

# Cross Border Forum on Agricultural Interdependence: North American Agriculture in a Connected World

A forum hosted by the Canada Institute in cooperation with the Government of Alberta  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Tuesday, June 19, 2007

## Biographies of Participants

### **David N. Biette**

Director, Canada Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

David Biette is director of the Canada Institute, an integral program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining the Wilson Center in October 2001, Biette was executive director of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, a national not-for-profit multidisciplinary academic professional association dedicated to the promotion of Canadian studies in the United States. From 1986 to 1992, he served as a political-economic officer at the Canadian Consulate General in New York City, where he was a policy analyst for environment, political, energy, native affairs, and transportation portfolios for the states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and New York City. He has an M.A. in international relations from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, a diplôme de hautes études de lettres et civilisation from the Centre international d'études françaises, Université de Nice (France), and an AB from Bowdoin College.

### **Barry Carpenter**

CEO and Executive Director, National Meat Association

Barry Carpenter is the CEO and executive director of the National Meat Association. He assumed this position on February 1, 2007, following a 37-year career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As a USDA senior executive, Carpenter administered the USDA's Livestock and Seed Program where he directed numerous functions vital to the marketing of meat and meat products in both U.S. and international markets—including beef grading and certification, developing standards for meat and livestock, meat and fish purchases for federal feeding programs, livestock and grain market news reporting, and federally mandated check-off programs for beef, pork, lamb, soybeans and mohair. In recognition of his efforts, Carpenter received numerous governmental and industry awards, notably the Presidential Rank Award from President Clinton and the National Meat Association's E. Floyd Forbes Award. Most recently, Carpenter was awarded the 2005 Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executives—an honor bestowed on less than one percent of senior career employees throughout the entire federal government.

### **Charles F. Conner**

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture

Charles F. Conner was sworn in as deputy secretary of agriculture on May 2, 2005, by Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns. Prior to his tenure at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Conner served on the National Economic Council beginning in November 2001 as a special

assistant to the president for agricultural trade and food assistance, focusing primarily on farm bill issues. From 1997 to 2001, Conner was president of the Corn Refiners Association, Inc., a national trade association representing the corn refining industry. Prior to this, Conner held several staff positions with the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Conner served as both the majority staff director (1995-1997) and the minority staff director (1987-1995) of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. He also worked as a professional staff member for the committee from 1985 to 1987. Prior to joining the Senate Committee in Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Conner worked as an agricultural legislative assistant to Senator Richard G. Lugar. Conner grew up on a family farm in Benton County, Indiana, which remains in the family and is operated by his older brother, Mike. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University in 1980.

### **Floyd D. Gaibler**

Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, United States Department of Agriculture

Floyd D. Gaibler has been the deputy under secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services at the U.S. Department of Agriculture since February 20, 2003. As deputy, Gaibler provides leadership to agencies and programs administered by the FFAS mission. He offers general direction to programs administered by the Farm Service Agency and the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Risk Management Agency and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and the Foreign Agricultural Service. Gaibler has more than 30 years of experience working on agricultural concerns, twelve of those gained while working for the USDA. Gaibler most recently was with Leshner & Russel, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in agricultural food and trade policy issues. He has served as vice president of the Agricultural Retailers Association, vice president of the International Dairy Foods Association, and executive director of the National Cheese Institute/American Butter Institute. Gaibler has also worked for the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture and the Nebraska State Department of Agriculture. While serving at the USDA, Gaibler worked as a staff assistant to Secretary John R. Block and then as an executive assistant to Secretary Richard E. Lyng. He has served in various career positions with the then-Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (now the Farm Service Agency) and the Economic Research Service. Gaibler is a graduate of the University of Nebraska where he obtained a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in agricultural economics.

### **Nithi Govindasamy**

Director of the Policy Secretariat, Alberta Agriculture and Food

Nithi Govindasamy is currently director of the Policy Secretariat, Alberta Agriculture and Food. Prior to this assignment, he was a member of the Policy Secretariat, responsible for domestic policy issues including grain marketing. Over the course of the last year, he has been integrally involved in the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) issue, taking the lead on trade issues on behalf of Alberta Agriculture. Govindasamy graduated from the University of Alberta in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture. He then returned to Malaysia where he worked with the Department of Agriculture as a district agriculturalist and later as regional director, responsible for all agricultural extension activities. He was also responsible for large-scale irrigation projects funded by the World Bank. Govindasamy returned to Canada in 1981 where he obtained his Master of Science degree in agricultural economics from the University of Alberta in 1983. He has been with Alberta Agriculture since 1983. Prior to his present responsibilities, Govindasamy served as a resource economist, trade statistician, and provincial farm income specialist with the Department's Economic Services Division. He also spent two

years as the director of the International Governance Office, with responsibilities for coordinating the Alberta government's involvement in international development projects.

