

**ADDRESS TO THE 22ND ASIC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON COFFEE SCIENCE
14 TO 19 SEPTEMBER 2008, CAMPINAS, SP, BRAZIL**

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As we start the most important gathering of the scientific community, I would like to open the 22nd International Conference of ASIC by evoking the memory of Dr Ernesto Illy, a great champion of the science of coffee and an outstanding human being.

He was one of the founders of this Association and from its inception he inspired it and guided it with his knowledge, enthusiasm and discipline. Generations of students, researchers and scientists followed him, learned from him and loved him.

The services rendered by Dr. Illy to the coffee world are invaluable and deserve praise and admiration. He was a real leader of innovation and technological development.

He created out of the coffee bean a fascinating universe and with his wisdom, intelligence and dedication he devoted his life to a permanent search in order to discover and to understand the chemistry of coffee, its physiological effects, secrets of coffee production and the improvement of quality.

To Dr. Illy the best expression of the perfect cup of coffee was the now globally famous Espresso. The concept of Quality became his motto and the espresso was for him the “way of preparing coffee that offers higher quality to consumers”.

Dr Illy always approached the coffee producer and the workers of the land with tremendous respect and generosity, learning from them and sharing his knowledge with them. As an accomplished globetrotter, he visited coffee plantations all around the world and left his indelible mark everywhere.

His expertise and permanent search for the perfect bean that would lead to the perfect cup of coffee was geared by a clear philosophy of procuring the well-being of the coffee producer and the satisfaction of the consumer.

Dr. Illy's contribution and support to the International Coffee Organization was remarkable and generous. He helped us to shape the institutional participation of the private sector and to develop a serious and consistent agenda in issues related to coffee and health with specific programmes like Positively Coffee and the Coffee Education Programme - Health Care Professionals. The implementation of these initiatives is translated by divulging and disseminating your works and findings related to coffee and human health. As Chairman of the Promotion Committee of the ICO he guided us in shaping a coherent policy to promote and to increase the consumption of coffee.

His legacy will continue to inspire and to influence generations of coffee lovers. In paying tribute to Dr. Ernesto Illy, I want to express again my deepest condolences to his wife Anna and the whole Illy family. At the same time, I want to celebrate the continuity of his passion for coffee in the able hands of his son Andrea, also a prominent scientist, President of this Association and Chairman of the worldwide acclaimed coffee company. His daughter Anna, following her father's steps, travels the world to meet the coffee growers and to share her knowledge with them. My special regards also to Francesco and Ricardo always associated with the magical world of coffee.