

Commemoration of Prof. Giuseppe Pellizzi († 21.08.2012)

at the 23. Meeting of the Club of Bologna Nov. 9 and 10, 2012

Part I: Professor Axel Munack, Member of the Management Committee of the Club of Bologna

His focus on research and teaching, his considerable publications, his activities in Italian Agricultural Engineering and the numerous outstanding honors awarded to our highly esteemed deceased colleague Professor Giuseppe Pellizzi have already been honored by the acting President of the Club of Bologna, Professor Luigi Bodria.

I would like to address Giuseppe's influence in international panels. Here he left very deep marks. This holds true for both his professional impact, but also, and even more so, for his personal charisma and his outstanding ability in the promotion of world-wide networks in Agricultural Engineering.

First, I would like to point out the lasting revitalization of *CIGR*, the International Commission of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, which he accomplished as its President during the years 1991 to 1994. Moreover, he was co-founder of the European Community Club of Advanced Engineering in Agriculture, *ECCA EA*. The *ECCA EA* is now a strategic division of the European Agricultural Engineering Society *EurAgEng*, of which Giuseppe Pellizzi was also co-founder in 1992. He was also a founding father of the *Club of Bologna*, which is holding its 23rd full members' meeting today and tomorrow here in Bologna during the EIMA 2012.

While all developed countries in the world have already gone through a modernization of agricultural technology, the majority of economies have not yet accomplished this until now – resulting in many and, in part, dramatic problems.

Recognition of this problem 25 years ago, gave the impetus for the foundation of the Club of Bologna. Its goal was to convene the top international experts on mechanization in order to discuss subjects of prominent importance for the development of the agricultural machinery sector in various countries.

The Club of Bologna was founded in 1989 with strong financial support by the UNACOMA, and under the auspices of CIGR and in close collaboration with the FAO and UNIDO. Giuseppe Pellizzi was its first president and held this position for many, many years. He did not only represent the Club on the international stage but he also felt responsible for the all-day work of the Club and he left a comprehensive mark on the Club as could no-one else.

I, myself, had the chance to take part in a meeting of the Club of Bologna in the year 1990 and was immediately fascinated by the energetic working atmosphere and the lively discussions that characterized the meeting, which was a substantial achievement of its President.

The Club of Bologna developed, over almost two decades, to such a substantial part of Dr. Pellizzi's life's work that my colleague Professor Renius, as co-founder and member of the management committee of the Club, will take the opportunity to reflect on this in greater detail.

Part II: Professor Karl Th. Renius, Founder Member and Member of the Management Committee of the Club of Bologna

I still can remember very well the first steps towards the Club of Bologna. They go back into the year 1987 when UNACOMA organized the "Simposio Internazionale Sulla Meccanizzazione Agricola" along with the EIMA under President Cav. Lav. Pietro Laverda.

We – several professors from around the world, had been invited to give plenary lectures, presenting our ideas on agricultural engineering in the year 2000. The discussions revealed the extreme challenges of future agricultural engineering facing not only the feeding needs of a rapidly growing world population, but also the increasing demand for renewable materials and energy – just to mention some of the topics.

As a general basic rule one can state that, without agricultural engineering, an economy is not able to develop well. The reason is that there is a large lack of manpower in other areas. This is clearly demonstrated by FAO statistics and – for example – also by the "Country Report" of the Club of Bologna. The importance of this rule is very high as it means that a low level in agricultural engineering in a country or region usually results in a high level of poverty.

In this respect, we had to state in 1987 that both the Club of Rome and the FAO did not invest much work in both Agricultural Engineering and Agricultural Mechanization – bearing in mind the great merits that both organizations had in other areas. In addition to the mentioned basic rule, the emerging globalization offered new chances just at that time period.

This situation was one of the stimuli for the Club of Bologna, founded in 1989. Pellizzi was everywhere - networker, architect, supporter and – consequently – the first president. The UNACOMA acted from the very beginning as an enthusiastic and generous supporter. In my opinion, this Club has stimulated the personal networking of the international Agricultural Engineering discipline more than any other institution.

Let me address another important activity of the Club, which is the "CIGR Handbook of Agricultural Engineering". Although it was a CIGR project, it would hardly have been completed in 1999 without the strong support of the Club of Bologna. Many of our colleagues did not believe that a worldwide Handbook of Agricultural Engineering, under the auspices of the CIGR, could be accomplished. In my estimation, the key to success was the outstanding level of developed friendships between members of the Club in a close connection with CIGR. Both organizations were promoted intensively by President Pellizzi, who was at the same time also

President of CIGR from 1991 to 1994. Professor Osamu Kitani, a Japanese friend of Pellizzi, club member and President of CIGR little later in 1997/1998, took over the work as editor-in-chief. Club of Bologna member Professor Bill Stout (following Kitani as President of CIGR), promoted the project from the side of the United States, such that ASAE could be attracted as publisher. In conjunction with many other top personalities of the international Agricultural Engineering community the vision of the Handbook could be realized.

Five volumes were first published around the year 1999. Later, a further volume VI on “Information Technology” completed the series. This was edited by Professor Axel Munack, also a member of the Club of Bologna and President of CIGR during the years 2003/2004.

Altogether, the book series, with about 3,000 pages, became the international standard reference in Agricultural Engineering. At the same time, it developed into an important instrument of technology transfer to Third World countries, characterized by good English writing and correct technical terms. Thus, the Handbook contributed to Giuseppe Pellizzi’s objective of fighting poverty and hunger in the world with a transfer of technology - a topic he addressed again and again within the Club of Bologna and CIGR.

Within the Club – and one could even say: within the club family – he was very popular and respected. Despite of his strong personal charisma, his self-confidence and his Italian spirit, he always seemed to us like the father of an extended family. This helped all members to overcome cultural and other barriers in favor of international understanding and so many newly developing friendships.

With the passing of Giuseppe Pellizzi, the international Agricultural Engineering community has lost one of its most prominent leading personalities and the world of Italian Agricultural Engineering has lost the founder of its most established group of experts.

The members of the Club of Bologna and its Management Committee will continue to hold Giuseppe Pellizzi as an outstanding personality in their thoughts and memories.

November 9, 2012 - Axel Munack and Karl Renius