

GTA Chairman's address

Australian Grain Industry Conference Singapore 2016

The Australian High Commissioner to Singapore - Mr Philip Green OAM, ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning and on behalf of the other host organisations, Australian Oilseeds Federation and Pulse Australia, we are pleased to be able to once again showcase the Australian grain industry to you, the end users and traders of Australian grain.

This year the Conference has attracted participants from a range of countries including: Singapore, Malaysia, The Philippines, Indonesia, India, China, Thailand, Vietnam and Korea.

The presence of the **Australian High Commissioner** to Singapore is a demonstration of the importance that the Australian Government places in events that facilitate the interaction and dialogue amongst commercial trading partners involved in the grain and grain processing industries. Thanks Philip for again taking time out of your very busy schedule to open today's conference.

The significant number of Australian delegates in attendance also highlights the importance placed on the Conference by the Australian grain industry.

The Australian grain industry is export dependent with over 60% of our production destined for overseas markets with Asian markets now accounting for 70% of our exports.

The global grains industry is becoming increasingly competitive and as a major supplier to overseas markets it is critical that Australia continues to meet the requirements of our international customers.

Put another way – ensuring that **Australian grain is a quality product.**

Quality within the grain industry is dependent upon actions right along the grain supply chain. For example, Australian plant breeders are developing new improved varieties with functional properties suitable for Asian end user requirements.

Australian grain producers grow and harvest grain utilising the very best technology and importantly with a view to the future. Our farmers are stewards of the land, a responsibility they do not take lightly. The release last year of the publication, “**A Best Practice Guide To Growing Australian Grain**” not only, highlights the importance of producing a quality product but doing so in a sustainable way.

The receipt and storage of grain by the bulk storage operators across Australia and the subsequent out turn are all activities that are highly attuned to quality assurance programs established by organisations such as the **International Standards Organisation.**

The Australian government also provides critical support through the phytosanitary and regulatory oversight by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Today’s attendance and active participation by the grain trading companies that operate in Australia is a clear demonstration of the importance that the **members of Grain Trade Australia** place in ensuring that their customers receive grain that suits their functional requirements as detailed in the contractual undertakings.

Australian Grain – a quality product is the key theme running throughout today’s program. The quality assurance that is evident at every stage of the Australian grain supply chain is encapsulated in the

Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice. Adherence to the requirements of the Code are mandatory for the members of GTA and it is also noteworthy that **Australia is the only grain exporting nation that has such a Code.**

However, I do wish to stress that today is not a one way flow of information. The conference is also about hearing from participants in the Asian grain industry. We welcome **Mr Franciscus Weilrang** a prominent Indonesian flour miller and **Chairman of the Indonesian Flour Mills Association** and we look forward to his comments on Australian grain from a customer's perspective.

We also welcome your feedback during the formal proceedings and during the scheduled breaks.

As a trade organisation, Grain Trade Australia is supporting our members exporting endeavours with provision of contemporary commercial resources such as grain trading standards developed to meet customer requirements and contracts for bulk and containers to suit the needs of the parties to an export consignment.

Grain Trade Australia is also an active member of the International Grain Trade Coalition which has members from importing and exporting countries and which is tasked with providing commercial grain industry expertise for government consideration in the development of international policies and protocols that affect the international grain trade flows.

Conferences like these do not just happen and I would like to acknowledge members of the organising committee and especially the strong contributions of Rosemary Richards and Sheryl Brown from Grain Trade Australia . Thankyou also to Austrade for their significant input.

I would like to also acknowledge and thank the organisations that have sponsored today's conference. Your support is vital to the ongoing success of this conference.

In conclusion and on behalf of the Australian grain industry I wish to thank you for taking the time out of your schedule to attend today and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the Conference and at this evening's reception.

I now have much pleasure in introducing **Mr Philip Green OAM, the Australian High Commissioner to Singapore** to open the Conference.

Thank you

Peter Reading - Chairman