**The Hon. George Groeneveld (PC)**

Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Food, MLA for Highwood

George Groeneveld has been a member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for the constituency of Highwood since November 22, 2004. Involved with agriculture his entire life, he was both pleased and honored to be sworn in as Minister of Agriculture and Food on December 15, 2006. He is also currently a member of the Cabinet Policy Committee on Resources and the Environment. Groeneveld has had a successful and wide-ranging career in agriculture. He served as the regional director of the Alberta Wheat Pool, where he had an opportunity to attend the Canadian International Grains Institute to learn more about the handling, marketing, and commercial applications for various crops. He also had the distinction of being the first vice-president of Agricore. Groeneveld's work has also taken him to the national and international stage. The federal government appointed him as a representative for agricultural income disaster assistance and the net income stabilization account program. He has also been a participant in numerous agricultural trade missions to East Asia. Although he has fulfilled various roles and held several challenging positions, Groeneveld has never forgotten his rural roots. He continues to raise Simmental-Red Angus cattle with his son on the family farm in Blackie, Alberta.

**Lee H. Hamilton**

President and Director, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Lee H. Hamilton is president and director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and director of The Center on Congress at Indiana University. Hamilton served for 34 years in Congress representing Indiana's Ninth District, from January 1965 to January 1999. Since leaving the House, Hamilton has served on numerous important commissions investigating national security issues, including serving as vice-chair of the 9/11 Commission, and co-chair of the 9/11 Public Discourse Project, to monitor implementation of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations. Hamilton is currently a member of the president's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, the president's Homeland Security Advisory Council, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Advisory Board, the director of Central Intelligence's Economic Intelligence Advisory Panel, the secretary of defense's National Security Study Group, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Task Force on Preventing the Entry of Weapons of Mass Effect on American Soil. In March 2006, he was named co-chair of the Iraq Study Group, a forward-looking, bi-partisan assessment of the situation in Iraq. Hamilton is a graduate of DePauw University and Indiana University School of Law. He is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and national awards for public service, including the Voices of September 11 Building Bridges Award, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society 2005 Freedom Award, and the Paul H. Douglas Ethics in Government Award

**Susan Harper**

Minister-Counsellor for Economic and Trade Policy, Embassy of Canada in Washington

Susan Harper is currently the minister-counsellor for economic and trade policy in the Embassy of Canada in Washington. Her team has or shares responsibility for policy files including softwood lumber, NAFTA, trade disputes, the prosperity end of the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), economic aspects of border files such as Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) fees, agriculture, energy, investment, intellectual property, services, economic sanctions, corporate social responsibility,

fiscal and budgetary issues, international financial developments, and economic relations with key emerging economies. From 2001 to 2004, she was Canada's Ambassador to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay. She was the director for services trade policy, which included leading the services negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO), from 1999 to 2001. Harper previously served abroad as trade program manager in Argentina, and as a trade commissioner in both Paris, France and Yaoundé, Cameroon. In Ottawa, she worked in the tariffs and market access trade policy division, and the trade personnel assignment division. Harper joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 1983. She has a BA (Honours) in mathematics and English from Queen's University and an MBA from the University of Western Ontario.

### **Gary Clyde Hufbauer**

Reginald Jones Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics

Gary Clyde Hufbauer resumed his position as Reginald Jones Senior Fellow in September 1998. Before joining the Institute for International Economics, he was the Marcus Wallenberg Professor of International Financial Diplomacy at Georgetown University. From 1977 to 1980, Hufbauer served in the U.S. Treasury Department. He has written extensively on international trade, investment, and tax issues. His publications include *Economic Sanctions Reconsidered* (co-author, 1990), *World Capital Markets* (co-author, 2001), *NAFTA Revisited: Achievements and Challenges* (co-author, 2005), *Reforming the US Corporate Tax* (co-author 2005), and *US-China Trade Disputes: Rising Tide, Rising Stakes* (co-author, 2006). He holds a BA from Harvard College, a PhD in economics from King College at Cambridge University, and a JD from Georgetown University Law Center.

