

BACKGROUND – GLOBAL SURIMI FORUM

After serving for 5-yr as Director of Technical Services, SeaFest/JAC Creative Products (Motley, MN) (currently Trident Seafoods) the largest crabstick production plant, Dr. Park became a professor of Surimi and Surimi Seafood at Oregon State University in March 1992. To enhance the communications/collaborations between the industry and academia, he founded the first OSU Surimi School in 1993 and offered it every year. We celebrate the 25th OSU Surimi School in Astoria, OR, USA on May 9-12, 2017. Nearly 2000 attendees have attended this globally unique program.

In 1996, Dr. Park established Surimi School Asia in Bangkok, Thailand through great collaborations with Dr. Poonsap of the Thai Dept of Fisheries. He has continued to offer the program every even year. The 11th Surimi School Asia was held successfully in 2016. Nearly 2,000 attendees, primarily from SE Asia and India, have benefited from this opportunity to gather and learn.

In 1999, Dr. Park established Surimi School Europe in Paris, France through great collaborations with Mr. Robert Delin of Activ International /Dr. Pascal Guenneuges (Future Seafoods; formerly with Activ International). Dr. Park has offered this program every odd year. The 10th Surimi School Europe is scheduled on 20-22 September, 2017 in Madrid. Nearly 2,000 attendees from Europe and Russia have participated in technology education and marketing exchanges.

In 2001, the scope of the program offered by the OSU Surimi School was expanded to include the first Surimi Industry Forum in Astoria, OR. This 1-day program has been offered immediately before the OSU Surimi School every year and covers the current production and market information along with hot topics within the industry. More than 50% of attendees are executives from the surimi and surimi seafood industries.

In 2010 and 2013, respectively, Dr. Park successfully offered the Surimi Forum Japan (Tokyo) which hosted a total of 250 attendees.

In 2015-2016, Dr. Park evaluated the current program offerings and considered reorganizing his efforts to better serve the needs of the global surimi and surimi seafood industries. As he communicated with our global industry leaders, they reached consensus. Streamlining the various Surimi School and Forum programs that he has offered globally would more effectively serve our global industry and enhance communications within our industries. From the discussions, a **Global Surimi Forum (GSF)** was proposed. A steering committee (Doug Christensen, President of Arctic Storm Management Group; Torunn Helhjem, VP of Trident Seafoods; Rasmus Soerensen, VP of American Seafoods; Jae Park) has developed a framework for the GSF and unanimously voted Willem Appeldorn (Trident Seafood Europe) as the committee chair. Seven Executive Board Members [two representing each region (Asia, Europe,

and North America) plus Jae Park] will work closely together to develop a new global program for our industry.

With the start of **Global Surimi Forum Asia** (Tokyo in 2018); **Global Surimi Forum Europe** (2019); **Global Surimi Forum North America** (Seattle in 2020), Dr. Park's existing programs will either be consolidated or eliminated. After the last program in 2017, the OSU Surimi School and Surimi Industry Forum in USA will no longer be offered. The Surimi Industry Forum will be consolidated into the GSF, whereas the OSU Surimi School will be eliminated. However, Dr. Park can offer a mini surimi school to an individual processor or group. Surimi School Europe will also be merged into the GSF after the 2017 program, but Dr. Park will conduct a small scale (mini version) school program upon request.

Surimi School Asia, however, will continuously serve the SE Asia and India in every even year as it has since its establishment in 1996. As seven of Dr. Park's former students participated as speakers in Bangkok in 2016, he continues to successfully teach them how to make this unique program beneficial for this region.