

IVU Online News – June 2010

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Table of Contents

Intriguing Indonesia Hosts IVU World Veg Congress
Nutrition Professor among Keynoters at IVU WVC
IVU Manager Honoured
Meatless Day in Capetown, South Africa
Animal Freedom Day
IVU on Facebook and Twitter
Language's Role in Promoting Vegetarianism
Poem on Language about Other Animals
20th Anniversary Edition of 'The Sexual Politics of Meat'
John Robbins' New Book
Welcome to New IVU Members
Upcoming Events
Welcome to Organisations That Have Recently Registered with IVU
Other Online Sources of Veg News
Please Send News to IVU Online News

Intriguing Indonesia Hosts IVU World Veg Congress

Here's just a little information on the host nation for the 2010 IVU World Vegetarian Congress: www.wvc2010.org



Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago. It consists of more than 17,000 islands with a population of over 200 million.

Indonesia exhibits incredible diversity in its language, culture and tradition. There are more than 300 ethnic groups speaking 200 distinct languages and dialects.

Jakarta is the capital and the largest city of Indonesia. As such, Jakarta is a "meeting point" of representatives from throughout the archipelago. Located on the northwest coast of the island of Java, Jakarta covers an area of 661.52 square kilometers (255.41 square miles). In fact, it is the twelfth largest city in the world.

For more on some of the sites we'll be visiting in Jakarta:
www.wvc2010.org/Jakarta.html

Nutrition Professor among Keynoters at IVU WVC

The IVU World Vegetarian Congress features an impressive array of presenters from a broad range of backgrounds. Among the keynote speakers is Dr Duo Li (pictured here with his family), a professor of Nutrition at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China. In addition to serving as editor of the 'Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition, Prof Li is also vice-president of the Asia Vegetarian Union. Before he came back to China, he was a senior research fellow at RMIT University, Australia and a research fellow at Deakin University, Australia. The title of his keynote address is 'Evidence Based Vegetarian Nutrition'.





IVU Manager Honoured

John Davis, IVU Manager and Webmaster, was recently awarded the Golden Carrot award by Vegetarians in Paradise. Read an interview with John done by the folks at Vegetarians in Paradise: vegparadise.com/24carrot.html Here also is a video of an interview with John

www.vegsource.com/news/2010/05/how-well-do-you-know-your-vegetarian-history.html

Meatless Day in Capetown, South Africa

Just in time for football's World Cup, Capetown, South Africa is a new addition to the growing list of cities encouraging their citizens to go meatless at least one day a week.

www.ciwf.org.uk/news/compassion_news/south_africa_scores_for_farm_animal_welfare_the_environment_and_human_health.aspx



IVU on Facebook and Twitter

IVU is well-represented in various constellations of cyberspace. The IVU facebook group is managed by Edgar Crook in Canberra, Australia:

www.facebook.com/pages/International-Vegetarian-Union/108058872556223?v=desc



Andrew Freeman, also in Canberra, has now put us on twitter:

twitter.com/andrewfreeman/ivu

Of course, many IVU member organisations also are on FB, Twitter, etc. For instance, you can follow the Middle East Veg Soc at www.facebook.com/meveg



Animal Freedom Day

Here is an abridged version of an email sent to IVU.

My name is Nadia Masoudi and I am 18 years old. I am an animal rights activist and filmmaker of the documentary 'Don't Eat Me' www.donteatme.ca

I am currently organizing a worldwide event called Animal Freedom Day - www.animalfreedomday.com - which takes place this 24 July.

Animal Freedom Day is a day in which people from all walks of life cease to consume animal or animal by-products. Our goal is to create awareness and put an end to the slaughtering of animals, animal abuse and create an alternative food source. Animal Freedom Day is an online multi-venue music festival that will be streamed live for the world to see. It will feature many performances from independent music artists to legendary music icons. Many high-profile celebrities, environmentalists, politicians and many others from around the world will take part and have their voice heard to free the animals.

Language's Role in Promoting Vegetarianism

Arran Stibbe, PhD, is a senior lecturer in English Language at University of Gloucestershire, UK. He kindly agreed to be interviewed for IVU Online News.



1. Hi Arran. You are founder of the Language & Ecology Research Forum - www.ecoling.net What do you see as the link between language and meat production?

I've spent many joyless hours reading and analysing the language of the animal product industries, for example, instruction manuals on how to raise pigs from birth to slaughter. At a surface level instruction manuals like this help to spread cruel and environmentally destructive methods of intensive farming around the world simply because farmers read them and put their recommendations into practice. But more importantly, the kind of language used encodes a particular way of seeing animals that justifies treating them inhumanely. My research has shown that industry materials portray animals as objects, machines, and resources for the exclusive use of humans rather than beings in their own right living their lives for the own purposes, justifying and underpinning a system of exploitation.