### **Helmut Mach**

Director, Western Centre for Economic Research, and CN Executive Professor of Canada-U.S. Trade Relations, University of Alberta School of Business

Helmut Mach is the CN executive professor of Canada-U.S. Trade Relations at the University of Alberta's School of Business and serves as director of the Western Centre for Economic Research. Prior to his current role, Mach worked in the Alberta government for 33 years. Most recently, he was with the Alberta Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations where he was the Alberta trade representative responsible for trade policy and negotiations, coordination and dispute management, and for both international and internal trade agreements and matters. He represented and pursued Alberta's interests in the negotiations for the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, the NAFTA, the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade, the World Trade Organization Doha Development Agenda, and the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas. Mach holds a BCom and an MBA from the University of Alberta. He also completed the Alberta Public Service Senior Executive Development Program, the U.S. International Visitors Program from the U.S. State Department, and the Intensive Program on the European Union from the College of Europe.

### **Jeffrey Max Jones**

Undersecretary for Agribusiness Promotion, Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, Mexico

Jeffrey Max Jones has been a member of Mexico's National Action Party (PAN) since 1995. From 1997 to 2000, he served in the Lower House of the Federal Congress. In 2000, he was elected as a member of the Senate for his home state of Chihuahua. While in the Senate, he served as president of the Border Affairs Commission and member of the Agriculture and

Agrarian Reform Commissions. After his six-year term in the Senate expired in 2006, Jones became Undersecretary of Agribusiness Promotion with the SAGARPA (Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación). He graduated in 1982 from Brigham Young University with a major in international relations.

**John Masswohl**

Director of Government and International Relations, Canadian Cattlemen's Association

John Masswohl joined the staff of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) in December 2004. Masswohl leads the CCA's government relations and international trade activities, working out of the Ottawa office. Masswohl was previously employed by the Canadian federal government from 1990 to 2004. As agriculture trade counsellor with the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C., from 2001 to 2004, he worked closely with the Canadian and U.S. cattle and beef industries. Prior to his Washington posting, Masswohl was a deputy director in the International Trade Policy Division of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Earlier, he spent several years negotiating access for Canadian exporters to overseas markets while working in the Trade Policy Bureau of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Masswohl is originally from the Niagara region of southern Ontario and holds an Honours Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Wilfrid Laurier University.

**James Mintert, PhD**

Professor and Extension State Leader, Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University

James Mintert is a professor and extension state leader in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University. Mintert holds BS and MS degrees in agricultural economics from Purdue University, and a PhD from the University of Missouri–Columbia. Since joining the Kansas State faculty in 1986, Mintert has received numerous awards including Outstanding Extension Program Awards from both the American Agricultural Economics Association and the Western Agricultural Economics Association, and the American Agricultural Economics Association's Premier Forecaster Award for his livestock production and price forecasts. Mintert is also the author of more than 125 publications focusing on the economics of the livestock industry. He has recently focused his attention on developing and maintaining the livestock and meat marketing component of Kansas State's *AgManager.info* website, one of the nation's premier internet sites for livestock outlook and price analysis information.

**The Hon. Charles W. Stenholm**

Senior Policy Advisor, Olsson, Frank and Weeda

Former Congressman Charles W. Stenholm is a senior policy advisor at Olsson, Frank and Weeda. Born in Stamford, Texas, Stenholm went on to serve the 32-county, 17th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives. Stenholm was a member of the House Committee on Agriculture throughout his 26-year House career, serving as the Committee's ranking Democrat for his last eight years until 2004. He earned a reputation for building bipartisan alliances in areas as diverse as agriculture, resource conservation, food safety, Social Security, energy, health care, and budget. Stenholm was co-chair of the Blue Dog Coalition, the Public Pension Reform Caucus, the Sound Dollar Caucus, and the U.S.-Mexico Business Caucus. He graduated from Tarleton State Junior College, and Texas Tech University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science and a Masters of Science. He has also received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from Abilene Christian, Hardin-Simmons, and McMurry Universities.