

OPENING SESSION

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn

October 12, 2016 - 1:00 p.m.

Introduction:

Catherine Swoboda

Director of Planning - World Food Prize Foundation

Good afternoon, President Banda, Laureates, guests and friends from around the world. My name is Catherine Swoboda, and I'm the Director of Planning for the Borlaug Dialogue Symposium here at the World Food Prize. And on behalf of our foundation, we want to welcome all of you to the 2016 Borlaug Dialogue.

We are especially delighted to see you all this year, as it marks a special observance for our foundation and indeed for all of those who work toward and believe in a world free from hunger. It was 30 years ago that Norman Borlaug created the World Food Prize with the dream that it would become the Nobel Prize for food and agriculture. And today as we gather here to celebrate this 30th anniversary, thanks to countless individuals in this room, Dr. Borlaug's vision is being fulfilled.

And so, as someone who was personally touched by Dr. Borlaug and the World Food Prize as a high school student, it is my great privilege to introduce an individual whose leadership and role in realizing Norm's dream for the Prize is an inspiration to all of us. Indeed, his entire life's work encompasses 32 years of decorated diplomatic service to our country and our world.

His work focused on confronting terrorism, uplifting refugees, those afflicted by war, displacement, and fostering peace. And his life's work has been a singular expression of humanitarianism, just the sort of humanitarianism that marks the Borlaug legacy.

So with that, please join me in welcoming the president of the World Food Prize Foundation, Ambassador Kenneth Quinn.

Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn

President - World Food Prize Foundation

Don't go away. So, Catherine, thank you. Wonderful introduction. But I want to be sure you all know that Catherine is the real director of the Borlaug Dialogue, and she's the person who puts everything together. She was the one who, together with, we designed all this new set – isn't it cool? – for the 30th anniversary? But she has been, since she was in high school, part of the World Food Prize and, more than anyone else I know, as an example, I tell people, of what the

World Food Prize can do for inspiring young people and particularly inspiring young women. So, Catherine, thank you for all your good work. And now, get back to work!

So, President Banda, oh, my goodness. Thank you for being here again this year. So wonderful to have you, have President Adesina. President Gurib-Fakim is coming tomorrow, so we're so excited to have you here for the 30th anniversary of the World Food Prize.

There wouldn't be a World Food Prize still, except for the Ruan family, and John Ruan III, our chairman, is here. And, John, if you would stand up and just let us acknowledge you. And here on stage... Usually, we just need like one chair or two chairs. This year we needed four chairs up here, because we have four World Food Prize Laureates, Maria Andrade, Howdy Bouis – it's okay if I, you know, if I say "Howdy" – Jan Low, and Robert Mwangi. So why don't you stand up so we can all acknowledge you.

Our first chairman, Al Clausi, is here in the audience, and the first World Food Prize laureate, Dr. M. S. Swaminathan is here. So thank you for coming home. So you're going to hear the number 30 mentioned a lot. We've got 30 Borlaug Dialogue sessions, 30 side events. Oh, my gosh. I was at three or four side events this morning – they're terrific. Thirty Borlaug bites. So if you go out in a restaurant in Des Moines, if you get a chance with all the things going on here, and you go in and say World Food Prize, maybe they'll give you a discount or they'll have a special meal. And we have 30 state Youth Institutes and students from 30 states coming for our Youth Institute. So tomorrow we've got to put in a lot more chairs, because there are 450 students and teachers coming. So get here earlier, or they'll grab your seats tomorrow.

And we're celebrating a number of anniversaries, not just 30th anniversary. The 10th anniversary of the Iowa Hunger Summit. So here's a lesson about the World Food Prize. Here are two Republican governors of Iowa, two Democratic governors of Iowa, all together with Dr. Borlaug. He is amazingly able to even bring people in American politics together. No, really. At the Hunger Summit the Governor was here, Democratic legislators, Republican officials – they all came. They were all nice to each other. It's the power of Norman Borlaug and the World Food Prize.

