Short Communication

A tribute to Giovanni Anania: Scholar, Mentor, Friend

European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE)

Imre Ferto (Corvino University of Budapest, Hungary) and Alan Renwick (University College Dublin, Ireland)
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Giovanni was a very warm and passionate colleague and friend who served the EAAE for many years. As president he was dedicated to making the EAAE a strong and leading organisation for the benefit of all agricultural economists across Europe. His presence, inspiration and dedication will be missed by all within the EAAE.

Giovanni first became active in the EAAE through his membership of the programme committee for the IX congress held in Warsaw in 1999. Following this he was elected to the EAAE board and served between 2002 and 2008. During this time he played an instrumental role in the development of the Association. In particular, he commented in detail on the renewal of the constitution process that took place in 2003 and led the introduction of the EAAE prizes. In 2011 he joined the Board again but this time as Vice-President before becoming President at the 2014 conference in Ljubljana.

Since becoming President he began both internal and external initiatives to strengthen the Association. Internally he began the process of strengthening the relationships between the EAAE and its members, in part by reinvigorating the role of the Liaison officers. Externally his initiatives included the signing of an MoU with the Australian Association and he had begun discussions with the UK Agricultural Economics Society. Giovanni had an ongoing desire to see the EAAE generally more connected globally and in particular to be represented at international meetings. Before becoming President, for example, he was responsible for organising sessions at the IAAE conference in Durban and at the AAEA and WA EA meetings. Throughout his association with the EAAE, he was also an avid supporter of the PhD workshops and saw them as having a key role to play in developing the next generation of European Agricultural Economists. It is perhaps fitting that one of his last engagements for the Association was speaking at the workshop held in Rome in June of this year.

Whilst he made many contributions to the professional development of the EAAE, he also contributed in many other ways. Anyone who met him at EAAE events benefited from his warmth and enthusiasm and through this he added much to the camaraderie of the association. Giovanni’s personality shone through in everything from his wide selection of jumpers through to his famously multi coloured slide presentations!

Whilst his departure has left a massive hole at the helm of the EAAE, all those on the Board are determined to continue on the course he established, but he will be sorely missed.