2. Can you give an example of the kind of language used?

Well, here's an example of how the Pork Industry Handbook redefines the concept of the health of pigs in a way that detracts attention away from caring about their individual wellbeing "Health is the condition of an animal with regard to the performance of its vital functions. The vital functions of the pig are reproduction and growth. They are vital because they are major contributors to the economic sustainability of the pork production enterprise" (Pork Industry Handbook 2002:140).

3. How do you reply to people who maintain that what we say and write amounts to nothing but words?

The declaration of war is just words, but leads to very real consequences in the world. Laws which prevent animal cruelty are also just words, but have very real consequences. And instruction manuals which specify the minimum space required so that a pig remains alive without being able to move equally have consequences in the world. At a deeper level, the language used when talking and writing about animals influences how we perceive relationships between humans and other animals.

4. What about positive examples of language people can use to change attitudes and behaviours?

I think it would be fair to say that the vegetarian movement has had limited success. The number of people who are actually vegetarian remains small while global meat consumption has sky rocketed. My own feeling is that this is because of the all-or-nothing nature of the argument that vegetarians often put forward, which is open to a kind of denial by counterexample. I think it's important to get the arguments about animal cruelty and the ecological destructiveness of intensive farming methods out there without the simplistic moral injunction that the only solution is for people to cleanse themselves morally by becoming entirely vegetarian.

5. Do you have advice for vegetarian activists about how we can try to change the language people use?

I think it's important to avoid accusations of political correctness. If vegetarians go around saying to people "oh you shouldn't say *animal*, you should say *non-human person*, or don't say *cow*, say *bovine victim of cattle enslavers* then you are likely to make far more enemies than friends. I'm exaggerating but there are strong defences in our society against political correctness along the lines of 'who do they think they are to tell me how to think'.

6. So what could we do instead?

Instead, it's possible to inspire people to think positively about animals through lyrical writing which represents animals as they are, i.e., as beings with mental lives and emotional lives who live and enjoy their own lives for their own purposes just as humans do. The marine biologist Rachel Carson, who played a significant role in starting the environmental movement, is a great example of someone whose writing encourages respect for animals without overtly telling people what they are allowed to say or using clumsy politically correct formulations. For example, Carson writes in *Silent Spring*, "For thousands upon thousands of years the salmon have known and followed these threads of fresh water that lead them back to the rivers (p.122)."

To learn more, read Arran's article at Stibbe, Arran. (2006). *As charming as a pig: The discursive construction of the relationship between pigs and humans*. *Society & Animals* 11:4, 375-392. www.animalsandsociety.org/assets/library/521_s1144.pdf



Poem on Language about Other Animals

This is an excerpt from a poem by Shen Shi'an, reprinted with permission.

Call Us By Our True Names

The last time you ordered me for dinner,
you forgot my true name.

I am not some wonton.
Please call me by my true name -
I am "Pig".
I wish you saw how lovable I was.
You might have given me a personal name too.
Please remember I was killed unhappily,
even as you eat me happily.
For I loved my life, just as you love yours.

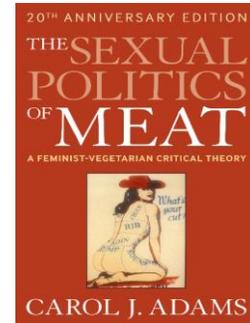
I am not some nugget.
Please call me by my true name -
I am "Chicken".
I wish you saw how lovable I was.
You might have given me a personal name too.
Please remember I was killed unhappily,
even as you eat me happily.
For I loved my life, just as you love yours.

The entire poem is at www.ivu.org/news/online/2007-06.html#poem

20th Anniversary Edition of 'The Sexual Politics of Meat'

Carol Adams groundbreaking book linking the plight of human females and the plight of non-humans of both sexes now has a new 20th anniversary edition:

www.continuumbooks.com/books/detail.aspx?BookId=133953



Here is just a sampling of the high praise for the book:

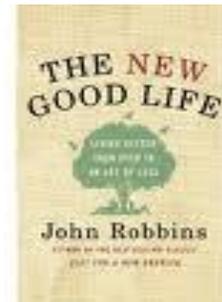
“The connections traced between rampant masculinity, misogyny, carnivorism, and militarism operate as powerfully today as when Carol Adams first diagnosed them twenty years ago” J M Coetzee

“A bible of the vegan community” *New York Times*

“Her argument is rational and persuasive . . . New ground – whole acres of it – is broken by Adams” *Washington Post*

John Robbins' New Book

John Robbins influenced many vegetarians with his books 'Diet for a New America', 'The Food Revolution', and 'Healthy at 100'. His new book is 'The New Good life'.



