise into AID development efforts. As one might imagine this was not an easy task. Clifton Wharton, Jr., one-time Chairman of BIFAD, in a moment of exasperation exclaimed: “It was like trying to change the fan belt with the engine still running”. One wag in the back of the room at that meeting said: “ It doesn’t sound like you even have the hood up yet”.

Yes, those were heady times with much excitement in the air as a result of a lot of activity. With AUSUDIAP playing a major role, new mechanisms were developed to enhance university involvement overseas. Many of you in this room were instrumental in the successes of these activities such as: Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs), the Collaborative Assistance Mode, Strengthening Grants, Program Support Grants, Joint Career Corps, and many others. As a result of these activities, institutions have been created or enlarged and more professionals both here and abroad are working on alleviating famine and hunger throughout the world. Let us hope that we can capitalize on these early successes to continue our long-term efforts to eliminate poverty and improve rural well-being. Alas, we are often distracted by other short-term objectives. I anticipate that AIARD will build on its legacy and continue to make a difference.