So it's the 5th anniversary of the Borlaug Field Award. Tonight everybody be sure to get on the buses at 5:30, come over to the Hall of Laureates. We'll be having the ceremony to hear... We have five wonderful winners. Four of them are back in town here with us, and tonight Andrew Mude is going to receive the Norman Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application endowed by the Rockefeller Foundation – the longest award title in America or in the world. And Judith Rodin, president of Rockefeller will be here to give the keynote address and help present that award. So we'll be over at the Hall of Laureates, which, by the way, is having its 5th anniversary. Hard to believe it was five years ago, John, that we dedicated the hall and John had the vision that it could become that, and was a great privilege of mine to work on it.

So our symposium, *Let Food be Thy Medicine*, the perfect title for our laureates and what they have done through biofortification. But we've got several themes. This afternoon we have the theme of "National Security and Global Food Security." We have this terrific lineup, three former ambassadors who are here and be on the first panel, and then Dr. Greg Treverton, will join, after that, Bill Burns, Wendy Chamberlin and Ryan Crocker will be on the first one, and

then Greg Treverton and Rod Schoonover on the second. Mahmoud Solh is then going to do a presentation on “Research Under Fire in Aleppo” and the space there. And then Ambassador Haslach, Gordon Conway, the Oxfam Food Hero, Monica Maigaria from Nigeria will be here – all looking at different aspects of “Conflict and Global Food Security.”

Later this afternoon we’ll have a panel with UC Davis on nutrition, and then tomorrow Jim Kim will be here, the president of the World Bank, who I know you all know is really from Muscatine, Iowa. No, you didn’t know that? He was just reelected president of the World Bank. And all week Roger Thurow is here, the author of *The First Thousand Days*, is giving talks and lectures all over the state.

We’re so pleased, I mentioned before, President Banda is here, President Gurib-Fakim from Mauritius, and President Akinwumi Adesina, my great friend who’s just been elected president of the African Development Bank, will be here.

Then we also have the agribusiness aspect of global food security, and what a lineup we have. CEOs will be here. John Bryant will be on tomorrow morning from Kellogg, followed by Jeff Ettinger from Hormel. Rob Fraley will be on in the afternoon following Jim Collins, who is executive vice president of DuPont. Then R. J. Kirk from Intrexon, and Ponsi Trivisvavet from Syngenta Seed. So all the big companies are here, and they’re all in the news and what they’re doing for innovation.

And then Tom Vilsack will finish tomorrow afternoon, so be here for that. He’ll finish at about 4 o’clock, and then you’ll have time to quick freshen up and come up to the capitol for a ceremony. As I said, you’ll see our Youth Institute students will be around. They’ll be in these shirts tomorrow, and they’re getting inspired, just as Catherine Swoboda was. So you’ll find them and their teachers here, starting out and becoming connected. And two thirds, Madame President, two thirds of the participants are all young women. Young women are inspired to deal with the issues of global food security, as our program has shown. Yes.

So part of our 30th anniversary, we got a new website, so take a look at that, check it out. We started it so that everyone would be able to see it, give us a kind of new image, just like the new set here. And then we also have our media partner who’s helping us, Farming First. Farming First is a global coalition – scientists, farmers, agribusiness companies, NGOs – advocating for sustainable agriculture. They’re putting together a daily digest of sort of what’s happening at the World Food Prize and at the Borlaug Dialogue. I’m going to have to read it just to figure out and find out everything that’s going on. And I’m supposed to know what’s happening. But it’s at www.FarmingFirst.org. So check it out. Let us know what you think.

It wouldn't be appropriate... My mom always told me to be sure and say, “Please and thank you.” And I want to say thank you to all of our sponsors who have generously given. We couldn't do this without them. Remember, John, when I first came? John convinced me to come and take this job. We had four sponsors, and now I think we must be up around 84 or so. But the sponsors are just so incredibly important.

So I just do this little preview, a little opening, get us started, get you warmed up for the next, the meat and potatoes that are coming with the sessions. So with that, I want to invite the panel

here on the stage, the laureates and our chairman – you can go and take your seats in the audience. You're done, all right? Thank you for being up here.