Here's from the book's website:

www.johnrobbins.info/the-new-good-life

The New Good Life provides a philosophical and prescriptive path from conspicuous consumption to conscious consumption. Where the old view of success was measured in cash, stocks, and various luxuries, the new view will be guided by financial restraint and a new awareness of what truly matters. A passionate manifesto on finding meaning beyond money and status, this book delivers a sound blueprint for living well on less.

Discover how to:

- create your own definition of success based on your deepest beliefs and life experience
- develop a diet that promotes better health, and saves you money.

Welcome to New IVU Members

UWEC Vegetarian Society - University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire - www.uwec.edu/studentorgs/active/show/397

Vegan Students Association of Togo - erickyeleneke@yahoo.fr

Maroema Vegetarian Catering in Tokyo - www.maroema.org

Ethiopian Vegan Association - meshagem@yahoo.com





- ✓ Animal Freedom Day – 24 Jul, 2010 www.animalfreedomday.com
- ✓ IVU World Vegetarian Congress – 1-9 Oct, 2010, Jakarta and Bali
www.wvc2010.org
The 39th IVU World Vegetarian Congress will be held in Indonesia in two places, Jakarta, the capital (and the economic centre of the country) and Bali, the country's most famous tourist destination. An outline of the programme is available at the congress website.
- ✓ The Indian Vegan Society will be organising the IVU India, South & West Asia Vegetarian Congress - ISWAVEG- (a vegan event) from 30 Oct to 2 Nov at E-Inn - www.e-inn.in - a vegetarian, non-alcoholic, non-smoking, business class hotel in Bangalore, India. Dr. Will Tuttle, author of 'The World Peace Diet', will be a keynote speaker.
Among the other confirmed speakers are Dr. B.M. Hegde - www.bmhegde.com - a renowned cardiologist and a votary of vegetarianism and Mr. John Davis (UK), a historian of vegetarianism. PETA founder, Ingrid Newkirk, has agreed to send a representative on her behalf. Vegan Mohan Santanam will present a carnatic vocal music concert on 30 Oct evening. For further information, contact Shankar Narayan at indianvegansociety@rediffmail.com
- ✓ East Africa Vegetarian Congress – 3-5 Dec, 2010, Nairobi, Kenya. Contact the IVU Regional Coordinator for Africa, Emmanuel Eyoh - nigveganimal@yahoo.com
- ✓ Middle East Vegetarian Congress, 6-7 Dec - Dubai, UAE. Contact IVU International Council member, Sandhya Prakash - sandhya@meveg.info The Congress will take place during the 8th Middle East Natural & Organic Foods Expo 2010, 6-8 Dec - www.naturalproductme.com – which will include 16 booths in a dedicated MEVEG Pavilion.
- ✓ 2nd Latin American Vegetarian Congress in Bolivia – January 2011 – exact place and date to be announced - marly.winckler@gmail.com
- ✓ 13th International Vegan Festival – 2011 (exact dates to be announced) - Turin, Italy
- ✓ 5th Asian Vegetarian Congress – Oct, 2011, Hangzhou, China

Welcome to Organisations That Have Recently Registered with IVU

BRAZIL

Fundacao Boto – coisasdobem.blogspot.com

ISRAEL

Time for Change – www.timeforchange.org.il

USA

Delectable Planet – www.delectableplanet.com

VeggieJews – www.veggiejews.org

Other Online Sources of Veg News

In addition to *IVU Online News*, there are many other places to go online for general veg-related news, rather than news mostly about one country or one organisation. Here are some.

1. Dawn Watch www.dawnwatch.com/alerts.htm
2. European Vegetarian Union – www.evana.org
3. Farmed Animal Net - www.farmedanimal.net
4. Vegan Outreach - www.veganoutreach.org/enewsletter
5. VegE-News - www.vege-news.com
6. VegNews - www.vegnews.com
7. VegSource - www.vegsource.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi
8. AnimalConcerns.org doesn't have a newsletter, but they post stories daily at www.animalconcerns.org/categories.html?do=shownews
9. IVU-Veg-News E-Mail List - www.ivu.org/news/veg-news



Please Send News to IVU Online News

Dear Veg Activist

Please use this newsletter as a way to share your knowledge, ideas and experiences with fellow veg activists.

Thx. --george jacobs – george@vegetarian-society.org



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